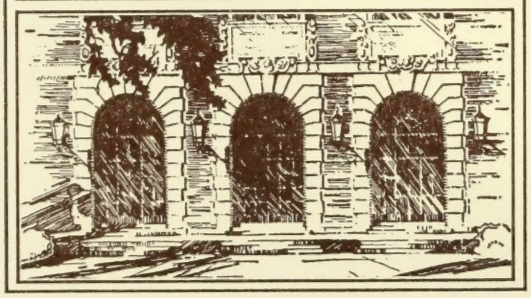
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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 6TH, 1894.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Chief Justice of Hongkong, Mr. Fielding Clarke, has been knighted.

THERE was a slight fall of snow on New Year's Day, and more on Friday last.

MR. HIRAI KISHO has been appointed a Japanese Minister Resident *en disponsibilité*.

A SHARP earthquake shock was experienced in Yokohama on Thursday afternoon.

SKATING has commenced in Yokohama; the Creek was frozen over on Tuesday.

THREE poverty stricken Chinese committed suicide in Yokohama during the holidays.

THE *Kaishin-to* have chosen several fresh candidates for the forthcoming general elections.

H.M.S. *Mercury* has been ordered South; the *Pallas* is expected to take her place at this port.

SOME interesting political combinations may be expected during the ensuing election campaign.

THE New Year was duly observed by the Japanese with all the old customs and ceremonies.

THE Korean Legation in Tokyo was burnt down on the 1st inst., a defective stove-pipe being the cause of the disaster.

THE Coolies Guild and the Native Fire Brigades have held their usual noisy New Year parades; no accident is recorded.

THE residents of Aomori Prefecture propose petitioning for the opening of the port of Aomori as a special export port.

THE Shiriuchi-Hachinohe Section (33 miles) on the Shiriuchi and Samega-minato branch of the Japan Railway Co., being completed, the line was opened for traffic on the 4th inst. The remaining portion between Hachinohe and Samega-minato (1 mile) is expected to be completed at no distant date.

THE Belgian Minister visited the Yokosuka Naval Shipbuilding Yard on the 4th inst.

THE Authorities have ordered the dissolution of the *Dai Nippon* Club organized by the opponents of Mixed Residence.

YOKOHAMA has been full of rumours of late of attacks in foreigners on Tokyo; happily they have no foundation in nearly every case.

THE Diet was dissolved by Imperial command on Saturday last; the general elections are expected to take place about February 20th.

THE house on compound No. 10, Bluff, in the occupation of Mr. E. Rogers, was completely destroyed by fire on Wednesday evening.

GOVERNOR NAKANO, of Kanagawa, and a number of other local officials met at the *Kencho* on the 1st inst. at 9 a.m. to exchange congratulations.

OVER three hundred leading merchants of Tokyo and Yokohama held a New Year's entertainment at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, on the 2nd inst.

THE infant prince, H.I.H. Mitsu Teruhito, was presented to their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress on the 29th ult. at the Palace.

THE resignation of Mr. Saito, Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Commerce, has been accepted. Some little difficulty is experienced in finding a suitable successor.

THE P. & O. Company intend to run the Yusen Kaisha very close in yarn transportation freights from Bombay. They have made several big reductions during the last few weeks.

ON the 1st instant a football match took place on the Cricket-ground between an eleven from H.M.S. *Mercury* and a Club team; the latter were victorious by 3 goals to one.

MR. NAGAMINE, Governor of Saga, who has been visiting Omura, Nagasaki Prefecture, for the benefit of his health, lately removed to Atami where he lies in a precarious condition.

THE German Emperor has presented a couple of valuable horses to the Emperor of Japan. One of the animals died on the voyage, but the other reached Japan in good condition.

AN armed burglar who broke into the house of Fleet-Surgeon Miyazawa, at Ota, Yokohama, on the 2nd inst., met with such a warm reception at the hands of the mistress of the house, that he fled.

A VIOLENT shock of earthquake was felt at Yamagata on the 24th ult. at 11.10 a.m.; it lasted for about five minutes. Much damage was done to houses, some having their walls shaken down, while others escaped with their pillars only inclined. The frames of the Dormitory of the Yamagata Prefectural Ordinary Middle School, lately erected, were completely overthrown. A weaker shock was felt at 12.30 p.m. the following day.

THE Emperor and Empress received in audience on New Year's Day H.I.H. the Crown Prince and other Princes and Princesses of the Blood; after which Their Imperial Majesties, attended by Marquis Tokudaiji, Grand Chamberlain; Viscount Hijikata, Minister of the Imperial Household; Marquis Nabeshima, Grand Master of Ceremonies, and other leading officials in the Imperial Household, proceeded to the Homei Hall, and received the New Year's visits of the Minister of State, the Foreign Representatives, officials of *Chokunin* and *Sonin* rank in various Departments, peers and their ladies, and the Chief Superintendents of the Shinto and Buddhist sect. The guests then proceeded to the Aoyama and the Akasaka Palaces to pay their respects to H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager and the Crown Prince.

THE New Year drills of the Japanese fire brigades in Yokohama took place on the 4th inst. at 10 a.m. in front of the Isezakicho Police Office. Messrs. Nakano, Governor; Mitsuhashi, Secretary; and Yoshida, Superintendent of the Kanagawa Police, witnessed the ceremony.

YELLOW fever of the worst description has broken out in Rio de Janeiro; the Scotch verdict of "not proven," has been given in the Ardlamont mystery case; the British forces, after inflicting a severe defeat upon the Matabele, have been compelled to retreat from the Shangani river, during the retreat the gun-carriages were abandoned, the horses having to be killed for food; the two authors of the Barcelona theatre outrage have confessed to their crime; fresh fighting between Protestants and Catholics is reported from Uganda; religious disturbances have broken out in Muscat between Mussulmans and Armenians; serious tax riots are reported from Sicily; the British revenue returns for the last nine months show a deficiency of two millions; twenty-five vessels have entered the Manchester Ship Canal; serious riots in Sicily continue, and the reserves have been called out; the Duke of York has declined the invitation to visit the Australian colonies for domestic reasons.

THE Import trade, as predicted last week, has been small, the New Year festivities having been observed as usual with the consequent abstention from business. A few Yarns have been taken, but Shirtings, Piece-goods, and other fabrics have been almost entirely neglected. At the close of the year a few purchases were made in the Metal market, Wire Nails and certain makes of Iron being the only things wanted, but the trade subsided into inactivity and for several days not a blow has been struck. In the Kerosene market rates have weakened, though no quotable change in values can be made. Very few actual transactions have taken place, and no fresh arrivals have come in. The Sugar market has been fairly brisk, and slightly higher rates have been obtained for Browns of certain grades; Whites have also been sold to some extent, and the demand continues. A large business has at length been done in Silk, the settlements for the week amounting to 2,300 piculs, including a small direct shipment. This business was almost entirely for the New York trade, the demand for Europe being still non-existent. The prices paid were advanced for the Silk bought for America, and holders of parcels suitable for Europe now ask more money for their fibre, many even not caring to sell at quotations, which have been put up for all descriptions. Waste Silk was also fairly brisk for a few days, and about a thousand piculs were weighed in, but the week ended with no business, and the stock is not much reduced. The Tea trade is about finished, and no transactions in leaf are reported since the new year. Exchange has further declined, but is reported as fairly steady at rates.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

THE dissolution of the House of Representatives has been the principal topic of discussion in the vernacular press during the present week. The comments of the papers on this subject having already been for the most part noticed separately in our columns, it remains only to refer to articles that have appeared since then. The *Chu-o Shimbun*, organ of the National Unionist Party, fails to understand the reason why the Government advised the Emperor to dissolve the House of Representatives. Some people state that the step was taken on account of the proposed Representation with reference to strict enforcement of the treaties, but our contemporary thinks that strict enforcement of the treaties is only a proper measure for any Government, and that it cannot become a ground for dissolving the Diet. The Cabinet, however, may have had some special reason to dread the passing of such a Representation. Indeed, the *Chu-o* pretends to infer from a report about Mr. Mutsu's indisposition, that the Ministers were possibly under the influence of unreasonable alarm and consternation when they advised the measure to His Majesty. According to another theory, the Ministry were seriously apprehensive lest they might suffer the humiliating defeat on the Budget and, in order to escape that fate, they thought it better to dissolve the Diet on the subject of treaty enforcement. "At all events," concludes our contemporary, "the reason of the dissolution remains unknown, and pending an open declaration from the Cabinet on the subject, we are constrained to defer any expression of our own views."

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun*, in a series of articles not yet concluded, lays the charge of having brought about the dissolution of the Diet upon the shoulders of the six factions united for the purpose of indiscriminate opposition to the Government, namely the *Kaishin-to*, the *Kokumin Kyokai*, the *Domei* Club, the *Doshi* Club the *Seimu Chosa-jo*, and the *Dai Nippon Kyokai*. The politicians of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Domei* Club knew very well that it would not be convenient for them to move in concert with the National Unionists on the Budget and the various questions intimately connected with it, such, for instance, as administrative reforms and reduction of public expenses. Consequently, in order to avoid such an awkward necessity, they concentrated their energies on the three questions of official discipline, the *Chishima* case, and treaty enforcement. Were these questions worthy of the importance attached to them by the combined forces of the six factions? Decidedly not, is the answer given by the *Jiyu*, which then proceeds to consider each of the questions in turn, its conclusious being, first, that the complaint about official discipline turned upon the conduct of a Minister and a Vice-Minister of State and possessed no vital importance; secondly, that with regard to the *Chishima-Ravenna* business the Government simply followed the precedents ruling such cases, and that to attack the Cabinet on such a subject was harsh and unjust; and finally, that liberal interpretation of the treaty stipulations is an evil existing for many years which can not properly be placed to the account of the present Cabinet. Moreover, many of the abuses complained of are, in the *Jiyu's* opinion, attributable, not to looseness in enforcing existing treaties but to the fact that they remain unrevised. Thus not one of these three questions was important enough to be made a pretext for a decisive collision between the Government and the Diet. The *Jiyu* greatly regrets that the senseless noise made on these subjects by the *Kaishin-to* and the *Domei* Club, in concert with the *Kokumin Kyokai* and other factions, gave the Cabinet a good pretext for dissolving the House of Representatives and that the Government was thereby enabled to escape a humiliating defeat on the Budget. The *Kaishin-to* and the *Domei* Club are severely criticised for having joined hands with the National Unionists, the offspring of official interference in elections. On the other hand, the Government is also blamed for having dissolved the Diet without letting the six factions have their say on the question of strict enforcement of the treaties. As to the movement on this subject, the *Jiyu* is convinced that it is simply a passing cloud, the last flicker of light of anti-foreign conservatism in the country.

* * *

The question of strict enforcement of the treaties continues to attract much journalistic attention. True to its promise, the *Nippon*, on the expiration of its sentence of suspension, resumed the advocacy of the cause with redoubled energy and recklessness. Public opinion, it stated, is indisputably in favour of strict enforcement of the treaties, and on that circumstance the country is certainly to be congratulated. Public opinion may not be either profound or far-seeing, but the fact remains that the majority of the nation wish to have the treaties carried out rigidly, and that their wish can never be ignored now that a constitutional system of Government is in operation. Our contemporary then goes on to make gross misrepresentations about the Government's position on this subject, charging the Ministers with despotism at home and cowardice abroad. "If those advocating a weak foreign policy," declares the *Nippon*, "were actuated by motives of genuine patriotism, their opinion might be allowed to have some weight. But it is very doubtful whether they are really actuated by such motives. It must be remembered that deeds reveal motives more truly than words. How can the opinion of such men carry any weight, when, on the one hand, like devils they rule the people with despotic hand and deprive them of their rights and liberties, while, on the other, they extend all sorts of favours and kindnesses to foreigners." The article is altogether incendiary in its tendency, and the *Nippon* has happily been again placed under the ban of suspension.

* * *

The Progressionist organs have hitherto maintained an attitude of silent approval on the subject of treaty enforcement. During the present week, however, the *Mainichi Shimbun* has published an article in which it protests against the injustice of classifying all the supporters of the present movement in the same category with slaves of the old *jō-i* spirit. "Strict enforcement of the treaties," it observes, "is now demanded by the public opinion of the country. Apart from a small number of men intoxicated with Western ideas, and also men who observe nothing beyond their own selfish interests, nobody can see the treaty rights of the country trampled upon without feeling deep indignation. Among the numerous supporters of the movement for strict enforcement, there may be some really actuated by the barbarous exclusive spirit of former days. But a single dark-skinned man among Europeans can not taint the whole race, neither can the association of a few old conservatives warrant the condemnation of the supporters of the present movement as remnants of the exclusionists of former times. Count Okuma curbed the lawless conduct of some Englishmen in Kobe, and Viscount Enomoto withheld the privilege of Consular jurisdiction from Portuguese subjects. These are instances of the strict enforcement of treaty stipulations. Would it be correct to infer that these two statesmen were actuated by the *jo-i* spirit? If they, too, are to be included in such a category, we hold it an honour to be called remnants of the Exclusionists of bygone times."

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* would not have been unwilling to support the doctrine of treaty enforcement, had it been presented in a shape more practical and moderate. But as it now stands, our contemporary cannot approve it. The *Jiji* observes that the question of Treaty Revision should never be lost sight of, and regrets that, besides the absurd movement for strict enforcement of the treaties, another factor tends to impede attainment of the object of Treaty Revision, the proneness of Japanese Judges to arraign people before the Court on serious charges without due consideration of the nature of the evidence adduced against them. The *Jiji* doubtless had the famous Soma case in its mind when it wrote thus. It does not say that the Japanese Judges are incompetent; on the contrary, it has no doubt that they are men of education and experience. Hence it seems to believe that if their attention is called to this circumstance, the evil will be certainly remedied.

* * *

The coming general elections—which are expected to take place in the latter part of February—begin to attract journalistic notice. It is reported that the Cabinet has decided to be perfectly impartial and neutral between the contending parties, but to take strong measures for preventing corruption and other illegal methods of securing votes, as well as for suppressing opinions and conduct antagonistic to the enlightened and progressive policy alluded to in the recent Imperial message. The *Kokkai*, among other papers, is glad that the Government has resolved to deal strongly with infractions of the Law of Election. Our contemporary, however, hesitates to approve the Ministry's alleged resolution to adopt strong measures against a certain class of persons, for such an attitude may easily involve interference in elections. There is no hope for Count Ito to obtain a majority in the new House of Representatives, so he is advised by the *Kokkai* to be perfectly fair and neutral in the coming struggle.

* * *

As usual, the opening issues of the metropolitan papers for the New Year came out with presents to their subscribers, mostly in the form of lithographic reproductions of pictures by famous artists and autographic writings by celebrated statesmen.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ON THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

IT being customary with most of the metropolitan papers to begin their comparatively long New Year's Holiday before the old year closes, not more than five of them have been in a position to discuss the dissolution of the House of Representatives. We give below a *resumé* of their comments.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* (Progressionist) is not surprised at the dissolution of the Lower House, for nobody, it says, expected that the fifth session of the Diet could end otherwise. However, in regard to the circumstances under which this measure has been taken, as well as the future conduct of the Cabinet, our contemporary can not but express regret. However much it may differ in political opinions from Count Ito, it is convinced that he is a constitutional statesman, truly devoted to upholding the Japanese Constitution. It therefore regrets that the Diet was not dissolved on the 29th ultimo without going through the superfluous process of proroguing it for a second time; that the prorogation was ordered before the Lower House's views on the subjects of the treaty enforcement and the *Chishima* affair had been fully expressed; and that the Cabinet has of late manifested a tendency to restrain liberty of speech and public meeting. On the other hand, the *Mainichi* hopes that the Cabinet Ministers will not attempt any illegal interference with the general elections, but that they will open their minds to the people and endeavour by all warrantable methods to obtain a majority in the new House of Representatives.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* (philo-Progressionist) does not profess to know for certain the reasons why the House of Representatives has been dissolved; but it has little difficulty in inferring that the measure was recommended to the Emperor on account of the treaty-enforcement question. The measure, in our contemporary's opinion, was proper enough. The only regre

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is that the Cabinet showed hesitation and irresolution in carrying it out. Why, asks the *Yomiuri*, was not the Diet dissolved on the 29th ultimo? Whether the Cabinet and the Radical Party will combine, and whether the combined sections of the Opposition will be in the ascendency in the next Diet, no body at all conversant with current events will, in our contemporary's opinion, feel the least difficulty in predicting.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* (philo-Progressionist) heartily welcomes the dissolution of the Lower House as a step toward the regeneration of politics in Japan, and as another approach to the day when clan Government will be completely demolished. Our contemporary, however, refuses to approve the Cabinet's method of dissolving the Diet, because the Representatives have been sent back to their constituencies without first allowing them to express their views on the questions of treaty enforcement and the *Chishima* case.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* (Independent) is also inclined to question the Cabinet's wisdom in proroguing the Diet one day and dissolving it the next. But as to the dissolution in itself, our contemporary does not hesitate to pronounce it a very proper measure. What course of policy, it asks, is the Cabinet about to pursue with reference to the coming general elections. Two courses are open; either to hold itself entirely aloof, or to attempt interference on a larger scale than was done by the Matsukata Cabinet. The result would be uncertain if the latter course were followed. But if the former be adopted, there can be no doubt that the *Minto* will secure a large majority. In that event the Government will be unable to accomplish its object, even though it resorts to the dissolution of the Diet three or four times in rapid succession. In an editorial note our contemporary supplements the above article by advising the Ministers to avail themselves of the present opportunity for giving up their avowed policy of neutrality. If they do so, if they go down to the country in person, and take the people into their confidence, the *Jiji* is inclined to believe that the nation will declare itself for them. Doubtless a man like Count Ito does not need to be told that dissolution of the Diet alone will not avail much, if active efforts are not taken to turn the tide of public opinion in the right direction.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* (Independent supporter of the Cabinet) heartily approves the dissolution of the House of Representatives. The House, says our contemporary, disgraced itself during the last days of its existence by fractious abuse of its power of presenting Addresses to the Throne, and by squandering time over frivolous trifles, putting off the discussion of the Budget and other important measures introduced by the Government. To crown its career of folly, it attempted to impede the course of the enlightened and progressive national policy, by advocating a foreign policy based on dread of alien races. As to the result of the coming elections, our contemporary seems to think that the next House of Representatives will probably be as silly as its predecessor. In that event, the Cabinet, in the *Nichi Nichi's* opinion, will not hesitate to advise the Emperor to dissolve the Diet—again and again until a sober-minded House shall have been obtained. Many of the people now causing noise in the political world do not represent the sober section of the nation, and consequently it is the duty of the "all talents Cabinet" to try and obtain a House truly representing the most worthy classes of the people. In the approaching elections, the Government will maintain an attitude of strict neutrality between the contending factions. If, after repeated dissolutions, the Diet prove incorrigible, the *Nichi Nichi* thinks it the Cabinet's duty to protect the constitution by resorting even to a *coup d'état*.

THE NEW O. B. C. FAILURE.

A LONDON telegram of December 6th says:—"The report of the advisory Committee of the creditors of the late New Oriental Bank shows that the causes of failure were costly premises, unnecessary opening of branches which did not pay, large investments made by the head office in dubious securities, heavy advances made to customers upon inadequate security, and losses resulting from the fall in silver and dealings in exchange. Four of the directors, it appears, borrowed largely from the bank, and owed, when it failed, nearly $80,000, which was covered by inadequate security. Mr. Cargill has since left the country, and Mr. Macdonald has died, thereby preventing their bankruptcy. The suspension of the bank, the report adds, is largely due to the advances made by the bank to new companies, and the total advances in all quarters amounted to one million sterling, and the total deficiency to £2,130,000, of which the creditors bear one million and a half. The total claims amount to £4,200,000, showing a deficiency of seven shillings and two pence in the pound. The creditors cannot expect over six shillings in the pound more."

THE PROPOSED NEW TARIFF OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN the Tariff Bill prepared by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives—known as the Wilson Tariff Bill, or the Tariff Bill of the Democratic Congress—the proposed changes that have chief interest for Japan are these:—In the Section of Pulp, Paper, and Books, we find that "the rate on mechanically ground wood-pulp and chemical wood-pulp, unbleached or bleached, is changed from $2.50 to $7.00 per ton to 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. On printing paper unsized the rate is reduced from 15 to 12 per cent., and on sized printing paper the rate is reduced from [illegible] per cent. *ad valorem*. On copying paper tissue papers made up into copying [illegible] is changed from 8c. per pound [illegible] per cent. *ad valorem* to 25 per [illegible] The rate on manufactures [illegible] provided for is reduced fro[illegible]cent. *ad valorem*." In the section of [illegible] ores are placed on the free list, and the duty on gold and silver manufactured articles not specially provided for is reduced from 45 per cent. to 35 per cent. *ad valorem*. In the schedule of silk and silk goods "raw silk dutiable at 50c. per pound under the existing tariff law is made free by the new bill. The duty on thrown silk is reduced from 30 per cent. to 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. Silk velvets dutiable at graded compound rates are rated at 45 per cent. *ad valorem*. The duty on laces and embroideries, handkerchiefs, neck-wear, ready-made clothing, etc., is reduced from 60 to 50 per cent. *ad valorem*. The rate on manufactures of silk or of which silk is the component material of chief value not specially provided for in the act is fixed at 45 instead of 50 per cent. *ad valorem*." With regard to cotton goods the duty on cotton manufactures not specially provided for is reduced from 40 to 35 per cent. *ad valorem*. In the schedule of earths, earthenware, and glassware, there is a reduction of 5 per cent. each on decorated and undecorated china. There are many additions to the free list, but we do not perceive that any of them interest Japan except the item "works of art."

THE PRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE HAWAIIAN QUESTION.

THE Republican newspapers of the United States seem to view with extreme disapprobation the attitude of the Administration towards Hawaii. The New York *Tribune*, for example, sneers at the notion of redressing the wrong done Queen Liliuokalani, and wants to know where the process of correction is to stop. "It is to be borne in mind," says that journal "that Benjamin Harrison's grandfather was the military commander who defeated Tecumseh and his Indians, and made it possible to extinguish the Indian titles. Having righted one great wrong done by Benjamin Harrison himself, it may be that Secretary Gresham will joyfully embrace the opportunity to right another perpetrated by Benjamin's grandfather. The restoration of their lands to the descendants of the wronged Indians would be a noble undertaking. There might be some difficulty in finding genuine descendants, but any Indians will do. Here, for instance, is a most deserving tribe on East Fourteenth street, of which Richard Croker is Sachem. What could be more appropriate, if Secretary Gresham intends to carry out his programme, than to distribute the stolen Indiana lands among the Tammany Indians?" Other papers scout at the notion of the Great Republic lending its aid to restore a monarchy. They find such a proceeding astounding and anomalous. "It is almost beyond belief," writes one, "that Secretary Gresham should lend himself to such a despicable course on the part of this Government as that of aiding in the substitution of a monarchy for a Republic." "Think of it," says another, "people of the United States. Your Government picking up a bedraggled and rejected dynasty, and forcing Monarchy upon an unwilling people. If this is Democratic statesmanship, this Nation doesn't want any more of of it. The old Monarchies of Europe look upon the proposition with amazement. The home and seat of Republican institutions lending its strength to the restoration of royalty where it is not wanted!" An even more serious view in advanced by the St. Louis *Globe*:—"Interference on our part to subvert the Hawaiian Government is virtually an act of war. The power to declare war resides in Congress, and not in the President, and Congress has not authorized hostilities against Hawaii. Suppose the Government of that country refuses to step down at the bidding of our Minister, as it should refuse, and as it would be sustained by its own people and by public sentiment throughout the world in refusing, would that official order our navy stationed at the Hawaiian Capital to proceed to put the Government down by force? The instructions of the Administration appeal to commit him to this course. If, on the Government's refusal to efface itself, he should hesitate to use force, he and the Administration would be the laughing-stock of the world. And if, on the other hand, on the Government's refusal to commit *hara-kiri*, he should use force, and blood be spilt, a wave of indignation would sweep over the United States which might lead to the President's impeachment." Such is the tone of virtually the whole Republican Press.

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But the Democratic papers support President Cleveland strongly. The *Chicago Times* says:—"Secretary Gresham is not a person to use strong language without proper warrant. When he speaks of the transaction in the Hawaiian Islands, which, but for a change of Administration in the United States, would have resulted in the annexation of that remote country, as having been brought about by force and fraud, he speaks within reason. A crime against the native population of Hawaii was in contemplation by a conscienceless group of conspirators who desired to run the islands in the interests of themselves. The conservatism and good sense of the Cleveland Administration have put an end to the jobbery." One more quotation will suffice. We take it from the *Montgomery Advertiser*:—The United States would have cut a sorry figure if the jingo business of Minister Stevens in Hawaii had been allowed to stand. . . . The Provisional Government there was organized solely by means of American marines on the scene of action. With the active or passive assent of the United States withdrawn, the people can either uphold the Provisional Government or allow it to fall to pieces as they may wish. . . . The United States cannot afford to take sides in a quarrel in another country, and hold a victim while one of the parties at interest skins him. Hands off is the proper and true American doctrine."

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Apart from the interest of the question itself, these views are worthy of consideration as showing how a problem which ought to be debate-

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able on purely independent grounds, finds diametrically opposite solutions according to the political spectacles of the solvers.

THE "NICHI NICHI" RETALIATES.

It will perhaps be within the memory of our readers that some few months ago the ostensible Editor and printer of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* were both sent to prison for using disrespectful language about the House of Representatives, on the motion of Mr. Kuroda Tsunahiko, who represents one of the metropolitan districts, and is at the same time one of the Secretaries of the Home Department. The *Nichi Nichi* seemed to have forgotten all about the matter until the other day, when Mr. Kuroda supported a motion brought forward by the member for Kagoshima asking the Government to take some steps with regard to the Petition on Official Discipline recently presented to His Majesty. Now had Mr. Kuroda been an independent member it would not have much mattered which way he voted, but being a servant of the Government, his action, says our contemporary, was a contemptible piece of disloyalty. To make matters worse, when Mr. Kuroda was brought to book on the subject in the Lobbies of the House, he excused himself by alleging that he had been intimidated by the majority. As for the gentleman himself, concludes the *Nichi Nichi*, he is like the tail of a cat, his presence or absence makes no difference to the world. But it would be to the interest of the Government to commence official discipline on such a worthless hanger-on.

THE NISHIGORI CASE.

The preliminary examination of the prisoners in the Nishigori affair was recently concluded. As this case arose out of, and explains, the Soma business that created such an extensive sensation some time ago, we need not apologize for alluding at some length to the report of the Judges in the preliminary examination. The story constructed by the Judges out of the facts elicited in the course of their examination of the prisoners is substantially as follows:—Nishigori Takekiyo, thirty-nine years of age, a *shizoku*, and an art connoiseur by profession, is a former vasal of the Soma clan. While yet a boy, he came up to Tokyo to prosecute his studies. Returning to his parental home for a while, he again repaired to the capital. About this time, 1877, the late Viscount Soma Masatane, began to show signs of insanity, and as his malady gradually increased, the stewards of the family, Shiga Naomichi and Aota Tsunazo, with the permission of the unfortunate nobleman's father, after going through proper official formalities, had the patient confined in a separate room of the family mansion. This happened in June, 1879. He was afterwards treated at the Lunatic Asylum under the control of the City Government, and also at the Imperial University Hospital at Hongo. Nishigori fancied that his lord was not insame but that he was the victim of a conspiracy on the part of his stewards, Shiga Nomichi, Aota Tsunazo, Ishikawa Eisho, and Tomita Fukazo, and his father's mistress, Nishiyama Ryu, who, as the prisoner suspected, wanted to have their master put out of their way so that they might enrich themselves by stealing his property. Desiring to protect his persecuted lord and to put the family finances in order, Nishigori, in 1882-1883, made repeated attempts to see the confined nobleman, and failing to attain his object by peaceful methods, he at one time endeavoured to get possession of the Viscount's person by force. He also harrassed the retainers of the Soma family by sending medical practitioners and demanding the examination of the confined nobleman. Succeeding in none of these attempts, he brought before a Court of Law, in December, 1883, a charge of illegal confinement against Shiga Naomichi, Ishikawa Eisho, and Tomita Fukazo. As this charge was not entertained by the Court, Nishigori forged a letter of attorney in July, 1884, and again brought a similar suit. But instead of obtaining his object, he was himself tried and found guilty of forging a private document and of forcing entry into a private house. He underwent a sentence of major imprisonment for one month with a fine of two *yen* and police surveillance for six months. Nothing daunted by these failures, he became more desperate in carrying out his object. In January, 1887, he broke into the Lunatic Asylum of the Tokyo Fu, and took his former lord to the house of Goto Shimpei, one of the prisoners in the present case about whom more will be said presently, and afterwards accompanied him on a journey in the neighbouring prefectures. However, he was discovered by the Soma family, and being duly prosecuted, was again sentenced to major imprisonment of one month. At the house of Goto Shimpei, Nishigori had obtained from the late Viscount Soma a complete power of attorney, and by the aid of this new weapon, he waged war against the Soma family, involving the latter in several complicated civil cases. In connection with one of these cases the personal attendance of the late Viscount was ordered by the Tokyo Court of Appeal. A summons was served on February 19th, 1892, and the date fixed for attendance was the 3rd of the following month. On the very night when the summons was served, Viscount Soma Masatane was suddenly taken ill with a kidney complaint, and at 6 a.m. on the 22nd of the same month he died of paralysis of the heart. Nishigori had suspicions about the cause of death, imagining that poison had been administered by Aota Tsunazo, Shiga Naomichi, Nishiyama Ryu and others. He consequently applied for an autopsy, but as the application was not granted, his suspicions became stronger. As the Soma Family, entertaining a poor opinion of the late Viscount's son Hidetane, diverted the estate to Masatane's half bro[illegible]n-in, Nishigori now directed his atten[illegible]llecting evidence about the suppos[illegible]g and to considering means by wh[illegible] Hidetane's right of succession [illegible]tle. In order to attain his do[illegible]s necessary to procure powe[illegible]d among several whom he [illegible]ining, the principal were J[illegible] Jun and Dr. Goto Shimpei. [illegible]ade the acquaintance of Judge Yamaguchi towards the close of 1891, when he was brought before the Judge on a charge of forging of private documents, that being the third time that he was brought up for a similar charge. Acquitted of the charge, he paid a visit to his benefactor at the latter's private house, in February, 1892, and expressed his thanks. On the same occasion he asked his host's opinion as to which side was right, he himself or the Soma family, to which Yamaguchi replied that, in his opinion, his visitor was right. Encouraged by this significant reply, Nishigori asked for Yamaguchi's assistance in the accomplishment of his object, and Yamaguchi readily promised. The friendship thus formed was adroitly cultivated by Nishigori, who about two months afterwards paid another visit to Yamaguchi and presented him with an autographic writing by Count Higashikuze, a picture and an autographic writing by himself. On the same occasion, he engraved an orchid on a tea tray of red sandal wood (*shitan*). Some time afterwards, a third visit was paid to Yamaguchi, who, though confined to bed and not receiving visitors, gladly saw Nishigori and entertained him with *saké*. On this occasion, Nishigori told his hospitable host that he was now collecting evidence about the poisoning of the late Viscount Soma, and of his wish to procure Hidetane's succession to the family estates. A few days afterward, he again saw Yamaguchi, when the latter asked him if he did not know some person who would lend money at a low rate of interest. Taking the hint, Nishigori, a few days afterwards, brought a sum of 250 *yen* to Yamaguchi. In this way their friendship grew daily more intimate. With Dr. Goto Shimpei, Nishigori's acquaintance dates from 1883, when he obtained some advice in connection with his plan of compaign against the Soma family. The acquaintance was renewed on Goto's return from Europe in June, 1892. In the months of August and September, Nishigori paid several visits to Goto and acquainted him of all that had taken place during his absence. At these visits Nishigori successfully moved the feelings of Goto by talking with tears in his eyes of his repeated failures in his devotion to the cause of his late lord. Goto, however, did not at first place any confidence in the story of the poisoning, but advised Nishigori to desist from bringing forward such a charge. When he was informed that Dr. Yamane, Chief of the medical staff in the Metropolitan Board of Police, also wanted to hold an autopsy on the body of the late Viscount Soma, he began to entertain some suspicions about that nobleman's death. But he still thought it unwise to bring any charge of poisoning, because even though the charge were true, it could not be proved. Therefore he advised Nishigori to concentrate his energies for the protection of the dead nobleman's son Hidetane. He further advised him to take the boy out of the Soma mansion and conceal him at some safe place, where he could be brought up in the idea that his father had been poisoned by the stewards of the Soma family. The plan was to set up his claim to the Soma estates when he should have come of age. Nishigori followed this advice, and decided to abduct the boy and place him under the protection of a trusted accomplice, Sugeno Torata, who was then living at Osaka. Sugeno's wife was at once summoned to Tokyo, and strong-bodied coolies were daily sent to the neighbourhood of the Soma mansion by Goto and Nishigori, but the place being vigilantly watched, they could not get hold of the body. There being for the present little hope of accomplishing the desired object, the woman spoken of above was sent back to Osaka.

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About the middle of June in the same year, 1893, Nishigori held a consultation with Yamaguchi at an eel-house, Maruki, at Muromachi, Nihonbashi Ku. Nishigori acquainted his friend of what had been done, in concert with Dr. Goto, for getting hold of the boy Hidetane, and further told him that, if he could succeed in this plan, he intended to ask the American Minister to take care of the boy. Judge Yamaguchi warned him against taking any violent measure, but advised him to bring a suit for murder by poison. In order to induce the Court to take up such a case, Judge Yamaguchi deemed it necessary to create beforehand a sensation in the Judiciary by sending to the Court a document containing fictitious circumstances about the Soma family. Judge Yamaguchi thought that this plan might probably prove successful, because a similar scheme had been tried with signal success in connection with the famous *Kakuishi* Case. Nishigori was delighted when this project was explained to him. He declared it the best plan he could think of, and at once recollected that he had then in his possession unpublished MSS. which would answer the purpose exceedingly well. He had composed it about May, 1892, when he was residing at Motozono-cho, Koji-machi, intending to contribute it to some journals. The pamphlet purported to have been sent from a certain inhabitant of the other world under the *nom de plume* of *Rengeza-shujin* (a man on the lotus leaf). It was an imaginary story about the murder of the late Viscount Soma Masatane, the bribing of high officials and medical practioners by the Soma family, and so forth. Delighted with the idea, he informed his adviser of the existence of these MSS., saying that he should modify the story into a confession by one of the accomplices in the supposed murder tragedy. Yamaguchi at once consented to this, and told Nishigori to address it to the President and the Chief Public Procurator of the Tokyo Local Court as well as to himself, being the Chief Judge of preliminary examinations, so that he might be able to see the document when it should be sent to the Court. He further advised Nishigori to sign the document by the name of Okada Yasutane, one of the retainers of the Soma family, and post it in the neighbourhood of the Soma mansion. Nishigori took the MSS. to a retired hot

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spring restaurant, Arima Onsen, at Mukojima, and there secretly put it in the required garb. He could not, however, bring himself to sign it by the name of Okada, for the latter was a relative of his. So he made it into an anonymous confession, and on his way home from Mukojima, posted it in the vicinity of Wadagura-bashi. This was on the 28th of June, 1893. Such was the origin of the famous confession which excited so much excitement when it was afterwards published by the *Jiyu Shimbun*. After posting the document, Nishigori called on Dr. Goto, and acquainting him of the affair—probably for the first time—explained the relationship in which he stood with Judge Yamaguchi, and asked him to appoint a meeting with the latter. Nishigori then repaired to Judge Yamaguchi's house, and asked what effect the document had produced at the Court, but Yamaguchi answered that he had not yet seen it. A few days afterwards Nishigori and Judge Yamaguchi met at the eel-house at Nihombashi already alluded to, when the latter told the former that a great sensation had been caused in the Court by the anonymous confession. On the evening of either the 8th or 9th of July, 1893, the prearranged meeting of Judge Yamaguchi and Dr. Goto took place at the latter's house, Nishigori being also present. Dr. Goto talked of his plan of carrying Hidetane out of the Soma mansion, while Judge Yamaguchi spoke of his visit to the late Viscount Soma at his mansion while he was yet alive, to take his evidence in connection with a certain law case. At the proper moment, Nishigori produced from his bosom a copy of the anonymous Confession and showed it to the two others. Dr. Goto reproved Nishigori for rashness in presenting such a document, and talked with Judge Yamaguchi as to whether such conduct did not constitute an offence against law. Judge Yamaguchi described the state of feeling in the Court after the presentation of the Confession, and it was decided by the three friends to make no more delay in bringing forward the formal charge of murder. They talked of the course to be pursued in the future. After having been liberally entertained by the host, the guests departed at about 11 o'clock. As to the choice of legal counsel in the impending case, Nishigori looked about for a man of courage, and fixed his attention upon Okano Kan with whom he was slightly acquainted. Okano at first declined to accept the proposal, but moved by the zeal of Nishigori and the fictitious story of the Confession, and other things skilfully told by his would-be client, he finally consented to take the matter into his hands. The case was brought forward on the 17th of July. On the 24th, the Tokyo Local Court decided to entertain it and at once opened preliminary examinations. Many of the Judges being at the time in vacation, it was Judge Yamaguchi's turn to conduct the preliminary examination. But as he knew that the facts alleged to have taken place at the time of the death of the late Viscount Soma were entirely false, he did not like to take the case under his own charge. Moreover, his direct connection with the case would make it inconvenient for him to meet his accomplices. He therefore declined to conduct the examination, on the ground that his previous connection with a case of forgery in which Nishigori was concerned made it improper for him to do so. He consequently selected for the purpose Judge Okada Seikyo, an intimate friend of his. Judge Yamaguchi soon afterwards took vacation and went to Shiobara. After the institution of the murder case, all correspondence between the three accomplices was carried on under fictitious names. On the 20th of August, Nishigori and Judge Yamaguchi met at the eel-house, Maruki, when the latter informed the former of what he had done to keep himself in the background, whereby he could more effectually aid the furtherance of their common cause. They also promised not to see each other for some time, unless something extraordinary should take place in the development of the case. Meanwhile, the preliminary examination was making rapid progress, and Judge Yamaguchi managed to keep himself in touch with the case by affecting to assist Judge Okada in the examination of some witnesses. He was thus able from time to time to acquaint Nishigori with the course of things in the Court, while Nishigori, guided by this unique knowledge, skilfully adapted his movements to the requirements of each fresh development in the case. He took active steps to circulate false reports in the papers and to present fabricated information to the Court either in person or through his Counsel Okada. Thus Judge Yamaguchi and Nishigori worked in concert with each other to have the charge of murder established at the preliminary examinations. But in spite of all their desperate exertions, no evidence of murder was forthcoming, and they began to despair of any success.

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While things were in this desperate condition, Judge Yamaguchi heard from Judge Okada, who had charge of the Soma case, that, though sufficient evidence could not be procured to institute a murder case, there were in his opinion grounds to proceed against the prisoners on the charge of having illegally confined their late lord and thereby hastened, or even caused, his death. Judge Yamaguchi immediately afterwards met Nishigori privately, and acquainting him with what he had heard from Judge Okada, proposed that, instead of wasting energies in the fruitless task of seeking to establish the murder case, attention should be directed to obtaining the punishment of the Soma retainers on a charge of illegal confinement leading to death. Nishigori, who was then in the depth of despondency, readily consented to the proposition and earnestly begged his friend to use his official influence for the institution of the proposed prosecution. This new development of the case was in due time communicated to Dr. Goto. On the 15th of October, Nishigori, Judge Yamaguchi, and Dr. Goto held a secret conference at the Tanomo Restaurant, Mukojima, and talked together about the best means of establishing the case of illegal confinement. Dr. Goto proposed that steps should be taken to secure the filing in Court of a document setting forth the causes of the death of the late Viscount Soma, and citing such facts as might prove that his insanity had been caused by confinement as well as by the nature of his wife's disease. On the following day, these facts were reduced to writing and posted to Judge Yamaguchi by Dr. Goto under a fictitious name. Armed with this document, Judge Yamaguchi was able to pursuade Judge Okada to recommend the trial of the prisoners in the open court on a charge of illegal confinement. But his recommendation was not adopted by the Court, and the prisoners were accordingly set at liberty.

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Thus ends the chief part of the story in which Nishigori, Judge Yamaguchi, and Dr. Goto played leading parts. It remains to refer briefly to the other *dramatis personæ* in this interesting case. Before doing so, a few words more have to be said about Judge Yamaguchi. It is evident that his sole object in becoming associated with the affair was to obtain money, and in that he was fairly successful, for besides the loan of 250 *yen* already alluded to, he obtained a large sum from Nishigori on various pretences, some of which were false; namely, 5,000 *yen* on the 2nd or 3rd of September 1893, 100 *yen* on the 20th of the same month, 300 *yen* on the 5th of October, 1,250 *yen* on the 19th of the same month, and 250 *yen* on the following day. While thus extorting money from Nishigori, he was also in secret communication with the Soma family. His connection with the latter dates from some time in February, 1893. Through his brother-in-law, Harada Tsutomu, a Judge of the Tochigi District Court, he was able to convey to the famous Aota Tsunazo, of the Soma family, a request to be helped to study the legal aspects of the Soma trouble. Aota at once called on Judge Yamaguchi at his official residence and asked him to lend his powerful assistance to the Soma family. The Judge willingly agreed, and further promised to keep watch over the movements of Nishigori. At the same time he informed his visitor of all schemes then under secret consultation between himself and Nishigori. However, his monetary operations do not seem to have been very successful with the Soma family. He received 150 *yen* from Aota Tsunazo on the 24th of July, 1893, by falsely leading the latter to believe that his master, Viscount Soma Junin, had been excluded, through his (Yamaguchi's) exertions, from accusation of murder by poison, whereas, in point of fact, that nobleman's name had not yet appeared in the list of the accused simply because the official procedure necessary in the case of a man of his standing had not yet been completed. On the 9th of August, Yamaguchi obtained 300 *yen* from Aota Tsunazo by previously informing Shiga Naomichi, ex-steward of the Soma family, of his impending arrest. Subsequently he held several secret meetings with the son of Shiga, and on the 10th of September, he received a sum of 200 *yen* from Shiga's son.

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Koyama Toki had been an ardent admirer of Nishigori, who appeared to her in the light of a hero sacrificing himself in the cause of his late lord. She sent him a present of 500 *yen* at some date not mentioned. Her admiration and affection increasing, she finally succeeded in becoming Nishigori's wife in September 1891, and she thenceforth assisted him by supplies aggregating several thousand *yen*. When her husband brought forward the Soma Case in July, 1893, she knew that the anonymous confession had been fabricated by him, but she still manifested unflagging zeal in assisting him with counsel and money.

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The Barrister Okano Kwan, counsel for Nishigori in connection with the Soma Case, did not know till the beginning of October, 1893, that the anonymous confession had been composed by his client himself. But even after this discovery he continued to assist Nishigori in the prosecution of the infamous campaign.

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The last accomplice was Yamada Jubei, a dealer in swords. He became acquainted with Nishigori in the course of business about the year 1887. Nishigori's skill as a connoisseur and his artful address seem to have captivated the dealer, for the latter became a sort of accountant for his new friend. He was first told, in October, 1893, of the part which Judge Yamaguchi was playing in the game, and at the request of Nishigori, he met Judge Yamaguchi at the Shimamura restaurant, Nihonbashi. On that occasion he made the Judge a present of a valuable *menuki*. He also raised 300 *yen* to be given as a bribe to the greedy Judge. In several other ways he rendered continued assistance to Nishigori.

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The above are the prisoners directly concerned in the Nishigori case. But in the course of the preliminary examination, Judge Yamaguchi was discovered to have been guilty of bribery in an entirely separate case in which Hiranuma Senzo's head clerk was concerned. The investigation of this affair led to false evidence on the part of Hiranuma and also to the discovery that bribes had been taken by an ex-jailer, Watanabe Naokata. It was also found that Judge Hoashi, of the Nemuro Local Court, had practised swindling upon Nishigori some years previously, when the former had been a Judge of the Kyobashi District Court in Tokyo. The prisoners are thus arraigned on the following complicated indictments:—

Nishigori Takekiyo, *shizoku*, art connoisseur, aged 39	Calumny.
Yamaguchi Jun, *shizoku*, Judge of the Tokyo Local Court, aged 33.....	Calumny, receiving bribes in the exercise of judicial functions, swindling.
Gotō Shinpei, *heimin*, Director of the Sanitary Bureau, aged 37	Calumny.

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Okano Kan, *heimin*, Barrister, aged 41	Accomplice in Calumny.
Yamada Jubei, *heimin*, a tailor, aged 49	Accomplice in Calumny.
Koyama Toki, *heimin*, without any occupation	Accomplice in Calumny.
Hoashi Seisui, *shizoku*, Judge of the Nemuro Local Court, aged 52	Swindling.
Kato Aka, *heimin*, keeper of a tea house, aged 37	Perjury.
Hiranuma Senzo, *heimin*, silk merchant and banker, aged 58	Perjury.
Watanabe Naokata, *heimin*, a day labourer, ex-jailer aged 36	Acceptance of bribes in the discharge of public functions.

The three other prisoners in the case, Nakada Taichiro, Miyagi Mohei, and Tsuda Kanjiro, were discharged on the ground of insufficiency of evidence.

THE ROMANCE OF A NOBLEMAN.

THERE is much excitement exhibited by the vernacular papers over the affairs of Viscount Matsudaira, formerly Lord of Shimabara. The retainers of the family have for some time watched with growing concern the mismanagement of their feudal lord's property by those attached to his household, and have been waiting their opportunity to put things on to a more satisfactory footing. The opportunity arrived a few days ago when the Viscount was on a visit to a spa on the island of Shimabara. About a dozen of the old retainers waited for the Viscount to return from his bath, and under pretext of taking him to visit a former retainer, got him on board a boat and rowed off with him. For two days and nights they dodged along the coast, taking circuitous routes, so as to avoid detection, and at last reached their master's ancestral seat. Meanwhile, the officers of the Viscount's household had been searching everywhere for their lost master, but to no purpose. At last a telegram reached them that he was safe, and had arrived at home, upon which they made all speed to congratulate him on the successful termination of his adventures. But to their mingled surprise and sorrow, they found that their master had in the meantime been won over to the opposite party, and that on presenting themselves at the mansion, their rivals, now installed in office, refused them admittance. The heir to the estates, Viscount Matsudaira Tadatake, is now in Tokyo, and is reported to be quite at a loss as to the course he ought to take. The telegrams which have reached him from Shimabara are said to be very confused and contradictory, and may be taken to indicate that the kidnappers have not yet succeeded in fully establishing their position. Meanwhile, the affair promises to be almost as full of interest to the general public as was the Soma case.

ELOCUTION SOCIETY.

SOME of the speeches delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Elocution Society held at the Koseikan on the 17th ult. were extremely interesting. Mr. Tsuda Sen, the prominent agriculturist, one of the Japanese Commissioners at the World's Fair, re-echoed the complaint made by almost all Japanese who visited the Exhibition that, in spite of the praise lavished upon it by foreigners, the Japanese Exhibit was not worthy of the occasion. As an example, he mentioned the Hoōden, an erection which had cost 60,000 *yen*. Its construction, he alleged, was rough, and the materials used in it were faulty. It was like spreading a tent over the Ginza, and then comparing it with the Byô-tô-in of Uji. The whole of his speech was in a similar strain of depreciation of the Japanese Exhibits as compared with those of Western countries.

* * *

Mr. Fukuchi spoke of the decadence of the Japanese theatre, which he traced to an ordinance issued by the Tokugawa Regency during the period A.D. 1716-35 forbidding the *samurai* to attend the theatre with swords. Rather than leave their beloved swords in the charge of tea-house people outside the theatre, the *samurai* gave up frequenting the play, and the theatres were left entirely to the lower classes. The theatrical standards had therefore to be lowered in order to suit the tastes of the patrons; and this, he said, would fully account for the degeneracy of the Japanese stage. It must not be supposed that dramatic taste had always been at its present low ebb. "The History of the Courtesan Akoya," was an old drama the style of which was fully on a par with the best compositions emanating from the Kokinshu or the Manyoshu. The scene in which Akoya is put to torture, not with the horrible instruments familiar to our preconceived notions, but with musical instruments such as the *kokyu*, *koto*, and *samisen* on which she is obliged to play, is not only a beautiful one, but one also that brings out the physiological fact that music is almost always a test of the mental condition of the performer.

* * *

Mr. Yamada spoke on the subject of the *Chishima-Ravenna* affair, and argued that it was perfectly legitimate, and in accordance with the Treaties, that the case should have been appealed to the Shanghai Court. None of the other speeches seem to have been of any special interest.

UNSOLD EXHIBITS AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

THE *Hochi Shimbun* writes that most of the Japanese exhibits at Chicago have failed to find purchasers, and that a very grave question remains to be solved, as to the disposal of these unsold exhibits. Much discontent is shown by the exhibitors, and it is the intention of some of them to lay the matter before the Diet in case they fail to get satisfaction from the Noshomusho. The case of the Kyoto exhibitors (more than half of the total exhibits came from that district) has been entrusted to Mr. Nakayasu Nobusaburo, who is exerting himself very vigorously on behalf of his clients. The Government officials, he says, lay all the blame on the disturbed state of the American money-market, and are continually preaching to the exhibitors about the depreciation of silver. The real cause, however, is not the depreciation of silver, but the bungling mismanagement of the Japanese Commissioners. The exhibits, he maintains, were badly arranged (the Nishinjin potteries, for instance, could scarcely be seen at all): and it was therefore impossible for them to produce a favourable impression, or to court purchasers. And, continues Mr. Nakayasu, even supposing the silver question to have had something to do with the number of unsold exhibits, the Government cannot thus evade its responsibility. It is now the duty of the Government not to send round officials to preach about high art, but to do something practical to aid the manufacturers out of their present difficulties. If they are remiss in their duty now they will find it very difficult to persuade manufacturers to send exhibits to foreign countries on future occasions.

THE NAVAL MINISTER'S REPLY TO THE "CHISHIMA" QUESTION.

THE following Reply from the Minister of State for the Navy to Dr. Hatoyama's latest questions on the *Chishima-Ravenna* affair was read in the House of Representatives on the 29th Dec.:—

Not content with the Reply made on the 6th of the present month to the Questions addressed to me on the 28th of November, Mr. Hatoyama and two other members of the House of Representatives again presented questions on the 13th instant. The questions are divided into five points, and I propose to answer them in detail. But inasmuch as the questions principally turn upon whether His Imperial Majesty's name was used in instituting the suit at law in connection with the loss of the *Chishima Kan*, and whether the Government instructed its counsel to appear and plead in the British Supreme Court at Shanghai, I shall first make some general statements on these topics.

The case was a civil suit instituted by the Government, under my direction, for the recovery of damages suffered by the State and has, therefore, no political significance whatever. I am at a loss to understand why, in disregard of the circumstance that this question involves the rights and interests of the county, the House of Representatives seems to have made it a weapon of attack upon the Government by demanding a personal explanation from the Minister President of State, and by pressing for the Government's reply.

I am responsible for all matters connected with the institution of the present suit. It was instituted in pursuit of the programme left to me by my predecessor in office. In instituting it, my only object, it is scarcely necessary to state, has been to assert the rights of our country and recover the injury suffered by it. In a civil suit like the one under consideration, it was necessary to procure the services of specialists as counsel, to whose discretion were left all matters connected with the conduct of the case in the Court. I am, however, firmly convinced that the duty of control has never been neglected over matters affecting the honour and dignity of the country.

With reference to the alleged use of His Imperial Majesty's name, the following expressions occurred in the questions addressed me by Mr. Hatoyama and others under date the 28th of November:—

"The Japanese Government seems to have used the name of His Majesty the Emperor as representing the plaintiff in the case..... ..What process was employed and what reason was there for instituting the case in the name of the Emperor who is sacred and inviolable?"

This was one of the principal points in the original questions. The propounders of the Questions, whose language showed no lack of accuracy, seemed to believe that the case had been instituted in His Imperial Majesty's name. But the Government did not use the Emperor's name in instituting the case, and consequently I stated in my Reply it had been instituted in the name of the Imperial Japanese Government. I fail to see why the proposers of the former Questions were not satisfied with that answer. In the present questions, they have shifted their ground and make the following statements:—

"During the progress of the case the Government's counsel advanced His Majesty's name as a reason for the rejection of certain counter-claims The case was instituted in the name of the Imperial Japanese Government, but in the course of the proceedings the Emperor's name was made use of. Consequently we now ask for the Government's explanation as to the reason for its use of the Emperor's name.

From this it will be seen that the introducers of the Questions now acknowledge that the case was instituted in the name of the Imperial Japanese Government. They thus confess that they were in error when they charged the Government in the original Questions with having used the Emperor's name in instituting the case. However, they now ask me about what took place in the course of the proceedings. I am willing to reply to them on this new point. The Government, as already stated, left the conduct of the case in the hands of counsel, whose services were retained, but it repeatedly instructed them to proceed in a manner consistent with their capacity as representatives of the Imperial Japanese Government. They did not make use of His Majesty's name, but alleged that the Imperial Japanese Government, being the Government of His Majesty, instituted the case as representing His Majesty's rights, and they thus made use of the title of His Majesty, on the grounds that according to the principles of law governing British Courts, a man-of-war of a monarchy is the property of the monarch, and the right to recover damages in a case of tort is vested in the actual owner of the property damaged. Counsel therefore deemed it in the interests of their client to plead the Sovereign rights of the country. Thus the fact is that the title of His Majesty the Emperor was used, but the name of His Majesty was never used, nor was the Emperor himself named directly as a party to the suit. No body will deny that the Japanese Government is His Majesty's Government. Nor is it necessary to state that the present case is not a private suit instituted by a Minister of State, for, although its institution by the Government comes within the limits of Civil law, the Government nevertheless represents in this case the public rights of the State and the Sovereign.

Concerning the propriety of bringing the matter before the British Court of Law, it must be stated that, according to Art. VI. of the Treaty between Japan and Great Britain, all civil disputes between British subjects and Japanese are left to the decision of the British Consul, who is directed to request the assistance of the Japanese Authorities only in case he is unable to settle such disputes amicably, but that this provision has never been carried into practice. The jurisdiction enjoyed by Great Britain has been modified by the practice followed by other Treaty Powers, and the British Authorities are held competent only to take cognizance of cases in which a British subject is the defendant, the suits brought against Japanese being held to come under the jurisdiction of

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the Japanese Authorities. In order to carry out this system effectually, England established a Supreme Court at Shanghai, thus opening a way of appeal against the Consular Courts in Japan and China, and invested it with jurisdiction over such criminal cases as might lie beyond the competence of her Consuls. Communication on this subject was made to our Government by the then British Minister, Sir Harry S. Parkes, on the 8th day of the 7th month of the 1st year of *Kei wo*. The following expressions occurred in Sir Harry S. Parkes' note to the Foreign Minister of the Bakufu:—

"The object of establishing the above mentioned Court has been to render effectual the powers with which Her Britannic Majesty's Authorities are invested, and thus to fulfil in the most conscientious manner the obligation Her Majesty has incurred under the treaty, namely, that of providing for the proper trial by British law of all crimes committed by British subjects in Japan and China as well as of adjudicating in civil cases of all kinds"

Thus the British Government established that Court in compliance with a treaty obligation to provide for the effectual administration of justice. In the 12th year of *Meiji*, the organization of the British Consular Court at Yokohama was altered, and a properly qualified Judge was appointed therein; and the system then inaugurated still prevails there. This change in its organization did not affect the relationship in which the Court stood towards the Supreme Court at Shanghai. Our Government, on receipt of note concerning the change, acquainted the Court of Cassation and all other Courts of Law of the fact by Notification No. 5 D of the Department of Justice, under date of 27th day, 1st month, 12th year of *Meiji*. Indeed the establishment of the British Supreme Court at Shanghai may be compared to the decision of our own Government to invest our Court at Nagasaki with jurisdiction over criminal cases in the various ports of China and Korea and over all appeals from the Consular Courts in those places. The object in both cases was to fulfil effectually the obligations arising out of the treaties. In the treaties it is laid down as a general principle that civil cases shall come within the jurisdiction of the Authorities of the country to which the defendant belongs, but no restrictions are made as to the locality of the Courts. In regard to private rights, an action instituted by the State, even under the direct command of the Sovereign or in virtue of the powers delegated by him, must, as is the case with respect to all jural persons and private individuals, be subject to the public rights of the State, or, in other words, to the supreme powers of the Sovereign. Therefore, in instituting a civil case, the State must act in the capacity of a private subject, and not in that of a governing body. Consequently, in proceeding against a Japanese subject, our Government must go before one of the Imperial Courts of Law, but in suing a British subject, the case must be instituted in a proper British Court having jurisdiction over the defendant. So in the present instance, the case was first instituted in the British Court at Yokohama, and when the Peninsular and Oriental Company, namely the defendants in the case, appealed to the British Supreme Court at Shanghai, our Government, though it did not receive any summons, caused its counsel to attend and plead. In acting thus, the Government simply followed the course marked out by the system of jurisdiction established by mutual consent for the effective carrying out of mutual treaty obligations; and so long as the present treaties are in force, such a step can not be regarded as any fresh encroachment upon the national rights of the Empire, for the case in point is merely a civil action, and can not, from its very nature, be instituted by the State in its Sovereign capacity. Some persons maintain that the judicial provisions in the existing treaties refer only to disputes that arise between individuals. They ought to remember that the State, when appearing as a party in a civil case in the capacity of a jural person, must, in all things, follow the same process as is prescribed for an individual subject. Moreover, according to the clause relating to civil disputes in Art. VI. of the original Dutch version of the Treaty between Japan and Great Britain, Englishmen are referred to as *Een Britisch onder daan*, while Japanese are designated simply as *Een Japannes*, and not as *Een Japannische onder daan*. Now the judicial authority at present exercised by the Courts of either country being derived from this provision, it necessarily follows that the course adopted by the Government in the present instance has been proper. With regard to precedents for such a course of action, mention may be made of the *Imperial Japanese Government versus Mitchel* and *Cope*, of the 12th year of *Meiji*. I, therefore, replied on the former occasion that the Government had followed precedents. It is to me a matter of profound surprise that Mr. Hatoyama, a *Hogaku Hakase* (Doctor of Law), should ask for precedents in such a case.

From what has thus far been explained, I am in a position to declare positively that neither in instituting the present case nor in the subsequent course of action, did the Government ever make His Majesty the Emperor by name a party to the suit, but that the case was conducted throughout in the name of the Government, and although counsel made use of terms "Sovereign" and "Supreme Authority" for the sake of argument, His Majesty's name was never used at any stage of the progress of the case. I can also positively declare that there is no ground to accuse the Government of having impaired the national rights of the Empire by making a fresh judicial concession to England.

Now that the present case has been instituted, it is my intention to pursue it by judicial process, and I therefore do not consider that it would be proper for me to pass any comment whatever on the manner in which it has been conducted by counsel, since such a course would be opposed to the reticence necessarily observed while a case is *sub judice*. It goes without saying that the greatest care shall be taken hereafter to exercise legitimate control over the conduct of the case within the limits of my official functions. But I have nothing to do with any legal arguments or technical polemics that may be relied on in the court by our counsel. With regard to these matters, from the very nature of the trust reposed in counsel, I dare not interfere, and it is not necessary for me to take any such responsibility upon myself. My only object being to assert the rights of the country, I am ready to bear every responsibility arising out of my official functions. I am, however, astonished at the attempts made to hold me responsible for technical points and arguments employed by our counsel in the conduct of the case entrusted to their care, and I am equally at a loss to appreciate the idea of sacrificing to political ends a national suit brought against foreigners.

I will now answer each of the points raised by my interrogaters.

First.—His Imperial Majesty's name was not used. Counsel used the terms "Sovereign" and "Emperor," but His Majesty was never made by name a direct party in the case, neither was any judgment obtained under His Majesty's title.

Secondly.—Arguments and statements made in a Court of Law do not create responsibility outside that Court. The Government is not called upon to accept political responsibility for statements and arguments made by counsel in a law-suit.

Thirdly—The *Imperial Government versus Mitchel and Cope* of the 12th year of *Meiji* may be cited as the most prominent precedent. The case was originally instituted in the British Court at Yokohama by the Imperial Government on the 26th of the 1st month, the 11th year of *Meiji*. Having lost the case at Yokohama, the Government appealed to the British Supreme Court of Shanghai, whose judgment was given on the 6th of the 12th month of the 14th year of *Meiji*. The point in dispute was that the lot occupied by the defendants at No. 95, Settlement had been extended beyond the limits stated in the original lease; and the Government claimed restoration of the lands thus included which were roads on two sides. The case was decided in favour of the Imperial Japanese Government.

Fourthly.—It goes without saying that it is not right to follow precedents without any regard to whether they are correct or not. But in the present instance, there was no course other than to follow precedents in order to obtain legal redress.

Fifthly.—The Government has appealed against the decision of the British Supreme Court at Shanghai.

The above reply is hereby submitted.

(Signed) Count SAIGO TSUKUMICHI,
Minister of State for the Navy.

Dated the 29th day of the 12th month of the 26th year of *Meiji*.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF KOBE.

"THE French Vice-Consul," says *Commerce*, "in summing-up an exhaustive report on Kobe, says the statistics show that the countries with which that port has the most considerable trade relations—combining exports and imports—are, in the first place, China and Hongkong. It may be said that the major part of the goods exported to Hongkong are destined for ports of Southern China, where they are transported either by junks or by the numerous steamers which go from Hongkong to Canton, Amoy, Swatow, &c. However, a part, which it is difficult to estimate, is re-exported from Hongkong to Europe. With China and Hongkong trade continues to progress. The proportion of trade with the United States and France is diminished. With England and Germany the tendency is towards an increase of their imports into Kobe, it being incontestable that the influence of German trade is making itself felt more every year at this port. Kobe is destined to monopolise more than ever the trade with Australia and British India, as also with Belgium, Turkey, and Siam. So far, the business with the latter country has been insignificant. But the Japanese appear to be actively occupying themselves with the creation of an outlet there, and a certain number of articles of their make can find a market. Trade with Korea, previously very important, has become insignificant, having been transferred almost entirely to Osaka, which was formerly the great centre, and which now conducts it directly. If the exports of Kobe be examined, remarks the Vice-Consul, one cannot help being struck by the development made in native industries of late years. These industries are of two kinds. First, those of purely national origin, in the sense that they existed in Japan prior to the arrival of foreigners, and have only had to be more or less modified to fit in with the new applications and satisfy export demands—such as the manufacture of porcelain, lanterns, screens, fans, and articles of wood, ivory, various metals, straw, paper, shell—in a word, curios, properly speaking,—as well as the manufacture of silk tissues. The others, on the contrary, have no national character; they are born of contact with the foreigner, of the imitation of foreign productions, sometimes with a view to exclusively foreign uses, sometimes with the object of freeing the country from dependence on foreigners by producing locally the new articles respondent to acquired tastes. Such are, in the first place, the cotton industry (now involving millions), the mat industry, and that of matches; also, on a more modest scale, the manufacture of cotton carpets, cotton cloths, flannels, vests and drawers, socks, gloves, hats, shoes, and clothing of all kinds; the making of umbrellas, soaps, copper and brass wire, sulphuric acid, cigarettes, European papers, glass-ware, lamps, and cement. Already Japanese matches and umbrellas have almost supplanted the similar wares formerly imported from Europe; and for other articles the competition, which is not yet so severe, has made itself felt. As the Japanese have cheap labour and small transport charges to bear, the Vice-Consul foresees a formidable competition seriously menacing foreign traders in China in the near future."

PETROLEUM IMPORTS.

STATEMENTS have been going the rounds of the press to the effect that the consumption of American petroleum in East India ports is being gradually lessened by the competition of the Russian product. We can contradict this report, says the *New York Shipping List*, and will add that the shipments so far this year to China and Japan are the largest in the history of the oil industry. Up to the present date over 60,000,000 gallons have been exported to China and Japan, against 50,000,000 gallons for the same time last year, while the East Indies have taken about 32,000,000 gallons, against 17,418,000 gallons a year ago, and India 36,700,000 gallons, as compared with 16,034,900 gallons. The refineries have been running on full time for the past six months and in several instances within the past thirty days refiners have refused to accept any further orders except for delivery after the turn of the year. With the evident purpose of checking the demand, they have advanced the price from 5.90 to 6.25 cents, a rise of 35 points since last week.

KOREAN NOTES.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Söul under date December 11th, says:—"The Edict prohibiting the exportation of rice went into operation on the 6th inst., all efforts to prevent it proving ineffectual. Complaints on the part of Japanese merchants are loud and numerous. Whatever may have been the condition of the crops at the ports of Fusan and Gensan, there is an abundance of rice in the neighbourhood of the capital, and no just cause for trying to enforce the Edict at Jinsen can be given. Rice for

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which a few weeks ago 520 cash was paid per measure, was sold two days ago in the early market for 320 cash. The end is not yet reached, though I should not be surprised of before another mail leaves the Edict were revoked.

* * *

"A ripple of excitement was caused a few weeks ago when an attempt was made to explode a bomb under the room of the Minister of Finance. Like the attempt on the Tai Wŏn Kun, a year ago, it was fortunately unsuccessful. Because of numerous cases of thieving and the spirit of lawlessness, the law forbidding men to go on the streets after curfew or the closing of the city gates, has been revived, and, for the present at least, enforced with vigour. Koreans in the employment of foreigners are not exempted, though the Foreign Office has issued passes to foreign residents by which servants are enabled to go on errands for their masters after dark. This sending men to their homes at half-past six in the evening is possible, we hope, only in Korea, and may its day here be ended soon.'

THE TWO CLUBS.

THE *Domei* Club and the *Doshi* Club have come together. Their union is proximately due to the convivial influences of the season. They had been working on the same lines all through the fifth session, and it seems to have occurred to them that they might as well coalesce in name as well as in practice. They had a *Konshin-Kai*, or friendly gathering, on New Year's Day, when Mr. Nakamura Yaroku, the leading spirit of the *Domei* Club, read aloud the following declaration :—

The intercourse between the *Domei* and *Doshi* Clubs during the 5th session of the Diet has been founded on their unanimity of policy with regard to the question of official discipline, the question of confidence in the President, the question of the *Chishima* law-suit, and the question of strict enforcement of the Treaties; and in the fourth session by their common effort to hold the Cabinet Ministers to the promises made by them in consequence of the Imperial Rescript, the similarity of their views on the subject of administrative reform, and their identical aims in respect of amending the Budget. The Government has now dissolved the Diet. No reason is assigned for the step, and none is apparent. But we have always appreciated the conduct of this clan Government: their objection to pay heed to the wishes of the people or to obey public opinion and their efforts to usurp the Administrative power for themselves. The tendency of the time is strongly towards complete reform. We, members of the two clubs, will work in our common cause at the general elections, and should we be again returned, will join our strength to achieve our constant aim. By the great union of all lovers of progress and liberty, the evils of clan Government that have lasted for over twenty years shall be swept away, the reality of responsible Cabinets shall be achieved, the national strength shall be developed, the debt of gratitude that we owe our Sovereign shall be paid, and the prosperity of the people shall be secured.

* * *

These are brave words. But truly the gentlemen of the two clubs have a quaint method of paying their "Debt of gratitude to their Sovereign." The Emperor has reserved to himself by the Constitution the right of appointing and dismissing his Ministers, and has just declared, in a most unequivocally worded Rescript, that he will not suffer any interference with the exercise of that right. Thereupon the gentlemen of the *Domei* and *Doshi* Clubs announce that the great object of their lives is to deprive His Majesty of that right and to make the Ministers of the Crown hold office at the will of the majority in the House of Representatives. They add that they hope to accomplish their object speedily, and then they indulge in the pretty conceit of pretending that its accomplishment will be a method of paying their debt of gratitude to the Emperor. It is not for us as Englishmen to lay charges of disloyalty or infidelity at the door of politicians who fight for party Cabinets, but in truth we must concede to the Japanese a monopoly of the comic pretence that to denude the Sovereign of the power of appointing and dismissing his own Cabinets is the cause of loyalty. It is evident that when we come to appraise Japanese political motives some new and novel standards must be applied.

* * *

The *Doshi* club consists of the men who seceded from the *Jiyu-to* in the sequel of the Hoshi Toru affair. They numbered 14 members of the House of Representatives originally, and they subsequently received an accession of 3. Thus with the 25 members of the *Domei* Club the new association aggregates 42, or only one less than the total following of the *Kaishin-to* in the Lower House. Why the *Domei* Club should continue to exist as an independent party, we fail to see. Its original *raison d'être* was to act as a buffer between the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to*. But since a final and fatal collision has taken place between these two, the *Domei* Club ought surely to ally itself definitely with one or the other. Are we to understand that it cannot agree with either separately, but was nevertheless willing to agree with both together so long as they fought in the same ranks against the Government? This seems to be a species of political conundrum. Does it not, however, furnish another illustration of the fatuity of talking of government by party at the present stage of Japanese political development? Where are the parties to govern? Will no heat of events ever suffice to fuse into a homogeneous whole some of the elements forming the Opposition? These petty parties that have not the resolution to efface a portion of their individuality for the sake of achieving their great purpose, is it conceivable that after they have achieved it they will divest themselves of all their jealousies and obliterate all their dividing lines? Government by party, forsooth, in a country where the three hundred members of the House of Representatives are split into no less that seven separate associations!

* * *

Another thing difficult to understand is how these two coteries can openly unite for political purposes while retaining their separate organizations. The law distinctly forbids anything of the kind, and we sincerely hope that the law will be put into operation against them. It is a veritable farce to see all these little bantlings strutting about the political arena, as if each was to be the sole *deus ex machinâ*, and clamouring for the inauguration of a system with the practical working of which their selfish independence of each other is utterly incompatible.

MR. SANO ON THE SHANGHAI MARKET.

A REPRESENTATIVE of the *Hochi Shimbun* recently interviewed Mr. T. Sano, President of the Nippon Cotton Company, who recently returned from Shanghai, and in the course of conversation elicited from him one or two interesting observations on the state of trade in the Chinese Port. What most struck Mr. Sano was (i), the scarcity of currency and the consequently high and fluctuating rates of interest, and (ii) the high freight charges owing to insufficient methods of transportation. To obviate the former difficulty Mr. Sano advocated the establishment in Shanghai of a branch of the Yokohama Specie Bank. The establishment of this Bank would very much increase the amount of currency in the Settlement, and correspondingly modify the fluctuations of interest. It would also put the Japanese *yen* on a par with the Mexican dollar, whereas it now stands only at 98 per cent. in Shanghai. This Bank, he thought, would very materially assist the development of trade between the two countries. With regard to the second difficulty, Mr. Sano thought that the Yusen Kaisha should lower its freight charges and establish a more frequent service between Japanese ports and Shanghai.

TAX ON SHOOTING LICENSES.

THE *Mainichi* tells us that although the Tax on Shooting Licenses ordered by Imperial Ordinance, No. 84 of last year was subsequently withdrawn by the Government in deference to the strong protests of the Lower House, there still lurks in many minds a suspicion that the tax is being quietly levied, a small sum being put by week by week out of a secret tax on shooting licenses. Our contemporary thinks the matter, though trivial, should be enquired into. But has the Government withdrawn the Ordinance? We do not believe anything of the kind. No public notification of any such step has been made, and if the *Mainichi Shimbun* imagines that a Government in Constitutional times has competence to issue Ordinances and then leave them in abeyance at will, it has a novel notion of administrative and legislative methods. The Game Law issued by Imperial Ordinance in 1892 remains in force to-day. The Lower House passed an ineffectual resolution about it, but the Lower House in Japan is not invested with a monopoly of legislative competence.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

IT has been found, says the *Hochi*, that the judgment recently given by the Administrative Court restraining the headmen of the Koishikawa and Kanda Wards from imposing the Business Tax on such Bank Directors and Managers of Mercantile Companies as were members of the Chamber of Commerce, contrary to the provisions of the Commercial Code, and that the only persons eligible to become members of the Chamber of Commerce are persons directly or indirectly engaged in business on their own account. In consequence of this ruling, Mr. Shibusawa, who has been President of the Chamber of Commerce for several years, and many other prominent business men, have been obliged to resign their membership of the Chamber. This is extremely to be regretted, inasmuch as these gentlemen are precisely the most capable of giving a broad and generous tone to the Chamber's deliberations. It seems, however, that the only thing to be done is to amend the phraseology of parts of the Commercial Code.

LAW NO. XVIII.

THE following Imperial Rescript has been issued :—

With the consent of the Imperial Diet, We hereby give Our sanction to the present Law relating to an Addition to the Regulations for the Enforcement of the Commercial Code, and order it to be duly promulgated.

[Sign Manual.]

Dated the 19th day of the 12th month of the 26th year of *Meiji*.

Countersigned by

Count ITO HIROBUMI,
Minister President of State.

YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA.
Minister of Justice.

LAW NO. XVIII.

The following words shall be added to Clause 2, Art. VIII. of the Regulations for the Enforcement of the Commercial Code, Law No. LIX., of the 23rd year of *Meiji* (1890).

"A joint-stock Company organized in accordance with a Special Law need not affix the above designation."

* * *

It will be seen from the above that the difficulty referred to in our columns between the Department of Justice and the National Banks of Tokyo and Yokohama with regard to the use of the appellation "Joint Stock" has been solved in a manner satisfactory to all parties concerned.

SWEDISH MISSIONS IN CHINA.

THE following is a retranslation from the Swedish *Official Gazette* of a portion of a despatch from Mr. N. R O'Conor, British Minister at Peking, to his Government, which Lord Rosebery directed the British Envoy and Minister at Stockholm to communicate to the Swedish Government :—"I believe it to be my duty to mention that it has been stated in the papers that 200 Swedish missionaries are on their way to China, of whom some are, as far as I know, connected with the "China Inland Mission." I have not heard of how many have arrived, but about two months ago, twenty-four young Swedish men and women arrived at Peking. I believe they were quite unacquainted with the language and customs of the country, and hardly furnished with sufficient means to provide for the most

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indispensable necessaries of life. After a short stay at Peking they continued their way inland in two parties, and, I am told, that they had adopted much of the style of the Salvation Army, so much at least, that by singing hymns and playing on all kinds of stringed instruments they attracted attention in the towns and villages which they proceeded through. Their behaviour has naturally created considerable uneasiness among the different mission societies of North China, and great fear is entertained lest it may lead to a repetition of such outrages as are now reported from Ma-chêng. In any case it seems only right that the Swedish Government should be made aware of the prevalent danger, and of the want of thought which people display who induce persons to undertake mission work in such dangerous conditions.'—*N.-C. Daily News.*

THE JIYU-TO AND STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE TREATIES.

THE following article from the *Jiyu* possesses great interest as a clear *exposé* of the attitude of the chief political party in the country towards the burning question of the day :—

From the views of the *Jiyu-to* with regard to the pending questions of the time, as already clearly indicated to the public in the speeches delivered at the meeting held in the Kinki-kwan, it will have been understood that we are distinctly opposed to the Representation on the subject of strict enforcement of the treaties. But we desire that the public should not misunderstand the main reason why the *Jiyu-to* is against the Representation. We are led to set our faces against it, not because we object to the principle of strict enforcement, or deem it unreasonable. Strict enforcement itself is not bad unreasonable. Why then does the *Jiyu to* oppose it? This may perhaps perplex the ignorant, but persons endowed with intelligence will easily understand our meaning. A great political party is possessed of great potential energies, and these great energies are called into action when such a party inaugurates a great movement. Such a great movement is instigated when great questions demand it. That being the case, what question in the existing state of affairs should be considered urgent and important by intelligent and far-sighted men in Japan? The answer is the revision and perfection of the existing treaties and not their strict enforcement only. Is this not a matter of great urgency and supreme importance? We of the *Jiyu to* desire to commence a great movement by applying the great energies of the whole Japanese people to this great work of the revision of the existing treaties. That is the most urgent and most important question of the present day. Nor is it quite correct to say that we desire to commence it. The *Jiyu-to* has already taken the initiatory steps in this most urgent and important question. And not the *Jiyu-to* only. Has not the Imperial Diet, which represents the whole people of the country, already commenced this most urgent and important work. Why do we say so? Did not the 4th Diet present an Address to the Throne praying for revision of the treaties. The Rubicon is crossed. Return is impossible. The Imperial Diet has already commenced the work of treaty revision. At this juncture, there can be no time for presenting a Representation on the subject of strict enforcement of the treaties. Treaty revision clearly implies, in one sense, strict enforcement. In other words, is it not the great object of the Diet to conclude and strictly enforce new treaties on a truly equal footing by putting an end to and finally removing all the indignities and encroachments that have resulted from the existing imperfect treaties during more than 30 years past? If the Diet, while on the one hand it has already commenced the work of treaty revision in deference to that great object, on the other suddenly presents a Representation to the Government calling for the strict enforcement of the existing treaties, what becomes of the spirit of the Address to the Throne voted by the last Diet? Such procedure would amount simply to suicide on the part of the Diet. This is the reason why we of the *Jiyu-to* oppose the Representation relating to strict enforcement of the existing treaties, for such a Representation could only be construed to mean that the country is content to strictly enforce the existing treaties, counting their revision a task beyond the national strength. We consider the proposed Representation only serves to display more and more the ignorance of the Diet. Nothing is impossible, if it be essayed with unfaltering decision. If any one asserts that treaty revision is beyond the ability of the Japanese people though they put forth their utmost endeavours to compass it, we have no hesitation in denouncing such a person as cowardly and spiritless, not even capable of strictly enforcing the existing treaties. If the Imperial Diet, having already commenced the work of treaty revision, nevertheless before the lapse of one year considers that the time has come to present a Representation regarding strict enforcement of the existing treaties, its action is no better than would be a frank admission of cowardice and spiritlessness on the part of our countrymen. Hence it is that we of the *Jiyu-to* opposes the Representation. Summing up the main reasons of our opposing the Representation for strict enforcement of the existing treaties, they are these:—We firmly believe that revision of the existing treaties will be accomplished, and since we have set our hands to this great movement, this most urgent and important work, making it our prime object and the earnest desire of our heart, there is no room to-day to adopt such a self stultifying and contradictory course as the presentation of a Representation for strict enforcement of the existing treaties. We do not condemn strict enforcement in itself, nor do we think it unreasonable. But we affirm that a great political party which breathes the atmosphere of progress and reform cannot afford to discuss, or see any necessity for entertaining, a measure so conservative and spiritless as a memorial for strict enforcement of the existing treaties.

FIRE ON THE BLUFF.

THE residence of Mr. E. Rogers, No. 10, Bluff, owned by and lately in the occupation of Mr. Theodore Morris, was totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday evening, between the hours of six and eight. Quite recently a wing had been added to the house, and it was in the bath-room situated at the top of the outer staircase to these new rooms that the fire is supposed to have originated. The flames spread with remarkable rapidity, being fanned by a light breeze, and soon the whole house was enveloped, salvage operations being speedily put an end to. The police and Bluff fire brigade quickly put in an appearance, while Supt. Kipling was also on the spot. Nothing could be done, however, to stay the progress of the fire, water being practically unobtainable. The houses on the opposite side of the road were in considerable danger for some time, owing to the showers of sparks and burning material which lodged upon their roofs, but fortunately the air's comparative stillness was in their favour. By half-past seven all danger was over, the house by that time being a complete ruin. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Rogers, who, we believe, had but recently moved into the house. The property and furniture were insured. Mr. Morris had $4,500 on the house, insured in the Hongkong Company, and $1,200 on the furniture, in the Phœnix Company; while Mr. Rogers had $4,000 on his own effects, also in the Phœnix. A word of praise should be given to Mr. Ikariyama, the Superintendent of the Bluff Police, for the excellent way in which he organised his men and fire brigades.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

THE following notice to Mariners in reference to the changes in positions of buoys in the North Channel Entrance to the Yangtze, Shanghai District, China Sea, has been issued from the Coast Inspector's office of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs:—Notice is hereby given that a recent examination of the banks between Drinkwater Point and the western end of Bush Island having shown that considerable alterations have taken place, the Buoys have been shifted as was requisite in order to mark the channel to the best advantage, and that their present positions are as follows:—Ch'i-yao Bank Buoy.—A six-foot conical *red* Buoy, surmounted by a black spherical cage, moored off the south-eastern elbow of Ch'i-yao Bank, to mark the starboard side of the channel, entering, with Drinkwater Point Surveying Beacon bearing N. 28¾° E., true, distant 2 miles. Middle Island Buoy.—A six-foot conical *black* Buoy, surmounted by a black inverted frustum cage, moored off the northern elbow of the banks which lie to the northward of Middle and Blockhouse Islands, to mark the port side of the channel, entering, with the Blockhouse Island Surveying Beacon bearing S. 12½° E., true, distant 6½ miles. Tsungming Bank Buoy.—A six-foot conical *red* Buoy, surmounted by a black spherical cage, moored off the south-eastern elbow of the Tsungming Bank, to mark the starboard side of the channel, entering, with the "High Dark Tree" on the south-western shore of Tsungming bearing N. 44½° E., true, distant 4 miles. Note.—The northern shore of Bush Island is washing away, and the Tsungming Bank is extending to the southward and eastward. Vessels entering should, on passing the Tsungming Bank Buoy, steer for the western end of Bush Island and round it at about 2 cables.

PENETRATION.

A GENERAL on the retired list was called upon the other day by two graduates of the Military College; one was rather corpulent, with sunburnt face and penetrating eyes; his companion had a pale complexion and was evidently of a retiring disposition. After some time spent in general conversation, their host, as if something had suddenly occurred to him, asked the latter the length of a certain rope used in the Commissariat. Though somewhat surprised, the young officer, who appeared to have a retentive memory, answered correctly. Conversation was then resumed; after a while the general asked the other officer a question on a subject not directly relating to his official duty. He bluntly replied that he knew nothing about it. On the general showing some surprise at this answer, he added that he could not help being ignorant of what he did not know. A few days after this, a colonel connected with the Military College called on the general, who speaking of the two young officers, said that he thought the one with the sun-burnt face would make a good staff-officer, but that the other would, at best, be fit for nothing better than an aide-de-camp. The colonel being curious to learn how, in so short an interview, he had arrived at this decision which coincided exactly with his own, the general explained that one knew accurately the length of a certain rope while the other boldly declared his ignorance of a thing which did not fall within his province: now an officer who expected to serve on the staff neither could nor should be able to remember such trifles as the length of a rope; the very fact that one knew it, proved that he was unfit for such a position; the case of the other officer was very different; knowing his own duty and functions, he boldly replied that he was ignorant of the point asked him.

THE FIRE AT THE KOREAN LEGATION.

THE only portions of the Korean Legation left standing are the gate and the *naga-ya*. It appears that the inmates of the Legation were just going to breakfast when flames were discovered, their origin being a badly isolated stove-pipe. The conflagration had then made little progress, and its extinction would doubtless have been possible had the usual resources been available. But in the early morning of New Year's Day the firemen do not assemble as quickly as on ordinary days, and a wooden edifice is soon consumed unless very prompt means to save it are at hand. Two hours sufficed to reduce the building to ashes, but happily the archives and the furniture were got out. The offices of the Legation were transferred over the way to No. 26, Sanban-cho. It appears that the building now destroyed had been occupied for the purposes of the Korean Legation since 1888, the previous location having been Reinan-zaka, in the Azabu district of Tokyo.

THE RADICALS AND THE PROGRESSIONISTS.

IT is curious to see how the organs of the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to* bandy back and forth the charge of secret meetings with Count Yamagata on the part of the leaders of the respective parties. The *Jiyu Shimbun*, the Radical organ, was the first to publish, towards the end of last year, reports relating to secret meetings between Count Yamagata and some leaders of the Progressionist Party. These reports were positively denied by the *Kaishin-to* organs. One of them, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, retaliated in its issue

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of the 3rd instant by stating that Count Itagaki had called on Count Yamagata at the latter's residence at Mejiro, and that the Radical leader proposed the formation of a coalition Cabinet with the President of the Privy Council. This led to a fresh announcement in the *Jiyu Shimbun* of the following day, that on New Year's Day Messrs. Shimada Saburo and Inukai Ki, of the Progressionist Party, visited Count Yamagata at his villa at Oiso. They are said to have consulted together about the policy to be pursued in regard to the coming general elections and the mode of raising funds for electioneering purposes. There the game of *tu quoque* rests for the nonce. What it all means we do not profess to interpret, but one thing is pretty certain, namely, that if the *Meiji* statesmen are about to break up their coalition and distribute themselves among the various political associations, Government by party is not far distant.

THE CAUSE OF DISSOLUTION.

THE Government not having published, in explicit terms, any explanation of the cause of the House of Representatives' dissolution, sundry rumours have been circulated on the subject, among them the most confidently asserted being that the Minister of State for Home Affairs issued instructions to the various Local Authorities in the sense that the Government's reasons might be found in a leading article of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. This singular story is now emphatically contradicted. It basis appears to be the fact that the Minister caused copies of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* to be distributed containing the text of the speech delivered by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and of the Reply given by the Minister of State for the Navy to the Question about the *Chishima-Ravenna* law-suit. His Excellency said that any attentive reader of these documents could easily discern the cause of the dissolution of the House, but as to officially indicating an article in that journal, the statement is entirely untrue.

GAIJIN NO BUREI.

THESE Japanese words are a familiar caption of editorial paragraphs in the *Nippon*. They signify "Rude Behaviour of Foreigners." The *Nippon*, having apparently assigned to itself the function of fomenting its readers' dislike of the stranger in the gates, finds such a heading convenient. In the case to which we are about to allude, the alleged "rude behaviour" is attributed to the Master of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Wakanoura Maru*. Steaming through the Shika-no-se straits near Akashi, at half-past 5 o'clock a.m. on the 25th ult., on her voyage from Kobe to Nagasaki, she collided with and smashed a Japanese fishing boat. The Master of the steamer, however, proceeded on his voyage without stopping and without paying any attention to the boat. This story is sent to the *Nippon* by a correspondent who professes to have been on board the steamer at the time, and who says, that he was greatly shocked by the occurrence. The odds are a hundred to one that the tale will turn out to be false, or that the facts are materially misconceived. But it serves the *Nippon's* purpose. A more mischievous paper is not published in the vernacular.

THE CLIMATE OF JAPAN.

THE popular idea is that Japan enjoys a very fine climate and it is common enough to speak of it as the sanatorium of the East. As many Europeans go there, says the *L. and C. Express*, any medical information on the subject is desirable, and hence the remarks of Dr. A. S. Ashmead, of New York, who will be remembered as an old resident. Dr. Ashmead says that the meteorology of Japan is quite peculiar, and, owing probably to the humidity, foreigners, especially on their first arrival, are prone to rheumatism. The best preventive is to do as the Japanese do, and take hot baths frequently. This practice apparently accounts for the absence of rheumatism among the natives, who consider it essential to their comfort. Hot baths and the frequent drinking of hot tea promote the act on of the skin, and mitigate the depressing influence of the summer months, June, July, and August, which form the wet season in Japan. In fact, hot baths and tea are favourable to acclimatisation. Residence in Japan increases the activity of the skin, while it diminishes the eliminating power of the lungs and the strength of the heart in circulating the blood. In fact, a prolonged stay in the country is attended by a general relaxation of the system, and an increased susceptibility to cold. After two years a European feels the necessity of wearing warmer clothing in winter, and the climate seems to have become harsher.

ENGLISH IN THE ORIENT.

IF the writers of English circulars and advertisements were men of fine art and wondrous imagination, they could scarcely achieve anything more admirably laughter-provoking than their compositions, so many of which have been reproduced by local journals as specimens of "English as she is wrote." As accidents, however, these productions are really wonderful, and among them the following deserves a high place :—

A RULE OF THE BORROWING GLASS LANTERN.

1 My shop have a business to borrow some glass lantern without the price, and to light in every night and to receive its price.
2. The price of lighting is as follows; and to receive firstly its price in the lighting.

The price of 3 bushin is 1 sen 3 rin per a night.
" " " 5 " " 1 " 5 " " " "
" " " 8 " " 2 " 5 " " " "

Descount $\frac{1}{11}$, price before 6 months.
" $\frac{1}{20}$, " " 1 year.

And in over one year, I will promise to the gentlemen; otherwise, the price of mark will be to receive 5 Sen per 1 leaf and the arm glass lantern will be to obey to the gentlemen's hopeness.
3 I will clean the lantern in every morning and light in every evening.
1. In every night, I shall examine the lantern once and in the stormy night with extreme, if the fire went out by examing man's lazy you shall receive the oil from clean man of tomorrow morning, because I give it to him already, so on afterday; though you require the price I can't obey it.
2 I will receive the lighting price on before a month namely: a month is means 30 days
4. I will obey to light the glass lantern witch gentlemen have, and when I light it applive the rule Second and third.

Now, I wish your cozy, and for my busin-ss, I made this rules, and began the business from long ago, and I have got the trust of gentlemen, and so several thousands glass lantern, therefore I shall work earnestly, at this time, oh gentlemen send me send me.

If you wish the lighting, please send me a letter, then I shell quickly go to your house, and speak you; and I shall pay you a price of letter in after.

KWAKUUCHI TENTO UKEOISHO.
No, FUKUJOMICHO SANCHOME, YOKOHAMA.

A BOGUS TELEGRAM.

THE *Shin-Choya*—or new *Choya Shimbun*—publishes the text of a long telegram which it pretends to believe, and seeks to make its readers believe, was forwarded by Count Ito to the Governments of Europe and America as well as to leading men in the West, with reference to the movement for strict enforcement of the treaties. The object of publishing the telegram is to represent the Minister President as speaking in very contemptuous terms of the folks that advocate strict enforcement of the treaties, and also as asserting the doctrine that the national policy of Japan has undergone no change since 1887. It is, of course, virtually out of the question that any such telegram should have come into the possession of the *Shin-Choya*, but apparently the plain incredibility of the incident does not affect that journal's assurance. There will soon be need of a new definition of a newspaper. The old notion that it was a vehicle for disseminating correct information and propounding honest views is becoming quite exploded.

THE YOKOHAMA OIL TANKS

PROFS. MANO, Tanabe, and Takamatsu of the Imperial University have sent their reports on the proposed Yokohama oil-tanks to Mr. Kimura Tomosaburo, Judge of the Yokohama Local Court, the matter having been placed in their hands by him on receiving the application of certain residents of the town to put a stop to the erection of the tanks. Prof. Takamatsu, from the chemical point of view, reports as follows :—Tank-oil is not inferior for illumination but it is not free from danger. It may become heated by a fire in the vicinity, or by the heat of the sun so as to catch fire and generate inflammable gases, which, mixing with the air, may produce gases of an explosive nature. If, in this case, a spark alight on the mouth of the tank, an explosion would ensue. If, however, a wire net be placed over the mouth of the tank, the danger will be effectively avoided. If by any means oil leaks out, some part of it will find its way to the sea, even if a ditch is dug around the tank. Prof. Tanabe's report as hydraulic engineer is as follows :—In case the oil catches fire or explodes, the structures for storing oil may inflict great loss in the neighbourhood, the intensity of combustion or explosion not being uniform; the amount of loss cannot be ascertained beforehand. Again, the pipes for conducting oil may be broken by violent motion of the sea. Professor Mano, as mechanical engineer, reports as follows :—Three expansion-joints for pipes above 13,000ft. in length seem to be somewhat insufficient. The joints of the pipes may be deranged by a depression of the base on which they are laid, or by change of temperature or by violent waves, and thus leakage may ensue. Unless the points mentioned be attended to, there experts conclude, they cannot guarantee the safety of the parts in the neighbourhood of the tanks.

AN ACCUSATION.

ONE of the charges preferred against the Government by journalists who live by preferring charges, is that the House of Representatives was dissolved before Mr. Abei Hankon had an opportunity of expounding his views as introducer of the Representation on the subject of the Strict Enforcement of the Treaties. That, say these critics, was an arbitrary interference with the right of free speech, as well as an unfair and one-sided proceeding. The accusation furnishes another illustration of the ignorance which the Government's assailants so freely display. In point of fact, Mr. Abei Hankon and the other supporters of the Representation said everything they had to say. Accompanying each measure introduced in the Japanese House of Representatives there is a document called a statement of reasons (*riyu-sho*), which usually contains a full exposition of the views entertained by the introducers of the measure. Of course such documents vary as to fullness and detail, but in the case of the Strict-enforcement Representation, a *riyu-sho* of extraordinary length and diffuseness was appended. It was printed, distributed among the members, and reproduced by the press, its translation occupying some seventeen columns of the *Japan Weekly Mail*. If Mr. Abei Hankon had been suffered to speak in the House, he would have added nothing to that document. Those familiar with the methods of the House and with Mr. Abei's capacities as a speaker, were able to predict that he would have referred his audience to the *riyu-sho*, and contented himself with a few general remarks. The truth is that the public is in possession of the whole case for the Representation, and that, so far as the advocates of the measure are concerned, they have not the smallest ground for complaint because they were not suffered to repeat on the floor of the House what they had already committed in full to paper and circulated broadcast.

VISCOUNT SHINAGAWA'S SPEECH.

VISCOUNT SHINAGAWA delivered the following speech at a meeting of the National Unionists on the 31st ultimo :—

Gentlemen—Allow me to express my heartfelt thanks to you for the untiring zeal and devotion which you have manifested in furthering the good of the country.

The Diet, after being twice prorogued, was yesterday finally dissolved. Moreover, the Government has declared its resolve to treat our Union as a political association. From these circumstances it appears that the Government now pursues a strong policy. We may perhaps regard this as the effect of the proposed Representation on the subject of strict enforcement of the treaties.

The doctrine of strict enforcement of the treaties does not in any respect partake of the anti-foreign spirit of former days. Its aim is simply to have the treaties enforced fairly and justly. But the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mutsu, seems to be greatly disturbed on account of this movement, as may be seen from his recent speech.

In giving our support to the proposed Representation on strict enforcement of the treaties,

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our principal object is to assert the rights of the country and to invigorate the spirit of the nation. In other words, we are only obeying the prompting of the great principle of nationalism, which is the guiding power of our party. It is my earnest wish that you will never depart from the course marked out by this principle but will march right ahead with the interests of the country always in view.

Concerning the coming elections, some other parties may apply for co-operation and alliance with us. I do not like to act in concert with other parties, but every member of our party is left free to follow the dictates of his own judgment, in so far as election business is concerned.

Judging from the present state of things, more or less anti-foreign spirit may be excited in the country. I do not know whether Count Ito has the same resolution as the Bakufu Regent Ii. Whatever may be the policy of the Government, the course to be followed by us is clear and unchangeable. I hope you will be as faithful to the principles of our Party as you have hitherto been.

* * *

Viscount Shinagawa has at any rate the merit of being perfectly outspoken. Prudential motives give him no sort of concern. His comparison of Count Ito with the Regent Ii Kamon-no-Kami is about the most reckless and ill-timed utterance that he could have conceived at the present moment. His assertion that the doctrine of strict enforcement of the treaties does not in any respect partake of the anti-foreign spirit of former days, followed immediately by his admission that anti-foreign feeling will probably be excited by the elections, and supplemented by his coupling the names of Count Ito and the Regent Ii,—all this makes up a kind of oration that a statesman need not boast of having delivered.

THE CONTRACTS FOR THE NEW MEN OF WAR.

Both the *Jiji* and the *Jiyu* tell us that there is growing dissatisfaction amongst the Opposition members with the way in which these contracts have been placed. It appears that tenders were asked for only from English Firms. This the *Jiji* considers to be unfair, especially to the French firms, and by no means in the interests of Japan. It is true that French ship-builders have been unfortunate in their contracts with the Naval Department; the *Unebi Kan* having been lost, and the *Itsukushima Kan* having broken down on her way out. But the *Matsushima Kan* is a most satisfactory vessel, and now that the defect in the *Itsukushima* has been remedied she is as good as her sister-vessel, the *Matsushima*. French shipbuilders therefore should have been asked to compete for the contracts as well as English. But, say both papers, there has in reality been no competition at all. The English firm had virtually secured the contract before the tenders were invited, and there was no need to ask any other firms to compete except *pro forma*. It is another mare's nest.

A VERY OLD CAT STORY.

It was a law of the Ancient Egyptians that he who killed a cat should die the death, and, as everybody knows, cats were not only worshipped in many temples (as a personification of the Moon Goddess), but were also preserved as mummies after their decease. A cat-cult would not appear to have ever been prevalent in Japan; yet the following anecdote, written by the Shonagon Sei, a little over one thousand years ago (887 A.D.), proves that the Imperial Court at that time were great admirers of cats:—

"There was a celebrated cat, named Miyôbu no Otodo, of which the Emperor Ichijo (66th Mikado) was inordinately fond. There were those who laughed at the high sounding name given to the cat, but for all that the Emperor prized it highly and gave it quite a retinue of attendants. Once upon a time, this cat went beyond the palace gates, as if wishing to take a stroll. Its nurse, Uma no Miyobu, by name, was vexed and this and called out; 'You are not permitted to go out of doors; come back at once!' But the cat paid no attention to what she said, and after walking about a bit lay down to sleep in a sunny spot. Wishing to frighten it and thus make it return, the nurse cried: 'Where is Okinamaro?'—this was one of the dogs that were kept in the Palace Courtyard—'Here, Okinamaro! Bite Miyobu no Otodo!' The dog, thinking she really meant what she had said, ran immediately at the cat which was terribly frightened and clambered up the *sudare* (bamboo curtains) of one of the windows). The Emperor was just then in the great chamber called *Asagarei* and was greatly shocked upon seeing his favourite's predicament. He took the cat, placed it in his bosom, and then called loudly for *his* attendants. A man named Kurodo Tadataka came at once, and to him the Emperor gave the following command:—Okinamaro must be severely punished; take the dog and send him to Inujima into exile.' A number of attendants rushed out to catch Okinamaro and obey the Imperial behest. They made so great a clatter that the Emperor grew still angrier, and commanded Uma no Miyobu to be dismissed from her post. The latter was greatly distressed and feared to approach the Imperial presence. The dog was driven from the Imperial Court and sent into exile by an attendant named Takiguchi. Further particulars may be found in the work entitled *Kacho-zoyo*."

In the *Shôyû-Ki*, another chatty compilation of about the same date, we find the following:—

"On the 19th of August, Chôhô-gane, a noble cat belonging to the Imperial Court, gave birth to several kittens. The *Udaijin* and *Sadaijin* of the Empress's suite were present at the birth. A set of lacquered trays and bowls as well as a box of valuable clothing were thereafter given to the cat, which also had a skilful nurse appointed to attend upon her. When this story got abroad people laughed at it and thought the whole affair ridiculous."

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLING.

It has been proposed in London to revive the plan of Richard Cobden for Affiliated Schools of Commerce and Finance in the various countries along the international highway. The following extract of a letter is from a gentleman who is interested in that purpose, and having made his fortune in Shanghai thirty years ago—recently passed through there, on a visit with his children, and took this method of feeling the way for later action:—

There is, I regret to say not much love lost between foreigners and Chinese at this port, the idea of the former is that the latter must be kept down by brute force. The Chinese consider the foreigners are devoid of courtesy and good manners. It was, however, a remarkable occurrence to have a quarter of a million of Chinese in the streets of our settlements at the jubilee and to be told afterwards that there was not a single case calling for the active interference of the police. I offered Tls. 5,000 for something suitable permanently to commemorate the jubilee, but suggestions for spending this money have given rise to much difference of opinion, and I shall probably divide it up among the local charities. If I could apply it to bring about a better state of feeling between the white and yellow race is what I would like, but I do not see how that is feasible. To-day is the annual meeting of the society for the diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among Chinese, an excellent association that is doing a great deal of good and might do a great deal more if better supported. I purpose offering through its agency five prizes of Tls. 100 each to be competed for by the Chinese students who periodically gather for examination at the great cities of Peking, Soochow, Canton, Foochow, and Hangchow, and the themes I propose for them to write on are as follow:—

1.—The advantages to be derived by China from adopting the railway system, the coinage of silver money, and an imperial postal system as Japan has recently done.

2.—The advantage to accrue if China would introduce machinery for the preparation of tea, and for the reeling of silk, so as the better to compete with foreign countries.

3.—Describe the benefit derived during the past thirty years by the excellent administration of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China (under Sir Robt. Hart).

4.—Show whether China is really in earnest in wishing the opium trade stopped and prove that it is possible to suppress the immense culture of the poppy in China, if the government of India consents to cease producing the drug.

5.—Show how may better and more friendly relations be established between China and foreign countries.

The last question might be profitably considered and answered by foreigners here who after fifty years of intercourse with this people seem still in a constant state of terror and misunderstanding.

JAPAN AND BOMBAY.

The *Shogyo Shimpo*, a native commercial paper, in an article on the opening of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's service to Bombay, expresses much satisfaction with the new enterprise, but considerable doubt as to whether the Company is entering on this competition with the P. & O. with sufficient earnestness to ensure success. In the first place, no branch office has yet been opened at Bombay; the only person connecting the Company with the Bombay merchants is a certain Mr. Tata, whose interests as a cotton merchant and spinner cannot be identical with those of the cotton spinners of Japan; yet the latter have been the chief promoters of the enterprise. Again, only once before the commencement of the business was an officer sent to Bombay. In contrast to this inactivity, the action of the P. & O. has been energetic and decided; the freight rates have been reduced from 10 rupees per ton to about one-third of that amount, in consequence of which Bombay yarns are showing signs of regaining their former activity, to the alarm of the Japanese spinners; moreover, this reduction will destroy the effect of the penalty of one *yen* and a half per bale, imposed on those who send for Indian raw cotton privately in violation of the privisions of the Compact of Union Spinners. It is also reported that on the first voyage of the *Hiroshima Maru*, which arrived a short time ago at Bombay, the total of general cargo consigned did not exceed 2,000 tons. The *Shogyo Shimpo*, regarding the affair as of national importance, concludes with an exhortation to all and sundry, and especially the Government and the Yokohoma Specie Bank, to gird up their loins and assist the Yusen Kaisha.

LOCAL ASSEMBLIES.

We have already referred in these columns to the troubles which have arisen in the Local Assembly of Ishikawa Prefecture: we have now to chronicle two more instances of disorderly assemblies. In Miyagi Prefecture the Local House has been very evenly divided between the Unionists, on the one hand, and the Radicals and Progressionists, acting in concert, on the other. Party feeling ran very high, the chief subject of contention being the fixing of the date for the partial elections which are to take place in the Prefecture next year. The intervention of a few independent members whose opinions seem to have been in an inconvenient state of flux, enabled the Assembly to stultify itself by passing one or two contradictory resolutions, which did not mend matters at all. Each party called the local *soshi* to its aid, and the galleries were filled with these turbulent patriots, one of whom, in spite of the vigilance of the gendarmes, succeeded in assaulting a member. The moderate members then retired in disgust, and the session came to an abrupt ending, it being no longer possible to form a quorum.

* * *

The Gifu Local Assembly has made the discovery that several prominent persons lately connected with the prefectural police have been guilty of embezzlement and falsification of public accounts. The present chief of the Police admitted the fraud, which his predecessor had committed: and it was announced to the Assembly by the Local Government that the proper punishment had already been meted out to the offenders. This, however, did not satisfy the members, who plied the Government with so many questions that at last the session was officially suspended in order to enable the Government to make full investigation.

KWANKI SHINSHUKU.

Mr. Ando Sokumei, a member of the Lower House, professes to have discovered a periodicity in the misconduct of officials. He recalls the time, just twenty years ago, when Saigo Takamori and Kawaji complained of the loose life led by some of the prominent men in the Administration, and recalls also the fact that their attempts to set things right proved abortive. To-day history repeats itself in a *Machiai-Daijin* (a Minister who frequents *machiai-jaya*, or common tea-houses) and a *Kindokei-Jikan* (Gold-watch Vice-Minister). But Mr. Ando mistakes the perpetuity of chronic silliness for the periodicity of moral epidemics. At all times and seasons there are plenty of people foolish enough to draw such parallels as Mr. Ando has drawn. The great Saigo's memory is insulted by a suggestion that he would have dreamed of troubling the Throne or appealing to the nation because a Minister of State met his friends and connexions at an inn, or because a Vice-Minister accepted a gold watch openly presented to him by men on account of whose business he

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had legitimately worked in his official capacity. In point of fact, Mr. Saito Shuichiro, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, against whom this ridiculous and miserably unjust outcry has been raised, is one of the ablest and most zealous officials in the Administration. Educated in the United States, he has acquired habits of throughness and directness as uncommon as they are sometimes inconvenient to others of less capacity. It is not because he has really been guilty of lax conduct that the Opposition attack him, but because he is a man of too much competence and ability for their fancy, seeing that his talents are not exercised in their behalf. Were there a few more Saito Shuichiros in the ranks of Officialdom folks like Mr. Ando Sokumei would not find so many opportunities to court notoriety.

WEEK OF PRAYER.

We are requested to announce the following list of leaders for the observance of the Week of Prayer at the commencement of the year, to be held in connection with the Union Church, Yokohama, from the 7th to the 14th instant inclusive :—

Sunday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m. sermon, Rev. E. S. Booth.
8 p.m. address, Rev. G. M. Meacham.
Monday, Jan. 8 .....Rev. J. L. Dearing.
Tuesday, Jan. 9 .....Rev I F. Smith.
Wednesday Jan. 10 .....Isaac Bunting, Esq.
Thursday, Jan 11 .....Rev. Dr. Cleveland.
Friday, Jan. 12 .....Rev. W. T. Austen.
Saturday, Jan. 13 .....Rev. A. A. Bennett.
Sunday, Jan. 14, 11 a.m. sermon, Rev. J. H. Ballagh.
8 p.m. address Rev. G. M. Meacham.

The services at the Church, as usual, will be at 11 a.m., and on Sunday evenings at Van Schaick Hall, No. 178, Bluff, at 8 p.m. The Week-day services will be held at Van Schaick Hall at 5 p.m., except on Wednesday, when they will be held at 4.30 p.m. All interested are most cordially invited to attend.

THE KOYTO EXHIBITION.

The Governor of Kyoto, Mr. Nakai, is said to have petitioned the Noshomusho that the coming Exhibition at that city may be held in connection with the celebration of the 1100th anniversary of the Emperor Kwammu in the same year (1895), and subsidiary to it. He alleges as his reasons, that, on similar occasions, and especially at the 3rd Domestic Exhibition at Ueno, though there was no lack of exhibits, the purchasers were few and the goods undisposed of were a source of much tronble to the exhibitors and commissioners: the same difficulty has been experienced in other places and very lately at Chicago, and is especially to be apprehended in a place like Kyoto, which is sure on account of its historical remains, temples etc., to attract a large number of visitors a very small proportion of whom will be purchasers. The above is taken from the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. But we were under the impression that the holding of the exhibition in 1895 had long ago been settled.

WATANABE SEITEI IN LONDON.

The art critic of the *World* has the following note on the paintings of Watanabe Seitei now on exhibition at the Japanese Gallery in New Bond Street :—"Those who remember a small exhibition of the works of Watanabe Seitei, the Japanese painter, which was held at the Japanese Gallery in New Bond Street a couple of years ago, will be glad to hear that another collection of his paintings is now on view in the same place. There could not be a better object lesson of how little subject has to do with the success of a picture as a work of art. Here one finds a branch of cherry blossom, some of the petals just shaken off and floating through the still air, as a bird alights on the branch; there it is a shoal of fish mistily seen through the water as they shoot away from some unseen pursuer; again it is a ruddy crayfish, or a snowy white egret resting on one leg; or a sparrow stooping over the branch of bamboo on which he has perched for a moment. All are notes from nature seen in passing with the keen observant eye of a true artist, and rendered on paper with that delightful innate sense of the balance of composition (which makes even the signature an essential part of the whole) that is perhaps the most wholly admirable characteristic of Japanese art. The studies of birds, flowers, and fish are far better than the landscapes, which are somewhat weak and lacking in individuality; and amongst the best of the former are "A Pair of Gurnet," "Gambols of Carp," "White Crane in Flight," and the beautiful "Shoal of Fish" already alluded to. The drawings, with their dainty evanescent suggestiveness, are sadly handicapped by being enclosed in heavy wide frames which are a complete contradiction to their best characteristics."

OBESITY.

The art of advertising has been raised to such a fine standard that one can never attempt with any confidence to distinguish between the attractions lent by clever puffing and the genuine merits of the thing described. In the *St. James's Budget* of Nov. 17th, however, we find a long notice of a cure for obesity, set forth in terms that really suggest valid hope for the unhappy adipose. To any of our readers afflicted by too much flesh we recommend persual of the full account, but for their immediate benefit we reproduce the following summary together with some hints forming a useful corollary :—

A Mr. Russell, author and specialist in obesity, has experimentally tried the effect of administering large doses, to moderately lean persons, of his well known herbal discovery, which is so marvellously effectual in reducing superfluous fat, with the result that there is not the slightest alteration or diminution of weight recorded, thereby proving conclusively to our minds that it is only the unhealthy adipose waste tissue which is destroyed, for after dispensing a few fluid ounces of his remarkable vegetable compounds he succeeds in destroying the diseased fatty mass at the rate of from 2 lb. to even 12 lb. in seven days. There can be no ambiguity about it, for any person can test this for themselves by standing on a weighing-machine. He explains that all lean persons carry a certain amount of fat necessary for the natural production of heat in the body, but nature has only stored up her requisite stock in the healthy system, which she most jealously guards, and thus declines to part with an ounce to the persuasion of Mr. Russell's vegetable tonic, however immoderate the dose may be, which testifies abundantly to the fact that it is only a chemical solvent of insalubrious adipose tissue. There is no doubt that the inventor of the composition must have possessed a profound vegetal knowledge in selecting this simple but peculiar combination.

Those who resort to the pernicious products of the mineral kingdom, or even the deleterious sections of the vegetable world, doubtless can decoct something powerful but injurious in its action; such, however, require no laudatory commendation; but Mr. Russell (we herewith append his address: Woburn House, Store-street, London, W C., the author of "Corpulency, and the Cure," price six stamps) makes no secret of the simplicity of his treatment, and avers that the decoction can be drunk as a refreshing summer drink, pleasant to the palate, yet having sufficient effect, although perfectly harmless, to remove generally 2lb. or more in twenty four-hours. We think stout personswould do well to send for his book,which can be obtained through booksellers at the address given above.

"The stout lady is always asking what she shall wear in order that she may appear less bulky. She should not wear tight fitting tailor-made suits; rosettes should never be worn at her belt, either at the back or front; no lace or ribbon ruffs about the neck, though a soft feather one is permissible if it have long ends A short skirt will give a queer, dumpy look, which is particularly undesirable. The hair should never be low on her neck; it should be high, and arranged with great smoothness. Strings of beads round the neck are prohibited, and if her fingers are short and fat even rings should not be worn. After all, this is only a makeshift, although large sums are paid by fashionable *modistes* for artistic designs and blendings in order to conceal *embonpoint*. What seems to escape the notice of the stout lady is the fact that the cost of the trickery with the dresses is more than she would have to pay for a real and actual reduction of weight. Thanks to modern chemistry, or rather botanical research, it is not unusual for a stout person to lose in weight 7 lb. in a week, and with a rapid return to perfect health, losing that oppressive feeling which trouble stout persons. As much as 4 lb., in rare cases, have been lost in twenty-four hours. A stout lady, due to attend a garden party, say, in a week's time, would show most perceptibly that she had reduced her weight, for when under Mr. Russell's treatment in particular, the medicine first attacks the parts which are most prominently obese, and she would appear considerably attenuated without the aid of the dressmaker. Many ladies ruin their constitutions by living in a state of semi-starvation to keep their weight down. There is not the slightest necessity, for Mr. Rusell, the author of the well-known work "Corpulency, and the Cure," frequently finds that the person eats more, although perhaps losing from 2 lb. to 4 lb. a week; and the decoction, which is absolutely harmless, is a most pleasant, refreshing drink. As this paragraph may have interested lady readers, the address of the publishers of the little book, which only costs six stamps, post free, may be given here. It is Russell, Woburn House, Store-street, London, W.C. This book is most interesting and useful."—From *Midland Daily Telegraph*, August 12th, 1893.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS.

The decision recently arrived at in a debate held at the Post and Telegraph School on the advisability of employing women for communication business, is far from giving satisfaction to the fair sex, or to those who are earnest for the elevation of women's status in society. Three opinions were stated, writes the *Nichi Nichi*, in the course of the debate on the subject. (1) Women should be employed not only for the telephone service but also for postal and telegraphic business; (2) Women should be employed for telephone service alone; (3) Women should not be employed at all. After an interesting discussion, it was found that the last of these three opinions was the one which commanded the largest majority of votes. The reasons given against the employment of women in communication business are said to have been as follows :—

1.—It is a virtuous custom of Japanese women from olden times to remain at home and to apply themselves to their domestic duties. Should they be employed in the Government service, the consequence would be the neglect of domestic affairs and a possible disturbance of family relationship.

2.—Women are by nature passionate and difficult of control.

3.—Women being devoid of the power of judgment are unsuited for postal affairs which require knowledge of an abstract and inductive character.

4.—While it is of primary importance in postal affairs to strictly observe secrecy, the want of caution in women entirely incapacitates them from undertaking this responsibility.

5.—A woman's voice is very useful in telephone exchange business, but in view of the foregoing defects they had better be superseded by boys.

THE OVER ZEALOUS INSPECTOR.

The Inspector of the Akasaka Police Office, writes the *Mainichi*, has lost his post, because he dispersed a meeting of certain members of the Opposition, held at the Yaokan restaurant, Akasaka. The Governor of the city, on hearing of the event, at once proceeded to the Home Office and complained to the Minister of the injustice of the Inspector's proceeding, hinting at the same time at strained relations between the Police and the citizens, shown by the steady reduction in late years of the appropriations for police expenditure by the City Assembly. Count Inouye admitted the justice of the Governor's complaint, and said that he had already decided to have the Inspector dismissed. It is strange, the *Mainichi* remarks, that the Inspector should be the only one punished, considering that he must have received instructions for his action from his superiors. To us it seems still stranger that when the officer's superiors go to the length of dismissing him, a rational newspaper should still suspect them of having directed him to perform the act for which they deprive him of office.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS AT YOKOHAMA.

These figures are given by the *Jiyu* with reference to the year just ended :—

	YEN.
Exports—Raw Silk and Waste Silk, Tea, Silk Handkerchiefs and Habutaye, and Woven Silk Goods	39,674,949
Imports—Textile Fabrics, Cotton and Cotton Yarn, Iron and other metals, Kerosene, and Sugar.....	18,089,133

According to these figures the total value of the principal staples of export exceeded that of the principal staples of import by 21,587,816 *yen*. But we do not comprehend the value of such a purely arbitrary comparison. Evidently no accurate idea of the trade can be formed by selecting at will a group of articles from the export column and comparing them with a similarly optional set of items from the import column.

VISIT OF AN ITALIAN PRINCE TO JAPAN.

The approaching advent is announced of an Italian Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Louis

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Amedie, Duke of the Abruzzo. His Royal Highness, who was born in 1873 and is now serving in the *Volturno*, is the third son of the late Prince Amedie, Duke of Aosta, brother of the King of Italy, who so nobly occupied the throne of Spain, descending from it rather than have recourse to bayonets. The Duke of the Abruzzo is making an extensive trip. After visiting Abyssinia, he will go round the Indian ports, passing from thence to the Dutch Colonies, and finally arriving, about May next, in Japan, bearer of the Italian Monarch's sentiments of friendship and sympathy to the Sovereign of this empire. The Prince is one of Italy's hopes, beloved and respected by all that know him. His visit to Japan will doubtless give special pleasure to the present Italian Representative, who is among His Royal Highness' closest friends, and whose daughter is named after her god-father, the Prince's father.

DOMESTIC TRADE.

TRADE depression has been very heavy during the past autumn, according to the vernacular press. Money-lenders have had plenty of applications for small loans but scanty returns on old ones. The mercers, whose custom it is to sell the cheaper goods at the end of the year and those of superior quality somewhat before, have found few sales for the former and none at all for the latter. The custom of the foreign-goods shops is falling off, owing, it is said, to the insecurity of government positions and the reduction of salaries. Cheap cloaks have the greatest demand at present. Among mechanics, the carpenters, masons, etc., have a fair amount of work, but are badly paid. The new year's fairs (*toshi no ichi*) were well attended owing to the fine weather, but the stall-keepers complain of small sales. Even the *mochi*-sellers have not done half their last year's business. A conclusive sign of the times, sweet-potato sellers have a brisk trade.

THE LEGISLATION OF THE DIET IN ITS FIFTH SESSION.

WE find that our statement of the Bills passed by the Diet during its fifth session, which was brought to such a sudden termination, needs correction, owing to some confusion between the work of the two Houses. The exact details are :—

Bills passed by both Houses:	2,	namely, a Government Bill on Treasury Notes, and a Bill introduced in the Lower House with regard to the registration of Banks' titles.
Measures passed by one House and not requiring submission to the other :	16,	namely, 3 by the Upper House and 13 by the Lower.
Bills rejected by the House in which they were introduced :	7,	namely, 1 Government Bill and 6 Private Bills submitted to the Lower House.
Bills passed by one House but not by the other :	17,	namely, 9 Government Bills, 2 Private Bills of the Upper House, and 6 Private Bills of the Lower.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE POLICE IN MIYE KEN.

THE chief of Police of Miye Prefecture has, we read in the *Shin Choya*, issued instructions to his subordinates warning them against the agitations of the Great Japan Association, which he describes as a league of traitors to their country, banded together for the purpose of annoying the Government by stirring up anti-foreign feeling throughout the country. If this be true, says our contemporary, it is very improbable that these instructions have been issued to the Miye police only. They have probably been issued throughout the country, though it is somewhat late in the day to issue such instructions. Had it been done sooner, much trouble might have been saved.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

THE weather on the first day of 1894 was very enjoyable from 10 o'clock onwards, the sun shining forth from an almost unclouded sky. Previous to that hour the heavens were overcast, and shortly after nine o'clock snow fell for a few minutes. As usual the streets of the Japanese portions of the town were gay with the emblematic decorations of the season, evergreens, fir, bamboo, carp, crayfish, *dai-dai* and *gohei*, while at night thousands upon thousands of lanterns were hung out from the eaves of every native house. They lighted up many a right joyous scene of hearty goodfellowship and fraternal conviviality till far into the morning. Business, for the nonce, was put aside by everybody and on every hand good wishes for the New Year were expressed, exchanged, and cordially re-echoed. Perfect good order prevailed everywhere, the police having no trouble in controlling the huge throngs that passed throughfares on New Year visits bent.

A NEW POET.

THE Right Hon. Lord de Tabley's "Orpheus in Hades," published in the November number of the *Nineteenth Century*, appears to us one of the noblest poetic efforts of recent years. We quote a few lines :—

Can music build the stars or mould the moon,
Or wring assent from Hades' doubtful brows?
Can I make weep the stern and lovely Queen,
Before whose feet the ripples of the dead
Lass like an endless sea beating her throne?
They move her not In autumn's gusty hour
Shall the innumerable broken leaves,
The aimless russet-sided rushing leaves,
Gain pity from the hatchet-handed boor,
Who shears the stubborn oak, an eagle's throne?
Doth pity sting the rugged fisher folk
For the blue tunnies sailed inside their net?
She will not hearken. I shall sing in vain.

* * * * * *

Bethink thee, Queen, how on that day one rose
Fell, of all blooms that fell, the sweetest bud,
The mystic rose of girlhood ne'er rebloomed,
Its virgin curtain broken, its dewdrops gone—
Ah, not of Orcus all the sceptred gloom,
The purple and the queendom and the gold,
Shall do away touch of those gracious days,
By the hum of Ætna, vineyard-clustered Ætna,
Flushing its grapes with subterranean fire,
Girdled with gleaming cities round its sides,
And the hewn houses of great marble gods,
By the Sicilian ocean, cold and clear,
Whose deeps outpass in azure Hellas' seas,
Whose nights have mellower moons and clearer stars,
Whose orange groves bear more Hesperian fruit,
Whose fountains gush from more enamelled meads
Whereby the halcyon flits, a tissued gleam,
Bird of the rainbow : and the lovely land
Is as one great and golden orchard plain,
And haunted by some Genius, dropping balm,
Winged, as a nightjar wings o'er darkened moors
With plumes of silent flight.

* * * * * *

What right have I to live, so crushed with woe?
I dare not see the light now she is gone.
I hate to watch the flower set up its face.
I loathe the trembling shimmer of the sea,
Its heaving roods of intertangled weed
And orange sea-wrack with its necklace fruit,
The stale insipid cadence of the dawn,
The ring-dove, tedious harper on five tones,
The eternal havoc of the sodden leaves,
Rotting the floors of autumn : one and all
The outworn tricks of nature I am weary,
Weary and incomplete and desolate.
To me, Spring, scentred with her daffodil,
Droops with a blight of dim mortality,
And the birds sing Death and Eurydice.

* * * * * *

Ah, dear and unforgotten ; on the wind
Her voice comes often, low and sweet it comes,
In such a sigh as draws the yearning soul
Out of my breast to follow and float away,
To lean upon the storm with falcon wing,
To overtake the laggard moaning blast,
And clasp her in the whirlwind, shade to shade,
And ghost. There let us interlock
Our spectral limbs, and so in mutual flight
Rush at the sun and burn remembrance out.
Be thou effectual Lethe to our pangs,
O mighty fountain of primeval fire;
Father of lesser lights, compassionate,
Burn out, abolish our two weary souls!
Thou rollest on to rest the toiling stars.
The Meteor of the morning doth untie
Her shining sandals on thy temple floor,
And fiery flakes fall from her golden locks.

INTERPORT CRICKET.

REGARDING the Hongkong C.C.'s invitation to Shanghai, Yokohama, and Kobe for a cricket week in Hongkong during the Chinese New Year, the *Daily Press* understands that an indefinite reply has been received from the Model Settlement, but that it is not regarded as likely that the Shanghai Club will be able to send an eleven, most of the best cricketers having already been away to Japan recently on a cricket tour. As regards the Japan men, we learn that Yokohama had replied stating their inability to send half of a representative team, and it is extremely improbable that Kobe will be able to manage an entire eleven. It therefore looks very much as though we shall not have the suggested cricket week.

THE COMING ELECTIONS.

THE first forecast of the coming general elections is made by the *Kokkai*. Its estimate is as follows :—

	Number in last Diet.	Number in next Diet.
Jiyu to	84	70
Kaishin to	43	50
Kokumin Kyokai	68	50
Domei Club	25	30
Doshi Club	14	25
Seimu Chosa-jo	14	20
Toyo Jiyu-to	4	5
Independent	48	50
	300	300

This estimate gives an increase of 23 members to the most violently radical sections in the House, namely, the *Domei* Club, the *Doshi* Club, the *Seimu Chosa-jo* and the *Toyo Jiyu-to*. To refresh the recollection of our readers, we may mention that the members of the *Doshi* Club are the seceders from the *Jiyu-to* in connection with the Hoshi Toru incident; the *Seimu Chosa-jo* is the coterie by which the Strict-enforcement Representation was introduced, and the *Toyo Jiyu-to* are the leaders of the anti-mixed-residence movement. The *Kokkai* is a good authority, but people who have at least equally trustworthy sources of information give a different forecast.

JAPAN AND INDIA IN COMPETITION.

THE following extract from the columns of *The Times* has much interest :—

Some time ago we called attention to the courage and good sense with which Bombay had met the crisis in her cotton industries, caused by the closing of the Indian mints. The Bombay mills largely depend for their market upon China and Japan. That market was for a time closed to them by the ruinous fall in exchange between Bombay and the silver-using countries of Eastern Asia which resulted from the artificial enhancement of the Indian rupee. The Bombay manufacturers did not, however, lose their heads. They calmly inquired into the eventual results of the new situation, and set themselves to reduce the cost of production so as to counteract the disadvantages under which they were placed by the artificially appreciated rupee. Several months have now elapsed since they thus deliberately began to set their house in order, and the results of the measures which they have taken are beginning to disclose themselves.

In the first place, it is clear that China and Japan are quite alive to the advantage which the appreciated Indian rupee gives them in their competition with the Bombay mill owners. The Chinese and Japanese have considerably increased their output, and a single English firm has at this moment orders for the machinery for two large factories, one in China and the other in Japan. The Bombay mill-owners perfectly realize that such orders are likely to increase if the Chinese and Japanese mills can undersell the yarns sent from Bombay. They have therefore overhauled every department of their expenses, and have been able to make reductions in each one of them. At an early stage they called on the steamship companies which do the carrying trade between Bombay and the further East to reduce their charges. The P. and O., the Austrian Lloyd's and the Florio Rubattino lines have agreed to give a rebate of 15 per cent. on freights for yarn to October 31. They will probably find it their interest to continue the same concession beyond that date. For a Japanese steamship company has come forward with proposals to carry yarn to Hongkong at 50 per cent. less than the old rate if contracts for a sufficient amount can be secured for the two years certain.

Having thus reduced the cost of carriage, the Bombay mill-owners effected a comprehensive curtailment of their factory expenses. One of the most serious of these expenses is the agency charge of a quarter of an anna (now equal to about one farthing) on every pound weight of the output, irrespectively of whether the mills are working at a profit or a loss. This charge has long been felt to be an incubus on the cotton industry of Bombay. But it is only fair to recognize the fact that without some such first charge secured on the output freely the capitalists who found the money for establishing the industry, and who now finance it, would not have come so forward. The *Bombay Gazette*, an excellent authority on the subject, points out that the written contract gives the agents the right to appropriate what amounts in some cases to the whole profits of the year's working, and to leave no dividend or an actual loss to the shareholders. The threatened remedy for such a state of things is stoppage and liquidation on a large scale. Some of the agency houses have been shrewd enough to realize the fact and to show a willingness to take less than what they are entitled to under the letter of their bond.

Within the mills themselves searching retrenchments have been made. The Bombay cotton industry has grown up in the hands of owners and directors, many of whom, as pointed out by the *Indian Textile Journal*, do not know the names of their machines and have no practical acquaintance with a single operation which those machines perform. The intermediate cost of mill superintendence accordingly assumed proportions which were only compatible with an unbroken tide of prosperity. These charges have, within the past eight months been strictly investigated, and in many cases considerably reduced.

The practice of each mill working to its utmost power without regard to the demand has also been brought under the control of the associated body of mill-owners. As a matter of fact, over-production in Bombay had glutted the Chinese and Japanese markets several months before the closing of the Indian mints in June brought the crisis to a head. The Bombay mill-owners agreed in April to work short time to the end of July, and, as we noted in a previous article, this self-denying ordinance has been extended by stringent provisions until near the close of the current year.

The rate of wages earned by the mill-hands has also undergone a keen scrutiny, and efforts are being made, with varying degrees of success, to reduce it to something nearer to the standard for ordinary outside labour. In Bombay the mills work with machinery of different dates and of widely different degrees of efficiency. The wages which the operatives can earn by piecework vary accordingly in almost every mill, and it has not been found practicable to fix a scale of wages which can be uniformly applied to all the factories. Instead, therefore, of a rigid scale for piece-work, the Bombay mill-owners have directed their endeavours to establishing a fair uniformity, by fixing a *maximum* and a *minimum* rate of wages for each class of average workers. In some mills, little reduction will be effected by this arrangement, in other the saving will be considerable, but the result will be to reduce the cost of production on the whole. At the same time, the old easy-going system of supernumeraries, who were a standing institution in most mills, has been attacked. The less industrious workmen are being sifted out, while the average earnings of steady hands on piecework will not, it is thought, be seriously diminished

TRULY COSMOPOLITAN.

THE Chicago *Daily Globe*, in advocating the election of an American as Mayor to succeed Carter Harrison, notes that nine-tenths of all elective offices in Cook county are now held by naturalized citizens and states that

The sheriff was born in Canada.
The county treasurer was born in Germany.
The president county board was born in Germany.
The president drainage board was born in Germany.
The clerk Appellate Court was born in Ireland.
The clerk Criminal Court was born in Germany.
The clerk Probate Court was born in Ireland.
The clerk Superior Court was born in Ireland.
The county clerk was born in Germany.
The county coroner was born in Ireland.
The city collector was born in Germany.
The city clerk was born in Germany.
The corporation counsel was born in Bohemia.
The city treasurer was born in Ireland.
The new postmaster is a German.

Two-thirds of the city council and all of the police force were born in Ireland, and by accident probably the county recorder—"the only one"—was born in America.

HUMAN SACRIFICES IN RUSSIA.

UNDER the above title the following appears in *La Gazette de Yakootsk*, whence it has been translated and condensed for the *Literary Digest*:—

Very few persons in Europe, or elsewhere, are aware that human sacrifices still exist in a part of the Russian Empire. The fact is, nevertheless, certain. Among the Tchuktchis such sacrifices still take place, and seem likely to be practised for a long time to come. At the same time, no blame therefore can be attached to the Russian Government or the Orthodox Church, for efforts by both to stop the custom have proved ineffectual. The sacrificee alluded to, are those of old people and the sick, who, finding no pleasure in life, resolve to have done with earthly existence, to rejoin their dead relations, and go to increase the number of happy spirits.

The Tchuktchi, who has made up his mind to die, immediately notifies his neighbours and nearest relatives. The news spreads in the circle of his friends, and all of them soon visit the unhappy person, to influence him to change his mind. Prayers, reproaches, complaints, and tears have no effect on the fanatic, who explains his reasons, speaks of the future life, of the dead who appear to him in his sleep, and even when he is awake, calling him to them. His friends, seeing him thus resolved, go away to make the customary preparations. At the end of from ten or fifteen days, they return to the hut of the Tchuktchi, with white mortuary garments and some weapons which will be used by the man in the other world to fight evil spirits and hunt the reindeer. After making his toilette, the Tchuktchi withdraws into a corner of the hut. His nearest relative stands by his hand, holding the instrument of sacrifice, a knife, a pike, or a rope. If the Tchuktchi has chosen the knife, two of his friends hold him under the arms and by the wrists, and, at a given signal, the sacrificer thrusts the knife into his breast. If the pike has been chosen, two of his friends hold that weapon, and two others throw the victim on its point. For strangulation, the rope is put about his neck and the sacrificers draw it until death ensues. Then the assistants go to the corpse, redden their hands and face with its blood, and place it on a sledge drawn by reindeer, which draws it to the place of the funeral. Arrived at their destination, the Tchuktchis cut the throat of the reindeer, take from the dead body its clothing which is torn in pieces, and place the corpse on a lighted funeral-pile. During the incineration, the assistants offer up prayer to the happy in the other world, and supplicate these to watch over them and help.

These horrible practises are followed to-day with the same exactness as in ancient times. The Iukatchis, the Lamouts, and the Russians, invited to these sacrifices, often take part in them, although there is no example of one of them having taken the same road to reach the other world.

POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF THE M.M. SERVICES

AN agent of the Messageries Maritimes Company was, by last advices, says the *Straits Times*, at Brisbane, inquiring into the desirability of changing the route of the Messageries Maritimes steamship service in Pacific waters. The route is now from Marseilles to Noumea, viâ the Suez Canal, Seychelles, Albany, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney. What is being investigated is the chances of trade if the ships connect with the company's Eastern services at Colombo or Singapore, and thence make their way to Brisbane, as the Australian terminus, thence on to Noumea, and thence making one or two intermediate island calls, on to San Francisco

THE WORK OF THE DIET'S FIFTH SESSION.

DESPITE the exceptional subjects that diverted its attention from the work of legislation, the Diet accomplished a good deal of law-making during its fifth session of less than a month. One hundred and twelve Bills were submitted, and of these it discussed 25, among which 16 were passed by both Houses, 5 were rejected, and 4 were passed by one House but failed to receive the assent of the other. Among the 16 successful Bills, 7 were introduced by the Government, and among the 5 rejected Bills, one was a Government measure. All this was accomplished in 18 sittings of the Lower House and 10 of the Upper.

CARDS AND MICROBES

HERE is a disquieting item for lovers of cards:—

The microbe threatens the enjoyment, if not the very existence, of many old customs and pastimes—for instance, card playing. Dr. Rapin, a distinguished specialist of Nantes, is investigating the bacteriology of cards. Working on cards played by patients (consumptive and other) at the Hospital of Nantes, he found no less than 6,160 bacteria on a square centimetre of the card most of which were the potato bacillus. On cards used in public cafés and in private families, he has found the staphylococus pyogenes aureus, one of the agents in suppuration. He recommends people to be careful of contamination when playing cards, especially with consumptive persons, and he draws attention to the bad habit of certain players holding cards by their teeth or wetting their finger in their mouth to shuffle them.

A MINUTE FROM THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

ON the 23rd ult., the Educational Department issued a minute signed by the Minister of State for Education rescinding the instruction issued six years ago which forbade the officials and teachers of schools under the control of the Department to compile and public text-books for common schools. The reason for this minute seems to be that in the compilation of text-books, especially on commercial and scientific subjects, specialists are required, and as such specialists are mostly engaged in the schools under the Education Department it would be unwise to forego their services where they are so much required.

SILK IMPORTS IN THE U.S.

THE Imports of Raw Silk at the Ports of New York and the Pacific Coast, during November, 1893, were:—

	Bales.	Lbs.	Dollar.
New York	257	52,900	232,104
Pacific Coast Ports	2,564	361,370	1,289,238
	2,821	414,270	1 521,342

The Imports of Waste, etc., were as follows:

New York	398	129.300	85,056
Pacific Coast Ports	66	23,100	14.560
	464	152,400	99,616

A CALENDAR.

ONE of the prettiest calendars we have seen for a long time is that issued by Messrs. Lane, Crawford and Company this New Year. It is a representation of a lady riding in a sedan-chair in old-time style. The chair is borne by two footmen in gorgeous apparel, and from a pocket in the side projects a tiny box containing the calendar, each day having an appropriate quotation from Shakespeare. The whole affair forms a pretty table ornament, after the fashion of a photograph frame. The manufacture of calendars is becoming quite a work of art now-a-days.

THE KOREAN LEGATION BURNT DOWN.

ABOUT seven o'clock in the morning of the 1st inst. fire broke out in the Translator's room at the Korean Legation, Kojimachi, Tokyo, and the whole building was completely destroyed. The conflagration was caused through a foul stove-pipe. The Ministers of State, the Foreign Representatives, and other distinguished persons, paid condolatory visits to the Korean Minister later in the day.

THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY AND THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

WE read in the *Yomiuri Shimbun* that the Emperor of Germany sent to the Emperor of Japan two horses of exceptionally fine type. They were shipped at Hamburg and reached Yokohama on the 29th ultimo. Unfortunately one of the horses perished *en route*, but the other is now in the Imperial Mews. Our contemporary says that the survivor is valued at nine thousand dollars.

NEARLY SUFFOCATED.

THE *Asahi* says that a foreign carpenter and two Japanese workmen, in the employ by Mr. Rose, No. 115, Yokohama, were nearly suffocated on the 3rd instant on board the German steamer *Frigga*, while engaged in repairing a covered-in pipe. They were fortunately discovered in time by the crew, who conveyed them to the upper deck, and restoratives being applied the men were able to go ashore after a little time.

VIOLENT EARTHQUAKE IN KAGOSHIMA.

TELEGRAPHIC intelligence from Kagoshima, published in the *Asahi Shimbun*, states that a very strong shock of earthquake was felt in Kagoshima on the 24th inst. at 9h. 9m. 14s. p.m. It lasted for about two minutes, and much damage was done to stone walls. No less than ten weaker shocks followed. The oscillation was strongly felt in Nagasaki and Kumamoto.

RUMOURS IN YOKOHAMA.

YOKOHAMA is a delightfully credulous place. It swallows the most indigestible canards without a grain of salt. Yesterday everybody was talking of an organized attack having been made upon the foreigners in Tokyo, and of the latter having been obliged to defend themselves with every available lethal weapon. That folks in this Settlement should credit the possibility of such things shows only how very little they know of the state of affairs in Japan.

POINT OTTER, LAY ISLAND, BEACON LIGHT.

THE following Notice to Mariners, No. 280, for the Yangtze River, Kiukiang District, of the China Sea, has just been issued from the Coast Inspector's Office:—Notice is hereby given that the Point Otter, Lay Island, Beacon Light has been shifted 50 yards S. 52° W. from its last position, in consequence of the washing away of the river bank.

MR. LENZ.

MR. LENZ, the American bicyclist, who is on a tour round the world, has passed through Lahore on his way from Calcutta to Kurrachee. He has found the Indian roads as a rule excellent, and encountered no serious difficulties. From Kurrachee he goes through Persia, and on to Constantinople.

POSTAL MATTER.

THE number of letters passing through the Tokyo post-offices during the first three days of the present year was exceptionally large, namely, 401,084 on the 1st, 501,443 on the 2nd, and 473,690 on the 3rd. Last year the greatest number on any one of the three days did not exceed 380,000

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DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ON Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock an Imperial Rescript was issued ordering the dissolution of the House of Representatives. That this step would follow, in inevitable sequence, the prorogation decreed on the 19th ultimo and repeated ten days later, had been pretty generally foreseen. It may appear perplexing that a sentence of fourteen days prorogation pronounced one day should prelude an order of dissolution issued on the next. But events move quickly at present in Japan. The Cabinet plainly endeavoured by every possible means to recall the House of Representatives to a sober frame of mind and to a sense of the gravity of the situation. During the first period of prorogation, there was ample time for the Opposition to weigh their acts and to withdraw from a route evidently destined to end in a fatal collision with the Government. They were not left in any doubt as to the SOVEREIGN'S will or as to the views of HIS MAJESTY'S Ministers. With respect to the former, they had the guidance of the Imperial Rescript issued on the 24th ultimo, w. ere the EMPEROR stated in unequivocal terms that the foreign policy of his reign was liberal and progressive, and that anything tending to interrupt the consummation of that policy would be opposed to the Imperial wishes. With respect to the latter, they had the indications furnished by the act of prorogation, which bore evident reference to their retrogressive and vexatious proposal to enforce the strict letter of the Treaties, a proposal not only threatening to seriously alienate the goodwill of Foreign Powers, but also involving for its enforcement recourse to measures inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution and contrary to the principles of civilization. Nevertheless, the Opposition declined to be turned from their purpose either by the EMPEROR'S declared wishes or by the Cabinet's resolute attitude. The reassembly of the House on the 29th ult. saw the obnoxious proposal introduced once more for discussion, and saw also a solid phalanx of members prepared to support it. Whether it would have passed or not, must now remain uncertain. But there can be little question that it would at all events have obtained votes numerous enough to convey a false impression of the nation's real mood, and to invest with fictitious importance the petty and ungenerous policy contemplated by the Opposition. Had the EMPEROR then and there issued an order for dissolution, the step would not have been premature. But it was probably deemed advisable to proceed with the utmost deliberation in a matter of such gravity. A bare possibility existed that by some of the supporters of the measure the first sentence of prorogation had not been interpreted as directly due to their action. Further, there evidently devolved upon the Government the duty of offering a full exposition of its own views before having recourse to an extreme method of asserting them. Hence, when the House of Representatives reassembled on the 29th ultimo, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs laid before it an exhaustive and lucid statement of the Cabinet's foreign policy, and a strongly reasoned demonstration of the unwisdom and discredit that would attach to the course advocated by the Opposition. A full translation of His Excellency's speech will be found elsewhere in our columns. It is a remarkable State paper. The nature of the occasion that evoked it must be regretted, but, on the other hand, there is solid ground for congratulation that the Japanese and foreign public is afforded access to such an unequivocal presentment of the motives and aspirations by which the foreign policy of the *Meiji* era has been directed throughout. The keynote of that policy may be summed-up in the principle that the exercise of rights involves a corresponding discharge of obligations. Japan has set herself the difficult task of emerging from her geographical situation, and, first among Oriental States, entering the comity of Occidental nations on equal terms. To accomplish a purpose on the threshold of which she encounters a mass of traditional prejudices and race antipathies, she has to show before everything that she recognises and is prepared to discharge the duties imposed by the position she seeks. She cannot withhold from others what she claims to receive from them herself, neither can she, by bending to the strong and taking advantage of the weak, infringe the principles of equality by which she aspires to benefit. Professions alone will not serve her. She must offer practical proofs of her adhesion to the canons governing the intercourse of Occidental States, and in view of the unprecedented recognition which, as an Eastern nation, she asks for, those proofs must be exceptionally clear and conclusive. She has been furnishing them steadily for a quarter of a century, but the whole results of her labour might be destroyed in a moment if, on the eve of achieving her purpose, she adopted a course calculated to reawaken foreign distrust, and to resuscitate the prejudices which she has now almost succeeded in dispelling. The speech of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs makes it clear that all these things have been recognised from the outset by the statesmen of the *Meiji* era, and that they are resolved not to suffer the nation to be discredited, or their own work to be wrecked, by recourse to a policy as petty and vexatious as it would be futile and misleading. The privileges which foreigners enjoy in this empire over and above Treaty stipulations, are not concessions wrested from Japan, neither are they, as the Opposition appear to think, indulgences having their origin in the Government's weakness or imprudence. They are simply evidences of the gradual *rapprochement* that has taken place between this nation and the Occident The very causes that conspire to render the treaties anachronous and unjust, from Japan's point of view, have also worked to make their strict enforcement incompatible with relations such as those existing between her and foreign peoples. The isolation that was easy and even congenial to her at the time of concluding the Treaties, became long ago irksome and distasteful; the barriers that foreigners aad Japanese were then willing to endure, have for years been growing more and more inconsistent with the nature of their intercourse. To revert to that isolation, to rebuild those barriers would be significant of much more than the advocates of the measure seem to appreciate. The Government, however, perceives the full meaning of the step and is determined to oppose it by every lawful means. It is certain, of course, that after the speech delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the 29th ultimo, after the second order of prorogation on the same day, and after the issue of the Imperial Rescript of the 24th ultimo, the House thoroughly understood the Government's determination and the EMPEROR'S will. But from the commencement of the present session the House has shown itself altogether insensible to the dictates of reason. Every one of its acts have been swayed by party passion and political ambition. Nothing seemed capable of checking its irresponsible recklessness. To entrust to such a House the discussion and decision of a question affecting the national policy of the whole *Meiji* era, would have been an ill-judged and unstatesmanlike proceeding. Hence, when the parties forming the Opposition showed, after the prorogation of the 29th, no disposition to re-consider their attitude, but renewed their resolve to push, after the New Year's recess, the mischievous measure denounced by the Government and condemned by the SOVEREIGN, no resource remained but dissolution. We can not foretell what an appeal to the country may bring forth, but, at all events, the question of the Empire's foreign relations will now receive attention such as never before was bestowed on it. Meanwhile, the resolute and enlightened attitude taken by the Government should suffice to assure foreigners that no retrogressive or illiberal policy will be permitted, and that the SOVEREIGN and the Cabinet may be trusted to maintain the policy of friendship and liberality in accordance with which the country's foreign intercourse has hitherto been shaped.

The Queen has promoted Admiral Sir Anthony Hoskins to be a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, and has conferred the honour of K.C.B. upon Admiral Sir Michael Culme Seymour.

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THE "CHISHIMA"-"RAVENNA" QUESTIONS.

WE publish elsewhere the Reply of the Minister of State for the Navy to Dr. HATOYAMA'S Questions in the House of Representatives on the *Chishima-Ravenna* law-suit. The arguments used by the Minister seem to us quite conclusive. There is certainly much room for discussing the propriety of a law-court's being organized outside Japan as an integral part of a judicial system established by Great Britain on account of a treaty obligation dischargeable within Japan. Great Britain is bound by treaty to provide a sufficient and satisfactory substitute for the jurisdiction which she has incurred the responsibility of exercising in Japan, and that certainly can not be called a satisfactory substitute which deprives a Japanese suitor of the privilege of appeal unless he travels hundreds of miles across the seas to procure it, and exposes him to a denial of justice unless he is prepared to follow his case to a foreign country. On the other hand, it may fairly be claimed that no Power has provided more efficient machinery for the discharge of her judical obligations in Japan than Great Britain, and that access on appeal to the Supreme Court in Shanghai is, in effect, an additional security against miscarriages of justice. Besides, Japan herself does not stand in an unassailable position with regard to this very question. Her own arrangements for the trial of crimes committed by her subjects in China involve a difficulty of a similar nature but much less defensible, for whereas recourse to the British tribunal in Shanghai is confined to appeals in civil cases, grave criminal charges against Japanese in China have to be tried in first instance in Nagasaki. At all events, the British system by which the Japanese Minister of Marine shaped his procedure in the *Chishima-Ravenna* suit is now in the twenty-eighth year of its existence and of its hitherto unquestioned observance. To make the Government's present compliance with it a basis for sudden impeachment after such a long period of silent acquiesence, must be regarded as a political paroxysm rather than a result of calm reasoning.

With regard to the point on which Dr. HATOYAMA chiefly relied to justify his arraignment of the Government—namely, the association of the Emperor of JAPAN with the suit—a distinction that may perplex foreign readers is made by the Minister: it is denied emphatically that the SOVEREIGN'S name was employed, though it is admitted that HIS MAJESTY'S title was used by counsel in the course of the argument. No one has ever succeeded in discovering a valid objection to the use of either name or title, and from first to last the framer of the Questions himself has carefully avoided any attempt to formulate a reason. Conscious that rdiculeand sentiment do not lend themselves to logical definition, he has prudently relied on the mystic elements of sanctity and inviolability that attach to the SOVEREIGN in Japan, and has trusted that the Japanese would feel, though they might not understand, the sacrilege of associating HIS MAJESTY with anything so common as a suit at law. Practical, matter-of-fact Occidentals, who have ceased to be dazzled by the glamour of Thrones, will be disposed to imagine that no serious attention need have been paid to such a complaint as Dr. HATOYAMA'S. But the Minister of State for the Navy, thinking otherwise, has been at some pains to emphasize the fact that HIS MAJESTY'S name was never used at all, and that his title was not employed in any pleadings but was only referred to by Counsel in the course of argument. At first sight some suspicion of quibble attaches in Western eyes to this distinction between name and title. It is, however, a very clearly recognised rule of etiquette in Japan, that officials of very high standing, above all the SOVEREIGN, are never referred to by name, their titles alone being as far as possible used. In Europe too, Sovereigns are not designated by their personal names, but the respect paid to such a canon in the West bears no comparison with the strictness of its observance in Japan. In all probability Dr. HATOYAMA did not intend to intimate that the EMPEROR was referred to as "MUTSUHITO" in the course of the *Chishima-Ravenna* law-suit, but the term (*on-na*) employed by him in drafting his questions admits of no other construction, and he thus laid himself clearly open to the correction he has received. Altogether, his points possessed only academical or romantic interest, and were easily disposed of.

It is to be regretted, however, that the Minister of State for the Navy betrays, in his Reply, a disposition to throw undue responsibility on the Counsel to whom the conduct of the suit was entrusted. Considerable latitude must of course be left to a barrister, and to that extent he may fairly be held responsible. But in the case under consideration we can not forget that Counsel's arguments were adduced twice, in virtually the same form, at an interval of several months. Had there been anything objectionable in their nature, the long period that separated their original statement before the Yokohama tribunal from their repetition in the Shanghai Court, should have amply sufficed for the Minister to formulate his objections. That dilemma can be disposed of only by contending that the arguments were not open to any criticisms such as Dr. HATOYAMA'S, and indeed the Minister does most distinctly make that allegation. But, at the same time, there runs through parts of his Reply an evident implication that Counsel was in some sense blameworthy. So far from anticipating any suggestion of the kind, we imagined that the opportunity would have been seized by the Minister not merely to clear himself, but also to say a word in grateful appreciation of Counsel's services. Anyone who has been in a position, as the Minister certainly was, to read a full report of the remarkably able speech delivered by the Government's leading Counsel before the Shanghai Court, must have been struck by the extensive research, admirable marshalling of facts, and closeness of reasoning it displays. That it deserved frank approval is beyond question. Yet the Minister speaks as though he shrank from being associated with such an effort of forensic skill. We fear that this ungracious incident will not encourage foreigners to put forth their strength on Japan's behalf. It will, on the contrary, help to confirm the unhappy impression that a foreigner must not look for credit in this country, whatever danger he may run of receiving discredit. His achievements are too apt to be appropriated by others, his failures alone to be placed to his account. The tendency now-a-days is to dispense with the foreigner as far as possible, but the story of this *Chishima-Ravenna* case leads us to think that though his services as an expert be no longer valued, a new rôle may perhaps be found for him in the capacity of a convenient scape-goat.

CHINA'S RAILWAYS.

THE general public knows only one Chinese railway, namely, the line that connects Tientsin with Tong-ku, near the mouth of the Peiho, and extends to Kungchow, at the Kaiping coal mines. Thence the road has been carried as far as Shanhaikwan, and work is also in progress beyond the Great Wall, the objective point being Kwanchinsa, whence a system of strategical lines is to be pushed out for establishing communications with Manchuria. But of the railway on the northern side of Kungchow, very little is known. Indeed by the Chinese themselves a nominal distinction is made between the Tientsin-Kungchow and the Kungchow-Shanhaikwan sections, the former being called the China Merchants' line, and the latter the Imperial Railway. The significance of this distinction is that the road from Tientsin to the coal mines of Kaiping was constructed for the ordinary purposes of a railway, namely, to carry passengers and goods, whereas the line passing to the north of the mines is a military enterprise, intended to bring Manchuria within strategical reach of China proper. The so-called "Imperial Railway" might more correctly be described as the LI line, for it virtually owes its inception and continued construction to the sagacity of the great Viceroy. It would appear that the Chinese in general pay no attention whatever to Manchuria, nor ever reckon the contingencies connected with a Russian occupation of that important and valuable district. Many of them feel far

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from well disposed towards the birthplace of the ruling dynasty of Tartars, and would be rather pleased than otherwise were Manchuria to fall into foreign hands. Not so the Viceroy Li, however. He understands the immense strategical value of Manchuria, and perceives that failing vigorous measures on China's part to maintain her hold on the place, its ultimate absorption into Russia's dominion is a foregone conclusion. Hence his overshadowing influence is employed to push the building of a railway by which troops can be thrown forward to occupy Manchuria. The project is still far from completion. Something like twelve or fifteen years would be required to finish the road at the present rate of construction, but the Viceroy is expected to devise means of greatly accelerating the work, for certainly his ideas outrun any such leisurely method of procedure. It is not, however, of the so-called "Imperial Railway" that we set out to speak, but of the commercial line from the coal mines to Tientsin, and especially of the section between the latter place and Tong-ku. The road has now existed and been worked safely for a period sufficient to prove that national conservatism does not reserve for it a fate such as that which overtook the pioneer line from Shanghai to Woosung. It is in every respect a rough example of railway construction, but the work is evidently sound and solid, and of course no one thinks of finding fault with engineering sagacity that sought to popularize this great factor of civilization by making its first example as inexpensive as possible for China. Perhaps, too, some idea of the fitness of things influenced the directors of the work, for a road with well squared sleepers, gravel ballast, handsome stations, and comely fencing would be quite incongruous with the bleak expanses of muddy flatness, the squalid villages, and the general evidences of grime and indigence that environ the line throughout its whole length. The stations, indeed, have suffered over much from economical exigencies: there is not a waiting room such as would satisfy even third-class passengers in England or America. As for the rolling stock, its case is still worse. The first-class carriages are not comparable with the second-class cars on Japanese lines: they are, in fact, an inferior kind of third-class car with correspondingly inferior cushions. But the fares are emphatically cheap: one travels from Tientsin to Tong-ku, a distance of 27 miles, for 50 cents first class, and 25 cents second class—there is no third class, there could not be, for the so-called "second" gets as low as is conceivable in the scale of discomfort. Corresponding fares on the Tokyo-Yokohama line would be 34 *sen* first class, as against the present 60 *sen*, and 17 *sen* third class, as against the present 20 *sen*. The speed is about the same on the two lines, viz. 59 minutes for the 27 miles between Tientsin and Tong-ku, and 55 minutes for the 18 miles between Yokohama and Tokyo, the Japan line having an advantage of only one third of a minute per mile. But the rate is not sustained on the Chinese road beyond the Tientsin-Tong-ku section, for the total length of 94.7 miles requires 6 hours 38 minutes to traverse, which means only 14¼ miles per hour. It has to be observed, however, that the line, with the exception of the above-named section, is used almost entirely for the carriage of coal, so that a slow rate of travel is quite natural. Very remarkable is the disorder that prevails at the stations, and the general laxness that seems to pervade the traffic management. A notion exists, whether well or ill-founded we do not pretend to say, that even the ticket-seller is watching for an opportunity to "squeeze." Not infrequently one hears an "old resident," presumably instructed by experience, accompany the tender of his dollar with a caution against any attempt to "chisel." The scene at a terminal point on the arrival or departure of a train is one of the greatest confusion. Access to the platform is free to every one, there being no wickets, nor any attempt to exclude non-passengers. The consequence is that a mob of coolies, filthily clothed and in every respect objectionable, invade the platform, fight over the traveller's luggage, obstruct his path to or from the carriages, and create a perfect pandemonium out of which emergence is hopeless without some expenditure of small coin. In Japan no railway official will accept money for services rendered to a passenger, and all officials are at all times ready to render such services. In China the traveller cannot get anything done without paying for it, and the most difficult thing to find on a Chinese railway is a railway official. The line being an accomplished fact, every Chinaman in its vicinity tries to find his account in it, and when a Chinaman engages in inducing other folks to part with their money, he develops a pertinacity that cannot be too much admired. The outcome of all these special conditions is that railway travelling in China produces an unwholesome impression of disorgazination, scrambling, discomfort, and slovenliness which are precisely the disagreeabilities that one expects to avoid by such a method of progression. The Middle Kingdom's first railway is not a model except as regards solidity and economy of construction.

A POSSIBILITY.

THE public has learned that terrible contingencies are possible in our intercourse with China. Both last year and the year before, fierce mobs suddenly developed proportions that apparently defied the resources of Chinese constituted authority, and cruel murders of foreigners were the result. Obviously such crises

experiences may be repeated at any moment. There is little if any security against their recurrence. Some folks maintain that if the Chinese Government were really earnest in its efforts to protect foreigners and to check displays of lawlessness, life and property would soon be quite safe. But such a faith is hard to hold by. Mobs are everywhere beyond the control of the powers ordinarily available for the preservation of peace. In England, in Germany, in France, and in America when people combine to effect their purpose by the strength of masses, it is invariably seen that before they can be effectually curbed, outrages are possible which vary in degree rather according to the mood of the mob than according to the competence of the police and military to restrain them. Security really consists, not in the thoroughness of official organizations, but in the reluctance of civilized men to seek redress or to assert their views by brute force. The absence of factors making for mob violence rather than the provision of means to overcome it after it has arisen, is the aim of wise administrators. In China, unfortunately, such factors are perpetually at work. Instead of a pacifying influence proceeding from above downwards, the educated classes are the chief propagandists of anti-foreign turbulence. It is from the literati that emanate the pamphlets, the placards, and the cartoons which teach the lower orders to regard the foreigner as a mischievous and malignant demon, to be extirpated or to be succumbed to. And the literati have always a good case, since they pose as the champions of the country's traditional faith against the invasion of an alien creed. Many of them, perhaps the great majority, must be credited with sincerity. Our own nationals, under similar circumstances, would doubtless exhibit equal zeal in defence of the faith of their fathers, and equal bigotry in their opposition to a foreign faith the propagandists of which force their way into the country under the protection of so-called treaties of amity and commerce. The literati appeal to an audience naturally and reasonably sympathetic, for it must be remembered that the missionary in China represents the foreigner in the eyes of the people. Not the trader but the missionary exercises to their limits the privileges accorded by treaty. The foreign merchant does not reside in the interior. His business sphere is at the open ports. He comes little, if at all, into contact with the masses. It is the missionary that the people see. It is of the missionary's work alone that they have intimate knowledge. Christian propagandism they regard as the main purpose of foreign intercourse, and Christianity, as the literati depict it, doubtless in good faith, is an evil creed, based on superstitions and inculcating unfilial and demoralizing doc-

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ought to be exercised in the cause of law and order, and are so exercised in other countries, operate in China to defy the law and disturb order. We cannot wonder that, under such sinister circumstances, the Mandarins and local magistrates fail to check or prevent fatal exhibitions of mob violence. Whether they employ to the full their available resources is a question variously answered by various observers. Many answer it emphatically in the negative, and we suspect that they are right, for, after all, when it comes to saving one or two aliens at the cost of several Chinese and probably at the cost of such local unpopularity as to render subsequent retention of office impossible, a Mandarin who did not hesitate would be more than human. A similar consideration applies to the case of the Central Government. Perhaps if the Government openly identified itself with Christianity and shrank from no means of protecting its propagandists, mob violence would ultimately be crushed. But there is a "perhaps" in the matter, especially when, as in China's case, the administration is in the hands of an alien dynasty which has never thoroughly succeeded in engrafting itself upon the national stock. At all events, no Government could reasonably be expected to invite such a crisis. We cannot expect from China heroic displays of liberalism and magnanimity seeing that we treat her in most respects as a semi-barbarous Power. The situation plainly bristles with complications. Everybody's efforts should be directed to the prevention not the suppression of violence. That is the rôle to which the Representative of even the greatest Western State must resign himself in ordinary times. We do not see what course HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S Minister, for example, can prudently pursue except to organize every possible means of watching for indications of danger with the view of averting its outbreak. In such a programme he should be able to count on the cöoperation of his nationals, especially of the missionaries, who, in the vast majority of cases, are the proximately exacerbating cause. But it is plain that the missionaries have not recognised this duty to the full. They allow themselves to be represented in the local foreign press by men who, whatever title to a hearing their learning and length of residence may confer, betray harshness of judgment, intolerance, and incendiary tendencies equally discreditable to their cloth and inconsistent with the liberty they claim. Worse even than that, they sometimes take steps designed apparently for the express purpose of provoking disasters. The scheme of the Swedish mission at Kwaihwai-ching, beyond the Great Wall in a region near the borders of Mongolia, is a flagrant example. There have been sent to that remote region twenty Swedish women of various ages, several of them possessing conspicuous personal attractions. It does not appear that these girls have any special competence for the work of Christian propagandism Enthusiasm is their one qualification. They know little if anything of the Chinese language. They never preached religious doctrine in their own country. Their idea, seemingly, is to have recourse to revivalist methods. We hear of them, dressed in Chinese costume, going out into the grimy alleys of sordid, toil-worn Chinese cities, and there thrumming on guitars and singing hymns, a spectacle as grotesque as it is incomprehensible to the people. The most terrible part of the story is its practical side These girls receive an annual allowance of 200 dollars. Out of that pittance they must contribute 20 dollars each to provide a house. There remains to them, therefore, for purposes of sustenance and clothing, a pittance of 15 dollars monthly. The misery to which they are thus condemned is imaginable. The luxury of a genial fire they cannot know; we hear of them clubbing their pitiful mites to contrive a united coffee-drinking once a week; and even the privacy so dear to a modest woman in the West is denied to them, since the paper fronts of their wretched dwellings cannot protect them against the prying eyes of curious Chinese. Every one is entitled to lead the life of a martyr. These poor girls must be allowed to mortify their flesh if they please. For our own part, we think that a strait waistcoat, or a twelvemonth in the penitentiary would be the only becoming recompense for the culpable individual whose money supports them, and for the still more culpable persons who brought them out. But larger considerations present themselves in connection with the question whether any one is entitled to plant a community of European women under such circumstances in a remote region of the Chinese empire. May we not at any moment receive from Kwaihwai-ching news of a catastrophe that would revolt the whole civilized world? Have reckless enthusiasts the smallest right to endanger international relations by offering such an incentive to rapine and outrage? It is true that Swedish subjects alone are directly concerned. But if twenty Swedish girls were overtaken by a fate such as befel the Sisters at Tientsin in 1870, could helpless Sweden be left to vindicate treaty privileges and civilized liberty single-handed? Besides, this is not a question of one nation or another. It is a question of twenty European women deliberately banished to a life of useless suffering and exposed to perils the thought of which makes one shudder. Who among the sternest sticklers for treaty privileges will defend such cruel recklessness? Should a day of heavy reckoning come for China, it will be well to remember what manner of folks were engaged writing up the accounts on the foreign side.

THE "JIYU-TO" AND STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE TREATIES.

AN article in the *Jiyu* newspaper, of which we publish a full translation elsewhere, contains a very interesting *exposé* of the attitude of the principal political party in the empire with regard to the question of strict enforcement of the Treaties. It will be observed that the *Jiyu-to* carefully avoid any declaration of distinct opposition to strict enforcement, so far as the measure itself is concerned. They could not, indeed, take any other line, because the doctrine of strict enforcement is only another way of stating the principle of faithful observance, and every international compact is of course concluded on the hypothesis that both the contracting parties will comply carefully with its provisions and that each will insist on the other's compliance. But the *Jiyu-to* advance an unanswerable argument when they assert the impossibility of advocating in one breath revision of the existing Treaties as unjust and anomalous, and insisting in the next on their strict enforcement. Into such a self-stultifying *impasse* would Mr. ABEI HANKON and his fellow-thinkers lead the thoughtless majority in the House of Representatives. In the session of 1891-92 the House passed an Address to the THRONE, declaring its emphatic conviction that the Treaties now in force impair the nation's dignity, impede the country's progress, are entirely unsuited to Japan's present condition, and ought to be revised without a day's delay. Yet, in the very next session, the same House seemed to be on the verge of passing a resolution to the effect that steps should be taken to secure the strict enforcement of these same obnoxious compacts. Nothing could be more contradictory. The *Jiyu-to* behave with proper consistency when, as the chief promoters of last session's Address, they refuse to have anything to do with this session's Representation. Doubtless the supporters of the Representation will claim that their motive in advocating strict enforcement is, not to impart a character of permanency to the present Treaties, but, on the contrary, to render their operation so irksome to foreigners that the latter will become in their turn supplicants for revision. That, we may be sure, is what the constituencies will be told, and it is not to be denied that such a notion has won for the strict-enforcement programme a considerable part of the favour it enjoys. But there are two parties to every contract. If Japan insists on tying foreigners down to the strict letter of the Treaties, she must herself be prepared to be held to their provisions with equal rigour; and we invite her calmly to reflect whether the indignities she suffers as a nation through deprivation of her sovereign rights of tariff and judicial autonomy can be compared for a

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moment with any inconvenience to which she might subject a handful of foreigners living within her borders. That is an aspect of the question which cannot be too clearly impressed upon the constituencies. The only persons for whom Japan can make things unpleasant by an illiberal interpretation of the Treaties are the foreign residents. What would be gained by that? The foreign residents have ceased to be a serious obstacle in the path of Treaty Revision. It is true that a section of them remain implacably opposed to placing themselves under Japanese jurisdiction. But the Governments of Europe and America long ago recognised that deference cannot be paid to the prejudices of these conservatives, upon whom neither the passage of time nor the logic of events exercises any softening influence. In short, they no longer count as an appreciable factor in the situation, and nothing could be more futile or misdirected than an effort on Japan's part to make them lower their arms. They, on the contrary, would be the first to rejoice over such an effort, perceiving, as all must perceive, that its effect would be, not to promote Japan's purpose, but to re-awaken foreign distrust and thus thrust her back from the goal she seeks to attain. Who among rational folks could be persuaded to believe for a moment that Treaty Revision and the complete opening of the country were the objects of a measure proposed by men avowedly opposed to the admission of foreigners into the interior? Japanese politicians will do well to note the character that this movement must assume in foreign eyes. It emanates from the *Dai Nippon Kyokai*; in other words, from a society formed for the sole purpose of postponing indefinitely the opening of the country. Without the complete opening of the country Japan can never recover her tariff and judicial autonomy. Treaty Revision and the complete opening of the country are indissolubly associated. Failing the latter, the former is wholly out of the question. Yet the opponents of opening the country now come forward with a measure which they have the assurance to recommend as a means of hastening Treaty Revision. The people of the Occident must be credited with some fragments of reasoning capacity. They are not so hopelessly fatuous as to imagine that an extremely illiberal measure proposed by the advocates of international isolation can be prompted by a liberal desire to promote international intercourse. From the moment that men like Messrs. ABEI HANKON, INAGAKI SHIMESU, ARAI SHOGO, and OI KENTARO figure as the advocates of strict enforcement of the Treaties, there ceases to be the least room for conceiving that the aim of the proposal is to further a practicable scheme of Treaty Revision. Yet no other plea can redeem the measure from utter badness. Japanese politicians, we repeat, had better understand distinctly the light in which this proposal will inevitably be regarded by Western nations. If it emanated from a party like the *Jiyu-to*, which the foreign public associates with honest pursuit of Treaty Revision, it might be counted a means to that end. Emanating from the opponents of mixed residence, it cannot be considered otherwise than as a reversion to old-time habits of anti-foreign conservatism, a morbid attempt to make things as unpleasant as possible for the stranger within Japan's gates. In the presence of such a disposition, supposing that it receives endorsement from the representatives to be presently elected by the constituencies, Western Governments will never consent to recognise Japan's claims to equal treatment. They will most assuredly infer her relapse into the mood that necessitated the restrictions embodied in the present Treaties. The result, then, will simply be to fix still more tightly upon Japan the fetters which she has been trying so long and so earnestly to break. In this most important juncture the *Jiyu-to* show themselves the true friends of their country, and it is reassuring to think that their voices will be raised clearly at the polls to enlighten Japanese electors as to the disastrous national consequences of the policy proposed by a section of the Opposition in the Lower House.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MISSION TO SEAMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Kindly permit me, through the medium of your columns, to tender the cordial thanks of all the sailors who participated in the Christmas entertainments at the Seamen's Mission on the evenings of the 26th and 30th of December, to the undermentioned contributors to the Entertainment Fund, viz.:—Mr. and Mrs. Mowatt, Captain Tipple, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Tresize, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. W. B. Walter, Mr. Stemper, Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. E. J. Moss, Mrs. Vincent, Miss Heron, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Griffin, Mr. Palmer, Mrs. Borthwick, A. Friend, Rev. F. S. Ryde, Mrs. G. Sale, Mrs. Balk, Mrs. Curtis, Mr. Watson, Mr. Batchelor, Captain Hodnett, Mrs. Clausen, Mrs. Sale, Captain Efford, A. Friend, Mrs. Rickett, Mrs. Stokes, A. Bluff Resident, Mr. Conradi, Mrs. Clarke, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Kipling, Mr. Keil, Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., Medi-ya & Co. Kelly & Walsh, Laffin & Co., Langfeldt & Co., Strachan & Co., Goodenough & Co., Cunow & Co., Club Hotel. Besides a large amount in kind, seventy dollars in cash was received and disbursed.

Permit me also to correct the statement in your issue of Jan. 2nd, referring to the Christmas Ship Entertainment on the Dec. 30th at the Seamen's Mission. "A goodly number of blue-jackets petty officers, and a few Merchant Seamen were present." There were fifty-two Merchant Seamen and forty blue-jackets from the American and English men of war present.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy,

I am, yours faithfully, W. T. AUSTEN,
Seamen's Chaplain.

The War Office has decided to re-arm the whole of the Artillery Volunteer Corps, numbering over forty-one thousand men, with the Martini-Henry carbine, Mark No. II., replacing the Snider carbines which the men have retained for so many years after the Infantry Volunteers have been armed with the better weapon. Commanding officers have been directed to demand the new carbines to the extent of the enrolled strength of their corps; and the change is to be completed, if possible, by March 31.

MR. MUTSU ON THE FOREIGN POLICY OF JAPAN.

The following is a full translation of the speech delivered by H.E. Mr. Mutsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the House of Representatives on Friday last:—

GENTLEMEN,—It affords me pleasure to be present here to-day to declare the course of foreign policy of the Government, and to explain to you how the progress of the Empire has been influenced and how the welfare of the people has been increased by the enlightened and progressive policy of opening the country which has been the foundation of this nation's aims and aspirations ever since the Restoration. I also desire to explain what relation the question pending in the House to-day and the spirit of the projects connected with it, bear to the progressive policy of opening the country, and I wish to obtain your just judgment on the whole matter.

At the commencement of our Sovereign's auspicious reign, His Majesty, after mature consideration, decided to adopt the policy of opening the country as a fundamental principle of State procedure. At that time, the venerable statesmen who served in His Majesty's Cabinet showed entire obedience to His Majesty's wise decision, and ever since they have not faltered an iota in maintaining and upholding that national policy, despite the numerous difficulties they have encountered.

Gentlemen—I invite your attention to the Imperial Rescript issued at the beginning of the era of the Restoration, and to the orders issued by the Government of the time, in accordance with the spirit of that Imperial Rescript. All important reforms and all signal steps of progress hitherto achieved in Japan have for their basis that progressive policy. In the early years of the Restoration era when an anti-foreign *(jo-i)* spirit was still rampant among our people, His Imperial Majesty, solicitous on account of the future welfare of the country, issued many Imperial Rescripts and Orders containing such language as the following:—"Foreign intercourse shall be carried on in accordance with International laws," &c., &c.

"Since now the conditions of the world are clearly known, it is His Majesty's pleasure to establish friendly intercourse with Foreign Powers, and above all to increase more the prestige of the Empire, &c., &c."

"Japan shall stand on an equal footing with the other Powers of the world," &c., &c.

"After advancing in civilization and establishing the foundations of national wealth and power, it should not be a task of excessive difficulty to attain the position of equality with other Powers."

In the 5th Article of the Imperial Proclamation issued on the 14th of March 1st year of *Meiji*,[1] it is said:—"Knowledge shall be sought henceforth throughout the world, and the Imperial prestige shall be strengthened as much as possible."[2] Referring to this Proclamation, His Majesty declared:—"We, in person, take this initiative, and determine this national policy, pledging ourselves to it by oath to Heaven:" and in response to the same Proclamation, the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the time made this declaration:—"The Imperial Proclamation is wide-reaching and profound in its meaning, and we appreciate it to the full. Nothing less or different could satisfy the urgent requirements of the epoch. Looking to the foundations of the nation's permanent policy. We, your Majesty's humble subjects, under oath of death, solemnly swear to obey the Imperial pleasure and act with such diligence as to satisfy the Imperial mind."

Since then many events of different character have occurred, and it must be admitted there have been also many shortcomings and difficulties. These shortcomings and difficulties may have been due sometimes to mistakes on the part of the Government and sometimes to misunderstandings on the part of the people. But it is now useless to attempt any assessment of past losses and gains.

Gentlemen—Contrast the Japan of the 1st part of the *Meiji* era with the Japan of to-day. Forget for a moment the quarter of a century that has intervened and seek to set up a direct comparison. Surely it is not difficult to see how great has been the degree of progress made by the country and how remarkable has been the effect of the new civilization on the nation's condition.

[1] The name of the present era, which commenced in 1867.

[2] The remaining four articles of the Imperial Proclamation were as follow:—1. A deliberative assembly should be formed, and all measures be decided by public opinion. 2. The principles of social and political economics should be diligently studied by both the superior and inferior classes of our people. 3. Every one in the community shall be assisted to persevere in carrying out his will for all good purposes. 4. All the old absurd usages of former times should be disregarded, and the impartiality and justice displayed in the workings of nature be adopted as a basis of action.

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Looking, for instance, at the economic side of the problem, let us speak for a moment of the country's foreign trade. At the commencement of the *Meiji* era, that trade did not amount to thirty million *yen*, whereas, in the 25th year of *Meiji*, it aggregated more than a hundred and sixty-two millions. So again in the matter of means of communication. On the land nearly 3,000 miles of railway have been laid, and over 10,000 miles of telegraph lines have been constructed; and on the sea do there not float many hundred vessels of foreign type for coastwise and foreign commerce?

Turning to military armaments, does not the country possess a strong standing army of 150,000 men, consisting of well trained officers and soldiers armed with weapons of approved modern type, and not inferior to the forces of great European Powers? And does it not possess a Navy numbering about 40 vessels which are to be added to so far as the national finances permit?

Looking, on the other hand, to the extension of civil liberty, to the improvement of the national institutions, to the growth of intelligence, and to the progress of science and art, results too numerous to formulate here stand on record. The most important of them all is the establishment of a constitutional form of Government, in consequence of which I am enabled to stand before you in this House of Representatives to-day, and to discuss with you political affairs of prime importance. I ask you where in the whole of Asia there is to be found a country which can show such a page of progress as Japan happily presents. Truly we have made a long stride in advance during the past quarter of a century. Our country has evoked, and is still evoking the astonishment and admiration of foreign Powers because of its progress almost unparalleled in the records of the nations of the world. Yet we know that the genius of the Japanese people, not contented with this still defective effort and still incomplete achievement, is capable of accomplishing a programme of reform and progress many times more extensive than anything already standing to their credit, and we are proud that the Japanese people do not lack courage to make the essay, I would ask you whether these remarkable results do not flow from the facts that His Imperial Majesty, by an exercise of farseeing wisdom and enlightened decision, early determined the policy of the nation; that our venerable predecessors helped to promote that policy, and that our loyal and patriotic forty millions of countrymen have endeavoured, each in his own sphere, to promote the national interests by faithfully following that great policy of State.

In what I have thus far said, it has not been my purpose to pervert or prejudice views by advancing exaggerated arguments of a theoretical nature. I firmly believe that you yourselves will recognize the incontrovertible character of the statements I have made if you examine them by the light of established facts.

I have no doubt that the Representation standing first on the Order of your House to-day, as well as the two other Bills framed in pursuance of a similar object, have been introduced in this House by their proposers under the influence of patriotic feeling. But unfortunately these various measures are opposed to the national policy to which I have drawn your attention; the policy invariably pursued since the Restoration. On the contrary, these measures betray a spirit of retrogression and conservatism, not a spirit of progress and liberalism. If once the contagion of such a retrogressive spirit be caught by the people, it will surely turn the mind of the nation into false channels. Especially is it to be feared that the spirit of progress nurtured during the past quarter of a century would be weakened, if not altogether paralysed.

I will not here discuss in detail the merits of this Representation. I regret, on the whole, that such a project has been introduced in this House, which is the legislative body of the Empire of Japan.

With regard to strict enforcement of the treaties, I declare that the Government have never failed to take proper measures against any act of contravention of their stipulations. But, as you are all well aware, most of our existing treaties were concluded during the *Ansei*[3] and *Keio*[4] eras, or at the beginning of the period of the Restoration, when foreign intercourse was not yet advanced as it is at present. Except one treaty, that with Mexico, all those compacts are imperfect, and do not by any means answer the requirements of our present state of progress. But it is beyond question that while existing treaties have not lost their force, all matters of foreign intercourse must be dealt with in accordance with their provisions. As I have mentioned before, the situation at home and abroad has undergone many remarkable changes since the existing treaties were first concluded. It is therefore my conviction that, in conducting our foreign intercourse to-day, the convenience and interests of Japanese and foreigners alike will be best consulted by a judicious policy of give and take, and by such mutual accommodations as are compatible with the express stipulations of the treaties.

I think it is not out of place to briefly review the history of the progress of our foreign intercourse since the opening of the ports. From the *Ansei* era to the Restoration, you will find that the *Bakufu*,[5] hampered by various circumstances at home and abroad, seem to have adapted their foreign policy to a system of keeping foreigners as far as possible isolated from Japanese. They consequently adopted whatever measures promised to prevent mutual contact or approach, without duly reflecting whether and to what extent such measures might enable foreigners to impair our national interests or encroach upon our national rights. The systems of settlements, of treaty limits, of treatment of subjects or citizens of non-treaty powers and so forth, are examples of that policy. In the beginning of the Restoration no change worth mentioning took place. But from the 5th or 6th year of *Meiji*, when the Iwakura mission returned from Europe, the Japanese Government commenced earnestly to try and recover the rights impaired in foreign intercourse, as well as to assert the rights neglected over and above the treaties. A case in point is the jurisdiction over non-treaty subjects or citizens. The *Bakufu*, in pursuit of their policy of isolating foreigners, endeavoured as far as possible to avoid all contact with them, and accordingly made arrangements by which foreign consuls were authorized to exercise, more or less jurisdiction over non-treaty subject or citizens. But since the 6th year of *Meiji* the Government has brought these non-treaty subjects entirely under our jurisdiction. Again, since the time of the *Bakufu*, there existed in the Settlements of Yokohama and elsewhere, Foreign Municipal Directors or Committees who, in great measure, exercised administrative control and management of the Settlements. But since about the 10th year of *Meiji*, all the Settlements, with the exception of Kobe and Osaka, have been brought under the control of the Japanese Government. To cite the most conspicuous instance:—At the time of the *Bakufu* there were many violent advocates of anti-foreign (*jo-i*) measures, and in consequence, the British and French Governments stationed a number of troops at Yokohama. The *Bakufu* were so far compromised as to be obliged to maintain barracks and the necessary hospitals connected with this encampment by paying the cost from the national treasury. After the Restoration, the Government, by repeated communications with those Powers, effected at last the withdrawal of the troops. I might cite many other instances, but I think it is not necessary to do so in details. Suffice it to say, that in the matter of extradition, in the matter of extending Japanese jurisdiction to the subjects of a country that has neglected to establish consular courts in Japan, in the matter of the applying the Japanese Game Laws to foreigners, and so forth, there are many cases in which the Imperial Government has asserted and extended the empire's inherent rights.

Foreign intercourse must be perfectly reciprocal in respect alike of severity and of accomodation. It is impossible to make things suit our own convenience only without taking foreign interests into consideration. The Government has already changed the *Bakufu's* policy of isolating foreigners into a policy of opening the country. Therefore it has become necessary to give foreigners more or less liberty. The privilege of travelling in the interior with passports issued by the Government for the benefit of health or for purposes of scientific investigation belongs to this class. It is not denied that this has given foreigners some advantages. But at the same time I do not think that the Japanese people have lost anything by it. Last year about 9,000 foreigners travelled in the interior. I have no definite statistics on the subject; but it may be safely estimated that these foreigners spent in the interior about 500 *yen* each, by way of travelling expenses and sundries. If so, their expenditure aggregated about 5,000,000 *yen*. This enormous sum of money goes to fill the purses of our labourers and manufacturers without any special effort on their part.

If Japan adopts the policy of strictly enforcing the treaties, it is to be feared that foreign Powers also may do the same. And here an important question presents itself. Most of the treaties, excepting the Mexican and Chinese, are unilateral in their application: in other words, the various privileges enjoyed by foreigners in Japan are defined in the treaties; but the privileges granted to Japanese abroad are little if at all referred to. Therefore, if both sides are to stick closely and immovably to the letter of the treaties, I fear the loss accruing to the Japanese may be far greater than the loss to foreigners. Moreover, if the spirit of this movement for strict enforcement of treaties the treaties be sought, it is found to have had its origin in the anti-mixed-residence agitation recently fomented among certain classes of people. If not actually an anti-foreign movement, it is at least a reversion to the isolation policy of the *Bakufu*, a policy incompatible with the national and fundamental programme of opening the country, as followed ever since the Restoration. If strict enforcement of the treaties is intended to increase national interests and popular happiness, the reasons I have thus far adduced are sufficient to inspire a fear that no such object will be attained, but that, on the contrary, a directly opposite result may be produced.

Among the advocates of strict enforcement of the treaties, some profess to approve that policy as a means to the final accomplishment of treaty revision. They imagine that the result of strictly enforcing the treaties would be to make foreigners experience so much inconvenience that they would be constrained to consent to revision of the existing treaties. But I do not perceive what inconvenience foreigners would suffer from strict enforcement of the treaties. And supposing that they did feel more or less inconvenience, I can not imagine how that would induce foreign Powers to consent to treaty revision. I believe that such petty measures and such a small policy would be totally inefficacious to accomplish the objects of treaty revision. In fact, in order to accomplish the objects of treaty revision, it is necessary to furnish foreign Powers with proofs that Japan's progress and civilization truly make her in Asia an exceptionally enlightened and powerful country. The evidences hitherto given to foreign Powers that Japan is a State quite exceptional in Asia are the results which she has attained by following, ever since the Restoration, a national policy of opening the country.

The object of treaty revision, nay, the great object of our foreign policy, as declared by the Minister President of State at the beginning of the 4th session of the Diet, is none other than to enjoy the rights which we are entitled to enjoy as a nation, and to discharge the obligations which we are required to discharge as a nation. Japan aspires to obtain exceptional treatment at the hands of European and American nations, despite the fact that she is geographically a part of Asia. Seeking to obtain such exceptional treatment from the outside word, our Government, in its turn, must follow a special policy at home, and our people must show special aptitude. That is the reason why the Government has adopted the policy of opening the country as the foundation of our national aims and aspirations.

Gentlemen, the principle governing Japan's foreign intercourse to day must be self-respecting. She must fear no one and slight no one. She must look to enter the family of civilized and powerful nations by observing the rules of reciprocal courtesy and respect which constitute the ties that bind that family together. In the history of Asia from the Middle Ages downwards we see many instances where a country which, finding itself in a critical position with regard to its foreign relations, and being inwardly timid and nervously fearful of strangers, has evinced a disposition to slight foreigners in matters of trifling importance and assume a haughty air under ordinary circumstances. So soon, however, as an emergency arose, such a country began to waver in its attitude and to fawn upon those that threatened it. Unable to stand independently, it finally created numberless imbroglios in its foreign intercourse, and made blunders so gross that they involved its final and irremediable fall, bequeathing a legacy of perpetual shame to posterity and putting an end to the nation's development.

In most countries foreign policy is shaped in conformity with the spirit of the time. Thus, as I have already pointed out, in the days of the *Bakufu*, the Government being surrounded by an anti-foreign spirit, the policy of isolating foreigners in every possible way was adopted. This case well illustrates the principle that unless the popular spirit be patient and progressive, a country cannot pursue an active foreign policy.

Gentlemen, I do not and cannot doubt that the Representation now awaiting discussion in your House and the two correlated Bills of a similar nature were introduced from patriotic feeling and without any evil purpose on the part of their proposers. But I must say that they are, in spirit entirely opposed to the great fundamental policy of the Empire as above stated.

[3] The era from 1854 to 1859.
[4] The era from 1865 to 1867.
[5] The name by which the Tokugawa Government is known in Japan.

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And since there devolves upon the Ministers of the Crown the responsibility of removing any obstruction to the consummation of that great national policy, I declare most solemnly on behalf of the Government that we shall not hesitate to adopt any measure for that purpose.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Chicago, December 4th.

It is at least a natural supposition, even if it is not true, that Professor Edward S. Morse is the planner of the house mentioned:—"A house, modelled in the Japanese fashion, is nearly completed at Salem, Mass. It is said to be the only Japanese dwelling in the country."

Mr. H Sato(h), till recently a translator for the *Japan Mail*, had an article in yesterday's *Herald* on "True Art from Japan."

"The Story of Japan," in "Stories of the Nations" series, published by G. P. Putnams' Sons, has been written by Professor David Murray and will soon be out.

In the December *Atlantic Monthly*, Lafcadio Hearn, in his inimitable and thorough manner, has discussed Japanese women under the caption, "On the Eternal Feminine."

The December *Cosmopolitan* is an "After the World's Fair" issue, and with almost 200 beautiful illustrations and a large number of reminiscent essays, is a most valuable souvenir for only 15 cents.

A writer in a recent number of the *Union Signal*, in calling up pretty pictures of the Fair, begins as follows:—"The mind has an odd way of setting up a sort of panorama before one's eyes, when the eyelids are closed. I have only to sit still to behold memory pictures which come after their own order. One I see oftenest is of a charming Japanese baby. About his round body is a black cord, which is tied to a block. Otherwise he looks as if he could creep swiftly out of his exquisite frame, for he is a painted baby from the Japanese room in the Woman's Building. Many Japanese pictures look to me delightfully like the work of Jack Frost, but the art that painted that baby belongs to no country. The baby breathes. There were screens in that Japanese room, all the work of women. Did ever human fingers picture snow more perfectly than the drifts upon the pine branches that decorate one? The air, too, is full of snow mist." Those screens, however, were not "the work of women," but man's, put in the room merely for the decoration of the place, but the painting of the baby was woman's work and did attract considerable attention.

A few days ago the police, on complaint of citizens, had to put a stop to the process of boiling a Chinaman's bones in preparation for deportation. To day, moreover, the bodies of a score or more of Chinamen are being exhumed at Rosehill and Graceland cemetries for shipment to China.

On Dec. 1st the process of registration of Chinese began again under the amended Geary Law.

There is nothing new in Hawaiian matters, although the discussion *pro* and *con* is kept up vigorously. A dispatch from San Francisco in this morning's papers states that the U.S. revenue cutted *Thomas Corwin* has been transferred from the Treasury to the State Department, and has been ordered to get ready at once for a 2,500 miles' voyage. It would seem as if this meant a quick trip to Hawaii on some special mission: but the utmost secrecy is maintained in the matter.

The Brazilian Admiral, Mello, has issued the following statement:—"I am invited to define exactly the purpose of the revolutionary movement. I assure you our sole and unchangeable intention, as already stated in my last manifesto, is to establish a republican constitutional government, which was destroyed by Peixoto; to promote national peace in all the states of Brazil and substitute civil government for militarism and the awful political system developed by an actual dictator, who prepares for our country in this way the tremendous misfortune common to Spanish commonwealths. All reports about monarchial plans as to the navy revolution are absolutely false."

The United States appreciate the honour paid to James Russell Lowell as a man of letters by the memorial in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey, where the bust of Longfellow is already of similar honour.

Judge E. C. Billings, of the U.S. District Court in Louisiana, died on the 1st inst.

Van Alen, the Providence dude, whom Cleveland most unprovidentially appointed U.S. Minister to Italy, has shown wit enough to decline.

The President has appointed Washington Hesing, Editor of the *Illinois Staats Zeitung*, as postmaster of this city, and Prof. John R. Proctor, of Kentucky, as civil service commissioner in place of Johnston, removed for flagrant partisanship. It is reported that when the President promised to provide elsewhere for Johnston, the latter asked for the Korean mission, but was refused it by the President.

The death of Hon. Charles O'Neill, of Philadelphia, after a service of 29 years (of which 21 years have been consecutive) in the House of Representatives, leaves the honour of "Father of the House" to Hon. Wm. S. Holman, of Indiana. The latter also has enjoyed a service of 29 years, with only 13 years consecutive.

The Fifty-third Congress begins to-day its regular session, which, with tariff reform and Hawaii *en tapis*, promises to be full of interest and importance.

Terence V. Powderly, after nearly fifteen years of service as General Master Workman of the Knights of Labour, resigned his position, and has been succeeded by James R. Sovereign, Labour Commissioner of Iowa. Powderley's sympathies were with the Republicans; Sovereign's leanings are towards the Democrats; how far politics influenced the change, cannot, however, be ascertained

The Lehigh Valley Road is still in trouble over the strike. The non-unionists, employed in place of the strikers, are not proving sufficiently capable, and have to give up work.

The condition of the miners of Northern Wisconsin and Michigan grows worse and worse. In Ironwood, Mich., out of a population of 8,000, there are "5,000 people who will have to be supported until winter breaks;" in Bessemer 875 out of 900 are "in need of immediate assistance."

We had a genuine New England Thanksgiving Day on the 30th ult. with a "beautiful" snowstorm, which came again Saturday and Sunday, and has left us with several inches of snow. Those who ought to know say that an early winter means an early spring and good crops next year. These first four days of December have been very cold, and have intensified the suffering. The snow brought temporary employment to a large number in the work of cleaning the streets: but the severity of the weather will bring fearful suffering to many. This seems likely to be a terrible winter, during which charity will have an ample field of operation.

Prendergast was placed on trial this morning before Judge Brentano for the murder of Carter H. Harrison. Insanity is, of course, the defence. The Coughlin trial has made no progress. A few days ago a full jury had been secured: but later three suspicious members were dropped, and their places have not yet been filled.

The corner-stone of the new Chicago Public Library building was laid on Thanksgiving Day.

The regular sport, by the-way, of that day has come to be football, which, however, has degenerated into a brutal game.

The Harvard Annex, through the efforts of Boston women, has secured $250,000 endowment.

I went over to the World's Fair grounds last Friday for the first time since the Exposition closed. I found the roads defiled with iron rails and freight cars; I heard the iconoclastic sounds of hammer and other tools; I saw exhibitors and workmen busy in the act of destruction, which, inside the buildings, was far advanced. "*Fuit Ilium, et ingens Gloria Tencrorum.*"

And yet the *real glory* is still there in those magnificent buildings, which, unlike Carthage, *must not be destroyed*. On that point public opinion is harmonious; but the different authorities can not come to an agreement. The South Park Commissioners claim that the World's Fair has damaged Jackson Park to the amount of almost $450,000; and the World's Fair directors maintain that the park has been beautified and permanently benefited to the value of more than $1,700,000. It is difficult to see how there could be such a large discrepancy of more than $2,000,000 in the figures! It is certainly worth $500,000 merely to preserve the Court of Honour.

The incorporators of the Columbian Museum have passed a motion that it be named the "Field Columbian Museum." Gifts continue to flow in, and, as usual, many are from Japan, as follows:—

H. Komada of the Province of Miye, Japan—One large framed water-colour painting entitled "Making Japanese Tea"; one pair of Japanese flags in purple, gold, and silver; six bamboo sketches, and six samples of Japanese tea in bottles covered with silk.

S. Shieno, Yokohama—Three large, rich, embroidered silk plaques for wall hangings.

H. Imura, Yokohama—One porcelain painted plaque.

K. Watano, Kogan, Japan—Two handsome porcelain vases.

Also, the entire Japanese exhibit in Agriculture, and all the show-cases, about one thousand, many beautiful and valuable, have been given. Some of the Show-cases are "made of bamboo, worked in artistic designs, and others are ornamented with bronze figures and sculptured designs."

Another letter *in re* the Japanese exhibit has come to hand: it is

FROM CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS,

"It has been a constant source of pleasure to me to do business with the commissioners who have had charge of the Japanese section. The fine appreciation of Japanese art by Americans—as has been particularly evidenced during the Exposition—is so well known, and the success of the Japanese section has so universally acknowledged, that each successive visit to that section affords even more pleasure than the last. As a whole, the section has impressed intelligent visitors with a feeling of respect, not only for the qualities possessed by the individual examples of art work shown, but also for the dignified manner in which the collection has been installed.

Halsey C. Ives.

KOSMOPOLITA.

BEING AN ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE DOINGES OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT DISTANT LAND.

There was once a people who dwelt in a fayre countrie on the shore of the deep sea. They were not born in that countrie but had come thither from lands very far off—many thousand leagues away. Some of the first to come had been storm-tossed and wearie wanderers, and findinge that countrie so fayre, there had they rested for many years. Some had come because that in their own land was not work to their likinge, and all hasted to be rich, whereas in this land they found work and dayes of quiet calme. And again there were others who had come to join kindred or friends that had journeyed thither in yeares gone by; and in all there was a goodlie number there assembled.

Now the people of that land were strange unto them and spake a strange language, wherefore these people travelled not far from their own homes, and became like unto those who live on islandes surrounded by the greate sea. And when any from afar did tarry in that place, all men did stedfastlie gaze upon him, for they knew that he had journeyed from another countrie.

And they builded for themselves houses of woode and stone, but chieflie were they of woode (for in that fayre land were greate and fearfulle tremblinges of the ground, and many went in feare of death therefrom, and ancient men recounted sadde tales of woe that had befallen the land in dayes gone by). Also as the heat of that countrie was greate, they made wide roofs for their houses, so that they could rest them without the doores, and yet were they shielded from the sun by day and the dew by night.

And at first all men did dwell on the plaine, but where they waxed many in number they did build them houses on a great hill near by, and there the south wind did blow cool when the days were hot. And they that were rich did buy horses and chariots to ride in, and did put them in the care of fiery natives of the land, of whom people did stand in greate awe. But the more part journeyed in small carts pulled by men, and the fraile and sickhe were even thus drawn up the hille (for it was very steepe) but they that were stronge and tender-hearted withal liked not so to do. Yet must heavye loades be drawn up day by day, sometimes by men, and sometimes by mightie bulles.

And every day the men did journey down to the plaine to see if there was work to be done, but the women and children, who were not few in number, remained for the most part on the hills. And it was a custom with that people for the women, when they had fulfilled their dailie duties, to put on goodlie raiment and appeare in each other's houses, so that they could seeke and obtaine from one another good counselle for the better doinge of each day's work, and also a little reste from the cares that oft weighed heavye upon them. Likewise also did the men meet in one or other of the large houses on the plaine, to consulte together, and to promote good causes, and to cheere one another; and some did gaine good therefrom. And if any were in sadde griefe and sorrow, righte readie were others to comforte and help them, for all did remember that they were in a strange land, and none knew but that the like sorrow might soon be his own.

And on Sunday these people did go to Church, to sing and to pray, and to hear the parson preach. He was a man of high stature, and good to the poor, and withal a mightie man of valour, wherefore he was had in respect of many who never went to Church. And he did tell the people of their faults and they did look ashamed, until that they bethought them how that their neighbour's faults were even greater than their own, and then they lifted up their heads again and looked more bold.

And when the bags were carried round each did

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put in a small thick piece of money (full half-a-score mites in value), and all looked happye with the thought of dutye righte well performed. But many of the men did stay away from Church, some from love of money and some from love of pleasure, and some because their friends in the far-off home were no longer near them now.

And so those people did long lead a cheerfulle life, but withal a busy one; for greate and mightie ships laden with merchandise did come to them from the distant countries, and they did haste to trade with the people of the land. And for that they feared they would not sell all that stuffe righte earlie, they did outbid one another in their zeale, and did gaine no profyte thereby; but the people of the land did have greate profyte. Therefore it came to pass that after many yeares greate depression and sorrow fell on those people, because that their money was well-nigh spent and had become of small value. Also many of the carefulle people, who had saved up money and had put it into the bankes, suffered losse with the others for that many bankes were no more. Wherefore some people did say:—"Let us make companies that will take care of our money for us, and do greate deedes with it, and return it unto us fourfold!" And that sayinge pleased many. So they did forme divers companies, whereof some did very strange deedes, and some did vanish away even as the mist before the sun, but none did return them their money fourfold.

And yet for all that depression and adversity, still were there many sportes in the place, for said they, "If we broode over our sorrows we die!" Therefore many did meet in a greene fielde and knock balles about with their handes or their feete or their stickes, and some were very skillfulle therein, and also in runninge and jumpinge and the like. And on set days did the maidens of the place assemble to watch the sporte, and then did the young men vie with one another until they were purple in the face. And the fayreste maiden did give unto the fastest runner a purse of many pieces of money, also did she praise his valour. And he did thank her in a speeche of many words, and the longer he did hold forth, while still all hot with running, the more loudlie did they praise him when he ceased, for cried they:—"He is a right valiant man, his breath is not spent, he could have run yet many furlongs more!"

And other sportes had they, for some did mount on horses and ride round and round many times, until their horses did sorely pant for breath and were like to dash them to the ground, and many gazed thereon with fear; and when the foremost rider was stopped at last all his friends shouted with glad surprise saying:—"His neck is not broken even yet!"

And others did go on the deepe sea in small boates with sailes of vaste size, and they did make fast heavy weights of leade and iron at the under parte as ballaste, for in that countrie did blow stronge winds and the boates were fraile. And on the dayes appointed many of them did saile away very far, till they that looked could see them no more. And when the wind was stronge and the waves very high, many boates, in which were wise men, came back soon, but others, in which were foolish men, tarried long to finish the course, and when they that steered them did at length appeare, their clothes were wet and their sailes torn, and their boates full of water, but all did praise them and rejoice, saying:—"Still have we men who care more for sporte than life!" And the men that sailed went not out to see the horses that ran, but they sighed together and said:—"Oh that the horses had sailes on their heades, for then would we start them in the bay and steere them, or gladie look on!"

Also many people did meet in a larger halle and did make themselves very warme by hoppinge and jumpinge and runninge together, and them some did drink freezinge water and some did drink fire water, and all did try to look cheerfulle and gay. And there were many maidens very fayre to look upon, and their raiment was lovelie, and they danced with the young men of high degree, and when they stepped together gracefullie and did smile on one another and look happy, all their friends looked right gladde and happy too.

And after those dayes were there many marriages in that place, wherefore all people rejoiced and said:—"The sign is good! Now must the dayes of depression be surelie coming to an end, and prosperity will reign once more among us even as in the days of yore!"

ECZEMA.—Book on "SKIN DISEASES," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE Limited, Yokohama.

ARE THE AINU AS STUPID AS SOME SAY?

THE HALF-HARE.—A TRUE INCIDENT.

On a certain occasion a gentleman happened to be travelling through the forests of Yezo with an Ainu as guide. He had his gun with him in case he should chance to meet a bear. As they were proceeding on their journey, the Ainu pointed to something alive under the bushes. The traveller thereupon dismounted and fired at what he supposed to be the living animal. Immediately after the report of the gun, an animal, which seems to have been a wolf, bounded off further into the forest, leaving something behind, however, which appeared to have been shot. On going to the spot the Ainu discovered a half hare which he brought back with him: evidently the wolf was fired at when in the act of devouring his breakfast. The Ainu took the half hare along with him, and, on reaching the Japanese inn in the evening, proceeded to skin it. This was observed by the inn keeper, who, the Ainu appeared to think, was a little too inquisitive about the matter. A conversation something like the following was heard to take place between them:—

Inn-keeper. What have you there?
Ainu. As you see, merely half a hare.
Inn-keeper. What are you doing with it?
Ainu. Skinning it for my supper.
Inn-keeper. How is it you have only got half a hare?
Ainu. My master shot it.
Inn-keeper. How?
Ainu. By aiming at it with his gun and pulling the trigger.
Inn-keeper. But how did he shoot half only?
Ainu. Well, it happened like this. Hares, as you know, are among the swiftest running animals in creation, and this one was the fleetest of the fleet. My master too is a splendid shot; among men of the gun he takes the deadliest aim.
Inn-keeper. *Hai. Doshita?* Yes! How?
Ainu. Thus, you see there were two very clever people, the hare and my master. One clever at shooting and the other at running away. It was therefore impossible for master to miss the hare, and equally impossible that the hare should not run away. So, as you see, half was shot and half escaped. In short, the other half of the hare ran away on four legs though you see two here.
Inn-keeper. *Uso da!* Its' a lie.

Such *child-like docility and simplicity* were altogether too much for that inn-keeper; he smiled, called the Ainu a *chikusho*, "beast," and left.

THE CAMEL.—A TRUE INCIDENT.

One day, I happened to be addressing an audience on a certain subject, and in the illustration I was using there was a camel. This animal took the fancy of the people at once, and I found myself obliged, in order to satisfy the demands of my audience, to leave the matter I was speaking on and confine myself to the camel alone. There is plenty to tell such childlike people about in that wonderful creature. In fact there seem to be more wonders connected with the camel and its anatomy and powers of endurance than some of the people can believe. The wonderful adaptation of their feet for walking on the soft and yielding sand; the hardness of the tongue and mouth owing to which they are able to eat hard and prickly food; the means by which they can store up and carry water for future use; how lives have been saved by killing these animals and taking the water; the use of the hump in repairing the wear and tear of tissue; all these and other things taken together really seemed too wonderful for the brain of these docile Ainu. One person was like that Indian prince who, prior to experience, would not believe that there was such a thing as water becoming hard. He was heard to say in a very quiet but distinct voice, "And, sir, is not the camel so constructed that it can carry a drop of *saké* inside?" Undoubtedly the camel was more than that docile, simple, and childlike man could swallow. He probably throught I was drawing the long-bow and desired to see how far I would go if properly led on.

J. B.

Amongst the calls to the Bar on 17th inst. were Mr. Hirokichi Matsu, of the Inner Temple, and Mr. Thomas Sercombe Smith, B.A., London University, Assistant Registrar General, Hongkong Civil Service.

TRUE ART FROM JAPAN.

A NATIVE TELLS WHY IT IS COSTLY.

"Japan has made a magnificent display. She has created a sensation not only in Chicago, but throughout the length and breadth of the United States," were the words of compliment from almost every visitor to the Japanese section at the World's Fair, both in Manufactures and the Fine Art Palace. It is most gratifying to know that Japan's effort has been so much appreciated by the American public. In no previous international exposition has Japan felt so much interest and taken so earnest a participation as that of the white city. Since Japan heard of this great exposition and was invited to participate in that great affair, every class of her people—merchants, manufacturers, artists, doctors, and professors—began to take a warm interest in the display they wanted to make in Chicago. Especially in manufacturing districts, the World's Columbian Exposition was a topic of conversation both private and public, which continued to be always fresh in interest for four years. In almost every factory of note one could see a group of men and women solely engaged in making exhibits for the white city. They did nothing else then but the making of things for Chicago. In that class of articles belonging to fine arts they were submitted to the severest criticisms, which resulted in frequent failures, but the patience of artists and manufacturers was never exhausted. They would persevere in their work until the productions of their skill and labour had their artistic merits fully established through an ordeal of the severest of criticisms. This fact, and this alone, goes to perpetuate the value and merits of those things which are looked upon in Japan as objects of fine art.

WAR AN ENEMY OF ART.

It is a fact that Japan since the influx of the western influence has lost some of her artistic skill and purity of taste. A glimpse into the history of any country will show that civil wars and social commotions always bring about a decline in art, industries, and manufactures. Japan has had frequent disturbances of this kind, but after a restoration of peace her arts and industries revived with fresh energy until they were crushed down by the next war or some other destructive commotions. The artistic and industrial class of Japanese enjoyed a period of undisturbed peace under the Tokugawa Shogunate for about 550 years, during which time the greatest of every branch of arts and industries were regularly pensioned by the government under the enviable privilege of appointed artists or manufactures to the Shogunate. "Don't be in a hurry to make anything; take time and let your productions be of deserving merit. Don't aim at the quantity of your productions, but let the quality and merit be the prime consideration. Aim at unrivalled merit and nothing else. Count failures nothing. Throw them away if you will prize your name Do the work over and over again until you are satisfied. Frequency of trials will only improve you. Repetitions are never too many, if you can only produce a thing of artistic merit." These words embody the great principle under which the great masters and those looked upon as artists lived and worked the whole of their lifetime. Under the liberal patronage of the Tokugawa Shogunate artists of every description vied with one another to establish their names by their productions. Great barons of the land also extended their patronage to artists of respective kinds in a similar way to that of the central government. The productions of the class of artists were annually presented to the reigning Shogun by the respective barons, who also rivalled with one another in the merits of their appointed artists. In ceramics the Satsuma faience was one of those yearly presented to the Shogun as a token of goodwill and respect. Hence the beauty and excellence of the wares of that name. In making articles of this kind the principle above quoted was followed to the very letter, and the artists were so protected that they could faithfully follow it out. They had a pension to fall back on in case of pecuniary necessity, besides liberal donations which were frequently made not only by their master patron but by others who admired their work. In this way the artistic society of Japan enjoyed its life in the genial atmosphere of the Tokugawa Shogunate. But along with the fall of that system of government not only artists, but also the regular soldier class, found themselves deprived of pensions. They had to work for their bread, but they found few patrons of their arts. The fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1864, immediately followed by the present government, naturally caused a great change throughout the whole of the empire. For several years before the fall phenomena of civil commotion were seen in every

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part of the islands. The visit of American war-ships under Commodore Perry was the direct cause of the commotion. The renouncement of the tradition of exclusion by the Tokugawa Government was opposed on every side. Several influences worked together and mixed with one another until the question did not centre around the advisability or not of opening the county to foreign commerce, but it came to be whether to support the Shogunate or to restore the emperor to the virtual rule over the land. The whole country was ripe for a civil war. But by the quiet resignation of the last of the Shoguns the government was restored to the emperor without involving the whole country in a civil war. There were battles in some parts, but they were almost nothing when we compare the greatness of the change to which the whole empire was submitted.

HAS JAPAN LOST HER ORIGINALITY?

The loss of patronage, coupled with social disturbances, discouraged the arts and industries of the island empire, while at the same time the introduction of western influences, felt in almost every department of its social life, showed itself in the creation of odd mixtures of Occidental and Oriental tastes and fashions. Placed under such circumstances, has Japan undergone a complete change in her arts and industries? Has she lost her originality and purity of taste and style? No. It is an indisputable fact, however, that in the present era of *Meiji* spurious and cheap articles were manufactured to a great extent under the name of Japanese wares. This can be accounted for by the fact that along with the opening of foreign markets and the taste displayed by foreign visitors in the choice of Japanese wares, the manufacturers of the land took a very wide departure from the old style. They bent their energy to making something which would find a market abroad, at the sacrifice of originality. This class of things, consisting of porcelains, lacquer wares, textile fabrics, productions of glyptic art, were brought over to America and were offered as Japanese arts. They found a ready market, and the result was an increased production of cheap and impure articles. Their being Japanese things cannot be denied, but this class of things which are sadly numerous here in America cannot and must not be looked upon as representatives of Yamato's arts.

JAPAN'S ART NOT IN ANTIQUES ALONE.

This fact having been pretty well known to a certain class of the collectors, connoisseurs and lovers of Japanese things, a reaction has now come in the form of a tendency to seek pure Japanese art in so-called antiques alone. Anything new finds no favour in their eyes. They have gone so far as to refuse anything and everything new irrespective of its artistic merit. They have a presumption if not a prejudice which an artistic success cannot break through. But there can be no greater mistake, nor can there can be a more cursory observation, than to condemn the present art of Japan as inferior because new.

HIGH ART NOT DEAD.

An objection might be raised in this connection that the art of Japan, original and pure, has died with the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate and that the influx of western influences makes the present productions deserving of little merit. There is only a partial truth in this assertion. As mentioned elsewhere, the civil commotions prior to and after the change of government were not long enough to see an entire loss of artistic skill of the whole country. Some of those who were appointed artists either to the Tokugawa Government, or of some of the wealthy barons, are still living, and there are now many of their immediate and confidential disciples who are not over 50 years of age. This class of artists are too proud to bow down to the so-called foreign demand. Without a doubt they have experienced hard times along with the change of things. They did very little in applying their skill. But they have never been transformed into a class of people whose sole object lies in exchanging their productions for money. Very little courted and patronized at home, while they found no patrons abroad, what they produced if they produced at all, was merely for their own satisfaction, but such a production often, if not always, deserves very great merit. Times were such that those who would be patrons of art had all of their time and attention concentrated in the reorganization of the system of government, education, and public works. During this period, which extended over about fifteen years, the only stimulus and encouragement for artists were international expositions, beginning with the centennial, among which the Parisian Exposition of 1878 especially worked like magic on the artistic circle of Japan. Some of the living artists of very high grade actually surprised the public with their meritorious productions. Artists of merit were thought to be dead, but the public was greatly undeceived by the superb works of some of the living ones. Still their works in Paris were not appreciated to their fullest extent. Most of the highest grade were brought back to Japan. Notwithstanding this fact, the last universal exposition of Paris also offered a remarkable occasion for the production of the highest grade. Among those things sent to these international expositions such as will favourably compare with the works of old masters were not lacking. However great the degree of encouragement offered by any of the international expositions, none could surpass that of the Columbian Exposition. For four years it presented a hopeful goal before the eyes of the Yamato artists, most of whom are now aged and are impressed with a feeling that it will be the last opportunity to display the productions of their skill on such a grand occasion. Now that the fruits of their incessant labour of four years have been appreciated in the way just quoted at the head of this article, the artists at home, as well as the public in general, will most certainly be satisfied with what has been said about their exhibits, and this will surely go to increase the already amicable relations between the people of the United Sates and Japan. The only regrettable side of this great exposition is the hard times experienced by financial circles, coupled with an impression that Japanese things are too dear in price, so that notwithstanding the appreciation of the works they had a very limited sale. Most of the best things have to go home. The honour and pleasure of decorating some of the American museums, art institutes or private parlours has been refused them. "What makes your things so dear? Why are they so costly?" are the questions often asked the writer while at the World's Fair. The result is a better sale of cheaper and therefore inferior grades of work. For instance, in ceramics what is classed as export goods had a comparatively good sale, while those which were carefully selected out of thousands of the same class found very little patronage. Of the Japanese things exhibited at the white city a distinct line should be drawn between the true objects of art and so-called commercial commodities. But the writer's experience at the world's fair goes to prove that the American public has not yet been made sufficiently acquainted with Japanese things to distinguish one from the other, hence the question, "Why are they so dear?" An explanation in this connection might not be out of place. In what are classed as commercial commodities the two conditions of quantity and quality are of equal importance, while in the so-called objects of art the former is of little or no importance, quality and merit being the principal and sole considerations. Now, in insuring this qualification the artist has to follow the principle above referred to. He considers no amount of time and labour too much if he can produce something of æsthetical merit. This fact obliges him to go through many and varied failures, and every failure improves his ability if he is persevering enough. He is an exceptionally fortunate artist who can insure success by one attempt. This does not mean, however, that there is no work of merit which is the fruit of one attempt. But as the artist works on he so improves in his art that he becomes more and more severe in his judgment of his own works, and in order to satisfy himself he will have to do over again the work which otherwise would have satisfied him. He is not a growing artist who feels perfect satisfaction in his own productions.

EXPENSIVE BUT NOT DEAR.

The outcome of the whole thing is that anything of decidedly artistic merit commands a big price. They are certainly expensive, but they are not dear, as some people would have it. To those not acquainted with higher productions of Japanese art it might seem incredible when they are told that a tiny box of gold lacquer, only one foot by eight inches, represents a work of three years. But it is an actual fact, as is well known to connoisseurs who have carefully studied our art. Not only lacquer, but in almost every branch, this holds true, if the thing be of deserving merit. When this fact is taken into consideration, the price asked for some of the meritorious exhibits from Japan would commend themselves as not only reasonable but rather moderate.

It may not be out of place to add that among the fair visitors who could afford to buy objects of art from Japan most of them were influenced by the feeling that the exhibits are overcharged and that they could buy them cheaper when they go over to Japan. This, again, contains only a partial truth. The prices are much lower there, but in nothing is one so exposed to imposition as in buying the so-called objects of fine art. Moreover, a traveller in Japan will certainly agree with me that yonder there is hardly a place where every branch of art is adequately represented.

The division of labour goes as far in this line of profession as in any other, and a dealer who can invest a large sum of money for his trade will make an investment in the line in which he has most confidence of his ability and knowledge; hence his collections will be of such a class of things as he is confidentiy acquainted with. And if one should buy anything of this class of honourable dealers he will have to pay not only for the things he buys, but also for the confidence he can place in the dealer's judgment. Even if he is willing to do so, he will often have to travel a very extensive area in order to make anything like a decent collection of Japanese art. Taking into consideration these expenses, duties, freight, etc., for bringing them home, the things will become just as expensive as buying them here, if not more. The World's Fair has been a rare opportunity for collectors of the Yamato arts, where buyers did not have to pay for confidence, but for things alone; but, the white city now being closed, this opportunity is gone. The things are mostly packed up for the homeward voyage.

H. SATOH, Tokio, Japan.

THE BLOCKADE OF BANGKOK.

On the 7th November Sir C. Dilke asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the House of Commons, when the papers relating to the recent difficulties in Siam would be presented; and whether they would include the remonstrance made at Paris against the so-called "pacific blockade."

Sir E. Grey—I regret to say that I am not in a position at present to make any statement.

Mr. Curzon, who had four questions relating to Siam, postponed them till 13th inst.

Mr. T. G. Bowles asked the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he had seen a statement, vouched by an officer of Her Majesty's ship *Pallas*, and published in *The Times* of October 6, that during the so-called "pacific blockade" of Bangkok by the French Her Majesty's ships *Pallas, Swift*, and *Pigmy* were all "removed outside the blockade limits at the orders of the French Admiral," and "remained outside the blockade limit until a French gunboat came down and informed us that the blockade was raised, when we returned with the *Pigmy* to the bar off Bangkok"; whether he had made any inquiry into the accuracy of this statement; whether he was able to inform the House of the actual facts of the case, and whether he would lay upon the table of the House the instructions sent to Her Majesty's ships as to their conduct during the so-called "pacific blockade."

Sir E. Grey replied to the questions as follows:—The answer to the first and second paragraphs is, Yes. Her Majesty's ships *Pallas, Swift*, and *Pigmy* did move outside the blockade lines after receiving notice of the blockade from the French Admiral, the captain of Her Majesty's ship *Pallas* preferring to do this rather than to remain inside. He received no "order," as it has been called, from the French Admiral with reference to his movements. The only instruction given on the subject of the blockade was that the first consideration must be the protection of British subjects at Bangkok, and that the *Linnet* must on no account leave under present circumstances. She accordingly remained there.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett asked if the hon. gentleman withdrew the contrary answer which he gave last August on the same matter.

Sir E. Grey—No, Sir, I do not; and my answer was not contrary.—(Laughter.) I told the hon. gentleman at the time that no demand had been made for the withdrawal of Her Majesty's ships from Bangkok, and that no such demand would have been admitted if it had been made. There is no contradiction, if in the answer just given I have said the instructions were that the *Linnet* must on no account leave Bangkok, and she accordingly remained.

Mr. G. Bowles—Are we to understand that the other vessels left of their own accord, and without any request from the French Admiral?

Sir E. Grey—The captain of the *Pallas* received notice from the French Admiral as to the line of the blockade. He was left to take what measures he thought proper for observing the blockade till he received instructions from home. He might easily have remained inside, so far as the French were concerned.

Mr. Bowles—Is it not a fact that Her Majesty's Government, through the Chancellor of the Exchequer, admitted that that was not a blockade? I should like to ask by what kind of authority or shadow of right any suggestion or order was made by the French commander to the English Commander.

Sir E. Grey—The French Government had

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stated that the blockade would begin on 31st, and while communications were still passing between Her Majesty's Government and the French Government, by a misunderstanding the French Admiral had already given notice of the blockade a few days earlier. Therefore it was not possible that more definite instructions could have been sent from home.—*London and China Express.*

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 86, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 102.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—B to K B 5	1—K × R (K 4)
2—Kt to Q B 6, ch.	2—K to K B 5
3—Kt to K 6, mate	
	if 2—K to Q 4
3—B to K 4, mate	
	if 1—K × R (Q B 6)
2—Kt to Q Kt 5, ch.	2—K to Q B 5
3—B to Q 3, mate	
	if 1—P × R (K 4)
2—Kt to Q Kt 5, ch.	2—K to Q 4
3—B to K 4, mate	
	if 1—P × Kt
2—R (Q B 3) × P	2—Anything.
3—Kt mates	
	if 1—P × R (Q B 6)
2—Kt to Q B 6, ch.	2—K to Q B 5
3—B to Q 3, mate	
	if 1—P to Q 4
2—Kt to Q Kt 5, ch.	2—K × R (K 4)
3—Kt to Q 3, mate	
	if 1—P to Q Kt 6, or moves B
2—R to K 4, ch.	2—K × R (Q B 6)
3—Kt to Q Kt 5, mate	
	if 2—K to Q 4
3—B to K 6, mate,	

Correct solutions received from Omega, Digamma, W.H.S., J.D., and J.W.E.

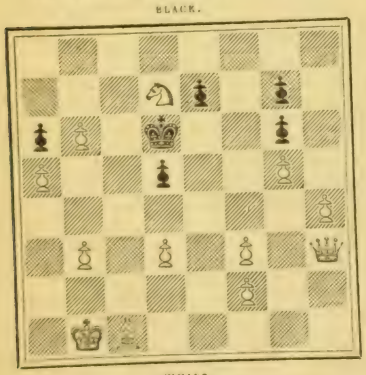
O.B.—If Black replies 1—P × Kt, the continuation is R (B 3) × P. Your move of 2—Kt — Kt 5 ch. is defeated by K × R.

Particular attention is called to the problem with which we open the New Year in this week's issue. Four-move problems are not popular with any section of the Chess world, but the brilliant and beautiful strategy of the original position below will amply repay whatever time is bestowed upon it. Further, it has been specially composed for our column, and dedicated by the author to Messrs. Griffin and Balk, of the Yokohama Chess Club.

Problem No. 104.

By A. L. Jordan, Nagasaki.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

Sixth and Seventh games in the Tarrasch *v.* Tschigorin match.

SIXTH GAME.

French Defence.

NOTES BY JAS. MASON.

WHITE. Tschigorin.	BLACK. Tarrasch.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 3
2—Q to K 2?	2—P to Q 4
3—P to K Kt 3	3—Kt to Q B 3
4—B to Kt 2	4—Kt to Q 5
5—Q to Q 3	5—B to K 2
6—Q Kt to B 3	

Kt to K B 3, as in previous games, to be able to exchange when Black plays ....., Kt to Q 5, seems better.

Nor is this commendable. Mr. Tschigorin shows his judgment at its worst, thus far in the match, all through this game. Here he could drive back the Knight by P to Q B 3, following with Q to K 2 and P to K B 4, in case of ... ., B to B 3, and secure a fairly good position.

	6—B to B 3
7—Kt to Kt 5	7—Kt takes Kt
8—Q takes Kt	8—Q to Kt 3
9—Q to K 2	9—P to Q 3
10—Kt to B 3	10—B to Q 2
11—P to B 3	

A good way to go on would be P to K 5. For the third time, at this particular opening, White moves his Queen side Pawns into a losing position, without any sufficient reason as far as the general situation is concerned. He should now Castle.

	11—B to Q Kt 4!
12—P to Q 3	12—Q to R 3

.....To compel P to B 4. Black slowly, but surely increases his advantage from this point. On the 14th move White should propose an exchange of Bishops—Black's being so much better posted that his own.

13—P to B 4	13—B to B 3
14—Castles?	14—P to R 3!
15—B to K 3	15—Q to Kt 3
16—Q R to Kt sq.	16—P to Q R 4
17—P to Q R 3	

This also favours the adversary. P to Q Kt 3, to establish a "block," or B to Q 2 would be preferable.

	17—P to R 5
18—K R to Q sq.?	18—P to K 4
19—Kt to Q 2?	19—Kt to K 2
20—Kt to B sq.	20—B to Q 2
21—B to Q 2	

Now this Bishop manœuvre is too late to do any good. The Black Knight arriving at Q 5 must be taken.

	21—Kt to B 3
22—B to Q B 3	22—Kt to Q 5!
23—B takes Kt	23—B P takes B
24—B to B 3	24—Q to B 2
25—B to Kt 4	25—B to B 3
26—K R to B sq.	26—B to K Kt 4
27—R to B 2	27—Q to K 2
28—Q to K sq.?	28—P to R 4!
29—B to Q sq.	29—Q to K 3
30—P to B 3	30—B to Q sq.
31—Q to B 2	

P to B 4 would be far better than this, though that says little. Mere defence in such a position is hopeless. The restraint increases with every move, and soon becomes altogether deadly.

	31—P to R 5
32—Q to Kt 2	32—R to K R 3
33—P to Kt 4	33—B to K Kt 4
34—P to R 3	34—K to B sq.

.....With the intention of getting into perfect safety at Kt sq., and playing the Queen Rook according to requirement, White being harmless meanwhile.

35—Q to K 2	35—K to Kt sq.
36—Q to K sq.	36—P to K Kt 3
37—R to Kt 2	37—R to K R 2
38—B to B 2	38—R to Kt 2
39—Q to Q sq.	39—Q to Q 2
40—Q to K sq.?	40—P to B 4

.....By this and....., P to Q Kt 4 Black is able to break in, and White's defence goes for nothing. He is virtually a Rook minus.

41—B to Q sq.	41—Q R to K B sq.
42—B to K 2	42—P takes K P
43—B P takes P	43—K R to B 2
44—Q to Q sq.	44—P to Kt 4!
45—P takes P	45—B takes P
46—Kt to R 2	

P to Kt 4—almost anything but this. A more spiritless performance on the part of the Russian representative has not been made public within recent years.

	46—B to K 6 ch.
47—K to R sq.	47—P to Kt 4
48—Kt to B sq.	48—P to Q 4!
49—Kt to Q 2	49—B to B 3
50—P takes P	50—B takes P
51—Kt to K 4	51—Q to B 3
52—R to R sq.!	52—R to B 5!
53—K to R 2	53—R takes Kt

.....Black now concludes the affair in mercifully expeditious style.

54—P takes R	54—B takes P
55—B to B sq.	55—B takes R
56—B takes B	56—R to B 7
57—Q to R sq.	57—P to K 5!
58—Q to Q Kt sq.	58—Q to Q 3 ch.
59—K to R sq.	59—R takes B
60—Resigns.	

SEVENTH GAME.

NOTES BY JAS. MASON.

WHITE. Tarrasch.	BLACK Tschigorin.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—K Kt to B 3	2—Q Kt to B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to Q R 3
4—B to R 4	4—Kt to B 3
5—Kt to B 3	5—B to Kt 5
6—Kt to Q 5	6—B to R 4
7—Castles	7—P to Q 3

.....It is a question whether this is an improvement on 7..... P to Q Kt 4, as in the fifth game. The Rook Pawn having advanced, it would seem as if....., P to Q Kt 4 should naturally soon follow.

8—P to Q 3	8—B to K Kt 5?
9—P to B 3	9—Kt to Q 2
10—Kt to K 3	10—B to R 4

.....The sacrifice is hardly sound. Yet 10 ....., B takes Kt was not hopeful—from a strategic standpoint. This opening also goes in favour of White.

11—B takes Kt	11—P takes B
12—Q to R 4	

Of course there is the usual risk in gain of this sort, and, as will be seen, Dr. Tarrasch does not sufficiently bear it in mind.

	12—B to Q Kt 3
13—Q takes B P	13—Castles
14—Kt to B 5	14—Kt to B 4
15—P to Q 4	15—Kt to K 3
16—P takes P	16—B takes Kt
17—P takes B	17—P takes P
18—K to R sq.	

Perhaps the Queen should have returned before, but now certainly it would be only common prudence to make for home. Therefore 18 Q to B 4 should have been played.

	18—Q to Q 6!
19—B to K 3	19—Q to K 7

.....Black recovers his lost Pawn now, with some chances of attack besides.

20—Kt to R 4	20—B takes B
21—P takes B	21—Q takes K P
22—Q to B 4	22—K R to Q sq.
23—Kt to B 5	

If 23 Q to K R sq., Q to Kt 4; 24 Kt to B 5, R to Q 7, &c., Black would have the superiority. White has no control over K to B 4, as against the adverse Knight

	23—Q to Q 7
24—R to K Kt sq.	24—P to Kt 3
25—R to Kt 2	25—Q to B 4
26—Kt to K 7 ch.	26—K to Kt 2
27—Kt to Q 5	27—Q to R 3

....27....., Q takes B P would hardly do, on account of 28 R to K B sq. and perhaps 29 Kt takes P. Anyway, the opening of the file would be dangerous.

28—Q R to K Kt sq.	28—R to Q 2
29—Q to B 6	

White again wins a Pawn—but this time it is no advantage, according to the merits of position. Black will double his Rooks and drive away the Knight, however, White may play.

	29—Q R to Q sq.
30—Q takes R P	30—R to Q 3
31—Q to K 2	31—K to R sq.

.....A safety play. The king might be checked by Kt to B 5 in certain contingences, and he was in line of the adverse Rooks.

32—Q to K 3	32—P to Kt 4
33—Q to K sq.	33—P to K B 3
34—R to K B 2	

It would be just as well to push on with the Pawns, and let the pieces be moved of necessity.

	34—P to B 3!
35—Kt to K 3	35—Q to R 4
36—Kt to Kt 2?	36—R to Q 6
37—R (Kt sq.) to B sq.	37—Q to B 2!
38—P to Kt 4	38—Q to R 2!
39—Q to B sq.	39—Q to R 3
40—Q to B 2	40—Q to B 5
41—R to B sq.	

This of course is a blunder. But the position bristles with difficulties. The White Knight is unfortunately placed, and should have gone to B 5, at all hazards, on the 36th move.

41—R takes Q B P

and White Resigned.

42 Q takes R, Q takes Q; 43 R takes Q, R to Q 8 ch; winning the two pieces, for the King cannot play to Kt 2 before giving up the Rook, because of....., Kt to B 5 ch, and mate in two more moves.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail."]

London, December 30.

It is feared that Major Wilson and his party, who were recently cut off from the rest of the attacking column in Matabeleland, have been killed by the Matabele.

Yellow fever of the worst description has broken out in Rio de Janeiro.

London, January 1.

The Revenue Returns for the last nine months show a deficiency of two millions.

Reuter's special correspondent at Bulawayo says that the natives are positive that a portion of Major Wilson's party has escaped.

Twenty-five vessels have entered the Manchester Canal.

The Chief Justice of Hongkong [Fielding Clarke, LL.B.] has been knighted.

Obituary—Samuel Barker.

London, January 2.

The Duke of York has declined the invitation to visit the Australian Colonies for domestic reasons.

Riots continue throughout Sicily, and are of so serious a nature as to amount almost to a revolution. The garrison has been reinforced by 40,000 men by calling out the reserves.

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London, January 3.

A state of siege has been inaugurated in Sicily.

Severe cold and heavy snowfalls have visited London and the provinces, while at Paris, Rome, and other places on the Continent blizzards have occurred, and on the British coasts many ships have been wrecked.

In the United States the Democrats propose the introduction of an income-tax to replace the loss of revenue resulting from the reduction of the tariff.

[Specially Telegraphed to the "Japan Daily Mail." From the "North China Daily News".]

London, December 27.

Latest advices from Mashonaland report that the forces under Majors Forbes and Wilson are all right. Lobengula has fled, and the country is quieting down.

A verdict of "not proven" has been returned in the Ardlamont Mystery case, in which a Mr. Monson was charged with the murder of Lieut. Hamborough.

Further despatches from Mashonaland state that Major Forbes repelled a fierce attack of the Matabele, but was compelled, through lack of rations, to retreat from the Shangani river. During the retreat, the gun carriages were abandoned and the horses were killed and eaten for food. The forces arrived safely at Quyati.

The two authors of the Barcelona theatre outrage, recently arrested, have confessed their guilt.

Fresh fighting between Protestants and Catholics is reported from Uganda.

The apparatus and material necessary for manufacturing bombs on a wholesale scale have been found in a cave on a mountain near Barcelona.

London, December 28.

Religious conflicts have broken out amongst Mussulmans and Armenians in Muscat. Several Armenians have been injured and a number of arrests made.

Serious riots have broken out in Sicily against the local taxes. The mob attacked the barracks at Caltanisetta and fired the town-hall, post-office, and other buildings. There have been conflicts between the troops and people in Lercara de Freddi. Several persons were shot.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Jan. 12th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Monday, Jan. 8th.*
From America	per P. M. Co.	Wed'day, Jan. 18th.†
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, Jan. 11th.§
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 14th.
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Jan. 22nd.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N D. Lloyd	Wednesday, Jan. 24th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Feb. 1st.

* *Oceanic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on December 22nd.
† *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on December 30th.
§ *Belgic* left Hongkong on January 4th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Mogul*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 7th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Jan. 9th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 13th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 13th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 14th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Sunday, Jan. 26th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, Feb. 2nd.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 29th December,—Shanghai and ports 23rd December, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 30th December,—Hongkong 22nd, Nagasaki 27th, and Kobe 28th December, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 30th December,—Otaru viâ ports 26th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 31st December,—San Francisco 9th December, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Panton, R.N.R., 31st December,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., 15th December, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Frigga, German steamer, 1,400, Nager, 1st January,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 1st January,—Kobe 31st December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benvenue, British steamer, 1,467, Thompsen, 3rd January,—Hongkong 27th December, General.—Comes & Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 3rd January,—Hongkong viâ ports, 27th December, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Anaconda, American schooner, 40, A. Lawson, 4th January,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 4th January,—Hongkong viâ ports 27th December, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Ethiope, British steamer, 1,950, F. Wankee, 4th January,—Middlesboro' viâ ports, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Gulf of Genoa, British steamer, 1,836, Swan, 4th January,—New York viâ ports, General.—Frazar & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 4th January,—Otaru viâ ports 30th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 4th January,—Kobe 3rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Melbourne, French steamer, 3,400, Vimont, 5th January,—Marseilles 25th November, Hongkong 28th December, Shanghai 1st January, and Kobe 4th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Bullmouth, British steamer, 2,040, Scott, 6th January,—Batoum via Kobe, Light.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Mandjur (9), Russian gunboat, Captain Andreeff, 30th December,—Kobe.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, Hugo Walter, 31st December,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Natal, French steamer, 4,038, H. Verron, 31st December,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Palinurus, British steamer, 1,539, Jackson, 31st December,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 31st December,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Panton, R.N.R., 31st December,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 31st December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kintuck, British steamer, 2,312, Kemp, 1st January,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 1st January,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Priok, German steamer, 1,635, Madsen, 1st January,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 2nd January,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Genkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 846, Thomsen, 3rd January,—Chemulpho viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mercury (13), cruiser, Captain W. Fawkes, 3rd 3rd January,—Hongkong viâ Nagasaki.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 3rd January,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,775, H. N. Vyvyan, 3rd January,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 5th January,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 5th January,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, from Hongkong:—Miss Katsuko Aikawa, Messrs. Santos and 2 brothers, Ro Wing Sic, Yung Shung, Tuan Chuk San, and Chung Poo in second class; Messrs. Solleway, Bernhard Friedrich, and John Friedrich in third class, and 44 Chinese on deck.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Miss L. Lovell, Messrs. Ah Sun, Siw Hong, Mong Leem, Matsumra, H. F. Comes, R. Kirby, Quick, M. Baggallay, Wong, Lee, Higashimori, Seki, S. Miura, M. Komuka, and K. Chiga in cabin; Capt. Ballard, Messrs. Monteur, Den Hark, Morrison, Kiyosuye, Shimadzu, Saito, Hashiguchi, Nobata, and Hashimoto in second class, and 32 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Davis, Mr. Earle, Mr. W. Neale Turner, Miss Pasley, Mr. T. Nakamura, Lieut. J. H. Lambert, R.M.L.I., Private D. Cross, Mr. Ah Wai, Mr. F. H. Hooper, and Mr. H. Victor Gielen in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. M. Kazimer and Mr. A. Yagahashi in cabin; 6 passengers in second class, and 38 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *Peru*, from San Francisco:—Mr. Trowbridge, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Walter, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Sudzuki, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Shields, and Miss Hatch in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—6 passengers in second class and 27 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Geo. Macondray, and Captain P. de Lemassheffsky in cabin; 2 Europeans and 70 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mrs. Henry and Miss Henry in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. Hagenmeyer and daughter, Lieut. Taketomi, Mr. S. Yamada, Mr. N. Adachi, Mr. and Mrs. T. Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Saigo in cabin; Mrs. and Miss Taketomi in second class, and 5 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Captain and Mrs. Du Bensson, Messrs. R. W. Maxwell, Geo. Tree, Tallers, and E. T. Nicholas in cabin; Mrs. Suzuki Nairo in second class. In transit for Vancouver, B.C.:—Messrs. A. A. Donaldson, T. Benbachet, J. Tulloch, A. Allen, Sir Thomas and Lady McIlwraith, and Mr. H. J. Dutton in cabin; Mrs. Lum Yen Tying and Captain Adams in second class, and 136 Chinese and 7 Japanese in Asiatic steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. Kaisoo in cabin; 1 passenger in second class, and 21 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, from Marseilles viâ ports:—Mr. Dubuffet, Mr. H. Mutsu, Mr. and Mrs. Koumasaki and 4 infants, Mr. Tadihi Mikouno, Mr. Gilbert Roux, Dr. Yamamoto, Mr. Harvey Chevallier, and M. de Velleneuve in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Natal*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Miss Thomas, Mr. H. Moto, Mr. T. T. Schuster, Jun., Dr. Franz Weinitz, Mr. K. Sago, Mr. and Mrs. Doceul, Mr. Geuges, Mr. Maziels, Mr. Rolph Payet, Mr. W. F. Hawkins, Captain Powell, Mr. W. H. B. Nioh, Mr. Henry Skeen, Mr. L. C. Lebedoer and 2 daughters, Mr. John Lee Downey, and Mr. G. Racine in cabin.

Per Japansse steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss G. Lamar, Mr. and Mrs. A. Evers, Master Evers and governess, Governors R. Mukai, G. Oshiro, and M. Hashimoto in cabin; Mrs. Murakoshi, Mr. H. Tani, and Mr. Takeuchi in second class, and 23 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—Rev. C. S. Eby, Mr. Bernhard Friedericks, Mr. John Friedericks, Mr. C. H. Hagemeyer, Miss Hagemeyer, Mr. and Mrs. Hashiguchi, Mrs. Henry, Miss Henry, Mr. F. S. James, Mr. C. Jervis, Captain P. de Lemasheffsky, Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Lawrence, two children, and infant, Mr. Albert Motschmann, Mr. Martin Shea, Mr. H. E. Simon, and Mr. W. B. Tuttle in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mrs. Allen, Mr. A. Allen, Mr. M. Baggallay, Mr. T. Brubacher, Mr. A. A. Donaldson, Mr. H. J. Dutton, Mr. Keator, Sir T. and Lady McIlwraith, Mr. Neale-Turner, Captain V. C. Smyth, and Mr. J. Tulloch in cabin.

REPORTS.

The German steamer *Nürnberg*, Captain Hugo Walter, reports:—Left Hongkong the 23rd December at 9 a.m.; up to Brothers Islands had fine weather with light variable winds, north to east and nearly smooth sea; thence overcast, stiff N.E. winds and rough sea, with light swell; through the eastern sea, variable winds, moderate sea, and most cloudy sky; on the south coast of Japan

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stiff N.W., with rough sea and swell, passing showers. Arrived at Yokohama the 29th December at 9 a.m.

The American steamer *Peru*, Captain D. Friele, reports:—Left San Francisco the 9th December at 4 p.m.; first part of passage had moderate wind and sea; latter part, strong westerly gales with high seas to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 31st December. Time, 21 days.

The British steamer *Benvenue*, Captain Thompsen, reports:—Left Hongkong the 27th December at 3 p.m.; had strong N.E. to N.W. winds and fine, clear weather continuing until the 1st January, when set in thick rainy and misty weather and moderate variable winds until the 2nd, when weather cleared with moderate N.E. and N.W. winds to arrival at Yokohama the 3rd January at 9.45 a.m.

The British steamer *China*, Captain W. Ward, reports:—Left Hongkong the 27th December, Nagasaki the 31st, and Kobe the 2nd January; experienced fine weather with moderate to strong N.E. and N.W. winds; thence to port fine, clear weather and moderate westerly and north-east breeze. Arrived at Yokohama the 3rd January at 4 p.m.

The French steamer *Melbourne*, Captain Vimont, reports:—Left Marseilles on the 26th November at 4.30 p.m.; called at Alexandria on the 1st December, and the same date at Port Said; entered the Suez Canal on the 2nd at 2.30 p.m., left Suez on the same day at 9.45 p.m.; experienced very fine and cool weather during the passage through the Red Sea. Arrived at Aden on the 7th December at 6.15 a.m., left at 6.15 p.m.; passed Socotra on the 9th inst. at twelve; thence to Comori Cape East to N.E. light breeze with a strong current against her and rough on the way. Arrived at Colombo on the 14th at 3.30 p.m., left on the 15th at 10.15 a.m.; passed Dundee Head on the same day at 5 p.m.; thence to Acheen Head light N.E. breeze, moderate sea, small current against her, fine cool weather; passed Poulo Brass on the 18th at 2 p.m.; hence to Singapore smooth water but very rainy weather, same alongside the wharf at Singapore on the 20th at 12.15 p.m., left the same day at 10 p.m. overcast weather but clear; passed Pedra Branca on the 21st at 12.15 a.m.; thence to Poulo Condor, fresh North breeze, moderate sea, some showers and current against her; passed Poulo Condor on the 22nd at 2 p.m. and came alongside the M.M. wharf at Saigon on the 23rd at 2.30 a.m., left Saigon on the 24th at 3.30 p.m.; passed St. James Cape at 7 p.m. and Padaran Cape on the 25th at 5.30 a.m.; thence overcast weather, strong north breeze, which shift to N.N.E. and N.E. when passing Varela Cape, moderate sea with long N.E. swell; passed Gap Rock on the 27th at 12.30 p.m. and moored in Hongkong at 3 p.m. Left Hongkong on the 28th at 2.30 p.m squally weather, overcast sky, fresh N.E. breeze, long swell from the east; passed Breaker on the 29th at 2 a.m.; thence to Lamocks heavy sea, strong northerly winds, shifting to N.E. when approaching Lamocks misty weather; passed Lamocks at 6 a.m.; thence to Turnabout fresh N.E. breeze, moderate sea; passed Dodd on the 29th at 2.30 p.m., Ocksen at 8.30 p.m., Turnabout at 11.45 p.m.; thence to port clear weather, light N.E breeze, smooth water; passed Incog Islands on the 30th at 8.30 a.m., Pikks Shan at 1 p.m., Hushan at 8 p.m.; thence calm and east to S.E. breeze; on the 31st at 7.15 a.m. sighted steamer at anchor burning blue lights, seeing steamer astern of us, thought they might be intended for her, but as blue lights continued to be shown kept away and when close to her was boarded by an officer of the steamer *Kowshing* who reported his steamer's crank shaft broken and requested the mails and compradore to be conveyed to Shanghai (steamer *Kowshing*'s position 11 miles to the South of Steep Island) as nothing else was required did so and proceeded; passed Steep Island at 2.40 a.m.; Gutzlaff at 5.30 a.m., Tungsha at 7 a.m., met the Chinese fleet outward bound, and anchored in Woosung at 9.30 a.m. Left Woosung on the 1st January at 5 a.m.; passed Amherst Rock at 9.15 a.m.; thence to Shimonoseki, fine weather, smooth water, with light N.N.E. to N.N.W. breezes; on the 2nd at 7 p.m., passed the "Shell" liner *Trocas* headed to southward; passed Shimonoseki at 9.30 p.m.; thence to port fine and clear weather with variable breezes; on the 3rd at 1 a.m. passed the M.M. steamer *Natal* and came alongside the wharf in Kobe at 3 p.m. Left Kobe at 0.30 p.m. on the 4th; thence to Oshima fine and clear weather, fair N.N.E. winds, smooth water; passed Oshima at 8.20 p.m. overcast weather, light variable breeze from N. to N.N.E.; passed Omai-saki on the 5th at 7.15 a.m.; thence to port strong N.N.E. winds, rain, and heavy sea; passed Rock Island at 10.40 a.m., Vries Island at 1 p.m., and moored on the M.M. buoy at Yokohama at 5 a.m. When passing through the Suez Canal, the Khedive and native and foreign officials were expected at Ismailia and Port Said to inaugurate the new railway between Port Said and Cairo.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Natal*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for Europe, 702 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 144 bales.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $57,000.00.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	ST. LOUIS.	CHICAGO.	ST. PAUL.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	297	—	585	553	1,435
Yokohama ...	723	407	—	—	1,130
Hongkong ...	53	—	—	—	53
Calcutta	296	—	—	—	296
Total	1,369	407	585	553	2,914

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	63	—	63
Hongkong	—	55	—	55
Yokohama	—	557	—	557
Total	—	675	—	673

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong.....	—	—	—	131	24	155
Colombo	—	—	—	40	—	40
Hyogo	267	—	542	—	—	1,352
Yokohama ...	366	543	325	303	—	994
Total	633	543	867	474	24	2,541

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	MONTREAL.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	49	—	49
Shanghai	135	—	135
Yokohama.....	361	—	361
Total	545	—	545

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The week having been almost wholly devoted to the usual New Year festivities, there has been very little business done in the Import trade. The few small purchases that have been made in Yarns give promise of better times in the near future. Other lines call for no comment. Exchange having fallen during the week, holders continue very firm.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38¼ yds. 39 inches	$2.20 to 2.75
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38¼ yds. 45 inches	2.35 to 3.12½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.52½ to 1.85
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches...	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	6.35 to 8.70
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches ..	0.65 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.42½ to 1.52½
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.92½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.20 to 2.62½
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.80 to 3.05

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27 to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.30 to 0.33
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.25 to 0.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.20 to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.14 to 0.19½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches ...	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$37.00 to —
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best.....	37.00 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary.....	—
Nos. 28/32, Medium	37.75 to —
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best.....	38.50 to 39.75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	45.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	43.00 to 44.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	47.50 to 49.50
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

At the close of the year a light demand was seen for Wire Nails and various kinds of Iron, but during the past few days business has been totally suspended. Quotations are firm, and in some instances show a slight rise.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$4.10 to 4.20
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	4.20 to 4.30
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.35 to 3.45
Iron Plates, assorted	3.40 to 3.50
Sheet Iron.....	4.55 to 4.70
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.00 to 9.20
Wire Nails, assorted	5.40 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box.....	6.00 to 6.20
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.50 to 1.55

KEROSENE.

A very quiet week. No arrivals, small sales, and rates tending downwards.

Chester	$1.82½ to 1.87
Comet	1.80 to 1.82½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor.....	1.77½ to 1.80
Russian Moon	1.75 to 1.77½

SUGAR.

Browns show a fair amount of movement and prices are a shade higher for Cantons and Manilas. Business in Whites has been small, but this is owing rather to the holidays than to falling off in demand. Rates are very firm.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.40 to 4.50
Brown Manila	5.30 to 5.40
Brown Daitong	4.00 to 4.15
Brown Canton	4.45 to 4.65
White Java and Penang.....	7.00 to 7.10
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 29th ultimo, since which date settlements on this market amount to 2,259 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 1,735 piculs; *Re-reels*, 460 piculs; *Kakeda*, 64 piculs. Direct shipments have been 38 bales, making the total export trade of the week equal to 2,300 piculs.

After our last was written, a large business commenced for America, and our New Year has been enlivened by the settlement of about 2,000 piculs for the New York trade. Most of these bargains were made for delivery after the New Year, but on the 2nd instant the bulk of these silks were sent into godown. Prices have advanced rapidly, in spite of a lower exchange, and our Japanese friends are jubilant at the turn affairs have taken in their favour, the very low exchange now ruling giving them a benefit in the number of *yen* which they receive for the silk sold. This movement has not extended to silk suitable for Europe, in which indeed very little has been done; but holders have put up their prices in sympathy with the New York trade, and our quotations all round show a very decided advance on last week. At the time of writing, holders refuse to sell even at quotations and there is nothing for it but to wait until the present ebullition subsides and then we shall be able to see where we really stand.

Exchange has still further declined, but closes steady, and it is probable that we have now seen the bottom, for a time at least.

Arrivals have been small and the stock shows considerable reduction upon our last; but the recent business done will soon attract fresh supplies, and unless buying can be kept at full speed, we shall soon see an increase in stock once more.

There have been four shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the French mail steamer *Natal*, 31st ultimo, taking 702 bales for Europe, and the German mail *Nuernberg*, same day, carrying 94 bales for the same destination. The *Empress of Japan*, which left port at noon to-day, had 361 bales for the New York trade, and the American mail steamer *China*, which also sailed to-day, carried 557 bales for the same destination. These departures bring the present export figures up to 26,250 piculs, against 35,742 piculs last year and 31,557 piculs on the 5th of January, 1892.

Hanks.—No business in these during the week; stock small and assortment poor.

Filatures.—The chief business has been in these, and in full sizes, prices being rapidly run up to our present quotations, at which holders refuse to go on. The latest market news is that $805 has been offered and refused for a large parcel of *Kaimeisha*. Several important parcels of ordinary No. 1 *Shinshu* were booked at $780; but dealers refuse to go on at these prices, and at the moment it is difficult to give reliable quotations, holders being up in the clouds. In fine sizes but little has been done, although one or two small sales were reported, as much as $840 being given for best No. 1, with $790 for No. 1/1½. By the time another week comes around, we shall probably see a more settled market one way or the other, with more definite prices.

Re-reels.—There has not been very much business in these, reelers of well-known marks being very firm in their ideas and asking long prices.

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Recent sales are *Shorusha* at $700; with *Chichibu* at the same price, some inferior *Yechigo* bringing $640.

Kakeda.—These are also quoted at a strong advance, although little business has been done, the latest purchase noted being 20 bales of *Horsehead* I at $705. Holders refuse to go on at the price, and now talk about $720 which, at the moment, seems absurd. Whether they are right or no the future will disclose.

In other sorts, no business.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	$840 to 850
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	810 to 820
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	800 to 810
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	770 to 780
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	740 to 750
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	740 to 750
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	740 to 750
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	730 to 740
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	710 to 720
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	680 to 690
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	660 to 670
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	640 to 650
Kakedas—Extra	Nom. —
Kakedas—No. 1	730 to 740
Kakedas—No. 1½	700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 2	670 to 680
Kakedas—No. 2½	650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 3	630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom. —
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom. —
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 5th Jan., 1894:—

Season	1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-90.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	15,291	13,144	11,003
America	10,245	21,966	19,809
Total { Bales	25,536	35,110	30,812
Total { Piculs	26,250	35,742	31,557
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	28,500	37,400	32,500
Stock, 5th Jan.	13,800	7,000	16,500
Available supplies to date	42,300	44,400	49,000

WASTE SILK.

The old year finished up well with settlements of 999 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 541 piculs; *Kibiso*, 458 piculs. Since the New Year dawned, there have been no transactions. No direct export this week.

The demand does not seem so great just now, but it is probable that further settlements will be noted during the next day or two. Quotations have been pushed up about $5, in sympathy with the Raw Silk market and a lower exchange; the rise more especially applying to the better grades.

Arrivals come in to a fair tune and the stock shows a reduction of only 300 piculs upon the week.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the French and German mails between them taking over 300 bales for Europe. These departures bring the present export figures up to 13,875 piculs, against 24,791 piculs last year and 19,061 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Pierced Cocoons.—No sales; prices nominal.

Noshi.—A fair amount was sent in on the last day of the old year and among the purchases made are *Filatures* at from $125 to $145; *Bushu*, $120; *Shinshiu* $95; *Oshu*, $130. No business in *Joshu* just now.

Kibiso.—A fair amount of business has been done in *Filatures*, prices ranging from $100 to $115, with some common qualities at about $90; *Oshu* and *Sendai*, $80; *Zagouri*, $60; *Koshu*, $ 5; *Joshu*, $35.

In other sorts, nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	135 to 145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85 to 90
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110 to 115
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 5th Jan., 1894.

Season	1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	10,680	22,101	17,035
Pierced Cocoons	3,195	2,690	2,026
	13,875	24,791	19,061
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	16,300	31,500	23,050
Stock, 5th Jan.	19,000	8,000	12,650
Available supplies to date	35,300	39,500	35,700

Exchange has further declined but is more steady at closing:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/3⅞; Documents, 2/3⅞; 6m/s. Credits, 2/4. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $55⅝; 4m/s. U.S. $56½. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.90; 6m/s. fcs. 2.92.

Estimated Silk Stock, 5th Jan., 1894.—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	75	Cocoons	370
Filatures	8,000	Noshi-ito	8,870
Re-reels	4,470	Kibiso	9,050
Kakeda	1,380	Mawata	140
Oshu	40	Sundries	570
Yavsaam Kinds	35		
Total piculs	13,800	Total piculs	19,000

TEA.

So far no business has been transacted in the New Year. Total settlements from May 1st to December 31st show a falling off of 4,150 piculs as compared with the same period in 1892.

	Per Picul.
Common	$12 to 13
Good Common	14 to 15
Medium	17 to 18
Good Medium	19 to 20
Fine	22 to 23
Finest, Choice, Choicest	Nominal.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has further declined, but rates are somewhat firm at the close.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2 3
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/3⅜
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/3⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/4
On Paris—Bank sight	2.83
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2 91
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73
On America—Bank Bills on demand	54
On America—Private 30 days' sight	55½
On America—Private 4 months' sight	56½
On India—Bank sight	Nominal,
Silver	31½

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SPECIMEN COPY POST FREE.

September 30, 1893.

A DELIGHTFUL MOUNTAIN RESORT.

THE most delightful Mountain Resort in the Hakone District is the KAIKATEI, at KOWAKI-DANI, which is admitted by the Medical Faculty of Tokyo and Yokohama to be the Sunniest, Breeziest, and most healthful spot accessible to Foreigners in the Hakone District, standing alone and delightfully situated upon the mountain side, free from every suspicion of bad drainage and malaria, with a cool and constant breeze in the hot summer weather, and a view not to be equalled in the neighbourhood for variety and extent.

The BATHS are filled with a constant and never failing supply from the HOT MINERAL SPRINGS just above the Hotel, the medicinal virtues of which are too well-known to need recapitulation. It is sufficient to say that whereas Visitors find many of the hot springs enervating, those at Kowaki-dani are distinctly invigorating.

One of the features of the Kaikatei is the detached Suites of Apartments, where perfect quiet and privacy can be secured. This arrangement for invalids and convalescents from the Tropics is a great desideratum, as being entirely removed from the Dining Room, Billiard Room, Bar, and Baths, while all are connected by covered passages.

To a Liberal Table are added an excellent *Cuisine* and good attendance, supplemented by a large variety of Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors of the very best kinds.

For the amusement of Guests, a fine English Billiard Table, by Burroughs and Watts, has been added to the Establishment, as well as Archery, Quoits, and other Games, and Ponies for riding over the hills and a Yacht for sailing on Hakone Lake can be hired.

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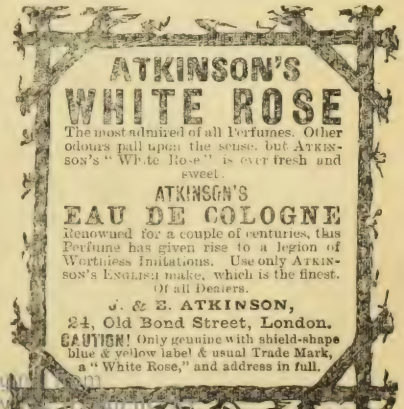
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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 13TH, 1894.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE *Yoshino Kan* left Aden on the 9th inst for Bombay.

SEVERAL earthquakes have been felt in Yokohama during the past week.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL is staying at Numazu to escape the cold weather of Tokyo.

HEAVY snow-falls have been experienced in Yamagata, and many houses were crushed in.

THE Government has sanctioned the establishment of the Nagasaki Chamber of Commerce.

TOMINAGA FUYUKI and Tanitsu Shunzo, Judges in the Supreme Court, have been placed on the Retired List.

MR. SAITO, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, has been removed from his post at his own request.

POSTHUMOUS titles have been conferred by the Emperor on Mayeno Ryotaku, Fujiwara Seikwa, and Takashima Shirotayu.

MR. NAGAMINE, Governor of Saga, who has been staying at Atami for the benefit of his health, died there on the 12th inst.

A GOOD many seats will be contested in the forthcoming general elections, all parties being anxious to run candidates.

A HARD frost succeeded the thaw of Sunday and Monday, but at present the weather is very genial during the middle of the day.

THE eldest son of Viscount Matsudaira has instigated lawsuits against the family retainers who unlawfully abducted his father a few weeks ago

THE new U.S.S. Flagship *Baltimore*, which is to relieve the *Lancaster* on the China station, arrived in Yokohama on Wednesday. A good deal of saluting took place in consequence, while the arrival of the German gunboat *Wolf*, also occasioned a similar demonstration in the harbour.

MR. TATKISHI KANSHI, ex-M.P. for the Fourth Election District of Nagasaki Prefecture, died of typhoid fever in the capital on the 10th inst.

ON Friday evening Mr. J. S. Happer read an entertaining paper on "Chinese Social Customs," at the meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society.

YOKOHAMA footballers are beginning practice for the forthcoming interport football match. No definite selection has yet been made for places in the team.

THE stud-horse which recently arrived from Germany for the Imperial Mews, was purchased through Viscount Aoki, and was not sent by the German Emperor as a present to the Sovereign of this Empire.

A CASE of murder and attempted suicide by strangulation occurred in the *Yoshiwara*, Yokohama, this week. The man was discovered while still alive, and he is now in custody, but help came too late for his victim.

THROUGH the over-heating of a stove, a fire broke out in the Settlement Police-station on Monday, and as a consequence of the extensive damage done by water, the repairs will take some ten days to complete.

THE Osaka Shosen Kaisha, owners of the *Yoshinogawa Maru*, the vessel which collided with the *Denbighshire* in Kobe harbour late last year, have paid to the British vessel's agent in Kobe *yen* 28,000 as compensation.

THE *Koryo Maru*, a steamer of 850 tons, owned by Mr Sugita Denyemon, of Takaoka, Etchu, which left Otaru on the 23rd ult. with ten passengers and over 900 tons of coal, is missing. The *Musashi Kan* has been sent to search for her.

ON Wednesday and Thursday some very severe earthquakes were experienced in Gifu, Nagoya, Osaka, Tsu, and Kyoto. Damage to property and loss of life is reported, and great consternation prevails in the three first-mentioned towns.

THE celebrated glyptic artists Kagawa Katsushiro and Kano Natsuo have been commissioned to make the scabbard and furniture of a sword for the Emperor. The blade belonged to the Emperor Toba, and is therefore eight hundred years old.

ELECTION riots have not yet broken out, but several candidates are reported to have been roughly received in various districts. In the Utsunomiya district a Radical cut down a follower of Mr. Yokobori, who is opposing Mr. Hoshi Toru. The Opposition are seeking to devise means whereby collisions between their respective candidates in the constituencies may be avoided.

THE farmers of the Uchi district, near Nara, objecting to a railway survey being conducted over or near their lands, attacked the surveying party in a large mob, and killed four of the railway workmen. The Naniwa Railway Company, who were conducting the survey, have promised compensation to any farmer whose lands may have been damaged by the surveying party.

THE general meetings of shareholders of various industrial companies are now being held in Tokyo. The Tokyo Stock Exchange divides 36,000 *yen* among shareholders as a dividend, carrying forward 1,956 *yen*. The Fifteenth National Bank declares a dividend of 12 per cent.; the Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning Co., 8 per cent.; the Kyoto Stock Exchange, 14 per cent.; the Tokyo Tramway Co. 14 per cent.; the Tokyo Electric Light Co., 8 per cent.; the Naniwa Cotton Spinning Co., 12½ per cent.

THE Osaka Mint struck gold and silver coins to the following amounts during December last:—5 *yen* gold pieces, *yen* 90,000; and 1 *yen* silver pieces, *yen* 1,680,000.

REUTER'S agent at Sierra Leone has telegraphed news of a conflict between British and French troops in the Warina territory, the latter mistaking the British for natives; several casualties and many deaths resulted. The British and French press discuss the matter as being an unhappy mistake, though the latter dispute the British right to be in the territory. A motion has been brought in the House of Commons by Mr. Alpheus Cleophas Morton to address the Queen praying Her Majesty to revoke the Act granting the Duke of Coburg a marriage annuity of £10,000. Mr. Commissioner Johnstone has resigned owing to differences with Mr. Cecil Rhodes. A compromise has been effected in the House of Commons between the various parties on the contested points of the Parish Councils' Bill. The latest advices from Mashonaland state that the whole of Major Wilson's party were killed, with the exception of seven. The Tariff Bill has been introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. Marines from Her Britannic Majesty's ships at Honolulu have been landed to protect the Legation in the event of trouble arising. Further serious riots have occurred in the southern provinces of Italy, and on the troops being called out they were ordered to fire into the rioters, several persons being killed and wounded.

THE Import trade is looking up again now the New Year holidays are fairly over, and Japanese merchants are turning their attention to business with the result that trade is beginning to present a much brighter aspect. Yarns, both Double and Single, have revived, and are being moved off in fair quantities, and Shirtings meet a good enquiry, but in this department transactions have been much checked by the attitude of holders, who have put up prices for all descriptions. The Woollen trade is in similar case, with this exception, that buyers and holders are much farther apart in their ideas of values. The Metal trade is still dull, and only small transactions have taken place. Kerosene is firmly held, and though dealings have not been extensive better prices have been paid. A large cargo of Russian Oil in bulk arrived during the week. Briskness in the Sugar trade is fully maintained, and the demand for Browns has been so good that the stock is much depleted—in fact nearly cleared off—consequently the new crop is much wanted, and contracts for Takao "to arrive" have been made on a fairly extensive scale at higher rates than have recently ruled. White sorts have continued to meet with ready purchasers at unchanged rates. Compared with the business put through last week, the Silk trade has declined, and only 800 piculs passed the scales, including 146 bales direct shipment. Quotations show no reduction from the prices of last week, and holders are very strong; and as arrivals come in freely the stock is well maintained. Rather more has been done in Waste at late rates, the demand continues, and negotiations are pending for several large parcels. There is an inclination on the part of buyers for business in Tea, though the actual transactions have been small, without any alteration in rates. Exchange rose steadily during the week and closes fairly firm.

INTERNET ARCHIVE
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The Opposition papers have circulated rumours relating to probable changes in the Cabinet, their plain object being to produce an impression that the Government is in an unstable condition. The first of the rumours was that Mr. Inouye, Minister of Education, proposed to leave the Cabinet. When that was emphatically denied by the *Nichi Nichi*, the Opposition organs turned their eyes elsewhere, and seeing Count Inouye, Minister of Home Affairs, still staying at his villa at Isobe, they asserted that he was not at all satisfied with the way things were going, and that his resignation impended. A similar report has been published concerning Count Kuroda, Minister of Communications, and Mr. Mutsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs. But none of these rumours—it is scarcely necessary to state—appears to have any foundation. As to Count Inouye, we may state that he returned to the capital on Wednesday last. The *Nichi Nichi* informs us that, during his stay at Isobe, he was busy studying the Law of Election and the various regulations relating thereto. With regard to Count Goto, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, it is stated that, as he refuses to resign, he will receive an Imperial message to leave the Cabinet. This rumour about an Imperial message is doubtless untrustworthy, but the impression grows that the Count's resignation is only a question of time. As to his succession, in case he goes out of office, Viscount Nomura is supposed to be the most likely candidate for the post. He is on good terms with Count Ito and the rest of the statesmen of the Civil Section, as well as with Count Yamagata and some other members of the Military Party. He is known to have recently passed to and fro between the capital and Oiso, and is now regarded by the public as a sort of bridge between the two schools of clan statesmen. From the circumstance that he is the most probable successor of Count Goto at the *Noshomusho*, people infer that the Cabinet's policy will hereafter be more or less tinctured with the views of the Military Party. But these references are to be received with large allowances.

* * *

The approaching general election receives an increasing amount of journalistic attention. We proceed to notice a few of the more important articles on this subject. None of the papers suppose that the present Cabinet will interfere with the elections in the manner supposed to have been practised by the Matsukata Cabinet. However, the Opposition papers seem to apprehend that the Government may take some step akin to interference, and they unite in urging the importance of strict impartiality on the part of the Authorities. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, writing on this subject, assures these journals that the Cabinet will never allow officials to interfere with elections. The Ministers of State and their subordinates may, however, give some assistance to their friends in a private and non-official capacity. Apart from this legitimate course of conduct, the Government will never countenance the employment of administrative machinery for the benefit of either side in the elections. On the contrary, the Minister of State for Home Affairs will exert himself to provide effective protection for the people's right of election. Acts contrary to the Law of Election and other regulations relating thereto will be rigidly dealt with, without any distinction whatever between the delinquents, to the end that the elections may be conducted in a fair and pure manner. There prevails at the present moment an impression that the Government will deprive the advocates of treaty enforcement of all freedom of speech during the coming struggle. In reference to that, the *Nichi Nichi* observes that, although electors will be at perfect liberty to cast their votes for the adherents of the movement for strict enforcement, the Government on its side, is bound to adopt strong measures for the restraint of persons ventilating opinions incompatible with the progressive policy of opening the country so clearly indicated in the recent Imperial Message to the Cabinet.

* * *

The *Kokkai* learns that men of respectable character are nowadays disinclined to present themselves as Parliamentary candidates, partly because they are disgusted with the prevalence of various evils, such as corruption and violence, at the time of elections, and partly because they fear that the Cabinet may order dissolution two or three times in rapid succession. Our contemporary admits that various illegal and immoral practices are prevalent in this country at general elections, and earnestly appeals to electors themselves to purify the elections from the evils that have hitherto attended them. As to the fear of repeated dissolutions, the *Kokkai* is inclined to think that, in spite of the threatening tone of the Government organs, the Cabinet will not venture to adopt such a desperate line of action. Be that as it may, our contemporary recommends men of wide experience and high standing, who are now understood to be hesitating, to come forward and devote themselves to enhance the character and status of the popular branch of the Legislature.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* alludes to the already exploded canard that the Radicals had been supplied with a sum of 100,000 or 150,000 *yen* by the Government for use at the approaching elections. The Progressionist paper, while ostensibly querying the truth of the story, all the while writes as though it entertained no manner of doubt about its trustworthiness. The Opposition politicians being generally very poor, the giving of such a sum of money to the Radicals will, says our contemporary, place them under great disadvantage, and the result will be the same as if the Cabinet had engaged in direct interference with the elections.

* * *

As to the probable results of the approaching elections, no paper believes that a majority will be returned for the Government. How is the Cabinet to act in case its finds itself again confronted by a hostile majority? The *Jiyu Shimbun* advises Count Ito to resign. As to repeated dissolutions—a course recommended by the *Nichi Nichi*—the Radical organ is convinced that such a method would be of no avail, for in its opinion, the opponents of the Cabinet must increase with each dissolution. A *coup état* also proposed by the *Nichi Nichi*, would be still more fatal, and indeed in the *Jiyu's* opinion such a despotic measure could never be carried out by Count Ito. Hence our contemporary hopes that Count Ito will show respect for the Constitution by leaving the Government, in the event of the new House of Representatives proving antipathetic to his policy.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* thinks otherwise. It may not approve a *coup d'état*, but it agrees with the *Nichi Nichi* in advising the Cabinet to have no hesitation in dissolving the new Diet should it prove as unreasonable as its predecessor. "The present Opposition," says our contemporary, "is like an irritable child difficult to manage either with the cane or with candy. This has been proved by the fact that exactly the same result attended the different policies pursued by the Matsukata Cabinet and its successor." Therefore, the *Jiji* thinks it high time for the Government to give up all idea of conciliating the Opposition and to set itself in earnest to administer the affairs of State in an independent and resolute manner, regardless of the fuss that may be made by an unreasonable Opposition. The condition most essential to success in pursuing such a course is that complete unity and harmony should be maintained in the Cabinet. This is not a time, continues the *Jiji*, for the statesmen of the so-called Civil and Military sections to look askance at each other and quarrel about petty and unimportant matters. Should the new Diet be betrayed into any act at variance with the spirit of the Constitution, or should it abuse its privilege of approaching the Throne as its predecessor did, the Government is recommended to dissolve it without hesitation, at the same time conducting the administration with a resolute and impartial hand. If the Government perseveres in this way for a space of four or five years, the *Jiji* believes that it will gradually gain the people's confidence, while, on the other hand, the Opposition will gradually mend its ways and become more and more sober. But is the Government ready to pursue such a resolute line of policy? If it has not courage to do so, then the *Jiji* would be constrained to advise its immediate surrender to the Opposition.

* * *

The question of strict enforcement of the treaties continues to be a principal topic of discussion in the vernacular press. The papers which have identified themselves with the movement, as the *Nippon*, the *Niroku Shimpo*, and the *Chu-o Shimbun*, have been repeatedly suspended, and it is noticeable that they are now exercising more caution in giving expression to their views on this, to them, all important subject. A new weekly organ of the movement, the *Dai Nippon Shûhô*, was suspended on the day of its appearance. Outside the little circle of these papers, the doctrine of strict enforcement has not found any enthusiastic support. The organs of the Progressionist Party and the other journals opposed to the Cabinet have expressed themselves more or less in favour of the movement, but they show no genuine enthusiasm, their attitude being at best one of indifferent approval. Having, however, fallen into line with the advocates of the doctrine, they think it necessary to vindicate themselves against the charge of having joined an anti-foreign movement. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, for instance, maintains that the present agitation for strict enforcement of the treaties is a natural reaction against excessive adoration of foreigners on the part of the Government. Among its supporters there may be conservatives animated by hatred of foreigners, but the principal stronghold of the movement is declared to be in a class of enlightened thinkers who are impatient at the Government's incapacity in its foreign policy. Men of this class, among whom our contemporary counts itself, are declared opponents of any anti-foreign spirit. Counts Ito and Inouye are asked to recollect their own experience thirty years ago. They were at that time already animated with an enlightened spirit. They were aware of the importance of opening the country as much as the wisest Ministers of the Shogunate Government. And yet they were regarded by the Bakufu authorities in the light of anti-foreign agitators. In their turn they are now stated to have fallen into the same error in the present attitude towards the intelligent advocates of the movement for treaty enforcement.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* declares that it would be the last to countenance the revival of the old *jô-i* spirit. The present movement, it explains, is not essentially anti-foreign. Whatever *jô-i* spirit there may be about it, is accidental and insignificant. The Progressionist organ strongly blames the Cabinet for having purposely given undue prominence to the accidental side of the movement by high handed-measures for the suspension of comparatively innocent papers and by dissolution of convivial meetings. If there be any tendency among foreigners to labour under mistaken apprehension as to the consequences of the movement, the responsibility rests, in the *Hochi's* opinion, entirely upon the shoulders of those in power.

* * *

The *Kokkai* regrets extremely that the Cabinet has not made a right use of the movement for the strict enforcement of the treaties. In our contemporary's opinion, when the Representation on the subject was introduced in the House of Representatives, Count Ito should have gone down to the House in person, and demanding that the debate be conducted with closed doors, should have approved the measure in principle, but at the same time frankly explained to the House the reasons why some of the claims

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set forth in the explanatory document could not be carried out. He ought at the same time to have intimated to the House the absolute necessity of increasing the fighting capacity of the country, especially the Navy, in order to effectually carry out the stipulations of the existing treaties. Had such a course been adopted by Count Ito, the *Kokkai* believes that he would have found the House quite amenable to reason. Had the House, on the contrary, been still unreasonable, public sentiment would have been in favour of the Cabinet. At all events, the Tokyo journal regrets that the Cabinet brought matters to a serious crisis by opposing the movement vehemently from the outset.

* * *

It is a pleasure to turn from these sheets to the stout and outspoken pages of the *Jiji Shimpo*. The progressive policy of opening the country, says our contemporary, is not a monopoly of the Government alone; it is the recognized policy of the nation itself. Concluding that the recent dissolution of the House of Representatives was in consequence of attempts to impede that policy, our contemporary thinks that the Government could not have acted otherwise. At all events, the die has now been cast, and the Cabinet is bound more strongly than ever to stand or fall with the policy of opening the country. If it has courage for that, our contemporary will not hesitate to give it hearty support. Supposing that it has resolved to remain true to a progressive policy, it must be prepared to devote itself entirely to the revision of the treaties. With the present state of Japanese civilization, the *Jiji* does not think it difficult to obtain the consent of the Treaty Powers to reasonable proposals for revision. But the Authorities must be ready to take strong measures against all attempts to prevent the consummation of their object. Why has not the Government set about the task earlier? Perhaps it has been afraid of the opposition that may be offered by a section of the nation. But what important step in the modern history of Japan has been undertaken without serious opposition? Perhaps the most potent factor militating against the attainment of Treaty Revision has been the small-minded and effeminate jealousy of the elder statesmen. It was over this jealousy that Count Okuma stumbled in 1889. The Government is advised to discard such moods, and courageously proceed straight in the direction of its goal.

* * *

The Opposition papers noisily censured the Cabinet for having neglected to make public its reasons for dissolving the Diet. According to trustworthy authority, the official intention is to give a full explanation when the Local Governors arrive in Tokyo in response to a summons just issued by the Minister of State for Home Affairs.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

CIVILITIES BETWEEN SOVEREIGNS.

A few days ago the vernacular press told us of two particularly fine horses sent by the Emperor of Germany to the Emperor of Japan. We now learn from the same source that the Sovereign of Japan recently ordered a *Chin* dog of the choicest kind for presentation to the Queen of England. The duty of finding an exemplary specimen was entrusted to Mr. Toritetsu of Kudan and Mr. Toriyu of Ushigome, gentlemen whose names imply that they belong to the Sweedlepipes order, and after much searching they found in Nagoya a *Chin* that might be set before a Queen. On the 28th ult., the little animal was submitted for Imperial inspection and, being pronounced satisfactory, will shortly be put on board ship for conveyance to its illustrious destination.

* * *

"*Chin*," by the way, is said to be a vulgar abbreviation of "China." These tiny, truculent, tumultuous dogs having come originally from China, receive in Japan a name derived from the first syllable of the land of their provenance. Is that a true explanation, we wonder. If so, the name must have been given in the first place by English folks, for the neighbouring empire has never been known in Japan as "China." Even the ideograph used by the Japanese in writing the name is perplexing. The Chinese write "*Waiku*," which means "little dog;" the Japanese "*Chin*," which means nothing at all, unless indeed the composition of the character is intended to signify dog of the Middle Kingdom.

DISSOLUTION AND DOLLARS.

Dissolution of the House of Representatives means more to the members than simply being sent home to fight over again a hardly won battle, or to surrender to other brows the laurels of popular representation. It means a pretty heavy pecuniary fine. The annual stipend of each member is eight hundred *yen*. This money is paid in two installments, under ordinary circumstances. The first half is handed to each member within thirty days after the Diet meets in November. The second half is paid within seven days after the Diet rises on the conclusion of its ordinary session. But in case of dissolution, the members receive only such portion of the sum as covers the month of dissolution. When the sentence of dissolution went forth on the 29th ultimo, the members had already received four hundred *yen*, which paid them up to the close of the year. Had the issue of the edict been delayed until the termination of the second period of prorogation—namely, January 11th—they would have received the allowance for January, or 66.66 *yen*, and in that case the sentence of dissolution would have signified a fine of 344·44 *yen* each. But the course adopted, that is to say, dissolution on the 29th of December, really involved to each member a loss of 400 *yen*. Those who happen to be returned again will, of course, receive the balance of the year's pay when the Diet reassembles in May, but in the meanwhile they will have had to bear the cost of the elections, a very heavy item. Thus we are justified in saying that dissolution involved for each member a fine of 400 *yen*. Rumour has it that they left Tokyo, for the most part, in considerable embarrassment, their bills at tea-houses and hotels unpaid and their credit at an exceedingly low ebb. Four hundred *yen* is a large sum to a Japanese of the middle class.

JAPAN'S NATIONAL DEBT.

According to returns published by the Minister of State for Finance, the National Debt of Japan, Domestic and Foreign, on December 31st 1893, stood at 266,814,851 *yen*, and the Treasury Notes in circulation aggregated 16,407,000 *yen*, the grand total being 283,221,851 *yen*. The details of this total are as follow:—

	Yen.
New Foreign Debt	2,957,280
Old Foreign Debt	6,144,726
New Foreign Debt	8,530,375
Five Per Cent. Pension Bonds ...	30,730,020
Debt on account of Satsuma Rebellion.....	10,000,000
Naval Bonds.....	16,970.000
Consolidated Bonds.....	166,482.450
Supplementary Railway Bonds...	2,000 000
Bonds to redeem Paper Money...	22,000,000
Railway Bonds	1,000.000
Government Notes	16,407,000

It will be perceived that out of this total indebtedness of 283¼ million *yen*, no less than 197 millions, approximately, represent obligations incurred by the State for the purpose of commuting the incomes of the feudal barons; in other words, for the purpose of buying back the fiefs from their holders under the old system. Provision is made for the gradual liquidation of this debt out of the ordinary revenue of the country within a fixed term of years. In point of fact the debt really incurred by the empire during the *Meiji* era does not exceed 86 million *yen*, and could be paid off by devoting to its service the revenue of a single year. In no branch of her administration during the *Meiji* era does Japan deserve greater credit than in the department of finance. She has equipped herself with an army, a navy, police, telegraphs, railways, a postal service, a mercantile marine, many costly buildings and other necessaries of her new civilization, yet the debts contracted by her during the 26 years of the era scarcely exceed ten millions sterling.

GERMAN LACQUER IN THE UNITED STATES.

It appears from an account published in the *Nippon*, that Mr. Saito Masakichi, an expert in lacquer, who went recently to the United States for the purpose of making inquiries into the sale of imitation Japanese lacquer there, found a rather remarkable condition of things. He reports that there are two shops in Broadway, New York, where lacquers made in Germany, according to the methods inaugurated in recent years and copied from Japan, are sold. In one of these stores the articles offered for sale are chiefly trays, and the quantity disposed of yearly represents a value of half a million dollars. The other store, concerning the goods sold at which nothing is said, does an annual business of two hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Saito says that the decorative designs on the trays seem to have been copied from floral designs by Kono Bairei of Kyoto, but that they suffer from frequent repetition, a patent fault of the articles manufactured in Germany being want of variety. He seems to think, also, that the German lacquer is inferior to the Japanese, and that if the manufacturers of this country would combine intelligently, and adapt their work to the requirements of the American market, they could soon drive out the German goods and do a large trade.

THE COST OF DISSOLUTION.

The *Kokkai* has an estimate of the expense to the country involved in a dissolution of the House of Representatives and the subsequent general elections. It puts the cost of the elections to every member in a contested district at 3,000 *yen*, and then assuming that there will be at least 650 candidates for the 300 seats, it arrives at the conclusion that the aggregate outlay on that account will be about two million *yen*. Further, calculating that the Treasury spends three hundred thousand *yen*, the total cost comes to 2,300,000 *yen*. But surely these figures must be greatly above the mark. It is very conceivable that in some districts a candidate may have to devote three thousand *yen* to electioneering purposes, but our own information goes to show that no such outlay was incurred in the last elections, except in extreme cases where the contest developed remarkably severe features. We believe the *Kokkai's* estimate to be at least double of the truth in the case of the members. As for the expense to the Treasury, the sum mentioned by our contemporary may not be too large if the task of preserving peace and good order prove as difficult as it did after the first dissolution by the Matsukata Cabinet.

AN ADVERTISEMENT.

Mr. Nishimura Sezayemon, the celebrated manufacturer of silk textile fabics in Kyoto, has issued a little book for the purpose of advertising his industry. It is a pretty volume, handsomely printed in tinted ink on fine Japanese paper, and containing some photographs which are good and some coloured engravings which are exceedingly bad. From it we learn that Mr. Nishimura has received a multitude of marks of distinction at various exhibitions, as indeed his admirable products could scarcely fail to do, whatever their competitors; and from it we learn also that Mr. Nishimura entrusted the compilation of the text to some one who, though not a comically clumsy writer of the English tongue, as is too frequently the case, knows only enough of that language to exasperate us perpetually by his want of knowledge. When *will* the Japanese learn that they cannot write English fit for publication? No Englishman can begin to write Japanese that would pass the commonest muster in print. Is it to be reasonably expected that Japanese should write English so very much better? Mr. Nishimura must have incurred no small expense in connection with this book. It is intended solely for English-speaking or

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English-reading folks. Yet here is the kind of information afforded :—"Of course there are several specialists in this line, but the work of our house is characteristically quite inimitable. We do not say that common works are not skilfully executed, but when judged by their power to excite the admiration of men to day there is a great deficiency. This is the reason why we were recommended to the first rank of this art." The effect of such writing is to arouse among the public whose custom Mr. Nishimura seeks to attract, a feeling of not at all unalloyed admiration. People naturally argue that a man of business who devotes a large sum to the compilation and publication of an advertising volume, should at least be practical enough to get it written in readable English, not in the language of school-going children.

* * *

We learn from the *Mainichi Shimbun* that the committee formed by the citizens of Kyoto for the purpose of making arrangements for the exhibition to be held in that city next year, have resolved to publish a guide-book in English. The duty of compiling the work has been entrusted to Mr. Ichihara Seiko, who is to receive a sum of 840 *yen* for his trouble. The whole thing is expected to cost 1,140 *yen* for a thousand copies. Will this, we wonder, be another example of quaint English? Very likely. At all events we congratulate Mr. Ichihara Seiko. His task is easy. The admirable guide-books already compiled by Messrs. Satow, Hawes, Chamberlain, and Mason, contain all, and more than all, the information needed for such a volume as he is required to prepare. He has only to collate. And it cannot be pretended that the pay promised to him for such a duty is particularly small.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE PROJECTORS OF THE YOKOHAMA DOCKYARDS.

A GENERAL meeting of the promoters of this scheme, which has been hanging fire ever since the Government charter was issued in 1889, was held on the 16th inst. at the Yokohama Office of the Japan Steamship Company. Mr. Hara Rokuro took the chair, and prominent amongst the promoters were Messrs. Hara Zenzaburo, Mogi Sobei, Higuchi Tokujiro, Nishimura Kisaburo, Otani Kahei, Asano Soichiro, and Kurusu Sobei. It was resolved to refund to the last mentioned gentleman the sum of 6,600 *yen* spent by him in initial investigations. It was further decided to form a company and carry out the original scheme of building a dry-dock, the necessary capital, about half a million *yen*, being raised by subscription among the promoters. Also that the officials of the Company should receive no salary at the commencement, but that a sum of 2,000 *yen* be put aside yearly for gratuities to them. The following appointments were made:—Managers: Messrs. R. Hara, R. Kawata, T. Yoshikawa, M. Asada, S. Kurusu. Inspectors: Messrs. T. Higuchi, O. Watanabe. The original scheme was for 3 docks, as well as an iron foundry, with a capital 3 million *yen*. The necessary application to the Government has already been made.

COUNT ITO AND NEWSPAPER MEN.

COUNT ITO, according to the *Jiji Shimpo*, entered one of the Secretary's rooms in the House of Representatives while the Minister of Foreign Affairs was addressing the House. Being accosted by a newspaper editor, who observed that the time seemed to have come for dissolving the House, the Count is said to have replied :—"Such a strong measure as dissolution is not possible to such a weakling as this Ito." Being further asked why the Government did not call upon the House to close its doors during the debate on the Representation referring to Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, the Count answered that for one side to seek privacy when the other courted publicity would be a little futile. The advocates of the Representation had already published their whole case in the press, and to ask for a private session after that would be like shutting the stable when the horse had escaped. Count Ito, when he gave the former answer, must have already resolved upon dissolution under certain contingencies then more than probable, but His Excellency knows how to hold his peace.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE PALACE.

WE read in the *Shin-Choya* newspaper that the Foreign Representatives repaired to the Palace on the 5th instant in response to the Emperor's invitation, mounted guards were attached to them as a special measure. This step, according to our contemporary, was taken at the suggestion of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who argued that the present agitation for strict enforcement of the Treaties might possibly have the effect of rousing ignorant and thoughtless desperadoes to deeds of violence. Prevention is better than cure. But the *Shin-Choya* recalls the fact that no such necessity had arisen in Japan since the *Kayei* and *Ansei* eras. That, however, is a slight exaggeration, for the *Meiji* era was already some years old before the guards (*Bettei*) told off for the better protection of the Foreign Representatives, and indeed of all foreigners, in the streets of Tokyo, were discontinued. Nevertheless this recurrence to a state of affairs that formerly disgraced the country would be very lamentable were it a fact, but the whole story is untrue. No guards were attached to the Foreign Representatives on the occasion in question. Some one has been amusing himself at the *Shin-Choya's* expense.

A NEW LAMP.

MR. H. JANNI, of Trieste, has arrived in Yokohama with a new lamp, which may be seen in operation at the offices of Messrs. Browne & Co., at No. 72. It is claimed for this light, which is derived from coal gas, that four times the illuminating power is obtained with a consumption of from one-third to one-half of the gas used in the ordinary way. The principle of the light is incandescence, which is produced by the gas jet being invested with a bag suspended from a metal ring. This bag, which is simply a close cotton netting chemically prepared, becomes white hot immediately the gas is lit, and gives a strong and brilliant white light. The bag is said to stand from 800 to 1,200 hours combustion before requiring to be renewed, and the rest of the apparatus being simple the new light can easily be applied to ordinary gas fittings. It is necessary that each light be enclosed in a chimney on account of the delicate nature of the incandescent material, but the cost of chimnies and renewal of the "mantle," as it is termed, is apparently very small when compared with the saving effected in the consumption of gas, to say nothing of the improved lighting. Nor is this all. Yokohama gas is notoriously bad in quality and uncertain in quantity, but this does not appear to effect the incandescent material employed in the new lamp, as the blue and sickly flame of Yokohama gas of very low illuminating power became a delightful illuminant immediately it was surrounded by Mr. Janni's incandescent "mantle." As the electric light is expensive and gas in Yokohama is both bad and dear, there ought to be a field for the new lamp, which is said to have been adopted extensively in various parts of the world.

CAVENDO TUTUS.

"SAFE by taking care." That is the motto of Messrs. Chubb & Son's Lock and Safe Company, Limited. It would be interesting to know who initiated the system of costly advertising now in vogue. Our idea is that Lamplough's Pyretic Saline was among the pioneers, but of course the Messrs. Holloway with their wonderful pills take the lead. However, even in the palmiest days of Holloway we had nothing so artistic and pretty as the methods now employed. Advertisers do not think simply of bringing themselves and their wares to public notice: they aim also at furnishing something that shall be at once useful and ornamental in their clients' hands. A very happy example of this is the Diary and Almanack of Messrs. Chubb and Son for 1894. A tiny little volume such as one can keep in the drawer of a lady's bureau, beautifully bound in leather, with gilt-edged leaves of thick, rich paper, and just room enough under each day of the year to tempt an entry—such is the reminder that Messrs. Chubb and Son distribute to tempt custom. Every day has a caption, showing the losses inflicted by thieves and fires owing to people's neglect to use Chubb's locks and safes, showing also remarkable instances of security from such disasters obtained through the agency of the great manufacturers' work, and showing finally the innumerable prizes at exhibitions, injunctions in courts of law, letters of thanks and other testimonials that have marked the career of these wonderful locks and safes. The volume resembles a choice little missal. Perhaps the idea was to suggest that receptacles for temporary valuables where thieves do not break through and steal are provided in this world by Messrs. Chubb and Son, as surely as a similarly secure place is furnished for eternal treasures in the next by due attention to the contents of the prayer book.

THE QUEEN'S ESTABLISHMENT.

"SOME one," says a home journal, "has taken the trouble to make out a list of Queen Victoria's extensive establishment of salaried and titular officials, and gives the following as the catalogue :—There are the lord steward, the lord chamberlain, the treasurer, the comptroller, the keeper of the privy purse, his assistants and secretaries, the coroner, and the electric-light engineer. The lord chamberlain's department comprises a vice-chamberlain, comptroller, examiner of accounts, paymaster, master of ceremonies, marshal of ceremonies, lords-in-waiting, grooms-in-waiting, extra grooms, gentlemen ushers of the privy chamber, gentlemen ushers of the black rod, gentlemen ushers daily waiters, gentlemen ushers quarterly waiters, sergeant-at-arms, poet laureate, examiner of plays, librarian, painter, marine painter, sculptor, surveyor of pictures, German librarian, constable of Windsor, gentlemen at arms and yeoman. The department of the master of the horse comprises master of the buckhounds, clerk marshal, grand falconer, crown equerry, equerries in ordinary, extra equerries, honorary equerries, pages of honour, superintendent of royal mews, storekeeper, and a host of clerks. The department of the mistress of the robes comprises ladies of the bedchamber, extra ladies of the bedchamber, bedchamber women, extra bedchamber women, maids of honour, groom of the robes, clerks of the robes, and chaplain. The religious department consists of the dean of the chapel royal, clerk of the closet, deputy clerks of the closet, and domestic chaplains. The medical department has among its members physicians in ordinary, physicians extraordinary, sergeant surgeons, surgeons extraordinary, physician to the household, surgeon to the household, surgeon apothecary, other surgeons and apothecaries, surgeon oculist, surgeon dentist, dentists to the household, and chemists and druggists. There are also a hereditary grand almoner, a sub-almoner, and secretaries, clerks, yeomen, attendants, pages, cooks, waiters, servants, and other persons to the number of about a thousand.

TWO COLLECTIONS OF CHINESE PORCELAIN.

AMERICAN amateurs are destined, it would seem, to have an exceptional opportunity early next year of acquiring some fine specimens of Chinese porcelain. The well known collections of Mr. A. J. How, of Shanghai, and of the late Mr. W. H. Forbes, of Tientsin, are to be offered for sale at one of the art galleries in New York, probably about the month of April. Each of these collections contains many beautiful and rare examples of wares now not procurable in China without great difficulty and paying very high prices. They are especially rich in fine grades of blue and white, including a number of grand "Hawthorns," in *Lang yao (sang de-bœuf)*, in "grains-of-rice" porcelains, in *Famille Verte*, and in monochromes. The collections were put together during some two decades of residence in China. They are free from any of the spurious or inferior specimens that usually figure in assemblages of wares brought under the auctioneer's hammer, and we imagine that the amateurs of the United States will not be

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slow to appreciate their value. Everything fine in the way of objects of art gravitates to America now. Plenty of gold and no lack of readiness to spend it for the acquisition of choice specimens constitute a force of attraction that nothing can resist.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

A TELEGRAPHIC message from Osaka, published in the Tokyo *Asahi Shimbun*, states that a letter despatched from Jinsen on the 31st ult. contains the news that the representation presented by Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister, requesting the withdrawal of the notification prohibiting the export of rice, has been inspected by the King, and great anxiety prevails among the Ministers of State, in reference to the effect it will produce upon His Majesty. The Peninsular Government was to have replied to the Japanese Minister on the 26th ult., but asked for an extension of time. It is stated that the King ordered the rescission of the prohibition, but the Royal command has not yet been published.

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A telegram has reached the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* to the effect that Mr. Sho Joshun, a former Foreign Minister of Korea, resumed that position on the 4th inst., Mr. Nan Teitetsu being released from the post.

POSTHUMOUS TITLES.

THE Emperor has conferred posthumous titles of the first grade of the fourth rank on Mayeno Ryotaku, Fujiwara Seikwa, and Takashima Shirotayu. The first of these, who was instrumental in spreading the Dutch language, was a physician in the service of the Lord of Nakatsu, and studied medicine under Yoshimasu Todo. When past the prime of life, he began to study Dutch, and acquired from the interpreters at Nagasaki sufficient knowledge of it to translate various books from that language on medicine, astronomy, and geography; he also compiled a Dutch-Japanese dictionary. He was held in high esteem for his learning by his lord. Fujiwara Seikwa lived in the times of Hideyoshi and Iyeyasu; his family, by whom he was educated as a Buddhist priest, were connected with the court at Kyoto. On entering manhood, he devoted himself to the study of Chinese and soon became famous for his learning. On account of the lack of Chinese scholars in the country at the time, he resolved to go China, then under the Ming dynasty, but gave up the idea on hearing of Shimazu Nisshinsai's library at Satsuma, which contained the works of Suki, a scholar who had revived the doctrines of Confucius. Henceforward he gave his life to studying and teaching Confucianism; an institution for this purpose was afterwards established in Yedo by one of his disciples, Hayashi Razan. Takashima Shirotayu, who was born some seventy years before the Restoration, came of a family engaged for several generations in foreign trade at Nagasaki. He studied the art of gunnery and foreign military discipline, acquiring his information from books and from the foreigners then in the country. When the Opium War of China broke out, on his representing to the Tokugawa Government the necessity of defensive preparations, he was appointed instructor to the body-guard in the art of gunnery which thus became commonly practised in the country, many *daimyos* following the example of the Government. He died at the age of sixty-nine.

MR. SHIBUSAWA ON THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

MR. SHIBUSAWA EIICHI, President of the First National Bank and also of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, delivered an address on the economic condition of the country during last year, at the New Year gathering of the principal business men of Tokyo and Yokohama. Noticing the rise of various enterprises, the tightness of the money market and the depreciation of silver, he said that though some difficulty had been created by this last, the foreign trade had not been seriously affected; in fact, the year, from a business stand point, had been satisfactory. In speaking of the new enterprises, he gave it as his opinion that there was a lack of independence and too great a tendency to seek aid from the Government or other sources, instancing the present railway system in Japan. He concluded with a brief reference to recent political events.

GROUPING OF STATESMEN.

THERE is interest in the ideas entertained by a journal like the *Kokkai* as to the manner in which the *Meiji* statesmen may be expected to group themselves. Our contemporary takes four of these statesmen as probable Ministers President of State in future Cabinets, and composes their respective Cabinets thus:—

	Yamagata Cabinet.	Kuroda Cabinet.
Minister of State for Home Affairs	Mr. Shirane	Mr. Suzuki Dairyo.
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Mr. Sone Arasuke	Viscount Enomoto.
Minister of State for Finance	Mr. Watanabe	Mr. Kawase Shinko.
Minister of State for War	Gen. Kodama Gentaro.	Gen. Takashima.
Minister of State for the Navy	Admiral Viscount Kabayama.	Admiral Viscount Kabayama.
Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.	Viscount Tanaka.	Mr. Kitagaki Kunimichi.
Minister of State for Communications.	Viscount Nomura	Mr. Komaki Shogyo.
Minister of State for Justice	Mr. Kiyoura Keigo.	Mr. Haruki Yoshiakira.
Minister of State for Education	Mr. Inouye Ki	Mr. Makino Nobuaki.
Chief of the Metropolitan Police	Mr. Kitagak Kunimichi.	Mr. Orita Heinai.
	Ito Cabinet.	**Inouye Cabinet.**
Minister of State for Home Affairs	Mr. Ito Myoji	Mr. Mutsu Munemitsu.
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Mr. Mutsu Munemitsu	Viscount Aoki.
Minister of State for Finance	Mr. Tajiri Inejiro	Count Inouye.
Minister of State for War	General Kawakami	General Kawakami.
Minister of State for the Navy	Admiral Inouye Yoshika	Admiral Ito Shunkichi.
Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.	Mr. Makino Nobuaki.	Mr. Saito Shuichiro.
Minister of State for Communications	Mr. Kaneko Kentaro.	Mr. Furusawa Shigeru.
Minister of State for Justice	Mr. Miyoshi Taizo.	Mr. Yoshikawa Akimasa.
Minister of State for Education	Mr. Suyematsu Kencho	Mr. Yegi Chiyuki.
Chief of Metropolitan Police	Mr. Sonoda Yasukata	Mr. Onoda Mototeru.

Turning next to the statesmen popularly supposed to represent the Opposition, the *Kokkai* gives four other states as follow:—

	Okuma Cabinet.	Itagaki Cabinet.
Minister of State for Home Affairs	Mr. Ozaki Yuki	Mr. Kono Hironaka.
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Count Okuma	Mr. Hoshi Toru.
Minister of State for Finance	Mr. Inugai Ki	Mr. Matsuda Masahisa.
Minister of State for War	One of the Sat-Cho Statesmen	Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi.
Minister of State for Navy	One of the Sat-Cho Statesman	Mr. Sugita Teiichi.
Minister of State for Agriculture Commerce	Mr. Shimada Saburo.	Mr. Ishida Kannosuke.
Minister of State for Communications.	Mr. Mayejima Mitsu.	Mr. Hayashi Yuzo.
Minister of State for Justice	Mr. Hatoyama Kazuo	Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke.
Minister of State for Education	Mr. Yano Fumio	Mr. Nakaye Tokusuke.
Chief of the Metropolitan Police	Mr. Tanaka Shozo	Mr. Suzuki Shoji.
	Saigo Cabinet.	**Goto Cabinet.**
Minister of State for Home Affairs	Viscount Shinagawa.	Mr. Hayashi Yuzo.
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Mr. Sone Arasuke	Mr. Saito Shuichiro.
Minister of State for Finance	Mr. Yasuba Howa	Mr. Iwazaki Yanosuke.
Minister of State for War	Major-Gen. Aoyama.	Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi.
Minister of State for Navy	Captain Yamamoto Gombei	Mr. Yasuoka Yukichi.
Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.	Mr. Sasa Tomofusa	Mr. Takenouchi Ko.
Minister of State for Communications.	Mr. Awaya Shinazo	Mr. Oye Taku.
Minister of State for Justice	Mr. Ooka Ikuzo	Mr. Yoshida Masaharu.
Minister of State for Education	Mr. Kawada Moribumi	Mr. Inouye Kakugoro.
Chief of the Metropolitan Police	Mr. Furusho Yoshido.	Mr. Takahashi Nakaji.

The *Kokkai* does not pretend that this forecast is altogether serious. We should think not.

MUNIFICENCE IN AID OF EDUCATION.

MARQUIS KURODA has added another educational benefit to those already conferred by the House of which he is the present head, on the inhabitants of Chikuzen, the ancient dominion of his forefathers. Some time ago a middle school was founded and amply endowed by this family at Fukuoka, the most promising graduates of which are supplied with funds to continue their studies at the Imperial University, and some have even been sent abroad to complete their education; in consequence of which Hizen has contributed many of those men who now occupy prominent positions in the scientific, literary and political worlds. The Marquis now intends to give assistance to the descendants, now in poor circumstances, of those who at any time have performed meritorious service to his family; help is to be given as soon as they enter and after they leave the school, and advertisements to this effect have been inserted in the Fukuoka daily papers. His object, according to the *Yomiuri* from whom we take the foregoing, is to strengthen the weakened ties between the feudal lord and his former retainers. It is probable that the Marquis will have several applications.

YOKOHAMA POLICE-STATION ON FIRE.

THE Foreign Settlement Police Station, Yokohama, had a narrow escape from destruction by fire on Monday forenoon. The station, which is a commodious two-storyed red brick erection, stands on Lot No. 203, not far from the offices of the C.P.R. Co., and the police staff maintained there have charge of the public peace within the bounds of the Foreign Settlement. The fire was discovered a few minutes after eleven o'clock, but it had then been smouldering for some considerable time, a stove pipe which leads from the general waiting-room into the Inspector's room, and then passes through a stone opening into an upper room and from thence into the open air, having become red hot. The wood-work around had become very dry of late, while the partition between the rooms mentioned consisted solely of lathe and plaster. The fire consequently spread rapidly, once a start was effected. Upon an alarm being given, the firemen attached to the station at once put in an appearance, and were quickly followed by the Yokohama Fire Brigade under Supt. Kipling. Plenty of water was obtainable at the hydrants, and within a quarter of an hour the building was out of danger. The interior has suffered severely from water, and for some little time to come the ordinary business of the Station will have to be transacted at the official residence of the Chief Superintendent, which fortunately, stands on the same compound. The amount of damage done is not yet ascertainable, but whatever it is will fall on the official treasury, as the building, we learn, is not insured. The records and other official documents were saved.

TELEPHONES.

THE demand for telephones is evidently on the increase. From their introduction in 1890 up to 1,892 the total number of subscribers for them was 1564, while in the present fiscal year, from April to August, there have been 476 applicants; at this rate there should be more than 1,000 by next March. Nevertheless a large majority of these must wait till the end of the year at least, since the authorities find that they must limit the total number of telephones to 1,647, owing to lack of funds. Even if the Diet grant the 200,000 *yen* asked for by the Department of Communications, which is improbable, there will be considerable delay in supplying the demand. The *Jiji Shimpo*, from which the above is taken, points out the folly of fettering by ill-judged economy an enterprise which cannot fail to be profitable, and advocates a transference of the business to private enterprise from the control of the Diet, whose present policy is a continual reduction of all expenditure: this, it is suggested, might be done by the introduction of a bill to that effect in the coming extraordinary session.

ELECTION QUESTIONS.

THE general elections will be held, it is expected, about the 20th of February. According to the News Agency, the three great topics which the six Sections of the Opposition—namely, the *Kokumin Kyokai*, the *Domei* and *Doshi* Clubs, the *Kaishin-to*, the *Seimu Chosa-jo* and the *Dai Nippon Kyokai*—will employ for the purposes of their campaign, are Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, Official Discipline, and the *Chishima-Ravenna* affair. Never were agitators so splendidly equipped for a big fight. On the other hand, it is well understood that the Government will employ every means in its

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power to prevent the creation of an anti-foreign sentiment in the country. Hence, the strict enforcement question, which, as the public well understands, is the real bone of contention between the Government and the people, will have to be discussed with great circumspection on the platform and in the press. The situation is delicate for both sides. If the Government adopts strong measures to repress anti-foreign agitation, it will inevitably be accused of despotically interfering in the elections in its own interests. But if political agitators rely upon the determent effect of that imputation, they will find their meetings dispersed by the police and their newspapers suppressed.

THE TAMA DISTRICTS AGAIN.

THERE is great discontent in the three districts of Tama with the resolution of the Home Minister not to sanction the reduction of the police force by one-third in the nine rural districts under the municipality, which was passed by the Tokyo Municipal Assembly last autumn. Mr. Miura, the Governor, was dissatisfied with the reduction and requested a second discussion of the matter, which took place with the same result. The affair was then reported to the Home Minister by the Governor, who represented the necessity of maintaining the strength of the police force in view of the coming elections, and received the assurance that the diminution would not be sanctioned. The people of Tamagawa intended to apply the money thus obtained to repairing the banks of the river; as they are supported by Mr. Miyamoto, Chairman of the Rural Districts Assembly, more or less friction is expected. The above is taken from the *Nichi Nichi*.

MM. FELIX REGAMEY AND PIERRE LOTI.

THE 108th number of *La Plume* is devoted entirely to Japanese subjects. "L'Art et la Femme au Japon" is its title. The talented editor, M. Régamey, has set himself the task of dispelling the impressions produced by Pierre Loti's writings. If enthusiasm, a graceful imagination and a charming style could ensure success in such an effort, M. Régamey ought to be successful. Here is a specimen of his writing :—

Si le Japon semble n'avoir pas droit aux mêmes égards que la Gréce, c'est uniquement parce qu'on ignore l'un tandis que l'autre est ressassé.

Cependant de nombreux et remarquables travaux ont été publiés sur cet empire, en Angleterre principalement. En France nous avons ceux de M. Pierre Loti, l'ingrat, le déplorable ami de Madame Chrysanthème, dont le parti pris incompréhensible de dénigrement est bien fait pour confondre l'esprit de quiconque a pratiqué le Japon autrement que ce marin qui n'a fait que l'entrevoir du pont de son navire et définit ainsi : "*cette étonnante patrie de toutes le sau grenuits.*"

Saugrenue! cette nature superbe ou le pin colossal à la noble allure se marie au bambou capricieux et léger, ou. d'un bout de l'année à l'autre, les fleurs étalent leur enchantement, c'est la neige rose des cerisiers devalant des collines, ce sont les camélias de pourpre, les lis d'or, les graciles graminées dont se parent a foison, sentiers et buissons, et c'est l'inépuisable varie é des chrysanthémes, ravissant notre occident qui jusqu'à ces derniéres années ne connaissait de cette plante qu'une espéce rabougrie et terne.

Saugrenue! cette architecture élégante et grandiose le Siro féodal, chateau fort aux murailles trapues, qui plonge dans un fossé aux eaux profondes et découpe sur le ciel sa silhouette tragique; et ces temples Bouddhistes au décor éblouissant, somptueuses demeures de la plus tolérante des religions, ou des prétres qui étaient de grands artists ont intérieurement, extérieurement et de la base au faite, accumulé l'or et la soie, le bronze, la laque rouge et noire les émaux et les peintures, fouillu le bois, sculpté d'inextricables chapiteaux surmontant de lourds piliers, le tout bien digne d'être mis en parallèle avec nos plus belles cathédrales.

Saugrenus! ces fondeurs, ces armuriers, ces orfevres, ces ciseleurs, ces sculpteurs, et ces peintres á qui l'on doit des œuvres dont les moindres sont arrivées jusqu'á nous, et dont il faut voir les plus beaux specimens sur place dans leur cadre, tel le Daïboutz de Kamakura, colosse de métal doré d'un style si pur, et tous ces objets d'usage courant en ivoire, en faïence, en bronze, etc.

Saugrenus! ces héros et ces héroïnes qui égalent en courage et en vertu tout ce que notre histoire et nos myth-gies ont a nous offrir de plus grand et de plus beau!

* * *

But we greatly doubt whether Pierre Loti deserves to be taken seriously. What can be more extravagant than the supposition that the true character of the Japanese woman is to be deciphered under the circumstances of Pierre Loti's study? Did he himself love the little "Chrysanthemum"? Had he the least *soupçon* of real affection for her? Not a shadow. He merely purchased her as pretty slaves are purchased in certain markets. He paid a certain sum for the pleasure of her companionship, and then, with inconsistency only equalled by his consummate vanity, he inveighs because the monetary element had prominence in their relations. What was the whole affair to him *ab initio* except a business of lucre and lust? Surely he must be the victim of a strange hallucination if he imagines that a girl who sells herself to a transient sojourner from a strange land, to a man incapable of exchanging five intelligible words with her consecutively, is a fair subject for illustrating the disinterestedness-the devotion, the virtue of the best type of Japanese womanhood. He and Mr. Clement Scott deserve to run in couples. They possess one faculty in common, inordinate self-conceit. Approaching the women of Japan by routes that must necessarily lead to the worst examples, they both seem to imagine that contact with such superior beings as themselves ought to banish every gross element from the intercourse. No one need be greatly disturbed by such impertinent egoism.

JAPANESE WIT.

THE Japanese are nothing if not merry. The gravest things become in their hands a topic of mirth. This faculty is well exhibited in the nick-names they give to their statesmen and other notables. In grave, matter-of-fact England, Mr. Gladstone is known as the G.O.M., but men of the time as a rule receive no appellation expressing either playfulness or admiration. A vernacular newspaper has just published some of the names by which the political leaders in this country are known. Frequently such terms, depending, as they do, upon adriot combinations of ideographs, defy appreciative translation. But some will be fairly intelligible to English readers. Count Ito has many alternative names: thus, Count Constitution, Count Odawara, Count Peony, the Man of the Spring Garden, the Master of the Wild Sea Waves Park, the Universal Genius (*Happo Bijin*). Count Inouye is known as the Electric Count, the Three-monkey Recluse (*i.e.* the earless, eyeless, and speechless monkeys), and Count Other-world; Count Kuroda is Count Goldfish, Count Fancyfowl, and Count Blackcuttle (a play on his name); Count Saigo is Count Southshore, or Count Benkei; Count Oyama is Count Sponge-face, or Count Phlegm; Count Goto is Count Sundale, Count Daido (in allusion to the Daido Danketsu), and Count Big-Elephant; Mr. Yoshikawa (Minister of Justice) is Mr. Overhill; Mr. Watanabe (Minister of Finance) is Mr. Templeman (in allusion to his zeal for Buddhism), Mr Sword-play (in allusion to his love of fencing), and Minister Onecash (in allusion to his declaration that the Government would not reduce the estimates by a cash); Mr. Mutsu (Minister of Foreign Affairs) is Mr. Happyhouse, Mr. Sixstones, and Minister Razorface; Mr. Inouye (Minister of Education), is Mr. Shadowland, Mr. Careworn, and Mr. Drafter (in allusion to his skill in drafting State papers); Count Yamagata is Count Spring-snow, Count Mejiro and Count Camellia; Count Matsukata is Count East-sea and Count Mita; Count Okuma is Count Waseda and Count Oneleg (*Sekkyaku-Haku*); Mr. Ozaki Yukio is Mr. Learned, Mr. Terrible and Mr. Humblehouse; Mr. Inugai Ki is Mr. Wooden, or Mr. Mononobe Sukune; Mr. Tanaka Shozo is the Tochigi Crœsus, or the Little-Elephant (in allusion to his mortal hatred of Count Goto, who is Count Big-Elephant); Count Itagaki is Count Liberal, Mr. Tatekawa Umpei is Shinkumohira (a-play on his name); Viscount Shinagawa is Viscount Nightingale, and Mr. Decapitate (in allusion to the oath that he swore when joining the *Kokumin Kyokai*); Viscount Tani is Viscount Valley and the Now-now Member (in allusion to his constant use of "*Somo somo*" in speaking); Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu is Mr. With-the-current, or The Omi Saigo; Mr. Nakamura Yaroku is Mr. Riverbank; Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro is Mr. Longlocks; Mr. Inouye Kakugoro is Mr. Crabface, or Mr. Inokaku; Mr. Kudo Kokan is Mr. Urgency (*i.e.* introducer of urgent motions); Mr. Suzuki Manjiro is Doctor Haageman; Mr. Watanabe Koki is the Parliamentary Hotei, and Mr. Awaya Shinazo is the Japan-made William Tell.

LIFE INSURANCE.

THE *New York News Letter* for November and December devotes the whole of its columns to illustrations of the value of life insurance. It has been calculated by experts that life insurance is not the most paying form of investment a man can choose. But their calculation is based on very large hypotheses, namely, that a man is prepared to put by sums representing his premia every year, that he finds profitable forms of investment for the savings thus put by, and that he never makes a loss on his investments. How many of us can count upon doing that? And if we can not, then certainly we ought all to insure our lives for the benefit of those we leave behind us. Take, for example, a policy effected in the New York Life Insurance Company, under what is called the "endowment system." Let us suppose that the sum insured is $10,000, and the age of the insurer, 30. Twenty annual premia have to be paid, of $485.30 each, so that, at the end of 20 years, the insurer has disbursed a total of $9,706. This then is his position at the age of 50:—

RESULTS AT END OF PERIOD.

1. Cash value of policy $15,694.90
   Being face of policy..... $10,000.00
   Accumulated Surplus, $5,694.92
   This is a dividend of nearly sixty per cent. of the total premiums paid in twenty years.
2. Or, in lieu of cash, the policy-holder may receive a paid-up policy, payable at death, for. $32,600.00
3. Or an annuity for life of $1,200 19

There are not many of us who could hope to do better than that by putting by a sum of $485.30 yearly.

KOREAN NEWS.

ACCORDING to latest correspondence from Korea, published in the metropolitan papers, Mr. Otori seems to be making energetic but hitherto futile efforts to induce the Korean Government to rescind the edict prohibiting the export of rice. On the 15th of December, he addressed to the Korean Foreign Minister a representation setting forth various authenticated facts bearing upon the depreciation of the price of rice and the abundance of the grain in the kingdom. On the following day, at 2 p.m., he called at the Korean Foreign Office, but the acting Foreign Minister, Mr. Kim Kak-chin, was away at the Palace, so the visit was repeated at the same hour the next day, the 17th, when the Foreign Minister agreed to present the document to the King and exert himself for the revocation of the prohibitory edict. But the performance of this promise was marked by the dilatoriness usual in Korea, and Mr. Sugimura, Secretary of the Japanese Legation, had to press on the 20th ult. for the immediate submission of the Japanese Representative's memorial to the King. The Korean Minister promised to submit it that very night. But of course he did not do so, and Mr. Otori again requested him to give a definite answer by the 27th ultimo. The only answer obtained from him, however, was that, as he had to be at Court for several days, he should be unable to attend to the matter for the present. Meanwhile, Mr. Otori and his Secretary, Mr. Sugimura are said to be daily visiting influential members of the Korean Government, several of whom, as for example Bin Eisho, Bin Eitatsu, Bin Kikan, and Bin Eishun, are reported to be in favour of granting the Japanese Minister's request, but conservatives like Sin Oohoku, the Prime Minister and the Ministers of the Left and the Right, are understood to be bitterly opposed to it.

* * *

Among the Representatives of other countries, those of Germany and the United States

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are reported to have communicated with the Korean Government on the same subject, demanding the revocation of the prohibition. These Ministers duly received an answer from the Korean authorities in a sense opposed to their request, but it was couched in such unceremonious language that its recipients are said to have been greatly incensed.

* * *

In recognition of the special requirements of small settlements like those at Söul and Gensan, the Japanese Government has decided to make an exception in favour of those two places in regard to the restrictions recently issued for the regulation of banking agencies. In consequence of this step, the Söul agency of the 1st National Bank will continue its operations, much to the relief of the Japanese merchants in the Korean capital.

* * *

Bin Eikan, who had long been leading a retired life in mourning for a parent's death, has resumed his official duties; Bin Eiyoku (or Min Yon-ik) has been recalled by the Queen from Hongkong. The appearance of these two men on the scene is expected to produce some important changes in the policy of the Korean Government. However, so long as the Tai Won-kun and the Chinese Resident, Yuen Shi-kai, remain in Söul, Min Yon-ik is believed to be incapable of any decisive step for the recovery of supremacy in the King's council.

* * *

Since the above was written, a telegram from Korea has reached Tokyo—we write on the authority of the News Agency—stating that the Foreign Representatives have decided to wait a week longer, and if during that time the edict forbidding the export of rice be not rescinded, they will address a joint note to the Korean Foreign Office on the subject.

PREMATURE INTERMENTS.

Many people have a haunting dread of being buried alive, and many are the terrible tales told in support of the terror. We all remember the story of the lady who returned from the land of the shades as a thief was tearing the rings from her exhumed body, and of the unfortunate Spaniard whose heart was seen to be beating when his autopsy had been carried as far as the opening of his breast and pericardium and the laying bare of the heart itself. This latter tale, however, has now to be relegated to the limbo of inventions, for whereas the sequel recounts how the anatomist (Vesale), who performed the autopsy, was tried for murder, condemned to death, and his sentence commuted to banishment to the Holy Land, it now appears that Vesale's trip to Palestine was undertaken solely for his health, and that he found great difficulty in getting leave from Philip II. to go. Indeed there seems to be little doubt that a vast majority of the premature-interment stories hitherto currently believed are pure fabrications. Dr. Bouchut, a distinguished French physician, has just collected and published the most familiar of them, and has shown conclusively that, when not false in every particular, they are enormously embellished. This should be some consolation to timid folks, and for their further benefit we quote some paragraphs showing how very remote are the chances of premature interment now-a-days:—In 1822, when Cardinal Donnet had his prolonged fainting fit, auscultation had hardly been discovered. We can now declare positively that the mistake in Donnet's case would have been impossible if the supposed dead man had been auscultated. The stoppage of the beats of the heart, perceptible to auscultation, is a certain sign of death, if that stoppage lasts for some minutes. Twenty minutes of interruption appear more than sufficient, but, as no one is ever interred twenty minutes after the supposed moment of his death, auscultation, several hours after deaths, affords, when no beating of the heart is heard, an absolute certainty of death. This proof can be supplemented and strengthened, if that be possible, by inserting in the fifth intercostal space a long and fine needle, the movements of which will translate to the eye the movements of the heart, which are always perceptible to an experienced ear. There is one sign of death explained at length in the work of M. Bouchut. This sign has lately been spoken of as a novelty, but it is fact by no means new. The explanation of M. Bouchut runs thus:—"The infallible evidence of death is the progressive chilling of the body which is put in equilibrium with the surrounding temperature. When this temperature descends below + 20 degrees Centigrade (68 degrees Fahrenheit), proved in the armpit, and below +22 degrees Centigrade, internally, that becomes a certain sign of the cessation of life. The proof of this temperature is then *a simple and easily-applied means of recognising in a certain and indubitable manner* the signs of death, and it is evident that this means *can be put in practise by poor villagers without instruction.*"

THE TCHIGORIN TARRASCH MATCH.

The *Pall Mall Budget* has this interesting note on the great chess match just concluded:—

As already announced, the match between Tchigorin, of St. Petersburg, and Dr. Tarrasch, of Nuremburg, from which so much interest was anticipated, terminated in a drawn battle, each player winning nine games, and four being drawn. Tarrasch, from his unbroken record of three won international tournaments with only a single lost game, was the favourite, but many favoured Tchigorin. From the difference of styles used by the masters many grand and instructive games were hoped for, but the result is regarded as somewhat disappointing.

The large amounts now provided for exhibition chess matches (representing sums not thought of in former times) and the facility with which the competitors themselves can arrange the division of the stakes seem to have a tendency to produce drawn results, for when matches remain undecided like this the players have a chance left for a future match on yet more favourable terms. Tchigorin and Weiss, New York, 1890, and Tchigorin and Gunsberg, Havannah, 1891, though extremely well fought, were both undecided matches, while in all the contests, including tournament games and correspondence games, which have taken place between Steinitz and Tchigorin the score is again equal. Who can tell, in the event of Steinitz, the accredited world's champion, and Lasker, the hitherto invincible Berlin player, obtaining the tempting sums asked for by them, whether we may see a downright positive result clearly decisive of their relative merits.

The greatest matches of former days were based far more than the present on pure emulation. Labourdonnais, of Paris, and McDonnell, of Belfast, always aimed at winning in good style, and scorned the draw. Staunton for several years, 1842 to 1849, achieved great victories. Next, the incomparable Paul Morphy electrified the whole chess world by his graceful, effective, and decisive play. Matches were not confined to two of the dullest of openings, and stakes were not extravagant enough to disturb the player's equanimity, or engender undue timidity.

It would be sheer affectation to pronounce the games in the Tarrasch and Tchigorin match as worthy of the great and well-earned reputation of the two players, who, with Steinitz and Lasker, both now in America, constitute the quartette of available chess champions—at least, at the existing slow time limit. The games are even lacking in the qualities for which the players are most noted—Tchigorin for vigour and attack, and Tarrasch for judgment and precision. The Fabian policy remarked upon by Ruskin is conspicuous in most of them: in three the draw is played for early, and in two palpable blunders occur, which lost the game at once, while in No. 2, the best game played, Tchigorin might with a little more nerve have carried his attack to a successful issue, and that in a manner hitherto undiscovered by any of the annotators.

Under existing conditions of chess match play we can scarcely expect a return to the style of former days, when enterprise and variety were leading considerations, brilliancy the order of the day, and the combat took place on terms and at a pace which the ordinary mortal could afford to witness without ennui.

SUICIDE OF A FOREIGNER IN KOBE.

A terrible result of a bout of heavy drinking occurred yesterday afternoon, says the *Kobe Chronicle* of the 9th inst., when the keeper of a public-house at the back of the Native Bund, Kobe, committed suicide by hanging himself. The unfortunate man's name is J. Spence, and it appears that he has been drinking very heavily for the last six weeks. After tiffin yesterday he said he would go and lie down, and proceeding upstairs must have immediately tied a rope round his neck, and making it fast to the top of the iron bedstead-post appears to have deliberately strangled himself, as the cord was not strong enough to bear his full weight. His wife went upstairs shortly afterwards, and discovering the position of her husband at once gave the alarm, and he was cut down with as little delay as possible. The heart had stopped beating, however, and life was quite extinct. Spence came out here about two years ago in the unfortunate *Marquis of Lorne*, of which he was first mate, and we understand he held a master's certificate and was at one time in command of a steamer running between British ports and Hamburg. He was about sixty-four years of age, and, though very grey, a strong-looking, vigorous man.

UNITED KINGDOM FREIGHTS TO CHINA AND JAPAN.

There is a talk, says a London paper, of the merchants in the China and Japan trades holding a meeting to consider the best mode of dealing with the difficulty in which they are placed by the action of the Confederate lines engaged in those trades. According to the latest Conference circular, shipments from the United Kingdom to the East except by the Conference boats are practically impossible. As merchants are free to buy where they please, and, as in the matter of railway material and machinery of all kinds, their requirements can be met as well on the Continent as at home, with the further advantage of free freightage from the Continent, it is to be feared that a good deal of trade may be diverted from our own manufacturers. The last circular differs from those hitherto issued in that, while the former ones dealt specifically with shipments from the Thames, Mersey, and Clyde, the present one embraces every port and creek in the United Kingdom. This measure is no doubt aimed at the German lines to whose action we recently referred, but coupled with the recent coal troubles it is likely to produce more far-reaching results.

THE "YOMIURI SHIMBUN."

Our friend the *Yomiuri* is standing a little on its dignity. It appears that at a meeting of journalists held last summer, its representative spoke of the bad habit which some of the metropolitan men have got into of consorting with actors and story-tellers, and receiving presents from them which do not differ very much from bribes. He also succeeded in passing a resolution that in future the meetings of journalists should be "dignified and pure," and that there should be no connection there with actors and story-tellers. But, alas for journalistic resolutions, a convivial meeting of journalists was held the other day, and the representative of the *Yomiuri* was not invited. Can it have been that the journalists of Tokyo, who, after all, are but men, preferred the company of actors and story-tellers to that of their confrère from the *Yomiuri*? Well, moral reformers are generally left in the cold for a bit; and after all, we expect that the actors and story-tellers are rather good company—just the sort you want when you wish to unbend.

A STEAMER MISSING.

The *Koryo Maru*, a steamer of 850 tons register, owned by Mr. Sugita Denyemon of Takaoka in Etchu, and commanded by Mr. Oka Kinjiro, left Otaru on the 23rd ultimo, with 10 passengers, 900 tons of coal and various articles of cargo, 250 tons of coal for steaming purposes, and a crew of 44, all told. The following morning a severe gale set in, and nothing has since been heard of the vessel. A telegram to the proprietor from his Otaru agent said that the steamer had probably encountered the storm in the neighbourhood of the island of Okushiri, but that search made for her in that vicinity had revealed nothing. Even supposing that no accident had occurred to her hull or machinery, much anxiety is felt for the 54 persons on board, inasmuch as her supply of provisions was small and the cold must have been intense. The proprietor therefore applied to the Naval Authorities at Yokosuka to have a man-of-war despatched to look for the missing vessel. His request was entertained, and the *Hiyeishi Kan* having been ordered, on the 6th instant, to undertake the

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duty, sailed from Yokosuka on the 9th. Men-of-war, adds the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, were sent to search for the *Unebi Kan* and for the Kii fishermen, but this is the first time that one has been ordered to sea on account of a merchant vessel.

A BRANCH EXCHANGE IN YOKOHAMA.

An application was made to the Authorities on the 8th instant for permission to establish a branch Exchange in Yokohama. The staples to be dealt in are cotton, cotton yarn, and gold articles; the name of the exchange will be *Yokohama Boyeki Shôhin Torihiki-jo*, which means Yokohama Exchange for articles of merchandise; the place chosen is No. 11, of the first ward of Minami Nakadori; and the capital is to be fifty thousand *yen* in a thousand shares of 50 *yen* each, that sum being apportioned thus:—

Security Money	12,000 *yen*.
Warehouse Capital	14,000 ,,
Cost of ground and building	2,000 ,,
Cost of furniture	1,000 ,,
Business Capital	20,000 ,,

The promoters, of whom there are 75, have applied for a ten years' charter. In the cotton yarn section there are 22 persons, headed by Mr. Kimura Riyemon; in the raw cotton section, 26, headed by Mr. Takahashi Sobei, and in the gold articles section, 27, headed by Mr. Watanabe Teijiro. Each of the promoters is to take 50 shares, and each of the supporters 20, the remaining 500 being offered to the general public. These 500 shares were offered on the 8th instant, and were immediately found to be in great demand, tenders being received at 10 to 20 per cent. above the face value. Considering the immense dividends paid by Exchanges in Japan, these offers seem small, but the *Jiyu*, from which we take the above facts, speaks of them with enthusiasm.

THE "KORYO MARU" MISSING.

The *Nichi Nichi* reports that a steamer, named the *Koryo Maru* (850 tons), owned by Sugeno Denjiro, of Takata, which left Otaru on the 23rd ult. with ten passengers and a cargo of nine hundred tons of coal for Fushiki, is long overdue. A telegraphic message from Otaru to the owner of the steamer reports that a strong southerly gale ravaged the district on the 24th, and continued to blow until the 26th. The *Koryo* is supposed to have been overtaken by the gale near Okujiri-jima. The *Koryo* was not seen by any of the coasting steamers after her departure. Her owner has asked the Yokosuka Admiralty Station to despatch a man-of-war in search for the missing vessel. The *Musashi Kan* was to leave Yokosuka on the 9th at 8 a.m. for this purpose.

A POINT ON MARINE INSURANCE.

As the paper was going to press last week, says *Fairplay*, the news arrived of the stranding at Honolulu of the *Miowera*, the pioneer boat of the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company in the new trade recently opened between Australia and Vancouver, and the casualty was briefly notified. The steamer was valued at £70,000, and insured for that amount direct with the Alliance Marine Company at £5 per cent. per annum. The Alliance Company, of course, re-insured most of this sum, retaining on the risk its full line for first-class business, namely, £5,000. The policy was renewed before the news of the casualty reached this country. The insurance was placed this time with other underwriters (largely at Lloyd's), and at a half per cent. less than last year, say, at 90s. per cent. If a total loss becomes claimable on the last year's policy, as it probably will, the new insurance will not attach, and the premium if paid will of course have to be returned. We mention this for the instruction of a contemporary which seems to be rather fogged in the matter. Our contemporary, in trying to bring itself up to date—after receiving a correction from a correspondent—admits that if the steamer becomes a total loss on last year's policy the renewal premium will be returnable, but points out that in this event there might be a loss of interest on the money, *plus* the "trouble" of collecting the return. But what about the other side of the story? If the owner had not renewed the insurance, and the steamer had been lost say a day after the expiry of last year's policy, he would no doubt be saved the "trouble" of collecting returnable premium; but then he would be in for the much greater "trouble" of collecting £70,000—with no underwriters to collect it from. —So far as the *Miowera* is concerned she is probably by this time a tight and sound ship.

PRODUCTION OF SILVER AND GOLD IN 1892.

We take from *Bradstreet's*:—

The production of silver exceeded that of gold during the calender year 1892, the production of silver having been valued at $196,458,800 and that of gold at $138,861,000, according to the report of the Director of the Mint. On the other hand, according to the same authority, the coinage of gold exceeded that of silver, the gold coinage for the calender year being put at $167,917,337 and that of silver at $143,096,239. The value of the coinage executed at the United States mints during the fiscal year was: Gold, $30,038,140; silver dollars, $5,343,715; subsidiary silver coin, $7,217,221; minor coin, $1,086,102; total $43,685,178. The number of pieces coined was 97,280,875. The amount of gold and silver used in the United States in industrial arts during the calender year 1892 is estimated to have been: Gold, $16,916,408; silver, $9,106,540. The value of the gold bars furnished by the mints and assay offices for use in the industrial arts was $8,716,27. The imports of gold during the year were $22,069,380. Of this sum $6,074,899 was United States gold coin. The exports of gold during the year were:—Domestic coin and bullion, $102,137,537; foreign coin and bullion, $6,629,298; total $108,966,835. The imports of silver during the year were $34,293,999. The exports were:—Domestic silver, $24,625,409; foreign silver, $17,322,403; total, $41,947,812.

FOOTBALL.

At last the approaching interport football match with Kobe appears to be attracting the attention of local players and arousing their dormant energies. It is about time, especially as the Southern men have been busily engaged in practice for some little time. On Wednesday a pick-up game was played, ten aside, on the Y. C. and A. C. ground, the teams being Captained by Messrs. Pearson and Lias respectively. There is evidently plenty of material to chose a good representative eleven from in Yokohama, but Pearson will find his work cut out to lick them into decent shape. The play on Wednesday brought out both good and bad points in various men engaged, and it would be premature to criticise severely upon the afternoon's showing. Still one or two things might be profitably pointed out now. Football is most essentially a game for combination—without conbination the best selected team will go to the wall—yet this very quality was conspicuous by its absence on Wednesday, individualism being rampant. Brilliant personal play will always win *kudos* from the crowd, but the captain of a team would much rather have a sure and steady player, one who plays well in combination and passes judiciously and freely to the other men, than an erratic "star," whose principal feature is independency. The game on Wednesday resulted in a draw, each side obtaining a goal, Fardell and Mair being the scorers. Anotner match is being arranged for Saturday. The following were the teams:—Pearson's side: Goal, Tate; backs, C. W. Arnould, E. R. Morriss; half-backs, Hood, H. S Goddard; right wing, Mair, Libeaud; centre, P. Morriss; left wing, Pearson, Cornes. Lias' side: Goal, Kenyon; backs, Lias, Fenton; half-backs Ince, Hoff; forwards, A. Cabeldu, Sasaki, Abbey, W. Goddard.

MR. E. W. BROOKE'S STUDIES IN OIL.

A private view of some twenty-three studies in oil, by Mr. E. W. Brooke, was held on Thursday at his residence, No. 70, Bluff, and will be continued to-day. The opportunity of seeing some really clever painting was taken full advantage of by the artist's many friends, and warm encomiums were showered upon his work during the day. Some of the pictures exhibited have had the honour of being hung in the *Salon* at Paris, and this success is undoubtedly due to their high merit. One of the choicest pieces for effect, to our way of thinking, was No. 3. "Early Moonlight Scene," which depicts a dainty spot near Etaples, France. But the foreign subjects were all pleasing in tone and feeling, their colour schemes being well considered, while the technique displayed was of a high order. The study No. 4, "Notre Dame by Night," a Whistlerian *nocturne* in sombre shades, is a very striking example of Mr. Brooke's versatility, and this has found a local purchaser. The Japanese pieces were very taking in their fresh, breezy brightness but the wealth of colour in some is, if anything, a little too generously bestowed.

THE QUESTION OF THE MOUNTED ESCORT.

The inflammatory writing based by one of our local contemporaries on the already discredited canard of the *Shin-Choya* newspaper—the canard that a mounted escort had been provided for the Foreign Representatives when visiting the Palace on the 5th instant—has produced its effect in Kobe. One of the journals of that port, the *Kobe Herald*, has an article on the subject, not, indeed, endorsing by any means the hysterical hyperbole of its Yokohama *confrère*, but nevertheless treating the matter seriously, and sapiently concluding that "if the Government is weak and incapable of withstanding Mr. Abei and his admiring band, it is either weak and incapable for a purpose, or its individual members have suddenly undergone a most remarkable transformation." We do not know which is the more entertaining, the Yokohama newspaper's inference that the Cabinet must have been "terrified" because it furnished an escort for the Ministers, or the Kobe critic's exceedingly wise deduction that the provision of an escort was a wily design to mislead foreign Governments as to the dimensions of the agitation for Treaty Revision. One would imagine that the guarding of a Minister was an unheard of thing in Western countries, and that a step so extraordinary justified all kinds of apprehensions and suspicions. But in point of fact it is an every day occurrence. Quite recently Mr. Gladstone himself had a police escort wherever he went, and his house was continually watched by constables, yet no English journalist was so silly as to suggest that the British Cabinet was "terrified," or that the Liberal Government had adopted this special protective measure for the purpose of throwing dust in the eyes of the public. No sooner, however, do the Japanese Authorities take an unusual step than local wise-acres shake sagacious heads and talk with bated breath as if the world had never seen anything of the kind before.

* * *

In almost every community there are light-headed people whom political agitation may at any time drive into a condition of almost irresponsible mania. Tsuda Sanzo, the would-be assassin of the Czarevitch, was such a person. Journalistic writing about the menacing attitude of Russia and the unwisdom of trustful relations with her, had stirred in his breast the insane phantasy that one man's right arm might solve the situation. Japan, we believe, is specially likely to furnish dangerous fanatics of that type because of the hereditary conviction among her people that death, voluntarily encountered, warrants any act. We should not be in the least surprised did the Government think it advisable at any moment to adopt exceptional measures for securing the safety of the Foreign Representatives during this season of political agitation about questions of foreign policy, neither should we dream of drawing any large inferences from such a precaution. One or two headstrong *soshi* might easily work a mischief most injurious to the country's reputation, and if steps were taken to avert any such contingency, it would be worthy of the feather-brained *soshi* themselves to conclude either that the Cabinet was "terrified" or that it harboured the deep design of throwing dust in the eyes of Europe and America.

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However, the mounted escort was all a myth, as we explained from the outset. But how curious is the perplexity that this affair has caused. We have seen what its effects were in Yokohama, and we now find a Kobe journal,

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having in the first place sneered at the sins of omission and commission perpetrated by its Yokohama contemporaries, proceeding, in the second, to declare, with regard to the escort story as recounted by the *Japan Gazette*, that "nothing had been said to this effect in other Yokohama journals," whereas, in point of fact, the story had been told, with an emphatic denial appended, by the *Japan Mail* several hours before its resuscitation in the columns of the *Gazette*. But these things are of small importance.

FROM BAD TO WORSE.

DESPITE various rumours indicating at least a state of considerable restlessness, the House of Peers took no active part last session in the burning questions between the Government and the House of Representatives. But if we may rely on information published by the *Kokkai*, the comparative quiescence of the Peers will not be permanent. Our contemporary alleges that Princes Konoye, Nijo, and Shimazu, have had a secret meeting with the leaders of the *Domei* Club, and in conjunction with the latter, have arrived at a decision very hostile to the Government. The explanation which we are given of their contention is very vague, but apparently they condemn the Government for not obtaining fuller information about the treaty-enforcement movement, before making it a pretext for dissolving the House of Representatives. Such procedure, they declare, so far from being calculated to assert the policy of progress belonging to the *Meiji* era, was injurious to it. Hence the *Domei* Club in the Lower House, and these great nobles in the Upper, will simultaneously attack the Government next session on the subject of foreign policy.

* * *

The *Kokkai's* analysis of the three Princes' purpose does not seem worthy of entire confidence. It may, indeed, be taken for granted that the bone of contention between the Cabinet and the Opposition will be foreign policy in the next session of the Diet. But the Peers have always hitherto maintained an attitude of proper reticence towards that delicate topic, and we can not easily anticipate an alliance for practical parliamentary purposes between Princes Konoye, Shimazu, and Nijo, and Messrs. Suzuki, Kawashima, and Kusumoto.

COUNT ITO AND COUNT YAMAGATA AT OISO.

THE *Chu-o Shimbun* publishes an account of interviews which its editor-in-chief, Mr. Ooka Ikuzo, had with Count Ito and Count Yamagata at Oiso. On the evening of the 2nd instant, Mr. Ooka, after finishing the New Year's meeting of his party at the Kogetsu restaurant, Shimbashi, went down to Oiso and at once visited Count Yamagata at his villa. The Count was engaged in a game of *go* with Mr. Mizuno, Chief Secretary of the House of Representatives. After finishing the game, he turned to his new visitor and said :—

"I am told that you are now advocating anti foreign opinions under the disguise of the so-called doctrine of strict enforcement of treaties. Is it your object to close the country for foreign intercourse?"

Mr. Ooka had much to say on the subject of treaty enforcement; but before explaining his position on that question, he wished to ask the Count's views about the Memorial which he, in his capacity of President of the Privy Council, had presented to the Emperor on the subject of official discipline. In that Memorial the Privy Council admitted, in one place, relaxation of discipline in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, but in another place it declared that the relaxation of discipline in that Department was a trifling matter for which it would be unwise to introduce any change in the Ministers of State. Was it not contradictory? The President of the Privy Council is said to have replied as follows :—

"It seems that not a few persons have been puzzled about passages in the Memorial in which the relaxation of discipline in the *Noshō-musho* was stated to be a trifling matter. Evidently they have not read the document with due care. It was plainly stated in it that the relaxation of official discipline in that Department had been proved by the facts elicited in the course of an open trial in a Court of law? The Minister of that Department must of course be held responsible for such a state of affairs. But the Privy Council is bound to be cautious and considerate in its language toward the Emperor, and is not allowed to indulge in the unrestrained comments of irresponsible persons. The appointment and dismissal of Ministers of State belong to the prerogatives of the Emperor, and the Privy Council cannot demand the removal of any of them. However, the object of the memorial in question was not to advise His Majesty to retain in office the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce."

The Count then went on to explain that the Privy Council's meaning in advising the Emperor not to remove the pillar of the State on account of a trifling affair, was that the Minister President of State should not be removed on account of such a comparatively small matter, and not that the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce should be allowed to remain in office. We (*Japan Mail*) are not in a position to say whether this account of the conversation is correct or not. If it is trustworthy, as it appears to be, then the expression "any of the pillars of the State" in our translation of the document ought to have been "the pillar of the State," since it refers simply to the Minister President of State. It is no wonder that the mistake—if it is a mistake—has been made in the translation, seeing that the passage has been read by the Japanese public in the sense in which we rendered it.

* * *

On the following morning, Mr. Ooka, accompanied by Mr. Mizuno, called on Count Ito, who had gone down to Oiso on the preceding day with his family. After the usual salutations, the Premier asked Mr. Ooka :—

"Will there be a change of policy in the National Unionist Party?"

"No," answered Mr. Ooka, "there may be some changes in the representatives of our party in the new Diet; but as to policy, there will not be the slightest change."

"Not even with regard to the question of strict enforcement of treaties?"

"Our party's policy on that question will, if possible, become stronger than before. Nothing could be more incomprehensible than that the Government should oppose the doctrine of strict enforcement. Early last year, Mr. Mutsu caused the Radical Party to pass an Address to the Throne on the subject of Treaty Revision. Now his opponents are going to pass a Representation on strict enforcement. His *jinrikisha* is thus pulled in front by the Radical party, while it is pushed from behind by the National Unionist party. No position could be more advantageous to the Government."

The Minister President of State broke into a laugh and said :—

"If would be right if the *ato oshi* were bent upon hurrying the *jinrikisha*, but what if he meant to throw down the rider?"

Mr. Ooka then proceeded to remark that the object of himself and his fellow-thinkers in advocating the doctrine of treaty enforcement, was to ascertain whether the present Cabinet had the power to guard the national rights of the country after revision of the treaties, and that they further had an eye to stimulating the self-respect and patriotism of their countrymen. Count Ito replied as follows :—

"You and your fellow-thinkers know how to advance arguments which at first sight appear plausible enough. But you do not seem to pay attention to the actual state of affairs. Among the supporters of the doctrine of strict enforcement, there may be men of enlightened views, but it must not be forgotten that there are many who are at heart opposed to the opening of the country for Mixed Residence. It may even be stated that the principal stronghold of the present agitation is in a class of ultra-conservatives, who are imbued with something of the old anti-foreign spirit. Under such circumstances, the only result of the movement will be to revive the *jō-i* spirit of pre-Restoration days. The Government is not afraid of the arguments of intelligent men, but consideration must be had to the ultimate and far-reaching consequences of the movement."

The Count is said to have gone on to allude to the probable consequences of the movement upon the foreign trade of the country and upon the feelings of foreign nations toward Japan. After further remarks on some delicate diplomatic topics, the Premier is reported to have sternly declared as follows :—

"No doubt you have reason for your conduct. But you ought to know that at the time of the Restoration the Emperor solemnly adopted the progressive policy of opening the country, and that that policy has been pursued by His Majesty's Government to the utmost of its capacity. It is our intention not to allow the slightest interference with this great policy of the Empire."

The conversation then turned on the subject of the Cabinet's relations with political parties, and the Count is said to have expressed his ideas as to the amendment of the Law of Election. The account of the Count's remarks on these subjects is reserved for another opportunity.

THE MATSUDAIRA AFFAIR.

FURTHER particulars are published about the extraordinary abduction case of Viscount Matsudaira, to which allusion has already been made more than once in these columns. It appears that after carrying off the Viscount from the Shimabara spa on a plea of reorganizing his household affairs, more than sixty of his retainers took charge of his person, seven or eight being constantly on guard. Access to the prisoner was denied to all comers, and a complete check was imposed upon his freedom of correspondence. Thus closely confined and shut off from the outer world, the Viscount was required to consent to the changes proposed by his captors. Having no choice, he agreed to their demands, and gave them a letter empowering them to carry out, in his name, all the reforms contemplated by them. Armed with this letter, eight of them proceeded to Tokyo, and repairing to the residence of the Viscount's son, informed him that they came under his father's authority to make certain changes in his household. As for the letter, however, though it was addressed to the Viscount's son, they declined to deliver it to him except in the presence of the principal relatives of the family. Against this singular decision Marquis Tokugawa, of Mito, and Marquis Ikeda, near relatives of the Viscount, protested, and Viscount Matsudaira himself telegraphed from Shimabara instructing the holders of the letter to deliver it, but they obstinately refused to do so. Finally the young Viscount, Tadatake, decided to submit the case to a court of law, and on the 6th instant he instituted a suit, through his counsel, Messrs. Tsunoda Shimpei and Misaki Kamenosuke, against the eight retainers who possessed the letter, charging them with illegally detaining his father. In order to prevent the escape of the accused, the proceedings were conducted in the most secret manner, not even the members of the Viscount's family being informed of what was in hand. The eight retainers, however, managed to obtain news of the threatened storm, and on the very next day after the suit had been brought, they took their departure by train from Tokyo, effectually concealing their destination. It is a a strange affair, and probably its strangest features are not known to the public.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE ELECTIONS.

NATURALLY various constructions have been placed on the action of the Government in summoning the chief local officials to the capital for the purpose of giving them directions about the impending elections. Those whose *métier* is to slander the Ministers of the Crown do not hesitate to allege that these officials are to be secretly instructed to employ all their strength in the cause of pro-Government candidates, and that a species of intimidation more adroit but not less cogent than that said to have been resorted to in 1892, will be employed next month. Nobody can sincerely believe anything of the kind about the Ito Cabinet. If the country can reasonably hope to enjoy immunity from such abuses under any statesmen, it is under the statesmen now in power. The News Agency reports that the object of summoning the officials to Tokyo is to instruct them with reference to the strict preservation of public peace and good order during the impending struggle, and

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to impress upon them the absolute necessity of securing electoral freedom by preventing everything in the shape of intimidation or corrupt practices. The Minister of State for Home Affairs will instruct the Local Governors and Chiefs of Police in the above sense; the Minister of State for Justice will do the same by the Judges and Public Procurators, and the Minister of State for War will issue orders to the Captains of Gendarmerie.

NURSERY POLITICS.

JAPANESE politicians sometimes show a spirit of playfulness that makes us doubt whether they are ever to be taken quite seriously. Take, for example, Mr. Nakamura Yaroku. He is a Radical of note and has often played a prominent part in the House of Representatives. During the last general elections he allowed himself to be betrayed, in the course of a speech at the hustings, into language so violent that the police arrested him and instituted a prosecution for defamation of officials. Of course Mr. Nakamura had no difficulty in getting out on bail. By paying a sum of ten *yen* into Court he obtained his freedom, and the Judges subsequently decided that there was no case against him. The ten *yen* deposited by way of bail ought then to have been claimed by him, but pressure of business or some other reason perhaps equally insufficient made him neglect to apply for the money, and it lay unemployed in the hands of the Court officials. The other day, however, he received a communication from the Court, reminding him that the sum of ten *yen* was held to his credit, and that application should be made for its restitution. Mr. Nakamura's reply was that being on the eve of appearing once more at the polls, he thought it not unlikely that his language might again involve him in trouble, and he therefore begged the Court to retain the ten *yen* so that bail for his release if re-arrested might be always on hand. Mr. Nakamura Yaroku ought to be presented with a rattle and a tooth-cutter. He is a refreshing politician.

THE TOKYO POSTAL SERVICE.

A COMPLAINT is preferred by the *Shogyo Shimpo* about postal irregularities. Frank admission is made of the difficulties that the Post Office Authorities must experience owing to the Diet's refusal, year after year, to grant any additional funds on account of increased postal expenditure, but our contemporary nevertheless holds that the service might be much better performed than it is. An example is given. A friend of one of the staff of the *Shogyo* dropped a letter into a pillar box in Ginza, Tokyo, at 8 p.m. on the 4th instant. It was addressed to a person residing in Takanawa, a suburb of the same city, yet it was not delivered until 26 hours after the time of mailing. Considering that letters to citizens in the ward of posting are generally delivered within an hour, and a letter to a different ward, within three hours, a delay of more than a day and a night is quite inexcusable. It is evident that the Post Office is compelled to employ inconvenient economy, for although the number of letters posted in the capital during the first few days of the present year greatly exceeded the number posted on the same days last year, the assistants usually procured for purposes of special delivery at that season, had to be dispensed with this year. Still the delay recorded by the *Shogyo Shimpo* is too great to be condoned.

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We must confess that our own experience of the transmission of letters between Tokyo and Yokohama is not re-assuring. This very day of writing, a letter addressed to Yokohama and posted in Tokyo at 11 a.m. did not reach its destination till the following morning. That rate of progress is not particularly slow as things go in Tokyo, but it is far too slow for any well-organized postal service.

THE DERIVATION OF THE WORD "HEARSE."

THE origin of a word is frequently very remote from the sense now attaching to it. "Hearse" is a remarkable example. It comes from *Hirpex*, a kind of rake or harrow, the exact shape of which is not at present known. "The first ecclesiastical use of the word hearse," we read in the *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, "is probably due to France. It signifies a triangular frame of wood, which was suspended by a cord from the roof of the Church. It seems to have been in the form of a harrow, but at the points where the bars crossed each other, there were sockets, in which to insert candles. These hearses soon gave way, except, perhaps, in very poor churches, to chandeliers of metal; but the hearse changed only its position. It was taken down from above head, and mounted on a stand or post, and used in the service of *Tenebrae*. When the people had got accustomed to connect the word, hearse, with a frame for holding candles, it was but a very short step to the next meaning. When England was Catholic, at all funerals the body was carried into the Church and was placed near, or at least, in sight of the altar. Over the body a light frame of wood-work was placed, on which the pall was supported. To these frames, the word hearse, soon became applied. It is noteworthy, that in the contract for making the hearse for Richard, Earl of Warwick, it is spoken of as a hearse, showing that before the middle of the Fifteenth Century, hearse had become the recognized term for these objects. The next departure was to apply the word, hearse, to a temporary canopy of timber decorated with a profusion of tapers, and draped with hangings and religious and heraldic banners, which were placed over the body during the funeral rites. When a body had to be carried a long distance, it was the custom to erect a hearse of this kind in every church wherein it rested for the night. That stationary hearses were in use at the funerals of the gentry as late as 1681, is proved by a sermon preached that year by a minister of the Established Church at the burial of Sir Alan Broderick. The funeral-car originally differed but little from these stationary hearses, except that it was on wheels, and was smaller."

THE FIRST BLOODSHED IN THE ELECTION.

WE regret to say that the first deed of violence connected with the approaching elections has to be placed to the discredit of the *Jiyu to*. A telegram despatched by the local Chief of Police from Utsunomiya at 4.41 on the 10th inst. says that the struggle between the rival candidates Messrs. Hoshi Toru and Yokobori Sanshi has created so much excitement that one of the partisans of the latter has been cut down by a supporter of the former. The message does not say whether the injury is fatal. Mr. Yokobori is a manager of the *Dai Nippon Kyokai*, which association, as our readers should be well aware, has its *raison d'être* in opposition to Mixed Residence. Mr. Hoshi Toru, on the contrary, is the recognized leader of progressive ideas in Japan. It has therefore been expected from the first that the contest between the two would develope exceptionally acute phases. It is none the less a pity that the *Jiyu-to* should have allowed themselves to be betrayed in the first recourse to rowdiness.

A TOO-EXTENDED CIRLE OF ACQUAINTANCES.

NATIVE advices from Ningpo to the *N.-C. Daily News*, relate the alleged unwarrantable conduct of the district magistrate of Yūyao (Shaoshing) who gave a young native doctor belonging to the American Mission in that city, 200 blows of the bamboo in the streets on the 16th of December. It seemed that a robbery had been committed in a silk-thread shop the night before, and the city magistrate, Chow Ping-lin, came to investigate and examine the scene of the robbery. Of course a large crowd collected at the door of the shop on the occasion, and among the lookers-on was this young native Christian. Naturally his profession, which is also considered in China an honourable one, had given him the chance of a large circle of acquaintances, many of whom were present, and who of course greeted him in a cordial manner, bowing and saluting in a way that raised the suspicions of the district magistrate who considered this popularity a bad sign for so young a man. So without more ado, he called the young doctor to his sedan-chair, told him that "he could not be a very good character to know so many of the middle and lower classes, and for this he would give him a slight reminder to keep more to his own affairs by laying 200 blows on the calves of his legs." No one of the many people present dared to say a word on the young man's behalf, and he received the 200 blows of the bamboo for nothing at all. The case has been brought to the notice of the American Consul at Ningpo, who, continues the despatch, immediately asked for explanations from the Ningpo Taotai. The latter has promised to examine the matter and give proper satisfaction if necessary.

THE TRUTH AT LAST.

THE true cause of the dissolution of the Diet has been discovered by a seer who communicated his ideas but not his name to the *Shin Choya Shimbun*. It appears that Count Ito shortly before the New Year purchased from a curio dealer a screen on which is painted a persimmon tree furnishing a perch for some crows pecking at the fruit. In view of the indisputable fact that fruit must fall at some time or other, especially if assisted by birds, the ingenious interpreter asserts that the Premier, while looking at the picture, was inspired with the novel idea of a dissolution of the Diet, which, in fact, occurred shortly after his purchase of the screen. This matter should be inquired into next session, if it be the fact that the Count actually compared the Diet to crows, even in thought.

ARREST OF A DEPORTEE.

ON Sunday afternoon last Mr. W. G. Lake was arrested by the U.S. Marshal, on a warrant issued by the Consul, and is now imprisoned in the Japanese jail at Shin-Daiku-machi. The reason for Mr. Lake's arrest was the fact of his refusing to leave the country when called upon to do so. As our readers are aware Mr. Lake was deported from Japan some twenty-three years ago, at the instance of the Japanese Government. Since then he has returned on two occasions, once some fifteen years ago, and again last summer. We have no recollection of any trouble in connection with his first visit; but shortly after his arrival here the second time he had occasion to bring a case into the Consulate. In delivering judgment the judge of the Court, under instructions from the Consul-General in Yokohama, officially notified him of the fact that he had no right in Japan, and must make immediate preparations for leaving. Eventually, by arrangement with the Local Government, he was allowed until the end of last year to settle up his affairs. Within the past few weeks several civil suits have been instituted against him, judgment in which had to be given by default, as he persistently refused to recognise the authority of the Consul. Previous to being arrested, he was given the option of taking passage either to San Francisco in the *China* or to Shanghai in the *Saikio Maru*, but positively refused both offers. He will now have to remain in jail pending the arrival of the steamer *Peru*, on the 17th inst., by which vessel he will be sent to San Francisco. His business as a compradore and storekeeper, which during his absence was managed by his brother, Mr. E. Lake, is closed, and the premises and property have been taken charge of by the Consulate.—*Nagasaki Express*.

THE DISPUTE IN THE SŌDŌ SECT.

THIS dispute, to which we referred a few weeks ago, is by no means settled. The Head Priest of the Noto Centre has been asked indirectly by the Home Office to resign, as being the offending party, and he has quietly done so, retiring to his home in Shinano. But his subordinates have proved to be more intractable. They have not only refused to hand over to the new Head Priest, who is also Head Priest of Echizen, the management of the Noto Centre, but have also kept in their own hands the control of the Branch office of their sect in Shiba Park, Tokyo. Nothing has yet been heard from the party of priests who were despatched to Noto to negotiate the transfer of that diocese; and several influentiai priests of the old régime

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have instituted legal proceedings against the Ecclesiastical Bureau of the Sōdō sect, and also against the Bishop of Echizen for intruding into the affairs of the Noto jurisdiction. The Ecclesiastical Bureau of the Home Office, however, intend to carry out their arrangements strictly in accordance with the provisions of the law, and to punish the offenders if they are found guilty of illegally refusing to surrender their trusts. The above is taken from the *Jiji Shimpo*.

AMERICA'S FIGHT FOR COMMERCIAL SUPREMACY

MR. J. A. PROCTOR writing in the *Forum* for November, gives a most interesting account of America's commercial prospects as a rival of Great Britain. The essay has been condensed for a home journal from which we reproduce it:—

Of all the coal mined in the world, from the beginning of this century to the present time, Great Britain has produced quite one-half. In 1891, she mined thirty six per cent. of the world's product, while the United States produced thirty-three per cent. This country is increasing its output of coal at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, while the increase in Great Britain is less than two per cent. The cost of coal is increasing in Great Britain and decreasing in this country. England exports thirty-one per cent. of her total product of coal, while this country exports less than one per cent. of its product.

Great Britain has for many years led all other countries in pig-iron, until of late years, more than one-half of all the pig-iron producing made in the world. Great Britain reached her maximum of output in 1882, and this country has doubled its production since that time, now producing more steel and iron than its competitor. In 1867, Great Britain produced fifty-two per cent. of all the iron made in the world, and the United States produced only fourteen per cent. In 1891, the United States turned out thirty-four per cent., and Great Britain only thirty per cent. of the world's product. England will probably for a long time retain her hold upon the textile industy, which now furnishes about one-half the total value of her exports, notwithstanding that the principal fibres cotton, wool, and jute, must be imported from distant lands. Great Britain has now about one-half of all the cotton spindles in the world, while the United States has only one-sixth, and these two countries show about the same rate of increase in this industry for the last ten years. As this country now produces eighty per cent. of all the cotton grown in the world, and has cheaper power, and as it is estimated that the cost for labour per yard of product is less in this country than in Great Britain, it is evident that, with a change in our foreign commercial policy, and with the improvement in our shipping and trade facilities incident thereto, we shall compete with that country in supplying the world's growing demands for machine-made cotton-fabrics. The capacity of the Southern States for cotton-production is equal to any demands that the world may make. The production increased from three million bales in 1870 to nine million bales in 1890; out of all proportion to the increase of population in these States for the same time. The production of raw cotton is not increasing elsewhere.

The production of grain in this country is increasing more than twice as fast as the increase in population. We already produce breadstuffs enough to feed nearly double our population, with only a small fraction of our arable lands in cultivation. Hitherto, the capacity for consumption in this country has kept ahead of our manufacturing capacity, because half a million immigrants have come to our shores and settled upon our unoccupied lands, and have been for a time consumers and not producers. But a change has come. We cannot expect the same stream of immigration. Factories spring up in the South and West to compete with those in the older States, and the time has arrived when we must look abroad for markets for the surplus products of the inventive and industrious people who have occupied this land. These people have at last realized the folly of Protection, and have demanded, with no uncertain voice, that the tariff be placed on a strictly-revenue basis. They will probably soon learn that the interests of the manufacturer as well as the interests of the entire people will be best served by a policy steadily advancing to absolute freedom of exchange.

The reduction of our Tariff unaccompanied by corresponding measures to promote our foreign commerce, may, because of the rapidly-increasing productive capacity of this Nation, produce congestion, and, at least, temporary disaster. Our principal rival has certain advantages, not easily to be overcome; her long established trade-relations with all parts of the world; her trained and efficient Consular service; her national Board of Trade, working in harmony with local boards and with her Consular service and foreign merchants; her stable and consistent financial policy; her great superiority in merchant marine. The fact that Liverpool is nearer, by way of Cape Horn, to all parts of the Pacific than New York is, and also the use of the Suez Canal, give England control of the commerce of Asia. Of the 12,2[illegible] tons of freight passing through the Canal in 1891, more than seventy-seven per cent. was in English vessels.

What can we do to equalize the above-enumerated advantages possessed by our commercial rival? The construction of a ship canal uniting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, would place New York 2,740 miles, and New Orleans, 3,480 miles nearer the ports of the Pacific than Liverpool, they would also be nearer to Sydney, Auckland, and Yokohama. The cost of this work, the completion of which would make this country the workshop and clearing house of the world, would be less than the amount we spend annually for pensions, some of which is expended in a manner calculated to sap the manhood of our people. The people of this country are opposed to England's policy of liberal subsidies to her ocean steamers—a policy which has materially aided in building up her wonderful merchant marine. Yet might not the same end be reached more effectively by stipulating that, should the Government give aid to a ship-canal, this aid should carry the condition, that all ships built it this country, and agreeing to form part of our Naval Reserve, should pass through the canal free of toll? This would not only stimulate shipbuilding in this country, but would give to our ships a great advantage in the carrying trade of the Pacific.

When all these things have been done, and the fetters of our restrictive Tariff Laws removed, we shall enter the contest for industrial and commercial supremacy with the conditions greatly in our favour.

CHINESE SILVER WARE.

THE late American Consul at Amoy, in a recent trade report, writes as follows about Chinese Silver ware:—

"Silver is to the Orient what gold is to the West. To the artist, the scholar, and the collector it is the king of all the precious metals. Its popularity is not due to its cheapness. Jade, which rivals silver in public esteem is much more expensive than gold. There may be another reason for the small use of gold as an ornament by the Chinese. In designation of rank and title a gold button stands at nearly the bottom of the list. Then, on the other hand, golden yellow is the Imperial colour, and none but those around the Son of Heaven are allowed to use it for wearing and other purposes." Silver jewelry and curios in China are universal; the poorest coolie's wife has usually silver bracelets and earrings. In curios and bric-a-brac the number of silver articles is region. The greatest manufacturing centre is Canton, but Amoy, Foochow, Nanking, and Peking possess artists and guilds whose workmanship is famous all over the Empire. One class of designs consists of miniature reproductions of features of daily life and is adopted for earrings and watch charms. Among the most familiar objects are the pagoda, sampan (or native boat), junk, the sedan chair, the small-footed lady's shoe, the Goddess of Mercy, the Celestial Poodle, the King of the Fishes, the sitting Buddha, the dragon, the flying serpent, the begging priest, tiger, lion, horse, pig, buffalo, elephant turtle, monkey, cat, and dog. The largest does not exceed two inches in length, and they diminish to dainty little objects no larger than a grain of corn. The work and finish are admirable, the features and hair of the human being and animals and the scales of the fish and crocodiles being reproduced with the highest care and skill. Another class consists of imitation cordage. The metal is solid, but the surface is so cleverly wrought out that at first sight each piece seems a rope, cord, or braid. Some are as fine as sewing silk, while others are as thick as clothes-lines. The silver is alloyed with a small percentage of copper to increase its hardness and to allow the fine carving and engraving impossible in the softer substance of pure silver. These silver cords are used for bracelets, anklets necklaces, belts, sword hangings, and horses' harness. Though stiff they are not rigid, and can be bent in every direction. A third class comprises household ornaments, such as matchboxes, ash cups, joss-sticks, bowls, sandalwood urns, plates for opium pipes, button boxes, and so on without end. They are of the same general type and about the same value as those made in America and Europe. A fourth class includes filigree work and tissues made from fine silver wire, and is marked by the highest skill and beauty. It is and has been for centuries a favourite kind of work among the Chinese. There is but little doubt that Marco Polo brought specimens of it to Europe from Nanking and in this manner aided in the latter development of the guilds of Italy and France. The designs sometimes are marvellous. One from Foochow consisted of a bouquet, over which was loosely wrapped a silken veil. It was so perfectly made that the veil looked as if it might blow away at any moment. Through its flimsy folds the flowers and leaves were all visible. Another artistic gem was a little bouquet in which ferns, lilies of the valley, and similar botanical beauties were perfectly photographed in metals. In selling his goods the Chinese merchant in silver ware gives the weight of the metal, its fineness, and its value as bullion, and then as a separate item the cost of the workmanship. Thus a bill for a pair of corded bracelets was as follows:—Silver (4½ ounces 8[illegible] per cent. fine) $4.20 (Mexican), workmanship $1.[illegible]; total, $6.35 (Mexican). The first item is mathematically correct, and can be depended upon as the intrinsic value of the material used in the manufacture.

JOURNALISTIC SLANDERS.

ATTEMPTS to misrepresent the attitude of the Government in the coming general elections have already commenced. The *Hochi Shimbun*, which lays claim to respectability, sets the honourable example. It alleges that the present Cabinet, being precluded by its character from attempting interference of the nature resorted to in the last elections, has no alternative except to supply funds to its candidates [illegible]. For that purpose, our ingenuous contemporary continues, the Bank of Japan is to be required to contribute money, and some device will also be found to elude the law and sell the public camphor forest at Tachibana in Fukuoka, applying the proceeds to electioneering purposes. Are those the methods, we wonder, that would be employed by the statesmen on whose behalf the *Hochi* writes, were they in office.

THE SOAP STONE INDUSTRY OF CHINA.

H.B.M.'s CONSUL at Wenchow gives, in his last report, some interesting facts about the manufactures of steatite (soap-stone) articles in China. "The Mines," says the *Engineering and Mining Journal* epitomizing his report, "are distant 42 miles from Wenchow, and are reached by a boat journey of 35 miles up the river, followed by a land journey of seven miles over rough ground. The hills containing steatite are owned by 20 to 30 families, who, in some cases, work the mines themselves, in others, engage miners to do it on their account. The galleries are driven into the sides of the hills, and are often nearly a mile in length. The composition of the hills is soft, and the shafts require to be propped up by supports of timber; for the same reason the floors are full of mire and clay, so that the miners wear special clothing, made principally of rhea fibre. They lead a hard life, living in straw huts on the hillside. The stone when first extracted is soft, hardening on exposure to the air. It is brought out of the mine in shovels, and it is sold at the pit-mouth to the carvers at a uniform price of about ½*d.* per lb. This would be when the purchaser buys it in gross, without first selecting it in any way. When picked over, the mineral varies very considerably in value—according to the size of the lump, its shape, and, above all, its colour. The colours are given as purple red, mottled red, black, dark blue, light blue, gray, white, egg-shell white, "jade," beeswax, and "frozen." Of these "jade" (the white variety, not the green) and "frozen" are the most valuable. Indeed, so valuable is the latter that good specimens of it are said to fetch more than real jade itself. The industry finds employment at the present time for some 2,000 miners and carvers. A great impetus was given to it by the opening of Wenchow to foreign trade. Previous to that event the chief purchasers of soapstone were officials and literary men, and the article most often carved was a stamp or seal. When it was discovered that foreigners admired the stone, articles were produced to meet what was supposed to be their taste. Such were land-scapes in low or high relief, flower-vases, plates, card-trays, fruit-dishes, cups, teapots, and pagodas. If left to his own devices, the native carver proceeds first to examine his stone, much as a cameo-cutter would do, to discover how best he can take advantage of its shape and shades of colour."

THE EMPEROR AND THE PAINTER KYOSAI.

KYOSAI, one of the greatest painters Japan ever possessed, died a few years ago, poor and comparatively unknown. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that he received, shortly before his death, an order from the Emperor to paint a number of pictures, but that his last illness overtook him before the Imperial commands could be executed. The pictures were to have been in Kyosai's comic style, and after the artist's decease it was suggested to the Sovereign that he should transfer the order to some other painter skilled in work of the same nature. But His Majesty showed his benevolence by insisting that the work should be done by Kyosai's daughter, Kyoun, who studied from childhood under her father.

H.M.S. "REVENGE."

THE speed trials of H.M. battleship *Revenge*, recently delivered by Palmer's Shipbuilding Company, have been successfully completed by a four hour's run under nominal forced-draught. The results worked out as follows:—boiler pressure, 146·8 lbs.; vacuum, 28 inches starboard, 28½ inches port; revolutions 101·6 starboard, 102·3 port; i.h.p., 5,694 starboard,

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5,830 port; air pressure, 46 inches; coal consumption, 2·24 lbs. per i.h.p. per hour. The speed was taken by patent log, the recorded rate being 17½ knots, which was exactly the contract speed. As, however, on the previous trial under natural-draught the speed was 17·3 knots with only 9.177 i.h.p., it may be taken that the actual speed on this occasion with a total of 11.524 i.h.p. was really more than 17½ knots. The machinery throughout the trial worked in a satisfactory manner.

TOOLS OF THE PYRAMID BUILDERS.

"A two years' study at Gizeh," says the *American Analyst*, "has convinced Mr. Flinders Petrie that the Egyptian stone-workers of 4,000 years ago had a surprising acquaintance with what have been considered modern tools. Among the many tools used by the pyramid-builders were both solid and tubular drills and straight and circular saws. The drills, like those of to-day, were set with jewels (probably corundum, as the diamond was very scarce), and even lathe-tools had such cutting edges. So remarkable was the quality of the tubular drills and the skill of the workmen, that the cutting-marks in hard granite give no indication of wear of the tool, while a cut of a tenth of an inch was made in the hardest rock at each revolution, and a hole through both the hardest and softest material was bored perfectly smooth and uniform throughout."

THE NEW U.S. FLAGSHIP.

The U.S.S. *Baltimore*, the new flagship for the China squadron, arrived in port on Wednesday morning, and was received with the usual salutes. She is an unarmoured cruiser, of 4,413 tons displacement, length 315ft., drawing 19ft. 6 in. of water, and with engines of 10,750 indicated horse power. She has 11 guns and seven machine guns. Built in 1888, her cost is put at $210,000, and she can steam 12,000 knots when fully coaled. The following is the *Baltimore's* complement:—Captain W. R. Bridgman, commander. Executive Officer J. P. Morrel; Lieutenants Rittenhouse, Holmes, Culner, Stafford, Simpson; Ensign Hayward; Fleet-Surgeon Flint; Fleet Paymaster Smith; Fleet Engineer Stivers; Marine Officer Long, Drs. Brant and Kennedy; Assistant Engineers Dening and Day; 650 men all told, including 30 officers.

THE HORSE SENT FROM GERMANY TO THE IMPERIAL MEWS.

The Imperial Household Department has contradicted the statement recently published by the vernacular press and re-produced in these columns to the effect that two horses had been sent by the Emperor of Germany to the Emperor of Japan, and that only one of them had arrived safely. It now appears that there was no question of the Kaiser's interference in the matter. A horse has reached the Imperial Mews in Tokyo from Germany, but it was purchased and shipped (in the steamer *Nürnberg*) by H.E. Viscount Aoki, Japanese Representative in Berlin, acting on instructions from Tokyo. The animal is a stud horse.

SHOOTING ACCIDENT.

A serious shooting accident occurred on Sunday evening, the 31st December, in Hongkew, Shanghai, whereby a *jinrikisha* coolie was wounded. It appears that Mr. Palliser, a Municipal Council *employé*, went to the house of the late Mr. Barnes, to take charge of the effects of the latter, and finding a loaded revolver fired it off, as he says, on the ground, but a ricochet bullet appears to have struck the coolie below the chest on the right side. It glanced off a rib, and afterwards entered the lung. The man was taken to St. Luke's Hospital, but it has not been found possible, so far, to remove the bullet. Mr. Palliser was arrested on a charge of careless shooting and appeared at the Police Court, where he was remanded.

A NEW SWORD FOR THE EMPEROR.

We read in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that the Emperor is having the furniture of a sword made by the celebrated glyptic artists Kaga Katsushiro and Kano Natsuo. The blade belonged to the Emperor Toba, and is therefore eight hundred years old. The metals used in the furniture, guard, hilt-cap and ring, scabbard cap, and so forth, are to be gold and *shakudo*, and the decorative designs a phœnix, a dragon, and a tiger. It is a pity that these terribly hacneyed designs should occupy the talents of men like Katsushiro and Natsuo.

EARTHQUAKE IN KAGOSHIMA.

A telegram despatched from Kagoshima at 1.30 p.m. on the 5th instant, reports that a severe earthquake was experienced there during the night of the 4th instant. According to the records of the local observatory, the first shock was felt at 10h. 9m. 8s. p.m. on the 4th, and the trembling lasted for two minutes, there being in all eleven shocks. The direction of motion was east and west, and the horizontal component being great, the instruments were overturned and no accurate record of force was obtained. A statement of damage is not appended, but inasmuch as stone walls are said to have been overturned, the quake must have been very violent.

THE FINE ART EXHIBITION AT UYENO.

It is stated by the vernacular press that the President—Viscount Sano—and commissioners of the Japan Fine Arts Society have held a meeting with reference to the usual Spring Exhibition, to be opened in Uyeno Park from April 1st. The decision attributed to them is to confine the Spring Exhibition to pictures, and to make the Autumn Exhibition a general display of fine-art products. We regret the programme, for truly the paintings of modern Japanese artists are scarcely good enough to warrant an exhibition entirely on their account.

FIRE IN NAGASAKI.

After an immunity extending over some three years, says the *Nagasaki Express* of the 3rd instant, the Settlement was the scene of a disastrous fire during the early hours of Saturday the 30th ultimo. On the previous occasion the building destroyed was a grog-shop, and, strange to say, Saturday's fire also broke out in a grog-shop in the occupancy of the same party formerly burnt out. The house in question was situated on Lot No. 42-B, and was known as the "Sherman House and Bowling Saloon," the tenant being Mrs. H. Mills.

THE JAPANESE FLAG IN BEHRING SEA.

It is alleged that owners of sealing schooners have been attempting to elude the regulations enacted by agreement between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of the Behring Sea rookeries, the method adopted to escape the penalty of contravention being to register the schooners as Japanese property and hoist the Japanese flag. The *Mainichi Shimbun* is responsible for the story. It adds that the Japanese authorities have decided not to lend themselves to any such proceedings, and that instructions in that sense have been sent to the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration.

RAILWAY WORKS.

The *Asahi Shimbun* announces an intended division of labour between the Kobe and Shimbashi Railway Works, the former undertaking the construction of engines and the latter repairs. Our contemporary remarks upon the decided advance since 1884, when the practical work in this department was almost entirely in the hands of foreign employés, while at present native officials are competent to fill any position. One of the engines running between Kobe and Kyoto was completed last year, all the materials, except the pivot and shafts, having been supplied in Japan.

THE BUDDHIST LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Life Insurance Company lately organized in Kyoto in the interests of the Buddhists, held its first general meeting the other day at the Kyoritsukan, Kyoto. Viscount Kuki was elected President, but declined the office on the plea of ill-health; Mr. Uzawa Morisaburo was then asked to occupy the chair for the time being. The remaining officers were then elected and the by-laws passed. The meeting was attended by about 80 persons representing upwards of 250 shareholders. The capital of the Company is half a million *yen* in 10,000 shares of 50 *yen* each

FIRE IN A TRAIN.

According to the *Shin-Choya* newspaper, fire broke out in a carriage forming part of a train that was about to leave Shimbashi station at an unnamed hour of the 7th inst. The carriage and its contents, five tons of cotton, were destroyed, and the station was for a time a scene of great confusion. Apparently the train was bound for the northern line, as our contemporary says that its arrival at Uyeno was delayed thirty minutes by the accident—not a very great delay under the circumstances.

BREAKING THE BARRIERS.

According to a letter from a native correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* at Peking, the Empress-Dowager and the Empress were both present (behind the scenes) on the occasion of the audience granted to the Belgian Minister in the Chêng-kuang Throne-hall on the 8th ult. This is the first time that the Imperial ladies have ever seen an audience to European Ministers. There being no Chinese Secretary in the Belgian Legation, the Germany Secretary accompanied M. Loumyer on the occasion.

THE HIGASHI HONGWAN-JI DEBT.

The celebrated Higashi Hongwanji Temple of Kyoto, which has been much embarrassed of late years by its enormous debt, has made an appeal for relief to the Shin Sect, of which it is one of the chief centres; the result has been satisfactory beyond expectation, so that the largest creditor, the Mitsui Bank, has been paid, and it is confidently expected that the Temple within a very short time will be free of debt.

INSULARITY.

In its obituary notice of the late Sir Robert Morier, the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"Possibly his habit of using unnecessarily strong language helped him in a semi-barbaric court." The "semi-barbaric court" is the court of St. Petersburg. Is not that a delightful specimen of insular rudeness? We have not much difficulty in determining upon which side the "semi-barbaric" element is to be found in this particular instance.

THE "DENBIGHSHIRE" AFFAIR.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* states that the dispute arising out of the collision between the *Denbighshire* and the *Yoshinogawa Maru*, of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, was settled on the 9th inst., the latter company agreeing to pay *yen* 28,000 to the Agent of the British steamship at Kobe. The money was handed over the same day.

FIRE AT THE CHICAGO EXHIBITION.

A telegram despatched from the Japanese Commissioners' Office in Chicago at 5 25 p.m. on the 9th inst. announces that during the preceding night a fire broke out in the public recreation rooms of the Exhibition Buildings and resulted in the destruction of the Industries Hall. The Japanese exhibits were not injured.

DEATH OF AN EX-M.P.

The death is announced of Mr. Tateishi Kanshi, ex M.P. for the Fourth Election District of Nagasaki Prefecture, which took place in the capital on the 10th inst. The deceased had been suffering from typhoid fever for some time. He was sixty-seven years of age.

SAD FATALITY.

Captain McLaughlin, of the *Howard D. Troop*, overbalanced himself on the 4th inst., while looking over the stern of his vessel as she lay anchored in the Shanghai river, and was drowned. His body had not been recovered when the mail left Shanghai.

MR. SAITO.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* announces that Mr. Saito, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, was released from his post on the 8th inst. at his own request.

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THE FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES AND MOUNTED ESCORTS.

AN incident connected with the visit of the Foreign Representatives to the Palace on the 5th instant illustrates the methods of foreign journalists in this Settlement. On the day after the Imperial Reception, a Tokyo newspaper, the *Shin-Choya*, published a paragraph alleging that the Foreign Representatives, on their way to and from the Palace, had been guarded by a mounted escort attached to them at the instance of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who deemed such a precaution necessary in view of the possibility that some ignorant zealot, inflamed by the agitation for strict enforcement of the treaties, might avail himself of the opportunity to perpetrate a deed of violence. Appended to the information were certain comments in the sense that nothing of the kind had occurred since pre-Restoration days, and that the Authorities appeared to regulate their administrative measures in accordance with the spirit of by-gone times. The *Shin-Choya* is an insignificant journal. Its predecessor, the *Choya Shimbun*, occupied an important position among the newspapers of the capital, but the *Shin-Choya* (new *Choya*) ranks with the small fry of the profession, and has, moreover, during its short career, distinguished itself by some conspicuous instances of inaccuracy. Its significant piece of news naturally aroused in us a feeling of scepticism. We addressed inquiries to some of the Foreign Representatives themselves, and having learned from them that the story of the escort was an absolute myth, we contradicted the *Shin-Choya's* canard in emphatic terms. That was on Monday morning. The same evening the *Shin-Choya's* sensational item was reproduced by two local English journals. One of them simply translated it, adding a note to the effect that the statement had subsequently been contradicted. On the following evening, however, the same journal, referring again to the story, alleged that our contradiction appeared to be erroneous inasmuch as the *Shin-Choya* had not been ordered to withdraw the original account. So earnestly do some editors cling to every fragment of sensation! The positive evidence of our distinct categorical denial was held to be of less value than the negative testimony of the Government's having failed to order the withdrawal of a paragraph in a petty vernacular journal. The other English newspaper was even more enterprising. It re-produced the *Shin-Choya's* item in leaded type, under a heading in capitals "Foreign Ministers under Escort in Tokyo," and it took the tale as the text of a leading article, wherein the public was informed that by tacit confession of no lesser (*sic*) personages than the Ministers of His Imperial Japanese Majesty, Tokyo just now is in a highly inflammable state;" that "Mr. ABEI had not sworn his oath in vain, he and his old-fashioned retainers having succeeded in terrifying a Cabinet;" that "at any moment we may witness an outbreak which may result in a vast effusion of blood," and so forth and so on, the apparent purpose of the writer being to create an impression that anti-foreign feeling had developed dangerous dimensions in Japan, and that travel in the interior had assumed perilous aspects for strangers. All this, be it observed, was on the strength of a paragraph appearing in a petty vernacular newspaper, which had already been explicitly contradicted by us. Apprehending the mischief that such writing might cause, we communicated directly with the editor of the journal in question, and informed him that our contradiction had been based on information personally obtained from some of the Foreign Representatives. But even that produced little effect. Instead of inserting a frank avowal, to allay the alarm caused by his sensational writing of the day previous, he published the following inconclusive comment:—"We note that the report that the Foreign Ministers were provided with an armed escort when calling on the EMPEROR on New Year's Day, has been contradicted by certain foreign journals. It may be that they are right, but it is a curious fact that the Japanese journals (*sic*) which produced the statement have not received an official contradiction." It will be observed that the origin of the story is here transformed into "Japanese journals" in the plural, whereas originally only one journal, the *Shin-Choya*, was referred to. The inference is obvious. We are not dealing with inferences, however, but with facts. The story about the escort had vivid interest for foreigners, and by one of the two local evening journals its interest was deemed sufficient to warrant an alarmist leading article and the use of capitals and leads. But it was not deemed sufficiently interesting to warrant any inquiry. Both of the journals to which we have referred were content to remain for two days without any attempt to ascertain the correctness of information upon which they were commenting, and which one of them had made the basis of a most alarmist leading article. Is this to be interpreted as carelessness or as want of access to sources of knowledge? At all events, since the matter thus dealt with has aroused curiosity, we deem it wise to supplement our original denial by saying that we have since applied to the Foreign Office and the Chief of the Metropolitan Police for information, and have received their positive assurances that no grounds whatever exist for the *Shin-Choya's* story. The whole tale is a fabrication, and all the alarmist writing based upon it becomes mere *blague*. What cannot but be deemed amusing is that local English editors who denounce the "Japanese journals" for testing having "a genius for invention unknown to his foreign *confrère*;" who declare that "he is paid by the quantity not the quality of his paragraphs;" who proclaim that they "know veracity to be the least common of his defects," and who sedately assert, with reference to this very falsehood, that "there is likely to be quite enough excitement without the publication of such inflammatory fiction," should themselves be ready to make the uncorroborated, unverified, and already contradicted statement of a fourth-rate Japanese journal the text of a leading article wherein Tokyo is described as being in "a highly inflammable state;" the Cabinet is declared to be "terrified;" an outbreak involving "a vast effusion of blood" is spoken of as possibly imminent, and it is said that the "Foreign Ministers dare not call upon the EMPEROR except with protection such as people use in crossing the wilds of Arabia." We recall no more comical instance of *de te fabula narratur* than is furnished by an editor chiding the publication of "inflammatory fiction" in the immediate context of a still more inflammatory article published by himself on the strength of that very fiction.

FOREIGN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN JAPAN.

THE disfavour into which everything alien has fallen in Japan for the time being is telling severely against the educational institutions organized or conducted by foreigners. In the face of a natural reluctance to publish comparative statistics indicating a state of decadence, the actual condition of the various schools and colleges conducted by foreign effort, and supported, in great part, by foreign money, is not easy to describe. But it seems to be beyond question that the most successful cannot boast of more than a stationary record, while the majority have undergone a marked decline of prosperity. Among the former class we are glad to see—as indeed might have been predicted for such an exceptionally excellent institution—that the School of the Morning Star in Iidamachi, Tokyo, holds its own. The attendance is still 120, and the Faculty may now congratulate themselves that indefatigable devotion to their work has saved their beloved institution from the shock of the anti-foreign wave. We are permitted to hope that the speech delivered by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives on the 29th ult., has inspired these good men with fresh courage, by showing them, in the most unequivocal manner, the resolve of the Government to clear from the country's path of enlightened progress every factitious obstacle. Such would seem to be the case, since we learn that active steps have now been taken to continue the building of the spacious brick and stone edifices to replace the very inadequate wooden structures hitherto used for the

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purposes of the School. This certainly is a season when words of high courage and firm resolve like those spoken by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, come most opportunely to strengthen the hands of the many philanthropic men and women who, after long years of devotion and self-sacrifice to the cause of moral and scientific education in Japan, must now, however stout their hearts and firm their faith, experience a sense of weary dejection. It is true that, speaking theoretically, they do not labour to win the applause of their contemporaries, and that opposition and indifference from without were always reckoned among the difficulties with which they should have to deal. But the best of us must remain human to the end—a happy dispensation after all—and being human, we can not wholly defy the iufluence of our environment. If it were within the range of any competent man's time and statistical research to compile a comprehensive record of the educational work accomplished by foreigners in this country during the *Meiji* era, work accomplished out of the pure love of doing good and out of an enthusiastic desire to benefit Japan, we should have such a showing as could scarcely fail to impress even the most bigotted of present conservatives. Do Japanese of the OI, ABEI, and ARAI class ever seriously think of these things, we wonder. Does it ever occur to them that when they raise an outcry about foreign tenure of real property outside the Settlements, they are inveighing, for the most part, against a state of affairs that has its origin and *raison d'être* wholly in a genuinely friendly wish to promote Japanese progress? It is a repetition of the old experience. The strength of gratitude never equals the intensity of resentment. All over Japan we have a great body of enthusiastic foreign philanthropists devoting their learning and lives to the cause of Japanese education and Japanese progress, and from all parts of Europe and the United States great sums of money are sent by charitable and generous folks to support this noble undertaking. The softening influence of such an effort ought to be immense. But among the foreigners in the Settlements a small section, imbued with contempt for and aversion to the Japanese, constitutes an element of positive mischief and misunderstanding that mars the good effects of that other work. The mood of these morose persons, reflected and exaggerated by more than one local foreign journal, is perpetually thrust upon Japanese attention in the shape of supercilious, ill-natured, and unjust criticism; criticism every line of which breathes a spirit of disdain and dislike. Race prejudice could not be displayed in an intenser or more unsightly form, and, as might be expected, the slaves of this wretched feeling are precisely the first to cry out against the evidence of anti-foreign sentiment on the part of the Japanese. Week in and week out they proclaim, in the most unequivocal terms and with the most brutal candour, that everything Japanese is contemptible in their eyes, that the people of the country are utterly antipathetic to them, and that they can never entertain feelings of confidence or affection towards a nation of such inferior beings. But the slightest symptom of any corresponding unfriendliness on the part of the Japanese is denounced by these very critics as a revival of the barbarous anti-foreign spirit of early days, a recrudescence of the hermit tendencies that once made Japan a by-word among nations. It is impossible to shut our eyes to the inevitable effect of such rancorous displays, the certain consequences of such a perennial outpouring of disdainful aversion. Sometimes the quaint plea is advanced that the praises of false friends are responsible for all this abuse; that the writers who devote themselves to blackening the nation's reputation would prefer the part of eulogists did not their gorge rise against the too profuse applause of partial observers. They are much to be pitied these gentlefolks whose generous disposition is perverted by harsh necessity, and upon whom the stern duty of furnishing an antidote to flattery thrusts the uncongenial rôle of snarling censure. But by whatever process they came to be what they are, the mischief that they work is unfortunately too patent. They poison the mind of the Japanese, and create such a false impression of foreign sentiment that the nobly devoted and unostentatious efforts of hundreds of Europeans and Americans who live only to benefit the country, and of tens of thousands who contribute large sums for the same purpose, are comparatively little noticed. Yet we cannot doubt that truth will win the day at last, and that the brave stand now made by the Japanese Government in behalf of enlightened progress will restore confidence to the little army of men and women working in the cause of Japanese education, and will show that the evil sentiment born of mutual misrepresentation and malevolence has never penetrated beyond a small section on either side, nor ever tainted the directing spirit of the *Meiji* era.

A fighting machine or automaton soldier is, so it seems (says the *Daily News*), the last work up to now of civilisation. Nobody in future need risk his life in battle—that is, if the *Globo* newspaper of Barcelona is not misinformed as to the merits of a new invention. According to that journal, the inventor has offered it to the Spanish Government for use against the Moors in Melilla. He is ready, for a sum of £200,000 sterling, to proceed to the seat of operations at the head to 100 of the new combatants. The machine soldier is made of iron, and he is set going by clockwork. When wound up he can fire forty rounds a minute, and he carries in his interior a large supply of ammunition. Should he be captured by the enemy, he can be blown to pieces by means of an electric discharge acting upon a quantity of dynamite stored in his head. The *Globo* seriously declares that the capabilities of the new warrior have been successfully tested before a committee of experts.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND TREATY ENFORCEMENT.

IT is a matter of no small surprise that the present hysterical movement for strict enforcement of the treaties should have found a warm supporter in the *Hyoron*, which, under the able editorship of Mr. IWAMOTO ZENJI, represents an influential section of Christian thinkers in Japan. That our fortnightly contemporary is thoroughly disinterested and conscientious, we have no manner of doubt; but we sincerely regret that the weight of a journal so much respected by the independent section of the public should have been thrown into the scale on the wrong side. "The existing treaties," says the *Hyoron*, "are legacies of ignorance, stupidity, and cowardice, and it goes without saying that the stipulations contained in them are imperfect and inconvenient. Men incapable of guarding even the few rights reserved to Japan under the existing treaties, can hardly be trusted with the duty of extending the national rights beyond the limits of those treaties." Our contemporary apparently means to suggest that, even though the treaties were revised, the Government would be incompetent to exercise the rights restored to Japan. The true object of Treaty Revision being to recover the rights of the country both in name and in reality, the *Hyoron* maintains that, rather than be contented with mere changes on paper, it is better to achieve solid success by strict enforcement of the existing treaties. At all events, revision of treaties ought, in our contempory's opinion, to be preceded by strict enforcement of those already existing. The former is more difficult than the latter, because, while the object of strict enforcement is to exercise rights to which Japan is legitimately entitled under present covenants, revision means the recovery of rights with which the country expressly parted when those covenants were concluded. The *Hyoron* does not think it too early to revise the treaties, but it contends that, before proceeding to the task of revision, prudence dictates the advisability of measuring the strength of the Empire *vis-à-vis* foreign countries by insisting on strict enforcement of the existing treaties. If Japan is incapable of enforcing her present treaties, it is idle to make a noise about revising them. Turning to the bearings which the doctrine of treaty enforcement has upon the Christian community, the *Hyoron* observes that no exception should be made in favour of Christian work. As for the schools and churches which, under whatever names registered, are really owned by foreign Christians, it may be argued that they ought not to be regarded in the same light as lands and houses possessed by foreigners at Kamakura, Oiso, and elsewhere in the names of their cooks, boys, and mistresses. But the *Hyoron* declines to endorse

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such a specious argument, and maintains that, however praiseworthy his object, no foreigner should be suffered to be the real owner of schools and churches in the interior. With regard to travels of Missionaries in the interior for purposes of religious propagandism, the *Hyoron* declares that they travel in flagrant violation of treaty stipulations, for, under the existing treaties, no alien is allowed to pass beyond treaty limits except for the benefit of his health or for purposes of scientific research. Men like Bishop WILLIAMS —continues the *Hyoron*—have, therefore, never preached in the interior, neither have they travelled there unless they were really seeking for health. But our contemporary does not mean to say that the majority of the Missionaries have wilfully violated treaty stipulations. They have preached in the interior with the tacit connivance both of the authorities in the Foreign Office and of the public in general. Some of them are even said to have declared at the Foreign Office that they would not receive passports for travel in the interior otherwise than with a tacit understanding as to the purpose for which their journeys were to be undertaken. The Tokyo periodical then quotes some passages from the last annual report of the American Board Mission, in which the question of work in the interior is discussed and in which it is stated that, should public opinion, especially in Christian circles, become unfavourable to the travels of Missionaries for religious purposes, the practice would be discontinued pending revision of the treaties. Thus the Missionaries have had some sort of reasonable pretexts for preaching in the interior, and it may seem regrettable to compel them to give up their work outside treaty limits. But the thing is unavoidable, says the *Hyoron*, for there are at stake considerations of far more importance to the country. With regard to lands and buildings in the interior which are in part or in whole owned by Missionaries, the latter are advised to make a voluntary surrender of their ownership to the Japanese concerned; and all Japanese who, while nominally employing foreigners for religious or educational purposes in the interior, really receive employment from them, are recommended to discontinue their connection with such foreigners and to send them back to the Settlements. What would be the effect of such measures upon the progress of Christianity in Japan? The *Hyoron* is conscious that more or less inconvenience would be felt in religious circles, but it believes that strict enforcement of the treaties would serve as a means of stimulating the renovation of Christian Society in Japan. Thus while, on the one hand, the ultimate effect of the proceeding upon the religious world of Japan would be highly beneficial, it would conduce, on the other, to speedy revision of the existing treaties. For the fair-minded public abroad will not consent to the permanent inaction of Missionaries in the Settlements. Such, in brief is the gist of the *Hyoron's* article. We are bound to conclude that it means well to the Missionaries. But surely it ought to have explained its assertion that the exclusion of foreign propagandists from the interior would be a step towards the renovation of the Christian community in Japan. The statement, thus bluntly advanced, embodies a gross insult to the whole Missionary body. That Christianity and Christian education have any existence whatever in Japan, is entirely owing to the labours of foreign Missionaries. These men and women have devoted their lives and talents to the cause of improving Japan. Their example alone is an object lesson of incalculable value. Yet now they are informed that their removal from the scene of their labours would be a means of regenerating the religious world of Japan. It is inconceivable that the *Hyoron* can intend these words to be interpreted in the sense they actually convey. Doubtless what our contemporary desires to convey is an opinion that the best chance for Christianity in Japan is to be left for a season entirely independent to work out for itself success or failure along purely national lines. But if that be the idea contemplated, was ever a more misleading form of expression employed? For the rest, the *Hyoron's* essay is disfigured by ignorance and misconception. It speaks of the treaties as conferring the privilege of travel in the interior on persons suffering from ill-health or desiring to undertake scientific research. That is a palpable error. The treaties confer no such privilege. The passport system is a special favour granted by the Japanese Government quite independently of the treaties, and revokable to-morrow should the Government wish to revoke it. The limits imposed upon the enjoyment of the favour are purely arbitrary. In the nature of things there is no more cogent reason for allowing a man to visit the interior in pursuit of butterflies, for example, than there is for allowing him the same privilege in the interests of religious propagandism. The *Hyoron* seems to imagine that the Japanese Government surrenders some right when it voluntarily enlarges the scope of a favour voluntarily granted and withdrawable at any moment. Greater confusion of ideas is inconceivable. No treaty obliges Japan to offer her territory as a sanitarium for foreigners or as a place where they may gather flowers, analyse rocks or hunt insects. She does so out of pure amity and goodwill and every enlargement of her liberality is an act of grace not a surrender of rights? Does the *Hyoron* gravely imagine that a right is surrendered by voluntarily exercising it? Does it imagine that if Japan allows to moral philosophers the same liberty as to entomological dilettanti, she is in danger of forfeiting her right to be gracious to either? The same error runs through the whole essay. We are told that if Japan can not exercise the rights acquired by her under the existing treaties, it is idle for her to seek larger rights under revised treaties. But Japan has acquired no rights under the treaties. By promising to allow foreigners access to a portion of her territories, Japan did not acquire the right to exclude them from other portions. She possessed that right always. It were equally logical to say that when the owner of a *yen* spends a *sen* he thereby acquires the right of saving ninety-nine *sen*. Japan's right to impose limits on foreign trade, travel, residence, ownership of real estate, and so forth within her realm, is never impaired unless she surrenders it voluntarily or is deprived of it by force. Even though she openly allowed foreigners to own real property or organize businesses outside the limits fixed by treaty, her right to withhold such privileges would remain intact. How can it be pretended that her right is assailed or imperilled by acts in connection with which grave risks are taken solely in deference to laws expressing that right? In the rare cases of foreigners acquiring real estate or carrying on tradal operations beyond treaty limits, they do so in Japanese names entirely because the laws of Japan forbid them to do it in their own names. The very methods which they resort to in pursuit of their purpose amount to a recognition of Japan's right to control them. Strict enforcement of the treaties has nothing whatever to do with Japan's rights, except in so far as it may be counted a device for hastening the recovery of her tariff and judicial autonomy. What the advocates of the measure recommend is that she should ungraciously withdraw privileges voluntarily granted by her, and that she should enact uncivilized laws to restrain her subjects from acts of friendly cöoperation with foreigners. Until these elementary facts are understood, it is hopeless to expert rational discussion of the strict enforcement question. We should certainly have looked for better understanding and fuller knowledge in the columns of a periodical like the *Hyoron*.

AWARDS TO JAPANESE ART AT CHICAGO.

THAT Japan has earned, in right and in fact, a place as one of the nations to be reckoned with as a matter of course in all that concerns modern progress and the elements of modern civilization, is the undoubted fact demonstrated by the Columbian Exposition. It is not merely that impartial and intelligent friends of Japanese have always held that her civilization entitles her to rank with Europe and America as possessing a type of ethnologic attainment differing in kind only, not in degree. Her title, alone and unacknowledged, would

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practically avail little. What we find to-day is that the position thus claimed for her is in fact conceded, acted on, taken for granted. She holds it *de facto*, not merely *de jure*. No one who was at Chicago or read the daily accounts of the doings there could fail to recognize this. Not reckoning the one or two departments in which Japan was accorded a distinct lead over the majority of other nations, we are considering only the fact patent to all that the presence of Japan as an exhibitor alongside of other foreign nations was taken as much as a matter of course as the presence of Russia, Austria, or Italy. This was the inevitable impression upon the visitor, however unlearned as to the history and resources of Japan. There was no important building or exhibit in which Japan was not represented by a goodly share of space,—Manufactures, Liberal Arts, Fine Arts, Fisheries, Transportation, Anthropology, Forestry, Machinery, Agriculture, Mining; and the tea-house, the temple on the wooded island, and the midway bazaar were further reminders of her enterprise and her prolific activity. In at least two departments her exhibits received special praise from experts, in the critical reviews of the New York *Nation*, for the skilful and effective mode of display.

Of course the strongest showing was made in the Fine Arts display, and in the exhibit, in the Manufactures Section of products that did not quite come within the pale of the Fine Arts. It will be interesting to note the general result of the awards in the Fine Arts Department, as indicating the appreciation which Japanese work found among the representative critics of the West. The juries were:—

PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS.—GROUPS 140, 141, 142, 144.

Thomas Allen, Luis Apol, Guido Boggiani, J. G. Brown, A. G. del Campillo, Wm. M. Chase, Guiseppe Cozenza, Mrs. Clarice de Cossé Conger, Henry W. B. Davis, A. Delug, Angelo del Nero, Ludwig Dici, J. Espicia, H. F. Farny, Ernest F. Fenelosa, Johannes Gelert, R. Swain Gifford, Andreas Groll, Theo. Groll, Thos. Hovenden, Alfred W. Hunt, H. Kantsch, John Le Farge, Carl Marr, Gari Malchers, Frank D. Millet, G. W. Maynard, J. C. Nicoll, Adrian Paradis, Val C. Prinsep, Fanny Zampini Salazar, Hugo Schnars-Alquist, Walter Shirlaw, Mary M. Solari, Hubert Vos, W. Whitteridge, Andreas L. Zorn.

ETCHINGS, ENGRAVINGS, AND PRINTS. GROUP 143.

Jno. P. Davis, Frederick Dielman, Thos. Groll, Emily Sartain, Horomichi Shugio, Ernest F. Fenelosa, Frank Short, Hubert Vos, Andreas L. Zorn, Olin L. Warner, Johannes Gelert, H. Kantsch, F. E. Triebel, Angelo del Nero, W. Cantalamessa Papotti, Daniel C. French, Fernando Miranda, Andreas L. Zorn.

ARCHITECTURE.—GROUPS 139 AND 145.

Wm. Emerson, W. P. P. Longfellow, F. Jaffé, H. von Schmidt, Guiseppe Spera.

SCULPTURE.—GROUPS 139 AND 145.

Thos. Brock, Rudolpho Bernardelli, Ernest F. Fenelosa, Guiseppe Spera, Max Kruse.

In the group "Paintings" some 50 entries were made, of which 17 received prizes,—a proportion of nearly one-third. Mr. HASHIMOTO GAHO, of course was medalled for his single piece, a beautiful landscape; and Mr. KUMAGAYE NAOHIKO, likewise with a single landscape, fared similarly. This we had anticipated. But it seems incredible that the "Cocks and Hens on a Cart in Snow" of the master WATANABE should have been passed over without recognition; to such an omission we cannot reconcile ourselves, especially as this was the single piece shown by the remarkable painter. The other awards went as follow: HARA RYUTARO, "Falcon on a Pine;" HASEGAWA GYOKUJUN, "Kingkakuji;" IMAO KEINEN, "Carp Swimming;" KANO TOMONOBU, "Heichi Battle;" KISHI CHIKUDO, "Tiger;" KOSEI SHOSEKI, "Shotoku-Taishi;" MORI SHUNGAKU, "Eagle watching for Prey;" MUMEMURA KEIZAN, "Autumn Flowers in Moonlight;" NOGUCHI YUKOKU, "Carp;" OGATA GEKKO, "Sanno Festival;" TAKEUCHI SEIHO, Landscape;" TAKI KEITEI, "Peacocks;" TANIGUCHI KOKYO, "Cherry-Flower Picnic," TASAKI SAKAN, "Top of Fuji-san above the Clouds." Of these the specially meritorious ones were Mr. TASAKI'S impressive "Fuji-san;" Mr. KISHI'S magnificent "Tiger," far superior to a Tiger in the French exhibit; and Mr. IMAO'S "Carp," fish such as only a Japanese has ever painted. The paintings in oil were three only, and were not worthy to rank with a single oil in the whole Western exhibit.

Turning to metal pieces (which are classed in the Catalogue partly under Sculpture and partly under Metal Work,) we find some 27 entries winning 12 medals. Taken for granted, of course, was the medal to NATSUO (entered as KANO NATSUNO), accounted by Japanese the greatest living master of the *katakiri* engraving, for his *shibuichi* plaque of "Herons by the Reeds." SHOMIN, equally the foremost in the *niku-bori*, or relief-work style, is duly recognized for his plaque the Kanjogaku dance; his tablets of a "Rakan" (saint) and "Frog Hermit" also were medalled. Similar recognition is also given to KAJIMA IPPEI, for his "Landscape" plaque, which shows his special eminence in metal-inlaying. The pieces sent by the masters ITO KATSUMI and OYANO MATSUYOSHI do not appear to have found a place in the final exhibit; but medals were very properly given to KAGAWA KATSUHIRO (a plaque of "Monkeys"), JOMI EIYU ("No-dance"), and SAWADA GINJURO ("Sixteen Rakans"). SHOAMI KATSUYOSHI, MIYAMOTO KATSU, NAMEKAWA SADAKUTA, and TSUKATA SHUKYO, each a man of merit, failed to get medals, and to these must be added, singularly enough, the "Desk-Screen" of KANAYE GOROSABURO of Kyoto (landscape on one side, moon and bamboo on the other), the most famous representative of Kyoto work. However, Mr. NAMEKAWA had the satisfaction of selling his un-medalled censer for $200. The signal success was that of OKAZAKI SESSEI, now recognized as one of the greatest workers in bronze. Of his four entries ("Eagle," "Kongoriki," "Dragons," "The Goddess Benten"), everyone was medalled. The two large "Dragon" plaques (almost screens) attracted wide attention; the "Eagle" was not less noticed; and the "Goddess Benten" achieved the distinction of reproduction in the pages of the *Century Magazine*, to accompany an article by Mr. FENOLOSA. Mr. OKASAKI, however, divided the popular honours with Mr. SUZUKI CHOKICHI, whose "Twelve Hawks," most effectively arranged in a large alcove in the Upper Gallery, commanded instant and unqualified admiration from every observer. The "Hawks," of course, were medalled. The iron eagle from Mr. SHINJIRO ITAO was also duly rewarded.

In Carving, the entries are 13 and the medals 6. Foremost, of course, in ivory, comes the "Kwannon" of ISHIKAWA MITSUAKI, a figure of ivory over a foot high which attracted the attention of thousands. This and Mr. ISHIKAWA'S other piece, "Sekiza Kwannon" (wood), were both medalled. The same reward was not given to the successful "Boy with Fowl and Cat" of Mr. ASAHI HATSU (Meido), nor to Mr. SHIMAMURA SHUNMEI'S Japanese warrior, "Kamatari." But due recognition fell to Mr. YAMADA KISAI, one of the greatest Japanese glyptic artists. Both of his entries, the "Scene from the Gempei Wars" (a band of men-at-arms), and the "Wrestler," were deservedly medalled. We cannot accept the verdict of the jury in ignoring the "Monkey holding an Eagle's Feather" of TAKAMURA KOUN, the professor in the Tokyo Art School, and an equally great artist. Finally are to be noticed the prizes going to the great ASAHI GYOKUSAN for the wooden figure of IKKYU, the Buddhist priest, and the ivory skull which the priest carries. Both were medalled, but the cataloguers seem to have blundered in attributing the wooden figure to a mythical ASAHI OKIOKA or EIZO. Indeed, the catalogue-making in the Japanese section, with true Japanese perversity on this point, was made up by a Japanese and not subjected to foreign revision; so that we find not merely false transliteration, but such solecisms as "A Japanese Great Thinker;" "The top of Fujisan above cloud;" "Two eagles to take a rabbit;" "Incenser," and the like, which really do serve as "incensers" of the wrath of those who would like to see Japan's talents fully recognized by the world.

The Cloisonné exhibit in the Fine Arts section is small, most of the Cloisonné having gone into the Manufactures exhibit. Of 6 entries here, 2 were medalled,—the "God Hotei" (panel) of Mr. KAWADE SHIBATARO and the "Chickens" of Mr. NAMIKAWA SOSUKE. Both of these were sold. The latter is a really wonderful piece, and fared better than the curious "Fuji's Peak above the Clouds" which the same master sent and had placed among the paintings. The set

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of three pieces—censer and two vases—by Mr. SUZUKI SHIROYEMON, which stand over 8 feet high and took 4 years in the making, found a place after all, in the Fine Arts Section, and attracted universal attention in their very conspicuous place. They were not medalled, however, for the jury seem to have thought the achievement, though wonderful, did not aim high enough artistically.

In Lacquer-work, we find 18 entries and 8 medals. The latter go to Mr. KAWANABE ICHI'S double gold box with flowers; Mr. IGARASHI TAJIRO'S table, writing-case, and box with writing case (three pieces and three medals); Mr. ASANO SOZABURO'S fan-medallioned box; Mr. MORIMURA ICHITARO'S cabinet; and Mr. MORISHITA MORIHACHI'S butterflied box. The wonderful alcove scroll-stand (*shodana*) sent by Mr. SHIRAYAMA FUKUMATSU seems not to have found a place in the exhibit.

Turning to Porcelain, we find a very small representation in the Fine Arts Section (all sorts and kinds being duly shown under Manufactures). The exhibit is in reality an exposition of the marvellous successes of MIYAGAWA KOZAN (MAKUZU of Yokohama), and of TAKEMOTO HAYATO (of Tokyo). The former contributes a set of pieces numbered 83 to 189 in various forms, most of them being exhibited by the connoisseur HAYASHI TADAMASA of Tokyo. These Makuzu pieces have taken the public by storm, for the "Sold" ticket appears on the great majority of them, and that though prices are asked some five or six times as high as the prices in Japan. Besides the medal to the HAYASHI collection of 100 pieces, Mr. MIYAGAWA takes 4 others—one each for the two peach-blow vases decorated with dragons (one sold for $250, the other for $175) and two others for two vases decorated with plum-blossoms and wave-dragons respectively. The other special showing is made by Mr. TAKEMOTO HAYATO, whose beautiful set (exhibited by Mr. NAMIKAWA SOSUKE) of 100 pieces, was duly medalled. SEIFU'S celadon vase, somehow or other, failed of a medal,—unfortunately, because he is represented by only two entries,—but it was sold, which was more than happened to some that pleased the jury. No medal went to the single piece of TAIZAN (Chrysanthemum vase) or to that of HIGUCHI (flower vase); but the latter sold for $500. Lovers of Japanese things found in the Manufactures Building, among much that was purely commercial, a great deal of the best work,—better work at least than much of what other nations sent. It is worth while to notice that the work of MIYAGAWA KOZAN (MAKUZU) is receiving the sincerest flattery by being imitated, or at least taken as a foundation, by a Copenhagen essay, now a few years old, and well represented in Denmark's exhibit of Manufactures. Some of the designs are utterly and purely Japanese in style; but the whole work, while wonderful and attractive in its results and even for a moment convincing, pales instantly when one stands before the cabinet of MIYAGAWA'S work and compares the products of his marvellous kiln. The prices asked for the Copenhagen ware are simply amusing in their exhorbitance.

In Textiles, the Exhibit of Japan was beyond description admiration-compelling. With 17 entries it took 9 medals. First of all it is to be noted that of the six entries of Mr. NISHIMURA SOZAYEMON, the great weaver of Kyoto, all but one were medalled, No. 319 was the magnificent (embroidered) six-leaved screen showing a view of Higashi-yama in Kyoto with cherry-boughs sweeping across the face of the picture in the foreground; this piece was perhaps the one that attracted most attention from ordinary observers. No. 320 was the panel of embroidery representing the source of the Hotsugawa. No.321 was the embroidered wall-hanging of a peacock on a pine. No. 322 was the incomperable six-leaved screen of the Four Seasons; the front is embroidered and speaks with its reality; the back is of cut velvet *(yuzen-zome)*. No. 323 was the large arras of cut velvet representing the Eight Views of Lake Biwa ("Eight Sceneries," as the cataloguer smartly puts it). This divided the honours with the great *tsuzure*-weaving arras of Mr. KAWASHIMA JIMBEI of Kyoto. The latter had for its subject the Festival at Nikko, and perhaps the Higashi-yama screen of Mr. NISHIMURA yielded to it in popular attention and favour. It was duly medalled, and will remain in the memory of every visitor as one of the glories of the Fair. Medals went also and worthily to the pair of embroidered hangings by Mr. IIDA SINSHICHI of Kyoto (birds and flowers); to the pair of embroidered portieres (peacocks and *kiku*) by Mr. OMURA WAKICHIRO (SHIROROKIYA) of Tokyo; and to the Gion Festival arras of Mr. SASAKI SEIKICHI of Kyoto.

Lovers of Japan may well be satisfied with its showing at the Exposition. In most that goes to decorate and beautify, the chief places in the awards have steadily been given to Japan and Germany. Japan has proved itself one of the foremost rivals among nations in some of the highest departments of human activity.

MR. SAITO SHUICHIRO.

THE noisy factions in the House of Representatives have achieved one success: they have brought about the resignation of Mr. SAITO SHUICHIRO, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. If any one were asked to state the reasons for this step, he would be puzzled to formulate anything worthy of serious attention. Mr. SAITO is conspicuously one of the ablest of Japan's rising statesmen. Educated in America, where for many years he breathed the atmosphere of liberal institutions, he returned to Japan precisely at a time when the services of such a man seemed likely to be of public benefit. An enemy of red tape in every form, a man of quick judgment, prompt action, and ready resource, his exceptional merits were almost immediately recognized by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count INOUYE, and after a process of introduction characteristic alike of the Minister's *sans-gêne* and the young aspirant's directness, Mr. SAITO found himself appointed to a position of trust in the Foreign Office. That was about the year 1883, if we remember rightly. Preferment followed quickly, and after nine years, a service of exceptionally short duration even in Japan, he received the high appointment of Vice-Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce. Such a career is, we fancy, almost unprecedented, but no one acquainted with Mr. SAITO'S capacity can entertain any reasonable doubt that his promotion was amply deserved. It is precisely on a man of Mr. SAITO'S type that we should expect the eyes of modern Japanese politicians to be fixed with approval, for he holds firmly to the republican doctrine that the official is the servant of the tax-payer, and that, recognizing his duty in that sense, he ought to place every possible facility in the way of the public and to subserve administrative functions, as far as possible, to the convenience of the people. Yet, by a strange waywardness of fate, or rather, let us say, by the crookedness of Japanese political agitators, he seems to have fallen a victim to the exercise of the very qualities that ought to have won the applause of the House of Representatives. But of course the crimes laid at Mr. SAITO'S door are not the real cause of his temporary retirement from office. What he is nominally charged with is being too unofficial; too accessible to the general public; too ready to associate with men of business; too much inclined to give practical effect to the principle that legislative and administrative processes ought above all things to be adapted to the people who have to observe them, and that the consequent duty of legislators and administrators is to neglect no means of acquainting themselves with the views of experts in every branch of life. It seems like an incredible burlesque that politicians clamouring for government by party, extension of the franchise, liberty of speech, and all the other apparatus of a popular polity, should cry out against an official for being over-ready to associate with the people. Nevertheless, that is the pretended accusation against Mr. SAITO. There is indeed the supplementary charge that he accepted a gold watch. But considering that the presentation of the watch, its receipt, and all the circumstances connected with the affair were not only endorsed by the Minister of Mr. SAITO'S Department at the time, but were also published in the newspapers and regarded as perfectly legitimate and natural

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until placed under the exceedingly distorting lens of political agitation, it would be equally reasonable to say that Mr. GLADSTONE had betrayed his Sovereign's trust because he received a gold hatchet from some admirers of his octogenarian athletics, or that Lord SALISBURY was unfitted to hold office because he accepted a service of plate from an admiring constituency. All this farcical arraignment of Mr. SAITO by the snowy-handed politicians of the Lower House deceives no one, least of all themselves. Mr. SAITO became a target of attack, not because of his faults, but because of his merits. He was too zealous, too able, and too astute for the enemies of the Cabinet. He attracted their assault because of his prominence and his promise, and we are persuaded that the injustice of which he is now the victim will ultimately contribute to his official success. But although it is not possible to anticipate any permanent injury to Mr. SAITO from a cause so illogical and incongruous, we cannot escape an uneasy feeling that the Opposition, by indirect and unforeseen means, has dealt the Government a severe blow in this matter. If Mr. SAITO is to be the sufferer under such circumstances, who among officials can count himself safe? We should have thought that if the Cabinet had any thorough desire to withstand the unfairness and malevolence of the Opposition, it would have chosen this occasion to assert its determination. Mr. SAITO may not possess claims such as are usually supposed to influence the choice of higher officials, but he certainly does possess claims that ought to command the earnest support of the present Cabinet, and when we see a man like him sacrificed to a mob of political agitators while the real object of their onset remains placidly at his post, we discover justification for the often-preferred charge that personal considerations have sometimes more weight than moral attributes in determining tenure of office. An exhibition of that kind tends to weaken the Cabinet much more than the assaults of politicians such as those who frothed and fumed in the House of Representatives a few days ago.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

THE SITUATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Japanese national interests are now in a condition demanding the most untiring efforts of the Government to prevent retrogression that threatens the effacement of the grand progress made by the Empire during the last twenty years. Through troublous times the people have made steady advancement in many directions. Though discontent regarding methods has from time to time manifested itself, and designing malcontents, under the mantle of conservative ideas, have done their best to hinder an enlightened development upon lines other than Japanese, Western ideas have been gradually bearing fruit to that extent that it would seem that hostility should have become disarmed and the advantages consequent upon the adaptation of matters to bring them into unison with the accepted condition of the civilized world, a condition that has required centuries to elaborate, could be distinctly seen. Yet the world is now confronted with the knowledge that there is a spirit abroad in Japan that would eschew the teachings of the age and ignore the esteem and respect of Western Nations that have been patiently awaiting the time when they could enter upon a course of complete reciprocity. The people of Japan should have learned during the years of their experience in matters international that there are two grand forces at work in the world; coercion and fraternisation. They should also have learned from what has transpired in the history of the world, that no nation or people considered of importance in rounding out and completing the structure of civilization, as fashioned by Occidental nations, can escape from the requirements demanded to bring it into unison with that civilization. The march of Western civilization, a civilization faulty in many things, though it may be, cannot be combatted with any hope of ultimate success. The last quarter of this century has demonstrated that most conclusively. Japan is herself a most important example in that direction. One of the potent factors in its constitution is commerce, and it guards with a jealous eye all that appertains to its multifarious ramifications. The demands of commerce brought Japan into the family of nations; the needs of commerce made Shimonoseki historic, and should not be forgotten by the people of this land, neither should they forget that they were ready to make war upon Korea on account of a commercial matter connected with a paltry trade in beans, manifesting fully as arbitrary a spirit as any western people had shown toward Japan.

Japan, being a member of the family of nations, has duties to perform as well as benefits to receive. As well as she is able, she must keep up with the spirit of the age. She must be one of the drivers or one of the driven. She must range herself with the nations that lead or suffer the humiliation of being treated as a laggard. She must fraternize or be coerced; having put herself in national harness she must work well in the collar or be bruised; kicking in the traces will not release her from the performance of her destined work. In view of what the Parliament has attempted during its sittings in the present session, the conservation of the best interests of the Empire demanded its discontinuance. That a set of obstructionists who sought only to embarrass the Government and provoke the hostility of the Occidental world should be allowed further opportunity to plunge the country into a position from which the only exit can be through humiliation, was only tempting fate. Being far more dangerous to the tranquillity of the empire than the same number of deliberate traitors could possibly manage to be, they are sent back to their constituencies shorn of the privilege of parliamentary importance. As these men were the representatives of the constituencies electing them, and it being, in the nature of things natural to believe that their constituents were patriotic and loyal to their country and their sovereign, it follows that these men must have been elected by an ill-advised majority. Many times men go wrong while acting from the best of motives. Another Parliament is to be called into existence constitutionally. The Government should clearly and distinctly state to the people, through the medium of a manifesto, just what is to be the policy that will be followed in regard to the foreign relations of the Empire as well as its domestic affairs. Every man entitled to the elective franchise should be placed in possession of that manifesto; the supporters of the Government should make an educational campaign among the people, the Government awaiting the verdict with calm dignity. No Government official should be allowed to use his official position in behalf of any candidate under penalty of forfeiture of office. Let a Parliament representing the unbought, untrammelled sentiment of the people be assembled. A government that has to, or does, purchase its supporters, is bankrupt in the confidence of the people. If the newly elected Parliament should prove to be of the same obstructive character as the last body, then it would be a grander display of Imperial benevolence to proclaim the lapse of the constitution pending the settlement of all matters connected with the attitude of the Empire *vis-à-vis* the Treaty Powers, than was the bestowal thereof. If the people have no more reverence or regard for His Imperial Majesty than to render them callous to the welfare of the empire unless certain of his chosen Ministers are driven from their official positions because they belong to certain clans long ago welded in the great body politic, they are not to be trusted with legislative duties and privileges. If they allow old clan rivalry to obscure their judgment and strangle their patriotism, they surely are not competent to administer the affairs of the Empire. What is termed "clan government" is only the expression of His Imperial Majesty's desire, through certain mediates of his choice. Reverence is growing scant when the people seek to dictate to His Majesty who shall be his trusted Ministers. There are crucial periods in the affairs of nations, when prompt and firm action may avert disaster or vacillation precipitate complications that entail calamitous results. Japan is now on the threshold of the grand crisis of her national existence! That it may be passed in safety, heroic measures are necessary. A faltering policy never yet conserved national prosperity.

Respectfully,
X.

Yokohama, January 8th, 1894.

POLITICS IN KOCHI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—When I arrived here in the middle of June last, the political atmosphere of Kochi, strongly overcharged with electricity, was about to explode. The members of the Local Assembly had passed a vote of want of confidence in the Governor and were about to pass a unanimous resolution for his removal. Since then, however, the times have happily undergone a complete change, and Kochi, which for many months had been in a state of chronic agitation, is now calm and cloudless. Various circumstances have combined to bring about this desirable state, the most prominent of which may easily be described. In the first place, the influence of one (the *Kokumin ha*) of the two parties which divided, as they still to some extent divide, the Kochi community into two distinct and antagonistic sections, has considerably declined, and the members of the Local Assembly consist at present only of Radicals. In the second place, *the two* questions—one, the disposal of officers who exerted themselves illegally in favour of the Government in the last election, and the other, the reform of the Ordinary Middle School—have been solved to the satisfaction of the public. As a result of these and other circumstances, the Budget of the coming fiscal year was approved by the members of the Local Assembly with only a slight change, and moreover the officers of the *Kencho* and the people, hitherto glaring at each other from hostile camps, have laid down their arms and come out to shake hands with a feeling of cordial friendship. It is to be earnestly desired that this happy state of things will long continue, and further, since now even Tosa, which is said to be the most difficult of prefectures to deal with, is calm and quiet, it is to be sincerely hoped that other sections of the country will follow the good example.

I remain, &c.,
K. C.

Kochi, Tosa, December 29th, 1893.

IMPERIAL RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IMPERIAL RAILWAY DEPARTMENT FOR THE 25TH FISCAL YEAR OF MEIJI, APRIL 1892 TO MARCH 1893.

In continuation of the annual report for the previous fiscal year, the following report is now made on the general condition of works undertaken during the year beginning with April, 1892, and ending at the close of March, 1893, and on the principal features in connection with financial affairs during that period. The division and order of headings in the present report are modelled after the last annual report, and are as follow:—

1. Survey of Railway Routes.
2. General condition of works on different lines:—
   - Yokogawa-Karuizawa Section.
   - Tokyo-Kobe Section.
   - Takasaki Yokogawa Section.
   - Karuizawa Naoetsu Section.
3. Finance—Capital Account.
4. General Condition of Traffic.
5. Finance—Revenue Account.
6. Private Railway lines.

APPENDIX.

Table No. 1.—Detailed statement of Expenditure on Capital Account.

Table No. 2.—Detailed statement of Receipts and Expenditures on Revenue Account.

Table No. 3.—General Balance sheet.

Table No. 4.—Rolling Stock Returns for the end of the 25th fiscal year.

Table No. 5.—Statistics of Passenger Traffic.

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Table No. 6.—Statistics of Goods Traffic. With total Train Mileages.

Table No. 7.—Locomotive Mileages of the different Sections.

Table No. 8.—List of Deaths and Injuries among passengers, staff, and others in the different sections during the 25th fiscal year.

Table No. 9.—List of Casualties and Accidents in connection with the running of trains in the different sections during the 25th fiscal year.

Table No. 10.—Comparative table of the earnings, expenditures, &c., of the Private Railway Companies, during the 25th fiscal year.

Table No. 11.—Rolling Stock Returns of the Private Railway Companies for the end of the 25th fiscal year.

Survey of Railway Routes.

In accordance with the provisions of Law No. 4 for the Construction of Railways promulgated in June, 1892, and the authority given under the Minister of State for Home Affairs' Order No. 434, relative to the Expenditures for the prosecution of surveys of railway lines throughout the Empire, a Board for the Investigation of Railway Routes was established in the Railway Department. Under the supervision of this Board, the surveys and examinations of the different lines of railway to be laid within the first construction period specified in the clause No. 7 of the Law for the Construction of Railways, were begun in the early part of August, 1892. The field work was brought to an end in December. The compilation of drawings and statistics were then proceeded with, and a complete report of the results of the surveys and investigations was drawn up last February.

The lines surveyed and their lengths are as follow :—

	Miles.	Miles.
THE CENTRAL SYSTEM.		
Hachioji to Kofu	52	
Gotemba to Kofu	48½	
Kofu to Suwa	38¾	
Suwa to Nagoya viâ Chikuma	129¼	
Suwa to Nagoya viâ Ina	142¼	
Total		410¾
THE HOKURIKU SYSTEM.		
Tsuruga to Toyama		123¾
THE HOKU-ETSU SYSTEM.		
Maebashi to Shibata	134½	
Niizu to Niigata	10½	
Toyono to Kawaguchi	59¼	
Naoetsu to Ichinotsubo	49⅞	
Total		254⅛
THE O U SYSTEM.		
Fukushima to Aomori		298¼
THE SANYO SYSTEM.		
Hiroshima to Shimonoseki	157	
Kaidaichi to Kure	12½	
Total		169½
THE KYUSHU SYSTEM.		
Saga to Nagasaki	75¼	
Shimmura to Sasebo	13½	
Kumamoto to Misumi	22¼	
Total		111
THE KINKI SYSTEM—(MAIZURU LINE.)		
Kyoto to Maizuru (to the locality of the proposed Naval Station)	62¼	
Tsuchiyama to Ayabe	58	
Total		120¼
THE KINKI SYSTEM—(WAKAYAMA LINE.)		
Takata to Wakayama	45½	
Yagi to Toge	6⅝	
Osaka to Wakayama	46¼	
Total		98⅛
LINES FOR CONNECTING THE SANIN WITH THE SANYO SYSTEM.		
Himeji to Tottori and Sakai	135¼	
Okayama to Yoneko	92½	
Kurashiki to Neame	67½	
Total		295¼
Grand Total		1,882½

Note :—Besides the above, flyi g surveys of alternate lines of several portions of these routes, covering a total distance of 593 miles, were made

The expenditure incurred in carrying out the whole of this work amounted to *Yen* 68,667.

Of the above enumerated lines the construction of the Hokuriku and the O u systems was decided upon, and on the 25th of last March final resolution was taken that the works on these railways should be begun during the next fiscal year. Various preparatory works connected with these undertakings were already in progress at the date up to which this report deals.

General Condition of Work on different Lines.

The new construction works carried out during the year under review, consisted of what was required in completing the railway over the Usui Pass. These were effected and the line was opened for public traffic on the 1st of April.

Repairing works on the Tokaido Trunk line, consisted of those necessitated by the damage, caused by the great earthquakes, and which had remained over from the previous year, alteration to the line at the foot of the Satta Hill, and making good the damage caused by floods in various portions of the line. On the Karuizawa-Naoetsu sections the repairing works were those brought on by floods.

No inconsiderable amount of new work and alterations were also carried out in all the sections of the railways to meet the requirements of constantly increasing traffic.

A review of the main features of these undertakings is giving below.

YOKOGAWA-KARUIZAWA SECTION.

Construction of the Usui Line :—According to the original project, the tunnels in the Usui railway numbered 25. Certain alterations have been effected. The tunnel No. 10, which was situated within the portion of the line selected to serve as the midway level passing place for the up and down trains was abandoned and a cutting made in its place, as the provision of open space at this spot was found to be desirable. It being ascertained that the execution of works could thereby be considerably facilitated, the tunnels No. 7 and No. 25 were each made into two separate tunnels. These changes made the actual number of the tunnels 26; all of which, together with other works, were completed in January last. In the meantime the Abt Locomotive Engines were erected, and in February they were placed on trial and used in ballasting, the only work which remained unfinished at that date. Owing to the inexperience of the engineers and the engine drivers with the system and the handling of the locomotives, anticipated results were not at first obtained. However, after repeated trials and practical study of the system, loads from 60 to 70 tons could be got up by each engine without difficulty by the end of March. And as the road had by that time become sufficiently ballasted, the line was opened for traffic on the 1st of April.

The construction of this line was begun in March 1891. It was therefore completed in 25 months. The principal works connected with this line were :—Earthworks, cuttings, embankments, deviation of roads, &c., 89,404 *tsubos*; Tunnels, 26 in number, with an aggregate length of 14,644 feet; bridges, 18 in number, with an aggregate length of 1,471 feet; culverts, 20 in number; rails laid for the main line and the sidings 8 miles 44 chains; buildings consisting of offices, and quarters for the staff built within the Karuizawa Station grounds, offices built within the Yokogawa Station grounds, and watch-houses along the line between Sakamoto and Karuizawa, 651 *tsubo*.

TOKYO-KOBE SECTION.

On the 30th of May 1892, in consequence of rain which had fallen in large quantities for several days previously, a land-slip occurred at the Satte Hill; and the railway, at 108 miles 37 chains, became entirely covered with earth and rocks which fell from the hill-side. A temporary line was at once laid for the maintainence of the traffic. The line as originally located could not be considered secure from damage by the same cause in future, whilst the temporary line then laid was so close to the sea as to be liable to being washed at times by the waves. Under these circumstances, the Tokaido road was altered and the railway was laid over the ground formerly occupied by the highway.

Again on the 22nd of July, owing to continual rainfall lasting for several days, the rivers in the provinces of Mikawa and Totomi, became much swollen; they overflowed their banks and flooded the country between Washizu and Toyohashi. The permanent way, which at places is on embankments of about 10 feet in height, became covered with water; much ballast was washed away, and several breaches were made in the banks, one of them extending over a length of 22 feet. The traffic had to be suspended. However, repairing of the line was proceeded with without loss of time, and it was made in a condition to admit of being re-opened for traffic in the course of the same day.

A violent storm which prevailed on the 4th of September did much damage to the stations along the line. The Hamamatsu station suffered the most. The locomotive shed, carriage shed, and passenger waiting rooms were blown down, and the vehicles which were within the sheds sustained some extensive damage. A large amount of repairing works had to be done to make good the damage caused by this storm.

Of the works undertaken to meet the requirements of increasing traffic mention may be made of the building of new Goods Sheds at the Stations at Oyama, Sano, and Sudzukawa; the erection of passenger pass-over bridges at Hamamatsu and Otani Stations; the changing of the wooden passenger pass over bridge at Nagoya Station for a new structure of iron; extensions effected in the engine-shed at Kobe; extensions of sidings, some 20 chains in all, at Shimbashi, Kyoto and Kobe Stations; the removal to the western side of the main line of the siding used for procuring ballast at the Banyu River; and the construction of a siding at the western bank of the Tenryu River to be used for bringing timber on to the main line. The two latter works required the laying of rails for a distance of 1 mile and 25 chains.

In the section of railway between Nagoya and Maibara, whilst the gradient between Nagoya and Ogaki is comparatively level, a steep grade prevails over the portion between the latter town and Maibara; and to work the trains in this Section by engines of one capacity all the way through having proved to be uneconomical, it was decided that provision be made for stationing engines of different capacities at Ogaki, which is at the boundary of the level and steep gradients. For this purpose a new engine-shed of 169 *tsubo*, and quarters for the staff of 178 *tsubo*, were erected within the Station grounds of that town.

The works connected with earthquake damages which remained over from the previous fiscal year, viz., the rebuilding of Stations of Nagoya and Kiyosu, were brought to completion in the early part of the year under review.

No inconsiderable amount of repairs and reconstruction of buildings and works, necessitated either by natural causes or the increment of traffic, and also extensions and alterations of sidings, &c., were undertaken in the course of the year at different places on the line, but they being works of an unimportant nature will not be dealt with in detail.

On the Ofuna-Yokosuka, Obu-Taketoyo, and Maibara-Kanegasaki Branches, the works comprised extensions of sidings, building and repairing of the quarters of the staff and like minor works, which it will not be necessary to treat in detail. Mention may, however, be made of the removal of the Taketoyo Station in May, 1892, to 50 chains north of its original site. This work, which was undertaken to afford greater facilities in the working of both the passenger and goods traffic of the town required, among other things, the removal from the old station 11 chains of sidings which had existed there and re-laying them, together with 22 more chains of new sidings in the present Taketoyo Station.

TAKASAKI-YOKOGAWA SECTION.

Incessant rain of long duration caused, on the 24th of July, 1892, some 90 feet in length of one of the sides of the railway bank between Yokohama and Matsuida Stations to sink down, and much of the ballast of the line was carried away; this, together with a landslip of about 50 feet in length from a hill on the northern side of the line, which blocked the drain and made the water rush on to the railway, necessitated the stoppage of the last train of that day. Repairs were proceeded with without loss of time, and the line was so far repaired as to be serviceable from the following day.

Considerable changes had to be made in the main line and sidings within the Yokogawa Station grounds to make suitable junctions with the new line over the Usui Pass; 26 chains of old lines were taken up and 23 chains of new lines were laid for this purpose.

With the above two exceptions, the works on this section during the year consisted of ordinary repairs and therefore unworthy of special notice.

KARUIZAWA-NAOETSU SECTION.

In the spring of last year the water in the rivers in the neighbourhood of the town of Sakaki greatly increased in volume by rainfall, and on the 1st of May the Obitani-gawa made breaches in both of its banks and caused an enormous amount of sand, boulders, and water to rush into the railway line, which for a distance of about 30 chains became, for a time, the channel of a muddy torrent. On the subsiding of the flood, sediment to the extent of about 10 feet in height was found upon the railway. Temporary stations were built at both ends of the damaged locality for the convenience of the passengers and the service was maintained. In the meantime, the works for the repairing of the gap were pushed forward, and the resumption of the usual through traffic was effected by the 13th of the

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same month. The bridge over the Hisasawa river being liable to be damaged by each flood, owing to its piers being of insufficient height, they were elevated 2 feet 4 inches above the original height and the formation at the approaches was made correspondingly higher. New flood openings were constructed at the 34 miles 42 chains and at the 47 miles 18 chains; alterations were made to the eastern bank of the Torigawa in order to widen the river; and also a very large amount of work was done in repairing the damages caused by landslips in the numerous deep cuttings along the line generally, and between the 85 and 88 miles in particular. The summary of the work done, those of minor nature excepted, during the year in this section amounted to earthworks, cuttings and embankments, 13,493 *tsubo*, stone walls, repairs and new construction, 5,278 *tsubo*.

As the place where the railway over the Usui Pass would come out into the Shinshiu Plain was yet unsettled at the time of the construction of this section, all the works on the line in the neighbourhood of Karuizawa, viz., from 88 to 92 miles, were of a temporary kind. When the site of the junction of the lines was definitely settled, it became necessary to convert the temporary works into permanent ones. This work was taken in hand in May last year and was completed during the year under review. The works carried out may be summarized as follow:—Cuttings, 4,305 *tsubo*; embankments, 2,458 *tsubo*; retaining walls, 1,660 *tsubo*; 436 earthenware pipes used, and 144 feet of drains of brick made to replace former wooden drains; and 1 bridge and 3 culverts constructed.

Capital Account.

The railway fund granted by the Government from the first establishment of railways (March 1870) up to the close of the last fiscal year (end of March, 1892), amounted to *yen* 36,583,118. The increment of the railway capital during the year under review is as follows:—

	Yen.
Amount received from Treasury during the year under review for the Construction of the Usui Mountain Railway ...	633,375
Amount expended during the year under review on Supplementary works of open lines defrayed from the Revenue, in accordance with the Regulations for Government Railway Finances	347,343
Total ..... *Yen*	980,718

This sum added to the amount of the capital at the close of the previous fiscal year, gives *yen* 37,563,836. Now, by deducting from this total *yen* 9,361, which represents the amount realized by the sale of certain fixed properties and construction material, by return payments made for short delivery of material from abroad, by sums refunded for material for the Usui line which were lost, and by material procured for supplementary works and subsequently transferred to the stores, and by capital written off, a balance of *yen* 37,554,475 is obtained, which is the aggregate Railway Capital at the close of the year under review.

The amount of the Fixed Capital at the beginning of the year under review stood at *yen* 33,068,184. When the sum of *yen* 456,455, being the addition since made and consisting of the expenditures on supplementary railway works carried out during the year under review, of which accounts have been adjusted amounting to *yen* 436,991 and the Construction Stores used during the same period amounting to *yen* 19,446, is added to the above, a total of *yen* 33,434,639 is obtained. Deducting from this total the sum of *yen* 6,904, the amount of the reduction of the capital by sale of fixed property and value of materials in works which perished in the course of the execution of their repair, will give *yen* 33,427,735, which latter sum represents the actual amount of the Railway Fixed Capital at the close of the year under review.

The details of the adjusted accounts of the above are as follow:—

1. Tokaido Line.—Tokyo-Kobe Section, Ofuna-Yokosuka Section, Obu-Taketoyo Section, Maibara-Tsuruga Section: the construction and supplementary works expenditures which were defrayed from the old funds for the promotion of industries (*Kōgyō hi* and *Kigyō-hi*) or from grants in accordance with the old and new Regulations for Railway Finances:—

	Yen.	*Yen.*
Amount of Fixed Capital at the close of the last fiscal year		29,311,802
Amount of Fixed Capital reduced during the year under review:		
Property sold	6,780	
Capital written off ...	124	6,940
Balance		29,304,898
Amount of Fixed Capital increased during the year under review.		
Issues from the Supplementary Works Fund	297,175	
Stores, the accounts of which were adjusted	3,251	300,426
The amount of Fixed Capital at the close of the year under review.		
Total		29,605,324

2. Takasaki-Naoetsu Line.—Takasaki-Yokogawa Section and Karuizawa-Naoetsu Section, the construction and supplementary works' expenditures of which were defrayed in accordance with the old and new Regulations for Railway Finances:—

	Yen.	*Yen.*
Amount of Fixed Capital at close of the last fiscal year		3,756,382
Amount of Fixed Capital increased during the year under review.		
Issues from the Supplementary Works Fund	49,816	
Stores, the accounts of which were adjusted	16,213	66,029
Amount of Fixed Capital at the close of the year under review.		
Total		3,822,411

Aggregate Fixed Capital for all lines:—

	Yen.	*Yen.*
Amount of Fixed Capital at the close of the previous fiscal year		33,068,184
Amount of Fixed Capital reduced during the year under review:—		
Property sold	6,780	
Capital written off	124	6,904
Balance		33,061,280
Amount of Fixed Capital increased during the year under review:		
Issues from the Supplementary Works Fund	346,991	
Stores, the accounts of which were adjusted...	19,464	366,455
The aggregate amount of Fixed Capital at the close of the year under review		
Total		33,427,735

Besides the above there is a further sum of Railway Capital, including the Working Fund, amounting to *yen* 4,126,740 which being unproductive is not included in the Fixed Capital. The details of this fund, in which is included a further sum of *yen* 16,362 for Stores used and transferred to the Construction Expenditures, the accounts of which have been adjusted though no issues were yet made from the Treasury on their account, is as follow:—

	Yen.	*Yen.*
Amount of Usui Mountain Railway Construction Expenditures, the accounts of which have been adjusted.		
Adjusted up to the close of the previous fiscal year	1,173,320	
Adjusted during the year under review...	817,943	1,991,263
Amount of Construction Stores		150,829
Cash under charge of construction paymasters ...		1,010
Working Fund (this fund being included in the Revenues, its details are given in the Revenue Account)		2,000,000
Total.....		4,143,102

The details of this fund are as above. However, when the above stated amount, *yen* 16,362 of for which issues have not yet been made by the Treasury is deducted from the above total, a balance of *yen* 4,126,740 is obtained, which is the actual amount of the unproductive capital. This sum added to the amount of the Fixed Capital at the close of the year under review will coincide with the amount of the Gross Railway Capital, above given, namely, *yen* 37,554,475.

In the following table the Railway Construction expenditures, amounting to *yen* 33,427,735 is analized under various heads, and the average amount of the expenditures per mile under each head, with the ratio they bear to the aggregate amount to the close of the year under review are given and a comparison made with those of the previous fiscal year:—

Items.	Average Amount per mile on open lines. End of 25th fiscal year. Yen.	Average Amount per mile on open lines. End of 24th fiscal year. Yen.	Percentage of aggregate amount. End of 25th fiscal year. Per cent.	Percentage of aggregate amount. End of 24th fiscal year. Per cent.
Preliminary Surveys...	508	508	.0084	.0085
Superintending and Engineering	1,297	1,297	.0214	.0216
Right of way.....	2,991	2,991	.0493	.0498
Earthworks 10,368		10,327	.1709	.1721
Bridges (including culverts) 15,603		15,552	.2572	.2591
Tunnels	4,418	4,418	.0728	.0736
Permanent way (including drain-pipes, fences, boundary posts, and telegraphs) 10,021		9,918	.1652	.1658
Stations	3,244	3,141	.0535	.0523
Transportation (including construction trains).....	1,451	1,452	.0239	.0242
Wharves	205	205	.0034	.0034
Locomotives	3,098	2,924	.0511	.0487
Other rolling stock ...	4,096	3,922	.0675	.0654
Buildings	691	679	.0114	.0113
Shops and Machinery.	1,367	1,344	.0225	.0224
Construction plant ...	301	302	.0049	.0050
General charges	1,005	1,005	.0166	.0168
Total 60,667		60,015	1,000	1,000

From the above it will be seen that the average cost per mile at the close of the year under review was *yen* 60,667, which, when compared with that of the previous year, shows an average increase of *yen* 652 per mile.

In the following table the average cost per mile, at the close of the year, of the different sections of the lines in operation is compared and given:—

	Miles	Average Cost per mile. yen.
Total length of open lines	551	60,667
Details.	Miles	Average Cost per mile. yen.
1. Tokyo Yokohama Section ..... (Double line, construction begun April, 1870, completed September, 1872.)	18	163,457
2. Kobe Otsu Section ..... (1 mile double; construction begun November, 1870, completed September, 1879.)	58	137,993
3. Tsuruga Ogaki Section ..... (construction begun May, 1880, completed July, 1884.)	49	71,563
4. Takasaki Naoetsu Section..... (Usui toge excepted; construction begun October, 1884, completed December, 1888.)	110	34,749
5. Yokohama Ogaki Section ..... (22 miles double line; construction begun August, 1885, completed April, 1889.)	258	50,802
6. Ofuna-Yokosuka Section ..... (construction begun January, 1888, completed July, 1889.)	10	41,372
7. Otsu Nagahama Section ..... (construction begun February, 1888, completed July, 1889.)	48	34,008
Double line between Oyama and Numazu ..... (being a portion of the Yokohama Ogaki Section; construction begun February, 1890, completed March, 1891.)	22	15,617

The foregoing railways were already in a state of completion in the previous fiscal year. The general augmentation of the expenditures on all the lines which has since taken place is attributable to the increase of, and improvements made on, various railway properties, as necessitated by the requirements of the traffic.

The amount issued by the Treasury on account of the Construction Expenditures of the Yokogawa Karuizawa Section (Usui toge) from the 23rd to the previous fiscal year was *yen* 1,344,838*; the issues made for the same purpose during the year under the review were *yen* 633,375. The total of these sums, viz., *yen* 1,978,213, represents the aggregate issues from the Treasury on this account up to the close of the year.

* In the last year's report this item was given as *yen* 1,344,833. The difference of *yen* 5 arose in this wise: In the 23rd fiscal year, an over-payment of *yen* 5 was made in the item for "salaries." The sum being afterwards returned, was paid into the Treasury as "General Revenues," and was deducted from the total in the last year's accounts. As, however, the amount has previously been issued by the Treasury on the Usui Account it was since decided that the sum should be included in the total of the "Issues from the Treasury."

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The amount of construction expenditures on this line, the accounts of which were adjusted, stood at *yen* 1,991,263; and as a sum of *yen* 86, derived from over-payments in salaries, short delivery and loss of material, was returned to the Treasury during the year as General Revenues, the adjusted amount would appear to exceed the Issues from the Treasury by *yen* 13,136. But as a matter of fact, stores to the extent of *yen* 16,362 were used, against which no issues have yet been made from the Treasury. The greater part of this account has been adjusted, and had the issue for this amount been made by the Treasury, there would, instead of an excess, still have remained an unadjusted amount *yen* 3,226. There is still a further sum of *yen* 194 due from the Treasury on account of Salaries, Office Expenses, and Construction Expenditures, which would bring the latter sum up to *yen* 3,420; whilst, on the other hand, there is a sum of *yen* 757 under the charge of the construction paymasters, so by deducting this amount there would remain *yen* 2,663, which sum represents the Amount of the Construction Expenditures of the Usui, line the accounts of which yet remain to be adjusted. The completion of the construction of the line itself was effected, as originally estimated, by the end the year under review. The final and complete adjustment of the accounts will, however, have to remain over until the next fiscal year.

The estimated cost of the construction of this railway, which was begun in the 23rd fiscal year, was *yen* 2,000,029. The total Issues from the Treasury, after deducting the monies in charge of construction paymasters, and adding the sums which will be issued during the next fiscal year, which remained over on account of expenditures incurred during the year under review, will amount to *yen* 1,994.012, showing thereby that the work was completed with *yen* 6,017 within the estimates.

The amount expended during the year under review on supplementary works on the open lines was *yen* 347,343. This expenditure has been incurred in the improvement of property, to render railways thoroughly efficient in dealing with traffic which, day by day, is developing. These expenditures enhance the value of property and tend to augment the productive power of the capital invested.

In the following table the amount of the Gross and Fixed Railway Capital at the close of each fiscal year from the 19th is compared with the mileages of lines in operation, and the average cost per mile in respect of the aggregate and fixed capitals is given :—

Fiscal Years.	Amount of Aggregate Capital at the close of fiscal year.	Amount of fixed Capital at close of fiscal year.	Percentage of Fixed Capital to Aggregate Capital.	Miles in operation.	Per One Mile of open lines. Amount of Aggregate Capital.	Amount of Fixed Capital.
	Yen.	Yen.	Per cent	Miles.	Yen.	Yen.
Before 19th	17,885,844	14,971,665	83.7	143	125,076	104,697
19th	21,134,852	17,279,952	81.8	209	101,124	82,679
20th	26,284,852	22,447,023	85.4	245	107,285	91,643
21st	33,391,027	28,032,343	85.7	446	74,868	64,198
22nd	34,447,013	31,618,348	91.8	551	62,518	57,384
23rd	34,971,702	32,745,991	93.6	551	63,470	59,430
24th	36,583,118	33,008,184	90.4	551	66,394	60 015
25th	37,554,475	33,427,735	89.0	551	68,157	60,667

The proportional decrease of the amount of the Fixed Capital as compared with the amount of the Gross Capital, and the increase of the amount per mile of the Gross Capital at the close of the year under review, noticeable in the above table, are due to the fact that expenditures of over *yen* 1,990,000 on the Usui-toge line construction works, though included in the adjusted accounts, have been excluded from the columns of Fixed Capital, because of the line not being yet opened to traffic, and therefore earning no revenue.

The detailed statement of construction expenses at the close of the year under review will be found in Table No. 1.

General Condition of Traffic.

Traffic Receipts and the Causes of their Variation.—The traffic earnings of the Tokyo-Kobe, Takasaki-Yokogawa, and Karuizawa-Naoetsu Sections, taken together, show, as the result of the operations for the year under review, an increase of 14.5 per cent. over that of the previous year. The coaching receipts show an increase of 10.6 per cent.; the number of passengers 9.2 per cent.; passengers receipts 10.2 per cent.; and the average mileage per passenger has also increased by 1.3 per cent. The goods receipts were increased by 29.6 per cent., the goods tonnage by 21.8 per cent., and the average mileage per ton by 20.8 per cent. The train mileage also shows an increase of 7.1 per cent. The details of the variations and their causes, in each of the above sections are as follow :—

The Tokyo Kobe Section.—The traffic earnings of the year show an increase of 13.7 per cent. compared with that of the previous fiscal year. The number of passengers increased 9.7 per cent.; the passenger receipts 11 per cent.; and the average passenger mileage 1.6 per cent. This marked increment in the passenger traffic is attributable to an important portion of the line having been closed for a considerable time during the previous year owing to the damage it sustained by the great earthquake, which caused corresponding decrease of passenger receipts and shortening of passenger mileage; whilst, during the year under review the interruptions to the traffic of the line being rare, the average mileage was considerably lengthened in consequence, and to the general prosperity prevailing in the interior, larger number of travellers who availed themselves of the railway.

The goods traffic shows in tonnage an increase over the last year of 24 per cent., and goods receipts an increase of 33.6 per cent., and the average ton mileage of 22.4 per cent. This marked increase of the goods traffic is probably attributable to all the above causes, and to the through traffic having been available during the whole of the year owing to the damage by the earthquake having been repaired, the general prosperity of trade, and the steady increase of producers and traders using the railway as means of transportation for their goods.

Takasaki-Yokogawa Section.—The traffic earnings for the year under review show an increase over that of the previous year by 1.9 per cent. The number of passengers shows an increase of 6.4, and the passenger receipts of 2.8 per cent. The reason of the receipts not having increased in proportion to the increment of the number of passengers is owing to decrease of the first and second class passengers by 6.3 per cent., and the average passenger mileage having also been decreased by 8.2. The goods traffic shows in tonnage an increase of 1.7 per cent., but goods receipts decreased 0.4 per cent. This result is owing to the decrease of average ton mileage by 0.7 per cent. and a considerable increase of goods carried by special waggon-load contract.

Karuisawa-Naotsu Section.—The traffic earnings show an increase over that of the previous fiscal year of 6.4 per cent. The passenger receipts show an increase of 3.8 per cent., and the number of passengers of 2.3 per cent.; whilst the average passenger mileage decreased 1.2 per cent. The goods traffic shows an increase in tonnage of 14.4 per cent., goods receipts of 14.2 per cent., and the average ton mileage of 4.7 per cent. When the fact of this section having experienced an unprecedented severe snow-fall during the winter season is taken into consideration, these satisfactory results fully indicate the steady development of railway traffic in these districts.

Alterations in the Train Service.—An alteration of the Train Service of the Shimbashi-Kobe Railway and all its branches was made on the 16th of April, 1892; and for the convenience of the public an extra passenger and goods mixed train was on the 22nd of May put on to run between Shizuoka and Hamamatsu once each way; and an extra goods train (up) was added to the service between Ofuna and Yokohama from the 26th of June.

The opening of New Station and Branch Lines.—On the 1st June, 1892, the new station at Taketoyo was opened; and from the 20th of September the branch line at Tenryugawa was opened for traffic.

Principal Casualties in Connection with the Running of Trains.—The portion of the Tokyo-Kobe Section between Gifu and Ogaki over which the traffic had been suspended from the time of the great earthquake was opened on the 16th of April, 1892. On the 4th of September much damage was done by storm to buildings of the stations between Hamamatsu and Kamagori, necessitating the stoppage, for that day, of traffic over the district. Resumption of the normal service was made on the next day. Heavy snowfalls precluded the maintainence of the regular workings of the trains between Nagoya and Hikone, and those of the Tsuruga branch as well, from the 11th to the 15th of last February.

On the Takasaki-Yokogawa Section the traffic was interrupted but once, and that for a short time only. It occurred on the 24th of July, 1892, when the line was damaged by water. The normal traffic was resumed from the morning of the following day.

The traffic of the Karuizawa-Naoetsu Section was very much interrupted during the last winter by snow-falls of unprecedented severity in the province of Echigo. The line to the north of Nagano began to be obstructed from time to time from the early part of last December, and the full number of trains working in this section had in consequence often to be reduced. From the 22nd to the 25th of January all traffic to the north of Nagano was stopped. It was resumed, but the line did not remain long open, for it again became blocked on the 19th of February. From the 25th of that month the line between Nagano and Kashiwabara was cleared sufficiently to admit the resumption of the passenger traffic; and on the 4th of March it was opened through to Naoetsu. However, interruptions still occurred. From the 12th of March three passenger-trains each way began to run between Nagano and Naoetsu, and on and from the 17th of the same month the resumption of the regular working of the passenger trains, 4 times each way, was finally effected.

Telegraphic Messages.—This subject was not included in the previous reports. As it has, however, grown of late to be an important item of business connected with the traffic operations the main features of the business will be treated in the report for the year under review; and this will be continued hereafter in the future annual reports.

The number of the Telegraphic messages for the year under review amounted to :—Railway messages, 739,593, which shows an increase over the previous fiscal year's figures of 89,473; public messages, 122,423, which also shows an increase over the previous year of 22,649; and the sum remitted to the Treasury from the receipts for public messages, after deduction of the Railway Department's charges for expenses incurred, was *yen* 7,079, which shows an increase of *yen* 798 over the previous year. The expenditures on account of the maintainence of telegraphic instruments at the different stations was *yen* 3,277, and this shows a decrease of yen 1,488 below the expenses for the previous year. The total length of telegraph wires in operation at the close of the year under review was 497 *ri* 3 *cho* 21 ken 2 *shaku*, which is an increase of 12 *ri* 27 *cho* 29 *ken* 2 *shaku* over the length at the close of the previous year. There are 104 stations provided with telegraph, telephone, or block signalling instruments, and at 34 of these stations the business of public messages is undertaken together with that of the messages for the railway service. There are in employment 134 Siemens-Morse's printing instruments, 17 telephone instruments, and 36 block signalling instruments.

The statistics of traffic, statements of locomotive and train mileages, lists of casualties, &c., will be found in the Tables from No. 5 to No. 9, inclusive, at the end of this Report.

Revenue Account.

The Revenue for the year under review compared with that of the previous fiscal year, shows an increase of *yen* 470,491, whilst the working expenses for same period show a decrease of *yen* 260,701.

The great earthquake had much to do with bringing about these marked differences in the results of the working for the two years. However, when the results of the operation for the year are compared with that of the year before the previous fiscal year, the Revenue still shows an increase over that of the latter year to the extent of *yen* 366,828, a sign of the development of railway business; and although the working expenses for the year under review compared with that of the year before last show an increase of *yen* 164,926, when the fact of *yen* 147,109 being expended during the present year for repairing the damages by the earthquake, is taken into consideration, the actual working expenses for these two years are about the same.

The amounts of the revenue, working expenses, and net-profit for the year are as follow :—

	Yen.
Revenue	4,580,632
Working Expenses	2,166,199
Net Profit	2,414,433

The proportion of the working expenses to the revenue is 47 per cent., and compared with that of the previous fiscal year shows a decrease of 12 per cent. But when compared with that of the year before the previous year there is not much difference, though a slight decrease is shown.

In the following table the average revenue and working expenses per day and the same per mile of lines in operation of the different sections for the year are given and compared with those of the previous fiscal year :—

Sections.	Average amount of Revenue and Working Expenses per Day. Revenue.		Working Expenses.	
	25th fiscal year.	24th fiscal year.	25th fiscal year.	24th fiscal year.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Tokyo-Kobe Section	10,685	9,497	4,654	5,478
Ofuna-Yokosuka Section.....	183	161	62	64
Obu-Taketoyo Section	69	43	39	65
Maibara-Tsuruga Section	307	302	238	167
Takasaki-Yokogawa Section.	248	250	143	147
Karuizawa-Naoetsu Section	1,058	995	799	750
Total average	12,550	11,230	5,935	6,631

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Sections.	Average amount of Revenue and Working Expenses per Mile. Revenue. 25th fiscal year. Yen.	Revenue. 24th fiscal year. Yen.	Working Expenses. 25th fiscal year. Yen.	Working Expenses. 24th fiscal year. Yen.
Tokyo-Kobe Section	10,318	9,427	4,494	5,449
Ofuna-Yokosuka Section	6,671	5,891	2,278	2,336
Obu-Taketoyo Section	2,103	1,423	1,180	2,158
Maibara-Tsuruga Section	2,730	2,693	2,123	1,491
Takasaki-Yokogawa	5,028	5,692	2,883	2,277
Karuizawa-Naoetsu	4,197	4,004	3,169	3,015
Total	8,313	7,625	3,931	4,593

It will be seen from the above tables that the Revenues of all the sections, with the exception of the Takasaki line, have increased over that of the previous fiscal year. The marked increase noticeable in those of the Tokyo Kobe and Obu-Taketoyo Sections is attributable to these lines having, during the previous year, suffered from the effects of the earthquake, whilst throughout the year under review their operations were not obstructed by any like casualties. The marked decrease of the working expenses of the Tokyo-Kobe and the Obu-Taketoyo sections is attributable to the very heavy expenditures incurred during the previous fiscal year for repairing of the damages caused by earthquake, whilst in the year under review the sum expended for the same purpose amounted only to *yen* 124,227; and to the fact of no other extraordinary expenditures having been incurred. The increase of the working expenses of the Maibara-Tsuruga section is owing to the expenditure during the last fiscal year for the repairing of earthquake damages having been small, whilst the larger portion of the expenditures on this account, amounting to *yen* 22,845, was defrayed during the year under review. In the Karuizawa-Naoetsu section the augmentation of the working expenses for the year was caused by the expenditure of over *yen* 26,000 in clearing away snow.

The expenditures on account of repairing the damage to railway property caused by the great earthquake defrayed during the previous fiscal year amounted to *yen* 324,907, and the disbursements made during the year under review in bringing the repairs to completion amounted to *yen* 147,109. The total of these amounts represents the large sum of *yen* 472,016; from which inference may be made of the extensiveness of the damage wrought.

The differences which exist between the mode of rendering accounts of the Revenues and Expenditures as prescribed by the Law relating to the Finances of Government Works and Government Railways, and the modes employed by the Railway Department, the latter being based upon a system of accounts which has been in operation in the Department for many years past,* cause a difference in the amounts of the earnings as worked out by the two systems.

The amount of money remitted to the National Treasury, in accordance with the new accounts, as the net railway earnings for the year under review, and forming a part of the revenues from Government works and properties, was *yen* 2,085,068, the details of which, together with the relation the sum bears to earnings, according to the old accounts, are as follow:—

	Yen.
Railway Net Profit	2,414,433
Revenues receivable and the cost of office furniture, &c. (the sums payable on the same being deducted), which are included by the new accounts among the adjusted amounts; but excluded therefrom by the old accounts. (This item is termed below "the disparity between the new and old accounts.")	17,978
Total	2,432,411
Expenditures on supplementary works on open railways, defrayed from the earnings, in accordance with the provisions of the Railway Finance Regulations, which are excluded from the accounts of Railway Property by the new accounts, but included therein by the old accounts	347,343
Amount of remittance to the National Treasury as the Railway Net Profit Balance	2,085,068

As stated in the part treating of the capital account, the Working Fund is amalgamated and accounted for with the Revenues and Expenditures in the Revenue Account, the details of which are as follow:—

	Yen.
Working Fund	2,000,000
Operating Receipts	4,580,632
Disparity between the new and old accounts	17,978
Total	6,598,610

DETAILS

	Yen.	Yen.
Material in Stock:—		
In stores	895,966	
At shops	42,815	
At contractors'	849	939,630
Sums receivable and Office Furniture, &c.		91,435
Cash belonging to the Working Fund		968,935
Operating Expenses	2,166,199	
Expenditures on supplementary works	347,343	4,513,542
Net Profit—Balance		2,085,068

CASH ACCOUNT.

	Yen	Yen
Amount at deposit at the close of the year under review		3,120,558
Amount belonging to the Working Fund carried over to the next fiscal year	968,935	
Amount carried over to the next fiscal year to meet sums payable	66,555	1,035,490
Balance		2,085,068

The last balance represents the sum remitted to the National Treasury as the amount of Net Railway Earnings for the year.

The foregoing are the results as worked out in accordance with the new regulations. But since the division of items and the system of accounts generally employed in previous years are here retained, in order to facilitate comparison of the progress made by the operation of railways, the sum of *yen* 2,414,433 is taken as the net profit in this statement.

The sum of *yen* 4,580,632, the gross revenue for the year, is divided under three heads of Passenger, Goods, and Miscellaneous receipts, and the ratio each bears to the total for this and the last fiscal year, is as follow:—

Receipts.	Amount for the year under review. yen.	Amount for the last fiscal year. yen.	Percentage of the different receipts to the total revenue. 25th fiscal year. per cent.	24th fiscal year. per cent.
Passengers	3,487,133	3,179,873	76.1	77 4
Goods	1,019,262	824,056	22.3	20.0
Miscellaneous	74,238	106,212	1.6	2.6
Total	4,580,632	4,110,141	100	100

The figures in the above table record an increase in the earnings compared with the last year, of over *yen* 300,000 in the Passenger receipts and and over *yen* 190,000 in the Goods receipts. These satisfactory results are to an extent attributable to the exceptional curtailment of the receipts in previous fiscal year through the earthquake damages. However, when compared with the results of the working of the year before the previous one, an increase of *yen* 180,000 in the Passenger receipts and over 250,000 in the Goods receipts is shown. These facts prove that a steady development of both the passenger and the goods traffic is taking place. In the percentages of the different receipts as compared with the total receipts, it will be noticed that the goods receipts arose by 2.3 per cent., while the passenger receipts declined by 2.3 per cent.; which shows that the transportation of goods by rail is gradually increasing. The decrease in percentage of the Miscellaneous receipts is owing to these having been but a small amount of the extraordinary revenues during the year.

In the following table the aggregate Working Expenditure, during the year under review, namely, *yen* 2,166,199, is divided under the four heads of Maintenance of Permanent Way, Locomotive, Traffic, and General Expenses, and the ratio these bear to the Revenue and Working Expenditure is given for this and the previous year:—

Expenses.	Amount for the Year under review. Yen.	Amount for the last fiscal Year. Yen.	Ratio of the respective expenses to the revenue and working expenses. 25th Fiscal Year. Per Cent.	24th Fiscal Year. Per Cent.
Maintenance	839,796	1,013,591	38.8 18.3	41 8 24.6
Locomotive	806,520	866,687	37.0 17.5	35.7 21.1
Traffic	379,654	377,383	17.5 8.3	15.5 9.2
General	140,229	169,239	6.7 3.2	7.0 4.1
Total	2,166,199	2,426,900	100.0 47.3	100.0 59.0

Note.—The figures on the right side in the columns of percentages give the percentage of Working Expenses; those on the left percentages of Revenue.

The above table shows that a general decrease from the figures for the previous year has taken place in all branches of the expenditures, with the exception of that for the Traffic. This result is accountable to all items of working expenditures having in the last year been augmented by the earthquake. This is especially noticeable in the Maintenance Expenses, which show the most marked decrease in the year under review.

The increasing of the traffic expenses when all the other Expenditures have decreased is accountable to the increased amount of transportation business done during the year under review.

The different heads of the receipts and expenditures in the revenue account of the last three years, divided by their appropriate divisors, give results as shown in the following tables:—

RECEIPTS.

Fiscal Years.	Average mileage in operation. Miles.	Receipts per average mile in operation. Passenger Receipts. Yen.	Goods Receipts. Yen.	Miscellaneous Receipts. Yen.	Total. Yen.
25th fiscal year	551	6,328	1,850	135	8,313
24th fiscal year	539	5,899	1,529	197	7,625
23rd fiscal year	542	6,099	1,417	259	7,775
Average for 3 years		6,109	1,599	195	7,904

EXPENSES.

Fiscal Year.	Maintenance Expenses. Divisor. Working Mileage. Miles.	Per mile in operation Yen.	Locomotive Expenses. Divisor. Running Mileage. Miles.	Per mile run. Yen.
25th fiscal year	551	1,524	3,958,059	.202
24th fiscal year	551	1,840	3,547,377	.244
23rd fiscal year	551	1,246	2,947,754	.279

Fiscal Years.	Traffic Expenses. Divisor. Total Revenue. Yen.	Per 100 yen. Yen.	General Expenses. Divisor. Revenue and Expenditure. Yen	Per 100 yen. Yen.
25th fiscal year	4,580,632	8.288	6,746,831	2.167
24th fiscal year	4,110,141	9.182	6,537,041	2 589
23rd fiscal year	4,213,804	8.382	6,215,077	2.236

	Maintenance Expenses.	Locomotive Expenses.	Traffic Expenses.	General. Expenses.
Average for the three years	1,537	.242	8.617	2.331

The details of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Revenue Account for the various sections will be found in Table No. 2.

The net profit of the year under review, *yen* 2,414,433, compared with the aggregate amount of the capital, *yen* 37,554,475, and the total of the finally adjusted amount of the same, or Fixed Capital, *yen* 35,418,997 give the following ratios for this year, those of the three previous years being also given for comparison:—

Fiscal Year.	Net profits compared with Gross Capital. Per cent.	Net profits compared with Fixed capital. Per cent.
25th fiscal year	6.4	6.8
24th fiscal year	4.6	4.9
23rd fiscal year	6.3	6.8
22nd fiscal year	6.1	6.7

As may be observed in the above table, the net profit of the year was 6.4 per cent. of the Gross Capital and 6.8 per cent. of the Adjusted Fixed Capital. In the Gross Capital, however, is included the sum of *yen* 1,978,213 expended for the construction of the Usui Railway, and the adjusted sum of *yen* 1,991,263 in the Fixed Capital (the apparent discrepancy existing between the Construction Expenditures and the Adjusted Account has been explained in the part of this report treating the Capital Account), as these amounts had not become productive during the year, were they excluded, the percentages of the net Profit would have been 6.8 per cent. of the Gross Capital and 7.2 per cent. of the Fixed Capital. The result of the working for the previous fiscal year having been poor owing to the earthquake, the above figures may be compared with that of the 22nd and 23rd fiscal years. In this case, they show an increase of from .4 to .7 per cent.

In the following table the annual increase of the Capital and of the Gross Receipts is compared, and the annual increase of the mileage in operation and the percentages are given, to show the relation between the Capital and the Revenue for this last and the three previous fiscal years:—

Fiscal Year.	Increase of mileage in operation. Miles.	Increase in amount of aggregate capital. Yen.	Proportion of increase of capital. Per cent.	Increase of gross receipts. Yen.	Percentage of increase of gross receipts. Per cent.	Proportion of gross receipts to capital. Per cent.
25th fiscal year	0	971,357	2.7	490,491	11.4	12.8
24th fiscal year	0	1,611,416	4.6	103,663*	2.4*	12 2
23rd fiscal year	9	524,069	1.5	442,174	21.7	13.0
22nd fiscal year	103	1,056,606	3.0	1,457,819	63.0	10.9

* Decrease.

The sum of *yen* 2,085,068 remitted to the National Treasury as the net earnings for the year is 5.6 per cent. of the gross capital, and 5.9 per cent. of the Fixed capital.

* These different methods of accounts prevailed the *Uke harai* (receiving and paying) and *Jigyo Kaikei* (works accounts). For the sake of convenience, they will be termed new and old accounts respectively.

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The General Balance Sheet of the Capital and Revenue Accounts at the close of the year will be found in Table No. 3.

Private Railways.

Applications received during the year under review for permission to form companies for the purpose of constructing railways were 7 in number, viz.:—The Nanyo, Dogo, Ota, Shinkaku, Sano, Boso, and Kojima Railways. Of these the Boso and Shinkaku Railways are designed to use electricity as the motive power. Applications were also received from the Sobu Railway Company for permission to construct a branch line from Koiwa to Honjô, and another from the Kansei Railway Company for licence to extend their line from Tsuge to Nara, and from Kuwana to Nagoya. Of these 9 applications, that of the Sobu Railway, together with an application made in the 22nd fiscal year by the Bantan Railway Company, was granted. All others were under consideration at the date up to which this report deals. Information about the situation of the offices, amount of capital, the location and length of lines, &c., of these railways will be found in the table below.

Charters were granted to the following five companies:—The Kawagoe, Ome, Kushiro, Settsu, and Nippon Railway Company (for its branch from Shiriuchi to Minato). Of these the Kushiro Railway Company were granted licence to open their line for public traffic on the 1st of September, 1892.

Licences were granted during the year under review permitting the opening for public traffic of the following lines of railway:—Mitsu-Takahama Section of the Iyo Railway, Onomichi-Mihara Section of the Sanyo Railway, the whole of the line of the Kushiro Railway, and the Nokata-Kotake and Nokata-Kaneda Sections of the Chikuho Railway. Beside the above, licence was granted the Hokkaido Railway Company to open their Muroran and Yûbari line. All the lines projected by this Company were thereby brought to completion. The aggregate mileage of the private railways opened during the year is 153 miles 43 chains. A detailed account of these matters is given in the tabulated form below.

The total mileage of the railways of the different companies in operation at the close of the year under review amounted to over 1,319 miles. The lines open, lines under construction, and lines surveyed are given in the Railway Sketch Map* annexed to this report.

Charters were granted to:—

The Kawagoe Railway Company.
Office—Tokorozawa, Saitama Ken.
Charter—Granted 21st June, 1892.
Capital—*Yen* 300,000.
Line—Kokubunji to Kawagoe.
Length—18 miles 20 chains.
Period of Construction—2 years.

The Ome Railway Company.
Office—Ome, Kanagawa Ken.
Charter—Granted 21st June, 1892.
Capital—*Yen* 100,000.
Line—Ome to Tachikawa.
Length—13 miles 7 chains.
Period of Construction—2 years.

The Kushiro Railway Company.
Office—Shibecha, Hokkaido.
Charter—Granted 21st June, 1892.
Capital—*Yen* 200,000.
Line—Shibecha-Atosanobori.
Length—26 miles 50 chains.
Construction completed.

The Settsu Railway Company.
Office—Itami, Hyogo Ken.
Charter—Granted 28th December, 1892.
Capital—*Yen* 240,000.
Line—Amagasaki to Itami and Itami to Ikeda and Ikuse.
Length—14 miles 34 chains.
Period of Construction—15 months.

The Nippon Railway Company.
Office—Tokyo.
Charter—Granted 31st March, 1893.
Line—Shiriuchi to Minato.
Length—5 miles 13 chains.
Period of Construction—1 Year.

Charters applied for by:—

The Sano Railway Company.
Office—Kuzuo-machi, Tochigi Ken.
Capital—*Yen* 145,000.
Line—Kuzuo to Koshinagawa.
Length—9 miles 50 chains.

The Shinkaku Railway Company.
Office—Kobe, Hyogo Ken.
Capital *Yen* 300,000.
Line—Kobe to Mita-machi.
Length—17 miles 32 chains.

The Boso Railway Company.
Office—Tokyo.
Capital.—*Yen* 230,000.
Line—Soga-machi to Ozuna.
Length—11 miles 39 chains.
Provisional charter granted to:—

The Nippon Railway Company.
Office—Tokyo.
Provisional Charter—Granted 27th December, 1892.
Line—Shiriuchi to Minato.
Length—5 miles 13 chains.
Period of survey—6 months.

The Sobu Railway Company.
Office—Tokyo.
Provisional charter—Granted 21st February, 1893.
Line—Koiwa to Honjô.
Length—5 miles 40 chains.
Period of survey—6 months.

Bantan Railway Company.
Office—Shikama, Hyogo Ken.
Provisional charter—Granted 8th March, 1893.
Capital—*Yen* 1,000,000.
Line—Shikama-Ikuno.
Length—29 miles.
Period of survey—10 months.

Provisional Charters applied for by:—

The Nanyo Railway Company.
Office—Gunchiu, Ehime Ken.
Capital—*Yen* 85,000.
Line—Sotogawa to Gunchiu.
Length—7 miles 10 chains.

The Dôgo Railway Company.
Office—Dôgo, Ehime, Ken.
Capital—*Yen* 28,000.
Line—Yunomachi to Funaya and Furumachi.
Length—2 miles 23 chains.

The Ota Railway Company.
Office—Ota, Ibaraki Ken.
Capital—*Yen* 160,000.
Line—Ota to Mito.
Length—13 miles.

The Kansei Railway Company.
Office—Yokkaichi, Mie Ken.
Capital—1,960,000 *Yen*.
Line—Kuwana to Nagoya.
Length—15 miles 40 chains.

The Kansai Railway Company.
Capital—*Yen* 1,540,000.
Line—Tsuge to Nara.
Length—31 miles 57 chains.

The Kojima Railway Company.
Office—Kurashiki, Okayama Ken.
Capital—Yen 170,000.
Line—Kurashiki to Ajino.
Length—11 miles 21 chains.

The following lines of railway were opened for public traffic after duly passing the inspection of the Railway Department:—

	Length. M. Ch.
The Iyo Railway Company:—	
Line—Mitsu to Takahama	1.48
Opened—6th May, 1892.	
The Sanyo Railway Company:—	
Line—Onomichi to Mihara	5.51
Opened—13th July, 1892.	
The Hokkaido Railway Company:—	
Line—Muroran to Iwamizawa	83.48
Opened—1st August, 1892.	
The Hokkaido Railway Company:—	
Line—Oiwake to Yubari	26.49
Opened—1st November, 1892.	
The Kushiro Railway Company:—	
Line—Shibecha to Atosanobori	25.78
Opened—1st September, 1892.	
The Chikuho Railway Company:—	
Line—Nôkata to Kotake	3.69
Opened—18th October 1892.	
The Chikuho Railway Company:—	
Line—Nôkata to Kaneda	6.20
Opened—6th February 1893.	
Total	153.43

For the purpose of showing the working of private railways, the Receipts, Working Expenses, percentages of the Net Earnings, &c., for the year under review, of the Nippon and twelve other railway companies, as they appear in their respective reports, are given and compared with those of the previous year in Table No. 11 to be found at the end of this report.

Table of mileages of all the Railways in operation on the 31st March, 1893.

Government Railways.

	M. Ch.	M. Ch.
Shimbashi-Kobe Section	376.31	
Ofuna-Yokosuka Section	10.03	
Obu-Taketoyo Section	12.01	
Maibara-Kanegasaki Section	31.01	
Takasaki-Naoetsu Section	117.10	
Baba Otsu Section †	1.23	
Fukuiami-Nagahama Section †	9.60	
		557.49

Nippon Railway.

Ueno-Aomori Section	454.66	
Shinagawa-Akabane Section	12.76	
Omiya-Maebashi Section	51.14	
Utsunomiya-Nikko Section	25.00	
Iwakiri-Shiogama Section	4.23	
Ueno-Akihanohara Section †	1.15	
Oyama-Mito Section	41.45	
Mito-Nakagawa Section †	.62	591.61

Kobu Railway.

Shinjiku to Hachioji		22.77

Ryomo Railway.

Oyama to Maebashi		52.17

Sanyo Railway.

Kobe-Mihara Section	143.40	
Hyogo-Wadanomisaki Section †.	1.64	145.24

Kyushu Railway.

Moji to Kumamoto	131.31	
Tosu to Saga	15.30	136.61

Kansei Railway.

Kusatsu-Yokkaichi Section	49.25	
Kameyama-Tsu Section	9.60	59.05

Osaka Railway.

Osaka-Takada Section	23.11	
Oji-Nara Section	9.44	32.55

Hankai Railway.

Osaka to Sakai		6.13

Chikuho Railway.

	M. Ch.	M. Ch.
Wakamatsu-Kaneda Section	21.64	
Nokata-Otake Section	3.69	25.53

Iyo Railway.

Satogawa to Takahama Section		5.66

Sanuki Railway.

Marugame to Kotohira Section		10.15

Kokkaido Railway.

Temiya-Horonai Section	56.02	
Horonaifuto-Ikushunbetsu Section	4.39	
Muroran Utashinai Section	114.39	
Sunagawa-Sorachifuto Section	2.68	
Oiwake-Yubari Section	26.49	
Sanbashi-Temiya Section†	.34	204.71

Kushiro Railway.

Shibecha to Atosanobori		25.78
Total		1,877.05

Table of mileages of Private Railways either under construction or for which surveys have been made, *i.e.* of the lines projected by companies for which they had been granted charters and hence possessing the right of construction on 31st March 1893.

	M. ch.
Kobu Railway.	
Shinjiku to Misakicho	4.20
Sanyo Railway.	
Mihara to Shimonoseki	157.13
Kyushu Railway.	
Kokura to Gyohashi; Kumamoto to Yashiro and Misumi; Saga to Nagasaki and Sasebo	134.40
Kwansei Railway.	
Yokkaichi to Kuwana	8.15
Osaka Railway.	
Minato-machi M'meda (Osaka) to Takata to Sakurai	10.23
Iyo Railway	
Sotogawa to Hiraigawara	4.34
Chikuhô Railway	
Kanda to Ikari; Kotake to Iizuka	8.02
Kôshin Railway	
Gotemba to Matsumoto	136.00
Sôbu Railway	
Honjo to Sakura	31.00
Sangu Railway	
Tsu to Kamata	22.40
Hoshû Railway	
Gyohashi to Yokkaichi; Gyohashi to Kashun Ikari	43.65
Settsu Railway	
Amagasaki to Itami; Ikeda to Ikuse	14.34
Kawagoe Railway	
Kawagoye to Kokubunji	18.20
Ome Railway	
Ome to Tachikawa	13.07
Nippon Railway	
Shiriuchi to Minato	5.13
Total	611.06

† These lines are used for Goods Traffic Exclusively.

* As the Map cannot be reproduced here, the Tables of Mileages of Railways appearing on the map are given below.

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TABLE No. 1. DETAILED STATEMENT OF RAILWAY EXPENDITURES ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31ST, 1893.

Items.	Tokyo-Yokohama, Double Line, 18 miles.	Kobe-Otsu, Single Line, 58 miles.	Tsuruga-Ogaki, Single Line, 49 miles.	Naoetsu Line, Single Line, 110 miles.	Tokaido Line, 258 miles. Yokohama-Obu. Single Line, 205 miles.	Yokohama-Obu. Oyama-Numazu Double Line, 22 miles.	Yokohama-Obu. Total.	Ogaki-Taketoyo, Single Line, 53 miles.	Total.	Yokosuka Line, Single Line, 10 miles.	Biwa Lake Shore Line, Single Line, 48 miles.	Total, 551 miles (Fixed Capital).	Usui Line, under Construction.	Grand Total.
Preliminary Surveys	24,829 675	68,888 583	100,879·327	39,422·495	27,209 151	2,146 895	29,356·046	9,114·705	38,470 751	4,204·190	3,063 675	279,758·696	13,643 084	293,401·780
Superintending and Engineering	74,882·680	202,163·621	47,594·021	117,812·241	189,097·288	9,020·916	198,118·204	49,552·516	247,670·720	7,889·782	16,810 540	714,823·605	74,355·966	789,179 571
Right of Way and Station Ground	235,831·433	371,555·755	88,351 093	243,191·809	460,311 584	865 222	461,176 806	119,076 713	580,253 519	23,977·694	104,763·515	1,647,924·818	14,579 371	1,662,504·189
Earthworks	464,808 072	867,621·272	618,533 000	1,024,133·832	1,861,674 514	99 782·139	1,961,456·653	333,266·201	2,294,722·854	59,510·393	383,332·650	5,712,662·073	106,066 340	5,818,728 413
Bridges	653,664·566	2,081,660 222	175,801 902	408,512·101	2,540,427 038	64,984·939	2,605,411·977	1,059,378·340	3,664,790 317	21,091·183	446,583·400	7,452,103·691	127,593·973	7,579,697·664
Culverts	15,680·779	411,154 858	84,988 659	137,627 828	270,300·834	15,271 791	285,572·625	87,043·490	372,616·115	9,781·017	113,483·039	1,145,332·295	10,940 975	1,156,273 270
Drainage Pipes	23,521·169	14,032 121	9,486·420	53,996 976	47,431·589	826·050	48,257 639	12,539·410	60,797·049	946·794	16,612·192	179,392·721	763 675	180,156·396
Tunnels	—	503,125·438	531,943 315	69,842 834	1,103,880 130	—	1,103,880·130	—	1,103,880·130	153,521·649	72,135·791	2,434,449·157	753,851·765	3,188,300 922
Permanent Way	522,345 808	811,591·280	023,058·028	790,409·339	1,487,988·074	133,121·250	1,621,109 324	428,539·785	2,049,649·109	95,924·777	328,473·677	5,221,452·018	155,692·564	5,377,144·582
Stations	226,820·510	932,945 431	140,825·748	104,828·486	257,249 584	1,495 662	258,745·246	59,695·844	318,441·090	16,036·697	47,795·161	1,787,693·123	7,989·383	1,795,682 506
Breakwaters and Wharves	—	1,622 452	102,284 197	132.990	8.768 121	—	8,768·121	—	8,768·121	—	—	112,807·760	—	112,807·760
Rolling Stock	355,981·709	1,027,986 205	718,389 413	434,388 489	1,339,154·607	—	1,339,154·607	77,980·126	1,417,134·733	—	9,380·141	3,963,266·690	419,456·851	4,382,717 541
Machine Shops	167,990·077	344,863·355	95,075 290	69,098 519	64,729·004	—	64,729·004	11,452·791	76,181·795	—	—	753,209·036	6,178·784	759,387·820
Buildings	47,594 509	154,485·480	31,223·014	59,437·610	61,614 118	22.076	61,636·194	14,551 474	76,187 668	3,074·286	10,760 020	382,762·587	16,507·642	399,270·229
Transportation	225 698	829·516	2,237·154	174,039·526	349,248·242	4,413 959	353,662·201	56,189 961	409,852·162	8,905 970	37,297·412	633,387·438	264,471·038	897,858 476
Construction Trains	5,224·811	17,531·420	17,339 331	20,016·870	84,568 248	10,341 379	94,909 627	2,381·936	97,291 563	4,030·970	4,939·822	166,374·787	8,998·403	175,373 190
Construction Plant	66,668 930	489·024	—	23,013·072	70,931·167	66.890	70,998·057	1,014 091	72,012 148	559·145	3,012·434	165,754·753	5,193·981	170,948 734
Fences and Boundary Posts	4,336 356	33,345·125	820.929	3,715·999	4,998·545	—	4,998 545	1,233·249	6,231·794	228·862	930·277	49,609·342	119·250	49,728 592
General Charges	51,811·568	140,324·635	112,866·464	39,131·773	110,052·478	51 176	110,103 654	67,919·091	178,022·745	2,825·402	29,006·124	553,988·711	4,453 852	558,442·563
Telegraphs	10.460	17,350 889	4,865·459	9,658·190	29,626·411	1,161·613	30,788·024	3,084·467	33,872·491	1,214·649	4,015 348	70,987·486	405 705	71,393·191
Total	2,942,228,810	8,003,566·682	3,506,562·764	3,822,410·979	10,369,260·727	343·571·957	10,712,832 684	2,394,014·190	13,106,846·874	413,723·460	1,632,395·218	33,427,734·787	1,991,262·602	35,418,997 389
Working Fund														+ 2,000,000·000
Material in Stores, Sums receivable for Cash entrusted to Paymasters														+ 151,838 769
Sums payable for Material used for the Usui Line														— 16,361·622
														37·554·474 536

TABLE No. 2. DETAILED STATEMENT OF RAILWAY REVENUE FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31ST, 1893.

Sections.	Traffic Receipts. Coaching Receipts.	Goods Receipts.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Total.	Maintenance of Way.	Traffic Expenditures. Expense of Locomotive Power.	Traffic Expenses.	General Charges.	Totals.	Net Profit.
Tokyo Kobe	3,009,675 030	820,072·386	70,393 613	3,900,141·029	597,425 188	660,261·092	219,760·774	121,349 377	1,698,796 431	2,201,344·598
Otsu Yokosuka	64,995 080	1,451·240	269 016	66,715·336	7,536·285	9,031·160	4,275 427	1,940·455	22,783 327	43,932 009
Obu Taketoyo	20,908·710	3,823·370	503 892	25,235·972	7,740·243	2,794·795	2,775·043	853 976	14,164·057	11,071·915
Maibara-Tsuruga	88,251·940	22,615·300	1,077 310	111,944 550	53,045·653	18,596 808	11,071 014	4,312·286	87,025 761	24,918 789
Takasaki-Yokogawa	64,098 548	25,464 491	935 364	90,498·403	24,537·131	15,357·801	8,906·490	3,085 426	51,886·848	38,611·555
Karuizawa-Naoetsu	239,203 510	145,834 850	1,058 773	386 097 133	149,511 752	94,478 083	32,865·548	14 687·214	291,542 597	94,554·536
Total	3,487,132·818	1,019,261·637	74 237·968	4,580 632·423	839,796·252	800,519 739	379,654 296	146.228.734	2,166,199 021	2,414,433·402

TABLE No. 3. GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, MARCH 31ST, 1893.

Items.	Cr.	Items.	Cr.
Construction Expenditure	35,418,997·389	Capital	35,554,474·536
Material in Stores :—		Working fund	2,000,000.000
Construction Department	150,829.136	Traffic Receipts	4,580,632·423
Traffic Department	939 630·276	Sums Payable :—	
Working Expenses	2,166,199 021	Construction Department	16,361.622
Supplementary Works	347,343·173	Traffic Department	66,554·362
Sums receivable :—		New Account	17,978.176
Construction Department	33,616.152		
Traffic Department	57,818.334		
Office furniture, &c.	1,009·633		
Paymasters	3,120558·33		
On deposit			
Total	42,236,001.119	Total	42,236,001.119

TABLE No. 4. QUANTITY OF ROLLING STOCK AT CLOSE OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH FISCAL YEAR.

Materials.	Tokyo-Hamamatsu and Yokosuka.	Takasaki-Naoetsu.	Kobe-Hamamatsu, Obu-Taketoyo, Maibara-Tsuruga.	Total.	Total at the close of the 23rd Fiscal Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
Engines	43	71	19	133	123	10	—
State Coaches	1	1	—	2	2	—	—
1st class Carriages	32	5	—	37	37	—	—
1st and 2nd class Composite	11	14	2	27	24	3	—
2nd class Carriages	43	30	—	73	59	14	—
2nd and 3rd class Composite	—	—	7	7	7	—	—
2nd class and Postal Service Composite	—	5	—	5	5	—	—
3rd class Carriages	83	234	26	343	343	—	—
3rd class and Brake Composite	21	30	2	53	47	6	—
Passenger Brake Vans	28	34	11	73	73	—	—
Postal Service Vans	10	—	—	10	10	—	—
Covered Goods Waggons	89	525	118	732	692	40	—
Open Goods Waggons	107	391	42	540	505	36	1
Carriage Waggons	3	1	—	4	4	—	—
Horse Boxes	2	1	—	3	3	—	—
Cattle Trucks	3	10	—	13	13	—	—
Fish Trucks	6	28	—	34	34	—	—
Oil Trucks	15	42	—	57	43	14	—
Timber Trucks	6	24	—	30	30	—	—
Ballast Wagons	97	70	48	215	240	—	25
Stone Waggons	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Goods Brake Vans	45	67	10	122	118	4	—
Casualty Vans	1	1	—	2	2	—	—
Grand Total	646	1,585	285	2,516	2,415	127	26

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TABLE No. 5. STATISTICS OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

Items.		Tokyo-Kobe Section.			Takasaki-Yokogawa Section.		
		25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	Increase or Decrease. Decrease marked *.	25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	Increase or Decrease. Decrease marked *.
Average operating mileage*	Miles	429.36	430.9	* .53	18.	18.	0.
Passenger train mileage	Miles	2,023,152.	2,066,180.	* 43,028.	4,176.	1,342.	2,734.
Mixed train mileage	Miles	328,121.	209,474.	118,647.	61,464.	52,924.	8,540.
Total	Miles	2,187,213.	2,170,917.	16,296.	34,908.	27,804.	7,104.
Daily train mileage	Miles	5.992.	5.931.	61.	96.	76.	20.
Carriage mileage	Miles	25,503,696.	25,125,422.	378,274.	416,899.	346,842.	70,057.
Average mileage per day	Miles	69,873.	68,649.	1,224.	1,142.	948.	194.
Average number of carriages to a train	Carriages	11.66	11.57	.09	11.94	12.47	* .53
Total number of carriages used †	Carriages	240,276.	231,464.	8,812.	—	—	—
Daily Average mileage per carriage	Miles	107.878	110.048	* 2.170	—	—	—
Number of Passengers carried :—							
First and Second class	Persons	702,839.	660,081.	42,758.	9,017.	9,623.	* 606.
Third class	Persons	10,890,449.	9,903,633.	986,816.	370,688.	346,736.	23.952.
Total	Persons	11,593,288.	10,563,714.	1,029,574.	379,705.	356,359.	23,346.
Daily average number of passengers	Persons	31,762.	28,863.	2,899.	1,040.	974.	66.
Passenger mileage :—							
First and Second class passenger mileage	Miles	22,035,262.	20,026,212.	2,009,050.	124,601.	144,992.	* 20,391.
Third class passenger mileage	Miles	254,274,297.	227,772,220.	26,502,077.	4,495,323.	4,581,902.	* 86,579.
Total	Miles	276,309,559.	247,798,432.	28,511,127.	4,619,924.	4,726,894.	* 106,970.
Average mileage per passenger	Miles	23.83	23.46	.37	12.17	13.26	* 1.09
Average mileage per First and Second class passenger	Miles	31.35	30.34	1.01	13.82	15.07	* 1.25
Average mileage per Third class passenger	Miles	23.35	23.00	.35	12.13	13.21	* 1.08
Average number of passengers per mile	Persons	643,403.	576,125.	67,278.	256,662.	262,605.	* 5,943.
Average number of passengers per train mile	Persons	126.33	114.14	12.19	132.35	170.01	* 37.66
Average number of passengers per carriage mile	Persons	10.83	9.86	.97	11.08	13.63	* 2.55
Coaching Receipts :—							
Passenger receipts	Yen	3,036,148.377	2,734,418.235	301,730.142	63,972.740	62,206.610	1,766.130
Parcels and luggage receipts	Yen	122,646.680	97,721.330	24,925.350	1,112.670	1,097.600	15.070
Postal service receipts	Yen	32,825.604	32,442.388	383.216	769.566	720.000	49.566
Total	Yen	3,191,620.661	2,864,581.953	327,038.708	65,854.976	64,024.210	1,830.766
Daily average receipts	Yen	8,744.166	7,826.727	917.439	180.425	174.930	5.495
Average receipts per operating mile	Yen	7,431.880	6,660.076	771.804	3,658.610	3,556.901	101.709
Average receipts per train mile	Yen	1.459	1.320	.139	1.887	2.303	* .416
Average receipts per carriage mile	Yen	.1251	.1140	.0111	.1580	.1846	* .0266
Average receipts per passenger	Yen	.2619	.2589	.0030	.1685	.1746	* .0061
Average receipts per passenger mile	Yen	.01099	.01103	* .00004	.01385	.01316	.00069
Average receipts per carriage	Yen	13 557	12.653	.904	—	—	—
Total tonnage of parcels and luggage carried	Tons	5,168.	4,396.	772.	184.	164.	20.
Average number of tons per day	Tons	14.16	12 01	2.15	.50	.45	.05
Average receipts per ton	Yen	23 732	22.230	1.502	6.047	6 693	* .646

Items.		Karuizawa-Naoetsu Section.			Total.		
		25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	Increase or Decrease. Decrease marked*.	25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	Increase or Decrease. Decrease marked*.
Average operating mileage *	Miles	92.10	92.10	—	539 46	540 19	.53
Passenger train mileage	Miles	—	—	—	2,027,328.	2,067,522.	40,194.
Mixed train mileage	Miles	251,172.	259,345.	8,173.	640,757.	521,743.	119,014.
Total	Miles	125.586.	129.673.	4,087.	2,347.707.	2,328.394.	19,313.
Daily train mileage	Miles	344.	355.	11.	6,432.	6,362.	70.
Carriage mileage	Miles	1,193,667.	1,249,498.	55,831.	27,114.262.	26,721,762.	392,500.
Average mileage per day	Miles	3,270.	3,414.	144.	74.285.	73.011.	1,274.
Average number of carriage to a train	Carriages	9 50	9 64	.14	11 55	11 48	.07
Total number of carriages used †	Carriages	13,140.	12,688.	452.	253,416.	244,152.	9,264.
Daily average per carriage	Miles	90.842	98 479	7.637	106 995	109 447	2.452
Number of passengers carried :—							
First and Second class	Persons	14,230.	13 633.	597.	726 086.	683 337.	42 749.
Third class	Persons	886 324.	854 207.	32,117.	12,147,461.	11,104 576	1 042 885.
Total	Persons	900,554.	867 840.	32,714.	12,873 547.	11,787.913.	1,085 634.
Daily average number of passengers	Persons	2,467.	2,371.	96.	35,270.	32,208.	3,062.
Passenger mileage :—							
First and Second class passenger mileage	Miles	330 402.	325 843.	4 559.	22.490 265.	20,497.047.	1 993 218.
Third class passenger mileage	Miles	17 598 808.	17.212 324.	386 484.	276 368 428.	249.566 446.	26 801.982.
Total	Miles	17 929,210.	17,538,167.	391,043.	298,958,693	270,063,493.	28,795,200.
Average mileage	Miles	19.91	20.17	.26	23.21	22.91	.30
Average mileage per First and Second class passenger	Miles	23 22	23 90	.68	30.97	30.00	.97
Average mileage per Third class passenger	Miles	19 86	20 15	.29	22.75	22.48	.27
Average number of passengers per mile	Persons	194.618.	190.374.	4,244	553,878.	499.898	53 980.
Average number of passengers per train mile	Persons	142.76	135.24	7 52	127.30	115 99	11 31
Average number of passengers per carriage mile	Persons	15.02	14 04	.98	11.02	10.11	.91
Coaching Receipts :—							
Passenger receipts	Yen	235 487 810	230,241.190	6,246 620	3.335 608 927	3,026 866 035	308 742 892
Parcels and luggage receipts	Yen	2.738.300	2.985.320	247 020	126 497 650	101.804 250	24 693 400
Postal service receipts	Yen	1,726 500	1,764 140	37 640	35 321 670	34.926 528	395 142
Total	Yen	239,952 610	234 990 650	4,961.960	3 497.428 247	3.163 596 813	333 831 434
Daily Average receipts	Yen	657.404	642 051	15 353	9 581 995	8.643.708	938 287
Average receipts per operating mile	Yen	2,604 642	2,550 780	53.862	6,481 820	5.855 937	625 883
Average receipts per train mile	Yen	1.911	1 812	.099	1 490	1 359	.131
Average receipts per carriage mile	Yen	.2010	.1881	.0126	.1290	.1184	.0106
Average receipts per passenger	Yen	.2615	.2653	.0038	.2591	.2568	.0023
Average receipts per passenger mile	Yen	.01313	.01313	—	.01116	.01121	.00005
Average daily receipts per carriage	Yen	18.261	18.521	.260	13 801	12 957	.844
Total tonnage of parcels and luggage carried	Tons	135.	130.	5.	5,487	4,690.	797.
Average number of tons per day	Tons	.37	.36	.01	15.03	12.82	2.18
Average receipts per ton	Yen	20 284	22 964	2.680	23 054	20.707	2 347

* The practice of deducting the mileages of the portions of lines suspended by damage will be discontinued from this year.
† Number of vehicles multiplied by the number of days they were employed.
‡ Inclusive of the Yokogawa Line.
Note 1.—The Mails are not included in the tonnage of Parcels and Luggage.
Note 2.—Total number of Carriages used in the Tokyo-Kobe Section in the 24th fiscal year was given in the last report as 216,944. This was an error, 231,464 being the correct number.

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Statistics of Goods Traffic.

Table No. 6.

Items.		Tokyo-Kobe Section.			Takasaki-Yokogawa Section.		
		25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	Increase or Decrease. Decrease Marked.*	25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	Increase or Decrease. Decrease Marked.*
Average operating mileage	Miles	439 16	43.69	* 0.53	18.	18.	* 0.
Goods train mileage	Miles	824 728.	684 760	139 968.	12,294.	10.587.	1.707.
Mixed train mileage	Miles	328 121.	209 474.	118,647.	61,464.	52.924.	8 540.
Total	Miles	988 788.	789 497.	199.291.	43,026.	37,049.	5 977.
Daily average mileage	Miles	2 709	2.157.	552.	118.	101.	17.
Goods waggon mileage	Miles	16 792 482.	12,404 744.	4 387 738.	346,420.	318 782.	27 638.
Empty waggon mileage	Miles	3 598 182.	2.610,390.	987 792.	122 394.	95 766.	26 628.
Empty waggon mileage, down train	Miles	3.121.656.	2.040,007.	1.081.649.	1 314.	414.	900.
Empty waggon mileage, up train	Miles	476,526.	570,383.	* 93,857.	121,080.	95 352.	25.728.
Ratio of empty waggon mileage to the Total waggon mileage	Per cent.	21.4	21 0	0.4	35 3	30.0	5 3
Percentage of empty waggon mileage, down train	Per cent.	37.2	32.9	4.3	0.8	0.3	0.5
Percentage of empty waggon mileage, up train	Per cent.	5.7	9.2	* 3.5	69 9	59.8	10.1
Daily average mileage	Miles	46,007.	33 893.	12,114.	949.	871.	78.
Daily average mileage of freighted waggons	Miles	36.149.	26 761.	9 388.	614.	609.	5.
Daily average mileage of empty waggons	Miles	9.858	7,132.	2,726.	335.	262.	73.
Average number of waggons to a train	Waggons	16 98	15 71	1.27	8 05	8 60	* 0.55
Total number of waggons used	Waggons	549 064	508,321.	40,743.	—	—	—
Daily average mileage per waggon	Miles	31.215	25 030	6.185	—	—	—
Tonnage of goods carried	Tons	850,245.	685 505.	164.740.	50,032.	49,200.	832.
Daily average tonnage	Tons	2,329.	1,873.	456.	137.	134.	3.
Ton Mileage:—							
Ton mileage, down train	Miles	13,904,325.	—	—	728 998.	—	—
Ton mileage, up train	Miles	26,657,141.	—	—	86,034.	—	—
Total	Miles	40,561,466.	26,766,011.	13,795,455.	815,032.	807,222.	7,810.
Average mileage per ton	Miles	47.71	38.99	8.72	16.29	16.41	* 0.12
Average tonnage per mile	Tons	92,353.	60,851.	31,502.	45,280.	44,290.	990.
Average tonnage per train mile	Tons	41.021	33.903	7.148	18.943	21.788	* 2.845
Average tonnage per train mile, down train	Tons	28.124	—	—	33 886	—	—
Average tonnage per train mile, up train	Tons	53.919	—	—	3 999	—	—
Average tonnage per waggon mile	Tons	2.415	2.158	0.257	2.353	2.532	* 0.179
Average tonnage per waggon mile, down train	Tons	1.656	—	—	4.209	—	—
Average tonnage per waggon mile, up train	Tons	3.175	—	—	0.497	—	—
Average tonnage per freighted waggon mile	Tons	3.074	2.733	0.341	3.638	3.620	0.018
Average tonnage per freighted waggon mile, down train	Tons	2.636	—	—	4.241	—	—
Average tonnage per freighted waggon mile, up train	Tons	3.366	—	—	1.650	—	—
Goods Receipts:—							
Ordinary freight receipts	Yen	254,570.267	199,180.264	55,390.003	13,204.961	13,027 677	177 284
Waggon-load freight receipts	Yen	420,012.150	382,421.270	37,590.880	8,578.400	11,816 990	* 3,238 590
Goods carried by special contract receipts	Yen	229,392 750	95,156.590	134,236.160	2,952.780	—	2,952.780
Total	Yen	903,975.167	676,758.124	227,217 043	24,736 141	24,844 667	* 108.526
Daily average receipts	Yen	2,476 644	1,849.066	627 578	67.770	67.882	* 0.112
Average receipts per mile	Yen	2,058.231	1,538 567	519 664	1,374.230	1,380 259	* 6.029
Average receipts per train mile	Yen	0.914	0.857	0.057	0.575	0 671	* 0.096
Average receipts per waggon mile	Yen	0 0538	0.0546	* 0.0008	0.0714	0.0779	* 0.0065
Average receipts per freighted waggon mile	Yen	0.0685	0.0691	* 0.0006	0.1104	0.1114	* 0.0010
Average receipts per ton	Yen	1,0632	0 9872	0.0760	0.4944	0.5050	* 0.0106
Average receipts per ton mile	Yen	0.02229	0.02528	* 0.00299	0.03035	0.03078	* 0.00043
Daila average receipts per waggon	Yen	1.691	1.380	0.311	—	—	—

Aggregate Train Mileages.

Passenger train mileage	Miles	2,023,152.	2,066,180.	* 43,028.	4,176.	1,342.	2,834.
Goods train mileage	Miles	824.728.	684,760.	139 968.	12,294.	10,587.	1,707.
Mixed train mileage	Miles	328,121.	209.474.	118,647.	61,464.	52,924.	8,540.
Total		3,176,001.	2,960,414.	215,587.	77,934.	64,853.	13,081.

Items.		Karuizawa-Naoetsu Section.			Total.		
		25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	Increase or Decrease. Decrease Marked.*	25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	Increase or Decrease. Decrease Marked.*
Average operating mileage	Miles	92.10	92.10	* 0.	549.26	549 79	* 0.53
Goods train mileage	Miles	31,162.	17,688.	13,474.	868,184.	713,035.	155,149.
Mixed train mileage	Miles	251,172.	259,345.	* 8.173	640,757.	521,743.	119,014.
Total	Miles	156,748.	147,361.	9 387	1,188,562.	973,907.	214,655.
Daily average mileage	Miles	429.	403.	26.	3,256.	2.661.	595.
Goods waggon mileage	Miles	1,393,152.	1,235,980.	157,172.	18.532 054.	13 959 506.	4.572 548.
Empty waggon mileage	Miles	594.704.	539 958.	54 746.	4.315,280.	3.246 114.	1,069 166.
Empty waggon mileage, down train	Miles	544 075.	501.522.	42,553.	3.667,045.	2.541 943.	1,125.102.
Empty waggon mileage, up train	Miles	50,629.	38,436.	12,193.	648,235.	704,171.	* 55.936.
Ratio of empty waggon mileage to the total waggon mileage	Per cent.	42.7	43.7	* 1.0	23 3	23 3	* 0.0
Percentage of empty waggon mileage, down train	Per cent.	78.1	81.2	* 3.1	39.6	36 4	3.2
Percentage of empty waggon mileage, up train	Per cent	7.3	6.3	1 0	7 0	10.1	* 3.1
Daily average mileage	Miles	3,817.	3 377.	440.	50 773.	38,141.	12 632.
Daily average mileage of freighted waggons	Miles	2.188.	1,902.	286.	38 951.	29.272.	9.679.
Daily average mileage of empty waggons	Miles	1,629.	1,475.	154.	11,822.	8,869	2,953.
Average number of waggons to a train	Waggons	8 89	8.39	0 50	15 59	14 33	1.26
Total number of waggons used	Waggons	79,570.	76,616.	2,954.	628,634	584,937.	43,697.
Daily average mileage per waggon	Miles	19.277	16.132	3.145	29 480	23.865	5.615
Tonnage of goods carried	Tons	82,127.	71,806.	10,321.	982,404	806,511.	175.893.
Daily average tonnage	Tons	225	196.	29	2,691	2,203.	488.
Ton Mileage:—							
Ton mileage, down train	Miles	496 979.	—	—	15 130 302.	—	—
Ton mileage, up train	Miles	2,953,839.	—	—	29.607 014	—	—
Total	Miles	3,450,818.	2,883,637.	567,181.	44,827,316.	30,456,870.	14,370,446.
Average mileage per ton	Miles	42.02	40.13	1.89	38.63	37.76	7.87

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Table No. 6 continued.

Average tonnage per mile	Tons	374.58.	31,301.	6,157.	81,604.	55.377.	26,227.
Average tonnage per train mile	Tons	22.015	19.569	2.446	37.716	31.273	6.443
Average tonnage per train mile, down train	Tons	6.341	—	—	25.460	—	—
Average tonnage per train mile, up train	Tons	37.689	—	—	49.971	—	—
Average tonnage per waggon mile	Tons	2.477	2.333	0.144	2.419	2.182	0.237
Average tonnage per waggon mile, down train	Tons	.713	—	—	1.633	—	—
Average tonnage per waggon mile, up train	Tons	4.241	—	—	3.205	—	—
Average tonnage per freighted waggon mile	Tons	4.322	4.143	179.	3.153	2.843	0.310
Average tonnage per freighted waggon mile, down train	Tons	3.259	—	—	2.702	—	—
Average tonnage per freighted waggon mile, up train	Tons	4.573	—	—	3.205	—	—
Goods Receipt :—							
Ordinary freight receipts	Yen	146,610.640	128,442.680	18,167.960	414,385.868	340,650.621	73,735.247
Waggon-load freight receipts	Yen	19.800	—	19.800	428,610.350	394,238.260	34,372.090
Goods carried by special contract receipts	Yen	—	—	—	232,345.530	95,156.590	137,188.940
Total	Yen	146,630.440	128,442 680	18,187.760	1.075.341.748	830,045.471	245,296.277
Daily average receipts	Yen	401.727	350.936	50.791	2,946.141	2,267.884	678.257
Average receipts per mile	Yen	1,591.647	1,394.222	197.425	1,957.569	1,509.208	448.361
Average receipts per train-mile	Yen	0.935	0.872	0.063	0.905	0.852	0.053
Average receipts per waggon mile	Yen	0.1053	0.1039	0.0014	0.0580	0.0595 *	0.0015
Average receipts per freighted waggon-mile	Yen	0.1836	0.1845 *	0.0009	0.0756	0.0775 *	0.0019
Average receipts per ton	Yen	1.7854	1.7887 *	0.0033	1.0946	1.0292	0.0654
Average receipts per ton-mile	Yen	0.04249	0.04454 *	0.00205	0.02399	0.02725 *	0.00326
Daily average receipts per waggon	Yen	1.843	1.676	0.167	1.711	1.419	0.292

AGGREGATE TRAIN MILEAGES.

Passenger train mileage	Miles	—	—	—	2,027,328.	2,067,522.	* 40,194.
Goods train mileage	Miles	31,162.	17,688.	13,474.	868,184.	713,035.	155,149.
Mixed train mileage	Miles	251,172.	259,345.	* 8,173.	640.757.	521,743.	119,014.
Total		282,334.	277,033.	5.301.	3,536.269.	3,302,300.	233,969.

* The practice of deducting the mileages of portions of lines suspended by damage will be discontinued from this year.
† Number of vehicles multiplied by the number of days they were employed.
‡ Inclusive of the Yokogawa line.
Note 1.—The reason of the operating mileage of the Goods Traffic being miles 960 longer than that of the Passenger Traffic is on account of the Fukatani Goods line being included in this table.
Note 2.—The total number of waggons used in the Tokyo-Kobe Section during the 24th fiscal year was given as 502,746. This was an error, 508,321 being the correct figures.

TABLE No. 7. LOCOMOTIVE RUNNING AND CONSUMPTION SHEET FOR THE 25TH FISCAL YEAR.

Sections.	Total Locomotive Running Mileage. Mile.	Total Coal Consumption. Cwt.	Average Coal Consumption per mile lbs.	Total Oil Consumption. Pints.	Average Oil Consumption per mile. Pints.
Tokyo-Kobe	3,234 515	861 774	29 84	361.224 ¾	11.17
Ofuna-Yokosuka	81 545 ½	17 730.	24 35	5 175	6 35
Obu-Taketoyo	30 618	5 085	18 60	3.606	11.78
Maibara-Tsuruga	122 834 ¼	33.254	30 32	19.255 ½	15 68
Takasaki-Yokogawa	95 171 ¼	29 248.	34 42	7,829.	8 23
Kamisawa Naoetsu	393 374 ½	100 444.	28.60	26,733 ½	6.80
	3 958.058 ½	1,047 535.	29 64	423,823.¾	10 71

TABLE No. 8. LIST OF DEATHS AND INJURIES AMONG PASSENGERS, STAFF, AND OTHERS IN THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS DURING THE 25TH FISCAL YEAR

Sections.	Passengers.				Railway Staff.				General Public.				Total.	
	Accidental.		Negligence.		Accidental.		Negligence.		Suicide.		Negligence.			
	Deaths.	Injuries.	Deaths.	Injuries.	Deaths.	Injuries.	Deaths.	Injuries.	Deaths.	Injuries.	Deaths.	Injuries.	Killed.	Wounded.
Tokyo-Kobe Section	2	1	—	4	1	3	10	6	54	—	25	11	92	25
Takasaki-Yokogawa Section	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3	—
Kamizawa-Naoetsu Section	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	5	1	7	1
	2	1	—	4	2	3	10	6	57	—	31	12	102	26

NOTE—Unde the head of "accidental" are recorded deaths and injuries arising from unforeseen occurrences. Thus the 2 deaths recorded in the column for Passengers were cases of sudden termination of life from acute illness.
Under "Negligence" are those a ising from personal carelessness
Under "Suicide" are cases with clear proofs of premeditated self-destruction.

TABLE No. 9. LIST OF CASUALTIES & ACCIDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRAFFIC IN THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS DURING THE 25TH FISCAL YEAR.

Sections	Derailments.			Collisions.			Failures.	Obstruction to the road and trains.		Trains Delayed.	Trains Stopped.	Violaters of Railway Regulations
	Carriage.	Waggons.	Engines.	Carriage.	Waggons.	Engines.		Natural Causes	Wilful Acts.			
Tokyo-Kobe Section	2	24	10	2	6	5	152	10	37	25	36	128
Takasaki-Yokohama Section	—	4	3	—	1	—	7	1	2	—	10	—
Kamizawa Naoetsu Section	—	2	2	—	4	—	55	10	13	40	274	4
Total	2	30	15	2	11	5	214	21	52	65	320	132

NOTE—By "Derailments" and "Collisions" are meant vehicles getting off the track or colliding with each other by negligence on the part of Pointsmen, Steam being in excess, &c
By "Failures," vehicles becoming disabled by over-heating of the axles parts of machinery breaking or giving awa , &c., is meant
Obstructions t the road and trains mean impediments on the lines caused by storms, &c., or by persons wilfully placing stones, wood, &c., on them.
Delays of the trains, a e interruption of their working brought about b these obstructions; the stoppages result from same causes
Violators of Railway Regulations mean passengers who over-ride their station and fail to pay their fare, and those who otherwise act contrary to the Railway Regulations.

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TABLE No. 10.

Items.		Nippon Railway Company.		Ryomo Railway Company.			Kobu Railway Company.			Sanyo Railway Company.			Kyushu Railway Company.			Kansai Railway Company.	
		24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.*	24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.	Increase Decrease (Decrease marked.*)	24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.	Increase Decrease (Decrease marked.*	24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.	Increase Decrease (Decrease marked.*)	24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.	Increase Decrease (Decrease marked.*)	24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.†
Operating mileage at the close of the fiscal year	Miles	592.0	592.0	50.75	50.75	—	22.77	22 77	—	137.52	143 24	5 52	136 61	136.61	—	59 5	59.5
Average operating mileage for the year	Miles	500.1	592.¾	51.0	51 0	—	23.0	23 0	—	120.8	142 0	21.2	126.5	137.0	10.5	54.25	59·0
Amount of Capital at the close of fiscal year	Yen	18,000,000	20,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	—	900,000	900,000	—	13 000,000	13 000,000	—	7 500,000	7,500,000	—	3,000,000	3.000,000
Amount of paid up Capital at the close of the fiscal year	Yen	17,994,102	19,196,940	1,500,000	1,500,000	—	810,000	810 000	—	7 009,662	7,020 000	10 338	5 663 480	5,700 000	36,520	2,818,310	2.820,000
Amount of Debt at the close of the fiscal year	Yen	810,000	765,000	—	—	—	—	30,000	30,000	630,000	525 000	* 105,000	277.180	311,781	34.601	—	—
Amount of Construction Expenditure at the close of the fiscal year	Yen	19,024,986	19,809,342	1,473,249	1,457,382	* 15,867	733,013	782,609	49 596	6 647,410	7,125 962	478 552	5,467,906	5.354,378	386.472	2,724,050	2,745.660
Amount of Unadjusted Construction Expenditure at the close of the fiscal year	Yen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	960 691	402 202	* 548,489	314.360	107,688	* 206,672	29.865	—
Amount of Traffic receipts for the year	Yen	2,182,162	2,038,310	168,841	195,243	26 402	92,096	108,072	15 976	335 285	446,418	111 133	399 281	430.958	31,677	163,644	96,608
Amount of Miscellaneous receipts for the year	Yen	65,722	31,587	22,520	15 542	* 6,978	5 928	3 696	* 2 232	21,582	36.441	14 859	24.469	16,288	* 14,181	4.791	2,054
Amount of Working Expenditures for the year	Yen	1,157,956	923,438	85,582	86,508	926	37 992	35,891	* 2 101	156,395	203,111	46 716	177 629	206,848	29.219	87,620	41,370
Amount of Net receipts for the year	Yen	1,089,928	1,146,459	105,779	124,277	18.498	60,032	75,876	15 844	200 472	279 747	79 275	246,121	234,397	* 11,724	80,815	57,292
Rates of Dividends paid	Per cent.	9 05	10.0	6.3	7·	0.7	6 6	8 15	1 55	3 45	3 65	0 2	5 125	4.000	* 1.125	—	3·61
Ratio of the Net profit to the paid-up Capital	Per cent.	6 05	‡ 7.962	1.05	3.285	1.235	7 41	9 37	1 96	2 86	3 985	1.125	4 33	4.112	* 0.218	2·37	‡ 4.063
Average Earnings per mile	Yen	4,363	3,438	3.311	3,828	517	4 004	4.698	694	2.776	3 143	267	3.156	3,145	* 11	3,016	1,637
Average Working Expenditures per mile	Yen	2,315	1,557	1,678	1,696	18	1,652	1 560	* 92	1,295	1.43(	135	1.404	1,509	105	1,615	701
Number of Passengers carried	Persons	4,872,557	4,250,064	1,005,131	1,095.412	90,281	363,759	419,426	55 667	1,403,311	1,956 023	552 712	1 426,157	1,333,034	* 93,123	524,064	275,688
Passenger receipts	Yen	1,301,597	1,231,528	118,841	135.486	11.645	69 727	75,356	5 629	280 864	349 156	68 292	327.620	325.134	* 2.786	119.937	77.654
Amount of Goods carried	Tons	459,870	432,150	67,002	92,213	25.211	33,322	53.015	19 693	86 553	167 201	80 648	80 931	122,796	41,862	65,924	29.407
Goods receipts	Yen	847 970	774.955	46,624	61,309	14,685	21 280	31,042	9 762	47 736	87 361	39 625	63 961	95.500	31,539	41,908	17.280
Total Train Mileages	Miles	1.732.536	1,511.884	161,860	187.688	25,828	86 337	93 124	6 787	450 000	688 85(	238 850	376 871	522 170	145 299	194.947	122.554

* 9 Months, hence no comparison. † 6 Months, hence no comparison. ‡ Rate per Year.

Items.		Osaka Railway Company.			Hankai Railway Company.			Sanuki Railway Company.			Iyo Railway Company.			Chikuhō Railway Company.		Tankō Railway Company.		Kushiro Railway Company.
		24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.	Increase Decrease (Decrease marked*.)	24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.	Increase Decrease (Decrease marked.	24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.	Increase Decrease (Decrease marked*.)	24th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.	Increase Decrease (Decrease marked*	24th Fiscal year.*	25th Fiscal year.	24th Fiscal year.†	25th Fiscal year.	25th Fiscal year.‡
Operating mileage at the close of the fiscal year	Miles	32·55	32·55	—	6.12	6.12	—	10 15	10 15	—	4 18	5 66	1 48	15 44	25·53	94.0	206.0	26 61
Average operating mileage for the year	Miles	32.1	33 1	0 9	6.2	6.2	—	10.2	10 2	—	4 20	5·25	1·5	15 6	18.0	82.½	161.0	26.8
Amount of Capital at the close of the year	Yen	2,300,000	2,300,000	—	330,000	400,000	70,000	300.000	300.000	—	—	—	—	1,000,000	2,500,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	200,000
Amount of paid-up Capital at the close of the fiscal year	Yen	1,500,000	2,000,000	500,000	330,000	400,000	70,000	297,465	297 572	107	84 429	96.951	12.522	785.001	1,696,000	4,700,000	5,000,000	200,000
Amount of Debt at the close of the fiscal year	Yen	380,000	—	*380,000	—	—	—	15 000	15.000	—	15 590	39 700	24 110	545,000	445.000	—	500,000	—
Amount of Construction Expenditure at the close of the fiscal year	Yen	729,361	1,844,540	115.179	358,033	407,354	49.321	301,026	304 428	3.402	58,269	135 310	77 050	1,061,757	1,749,820	4,314,336	5,032,322	170,000
Amount of Unadjusted Construction Expenditure at the close of the fiscal year	Yen	157,171	151,992	* 5.170	21.533	48,417	26,884	12.670	12.117	* 553	34,253	—	* 34 253	156,777	315,449	376,795	293.375	—
Amount of Traffic receipts for the year	Yen	176,431	215.134	38,703	85.437	88.929	3.492	30.054	29.39	* 663	13,566	17.565	3 999	26.471	83,116	464,969	423.649	4,494
Amount of Miscellaneous receipts for the year	Yen	1,588	4.340	2,752	1,339	578	* 761	696	705	15	827	987	160	10,940	581	30,052	22,497	—
Amount of Working Expenditures for the year	Yen	90,500	80,502	* 9.998	39.250	38,720	* 530	17.055	17.270	215	7.605	9 317	1,712	24,212	31,994	271,798	314.303	4,105
Amount of Net receipts for the year	Yen	87,518	138,972	51,454	47,526	50,788	3,262	13 688	12,825	* 863	6,787	9 235	2.448	13,198	51,704	223,223	131,843	388
Rates of Dividends paid	Per cent.	5·	6.6	1.6	12	13	1	4 25	3 9	* 0 35	8.35	9 25	0 9	—	old 7 new 1.15	9	7·35	—
Ratio of the Net profit to the paid-up Capital	Per cent.	5 83	6 95	1.12	14.4	12.697	1.703	4 6·	4.31	* 0 29	8 04	9 536	1 486	§ 3 34	3.05	§§ 3.8	2.637	§ 0.194
Average Earnings per mile	Yen	5,496	6,519	1,023	13.780	14,343	563	2 946	2.88(	* 65	3.230	3 345	115	1,696	4,618	5,636	2,631	167
Average Working Expenditures per mile	Yen	2,819	2.439	* 380	6.331	6.245	86	1,672	1 69·	21	1,881	1 774	* 37	1.552	1,777	3,295	1,952	153
Number of passengers carried	Persons	932,934	997,712	64.778	1,812,153	1,957.648	145.495	468 922	459 897	* 9 025	446.516	569 293	122.777	107.488	193.676	492,801	451,726	1,284
Passenger receipts	Yen	141,176	173.343	32,167	84,384	87,701	3.317	28 862	28 228	* 634	12,227	15 473	3,246	12,508	25.388	128,114	120,094	277
Amount of Goods carried	Tons	68.727	85.237	16,510	—	—	—	9.016	9,106	150	197,113	288 228	91.114	43.207	200,256	384,070	469.955	9.732
Goods receipts	Yen	33.730	39.349	5,619	1,053	1,227	174	1.028	880	* 139	1,329	2 092	753	13.676	57.173	336,286	302,627	4.196
Total Train Mileages	Miles	177,986	255.236	77,250	115,600	116,324	724	91.737	91 517	* 220	—	—	—	55,000	83.022	364,739	372,984	11.112

* 8 Months, hence cannot be compared. † 15 months, hence cannot be compared. ‡ 4 months only. § Rate per year.

1.—Under "Unadjusted Expenditures" are included such items as Materials in Store, Monies abroad, Provisional Payments, &c., eventually to come under Construction Expenditures, but which could not yet be considered as such. 2—The "Working Expenses" above given have been taken from the amounts placed under that heading in the respective reports of the different Companies. It should, however, be noted that the method of accounting in these companies is not uniform; whilst all other Companies include the Expenses of the head office in the Working Expenses, the Nippon and Chikuho Railway Companies do not do so; and the Osaka Railway Company includes the interest on its debts among the Working Expenses. 3—The Nippon Railway Company has altered its fiscal year, and the accounts are now adjusted according to the calender year, and the figures above given for the 25th fiscal year are for 9 months from April to December 1892. The Dividend of this company is made up of the net earnings of its lines together with the Government subsidy. 4—The Kansai Railway Company has not made up its semi-annual accounts for the latter half of the 25th fiscal year; as they are to remain over to be adjusted in June 1893; the results of the working for only the first six months of the 25th fiscal year are given above. 5.—The Iyo Railway's accounts are made according to calendar years. 6.—The accounts of the Hankai Railway is the same, and the rate of the dividend paid was *yen* 10.70 on capital of *yen* 330,000, after paying a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. on the new shares. 7.—The Tanko Railway Company's dividend is made up of the earnings from the mines, the railways, and the Government subsidy. 8.—The Chikuho Railway Company's rate of dividend was 8 per cent. for the new and 2.3 per cent. for the old shares in the first half of the year, and 6 per cent. for the new and nothing for the old shares in the latter half of the year.

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TABLE No. II.—ROLLING STOCK RETURNS OF THE PRIVATE RAILWAY COMPANIES AT THE CLOSE OF THE 25TH FISCAL YEAR.

	Locomotives.		Carriages.		Waggons.		Total.		Increase.	Decrease.
	25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.	25th Fiscal Year.	24th Fiscal Year.		
Nippon Railway Company	69	63	248	194	1,022	889	1,339	1,146	193	—
Hankai Railway Company	5	5	41	37	30	25	76	67	9	—
Iyo Railway Company	4	2	18	9	15	8	37	19	18	—
Ryomo Railway Company.....	5	5	22	21	54	54	81	80	1	—
Sanyo Railway Company	25	25	139	170	323	514	487	709	—	222
Sanuki Railway Company.....	3	3	31	31	18	18	52	52	—	—
Kansei Railway Company.....	10	10	68	68	77	75	155	153	2	—
Kobu Railway Company	3	3	16	14	48	28	67	45	22	—
Osaka Railway Company	7	7	54	51	109	97	170	155	15	—
Kyusyu Railway Company	22	18	61	55	258	138	321	211	110	—
Hokkaido Railway Company ...	24	24	40	27	576	495	640	546	91	—
Chikuho Kogyo Railway Co.....	6	4	10	8	246	100	262	112	150	—
Kushiro Railway Company	2	—	3	—	19	—	24	—	24	—
Total.....	185	169	751	685	2 775	2 441	3 711	3 295	638	222

RELIGIONS IN JAPAN.

BY V. TAKENOBU.

If it be remembered that this country was virtually secluded from the rest of the world till only thirty years ago, it is no wonder that the general state of things is still in the stage of transition, and marvellous may the progress be said to be which the nation has accomplished during that short interval of time. Even to the native people themselves, a country placed in such circumstances must prove to be a problem of great difficulty to deal with; and then, if to this the facts are taken into consideration that the Japanese are a race radically different from the western people in extraction, language, and even the way of thought, it is not strange that we are liable to be grossly misrepresented by foreign tourists or newspaper agents.

No alien can presume to make correct observations upon a country without possessing a tolerable proficiency in the native tongue, and our point would be more clearly understood if we say that at least five or six years of constant study are required for him to acquire so much ability in the use of it. Such being the case, plenty may the publications be that treat about Japan; they are necessarily confined to superficial matters, or give only very incorrect descriptions when they venture to go a little deeper.

Interpreting religion in the common significance of the term, we have only Buddhism and Christianity in our country. Sometimes, the so-called Shintoism and Confucianism are also taken as such; but, strictly speaking, they are not, the former being an old patriarchal cult established for the purpose of revering the memories of distinguished forefathers, the latter a purely moral system inculcated by Confucius and his disciples.

Every Shinto shrine was nothing more nor less than a memorial to a certain distinguished personage whose virtue was aspired to by the later generations. In order to maintain it, land was at first given to a certain extent as an endowment; but, partly owing to the encroachment of unprincipled warriors during troubled times, and partly to the avarice of the keeper himself, every shrine was gradually transformed into a semi-religious seat where money was raised.

The acknowledged centre of Shintoism, the great shrines of Ise, is not a place to worship in the religious sense of the term, for the shrines are simply the sacred mausoleums erected for the earliest ancestors of our Imperial dynasty, which has continued in an unbroken line from the foundation of the country; and as such, the shrines are regarded, and are to be regarded, with deep reverence. It is true that the vulgar portion of the community looks to them with awe and worships them, but the doings of such a class should not be taken into consideration. As an educated person of any nationality would uncover his head and bow in front of the resting-place of the immortal Washington, so it is precisely on the same ground that the members of our educated class are observed to do so before the great shrine.

Some may still contend that though all this may be quite true with the thinking minority, the same cannot be said to hold good with the common people; for, are they not offering prayers every day for good luck, and so forth, at a Shinto shrine? Yes, they do; but there they stop. They never pray for future blessings to a Shinto deity. They do ask for good luck in this world, for the prosperity of their business, and that of their descendents, but they are taught from childhood by even to think of death or anything related to it in front of a Shinto shrine is an act of high sacrilege. With them, for death there is Buddhism, while for life, for prosperity in this world, there is Shintoism. Thus our common people are dual in their religion, and this queer phenomenon called forth a witty expression from a certain foreigner, who observed that "a Japanese is born a Shintoist, but dies a Buddhist." We say, therefore, that, interpreting religion in the common significance of the term, we have only Buddhism and Christianity in Japan.

By the way, it may not be uninteresting to note here what we have been told by a Shintoist of great authority on this point, namely, that this aversion to anything pertaining to death is not in accordance with the original system of Shintoism, but that it arose simply out of a desire to counteract Buddhism. It is said that formerly, because of this strange usage, a funeral service could not be performed in broad daylight at Yamada, the town where the great shrines are situated, but that the remains had to be stealthily carried out during the night.

It was but a little more than a year ago that a question involving the interpretation of Shinto rites attracted the public attention, and as we believe that its explanation will greatly tend to relieve the prejudices entertained by the foreigners against the Japanese, we shall dwell upon it briefly.

The Japanese are a people highly noted for their loyalty toward the sovereign. As a means of preserving and still more promoting this sentiment, the Court has thought it best to grant the portraits of the Emperor and Empress to all the principal educational establishments throughout the country, from the university down to the common school, in order to enable the students to pay their respects to their Sovereigns on certain fixed occasions. These fixed occasions are four, viz., New Year's day, the coronation day of the first Emperor, the Emperor's birthday, and one other. Those are the days in which the distinguished officers of state are admitted to the Emperor's audience.

In imitation thereof, every school in which the imperial portraits hang, forms on such a day a miniature court, as it were, with the school director as grand chamberlain, and the teachers and students of the school salute the royal images, specially left exposed for that purpose on that occasion, most reverently, as if they were actually standing in the presence of their Majesties.

This, we believe, is an excellent method as conducive to familiarize the Sovereigns to the minds of the young and to awaken their loyalty. This, however, was looked upon by many of the Christians, both native and foreign, in the most erroneous light, for they regarded the paying of respect as worship, and therefore as a piece of idolatry. It was only in the Fall of 1890 that this feeling found a vent publicly.

The Emperor had thought it advisable in October, 1890, to issue, through the Department of Education, special instructions addressed to all the educational institutions in the realm as to the general principles to be observed by the students with reference to their behaviour and conduct. Every school held a special ceremony for reading the instructions to its students. It was on this occasion, in the Tokyo Higher Middle School, that one of the staff, a Japanese Christian, graduated at an American college, doggedly refused to do as the others did, declaring that he regarded the proceeding as idolatrous, and that, as a Christian, he could not conscientiously join in it. It is plain that his over-enthusiasm blinded him so as to disenable him to distinguish an unreligious national ceremony from idolatry. His conduct was severely critised in the leading Tokyo press of the next morning; even among Christian circles opinions were much divided; but the general verdict was that he fell a victim to a most fallacious idea. As a result of discussions with his friends on the subject, he repented, at least apparently, his hasty action, and sent a sort of apologetic letter to the papers. He was, however, made to withdraw from the institution.

Though Confucianism was from the outset not a religion, there in not a doubt that it served a similar purpose to the higher classes. Confucius (551-479 B.C.) was the Socrates of China. Born at a time when the social system was fearfully disorganized, he earnestly preached upon the great principles of humanity. It was after his death, however, that his cogent reasonings on the relation between master and subject, parents and children, husband and wife, and so forth, created him followers. He said nothing about the future existence. He simply taught how man, as a rational being, should behave in society. Confucianism is a peculiar creed that combines ethics and politics at once, and a Chinese scholar who paid no attention to administrative affairs was despised as a worthless book worm.

It was during the time of the Tokugawa regency that, under its warm patronage, Confucianism attained an almost unprecedented prosperity. Disgusted with Buddhism, mainly because of the lawless conduct of its priests, who had frequently disturbed the general peace, hating Christianity on account of the recent collision with the authorities, the very name of religion was a thing of intense aversion to the Tokugawa government. In consequence of this, it adopted the secular system of morality of Confucius, and enforced it most rigidly. For about two centuries and a half, that is, during the continuance of the regency, it acted both as a councillor to the administration and as a guide to the upper classes in their daily life. It soon became a fashion. To follow Confucianism was both aristocratic and scholarly. Thus the most distinct line of demarkation came to be stretched between the upper and lower classes in matters of practical faith, for Buddhism fell into contempt as a thing fit only for the vulgar people.

The influence of Confucianism, however, is gradually waning; for, founded more than two thousand years ago, there is no doubt that some of its doctrines must be incompatible with the present state of affairs.

In the thirteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Kimmei, that is, about thirteen centuries ago, Buddhism was first brought into Japan through Korea. Confucianism had already been here more than two hundred years, but as its tenets appeal principally to the reason and very little to the feelings, the general masses must have found it very uninviting. Buddhism was exactly the reverse, and was made easily accessible to the common people, although it is generally understood to be full of profound thoughts at bottom. Though Confucianism did not interfere at all with the introduction of Buddhism, Shintoism presented a stout opposition against it, declaring that, if such foreign matter be allowed to come in, the country would be defiled. The hostility between the two was for a time very intense, but it soon ended in the triumph of Buddhism. It must be added here, that it was after Buddhism had undergone a thorough remodelling at the hands of such able priests as Denkyo Daishi (765 822 A.D.), Kobo Daishi (774 835), Shinran Shonin (1173-1262), and Nichiren Shonin (1222-1282), that it began to take a firm hold on the peoples' minds. So great were the alterations made that the Japanese Buddhism is said to be quite different from the original in some of its parts.

The history of Buddhism in Japan bears a considerably analogy to that of Christianity in Europe. Within a few centuries after its introduction, it became divided into diverse sects, which were often in conflict with one another. The rivalry between them led to the formation of the special kind of warriors that combined priesthood and soldiery in one person, and the struggle among these Buddhist knight templars was furious and incessant for some centuries.

The Buddhist temple possessed more or less extra territorial power, but it very frequently abused this privilege and afforded shelter to the worst sort of warriors. The ferocity and lawlessness of the priests were such that they awakened the deadly hate of Oda Nobunaga (1533-1582), regent of that time, who waged war against the most powerful Buddhist seat, and finally succeeded in laying the temple in ruins, after a prolonged and wasteful siege. At one time he even called in the aid of Christianity to counteract the Buddhist influence. It is needless to say that it was only a part, though perhaps a greater part, of the priests, that passed the time in such a warlike way; the genuine priests lived in a pious manner, devoting themselves to holy affairs and their [illegible] leisure to literary pursuits.

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Just as in Europe, the monastery was the refuge of culture during the dark ages, so in Japan it was to these priests that literature owed its preservation at a time when the people dreamed of nothing but swords and arrows. Many of the works written by them are still regarded as classics. Men of splendid talents frequently appeared among the Buddhist priests, and this mainly because anyone could rise within this narrow circle according to his merit. Many able men chose religion as a means of winning spurs at a time when the class distinction was so strictly fixed that none but the most vigorous-minded man could rise high in society in defiance of its immeasurable bars.

Whether the people were more superstitious formerly, or whether the incessant civil strife naturally turned their attention toward the inconstancy of human life, and thus awakened their religious longings, must be an interesting subject to investigate; at any rate, it is an undeniable fact that Buddhism held great sway over the minds of the people, regardless of rank, till the time of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Distinguished converts, however, now and then appear, though they are mostly those who have become tired of the world and wish to devote their remaining years to solitude and to religious duties.

The latest case of this description is that of Mr. Machida. He played an eminent part in the government service, being a member of the now dissolved senate; but casting this away as one would a worn-out shoe, as the Chinese expression goes, he retired only a few years ago to a suburb of Kyoto, erecting a temple for himself. And then the creed of the Jenshiu sect is said to bring tranquility of mind to one who believes in it. It must be on this account that several of the noted generals in the Japanese army, notably Viscounts Torio, Miura, and Tani are, according to general understanding, believers.

Because we have remarked that Buddhism is confined to the masses, it must not be supposed that they are very earnest about it. This is far from the case. A striking proof of this will be presented if one visits a temple on a preaching day. There he will find that ninety-nine parts of the congregation are white-haired folks, the remaining one part, children, who are led thither by their grandmothers or grandfathers, and a very small sprinkling of adult men and women. Indeed, to the last class, the temple is a place with which they have nothing to do on ordinary occasions, it is a place for their mothers and fathers to go who have handed over the management of worldly affairs to their children, and have no other particular business to care for in this life.

This is a usually acknowledged opinion with reference to temple-going. Nay, more, men or women who frequent the temple are thought of rather as foreboders of misfortune, as sure to die prematurely, as those that are not likely to thrive in their business, and so forth. Death in a family, however, causes the rest of the members to go to the temple very often, the first day week, the second day week, and the first day month after the death being celebrated in memory of the deceased. When a husband dies, his wife is converted, for a time at least, into an earnest Buddhist devotee: she visits the tomb under which the remains of her late partner in life rest, and regularly attends the temple. But this religious mood ceases as soon as she marries again, such practice being considered as inauspicious in other families.

It is a very queer sight to see a priest seated on the platform solemnly delivering a sermon to the devout hearers, who are all furnished with a string of beads (*zuzu*), and who at each pause the preacher makes bow their heads, rub the beads together, repeat *Namnamidaton*, which means, "I do obey the commands of Buddha," and then fling in the offering of coins (*sai-sen*) out of their purses. Though the *sai sen*, more properly, "*O sai-sen*," the honorific "O" being prefixed), thrown at each time does not amount to very much, it is easy to see that, with the frequent pauses introduced by a crafty preacher, a considerable sum may be gathered in the course of a single sermon.

The sermon is the only portion of the whole service intelligible to the flock, being delivered in the colloquial vernacular language; but the rest, that is, the reading of the sacred texts, is all jargon, not only to the audience, but in most cases probably to the priest himself. An American may obtain a tolerable idea of the case if it be supposed that the Bible written in Latin were to be read by one who, having no knowledge of the language, merely reads the text according to the English way of pronunciation.

This singular anomaly is to be ascribable to the facts that as Buddhism was introduced into Japan after it had prevailed for some centuries in China, and as the Chinese literature exclusively was studied in Japan at that time and has always been so since then, no one seemed to have felt the necessity of rendering the sacred volumes, which were all in the Chinese dress, into the vernacular language. Nay, more, it seems that this is according to the teachings of Buddha, at least, to what the most secular sect, the Shinshiu, holds; for it declares that the common people need not trouble themselves about the interpretation of the sacred volumes for which there is specially a professional class—the priests; that what they have to do is simply to obey the instructions of Buddha conveyed to them through the priests by means of sermons; and that this is the only way for them to reach the "blessed shore."

Of course, the sermon is far from giving the meanings of Buddhism even in outline; and moreover, as it is generally restricted to the temples standing in cities or towns, the majority of the common people must be said to be only very little, if at all, acquainted with the doctrine of Buddhism. Even the earnest temple-goers are as a rule simply grateful to Buddha, without knowing the reasons why.

If we write in such a strain, a question may arise, viz., if the people were so really dark about Buddhism, why do they so tenaciously adhere to it? A reply to this, we think, consists in the two words "custom" and "tradition." They are tenacious of Buddhism because it is the religion of their forefathers. Shinran Shonin, who founded the Shinshiu sect more than six centuries ago, is comparable to Martin Luther in many respects. Until his time, every sect considered celibacy and mortification as necessary parts of religious observance; but clearly perceiving that system was fraught with evils, he originated a new sect, avowing that he had received a special revelation from Buddha in a dream. Apart from the prominent facts that he allowed his disciples to have wives and eat flesh, he also rendered Buddhism more easily accessible to the common people.

Soon after the restoration, that is, about two decades ago, the government issued an edict permitting the priests of the other sects to do the same, but how far this was effective is doubtful. Certainly, the priests living in the remote districts must have found the provisions very convenient, for they were thus furnished with a good pretext for what they had been doing secretly. The more rigid brethren, however, are still sticklers for the old custom, and if what the newspapers report be true, the Jenshin sect, the most profound in its tenets of all the seven principal branches of Buddhism, has lately come to the resolution to revive the ancient stern system.

Formerly the Buddhist priest was obliged to shave his head and wear an official robe, thus enabling anyone to distinguish the clergyman from the layman. This custom must have served more or less as a check against any questionable conduct on the part of the priest; but it is now generally dispensed with, his hair being clipped short and the uniform worn only at the time of services.

Generally considered, we wonder whether there is any other class of men in the world equally at ease with the Buddhist priest. Virtually he has almost nothing to do. He may be required now and then to drawl out the services which have been crammed into his head from childhood, and this is when a death occurs among his parishioners, at anniversaries, or when a religious ceremony is to be performed for the benefit of the dead. Even this duty he is not absolutely required to perform, for every temple, not straitened in circumstances, usually engages a subordinate priest who is to act as proxy for its proprietor, so to say. The only busy time in the whole year is three or four days in the middle of July—that is the time of the "bon" festival, when the spirits of the forefathers are popularly believed to revisit their homes; but then there is an ample compensation for the trouble, for eight or nine tenths of the annual income is said to flow in on that occasion.

After what we have observed thus far, no one would be surprised even if we are to remark further that Buddhism in Japan is fearfully corrupt; for how could the result be otherwise when, entirely forsaken by the educated community, it has had to deal with the vulgar class alone for above two centuries, when its existence was so easy, having had no rival in its field of action.

Christianity has awakened it from its lethargy to a certain extent, and the leading priests are now earnestly engaged in the mighty task of reviving the old energy of Buddhism. Thus, each sect has established one or more schools at its central seat, and to these the rising generation of the priests throughout the country is sent for a certain length of time for study. They wealthier sects, like the Shinshiu, have even sent several promising young priests abroad for study, and one of them, Dr. F. Nanjyo, stayed at Cambridge for several years under Prof. Max Müller and returned home thoroughly equipped with Sanskrit lore.

For all this, however, it seems almost beyond hope that the intelligent circle should be ever drawn toward it. Its devotion to Confucianism more and more lessening, at best indifferent to Buddhism, it will thus be seen that our ruling minority is, as it were, in the state of having no faith to follow; and the question is, whether Christianity can fill the gap?

It was in September of 1549 that Francis Xavier, the first Christian missionary to Japan, landed here from Goa. Fortunately for him, he was left unmolested to travel freely in the interior and to preach the gospel. Several others soon followed in the wake of Xavier. So successful were the efforts of these first missionaries that in a few years they were able to win over to the teachings of Christ such powerful barons in Kyushiu, the south western portion of the country, as Kuroda, Omura, Arima, and Otomo. The work of evangelization extended into the main island in a short time, and the rapidity with which it spread can be easily imagined when it is stated that within thirty years the believers were estimated at about 300,000 souls. Some of the more zealous barons even despatched their deputies to Rome to pay homage to the Pope, then Gregory XIII. This was the highest prosperity ever attained by Christianity in Japan. It was succeeded by as rapid a decline.

This wonderful prevalence, the indomitable spirit presented by the believers, and above all the intense hostility which soon arose between Christianity and Buddhism gradually induced the authorities to look upon the former with hatred. Even Nobunaga turned against it in his later years, while coming to the administration of Hideyoshi (1535-1598), persecution set in with such severity that, it is said, more than 20,000 believers were at one time sentenced to death.

The death of Hideyoshi, followed by years of internal troubles, caused the relaxation of this policy, but the persecution was resumed as soon as peace was restored by the establishment of the Tokugawa Regency. It was during the time of the third Shogun Iyemitsu (1632 1650) that the most thorough persection was carried out. Strange to say, the Dutch had very much to do in the affair this time. For some time, the Dutch merchants had been endeavouring to displace the Portuguese in the East, and this rivalry had been sill more embittered owing to the recent war between Holland and Spain, under whose control the Portuguese were.

The Dutch discovered in a Portuguese ship a traitorous letter from a Japanese Christian to the King of Spain, and this letter they sent up to the Japanese authorities. This was the signal for the most horrid inquisition ever known in Japan. The missionaries were peremptorily told to leave the country at once, while the native believers were given the alternative of instant recantation or death.

As might have been expected, the greater part chose the latter. Out of sheer despair, about forty thousand Christians garrisoned themselves at Amakusa, a little island lying some leagues from Nagasaki, and determined to resist the Shogun's force to the death. They held out most obstinately for about four months, but the castle was at last taken by storm, and the captives were slaughtered indiscriminately. In this war, the Dutch ships rendered great service to the invading force by bombarding the castle; but, then, it must be remembered that the Dutch Protestants must have felt no particular remorse in helping to annihilate the Japanese Catholics.

Since then, Christianity or Kiristan, as the Japanese termed it, was a forbidden religion in this country; and, in order to remind the people of it, a wooden placard to that effect was put in every market place. It could be seen up to about thirty years ago. At the same time, the government came to the stern decision to hold no intercourse with the Western countries except the Dutch, to whom commerce was permitted to a certain limited extent, as a reward for the special services above referred to. In thus allowing the Dutch to come to Japan, the government had a very important object in view, and that was to make the Dutch give information about the foreign events which were of direct interest to the country.

This seclusion policy was strictly pursued for more than two and a half centuries after, and would have continued at least a generation or so longer had not the United States sent a fleet under Commodore Perry in 1854 and resolutely demanded the opening of the country for commerce and intercourse.

The opening of the country greatly hastened the crumbling away of the old régime, already destined to that fate, and the forbidden Kirisuto was once more enabled to revisit the land. This time, however, owing to several causes, the spread of Christianity has been very slow, though it is said

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to be more rapid than in China or India. Thus, the latest statistics show that the Protestant church number 32,380 believers, the Greek church, 18,090, and the Roman Catholic church, about double that of the Greek church.

The amount of money spent to get so many converts is something enormous. The American Board of Missions alone is said to have disbursed thus far about one million dollars. If so, the total which has come out of the treasuries of the various Protestant mission societies from the first must reach at least five millions. If to the above 30,000 odd believers, the Japanese population of over 40,000 000 be compared, the ratio falls to the insignificant proportion of 3 to 40,000. And then, as the greater part of those believers come from the middle classes, we can simply say of the Christian mission authority of Japan that it enjoys influence only commensurate with its numbers.

We have observed in the preceding part of the article that the common people still cling to Buddhism simply because it was the religion of their forefathers; but the case is somewhat different with regard to the higher classes. So far as we can see, we should say that the cause is to be traced back to Confucianism, which, as must be remembered, used to hold Buddhism in contempt, and which, therefore, must have naturally influenced its followers to look upon Christianity in a more or less similar light, Christianity being nothing but a religion after all. An accessory cause of equal importaace is that Confucianism itself, speaking nothing about the future, and, moreover, despising any opinion emphasizing it as smacking of religious superstition, has gradually drawn away the attention of the intelligent class from such problems, and left them perfectly indifferent as to the existence of a future.

Of course, our reasoning is merely intended to assign the proximate causes of the present phenomenon, for the question whether the Japanese people have any inborn prejudice against religion is a grave one which requires patient historical and psychological investigation. Several of the leading Japanese thinkers have often declared that the present state of the country as regards religion and the standard of morality is deplorable and that, as a remedy for it, Christianity should be encouraged; but this has had no particular influence upon the public mind from the fact that they do not make a personal application of their own advice.

There are, on the other hand, others who oppose the introduction of Christianiiy on the ground that it is incompatible with loyalty. This opinion, however, is confined to a very limited section of bigoted conservatives, and to Shinto and Buddhist priests, who, in order to strengthen their position against the advance of Christianity, have most cowardly taken shelter under the ægis of loyalty, thereby inflicting great harm upon it. Such an incident as that which occurred at the Tokyo Higher Middle school was hailed with great delight by these men, and they did not fail to take advantage of it to the utmost.

The Christians may be contented with the reflection that the time will come sooner or later when their loyalty and that of their antagonists can be put to the test to prove which is more solid. Yes, the time will come, but how soon, no one is able to foresee, while in the meantime those anti Christians will not be backward in finding out and making the most of any similar cases that may tell against the work of evangelization as we have noticed above, the disregard of anything national is not only unreasonable but must also be said to be highly impolitic. We think the Christians should be all the more strict in observing such ceremonies if they wish to avoid any such ground less imputations as have been referred to.

Having written about the Japanese in their general attitude toward Christianity, if we turn to the missionaries, we find them not as free from the charge of retarding the very work they are engaged in.

In the first place, it seems to us they are prone to look down upon the Japanese as a sort of half-civilized nation. It is most likely that this idea may have crept unconsciously into their minds in consequence of a generally accepted opinion in the West that a country requiring the labour of missionaries must be uncivilized. Those who are fresh from their homes are generally observed to be most culpable in this respect. It is needless to say that nothing is more misleading with reference to Japan than such a notion, for if the Western people can boast of their civilization, we can also with regard to ours, though the nature of the civilization may not be exactly the same. Deeply rooted in this egoistical idea that everything coming from themselves is excellent, the manner and action of the missionaries is frequently offensive as well as indiscreet, as it tends to lead to the disregard of our national customs. This we must say, aware, as we are, that what they are doing is perfectly in good part.

Thus, in those schools maintained by missions, the observance of our holidays is very irregular, in few observed as they ought to be; in several negligently; and in many, not at all. This may appear to them a very trifling matter; but we can not think so. We think, on the contrary, that it must eventually end in infusing in the minds of the students contemptuous feelings toward the national institutions, and in the formation of a monstrous class of Japanese who are foreigners in spirit though natives to all external appearance.

It must be remembered, however, that we are not unappreciative of the immense benefits direct or indirect which the Protestant missionaries have conferred upon the country outside the pale of religion; but we have confined ourselves to the statistics alone, for our main point is to show the striking contrast between ancient and modern times with regard to the progress of the propagation of Christianity.

The Western people must be very eager to know the reasons why the Japanese are so tardy to come into the fold of the Lord, seeing that Confucianism, under whose shelter they used to live, has become unsuited to the new state affairs.

Already we have too frequently seen cases, in which, despite the fact that in all other schools throughout the realm, special ceremonies were performed on certain special occasions, those mission establishments held entirely aloof, as if the students placed under their care were of a different nationality. We hear that the number of attendants at these schools have greatly fallen off lately; and this cannot be explained except on the ground that what they have done has been offensive to the national spirit. Another grave error is that they have tried to introduce Christianity in as complicated a shape as it exists in the West.

Perhaps it may be unjust to speak in this way, for the importance of unity is now amply recognized by the missionaries, and a scheme for it was on foot only a few years ago. It is a pity that the time was not yet ripe, but the reflection that the accomplishment is only a question of time must be consolatory to the cause of Christianity in Japan; for it is a point that admits no room of denial that if ever Christianity is to be introduced here, it must not be the American Christianity, nor the English Christianity, but the particular form of it that is required by this particular country.

The period of adoption has gone and that of adaption has succeeded. After our twenty years experiences with foreign institutions, we have learned at a great cost that the transplanting of anything foreign to our soil is expensive as well as detrimental to the land. We have plenty of laws and regulations hastily made up by transplanting those of other countries, but which are now lying unpublished on the desks in the cabinet, simply because they were found unsuited to the requirements of the country on the morrow of their completion. The nation is now awakened fully to the sense that such proceedings should be given up altogether. Now if this be the case with statecraft, why not so with religious affairs?

But this result cannot be hoped for unless the country be left free to do what it thinks proper with regard to the matter. Already we have several leading Japanese Christians who are endeavoring to inaugurate a movement in the above indicated direction. The time of the realization of this movement will be an epoch in the history of Christianity in Japan.—*Boston Investigator.*

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail."]

London, January 5.

Reuter's Agent at Sierra Leone telegraphs that it is reported that a body of French troops attacked the British expedition against the Lofas tribe, through mistaking them for natives. Sharp fighting took place, with the result that Captain Lendy, twenty-six Police, and several officers and men of the 1st West India Regiment were killed. It was reported that a French officer had been captured.

London, January 6.

Reuter's Agent at Sierra Leone wires that the fighting between the French troops and the British expedition against the Lofas tribe continued for forty minutes, when the French withdrew with their commander wounded, and returned to camp where he died. It was subsequently explained that the French mistook the British for a body of the Lofas. Ten of the French troops were killed, and the 1st West India Regiment had Lieutenant Robert Edmund Liston, Second-Lieutenant Chardine Wroughton, one sergeant, and four privates killed, and fifteen severely wounded. The troops on both sides had natives among them. The French and English press discuss the matter in the light of an unhappy mistake.

London, January 8.

The Tariff Bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

The French press is contesting British rights in Warina territory, where the fighting took place which was recently reported from Sierra Leone.

London, January 10.

The Marines from Her Britannic Majesty's ships at Honolulu have been landed to protect the Legation in the event of trouble arising.

Further serious riots have occurred in the southern provinces of Italy, and on the troops being called out they were ordered to fire into the rioters, several persons being killed and wounded.

London, January 12.

A manifesto issued by Señor Zorilla, which has been published in Madrid, announces the early advent of a Republic in Spain.

[Specially Telegraphed to the "Japan Daily Mail."]
(From the "North China Daily News").

London, January 3.

Mr. Alpheus C. Morton, the member for Peterborough, has given notice of a motion in the House of Commons to address the Queen praying Her Majesty to revoke the Act granting the Duke of Coburg the marriage annuity of £10,000.

Mr. Commissioner Johnstone has resigned, owing to differences with Mr. Cecil Rhodes.

It is believed that the Government intend to put into operation a wholesale application of the closure in order to expedite the passing of the Parish Councils Bill, and that an arrangement has been made between the Government and the Opposition to finish the debate on the Councils Bill by the 19th inst., as both parties desire to lengthen the recess.

January 4.

The agreement between the Government and the Opposition to facilitate the passing of the Councils Bill resulted in a compromise on the contested points of the Bill.

January 5.

The latest advices from Mashonaland state that the natives declare that the whole of Major Wilson's party were killed by the Mababele with the exception of seven, who managed to escape to Hartley Hill.

(From the "Hongkong Daily Press.")

Madrid, December 20th.

In Bacarritz (Austria) a terrible explosive burst, blowing up the residence of a lawyer named Wolff, and injuring severely many persons and entire families residing in the vicinity. All the houses of the neighbourhood were ruined.

The police in Barcelona have discovered a vast organization of an anarchist association. The things found have thrown much light on what happened in the attempt against Martinez Campos and in the Liceo Theatre. Important arrests have been made. Amongst the prisoners are those who threw the dynamite bomb in the Liceo, an accomplice of Pallas, and a manufacturer of the explosives.

Madrid, December 27th.

Last night, during the performance of the opera "Ebrea," in the Theatre Royal, cards were circulated amongst the spectators bearing the word "Leave." The spectators were struck with fear and began to leave the theatre. The Civil Governor communicated by telephone with the Palace.

(From Japanese Papers.)

Hamamatsu, Jan. 9, 2.35 p.m.

H.I.H. the Crown Prince arrived at Numazu at 1 p.m., and at once proceeded to the Detached Palace.

Osaka, January 10, 6.22 p.m.

A despatch from Jinsen, dated the 6th, has

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reached here to the effect that a mob consisting of several thousand persons behaved in a very disorderly manner at Kaijo-fu on the 22nd ult. They attacked several official residences, and seized some officials, who they treated most cruelly. Five Japanese merchants were driven from the town. They reached Jinsen on the 4th, and reported the matter to the Japanese Consul.

Nagoya, January 10, 6.30 p.m.

A strong shock of earthquake was felt here at 6.05 p.m. The residents fled from their houses.

Later.

An equally severe earthquake occurred at 7.35 p.m., and rumblings still continue.

Osaka, January 10th, 8.23 p.m.

The City was visited by a smart earthquake shock at 6.47 p.m. The ground moved for two minutes.

Tottori, January 11th, 11.38 a.m.

Seven strong shocks of earthquake were felt here. Many feeble shocks followed.

Sendai, January 11th, 4.07 p.m.

The candidates of the Radical Party for the general elections in Miyagi Prefecture are as follow:—Mr. Kusakari Chikaaki for the 1st district, Mr. Musha Dengoro for the 2nd district, Mr. Kurosawa Tozaburo for the 3rd district; Mr. Sugawara Shinsuku for the 4th district, and Mr. Izawa Sakuji for the 5th district.

Kofu, January 11th, 11.09 a.m.

Two violent earthquakes were experienced here yesterday at 6 a.m.

Nagoya, January 11th, 11 a.m.

From last evening up to this morning thirty-eight earthquakes were felt here, and the townspeople are greatly excited. Many residents fled from their houses during the night. No lives were lost.

Nagoya, January 11th, 1.30 p.m.

A violent shock of earthquake occurred last night and some houses were overthrown in a rural division. Lives are reported lost. A few smart shocks were felt to-day, and residents are panic-stricken.

Osaka, January 11th, 5.45 p.m.

Acting on the suspicion that a certain Mr. Komai, an attendant of the Uyemura family at Takatori, Yamato Province, had cruelly treated the Chief of the House and embezzled some of the property belonging to the Uyemura family, over forty retainers of the clan held a public meeting at Takatori on the 7th, and explained the matter to the general public. Great sympath was shown by the audience. Three representatives of the retainers proceeded to Komai's house the same night, and held a conference with the latter. About four hundred persons, acted as an escort to the delegation and surrounded the house. The noise made by this mob caused some excitement among the inmates of the house, and they fired pistols at the people gathered outside. A great disturbance ensued, the negotiations being broken off abruptly, to be resumed the following night. The family's retainers are not satisfied with the explanations given by Komai.

Osaka, January 12, 2 p.m.

The Hirano Cotton Spinning Co. decided at its general meeting held yesterday to declare a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum.

Nagano, January 12, 5.24 p.m.

Mr. Kiuchi Shin, a Radical, has resigned from the *Jiyu-to* in order to contest the seat in the Lower House for the Fifth Election District of Nagano with the Radical candidate, Mr. Tatekawa Umpei.

Nagoya, January 12, 11.30 a.m.

The recent big earthquake was felt most severely in the north-western part of Owari Province. In Haguri District one hundred and fifty shocks were experienced up till noon yesterday. Cracks opened in many directions, and in one place soil was ejected to the height of two feet. Some houses were overthrown, and residents are seeking shelter in sheds. Cracks were discovered in the Tamba District, and water in the wells became muddy. In Nagoya breaches were made in walls and chocks were stopped. Forty-nine shocks were felt up to this morning.

CHESS.

(All communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 86, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 103.

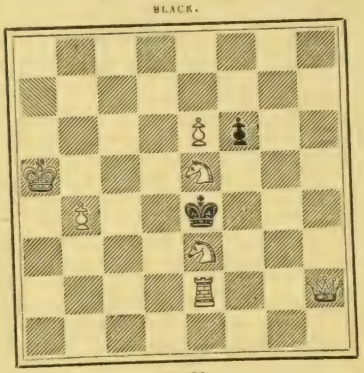
White.	Black.
1—Kt to Q Kt 3	1—Anything.
2—Q, Kt, or P mates accordingly.	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., J.W.E., P.E.F.S., Omega, J.D., O.B., and Digamma.

Additional correct solution of No. 102 received from P.E.F.S., too late for competition points.

Problem No. 105.
By V. Mieses.

Black.



White.

White to play and mate in three moves.

Solving Competition for 1893.

The following is the result of the solving competition for the past year:—

J.W.E. .....120 points.	P.E.F.S. ..... 46 points.
W.H.S. .....118 points.	Ed. B. ..... 35 points.
J.D.....116 points.	Omicron ... 30 points.
O.B.....116 points.	M.A.W. ... 20 points.
Digamma ... 77 points.	

As will be observed, the contest was very keen between four of our competitors, and Capt. J. W. Ekstrand, who heads the list, is to be congratulated on his well-merited success. W.H.S. comes in a close second in spite of his absence from Japan during the month of August, while O.B. and J.D. tie for third place with excellent scores. Omega having kindly taken charge of the problem department during our absence, as well as having been away himself for a time from these shores, his score is not given. His doughty deeds over the Chess board need no commendation at our hands. Ed. B. practically retired from the contest at an early stage.

Referring to the recent Tournament in New York we give an interesting cutting as under. As foretold, Lasker proved the winner by scoring all the games he played, and the "Gossip of Three Continents" came limping in the extreme rear with a score of only 2½.

The *Baltimore News* gives the following glimpse of the players:—A. Albin, of Vienna, is a player of the old school, daring and chivalrous in attack. He is likely to win one of the five chief prizes, being in excellent practice. He is an enthusiast and a great sitter, though somewhat fidgetty. In his 79-move game with Taubenhaus, on Saturday, the latter was asked why he went on fighting a drawn position against the Austrian. "Oh," replied Taubenhaus, "that amuses him."

E. Delmar is one of the old school veterans, too; but, as is notorious, plays a very mixed game, with plenty of little problems thrown in. He is fairly sure of a good place. Delmar and Ryan, by special license from the committee, play their games each day at 4 p.m., instead of 2 p.m.

"Gossip of Three Continents" is a very well-known and ancient chess figure. He is the author of the congress, and is armed with a new book of brilliant games, which is very neatly got up. He complains of being out of practice, having played very little chess in London of late.

Major Hanham, another bearded veteran, will, as usual, give everybody a hard tussle. The Major seems to be the only non-smoker in the tournament, but he is also about the hardest man to tire out. He has not done very much of late, and will probably make an extra effort to get a good place.

Of E. Lasker, the candidate for the World's Championship, we have heard so much lately that it is only necessary to say that he is looked upon as the first-prize winner. Olly, in *The Recorder*, gives the odds at 5 to 1 in his favour.

F. J. Lee, of London, says he has not played very much of late. Lee is about 35 years of age, but has only played first-class chess for about six years. He is a fine pawn player, a genial and amusing *bon camarade*, and is very favourably impressed with New York and American manners, making no scruples, although a typhical Londoner, of drawing all sorts of comparisons between the ways of the old and the new world capitals.

N. Jasnogrodsky, the Pole, from London, has made rapid strides in chess. Eight years ago he received the odds of the Queen from Albin in Vienna. "Jas," as he is called for brevity, is about 30 years of age, but looks rather more. He is out for starring, and speaks English rather better than Albin or Taubenhaus.

Genial E. Olly, of Brooklyn, the journalist and problemist, is a Greek by birth. He is making his *debut* in master tournaments on the present occasion. E. Olly's chess column in *The Recorder* of September 30th is decidedly frisky. The heading is a 4in. by 3in. drawing of two kittens playing. The pose of the white one is admirable. Black "to play," spraws over the chess board with his paw around the King. Underneath are the words, "Every little kitten plays chess; it's so easy."

H. N. Pillsbury, of Boston, may be called the "Morphy of the North." He is positively dreaded by the tournament, and nothing seems to tire him of winning games. He is a handsome youth of about 20 years, and a terribly hard student of chess. He is expected to win a high prize.

W. H. K. Pollock was disappointed at finding on his arrival in New York that the tournament was limited to one round, as he regards himself as one of the "farmers," and requires to lose four or five games before finding his gait. He is confident of playing some high game, if not of taking a high place.

J. Ryan, the Irishman, is the veteran skittler of the congress. He is sure to knock some of the winners out of time. Ryan came near being barred from the tournament, as the committee did not wish to extend to him the privilege of commencing at 4 p.m. The good-natured Lee put in a word for Ryan, and the latter, in consequence, said, "After that, how could I sit down and beat him on the opening day?"

J. W. Showalter, the Western champion, delighted everybody by telegraphing from Chicago his intention to play. He wrote us from Kansas City, September 27th, that he saw no possibility of competing, and was on his way to the Fair. But a tournament in New York leaves the Fair nowhere in the eyes of chess players. Showalter ought to win one of the three first prizes.

Taubenhaus, the Parisian expert, seems to be in excellent spirits, health, and good form. He is a most experienced and dangerous opponent, although in tournaments apt to become somewhat demoralised after a run of bad luck.

L. Schmidt, jun., hails from Dresden. He is a good player and highly thought of in London, but this is his first tournament of importance.

We are glad to learn that there is a strong probability of the great match for the Championship of the World between Steinitz and Lasker being played next month. May the best man win: and may we have some monumental games for study and reference.

We give below one of the later games in the famous Tarrasch-Tschigorin contest. Much regret is felt in Chess circles that the final result should have been a draw; but the combatants live to fight again on a future occasion, and we have the consolation of hope that another series of games may be contested by them ere long.

Fifteenth game in the match at St. Petersburg.

White. Tarrasch.	Black. Tschigorin.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—K Kt to B 3	2—Q Kt to B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to Q R 3
4—B to R 4	4—Kt to B 3
5—Kt to B 3	5—P to Q 3
6—P to Q 4	6—Kt to Q 2
7—Kt to K 2	7—B to K 2
8—P to B 3	8—Castles
9—Kt to Kt 3	9—B to B 3
10—P to K R 3	10—Kt to K 2
11—Castles	11—Kt to K Kt 3
12—B to Kt 3	12—R to K sq.
13—Q to Q 3	13—Kt (Q 2) to B sq.
14—Kt to K 2	14—Q to K 2
15—B to B 2	15—B to Q 2
16—B to K 3	16—Q R to Q sq.

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17—P to Q 5	17—P to R 3
18—K to R 2	18—Kt to R 2
19—P to B 4	19—R to K B sq.
20—Kt to Kt 3	20—Kt to Kt 4
21—Kt takes Kt	21—B takes Kt
22—Kt to B 5	22—Q to B 3
23—P to K Kt 3	23—B takes B
24—P takes B	24—Kt to R sq.
25—R to B 3	25—QR to K sq.
26—Q R to K B sq.	26—B takes Kt
27—K takes B	27—Q to K 2
28—B to Q sq.	28—P to K Kt 3
29—R to B 6	29—K to Kt 2
30—R (B 6) to B 2	30—P to K B 3
31—P to K R 4	31—P to K R 4
32—P to K Kt 4	32—P takes P
33—K to Kt 3	33—Kt to B 2
34—B takes P	34—R to K R sq.
35—R to R 2	35—Q R to K B sq.
36—P to R 5	36—P takes P
37—B takes P	37—Q R to K Kt sq.
38—K to B 2	38—R to B sq.
39—Q R to K R sq.	39—Kt to Kt 4
40—K to K 2	40—Q to R 2
41—R to R 4	41—Q to Kt 2
42—Q to B 2	42—R to R 3
43—Q to R 4	43—R takes B
44—R takes R	44—Kt takes P
45—Q to Q sq. Resigns.	45—Q to Kt 5 ch,

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble," net, free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE Limited, Yokohama.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Jan. 19th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Wed'day, Jan. 18th.*
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 14th.†
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Jan. 22nd ‡
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 28th.§
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 21st.‖
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wednesday, Jan. 24th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Feb. 1st.

* *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on December 30th. † *Verona* left Nagasaki on January 10th. ‡ *Empress of India* left Vancouver on January 8th. § *Gaelic* left San Francisco on January 9th. ‖ *Océanien* (with French mail) left Hongkong on January 13th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Jan. 16th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 13th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash	per N. P. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 14th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 14th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 20th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Sunday, Jan. 26th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co	Friday, Feb. 2nd.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,580, H. Walter, 6th January,—Hakodate 4th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 250, Iktsei, 6th January,—Kobe 5th January, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Benlarig, British steamer, 1,452, E. L. Boutillier, 7th January,—Antwerp viâ ports, General—Cornes & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 7th January,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 7th January,—Kobe 5th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 7th January,—Kobe 6th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 7th January,—Otaru viâ ports 2nd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 7th January,—Yokkaichi 6th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Concord (6), U.S. gunboat, Commander Goodrich, 8th January,—Hongkong viâ Nagasaki.

Pyrrhus, British steamer, 2,299, Batt, 9th January,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 9th January,—Handa 8th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, J. Iwata, 9th January,—Yokkaichi 8th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wolf (6), German gunboat, Captain Kratschmann, 9th January,—Kobe 7th January.

Dunbeth, British steamer, 1,471, Ch. McKenzie, 9th January,—Middlesboro' 9th November, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Baltimore (14), U.S. cruiser, Captain W. R. Bridgman, 10th January,—Hongkong 2nd January.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 10th January,—Otaru viâ ports 2nd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 10th January,—Kobe 9th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Akashi Maru, Japanese steamer, 876, Sakata, 11th January,—Hakodate 7th January, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 447, Muramatsu, 11th January,—Yokkaichi 10th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, Wm. H. Walker, 11th January,—Hongkong viâ ports, 4th January, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, Matsumoto, 11th January,—Hachinohe 10th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 11th January,—Kobe 10th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ping Suey, British steamer, 1,982, Jaques, 12th January,—London viâ ports, and Kobe 10th January, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 12th January,—Yokkaichi 11th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 12th January,—Shanghai and ports 6th January, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 13th January,—San Francisco 22nd December, viâ Honolulu 30th, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 6th January,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, J. Iwata, 6th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 6th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, 6th January,—Otaru, Light.—Asano Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 6th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 6th January,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Wilson, 6th January,—Shimonoseki and Nagasaki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sadokuni Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,500, Tasaka, 6th January,—Moji, Light.—Buttan-gumi.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 6th January,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 7th January,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Frigga, German steamer, 1,400, Nager, 7th January,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 7th Jaauary,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,240, Olsen, 8th January,—Hamanaka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 8th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma 9th January,—Otaru, Light.—S. Asano & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 9th January,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 9th January,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 9th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 9th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 10th January,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benvenue, British steamer, 1,467, Thompsen, 11th January,—New York, General.—Cornes & Co.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 447, Muramatsu, 11th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gulf of Genoa, British steamer, 1,836, Swan, 12th January,—Kobe, General.—Frazar & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, J. Iwata, 12th January,—Hachinohe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 12th January,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pyrrhus, British steamer, 2,299, Batt, 12th January,—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 12th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 12th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Kobe viâ Shiotsu:—2 passengers in second class and 7 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. Okubo and Misses Okubo in cabin and 35 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—8 Japanese in second class and 20 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. Chas. Grant, Rev. Julius Soper, Mr. S. Yokoyama, and Mr. and Mrs. Nakamura in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Kato in second class, and 34 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe: Mr. Shimadzu in second class and 7 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. D. Jackson, Mrs. E. W. Tilder, Miss Ruth Laning, Mr. J. R. Freme, Mr. C. S. G. Lloyd, Mr. J. Marques, Dr. A. H. Simons, Dr. P. Huderson, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Jeffreys and 2 children, and Miss Thomas in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Kobe:—15 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Admiral and Mrs. K. Tsuboi, Mrs. Tocque, Mr. S. Hihara, Mr. Taylor, Rev. Correll, and Mr. K. Morooka in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. S. Nagai and 2 children, Mrs. Chow, Mr. T. Amoto, and Mr. Fhong Kwa Sinn in second class, and 29 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from San Francisco:—Mr. Edward N. Snow, Mr. K. Nosawa, Mr. T. Tamaguchi, Rev. W. H. Hudson, Mrs. Hudson, Mr. H. Hokan, Mr. J. B. Drake, Mr. G. F. Smithers, Archbishop Denis Latas, Rev. R. E. McAlpine, Mrs. McAlpine, Mr. R. C. McAlpine, Miss Evelyn McAlpine, Mr. Chas. H. Tetaz, and Prince Wolkonsky in cabin. For Hongkong:—Messrs. Ping Yan Wang, C. Andre de la Porte, T. Andre de la Porte, Woo Ching and servant, David Kerr, Ho Shen Chee, Chun Quan Kee, and Miss Linwood in cabin. For Shanghai:—Miss E. F. Swinney, M.D. in cabin. From Honolulu to Yokohama:—Mr. H. Schauffler in cabin. From Honolulu:—Mr. H. Evans and Mrs. Evans in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Appe, Dr. S. A. Gibbs, Mr. W. S. H. Lothrop, Mr. W. E. Peebles, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Sharp, Miss Lucy Martin, Mr. J. T. Hamilton, and native servant, Mr. W. Tallers, Mr. F. G. Watts, Mr. R. S. Palmer, and Mr. S. B. Trowbridge in cabin, and 3 Chinese and 1 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss Lovell, Rev. and Mrs. Lang, Messrs. Lu Tseng Chang, and T. Suda in cabin; the Misses Lu (3) and Master Lu, Mrs. Kak and 2 daughters, Messrs. Ehrhardt, F. J. Freer, and Kak Ming Shun in second class, and 51 passengers in steerege.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $100,000.00.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 301 bales; Waste Silk, 63 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, Captain Nirei, reports:—Left Kobe the 5th January at 10 a.m. Arrived at Shiotsu at 1.35 p.m. and left again at 5.50 p.m.; had fine weather and strong northerly breeze; passed Oshima the 6th at 1.00 a.m. wind increasing and veering westward towards Owari Bay; made Rock Island at 5.46 p.m.; thence cloudy and strong northerly breeze, and light rain with very low barometer. Arrived at Yokohama the 7th January at 0.50 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, Captain Sakai, reports:—Left Kobe the 6th January at noon; had light to moderate north-westerly breeze and fine weather; after passing round Oshima

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moderate to strong north-westerly breeze and cloudy weather with high following sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 7th January at 6.38 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Crichton, reports:—Left Otaru the 2nd January at 2 p.m.; had light variable winds and cloudy weather, with occasional heavy snow squalls. Arrived at Hakodate the 3rd at 11 a.m. and left again the 5th at 8 a.m.; had light to gentle breezes and fine but cloudy weather to Yamada Head; thence to port moderate to fresh and strong winds, increasing to gale from N.E. with heavy rain. Arrived at Oginohama the 6th at 7.45 a.m. and left again the same day at 5 p.m.; had strong gale from N.E. with heavy rain to Imuboye; thence to port moderate to gentle and light breezes, and cloudy, with showers of hail and rain to Noshima Lighthouse; thence to port gentle westerly breezes and fine, clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 7th January at 8 p.m. Brought down the shipwrecked crew of the *John Y. Robbins* from Hakodate.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Otaru the 5th January at 1.55 p.m.; thence to Hakodate had light to gentle variable winds, clear, cloudy, and fine weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 6th at 8.45 a.m.; had light to gentle variable winds, weather cloudy and overcast with snow and rain at intervals. Left Hakodate the 8th at 8 a.m.; had gentle to moderate northerly winds and weather overcast; at noon strong breeze with heavy confused sea and rain and snow at intervals; rounded Shiriyasaki Lighthouse at 0.14 p.m. and encountered a heavy N.E. swell with fresh to moderate variable winds and rain at intervals; at midnight wind hauled westerly and weather cleared; thence to Oginohama light to fresh breeze and fine, clear weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 9th at 7.35 a.m. and left at 1.40 p.m.; thence to Noshima Lighthouse strong breeze, at times moderate gale, from W.N. and N.W. with moderate sea and fine, clear weather; from Noshima Lighthouse gentle to light breeze and fine, bright weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 10th January at 2.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Pender, reports:—Left Kobe the 9th January at 1 p.m.; had fresh W.N.W. winds to Oshima; thence strong N.W. winds increasing to moderate gale with high sea to Rock Island and variable winds with fine, clear weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 10th January at 5.55 p.m.

The British steamer *Belgic*, Captain Walker, reports:—Left Hongkong the 4th January; had strong N.W. monsoon and high seas up to arrival at Nagasaki the 8th at 9.56 a.m. Left Nagasaki the same day at 11.14 p.m. and thence to Kobe fine weather and smooth seas, arrived the 10th at 6.50 a.m. Left Kobe the same day at 0.43 p.m. and thence to port fine weather and smooth seas. Arrived at Yokohama the 11th January at 2.25 p.m. Times, 7 days, 5 hours, 54 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, Captain J. Nitei, reports:—Left Kobe the 10th January at 10.20 a.m.; passed Shiwotsu without anchoring on account of strong N.W. winds and fine weather, smooth sea; passed Oshima at 8.30 p.m.; made Rock Island the 11th at 0.37 p.m.; thence to port fresh breeze and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 11th January at 7.15 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 6th January at noon; had strong breeze and heavy squalls. Arrived at Nagasaki the 8th at 6 a.m. and left the same day at 5 p.m.; had squally weather. Arrived at Moji the 9th at 6 a.m. and left at 11 a.m. Arrived at Kobe the 10th at 7 a.m. and left the 11th at noon. Arrived at Yokohama the 13th January at 3 p.m.; had light breeze and smooth water.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain W. M. Smith, reports:—Left San Francisco the 22nd December at noon, and Honolulu the 30th at 1 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 13th January at 2.15 a.m. Passage from Honolulu, 12 days, 16 hours, 55 minutes; passage from San Francisco, 20 days, 41 minutes. Had a S.W. gale on December 24th and 25th, after which fine weather with variable winds to January 9th; thence to port moderate to fresh westerly gales with high seas.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Benlarig, British steamer, 1,452, E. L. Boutillier, 7th January,—Antwerp viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Bullmouth, British steamer, 2,040, Scott, 6th January,—Batoum viâ Kobe, Light.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Dunbeth, British steamer, 1,471, Ch. McKenzie, 9th January,—Middlesboro' 9th November, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Ethiope, British steamer, 1,956, A. Wanless, 4th January,—Middlesboro' viâ ports, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Melbourne, French steamer, 3,400, Vimont, 5th January,—Marseilles 26th November, Hongkong 28th December, Shanghai 1st January, and Kobe 4th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

SAILING VESSELS.

Adolph Harboe, Danish bark, 1,049, Petersen, 15th December,—New York 26th May, 36,480 cases Oil.—R. Isaacs & Bro.

Anaconda, American schooner, 40, A. Lawson, 4th January,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Arctic, British schooner, 40, Gillem, 7th October,—Hakodate 30th September, 55 Seals.—J. H. Pyne.

Aurora, British schooner, 41, E. Toussant, 7th October,—Hakodate, Stores.—Captain.

Charles E. Moody, American ship, 1,915, R. L. Leonard, 11th December,—New York 1st July, 70,225 cases Oil.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Diana, American schooner, 74, Peterson, 5th October,—North Pacific, 50 otters and 5 seals.—Captain.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 130, Harrison, 11th December,—Guam, Copra.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Maud S, British schooner, 97, R. E. McKeil, 25th September,—North Pacific, Stores and Gear.—Captain.

Petriever, American schooner, 75, H. J. Snow, 18th October,—North Pacific, 104 Seals.—T. M. Laffin.

Saipan, British schooner, 75, J. T. Blanchfield, 15th December,—Guam, Copra.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

St. David, American ship, 1,536, Lyons, 12th December,—New York 24th June, Oil.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Worlock, British steam-schooner, 31, A. Riedditjeltine, 17th November,—Petropaulovsky, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

MEN-OF-WAR.

Concord (6), U.S. gunboat, Commander Goodrich, 8th January,—Hongkong viâ Nagasaki.

Itsukushima Kan (12), Japanese cruiser, Captain K. Ijichi, 2nd December,—Yokosuka 2nd December.

Marion (7), U.S. corvette, Captain G. V. Gridley, 6th December,—Target Practise, 6th December.

Wolf (6), German gunboat, Captain Kratschmann, 9th January,—Kobe 7th January.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The New Year festivities being now fairly over, the native merchants are returning to business, and the Import Trade bears somewhat a brighter aspect. Yarns, both Single and Double, have suddenly revived and are moving off at a good pace. Holders, however, have somewhat checked business by raising their prices. Shirtings and other Manchester Goods experience a moderate enquiry, but here again buyers and holders find much difficulty in coming to terms. In Woollens, the same trouble is apparent, but in rather a greater degree, there being a wide margin between the ideas of the two parties.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.20 to 2.75
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.35 to 3.12½
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.52½ to 1.85
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.35 to 8.70
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-44 inches	0.65 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.42½ to 1.52½
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.92½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.20 to 2.62½
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.80 to 3.05

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27 to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.30 to 0.33
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.25 to 0.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.20 to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.14 to 0.19½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb. per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 10/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$37.00 to —
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	37.00 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	—
Nos. 28/32, Medium	37.75 to —
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	38.50 to 39.75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	45.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	43.00 to 44.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	47.50 to 49.50
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

This market has not yet quite recovered from last week's dissipation, and only a small business has been transacted at unchanged prices.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	$4.10 to 4.20
Flat Bars, ½ inch	4.20 to 4.30
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.35 to 3.45
Iron Plates, assorted	3.40 to 3.50
Sheet Iron	4.55 to 4.70
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.00 to 9.20
Wire Nails, assorted	5.40 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box	6.00 to 6.20
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.50 to 1.55

KEROSENE.

A rather better feeling is experienced in this market, and higher prices have been paid. The tank steamer *Bullmouth* arrived on the 6th with 2,414 tons of Russian Oil in bulk.

Chester	$1.82½ to 1.87
Comet	1.80 to 1.82½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.77½ to 1.80
Russian Moon	1.75 to 1.77½

SUGAR.

Demand for Browns has been very good during the past week, and sales have so far exceeded arrivals that holders' stocks are exhausted. Contracts have been entered into for Takao, "to arrive," at the rate of 4.30 to 4.40 per picul, and the first arrivals of the new season's sugar from Formosa are eagerly awaited. Whites have again met with ready purchasers, and business is progressing favourably at unchanged rates.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.40 to 4.50
Brown Manila	5.30 to 5.40
Brown Daitong	4.00 to 4.15
Brown Canton	4.45 to 4.65
White Java and Penang	7.00 to 7.10
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 5th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 657 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures*, 434 piculs; *Re reels*, 125 piculs; *Kakeda*, 98 piculs. Direct shipments have been 146 bales, making the total export trade for the week 800 piculs.

The spurt mentioned in our last soon died away, and as holders have been very strong in their ideas, only a small business was done. Quotations show no reduction upon last week's prices, but exchange having risen in the meantime, silks bought to-day lay down in the home markets at about two per cent. above those purchased a week ago. There does not seem much good news from consumers to warrant a continuance of these rates; but Japanese holders are very strong and it will require a considerable length of inactivity to make them reduce their prices to any extent. There is no doubt that there is plenty of silk in the country, reeled or unreeled, still to come forward; and unless consumption improves, we do not see how the present rates can be further advanced, even if they can be maintained at the present level.

Arrivals come in to a fair extent and the stock shows an increase of 400 piculs on the week.

Exchange steadily advanced for several days, but closes slightly below the highest point touched.

There has only been one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the English mail steamer *Ancona*, which sailed on the 7th instant, taking 301 bales for Europe. The present export figures are 26,576 piculs against 37,235 piculs last year and 32,449 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—Nothing doing; the stock and assortment are such as do not interest purchasers.

Filatures.—Again the chief business has been in this class and moderate purchases have been made from day to day at our quotations. In full sizes, we note good *Shinshu* at $800; with *Rokkosha* at $810; *Onosha*, $780; *Shunmeisha*, $760. In fine sizes, medium qualities have been done at from $760 to $740, according to province and grade.

Re reels.—One parcel of *Three Girls* noted at $780; *Five Girl* chop is held for $750 and *Tortoise* is said to have brought $740. Lower grades have been done at about $700.

Kakeda.—There have been some arrivals, and the stock has increased considerably, still several

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purchases have been made at full rates; *Daruma*, $750; *Musume* 1, *Oxhead* 1 and similar grading at $705.

In other sorts, nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	$840 to 850
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	810 to 820
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	800 to 810
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	770 to 780
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	740 to 750
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	740 to 750
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	740 to 750
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	730 to 740
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	710 to 720
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	680 to 690
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	660 to 670
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	640 to 650
Kakedas—Extra	Nom. —
Kakedas—No. 1	730 to 740
Kakedas—No. 1½	700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 2	670 to 680
Kakedas—No. 2½	650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 3	630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom. —
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom. —
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 12th Jan., 1894.—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	15,592	13,475	11,073
America	10,245	23,092	20,610
Total { Bales	25,837	36,567	31,683
Total { Piculs	26,576	37,235	32,449
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	29,300	38,500	33,850
Stock, 12th Jan	14,200	6,900	15,500
Available supplies to date	43,500	45,400	49,350

WASTE SILK.

There has been some revival in the demand, and settlements for the week are 1,045 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 493 piculs; *Kibiso*, 447 piculs; *Boseki-wata*, 105 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

There seems a more general demand, and in addition to the above settlements considerable purchases are being negotiated, especially in *Noshi* and *Kibiso* of the better grades. Quotations are unchanged since our last issue, but the increased exchange enhances the lay down cost by about two per cent.

Arrivals continue on a fair scale and the stock is well maintained, although the native spinners from time to time take off some of the lower grades of *Kibiso* and *Sundries*.

The English mail steamer *Ancona* took 63 bales for Europe, and the *Benvenue* has some *Cocoons* for the New York trade, particulars of which will be given in our next. The present export figures are 14,064 piculs against 25,384 piculs last year and 19,295 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Pierced Cocoons.—Nothing doing, stock being too poor for export.

Noshi.—Considerable enquiry at last week's rates, and the following prices have been paid; *Oshu*, good, $140; *Filature*, ordinary, $125; *Shinshu*, good, $95; *Joshu*, $70 to $76, for fair to medium stock. Ordinary *Joshu* has been done at $65

Kibiso.—Considerable purchases of *Filatures*, prices ranging from $90 to $100 for good seconds, with $115 for best No. 1.

Sundries.—The only sale has been a large parcel of *Boseki wata* at $23¼.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	135 to 145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85 to 90
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110 to 115
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 12th Jan., 1894:

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	10,869	22,694	17,269
Pierced Cocoons	3,195	2,690	2,026
	14,064	25,384	19,295
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	17,300	32,100	24,000
Stock, 12th Jan	19,200	8,100	12,000
Available supplies to date	36,500	40,200	36,000

Exchange has risen steadily during the week but closes at a point lower than the top notch:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/4⅛; Documents, 2/4¼; 6m/s. Credits, 2/4⅜. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $564; 4m/s. U.S. $57½. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.95; 6m/s. fcs. 2.97.

Estimated Silk Stock, 12th Jan., 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	80	Cocoons	300
Filatures	8,000	Noshi-ito	9,100
Re-reels	4,330	Kibiso	9,230
Kakeda	1,700	Mawata	130
Oshu	45	Sundries	440
Tavsaam Kinds	45		
Total piculs	14,200	Total piculs	19,200

TEA.

Buyers show rather more inclination to operate, but transactions have been few and small. No change to make in quotations.

	Per Picul.
Common	$12 to 13
Good Common	14 to 15
Medium	17 to 18
Good Medium	19 to 20
Fine	22 to 23
Finest, Choice, Choicest	Nominal

EXCHANGE.

Exchange rose day by day, and is fairly firm at quotations, though these are a point below the highest figure of the week.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2 3⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/3⅞
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/4
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/4¼
On Paris—Bank sight	2.86
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2 94⅛
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73
On America—Bank Bills on demand	54½
On America—Private 30 days' sight	56
On America—Private 4 months' sight	57
On India—Bank sight	Nominal,
Silver	31⅜

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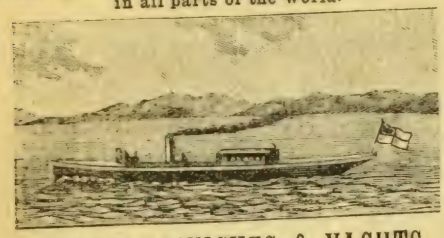
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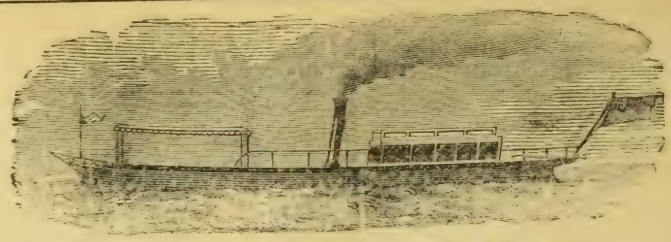
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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 20TH, 1894.

BIRTH.

On the 17th inst., at No. 73, Main Street, Mrs. J. FEICKE of a Son.

DEATHS.

In Shanghai, January 11th, 1894, JOHN NEWSOM, late of London, England.

At the General Hospital, Yokohama, on the 18th inst., JOSE JOAQUIM BASTOS DA GAMA, a native of Fife, Portugal, aged 46.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE new Governor of Saga is Mr. Tanabe Teruzane.

THE general elections will probably take place about the 5th March.

H.I.M. THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER will shortly visit Hayama, Kamakura.

MR. SHIMADA SABURO, ex-*Kaishin-to* M.P. for Yokohama, feels confident of his re-election.

A STEVEDORE'S coolie was drowned in the Bay on Wednesday, while engaged in lighterage work.

A FIRE broke out in China Town, Yokohama, on Monday morning, and three houses were gutted.

THE election of half the members of the Kanagawa Prefectural Assembly takes place on the 1st prox.

DURING December last the Kanagawa *Kencho* issued 61 passports for foreigners wishing to visit Hakone and Atami.

THE house of a villager a Tajima, South Doai District, Fukushima Prefecture, was crushed in on the 6th inst. in consequence of a heavy snowfall. The man, his wife, and their son were buried beneath the ruins.

COUNT GOTO is reported to have sent in his resignation of the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce.

THE One Hundredth National Bank has declared a dividend of 14 per cent. per annum for the past half-year.

THE Kanagawa Local authorities have prohibited the dredging of shell-fish and seaweed from the Yokohama breakwaters.

THE storm which raged over Hokkaido on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, was one of the most disastrous of recent years.

THE U.S. S. *Lancaster*, under orders to proceed to the United States *via* the Suez Canal, has been flying the homeward pennant during the week.

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha, in consequence of the severe competition of the P. & O. Company, have reduced their freights on cotton from Bombay.

A VERY enjoyable ball was given at the the U.S. Legation, Tokyo, on Wednesday evening, Madame Sienkiewicz and Mrs. Herod acting as hostesses.

H.I.M. THE EMPRESS has expressed a wish to devote two thousand *yen* towards the expenses of reconstructing the premises of the Tokyo Poor Asylum.

NOTWITHSTANDING the general warmth of the middle hours of the day, skating has been practical on the Club pond during the early hours of the morning.

THE Japanese in Hawaii are said to be steadily gaining in social and political influence, and the goal of their ambition, the franchise, is beginning to loom nearer.

A *shizoku* of Kochi Prefecture was discovered dead, with a pistol wound through his head, near the gate of the Imperial Palace, Tokyo, on the morning of the 16th inst.

IT is stated that Mr. M. Kirkwood and Mr. Okamura Teruhiko are to proceed to England on business connected with the *Chishima-Ravenna* appeal case before the Privy Council.

THE erection of the new French Consular Buildings on the plot of ground facing the Yato-bashi will not commence before April, although some preliminary work has begun.

A GAME of foot-ball under American rules was played on the Cricket-ground on Tuesday, the U.S.S. *Baltimore* challenging the *Marion* and *Lancaster*. The former team won by 16 points to *nil*.

THE appointment of Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, of Shanghai, as Acting-Judge of H.B.M.'s Court for Japan, has been confirmed. Mr. Wilkinson, who was Crown Advocate in the Supreme Court at Shanghai, leaves China at the end of March or the beginning of April.

THE *Hiyei Kan* will start on a cruise to the South Sea Islands about the middle of the month, with a company of Naval College Graduates on board. The *Kongo Kan* will shortly proceed on a cruise to South American waters.

FIRE destroyed sixty houses on Enoshima on Sunday. It arose through the upsetting of a lamp. The male occupant of the house was burnt to death in consequence of an epileptic fit. During the conflagration a fight took place between firemen from Katase and some from Koshigoye, in the course of which three men were killed and several injured.

A FATAL accident, involving the loss of five lives, occurred at a mine in Uguisuzawa, Kurihara District. During a dispute, a box containing a large quantity of metal fell from the slings, and killed the men who were standing at the bottom of the shaft.

THE Venerable Archdeacon Shaw and family are leaving Japan this week for a holiday at home. The British community in Tokyo presented the Archdeacon with a well-filled purse, as a token of their high regard, at a farewell reception given at the British Legation during the week.

THE Earl of Kimberly has been seriously ill. The Parish Councils Bill has passed the House of Commons, and an adjournment took place until the 12th of February. The Coinage Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States has reported in favour of the Bland Bill and the issue of silver certificates upon seignorage bullion in the Treasury amounting to fifty-five million dollars, and that the bullion be rapidly coined. Lobengula is reported to have reached the Zambesi with two thousand warriors. Major Wilson and his party made an heroic stand before being annihilated by the Matabele. Serious conflicts continue between the anarchists and the troops in Italy, and a pitched battle has been fought near Massa, on the North coast of Tuscany, in which many persons were killed and wounded.

THE improvement reported in the Import trade in our last issue has not been maintained, in fact has come to a somewhat untimely end, due to the great gap existing between buyers and sellers, which, from present appearances, does not promise to be immediately bridged. There has been, consequently, a considerable falling off in the sales of Yarns, Piece-goods, and Woollens, all from the same cause—the inability of dealers to come to terms. The Metal market is unchanged, and buyers continue to hold off, but quotations show no variation from those of a week ago. Only a small business has been done in Kerosene, and holders of all kinds remain firm, though buyers predict a pending fall in prices when the unusually large shipments of floating Oil shall have been handled here. Business in Brown Sugar for "spot" has not been large, but this is rather due to the paucity of stock than to lack of demand, and consequently bargains have again been struck for cargo "to arrive." White sorts are still in good request at late rates, and have been moved in fairly large parcels. Including a small direct shipment to bring up the total, only 500 piculs of Silk have been taken during the week, and as arrivals have come in freely the stock is again increased. Advices from consuming quarters are not encouraging, and notwithstanding that holders are willing to make slight concessions in the prices asked a week ago, there is very little life in the trade. This condition of affairs has been somewhat atoned for in the Waste Silk market, and a great spurt in this branch has ended in nearly 2,500 piculs being weighed up during the week, some sorts at late rates and others at a slight advance, the week's business having so far exceeded arrivals as to make a considerable reduction in the stock. The small demand previously existing in the Tea trade has subsided, and the buyers of leaf are not now in the market. Exchange remained steady during the greater part of the week, but at the close rates have again declined.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Rumours about probable changes in the Cabinet continue to be circulated by the metropolitan papers. Mr. Yoshikawa, Minister of Justice, is still regarded as the most likely successor to Count Goto in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the latter's resignation being taken for granted on all sides. In the event of Mr. Yoshikawa's transfer to the *Noshomusho*, Viscount Nomura has hitherto been expected to receive the portfolio of Justice. But it is now rumoured that his appointment is extremely doubtful, strong opposition having arisen against his entrance into the Cabinet. He is a Choshu man, and his acceptance of office will give too much preponderance to that clan. Whether owing to the efforts made on Viscount Nomura's behalf, rumour states that the Satsuma members of the Ministry have threatened to resign, and even that Counts Kuroda and Saigo have already tendered their resignations. In short, some papers pretend to fear that dissension is imminent between the Choshu and Satsuma clans. In order to conciliate the Satsuma statesmen, those of Choshu are said to have proposed Viscount Tani, a Tosa man, for the portfolio of Justice. Other journals allege that Mr. Mutsu is exerting all his influence to have Mr. Nakajima, now Minister to Italy, appointed Count Goto's successor. There seems to be not the slightest foundation for the rumour either of extensive changes in the Cabinet, or of a dissension between the Choshu and Satsuma clans. Just regrets are felt, however, that prompt steps are not taken to settle the question of the change of *personnel* in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, for the delay gives Opposition papers an occasion to circulate disquieting rumours about the stability of the Cabinet itself.

* * *

Apparent inaction on the part of the Government has evoked censure from the independent and sober section of the press. The *Jiji Shimpo*, for instance, finds it incomprehensible that a Cabinet composed of the ablest clan statesmen and possessing all the requirements of a strong administration, should be so powerless to avail itself of its advantageous position. What it wants is decision and firmness. With resolution it could accomplish great things. But instead of utilizing the unique advantages it possesses, it seems to be repeating the fatal errors committed by the Ministers of the Shogunate Government in the last days of the latter. The ostensible ground of opposition against the Tokugawa Government was the latter's mistaken foreign policy, but really the object of the Opposition in those days was to overthrow the feudal Government. The Bakufu Ministers, with the exception of Ii and Ando, were unable to perceive this fact, and every fresh attempt on their part to conciliate the discontented portion of the nation only served to hasten the downfall of the Shogunate. Similarly, the members of the present Cabinet are bent upon the fatal policy of humouring the Opposition, as though they did not know that the latter's true object is not to effect reforms but to compass the fall of clan Government. Whatever concession the Cabinet may make to the Opposition, the latter will never abate its attack until it finds itself in possession of office. Such being the case, those now in power ought to give up their ill-starred policy of conciliation and devote their energies to the conduct of the administration in an independent and strong manner. From past experience, the *Jiji* does not believe that such advice will produce any effect upon the present Cabinet, but it is nevertheless constrained to raise its voice once more against the fatal policy now pursued.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* also urges the Cabinet Ministers to be more prompt and decisive in their action. From the manner in which the House of Representatives was dissolved at the end of last year, our contemporary is convinced that the Government is resolved to adopt a strong and decisive policy towards the Diet. But during the three weeks which have passed since then, the Government has not taken any step to inform the nation of the reasons why the Diet was dissolved. The *Nichi Nichi* is aware that no intelligent observer can fail to discover those reasons for himself, and, moreover, it does not agree with those who argue that it is an essential principle of constitutional government to announce the reasons of a dissolution of the Legislature. Still it ill-becomes the Cabinet to remain silent on such a subject. Our contemporary hopes that the Premier will make the much expected announcement at the time of assembling the Local Governors. Then turning to the question of Count Goto's resignation, the *Nichi Nichi* observes that it is now ten days since his intention of resigning is said to have been intimated to the Minister President of State. Yet the Cabinet seems still unable to find his successor. Our contemporary does not think that the present is a good opportunity for Count Goto to resign, but since his resignation is inevitable, it would be well for the Cabinet to settle the matter promptly. The manner in which the present Cabinet was organized and the circumstances under which the Diet was dissolved last December, invest the Ministers with a grave responsibility for the proper government of the country. But they hesitate in announcing their views about the dissolution of the Diet and on settling the question of a change of *personnel* in a Ministerial post. They may seek to excuse themselves on the plea of increasing age. But such excuse cannot be entertained. Moreover, they are advised to look at Mr. Gladstone of England and the Viceroy Li of China, than whom they are younger by ten to twenty years.

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The Ordinance fixing the date for the general elections has not yet been issued, and the Opposition papers are becoming impatient for its promulgation. They urge the Cabinet to fix the date as soon as possible, for the delay entails much more expense upon the candidates and upon the people in general. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, however, thinks that the next general election should be fixed for some time in the first half of April. The general election of 1892 took place in the month of February, and in the northern districts difficulties of locomotion and communication caused by heavy snow necessitated the expenditure of much money which would have been saved had the election taken place later. The heavy work of sericulture does not commence until after April, and the first part of that month is therefore considered the best time for the elections. As to the complaint that delay in fixing the date entails additional expense on the candidates and the electors, the *Nichi Nichi* observes that the candidates and the electors are themselves to blame if they cannot quietly wait for the day of election, however distant it be.

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The *Kokkai* continues to discuss the question how to correct evil practices at elections. The increasing prevalence of corrupt methods, says our contemporary, has disgusted not a few politicians of distinction, who now hesitate to offer themselves as candidates. The editor of the *Kokkai*, Mr. Suyehiro, is one of the politicians. At first he meant to compete in a certain election district in Ehime, but on hearing that a wealthy inhabitant of the locality had also offered himself as a candidate, Mr. Suyehiro at once withdrew from the competition, alleging that he was no match for his adversary in power to bribe electors. Whether he was justified or not, our contemporary declared that, unless the elections are conducted in a purer and more reasonable manner, it will be impossible to obtain a House of Representatives deserving the confidence of the nation. Imperfections in the Law of Election may no doubt account in some respects for this regrettable state of things, but for the purposes of the coming election it is futile to talk of amending that Law. What is of more urgent necessity, in the *Kokkai's* opinion, is that the leaders of public opinion should bring strong moral pressure to bear upon the electors and the candidates, so that they may be induced to give up the evil practices now disgracing Japanese elections.

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The papers also urge upon the Cabinet and the local authorities the importance of taking strong and impartial measures against the employment of illegal means for securing votes. It is interesting to notice that the cry for perfect neutrality in elections on the part of the Government is taken up by the *Chu-o Shimbun*, the acknowledged organ of a party which is accused of owing its very existence to energetic interference on the part of the Cabinet in the general elections of 1892.

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Papers devoted to the cause of strict enforcement of the Treaties are now less enthusiastic than formerly. But this may be only apparent, the fire may be burning in secret. So far, however, as the newspapers are concerned, it is a fact that much less noise is now made on this subject. The *Niroku Shimpo* is discussing the question of Treaty Revision in a long series of articles not yet concluded. The *Chu-o* attacks the Government's foreign policy as being weak and unenterprising. It refers to the foreign policy pursued by the Government during the past twenty-six years, and has much to say about the repeated defeats on the question of Treaty Revision, about the exchange of Saghalien for Chishima, about the inaction of the Government at the time of the occupation of Port Hamilton by England, about the Government's policy towards Korea and China, and so forth.

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The *Jiji Shimpo* is indefatigable in pointing out the absurdities of the doctrine of Strict Enforcement. In an essay just published, our contemporary goes at great length into the circumstances under which the present treaties were concluded, and points out that, compared with those days, the foreign intercourse of the country has made remarkable progress. It spares no pains to assure the advocates of strict enforcement that the only result of the course recommended by them would be serious disadvantages to Japan herself.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A CRITIC OF THE ITO CABINET.

In a note in the *Jiji Shimpo*, which purports to have been communicated, a certain unnamed critic detects three mistakes recently committed by the present Cabinet. He makes separate reference to the introduction by the Government last session of a Bill for the re-assessment of the taxable value of land, and avers that the policy was a complete failure. Apart from this mistake, the Cabinet is said to have been betrayed into three errors. The first was its inconsistent attitude toward the Great Japan Union. When that body was originally organized last year, the Cabinet did not seem to take any notice of the event, thus showing that it attached little importance to the agitation for the promotion of which the association was formed. But of late the agitation having begun to grow in power, the Cabinet has entirely changed its policy, and recently it even ordered the registration or dissolution of the association itself. The critic's complaint is evidently that the Government was not sagacious enough to take decisive measures about the Great Japan Union from the moment of its formation. The second blunder with which he charges the Cabinet is that, while not hesitating to make public the memorial which the Minister President presented to the Throne on the subject of official discipline,—a course of action at variance with the past practice of the Government—it has not yet taken any step for publishing its memorial on the subject of the dissolution of the Diet. The third and the last mistake attributed to the Cabinet is the issue of instructions by Count Goto to the officials under his control on the subject of official discipline. It

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may be contended that the instruction having been issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, the Cabinet as a whole has nothing to do with it. But our critic thinks otherwise, and argues that the rest of the Ministers must equally be blamed for the faulty step taken by their colleague. But he entirely fails to explain why the issue of the instructions in question was at all blameworthy.

THE YOKOHAMA HARBOUR WORKS.

THE Committee appointed to investigate the condition of the Yokohama Harbour Works completed its labours some time ago, and presented its report to the Authorities. Pending the publication of the report in the *Official Gazette*, it is not possible to obtain any detailed information as to its contents, but a sufficiently accurate general idea may be deduced from the resolve taken by the Authorities after perusal of the report. That resolve, as stated by the vernacular press, is that the construction of the Works, which had been suspended for some time during the progress of the Committee's investigation, shall be resumed forthwith, the blocks which had suffered injury being replaced by new ones, and the works, for the rest, being prosecuted on the old lines. The newspapers that publish this statement, the correctness of which we have ascertained by independent inquiry, add certain details with respect to the pier and the railway subsidiary to the break-waters, but inasmuch as their figures were long ago published in these columns, we see no occasion to reproduce them now. What is particularly interesting, however, is the fact that a couple of months are expected to suffice for the completion of the Works: their construction, recommenced early in February, will be brought to a close, according to present estimates, in April. This we say is particularly interesting because of its bearing on the hubbub that was raised last spring about the condition of the Works. Folks who claimed the honour of having been the first to bring to general notice the failure of some of the cement blocks, were resolved that the importance of their intelligence should not suffer, and we, who ventured to suggest that only an insignificant percentage of the blocks had suffered, and that the sensational aspect imparted to the affair was misleading, were rudely accused of burking facts and endeavouring to throw dust in the eyes of the public from interested motives. The justice of our remonstrance and the hyperbole of our critics are now amply demonstrated, for certainly if the damaged blocks can be replaced, and the Works carried to completion in the short space of two months, no very serious difficulties can have interrupted their progress.

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It will be curious to see whether the Japanese Authorities succeed on this occasion in solving that ancient enigma, the enactment and enforcement of harbour regulations acceptable to all the nationalities concerned. No one imagines that a harbour which has cost more than a million dollars will be left entirely without control as is the case with the Yokohama Harbour at present. Dues will have to be paid and rules observed for the preservation of the harbour and the convenience of the craft using it. Various drafts of rules for these purposes have been prepared from time to time during the last five-and-twenty years and their failure to reach the operative stage is one of the most farcical chapters of Japan's modern history. An eminent Japanese statesman is credited with saying that the task of bringing the representatives of all the Foreign Powers into line simultaneously *vis-à-vis* any question might best be compared to the dilemma of a nurse required to amuse seventeen children of varying ages with the same toy. We do not venture to endorse this pretty conceit, but certainly the truth of it was so forcibly brought home to one of the Japanese officials charged with the duty of getting the harbour regulations endorsed, that he finally threw up his hands in despair and announced himself thenceforth absolutely indifferent whether Yokohama Harbour remained an anchorage for ships or became a site for a temple. Negotiations with the Foreign Representatives are, however, very different now-a-days from what they were in the days of poor Mr. Uyeno Kagenori, and we have very little doubt that a satisfactory understanding will have been elaborated before the new harbour becomes an accomplished fact.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CANARD.

AN American journal recently published a statement that certain enterprising individuals of the United States had obtained from the Japanese Government, on excellent terms, a charter to build an electric railway between Yokohama and Tokyo, and that this project was likely to be followed by many others of a similar character in all of which foreign capital would be largely engaged. The name of Mr. Marshall Law, whose letters published some years ago in the correspondence columns of this journal proclaimed him a Christian of startlingly stalwart type, was mentioned as the intermediary between the Japanese Government and the American capitalists to whom the concession had been granted. This interesting tale has just been brought to our notice by a correspondent who asks for information as to its truth or falsehood. We might, without hesitation have pronounced the whole story a frank invention since the incidents which its describes could not possibly have occurred. To make assurance doubly sure, however, we have instituted inquiries which enable us to state that the electric railway, the concession, and the capitalists are all mythical.

TROUBLESOME POLICE.

THE police in Japan sometimes make themselves troublesome to thieves. It is hard that after a man has successfully purloined an article of value, he should find the police perpetually so close at his heels as to be unable to dispose of it. Especially is this hard when the scene of the exploit happens to be in the neighbourhood of an open port, where, under the present extraterritorial system, receivers of stolen goods enjoy pleasant immunity from restraint of every kind. Some years ago, the late Major-General Palmer, when passing through a railway wicket, had his watch cut from the chain and carried away by a pickpocket. The thief was evidently a well-equipped rascal, for within two or three days he managed to reduce the watch to a nugget of gold. There ought surely to have been little difficulty in disposing of a shapeless and unidentifiable mass of metal, but for all that the pickpocket could not convert his booty into coin, so closely did the police stick to his heels. Finally, in despair, he enclosed the gold and the dismembered works in an envelope, and dropped the parcel into a pillar-post under address to the nearest police-station, so that the property was finally recovered, though in a somewhat dilapidated form. A similar case has just occurred in Tokyo. A barrister, accompanied by his little daughter, was making purchases at one of the markets in the fall of the year when his gold watch was extracted from his pocket. Several days passed, and the barrister had probably abandoned all hope of getting back his watch when the police came to tell him that it had reached them through the parcels post. In this instance the pickpocket was kind enough to accompany the watch with a covering letter, in which, by means of language curiously illiterate, he explained that the police had made things too hot for him, and that, in the interests of a peaceful mind, he restored the watch, which, by the way, he described as *kinman*, a term apparently used for *kin-dokei* in the *argot* of Tokyo.

THE BANK OF JAPAN'S NOTE ISSUING POWER.

THE present position of the Bank of Japan with regard to the issue of notes is commented on by several vernacular newspapers. The Bank is competent by law to issue a total of 85,000,000 *yen* of convertible notes on security approved by the Finance Department. Treasury notes, of which there are already about 22,000,000 in circulation, form part of the above maximum, so that in effect the Bank's power to issue convertible notes is reduced to 63,000,000 *yen*, approximately. It appears that of this latter total more than 62,000,000 have already been issued, so that there remains an issuable margin of only 164,791 *yen*. The weekly report of the Bank, published on the 23rd of December, showed that it had still an issuing capacity of about 4,000,000, and the fact that this has now been reduced to the insignificant sum mentioned above is attributed to the Bank's laudable desire to relieve the tightness of the money-market at the fall of the year and to respond to the applications made by many other banks for pecuniary accommodation. But however satisfactorily the result may be explained, some uneasiness is felt in economical and mercantile quarters in view of the Bank's very slender competence at present. Of course the Bank can always recover a portion of the notes already in circulation by raising its rate of interest, but it naturally shrinks from a step of that nature. The regulations provide an alternative, however, since they authorize the Bank to issue notes over and above the limit of 85,000,000 *yen*, provided that it pays a tax of 5 per cent. upon the excess. This, too, is a course open to obvious objections, and the newspapers are very anxious to know what the Bank intends to do under the circumstances.

INDIGENOUS AND IMPORTED BEANS.

THE question of home-grown *versus* foreign beans has been receiving attention from the officials of the much-abused Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Some time ago they addressed to the Chambers of Commerce in Osaka, Kobe, and Shimonoseki a set of queries framed with the object of eliciting information on four points, namely, first the cause or causes of the increased import of beans from China and Korea; secondly the principal destinations of the beans and the quantities consumed at each place; thirdly the uses to which the imported beans are applied and their merits in respect of quality and price as compared with home-grown beans; and fourthly the general prospects of foreign beans. Replies having been received from the Chambers, were collated in the Department and published in the *Official Gazette*. We epitomize the results. With regard to the first point, namely increased import, the chief reason assigned is the greater cheapness of the foreign bean. It appears that in point of quality there is no special difference between the domestic and the foreign article, or at any rate no difference sufficient to interfere with the adaptability of the latter to all the purposes for which it is employed in Japan. Another factor mentioned by the Chambers is that whereas the demand for beans has greatly increased in Japan, no corresponding development of home-production has taken place. As to the destinations of the imported beans, that of course depends, to some extent, on their *provenance*, but, on the whole, the districts of largest demand are Osaka, Owari, Tokyo, Bingo, and their neighbourhoods. Coming to the uses of the imported beans, the three Chambers agree that the Korean bean is used principally for manufacturing *tofu*, *miso*, and soy, the worst variety being employed for manuring purposes, which last is the chief rôle played by the Chinese product. In quality and price the Japanese beans stand first, the Korean second, and the Chinese, third. The quotations in the Osaka market for the past two years were as follow:—

	Per *Koku*.
1892 ..... Japanese beans	4·93 *yen*
1893 ..... Japanese beans	5·50 *yen*
1892 ..... Korean beans	4 55 *yen*
1893 ..... Korean beans	5 00 *yen*
1892 ..... Chinese beans.....	4 17 *yen*
1893 ..... Chinese beans.....	4·70 *yen*

As to the prospects of the import trade, the three Chambers are agreed in prophesying steady increase. One of the reasons they assign for the growing demand in Japan is that the farmers of this country find it economical to substitute beans for fish as a fertilizer, the greater efficiency of the latter being more than compensated by the relative cheapness of the former. These conditions are not expected to change speedily, for in Japan the bean is only a subsidiary crop

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its cultivation being comparatively unprofitable. The farmers of the northern and north-eastern districts of the main island, who formerly devoted much attention to bean-planting, now find it better to cultivate the mulberry or the tea-plant. As to the places whence the foreign bean is obtained, it is observed that China, especially the regions about Newchwang, have begun to supply the market more largely than Korea, chiefly owing to the fact that the Chinese harvests have of late years been more plentiful than the Korean, but also because keen competition amongst Japanese buyers in Korea has had the effect of raising the price there.

EXTORTING CONFESSION.

SOME time during the middle of last month, says our Shanghai morning contemporary, a number of robbers visited the premises of the Roman Catholic priests at Kahding, and succeeded in making away with a considerable amount of money. Notice having been sent to the city from Kahding requesting the assistance of the Shanghai mandarins, the latter succeeded in arresting on suspicion a man at Anding who was eventually brought in. On Tuesday night (Jan. 2nd) Mr. Huang examined the prisoner, who confessed, after various tortures such as chain-kneeling, bar-stretching, etc., that he and twenty others visited the Kahding Roman Catholic compound, about twenty days ago; half of them went in while the other half stood outside to keep off intruders. They were only armed with iron bars, and took away four packkages of dollars from the place. The two leaders of the band took a package each, while the other two were divided amongst the rest. The prisoner's share was ten dollars only. The prisoner also gave information as to who were the men who robbed the place at Hungjao, a short distance from this, stating that the leader of the band was the head fisherman in that vicinity. As for his own band, besides the Kahding robbery, they had been concerned since then in three others.

ANOTHER SCANDAL IN A NOBLEMAN'S HOUSEHOLD.

THE household affairs of another peer have been brought into unpleasant prominence. The central figures on this occasion are Viscount Uyemura, formerly Daimyo of Takatori, in Yamato, and Mr. Komai, his principal steward, who is suspected of peculation and of treating his master unjustly. Prominent among those that prefer the charge is Mr. Tanahashi Yojo, son of a former councillor of the fief, who imparted his suspicious to some forty ex-retainers of the Viscount. Among them a Buddhist priest showed himself especially zealous. This group of men applied themselves to unravel the wickedness of the steward. They took the name of *Seigi-ha*, or the "Upright Section." Having carried their investigations far enough to satisfy themselves, they organized a lecture meeting on the 7th instant in the town of Takatori, and there, to an audience of some four hundred, Mr. Tanahashi and his coadjutors described in highly coloured terms the facts they had elicited against the Chief Steward. Great excitement prevailed. The speakers were applauded vociferously from point to point, and all their allegations to the Steward's discredit elicited vehement expressions of indignation. A committee of three was hastily elected, with instructions to proceed at once to the house of the Steward and interrogate him. It happened that Viscount Uyemura was then sojourning at his old family seat in Takatori, so that his steward could easily be found. At 8 o'clock in the evening the Committee repaired to the house of the accused. Simultaneously a great part of the audience transferred themselves from the lecture hall to the same place, for the purpose, they alleged, of strengthening the hands of the Committee. Mr. Komai's house thus became the scene of an ugly demonstration. He does not appear to have been at all disconcerted, however. To the shower of questions poured upon him by the Committee, he gave ready and satisfactory replies, though one of the questions was the very pertinent and impertinent query how he, originally a petty school-teacher, had managed, in the course of five or six years, to become rich enough to be classed as an income-tax payer. Meanwhile, the crowd outside found waiting cold work, and one of their number discharged a pistol into the house. The shot did not injure anyone, and the man was quickly arrested, but this episode served only as a temporary diversion. Very soon the open-air audience seem to have concluded that the time had come for the steward to confess his iniquities, and that his unpardonable obstinacy in declining to do so called for some definite expression of resentment. Accordingly, despite the strenuous exertions of the police, showers of stones and broken tiles began to fall upon the house, and affairs might have grown more serious had not the Committee emerged and confessed that Mr. Komai had been rather too much for them, and that they intended to institute more accurate inquiries before proceeding further. In pursuance of that intention they have opened an office and organized an association the members of which are pledged to achieve their purpose. Doubtless they believe in the justice of their cause, but thus far they have not established any title to public credence.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN AUSTRIA.

SPEAKING of the recent Cabinet changes in Austria, the *Schlesische Zeitung*, in a leader, from which we reproduce the following, gives an interesting account of the circumstances which lead to the recent Cabinet crisis. In treating this subject, says the *Zeitung*, we must bear in mind that the Germans of Austria are a most important factor in the political make-up of that empire. In Cisleithian Austria, with over 21 millions of inhabitants, there are no less than 8 million Germans, which is equal to nearly 37 per cent. of the whole. Over against these, there are in Austria over 5 million Czechs, 3 million Poles, and equally as many Ruthens, one and a quarter million of Slavens, and nearly 600,000 Serbo-Croatians and about as many Italians, besides the 200,000 Roumanians, Magyars, &c. In Cisleithia, the Slavonians are about one and one half times as strong as the Germans. But among the former there are again acute race-divisions, besides various religious, political, and other conflicting elements. Thus we find that the Poles stand gruff and unfriendly against the Ruthens, while their attitude toward the Czechs is negative. In addition to this we must note the fact that in civilization and in general intelligence the Germans are far in advance of the Slavonians. Every German in Austria, as a rule, can read and write, while the number of illiterate among the other races, especially among the Ruthens, Poles, and the South-Slavens in unusually great. It is therefore but natural that the Germans, as the more intelligent race, and to which the Hapsburg Dynasty belongs, should occupy a leading position in the affairs of State. After the catastrophe of 1866, which necessitated the dualistic form of the Hapsburg Monarchy, and up to the Taaffe era, the Germans in fact did predominate, and were in every sense the leading power in the Cisleithian half of the empire, just as the Magyars were, and still are, in the Transleithian half. Up to within the last 14 years the German Constitutional party was the Government part of Austria. This party (Die Verfassungspartei), usually had a majority in both Houses of the Reichsrath. The causes which brought the "liberal era" to a close, may here be briefly stated. In the first place this party failed to retain its moral association. During the period of "commercial development" the leaders of the party, with whom the Jewish capitalists made cause, took an active part in the so-called "dance around the golden calf." The opponents merely called them "the advisory party of the Administration." Suffice it to refer here only to the "tippling theory" of the then Minister Giskra. To this came the so-called "negation policy," which this party maintained when the occupation question was on the *tapis*. At the Berlin Conference Austro-Hungaria received the mandate to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina. The German Constitutional party thereupon refused to vote the supply necessary for the work of occupation. They claimed that it would endanger the *status quo* of the empire. Herr Herbst, the leader of the German party, opposed all meddling with international affairs" on the part of Austro-Hungaria, and declared it a "punishable luxury." The Auersperg cabinet, which favoured occupation, adhered to the Constitution and the general interests of the Empire, was thus forsaken by its own party. For a time the machinery of the Government was at a standstill, and the Auersperg cabinet was finally obliged to resign. The Emperor then invited Herr Herbst and other leaders of his party to form a new cabinet. They, however, stoutly declined to approve the occupation policy and thus necessary failed. Thereupon the Emperor invited Count Taaffe, with whom he was on intimate terms, to undertake the task of forming a cabinet. Taaffe had sided with the German Liberals and was formerly a member of the Constitutional cabinet. He now endeavoured to remain in touch with the German party, which had meanwhile changed its name from "Constitutional" to "Liberal." This party, however, did not favour Count Taaffe, and made what the Emperor termed "factious opposition." This necessitated Count Taaffe's looking to those for support who were opposed to the German Liberal party, and only at the latter's expense, from "case to case," (von fall zu fall), could he procure this support. The natural consequence was that this once great German party was gradually reduced in number, as well as influence, until it finally constituted merely a sort of a rear-guard among the minority in the Reichsrath. For 14 years Count Taaffe succeeded, with his curious policy of "reconciliation," to steer the ship of State between many dangerous breakers, to the right and left of him. But at last he too had to succumb and make room for another. The German Liberals are disposed to regard the change of cabinets as a victory for their party, although no one would venture to predict a long life for the Windischgraetz cabinet.

THE TRADE OF THE TIME.

IT has been laid down as an indisputable action by political economists that a large influx of the precious metals into a country is not at all an evidence or a reason of prosperity; that a nation is only burthened by receipt of more gold and silver than its uses require, and that sovereigns and half-crowns in excess may be just as valueless and perplexing as an inundation of cart-wheels or a deluge of umbrellas. But somehow this, which is called an elementary axiom of political-economics, is one of the very last lessons that people consent to learn in practice. Nothing inspires the ordinary statistician with greater delight than to find that gold and silver are flowing into his country in consequence of what old-fashioned writers used to call a favourable balance of trade. A calculator of this class, the well-known Mr. Amenomori, has been conveying his views to an editor of the *Hochi Shimbun*, by whom they are reproduced in the columns of that journal. Mr. Amenomori recalls a prediction made by him last summer that the Government would be in a position to reduce the interest on its securities during the course of the current year, and points to the fact that as the 5 per cent. Consols are now selling at 106, his forecast is likely to be verified in June or July. He then goes on to describe with evident pleasure the prosperous prospects of the export trade. There are now, he says, more than 26,000 bales of silk awaiting sale in Yokohama, and this total will be almost doubled before April. A fall in price will probably take place, but he nevertheless anticipates that the whole quantity will find its way into foreign hands without much delay, a sum of 20,000,000 *yen* thus coming into the country. From the export of silk fabrics, cereals, and other staples, he calculates that 11,000,000 *yen* more will be obtained by April, so that even on the assumption of a drain of 100,000 *per diem* on account of imported metals, cotton fabrics, and

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so forth, the balance of money accruing to the country from its foreign trade will be at least 20,000,000 *yen*. He further asserts that the specie reserve of 85,000,000 *yen* will soon be increased to 100,000,000; and that the foreign market for Kyushu coal will be much extended by the opening of a steamship service between Japan and Bombay, his somewhat sanguine idea being that Japanese coal will drive its English competitor out of the Indian market in a short time, so greatly will the appreciation of gold assist this country's exports. But avowedly he does not expect that the operation of the exchange factor will be lasting, although, somewhat inconsistently as it seems to us, he recommends his countrymen to make it the basis of as many new enterprises as possible.

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A grain of experience is worth a peck of theory. It used to be asserted with the utmost confidence that the crippling effects of appreciating gold upon the import trade of a silver-using country would always be amply balanced by the stimulating influence of the same factor upon the export trade. Doubtless this would be true did the exchangeable price of the precious metals vary with some degree of steadiness and within comparatively narrow limits. But where the fluctuations are so acute and sudden as those of the past twelve months, their effect upon the commerce in exports is sadly cramping. A merchant who under normal circumstances would export a ton of goods at a time, feels inclined to reduce that quantity to a small fraction when the silver medium of exchange is rapidly becoming cheaper, for he knows that before he can dispose of his ton a competitor may appear in the same market with goods purchased a week later on much more favourable terms. The same uncertainty paralyses the enterprise of the purchaser of these exports at the other end. He shrinks from investing in a large quantity of any staple, knowing that it may at any moment become procurable at a cheaper rate. Altogether, this crippling influence nullifies much of the impetus that exports would otherwise derive from exchange fluctuations of the above character, and it is probable that if the opinions of export merchants were canvassed, they would be almost unanimously in favour of a uniformly steady exchange.

COLONIZATION INVESTIGATIONS.

THE Diet last session voted a sum of 10,000 *yen* for the purpose of seeking out places suitable for Japanese emigrants. We now read in the *Niroku* newspaper that of that sum 4,000 *yen* was appropriated to explorations in Mexico and 2,000 *yen* to the South Sea Islands, the remainder being entrusted to the Consuls at San Francisco and Singapore, who were instructed to inspect and report upon the Japanese settlers in their districts. It is now claimed by some critics that to apply funds in such a manner was simply to fritter them away, the amounts being quite inadequate for the purposes contemplated, and that the Government showed itself altogether half-hearted in the matter. The former charge lies at the door of the Diet which refused to grant larger supplies, but the latter is said to be proved against the Government by its defective choice of men to carry on the explorations. It is claimed that the persons despatched to Mexico and Australasia, Mr. Nemoto and Mr. Watanabe respectively, possessed no qualifications except a knowledge of conversational English, and were both subject to the objection of being affiliated with the Radical Party. We ourselves are unable to see why such a connection should interfere with a man's competence as an explorer. But party politics pervade everything at present. It is pretended that by choosing two Radicals, the Government afforded grounds for suspicions of a secret agreement with the *Jiyu-to*, and also—though on what basis we cannot tell—that such a selection indicates merely the expenditure of 10,000 *yen* because it was in hand to be expended, and not because any adequate return was expected. All this is vague, but somewhat firmer ground is reached when Mr. Nemoto's programme comes under criticism. Starting from Japan last July, he did not proceed direct to Mexico, via San Francisco, as might have been expected, but directed his steps in the first place to Chicago, thence, after five days inspection of the Exhibition, he went on to New York, reaching Mexico by a most circuitous route. An explanation is probably possible, but the mode of travel is decidedly easy-going. Mexico was not a *terra incognita*: it had been already explored when Viscount Enomoto held the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, and more than common intelligence and enterprise were therefore required of Mr. Nemoto. But he is said to have passed over the districts along the Pacific coast, which are believed to be well suited to Japanese immigrants, and confined his investigations to colder regions already settled by Americans. For this, too, there was probably a reason, but the Government's critics decline to suspect anything so commonplace as an intelligent explanation.

BOYCOTTING METHODS IN YOKOHAMA.

DURING the past two or three months the public has heard a great deal about the boycotting of certain foreign firms in Yokohama by Japanese guilds of merchants. Boycotting is a species of persecution against which the law affords no efficient protection: its victims have to bear their sufferings with whatever patience they can muster. But from what we have been able to learn, the methods resorted to by Japanese boycotters are of a more than questionable character. It appears that they hire *soshi* who plant themselves within sight of the foreign firm's premises, keeping constant watch to prevent the ingress of any Japanese customers. Recently a Japanese merchant who was not disposed to observe the boycott, repaired to the warehouse of one of the foreign firms, and when about to enter, received peremptory warning from the *soshi* guards that any transactions with the boycotted firm would be undertaken at his peril. He informed the firm of this threat, but on being urged to give immediate information to the police, declined to risk the consequences of such a step. Evidently the *soshi* had completely intimidated him. There can not be the slightest doubt, we think, that doings of that kind are unlawful. A number of merchants are at perfect liberty to enter into a combination for the purpose of suspending business with some one against whom they have a grievance real or imaginary. In fact such a form of ostracism may often be very useful. It might certainly be employed with excellent effect by the foreign merchants of Yokohama against Japanese whose unscrupulous doings are so constantly complained of. But no body of men have a shadow of right to obtain the cöoperation of others by coercion, as is the case when threats of physical violence are conveyed through the agency of *soshi* to every merchant who seeks to conduct business with a boycotted firm. It is stated by vernacular newspapers that complaints about the action of these *soshi* have been preferred by the boycotted foreign firms to their Consuls, but that the latter have not seen their way to interfere. We are at a loss to perceive how any hesitation can have been felt. The posting of watches to hamper the free goings and comings of men engaged in a lawful calling is contrary to every principle of good order, and we have not the least doubt that the authorities, if duly approached, would interfere peremptorily to stop anything of the kind.

GALE IN HOKKAIDO.

A TELEGRAM from the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration reached the Department of Home Affairs on the 13th inst. reporting that during the space of three days from the 5th inst. a gale of terrible violence visited Yezo, its greatest force being developed along the eastern coast of the Bay of Mororan. If the language of the telegram be not greatly exaggerated, cruel ravages were wrought. Several towns in the province of Shiribashi, notably Suttsu, Utasutsu, Isoya, Iwanai, Tomari, Furu-u, Furubira, Yoichi, and Shioya had numbers of their houses levelled with the ground. The rivers, also, swollen by the great rainfall, burst their banks on the 7th inst. and devastated a large tract of country. Numbers of ships and smaller craft lying in the harbour of Otaru or anchored along the coast of Mororan Bay were blown seaward, and even those whose moorings held suffered more or less serious injury. No record is yet procurable of casualties to life and limb, but many persons as well as cattle and horses are believed to have perished. The officials of Hokkaido report that they are taking every possible step to relieve distress and to ascertain the extent of the disaster. No explanation is given of the delay that occurred in telegraphing this information. Considering that the town of Suttsu has a telegraph-station, the news ought to have been forwarded at once, but in all probability communication was temporarily interrupted by the gale.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

THERE was rather a small attendance of members at the fortnightly meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society last evening, owing doubtless to the departure of the American mail this morning, but the programme, as usual, comprised some interesting items. The opening overture was played by Mrs. Poole and Miss Wheeler, and was received with applause. Mr. Happer's paper on "Chinese Social Customs" dealt principally with Canton Festivals from the opening to the close of the Chinese year. The discourse was racy throughout, and concluded with a Chinese love-song, a very pathetic thing—in its way. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Happer for his address. The Misses Sale opened the second half of the programme with a pianoforte duet; then Mrs. Apear declaimed Byron's "Apostrophe to the Sea," with charming effect. A trio from "La Figaro" was given by Dr. Munro and Messrs. Crane and Poole, which was loudly applauded. The Rev. Dr. Cleveland read a clever little study suggested by "The Light of Asia," and the respective teachings of Buddha and Christ. The last item was "The Garden of Sleep," well rendered by Miss Webb.

A CALENDAR.

THE calendar issued by the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company is another of those beautiful and useful objects to which we have lately alluded. To be sure, a company which has declared bonuses exceeding two millions sterling, which has life policies amounting to eleven millions in force, which has paid claims aggregating ten millions, which has four millions of invested funds and six millions of declared capital, and which can show a seventy-years' record of uninterrupted success—such a company, if any, ought to be able to issue an elaborate calendar. Sir Walter Scott was the first president of the company. A somewhat idealized portrait of him stands at the head of the calendar's first page, its corresponding place in the other pages being occupied by delightful pictures of scenes made famous by his verse, together with chosen extracts from his poems. The space for memoranda is just long enough to tempt entries, and a further inducement to lazy folks is afforded by interleaving with tinted blotting-paper.

SPINNING OPERATIONS IN JAPAN.

THE statement submitted to the shareholders of the Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning Company, at their recent meeting, by their President, Mr. Wakagamizawa, shows that the prospects of the industry are very bright at present in Japan. He told them that the demand for yarns is in excess of the supply, especially in Kwanto, where the number of spindles in operation is insufficient to meet the requirements of the district. Such is the demand for Kanegafuchi yarns, that purchasers compete for them before they are out of the factory. Indeed, in view of inconvenience felt by customers, it seemed advisable to increase the producing capacity of the works. The President expressed his confidence that though an increased demand might consuredly be looked for, no diminution need be anticipated. The Bill for exempting raw cotton

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from import duty had failed to become law, owing to the dissolution of the Diet, but considering that it had passed the House of Representatives without difficulty, and had obtained the approval of the Special Committee appointed to report upon it in the House of Peers, there could be little doubt that it would very soon become law. He was persuaded that so soon as this measure, so much desired by the spinners, went into operation, Japanese yarns could be placed in the Chinese markets on terms favourable to competition with foreign yarns. Under such circumstances, he felt justified in recommending an addition of ten thousand spindles to the Factory, especially as the increase might be effected without heavy outlay, the scope of the works having been originally designed so as to facilitate such changes.

* * *

This proposal of the President's was hailed by the shareholders with much enthusiasm. Some, indeed, went so far as to urge the advisability of adding not ten but twenty thousand spindles. The majority, however, took a soberer view. They held that the question of the exact number of additional spindles should be left for decision by a future meeting, due investigations having been made in the interim by the experts and officers of the Factory, the principle only of extension being voted at once. One of the shareholders then moved that since the remarkable success achieved by the Factory in freeing itself from a debt of over 130,000 *yen*, and laying by a reserve of 10,000 *yen*, must be attributed chiefly to the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Asabuki Eizo, Manager in Chief, and Mr. Yoshida Meikichi, Director of the Technical Section, the thanks of the Company be formally conveyed to those gentlemen. The motion was passed unanimously and a committee was elected for the purpose.

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

RUMOURS are again published in the metropolitan papers concerning supposed changes in the Cabinet. It is stated, for example, that Count Yamagata is hard-pressed by his friends in the Government to accept a ministerial post; that a similar offer to Count Matsukata has ended in failure; that Mr. Mutsu is not at all pleased with the way things are moving in the Cabinet; that he intends to resign; that his position, in the event of his resignation, will be taken by Count Inouye; that Count Saigo is endeavouring to induce Viscount Kabayama to accept the portfolio of the Navy; and that Count Ito himself is inclined to resign. These rumours, according to our information, have no foundation. They are for the most part fabrications of the Opposition journals, conceived for the purpose of discrediting the Cabinet in view of the coming elections.

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The rumour about the attempt to induce Count Matsukata to enter the Cabinet deserves notice, for the *Kokumin Shimbun* has a very circumstancial article on the subject. According to our contemporary, the story was at first vaguely published in some Tokyo papers, but it was reserved to the Osaka journals to bring out the details of the meetings alleged to have taken place between Count Matsukata and some members of the Government. The version reproduced by the *Kokumin* is this:—On the evening of the 5th instant, Count Kuroda informed Count Matsukata by telephone that he should like to pay him a visit the following day. At the appointed hour, Counts Kuroda, Oyama, and Saigo called at Count Matsukata's, and had a long talk, in the course of which the visitors asked their host to accept the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce or that of Finance. The following day, Count Ito and Count Oyama went to Count Kuroda's at Mita, and the three Ministers were soon observed to walk over to Count Matsukata's residence, which they entered through the back door. The meeting lasted for six or seven hours, but nothing is known as to the details of the conversation. The following morning, however, Count Matsukata left the Capital for a tour in the country, from which it is inferred that he is not disposed to join the Ministry. We do not in any way vouch for the accuracy of this story, but, as we have stated more than once, there would be nothing surprising in Count Matsukata's acceptance of a portfolio. For the present, however, he does not seem inclined to enter the Cabinet.

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Count Goto has tendered his resignation, and, according to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, it will be accepted by the Emperor. The same authority informs us further that the change of Minister in the *Noshomu-sho* will take place in a few days. As to Count Goto's successor, Viscount Nomura's name has been most frequently mentioned. But it is now believed that he will be appointed to the Department of Justice, Mr. Yoshikawa going to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

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The Vice-Ministership of Agriculture and Commerce has not yet been filled. Various names have been mentioned in connection with the post, but the latest theory is that Mr. Kusaka, now Governor of Fukushima, will receive the appointment. Whoever may be the successful candidate, the appointment will not take place until the pending change in the head of the Department has become an accomplished fact.

A DISSECTED VILLAGE.

VILLAGES in Japan, or, to speak more correctly, local divisions of the country, appear to be subject to heroic processes of dissection. Nango, in Shizuoka Prefecture, is a recent example. This division used to contain 377 houses, and the land it included was valued at 130,000 *yen*. All at once nearly two-thirds of the whole division were cut off and attached to Kakegawa, the neighbouring division. What reasons induced the Headman to take this step, the vernacular press does not state, but they were not reasons that satisfied the people. Much discontent resulted. The members of the division Council, as it happened, had been wholly elected from the portion now alienated, and the system of local self-government was therefore dislocated by the change. An appeal was made to the Governor of the Prefecture, and as he supported the Headman, the question was finally carried to the Minister of State for Home Affairs, whose decision is now awaited. Some people profess to believe that the proceeding was dictated by political considerations, but such a suspicion might have been expected. We may assume that during the next three months every measure adopted by officials will be referred by some one or another to politics.

THE HONGWAN-JI PRIESTS AND ANTI-MIXED RESIDENCE.

THE public has been told by the *Hyoron* what attitude a section of the Christian population of Japan is disposed to adopt towards the question of strict enforcement of the Treaties. It would be of interest to learn the views of the Buddhist priesthood with respect to that problem, as well as the anti-mixed-residence agitation. In the nature of things we may fairly assume that all devout and zealous Buddhists are opposed to widening the sphere of foreign intercourse, because, whatever confidence they may have in their own ability to withstand the onset of Christian propagandism, they must prefer not to be called on to make the effort. Therefore, when Mr. Sasa Tomofusa and other leaders of the *Dai-Nippon Kyokai* applied themselves last fall to secure the sympathy of the Hongwan-ji priests, they took a very natural step. As to the results of their attempt, however, very different accounts are given. The *Jiyu* newspaper says that they made a signal failure. At first, indeed, success smiled on them. Visiting Kyoto during the interval of the Diet's first prorogation in its session just closed, they found—whether by choice or coincidence—a very favourable occasion. Delegates from the various *Monto* temples throughout the empire were assembled in the southern capital for the purpose of attending a religious council convened at the great Hongwan Temple. Ignorant of national politics and already prejudiced against all professors of alien creeds, many of the priests lent already ear to the disquisitions of Mr. Sasa and his friends, who adroitly insisted that the duty of the people's spiritual pastors dictated resolute measures to protect the masses against an invasion of preachers of heretical creeds. It seemed a self-evident axiom to the priests that temptation should be averted from their flocks. They acquiesced readily, and all indications pointed to the formation of a powerful religious league in the interest of keeping foreigners at arm's length. But at this stage a priest of very unusual liberality and wisdom arrived upon the scene, and by his teaching induced a different frame of mind. He pointed out the dangers incidental to Buddhists' intermedelling with politics, exposed the fallacies of Mr. Sasa's arguments, and contended that Buddhism must take its stand stoutly on its own merits, instead of seeking to preserve itself by a craven programme of isolation. This teacher's words completely put an end to all faith in Mr. Sasa's doctrines, and he and his friends had to take their departure *re infectâ*.

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Such is the *Jiyu's* version. But the *Shin-Choya* newspaper gives a diametrically opposite account. It alleges that certain priests, holding important positions at the Hongwan Temple, were travelling in Etchu when they were invited by the people of that locality to describe the attitude of the Chief Priest of their Temple towards the anti-mixed-residence movement. One of their number, Mr. Atsumi Keiin, speaking on behalf of the rest, replied that the Chief Priest was greatly concerned about the matter, his view being that if no little difficulty was already experienced in combatting the incursion of Christianity, the case would be so much worse were mixed-residence permitted as to necessitate the complete re-organization of Buddhism or to imperil its very existence. This answer, being regarded as a distinct declaration against mixed residence, greatly strengthened the hands of the *Dai-Nippon Kyokai's* supporters. Under such circumstances, concludes the *Shin-Choya*, the Government had better abandon its alleged design of seeking in the ranks of the Buddhist priesthood a force to withstand the wave of anti-mixed-residence. We must leave our readers to choose between the *Jiyu* and the *Shin-Choya*. Both journals write what they desire to have believed. As between the trustworthiness of the two under ordinary circumstances, however, there can be no question. The *Shin-Choya* is a petty paper, the *Jiyu* an important political organ.

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

DR. CLAY MACCAULEY, in a letter published elsewhere, takes us to task because we have arrived, not perhaps without some secret satisfaction, at the conclusion that the people of the United States are no better than our own countrymen. That is not a very harsh verdict after all, nor do we think that it ought to cause much offence to our American readers. But whether it does or does not offend them, we really do not think that our right of free criticism need be surrendered. Our correspondent accuses us of want of grace because we cannot profess absolute faith in the high standard by which the friends of America have hitherto claimed that her foreign policy should be measured. He also appears to suggest that because we have many American readers, our comments on American affairs should be more circumspect than if they were addressed entirely to other nationals. Well, that is not our opinion. On the contrary, the fact that we have American readers would rather prompt us to be outspoken about American affairs. Our conviction about the law that governs nations applies to the United States as well as to Great Britain. It is the same law that may be observed in all the operations of nature. Nothing stands still: everything must either progress or decline. Certainly the past history of America shows no symptom of rest. She has been growing at an unprecedented rate, and if she has hitherto found sufficient materials for growth within the huge continent that she occupies, that is simply an accident.

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The day will inevitably come when her present domain will be too small for her, and since, in acquiring it, she has shown just as little regard for inferior races as Great Britain has shown in building up her immense empire, we see no reason to anticipate that when America has to go farther afield, she will be guided by higher canons than the Anglo-Saxon race has hitherto obeyed. As to the Hawaiian affair, the difference between Mr. MacCauley and ourselves is easily stated; he holds that the American people do not want to see Hawaii incorporated into the Union; we hold that they do. He may be right, but certainly the American press does not endorse his view. With very few exceptions, the great journals are distinctly opposed to Mr. Cleveland's programme, and emphatically favour recognition of the Provisional Government. They allege that the Queen is semi-savage, that her Government is corrupt, that every principle of civilization would be outraged by employing the forces of the United States to restore such a *régime*, and that the verdict of the whole country is unmistakeably in favour of admitting Hawaii to the Union. Mr. MacCauley may have guaged the opinion of his countrymen better than the newspapers. We shall be pleased to find that he has. But for ourselves, the only means we possess of discovering what Americans in general feel is by reading what American journals write, and if, on the whole, their writing bears any interpretation other than a strong desire to see the Stars and Stripes float over Hawaii, we must conclude that the significance of the English language has changed.

THE "KAISHIN-TO'S" PROGRAMME.

One of the principal organs of the *Kaishin-to*, namely the *Hochi Shimbun*, lays before the public the programme which its party intends to adopt in the coming general elections and in the next session of the Diet. There is the usual schedule of vague generalities. The resources of the country are to be developed, administrative errors are to be corrected, industrial progress is to be encouraged, and, in a word, everything is to be set right without delay. It is not necessary to weary our readers with any fresh recital of these hackneyed platitudes. The impression they convey is that the *Kaishin-to* finds painful difficulty inforging a sword to slay the Government, and that in default of a trenchant blade, it is driven to rely upon veritable straws. One would suppose that if the *Meiji* statesmen deserved so ill of their country as the *Kaishin-to* politicians would have us believe, the task of framing a conclusive indictment against them with regard to their administrative sway would be easy in the extreme. But strange to say, all that they have hitherto done is ignored, and their opponents confine themselves to picking petty holes in their present doings. Official discipline, the *Chishima* affair, the causes of the dissolution of the Diet—these are the kind of materials out of which the *Kaishin-to* are compelled to frame an impeachment. It is not an impressive spectacle and we need not dwell upon it.

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But this programme does contain one feature of unquestionable interest, namely a declaration that the *Kaishin-to* advocates strict enforcement of the Treaties. We note that they do not pledge themselves to this doctrine in all its naked unwisdom: they couple it with an announcement that they intend to compass Treaty Revision and to give practical effect to the principle of opening the country. What conceivable justification is there for placing the strict enforcement of the treaties in such a context? Inexperienced folks like Mr. Abei Hankon, and mischievous folks like Mr. Oi Kentaro, may imagine, or pretend to imagine, that by strictly enforcing the Treaties, Japan can compel Foreign Powers to accede to her demands. But the *Kaishin-to* politicians, of all Japanese, must be perfectly well aware that no pressure of such a kind or indeed of any kind, is needed to bring Foreign Powers to reason. They must remember only too vividly that so far as the West is concerned, their own distinguished leader, Count Okuma, would have had no real difficulty in revising the Treaties upon favourable terms, and that the stumbling-block over which he tripped and fell was placed in his path by his own countrymen. Of all the spectacles which we least looked to witness, it is this of the *Kaishin-to* attempting to take vengeance upon the foreigner for the discomfiture inflicted upon them by the jealousy of their own nationals.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND LOCAL POLICE CHIEFS.

On Tuesday the Local Police Chiefs lately summoned to the capital by order of the Minister of Home Affairs, assembled at the Home Office. The meeting commenced at 9 a.m. There were present the Minister President of State, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, the Minister of State for Justice, several Vice-Ministers of State and a number of high officials of the Department of Home Affairs. Count Inouye, Minister of Home Affairs, delivered an address concerning the part which the Local Police Chiefs are to play at the time of the coming elections. The text of the address has not yet been published.

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The following morning the metropolitan papers published a report of the speech. But we are informed on good authority that the report is full of gross mistakes, and it is believed that the source from which the information was obtained is quite untrustworthy.

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After the Minister's speech the Local Police Chiefs were invited to express their opinions as to the manner in which the various administrative regulations concerning elections should be enforced. The meeting dispersed at 5 p.m.

SHIPMENTS OF COTTON BETWEEN BOMBAY AND JAPAN.

If the *Asahi Shimbun* be rightly informed the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is confronted by keen competitors in the service recently established by it between Bombay and this country. The arrangement under which the Japanese company originally placed its steamers on the line was that the Japanese spinners should guarantee cargoes aggregating 50,000 bales *per annum*, and that in the event of any spinner importing cotton by other vessels, he should be liable to a penalty of 50 *sen* a bale. Against this combination, the Peninsular and Oriental Company remonstrated very strongly, even going so far, we believe, as to invoke diplomatic interference. But when we recall the cöoperative methods resorted to by British ship-owners themselves—methods that have successfully endured the ordeal of judicial examination—it is difficult to detect any legal grounds of complaint in the action taken by the Japanese spinners. The Peninsular and Oriental Company did not, however, confine itself to protests: it adopted the more effectual plan of reducing freights, so that, instead of paying 17 *rupees* per ton, shippers can now get their cotton carried for 1 *rupee*. It may well be supposed that this sweeping reduction startled the Japanese cotton-spinners not a little. They saw themselves in the position of having contracted for the carriage of their cotton at 13 *rupees* a ton, whereas it could now be carried for 1 *rupee*. In view of this extraordinary situation, a meeting was recently held in Osaka, and certain resolutions were adopted in a give-and-take spirit. It was decided that the Directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha should be asked to reduce the freight from 13 to 12 *rupees* per ton, and that, by way of set-off, the aggregate yearly freight guaranteed to the Kaisha should be increased from fifty thousand to seventy-five thousand tons. On the other hand, the penalty for importing cotton by outside ships was raised from 50 *sen* to 3 *yen* a bale. Four bales make a ton. Hence the penalty per ton is 12 *yen*, or 22.8 *rupees*. It is evident, therefore, that the cost of importing cotton by the ships of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, for example, amounts to 23.8 *rupees* per ton under this arrangement, or 4.8 *rupees* more than the cost per ship of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. Of course such a difference, if it can really be established, will be prohibitive. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha Directors are said to have agreed to the programme as above modified. There remains, however, another question, namely, the course to be pursued with regard to shipments over and above the guaranteed total of seventy-five thousand tons. The present estimate is that a hundred and fifty thousand tons will be needed during the twelve months. Should the spinners be left free to get the second half of that amount carried by any ships they please, or should they pledge themselves to import it by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's vessels? A general meeting to decide this point was originally fixed for April, but is now to be held next month. The expectation is that the spinners will make a proposal to the Yusen Kaisha, promising to entrust the conveyance of the whole to its steamers, on condition that a rate fixed at the meeting is accepted by the Kaisha. For all particulars the *Asahi Shimbun* is responsible.

JAPANESE IN [illegible]

Lieutenant Sone, I.J.N. (Retired) and Mr. Sugawara Den, both members of the Radical Party, have just arrived [illegible] Hawaii, which they left on the 1st instant. According to the account of an interview with them published in the *Jiyu Shimbun* the Japanese residents in the islands seem to be gaining in political and social influence. About three thousands of them have formed themselves into a league for the purpose of obtaining the much covetted franchise. The head-quarters of the league is said to be daily crowded by hundreds of Japanese eagerly discussing the situation. In consequence of this increased activity on the part of the Japanese residents, they are stated to have succeeded in securing a measure of attention from the members of the Provisional Government. Even the journals opposed to the Japanese claims are now believed to have recognised the growing influence of the Japanese section of the community. At a dinner given by a private Japanese merchant in Honolulu, several members of the Provisional Government were present. When the American Representative required the Provisional Government to restore the administrative power to the deposed Queen, the American, Japanese, and British war-ships then in port are said to have landed a force of marines by way of demonstration against the Government, the latter on its part guarding the public offices with several hundred troops. When, however, the Provisional Government showed itself ready to resist the American Representative's demands even at the point of the bayonet, the British and Japanese war-vessels agreed to maintain an attitude of strict neutrality. Such is the gist of the account given in the columns of the Radical organ.

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It is obviously an error to assert that marines were landed from British ships by way of demonstration against the Provisional Government. The object of the landing can only have been to protect British life and property in the event of a disturbance. Information obtained from a trustworthy source represents the Provisional Government as prepared and resolved to stand its ground. It has a fully organized and equipped force of three hundred men, well armed, with a reserve of seven hundred, not less efficient. If left to itself, it is undoubtedly master of the situation. We have no news of any disturbance, or threatened disturbance, that would have warranted the landing of British Marines, but the probability is that some movement on the part of the Queen's partizans was anticipated in connection with the American Representative's representations to the Provisional Government in her favour.

A NEW LIFE-SAVING APPARATUS.

An American inventor, Dr. J. W. Davis, has been giving exhibitions in New York harbour of a new mechanical contrivance for sending aid to wrecked ships, the chief agent of which is a large kite. The committees before which his

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plan has been tested are composed of men whose names are a guarantee that the subject is seriously considered. In this part of the world, where kites are constructed of dimensions elsewhere unknown, and where stories are told of their employment to sustain human beings at no less an elevation than the topmost pinnacle of a *daimyo's* castle, the idea might suggest itself that the purpose of the American designer was to assist drowning men in keeping their position at the surface of the water, by means of depending ropes; but the scheme is rather in the line of the cable projecting gun. It is claimed that a kite properly constructed for this service will carry ropes to distances far beyond the range of the artillery in use at the life-saving stations, and will also tow buoys in any direction within a radius of eighty degrees. It seems to have been demonstrated that the machine can be made to follow the route set, even at considerable angles from the course of the wind. Its advantage over the ordinary projectile is that the latter, either through faulty aim, or miscalculation of distance, may easily fail to reach its object; while the kite may hover or change position until communication is assured. Its disadvantage is that it can be put into effective operation only with a wind of at least thirty miles an hour. The expert reports are so strongly in its favour that experiments on an extensive scale have been ordered by the United States Life-saving Bureau.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

CONSIDERABLE damage was done to this Canal between Warrington and Runcorn on Nov. 25 by heavy floods following the excessive rains. The water from the rivers Irwell and Mersey entered the upper reaches of the Canal in huge quantities, and overflowed the sluices and embankments. From Saturday evening to Sunday morning the water rose from 15 to 40 feet, the weight of which rushing down with great velocity, caused several serious breaches in the embankment betwen Latchford and Runcorn, flooding the lower portion of the country. One gap near Runcorn was 60 feet wide, and 20 feet deep, and through it immense volumes of water ran over the adjoining marsh into the Mersey. Part of the stone wall near the tidal opening at Runcorn was washed away, and the lattice-work covering the embankment between Warrington and Runcorn was carried off.

TO STILL THE WAVES.

SOAPSUDS may supersede oil as the agency in calming troubled waters of the sea and saving vessels from harm. Experiments have been made recently, and the reports of co-operating observers to the hydrographic office uniformly commend the value of the new discovery. The German steamship *Scandia*, from Hamburg for Philadelphia, made the experiment with the greatest success in one of the wildest storms that ever swept the North Atlantic ocean. While the sea was running highest, soap-suds were let gradually drip over the vessel's bow. The sea ceased to break over her decks and the vessel lay comparatively easy. Third Officer Wendt had charge of the experiment, and his report speaks glowingly of the success attending it. The use of suds is not intended to entirely displace oil, but, being cheaper, heavier on the water, and the soap occupying less space on the ship, it is likely before long to be generally adopted.

BALL AT THE UNITED STATES LEGATION.

ON Wednesday evening His Excellency the United States Representative entertained a large party at the Legation in Tokyo. About three hundred invitations were issued, and the great popularity of the genial host was evinced by an exceptionally numerous attendance. The Legation grounds were brilliantly illuminated and the dancing, reception, supper, and cards rooms, as well as the mode of ingress and egress, were so happily arranged that every semblance of crush or confusion was avoided. Madame Sienkiewicz and Mrs. Herod acted as hostesses, and the presence of a number of naval officers added *élan* to the affair. Dancing was kept up on a capital floor to the strains of the Imperial Guards Band until nearly 2 a.m., the latter part of the evening being devoted to a cotillon in which the favours were remarkably beautiful. A special train carried home the Yokohama guests, bringing to a close one of the most successful balls of the season.

AVE ATQUE VALE.

THESE beautiful lines appear in the *North China Daily News*, over the signature "Ku Hang Ming:"—

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MR. H. BUDLER, GERMAN CONSUL AT CANTON.

"*Es lebe,*
wer sich tapfer hält!"
Goethe's *Faust.*

The wild prunes blossom, red and white,
In wintry air.
Heavy with orange, in sun-light,
The groves are fair.

The pearl-like river, silent, sure,
Glides to the sea:
A spirit, mutinous but pure,
Sets itself free.

Love, flowers, and music erst were thine,
But Love, to thee
A blight was, bitter as the brine
Of the salt sea.

From these thy noble spirit yearned
Toward nobler schemes:
Dreams of a nobler age returned,
Alas! but dreams.

Last on the river-girdled spot,—
Thy spacious home,
Spacious but lone, for one was not
That should have come,—

We sat and talked of modern creed
And ancient lore;
Of modern gospel—gush and greed,
Now to the fore.

Thy fervent hope it was to join
The best with best;
To break down the dividing line
Of East and West.

O Friend, albeit of alien race,
For evermore
Shall be with me thy noble face
Too sicklied o'er

With a world sorrow e'en too great
For thy great heart,
Since from us, who still serve and wait,
Thou would'st depart,—

Farewell! The swift-wheeled ship will bring
To thy far West
The tidings, while I, grieving, sing
Thee to thy rest.

THE SENSES OF WOMEN.

THE following very interesting article appeared in the *Pall Mall Budget* of Nov. 16th:—

Thoughtful and observant persons do not need a demonstration that the senses are less keen in woman than in man. Their own experience has revealed that natural law. But since we are not all thoughtful or observant, the experiments of Professors Nicholls and Browne are welcome. The American physiologists have begun with the sense of smell. They took four substances most strongly odoriferous—essence of cloves, of garlic, of lemon, and prussic acid. Each of these they diluted with pure water in growing proportion, filling a set of bottles at every degree of the scale, until the last represented one part of the test substance in two million parts of water. Then they shuffled the bottles, so to speak, and called in forty-four men and thirty-eight women, chosen from various ranks of life, all young and healthy. These representatives of either sex were instructed to rearrange the bottles, guided by the sense of smell, putting each set of tinctures by itself, garlic with garlic, lemon with lemon, and so forth. The varying degrees of dilution were as rungs of a ladder, marking the point which each individual attained. To put results shortly, the women were not in it. None of them could trace prussic acid beyond the dilution of twenty thousand parts to one, while most of the men traced it up to a hundred thousand parts. Three of the latter actually passed the extreme limit, identifying prussic acid at a single part in two millions. One would think that a nose like that must have scientific value. Beyond a hundred thousand parts all the women failed to recognize essence of lemon; all the men detected it at two hundred and fifty thousand. This proportion represents their average superiority all round.

We shall be glad to see the continuation of these experiments. But the result, as has been said, is not surprising so far. A comparison of the senses of touch, hearing, sight will be more interesting. In these points, also, man has the advantage assuredly under Nature's laws. There is no need to consider his intellectual or moral status in contrast with those of woman. The senses belong to the animal structure of humanity, and reasoning beings do not dispute that the male is the superior animal. But under the conditions reigning, it will be a little difficult to find subjects thoroughly qualified to show the natural proportion. The skin of a typical man's figures has hardened, by exercise or work, before he gains his full development. In this generation—however, it may be in the next—he has commonly studied more impairing his sight proportionately. Too often he has not led the life which keeps the senses in perfect trim. The feminine subjects will be apt to gain an advantage all round here. But it will only enable them to approach the higher average of man more closely than they would under a fair competition. Manufacturers of dainty and fragile goods, such as the higher class of porcelain, have learned by experience that the horny fingers of a skilled craftsman are better suited for a delicate task than those of a girl in the same class of life. A "lady's" deft and tender hand may equal, or even, at times, surpass the craftsman's best effort, but this is not a just comparison; her work should be set beside that of a "gentleman," which from the nature of things, is rarely possible.

The fact is that woman does not require such keenness of the senses as—once at least—was necessary for man; if nature granted it at the beginning of things she has gradually limited the boon, in her economical way. A lioness, a she wolf, must take her part in hunting for the family; but there is no race of savages in which the male does not profess to feed his children. Always the mother bides at home, in the senses at least that she does not range the forest or the veldt seeking game and adventures. The utmost quickness of sight or hearing therefore is not needed. The instruments she uses are very simple and rough; touch is comparatively undeveloped. The making of things, whether tools, ornaments, of iron or gold, shell or wood, is always men's work. In truth, nicety of the senses on woman's part would be a grave disadvantage to the race. It is her lot to perform, without repugnance, and even with pleasure, a thousand functions against which man would revolt. Fancy those three Americans who can smell a drop of prussic acid in two million parts of water nursing young children or dressing wounds! They would be physically unable to get through the task. Love could not sustain them—it might nerve their souls to persevere until their bodies yielded to malignant fever. But such is woman's natural employment, and she is mercifully adapted to it by a certain comparative dulness of the senses. Everyone has heard the awful theory which Sir Richard Burton devised to explain her love of nursing. He, whose senses were abnormally acute, was unable to comprehend how a human being could willingly endure the horrors of a hospital unsustained by religious devotion, by a cash payment, or by scientific interest. Not perceiving that loathsome and hideous sufferings are mercifully tempered to the sex, he looked for a psychological reason and discovered it—in the fascination of blood and cruelty! Having unearthed this fine paradox, Burton was at no loss for illustrations. Ranging at his ease through the ages and the universe, he showed how savage woman always is and has been foremost in bloody rites, murdering prisoners, and torturing victims. Nor savage woman only. When the people take vengeance, as in peasant risings, civil wars, or revolutions like the French, the same horrid mania bursts out. The facts are undeniable, but they belong to another set of ideas. Under a certain stress of excitement, when popular frenzy boils high enough, women fall into paroxysms of hysteria, and in that state doubtless they are capable of any atrocity. But those who feel the attractions of a nurse's life, under no special stimulus of piety, are not more subject to hysteria than others—probably less. They bear to see horrors which man cannot endure because they feel them less acutely. The scheme of nature, consistent as always, has fitted woman for her duties by blunting her animal perceptions.

* * *

It was not to be supposed that such an article would pass unchallenged. In the next number of the same journal, we find this clever rejoinder:—

SIR,—I have read with interest your account of the results of experiments carried on in New York to test the relative acuteness of the senses in men and women. You conclude from these results that as men can smell and probably hear and see better than women, they are therefore, physically more unfit to witness suffering and to endure those sights and sounds commonly classed as "horrors." This argument leads naturally to the theory, lately brought forward, that women are also less capable of feeling physical pain than men are. I think both these theories are wrong, and can easily be disproved. A dog smells and hears better than a man, but you will not, therefore, say that he is more alive to suffering in himself or others; hence it appears doubtful whether it is through our senses that we are conscious of and can appreciate the sufferings of others, and it seems more probable that we acquire this knowledge through our imagination, coupled with our own experience of pain. To say, therefore, that women are indifferent to pain in others is to say that they are more or less insensible to it themselves. In reality, bearing pain or witnessing it with fortitude is all a matter of habit, will, and training. You will see a woman "nursing sick children, and dressing wounds," and performing many most disagreeable domestic duties with cheerful equanimity; but you will see the sensitive man wound tame birds and callously leave them to flap in agony on the ground, or take them up and calmly crush their skulls with his own teeth—an operation which no woman could witness unmoved. If "scientific interest," "cash payments," and "religious devotion" are sufficient explanation for the existence of male doctors and vivisectors, why should they not equally account for the race of women nurses, for the same motives probably exist in both cases. We women who are not nurses can no more imagine ourselves performing hospital duty than a man can, but we realize that the nurse does, not because she is a woman with "blunted perceptions" or "fascination for blood and cruelty," but because she—a human being, with the same sensitiveness as you or I—has overcome by self-control and training the natural repulsion of her senses to the sights and sounds of suffering, in order that she may devote every power of her mind and body to its alleviation and to the comforting of her fellowmen. In these days when English magistrates estimate a woman's sufferings, as inflicted by a brutal husband, at such a sum as 5s, it is necessary that every protest should be made against any theory which encourages the comfortable doctrine that women are less sensitive than men, and are less affected by pain in themselves or others.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
A SCOTCHWOMAN.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN COMMERCE.

A REPORT issued by the Taxation Bureau of the Department of Finance shows that during the twenty-two-year period ending with 1893, the total outflow of specie from Japan was forty-three million *yen*, the aggregate export of the

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precious metals having been a hundred and eighty-eight million *yen*, approximately, and the aggregate import a hundred and forty-four and a quarter millions. Only eight years of the period—namely 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1888, 1889, 1891, and 1892—show an excess in the imports of specie over the exports, the total of the excess being forty-three and a third million *yen*, whereas the remaining fourteen years of the period give a total balance of eighty-seven million *yen* on the side of exports. These figures will probably cause considerable uneasiness to some Japanese economists, but after all they show simply that the country wanted foreign products more than it wanted the money paid for them.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

THE Cattle Plague, writes the *Mainichi*, appeared in this country in September of last year with the importation of live stock from Korea; first in the prefecture of Oita and subsequently in Fukuoka, Wakayama, Miye, Kyoto, Osaka, Kanagawa, and Tokyo. Owing to the precautions taken, it did not spread over the whole country and disappeared after having destroyed about 3,500 head. The Japanese Live Stock Association, organized by the most influential stock owners and farmers, in addition to their own efforts, petitioned the Diet to take strong measures to suppress the disease and sent experts to Korea. Nevertheless, the plague reappeared in the summer of this year; it was confined to the parts near Osaka, Kyoto, and Miye, but was so severe that by the end of November another 3,500 head perished, valued at a little less than 100,000 *yen*. In spite of the compensation granted out of the Treasury for cattle killed to prevent propagation of the pest, the total loss, direct and indirect, incurred by the people during these two years, must be extremely large. In fact, if we consider the interruption of business suffered by the farmers, the disturbance of the market and the totally inadequate compensation for some of the more valuable animals, it would be no exaggeration to estimate it at above a million *yen*. The loss will be very severely felt by farmers who have lately begun to import cattle from abroad and may discourage them in this enterprise. The *Mainichi* thinks that the disease will probably visit the country again next year, and advises determined measures for its suppression.

INFANTICIDE IN CHINA.

THE Shansi correspondent of the *North China Daily News* writes:—In a pamphlet on *The Diseases of China* (Glasgow, 1877), on the 56th page, it is stated:—"One thing is certain, infanticide does not prevail to the extent so generally believed among us; and in the North, whence Europe derived her ideas chiefly from the Jesuits of last century, it does not exist at all." This statement would not be true of Shansi, where the practice is all too common. It is found that the teachers invariably deny its existence until confronted by evidence such as they cannot gainsay. The people, on the other hand, readily admit that many female infants are thus treated. We not unfrequently see enough to convince us that this inhuman habit is at least somewhat prevalent. Occasionally some tender-hearted person takes compassion on the poor little sufferers and rescues them from the impending doom—an act which is regarded as peculiarly virtuous. An acquaintance of mine, a Chinese, has rescued two of these little girls and brought them up as his own.

THE INSTRUCTIONS TO MR. WILLIS.

ACCOMPANYING the President's Message to Congress was a document which seems to have excited much more interested than the Message itself: it was a copy of the instructions issued by the Department of State to Mr. Willis, the United States Representative in Honolulu:—

MR GRESHAM TO MR. WILLIS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON,

October 18th, 1893.

[No. 2, confidential.]

SIR,—Supplementing the general instructions which you have received with regard to your official duties, it is necessary to communicate to you, in confidence, special instructions for your guidance, in so far as concerns the relation of the Government of the United States toward the *de facto* Government of the Hawaiian Islands. The President deems it his duty to withdraw from the Senate the treaty of annexation which has been signed by the Secretary of State and the agents of the Provisional Government, and to despatch a trusted representative to Hawaii to impartially investigate the causes of the so-called revolution and ascertain and report the true situation in those islands. This information was needed the better to enable the President to discharge a delicate and important public duty. The instructions given to Mr. Blount, of which you are furnished with a copy, point out a line of conduct to be observed by him in his official relations on the islands, by which you will be guided, so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with what is herein contained.

It remains to acquiant you with the President's conclusion upon the facts embodied in Mr. Blount reports and to direct your course in accordance therewith. The Provisional Government was not established by the Hawaiian people or with their consent or acquiescence; nor has it since existed with their consent. The Queen refused to surrender her powers to the Provisional Government until convinced that the Minister of the United States had recognized it as the *de facto* authority and would support and defend it with the military force of the United States and that resistance would precipitate a bloody conflict with the force. She was advised and assured by her Ministers and by the leaders of the movement for the overthrow of her Government that if she surrendered under protest her case would afterwards be fairly considered by the President of the United States. The Queen finally wisely yielded to the armed forces of the United States then quartered in Honolulu, relying upon the good faith and honour of the President, when informed of what had occurred, to undo the action of the Minister, and reinstate her and the authority which she claimed as the constitutional sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands.

After a patient examination of Mr. Blount's reports, the President is satisfied that the movement against the Queen, if not instigated, was encouraged and supported by the representative of this Government at Honolulu; that he promised in advance to aid her enemies in an effort to overthrow the Hawaiian Islands and to set up by force a new Government in its place, and that he kept this promise by causing a detachment of troops to be landed from the *Boston* on the 16th of January, and by recognizing the Provisional Government the next day, when it was too feeble to defend itself, and the constitutional Government was able to successfully maintain its authority against any threatening force other than that of the United States already landed.

The President has therefore determined that he will not send back to the Senate, for its action thereon, the treaty which he withdrew from that body for further consideration on the ninth day of March last.

On your arrival at Honolulu you will take advantage of an early opportunity to inform the Queen of this determination, making known to her the President's sincere regret that the reprehensible conduct of the American Minister, and the unauthorized presence on land of a military force of the United States obliged her to surrender her sovereignty for the time being and rely on the justice of this Government to undo the flagrant wrong.

You will, however, at the same time, inform the Queen that, when reinstated, the President expects that she will pursue a magnanimous course by granting full amnesty to all who participated in the movement against her, including persons who are or have been, officially or otherwise, connected with the Provisional Government, depriving them of no right or privilege which they enjoyed before the so-called revolution. All obligations created by the Provisional Government in due course of administration should be assumed.

Having secured the Queen's agreement to pursue this wise and humane policy, which, it is believed, you will speedily obtain, you will then advise the Executive of the Provisional Government and his Ministers of the President's determination of the question which their action and those of the Queen devolved upon him, and that they are expected to promptly relinquish to her her constitutional authority.

Should the Queen decline to pursue the liberal course suggested, or should the Provisional Government refuse to abide by the President's decision, you will report the facts and await further directions.

In carrying out these general instructions you will be guided largely by your own good judgment in dealing with the delicate situation. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. Q. GRESHAM.

[Enclosure, Mr. Gresham to Mr. Blount, confidential instructions, March 11th, 1893].

On Nov. 24 Secretary Gresham telegraphed Minister Willis as follows:—

"The brevity and uncertainty of your telegrams are embarrassing. You will insist upon amnesty and recognition of obligations of the Provisional Government as essential conditions of restoration. All interests will be promoted by prompt action."

The next telegram to Minister Willis from Secretary Gresham is dated December 3rd. It reads as follows:—

"Your dispatch, which was answered by steamer on the 25th of November, seems to call for additional instructions. Should the Queen refuse assent to the written conditions, you will at once inform her that the President will cease interposition in her behalf, and that while he deems it his duty to endeavour to restore to the Sovereign the constitutional Government of the islands, his further efforts in that direction will depend upon the Queen's unqualified agreement that all obligations created by the Provisional Government in a proper course of administration shall be assumed, and upon such pledges by her as will prevent the adoption of any measures of prosecution or punishment for what has been done in the past by those setting up or supporting the Provisional Government. The President feels that by our original interference and what followed we have incurred responsibilities to the whole Hawaiian community, and it would not be just to put one party at the mercy of the other.

Should the Queen ask whether, if she accedes to conditions, active steps will be taken by the United States to effect her restoration or to maintain her authority thereafter, you will say that the President cannot use force without the authority of Congress.

"Should the Queen accept conditions, and the Provisional Government refuse to surrender, you will be governed by previous instructions. If the Provisional Government asks whether the United States will hold the Queen to fulfilment of stipulated conditions, you will say that the President, acting under dictates of honour and duty, as he has done in endeavouring to effect restoration, will do all in his constitutional power to cause observance of the conditions he has imposed."

THE LATE CONSUL-GENERAL JONES.

WE take this from a San Francisco journal dated December 17th:—"The remains of Alfred D. Jones, American Consul-General at Shanghai, were brought in to-day by the steamer *Rio Janeiro*. Jones became insane in Shanghai, and it was determined to remove him to America. Soon after the steamer sailed he became violent and dangerous. He was manacled after a desperate fight in his cabin, in which he was cut and disfigured. He raved incessantly for seven days, when death ended his sufferings. Jones's mania was due to disappointment in a love affair at his home in Raleigh, N.C. He was attended by two marines from the *Monocacy*. His body was embalmed and will be shipped to Raleigh. His age was 48."

WATER IN HONGKONG.

NOTWITHSTANDING the immense sums of money expended by the Government of Hongkong in order to obtain water, the supply in the Crown Colony seems to be lamentably deficient. At a recent meeting of the Sanitary Board, Mr. Francis was prepared with the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this Board, 5 gallons of water per head per day is, from a sanitary point of view, a wholly inadequate allowance of water in this climate," &c. In view of the small attendance at the meeting the consideration of Mr. Francis' motion was postponed. Remembering the outcry in Yokohama last summer, when the water was stopped during a portion of the night, we wonder what would be said if Yokohama had been supplied with "five gallons per head per day." During this period, if we take August (31 days), we find that the quantity of water supplied by the Yokohama Waterworks was 54,260,270 gallons, the population that month receiving water from the works being 103,784=16·86 gallons per head per diem.

A DIARY AND ALMANAC.

IN previous years we have alluded at this season to the Imperial English and Chinese Diary

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and Almanac, which seems to us an ideal book for the use of folks in the East. It is prefaced by a mass of information serviceable alike to the merchant and the private individual; its diary is ample and conveniently spaced; it has portions for memoranda of things lent, for cash accounts, for a register of correspondence, for names and addresses, for memos and for reminders, and altogether it is just such a book as should convert the most disorderly of persons into a paragon of order and method. We do not see how the old-established Letts' Diary can compete successfully with such a volume even in conservative circles.

THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON SHAW.

On Monday afternoon, almost the whole British community of Tokyo assembled at the British Legation, by invitation of H.B.M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*, Mr. M. de Bunsen, to bid farewell to the Venerable Archdeacon Shaw, Honorary Chaplain of the Legation, and Mrs. Shaw, who, with their family, are about to proceed to England for a year and a half or two years. The Archdeacon, during his long sojourn of twenty-two years in the Japanese capital, has won the respect and affection of all his fellow-countrymen, as well as of an immense circle of Japanese, and he carries away with him the most earnest wishes for his happiness and prosperity. In connection with his return to England on leave of absence, the British community of Tokyo had an opportunity of showing its sentiments towards him by subscribing to a testimonial. Most liberal advantage was taken of the occasion, so that, despite the paucity of the British residents of the capital, it was found possible to present the Archdeacon with a well-filled purse, which was the form that the testimonial eventually took. It would be idle to attempt to speak adequately of the noble work of untiring benevolence and charity accomplished by the Archdeacon and Mrs. Shaw during their long residence in Tokyo. They have done as much as it was possible to do in the cause of Christianity, and for the sake of that cause we heartily hope that their return to the scene of their labours will not be far distant.

* * *

The Archdeacon and Mrs. Shaw left Tokyo on Friday the 19th instant, by the train starting from Shimbashi Station at 2.20 p.m.

* * *

We are requested by the Venerable Archdeacon Shaw to deny most emphatically that his departure from Japan is the result of persecution and rudeness to which he has been subjected by the Japanese. Mr. Shaw's trip to England was arranged three months ago, and has nothing whatever to do with the events recently noticed in the press. Moreover, he has not been subjected to persecution of any kind. The assault committed upon him by a drunken Japanese was not in any sense personal. It might have occurred to any one in any country where intoxicated folks forget the proprieties of life. We have Mr. Shaw's authority for saying that he has never received anything but the greatest kindness from the Japanese, and that while he counts among them numbers of earnest sincere friends, he cannot point to a single enemy. To this we may be permitted to add on our own account that no condemnation can be too strong for an English journalist who so grossly maligns his countrymen as to represent them flying before every paltry danger. It is not the habit of Englishmen to turn their backs at the least symptom of peril, and if to have one's coat pulled by an inebriated citizen sufficed to drive a British subject out of Japan, there would long ago have ceased to be any such things as foreign communities or foreign settlements in this empire. The construction put upon the Summers affair three years ago was sufficiently miserable and humiliating. Mr. Summers may have hastened his previously planned departure to avoid an interview with an importunate young reformer, but to proclaim that he fled from Japan because a solitary *soshi* sought a discussion with him, was a libel, we trust, upon Mr. Summers, and was certainly an insult to Englishmen in general. Mr. Summers, however, preferred the enjoyment of a grievance to his own reputation for manliness, and he had a right to choose as he pleased. The case is different, however, with Archdeacon Shaw, and we most strongly protest against the wretched hysteria which for the sake of constructing a sensational phrase makes faint-hearted cravens of English gentlemen.

PASSPORTS DURING 1892.

The *Kihin-kai*, an association the origin and objects of which have already been described in these columns, reports that, according to its investigations, the total number of passports issued last year by the Foreign Office was 6,806, of which a classification is given in the table printed below according to nationality, sex, and time of travel. It appears from the table, that the greatest number of passports are taken out for six, three, two, and one month and two weeks. From the point of view of nationality, passports for Americans are generally for six months, those for British subjects, three months, and those for Germans, two months. Further, about one half of the total number of passports taken out were for periods of six or five months, and about one third for three or two months. It may therefore be inferred that the average time of sojourn in Japan for each passport-holder was a hundred days, and assuming that the expenditure was at the rate of 5 *yen* a day, it results that the total sum left in the country by foreign tourists was over three million *yen*. In this estimate, however, no allowance is made for purchases of objects of art, a factor which would doubtless greatly swell the aggregate, could it be investigated:—

	One year to six months.	Six to five months.	Five to four months.	Four to three months.	Three to two months.	Two to one month.	One month to two weeks.	Less than two weeks.	To take official appointments.	On official duty.	En route.	Total.
England—												
Males	2	499	4	11	751	104	123	80	25	10	—	1,600
Females	1	232	1	6	300	70	50	26	22	—	—	708
Children	—	175	—	1	57	14	7	—	—	—	—	254
Servants	—	7	—	—	13	1	1	1	—	—	—	23
Total	3	913	5	18	1,121	189	181	107	47	10	—	2,594
America—												
Males	1	628	1	5	277	73	91	137	45	—	—	1,258
Females	2	485	4	6	225	64	64	83	33	—	—	960
Children	—	193	—	2	90	19	10	29	6	—	—	349
Servants	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Total	3	1,311	5	13	593	156	165	249	84	—	—	2,579
Germany—												
Males	1	285	—	15	75	69	40	32	11	6	—	434
Females	—	24	—	4	8	19	5	7	3	—	—	70
Children	—	5	—	—	—	9	1	—	5	—	—	20
Servants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	214	—	19	83	97	46	39	19	6	—	524
France—												
Males	—	274	—	10	62	18	17	9	4	—	—	394
Females	—	24	—	2	23	1	4	—	9	—	—	63
Children	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Servants	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	—	298	—	12	89	19	21	9	13	—	—	461
Russia—												
Males	—	17	1	—	12	16	43	21	—	—	—	110
Females	—	5	—	—	2	4	2	4	—	—	—	17
Children	—	9	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	14
Servants	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	—	31	1	—	17	20	45	28	—	—	—	142
Other Countries—												
Males	—	167	—	2	143	50	29	8	3	—	4	406
Females	—	26	—	—	30	6	15	—	1	—	—	78
Children	—	9	—	—	8	1	3	—	—	—	—	21
Servants	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	—	202	—	2	181	58	47	8	4	—	4	506
Total—												
Males	4	1,770	6	43	1,320	330	343	287	88	16	4	4,211
Females	3	796	5	18	588	104	140	120	68	—	—	1,902
Children	—	391	—	3	159	43	21	32	11	—	—	660
Servants	—	12	—	—	17	2	1	1	—	—	—	33
Grand Total	7	2,969	11	64	2,084	539	505	440	167	16	4	6,806

OBITUARY.

There passed away recently in Tokyo a nobleman credited with having given the initiative to the movement that culminated in the Restoration. Baron Tsuji was born in July, 1823, at Hiroshima in Aki. His family, hereditary retainers of the feudal chief of Aki, enjoyed a revenue of 1,200 *koku* of rice. At the time of the first advent of an envoy from the United States, he formed a project, in conjunction with some prominent retainers of the House of Asano, to reorganize the administration of the Aki fief, his idea being to correct its temporizing and weak policy. Frustrated in this attempt, he was deprived of office. In 1862, however, he again began to become a prominent figure, in consequence of his enthusiastic espousal of the then prevalent doctrine "Loyalty to the Throne and expulsion of the alien. The Kyoto Regent, Prince Konoye, entrusted him with an important mission to the Asano chief, and he managed this matter so adroitly that he was rewarded with promotion to the position of principal councillor to the Government of the fief. This honour did not, however, secure him against further political trouble. When the second expedition was despatched by the Tokugawa against Choshu, the Aki *Daimyo* strongly condemned the measure, and his attitude of opposition being attributed to the advice of his chief councillor, the latter was ordered to go into confinement in his own *Yashiki*. This command caused so much excitement among the youthful retainers of Asano, that Ogasawara Iki-no-kami, who had conveyed the Shogun's mandate and who was still staying in Iki, thought it prudent to effect his escape during the night. Mr. Tsuji was at once released from confinement. It was at that time that he exerted himself conspicuously to promote the cause of the Restoration, communicating his ideas on the subject to Komatsu Tatewaki and Saigo Kichinosuke (the elder Saigo) of Satsuma. Their programme gradually took the form of a combination between the three great clans of Satsuma, Choshu, and Tosa, and in October, 1867, Baron Tsuji together with some influential retainers of Satsuma and Choshu, had a meeting with two prominent court nobles, Mr. (now Count) Nakayama and the late Prince Iwakura, to whom the resolutions adopted by the three clans were shown, and a complete understanding was elaborated. The main feature of the project was that the late Emperor Komei should be removed to Hiroshima and that an expedition should be set in motion against the Shogun. A few days later, the Tokugawa Regent summoned the principal retainers of the leading clans to the castle of Nijo, in Kyoto, in order that they might express their opinions on the subjects then engrossing public attention. The Shogun himself sat within hearing of the discussion, and after a time invited Tsuji, Komatsu Tatewaki, and Goto Shojiro (now Count Goto) to his side, and asked them to propound their views. They urged him in the strongest terms to surrender the administrative power into the hands of the Sovereign, and this advice, subsequently supported by more cogent methods, must be credited with having contributed largely to the Restoration, which soon became an accomplished fact. Mr. Tsuji filled many important posts in the Administration, and in 1890, in consideration of his meritorious services, he received a patent of nobility as well as the Third Class Order of the Rising Sun. He died at the age of 72. Not long before his decease, the Imperial Court selected seventeen men who had conspicuously aided in bringing about the Restoration, and Baron Tsuji had the satisfaction of seeing his name placed high among them.

* * *

During the same week that saw Baron Tsuji's death, the Japanese army lost a very promising young officer in Captain Hanajima Hanichiro, of the Cavalry. Graduated at the *Shikan Gakko* in 1883, he was shortly afterwards ordered to proceed to France for the purpose of prosecuting his studies, and there he remained for a considerable time, finishing the subaltern courses at the Cavalry School and serving in the field. When Prince Komatsu visited France, the young officer was attached to his retinue, and travelled with His Imperial Highness in Germany and Austria, returning to Japan in 1888. When the School of Equitation was established, he became one of its staff, and many useful reforms stand to his credit. An ardent lover of the horse, the improvement of the Japan breed was always a cherished object with him, and in pursuit of it he published several brochures, translated and original. Last year he was attacked by symptoms that ultimately took the form of paralysis of the heart, and he died at the early age of thirty-three—one of the *yaku doshi* of men's lives in Japan.

THE "PERSONNEL" OF THE NAVY.

The *Hochi Shimbun* has an interesting article on the *personnel* of the Navy. Setting out with the axiom that the efficiency of a navy depends above all things on its *personnel*, our contem-

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porary contends that so long as the present method of recruiting for the Navy remains in force, it is hopeless to expect that the ships will be properly manned. The fault of the method is that the whole management and division of conscripts are entrusted to the Army Department, with the natural result that the best men are selected for the land forces, the inferior only being assigned to the ships. So at least the *Hochi* asserts, though the statement is hard to credit. The Naval Authorities, we read, finding it impossible to obtain a really effective *personnel* in such a manner, have tried the plan of voluntary enlistment, but cannot by that means secure sufficient numbers. In fact, the public is assured by our contemporary that all branches of the Navy are under-manned, and that, in the event of an emergency, great embarrassment would be felt. Nor is there much hope of a change for the better until steps are taken to render service on board ship more popular. A sailor's life is incomparably harder than a soldier's, in time of peace, yet the pay of the former is no better than that of the latter, and it is said that the treatment of the men on board ship is often very strict, if not severe. In short, there is nothing to tempt recruits for the Navy, and much to deter them.

THE DANGERS OF ANXIETY.

THE following extract from a private letter tells a quaint story:—"We have just heard an amusing illustration of the effects of maternal anxiety. A young English artist, named Studd, was staying in Barcelona at the time when the bomb was thrown in the theatre, causing such loss of life. His mother jumped to the conclusion that he had gone to the play that night, and might be one of the victims. She rushed to the Foreign Office, insisted on seeing Lord Rosebery himself, and worked on his compassion to send an enquiry as to her son's fate. He telegraphed accordingly to the English Consulate,

Enquire about Studd, a young Englishman, now resident in Barcelona.

He received two replies in quick succession:—

No. 1.—Studd has been traced, and will be carefully watched

No. 2.—Studd has been arrested, and is now safe under lock and key.

This was soon followed by No. 3, from Studd himself:—

Owing to your confounded telegram I have been in prison for twenty-four hours.

INJUNCTION TO STUDENTS.

THE Department of Education has found it necessary to issue another injunction to students in all the public schools throughout the empire. It runs as follows:—

1. To hold teachers in veneration and to respect elders is a fundamental principle of moral education. Should this habit of mind be wanting, a tendency to self-conceit and insubordination is rapidly developed, defeating the objects contemplated in scholastic teaching. Directors and instructors in schools should spare no pains to give prominence to this point in the discharge of their duties.

2. It shall not be lawful for students to combine to the number of three or upwards for the purpose of seeking an interview or with a director or an instructor to submit their views to elicit an expression of opinion.

3. Students who, organizing a league, commit acts of insubordination, attempt to intimidate a teacher or director, obstruct the course of study at school, or decline to obey the instructions of a teacher or director, shall be punished by suspension from attendance at school for a period of not less than one week and not more than one year, or by expulsion. Students who have been expelled from a school shall not be allowed to re-enter the same school without the special permission of the Minister of State for Education.

4. The above regulations shall be substituted for those of a similar nature issued in 1883 which are hereby abolished.

* * *

In one respect the above instructions are more lenient than those for which they are substituted. The regulations of 1883 were framed upon the lines of those enforced in England: they provided that any student expelled from a public school should be liable thereafter to be ineligible for entering any public school whatever. But this wholesome provision was virtually a dead letter: we do not recall a single instance of its enforcement, and the Minister of Education has probably concluded that such severe measures are not in harmony with the spirit of the time. We think it exceedingly unfortunate that his decision should have been in that sense. One of the most flagrant evils of the time in Japan is insubordination amongst students in Middle Schools. Numerous instances are on record where ten or twenty resolute lads have obtained complete mastery of a school by a sufficient display of bluster and obstinacy. Those best acquainted with educational questions in Japan trace the source of this evil to the same poison that infects so many phases of Japanese life at present, namely, politics. Local Officials hold the members of Local Assemblies in such excessive respect that they shrink from meting out any adequate punishment to the sons or brothers of the latter in connection with acts of inscholastic insubordination. Teachers are left to shift for themselves as best they can, and, although unfurnished with means to enforce discipline, are held responsible for its enforcement. Such as is the attitude of the Central Government towards the Diet, such also is the attitude of Local Officials towards Local Assemblies. In the schools *soshi* are educated to maintain the reign of intimidation, and in the Diet combinations are formed to establish the sway of unreason.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ESCORT STORY.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has instituted inquiries on this subject, and has found that the canard about a mounted escort for the Foreign Representatives originated in the fact that the French Minister was attended on the occasion in question, as he has always been attended on such occasions, by two men on horseback, who are provided at the French Legation for State occasions. Our contemporary asserts that it had not thought it necessary to take any serious notice of the story when it appeared in "a certain paper," because it was incredible on the face of it, and also because that paper is distinguished for carelessness in collecting information. It would have continued to let the matter alone had it not been for the prominence given to it by the local English journals.

YANGCHOW.

A CITY more than 4,000 years old, yet still flourishing. That is something for lovers of the antique to discuss. Its name is Yangchow, and it is, of course, Chinese. Where else could we expect to find anything so hoary? Here is an interesting account of it from the pen of a correspondent of the *North China Daily News:*

Yangchow is a city, situated on the Grand Canal, in the province of Kiangsu, and at a distance of ten miles from the Yangtze, where the Grand Canal from Peking enters the river, about one and a half miles above Chinkiang. An increasing activity among the boats, and the throngs on the roads and by ways, betokened our approach to Yangchow, and presently, on rounding a bend in the Canal, we came in view of a pagoda and beyond it, the walls of the city. The pagoda stands near the bank of the Canal, and is evidently of great antiquity. It is seven stories high,—each story about twenty feet, and you can see that it was once encircled with balustrades on every story. These balustrades have long since fallen away, and the whole edifice bears evidence of slow decay. It apparently affords now only a habitation for pigeons and other birds which were seen in countless numbers, resting upon or flying about it. No one of whom I enquired had any knowledge or tradition as to when this pagoda had been built. It had stood there, they all knew, time out of mind, and it looked it. We landed from our boat under the walls of the city near a massive gate-way, which is flanked on each side by a round tower pierced with loop-holes. The walls are of stone and brick work, 20 feet deep, 40 feet high, crenelated, and in good preservation. They answered the purpose, no doubt, when they were built, as a defence against light horsemen, bows and arrows, lances and catapults. I could not learn the extent of the walls, and the city is far flat that I was enabled to get only a partial view of it. Yangchow is one of the most famous of the great cities of China. It is alleged by tradition to have been built in the Hia dynasty, 2205 B.C. In the Han dynasty, A.D. 25, it was known as Kiang-to. Later it was called Kiangning. In the Sui dynasty, A.D. 589, it acquired the name of Yangchow, which it now bears. Like all the cities in the region of the Yangtze, it suffered much in the Taiping rebellion, but has nearly recovered its former prosperity. The celebrated Venetian traveller Marco Polo relates in his wonderful book of travels, that the great Kublai Khan appointed him to be the governor of this city, and that he resided here three years. This was in A.D. 1282. His description of the city is meagre, like most of his descriptions, but what there is of it can be recognised, and local tradition quite upholds the narrative of the traveller. It now has a population of between 600,000 and 700,000 souls, and is the residence of many wealthy mandarins and retired officials, and is accounted by all China as a pleasure city. It has always been noted for its beautiful women, and furnishes concubines to the nobles of the realm.

It was an Emperor of the Sui dynasty, A.D. 615, who made the city famous as a resort for pleasure, which it has since maintained. History makes his reign of thirteen years one unceasing round of luxurious ease and pleasure—the Chinese Sardanapalus. He built a magnificent palace and in its spacious grounds erected pavilions dedicated to every variety of pleasure. It is related of him that on one occasion at a festival of flowers, held in his royal gardens, he ordered his state barge, and, as there was no water at hand spread the ground with yellow beans, over which the imperial barge and guests, were wafted to the gate of the Incomparable Pavilion. The site of this palace is now occupied by a Buddhist temple.

There once dwelt in this old city a woman, whose fame has never been known to the Western world, and whose statecraft at that early period has never been appreciated. She was the renowned Empress Wu, who invented Woman's Rights. She is mentioned by Giles in his delightful book *Historic China and other Sketches*, and relates that her first great achievement was to usurp the throne, which she did successfully by a brilliant *coup d'état*. Then, she inaugurated the pregnant, political event of her reign, which was her doom. She was a woman with much actual ability and with a body of iron. Thinking that other women were in like manner endowed, she established examinations for women with the view to selecting successful candidates for posts in the service of the State, which had hitherto been confined to men—a policy which gave immediate and unbounded offence to all ranks and classes alike, and led to the speedy downfall of this daring Queen.

The streets of the city are remarkably clean for a Chinese city. They are paved with flag-stones, and present an appearance of business activity. The people are better dressed than elsewhere, and have a well-fed, prosperous look about them. Chairs with liveried coolies, bearing master, or mistress, are met at every step, and they display no vulgar curiosity at sight of a foreigner. The shops are very attractive, particularly those of silks, furs, porcelain, lacquer ware, etc. A curious lacquer-ware is made here, from old, broken, kiln-burnt tiles, by being ground down and worked up with some other materials. The lacquer is skilfully inlaid with mother-o'-pearl and made into pretty boxes, trays, and what not, which sell for a very moderate price. It is noted, also, for the manufacture of delicate sweet-meats, which enter so much into the food of the wealthy; and an oil for the hair, beautifying face powder, scented beads, and thumb rings are manufactured here, the city being a profitable market for these popular articles of the toilet, which with Chinese ladies is so very elaborate. The principal manufacture, however, is the costly and handsome, black-wood Chinese furniture, for the high and wealthy classes. It is made generally after one heavy pattern, but with much beauty of design and finish. I saw a state bedstead of this black wood work. It was beautiful, costly, of vast dimensions, and seemed meet for the repose of a giant king. I visited two large flower gardens in which were for sale every variety of flower and plant peculiar to the country. The camellia and chrysanthemum are extensively cultivated here, as also many varieties of the hyacinth. The market places abounded with game, such as wild geese, ducks, pheasants, wood cock, snipe, and especially fine poultry. Fish are not of much variety nor excellence in the interior of China but vegetables of unknown name and quality seemed abundant. Of fruit, there were oranges, apples, and pears, and preserved and dried fruits. The sweet potatoes grown here are very fine. The whole city, in fact, had to me an air of plenty and prosperity about it that was particularly pleasing. The ordinary people were comfortably dressed, cheerful, and polite. The residences of the mandarins and wealthy merchants are many and spacious, inclosed in extensive gardens, with ample walls. By invitation I entered the residence of one of the principal merchants, and was profoundly astonished at the magnificence of the rockwork of the garden. It covered at least two acres of ground, and was a maze of labyrinthine walks, grottoes, and kiosks with a tiny lake here and there, and plants and ferns growing out of every crevice of the rocks. It was with difficulty I found my way out of it again. I encountered in my walks through the city several large open squares, which presented quite a fête-like appearance, with gay coloured booths, containing light articles for sale, tents or awnings under which jugglers were performing, numerous games going on in the open air, story-tellers in full voice, pedlers offering their wares, barbers plying their trade, gymnasts performing their antics—everything in fact, that is to be found at a country fair; and in front of the many temporary eating houses, were little tables crowded with people for the midday meals. With all this motley concourse of people, good humour and perfect order reigned everywhere. Leaving these, I went to the temple of ten thousand gods.

This is a large and improved edifice built on the site of an emperor's palace. It was built in the usual manner of Chinese temples, with high pitched roof, graceful, and picturesque, and elaborately carved

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architrave and figured cornices. The interior, which is devoted to the gods, is spacious, light, and airy, and the wood carvings throughout the lofty ceiling are very curious and testify to much artistic skill. The ten thousands gods—gilded, from one to three feet in height, nude, and in standing postures—are surely all there, in bewildering numbers. They are ranged along the walls in shining rows, one above another. The temple is Buddhist, and the ten thousand gods one, are all Buddhas—ten thousand Buddhas. In two smaller connecting apartments, leading to this main are two life-sized Buddhas. They are nude and represented as sleeping. These sleeping Buddhas are visited and prayed to by Chinese ladies who desire off-spring.

The foreigner generally, wherever he goes in the interior of China, is greeted with the epithet of "foreign devil" shouted after him in Chinese. This is mostly done by the children, who, perhaps, know no other term of designation and mean no discourtesy. At Yangchow, however, wherever I went, to my gratification, I was treated with great civility, and was not aware that any youngster saluted me in this fashion. My embarrassment was from the crowds, mostly of young people, which would assemble around the places I entered and block up the streets; but they were neither rude nor noisy, only inconveniently curious.

THE TWO CLUBS.

When, after the dissolution of the Diet, the *Domei* and the *Doshi* Clubs joined hands and enunciated a common political programme, we expressed the opinion that they were violating the law which forbids political associations, separately registered as such, to combine openly for purposes of agitation. Our supposition would have been correct, had the Clubs been legally constituted political bodies. But such does not seem to have been hitherto the case. At all events, we read in the *Kokkai* that they have now received an intimation from the Minister of State for Home Affairs to the effect that they can no longer be considered non-political societies, and that they must henceforth comply with the provisions of the law relating to public meeting and political association. The only wonder is that any doubt should ever have existed as to their character.

THE PORT OF MANCHESTER.

Messrs. Burns, of Glasgow, are the first steamship owners in the United Kingdom to advertise the sailings of their steamers to and from Manchester direct. The first sailing from Glasgow to Manchester direct has been fixed for Saturday, 30th December, whilst that from Manchester to Glasgow direct will be on Tuesday, 2nd January, 1894. Messrs. Wilson, Sons & Co., Hull have made arrangements to run a line of steamers direct to Manchester through the Ship Canal. This means a diversion of trade from Hull, and is causing much concern in commercial circles there. The North Eastern Railway Company are preparing to make extensive improvements with a view of keeping trade at the Hull Docks.

FIRE IN CHINA TOWN.

Three houses standing on Lot No. 145, in the heart of China Town, were destroyed by fire on Monday morning. An alarm was given about twenty-five minutes to five o'clock, and the Settlement Fire Brigade, under Supt. Kipling, were quickly on the spot. The fire had gained a strong hold by the time the Brigade arrived, and it was not till close upon half-past six o'clock that the conflagration was mastered. The outbreak was due to an *anka*, a small charcoal brazier, setting light to a *futon*. The houses were occupied by Chinese families, and fortunately the whole of the inmates escaped without injury. The premises and effects were insured.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* reports that about three o'clock on the morning of the 11th instant a dispute arose at the elevating shaft of a mine at Uguisuzawa, Kurihara District, Miyagi Prefecture. As a consequence, a box containing a large quantity of metal fell down the shaft, having slipped through the hoisting ropes, and five workmen were crushed to death, one other being seriously injured.

THE GALE IN HOKKAIDO.

We learn from the *Official Gazette* that the gale which recently devastated Hokkaido occurred on the 24th and 25th ultimo, not on the 5th instant as originally telegraphed. It was preceded by a heavy shock of earthquake on the 24th at 2 a.m. The storm commenced on the afternoon of the same day, and raged for 24 hours, the climax being reached between 4 and 5 a.m. on the 25th. The returns of the damage done are as follow:—Killed, 4; wounded, 2; buildings totally destroyed, 225; buildings partially destroyed, 617; buildings washed away 21; ships and boats totally wrecked, 243; ships and boats damaged, 65; telegraph poles broken, 16; railway lines damaged, 680 yards, &c.

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

Telegraphic intelligence despatched by Mr. Tateno, Japanese Minister to America, and received by the Foreign Minister on the 12th inst. states that according to the latest despatch from Hawaii, Queen Liliuokalani has accepted all the proposals made by the U.S. President. The American Minister in Hawaii has requested the Provisional Government to make preparations for the Queen's re-accession to the Throne, but the Government declines to resign. No power is given to the American Minister to use military force, and his steps are opposed by the American residents. Excitement prevails.

BRITISH SQUADRON MOVEMENTS.

Admiral Sir E. Fremantle, proposes to leave Hongkong for Singapore in the *Imperieuse* on 15th February next. A week's stay will be made in Singapore. He will then proceed to Malacca, Perak, Selangor, and Penang on board the *Alacrity*. He is expected to be in Singapore again about the 8th March, when he will continue his cruise in the *Imperieuse* to Batavia, back to Singapore, and then on to Hongkong, which should be reached early in April. During his stay on the China Station, Admiral Fremantle has shown much activity in visiting all the principal ports included in his command.

H.B.M.'S JUDGE FOR JAPAN.

The rumour that Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate, is appointed Acting Judge of H.M.'s Court in Japan is confirmed, says the Shanghai morning journal, and Mr. Wilkinson leaves Shanghai at the end of March or beginning of April for his new post.

* * *

The same paper has authority for stating that a telegram has been received from Lord Rosebery, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, appointing Mr. W. V. Drummond Acting-Crown Advocate in Shanghai, in succession to Mr. H. S. Wilkinson.

THE U.S. TARIFF BILL.

Several alterations have been made in the Tariff Bill, and the silk schedule is now as follows:—"Silk partially manufactured from cocoons or from waste silk, and not further advanced or manufactured than carded or combed silk. 25 cents per pound. Thrown silk, not more advanced than singles, tram, organzine sewing silk, twist, floss and silk threads or yarns of every description, except spun silk, 25 per cent. *ad valorem*; spun silk in skeins, cops, warps, or on beams, 30 per cent *ad valorem*."

BROKEN DOWN.

The Indo-China Co.'s steamer *Taisang* arrived in Hongkong on January 6th and reported having, on 31st December, when ten miles south of Steep Island, picked up the same Company's steamer *Kowshing* with broken tail-shaft. She was towing her back towards Shanghai and had got as far as to the north-west of Bonham when she met the steamer *Eldorado*, which had been sent from Shanghai to tow her into port and which took up the towing.

BIG FIRE IN OKINAWA PREFECTURE.

A destructive fire occurred at Miyakojima in Okinawa Prefecture on the 12th ult. at 7 a.m., and before the flames could be subdued one hundred and seventeen dwellings were destroyed, one hundred and eighty-eight pigs and two sheep being burnt to death.

SIBERIAN MATCHES.

Some matches manufactured in Siberia have found their way to Shanghai. The factory is situated in a forest some twelve miles from Vladivostock, and is in charge of an Englishman named Gee, and the workmen are all Chinese. As, however, the Russian Authorities impose a duty on matches, there is not much chance, the *N.-C. Daily News* thinks, of their becoming an article of merchandise on the Shanghai market.

SINKING OF A JAPANESE JUNK.

In the *Mainichi Shimbun* we read that three men of the Wakehama Division in Ehime Prefecture put to sea in a fishing-boat owned by themselves, on the 1st instant, and were accompanied by another man from Gunchu-machi. In the neighbourhood of Mutsukijima the junk was run down by an English vessel, and one of the four men was drowned, the other three being rescued by the colliding ship, which carried them to Moji. There one of the three died. Nothing is said as to the circumstances of the collision.

A SUNKEN SCHOONER.

Mr. P. C. Fullert, Inland Sea Pilot, reports, says the *Nagasaki Express*, that on the 30th ult. he passed close to a schooner sunk in the fairway between the Motoyama Spit Buoy and Shimonoseki Straits. Her two masts show about 15 feet above water. From her position Motoyama bears N.E. ½ E. and Isaki N.W. ¾ W., bearings magnetic.

SEALSKINS.

At the last monthly sale of sealskins in London. Alaska skins sold at $13.60 and Copper Island $11.32, a decline of 15 and 17 per cent. respectively. Washington and British Columbia sent 95,000 of the skins offered to the value of $1,092,200. The losses of Victoria and Seattle sealers through declining values foots up $200,000.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

Rear-Admiral J. S. Skerrett, Lieutenant C. E. Fox, and Lieutenant G. L. Wilson, of the U.S. Squadron on the Asiatic Station, accompanied by the U.S. Minister, Mr. Edwin Dun, proceeded to the Palace on the 15th inst. at 10 a.m., and were received in audience by their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress.

A NEW DOCTOR FOR NAGASAKI.

We find the following in an American paper:—"Dr. Mary A. Suganuma, an American woman who is married to a Japanese gentleman, has been licensed by the Government to practice medicine in Nagasaki. She is the first woman physician ever licensed for that purpose in Japan."

INTERPORT CRICKET.

The inter-settlement cricket match between Penang and Singapore, played at Singapore on 26th and 27th ult., was won by Penang with two wickets to spare, the score being:—Singapore, first innings, 145, second innings, 89; Penang, first innings, 183, second innings, 53 for eight wickets.

CRICKET REPORTERS BEWARE.

The cricket defamation case in Ceylon, in which Mr. Van Geyzel, who umpired for the colts in a match against a European Ceylon team, sued the *Times of Ceylon* for 5,000 rupees damages for defamatory criticism, has resulted in a verdict for 100 rupees damages.

LOSS OF A BRAND-NEW SHIP

Messrs. P. Denniston & Co.'s new ship *Bahama*, which left the Clyde 12th November for New York to load case-oil for Japan, has been abandoned in the North Atlantic in the great gale. She was valued at £18,000, and insured outwards at part 35s. and part 40s. per cent.

VIOLENT FIGHT AT ENOSHIMA.

During the recent big fire at Enoshima a serious fight took place between the firemen of Katase and firemen from Koshigoye. Three men were killed, and nine severely wounded, many others receiving slight injuries.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF SAGA.

Mr. Tanabe Teruzane is gazetted Governor of Saga, in succession to the late Mr. Nagamine.

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COUNT GOTO.

WE have alluded from time to time to rumours current about the impending resignation of Count GOTO, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce. Count GOTO shares the fate of all those who make themselves active in politics—he has many enemies. From the day of the Diet's opening, a species of hue and cry was led against him by that parliamentary paragon, Mr. TANAKA SHOZO, and as nothing is so easy nowadays as to obtain allies in attacking an official, the onslaught upon Count GOTO has grown steadily. Why he should be an object of such keen aversion to a section of the political public, or why he should be considered unfit to hold a portfolio, we have never been able to discover. The fact, however, is beyond question. Even though no other evidence were forthcoming, people's abiding conviction that the Count is on the point of leaving office indicates plainly enough that they wish him to do so. He has, however, one admirable quality, the courage to defy and the constancy to resist malicious criticism. For newspapers, especially newspapers conducted by half-fledged lads, as is the case with such a large section of the vernacular press, he has always avowed in theory and displayed in practice a supreme contempt, and the clamour of party politicians influences him about as much as the baying of a dog in the moonlight. We must confess that this characteristic inspires us with great admiration in these invertebrate times. If the shallow agitators who keep Japan in such a ferment encountered a great many rocks like GOTO SHOJIRO, the current of their brawling would soon be diminished in volume. But unfortunately yielding is the order of the day. It seems to be imagined that now for the first time in the world's history, the appetite of men hungering for office can be satisfied by concessions that bring them neither emolument nor power. Principles and persons alike are sacrificed to fill the maw of this Cerberus, but of course he remains as hungry as ever. Mr. SAITO SHUICHIRO must have been a sweet mouthful, and we had hoped that with his fall the chapter of yielding would be closed. But it seems that Count GOTO also is likely to strike his colours. The Japanese have a proverb which says that mountains grow from mites. It is illustrated by Count GOTO'S case. Having stoutly withstood the hottest attacks of his political opponents, it would appear that he is now to bow his head before a maladroit phrase. In the instructions addressed by him to the officials of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce after the issue of the Imperial Rescript on the subject of official discipline, he stated that he had always impressed upon his subordinates the duty of observing the principle enunciated by HIS MAJESTY. The expression has been construed as an indirect suggestion that the Imperial behest was superfluous, though truly such a criticism sounds exceedingly tenuous. Perhaps, however, it constitutes the last straw. At any rate we gather from an article of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that the Count's stoicism is now for the first time shaken, and that he has placed his resignation in the hands of the Minister President. Whether the SOVEREIGN has accepted it, or whether even it has yet reached the THRONE, our contemporary is careful to avow ignorance. But we can scarcely doubt, in the face of such an article, that Count GOTO'S position in the Cabinet has become very insecure. We regret it. Count GOTO may be an ideal statesman, or he may deserve some of the condemnation heaped upon his head by the TANAKA SHOZO class, but he is at all events one of the makers of the *Meiji* era, and the greatest need that Japan has at present is the union of these men.

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

THE *Kokumin* newspaper publishes a telegram from the Japanese Minister in Washington which runs as follows:—"According to the most recent advices from Hawaii, the QUEEN having agreed to the conditions formulated by the PRESIDENT of the United States, the Representative of the latter called upon the Provisional Government to restore HER MAJESTY. The latter, however, emphatically refused to entertain the proposition, and retains its grasp of the administrative power. The United States Representative in Hawaii has no authority to enforce his demand by arms, and public opinion in America is vehemently opposed to the foreign policy of the PRESIDENT."

It almost seems as though an affair so paltry in itself as the destiny of Hawaii were likely to materially affect the stability of the Democratic Cabinet in America. We English folks are the very last people in the world who have any title to gird at an aggressive policy on the part of another nation. Yet we may be allowed to say that the wonderful forbearance and disinterestedness claimed for the people of the United States in their dealings with foreign countries have always suggested diverting speculation. It is said of the Russian, "Scratch him and you find a Cossack." With equal truth it might, we suspect, be said of the Yankee, "Scratch him and you find an Anglo-Saxon." The gentlest and most courteous of beings so long as his domestic growth was as much as his constitution could stand, he begins at once to show his true disposition so soon as his fully-developed sinews and muscles want exercise abroad. A morsel like Hawaii thrown in his path quickly diverted his feet from the route of strict rectitude, and aroused in him impulses which had been long dormant, but which now enable us to recognize more vividly than ever his kinship with the people of the "tight little island." He is not a bit more honest either in his way of going to work. Like the Englishman, he has a proneness to whet his sword on a bible. The fact that he wants Hawaii for the same reason that makes us all want the delectable things belonging to our neighbours is studiously kept out of sight in discussing his policy toward the little kingdom, and we hear only about the dictates of civilized progress, the duty of protecting the vested interests of the *civis Romanus*, and about other respectable obligations which have always constituted the catechism of the sanctimonious aggressor. Apart from these obvious animadversions, however, it must be frankly admitted that fate has been very unkind to the United States in subjecting her international virtue to such an excruciating test as that of Hawaii. Just fancy what a situation it is. A number of good American citizens having by courageons enterprise and steady toil acquired dominating material interests in Hawaii have quietly displaced the coloured rulers of the islands and established themselves in their stead, thus following faithfully in the footsteps of their countrymen at home who have gradually pushed the copper-coloured aborigines nearly out of existence. There has been no show of violence in Hawaii. If the easy success of a revolution be any test of its propriety, the overthrow of Queen LILIUOKALANI'S monarchical administration by the representatives of a republican policy was a suitable and justified measure. Critics of the occurrence sometimes find ground of objection in the numerical weakness of the party that effected that *coup d'état*. But if a thousand Americans could reconstitute the Hawaiian polity, and can now maintain without difficulty or disturbance the creation of their own hands, that surely, instead of being an argument against them, is, on the contrary, a proof that things were ripe for their exploit. In the face of this accomplished fact, America is required to vindicate her morality by driving her own nationals out of power and re-setting up in their place a semi-barbarous QUEEN and her dusky myrmidons. Could any nation of human beings successfully support such an ordeal? After all, the theory that a country should belong to its countrymen depends primarily upon the hypothesis that its peace and prosperity are best secured by such possession. Is that true of Hawaii? Have not, on the contrary, the material interests of the country fallen into alien hands, and has not the spirit of its institutions been for many years inspired by alien minds? Hawaii is, in fact, Occidental, and though there may be some question which section of the Occident it should ultimately gravitate to, there can be little question that it should not remain Hawaiian. There is much moral hardship for the United

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States in having to make a choice between principles and practice under such circumstances, but of course the world knows how she will choose. The recent landing of a force of English Marines for the protection of British property cannot fail to precipitate America's choice. If President CLEVELAND attempts to employ the military forces of his country, or even to use strong diplomatic pressure for the purpose of restoring the QUEEN, we shall not be surprised to find that he has framed his own impeachment. Meanwhile, Mr. STEVENS, formerly United States Representative in Honolulu, has compiled an indignant reply to the strictures uttered against him in Mr. Secretary GRESHAM'S State Paper, and against the PRESIDENT'S endorsement of those criticisms. Here are some extracts and epitomes of STEVENS' reply as given in a San Francisco contemporary just to hand :—

"President Cleveland's grossly untrue and shamefully unjust allegation against myself and the naval commander rests entirely on the statements of four notoriously corrupt Ministers of the fallen Queen, of Wilson, the Queen's favourite, and other thoroughly discredited testimony.

"I repeat here what has been amply verified again and again, that neither by force or by threat of force, or by any action of mine, was the fall of the monarchy precipitated. For months prior to November, 1892, there had been a continual struggle between the Legislature and the Queen as to their respective rights, and only the remarkable self-possession of the respectable and responsible men of the islands prevented an outbreak at an earlier day.

"Believing that there was no prospect of a difficulty, Stevens left Honolulu on January 4th on a trip to Hilo, returning on January 14th in company with Captain Wiltse, and found the city in great excitement and the tide of revolution already surging. Stevens attempted to gain access to the Queen and try by friendly advice to arrest the revolution, but it was too late to prevent the carrying out of her plan for overturning the Constitution. What took place on the afternoon of January 14th ended the monarchy forever."

Stevens quotes Chief Justice Judd, a supporter of the monarchy, in denouncing the falsity of the charge that the Queen was driven from the throne by American force, or threat of force in any form or manner.

As to the landing of the *Boston's* marines, Stevens says he only did what Minister Merrill did, acting under the orders of Cleveland and Bayard, August 1, 1889, that is, he had the marines landed in anticipation of turbulence on shore and for the preservation of order.

Stevens characterizes as absurd the President's statement that the Queen and Wilson had at the police station a sufficient force to sustain the monarchy.

There never was a more preposterous assumption than this assertion of the President that the Queen on January 17th had ample force to sustain her and to enable her to carry on the Government. This studiously maintained assumption of the President is based on the testimony of notoriously corrupt representatives of the ring that surrounded the Queen. That the Hawaiian monarchy was overturned by the United States forces was and is put forth for the sole purpose of bringing discredit on the preceding Administration at Washington and on the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate in favour of annexation.

JAPANESE PAINTINGS IN GERMANY.

THE results of the exhibition of paintings in Munich last year were not such as to encourage a belief that Germany offers an appreciative market for the products of Japanese fine art. We nevertheless read in a vernacular newspaper that several European dealers are busily engaged searching for Japanese pictures in Germany. The reason assigned is that, apart from the artistic value set upon the pictures, the skill shown in their colouring is taken as a model by German artists, and they are consequently in large demand. This applies chiefly to the master-pieces of former days, but the same authority assures us that the works of living Japanese artists also are highly appreciated, and that several of the pictures sent to the Chicago Exhibition from Japan have contributed largely to stimulate German admiration. A Japanese Consul resident in Germany is said to have addressed to the Government in Tokyo a report urging the advisability of taking advantage of this opportunity to send a number of Japanese paintings for exhibition either in Berlin or Munich. He predicts that if this be done, a large demand will soon be created. We should be sorry to say anything calculated to discourage enterprise of such a character, but it must be confessed that this Consul is imbued with a spirit more sanguine than the results of Japanese efforts in the direction he indicates seem to warrant. Among the pictures hitherto sent, whether to England, Germany, France, or the United States, the great majority have always remained unsold. This was notably the case at the Munich Exhibition last year, although the pictures sent there, with one or two exceptions, were selected by persons competent to cater for Western taste, and ought to have succeeded if any Japanese paintings can succeed. Further, it is scarcely conceivable that the display made by Japan at Chicago can have produced any marked effect in Germany, for although some of the Chicago paintings were admirable, others by no means reached so high a standard, and the effect of the whole was marred by excessive ambition. A Japanese painting is after all a slight affair. It presents none of the grand emotional effects and seldom anything of the rich colouring that appeal to European eyes whether from the connoisseur's or the house-furnisher's point of view. The Japanese themselves were undoubtedly sensible of this in former years. The delicate taste shown by them in mounting and framing their pictures left nothing to be desired. They never made the mistake of killing a sketch in water colours by a breadth of border or magnificence of frame which only the strongest oil-painting could successfully endure. But since the Art School at Uyeno came into existence, and since the inauguration of an attempt to engraft Occidental styles upon Japanese painting, the directors of the movement appear to have made the mistake of supposing that the mechanical adjuncts of the picture might be carried at once to full development before the picture itself had attained a corresponding standard. To this premature ambition is due the fact that the pictures sent to Chicago had colossal frames and acres of margin, the impression conveyed in many instances being that a feeble embryo of effort had been set in a waste of adult garments. Strangely enough, American criticism has not yet been directed, so far as we know, to this palpable error, but it is certain that any just sense of proportion must have been outraged by such an open attempt to achieve large results with inadequate means. We do not believe that the German public can have been suddenly startled into admiration by the Chicago display, or that Berlin yet offers any very promising market to Japanese artists. After all, in this unhappily constituted world of ours, much more than half of the battle depends upon adroit advertising. Ninety-nine persons out of every hundred among the general public have absolutely no competence to estimate the merits of a painting. Their taste, or rather their fancy, is guided entirely by the opinion of men who pass for critics and by the interested praise of the press. Japan owes nine-tenths of the favour that her works of art enjoy in the West to the enthusiasm of a few European or American lovers who from time to time have taken the world into their emotional confidence by means of the printing press. People as a rule decline to think, and require to be thought for. Japan will by and by find that she owes more to the writings and *réunions* of the Japan Society in London and of English and French dilettanti than to anything done by herself in Chicago or Munich. It is the old story—united we stand, divided we fall. In honest cöoperation with Western fellow-workers, she can make a success along many lines, whereas, though her own unassisted efforts may succeed at last, it will certainly be a very long "at last."

EDUCATIONAL BILLS.

THE Diet, in the session just concluded, had before it for consideration, two most interesting bills on education the details of which we give elsewhere, together with explanatory remarks from the pen of a Japanese correspondent. With the first bill we cannot fail to be in sympathy. That anybody should be set down to teach a school of obstreperous youngsters at nine dollars a month, seems to be a very uncivilized state of affairs. On the other hand, the national burdens are already very heavy, and Japanese legislators would do wisely to look askance at anything that is likely to prove a permanent addition to the obligations of the State. There must undoubtedly be a system of primary education. Every child has a right to receive from the State those elementary principles which shall enable it to read, write, and keep accounts, and to make some use of that varied mass of information which the experience of daily life is continually bringing to its eyes and ears (we might almost

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add, its nose). But here we conceive the duty of the State stops. If anything more than the indispensible elements are wanted, it is for the individual and not for the State to pay. Middle schools, schools for the education of the sons of gentry and nobles, schools for the promotion of that liberal education which one of our Japanese correspondents characterizes as unproductive, are the concern of the wealthier classes, and the individuals affected can very well afford to pay for them. The more the State does for the higher liberal education, the less in the long run do the people care for it. And the larger the number of poor students educated at Government expense, wholly or partly, the greater becomes the number of discontented graduates who in the course of years expect to be provided with berths. No really deserving student of humble means will ever fail to rise under a voluntary system of higher education. To have to struggle for promotion is very often the making of a man: seldom does such a struggler fail to find a generous hand to give him a lift, and in the good old days of England there were just as many men of humble origin that rose to distinction as there are now. The tendency of a Government system of higher education is to produce a dull uniformity which is really very bad. Let a man examine the results of twenty-five years educational work in some highly educational parts of America and Canada and he will see what we mean. The best liberal education there is not given by the State. It is coming into private hands. There comes, however, a point in the higher education where State aid can be given with the greatest advantage. It is often out of the power of private institutions to equip themselves with those expensive appliances which are necessary for giving a thorough technical education in special branches. It is a costly process to fit up laboratories and establish industrial and training schools, and very often the State is the only body that can successfully undertake such a thing. This is especially the case in a comparatively poor country like Japan. But money so spent is almost directly reproductive. The graduates of such institutions have no need to hang round for the Government to give them small berths in the various Departments. They are in a position to go away with their graduation-certificates in their pockets, and achieve an honourable independence, whilst developing the resources of the country that has helped to educate them. If the State would recognize its duty to see to the elementary education of the whole mass of its people, and at the same time to keep the State-given education strictly elementary; and would further devote its care to the founding, maintenance, and fostering of places of technical and industrial studies, it might safely, specially in a literature-loving, art-loving country like this, leave the liberal education of her sons and daughters to the generous instincts of individual subjects. We think that then there might be a few *yen* to add to the incomes of the poor, worried, elementary teachers.

BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN AMERICA.

NEW YORK newspapers continue to predict a speedy revival of business throughout the United States, and the *Herald* recently devoted several pages to a series of reports from important centres, in which glowing expectations of every kind were confidently set forth. But an examination of the records most readily accessible—those of the railway transactions—fails to support so hopeful a view. In this branch of trade, at least, few encouraging signs appear. The list of disasters is not yet complete, though toward the end of last year it was announced that no less than seventy-one roads had gone into the hands of receivers within five months. The depreciation in the market value of bonds and stocks is enormous. The Northern Pacific and its dependencies afford a striking example. Five per cent. thousand dollar bonds which sold at $800 a year ago can now scarcely find purchasers at $350, the company having defaulted on the interest. A similar decline is visible in the securities of all corporations suspected of inability to meet their obligations, and only a few of those which are most deeply established in public confidence, like the Vanderbilt lines, have escaped the general depression. The shares of many roads hitherto considered above distrust have fallen from ten to twenty per cent., and no satisfactory evidence of reaction has thus far declared itself. There are, of course, great opportunities for people who know where to find them, and who can afford to wait for the results of their investments. Speculators with money in hand can buy almost anything, virtually on their own terms. Property-holders lose largely on the majority of sales they are forced to make. The relations between capital and labour are no better than half a year ago, and it is officially stated that in Chicago alone there are one hundred thousand people unemployed. Congress is blamed on all sides for its backwardness in adjusting the tariff question, and the conviction is general that until employers and employés know definitely what they are to expect, and how they may accommodate themselves to the new enactments, the distress and agitation must continue. Looking beneath the surface, little, unfortunately, can yet be seen to justify the cheerful prophecies of optimistic newspapers. The downward course may or may not have been arrested, but the reverse movement cannot truly be said to have begun.

FOREIGNERS FROM A JAPANESE POINT OF VIEW.

HERE is a translation of an editorial paragraph from the *Niroku Shimpo*, the interest of which centres on the fact that it shows some of the queer notions entertained by Japanese about foreigners and their doings:—"The strict enforcement of the Treaties, being nothing more or less than a method of asserting our rights, should not inspire any special solicitude. Nevertheless, the foreign residents in our country having no real acquaintance with the mood of the Japanese people, regard this strict-enforcement movement as a recrudescence of the old barbarian-expelling fever, and appear to be much concerned about it. Among the foreigners living in Yokohama, some of those who have acquired land in the name of their Japanese paramours, are men with very little sense of shame, but others are persons of excellent disposition, who, liking Japanese customs and Japanese character, have pledged themselves to Japanese women, and have acquired land with the intention of residing permanently in the country. These latter are in the majority. They do not consider it anything very extraordinary, so far as Japan is concerned, that they should thus violate the principles of strict morality, but being sensible that if a knowledge of their doings percolated amongst their own countrymen, they would find themselves seriously disgraced, the prospects of strict treaty enforcement cause them great concern. They are reported to be saying amongst themselves that if that old *soshi* ABEI and that rebel OI continue their agitation, the ultimate result will be a revival of the old conflagrations and roadside murders that once created a reign of terror. In view of such a conjuncture, they are vying with each other to dispose of their lands and are making preparations to escape from the country. The consequence is that in the interval between the introduction of the strict-enforcement motion in the Lower House and the present time, the price of land in Yokohama has fallen thirty per cent. But if the effect of the movement has been thus unpleasant for one side, it has been more or less advantageous for the other. At the time when the strict-enforcement Representation made its appearance in the Diet, the Government adopted the special precaution of posting a police-guard at the Legations of the various Foreign Powers in Tokyo. By all the Ministers except the Chinese Representative these guards were gladly accepted, from which fact it may be inferred that, contrary to the supposition of our countrymen, the Foreign Ministers are greatly perturbed about this strict-enforcement question, and appearances indicate, we are told, that the incident is exercising a most beneficial effect upon the progress of the negotiations which Mr. MUTSU,

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Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, is now conducting."

In these comments the editor of the *Niroku* soars distinctly above the average of thoughtlessness and blundering usually attained by vernacular newspapers in discussing foreign questions, and by foreign newspapers in discussing Japanese. There is not a pin's point of choice between the two. Prejudice and silliness grace their columns in equal degrees. But the *Niroku*, in this particular instance, reaches an elevation of error that invites comment. One would imagine from our contemporary's remarks that a majority of the foreign residents in the Treaty Ports had acquired land in the names of Japanese mistresses, thus at once circumventing the law and setting at naught the canons of decency. It will be observed that these enterprising persons receive at least the credit of shunning publicity, and that our kind contemporary regards them as good men who do evil in secret. For that we should be grateful. There is no occasion, however, to discuss here the relative standards of morality applied to their lives by foreigners and Japanese. What we have to note is the singular misconception that numbers of foreigners hold real estate outside the Settlements in the names of Japanese mistresses. There are such persons of course. But how many? Truly we doubt whether ten examples could be found among the whole foreign community of Yokohama. We ourselves have no actual knowledge of a single case, though rumour asserts that they exist. We do not hesitate to declare our conviction that the writer of the *Niroku's* paragraph could not name half a dozen. The whole thing is a veritable bagatelle, not worth a moment's consideration. Besides, when such transactions are entered into by foreigners, their object is not to acquire large landed estates in Japan for themselves, but merely to procure summer resorts where a brief respite can be obtained from the turmoil of business and the heat of the Settlements, or to invest small sums for the permanent benefit of the Japanese in whose names the lands are registered. Strict enforcement of the Treaties would not disturb these folks in the smallest degree, or subject them to any inconvenient exposure. Their transactions are within the letter of the law, and not all the Bills that the Diet might pass could cause them a qualm. The agitation against them is petty and contemptible in the extreme. But if we feel justified in protesting against the *Niroku's* exaggerations about the immorality of the foreign residents, still more strenuously do we deny the silly assertion that the community of Yokohama has been thrown into a state of perturbation by the doings of Messrs. ABEI and OI, and that, owing to a general desire to escape from a country where alien life and property are so insecure, the price of land in the Settlement has fallen some thirty per cent. It is true that English journals published in Yokohama disgrace the manhood and discernment of their editors and endeavour to delude their readers by hysterical caricatures of the situation, and by studied efforts to show that anti-foreign feeling is wide-spread among the Japanese, and that the people are at heart opposed to mixed residence. But these mischief-makers no more represent the cool, level-headed, fearless Britisher than Messrs. ABEI and OI—truly we must apologise to the former for coupling his name with the latter—represent the typical friendly, hospitable, and progressive Japanese. The *Niroku* is singularly deluded if it imagines that British subjects misconstrue the genuine sentiments of the Japanese people, or have lost any particle of confidence in the ability and good-faith of the Japanese Authorities to protect them, and in the competence of their own Government to assert their rights We can scarcely bring ourselves to extend serious treatment to all this hyperbole and hysteria, yet to leave it wholly unnoticed may be to promote its growth. Finally, as to our contemporary's allegation that the Foreign Representatives gladly accepted guards for their Legations at the time of the Strict-Enforcement Representation, and are so perturbed as to have perceptibly relaxed their obduracy in the matter of Treaty Revision, it is a laughable falsehood. No guards were offered or accepted, and if any Japanese imagines that the Representatives of the Great Western Powers can be intimidated into sacrificing the interests of their nationals, the sooner the mischievous delusion is dispelled, the better for Japan. The Foreign Representatives are perfectly friendly to Japan, and during several years past have met her with sympathy and consideration. What may happen is, not that their sense of duty towards their countrymen will be shaken by paltry displays of petulance on the part of a few Japanese, but that their amicable desire to aid Japan's praiseworthy aspirations will be alienated by the misrepresentations of journals like the *Niroku Shimpo*, or checked by agitation such as Messrs. ABEI and OI foment.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

JAPAN AND THE TREATIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The turmoil over mixed residence and the strict enforcement of the Treaties has now assumed such importance that it demands serious consideration from all well-wishers of Japan. Though a foreigner, one having no vested interests in the country, the writer will not yield one iota to the most patriotic subject of the empire in solicitude for the best interests of the people and institutions of this land of the Rising Sun. Therefore he presumes to call attention to what has not presented itself to the great mass of the nation who have given ear to the wild diatribes of the arch-agitators on the subject of the "Strict Enforcement of the Treaties," *i.e.* that it would prove disastrous to Japan if a strict application could be enforced. It would be instructive to know just how many agitators on this subject have an intelligent knowledge of the treaties they talk so glibly about. To know the general fact that Treaties have been entered into is one thing, to know the significance of the terms of the treaties is quite another matter. It is, perhaps, quite useless to attempt the education of those who are anxious to engender prejudice and discontent against the Government, ignoring the fact that they are entirely ignorant of the merits of the subject they rant about. Let me give to those who would tear down the fabric of amicable relations now existing, but not contemplated when the treaties were negotiated, a clear and concise statement of the instruments, the exact stipulations which they would see strictly enforced. Perchance they may appreciate the fact that a literal application of the terms of the Treaties by the Western Powers might embarrass Japanese very much more than Europeans can be embarrassed in Japan. The Treaties interpret themselves—they are clear on all matters to which they refer. Let us see what they are—premising that they were made at a time and by men who could have had no idea of Japan ever receiving any benefits from the nations with which they were negotiated. It will be seen that there is only a spirit of concession running through them all. At the time most of the Treaties were made, Japan did not desire to enter into fraternal relations with the western world; an aversion of the foreigner pervaded the nation; the emigration of the people was strictly prohibited by the Government; all that was desired by the treaty negotiators was to grant as few privileges as possible while they had no desire for any reciprocal advantages. The future to them was to be as the past had been, isolation as far as possible. The world of the west was to be kept as far as possible where it had been kept for two centuries and a half. The first Treaty negotiated in 1854, only stipulated for the privileges to be accorded to shipwrecked seamen and to ships entering the ports of Shimoda and Hakodate. The Treaty made with Great Britain, also in 1854, was of the same tenor. In 1855 Russia made a Treaty, the stipulations of which were that Russian ships might visit the ports of Hakodate, Shimoda, and Nagasaki, and also that "Russian subjects living in Japan, and Japanese subjects living in Russia will be treated kindly and with leniency, and will be subjected to no restriction of liberty; should they offend against the laws, however, they will be corrected and punished according to the laws of their own country."

On June 17th, 1857, Townsend Harris, acting for the Government of the United States, concluded another Treaty, wherein it was stipulated that "American citizens committing offences in Japan shall be tried by the American Consul-General, and punished according to American laws."

Article VI. of that Treaty reads as follows:—"The Government of Japan admits the right of his Excellency the Consul General of the United States to go beyond the limits of seven *ri*, but has asked him to delay the use of that right, except in cases of emergency, shipwreck, &c., to which he has assented."

On October 24th, 1857, Russia made a second Treaty, the principal stipulations of which related to the methods to be pursued in prosecuting Russian trade by Russian vessels, in the ports of Hakodate and Nagasaki.

So far as Treaties are in evidence, there are no stipulations granting residence to the citizens of the countries with which they were negotiated up to this time.

On July 29th, 1858, a treaty was made by Townsend Harris, Consul-General of the United States, wherein it was stipulated, Article I., "That the President of the United States may appoint a diplomatic agent to reside at the City of Yedo, and Consul or Consular Agent to reside at any or all of the ports in Japan which are opened for American commerce by this Treaty. The Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General of the United States shall have the right of travel freely in any part of the Empire of Japan, from the time they enter on the discharge of the official duties. The Government of Japan may appoint a Diplomatic Agent to reside at Washington, and Consuls or Consular agents for any or all of the ports of the United States; the Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General of Japan, may travel freely in any part of the United States from the time they arrive in the country."

Article III. stipulates for the opening of the port of Kanagawa on the 4th of July, and Nagasaki on the same day, 1859, Niigata on the 1st of January, 1860, and Hiogo on the 1st of January, 1863. That "in all the foregoing ports and towns, American citizens may permanently reside. On the 1st of January, 1862, Americans shall be allowed

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to live in Yedo, and from the 1st of January, 1863, in the city of Osaka, for the purposes of trade only.

Article X. stipulates that "The Japanese Government may purchase or construct in the United States ships of war, steamers, merchant ships, whale-ships, cannon, munitions of war, and arms of all kinds, and any other thing it may require. It shall have the right to engage in the United States, scientific, Naval and Military men, artisans of all kinds, and mariners to enter into its service. All purchases made for the Government of Japan may be exported from the United States, and all persons engaged for its service may freely depart from the United States."

So far as the United States is compromised in the Treaties it has negotiated, Japan is guaranteed the right to appoint a Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General who may travel freely in any part of the United States; Japan may appoint Consuls and Consular Agents for any or all of the ports of the United States, but there is no stipulation for their free exercise of travel in the United States; there is no concession or stipulation allowing Japanese, other than a Diplomatic Agent, Consuls, or Consular Agents, to reside in the United States. The Government was not then casting about for countries to which the teeming population might emigrate—the policy was at that time to keep all Japanese at home. Then it was "Japanese for Japan" as it now is "Japan for Japanese."

I have had occasion in a former communication to refer to the fact that there was a sentiment in the United States antagonistic to the residence of the Chinese there; that Chinese labourers are denied admittance into the country. Now let the agitators for a strict enforcement of treaty stipulations where Americans are involved, conclude for themselves what action the United States could take if she so decided, and yet be strictly within the lines of the Treaties—under a strict construction not a Japanese could claim the privilege of residence in the United States, and they might all be deported, Japan being unable to offer the least objection. The treaties guarantee the privilege of residence to Americans in the open ports of Japan; in the United States there is not a foot of territory upon which a Japanese can put his foot if a strict enforcement of the treaties are decided upon.

In 1858, August 26, a treaty with Great Britain was negotiated at Yedo. Article II. of that Treaty stipulates:—"Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland may appoint a Diplomatic Agent to reside at the city of Yedo, and Consuls or Consular Agent to reside at any or all of the ports of Japan which are opened to British commerce by the Treaty. The Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General of Great Britain shall have the right to travel freely to any part of the Empire. His Majesty the Tycoon of Japan may appoint a Diplomatic Agent to reside in London, and Consuls or Consular Agents, at any or all the ports of Great Britain. The Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General of Japan shall have the right to travel freely to any part of Great Britain."

Article III. stipulates concerning the privileges allowed the subjects of Great Britain in the ports and towns open to foreign trade. There is no privilege granted in this Treaty to other Japanese than a Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General to travel in Great Britain, and no privilege granted to Japanese other than a Diplomatc Agent, Consuls or Consular Agent to reside in Great Britain.

The Austro-Hungarian Treaty signed October 18th, 1869, stipulates in Article XIII. that "All Japanese subjects may, on condition of observing the laws, visit the Austro-Hungarian Empire as well as the open ports of Japan, and there transact business with citizens of the said Empire" &c.

Article II. stipulates in the last paragraph:—"The Diplomatic Agent and the Consular officers of Japan shall, under the condition of reciprocity, enjoy in the territory of the Austro-Hungarian Empire the same rights, previleges, and immunities which those of any other Power now enjoy or may hereafter enjoy."

This Treaty is the first one in which the privilege is accorded to Japanese subjects, other than Diplomatic Agents and Consular officers, to visit or reside in the country of the Treaty Power. It is to be seen, in the light of the Proclamation made on the 23rd of May, 1866, that the desire of the Japanese Government was to prevent its subjects from visiting Occidental lands prior to the time of its promulgation.

What would a strict application of the letter of the Treaties, as they are, result in? Foreigners in Japan could be confined to the Treaty ports as permanent residents, with the privilege to go anywhere within the radius of ten *ri* for purposes of recreation. Travellers would have to resort to steamer accommodation to remove from one open port to another, that and that only. Japanese subjects would be denied all access to the United States and Europe, with the exception of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which they may visit.

When the matter is fully thought over it must be apparent to these men, who now read, probably for the first time, that it was to the intervention of Treaty stipulations with the Austro-Hungarian Empire, that their fathers and themselves were first permitted to visit the opens ports of their own loved Japan to transact business without official espionage.

The agitators who are so strenuous in their demands would do well to digest the full import of the measures they propose. They should weigh well the gains and possible losses that may ensue. They should read and re-read the admirable document read by His Excellency Mr. Mutsu to the members of Parliament prior to its prorogation.

Yours truly, X.

Yokohama, January 12th, 1894.

AN UNNECESSARY OBSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I beg space in your columns to point out to the Kencho Authorities (in any other country I should appeal to the Police, but from what I have seen of the Yokohama Force I am convinced that course would be useless), that the long row of *jinrikisha* outside the Grand Hotel, in Water-Street, is a great nuisance, taking up as it does a large portion of a very narrow thoroughfare. Much of the traffic from the Bund and Creek-side and nearly all that over the Yato Bridge from the Bluff turns into Water-Street and produces congestion, and liability to accident. So far as I can see, there is no recognised "stand" outside the Grand Hotel, so far as Water-Street is concerned, but if there is, there ought not to be. It is no place for a *jinrikisha* stand, and, moreover, there is plenty of room inside the hotel compound for all the *kuruma* required, when the number standing for the hotel on the Bund is taken into consideration.

Yours, &c., FOUR-WHEELER.

January 16th, 1894.

"HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The article in your editorial columns yesterday under the above heading may not be passed without protest. In its conclusions concerning the policy of the United States towards Hawaii, it is, in Yankee slang, "altogether too previous." Moreover, the sarcastic flings of the pen which gave shape to its "diverting speculation" upon "the wonderful forbearance and disinterestedness claimed for the United States in their dealings with foreign countries," ill grace your journal. In fact, too, neither history nor the present mood of the people of America justifies your writer's statements. I spent a large part of the past year in the United States, and was twice at Honolulu, where I met representative men, within and outside the present party in political control of the islands. I know that last year public opinion in America did not favour the proposed annexation of Hawaii to the American Union. I know also that the revolution in Hawaii was in its origin the inevitable revolt of an outraged people, who happened to be largely of American descent, for the sake of self-preservation and the general welfare. But with the Hawaiian revolution I am not now especially concerned. That follows the course civilization has been taking for thousands of years, the world around. Hawaii will at last receive place among the conquests of civilized man, as has happened already in both hemispheres with many other countries. Fortunate will Hawaii be if this conquest secures for all its inhabitants a thorough autonomy. The wish expressed in this last sentence was, I know, the general wish of the American public but a few months ago. The people of the United States have not desired to incorporate these islands into their own body politic. The difficulty has lain in the honest but mistaken effort of President Cleveland to restore the Queen who was, by an unsought necessity, expelled from her basely-used throne. If he had best seen his way clear to help forward a strong protectorate which would secure autonomy for the Hawaiian people, native and of foreign origin as well, Congress and the public sentiment would overwhelmingly have supported his acts. But by his mistaken zeal he would remand the islands to political corruption of the worst kind, and, yet worse, to a revival of savagery. President Cleveland apparent, first, because of the sin in itself of breaking thus missed his great opportunity, and now, none of us can tell how far the aroused indignation of the American people will carry them. It may bring about more American interference in Hawaii, than generally thought desirable last year. I hope otherwise. A quasi protectorate may be as far as governmental action will go. But this far it should go. A government, voicing the will of all intelligent, order-loving inhabitants of the islands, without distinction of race, should be assumed. This end, I think, the Americans will bring to pass. Meanwhile, it is only just to all parties interested that we, in our ignorance of what is going on, should not seek to anticipate the end, and especially that we should not indulge in gratuitous comments upon the suppositious conduct of a great nation which has never yet gone beyond its own continental limits in quest of territory with which to aggrandize itself.

Yours very truly, CLAY MacCAULEY.

Tokyo, January 16th, 1894.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Your article regarding Hawaiian affairs, in your paper of 15th inst., was most interesting to me, as, by last mail from the U.S. I received a letter on the same subject, and while you think the spirit of aggression abroad among the Yankees, my correspondent puts a different construction on the desire to acquire Hawaii. He states the general opinion seems to be that the U.S. must have sole control in self-defence, and keep them out of the clutches of "the people of the tight little island." I will quote from his letter:—

"The general opinion seems to be that we must depart from our policy of non-interference in the case of the Sandwich Islands—and although one rarely sees anything in the papers of the real feeling, it appears to be this. The U.S. has a long seaboard on the Atlantic and Pacific. On the Atlantic, we are already in too close proximity to our so-called cousins—who showed their animus during our civil war. * * * * Bermuda and Halifax are two strongholds, kept up on account of the U.S. Strong fortifications, dry and wet docks, coal and munitions of war in large quantities; a perfect base of supplies and every facility for a fleet. The two harbours of refuge and supplies are connected by a private cable. On our North is Canada, with supplies in large quantities at Montreal and other places; a railway to the Pacific; and at Esquimalt another strongly fortified harbour with docks, shops, etc. If the British could get Hawaii it would soon be another Bermuda, and a private cable from Esquimalt via Honolulu to Australia, would be the result. We should be surrounded, for even in the Gulf of Mexico the "land grabbers" are *en evidence*. It is nonsense to disguise the truth and try to make out that Americans and English love each other. They do not, and I cannot see why they should. What has there been in the past, from our birth to the present, to cause a feeling of love? We can and do respect them for many things, but we do not like them. If Russia had a better Government and her people were better colonizers, we Yanks would not mind her having the Islands very much, because she would be a buffer state and she had always been friendly to us—not that we have anything in common except England. We are rich and powerful, and Russia does not believe there is much love between ourselves and our cousins over the water."

From the tone of my friend's letter I hardly think the "spirit of aggression" is so much abroad in the U.S. as you appear to think. It is more a feeling that, should the misfortune of war with Great Britain overtake us, our Atlantic coast is in danger, and while what is past cannot be helped, we need not be so short-sighted now as to let her hem us in on the Pacific also.

Enclosing my card, I am, Sir, yours truly,

H.

Yokohama, January 17th, 1894.

"BE SUBJECT UNTO THE HIGHER POWERS."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The above was spoken in reference to the civil government. Paul in writing the Church at Rome requests them to be law-abiding, that "every soul be subject to the powers that be." This has been the duty of the Christian in all countries from that day hence. There is only one exception. When the civil law comes in conflict with the divine, then with Peter we should say, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5, 25). Apart from this a Christian is no more at liberty to break the law of the land than the law of God. This is

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ing law; and second, if man will not obey the civil law when contrary to his wishes, neither will he obey the Law of God. A signal case has come within my own experience. On first coming to this country, some two years ago, it was thought desirable to live in the interior, so not knowing so well the nature of the case, as the custom is, the first thing was to have a passport. When it was granted, by inquiry it was found to have been obtained on a false pretence. To this I objected. But the Japanese friend insisted that there was nothing wrong in it, that the gospel was the only thing for the salvation of the people; to carry them the gospel I must be among them; but I could not be among them without a passport; therefore to obtain a passport in this way was allowable under the circumstances. He argued further that the law on this subject was a mere form and it was not expected that it should be obeyed. The reply was, that to accept a passport on such grounds would be to live on the top of a falsehood and that as long as such form of law existed, so far as I was concerned, it must be obeyed.

How did this Japanese friend regard the law of God at the time? It is reasonable to suppose that he would look upon it in the same way and so he did. He claimed that the ordinance of baptism was a mere form and if the heart was right it mattered not whether one was sprinkled, poured upon, or immersed, "If the heart is right." Here is exactly the point called in question. Can a man's heart be right when it counts the law of the covenant wherewith it was sanctified an unholy thing and does despite to the spirit of grace? The heart is not right till it obeys from the heart that form of doctrine delivered as not a mere form but a special divinely set form.

But we can do so much more good by living among the people than by being located at an open port. This depends altogether on what is considered "good." One may be in more intimate contact with the people it is true; but intimate contact with the people may not always be for good. Suppose they say as you pass the street, there goes a foreigner who is daily breaking the law of our country and yet he brings us Christianity. If this is Christianity we do not want it, it is not suitable to our country. Then suppose if others should adopt Christianity and become nominal Christians how would they, from the practical lesson of their teacher, regard the law of the Bible? Precisely in the same way. It is simply a theory, a beautiful theory to be talked about and taught but not to be obeyed, "Ye are our epistle," says Paul, "known and read of all men." Nothing is truer than that the Church is judged according to the conduct of its members, and estimated according to the standard of their moral and Christian integrity.

But again it is objected that we must not have too tender consciences on this question, that the Bill now before the House to enforce the treaty law does not apply to missionaries, but merchants and others. Now can this be, since the law takes no account of religion one way or another? Besides, are we to conclude that sinners are to observe the laws of the land, but Christians can break them with impunity; and that because we are Christians we are to be lawless, while those making no pretentions to a righteous life in Christ are to be law-abiding? Such some would have us believe. To my mind there has been scarcely any one thing more hurtful to Christianity and degrading to the Christian character than this disregard for the law of the land in which we live and labour.

In what has been said in the foregoing it is in no wise intended to encourage that unwarranted hostility against Christians now so prevalent among the Japanese people. I would rather exhort those wearing the name of Christ to give less occasion to have our good evil-spoken-of, to give offence to neither Jew nor Greek nor the Church of God.

Yours, &c., J. M. McCALEB.

No. 12, Tsukiji, Tokyo.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—As was demonstrated in my last communication reviewing the letter of the treaty—for the concessions and privileges granted to the subjects and citizens of the various Treaty Powers by Japan, the only concession Japan asked for, or received, under Treaty stipulations was the privilege of purchasing or constructing in the United States ships of war, steamers, merchant-ships, whale-ships, cannon munitions of war, and arms of all kinds, and any other thing it may require, and the right to engage in the United States, scientific, naval and military men, artisans of all kinds, and mariners to enter into its service, and all purchases made by the Government of Japan to be exported from the United States, and all persons engaged for its service should be free to depart from the United States. There is no stipulation that Japanese subjects should have the right to transact any other business. In the Austro-Hungarian treaty it only stipulates that Japanese subjects may visit the Empire of Austro-Hungary for the purpose of purchasing Austro-Hungarian merchandise. The advocates of direct trade may make a note of that in their own interest.

That Japanese subjects have had free access to the United States and Europe is because of the solicitude of the nations to accord to them all the rights and privileges accorded to the subjects and citizens of the most favoured nations. There never was any attempt made to curtail the free exercise of personal freedom by the subject of the Japanese Empire in Europe or the United States. That the Austro-Hungarian treaty stipulates that Japanese subjects shall be allowed to visit that Empire is evidence of that. The Treaties need to be revised, if they are to be strictly enforced first, not that Japan may regain her rights, but that her subjects may be accorded as a right what they now enjoy solely by sufferance. The United States has never refused to comply with the stipulations of her Treaty. Austro-Hungary granted no rights to Japan, but obtained a limited freedom for Japanese subjects. Japan needs the recognition of rights and privileges for her subjects that are accorded to the subjects of the most favoured nations. True she would gain nothing but what she now enjoys, but the tenure would be one of right rather than sufferance.

I read that some, or one, of the Japanese papers, urges that the Navy of the Empire be increased, that Japan may be in a position to recover her Treaty rights. Will any Japanese tell me what rights have been withheld from her that were guaranted by the Treaties. Every privilege enjoyed by foreigners in Japan outside the strict letter of the Treaties has been accorded to them by the gracious consent of the Government.

Extra-territoriality to become a feature of the past, and the recovery of her right to make her own tariff regulations, is what Japan is seeking for. To recover jurisdiction over foreigners is to recover a right she by Treaty divested herself of, but not to recover a treaty right. To gain the consent of the Treaty Powers that she may enact her own tariff rates and regulations is not to recover any Treaty right, because she never divested herself of that right permanently—as she did with her right of jurisdiction over foreigners. Tariff negotiations were to be resumed at the option of either Japan or the treaty powers upon due notice being given. Under the stipulations of the Treaties Japan can demand a remodelling of her tariff: she cannot do so regarding extraterritoriality, she can only ask that the right to bring all persons within the bounds of the Empire under her laws may be restored to her, but not as a Treaty right.

To badger and molest a man is not the best way to obtain his friendship. A man strong enough to cope with any other man, may be scant of courtesy with him, but when he finds himself confronted with a dozen men more stalwart than himself, prudence dictates that he be at least civil, not obtrusively aggressive. To assert her jurisdiction over foreigners despite the Treaty might bring complications. To assert her rights to enact her own tariff rates and regulations would not, in all probability, cause a Treaty Power to remonstrate. Extraterritoriality is what the foreigner clings to, the present temper of the Japanese people will make him more steadfast in his tenacity to hold on to that as long as possible.

If the Government proves itself able to control the turbulent element now working so much mischief, confidence will be soon restored; for it is to the Government the foreigners naturally look for indications illustrating the measure of security there is for them under the institutions of the country. An anti-foreign sentiment among the people will not achieve what it so ardently desires. Fraternity will do more than antagonism to settle the vexed question of Treaty Revision.

Yours respectfully, X.

Yokohama, January 15th, 1894.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—To compel all foreigners to live within the limits of the open ports, would entail a certain amount of loss to those who are now established in domiciles outside the foreign concessions. What the number may be I do not know, but it must be very much less than the number who are permanent residents within treaty limits. The number of those outside treaty limits holding real property in Japanese names must be inconsiderable. Two hundred thousand dollars would probably more than cover the entire amount of actual money loss, but loss of occupations, or employment would, if it left them without resources, prove a serious matter to them, necessitating their leaving the country. To the proprietors of real property in the settlements it would be a veritable boon, as it would enhance the value of their holdings immensely. The value of land would advance rapidly and rents would go up and riches would flow in upon them who are masters of the situation; the gain to the holders of lands and houses in the settlements would cover the losses of the unfortunates who would have to leave the interior, very many times over. Really the land-owners of the settlements should be more anxious to have the treaties strictly enforced than the most rabid Japanese. There is money in it for them. Japanese have everything to loose and nothing to gain; they do not hold real estate in the settlements, and the disbursements now made by the foreigner in the interior, which are conducive to the prosperity of the locality where foreigners congregate, would be lost to them. Railway receipts would shrink; hotel proprietors who have been entertaining foreigners would sigh. The money spent by foreign travellers, amounting to millions of dollars yearly, would cease to flow into the coffers of the small traders throughout the interior. The Imperial Hotel in Tokyo would have to close its portals against foreigners, very much to the satisfaction of the hotel proprietors of Yokohama and the hotel in Tsukiji. The loss to Japanese railroads would be the gain of foreign steamships; to render life a burden to a newcomer would work to the advantage of the old resident. There being a limit to the confines of the open ports where merchants can find accommodation for their warehouses, the present occupants would be dictators to new comers. If the advent of foreigners as permanent residents is considered to be to the disadvantage of Japan, to restrict them to the confines of the present treaty limits will prove a complete remedy. There are hidden motives in many things. The promoters of the famous meeting that formulated the energetic protest against treaty revision, might have had in view the fact that to open the country to foreigners would cause real estate in Yokohama to shrink in value. Many there are who would prefer living on locations contiguous to Yokohama to the present settlement. "There is no accounting for the milk in the cocoanut." The Japanese must not think that foreigners now here are all satisfied with the extension of their privileges. There are those who urge that they are sufferers thereby, and who claim that as holders of real estate they are defrauded of their possible gains because the Government is so lenient in regard to this matter of residence outside of treaty limits. Do the Japanese think for one moment that the stock-holders and proprietors of the hotels in the open ports are altogether pleased that Japanese hotels in the interior and in Tokyo divert so large a share of the patronage they so much desire to control? By some persons it is claimed that no land-holder should be made pay his ground rent until the Government restrict all foreigners—except those in the employ of the Government—from living or sojourning outside of treaty limits. The advocates for strict treaty enforcement in regard to residence outside the treaty limits have sentiment only to urge, the land-owners of the settlements have a money interest that is more potent than an idea.

There is another phase that this matter might assume. Under treaty provisions there was no control of the foreign concessions vested in the Japanese Authorities. That the foreign settlements should be in any wise supervised by a Japanese police force was not contemplated by the treaties. If the privileges that aliens now enjoy that are not provided for in the treaties, are to be withdrawn, then it would be possible that the subjects and citizens of the treaty powers would request their several Governments to insist upon the revisal of the *status quo* that existed prior to the concession being made that allows of Japanese control in any way. The more this question of strict treaty enforcement is examined the more distinctly its boomerang qualities are manifest. It is a menace to all cordial relations between the subjects of the empire and the aliens who are here by the consent of the Government—as I have intimated, Japanese have more to loose than the alien.

Yours respectfully, X.

Yokohama, January 18th, 1894.

"SPREAD-EAGLE LOGIC."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Allow me to congratulate you on having survived the snubbing elicited from the Rev. Clay MacCauley by your good-natured article on American action in Hawaii, and also on having been the means (under Providence) of procuring for your large circle of disinterested readers an

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amusing instance of unconscious Pharisaism and spread eagle logic. The sixty-four million crowned heads of the United States form, it would seem, a royal family too sacred for criticism, and it "ill graces your journal" even to indulge in speculations as to what it may please Their Majesties to do, because—because why?—because they are "a great nation which has never yet gone beyond its own continental limits in quest of territory with which to aggrandize itself."

How delicious are these "*continental* limits," and how peculiary delicate the conscience which finds in that one saving word *continental* an anodyne for all possible self-reproach! Indians decimated, Texas and California grabbed, Canada hankered after, Cuba intrigued in,—airy nothings! for are they not all within the same continent? By my life, the idea is charming. It admits, too, of such indefinite expansion. For instance, on this theory China might lawfully annex Japan though Germany may not. On the other hand, no one can have aught to say against Germany for swallowing Alsace, or against Russia for partaking of Poland:—for are not all these in the same continent. True, most plain men may hitherto have thought that between the little boy who steals apples and his playmate who steals pears, the ethical difference is slight. Nor, now I come to think of it, does your critic and moralist explicitly set forth the reasons that should establish the intra-continental gobblings as lawful, and the extra-continental as unlawful. We are left to infer some moral maxim similar to those unproved but never disputed assumptions on which Euclid based his edifice of geometrical truth. As for the subject under discussion, most outsiders, I suppose, will agree with you in thinking it most natural for the Americans to wish to acquire political supremacy in Hawaii, and will wish them Godspeed if they can get hold of the fairy archipelago. To conquer and to desire conquest are, as you point out, among their Anglo-Saxon inheritances. No doubt it is also thoroughly Anglo-Saxon for them—or some of them—to attempt to justify all their actions and inactions on high Pecksniffian principles. In this, as in all else, they are but chips of the old block.

I am, Sir, your, AMUSED READER.

Tokyo, January 18th, 1894.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

An ordinary meeting of the above mentioned Society was held at the Geographical Society (Chiguku-Kyokai) Nishi Konyacho, Tokyo, on the 12th instant at 5 p.m, the President, Viscount Enomoto, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and approved, the following gentlemen were duly proposed, seconded, and balloted for. They were unanimously elected:—

Professor Detrich and Messrs. T. Hoshino, N. Kanda, and T. V. Pineyro.

Viscount Enomoto having to leave the chair, his place was taken by Professor John Milne, Vice-President.

An enormous lens by Steinheil of Munich, which had been acquired by the Imperial Arsenal, was shown by Mr. K. Ogura. The focus is 2 meters and the diameter 150 mm. The lens is of enormous weight, being apparently nearly solid glass.

Mr. Ogura also showed some fine enlargements from quarter-plates exposed in the hand camera. The size of the enlargements 18 by 12 inches.

Mr. Tanaka showed a fine collotype from his own negative.

Mr. W. K. Burton and Mr. K. Arito showed the results of comparative exposures on an ordinary plate, a Sandell non halation plate, and a Seed non-halation plate. A very difficult subject had been selected. The two non-halation plates showed about the same results—merely a trace of halation—and then both immensely better than the result with the ordinary plate.

Several members testified to their successful work with the tabloids by Messrs. Burrough, Welcome and Co., which had been distributed at the last meeting.

A letter addressed to the President of the Photographic Society of Japan, asking him to join a Committee which in taking steps to erect a monument to Daguerre, was received from *Société Française de Photographie.*

The proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Eczema.—Book on "Skin Trouble," free for One Stamp by Messrs. North & Rae Limited, Yokohama.

STATE AID FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Bill for granting State Aid for increasing the Salaries of Primary School Teachers of long standing.

Art. I.—Any ordinary or extraordinary teacher who has served consecutively for five or more years in the same ordinary or higher primary school, shall be entitled to a long service increment to his or her salary from the Treasury.

Art. II.—On the completion of the first five years of consecutive service, the rate of long-service increment shall be 15 per cent. on the salary which the teacher is then receiving. After that 10 per cent. shall be added on the completion of every five years, until the whole amount of the increment reaches to 35 per cent. of the original salary.

Teachers who receive twenty-five *yen* or more shall not be entitled to any long service increment. In no case shall the long service increment exceed the limit of twenty-five *yen* per month.

Art. III.—In the case of teachers whose service dates from a time prior to the passing of the present Law, the calculation of consecutive service shall not be carried back further than the date on which the Primary School Regulations, promulgated by Imperial Ordinance No. 14 of 1886, come into force.

Art. IV.—Teachers, who were called by the title of *Kundó* previous to the coming into force of the Primary School Regulations, promulgated by Imperial Ordinance No. 215 of 1890, or who are still called by that title in localities excluded from the operation of the above-mentioned Regulations, shall be classed as ordinary teachers under the present Law; while those who were or are still know as *Jugyó-sei* shall be considered as extraordinary teachers.

Art. V.—In the case of a teacher who is transferred to another school on account of the abolition of the one in which he or she has been serving, or who, under similar circumstances, temporarily retires from service and afterwards receives an appointment in another school, the time spent in the former school shall be included in the calculations for consecutive service.

Art. VI.—In the case of a teacher who, after a temporary retirement from service not on account of misconduct, again receives appointment in the same school, the period of the former service shall be taken into account in the calculations for consecutive service.

Art. VII.—In connection with the grants and deposits mentioned in Law No. 90 of 1890, relating to pensions to be granted to teachers of primary schools maintained by a town or village and aids to their families in the case of their deaths, the long-service increments of the present Law shall be considered as part of the salary.

Art. VIII.—No Municipality, Town, Village, Educational Guild, or District formed of Towns or Villages shall have power to reduce the salary of a primary school teacher under the name of contributions or for any other pretext whatever, save in accordance with the provisions of Imperial or Departmental Ordinances.

Art. IX.—Rules required for the carrying out of the present Law shall be determined by the Minister of State for Education.

Supplementary Rule.

Art. X.—The present Law shall come into force on and after the 1st of April, 1894.

Reasons for the Project of Law for affording Aid from the Treasury in respect of Long-Service Increment in the Salaries of Primary School Teachers.

The burdens at present borne by Municipalities, Towns, and Villages are by no means light, and a large portion of these expenses are devoted to the purposes of common education. Taking, for example, statistics for the year 1893, the proportion of expenses for common education to the aggregate expenses was 28 per cent. in Municipalities, and 36 per cent. in Towns and Villages. In most of the Municipalities, Towns, and Villages, the resources for educational purposes have nearly been exhausted, and as a result, the average monthly salary of ordinary teachers for the whole country does not much exceed nine *yen*. There is, moreover, no hope of increase of salary for teachers of culture and experience.

Teachers are the most essential forces of education, and what is most important in them is that they should love their pupils and take pleasure in their development, as though they were their own children, and that they should devote their whole life to education, never turning their thoughts to any other profession. But according to the latest statistics, not more than one-third of the ordinary teachers serve in the same school for five consecutive years. Under such circumstances, it is hardly to be expected that they should be as devoted to their duties as they ought to be.

The present state of the national finance does not permit the payment of the salaries of primary school teachers out of the Treasury. Consequently it is now proposed to afford aid from the Treasury in the shape of long-service increments in their salaries. It is hoped that this measure will be attended with beneficial results for education by encouraging diligence and continued service on the part of teachers.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Bill for affording Aid from the Treasury towards the expenses of Technical Education.

Art. I.—For the purpose of encouraging technical education, a sum of *yen* 150,000 shall be annually disbursed from the Treasury towards the expenses of the same.

Art. II.—To such of the Public Technological Schools, Apprentices' Schools and Technological Training Schools, attached to Elementary Schools, as are deemed efficient in their instruction, the Minister of State for Education shall grant aid in money.

When the Minister of State for Education deems necessary, he may aid the Public Agricultural Schools, Commercial Schools, and Agricultural and Commercial Training-Schools attached to Elementary Schools, as well as the Schools mentioned in the above clause.

Art. III.—The subsidy granted to any School shall never exceed one half of the sum defrayed by the Prefecture, Rural District, Urban District, Division or Division School League, for the organization and maintence of that School.

Art. IV.—No School not observing the Regulations relating to the education of students, approved by the Minister of State for Education, or not fulfilling the required conditions prescribed by the said Minister of State, shall be entitled to receive a subsidy.

Art. V.—The Prefecture, Rural District, Urban District Division, Ward and Division School League, receiving aid under the present law shall be bound to defray the expenses of all Schools within their limits receiving subsidies for more than five consecutive years. Provided that the same obligation remains in case the subsidy is continued in accordance with Art. VI.

Art. VI.—Five years constitute a term in bestowing a subsidy upon each School. The grant, if necessary, may be continued after the expiration of a term. Provided that, when the Minister of State for Education deems the School imperfectly managed, or when it has declined in prosperity, or when Art. IV. and other Regulations determined by the Minister of State for Education are violated, or when the obligations stated in Art. V. are neglected, the subsidy may be withdrawn or suspended even before the expiration of its term.

Art. VII.—When it is found necessary to train the masters to be employed in the Schools mentioned in Art. II, the Minister of State for Education may disburse a sum not exceeding one-tenth of the sum stated in Art. I. for meeting the required expenses.

Art. VIII.—The Regulations necessary for the enforcement of the present law shall be determined by the Minister of State for Education.

Supplementary Rule.

Art. IX.—The present law shall come into force on and after the 1st day of April of the 27th year of *Meiji* (1894).

Explanation of the Bill for Affording Aid from the Treasury in respect of the cost of Technical Education.

It admits of no doubt that, for the increase of national wealth, it is necessary to take measures for ensuring the progress of industrial arts. The technological and other branches of the industry of this country have, it is true, their peculiar empirical rules and have certainly made considerable advances, but they are not yet altogether in a position to utilize the fruits of science and civilization. Not a few of them are still hampered by old customs and kept stationary and unprogressive.

It is a matter of urgent necessity to-day to improve the industrial arts, and though there are many ways to be suggested, the most necessary of all is the laying a good foundation of technical, and especially elementary technical, education. The fruits of technical education can only be obtained by the establishment of industrial schools of various descriptions. These schools may be divided

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into higher and lower. Those that are now maintained by the Central Government mostly belong to the higher category, whilst those of a lower class are nowhere sufficiently numerous in country districts. This must be ascribed partly to the inadequate appreciation of them on the part of the industrial classes at large, and partly to want of funds in the hands of local bodies for providing them with requisite equipments.

In modern Europe there is not a State that does not promote technological education as a means of increasing its wealth, or strive to excel other nations in the application of science to profitable production. In this country, however, the feudal prejudice of paying undue homage to unproductive branches of learning still reigns in the minds of most people, and even young persons are apt to give themselves up to scholastic discussions and to ignore the industrial arts. But, if we wish to have our national education a source of national wealth and power by making it and production go hand in hand, it must be useful to encourage technical education, especially popular technological education, and to aid all local attempts that are made to further its improvement and development. This is the reason why the enactment of the law for affording aid to technical schools is indispensable to-day.

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Ithaca, N.Y., December 6th, 1893.

A former resident in Dai Nihon, on settling down into almost any of the cities or towns in the United States, is reminded of Japan. The country is no longer strange, nor are the people curiosities. The cheap works of art, the toys, fans, parasols, napkins, or miscellaneous bric-a-brac are found in almost every shop window, or in the homes however rich or humble. Japan has certainly made her impress widely upon American life. In the annual crop of books, one expects at least a half a dozen volumes of travel in, or discussion about, Japan. Our literary and theological controversies have their grain of leaven from or of The Country Between Heaven And Earth. Our literary matters have in them some reference to those Japanese ideas which have filtered into our language. In our popular social life, the Japanese costume, wedding ceremony, or other visible token of indebtedness to the Far East is common. Rare is the school or college which does not have in it some Japanese student male or female, while on the Pacific Coast the immigrants from Nippon threaten to become a disagreeable element in politics. Who knows also but that "the diamond edition of humanity" may have something to do with our foreign politics, in Hawaii or elsewhere?

In this pretty inland town of Central New York, one finds that the Japanese student has made his mark. At the Cornell University, with its household of two thousand students, professors, and instructors, there are six or seven young men from Dai Nippon. From this institution, and among its early graduates, may be named two literary men who have been heard from in their native country,—Messrs. Yatabe and Toyama. These two gentlemen are still remembered with great pleasure by many of the people of this University town. This year, 1893, completes the twenty-fifth of the history of the University. The Quarter Centennial Anniversary was celebrated with great interest and enthusiasm. A brilliant galaxy of men, eminent in various departments of human achievement, gathered to celebrate, by speech and toast, intellectual and material banqueting, and pledges of fresh interest and support, the twenty-fifth natal day. It is certainly very impressive, this growth of a great Univeisity within a quarter of a century. The writer can remember the little forest-girdled town of Ithaca, at the foot of Lake Cayuga, when it had its five thousand inhabitants, while on the hill where now stand imposing structures in brick and stone, was the farm of Ezra Cornell with its peacefully grazing cows. Now, with a pecuniary endowment of about eight millions of dollars, one hundred and fifty instructors, and nearly eighteen hundred students, with magnificent edifices, and an equipment for research and instruction not excelled, in some points, in the whole United States, it is every year making its influence more widely felt. Ezra Cornell was one of the far-sighted men who saw the tremendous power which magneto-electricity was to play, giving the world, as it were, a new nervous system. He was among the first to apply brains, capital industry, and patient [illegible] making popular and useful the telegraph. In these days, when the reflective mind sees in history very few "inventions" but a great many evolutions, one does not feel ready to say that any one man "invented" the telegraph. Yet it is certain that in the evolution of that wonderful force in modern life, Joseph Henry prepared the way for Morse, as surely as Franklin prepared the way for Henry. Ezra Cornell applied the dollars which, in his later life, came rolling in upon him to founding an institution in which "any person could find instruction in any study." By a fortunate union of the funds derived from the sale of public lands and of his own munificent gift, Cornell University was formed. In its edifices, located on the founder's farm, where the cattle once grazed, are now some of the finest electric appliances in the world, there are, besides, the libraries, museums, recitation halls, and professors' houses, which make up the beautiful little City upon the hill. Almost as a matter of course, at the Quarter Centennial Anniversary, Ezra Cornell's old friend, Chauncey M. Depew made the principal address. We re-called, as we listened to him, the fact that to him was offered by President Lincoln in 1861, the post of Minister-President in Japan to the Court of Yedo—few Americans then supposing that Yedo was not the *Kio*, or capital of the Empire of the Mikado. Depew declined the honour, because he "thought it would interfere with his future career." We Americans are all so fond of "our Chauncey" that we are very glad now that no *ronin* ever had a chance of fleshing his blade upon the leading after-dinner speaker and chief railroad president of "this glorious Yankee nation." Of the speeches of Andrew Carnegie, President Seth Low of Columbia College (whose father owned the *Pembroke*, which first received the fire of the Shimonoseki batteries, and who, through Minister Pruyn, was paid twelve thousand dollars for alleged damages), St. Clair McKelway, and others, it is not necessary here to speak.

One sadly missed, however, the presence of the men who first lent their best efforts for the success of the young university. George William Curtis, James Russell Lowell, Louis Agassiz, are no more with us in the flesh; but Andrew D. White, our American Minister to Russia, and the first President of the University, sent a telegram of congratulation, and Goldwin Smith, the brilliant lecturer and historian who, twenty-five years ago came from Oxford to Cornell, are certainly still in this world. The latter has just given to us a masterpiece of historical philosphy, and one of the most brilliant condensations of American political history ever made. In this monograph, Professor Smith does indeed follow what some of us Americans, who do not belong to the New England school of historical students, believe is the "baby theory" of the formation of the United States. New England has produced many historians, indeed has had almost a monopoly of historians, but other States than the Eastern have made the history. This school of writers follows the theory that the United States is only a New England expanded, instead of being, as some of us believe, a New Europe. Our debt to England is vast and deep, but nevertheless we owe to the Dutch Republic and to tolerant Holland, *politically*, more than we owe to any other country.

We greatly mistake if more profound students, who study the continental influences which helped to shape the first founders of the United States, do not come to the conclusion that no symmetrical and thorough history of the American Commonwealth has yet been written. The part played by the Huguenots, the Netherlanders, the Germans, the Scotch-Irish, and the Scandinavians in the making of this nation has been almost ignored by those historians who thus far have written our history, and who, almost to a man, have lived in Boston, or within ten miles of it.

We are happy to say that though the mechanical and applied sciences are so well cultivated at Cornell, yet the humanities, history, literature, and philosophy are cultiveted with perhaps even greater ardour. The library here, by the way, is an exceedingly interesting edifice both in form and contents. Mr. Henry W. Sage, who with his gifts to the University, ranging toward the millions, has nobly seconded the work of his friend, Ezra Cornell, was formerly a retail dry-goods dealer; or, as it would be in English phrase, a "mercer and haberdasher." Much of his success and popularity were owing to the fact that he had his stock of goods arranged so as to be within immediate touch of clerks and salesmen, so that no lady, or hurried husband shopping for his wife, was kept waiting a second longer than necessary. Applying his business knowledge to books, Mr. Sage has had the vast stores of crystallized learning so arranged that no book in the stacks "lives"—as Charles Kingsley would say,—more than forty-two yards from the operator at the delivery desk, while most of them are within forty-two feet. In the large and well lighted reading-room, one sees at once a most delightful borrowing, with improvements, from that reading-room in the British Museum which may be called one of the glories of the world,—and which during the months of July and August is said to be full of Americans studying up the subject of genealogy.

During the past year, out of the ocean of books, several remarkable shoals have fallen entire into the great scoop-net of the University. Besides the remarkable "White Historical Library," the Zarnke Collection of German books, the Fiske Dante Collection—probably only the forerunner of a great Petrarch collection—have increased the enthusiasm of Cornell men. A cablegram sent across the ocean, less than a month ago, is now bringing hitherward the greatest known library of books, 1,000 in number, relating to Kant, and another, 500 in all concerning Spinoza. With these two special treasures, Cornell becomes the centre for the study of philosophy as illuminated by these two great Western masters. This reference to philosophy, by the way, reminds me that the President of Cornell, Dr. J. G. Schurman, while a master in educational science and university administration, made his first mark in the educational world by his work in philosophy. His lectures before Andover Theological Seminary, year before last, placed him in the front rank of metaphysicians. His addresses are always remarkably clear as well as condensed, and though his popularity here is as unbounded as his abilities are manifest, there are many who fear that in the university president a great philosopher has been lost. Dr. Schurman is one of the descendants of the Holland family, the Schurmans, whose names are famous as early schoolmasters in our colonial days. Taking the loyalist side, his ancestry retired to the provinces of Canada whence come nowadays some of our ablest men in the scholarly world.

As there is no light without shadow, so the joyful occasion here has been turned into gloom by the sad loss on Cayuga Lake of the one of the instructors in Political Economy, Dr. Merriam, and one of the most interesting and promising of the young lady students, Miss Yeargin, of whom there are about two hundred in attendance upon the university. Cayuga Lake is one of those long and narrow bodies of water in Central New York, formed in the old geological ages, when the earth's crust split open and volcanic fires spouted out from the bottom of the cracks. These lakes, long, narrow, and usually very deep in spots, full of ridges and deep *crevasses*, with here and there crater-like depressions, do not as a rule "give up their dead." It is pathetic to look down upon the blue lake day after day from the vantage ground of these beautiful hills and see what has been thus far the vain industry of the grapplers after the lost bodies. Skilled fishermen, keen hunters, expert divers, aquatic men, used to all the peculiarities of water by long experience in training boat crews for races, submarine electric lights, and all appliances money could furnish, have thus far thrown no light upon the mysteries which every one desires to have cleared up. So far as known, no body, of the hundreds and thousands slaughtered in the old aboriginal Indian wars, or almost annually lost on pleasure trips, has ever been yielded up by this mine of water.

For various reasons it is hoped at least one body can be found. Co-education, though probably a settled fact in American educational life, heartily approved of by those who live in the university towns, and unquestionably of vast mutual benefit to both sexes, helping beyond a doubt to tone down the inherent savagery of the male students, and to expand the minds of the young women, without for a moment subtracting from her charms and graces, is not yet wholly safe from the ravages of the evil minded gossiper and the sensational newspaper correspondent and telegrapher. The finding of one of the bodies would settle forever the suspicions of those who imagine a runaway match, an incident, by the way, which while not absolutely unknown, is almost unheard of in educational institutions.

At Barnes Hall, or the large and handsome Christian Association Building of this undenominational and unsectarian university, we heard, the other evening, the Russian Prince, Wolonsky, lecture in fluent and accurate English. He spoke upon Russia, upon the Parliament of Religions, and upon American life, in his three lectures. He is the son of the Czar's Minister of Education and has been during the last six months in Chicago, which to him has served, for the nonce, as a concentration of the United States. In his third lecture, on impressions of American Life, he gave a tart and lively, not to say searching, criticism of manners, ideas, religion, and people in this union of forty-four states. One could easily see that his impressions had been formed by meeting with people to whom Russia was a far-off curiosity. Nine Americans out of ten either accept the aver-

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age English Russo-phobist ideas, or else receive George Kennan's account of Siberia with very little critical salt sprinkled upon the dish which he has cooked, or else imagine that there is a great bond of sincere sympathy between the Autocracy and the Republic. Probably one-tenth, perhaps only one hundredth, of the American people have learned to discount wholesomely those telegrams relating to Russian affairs which come to us *via* London, or have studied Russia with something like unprejudiced minds and with a willingness to receive the naked truth.

Nevertheless, the Prince's criticisms of Americans and their ideas and customs, their deficiencies and inelegancies, were received either with merriment, or, when cutting into the quick were heard with respectful silence. One could not help contrasting the present temper of an American audience—and the twelve hundred or so auditors were equally representative of the 'town' as well as the 'gown'—with that of the average American audience, away back in that period which now seems wonderfully ancient, "before the War." Then, when Professor Basil Hall Chamberlain's illustrious relative, Captain and Admiral, exposed our greenness and foolishness, when Mrs. Trollope or Charles Dickens or Laurence Oliphant made themselves merry over our vanity, narrowness, boastfulness, or infelicities, we, that is, the American people, were very wrathful and were inclined to swear. Now, we not only like to receive good honest criticism, however severe, but even the annual harvest of British and other European books of criticism about us disturb us much less than the mosquitoes. A Briton can even write a book, full of inaccuracies as well as accuracies, and call our country "The Land of the Almighty Dollar;" but, so far from being surly about it, we give it its proper place first upon the drawing-room table, and then upon the dustiest shelf in the library without so much as its causing a wrinkle upon our national forehead.

Do I leap from cold to hot water when I say that I was reminded, as I listened to the Prince, about the literary and ecclesiastical tempest which has been produced in Japan by the publication of "The Japanese Bride?" It seems very funny to some of us over here, that a book so bright and interesting as that written by Rev. Naomi Tamura should have caused such a *tai-fun* of excitement in his native country. True, there are recently returned gentlemen from Japan, and others, who brand Mr. Tamura as an "apostate." Yet the only way some of us here can understand the extraordinary flurry beyond sea is to suppose that the Japanese must read a great many things between the lines of the booklet which the average English and American reader cannot possibly see. We are rather inclined to think that by the time Mr. Tamura's appeal gets to the higher ecclesiastical court to which he is amenable, his prosecutors will have cooled off. Unless we have a lower opinion of the Japanese than we are usually credited with, they will then be heartily ashamed of themselves. Nothing, it seems to our eyes, is better for Americans than sincere honest and searching criticism, and what is good for Americans is good for Japanese. Even Englishmen, who cannot follow Mr. Gladstone in his political measures, will probably agree with the Premier that even the English people need all the intelligent and honest criticism which can be reasonably offered. By the way, the Russian Prince Wolonsky, when leaving Cornell University, started for Japan, and will probably be there as early as will our missive.

If I have in this letter kept within the range of subjects which are somewhat local to our present habitat, I may probably be forgiven in this my maiden missive to the *Japan Mail*, and in the next will take a wider range of subjects which, interesting us on this side of the Pacific, may not be wholly uninteresting to English speaking and reading people in the land of sunny remembrance.

W. E. G.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, December 13th.

Mr. G. Watanabe, of the Imperial Bank of Japan, and Mr. G. Nagasaki, of the Yokohama Specie Bank, are in Denver, Colo., visiting the smelters in that vicinity. They expect to be in Washington this winter for the purpose of acquainting themselves more familiarly with our national bank ing system.

Mr. Henry Sato(h) gave a lecture yesterday afternoon at the University of Chicago on "Moral Conceptions of the Children of Yamato."

Mr. Buckley and Mrs. Sara Craig Buckley, M.D., formerly of Kyoto, are now in this city. He is a fellow in Comparative Religion in the University of Chicago, and is to deliver there a course of lectures on "The Religions of Japan;" she is engaged in the practice of her profession.

"The Wee Ones of Japan," is the title of an article by Mae St. John Bramhall in Harper's Bazaar for November 25th.

Thos. Y. Crowell and Co. have issued at the price of $2.00 a volume of poems by Mr. Ernest F. Fenollosa. It contains two long poems, "East and West," and "The Discovery of America," and thirty shorter lyrics.

A gossippy article in a recent issue of the *Chicago Herald* contains the information that Edith Rockefeller, youngest daughter of the Standard Oil millionaire, "has studied the Japanese language," as she was once "ambitious to go to that country as a Baptist missionary."

Secretary Carlisle has appointed Wing Chin Foo, of New York, to a position as Chinese inspector.

It has caused some little comment that the Chinese flag is the first to wave continuously over a legation in Washington. The Ministers of other countries hoist their national emblems only on special occasions.

It is reported that Secretary Gresham "aspires to make the extension of trade relations and privileges with China a central feature of his administration," and that he will endeavour to negotiate a new treaty. Perhaps he could be easily led to undertake a revision of our treaty with Japan. It is certainly no more "a matter of simple justice" that the ex-Queen of Hawaii be restored to her throne than that Japan be released from her international thraldom.

The latest news from Hawaii intimates no change in the situation, except that the Provisional Government, upon hearing of the plan to restore the monarchy, set about strengthening their position with militia and fortifications. This may indicate that the ex-Queen can not be restored without military force, which the United States would scarcely employ.

The U.S. Senate has passed a resolution calling on the President to furnish Congress with what information he possesses in the Hawaiian matter. With all the Republicans and some Democrats in opposition, the Presidential policy can not be surely carried out. Mr. Thurston, the Hawaiian minister, is now in San Francisco, and, if necessary, may go on to Honolulu this week.

I had the pleasure last evening of an interview with a Chicago resident who was born in Hawaii. He, from his excellent knowledge of the condition of affairs there, is confident that the monarchy will never be restored, and that annexation may yet come.

The Torrey Bankruptcy Bill has been defeated by a vote of 142 to 111 in the House of Representatives.

The Ways and Means Committee has made a number of changes in the Wilson Tariff Bill. The alterations generally are from *ad valorem* to specific duties, or from lower to higher rates. The sugar schedule as not yet been settled. The date when the bill is to go into effect has been set at June 1, 1894.

Judge Hornblower, of New York, has again been named by the President as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court; and Chas. H. Simonton, of South Corolina, has been appointed U.S. Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

The recent mortuary record includes the names of ex Congressman Murphy, of Iowa, who was prominent for his efforts in behalf of the Hennepin Canal; and Hon. L. B. Mizner, who, when U.S. Minister to Guatemala and other Central American States during the Harrison administration, lost his position on account of his action in the Barrundia affair.

And still the reports of suffering during this severe winter come in from all sides. The latest news is that the Cheyenne Indians are in "crying need of clothing, food, fuel, and shelter." In all parts of the country the work of charity is actively prosecuted, and real relief is being afforded. In this city an attempt is being made to raise a million dollars for charity. All the relief forces of Chicago last night met and united their efforts on a clearing house plan, by which the supplies and funds will be distributed by one committee, instead of being injudiciously scattered about by too many persons. In the organization and centralization of this work, Mr. W. T. Stead has been a leading spirit. For several nights 1,500 homeless men slept in the warm basement of the city hall; and others found shelter and rest in churches or in buildings specially provided for those purposes. The University of Chicago students in Sociology have been engaged in visiting these places to interview the men and get statistics.

Here are some of the practical suggestions made the other day by Mr. Stead in the line of making work for the unemployed:—

Clean the streets.
Pave the streets.
Clean out the levee dens.
Finish improvements in Jackson Park and other public parks.
Build public lavatories wherever they are required.
Make subways under the most dangerous railway crossings.
Erect a People's Palace and headquarters for labour on the lake front.
Construct public bath-houses in convenient places.
Build one grand civic club-house in each of the thirty-four wards of the city.
Put up clean lodging-houses for the benefit of honest men out of employment.
Tear down Harrison street police station and erect another better suited to the purpose.

A brighter picture is seen in the reports relating to the stocks of wheat. The *North-western Miller* estimates the aggregate stock for Minnesota and the two Dakotas at more than 25,000,000 bushels, about the same as last year. And the Chicago elevators alone contain over 21,000,000 bushels as against only 10,706,192 bushels at this time last year. The average for December under natural conditions is about 10,000,000 bushels.

The Lehigh Valley strike has ended, through arbitration, in a compromise.

The Coughlin trial is proceeding slowly, so far without new testimony. Yesterday a full jury was secured in the Prendergast case; and the trial began this morning.

The indictments against Judge Jenkins as a director of the defunct Plunkinton Bank of Milwaukee have been set aside.

"Harvard Annex," hereafter to be known as "Radcliffe College," has at last become an official part of Harvard University. The new name is given in honour of Lady Radcliffe, who was the first to make a subscription for the education of women.

The Exposition at Augusta, Ga., was opened on the 12th inst. with speeches by Vice-President Stevenson and others.

The Feeris Wheel is to be permanently located in New York City.

The South Park Commissioners have agreed, in consideration of $200,000 from the Exposition Directory, to take Jackson Park and all its "big white elephants" of buildings into their own care and keeping; but they make no promises to "preserve the White City," whose fate only the future can decide.

Treasurer Suberger's latest report of the World's Fair finances is as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

From sales of tickets	$10,583,407 96
Concessions	3,425,789.22
Miscellaneous receipts	1,820,472 83
From stock subscriptions	5,514,034.20
City of Chicago bonds	5,003,726 06
World's Fair bonds	4,444,500.00
Interest on bonds	30,976 52
Interest on deposits	68,706.47
Souvenir coins	578,792.00
Premium on souvenir coins	519,393.78
Special souvenir coin fund	1,435,000.00
Souvenir coins on hand	158,356.59
Received from temporary organization	4,252.04
Total	$33,594,147.87

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid on vouchers	$31,679,045.94
Balance in bank	1,750,745.43
Souvenir coins on hand	38,356.50
Souvenir coins in bank	120,000.00
Total	$33,594,147.87

From this it is estimated, that there may possibly be a balance of about $1,000,000 for distribution among the stock holders.

The World's Columbian Museum is to be temporarily housed in the Art Palace in Jackson Park, and its articles are being collected there. Mr. F. J. V. Skiff, Chief of the Mining Department of the World's Fair, has been appointed temporary curator.

Recent Japanese gifts to the Museum include a painting in water-colours, some Japanese flags, a number of decorated bottles, a growing tea-plant; an ivory statue of Buddha (the joint work of Gyokuzen Asahi and Eigo Ukioka); and the following from the Japanese Woman's Commission:—

Pair embroidered hanging decorations, made by Miss Teru Takahashi, Tokyo.
Water colour painting, natural scenery of Ikao, by Miss Ohika Noguchi, Tokyo.
Artificial flowers in basket, cloth work, by Mrs. Chiyo Honjuchi and Miss Tsute Matsuoka, Tokyo.
Artificial flowers in basket, feather work, by Mrs. Yone Kumai and Miss Tsunao Yoshimasu, Osaka.
Six hanging frames, together with autograph short poems composed by Princess Mori, Marchionesses Hachisuka, Nabeshima, Mayeda, Countesses Matsukata, Oyama, Goto, Toda, Viscountess Hijikata.
Six photographs of exhibits by the Japanese Woman's Commission.
"Japanese Women," published by the Commission.
Pamphlet describing general scheme of the Commission.
Pamphlet, explanation of lady's boudoir exhibited in the Woman's Building by the Commission.

In his letter transmitting the gifts Mr. Yamataka says:—

"The Japanese Women's Commission deems it very interesting and most important to have the memorial building erected in view to perpetuate the work of the board of lady managers and that of women in the World's Columbian Exposition, and the commission hopes to make it a perpetual memory that Japanese women have participated in the great Exposition."

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In this connection it gives me great pleasure to insert a copy of a letter received in answer to my request for an opinion concerning the Japanese exhibits. It reads as follows, from Mrs. Poter Palmer, President Board of Lady Managers:—

"I have the greatest pleasure in complying with your request for an expression of the admiration which I entertain for the beautiful exhibit from Japan, shown in the Woman's Building. Aside from the dainty gold and silk embroidery, showing the careful execution for which the women of Japan are justly noted, the charming boudoir sent by Princess Mori was a feature of special interest to all visitors in our building. The quaint rooms, furnished with the soft cushions and necessary boxes for the toilet of a Japanese lady of rank, were most interesting and instructive. As for the Japanese representatives who were sent to us, their gentle nature and sweet courtesy made them many warm and admiring friends.

BERTHA HONORÉ PALMER."

I append also an opinion from the Chief of the Department of Horticulture.

"The civilized world is indebted to Japan for many of the finest decorative plants. The Japanese have long been considered expert gardeners, and, by their skill and knowledge, have produced more species and varieties of plants than any other nation. If all the plants with the specific name Japonica were excluded, the number of those used for ornamental purpose would be largely reduced.

"Horticulturists naturally expected that Japan would make a fine exhibit, and some of them may have looked for too much from a country so far away from the exposition grounds. It could hardly have been expected that an antipodean country could compete with those near by and whose transportation facilities were so much superior; the Japanese therefore did not attempt to send as large a number of plants as some other countries, but adopted a plan which was equally, if not more, interesting to the general public. A reproduction, in miniature, of a Japanese garden was made, showing water effects, picturesque rocks, rustic bridges, characteristic flora and dwarf trees. Some of the best specimens of dwarf trees were sent from the Imperial gardens of Tokyo. Their value can be estimated when it is said that some of them are over 100 years old, and during that great length of time they had to be carefully pruned, systematically starved, allowed to make as little growth as possible, and still live. Their gnarled and twisted trunks showed every evidence of extreme old age. No other nation has acquired the skill or would have the patience to strangle the growth of a tree which would naturally grow to an attitude of 75 or 100 feet, into a small specimen not more than three feet in height. The continual enquiry of visitors, when entering the Horticultural Building, for the dwarf trees, gave evidence of the extensive advertising and the interest that centred in them.

"The Cycas, Bamboos, Ancubas, Palms, etc., differ little from exhibits similar in character made by other countries; in fact, they were generally below the others in size and not so perfect in form. Many varieties of variegated leaf maples were shown, but did not develop the vigour, after being transplanted, that was expected, and therefore failed to attract attention, except among professional horticulturists. Taken as a whole, the Japanese garden was one of the features of the floricultural exhibit, and added very much to its success.

The Japanese have heretofore made some fine displays of papier maché models of fruits, and had a fairly creditable one in some other building on the Fair grounds; the attempt in this direction, however, in the Horticultural Building, where it was properly classified, was a failure, and should not have been attempted by the Commissioners, unless they had assurances of better results.

"My own relations with the pleasant gentlemen from the Mikado's Empire have been most agreeable, and I found them ever alert and enterprising in acquiring knowledge concerning all classes of exhibits. "J. M. SAMUELS."

A favourite sport in Siam is the fish fighting. Betting on fish-fights is such a passion with the Siamese that they will stake, not only all their money and their goods, but even their wives and children. The right to keep fighting fish is bestowed only by the King, and is so highly paid for that the Royal officers derive a large revenue from granting the requisite licenses. The fighting fish are little things of four or five centimetres long, and not thicker than a child's finger; but they are full of "fight," and fly at each other with the utmost ferocity as soon as they are let into the same water. In Annam too, the same amusement prevails.—*L. & C. Express.*

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE JAPANESE ALPS.

BY WALTER WESTON, M.A., F.R.G.S., ENGLISH ALPINE CLUB.

1.—To Zenkoji and Omachi.
2.—The Harinoki-toge.
3.—Ascent of Tateyama.
4.—Riuzanjita to Toyama.
5.—The valley of the Takahara-gawa and the solitudes of Hida.
6.—Zosui-bashi, 'the lovers' stratagem.'
7.—The Tokugo-toge.
8.—Ascent of Myojin-dake.
9.—*Majinai*, a curious experience.
10.—The Basha.
11.—Concluding remarks.

"The feeding of the rivers and the purifying of the winds, are the least of the services appointed to the hills. To fill the thirst of the human heart for the beauty of God's working—to startle its lethargy with the deep and pure agitation of astonishment,—are their higher missions."—RUSKIN: *Modern Painters*, Book V.

TO ZENKOJI AND OMACHI.

In planning once more a holiday tour in the great mountain range dividing the provinces of Etchiū and Hida from that of Shinshiū, the chief objects of the present writer's hopes and aims were three expeditions which had always seemed likely to prove of exceptional interest, namely, the crossing of the Harinoki-toge from Shinshiū into Etchiū, the ascent of Kasa-dake in Hida, and that of Myōjin-dake (also called Hodaka-yama), which lies a few miles south of Yarigatake, just on the E. of the boundary between Hida and Shinshiū. The pass in question I had hitherto only known by name and fame, but with the two peaks I had a sort of "speaking acquaintance", or at any rate I knew them so well by sight, and was so filled with admiration for them, that nothing short of personal contact could give satisfaction. Having in previous year's wanderings entered the Alps of Japan both from their Western and Eastern sides, I decided this time by way of variation to approach them from a slightly different direction, and accordingly chose Nagano (Zenkōji) on the Karuisawa-Naoetsu Railway, to the N.E., as my starting point.

Hitherto the enjoyment of one's Alpine journeyings had been shared by cheery companions whose presence had helped to make the pleasure all the keener, but now such good fortune was denied me, and as I left Yokohama early in the afternoon of August 3rd, it was with the prospect of a month's wanderings in solitude.

My first night was spent at Yokogawa, as I wished to make the journey over the recently opened portion of the line between Yokogawa and Karuisawa by daylight, and right glad I was to bid good-bye to the "Yorodzu-ya" with its flea-infested *futons*, as a bright fresh morning following on a damp and cheerless night, greeted the 7.40 train on its departure for the climb up the Usui-toge.

In some respects the line reminds one of a combination of a Swiss mountain railway and that between Genoa and Spezia; of the former by reason of its construction, and of the latter on account of the number of the tunnels which at times almost make one feel as if one were passing through some gigantic flute. The locomotive having been attached to the rear of the train we start off in the usual way, but after a mile or so the cogs and rack-rail are brought into play, and this system is in use until about the same distance from Karuisawa. The passage of the darkness of the 26 tunnels with their intervening brilliant flashes of sunlight, on one occasion prolonged by a five minutes stoppage at a station midway, occupied about 70 minutes, the experience being by no means unpleasant. The engine being behind the train, no inconvenience is caused by smoke entering the carriages whilst we are in the tunnels although the windows are kept open throughout. In some parts of the line the inclination is fairly steep, the greatest gradient being, I believe 1 in 15, and one naturally finds it more comfortable to sit facing the direction in which the train is going.

On arriving at Karuisawa carriages are changed, with the result that I have the good fortune to fall in with a party of friends who are going on some little distance towards Zenkōji, the meeting being as pleasant as unexpected, since one had long resigned oneself to the prospect of a journey unbroken with the delights of intercourse in one's mother tongue with those of kindred sympathies.

It is sweltering hot as the train rattles down the long incline to Zenkōji, which is reached after a ride of some 2¾ hours from Karuisawa, most of the route, particularly the portions near Uyeda and Zenkōji itself, being extremely interesting. As Uyeda and the remains of its old castle come in sight one is reminded of the passage of the Hofukuji-toge two years ago, and the wonderful view of the Japanese Alps which on the summit of the pass then burst upon us for the first time in all its surprising grandeur. On leaving Uyeda one is at first a little puzzled as to how a passage through the *cirque* of mountains which hem in the broad and pleasant vale is to be effected, but soon the corner of a cliff is turned and we steam on between the lofty walls which rise abruptly on either hand almost from the very track itself. Near Tamba jima we cross the Sai-gawa, one of the *San-dai-kai*, the "three great rivers" of Japan.

Depositing my baggage at the "Fuji-ya" teahouse close to the Station, I took a *kuruma* and proceeded to view the far-famed temple dedicated to Amida and his followers Kwannon and Daishi Bosatsu, the golden group of whose effigies form the great object of veneration of the thousands of pilgrims who flock hither to the great annual festivals. The chief of these are the *Dai Nembutsu*, or "great invocation of Buddha" on July 31st, and that on March 14th in commemoration of a terrible earthquake which in 1847 wrecked nearly the whole town, the catastrophe being completed by the fire which thereupon broke out and devoured what was left. Added to this, the awful convulsion caused a landslip of such dimensions as to dam the waters of the Saigawa between Anadaira and Shimmachi, a distance of some 14 miles away, so that when the stream a few days later had gained sufficient volume to burst through the barrier the most terrible results ensued. Far and wide spread the awful flood sweeping away thousands of the peasantry who had foolishly disregarded the warnings of the impending disaster. At least 20,000 persons are believed to have perished through the agency of flood or flame, but the main buildings of the great sanctuary, standing as they do in an elevated position near the foot of the hills at the N.W. end of the town, escaped the fury of the twin elements.

Only two years ago, however, the place was once more visited by fire, and the *Ni-ō-mon*, the outer entrance to the grounds, was burnt down, being now replaced by a gateway of ordinary brick and iron. The incongruity of this at once strikes one on approaching the precincts from the street and walking up the broad pathway leading up to the stately *Sammon* whose double storeys rise up in front of the great *Hondō* in which the precious golden images are enshrined.

On entering the sacred hall, the three gables of which are supposed to resemble the hammer with which the small bell is struck at Buddhist services, a flight of white pigeons attracts one's attention as they wing their way in undisturbed freedom about the spacious nave. At the back of a sort of chancel a gorgeous brocade curtain veils the recess in which the sacred image is preserved, securely packed away in the inmost of a number of boxes, and, I believe, inaccessible to ordinary mortals, although it is possible on payment of a fee to get the curtain raised and so obtain a view of the outside box of all. The image is said to have been made nearly 3,000 years ago by Sakya Muni himself, from gold discovered at the centre of the universe. Where that precise spot may be is not apparent, and the traveller in Syria will remember that amongst the many remarkable spots pointed out to him in the city of Jerusalem is one near the traditional site of the Holy Sepulchre which is also claimed to possess this unique characteristic.

The vicissitudes through which the remarkable relic is stated to have passed, and yet survived, are most astounding, it having originally come to Japan through Korea with the introduction of Buddhism into this country. Owing, however, to the hostility of the opponents of the alien creed, the image became the object of constant persecution, so to speak, but all attempts to destroy or make away with it proved unavailing. At one time an attempt is made to cut it to pieces, at another to burn it, whilst twice it was thrown into the Ajikawa at Osaka. On the second occasion, however, it was recovered by one Yoshimitsu who carried it off to his native province of Shinshu (now represented by Nagano Ken) where he erected for it a temple, ultimately replaced by a precursor of the present building. The Zenkōji represents the Chinese characters equivalent to the Japanese for "the temple of Yoshimitsu," which last name is the native pronunciation of the syllables written *Zen-ko*.

Under the "chancel" (*naijin*) is a sort of crypt or gallery reminding one somewhat of a subterranean Hampton Court maze, and this I was invited to explore under the guidance of one of the attendant "vergers." Descending a short flight of steps we were soon enveloped in pitch darkness, but my cicerone took my hands, and began to walk backwards with a confidence only born of constant practice, and so the circuit was safely completed. A thrice-repeated round is held to be most meritorious, and the corners of the passage walls are polished smooth by the frequent touch of hesitating hands.

On emerging from the hole, the transition from

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the dense darkness into the dazzling brilliancy of the summer afternoon was almost painful. A little chat followed with some courteous attendants, who offered the usual cup of tea, and I rose to depart. My guide thereupon asked if I would not make an obeisance before leaving the shrine, at which the youth who had piloted me from the Fujiya almost indignantly hastened to explain that it would be most destasteful, and so we took our leave.

From the Temple precincts to the *Fozaukwan*, a sort of Japanese Club, standing on an elevated spot to the East, is only a short walk, and a magnificent view is obtained of the town of Nagano and the plain in which it lies, with the mountains that encircle it. Next to this grand prospect, perhaps the most interesting thing of note is a fine assembly room of 144 mats, neat and spotlessly clean.

Close by is the Meteorological Observatory, where I paid a visit to the officials in charge and was courteously allowed to examine their instruments, with a view to making comparisons with my own mercurial aneroid barometers so as to ensure greater accuracy in determining altitudes during the climbs I shortly hoped to make. This done, I returned to the tea-house near the station, stopping on the way for lunch at the Fujiya inn—the central establishment—where a capital meal was served in the clean and tidy rooms in "foreign style."

By the time I had succeeded in getting *jinrikisha* for the first stage of my journey it was 4 p.m., and then an uncomfortable jolt of 1¼ hour, took me as far as Shimbashi (also called Kochi) a little hamlet perched picturesquely on the left bank of the broad waters of the Saigawa, and said to be 2 *ri* from Zenkoji, though probably a little less. Before leaving the latter place I had arranged with the men to act as porters when the *jinrikisha* could no further go, so from this place to Shimmachi, a distance of 4 *ri* further, was accomplished on foot. For some little way the road is very good, and the scenery of the river's banks, to which it keeps closely for most of the way, fairly picturesque. After some miles, however, the path becomes rough and irregular, and the poorness of the road is in keeping with the character of the scattered villages through which it passes. At one spot one has to cross over the rough rocky face of cliffs that slope steeply to the swift stream far below, and the performance of this sort of passage in the now deepening twilight demanded considerable care.

Long before reaching this the porters had fallen behind, but I had fortunately fallen in with a cheery wayfarer whose home was hereabouts, and he kindly volunteered to come straight on with me as far as Shimmachi, an offer I gladly accepted, as in the dark it would not have been difficult to go astray. As it was necessary, however, to be provided with a *chochin* on account of the rough state of the mountain path, we endeavoured to procure one at a wayside cottage which greeted us just as night had closed in and left us no light but that of the stars to aid us.

But, unfortunately the dwellers were too poor to be the possessors of a lantern which they could lend, nor could they, while my companion left me to scramble up the hill side to seek elsewhere, even produce a cup of tea for one's refreshment. They were, however, kindly folk, and did what else they could to make a few minutes rest as pleasant as might be, and attention such as this is not seldom one of the most refreshing things one's country travel have to give. At length my friend with his *chochin*, reappears, and we set out for the steep climb which leads over the Yanoshiri-toge down to Anadaira and Shimmachi.

At the former place the path rejoins the Saigawa and brings us into the neighbourhood where the great earthquake occurred of which I have already spoken. While resting on the top of the pass we were rejoined by the coolies who had somewhere or other picked up a reinforcement and, profiting by our delay over getting the *chochin*, had made such unexpected haste as to enable them to overtake us, and so we marched merrily down the long street of Shimmachi to the Miyoshiya, where confortable rooms and good attendance were in store.

From here, on the following morning, with a pack horse for my baggage, and its leader as my guide, I started at 7 o'clock for a walk of 16 miles to Omachi, a distance which the hot, sultry day almost doubled. A striking view of some of the great peaks of the Japanese Alps greets one on leaving the village and passing down the valley. As Minacho, a walk of 15 minutes from the inn, the number of boats hauled up on the river-brink, tells of the traffic which is carried on between Matsumoto and the river-side villages in this neighbourhood. Until the earthquake intervened to bar the way, it was indeed possible for them to ply over the whole distance between Matsumoto and Zenkoji, and I was told at the former place that it is still a pleasant trip—though needing a parenthetic land journey near Anadaira to circumvent the obstruction—from the one place to the other when the time can be spared. The whole route, from Shimmachi up to the point where the path crosses the great ridge which lies between the Saigawa and the long narrow plain in which Omachi is situated, is extremely pretty. Of the many pictures memory recalls with pleasure, perhaps one of the most striking is that of the little village of Hina, some two *ri* from Shimmachi. Turning an angle in the hills suddenly, a deep valley, embosomed in a setting of steep tree-clad heights, lies open to view. At the bottom of the valley wind the emerald waters of the beautiful river whose now constant companionship has almost made one feel it to be a friend, and on the left bank lie dotted about the picturesque cottages of the secluded hamlet. Before long, however, the river bank has to be abandoned, for at Hashigi, half a *ri* further on, the main path which follows it to Matsumoto diverges from ours, which is but a mountain track, in some places, however, fairly good, and whilst we turn off due west the more important road holds straight on towards the south.

As the way was now too steep for the pack horse to climb, we stopped at a farm house near the foot of the pass and transferred its load to the backs of a couple of coolies, and without further delay applied ourselves to the climb which begins shortly after leaving the village and crossing the tributary stream which here runs down from a ravine on the right. What a pull it was! The narrow valley is so shut in that no breath of wind seems able to get in to stir a single leaf, and nature seems too drowsy for exertion at all, as if reduced to inactivity by the sultry heat and lulled by the never-ceasing cicada's song.

But the prospect of getting a breeze on the top of the ridge, and visions of refreshment and rest from the noontide glare, spur one on to the work, and we are soon hard at it on the path which winds in sinuous curves over the face of the Fudōzaka, a precipitous hill on the north side of the Sō-no-sawa. Near the bare rocks of a torrent bed, on the right is an image of Fudosama, with the usual sword in his right hand and the rope of straw in his left, the former being meant to strike terror into the hearts of evil-doers and the latter to bind them with if detected in crime. Certainly the aspect of this personage was fearsome enough, the stone out of which the image is carved being painted an unearthly blue. In ordinary seasons the torrent hard by sends a pretty cascade called Fudotaki tumbling over the edge of a little basin down to near the spot where the image stands, but this year the long-continued drought has been too much for most of the little streams in the neighbourhood, and this one, like many another one, has struck work and dried up altogether. And not only have the streams come to this pass, but man himself has begun to feel the effects of the scorching sun's pitiless rays, a fact of which I soon had an illustration at the time distressing to witness. For, a few hundred feet higher up, I came across the form of a young farmer-lad stretched out by the side of the path, utterly exhausted and looking terribly pale, if one can speak of as paleness the peculiar livid greenness which corresponds to that hue popularly known amongst ourselves as "white as a sheet." His wife was quite powerless to help him, so after finding out that he was suffering from nothing more serious than the excessive heat which made the climb a very trying one, I promised that if he would come to me when we reached the rest house near the top of the pass, I would try to give him a little relief, as I had in my baggage a collection of "Burroughs and Wellcome's" tabloids specially selected for use on mountain travels. Leaving him for the present, I made my way up to the little village of So, which lies in an amphitheatre of hills, the lower slopes of which are largely cultivated with hemp, whilst the forest which clothes the upper portions of the ridge are largely composed of pines, larches, and *nara* (a kind of evergreen oak). During my rest at the big, newly-built farm-house to which I was taken as the one affording the best accomodation, my wayfaring friend also struggled in, and most grateful was he for the little help I tried to give. Leaving him to rest whilst the medicine did its work, I crossed the hill-side above the village and soon found myself in a narrow gap at the summit of the pass which, at an attitude of about 3,000 feet, affords a fine view westwards of the central portion of the Japanese Alps as they rise beyond the narrow plain in which Omachi lies.

For a few minutes the rugged path drops steeply down the narrow defile to the banks of the Kanama-gawa, and then for some distance a level and really good road leads on towards the villages of Kiriake, Shinden, and Oshio. In the earlier part of the walk the aspect of the magnificent cliffs rising abruptly above the ravine is most impressive, but gradually the valley opens out into gentler slopes, and after crossing the hills beyond Oshio the way passes over dark soil, apparently of volcanic origin, in one part of which rises a spring of the most deliciously cold, clear water I met with on my tour. The distance from the summit of the pass is called 3 *ri*, but is probably more, and it was 3 hours from the time I left So to the time I walked into the spacious Yamacho in Omachi. Grandly situated is this quaint little town, lying as it does so near to the great snow-streaked giants which rise up in a dark massive wall so difficult of access as to almost cut off communication between the neighbouring provinces of Shinshiu and Etchiu, whose boundary line lies along the main direction of their rugged ridge, running almost due north and south. Some three years ago a large part of the place was burnt down, and as the people are not very well-off, the work of building has not been proceeding apace, and I was told that it would be some time before it would recover from the disaster. Like many of the villages in the neighbourhood of the great mountains, the houses of Omachi have their roofs loaded in Alpine fashion with large stones to keep the shingles from being swept away by snow and wind, and in some cases an extra broad overhanging eave gives one almost the impression that it is not in Japan but in Switzerland that one is travelling, this being particularly the case in some of the smaller places in the more secluded valleys in the province of Hida, the snow-fall being greater on the West and Northern sides of the Alps of Japan than on the East.

When I first arrived at the Yamacho, "mine host" seemed somewhat reluctant to take me in, saying he had no accomodation fit to offer. As I assured him I was not very particular on this score, he at length said he would see what he could do, and ultimately, beckoning me to follow him, led the way upstairs to the *sangai*, the third storey, for the inn was one of unusual size. On reaching the landing at the top of the last flight of stairs, I was astonished to find myself in an apartment of the most extensive proportions, far exceeding anything of the kind I had previously met with at any Japanese inn I had ever visited.

So far as I could gather, the room, about 50 mats in area, was intended to be used as a sort of public entertainment room, and a large number of folding chairs with plain deal tables and benches were piled up against the far side of the room. The *tatami* were not yet down, but when the additions to the place, of which the *sangai* is the most recent, are completed this room will certainly be a striking feature. On the left hand side of this was another, only recently finished, into which, with many apologies for its meanness, I was ushered. Meanness! Think of it, a magnificent apartment of 27 mats, *i.e.* including the recess of the *toko-no-ma*, over 30 feet by 18, spotlessly clean, bounded on two sides by a wide verandah of dark wood, polished almost to a mirror-like surface, and commanding an extensive view of the southern portion of the long plain, along whose western limits rises up the great barrier of the mountains that had long since won my heart, and whose fastnesses and valleys I now hoped for the next few weeks to make my home.

Whatever may have been the initial unreadiness of my landlord to give me shelter, he certainly spared no pains afterwards to make me comfortable, bringing in a table and chair for my meals, and when bed time came, he appeared with several benches and an enormous box, about six feet square and foot one deep, which he proceeded to arrange as a bedstead; not that I had any objection to sleeping on the floor in itself, but that I did very much object to turning my person into the happy hunting-ground of that pest of every Japanese inn, the ubiquitous flea. It was hoped that, agile as these creatures are, the elevation of my couch some feet above the floor would lift me beyond their reach; the experiment was justified by its results, and my foes were cheated of their feast.

On Sunday morning, August 6th, I was delighted to receive a visit from my sick friend of yesterday, who came to tell me that the medicine had done him good, though he was still feeling rather feverish. Accordingly I dosed him with quinine, and he departed with a promise to return in the evening to report progress once more. Great was my astonishment when later on he reappeared, radiant with happiness at his recovery, with a beautiful *kakemono*, which he insisted on my accepting as a memento of our meeting and of the circumstances under which we had met. It was no use explaining that such things needed no repayment, for the good fellow would take no denial, so, as I saw that he would evidently be quite distressed if I persisted

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in declining his gift, I at length accepted it. Long shall I value it as a souvenir of the sincere and simple-hearted gratitude of a chance acquaintance with whom my meeting in the hills will often come up as a most refreshing memory.

It was pleasant to find in this out-of-the-way old-world place a little body of Christians who have their gathering in a room almost opposite the inn. It is true that their singing was not of a very high order, but the fact that they were there was not a little cheering, and more so was their evident pleasure at an unexpected visitor to wish them "God speed."

During the morning I was astonished, on the announcement of a visitor to see me, to behold the face of my Matsumoto landlord, Sasa Motoji, of the Shinanoya inn, who came to tell me that he was very busy at present, but that a fortnight or so later on he would like to join me in some expeditions I wanted to make a little more to the Southern end of the Hida-Shinshu range. He had started at three o'clock that morning, the journey of 22 miles by *kuruma* taking seven hours, the way being uphill for most of the distance, though the incline is not steep. He reported that the farmers in neighbourhood of Matsumoto were in great distress owing to the long-continued drought which had now lasted no less than seven weeks. I must own I was somewhat surprised at this, for on the previous evening a most violent thunderstorm had broken over the upper part of the plain between Matsumoto and Omachi, but although it was so extraordinarily severe near the latter place the former got nothing of it, its range being evidently quite local.

THE HARINOKI-TOGE.

'Ille ego qui quondam—'

Of all the mountain routes indicated in the pages of "Murray" none had ever seemed to me likely to afford more genuine mountaineering interest than the climb over the Harinoki-toge, "The pass of the alders," which was first opened up some 17 years ago by way of facilitating communication between the great province of Shinshu on the East, and that of Etchiu on the West of the wildest mountain mass of which Japan can boast.

In point of altitude it is the highest, and judging by the accounts of such foreign travellers as had made its acquaintance, it seemed to be the most striking in regard to personal appearance, of any pass yet made known to foreign travel.

Time, however, which leaves its mark on most that we love to look on, had not left the Harinoki-toge untouched, and in a few years after its first opening the grand route had so suffered from the ravages of tempest and storm that, if not battered out of all recognition, it was become, at any rate, a mere wreck of its former self. For the frost and snows of winter, aided by the heavy rains of spring and autumn, soon succeeded in sweeping away whatever portions of the path had not been constructed in sheltered positions.

In a note to the Preface of "Murray's" 2nd Edition, it is stated that as early as the summer of 1883 "the route had become almost impassable." In the description of the itinerary given in the 3rd Edition, one reads that, "Even during the summer months communication is often entirely interrupted, and none but the most experienced mountaineers can hope to succeed in forcing a path for themselves."

It is true that during the first two or three years after the pass was first opened, several parties of foreign travellers had crossed it without difficulty, and an interesting account of one such journey may be found in Vol. VIII. of the "Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan," by Prof. R. W. Atkinson, formerly of Tokyo. But the palmy days of the pass were those of its infancy, and very soon such a sad transformation had taken place that no more appropriate description could be found for it than in the epigrammatic declaration of the departed glories of a far more classic spot

"Toge fuit!"

Before making the attempt myself, I had tried to get all the information I could about the experiences of other travellers in recent years. This resolved itself into two attempts made by personal friends of my own. Neither of whom, however, gained the success their determination deserved. The one started from Omachi in the autumn of 1885, but was obliged to turn back after reaching the summit of the pass, having already had a narrow escape of being killed through slipping on a steep talus of loose earth, high up above the torrent bed. This gentleman was informed that the expedition had not been made for some years, excepting by occasional hunters, although, "one year," the guides said, "two Japanese travellers made the attempt, but when they came to the snow one of them began to cry and they returned alone!"

My other friend made his attempt from Toyama, on the opposite side, in the spring, some three or four years later. On this occasion, Riuzanjita, or Tateyama-onsen, as it is locally called, the bathing place at the foot of Tateyama, was the furthest point reached, and this only after a good deal of difficulty, though results might have been greater had the journey been made two or three months later, when the mountains were more free from snow. As a matter of fact, on neither of these two occasions was the most difficult part of the whole route reached, namely that between Riuzanjita and the top of the toge, and both parties, considering the seasons of the year their expeditions were made, did wisely is not insisting on pushing on further than they respectively reached.

It was on Monday, August 7th, that I started from my inn at Omachi to make the attempt, the uncertainty of the probable results of which gave a pleasant spice to one's reflections. My guides were a pair at hunters, whose head-quarters were at Noguchi, a little hamlet between Omachi and the pass, and it was owing to their late arrival that instead of starting at 6 a.m. we were not actually on the move until nearly 8. In half an hour we had traversed the level stretch of plain between Omachi and Noguchi, a halt then being made at the latter place at the house of the *Kucho*, whilst the services of a third coolie were obtained for the carriage of the baggage over the pass. As the men of the village had already gone away to their day's work, this was not very easily done, and an hour, spent pleasantly though, it is true, in the company of the polite and hospitable head-man, had slipped away before the person in question appeared. At 9.15, however, we were fairly under way, and the path gradually bearing round to the N.W. took us through sweet-scented forests of pine, oak, birch, and larch, which covers the *hara* (moor) on the left bank of the Takasegawa. The last inhabited houses we saw were those of the small hamlet of Oide, beyond which a forest-shaded shrine and the *torii* guarding its approach are decorated with primitive representations of swords put up as votive offerings to the gods of the great mountains, whose tall, densely wooded forms now tower above the valley up which our pathway lies. Taking a short cut across the gently-ascending slope, the narrow track, growing gradually fainter, at length leads us to the left bank of the Kagagawa, and at another rustic *torii* in a shady spot, which I was told is called Takinokoye, from a hut which once existed here, we sat down to rest and feed, our time from Noguchi being two hours, and the height above sea level 3,150 feet. Leaving this pleasant spot exactly at noon, a steady half hour's walk brought us to a little shanty, whose condition, though now it was untenanted, showed signs of recent use. At one o'clock, the dried-up bed of a tributary torrent known as Shirasawa was reached, and here we were compelled to take to the wide white stony channel of the main stream, whose waters we crossed by leaping from boulder to boulder, and so gain the opposite bank at a higher point. The next quarter of an hour was one of genuine hard work, there being no path to speak of, and a way having to be made by main force through dense undergrowth and tall luxuriant docks. Emerging from this we again found ourselves close by the river's brink, to our great surprise coming suddenly upon a couple of hunters engaged in fishing. Two of my coolies had by this time begun to express their doubts as to the possibility of completing the expedition, for though their packs were anything but heavy, their minds seemed so oppressed with a growing burden of anxiety about the difficulties and dangers before them that they begged me to engage the services of yet another coolie to enable them to lighten their loads. As our progress had hitherto been somewhat tardy I agreed to their proposal, particularly as the leader of the trio seemed inclined to give in himself. Indeed, his melancholy aspect was quite depressing, and had he sought relief in a burst of tears I could scarcely have been surprised.

The course of the negotiations, however, like that of true love, ran by no means smoothly, and a vexatious vacillation on the part of the men almost drove one to despair. At first they seemed disposed to come, then they hesitated, at length declining to do so on the ground of having no extra *waraji* to replace those they were then using. So, after 20 minutes wasted in fruitless palaver, I moved off, leaving the rest to follow, but after proceeding a short distance I found the men were not coming on, and going back to enquire the reason, I was informed one of the pair had after all agreed to come. Certain preliminaries in the way of rearrangement of packs, however, had to be gone through, thereby involving a delay of 10 minutes more. The loss of time, however, was more than compensated for by the gain in strength to the party. The new comer was an extremely cheering individual of 40 years of age, once a wrestler, but now possessed of more muscle and much less fat than in his "ring" days, and although he had shown some reluctance in joining the expedition he certainly worked hard enough whence once he had cast in his lot with us.

As soon as the caravan's increasing numbers were actually on the march we found it necessary to turn away for a while from the edge of the river and struck inwards up a dry torrent bed on the right bank, and then came another hour's struggle, chiefly through dense jungle, in order to cross an intervening spur of the hills on our left. Soon after reaching a spot called *Tokusa no kemi*, where an enormous stone, overgrown with moss and creepers, stands solitary in a gloomy thicket, without the least apparent connection with such surroundings, we again descended to the river bed and at 3 o'clock reached the spot known as *Maruishi bashi*, "the round stone bridge" where we crossed over to the left bank in full view of the dark sides, flecked here and there with dazzling streaks of snow, of Jiidake, a peak which may be ascended by way of the ravine now seen in front as we cross the stream.

Unless it be for the sake of some past association, it can only be on the '*lucus a non lucendo*' principle that this spot goes by the name of *Maruishi bashi*, for though the river bed is filled with water-worn boulders of all shapes and sizes, there is neither a bridge nor anything to suggest the past existence of one. If there ever was it must, at least 8 years ago, have vanished from the place. Half an hour's halt for food was called here, and then came a rough scramble up broken rocks on the left bank, and then, just as it was getting doubtful if we could possibly cross the summit of the pass and reach shelter on the west side before nightfall. Our doubts were speedily put an end to by a sudden thunderstorm, which make it necessary to get under shelter as quickly as possible, and having got there to stay long enough to make it useless to think of proceeding further that day. Incessant growls of thunder had for some time before been giving warning of what we might expect, and as the loud echoes reverberated from crag to crag, and rolled down the valley up which we had climbed, we came to a final halt by the side of a huge rock on the left bank of the ravine. Upon enquiring after the name of the spot, *ushigoya*, I learned that a shelter once existed here by way of stabling for the bullocks which once, in the days when a path existed, used to cross the pass with their burdens. At present a few alder branches propped up against the slightly overhanging side of the rock bear witness to a comparatively recent visitor, either some solitary hunter, or possibly the Government official who I was told had been here a few weeks ago, engaged on survey work in these parts. As the rain was now finding freer admission into the dilapidated structure than was likely to be conducive to comfort, we set to work to make it a little more habitable by piling up more branches and spreading over them the sides of my oil-paper tent. My waterproof ground-sheet came in handy as a defence against the dampness of the earthy floor, and by the time a fire was blazing near the open end of the shanty, one's surroundings began to look more cheerful. We had reached the biovouac at 4.45, and the altitude of the place (5,500 feet) combined with the fact that its position in the sheltered ravine gives it but little chance of getting warmed by the genial rays of the sun, made it a somewhat chilly situation, and the need of constant attention to the fire which had to be mended at frequent intervals during the night, caused one's rest to be a good deal disturbed. Judging by the tone of the guides' conversion, the prospect of the morrow's climb was one that for two of them at least possessed but few attractions. The lugubrious leader was in a most melancholy mood, and might have been going to certain destruction, whilst another of the quartette seemed almost of the same mind. But happily the latest arrival, though from past experience aware of the nature of the work, helped to cheer them up a little, and his efforts were backed up by the youngest man who urged that *nil desperandum* was to be our motto, and insisted on a bold bid for victory. The usual delay occurred in making the morning start, and it was 7 o'clock as we turned our backs upon our bivouac and applied ourselves to the climb over the sharp moraine-like ridges of loose rocks by which we mounted up the gradually steepening gully, here contracted to its narrowest width. The first snow was reached at an altitude of about 6,000 feet, and a delightful climb of 1,500 feet more took us to the top of the great slope from the lower end of which issues the incipient torrent of the Kaga-gawa, whose waters, when swollen by the spring and autumn storms, have from time to time wrought such havoc with the path by their side. When the slope came to an end, a scramble over the broken hill-side above gave a fresh variety to our upward way, and as I happened to be pushing on ahead of the rest I suddenly came upon an unexpected feast of deli-

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cious wild strawberries, and not until the whole supply had disappeared was it possible to resume the climb. This now involved a passage over a very steep talus of loose, yellow earth, in which I cut steps with my alpine stick and so we safely reached the snow-slope on the left. This, however, was inclined at a good deal higher angle than the one below, and the coolies expressed their disapproval of its appearance by flatly declining to take to it, preferring the climb by the rocks to the right, although the angle is nowhere more than 36° or 38°. Soon, however, this eased off, and when it ceased, a few steps onward, placed me shortly after 9 a.m. by the post which marks the boundary between the provinces of Shinshiū and Etchiū, and the summit of the Harinoki-tōge itself.

Nearly an hour passed all too quickly by as we discussed breakfast, and took observations as to attitude and surroundings. I believe that the "height by aneroid" hitherto assigned to the pass is much too low, and instead of giving it 7,700 feet, I would place it at as much as 8,120 feet, a result which very closely agrees with the altitude given by the Government Geological Survey map.

In some respects the view is not so striking as might have been expected, with regard to the distant peaks visible, the mountains on the west and north-west of the pass hiding Tateyama and its neighbours, whilst those on the south shut out other well known heights, though to the south-east a glimpse of the cone of Fuji, with Yatsugatake, on its left, and the Komagatake of Shinshiu on its right, is obtained, as well as, almost due south, a fine prospect of the sharp peak and bare precipitous sides of Yarigatake.

In the near foreground, on the north, the eye plunges down the dark ravine up which we have made our way, with its glittering snow slopes overshadowed by towering cliffs, whose scarred flanks showed on every hand traces of the destructive power of avalanche and torrent. Southwards dips the deep valley down which lies the first part of our descent, the nearer slopes being covered chiefly with the alder trees which give the pass its name, and the low-creeping branches of the *goyo-no-matsu*, a sort of dwarf pine. The peak on the left of the toge, as one still looks towards the south, is known as Renge-dake, or Gorokn-dake, and is said to be 9,100 feet in altitude, the ascent of it presenting no particular difficulty, whilst from its position the view it commands should be very extensive. Unlike the northern slopes of the pass, its southern aspect bears no traces of snow, and as we set off at 10 o'clock down the rugged mountain flanks a feeling of satisfaction soon possessed one's spirit at being on the sunny side. Here and there traces of the old path, especially during the earlier portion of the descent, made progress easy enough, though, as I was informed that the road had never been put in order, at least since 1884, when its original maker died, it is not to be wondered at that so little is left to be of service. Dropping down quickly into the ravine below we soon reached the source of the Harinoki-gawa, which ultimately falls in on the right bank of the Kurobe-gawa. The rough character of the going made our pace necessarily slow, and in one place a stout cord I carried was useful in letting the leader down a deep broken bank of earth and giving support in descending after him. The descent of the bed of the stream necessitating constant climbing over enormous boulders, some as large as a small cottage, proved rough work, and gave all too little time to look around one and do justice to the magnificence of the surroundings. Mightly castellated cliffs rose wild and precipitous and bare on either hand, whilst in the distance a noble prospect of the imposing form of Tateyama and its snow streaked slopes beckons us on. At the ruins of what once was known as the Futamata hut, an hour and a half from the top of the pass, we halted for a few minutes, and then pressed on, not without agreeable delays at intervals, when the path keeping us on the river bank gave us opportunities of enjoying most welcome feasts of wild raspberries, which here and there grew in great profusion. At length the descent grew less abrupt and the glen opened out into the more level valley of the Kurobe-gawa, across whose broad stream, on a high steep bank, looks out the sole representative of the substantial rest-houses that once gave shelter and food to whoever might pass that way. Making our way across the river, all traces of a former solidly-built bridge having entirely disappeared, an almost exciting bit of rock climbing took us up the little headland, and at 3 15 we were inside the hut. As there was no shelter between this and Riuzanjita, and the most dangerous part of the route, in the opinion of the guides, had yet to come, I decided to spend the night here, for though the afternoon was yet young it was better to make sure of a decent shelter for the night, and to secure plenty of day light for the difficulties of the route beyond.

An inspection of the inside of the hut revealed the fact that the days in which it was a regular abode of men had long ago passed away, and there seemed something almost mournful in the contrast between what its well-built walls showed it was intended to be, and its present actual aspect of desertion and decay. Part of the building was taken up by a spacious kitchen, whilst the rest was divided into two fair-sized rooms, which must once, when properly furnished with mats, etc., have been unusually comfortable for such an out-of-the-way place. At 6 o'clock the usual thunderstorm broke over the mountains, and right glad we were that we had decided to remain here, for though the roof was not altogether rain-proof it was infinitely better than anything we could possibly have got by going on that night.

My evening meal, enhanced by the addition of some delicious trout taken in the Kurobe-gawa by the cheery person of our party, was soon over, and after slinging my hammock between two of the stoutest posts in the walls, I made all snug for the night and turned in.

On the following morning we were on the move by 6 30, and at once began the stiff climb up the Nukuidani tōge, or Kariyasu zaka, the first of the two passes between Kurobe and Riuzanjita. There being no path for some distance, we had to fight our way tediously through a dense growth of bamboo-grass and tall docks, whose moisture-laden leaves at the lightest touch discharged showers of dewdrops upon us, and soon sufficed to soak us through and through. After some distance we got clear of this, and at length emerged upon traces of the old path which, though here and there broken away, afforded us good going. Towards the summit of the pass the steep ascent gradually eased off a little. At 8.15 we were on the top of the ridge separating the valley of the Kurobe-gawa from that of its tributary stream rising in the snow slopes below the Zaragoye. The altitude of the pass is about 6,000 feet (by aneroid), and a grand view of some of the highest peaks of the great range north of Yarigatake is obtained.

That mountain is hidden by a nearer intervening ridge, but the triangular form of Kurodake, famous, I was told, for its wonderful rock crystals, and also the sharp peak of Eboshi-dake, more northward still, with other lower heights, made a splendid picture. A short descent, the lower part of which was very difficult owing to the precipitous nature of the broken hill-side, took us down to the bed of the stream, which we scrambled across near the spot where once a bridge existed, but which, like its fellow on the Kurobe side, has long since been made into matchwood by the destructive waters of the torrent. Passing along the left bank we ascended over landslips and snowslopes towards the summit of the Zaragoye, the scenery growing in beauty and grandeur at every step. On the southern side, the granite cliffs are much broken, and give an air of wildness to the scene which contrasts strikingly with the shining slopes of snow beneath, and on every hand lovely Alpine flowers delight the eye. The top of the Zaragoye, 7,300 feet, was reached at 10.30, and a rest for "second breakfast" gave one a chance to take off various sodden garments and dry them in the sun. Resuming our journey, after an hour's halt, we at once began the descent of the pass to Riuzanzita, this portion of the climb being the most difficult of the whole route. Looking westwards, the rocky sides of the savage gorge present an aspect of destruction, which tells all too plainly what tremendous influences are exerted in this neighbourhood by periodical landslips and avalanches, and one ceases to wonder that the maintaining of the road in a passable state has long since been abandoned as impossible. It is a relief to be able to turn from the contemplation of this terrible, though impressive scene, and let the eye pass beyond it all to rest on the green and fertile plain of Toyama, bounded by the blue waters of the Sea of Japan. For a few yards after crossing the crest of the Zaragoye, a bit of the old track is seen, but this speedily vanishes into nothingness, and we are confronted by a smooth slope of brown earth inclined at an angle of about 60°, which can only be crossed by cutting steps just as one would if the slope were of snow instead of soil. I shall not readily forgot the uncomfortable way in which the mournful member of my quartette of coolies faced the prospect before him, though, after all, the traverse, while needing great care, was nothing to be really alarmed at. After negotiating this successfully we shortly afterwards came across more traces of the former path, and in one of the protected angles of the hill side the bleached débris of a rest house strewed the way-side with rotting timbers. For some hours our progress was unavoidably slow, the difficulties caused by the broken places in the narrower part of the ravine being overcome only by dint of considerable exertion, and occasionally a quarter of an hour or more would have to be spent over the passage of a few feet of broken rocks. But it was a grand and exhilarating scramble, the enjoyment increasing with the need for putting forth one's best powers. At last we came down to the bed of the Yukawa, whose turbulent waters lead down past the baths of Riuzanjita to join the Jogwanji-gawa on its way to the Sea of Japan, and after crossing the torrent several times we found ourselves close to a curious little lake of boiling water called Mago-ike, nestled under a steep bank on the left side of the stream.

The lake, or pond, is nearly circular, about 300 yards in circumference, its waters being a brilliant blue in colour, and leaving a sulphur deposit on the edge of the basin in which they lie.

From this place to Riuzanjita did not take long, and at 3.30 we were standing at the door of the curious collection of huts which form the baths of Tateyama *Onsen*: Riuzanjita="below Tateyama," while *onsen* is the usual term for "hot springs." We were greeted with a most kindly welcome, and the simple but genuine hospitality with which I was treated by the proprietor of the baths during my short stay proved a most agreeable experience after the toils of my three day's tramp over the wild passes and valleys of this interesting region.

The baths attract large numbers of the country-folk from the little villages lying near the upper waters of the Jogwanji gawa for the sake of the healing properties of the hot springs, and the buildings for their accomodation are fairly extensive, though of a quite unpretentious style. One part of these is used for the better class of visitors, and includes the office of the proprietor, while at right angles to it stand several rows of huts occupied by the rest of the guests who bring and cook their own food whilst paying a small fee for their shelter and for the use of the baths. The bath house itself stands at the far end of the compound, and consists of one large room partly open at the sides, the bath itself being divided into four compartments the contents of each of which vary in temperature according to its distance from the spot at which the water conducted from the original spring enters the building. Both sexes use the bath together, and the behaviour of all is absolutely unexceptionable, though the bathers are rustics, for the most part, of quite the lower classes. The temperature of the hottest compartment is about 125°, whilst that of the coolest is some 20° less, the water being strongly impregnated with sulphur. As many as 50 people bathe at the same time, and I was told that more than 200 were staying in the establishment whilst I was there.

To the south of Riuzanjita rise the broken cliffs of O-tombi, a mountain, part of which was thrown down during a terrible earthquake in the year 1858, damming up the waters of the stream at its base in such a way that when their volume was, later on in the spring, swollen by the melting of the winter snows, the imprisoned torrent burst through and scattered widespread destruction in the lower parts of the valley.

On the evening of my arrival the sunset view, as I stood outside my little room and looked towards the mountain, was extremely lovely. Bare red cliffs, flushed with the soft rays of the setting sun, stood out boldly against an opalescent sky, contrasting finely with the gentler slopes of adjacent hills, whose sides were clothed with dark pines and vegetation of every shade of green. Doubtless the picture was all the more brilliant for the rain which had, earlier in the afternoon, given us such a soaking, and the discomforts of the downpour were forgotten in the gratitude felt for these, their after results.

TATEYAMA.

A day's rest after our scrambles only served to whet one's appetite for another climb, and on Friday morning, at 4.15, I found myself with a couple of natives (my Harinoki-toge men I had paid off on the evening we reached Riuzarijita) *en route* for the summit of the "Dragon Peak," as the Chinese title (Riuzan) implies, though the Japanese name "Tateyama" denotes the "Beacon Mountain.'

We first crossed the noisy torrent on the north side of the baths by means of a narrow ricketty plank bridge, the passage of which in the darkness, which is proverbially densest before the dawn, was a matter of some little difficulty. Turning then abruptly to the right, we stumbled up a rough path on the right bank of the stream, and then began to mount by a series of short zigzags up the face of the reddish tinted cliffs which form the northern side of the valley of the Yuzawa. An hour's hard going took us to the top of the cliff, which is just about 6,000 feet, or 1,850 above the baths, and here we found ourselves on the edge of a wide moor called Midagahara, which is crossed

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by a narrow track whose greasy, slippery surface proved the most trying part of the whole climb and rendered it difficult to maintain one's equilibrium when in motion. Indeed, the guide himself at times sat down with the greatest emphasis in such totally unsuitable spots and when not in the least need of rest, that I could not help thinking he was altogether too inexperienced a person to set an example, and therefore I declined to imitate him. In the middle of the moor the path from Rinzanjita joins that from Ashikura, a village lower down the valley of the Jogwanjigawa, from which most persons make the ascent of Tateyama if they do not happen to be staying at the baths. That route, however, is much more tedious and less interesting, and one weary pilgrim I encountered told me that he had then (about 7.30 a.m.) been climbing all night, and had still some distance to go. On the way to the Murodō, the pilgrims' hut at the foot of the final peak, the track took us up the beds of several streams, which we ascended by jumping from stone to stone, at length coming to a spot where a large piece of rock stands by the side of the path, called Oba-ishi. I was told that this owed its existence to the temerity of the wife of the first mountaineers who climbed the peak, and by name Ariyaka (or Ariyori) Saemon. In those far-off days of chivalry, no such creature as a mere woman was allowed to set foot on so sacred a mountain as this, a fact also witnessed to by the spot still pointed out on Fujisan as the Monindo, *i.e.* the limit beyond which women were prohibited from passing. But Ariyaka's ambitious consort, desirous no doubt of emulating her husband's feat, or impelled with a woman's curiosity to know what there was to be seen on the top of the wonderful mountain, determined to make the ascent, a rash proceeding which of course met with its natural and due reward in that, not only was she prevented from carrying out her impious design, but that in the most effectual way inasmuch as she was suddenly transformed into a stone, which to this day as the Oba-ishi "old lady's stone") stands as a warning to all such sacrilegious curiosity as hers!

Beyond this rock the beds of several other watercourses had to be ascended, but at length these ended, and we reached a nearly level plain surrounded on three sides by a magnificent "cirque" of mountains, conspicuous amongst which, lying due east, stands Tateyama itself and, near the foot of the final peak, the Murodo. Arriving here at 8.20 we stopped for breakfast, and after three quarters of an hour's rest pushed on for the summit of the mountain. The ascent first lay over seven or eight slopes of snow, never very steep, however, and for 15 minutes or so after leaving the hut very little height was gained. At length the snow was left behind, and finding my companions very slow goers, I left them too and proceeded alone, mounting quickly by the arete which, running down the S.W. from Tateyama itself, connects that peak with Jodo San. Here and there a little shrine attracted attention by reason of the offerings laid before it by some devout pilgrim or other making the ascent. Sometimes it was a pipe-case or a few pieces of money, or again a bit of paper or a rosary. Near the summit one or two chains are fixed in the rock to assist the climber, though there is neither difficulty nor danger to make the use of them necessary. At 10 o'clock I arrived at the top of the mountain, the attitude of which previous measurements seem to have differed a good deal, my own observations, however, making it 9,156 feet, and the Geological Survey 9,186 feet. Shortly after I got to the shrine standing on the rocky cone forming the highest part of the peak, I was joined by a party of pilgrims, most of them quite young, under the escort of the Kannushi, the guardian priest in whose care the Murodo and the sacred mountain are placed. With much ceremony he proceeded to draw aside the crimson brocade curtain in front of the Shrine, and opening the doors took out from inside a number of relics which he solemnly exposed to the wondering gaze of the little white-robed band, whose rapt attention and reverent attitude were extremely remarkable. Amongst other articles of veneration were an arrow-head and a spear point formerly belonging to Ariyaka Saemon; a mirror once owned by Yamato-dake, and old fashioned coins also the property of the same renowned hero, who, by the way, is known in legendary lore as the husband of the devoted Oto-Tachibana-Hime, the Alcestis of Japanese romance (*vide* an interesting note in "Murray," p. 134).

After the relics had been duly described by the Kannushi and wonderingly admired by the pilgrim mountaineers, a number of beautiful red-lacquered *sake* bottles and cups, decorated, like the crimson curtain before the shrine, with crossed eagles' feathers in gold, were brought forth, and out of them the members of the little band partook of doubtless welcome refreshment before turning to descend. Of the view from the summit of the sacred "Beacon Mountain" I am unable to say much, as regards personal observation, since the clouds gathered round formed a misty veil that shut out the more distant prospect. But a perusal of "Murray" shows that the scene is one of great magnificence, and probably much resembles, though slightly inferior to, that from the pointed peak of the loftier Yarigatake. In the plain directly below us, near the Murodo, are seen a couple of small lakes with water of emerald green, similar to those often noticed on many volcanic mountains elsewhere, whilst in a valley to the north of the hut a number of solfataras and mud geyers, something like those of Aso-san in Kyushu, are in active operation. The valley goes by the name of O-jigoku, the "Great Heli," a name familiar to those who have visited the well-known surroundings of Hakone and Miyanoshita.

A descent of 40 minutes took us down to the Murodo, and a short visit was again paid to the interior of this spacious hut, the condition of which, I may say, has evidently much improved since the days in which the early accounts of foreign travellers were written. Though one would do well to bring one's bedding, if a night had to spent there, the shelter itself is substantial, and rice and a little other food is to be had for a "consideration." The Kannushi is an interesting though somewhat autocratic person, and has evidently a good memory, for he astonished me on the summit of the peak by suddenly turning to me with the enquiry, "Did you make the ascent many years ago with Mr. Satow?" It was exactly noon as I said farewell to the place and its presiding dignitary, and in 2¾ hours we were once more back at Rinzan-jita, where our hosts were somewhat surprised to see us in so early, though congratulating us on being in time to escape the inevitable thunderstorm which appears to burst over this portion of the Japanese Alps with the utmost regularity every day between 4 and 5 p.m.

RIUZANJITA TO TOYAMA.—THE VALLEY OF THE JOGWANJIGAWA.

A glorious morning greeted me on Saturday, August 12th, as with a trio of Japanese companions I started off at 6.30 for the last stage of the journey, which, of its kind, had exceeded in interest any I had ever made in these Japanese Alpine wanderings. Rarely had one spent a week so crowded with scenes of such varied interest as this, for, from the moment of leaving Omachi to the time when Toyama was reached, one's mind was continually receiving fresh impressions of beauty and grandeur at every turn.

The path, after leaving the baths, passes along the left bank of the Yukawa, and winding round a rocky spur on the left soon crosses a tributary torrent coming down a narrow valley enclosed by a mighty wall of rocky cliffs wild and savage in the extreme. Here and there the narrow track passes over a talus of loose earth and stones which slopes steeply down to the rugged bed of the foaming torrent beneath. An hour and a half brings us to a part of the valley where curious pinnacles of red or grey earth rise threateningly above our heads, and then some magnificent rocks have to be crossed and descended, partly by means of rough wooden ladders, which necessitate a display of balancing powers such as one had scarcely expected to be called for. The valley here is called the Dashiwara-dani and exhibits a scene of the wildest grandeur, the precipitous castellated cliffs, which tower sheer above the bed of the torrent, bearing the suggestive title of *Oni ga shiro*: "The devils' castle." Near this point a stream comes in from a valley on the left, and the mighty boulders which lie scattered about in its broad bed tell us of the force of the waters in times of flood. As I looked up I saw the remains of a hand-rail on the edge of a dizzy path of wooden logs, high up on the side of the cliffs above, but this ending in mid-air it was a little puzzling at first to know what possible business it could have there. At length I noticed that the part nearest to me had been carried away bodily by an avalanche of earth and rocks, so that it had been necessary to make another path at a lower level, this leading to a spot where the torrent was crossed by a bridge on the *mannem-bashi* principle. This consists of long, narrow planks tied to each other and fixed on either side of the stream to a heap of stones piled upon the bank. The structure is so slight and apparently insecure, and withal sways and bends in such a way as to make the passage anything but a pleasure to persons of weak nerves, hence the hyperbolic name which signifies: "The bridge of ten thousand years," in allusion to the moments of crossing being expanded by the imagination of the nervous into indefinite age. The stream now crossed, the Magawa, at length unites with the Yugawa to form the Togwanji-gawa, whose broad current at last turns northwards and flows into the Sea of Japan. At 8.45 we passed a lonely little hut by the side of the path, a bundle of birch bark near the doorway showing that the place was occasionally resorted to by the woodcutters of the wild valley. Shortly afterwards, we cross another torrent, at a point where a lovely cascade falls with thunderous roar over the edge of a cleft in a magnificently rugged gorge on our left. At length the path descends to the level bed of the now widening river, and a well-earned rest for breakfast is delightfully welcome under the cool shadow of great overhanging cliffs, whose smooth precipitous sides forbid the narrow path to cling any longer to them and push it down to the boulders below. Breakfast over, we take a short cut across the stony wilderness and then climb a steep ascent, which leads us past a charcoal burner's hut to a spot where a figure of Kwannon, carved in the wall of rock on the left, tells us that we are now only two *ri* (5 miles) from Hara, the first inhabited village on this side of the river after leaving Riuzanjita. The scenery of the valley now gradually softens, densely wooded hills replacing the wild cliffs and rugged gorges that wall in the river higher up. At last noon finds us sitting on the edge of the verandah of a cottage (there is no inn), of the little hamlet in question, the curiously steep thatched roofs of the house, ending in a flat roof over the verandah laden with stones, presenting the oddest appearance. These peculiarities, it appeared, were necessary on account of the heavy falls of snow, which in winter sometimes lies on the ground to a depth of almost 10 feet. Half an hour from Hara comes Hongu, a poor collection of cottages surrounding an interesting old temple, now shorn of its former glories, connected by a covered verandah with a modest inn, where we made a halt for our midday meal. Soon after leaving here we were compelled to rush for shelter at Omi, a neighbouring hamlet, by a most violent thunderstorm, this being the fifth or sixth successive day on which this occurrence had been repeated. Outside Omi, a fine bridge crosses the wide bed of a stream descending from the valley in which lies a village called Arimine, whose inhabitants are said to be people of a curious and exceptional type, being especially noted for a phenomenal stupidity, which, however, does not apparently interfere with a keen appreciation of the value of money in the few commercial dealings they are known to have had with the outer world. Beyond Omi the river widens still more, and the interesting configuration of the hill-sides above the present stream show quite clearly the level of a former bed, the clean cut terraces, though now covered with verdure, standing out in the most remarkable way from the surrounding slopes.

At 5 o'clock I found myself, shortly in advance of my companions, at a pretty little inn in the village of Kamidaki, one of the principal places on this side of Toyama, situated nearly at the foot of a curious kind of bluff on the eastern edge of the great plain of Etchiū. Here I had hoped to be able to obtain *kuruma*, but after a long search only one was to be found, and this the owner declared to be so sadly in need of repair as to be unfit for locomotion. Another tedious wait then followed, patience being at length rewarded by the appearance of a *ni-guruma* (a hand cart drawn by coolies) and on this my baggage was fixed, I myself also taking a seat on the top of all, and so in state I bade farewell and at 6.30 p.m. started for the final "run in" to the goal of my journey. Half an hour's jolting on a conveyance never meant for the human frame made me hail with satisfaction a passing *jinrikisha*, bound for Kamidaki without a fare, and whilst one of the coolies trundling the hand cart turned in his tracks and gaily cantered home again, the other buckled to and made one of a tandem team for the *jinrikisha*, the result being a pleasant and speedy ride across the plain and into the busy streets of Toyama, where a hospitable welcome at the pretty hostelry of Kiya formed a pleasant termination to my wanderings and their toils.

After a week in the wilds, the prospect of a quiet Sunday's rest in the comparative comforts of the capital of Etchū was an extremely agreeable one, and had it not been for the intense heat, the thermometer up to 91° or over during the middle of the day, the enjoyment would have been complete. As it was, however, the sudden change from the cool clear air of the mountains and sheltered valleys, to the close and sultry atmosphere of the sun-scorched maritime plain almost more than counterbalanced the attractions of the pretty rooms of the Kiya, and the bountiful supplies of "foreign" food which was to be had for the ordering. For Toyama is a place of considerable importance, with a population of over 55,000, and celebrated, so I was told, above all the cities of Japan, as a centre of the trade in medicinal drugs.

It is within 5 miles of the mouth of the great Jindzū-gawa where the little town of Higashi-Iwase is in steam communication with the principal ports

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on the Sea of Japan, and its position makes it an admirable starting-point for some of the most interesting routes of travel in the less-known districts of Central Japan.

It was my intention on the present occasion to penetrate once more into the heart of the great mountain mass I had just crossed, approaching it, however, from a more southerly point, by following up the lovely valley of the Takahara-gawa to the point where, on the Hida side of the great double peaked Norikura, that river takes its rise.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

PRINCE SIDDARTHA, THE JAPANESE BUDDHA.

At the recent Parliament of Religions in Chicago, one of the Buddhist speakers surprised the audience by the question:—"How many of you have read the Life of Buddha?" It is reported that only five or six in the large hall arose. From which manifestation of ignorance the Buddhist demanded:—"How dare you judge us Buddhists when you have not so much as read the Buddha's life?"

It seemed at first as though the speaker had put his great audience in a corner, and had brought a powerful accusation of bigotry against the Christian world. But away from the novelty of the occasion and the surprise of the challenge, it must appear, more and more, that the eloquent Buddhist "struck below the belt." There is no doubt of bigotry in the Christian world. We far too often put in our adjectives of judgment, and make too sweeping condemnations of all non-Christian nations, speaking with self-satisfaction of their false* religions, and calling their social condition absolutely rotten. We may, as Christians, well do better in our hasty and uncharitable judgments. And if the Parliament of Religions should have no other effect than to force upon us all a spirit of moderation and charity, with a real desire to know Comparative Religion, a great gain for the whole world will have been made.

But to return to our Buddhist friend. To his first question we should like to be Yankee enough to reply with another:—"What Life of Buddha do you mean? Of course, you mean something in English, for you are talking to an English audience. There are many sketches of the life of this great man, and several Lives. But so far as we know, they are all translated by foreigners and the larger part of them by missionaries. Now since you challenge the knowledge of Western nations you would hardly recommend any sketch or life translated by those who judge you. So will you kindly recommend to me a Life of Buddha translated by a Buddhist,—one that we can rely upon as just what you want us to read and believe?"

Some such reply might have taken away something of the triumphant tone with which the speaker addressed the people. It might also have suggested a comparison like this:—Christians believe their book so fully that they have translated it into three hundred languages and dialects, and have pushed their Life of Jesus into every land, virtually laying a copy at every door and saying:—"Buy for a few cents if you can; if not, let us give you without money what we believe to be the word of life, the only all-sufficient way of salvation and eternal life." Moreover, these Christians are not so bigotted (there are of course many exceptions) but that they want to know all the truth there is in Buddhism and every other religion, and therefore do not wait for Buddhists and others to translate their own sacred books, but go at it themselves, and thus far have given the world nearly all the sacred books of all lands. When will those Buddhists—who claim that their philosophy is not so shallow as that of the West, and that their religion has no such childish doctrine as that of a Creator—care enough for their sacred books to translate them and send them out into the world? A beginning, to be sure, has been made. A few small books and pamphlets were distributed at Chicago. But until this work is multiplied a thousand-fold, a truly sincere Buddhist would hardly demand of a Western audience:—"How many of you have read the life of Buddha?"

"Only five or six arose," we read in the papers. Yet it is incredible that in such an audience there were so few acquainted with the outlines of the Buddha's life. There must have been scores and hundreds there, especially if we include those on the platform, who had read more or less about Shaka in magazines and newspapers, as well as in more substantial literature, and who could have given off-hand a sketch of the life of the Prince and Teacher. But they naturally would not bite at that kind of bait, and so what we believe to be an entirely wrong impression was given, that the men and women who made up those Chicago audiences are virtually ignorant of the story of one of the greatest teachers of mankind.

However, there is a chance now of adding to that knowledge by reading *Prince Siddartha, the Japanese Buddhist*. This is a well got-up book of 300 pp., based on Japanese manuscripts translated by the Rev. J. L. Atkinson, of Kobe. Even to those who do not care for religious matters, this book will furnish very entertaining reading. It is something like the Arabian nights in the magical way in which the Teacher goes through deadly austerities and comes out only weakened and tried, or in which he whisks himself and his followers up into heaven by a wave of his sacred stick, and then down again at will. The moral teachings are good in some parts, so good indeed for that distant and darkened age that we can gladly see how they have helped the great peoples of the East for so many ages.

Until the Life of Buddha is written in English by a Buddhist, if any one wishes to know how the Buddha could enjoy standing on the top of a snow-covered mountain in meditation until the storm had completely encased him in "glistening ice and snow;" or how he, after becoming a full-grown man, drew milk from his mother's breast although she, at that time, was only eighteen years old; or better, how he impressed all with his sweet benevolence and his beautiful pessimism; or how he taught self-renunciation and wisdom without any doctrine of a Creator or of a soul; here is a racily written book with the hard Buddhistic terms largely put into intelligible English.

Mr. Atkinson tells us that this is the book used by the larger part of the Buddhists of Japan. We hope our Chicago orator will sometime give us a Life of Buddha such as scholars like himself believe, and that he will not wait for the Max Müllers, the legation scholars, and the missionaries to do the work he ought himself to do if he believes that Buddhism is the coming religion of the world.

J. H. De F.

* It is to be regretted that the Rev. Dr. F. E. Clark, who writes the Introduction to Prince Siddartha, has spoken several times of *false* religions.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 86, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 104.

The following analysis of Mr. A. L. Jordan's problem has been received from W.H.S.

Correct solution also received from Scacchi.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Kt to K 5	1—K × Kt
2—Q to Q B 8	2—P to K 3
3—Q to Q B 2	3—K to Q 3
4—Q to Q B 7, mate	
	if 3—K to Q 5
4—B to Q Kt 2, mate	
	if 3—P to Q 5
4—Q to Q B 5, mate	
	if 3—K to K B 4
4—P to Q 4, dis. mate	
	if 2—K to Q 5
3—B to Q Kt 2, ch.	3—K × P
4—Q to Q B 2, mate	
	if 2—P to Q 5
3—Q to Q B 6	3—P to K 3
4—Q to Q B 5, mate	
	if 3—K to K B 4
4—Q to K 4, mate	
	if 1—P to K 3
2—B to Q R 3 ch.	2—K × Kt
3—Q to K Kt 4	3—P to Q 5
4—Q to K 4, mate	
	if 1—K to Q B 4
2—B to Q R 3, ch.	2—K to Q Kt 4
3—Q to Q B 8	3—Anything
4—Q to Q B 5, mate	
	if 2—K to Q 5
3—Q to K Kt 4, ch.	3—K × Kt
4—P to Q 4, mate	
	if 3—K to Q B 6
4—Q to Q Kt 4, mate.	

There is a dual game if the defence is 1—K to Q B 4, viz.

	1—K to Q B 4
2—Q to Q B 8 ch.	2—K to Q Kt 4
3—B to Q R 3	3—Anything
4—Q to Q B 5, mate	

	if 2—K to Q 3
3—P to Q 4	3—P to K 3
4—Q to Q B 7, mate	
if 3—P to K B 4	3—P to Q 5
4—Q to Q B 6, mate	
	if 2—K to Q 5

3—B to Q Kt 2, and mate.

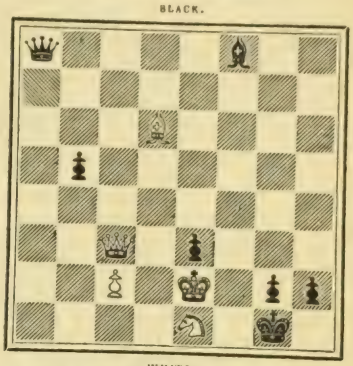
There is also mate in three

	if 1—P to Q 5
2—Q to Q 7, ch.	2—K × Kt
3—P to K B 4, mate	
	if 2—K to Q B 4

3—B to Q R 3, mate.

PROBLEM No. 106.
BY G. N. CHENEY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

We clip the following interesting games from the *Nottingham Guardian*; the former was played between the first and second prize-winners in the New York Tournament.

IRREGULAR OPENING.

WHITE. Lasker.	BLACK. Albin.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q B 4	2—P to K 4
3—QP takes P	3—P to Q 5
4—Kt to K B 3	4—Kt to Q B 3
5—P to Q R 3	5—B to K Kt 5
6—P to R 3	6—B takes Kt
7—Kt P takes B	7—Kt takes P
8—P to B 4	8—Kt to Q B 3
9—B to Kt 2	9—Q to Q 2
10—P to Kt 4	10—P to Q R 3
11—B to Kt 2	11—R to Q sq.
12—Kt to Q 2	12—K Kt to K 2
13—Kt to Kt 3	13—Kt to B 4
14—Q to Q 3	14—B to K 2
15—B to K 4	15—Kt to Q 3
16—Kt to B 5	16—Q to B sq.
17—B to K B 3	17—Castles
18—R to K Kt sq.	18—Kt to K sq.
19—Kt to Kt 3	19—Q to Q 2
20—Castles Q R	20—Q to Q 3
21—K to Kt sq.	21—Q takes B P
22—R to Kt 4	22—Q to R 3
23—B takes Kt	23—P takes B
24—R takes Q P	24—R to Q 3
25—P to B 5	25—R to K 3
26—Q takes R P	26—Q takes R P
27—K R to Q 3	27—Q to Kt 7
28—Kt to Q 4	28—R to B 3
29—R to K 3	29—B to Q sq.
30—Kt to B 2	30—R takes B P
31—R takes B	31—Resigns.

Another tussle from the same tourney.

RUY LOPEZ.

WHITE. Albin.	BLACK. Pollock.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to Q R 3
4—B to R 4	4—Kt to B 3
5—Q to K 2	5—P to Q Kt 4
6—B to Kt 3	6—B to B 4
7—P to B 3	7—Castles
8—P to Q 3	8—P to Q 4
9—B to Kt 5	9—P takes P
10—P takes P	10—Q to Q 3
11—Q Kt to Q 2	11—P to R 3
12—B to R 4	12—Kt to K 2
13—R to Q sq.	13—Kt to Kt 3
14—Kt to B sq.	14—Q to K 2
15—B to Kt 3	15—Kt to R 4
16—Kt to K 3	16—P to Q B 3
17—Castles	17—Kt (R 4) to B 5
18—Q to B 2	18—Q to B 3
19—Kt to B 5	19—B takes Kt
20—P takes B	20—Kt to K 2
21—B to R 4	21—Q takes P
22—B takes Kt	22—Q to Kt 5
23—P to Kt 3	23—Kt to R 6 ch.

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24—K to Kt 2	24—Kt to B 5 ch.
25—K to Kt sq.	25—Kt to R 6 ch.
26—K to Kt 2	26—Kt to B 5 ch.
27—K to Kt sq.	27—Q takes Kt
28—P takes Kt	28—Q to Kt 5 ch.
29—K to R sq.	29—Q to B 6 ch.
30—K to Kt sq.	30—Q to Kt 5 ch.
31—K to R sq.	31—Q to B 6 ch.
32—K to Kt sq.	32—B takes B
33—R to Q 3	33—Q takes P (B 5)
34—R to Kt 3	34—P to K 5
35—R to K sq.	35—B to B 4
36—R takes P	36—B takes P ch.
37—K to Kt 2	37—B takes R
38—R takes Q	38—B takes R
39—Q to B 5	39—B to Kt 4
40—Q to Kt 4	40—Q R to Q sq.
41—P to K R 4	41—R to Q 7 ch.
42—K to B sq.	42—B to K 6

Black won after 91 moves.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail."]

London, January 13.

The Earl of Kimberley is seriously ill.

The Parish Councils Bill has passed the House of Commons, and an adjournment took place until the 12th of February.

The Coinage Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States has reported in favour of the Bland Bill and the issue of silver certificates upon seignorage bullion in the Treasury amounting to fifty five million dollars, and that the bullion be rapidly coined.

London, January 14.

The Earl of Kimberley is better.

A native eye-witness of the annihilation of Major Wilson's party, says that he and his men fought desperately to the last behind their dead horses, and that in the end large numbers of Matabele overbore all resistance, as Major Wilson's men were gradually weakened by being all wounded. The Matabele then made their final rush, when all their opponents were assegaied and the bodies subsequently stripped. Major Wilson's party consisted of himself, five captains, two lieutenants, four sergeants, two corporals, and twenty troopers, and all were killed.

London, January 15.

Serious conflicts continue between the anarchists and the troops in Italy, and a pitched battle has been fought near Massa in which many persons were killed and wounded.

[Massa is on the sea coast of the northern part of Tuscany, not far from the Gulf of Genoa.—Ed. *J.M.*]

London, January 17.

The Secretary of the Treasury of the United States invites tenders for fifty million dollars 5 per cent. ten year bonds for gold redeemable in coin.

[Specially Telegraphed to the "Japan Daily Mail." (From the "North China Daily News").]

London, January 9.

It it reported that Lobeugula had reached the Zambesi with two thousand armed warriors.

January 10.

Sir Henry Loch wires that all hope for the safety of Major Wilson's party has been abandoned, but that he will send and ascertain their fate as soon as the weather permits.

January 11.

The negotiations for the Commercial Treaty between Russia and Germany have been brought to a successful conclusion.

(From Japanese Papers.)

Saga, January 13th, 9.27 a.m.

The funeral of Mr. Nagamine, Governor of this Prefecture, who died at Atami, is to take place at Shizuoka on the 20th instant. The Secretary of the *Kencho* left here for the capital to-day on business connected with this matter.

Utsunomiya, January 13th, 1.40 p.m.

Nakajima Kichitaro, a Radical, has been arrested by the police on suspicion of being associated with the attempted murder which recently occurred in Haga District in connection with the election.

Osaka, January 13th, 5.30 p.m.

Mr. Kawara, President of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, sent in his resignation two or three days ago. Disputes among the officers of the company is the reason attributed for this step. His retirement will cause an increase of influence for the so-called Fujita wing.

Saga, January 13th, 5 p.m.

Mr. Taketomi Tokitoshi returned here to-day. He delivered an address at the Kyowa-Kan, before an audience of five hundred persons. Fireworks were discharged, and his reception was most cordial.

Kumamoto, January 14, 10.43 a.m.

Shortly after four o'clock this morning two violent shocks of earthquakes were felt here.

Osaka, January 15, 3.28 p.m.

H.I.H. Prince Kitashirakawa leaves here to-morrow for Yamashiro Province to inspect the manœuvres of the troops under his command.

Osaka, January 15, 1.53 p.m.

Mr. Kawabara, President of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, has resolved to withdraw his resignation, the disputes between the officials of the company having been arranged by an intermediary.

Totsuka, January 15, 9.50 a.m.

Fire broke out at Higashiura, Enoshima, on the 14th, and over sixty houses were destroyed.

Kyoto, January 15.

Otani Kosho, ex-Superintendent of the East Hongan Temple, died to-day.

Osaka, January 15, 1 p.m.

The Asahi Cotton Spinning Co. commences work to-morrow. The capital is fixed at *yen* 300,000, and the Company has 15,000 spindles in working order.

Nagano, January 16, 2.45 p.m.

The authorities have sealed all the machinery at the *Shimpu Nippo* Office, and detained the editor on a charge of having published matters regarded as likely to disturb the public peace.

Fukuoka, January 16, 1.16 p.m.

The French man-of-war *Lion* arrived here yesterday.

Osaka, January 17, 1.30 p.m.

H.I.H. Princess Kita-shirakawa has accepted the position of Superintendent of the Osaka Charity Hospital.

Osaka, January 17, 4.15 p.m.

A public meeting of Progressionists was held at Akashi yesterday, an audience of over one thousand persons attending. The proceedings commenced at noon with a speech by Mr. Kajima Hidemaro, who met with many interruptions, no less than thirty *soshi* of the *Seigikai* being present, and he finally sat down before concluding his remarks. The *soshi* interrupted all the speakers with cries of "*Jiyu-to Banzai*" and "Down with the *Kaishin-to*." By half-past two o'clock nearly all the audience had left the hall. Messrs. Ozaki Yukio and Inukai Ki remained upon the platform, but they also were interrupted by *soshi*.

Yamaguchi, January 17, 2 p.m.

With the arrival of the new President, Mr. Okada Ryohei, the trouble in the Higher Middle School seems to be settled. Improvements have been made and new instructors engaged. The students, however, are not yet entirely satisfied.

Osaka, January 17.

The manufacture of iron pipes for the Waterworks has been greatly delayed, the contractor being unable to complete the stipulated 4,100 tons within the appointed time. The Waterworks Committee has therefore decided to purchase foreign-made pipes.

Nagasaki, January 17, 5.55 p.m.

All the defendants in the case connected with the confinement of Viscount Matsudaira have been arrested, with the exception of Matsubara. His whereabouts have not yet been discovered.

Nagoya, 18, 1.38 p.m.

The establishment of the Okazaki and Toyohashi Rice Exchanges has been sanctioned.

Nagasaki, 18, 11.40 a.m.

The French ship *Comet* has left here for Kobe.

Nara, 18th, 12.50 p.m.

The Authorities sanctioned the establishment of the Nara Exchange to-day.

Fukushima, 18, 5.56 p.m.

The establishment of an Exchange has been sanctioned.

Otsu, 18, 5.09 p.m.

To celebrate the opening of the Sangu Railway, the Company will carry passengers and freight at twenty per cent. reduction from the ordinary rates during thirty days, commencing the 11th proximo. The Kansai, the Sanyo, the Government, the Japan, and the Kiushu Railways, and the Shosen Kaisha have agreed in this reduction.

Osaka, 18, 8.44 p.m.

A sharp shock of earthquake was felt here at 3.45 p.m. to-day. The duration was 1m. 57s., and the direction from S.W. to N.E. Clocks were stopped.

Toyama, 19th, 10.27 a.m.

The establishment of the Toyama Exchange was sanctioned yesterday.

Osaka, 19th, 2.27 p.m.

A special meeting of the Osaka City Assembly to-day, passed the extraordinary prison expenses amounting to eight thousand *yen*. This sum was asked for on account of the increased provision expenditure, which is brought about by the rise in price of rice and wheat.

4.50 p.m.

The members of the City Assembly held a conference to-day, and passed a resolution to the effect that 4,000 tons out of the total quantity of iron pipes for the Water-works ordered from the Osaka Arsenal should be purchased from a foreign country. About one-third of the whole City will shortly be supplied with water through the Works.

Kagoshima, 19th, 3.45 p.m.

Over one hundred and fifty citizens intend entertaining the officers of the *Matsushima Kan*, now lying in that port, at the Seiryu Restaurant this evening.

Nagasaki, 19th, 2.30 p.m.

Viscount Matsudaira, attended by three servants, has repaired to the Court to acknowledge service of summons. Okumi Katsusaburo and three other of the accused retainers have arrived here from Shimabara.

2.35 p.m.

The French ship *Lion* has arrived here from Hakata.

Bombay, 8th, 1 p.m.

The Indian Government has decided not to impose a duty on imported silver.

(From Shanghai Mercury.)

Paris, December 21.

According to a despatch from General Dodds, Behanzin is gathering together in the west the remains of his dispersed army.

The French troops are surrounding Behanzin.

December 23.

Rear-Admiral Dupuis, the successor of Rear-Admiral Humann, will leave on the 7th January.

M. Deloncle will oppose in the Chamber the creation of a buffer state.

December 25.

At Massowah the Dervishes attacked Fort Agordat. The Italians repulsed them, killing a large number.

Fresh disturbances have broken out in Sicily and some soldiers have been wounded.

Three Anarchists have been arrested at Paris and Orleans.

Anarchist workshops and a large quantity of explosives have been discovered in Spain.

December 26.

Four Anarchists have been arrested at Avignon.

Hostilities have for a long time been suspended at Melilla.

It is believed that an agreement will shortly be arrived at between Spain and the Sultan of Morocco, the latter undertaking to punish the aggressive tribes.

December 27.

Four Anarchists in custody at Barcelona have confessed that they were the perpetrators of the explosion in the Liceo.

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December 28.

Vaillant, the man who threw the bomb in the French Chamber, will be tried at the Assizes on the 5th January.

The Angoulême Court of Assize has pronounced judgment in the Aigues-Mortes affair. It appears that the Italians attacked the French.

(From the "Hongkong Daily Press.")

Madrid, December 28.

Prince Muley Araaf has handed over to General Martinez Campos two chiefs of the Riff rebels, Maimon Mojatar and Heddu Haci. The General has sent them to the Sultan at Tangier for punishment. The emissaries of Prince Araaf are looking for the other promoters of the conflict, Ali el Rubio and Santon Puntilla, who have fled in consequence of the activity of the Sultan and whose whereabouts are unknown.

The Government has invited General Martinez Campos to go to Morocco to negotiate with the Sultan. The General is retained in command of the African army and during his absence General Primo de Rivera, Marques de Eellsta, will act for him.

General Martinez Campos will have an interview to-day with the Pasha of the Melilla Camp, for the purpose, it is believed, of receiving from him Ali el Rubio.

Later.

The appointment of General Martinez Campos as Special Ambassador at the Court of Morocco has been confirmed. His mission is to demand the punishment of the guilty parties, the strict and immediate fulfilment of the treaty of Wad-Ras in all respects, guarantees for the future, and a war indemnity.

In the conference between General Martinez Campos and Prince Araaf in Frajana to-day, it was agreed that the chiefs of the tribes should go to Melilla to salute the Spanish flag.

Madrid, December 29.

General Martinez Campos will leave for Morocco next week in the *Conde de Venadito*, escorted by the rest of the squadron.

Madrid, December 30.

While awaiting the results of the negotiations at Morocco, it is arranged that the Regiments of Infantry of Mallorca, Guipuzcoa, Teledo, Constitution, Infante, Wad-Ras, Canarias, Alava, San Quintin, Albuera, and Luchana, and the Santiago Dragoons shall remain at Melilla under Generals Macias, Ortega, Salcedo, Luque, Molins, and Linares.

The embarkation of the troops that are to return to the Peninsula will commence to-day.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Jan. 26th.
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Jan. 22nd †
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 28th.‡
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 21st.§
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 20th.‖
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N D. Lloyd	Wednesday, Jan. 24th.
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 28th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Feb. 1st.

† *Empress of India* left Vancouver on January 8th. ‡ *Gaelic* left San Francisco on January 9th. § *Océanien* (with French mail) left Hongkong on January 13th. ‖ *Peru* left Hongkong on January 13th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Aglaia*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Jan. 23rd.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Sunday, Jan. 28th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 28th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, Feb. 2nd.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, Feb. 2nd.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 3rd.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 720, Hayashi, 13th January,—Moji 11th January, Coal and General.—Takakuni Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,847, T. Golding, 13th January,—Kobe 12th January, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 13th January,—Otaru viâ ports 8th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 800, J. Jones, 13th January,—Moji 11th January, Coal.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 13th January,—Kobe 12th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,754, A. W. S. Thomson, 14th January,—New York 24th October, General.—Cornes & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 14th January,—Nagasaki 10th January, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Glenshiel, British steamer, 2,240, R. D. Jones, 14th January,—London, and Kobe 12th January, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 14th January,—Hongkong 5th, Nagasaki 10th, and Kobe 12th January, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Hamada, 16th January,—Shimonoseki 14th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Irene, German steamer, 1,630, Schuder, 16th January,—Hamburg and Hongkong 9th January, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 16th January,—Otaru viâ ports 12th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 16th January,—Kobe 15th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Wilson, 18th January,—Misumi viâ Kobe 13th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 18th January,—Kobe 17th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 18th January,—San Francisco 30th December, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 19th January,—Kobe 19th January, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 19th January,—Shanghai and ports 12th January, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, Wm. H. Walker, 13th January,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Benlarig, British steamer, 1,452, E. Le Boutillier, 13th January,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Bullmouth, British steamer, 2,606, Scott, 13th January,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ethiope, British steamer, 1,950, F. Wankel, 13th January,—Kobe, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, Matsumoto, 13th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 14th January,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 14th January,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Melbourne, French steamer, 3,400, Vimont, 14th January,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, J. Jones, 15th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 15th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 15th January,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,754, A. W. S. Thomson, 16th January,—Kobe, General.—Cornes & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 16th January,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 720, Hayashi, 16th January,—Moj, General.—Takakisan Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 16th January,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 17th January,—Yokkaichi 16th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ping Suey, British steamer, 1,982, Jaques, 18th January,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Dunbeth, British steamer, 1,471, Chas. McKenzie, 18th January,—Kobe, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Hamada, 18th January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Itsukushima Kan (12), Japanese cruiser, Captain K. Ijichi, 18th January,—Yokosuka.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 18th January,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 18th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,197, Renny, 18th January,—Fushiki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 18th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 130, Harrison, 19th January,—Guam, Stores.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Saipan, British schooner, 75, J. T. Blanchfield, 19th January,—Guam, Stores.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 19th January,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 19th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 20th January,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219 J. Wilson, 20th January,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 20th January,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 20th January,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Kobe:—Mrs. Jones and Mr. Kawada in cabin; and 10 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Hon. H. H. Risley, Messrs. Sare, H. Pinckney, and Chan Suen Hin in cabin; and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. H. A. McGill and Misses Bewick in cabin; 4 passengers in second class, and 32 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, from Kobe:—Mrs. Funaki, Messrs. S. Funaki, J. Funaki, N. Kusano, and S. Nagao in cabin; Mr. K. Kumagai, Mrs. K. Kaneko, Mr. and Mrs. Arakawa, Mr. K. Arakawa, Mr. R. Takashima, and Mr. Futatsuki and family in second class, and 39 Japanese and 1 European in steerage. For Hakodate: 13 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—Mr. K. Watanabe in cabin and 28 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco:—Captain W. G. Furber, Mrs. S. H. Furber, Miss G. C. Furber, Mr. H. Bumgarten, Mr. R. Bumgarten, Mr. S. Tsunekawa, Mr. S. Suzuki, and Mrs. Lee in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Taylor, Gov. K. Iwasaki, Messrs. Kawamata, Vassitileff, M. Hashimoto, and S. E. Hitchcock in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Nish, Mr. and Mrs. Ito, Messrs. Takehara, Nishio, S. Nakata, Teramoto, and Suyematsu in second class, and 26 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—Mr. O. Asano, Miss S. A. Pratt, Miss H. I. Bruckhart, Mrs. Tilton, Miss Loring, Mr. J. B. P. Trowbridge, Mr. S. S. Wolffson, Dr. P. Anderson, Mr. Wm. Allen, and Mr. N. E. Rice in cabin.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Messrs. G. F. Smithers, Geo. N. Macondray, J. Koning, C. Jock San, Crane, F. C. MacCallum, H. W. Bourman, J. M. Moore, Miss Lucciana, Messrs. Lucciana and 2 boys, Bartouills de Taillac, Jacquemin, Casamarta, Edwin Charles Hedges, Harvey Chevallier, Miss Marie Anna Martin, Mr. Gilbert Roux, Miss Josephine Famy, Mr. Mouello, and Mr. Drean in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Hudson, Messrs. C. D. Moss, J. M. Francis, A. Peterson, W. P. Pratt, G. F. Westcott, M. Suyenobu, Y. Adachi, and Y. Mayesono in cabin; Messrs. Shinagawa, H. G. Smith, J. T. Gannon, R. Boucher, H. Yasuda, and S. Tomonaga in second class, and 50 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ

INTERNET ARCHIVE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

ports:—Ven. Archdeacon Shaw, Mrs. Shaw and 4 children, Mr. J. B. Rentiers, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Miss Hartley, Miss Cushing, Mr. A. E. Wilhelmi, Mr. J. E. Lambie, Rev. I. H. Correll, Mr. James Spoerri, and Mr. Todoroki in cabin; 5 Europeans and 3 Chinese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $100,000.00.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	MONTREAL.	OMAHA.	KINGSTON.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	258	—	—	—	258
Hyogo	14	—	—	—	—	14
Yokohama	1,091	—	240	262	9	1,602
Hongkong	40	—	—	—	—	40
Total	1,145	258	240	262	9	1,914

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	126	—	126
Hongkong	—	160	—	160
Yokohama	—	910	—	910
Total	—	1,196	—	1,196

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for Europe, 437 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 242 bales. Treasure for Shanghai, $3,000.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $73,800.00.

Per British steamer *Mogul*, for Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—

TEA.

	PACIFIC COAST.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	CANADA.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	—	374	—	—	374
Yokohama	20	—	—	—	329	349
Hongkong	143	—	—	—	—	143
Total	163	—	374	—	329	866

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama	295	—	295
Total	295	—	295

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 124 bales; Waste Silk, 182 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Otaru the 8th January at 2 p.m.; had strong N. and N.E. winds and cloudy weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 9th at 9.50 a.m. and left again the 11th at 8 a.m.; had fresh westerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 12th at 7 a.m. and left again the same day at 1.30 p.m.; had fresh N.W. winds and fine weather; thence at midnight on the 13th light variable winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 13th January at 2.55 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Higo Maru*, Captain J. Jones, reports:—Left Moji the 11th January at 6.45 a.m.; had light easterly to S.E. winds, fine and clear weather, which continued throughout the day; at 9.30 p.m. cleared the Bungo Channel; on the 12th commenced with gentle N.W. breeze, freshened to a strong breeze, fresh sea, weather fine and clear; at 2.17 p.m. passed Oshima, light N.N.E. winds with northerly swell; from 8 p.m. to Omai-saki, which was passed the 13th at 4.21 a.m.; experienced fresh to strong breeze, high cross sea, weather fine and clear; from Omai-saki had light northerly to N.N.E. winds, slight sea, weather fine and clear; passing Rock Island Lighthouse at 7.48 a.m. and Kannon-saki at 2 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama at 4 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Crichton, reports:—Left Kobe the 12th January at 0.25 p.m.; had light to gentle variable winds with fine, clear weather to Oshima; thence to port light northerly airs and very fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 13th January at 5.50 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Otaru the 12th January at 2.47 p.m.; had strong W.N.W. winds and high N.W. sea. Arrived at Hakodate the 13th at 10.20 a.m. and left the 14th at 8 a.m.; had strong westerly winds and high sea, and thick snow squalls. Arrived at Oginohama the 15th at 7.30 a.m. and left the same day at 3 p.m.; had fresh N.W. winds to Inuboye; thence to port moderate variable winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 16th January at 4.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 15th January at noon; thence till 3 a.m. on the 16th light to gentle variable winds, clear and cloudy weather, smooth sea; on the 16th at 3 a.m. strong to fresh breeze N.W. and W.N.W., clear weather, and moderate sea to Rock Island; thence to port light to gentle variable winds and fine, clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama at 5.50 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Fushiki Maru*, Captain Wilson, reports:—Left Misumi the 13th January at 4 p.m.; had fresh N.W. winds with cloudy and overcast weather to Moji, where arrived the 14th at 1 p.m. Left Moji the 15th at 6.30 a.m.; had light variable winds with cloudy weather throughout the Inland Sea and arrived at Kobe the 16th at 8.25 a.m. Left again the same day at 9.20 p.m.; experienced fresh N.N.W. winds with clear weather to Rock Island; thence to port gentle N.E. winds with continuing fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 18th January at 11.30 a.m.

The American steamer *City of de Rio Janeiro*, Captain J. T. Smith, reports:—Left San Francisco the 30th December at 4.15 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 18th January at 9.52 p.m. Passage, 18 days, 12 hours, 9 minutes. To the meridian had light easterly winds with smooth sea; thence to port moderate to strong westerly winds with heavy head sea.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 12th January at 2.10 p.m.; had light southerly and S.E. winds and remarkable fine mild weather; approaching Goto Islands, on the afternoon of 13th, wind backing to N.W. and increasing to fresh breeze accompanied with clear weather and moderate sea up to arrival at Nagasaki the 14th at 6 a.m. Left Nagasaki the 15th at 5 p.m.; had light variable westerly and N.W. winds and fine, clear weather up to arrival at Shimenoseki the 16th at 7 a.m. Left Shimonoseki the same day at noon; experienced through whole of Inland Sea, light variable winds accompanied with dull, cloudy weather and occasional rain showers, arriving at Kobe the 17th at 9.40 a.m., had light westerly winds and fine, clear weather. Left Kobe the 18th at noon; had light northerly and N.E. winds and fine, clear weather; passed Oshima at 8.40 p.m.; thence to Rock Island fresh N.E. breeze and continued fine, clear weather; after passing Rock Island the 19th at 10 a.m., had light northeasterly winds and fine, clear weather up to arrival at Yokohama at 3.50 p.m. Met a steamer about 20 miles westward of Omai-saki, supposed to be the *Nagoya Maru*, steering to south-westward.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The improved feeling in the Import Trade reported last week has met with an untimely end, and the past few days have been quiet indeed. Demand for Yarns has fallen off to a considerable extent—not more than 40 bales having changed hands during the week. In Piece Goods holders and buyers apparently find it impossible to come to terms, and consequently matters are at a standstill. Thus, although there has been a fair amount of enquiry for Turkey Reds and other Piece Goods, no business has resulted. In Woollens, the same trouble exists, so that notwithstanding the evident desire on the part of the Japanese to purchase, practically no transactions have taken place.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.30 to 2.80
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.40 to 3.15
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.55 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.75 to 2.40
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1 80 to 3 80
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0 17 to 0 22
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.35 to 8.70
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.65 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.45 to 1.55
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1 70 to 2.00
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.30 to 2.65
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2 90 to 3.10

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.29 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0 25 to 0.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.20 to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.14 to 0 19½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$37.00 to —
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	37.00 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	—
Nos. 28/32, Medium	37 75 to —
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	38.50 to 39 75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	45 00 to 47.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	43 00 to 44 00
No. 42s, Two-fold	47.50 to 49.50
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

There is nothing new to report in this market, the situation being unchanged. Buyers continue to hold off and the prospect is far from encouraging. Quotations show no variation.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	$4.10 to 4.20
Flat Bars, ½ inch	4 20 to 4.30
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.35 to 3.45
Iron Plates, assorted	3.40 to 3.50
Sheet Iron	4.55 to 4.70
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.00 to 9.20
Wire Nails, assorted	5.40 to 5.75
Tin Plates, per box	6.00 to 6.20
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.50 to 1.55

KEROSENE.

Only a small business has been done during the past week. Holders remain firm, but apparently cannot continue so for long as large shipments are reported to be on their way both from Batoum and America. On the 14th inst. the steamer *Benlomond* arrived with 6,642 cases of Comet, but this has had no effect upon the market.

Chester	$1.82½ to 1.87
Comet	1.80 to 1.82½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.77½ to 1.80
Russian Moon	1.75 to 1.77½

SUGAR.

Business in Browns has been confined to very close bounds owing to the absence of stock. Further contracts "to arrive" have been entered into at former rates. Whites continue to find ready purchases, and a fair business is being done at last week's quotations.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.40 to 4.50
Brown Manila	5.30 to 5.40
Brown Daitong	4.00 to 4.15
Brown Canton	4.45 to 4 65
White Java and Penang	7.00 to 7.10
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 12th instant, since which date settlements on this market amount to 399 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 274 piculs; *Reeels*, 77 piculs; *Kakeda*, 48 piculs. Direct shipments have been 83 bales, making the total export trade for the week about 500 piculs.

As will be seen from the above figures, there has been very little business done during the past week. Holders, with the present large stock on their hands, seem anxious to be moving and are willing to make slight concessions on their quotations of a week ago. Advices from consumers, however, do not appear of an encouraging nature and, in consequence, the market is very quiet.

Arrivals have continued to come in freely, exceeding purchases by 400 piculs, so that our stock now stands at 14,600 piculs.

Exchange, after remaining steady during the week, has declined a point or two at the close. This is owing purely to local reasons, as the quotation for silver in London shows no change.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the American mail steamer *Belgic*, on the 13th instant, taking 909 bales for the United States; the steamer *Mogul*, on the 14th instant, carrying 295 bales for the New York trade, and the French mail steamer *Melbourne*, leaving on the same day, took 437 bales for Europe. These departures bring the present export figures up to 28,267 piculs, against 38,344 piculs last year and 34,225 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—Nothing whatever has been done in these, the poor quality now on offer not tempting buyers.

Filatures.—As usual, the bulk of the week's trade has been in this branch, but full sizes have failed to attract purchasers, the demand being entirely in fine sizes for Europe. The highest price paid for well-known chops was $820, for a parcel of *Roku-mon-sen*, with fair and medium fine sizes at and about $740.

Reeels.—One small parcel of *Koriyama (Girl)* fetched $720, while *Five Girls* continue to be held for $740.

Kakeda.—There have been a few small purchases in this branch at somewhat easier rates. A parcel of *Asahizuru* fetched $735, while *Musume I.* has been purchased at $700.

In other sorts, nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—

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Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	$830 to 840
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers		810 to 820
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom.	800 to 810
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den		790 to 800
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers		760 to 770
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den		760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		730 to 740
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		730 to 740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1		740 to 750
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		730 to 740
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		710 to 720
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		680 to 690
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		660 to 670
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		640 to 650
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1		730 to 740
Kakedas—No. 1½		700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 2		670 to 680
Kakedas—No. 2½		650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 3		630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 19th Jan., 1894:—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	16,029	14,238	11,970
America	11,449	23,420	21,442
Total { Bales	27,478	37,658	33,412
Total { Piculs	28,267	38,344	34,225
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	29,800	39,300	34,600
Stock, 19th Jan	14,600	6,500	15,000
Available supplies to date	44,400	45,800	49,600

WASTE SILK.

Quite a brisk week has been experienced in this branch, settlements amounting to 2,440 piculs, divided thus:—*Cocoons*, 8 piculs; *Noshi*, 1,409 piculs; *Kibiso*, 1,023 piculs. Direct shipments have only been one picul of *Tama* for New York.

It appears that at last the European consumers recognize that the *Noshi* and *Kibiso* now on offer are of better value than for many years past and are anxious to make purchases while assortment is good. Quotations for *Noshi* show a rise on last week's rates, but those of *Kibiso* are unchanged, although holders are trying to get $10 per picul more for the high grades.

Arrivals have not quite kept pace with sales, so that our stock figures have fallen to 17,700 piculs.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The steamer *Benvenue*, leaving on the 11th instant, carried 23 bales of *Cocoons* for America; the American mail steamer *Belgic*, on the 13th, took one picul *Tama* for America, and the French mail steamer *Melbourne*, leaving on the 14th instant, carried 721 piculs of Waste silk and 13 piculs Cocoons for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 14,822 piculs, against 26,605 piculs last year, and 20,544 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Cocoons.—A very small parcel was taken up at $97½, but the stock on offer is of very poor quality and most of it will in time find its way back into the interior.

Noshi.—The chief purchases have again been in this branch, *Filature*, *Oshu*, and *Joshu*, all getting their turn. Quotations are all up about $10 per picul, and prices for the best selected *Oshu* range as high as $150, while a good many parcels of medium *Joshu* have been taken at from $70 to $80 per picul.

Kibiso.—A fair amount of business has been done in this department and quotations are tending upwards. Several parcels of *Filature* have been settled at from $105 to $110, with other grades in proportion.

In other lines nothing to note.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$150 to 160
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	140 to 145
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	130 to 135
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	140 to 150
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	125 to 135
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70 to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110 to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 19th Jan., 1894:

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	11,591	23,915	18,490
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,690	2,054
	14,822	26,605	20,544
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	19,740	33,100	24,900
Stock, 19th Jan	17,700	7,600	11,600
Available supplies to date	37,440	40,700	36,500

Exchange after being steady throughout the week has declined slightly at the close—rates now standing as follows:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/3⅞; Documents, 2/4; 6m/s. Credits, 2/4⅛. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $55¾; 4m/s. U.S. $56⅜. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.93; 6m/s. fcs. 2.95.

Estimated Silk Stock, 19th Jan., 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	80	Cocoons	320
Filatures	8,170	Noshi-ito	7,850
Re-reels	4,450	Kibiso	8,850
Kakeda	1,800	Mawata	150
Oshu	50	Sundries	530
Yamaam Kinds	50		
Total piculs	14,600	Total piculs	17,700

TEA.

Demand has again fallen off, almost to the vanishing point, and the market is in a quiescent condition.

	per picul.
Common	$12 to 13
Good Common	14 to 15
Medium	17 to 18
Good Medium	19 to 20
Fine	22 to 23
Finest	Nominal.
Choice	
Choicest	

EXCHANGE.

After being fairly steady for the week, rates of exchange declined at the close.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/3
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2 3⅛
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/3½
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/3¾
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/4⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.84
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.93
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73½
On India—Bank sight	181
On India—Private 30 days' sight	184
On America—Bank Bills on demand	54½
On America—Private 30 days' sight	55⅜
On America—Private 4 months' sight	56⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.30
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.38
Bar Silver (London)	31⅛

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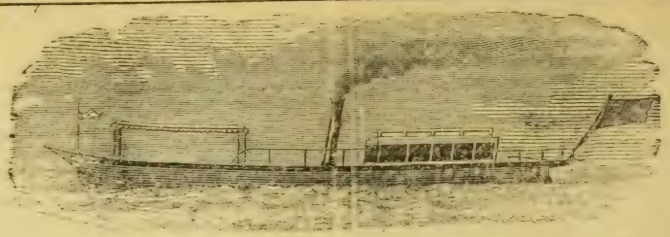
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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 27TH, 1894.

DEATH.

At the Kaga Yashiki Hospital, Tokyo, on the 19th inst., EDMUND R. HOLMES, aged 59.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE *Domei* Club has been dissolved.

TO-DAY is the German Emperor's 35th birthday.

THE Empress Dowager celebrated her birthday on the 23rd inst.

INFLUENZA, of a mild description, is very prevalent in Yokohama.

SMALL-POX has appeared in Tokyo and several districts of Kanagawa Prefecture.

SEVERAL Imperial nominations were made to the House of Peers this week.

THE Interport football match is arranged for the fifth prox. It takes place in Kobe this year.

A JAPANESE artisan was found drowned in the Creek near Ogi Bridge, Yokohama, on the 21st inst.

THE herring catch in Hokkaido last year exceeded that of the previous twelvemonths by 136,930 *koku*.

THE long spell of fine weather was broken on Thursday, when rain fell copiously from an early hour.

ACCORDING to latest Government statistics there are at present 20,310 Japanese residing in the Hawaiian Islands.

THE Photographic Society of Japan gave a most enjoyable evening at Kiel's building on Friday. A collection of Dutch plates were shown, Dr. Van der Heyden giving the necessary explanations; and Prof. Milne gave an illustrated lecture, entitled "In darkest Yesso."

THE total exports of Japan in 1893 are set down at *yen* 89,712,864.590, while the imports total *yen* 88,257,171.710.

THE *Maud S.* and the *Retriever*, sealing schooners, left during the week for the North Pacific sealing-grounds.

THE entertainment given in the Public Hall on Wednesday evening by Chas. Comelli's Novelty Troupe was patronised by a crowded house.

THE Government is said to have decided to prohibit emigration to Hawaii for the present, owing to the political troubles in the islands.

THE port of Vladivostock, which was frozen-up lately, is again reported open, the ice-breaking vessel having evidently accomplished its task.

FOUR men were burnt to death and five hundred and three houses reduced to ashes by a fire which broke out in Kogoshima on the morning of the 24th inst.

COUNT GORO has been succeeded at the Department of Agriculture and Commerce by Viscount Enomoto, who held the portfolio for about six months in 1888.

THE Rev. Dr. Meacham gave a lecture on "Certain phases of the phenomena of sleep," at the meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society on Friday evening.

THE annual meeting of members of Union Church was held on Tuesday. The financial report was very satisfactory, while the outlook of affairs for the ensuing year was encouraging.

MR. EDWARD MULLENDORF, of the bankrupt firm of Pollett and Mullendorf, was arrested at the instance of the Belgian Consul on Monday afternoon, in connection with the bankruptcy affairs.

THE *Sakata Maru* of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, is a most unfortunate vessel. She ran on to a shoal near Fushigi Lighthouse during the gale of the 22nd. She was on her first voyage since her grounding near Inuboye.

A BEAUTIFUL flower-vase to be presented by the officials in the Agricultural and Commercial Department to Mr. Saito, ex-Vice Minister of the Department, has been completed at the Tokyo Fine Art School. It is said to have cost over two hundred *yen*.

SOME changes are impending in the Japanese Diplomatic Service, Viscount Kawase, who is accredited to the Court of St. James's, is returning home, and it is thought that he will be replaced by Viscount Aoki, at present Japanese Representative in Berlin.

A VERY strong bar has been briefed for the *Chishima-Ravenna* Appeal before the Privy Council. For the Appellants (the Imperial Japanese Government) Sir Henry James, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. Arthur Cohen appear; while the Peninsular and Oriental Company will be represented by Sir Charles Russell, Q.C., M.P., Solicitor-General, Sir Richard Webster, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Finlay, Q.C., and Mr. Pollard.

THE total number of houses damaged by fire in the urban and rural divisions of Tokyo during last year was 814, of which 392 were completely destroyed, and 422 partly damaged. The following were the attributed causes of the conflagrations:—86 from overheated furnaces, 21 from *kotatsu* or *anka*, 94 from straw-ashes or fire-brands, 37 from lamps, 27 from tobacco ashes, 25 from open fire-places, and 15 from refuse burnt in the open-air.

IT is gazetted that the 25th anniversary of the marriage of Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress will be celebrated at the Palace on the 9th of March next.

SEVERAL hundred stevedore coolies attempted a riot in China Town on Tuesday, in consequence of one of their number having been struck by a Chinaman. A greengrocer's shop was looted.

THE half-yearly general meeting of shareholders of the Japan Cement Co., Tokyo, took place on the 24th inst. The net profits during the last half-year amounted to *yen* 10,179.102, of which *yen* 1,000.000 was added to the reserve fund, *yen* 1,000 deducted for payment of preliminary establishment debts, *yen* 1,000.000 voted as remuneration to officers, and *yen* 6,750.000 declared as a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, *yen* 429.102 being carried forward.

SECRETARY CARLISLE'S U.S. Bonds have been subscribed for at a high premium, rendering the rate of issue about two and a half per cent. The British Government has declined to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the public grievances of Penang. The Chamber of Deputies has adopted the Franco-Siamese Treaty. The riots in Sicily and the discontent throughout Italy have induced the Authorities to call out reserves and proclaim a state of seige in many districts. The House of Lords have read the Parish Councils Bill a first time. Sir William Harcourt is being urged to bring in a democratic Budget, freeing the breakfast-table commodities. The Empress of Russia has been suffering from influenza and fever. France proposes establishing a protectorate over Madagascar, similiar to the control existing at Tunis. The Prussian Budget shows a deficiency of seventy million marks. Jabez Spencer Balfour has been arrested in Argentina. The House of Representatives of the United States has amended the Tariff Bill by abolishing the sugar bounties, the amendment to take effect immediately. Affairs in Egypt are disturbed, much indignation being felt in military circles in Cairo in consequence of the criticisms by the Khedive of the troops and the British officers.

A BETTER tone pervades the Import market, although no very large business was done during the week. Woollens, Italian Cloths, and Fancies started to move, and a good showing would have been made had not the sharp fall in exchange prompted dealers to raise quotations. The same cause has operated to check transactions in Metals, which at one time were inclined to move. Little business has been done in Kerosene; American oil shows no change, but Russian is slightly firmer. The boom in Brown Sugars continues, and any shipments that come to hand are quickly taken at quotations, the new crop arrivals having been contracted for at advanced rates. Whites have fallen off, and close easier for some grades. Tempted by the falling exchange, operators have again entered the Tea market, but transactions are on a limited scale. The bad news from Italy of heavy failures in banking circles, has brought business here in Raw Silk almost to a standstill, while prices have toppled down in many of the commoner grades. The Stock is still heavy, amounting to 14,950 piculs. A fair amount of business has been done in Waste, although demand fell off considerably upon arrival of discouraging news from European consumers. Prices, however, have not changed, and close firm at last week's rates.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Political rumours of a disquieting nature continue to fill the news columns of the metropolitan papers. It is reported that Mr. Inouye, Minister of Education, has tendered his resignation, and that Count Saigo and Count Kuroda are strongly inclined to follow his example. A rumour of a rupture between the Choshu and Satsuma members of the Cabinet is also ventilated. Writing on this subject, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that these canards are fabrications of an ambitious person, who thus seeks to create an opportunity for his own accession to a Ministerial post. This personage tried very hard to gain over to his ambitious project a certain statesman under whom he once occupied a seat in the Cabinet. But the ex-Premier, whoever he may be, received his proposals very coldly and did not seem disposed to cōoperate in his plan. He then tried his power of pursuasion upon another statesman, once a member of the present Ministry. But again he was unsuccessful. Lastly, he fell back upon one of his former colleagues, who is from the same locality as himself. Entirely unsuccessful in all of these efforts to gain confederates, he betook himself to circulating false rumours tending to excite suspicion between the Satsuma and Choshu statesmen. But here also he has been detected in the very act, and there seems to be left no hope for him to attain his object. The *Nichi Nichi* refuses to give the name of this intriguer. But its statements, as here quoted, leave no doubt as to his identity. Whatever may be thought of the *Nichi Nichi's* inuendoes, it is certain that these rumours are not regarded seriously by any sober-minded men, though they are eagerly taken up by papers to which nothing is unwelcome that has the least tendency to discredit the Cabinet in the eyes of the people.

* * *

The apparent irresolution and inaction of the Government afford matter for journalistic comment. The Progressionist organs write as though they were convinced of the fall of the so-called Clan Government at an early date. They say that this Cabinet is the last that can be formed out of clan elements purely for clan purposes. With its fall will come down the whole edifice of clan Government. Finally, judging from present conditions, these papers believe that the Cabinet cannot maintain itself for any long period of time.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo*, as usual, advises the Government to be firm and united against the Opposition. The present rumours, in its opinion, may be taken as a sign that the public has become tired of the inaction of the Government. There seems to be a cry for a Military Cabinet. In the *Jiji's* opinion, there is unfortunately no statesman strong enough to form such a Cabinet. Had the elder Saigo been alive he might have been able to do so. Among the statesmen of the younger generation some appear to have uncommon ability, but as yet they do not possess the confidence of the public. Can nothing, then, be done to rescue the nation from its embarrassing situation? In the *Jiji's* opinion, even the present Cabinet can do something to effect such a result by diverting public attention into foreign channels. The most serviceable question for that purpose is the Eastern Question, the solution of which possesses urgent importance. The task is attended with uncommon difficulties, but if the Ministers of the Crown devote their whole energies to the work, they may yet be able not only to maintain themselves in power for many years to come, but also to save the nation from further fruitless contests over domestic politics.

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In another article, the *Jiji* advises the Cabinet to give up the temporizing and half-hearted policy of late pursued, and to adopt in its stead an independent and active policy, with the good of the country as its sole purpose. To come to more concrete statements, our contemporary thinks it unwise to adopt such measures as the assessment of the taxable value of land, and several others which have nothing to recommend them save that they are noisily demanded by irresponsible demagogues. The most important section of the nation does not approve these measures. So long as the good-will of the independent educated class is retained the cabinet may safely disregard whatever opposition the House of Representatives makes. In their intercourse with private persons, the Ministers of State are advised to be more frank and confiding, as well as jealous of their personal dignity and importance. In everything they do and say, they have to endeavour to prove their disinterested devotion to the interests of the country and the well-being of the people. In this way alone they may defy the persistent opposition of the Diet. If they are not prepared to pursue such a policy, it will be madness on their part to resort to the daring course of dissolving the Diet again and again until one favourable to themselves shall have been returned.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* writes in a similar strain. Like the above-mentioned paper, it is of opinion that the only rational course to be pursued by the Cabinet is the adoption of a strong and independent policy. In order to carry out such a policy consistently, the Cabinet ought to be ready to dissolve the Diet as many times as necessary in order to obtain a truly representative House. Beside the coming election, there are various other important affairs of State calling for immediate attention. In disposing of them the Ministers are strongly recommended to dismiss from their minds all thought as to whether their action will obtain the approval of the next House of Representatives.

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In response to the strong recommendations offered to the Cabinet by these papers, the Opposition organs remark that the present Cabinet has not energy enough to pursue such a daring course of policy. The fact that the *Nichi Nichi* thinks it necessary to repeat the advice day after day, is, in the *Hochi's* opinion, a sufficient proof that the Government organ has not much confidence in the ability and courage of its patrons. There may be, says the Progressionist organ, one or two Ministers of State not disinclined to such a strong policy, but even they are aware that it is not practicable. Should such a policy, however, be adopted by the Government, the Opposition would have simply to rejoice over the hastening of their day of final victory. Despite this stout declaration, there is no doubt that the fear of another dissolution greatly disturbs the Opposition politicians, for there are several instances of candidates withdrawing from the field solely because of such an apprehension.

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Increasing attention is paid to the approaching general election. As to its date, the papers have ceased to complain of the delay made in fixing it. They believe that it will be fixed in a few days. As noticed in these columns more than once, the Government seems to be resolved to observe strict neutrality in the next election, and the Local Governors and police chiefs have been ordered to exercise their vigilance against the employment of illegal methods. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, writing on this subject, heartily approves the course adopted by the Government. Some persons, says our contemporary, try to find fault with the Cabinet's commendable course, by maintaining that the Ministers really aim at inconveniencing the Opposition candidates. These persons do a great wrong to the Cabinet, for the very nature of the course decided upon by the Ministry precludes them showing partiality to any party.

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The course adopted by the Cabinet with regard to the control of the elections seems to be approved by the majority of the metropolitan papers. They all unite in deploring the prevalence of corruption and force at elections, and in making strong appeals to the electors and candidates to abstain from illegal practices. The *Jiyu Shimbun* is discussing this question in a long series of articles not yet completed. It unreservedly approves the instructions which the Minister of Home Affairs is said to have given to the local police recently assembled in the capital, and it then goes on to examine the various regulations about elections, and points out the manner in which their provisions are to be carried out. Our contemporary illustrates the punishabte cases of infractions of these regulations by adducing various hypothetical instances. It is not necessary to follow our contemporary into details; suffice it to say that the Radical organ favours the unsparing punishment of all illegal actions in connection with the elections.

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All the other papers of the Opposition, as well as the Independent organs, call upon the electors to make a conscientious use of the important right entrusted to them. They are urged to cast their votes for persons regarded by them as worthy of sitting in the Diet, and are told to clear their minds of all motives of personal interest. These lectures look very well on paper, but it is doubtful whether they will have any influence upon the electors.

* * *

The Opposition papers complain that the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Jiyu Shimbun* have been extensively distributed among the offices of local communes. They contend that such a step is reprehensible, because it has a tendency to interfere with the independent action of the members of these offices. It is known that the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has of late distributed in this way a large number of copies throughout the country. But it is extremely doubtful whether the report about the *Jiyu Shimbun* has any foundation. At all events, the Radical organ emphatically denies the charge as entirely false. The *Nichi Nichi* justly remarks that the distribution of copies gratis by way of advertisement can have no evil effect upon the independence of the local officers. Our contemporary cordially invites its critics to follow its example if they are jealous of its rapidly increasing circulation.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* observes that, though ostensibly the next election turns on the question of treaty enforcement, the contest is really between the uncompromising opponents of the Government and the sober and moderate persons who are in favour of steady but gradual improvement. The time has long since passed when an anti-foreign agitation would obtain an ascendant influence in the political world. The majority of those who have joined the movement are perfectly aware of the impracticability of the arguments they themselves advance, but their true object is not to have their claims admitted, but simply to embarrass the Government. Such being the case, the *Jiji* earnestly wishes that the electors will consider well before casting their votes for men of this class. They are bent upon pulling down the Government; but they are far from being prepared to assume the responsibility of conducting the Administration. On the other hand, the Government, incapable and inactive as it is, is fairly trustworthy, and the best course to be pursued by the people will be to return men who, while, on the one hand, effectually checking the misconduct of the Government, will, on the other, be inclined to discharge their legislative functions in a calm and dignified manner.

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The question of treaty enforcement still continues to be discussed by some of the less important papers in the capital. But judging from all appearances, the agitation is at present at a low ebb. When the electioneering campaigns begin, much noise will be made on the subject, but most well-informed persons are agreed in believing that the movement will never attain a dangerous character.

* * *

The change of *personnel* in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has received a

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due share of journalistic attention. The newspaper comments on this topic have already been separately reproduced in these columns. But among the articles since published, there is one that deserves a passing notice. Some papers having attacked Count Ito on the ground that he has made Count Goto alone shoulder the responsibility for the relaxation of discipline in the *Noshomusho*, the *Hochi Shimbun* observes that it, too, is of the same way of thinking, but that it has refrained from blaming the Premier on that account, became there are weightier questions on which he must be held responsible for in the sixth session of the Diet. One of these matters is that the Diet has been dissolved for no assigned reason.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE FIRE AT ENOSHIMA.

DETAILS of the recent fire at Enoshima are published by the vernacular press. The total number of houses in this favourite summer resort is 175. Of these 110, standing on the western side of the village, are occupied by keepers of inns and restaurants and by sellers of local products. The remaining 65 houses, located on the eastern side, are occupied by fishermen. Of these latter houses, no less than 61 were destroyed by the fire. It broke out at 2 a.m. on the 14th instant in a shop where fishing-gear was sold. The inmates of the shop were a man and his wife, and it appears that the former was subject to constant epileptic fits. The day, on the morning of which the catastrophe occurred, was set for a fair, and the man, Watanabe Kamisaburo, having made preparations for the occasion, went to bed leaving a lighted kerosene lamp hanging beside his head. Owing to some unexplained cause, the lamp fell and set the mats on fire, the flames rapidly communicating with the ceiling. Suddenly roused from his sleep by such a cause, the man fell into an epileptic fit and lay insensible. His wife, sleeping in the next room, was awakened by the commotion, and rushing into her husband's room, made frantic efforts to subdue the fire, forgetting in her excitement to pay any attention to her husband's condition. Failing in her efforts, she was finally driven from her house with head and arms badly burned. The sound of the alarm-bell quickly summoned the firemen of the district who, after a struggle of two hours, succeeded in controlling the flames. No one seems to have thought about Kamisaburo until all chance of rescuing him was lost. He was burnt to a cinder. The unfortunate fisher-folk who have been rendered homeless by this fire are men of very slender resources, and their condition is described as very pitiable. Fortunately the richer portion of the community not being among the sufferers, a subscription was quickly raised, with the result that a sum of 450 *yen* was obtained and distributed among the fisher-folk, who received amounts varying from 6 *yen* to 14 *yen* each. It is stated that out of the total number of families deprived of their homes, no less than 56 will have to be supported out of the Famine Relief Fund. The conflagration, too, was not the only calamity on the 14th instant. Among those who hastened to the scene were fishermen from Katase and Koshigoye, between whom a feud had existed for some time about a question connected with the gathering of sea-weed. These hostile factions came to blows during the conflagration, and several were wounded on both sides before the police succeeded in separating the combatants. The Koshigoye folks are said to have sued their opponents before the Odawara Peace Court.

JAPANESE LABOURERS IN GUATEMALA.

WE read in the *Nippon* that 150 Japanese labourers now in Guatemala have fallen into a state of great distress. A letter sent by one of them to a Japanese in Honolulu says that as the climate of Guatemala resembles that of Hawaii, and as the work to be done there on the coffee plantations is comparatively easy, the Japanese labourers did not anticipate any special hardships. But their treatment by their employers has gradually become more and more brutal, and being totally ignorant of Spanish, which is the language used there, they find themselves in a very evil plight. The letter adds that according to their original contract, they were to receive ten dollars a month in the currency of either Guatemala or America, but since the latter is more than twice as valuable as the former, their salary has naturally been paid in the cheaper currency, while on the other hand the price of commodities is said to be three times as high as in Hawaii. Rendered desperate by suffering, twenty-one of the Japanese labourers fled from the plantation where they were employed, but ten were captured and thrown into prison where one of them died. The letter concludes with a piteous prayer for aid, but the statements which we have quoted seem inherently so improbable that our readers will be disposed to withhold credence.

JAPANESE YOUTHS AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATISTS

IT is not easy, and happily there is no necessity, to determine whether patriotism or thirst for notoriety inspires the Japanese youths who constitute themselves the political Paladins of the time. They do not work much mischief, after all, and the only difference that we can detect between them and their counterparts in other countries is that the Japanese lad possesses greater assurance and blander faith in the fruits of his efforts, doubtless because experience has not yet fully taught him that there is a place for everything, even a half-fledged lad, and that everything ought to be kept in its place. What, in sum, is a newspaper editor but a *soshi*? Has the average editor any better title than the *soshi* to pen daily panaceas for every crisis of life or politics? A bubbling youth fresh from school, or a disappointed old man whom the world has kicked into a mood of constant snarl gets access to a printing-press and a circle of patient readers, and devotes himself daily to teaching everybody, from a Minister of State to a constable, how to do his duty and to setting everybody by the ears. What is this individual but a *soshi* of the most blatant kind, who, but for the protection of his pen and his position, would be deported or tabooed double quick? All the men who by their own failures have qualified to set the world straight cannot become newspaper editors. But they can at least use their pens by the aid of the post. That is what some Tokyo lads, calling themselves the Japanese rising generation, have lately been doing. Not rash enough to commit a detailed statement of their views to paper, they confine themselves to misty hints of important notions for which they desire the most illustrious audience procurable. Hence they address themselves to the Foreign Representatives or to other prominent foreigners, seeking interviews, and occasionally supplementing their requests by classical but vague announcements of deadly earnestness. They do not obtain these interviews. Perhaps if any of the Foreign Representatives were so exceedingly kind as to receive the poor lads, and dispel the ignorance that torments them, useful leaven might be set working in the mass of silly agitation created by Messrs. Abei, Oi, *et hoc genus omne*. But that scarcely lies within the functions of a Minister Plenipotentiary. Instead, therefore, of being admitted to Chanceries, and accorded the privilege of a colloquy with a Sovereign's Representative, the ambitious youths have been reduced to a police audience, and we understand that their eloquence has not survived the ordeal.

MISS SONO TERU.

THIS is the name of a Japanese lady whose achievements really seem to deserve the notice they receive from the vernacular press. In December, 1885, she set out for America, resolved to equip herself for the accomplishment of her life-long purpose, the improvement of Japanese women. Her enthusiasm amounted almost to fanaticism, for on the eve of her departure she composed two poems, in which she declared her determination not to return alive unless she could return successful, and not to shrink from any sacrifice that the pursuit of her object might involve. Her courage was soon tested, for the money she carried with her—enough for three years' sustenance—having been lost through some unexplained misfortune, she found herself peniless soon after landing in San Francisco. Thus compelled to earn her bread by menial occupations, she nevertheless clung tenaciously to her studious purpose, and in May, 1890, she succeeded in graduating in the English and French courses at Alameda College. About that time, Mr. Narabara, then President of the Japan Railway Company and now Governor of Okinawa, arrived in San Francisco on a tour of inspection of American railroads. Struck by the spirit and perseverance of Miss Sono, he made her a present of money which enabled her to carry out her long cherished aim of moving to Chicago and entering the training school there. Soon afterwards she was invited to take up the post of Japanese teacher in the New York Training School, where she remained until May, 1891, then setting out on a tour to the principal towns of the United States to study their social and domestic conditions, and to give accurate information about her own country. A speech delivered by her at a meeting of the World's Temperance Society in Boston, attracted much attention, not less on account of its matter than for the sake of the thorough knowledge of English it displayed. This American tour being concluded in December of the same year, Miss Sono crossed to England, travelled through a great part of the United Kingdom, and then visited France and other European countries, finally returning to Japan after eight years of study, sojourn and travel in foreign lands, during which time she managed to support herself, with the exception of the money given to her by Mr. Narabara. It is certainly a remarkable record. Miss Sono is now forty years of age. We read that she is about to start an institution for the training and education of females, and that she has received promises of substantial help from many foreign friends. While in America she wrote and published a book called "Female Reform," of which 5,000 copies were sold.

EXPORTERS AND SILVER.

MR. LIONEL CARDEN, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul in Mexico, in a report on the effects of what he calls the depreciation of silver, observes that nothing but good can result to exporters. This dictum is quoted with apparent approval by the *North China Daily News*. Both Mr. Carden and our Shanghai contemporary seem to ignore facts that have been forced upon the attention of foreigners engaged in the export trade of the Orient. It is certainly a reasonable assumption that exporters who buy with silver and sell for gold should be distinctly benefited by the latter's appreciation in terms of the former. In some classes of commodities, this is absolutely true, for example, in the case of goods not subject to keen competition. But when we come to consider a staple, the export of which goes on regularly, which, owing to keen competition offers only a very small margin of profit, it is easy to see that the crippling influence of a fluctuating medium of exchange may hamper business to an extent not compensated by any impetus that the appreciation of gold can give. A merchant's hands are effectually tied when he knows that whereas his margin of profit is at most 5 per cent., and whereas an interval of at least three months must elapse before realizing on his purchases, he may find at the end of one month, or even less, that owing to a further rise in the silver price of gold, the same goods can be purchased seven, eight, or even ten per cent. cheaper. That means, of course, that he reduces his transactions to the narrowest possible limit: does a hand-to-mouth business, in fact. The purchaser of goods on the other side is similarly affected, for being always uncertain whether better terms may not be procurable within a short period according to exchange fluctuations, he too restricts his operations. The final consequence of all this must

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be to diminish the volume of the export trade, or at any rate to greatly reduce the impetus generally supposed to be imparted to it by the appreciation of gold. These considerations are not of uniform applicability, but they certainly must be taken into account, and in view of them, it is obviously misleading to say, as Mr. Carden says, that the fall of silver does nothing but good to exporters.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

We acknowledge receipt, through Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Company, of "Wright's Australian, India, China, and Japan Trade Directory and Gazetter," a compendious volume which includes also Canada, South and Central America, Mexico, West Indies, and South Africa, being a hand-book of trades, professions, commerce, and manufactures in the places mentioned. This is the fourth edition of the work, and it is corrected up to date. It is well printed, carefully edited, and arranged in a most handy manner. The publisher's office is 121, Fulton-street, New York, but the volume, which should be in the office-library of every business man who desires to be *au courrant* with commercial affairs, can be obtained at the Agencies of Messrs. Thos. Cook and Sons. We have also received from the same office "Wright's World's Fair Catalogue of Exhibitors and leading Manufacturers of Great Britain." This also is a work worthy of more than a casual reception. The illustrations are very fine, while the artistic printing and get-up of the book is excellent.

THE OLD SUBJECT.

The *Kokkai* has one of those paragraphs with which the public has become unfortunately only too familiar. It is about Treaty Revision, and considering how accurately but differently informed upon this hackneyed subject newspaper after newspaper has professed to be for the past ten years, to say that the public mind must be bewildered is a mild way of stating the case. The *Kokkai's* assertions are these:—That the Government induced the *Jiyu-to* to present the Treaty Revision Address of the fourth session; that on the strength of the Address negotiations for Revision were resumed successfully; that Great Britain was brought to the point of conceding all Japan's demands, provided that a five years' further lease of life were given to Consular Jurisdiction; that Russia agreed to a revised treaty without any conditions at all; that the Japanese negotiators were in high spirits at their success, when suddenly the questions of Anti-Mixed Residence and Strict-Enforcement raised their heads, threatening to suggest inconvenient doubts to Foreign Powers, and to create a situation such as that which involved the resignation of the whole Cabinet a few years ago; that, confronted by these difficulties, the statesmen now in power have fallen into a hesitating mood, and that they are uncertain whether to suspend the negotiations until public opinion attains some degree of homogeniety or to conclude them at all hazards. We reproduce these tales, not because we seek to procure credit for them, but because, being unworthy of any credit whatever, they are sure to be taken up eagerly by the Yokohama local press, and to be made a topic of fresh hysteria and flutter. Whatever is most contrary to fact and most opposed to rational probability is sure to carry most weight with some of the caterers for Yokohama's knowledge.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

Count Goto's resignation has now been officially accepted, and the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce has been given to Vice-Admiral Viscount Enomoto, Count Goto becoming a Lord in Waiting of the Jako Chamber. It is curious that the possibility of Viscount Enomoto's appointment was not foreseen by the political prophets, for now that it has taken place nothing seems more natural and proper. Viscount Enomoto belongs to no party, and possesses the confidence of all. If any Minister can restore the forfeited popularity of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, it is Viscount Enomoto. The Government, by this selection, shows its continued resolution to preserve a policy of independence. Many people supposed that political capital would have been made out of the opportunity by giving the vacant portfolio to the leader of some of the parties in Opposition. But that prediction is falsified. It will also be remembered that the delay in accepting Count Goto's resignation was attributed to apprehension lest his retirement from office should prelude a renewal of active agitation such as was fomented by him in the days of the *Daido Danketsu*. We do not believe that there ever was a particle of truth in such an hypothesis, but whether there was or was not, the post which the Count has accepted in the Imperial Household will effectually preclude any fresh excursion on his part into the domain of party politics.

THE PRESS ON THE CHANGE OF PERSONNEL IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

Count Goto's resignation is hailed by the vernacular press as an additional proof of the great power that public opinion has gained in Japan. As to Viscount Enomoto, the new Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, the metropolitan papers, with few exceptions, unite in writing about him in a tone of derision and contempt. We reproduce a few of the more important articles.

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The *Hochi Shimbun* (Progressionist) is delighted with the resignation of Count Goto, because it shows that public opinion is irresistibly strong. Before public opinion even the proverbially obstinate Hoshi had to bow his head, and now a similar fate has befallen a Minister of State famous for his policy of *kajiritsuki* (holding on). This latest victory reminds the Progressionist organ of the ultimate object of the Opposition, and inspires it with new courage in its endeavours to pull down Clan Government and sweep away the abuses accumulated in the Administration. The *Hochi* then proceeds to observe that the way in which the change of *personnel* at the Department of Agriculture and Commerce was effected, shows how irresolute and temporizing the Cabinet of all the talents is. However, due recognition, our comtemporary ironically observes, ought to be given to the Government on account of what it has at last done, imperfectly and tardily no doubt, for the maintenance of official discipline. Nothing better, perhaps, could have been hoped from the present ministry. Count Goto's example is held up as a warning to all who greedily cling to office. As to his successor, Viscount Enomoto, the *Hochi* remarks that he has long since lost the energy which he showed at the time of the Restoration. Had he retained but a fragment of the manly resolution he then undoubtedly possessed, he would not have consented to accept a portfolio under a Ministry which, at the time of its formation, drove him from the Foreign Office. "If it be an honour to receive a Ministerial appointment simply because one happens to possess neither any definite opinion nor any consistency of action, then Viscount Enomoto must be congratulated for the great honour he has just received." The only inference which can be drawn from his appointment, in the *Hochi's* opinion, is that the Cabinet was unable to find any body else willing to accept the direction of the *Noshomusho*. "Under such circumstances a useless thing, as the proverb says, sometimes becomes useful."

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The *Kokumin Shimbun* (philo-Progressionist) states that non-clan elements in a clan Government are like bran used in packing eggs to prevent their collision. Perhaps Viscount Enomoto does not understand why he has been appointed Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. In that case, he will not object though he be deprived of office equally without reason.

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The *Niroku Shimbun* (friendly to the movement for treaty enforcement) is not without some sympathy for Count Goto. He is pronounced devoid of moral principles, but acknowledged to be no ordinary man. His conspicuous ability consists in intriguing, and his ambition is to surprise the public by achieving something out of the common. He is not methodical and regular, but being large minded, it is not impossible for him to collect about him a powerful group of followers and once more to become a conspicuous figure in the political world.

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The *Chu-o Shimbun* (National Unionist) is particularly satisfied with Count Goto's resignation, because the celebrated Address to the Emperor on the subject of Official Discipline was introduced by the National Unionists. Now that the Goto problem has been disposed of, the Cabinet is advised to use its efforts for the maintenance of strict discipline in all branches of the Administration. Count Goto is not, in our contemporary's opinion, a man of action, but he is unrivalled for skill in getting up a destructive agitation. Hence the course he may adopt in the future is a matter of considerable interest. With regard to Viscount Enomoto, our contemporary regrets to observe that he is not the same man as formerly.

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The *Jiyu Shimbun* (Radical) fails to discover anything worthy of particular notice in the appointment of Viscount Enomoto to the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce. He is considered to be merely a species of make-weight in the balance between the rival clans of Satsuma and Choshu.

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The *Jiji Shimpo* (Independent) had repeatedly advised the Cabinet not to bow to public opinion with regard to the demand for Count Goto's resignation. But now that his resignation has been accepted, our contemporary sees no object in repeating its views. If it was necessary to change the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, the Cabinet ought to have selected for the post a man whose appointment would perceptibly add to the strength of the Government. It is then matter for sincere regret that the change just announced is simply a temporizing measure. Perhaps, the Cabinet could not help it, but such a change is extremely ill-advised now that the Government is supposed to be committed to a strong policy against the Opposition. Under the circumstances, the *Jiji* is disposed to fear that before long another change may become necessary in the *personnel* of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* (Independent supporter of the Government) regrets for the sake of the All-Talents Cabinet that it has been necessary for Count Goto to leave the Government. Being still in good health, he is advised to continue to devote his energies to the cause of his Sovereign and his country. As to Viscount Enomoto, he is not perhaps the best man that could have been appointed to the vacated post. But there is no denying that he possesses many qualifications for the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce, for he has wide knowledge and experience of industrial matters. Consequently the Government may be satisfied with having obtained a worthy successor to Count Goto in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. In conclusion, our contemporary advises the Cabinet to pursue with inflexible purpose the strong and resolute policy it seems to have adopted towards the Opposition.

A PROJECT FOR YOKOHAMA.

The organization of a warehouse company is said to be projected by the Japanese merchants in Yokohama engaged in foreign commerce. The old standing difficulties between the five guilds into which the traders of the port are divided do not appear to be entirely settled as yet, but the good offices of Mr. Kawada, President of the Bank of Japan, were expected to be

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successful in restoring harmony, and so soon as that desirable result is attained the warehouse company can be started with every hope of success. Already more than 350 supporters of the movement have sent in their names, and in order to attract still wider cöoperation, the following circular has been issued:—"The mercantile transactions of this port having now attained a state of great prosperity, and the establishment of two or three exchanges being imminent, the want of union warehouses is keenly felt. At present the warehouses in possession of foreign merchants have to be relied on for the storage of goods, a state of affairs gravely disadvantageous to the Japanese in their business with foreigners. An association has already been organized to meet the need, but owing to defective arrangements, the contemplated objects have not yet been attained, It is now proposed to organize a new company which shall take over the warehouses and land of the existing association, and shall bring into useful working order this important part of the mechanism of trade."

POLITICAL CHANGES IN ENGLAND.

THE Right Honorable Edward Stanhope, of whose death we have learned by the last American mail, though comparatively speaking a young man, had sat in Parliament as a Conservative for nearly 20 years, during the whole of which period he always held office while the Conservative Government was in power, and was in the Cabinet since Lord Salisbury's first Administration in 1885, first as President of the Board of Trade, next as Secretary of State for the Colonies, and finally, succeeding the late Mr. W. H. Smith, on the latter's appointment as first Lord of the Treasury, consequent on the resignation of that office by Lord Salisbury, as Secretary of State for the War Department. Mr. Stanhope was one of the brilliant galaxy of young men who were introduced into politics by the Earl of Beaconsfield, but though his advancement was rapid, he never occupied a foremost position among Parliamentary debaters. He was, at the same time, always regarded as a capable and industrious administrator of the work of the various Departments over which he from time to time presided. The credit of calling together the Colonial Conference belonged to him, but as War Secretary, he was generally regarded by the military members of the House of Commons as being opposed to army reform. At the last general election, he was returned to Parliament by a majority of 738, in a constituency of 9,500 voters; in 1885, he was returned by an equally large majority, and in the interval he was twice elected unopposed, first at the general election of 1886, and secondly on assuming office, so that it is extremely unlikely that his death will cause any change in the balance of parties in the House of Commons.

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The vacancy in the Accrington division of Lancashire, of the election in which we have also heard by the last American mail, must have been caused by the necessity of Mr. Leese seeking re-election on appointment to some office in the Government, as that gentleman has represented this constituency since the general election. The majority by which he has now been returned appears to be only 275, in a constituency of over 12,000 voters, while it was, at the general election, 547. On the other hand, his victory then was a gain of a seat to the Liberal party, Accrington having been represented in the last parliament by a conservative, the same gentleman who appears to have opposed Mr. Leese's return on the present occasion, Mr. Hermon Hodge. This gentleman has contested Accrington no less than four times, once successfully in 1886, and three times unsuccessfully in 1885, 1893, and now. Mr. Leese is well known in two rather dissimilar capacities, as a distinguished Q.C., and a leader on the northern circuit, and as a very excellent cricketer. He is also recognised as a powerful platform speaker, but he has not hitherto made much mark as a Parliamentary debater. As to the office in the Government to which he may have been appointed, the natural assumption, from his profession, would be that it is to one of the Law Offices, but we have not heard of a vacancy on the bench which would admit of the promotion of any of the present Law Officers of the Crown, and thereby leave a opening for Mr. Leese, and in addition, distinguished as a lawyer though this gentleman is, there are several other members of the profession among the Liberal members of the House of Commons, such as Mr. Lockwood, Mr. Reid, and Mr. Haldane, far exceeding him in professional eminence and with much greater claims on their party for past political services.

CHESS IN TOKYO.

A MATCH at chess between the Clubs of Tokyo and Yokohama will be played at the rooms of the former in the Hotel Metropole on the 3rd proximo, beginning at 3 p.m. and ending at 7 p.m., when the players will all dine together. There will be about ten combatants on each side, and a stout fight may be expected. When the last match took place between the Yokohama Club and some players of Tokyo, there did not exist any regularly organized Club in the capital, and in order to arrange a contest, it was necessary that a few players who met occasionally in a desultory way in the Rokumeikan, should accept Yokohama's challenge. A considerable circle of Tokyo lovers of the game were thus excluded, not being members of the Rokumeikan. Still, a well contested battle ensued, and neither side could claim the victory. Since that time Tokyo has lost, in Baron Biegeleben, one of its very best players. Moreover, some of the Rokumeikan players will not be included in the team for the 3rd proximo. Their absence, however, will probably be more than compensated by the new champions which the Club in the Hotel Métropole possesses, and we look to see a very even match. Its interest, too, will be further enhanced by the fact that on this occasion the players are not to be pitted by lot, but will be chosen from each team with as close attention as possible to their relative merits. In the former match chance was left to decide the opponents, so that strong players on one side found themselves seated opposite weak on the other. The President of the Tokyo Club, Mr. W. B. Mason, seems to have taken much pains to arrange the preliminaries of this match, and we are persuaded that it will prove a success.

* * *

Our local chess players may be interested to learn that their deeds are not unnoticed at home. Here is an extract from *The Times* of December 3rd:—"The *Japan Daily Mail*, which contains a really high-class chess column, gives a very interesting account of the establishment of a Club at Tokyo. This is the second in the Island Empire, the other being the Yokohama Club. Here is a very good ending in a correspondence game (Guiolo Piano) between two members of the new club. (Here follow a diagram and moves of the ending of a game played between Messrs. Walz and Cox, which was published in the same number of the *Mail*.)

MEETING OF LOCAL GOVERNORS.

YESTERDAY the much-talked-of meeting of Local Governors was held in the Department of Home Affairs. His Excellency Count Inouye, Minister of the Department, the Vice-Minister, Mr. Watanabe, and the heads of Bureaux were present. Count Inouye opened the proceedings with a speech of which the press will not have any *verbatim* report. It appears, however, that the speech was of no great length, and that the Minister confined himself to impressing upon his hearers the absolute importance of maintaining a strictly neutral attitude in the coming general elections; of enforcing all the laws relating to elections with unfailing impartiality, and of taking steps to procure absolute uniformity of treatment for electors and candidates in every part of the Empire. On the conclusion of the speech, the Governors were invited in turn to give a verbal statement of the condition of affairs in each of the districts under their jurisdiction. The Governors had a good many questions to ask about the practical application and interpretation of the Law of Elections. Their queries were answered in full by Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, Head of the Law Bureau in the Home Department.

* * *

It seems to us a pity that so much secrecy is observed with regard to the instructions given by the Administration to the Local Governors and Chiefs of Police. All sorts of allegations were circulated during and after the last elections about the attitude of officials, and as people were entirely ignorant of the instructions under which the local authorities acted, there was no limit to suspicion and conjecture. Perhaps publicity could not have been employed upon that occasion without some inconvenience: so at least it is vehemently asserted by the Opposition. But no one imagines for a moment that the present Cabinet has any idea of unduly exercising official authority to secure the return of candidates favourable to itself. So soon, however, as the contest in the election districts becomes keen, we may be sure that accusations of partiality will be liberally preferred against the Government, and in view of that contingency, it would seem a wise measure to let people know as clearly as possible what instructions have actually been issued. We cannot see why privacy should be necessary, and we can see a great many reasons against its expediency.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Now that Count Goto has left the Government, people are asking what he will do next. Many seem to believe that he will organize a political party, but it seems most unlikely that holding the office which he has accepted he will place himself in opposition to the Ministry. Some well-informed persons are doubtful whether he could succeed in collecting about him more than thirty or forty followers at most. A few of the Tosa section of the Radical Party, and men like Mr. Oye Taku, Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, and so forth, would probably flock to his standard, were it raised, which is at present very doubtful. There is a rumour that he entertains the project of publishing a newspaper.

* * *

A report has been circulated in the capital, to the effect that both Count Okuma, and Count Itagaki, have expressed their willingness to enter the Cabinet. There is evidently not a particle of truth in the story. The *Hochi Shimbun* states, on the authority of a member of Count Okuma's household, that the Progressionist leader has of late been infested by a troop of unknown interviewers. To these persons are ascribed the fabrication of baseless rumours now circulated about the Count. As to Count Itagaki, the organs of his Party do not even deign to take notice of the above mentioned report, but the *Jiyu* does not scruple to ridicule the Progressionist Party by giving prominence to the rumour so far as it concerns Count Okuma.

* * *

Mr. Ito Miyoji, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, is now a very conspicuous figure in the political world. The papers say innumerable things about him, but all agree in considering him a very influential member of the Government. The usual title given him is "Minister without a portfolio." The *Meiji Shimbun* recently had a long article about him. In it he was described as the real Minister President of State. In character and ability he was stated to be equal to Messrs. Hoshi Toru, Shimada Saburo, Ooka Ikuzo, and Inouye Kakugoro rolled into one. "Count Ito," said our contemporary, "is a great statesman, but seeing that he is under the sway of the Chief Secretary, the latter must be regarded as a still greater statesman." The object of these articles was no doubt to discredit the Ministers of State.

* * *

Viscount Tani, as already noticed in these columns, was at one time reported to be dis-

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disposed to enter the Cabinet. The rumour was without foundation. But as the Viscount is understood to be on good terms with the Premier, the story at first attracted some attention. Here is the account of an interview which the *Mainichi Shimbun's* representative recently had with the Viscount on this subject. "I was astonished" said the Viscount, "at the report when it appeared in the papers. It is needless to say that there was no truth in it. Some time ago, I visited the Premier at his residence at Isarago, in company with Viscount Watanabe. Our object was to give well meant advice to Count Ito on the subject of treaty enforcement. We talked together for several hours. Subsequently, on the 17th instant, I was attending the funeral of the late Dr. Hagiwara at Yanaka, when a letter was handed to me by a messenger from Count Ito. In it he thanked me for my visit to him, and stated his views on the subject of the appointment of members of the Upper House—a subject discussed at our last interview. The Premier's letter did not say anything as to the alleged offer of a Ministerial post to me. But since the letter was delivered to me in the presence of a crowd of curious people, the report now circulated about me no doubt originated in that circumstance.

* * *

Mr. Fukuzawa Yukichi is said to be wisely opposed to the young graduates of his University competing at the next election of the Diet. His advice to young men is to turn their back on politics and engage in business.

CLARENDON HOUSE.

THE lofty building standing on No. 26, Water-street, now known as Clarendon House, was formally opened on Saturday afternoon, when a large number of residents accepted the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. F. Staniland to view the rooms. Mr. Staniland has leased the upper three storeys of the big building, which Mr. Sarda has just built, and intends to use them for the purposes of a private or temperance hotel, and more suitable premises could not be found in Yokohama. The arrangement of the various floors display all the constructive qualities which are Mr. Sarda's characteristic, the plan of the whole structure being simple and effective. The building, which has a handsome exterior, is even more attractive inside, owing to the large amount of Oregon pine used for flooring, panelling, and also for the staircases which connect the various floors. From the third and fourth stories of the house spacious views can be obtained of the surroundings of Yokohama, comprising many charming stretches of land and sea-scape, while the prospect from the roof is unsurpassed for extent and variety.

A DYING DELUDER.

Two youths, Ikeda and Sugino, lodged in a boarding-house at Kanda, Tokyo. They became intimate and used to go on pleasure-excursions together. Ikeda was a student in the electrical course at the University and a believer in Buddhism, but Sugino had embraced Christianity and was studying to be a pastor. They often discussed the merits of their respective creeds, but without any apparent effect upon one another. In process of time both graduated. Ikeda became an official in the Government service, and Sugino a Christian pastor. Living in different quarters of the city, and pursuing their respective callings zealously, the two men saw less and less of each other, and ultimately their intercourse ceased altogether. One day, however, Sugino, having no occupation other than to muse over his own achievements, conceived the idea of calling upon his quondam friend, Ikeda, for he argued that a man so zealous in the Buddhist faith would make an equally earnest Christian were he won over to the tenets of the Nazarene. Thus the suspended discussions were renewed. Ikeda did not seem at all influenced by his friend's arguments, but after a time, being attacked by a severe malady, he received special attention and kindness from Sugino, who meanwhile lost no opportunity of pursuing his original object. By and by Ikeda, having apparently only a few days to live, told his friend that he had been convinced by his arguments, and that he was resolved to embrace the Christian faith. He further asked Sugino to undertake all the arrangements connected with his funeral. The young pastor was much elated at having, as he supposed, saved a soul, and presently, Ikeda dying, Sugino proceeded to his house with some twenty fellow Christians to perform the funeral ceremony. The service was duly read, and the body subsequently placed in the coffin. But during this operation a letter was discovered in the hand-writing of the deceased. Brief and conclusive, it declared that Ikeda had died a faithful Buddhist, and that his profession of Christianity had been made simply to escape the importunities of his over-zealous friend. The document concluded by saying that the funeral-rites must be in strict accordance with the Buddhist ritual, and that no Christian should be suffered to cross the threshold of his house after his death. The story ends with a description of the discomfiture of the disappointed Christians. That, indeed, is its whole point. But Christians will probably think that if these are the tricks to which moribund Buddhists resort, nobody need grudge them a monopoly of their devices.

AGE CANNOT WITHER HER.

NOTWITHSTANDING her more than forty years of hard public service, Adelina Patti continues to pursue her career as strenuously and diligently as if she were still a struggling aspirant, seeking to lay the foundations of fame and fortune. Ever since 1860 she has held the first position on the lyric stage of Europe, and ten years before that date, she had made her name distinguished throughout America. Her first appearance was in early childhood, and when she conquered the capitals of the old world she had not reached the age of twenty. For nearly thirty-five years she has reigned supreme in her department of the musical world, yet she has never once relaxed her training, nor modified the severe habits of discipline essential to the preservation of her artistic superiority. At her age,—which is somewhat over fifty, although she might easily pass for less than forty,—a prima donna is ordinarily content to abide by the repertory in which her triumphs have been won; but Patti shows no abatement of her youthful energy, and only a few months ago she undertook the laborious task of studying and "creating," the principal rôle of a new opera brought out in Boston, Massachusetts. The work is entitled "Gabriella," and was composed by an Italian named Pizzi, formerly a fellow-student with Mascagni, the writer of "Cavalleria Rusticana," and now a naturalized American citizen. The industry of the indefatigable little cantatrice seems to have been rewarded by a fresh and striking success. The popular verdict that age cannot wither her is not sufficient for her ambition. She is likewise resolved that custom shall not stale the variety of her delightful performances.

MEMORIAL TO LOWELL IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

A MEMORIAL to James Russell Lowell, to stand in companionship with that recently dedicated to Longfellow, was unveiled on the 28th of November last, in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey. It consists of two stained glass windows, on which are wrought a medallion portrait of the eminent poet, the arms of Great Britain and the United States, and a symbolic representation of the emancipation of slaves in America and the English colonies. The cost of the windows was defrayed by subscription, the principal contributors being Professor Tyndall, Sir John Lubbock, George Meredith, Professor Bryce, Dr. Conan Doyle, Alma Tadema, Canon Farrar, Lords Coleridge, Rosebery, Brassey, and Playfair, and the Dukes of Argyll and Westminster. Dean Bradley presided at the ceremony, and addresses were made by Mr. Leslie Stephen, chairman of the committee in charge of the work, and Mr. Bayard, Ambassador of the United States. This is the second memorial to American worth erected in Westminster Abbey, and it is interesting to recall the points of similiarity in the career of the men thus honoured. Both were from New England; were ardent lovers of liberty, and were deeply interested in the movement for the abolition of Southern slavery. Both were professors in the leading university of America, Lowell having directly succeeded Longfellow in the Chair of Belles Letters at Harvard. Both were poets of renown; and though the activity of the younger took a wider range, and led him into diplomatic fields, it was only the retiring nature of the elder that prevented him from entering the same path, and by the same channel; for the post of Minister to England was offered him, and declined, some time before it was occupied by his more ambitious friend and comrade.

EXPANDING CIRCULATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

IT appears that the people of the United States show a tendency to use increased quantities of money. The population of the States on December 1st was estimated by the Treasury statisticians at 67,547,000, and the amount of money in circulation at 1,726,994,290 dollars, being a circulation of 25.57 dollars per head. This shows an increase of eight cents *per capita* for the month, and marks the highest point thus far reached. As for the money in circulation, its details are shown in the following table:—

	General stock coined or issued.	In Treasury.	Amount in circulation Dec. 1, 1893.
Gold coin	$575,269,517	$70,211,506	$505,058,011
Standard silver dollars	419,332,550	360,906,628	58,425,922
Subsidiary silver	76,960,353	11,418,708	65,541,645
Gold certificates	78,312,169	149,090	78,163,079
Silver certificates	334,938,504	5,716,507	328,421,997
Treasury notes, Act, July 14, 1890	153,453,629	2,683,223	150,770,406
United States notes	346,681,016	25,412,344	321,268,672
Cur'ncy certificates, Act, June 8, 1872	33,325,000	120,000	33,205,000
National bank notes	208,948,105	12,808,547	196,139,558
Totals	2,226,420,843	499,426,553	1,726,994,29

A CRACK INDIAN CRICKETER.

THE *Cambridge Daily News* has just held a *plebiscite* among its readers to ascertain who are the most popular persons in Cambridge. Among other questions voted upon was "Who is the most popular cricketer in Cambridge?" An overwhelming majority decided in favour of Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji, the first Indian cricketer selected to play for an English University eleven. The vogue of this young Kathiawar prince in England at the present time is surprising. He goes about opening bazaars and making speeches at cricket dinners, and is everywhere received with unstinted applause. His athletic proficiency has made a lasting impression on the sport-loving section of the British public.

RISKY VOYAGES.

IT appears that some Japanese have been displaying sparks of the spirit that made them so notable on the sea in the Middle Ages. The *Asahi* newspaper gives an account of two voyages, one accomplished, the other contemplated, which indicate a reckless love of adventure. The first was made in a ship called the *Daini Soyo Maru*. An utterly unseaworthy vessel, her owner's application for a license was refused by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Not to be gainsaid, however, he managed to make fraudulent use of the license of another vessel, and with this she was sent on a trip to the Marshall Group. According to all human probability she ought to have foundered *en route*. But she did not. Her destination was safely reached. At the Marshalls, however, she barely escaped being seized as a pirate, for, being without papers, her status naturally suggested suspicions to the Spanish Authorities. A retired naval lieutenant who happened to be on board, managed to convince the Spainards that she was a simple trader. On the return voyage she nearly went to the bottom in a violent gale near the Bonin Islands, but Tokyo Bay was safely reached at last.

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The vessel to be employed for the contemplated voyage is the *Kaiichi Maru*. She, too, is said to have eluded official inspection by making use of the license of a ship wrecked

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some time ago off the Sagami coast. Her size is 72 tons burthen, and the *Asahi* declares that she is quite unfit to put to sea, nevertheless she is now loading. Our contemporary urges the Authorities to interfere on the ground that the appearance of such miserable vessels in foreign ports is sure to bring ridicule on the Japanese. Would it indeed provoke ridicule? That is not our idea of the sentiment inspired by such deeds.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

THE News Agency publishes a statement to the effect that much concern is felt in England about the mental condition of the Queen, and that Her Majesty, after considerable persuasion from the Court physicians and others, has at last consented to retire for a month to Osborne Palace, whence, at the end of March, she will proceed to Florence, and, after a sojourn there will go on to Berlin to visit her grandson, the Emperor. The Agency adds that this intelligence was received telegraphically from London on the 22nd instant.

* * *

We do not believe that the above news is worthy of any credence. Nothing of the kind has been telegraphed to a responsible quarter, and the strong probability is that the whole story is an invention. A month ago, when the London papers just to hand were despatched, Her Majesty was in the enjoyment of excellent health. These rumours of mental trouble are very old. They are renewed from time to time when nothing more sensational offers.

COMMERCE BETWEEN AMERICA AND JAPAN.

ACCORDING to the Tokyo News Agency, the preponderance of America's purchases from Japan over her sales to this empire has been a topic of animated discussion in Chicago. No detailed reference to the figures is necessary, but it is worthy of notice that while the Germans can manage to import 20 million *yen* worth of goods into Japan yearly, among the number being cotton fabrics, the raw material for which has to be carried in the first place from America to Germany, America herself only manages to sell Japan 5 million *yen* worth of her products. Such a showing cannot be very agreeable to enterprising men in America, and their attention having been exceptionally directed to the facts during the recent exhibition in Chicago, the leading traders of the latter city are said to have delegated a Mr. William Morris to proceed to Japan for the purpose of inquiring into the conditions of commerce. Mr. Morris's arrival is anticipated at the end of this month or the beginning of next.

THE INTAKE OF THE WATER-WORKS.

THERE are, says the *Shin-Choya*, two copper mines in the Doshi Division, Minami-Tsuru District, of Yamanashi Prefecture. They are the property of private individuals, and application for permission to work them has been made. But it happens that they are located at the head-waters of the Doshigawa, near the intake of the Yokohama Water-works and the people of Yokohama, who, having obtained the sanction of the Ministers of State for Home Affairs and of Finance, purpose raising a sum of 1,800,000 *yen* by the issue of bonds in order to extend the Works, are much concerned lest the poisonous products of the mine should find their way into the water and contaminate it. Their representative, Mr. Nakagawa Chiujiro, has therefore petitioned the Governor of Kanagawa that steps may be taken to prevent the granting of permission to work the mines.

GINGER LOOKING UP.

"GINGER from this country," says a Kobe paper, "is increasing in demand in England for the manufacture of ginger-beer. The exports last year of this article were valued at twenty-four million *yen*." These figures will doubtless be highly gratifying to persons of the teetotal persuation, for if ginger to the value of *yen* 24,000,000 was exported from Japan in one year—this country being only one, and one of the smallest, source of supply—there must be great hopes of "pop" ultimately displacing whisky and beer in England. The statement does not look like a printer's error, as it is given in the Kobe paper in words, not figures. But the "printer's error" is a shelter often resorted to by careless writers, who themselves frequently descend to notice genuine printer's errors in the mispelling of words in contemporary columns such as are left by a slovenly compositor in a carelessly corrected proof. If ginger to the value of 24,000,000 *yen* was exported from Japan in 1892, for which year the country's total exports are set down at £13,143,470, the article may certainly be said to be "looking up."

JAPAN AND SILVER.

THE Japanese gentlemen, Messrs. Yoshu and Hamada, says the *Statesman*, connected with the administration of the Imperial Bank of Japan, are at present in Calcutta with recommendations to the Government of India from their own Government and from the British Minister. The object of their visit is to study the effects upon internal and external trade, and on general prices, of the recently effected currency reform, with a view to advising their Government upon any protective measures which, in the interests of its currency, it may be compelled to adopt. The visitors seem to be peculiarly impressed with the danger which Japan, with its mints still open to free silver comage, has been running since the repeal of the Sherman Act, and the change of standard in India. For the purpose of prosecuting their inquiries, the Japanese representatives have visited the Royal Exchange and conversed with many mercantile men, and have also had prolonged interviews with various gentlemen more or less connected with the late currency reform agitation. There appears some reason to believe that the anxiety manifested by Japan may shortly take the form of a definite adoption of the Indian policy.

CHANGES OF LOCAL GOVERNORS.

CONSIDERABLE changes of Local Governors are announced. They are as follow:—

NAME.	PRESENT OFFICE.	APPOINTED TO BE GOVERNOR OF
Baron Senge Takatomi.	Member of House of Peers.	Saitama.
Mr. Sato Cho	Secretary of the Cabinet.	Tochigi.
Mr. Furusawa Shigeru	Formerly Chief of the Post Office Bureau.	Nara.
Mr. Katsumata Minoru	Governor of Yehime	Miyagi.
Mr. Komaki Shogyo	Governor of Nara	Yehime.
Mr. Senda Teigyo	Formerly Governor of Kyoto	Miyazaki.
Viscount Kano Hisayoshi.	Public Procurator	Kagoshima.

The following are placed on the Retired List:—

NAME.	PRESENT OFFICE.
Mr. Gimbayashi Tsunao	Governor of Saitama.
Mr. Orita Heinai	Governor of Tochigi.
Mr. Hasebei Tatsutsura	Governor of Yamagata.
Mr. Hagiwara Heinai	Governor of Miyazaki.
Mr. Ozeko Sadakiyo	Governor of Kagoshima.

Finally, Mr. Funakoshi Mamoru, Governor of Miyagi Prefecture, is relieved from office at his own request.

SHANGHAI.

THE French mail steamer brought Shanghai papers to the 16th inst. The *N. C. Daily News* says:—It is understood that Mr. David Maclean is about to sever his official connection with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in London, and to devote his energies exclusively to the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits. . . . On Friday, Mr. O. Middleton offered at auction the *débris* of the Cotton Cloth Mills at Yangtsepoo. It was put up in one lot and knocked down at Tls. 12,650, being apparently bought in. . . . We learn that a number of young men in Shanghai have started a campanologist club, and already are able to play a number of tunes. Among them are "Chiming Bells" and "Auld Lang Syne." It is anticipated that they will give an exhibition of their skill shortly. . . . A terrible accident is reported from Formosa to have occurred on the 2nd inst., in which a shell in course of loading at the Formosa Arsenal burst, killing three of the eight workmen in the room where the accident occurred, and severely wounding the other five. . . . Advices from Chefoo to the 10th instant report that the winter is so far of the mildest character there, and if there is to be an alteration, it ought to make itself felt at once. . . . Native accounts from Canton state that the insurrection in the prefecture of Shaochow, Kuangtung, has assumed such dimensions, with the repeated defeats of the local soldiery and militia, that the high authorities have ordered the immediate despatch of some three thousand Anhui "braves" to the scene of operations. . . . Messrs. Tata and Co., are now agents at Shanghai for steamers which will run between Kobe, Shanghai and Bombay. There will be four steamers which will arrive here from Bombay at intervals of three weeks. They will bring yarn, opium, etc., from Bombay, taking back coals and any merchandise offering.

MR. VARLEY AT THE JAPANESE GALLERY.

THE third and last series of Mr. John Varley's Eastern drawings, now on view at Mr. Larkin's Japanese Gallery in Bond Street, says the *World's* art critic, show a very marked improvement on his previous work, especially on that of the last exhibition, which was a distinct falling-off from the first series of sketches of Japan. In the present exhibition the artist shows none of that hesitation which marred the last series, and he also attains to a richness and brilliancy of colour which is a novelty in his work. These eighty drawings of Indian scenery and cities were all done last year, and represent a most commendable amount of artistic industry, while the directness of impression and fidelity to Nature are worthy of all praise. In sense of lseection and composition Mr. Varley shows enormous improvement over any of his previous work; and it is in these qualities that the true artist proves his chief superiority over the gifted and scrupulously faithful amateur. The beautiful rendering of the "Jumma Musjid, Delhi," with its graceful minarets silhouetted against a daffodil evening sky; the silvery atmospheric effect of the river view of the "Taj Mahal, Agra"; the harmonious grey tones in "A Dusty Evening, Cawnpore," wherein the artist gives a view of the steps leading to the river where the English were massacred by Nana Sahib in the Mutiny; the splendid evening effect in the large drawing entitled "Great Banyan-tree and Ruined Well near the Fort, Agra," and the admirable suggestion of the animated crowd in "The Senan Dawaza, Lucknow," show Mr. Varley at his very best; and it is not too much to say that Mr. Varley's very best is very good indeed. The exhibition is altogether one of the most worth visiting that has been seen at the Japanese Gallery for some time.

AN OLD BANK NOTE.

IN the British Museum there is a very old and very rare Chinese bank note. It was issued in the reign of Hung-Woo, the founder of the Ming dynasty, who died in 1398. The face value of the note is about a dollar, but it is one of the only issue of paper currency ever guaranteed by the Chinese Government. (Only another similar note is said to be in existence, being in possession of the Oriental Society of St. Petersburg.) Its value to native bankers and note collectors all over China is well known. The late Governor of Hongkong, Sir John Pope Hennessey, bought the note about twelve years ago at an auction of the effects of a deceased Captain of one of the Chinese customs cruisers, who had amassed a large collection of Chinese coins and notes, among which was this Ming bank note.

THE CROWN ADVOCATE IN SHANGHAI.

IT is stated by the *Shanghai Mercury* that the appointment of Crown Advocate in Shanghai, soon to become temporarily vacant by the removal of Mr. H. S. Wilkinson to Japan in the capacity of Acting Judge of H.B.M.'s Court in Japan, has been given to Mr. W. V. Drummond, who received it in preference to two other applicants, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson and Mr. Lowder of Yokohama. We have no independent information as to the truth of these assertions, but we note that our Shanghai contemporary, while approving of either Mr. Lowder or Mr. H. P. Wilkinson for the vacant post, is strongly opposed to Mr. Drummond, on the ground that he has always espoused Chinese

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interests. It is not immediately plain to outsiders that such an objection is fatal, but there have always been folks in the Treaty ports in whose eyes no sin can be more henious than to advocate the rights of the people of the country. We have often heard Mr. Drummond's methods severely criticized, but as to his having acted in the capacity of advocate for the Chinese when his services were duly retained by them, we really fail to see how that can constitute the smallest disqualification for the office of Crown Advocate.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND AND HAWAII.

THE President's Message contains a long and exhaustive review of the Hawaiian situation. We have not space to reproduce the whole, but the concluding paragraphs ought to be laid before our readers :—

Feeling therefore, that the United States could not, under the circumstances disclosed, annex the islands without justly incurring the imputation of acquiring them by unjustifiable methods. I shall not again submit the treaty of annexatiun to the Senate for its consideration, and in the instructions to Minister Willis, a copy of which accompanies this message, I have directed him to so inform the Provisional Government.

But in the present instance our duty does not, in my opinion, end with refusing to consummate this questionable transaction. It has been the boast of our Government that it seeks to do justice in all things without regard to the strength or weakness of those with whom it deals. I mistake the American people if they favour the odious doctrine that there is no such thing as international morality, that there is one law for a strong nation and another for a weak one, and that even by indirection a strong power may with impunity despoil a weak one of its territory.

By an act of war, committed with the participation of a diplomatic representative of the United States and without authority of Congress, the Government of a feeble but friendly and confiding people has been overthrown. A substantial wrong has thus been done, which a due regard for our national character, as well as the rights of the injured people, requires we should endeavour to repair. The Provisional Government has not assumed a republican or other constitutional form, but has remained a mere executive council or oligarchy, set up without the assent of the people. It has not sought to find a permanent basis of popular support, and has given no evidence of an intention to do so. Indeed, the representatives of that Government assert that the people of Hawaii are unfit for popular government, and frankly avow that they can be best ruled by arbitrary or despotic power.

The law of nations is founded upon reason and justice, and the rules of conduct governing individual relations between citizens or subjects of a civilized State are equally applicable as between enlightened nations. The considerations that international law is without a court for its enforcement, and that obedience to its commands practically depends upon good faith, instead of upon the mandate of a superior tribunal, only give additional sanction to the law itself, and brand any deliberate infraction of it not merely as a wrong but as a disgrace. A man of true honour protects the unwritten word which binds his conscience more scrupulously, if possible, than he does the bond, a breach of which subjects him to legal liabilities ; and the United States. in aiming to maintain itself as one of the most enlightened of nations, would do its citizens gross injnstice if it applied to its international relations any other than a high standard of honour and morality. On that ground the United States cannot properly be put in the position of countenancing a wrong after its commission any more than in that of consenting to it in advance.

On that ground it cannot allow itself to refuse to redress an injury inflicted through an abuse of power by officers clothed with its authority and wearing its uniform, and, on the same ground, if a feeble but friendly State is in danger of being robbed of its independence and its sovereignty by a misuse of the power of the United States, the United States cannot fail to vindicate its honour and its sense of justice by an earnest effort to make all possible reparation.

These principles apply to the present case with irresistible force when the special conditions of the Queen's surrender of her sovereignty are recalled. She surrendered not to the Provisional Governor, but to the United States. She surrendered not absolutely and permanently, but temporarily and conditionally, until such time as the facts could be considered by the United States. Furthermore, the Provisional Government acquiesced in her surrender in that manner and on those terms, not only by tacit consent but by the positive acts of some members of the Government, who urged her peaceable submission, not merely to avoid bloodshed, but because she could place implicit reliance upon the justice of the United States, and that the whole subject would be finally considered at Washington.

I have not, however, overlooked an incident of this unfortunate affair which remains to be mentioned. The members of the Provisional Government and their supporters, though not entitled to extreme sympathy, have been led to their present predicament of revolt against the Government of the Queen by the indefensible encouragement and assistance of our diplomatic representative, This fact may entitle them to claim that in every effort to rectify the wrong of the committee some regard should be had for their safety. This sentiment is strongly seconded by my anxiety to do nothing which would invite either harsh retaliation on the part of the Queen or of violence and bloodshed in any quarter. In the belief that the Queen, as well as her enemies, would be willing to adopt such a course as would meet these conditions, and, in view of the fact that both the Queen and the Provisional Government had at one time apparently acquiesced in reference of the entire case to the United States Government, and considering the further fact that, in any event, the present Government, by its own declared limitation, was only "to exist until terms of union with the United States of America have been negotiated and agreed upon," I hoped that after the assurance to the members of that Government that such union could not be consummated I might compass a peaceful adjustment of the difficulty.

Actuated by these desires and purposes, and not unmindful of the inherent perplexities of the situation nor of the limitations upon my power, I instructed Minister Willis to advise the Queen and her supporters of my desire to aid in the restoration of the status existing before the lawless landing of the United States forces at Honolulu on the 16th of January last, if such restoration could be effected upon terms providing for clemency as well as justice to all parties concerned. The conditions suggested, as the instructions show, contemplate a general amnesty to those concerned in setting up the Provisional Government and a recognition of all its *bona-fide* acts and obligations. In short, they require the past should be buried, and that the restored Government should reassume its authority as its continuity had not been interrupted. These conditions have not proved acceptable to the Queen, and though she has been informed that they will be insisted upon, and that, unless acceded to, the efforts of the President to aid in the restoration of her Government will cease. I have not thus far learned that she is willing to yield them her acquiescence. The check which my plans have thus encountered has prevented their presentation to the members of the Provisional Government, while unfortunate public misrepresentations of the situation and exaggerated statements of the sentiments of our people have obviously injured the prospects of successful executive mediation.

FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF BONDS.

BARON REUTER'S information, published by us last issue, that the United States Secretary of the Treasury had invited tenders for 50 million dollars of 5 per cent. ten-year bonds, is probably to be explained by reference to the Secretary's Report which was laid before Congress on December 20th, two weeks after the date when the Treasury Department Report is usually submitted. This document showed that the estimated revenue for the fiscal year ending on June 30th next was 430 million dollars, and the expenditure 458 millions, leaving a deficit of 28 millions. In order to meet this deficit, Secretary Carlisle suggested the issue of 200 million dollars worth of bonds, bearing interest at the rate of 3% payable quarterly and redeemable at the option of the Government after five years. He reminded Congress that unless some means were provided by law to supply the growing deficiency "the public service would be seriously impaired, and pensioners and other creditors subjected to great delay and inconvenience." We imagine that this recommendation of the Secretary supplies the explanation of Reuter's telegram.

THE LATE PROFESSOR SUYEOKA.

THE death of Professor Suyeoka, of the Imperial University, deprives Japan of one of her best students of political science. He was one of the first to take up this subject, and he graduated in it in the old Tokyo University with such distinction that Count Ito selected him as one of his staff when the Count visited Europe to conduct investigations relating to the framing of the Constitution. After Count Ito's return to Japan, Mr. Suyeoka remained in Germany indefatigably pursuing his studies in the science of statecraft. He benefited by the assistance and instruction of several distinguished German *savants* in different Universities, and after a long period of study he returned to Japan where he at once received a chair in the University. There, during ten years, he worked assiduously and faithfully, declining all offers of official appointment. In the fall of last year he contracted a disease which, at first insignificant, gradually assumed a serious character, and finally carried him away on the 21st instant at the early age of 41. Professor Suyeoka's favourite field of research was comparative politics, a science which owed its initiative in Japan to Mr. Kato Hiroyuki's translations of foreign works, but which would certainly not have attained anything like its present dimensions in the absence of such a scholar as Professor Suyeoka.

COMPARATIVE IMPORTS OF AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN KEROSENE.

WE find in the *Kokumin* newspaper a table showing the comparative quantities of American and Russian kerosene oil imported into Kobe during the last three years :—

	1891. Cases.	1892. Cases.	1893. Cases.
American	1,359,839	1,646,936	1,415,234
Russian	231,527	268,372	954,086⅓
Totals	1,591,366	1,915,308	2,369,320⅓

It is seen from this table that the ratio which the American oil bears to the total has gradually diminished from 85 per cent. to 59 per cent. approximately, the Russian increasing in the same time from less than 15 to about 41 per cent. This proportion is the more striking when we observe that the total import rose by as much as 50 per cent. during the same interval. Evidently the tank system is making itself felt.

* * *

The statistics for Yokohama show an equally striking result, as will be seen from the following figures :—

	1892. Cases.	1893. Cases.
American	1,532,624	985,389
Russian	584,634	957,355
Totals	2,117,258	1,942,744

Here we see that the American oil fell from being 72 per cent. of the total in 1892 to 57 per cent. approximately, the Russian product showing a corresponding increase.

A MARE'S NEST.

THE *Shin-Choya* has made a discovery. Mr. Megata Tanetaro, Chief Customs Official, Mr. Ichinose Tsusaburo, Chief Public Procurator of the Yokohama Local Court, and Mr. Yoshida Kozo, Chief of the Kanagawa Police, says our ingenious contemporary, have hitherto been called "the Triumvirate of Yokohama officials," on account of the firm policy always pursued by them in dealing with matters where foreigners are concerned. The public mind has now been considerably exercised by hearing that Mr. Ichinose has been removed to Osaka, and that Mr. Yoshida also is about to be transferred to another post. Two of the Triumvirate having thus been removed from the scene of their usefulness, the third is supposed to be considerably perturbed about the stability of his own position. Such is the *Shin-Choya's* information. "Nothing," it says in conclusion, "is so suggestive as the influence of foreigners nowadays."

* * *

Nothing, we might add on our side, is more suggestive than such paragraphs as the above. The *Shin-Choya* may be surprised to learn that the celebrity of its Triumvirate has never been discovered by foreigners. If these gentlemen, about whose official abilities we do not venture to suggest the smallest doubts, have really shown towards foreigners so much of the *fortiter in re* as to become famous among their own nationals, they have tempered their severity with so much of the *suaviter in modo* that foreigners, their victims, have never discovered the harshness exercised against them. It goes without saying that the *Shin-Choya's* suspicion as to foreign interference having brought about the removal of two of the Triumvirate is mere moonshine.

KOREAN NEWS.

CONCERNING negotiations for the abolition of the prohibitory edict against the export of rice, various conflicting reports are published in the metropolitan papers. According to some, the Japanese Minister's efforts in this direction have

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thus far been productive of no good results, the Korean authorities being still obstinately opposed to the abolition of the edict. Letters received by other journals, however, lead us to believe that the situation is not so unpromising as the pessimists labour to paint it. It is true that telegraphic intelligence recently published in Tokyo papers about the Korean Government's alleged declaration of an intention to revoke the edict on the 1st of January (Korean Calendar) proves to have been premature, but more trustworthy correspondents of the Tokyo press agree in stating that the Söul authorities being now favourably inclined to the demands of the Japanese Representative, the objectionable prohibition will be removed before long. The *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent, writing from Söul under date of the 15th instant, goes even so far as to state that the Japanese Minister had a few days previously received a note from the Korean Foreign Office announcing the Government's intention to rescind the edict at an early date.

* * *

The Korean Foreign Minister, Mr. Kim Kakuchin, has resigned, and his place has been taken by Mr. Sho Heishoku, who occupied the post once before. The new Minister is nicknamed *Chögyo Sensei* (Mr. Eel) on account of his skill in the art of evasion. Some papers, consequently, fear that he may prove too slippery for Mr. Otori to grasp.

* * *

The prohibition of the export of rice has had one good effect upon Japanese merchants; they formerly paid little attention to the development of inter-provincial trade in Korea. But since the prohibition, want of business compelled them to turn their attention to that field, and, despite difficulties at first thrown in their way by local officials, they are now reported to have succeeded in getting into their hands a large portion of the internal trade of the country. The Japanese steamers plying between the different open ports of the peninsula are making large profits on goods shipped by Japanese merchants engaged in the internal trade.

* * *

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce at Ninsen has adopted resolutions concerning measures of retaliation against the continued prohibition of the export of rice. These measures are three:—First, that, while the prohibition continues in force no tribute rice shall be purchased; secondly for that no warehouse shall be rented to the Korean Government, storing tribute rice; and thirdly, that no money shall be advanced on tribute rice.

* * *

The recent disturbance at the old capital of Korea, Song-do, a town about 35 miles from Söul, is said to have been caused by the instigation of a powerful inhabitant of the place, named Kim Kun. The commotion has subsided, but the Authorities are said to be hesitating to arrest the ring-leader, because, being a man of immense popularity, his apprehension might possibly lead to a fresh outbreak. From the accounts given in the Tokyo papers, these periodic disturbances seem to be caused in most cases by the oppression and extortion of the greedy local authorities. When the present disturbance broke out, there were six Japanese in the town, and their lives being in danger, they fled to Ninsen, leaving all their personal effects behind them. The fact was at once communicated to the Korean Authorities, who seem to have taken good care of the property left by the Japanese, for police constables despatched to the locality from the Japanese Legation in Söul, have reported that everything is just in the shape in which it was originally left.

* * *

Mr. Sugimura, Secretary of the Japanese Legation in Söul, who has been ordered home, will leave his post for Japan early next month. He carries with him the good wishes of all his nationals in the peninsula. The Japanese residents at Söul are said to be collecting a fund for the purpose of presenting a gold medal to Mr. Sugimura in recognition of the eminent services he rendered to his nationals while he occupied the post of Japanese Consul at Söul.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for December, and the twelve months of the past year showing the foreign trade of the empire for the month and for 1893:—

	1892. SILVER YEN.	1893. SILVER YEN.
Exports	9,784,061.760	10,078,401.130
Imports	6,661,295.210	9,688,372 900
Total exports and imports		19,766,774.730
Excess of imports		390,028 930

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Exports	229,617 449
Imports	305,577 484
Miscellaneous	14,549 318
Total	549,744,251

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
United States of America	3,382,280.650	811,591.600	4,193,872.250
China	568,323.470	3,153,819.020	3,722,142.290
Great Britain	521,110.550	2,832,872.230	3,353,982.780
France	2,539,046.420	224,264.030	2,763,310.450
Hongkong	1,7 1.977.690	813,137.300	2,524,114.990
Germany	156,301.820	583,809 050	740 110 870
British India	298,907.100	172.348.720	471,255 820
Korea	169,752.110	221,601 590	391,353.700
Italy	196,218.990	8,382 100	204.601 090
Russia	42,240 860	140,064 770	182.305.630
Australia	100,637 670	17,475.500	118,113 170
Switzerland	38,374.500	69,200.650	107,581.150
Canada & other British America	85,586.430	2,941.880	88,528.310
Belgium	1,772 680	72,835.240	74,607.920
Philippine Islands	28,057.920	39.952.150	68,010.070
Austria	32,024.930	2,166.040	34,190.970
Hawaii	19,709.380	—	19,709.380
Spain	750 000	6,025.880	6,775.880
Holland	4,977.100	233.340	5,210.440
Portugal	—	420.320	420.320
Turkey	329.000	—	329 000
Denmark	—	328 600	328.600
Other Countries	61,163.540	515,896.890	577,060.430
Total	9,959,542.610	9,688,372.900	19,647,915.510

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

Yokohama	7,068,403 400	3,036,532.880	10,104,936.280
Kobe	3,015,420 070	4,930,339 400	6.971,759.530
Osaka	147,456.410	1,001,689.280	1,152,299 250
Nagasaki	252,358.830	619,452.210	871,811.040
Hakodate	52,539.800	1,112.340	53,632.140
Niigata	—	165.560	165.560
Shimonoseki	127,950.290	68,527 690	196,477 980
Moji	224,987.550	—	224,987 550
Hakata	28.000	—	28.000
Karatsu	13,470.000	—	13,470.000
Kuchinotsu	168,245.500	—	168,245.500
Idzugahara	4,337 100	2,622 840	7,259 580
Shishimi	677,060	526 500	1,204.160
Sasuna	393 660	104.500	438.160
Specie and Bullion { Exports			1,367,950.340
Specie and Bullion { Imports			1,139,697.940
Total			2,507,648 280
Excess of exports			228,252 400

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants	Exports	1,737,504.490
	Imports	2,321,566.080
Imported by Government		169,647.310

TOTAL VALUE COMMODITIES EXPORTED FROM AND IMPORTED INTO JAPAN EACH MONTH DURING 1893.

	Exports.	Imports.	Total.	Imports Compared with Exports. Inc. Dec.
Jan.	7,587,506 210	6,102,162.280	13,689,668.490	1,485,343.930†
Feb.	7,077,748.520	6,198,731.690	13,270,480.210	879,016.830†
March	6,480,574.130	6,388,761.410	12,869,335 540	91,812.720†
April	5,928,736.840	6,804,014.770	12,822,751.610	965,277.930*
May	6,681,680.730	7,557,960.590	14,239,047.320	876,273 860*
June	7,018,665 550	7,298,113 560	14,316,779.110	279,448.010*
July	6,010,573.300	7,447,200 440	14,057,773 740	830,627.140*
Aug.	7,635,764 500	8,000 046.130	15,635,810.630	364,281.630*
Sept.	7,630,108.880	7,809,071.470	15,440,140.350	179,802.590*
Oct.	7 095,690 730	6,019,4 7.920	14,615,128 650	1,376,252 810†
Nov.	8,987,347 370	8,252,398 550	17,239,745.920	734,948.820†
Dec.	10,078,401 830	9,688,372.000	19 706,774.730	390,028.950†
Total	89,712,864.590	88,257,171.710	177,970,036.300	1,455,692.880†

* Increase. † Decrease.

TOTAL VALUE OF SPECIE AND BULLION EXPORTED FROM AND IMPORTED INTO JAPAN EACH MONTH DURING 1893

	Exports.	Imports.	Imports Compared with Exports Increase.	Decrease.
Jan.	445,055.330	1,296.150 320	851 094 990	—
Feb.	128,314.660	1,196,277 340	1,067,962 680	—
March	194,4 8.220	2,498,611 620	2,304.193 400	—
April	173,449.090	1,471,027 550	1,297,508 460	—
May	1,076,999.090	728.374.350	—	348,624.740
June	1,596,418.610	532,528 770	—	1,064,889.840
July	2,428,229 890	70,804.490	—	2,357,425.400
Aug.	1,767,164.580	466,857.710	—	1,300,306.870
Sept	1,046,386.380	791,069.710	—	254,716.670
Oct.	1,215,222.020	526,214.380	—	689,007.640
Nov.	849,569 940	469.273.530	—	380,297.410
Dec.	1,367,950.340	1,139,097.940	—	228,252.400
Total	12,389,188.150	11,186,486.710		1,102,701.449

NEW MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

THREE of the Local Governors lately placed on the Retired List have been nominated by the Emperor to be members of the House of Peers. Altogether the Upper House receives the following additions, as announced in the *Official Gazette* of the 24th instant:—

Mr. Shibawara Wa, former Governor of Yamagata Prefecture.
Mr. Akizuki Taneki, formerly a Senator.
Mr. Nomura Taizo, former Judge of the Supreme Court.
Mr. Funakoshi Mamori, former Governor of Miyagi Prefecture.
Mr. Kubota Yuzuru, Head of the Educational Affairs Bureau in the Department of Education.
Mr. Orita Heinai, former Governor of Tochigi Prefecture.
Mr. Mayeda Kenkichi, formerly a Consul.
Mr. Ito Miyoji, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet.
Mr. Hirayama Narinobu, Secretary of the Privy Council.
Mr. Hori Motoi, formerly of the Hokkaido Administration.

* * *

The extensive changes recently made in the Local Governors have excited some curiosity, but, strange to say, have not elicited much comment from the vernacular press. Such critics as have discussed them do not scruple to applaud the resolution shown by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, and to say that he has justified his title of "the Lightning Count." The fact that the changes have taken place on the eve of a general election does not escape political observers, and is naturally construed to signify that some, at any rate, of the superseded Governors were judged to have been implicated in the official interference scandals of 1892, and were consequently considered either incompetent to hold the scales perfectly evenly between rival candidates, or too discredited to discharge their functions successfully at such a time of excitement. For the present, however, the cause of the changes must remain a subject of conjecture.

THE CRISIS IN ITALY.

THE gravity of the present crisis in Italy is far-reaching and may lead to very serious consequences. This is all the more likely after the fall of the Zanardilli Cabinet. Signor Zanardilli had proposed to reduce the expenditure of the Army by at least 20 million lire, and the Navy by about 10 millions. But this was by no means satisfactory to those Deputies who really represented public opinion at large. The members of the advanced Left, who had brought about the downfall of the Giolitti cabinet, contended for a reduction of not less that 100 million. To a great extent, these men are either Socialists or Jacobin Republicans, and they hold the Deputies, who connived at the the Bank swindle, responsible for malfeasance in every department of civil and military service. According to the latest news at hand, Signor Crispi is now again directing the Italian ship of State. Whether, even this able and experienced statesman will be able to cope with the present critical situation remains to be seen. With reference to the causes which have lead up to the present crisis, and on account of which the "Dreibund" feels no little concern, the *Staatsbuerger Zeitung*, in a recent number, says:—It is always bad if one is compelled to take upon himself, besides his own guilt, the sins of others, especially when the latter are extremely burdensome, as is the case with the Italian financial affairs. In this unpleasant position we just now find the fallen Giolitti Cabinet. For it fell because it had assumed the difficult task of redeeming the sins of the predecessor. But the "stone of offence," which was the immediate cause of its downfall is called "Panamino" (the little Panama scandal). When a year and a half ago, Premier Giolitti took hold of the helm of State, he announced a splendid programme. It promised among other things, simplification of the governmental administration, social reform, as well as reform of the taxation system, a thorough readjustment of the budget, healthy financiering, &c. But, notwithstanding the fact that the election of Deputies, in November 1892, resulted in bringing a favourable majority of Deputies to the Montecitorio Palace, the strength of the new Cabinet was insufficient for such a task. The fact that he had a large majority in Parliament, may have led Giolitti

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to regard the task as easier than it really was. At any rate, he made a fatal mistake by ignoring the existence of a great debt which was still unsatisfied. This was, as it were, the deadly poison, which in due time, and quite naturally, brought forth its fatal effect—the Banking-scandal. True, this matter had already been under investigation, but had resulted in nothing more than a suppressed report. Already in 1889, the transactions of the now defunct Banca Romana had become so wanton that the then Premier, Crispi, ordered a revision of the Bank. This Bank had manipulated its privilege of issuing Bank notes into an unparalleled swindle. Instead of 75 millions, as the law had provided, it issued no less than 138,000,000 lire notes, and covered its fraud by false booking. As a further means of safeguarding against exposure, it put influential persons under substantial obligations to the Bank, by discounting their exchanges. The "revision" took place in 1889, but, as already stated, the report was suppressed until 1892, when it fell into the hands of Colejanni, a delegate who courageously exposed the swindle. This first lead to a lengthy discussion of "Bank-reform," but finally culminated in the appointment of a Commission consisting of seven Delegates. This Commission investigated the whole affair, during the late vacation season, and quite recently submitted its report. This report seems to have revealed some startling facts, and proved fatal to the Cabinet. Even before it came to a vote, the Giolitti Cabinet handed in their resignation, for the purpose, they alleged, to be in the position, as Duputies to defend themselves individually against the "Banking swindle" accusations. Concerning the report of the Commission, as yet but little has been made public. However, enough has been revealed, even if it were all condensed into this one sentence:—"That there existed from 1880 until now the utmost indifference on the part of the Government concerning the affairs of the Bank." The *Staatabuerger Zeitung* has just received a letter from Rome which throws additional light on the subject. It says:—"The statement in the newspapers, with regard to the report of the Commission of seven, concerning the affairs of the Banca Romana, are very contradictory and confusing. It may take some time before the authentic report will be made known. But this much is already certain, that the report will present a frightful picture of Governmental corruption. Crispi, Nicotera, Lacava, Grimaldi, and Giolitti are hopelessly compromised. It is now settled beyond doubt that these all knew of the fraudulent transactions of the Banca Romana since 1889. Evidence has been produced against Nicotera to the affect that he purposely withdrew the investigation from the hands of the police, in lieu of which he received a cheque of 4,000 lire from the Bank. Even if his assertion, that he subsequently redeemed the cheque, were correct, it will scarcely banish the fact out of the world that he used the influence of his office as Minister of the Interior Department to shield the man from investigation to whom he was under financial obligations. And it is equally certain that in 1889 Giolitti and Miceli presented forged Bank notes to the Commission which had been appointed to compile a report with reference to the extension of the Bank note privilege, and that Crispi was awaie of this fact at the time. In a word, the report contains a mass of revolting corruption which frightens the people, who are crushed under a burden of unfortunate reverses, when they learn how their distinguished leaders, who had been the pride of the nation, gave silent consent to the nefarious manipulations of a band of thiefs who bled the nation and ruined the social and material welfare of the country." We refer to these rumours us our editorial columns.

EXCHANGES.

THERE are 17 old Exchanges in Japan, and 54 new have been added under the lately passed Law, making a total of 71. The *Fuji Shimpo* estimates that a sum of fifty thousand *yen* is involved in the business of each Exchange, so that the total capital invested is 2,700,000 *yen*. Our contemporary appears to endorse the view advanced by some writers that the money market may be inconvenienced by the withdrawal of such an amount of floating capital as is represented by this sum, together with the charges upon the transactions of the Exchanges and the securities dealt in there. But such a fear seems chimerical as compared with the effect that so many Exchanges may exercise on the price of the great staple of consumption, rice. Exchanges have proved such strikingly profitable enterprises in the past, that a mania for multiplying them cannot be wondered at. With 71 instead of 17, however, a change will probably come over the spirit of the shareholders' dreams.

CURRENT TOPICS.

A CERTAIN class of papers continue to ventilate rumours about a rupture alleged to be impending between the statesmen of the Choshu and the Satsuma clans. It is stated that the younger members of the latter clan, indignant at the complete ascendency of Choshu elements in the Government, are pursuading Count Kuroda and Count Saigo to resign. It is also reported that Viscount Takashima, one of the leaders of the younger generation of Satsuma men, now staying at Kobe, is vigilantly watched by police detectives. The papers publishing these rumours pretend to believe that important changes will take place in the Cabinet before long. Not content with prophecying a rupture between the two ruling clans, they also allege that dissension is inevitable between Count Ito and Count Inouye. These rumours are fabrications of the Opposition politicians, whose object is thereby to excite feelings of suspicion between the members of the Cabinet.

* * *

Count Goto continues a subject of gossip in the vernacular press. Most persons seem to believe that he will organize a political party. But opinion is divided as to the basis on which he may proceed to construct a platform. Some people suppose that he will try to revive the *Daido Danketsu*; while others state that he intends to compose his party out of men connected with commerce and manufactures, his programme being the development of the material resources of the country. As to his attitude towards the Government, some believe that he will not take any step in opposition to his late colleagues, while others contend that he considers himself cruelly wronged by Count Ito and Count Inouye, and that, consequently, he will not hesitate to head some powerful agitation against the Cabinet. The only inference deducible from these conflicting rumours, is that the public is convinced that the ex-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce will not remain inactive.

* * *

It is rumoured that a powerful section of the House of Peers, including Viscount Torio, Prince Konoye, Baron Watanabe, and others, is in favour of the movement for strict enforcement of the treaties. They recently appointed Viscount Tani and Baron Watanabe as their representatives to wait upon Count Ito and represent to him their views on the subject. They are also said to be strongly opposed to the dissolution of the Diet on account of a question which had not yet been debated in the House of Representatives. They believe that the new House of Representatives will be at least as much devoted to the cause of treaty enforcement as its predecessor. When the question is again brought up for discussion, what can the Cabinet do but again order the dissolution of the House? Such a course of action, however, must lead to grave results, for it will serve only to increase the strength of the movement. In order to prevent the disastrous commotions that may be caused by driving the adherents of the doctrine of strict enforcement into extremes, the members of the Upper House are stated to be of opinion that the Ministry should now let it be understood that the recent dissolution of the Diet was ordered for reasons other than the introduction of the Representation on Strict Enforcement. They seem to think that such a childish device would be sufficient to turn public attention from the question of treaty enforcement. But we strongly doubt the accuracy of the reports now published in the papers about the views of these members of the Upper House.

* * *

The recent nomination of ten new members to the House of Peers is believed by Opposition papers to have been necessitated by the increasing strength of the section of the House opposed to the Government. The presence of Mr. Ito Miyoji's name among the new nominees has not been left unnoticed. He is spoken of by the Government's enemies as the wire-puller of the members well affected to the Cabinet, and his nomination is thought to have been rendered necessary in order to enable him to exercise his control the more effectually.

* * *

The question of granting subsidies to the Prefecture of Okayama and other localities devastated by inundations last autumn, is said to be under the consideration of the Cabinet. These subsidies are to be employed for the repair of roads and bridges destroyed or carried away by the floods. The Diet having been dissolved before the matter could be decided, the Cabinet, says the report, intends to grant the aids on its own responsibility in accordance with Article 70 of the Constitution. The *Hochi Shimbun* adds that the total amount of these aids is said to be nearly 7 million *yen*. Our contemporary prudently reserves its opinion as to the propriety of the step said to be contemplated by the Government. From the *Nichi Nichi*, we learn that some members of the Cabinet are opposed to the measure on the ground that it will not be approved by the new House of Representatives. It does not seen, therefore, that any decision has been arrived at.

AN ABSCONDER.

RUMOUR was rife in commercial circles in Hongkong on Jan. 6th, that the compradore of one of the most important enterprises in the Colony (the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company) had disappeared after cashing a bank cheque for a considerable sum of money, to which he had forged the name of Mr. E. D. Sanders. The matter, the *China Mail* understands, is in the hands of the police, who are making every effort to discover the whereabouts of the absconder. The sum of money said to be stolen is over $5,000. It is not expected that any loss will be sustained by the Company who hold ample securities in house property.

THE SHIGA TRAGEDY.

BRIEF reference has already been made to the murder and suicide by an Inspector of Police in the Aichi-gawa District of Shiga Prefecture. Particulars are now published. The man's wife was twenty-seven, and his three daughters, six, four, and two, respectively. He killed them all at 1 a.m. on 21st instant, in each case slashing their bosoms with a Japanese sword which he afterwards turned against himself. The cause is not accurately known, but it is believed that the unfortunate man had gone out of his mind owing to the people's expression of dissatisfaction with his conduct, and their recently taken resolve to prefer a complaint against him to the Prefectural Chief of Police. On the previous day, a fencing-match had taken place between the constables of the District at the Police Station, and subsequently the Inspector had entertained the Head-men of the District and Divisions at his house to celebrate the New Year. These guests took their leave at about nine o'clock in the evening, after which the Chief Constable called upon the Inspector and conversed with him at some length about official business. The Inspector had then seemed perfectly collected and had shown no symptoms of the terrible fit that afterwards overtook him Nothing, however, is known as to the circumstances of the tragedy. On the following morning, the maid-servant rose at her usual hour. She thought it strange that the voices of the children were

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not audible, but without further attention, she performed her ordinary services in the kitchen, and then opened the shutters of the house. The absolute stillness that reigned in the family sleeping-room finally drew her thither, and what ensued may easily be conceived. The murderer and suicide was a native of Kagoshima, only thirty years of age. In 1880, he served as a simple constable in the Metropolitan Police, but his conspicuous ability earned rapid promotion. He was transferred to Fukui Prefecture in the capacity of District Inspector, and from thence he was promoted last year to Shiga. We need scarcely say that the hour assigned by the vernacular press as the time of the perpetration of the deed is more or less conjectural.

BRITISH SENTIMENT TOWARDS AMERICA.

MR. BAYARD, the American Ambassador in London, has not, we believe, hitherto been known as a very effective public speaker on non-political subjects, but if we can form an opinion from the speech recently delivered by him at the unveiling of the Lowell Memorial Window and bust, which have been placed in Westminster Abbey, the English atmosphere seems to have developed in him a capacity in this respect such as he never displayed in his own country. The occasion was certainly one well fitted to provoke eloquence of the highest order. Leading representatives of the British aristocracy, of English politics, law, science, literature and art, had gathered in the venerable Abbey to do honour to the memory of one who had himself, on previous similar occasions, fascinated equally distinguished audiences; who, as poet, was worthy to be classed with Milton; who as an essayist and literary critic and as genial humourist had no superior and few equals in the English language, and who as a statesman rendered infinite service to the two great English-speaking nations of the earth by doing much to blot out the ill-will and misunderstanding existing between them since the American civil war. The memorial was the exclusive gift of Englishmen, who wished by it to show both that it was their spontaneous gift and also that they claimed a share in the proprietorship of one who was undoubtedly the greatest American of his day. The ceremony of unveiling it was worthily performed by the eminent scholar, Mr. Leslie Stephen, who was further qualified for the task by the fact that he was, with one exception, the oldest of Lowell's English friends. His speech on the occasion contains a review of Lowell's life, work, and character that for eloquence, interest, and terseness might not be unfavourably compared with the best efforts even of Lowell himself. From Mr. Bayard's equally eloquent address we extract the concluding passage:—

> I am glad, indeed, that this mark of honour to my dear countryman has been erected so soon after his death. The reproach, so often just, of long delay cannot here be made, nor the words of the great Jonson be uttered—
>
> "See nations, slowly wise and meanly just,
> "To buried merit raise the tardy bust."
>
> For here a brotherhood of letters—kindred spirits—have hastened with graceful and loving appreciation to give to "buried merit" its just memorial. I cannot forbear the wish, however futile, that he could have been permitted to foresee the erection of these marks of honour to his name. For I can well imagine the honest and exquisite pleasure it would have caused him, for who could—who so well as he did justice by pen and speech to such acts of sympathy and praise to "buried merit?" It was his great and honourable purpose to bring the peoples of Great Britain and of the United States into a better comprehension of each other, to replace suspicions by confidence, and ignorant animosity by friendly appreciation. He liked to call himself "a man of letters," and truly he was a master of the English tongue, and made his skill and knowledge an agency to interpret the better feelings of both branches of the race who share its glories in common. In American homes, throughout the broad land over which the ensign of their country floats, a sense of grateful pride will be felt when they learn that the name and fame of their fellow-countryman, the poet, scholar, statesman, and patriot, have received at the hands of Britons this high tribute of respect in their most venerable temple of national religion, honour, and renown. "Give my love to England in general," was a late message of Mr. Lowell in a letter to his friend, Judge Thomas Hughes, and in these memorial windows and bust may we not read the reply of "England in general" to James Russell and the nation he faithfully represented at the Court of St. James's?

The spirit of these words is almost Lowell's own. He did not at one period of his life love England. He had done so in his youth, but English mistaken criticism on the civil war, in which several of his own nearest relatives fell, for a time replaced the early love with bitterness and distrust. But these feelings had disappeared long before his death, before even he came to England and there speedily became by far the most popular diplomatic representative that America ever had at the English Court. He took pride, and on many occasions gave public utterance to it, in the fact that every year Americans came to England in greater numbers and stopped longer there, and he considered that "nothing could be more important than to preserve the friendliest relation between the two greatest representatives of this conquering and colonizing race." At the same time, while carrying out this policy, he was always notorious for strictly asserting all his rights as American Minister and for insisting on the payment of due respect, even in the smallest detail, to the Government which he represented. During his whole life he was an earnest Christian, possessing an inexhaustible faith in the Divinity that watches over Humanity, and ever strong in the belief that the best and highest service of God is the helping of man:—

> He's true to God who's true to man; whenever wrong is done
> To the humblest and the weakest, neath the all beholding sun,
> That wrong is also done to us; and they are slaves most base
> Whose love of right is for themselves and not for all their race.

These were his sentiments throughout life; they made him the most earnest of abolitionists in his early days, and in his later life the impassioned advocate of the regeneration of the most degraded and outcast classes of society.

THE ELECTIONS.

NEXT to the Cabinet changes, the approaching elections form an absorbing theme. We notice with pleasure that Mr. Hayashi Waichi, Tokyo's oldest and best reputed lawyer, is again about to contest one of the metropolitan suburbs. This locality has some eight hundred people who hold the franchise, and though Mr. Hayashi is an open enemy of underhand dealings and detests the very name of a briber, it is privately stated that the last election his two weeks' candidature cost him over three thousand *yen*. His *Ri-to* rival was then successful, albeit Mr. Hayashi enjoyed the active support of such men as Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo and the then spotless Mr. Hoshi Toru. But powerful Government support turned the balance in favour of the Government man, who was otherwise a *homo ignotus*. Was this, as Mr. Shimada Saburo and his confrères so hotly claimed, one instance out of many?

* * *

In Kanagawa Prefecture it is rumoured that the election of Mr. S. Otsuka is a foregone conclusion. Up to the 15th instant, over six hundred votes, out of a possible thirteen hundred, had been promised him. Mr. Otsuka is a *Kaishin-to* partisan with distinctly *Ri-to* tendencies, it is said. He has many friends and will no doubt lead his opponent, Mr. Yamazaki, a Liberal or Radical, at the polls. The *Kaishin to* people claim, by-the-bye, that they will have fully 70 seats in the new Lower House. That is, however, as the *Bellman* remarks in that inspired lyric, "The Hunting of the Shark," "A sentiment open to doubt."

SHANGHAI'S FUTURE.

MR. SYDNEY B. J. SKERTCHLY has published a very admirable essay on the future of Shanghai, considered from the point of view of the huge Yangtze River, which, steadily and silently is performing a colossal task along the sea coast near that flourishing settlement. The Yangtze is 2,800 miles in length; its drainage are a is 750,000 square miles, and its mean discharge per second, estimated at the mouth, is 750,000 cubic feet, or 22,000,000 millions of cubic feet annually. The sediment annually carried down by its waters would, if spread over a square mile, make a bank 229 feet high. Assuming that only one half of this sediment is deposited along 600 miles of sea-coast, it follows that the depth of the water is lessened by a little more than a foot in eight years. Every year some six thousand million cubic feet of silt are deposited near the coast of Kiangsu and Chêkiang, or, stated by weight, 430,000,000 tons. "This is the yearly tribute of the Yangtze to the new lands forming on the coast." Mr. Skertchly then proceeds thus:—"Shanghai is practically in the mouth of the Yangtze. Let us try and form an estimate of the amount of sediment deposited thereabouts. Suppose the Woosung anchorage to be a square of ten miles, equal to 100 square miles, and the depth to average ten fathoms. As the sediment equally spread would raise the sea-bed 0.127 feet in a year, it follows that the whole would be filled up in 480 years, if no compensating action took place, and during the 50 years of Shanghai's existence as an open port the mean water will have shoaled 6.35 feet. What wonder, then, that within the memory of foreigners in Shanghai, sand banks have been converted into habitable islands. But there is a compensating action in the scouring power of the Yangtze itself, of the Shanghai river, and in the daily ebb and flow of the tide. Hence the channel is not silting up at this alarming rate, nor the anchorage as a whole. But it is silting up nevertheless, and it is only a question of time for the coast-line to run far out to the eastward of its present position. The very name of Shanghai is said to indicate that the sea once bathed its frontage. We shall deal in detail with the question of the formation of bars, and the silting up of channels, and point out how the evil day may be postponed."

MEETINGS.

WE have before us the reports of various meetings of societies. The Japanese Economic Association held its regular meeting on the evening of the 20th instant in the Fujimiken, Tokyo. His Excellency the Minister of State for Finance was the guest of the evening. He delivered a speech, in the course of which, after dwelling in eulogistic terms on the general progress made by the country during the *Meiji* era, and especially upon the financial history of the State, he went on to say that one feature of this latter remarkable development inspired some anxiety, namely, the fact that the nation's financial progress had not been along clearly-defined and distinctly projected lines, but had been worked out more or less under the control of chance. Confidence could not be reposed in the permanence of such success, and he thought that the members of the Association might advantageously devote themselves to thinking out some programme of definite action for the future. He did not give any clue as to the nature of the programme, but said that he hoped to be able to submit his views on the subject at some future date. After dinner, Mr. Nakamura Heizo spoke on the identity of national might and national right; Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, on the conflict between the principles of nationalism and individualism; and Mr. Sekiwa Masamichi, on the necessity of transferring all the railways to the control of the State.

* * *

A general meeting of the Nippon Commercial Association was held in its office, Shiba Park, Tokyo, on the 15th instant, Mr. Mayeda Masama being in the chair. A report was presented showing that application had been made to the French Representative, asking that Japanese desiring to send articles to the Exhibition in Lyons next April should have the benefit of freights reduced by 50 per cent. as well as total exemption from custom duties and space in the exhibition free of charge. The Minister's reply was that he had lost no time in conveying this representation to his Government, but it remained as yet unanswered. The Chairman suggested that, in the event of these privileges being conceded, it would be advisable to take steps for an abundant display of Japanese textile fabrics at Lyons, so as to extend the market for them. This proposal was unanimously endorsed, and a preliminary conference was afterward held about the advisability of a joint meet-

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ing of persons engaged in the industries of textile fabrics, paper, porcelain, lacquer, and bronze, to be held in Kyoto in the middle of April.

* * *

The Railway Council met on the 15th instant in its offices in the premises of the Department of Communications, General Kawakami being in the chair. On the proposal of the Chairman it was agreed that, despite the dissolution of the Diet, the Council should adhere to its previously adopted policy with regard to the sanction of railway construction, and should continue its conferences unless requested by the Department of Communication to suspend them as a matter of prudence. Applications received for charters to construct the Toyokawa, Mikawa, and five other lines were then discussed and rejected.

A NEW PLEA IN A POISON CASE.

The ingenuity of barristers threatens to revolutionize the value of evidence. Hitherto, when chemical experts have testified to finding mineral poison in the body of a dead person, it has always been assumed that the poison was taken or administered during life. But at the trial of Meyer for the supposed murder of Joseph Baum, a new plea was advanced, namely, that the poison found in the corpse "strayed" there by imbibition, or absorption, after death. Dr. Doremus, the celebted chemist, testified that he had analysed the remains of Baum, and had recovered from them six grains of antimony and between two and three grains of arsenic. But it has been written by Orfila that "a wretch might, with intent to accuse an innocent man of having been the author of a poisoning, introduce a poisonous solution into the digestive canal of a cadaver, which would then penetrate by imbibition to the most distant organs, from which it would be extracted by the experts, who would be led to believe in poisoning." This opinion having been read to Professor Doremus, he was asked whether he agreed with it, and having answered in the affirmative, he was next questioned thus:—"Then, can you swear positively that the arsenic you found in those organs was there before death?" "I cannot," replied the witness.

THE PARLIAMENTARY VACANCY AT ACCRINGTON.

The law office, the appointment to which, as we anticipated, caused the vacancy in the above electoral division in England, was, we now see, that of Recorder of Manchester, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. West. This office, though it cannot be considered one of the great law offices of the crown, is highly important and well paid, and though it is entirely a judicial one, its holder can continue to sit in Parliament and practice at the bar. Mr. West's death can scarcely be considered a great public loss. He was an eminent criminal lawyer, but as a judge he earned notoriety for the almost savage severity of his sentences, and unfortunately in the adjoining equally great borough of Liverpool, the Recorder, Mr. Hopwood, was just as famous for clemency. The scandal was frequently seen of a criminal in one borough receiving a sentence of a few months' imprisonment, while, with other, an equally guilty offender was condemned to as many years of penal servitude. In frequent instances the interference of the Home Secretary had to be moved in regard to Mr. West's treatment of the unlucky lawbreaker who had the misfortune to come before him.

CHINESE ROBBERS.

A Shantung correspondent of the *North China Daily News* thus describes the latest escapade of a band of Chinese robbers:—"T'angihsien a city about twenty-five miles south of this city, was raided by a large band of robbers four or five nights ago. The band surrounded the city, entered at each gate, shouting and firing off guns to scare off all thought of resistance, and crying out that they were the friends of the people come to take vengeance upon their oppressors, proceeded to the *yamén* where they made demand for money. Here, assembled in force, it was apparent at once to the officers and soldiers that their numbers were insufficient to cope with the robbers, and so they fled without making any resistance, leaving the official to make such terms with them as he thought best. This he did by giving up all the silver that he had on hand, something over a thousand taels. Since then, the underlings have been in hiding. The robbers are said to have numbered about one hundred men. The home of these robbers and of those who have infested this region during the summer, is said to be Ts'aochofu in the south-west corner of this province."

"GOOD DOG!"

A dog story, told me by the owner of the dog, is too remarkable, says a writer in a home paper, to be passed by. It seems that one evening when the gentleman in question was absent from home, his wife and some other ladies who were in the drawing-room noticed a peculiar agitation in the long lace window-curtains. This was found to be caused by a mouse, which was running from end to end of the curtain-pole without being able to find its way down. Poker, tongs, fancy brushes, and other weapons were brought into requisition to dislodge the intruder, and everyone present, including a fine retriever dog, became much excited. Eventually the mouse either leapt or fell to the floor, and then, of course, the ladies flung away their weapons, jumped on chairs, and screamed. The mouse took temporary refuge in a corner. What did the dog do? It rushed off to the kitchen and brought the family cat back in its mouth. In a moment or so afterwards the cat started off to the kitchen with the mouse in *her* mouth. This is an absolutely true story.

AMŒNITATES EXOTICÆ.

Sunt quibus Gangis chorus, aut anhelans
Maenas Aegypti placet impudicae,
Me juvat ducens gracilis jocosas
Geisha choreas.

Vesperi linquens casulam novercae,
Jam nigrescentem properat per urbem,
Mensa vix durae tria lustra vitae,
Parvula cantrix.

Divitum mensis adhibetur, omni
Grata convivae, cita sive currit
Passerinarumque dapum ministra,
Oenophorusque;

Seu per ambages celeris choreae,
Dum sonant cantus querulaeque chordae,
Labitur, molli manuum pedumque
Non sine rhythmo.

Zona resplendet volitantis: undat,
Exprimens artus, chirimena vestis;
Labra surrident; hyacinthinique
Balsama fragrant.

Crinis, ornant quem nitor ipse et albus
Flosculus, testudineusve pecten
Nec minus cantante placet puellae
Lenis ad aurem.

Vox susurrantis, placet et protervus
Risus,—at nigris oculis caveto:
Queis minus Circe male temperato
Fascinet haustu.

RUSSIAN V. AMERICAN OIL.

The New York correspondent of a London paper says:—"If Russia can successfully compete, as is threatened, with American oil in the East India and Japan trade, it will about kill the long-voyage business of American sailing-ships, as the bottom seems to have fallen out of the round-the-Horn trade, and there is nothing else in sight for them. Even the big American clipper *Roanoke*, the largest wooden sailing-vessel afloat, which was especially built for the San Francisco business, but only made one round trip there, is now loading at this port on an oil charter for Shanghai. She is to take 125,000 cases at 22 cents freight. This will load her down approximately to 27½ feet draught, and as there is only 21 to 24 feet of water at Shanghai, and she will consequently have to lighten cargo there, the profits of the voyage will form an interesting calculation."

THE ARMY OF THE AMUR.

According to a Peking letter to a Shanghai contemporary, the new arms and ammunition sent last year for the troops in the Amur region or Hünts'ün, amounted to 10,000 stand of Mauser rifles, twelve Hotchkiss machine guns, and twelve mountain two-pounder breech-loading guns, and eight steel Krupp field-pieces. Two million cartridges have also been provided for each kind of arm. H.E. E-k'ê-tang-a, the Tartar-General of Heilungchiang, however, alive to the weakness of the forces under him, has recently memorialised for additional troops, arms, and ammunition of the newest type, as well as qualified drill instructors. He says there is no lack of men, and with the necessary weapons he could arm 40,000 men from amongst the native Tartars alone, but he insists upon proper drill instructors and officers to lead them.

"RUDE AND CONSCIENCELESS."

The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, under the heading "Attempt by a foreigner to purchase a house in Ginza," has a deliciously characteristic paragraph, which loses nothing of its piquancy by being, as it probably is, wholly untrue. "A certain well-known watch-and-clock dealer, who carries on business in the main street of Ginza, desirous of selling his premises, recently invoked the assistance of an agent, through whom he presently received a bid of 5,500 *yen*. Inquiries as to the source of the offer revealed the fact that it had come from a foreigner residing in Yokohama, who wished to buy the place in the name of his mistress, Chichi. The proprietor was greatly surprised and incensed. However many thousands of *yen* might be offered, he declared, nothing could induce him to be guilty of the lawlessness of selling to a foreigner. Truly when we remember the excitement at present prevailing about strict enforcement of the Treaties, it must be admitted that the foreigner making such an offer, is sufficiently rude and conscienceless."

THE GREAT CHANCELLOR AGAIN.

Ever since Bismarck's retirement German journalists have been unwearied discussing the causes of his disappearance from official life. Dr. Hans Blum, in his recently published work, "The German Empire at the Time of Bismarck," has tried to answer some of the questions asked by the German public. As soon as the Emperor—so Mr. Blum informs us—heard of Windthorst's now famous visit to Prince Bismarck, he sent the Chief of his Civil Cabinet, von Lucanus, to the Chancellor with the command that Bismarck must first report to the Emperor before receiving members of parliament for the purpose of discussing politics. The Prince begged the Chief of the Civil Cabinet to inform His Majesty that he could not permit anybody to control his threshold. Early on the morning of 15th of March, while Bismarck was still in bed, the Emperor appeared at the Chancellor's residence and demanded an immediate interview. The Prince dressed quickly and, after appearing before the Emperor, was asked what had been the meaning of his interview with Dr. Windthorst. The Chancellor replied that only private matters had been discussed. The Emperor insisted on his right to know in good time of Bismarck's meeting a party leader like Windthorst, while the Prince declared that as far as his seeing members of parliament was concerned, he could not allow himself to be placed under surveillance, that nobody could control his private threshold. "When I, in my capacity as sovereign, command it, do you then still object?" exclaimed the Emperor in great excitement. "The command of my lord and sovereign ends where the *salon* of my wife begins," replied the Chancellor, and then he added that only on account of his promise to Emperor William I. to continue to serve also his grandson, had he remained at his present post; but that he was ready to retire at any time if his farther services were inconvenient to the Emperor. On the morning of the 17th of March, General von Hahnke, Chief of the Military Cabinet, was sent to Bismarck with the command to call for his resignation in the name of the Emperor. The general did not, however, convey the sovereign's desire in a direct and explicit manner, and so the Prince declared that he would not desert the colours, as this, under the circumstances, seemed to him like disloyalty to the nation and Emperor; that if he should offer his resignation, a most misleading light would be thrown upon the events then transpiring; that the Emperor, like the Sovereign of Austria,

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could dismiss a minister with a "We have deemed it best;" and that for these reasons he could not conclude his public career with an act so contrary to the logic of the situation. That same day the chief of the Civil Cabinet then appeared and demanded, in the name of the Emperor, Prince Bismarck's resignation at a specified hour, offering at the same time the title of Duke of Lauenburg and a liberal donation to enable the new duke to live in a manner becoming his position. The Prince, however, replied that if he had wanted to be a duke, he could have been made one long before, and as to a donation, he could surely not be expected to close his public career by accepting a gratuity such as is usually given about New Year to particularly zealous letter-carriers. In view of the determined command of the sovereign, however, the Prince felt a great relief, amounting almost to cheerfulness, as all responsibility for his resignation had thus been assumed by the Emperor himself. He declared—we still follow the narrative of Dr. Blum—that if the sovereign would dismiss him, he was ready to sign the document at once; if a letter of resignation, the last official document of a Minister not altogether unworthy of his country, was insisted upon, he must have more than the specified time. This was a simple duty he owed to himself and history. This letter was written from the 18th to the 19th of March, but its contents are of course not known to any but those directly concerned. The Emperor did not receive the letter until the afternoon of the 20th and could only just have read it, when the two Chiefs of the Civil and Military Cabinet, von Lucanus and General von Hahnke, brought Bismark's dismissal, the dignity of a ducal title, and the promise of His Majesty's picture, life size. On the 26th the old statesman called at the palace and took his leave. The Empress received him first, pressed his hand firmly, and bade him a touching farewell, as did also the young princes, her sons. Then the Emperor made his appearance, but what passed between the sovereign and his retiring chancellor is a mere matter of speculation and will certainly not soon become public. One of the statements of the book, that Minister von Bötticher had said to the Emperor: "If Your Majesty wishes to emulate the Great Frederick, Your Majesty must first remove Prince Bismarck," has since been contradicted by the *Official Gazette*; with regard to all the other points, however, the press and the public of Germany are very much in the dark. The papers call for an official and comprehensive account of the actual facts, on the plea that they cannot be forever kept secret; but the semi-official *Cologne Gazette* informs its readers that, probably from a desire to prevent the reopening of old sores, the Emperor has enjoined those near him at the time from divulging anything connected with those eventful days of March.

A NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL IN CHINA.

We note another of those progressive steps in China which are always interpreted at the time by enthusiastic observers as indications of the commencement of the great national march that China is constantly on the verge of making but never makes. This time it is the opening of a new medical school in Tientsin, an incident described by a correspondent of the *North China Herald* as a "great and novel departure in Chinese education." The school owes its origin to the late Dr. McKenzie, who during the latter years of his life saved a portion of the allowance placed at his disposal by the Viceroy Li, Lady Li, and some wealthy officials, designing it to form the nucleus of a building fund. At this philanthropist's death, disputes arose about the money he had saved, and it ultimately reverted to the Chinese, but the dead man's benevolent scheme lived, and now, owing to the influence exercised upon the Viceroy by Mrs. Dr. King and Dr. Irwin, the school has been erected and equipped at a cost of about 30,000 Tls. Funds for the maintenance of the school are to be regularly provided, and twenty-three English-speaking students are to be lodged, boarded, and taught gratis. The opening ceremony was performed on the 19th ult. by the Viceroy in person, and was, of course, the occasion for some eloquent addresses. We extract from the *North China Herald* the following interesting comments on the event:—

Medicine in China has been in low repute for all the ages. The medical man has been classed with barbers and such people, and though consulted, of course, has enjoyed or not enjoyed a very unsavoury reputation, or at the least has been of no consideration. China is not unique in its low estimate; as we all know a century and a half ago the Royal College of Surgeons obtained its first charter and the barbers and surgeons dissolved the partnership they had had with each other for two hundred years. Since then what have the surgeons not accomplished?

The Chinese have had physicians. They have names in their writings of men who have been famous in the healing art, among which two are best known to foreigners, namely Hua To and Yu Chi. They were of course charlatans from our point of view, worse even than Doctor Singrado. But the former of these was, if the accounts are to be believed, a bit of a surgeon. On one occasion he opened up the arm of a man wounded by an arrow and 'scraped the bone.' We do not pretend to know what this means, but it indicates surgery of some degree. But it is inconceivable that any one can be more ignorant of the profession by which he obtains his daily bread than the modern Chinese doctor. His knowledge of the inside of a man is at an absolute zero or even worse. Misleading is much too mild a term; such crass ignorance is scarcely appreciable, and not much wonder.

The first spade-full of this enormous mound of ignorance was removed by the Grand Old Man, the Viceroy of Chihli, when he opened in person the medical college at Tientsin. The college scheme is not new. It is now some six years since Dr Myers brought his students here for examination by our own medical body and some four years since he took them to Tientsin to present them to the great satrap of the North. His reward was the cost of his venture, for his nominal honorary surgeonship is nothing. The existence of this new college may be more especially ascribed to the work of Drs. McKenzie, Irwin, and Mrs. King. The name of the first of these lives in the hearts of the Northern people with spring freshness; the name of the second is famous, and no less honour is due to the talented lady whose name stands third. Her sex gained her admission to the ladies' apartments of the Viceroy Li, her talents and sweetness and tact have given her a unique position, and as 'she who rocks the cradle rules the world,' it is not too much to say that she did as much to found the college as those who actually proposed it to the Viceroy and obtained his sanction. The last step has now been taken, the work begun in 1889 has been brought to a successful conclusion, and the Medical College stands ready to do its work. As a useful institution and as a civilising influence the healing art has never been surpassed, and we sincerely wish the Imperial Medical College all success in its mission to relieve this Far Eastern branch of suffering humanity. In this country where so much depends upon the individuality of a statesman an institution of this kind may be almost regarded as the work of the man who favours its birth, and we hope that the college will be a lasting memorial worthy of the talents of Li Chung-t'ang.

JAPANESE IN AUSTRALIA.

Some negotiations have lately been going on between the Colonial Secretary of Queensland and the Government of Japan with regard to the inflow of Japanese into that Colony. Attention was first drawn to the matter by an occurrence brought under the notice of the Government by the representative of Japan in Australia. Two Japanese had been murdered by aboriginals in the northern part of Queensland, and the Japanese Consul asked for an inquiry to be made with a view to bringing the murderers to justice. Mr. Tozer had full inquiries made, and it was ascertained that the murders were committed in a place where the police had no power to prevent outrages. The Japanese in question were pursuing their occupation in the portion of Queensland inhabited by wild aboriginals. Mr. Tozer communicated this fact to the Japanese Government with the assurance that whatever property belonging to the deceased that could be recovered should be restored to their relatives. He added that the man had been murdered by a tribe, but the members of it who were actually concerned in the outrage were unknown. He urged that it would be wise for the Consul to bring under the notice of the Japanese Government the fact that Japanese coming here and working in this part of Queensland run the risks necessarily attending their being brought into contact with blacks. Moreover, as the blacks were known to have a particular detestation for coloured races, he recommended that the emigration of Japanese to such parts should be discouraged. He also pointed out that there were now a very large number of Japanese in the northern part of the colony, and they had practically got the pearl and bêche-de mer fisheries in their hands. It was therefore advisable that the number of passports granted by the Japanese Government to their people should be restricted as much as possible. So far no reply has been received from the Japanese Government.—*Brisbane Courier*.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

The New Year's supplement of the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* contains a significant story by Mr. Murai Gensai, one of the rising novelists of the day. The story in itself is commonplace, and would not be worth notice at all, did it not contain some significant allusions to the position of foreigners in this country. The heroine is a young girl of seventeen or eighteen, pretty and high spirited, the daughter of a curio dealer, Yamatoya, in Fusomachi, Yokohama. Her betrothed, a young officer in the Imperial Navy, Chishima Kanrokuro by name, has just returned from France where he studied torpedo tactics. He suffers, however, from an eye disease and soon loses the use of his sight. Chivalry prompts him to propose the cancellation of the marriage promise, which proposal is gladly accepted by the would-be bride's parents, who belong to the worst type of greedy and vulgar merchants in the open ports. They had been repenting of their promise to a poor Naval officer, for they had subsequently received a tempting proposal for their daughter's hand from the richest foreign merchant in the Settlement. Hence they, advise her to take the opulent foreign suitor instead of a blind officer who has no future prospects. Miss O Tei, however, indignantly rejects the ignominous advice of her parents, and declares her resolution to stand true to her lover, even against their will. She manages to slip out of the house and calls upon Lieutenant Chishima at his house at Ota. He lives with his aged mother, there being, besides, as is usual in the houses of educated men in Japan, a student who is fed and schooled in consideration of doing some very light work in the house. In a modest and bashful manner, she begs the young officer to take her for his wife just as though he had not lost his eyesight. He and his mother in vain endeavour to prevent her from taking a hasty step of which she may repent afterwards. Finding her resolute and immovable, Chishima agrees to marry, her with sincere expressions of gratitude and admiration. He proposes to visit her parents and arrange matters with them, and goes out in his *jinrikisha* for the purpose. At the corner of Shikokumachi, his *jinrikisha* is upset by a carriage driven by a foreigner, the identical person who wants to marry Miss O Tei. The *jinrikisha* man is badly wounded, and Chishima is thrown out and slightly injured. As the carriage begins to hurry away, the young officer, blind as he is, climbs on to it from behind and clings there, despite a shower of blows from the occupant of the vehicle. As the carriage enters the yard of its owner's residence, the gate is shut and the foreigner alights. The blind officer also jumps down, but falls upon a large stone and is for a time unable to rise. The foreigner stands beside him, addresses to him various abusive epithets, and even kicks him. In a fury of indignation, Chishima forgets his pain and springs upon the foreigner. But the people of the house soon come to their master's rescue, and the unfortunate Japanese is again brought to the ground. While writhing with pain, Chishima demands the name of his assailant, and his demand is answered by a cook who boastingly tells him that he has the honour of being in the presence of the rich English merchant, Mr. Lavelle, of Messrs. Lavelle and Company. At the mention of this name, Chishima again tries to raise himself and seize the detested foreigner. The latter restrains him by alluding to the powerlessness of Japanese police over foreigners, and by pointing out, in an arrogant tone, that Japan is regarded

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by a British Order in Council as a dependency of England. When Chishima tells his name and status and vows vengenance, the Japanese war vessels are declared to be inferior to English fishing-boats. Upon this Chishima seizes a stone and throws it at the foreigner. The missile hits its mark, and the blind lieutenant is beaten nearly to death, and thrown out of the gate in a half-unconscious state. He is soon surrounded by a number of Japanese who are on watch to prevent traders secretly transacting business with the company, which has been boycotted by the Japanese merchants. A policeman also appears on the scene. He is requested by Chishima to enter the house and arrest the foreigner. The constable points out that under the present system he is powerless to take any effective step, "especially," says he, "as we are now under instructions to treat foreigners with particular consideration." "Who has issued such instructions?" "It matters not," answers the constable, "who has issued such instructions, but they are the result of a weak and cowardly policy, and in the course of the discharge of our official duties, we very often feel keen exasperation." Meanwhile, Miss O Tei, together with her future mother-in-law, is trembling with dread about the fate of her future husband, for the *jinrikisha* man has returned sorely injured, but without any definite information as his master. By and by Chishima comes home, when his wounds are at once dressed by a doctor, and he is sent to sleep by means of medicine. His old mother burns with indignation against the hateful foreigner, and O Tei, taking down a *kakemono* from the alcove, goes out on the pretence of paying a visit to her mother, her real destination being Lavelle's house. As she approaches the place, she is detected by the watch stationed in the neighbourhood on behalf of the boycotting guild, and while protesting against their suspicions, she is noticed by the master of the house, who causes his employés to sally out with clubs and sticks and disperse the inquisitive sentinels. O Tei is at once shown into Lavelle's room. The latter locks the door, and inviting his fair visitor to take a seat, endeavours to placate her by offering her wine and cake. She asks him to buy the *kakemono*, as she badly wants money. Unfolding it, she invites him to inspect it, and while he is bending over it, he stabs him in the side with a dagger purchased on her way from her future home. After putting an end to the Englishman's life, O Tei surrenders herself to the police. Such is the brief outline of the story. It is accompanied by a poem, in which the writer laments the death of his countrymen who lie buried in the sea with the wreck of the *Normanton*.

CIRCULAR TO LOCAL GOVERNORS.

THE Minister of State for Home Affairs has taken steps to correct an evil which may be described as special to the time. In these days when the Opposition's chief outcry is against the intrusion of personal considerations into the Government, it is curious to see how the people throughout the localities consider it necessary to resort to personal influence in the pursuit of all their aims. Whenever any project is set on foot requiring the endorsement of the Central Government, a body of men are almost invariably despatched from the locality chiefly interested to canvass officialdom in the capital. The same course is adopted when a Bill has to be pushed in the Diet, or a Petition supported. The latter method is, of course, very familiar in the West under the name of "lobbying;" nor is it at all peculiar to Japan that the interest of a scheme should be promoted by direct intercourse with the officials who can sanction or veto it. But the committee system in Japan is a more pretentious and cumbersome kind of affair than we are familiar with in Europe. It is necessarily very costly. The members of a committee sometimes remain for several months in the capital, and being naturally more or less strange to the ways of the city, as well as unacquainted with the avenues by which officialdom may be approached, they often become a prey to clever adventurers who render them delusive assistance at heavy charges. This evil assumes particularly large dimensions where the establishment of an exchange is in question. Owing to the existence of some tradal abuses, or economic defects not yet clearly analyzed, exchanges in Japan are extravagantly profitable to their shareholders, and the desire to establish them is proportionately keen. Hence, when a charter for opening an exchange is sought, the regular habit is to despatch a large committee to Tokyo and maintain it there doing imaginary work and squandering real money for weeks and months. It is to correct this extravagant folly that Count Inouye has taken the unusual step of directing the Chief of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry to address a circular to Local Governors describing the prevalence of the above abuse, declaring the utter inutility of such committees, and counselling the people in the provinces not to waste their money upon such futile measures.

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We read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that the issue of the above circular was precipitated by an attempt to defraud the people of Toyohashi. The anxiety of these folks to procure a license for establishing an Exchange was well understood, and when the authorities had decided to grant the license, but before the fact had yet been officially announced, a clever schemer, having privately obtained information of the state of affairs, telegraphed to the projectors of the Exchange in Toyohashi saying that he had devised a scheme which, if pursued, could not fail to secure a license promptly. For its prosecution, however, a sum of three thousand *yen* was required, which amount he begged them to remit by wire. The Toyohashi projectors were shrewd enough to telegraph to the Bureau of Commerce and Industry before disbursing the required amount. Thus the swindler was defeated, and the Bureau provoked to immediate action.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER.

WHY should not they flock together, and, if convenient, why not hunt in couples for the pursuit and enjoyment of mutual profit? This was the question running in the mind of Mr. Phil Daly, the noted "sport" of Long Branch and Saratoga, as he marched up and down at the Casino in Monte Carlo, during a recent tour of observation in Southern Europe. Mr. Daly, famous for the equanimity and nerve with which he presides over the faro tables of the gay American brandy-and-watering places, was overcome by a twinge of professional envy when he first saw this rival establishment of sunny Italy in open and undisguised operation, without even a pretence of concealment, and evidently independent of the protecting influence of a "pull." But this sentiment gave way to a far stronger one, when, after repeated tests, he succeeded in satisfying himself that the game was actually "square." Imagine the mingled emotions of pitying scorn and lofty speculation with which such a discovery would naturally inflame the bosom of a crack New York gambler. After a period of melancholy meditation over the magnificent opportunities thus madly thrown away, Mr. Daly resolved upon a conference with the Prince of Monaco, who happened to be sojourning at the time in his domain. For what followed, we rely upon the report of an American correspondent, who avers that every word of his tale is true. Authentic or not, it is so entirely lovely that no one will wish to disbelieve it. By good fortune, or perhaps persistent effort, the republican tourist gained admission to the palace, accompanied by an attendant bearing sundry packages and boxes. After imposing silence and secresy upon all present, including the Prince—much to that sovereign ruler's astonishment—he began to produce choice models of "crooked" roulette tables, and specimens of "patent undetectable marked cards," of the latest Chicago manufacture. Concerning the further progress of the interview, the entertaining correspondent gives no particulars,—an exercise of self-restraint which seems wholly superfluous, since, having carried the incident so far, it could not have been a superhuman task to continue it [illegible] minute detail. To the truly enterprising journalist it is only the first step that costs. We are, however, permitted to know that the dean of the faro-banking fraternity of Long Branch and Saratoga departed from Monaco in a thorny temper, bitterly inveighing against the "cussedness" of old-world sporting men as a body, and especially against the Italian contingent, of which he had no hesitation in denouncing His Royal Highness of Monaco as the least promising and intelligent member. The only hope, in Mr. Daly's estimation, for the institutions by virtue of which he and the lord of Monte Carlo flourish and prosper, lies in the universal spread of democratic principles, with unlimited application of the theory of "advantages" and practical reliance upon the "pull."

THE OLD, OLD STORY IS TOLD AGAIN.

ANOTHER union of republican wealth with European title has come to grief and public shame. Just ten years ago, the daughter of Mrs. John W. Mackay, and step-daughter of the well-known California millionaire, surrendered her affections to Prince Ferdinand, a scion of the ancient Colonna family, and married him in spite of the anxious remonstrances of all her relatives. In yielding, finally, to the Prince's importunities, Mrs. Mackay explained that her daughter was not her present husband's child, and was entirely without fortune. But the Italian nobleman was willing to take his chances, and produced a letter from his uncle, Prince Stigliano Colonna, stating that money was not to be considered, as the young suitor was bent upon making a love match. Although the bride carried not a penny of *dot* with her, Mr. Mackay allowed her an annual income of $175,000, with which the couple started upon their married life in Naples. It is said that within six months the Prince began demanding money to pay his gambling debts, and that Mr. Mackay, in the hope of averting a scandal, came to the rescue with successive contributions, amounting to no less than a million francs in five years. Then he set his face against further extortion, though the allowance of $175,000 a year was continued. This, however, was not sufficient for the Prince's needs, and he presently set to work selling the furniture with which Mr. Mackay had supplied the Naples mansion, and also his wife's wedding presents. When these resources were exhausted, it is alleged that the insatiate spendthrift resorted to the persuasive power of deliberate cruelty and personal violence, whereupon Princess Colonna left him, taking her three children with her, and applied to the French Courts for a legal separation. The case will soon be tried, and in the meantime the young lady is living under protection of her mother, in Paris. Her step-father declares his intention to stand by her to the last ounce of silver in his famous mine, and it appears to be generally conceded that if the Colonna family attempt to oppose the application, they will be signally defeated. Painful disclosures are inevitable, but if they have any weight in discouraging heiresses of the United States from their too frequent trust in the mercenary protestations of titled European adventurers, their publication will not be wholly without serviceable result.

THE SAVINGS BANK-BOOK OF A DEBTOR.

IN the Post and Telegraph School a debate was recently held on the topic whether a creditor is entitled to seize the savings bank-book of his debtor. There should not be much latitude for varying views on such a subject, one would imagine, but the youths in the Post and Telegraph School managed to discuss it with some show of reason. The arguments against the creditor were of a sentimental character. It was claimed that since the object of the savings-bank system is to encourage an effective spirit of economy, and since a sense of security must tend materially to the development of such a spirit, a man's hoard in the savings-bank ought to be protected as far as possible against his creditor. It was also claimed that the creditor is always the stronger of the two, and that the law arms him with crushing powers against his

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debtor. Consequently, something should be done to redress the balance, and that something would be in great part achieved if savings bank-books were exempted from the effects seizable by a creditor. On the other side, the contention was simple, namely, first that the law actually in force authorized a creditor to seize his debtor's savings bank-book; and secondly, that to exempt the debtor's deposits in a savings-bank would open the door to fraud of a very serious character. It might have been added, we think, that inasmuch as debtors against whom a judgment of the Courts is obtained, are not usually in the happy possession of a deposit in savings-bank, though probably they often would be were such a deposit secured against seizure for debt. We need scarcely say that the vote taken after the debate was against granting any immunity to deposits in a savings bank.

ADMIRAL SKERRETT.

In the correspondence between Mr. Willis, United States Representative in Honolulu, Admiral Skerrett, and the Department of State in Washington, some of the causes of Admiral Skerrett's removal from the command on the Hawaiian Station to that on the Asiatic, are indicated. On May 31, 1893, the Admiral wrote:—"As I have stated, I am of the opinion that the Provisional Government is solidly and firmly established, and that their rule is bringing quiet and contentment to the islanders." On June 28, 1893, he wrote:—"I must inform the Department that the stability and solidity of the Provisional Government is not considered to be all that had impressed me so favourably. It would appear that the iron heel of military law is really what serves to keep the Provisional Government in authority. One of the Government officials said to Minister Blount that he considered the condition of affairs here as bad as it ever had been." A month later the Admiral wrote:—"Surely, the Government they now give the people is the best they have ever had. I believe in their eventual success, and have implicit faith in it." Under date of Sept. 17, 1893, Secretary Herbert notified Admiral Skerrett that he had misconstrued instructions, and directs him to afford to British subjects and property such protection as has always been accorded by vessels of American fleets to the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, and the property under like circumstances in the absence of British vessels. The next telegram, under date of Oct. 9, marked "confidental," directs Admiral Skerrett to transfer his flag to the *Boston* at San Francisco and proceed there with his personal staff by first mail steamer. "It is the intention," he says, "of the department to transfer you to command of the Asiatic station." A similar telegram of the next day directs Admiral Irwin to proceed to Honolulu. The instructions to Admiral Irwin do not appear in the budget. The only reference to them is the following paragraph in a letter from Admiral Irwin to the Department, dated Honolulu, Nov. 14:—"I have carefully studied the instructions of the Department; they are perfectly clear to me, and will be carried out of the best of my ability."

JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Charged on the one hand with excluding from the control of the Diet too large a portion of the State revenue, and on the other with lack of courage to apply the surplus to useful purposes, the Ministers of the Crown find themselves exposed to a troublesome cross-fire. Since the celebrated fight between the Diet and the Cabinet in the former's first session, the revenue of each year has been considerably in excess of the expenditure, but what to do with the surplus is a question that always provokes fresh disputes. The original purpose of the Opposition in the Lower House was to provide funds for reducing the rate of the Land Tax, but the majority of the Upper House, in common with the Cabinet, being hostile to such a measure, the Representatives can not be induced to endorse the Government's proposals for applying the surplus, and the upper House can not be brought to agree to the Representatives' plan. Thus the surplus lies idle, and the *Kokkai* bases upon the fact a strong article, challenging the Cabinet to devote the money to the purchase of the Philippine Islands. The arguments advanced by our contemporary may easily be conceived: the Philippines would be a convenient centre from which to extend Japanese trade southward; Spain, in her present impoverished condition being unable to develop the resources of the Islands, and finding them rather a burthen than a blessing, would be only too glad to dispose of them on reasonable terms; England has become great by never failing to utilise an opportunity such as that which now presents itself to Japan; the Islands in enterprising hands might become a really valuable possession, and so forth and so on. The *Kokkai* concludes by challenging the statesmen now in power to show whether they still possess any remnant of the high courage and patriotic daring that distinguished their achievements at the time of the Restoration. Unless they spend the surplus on acquiring the Philippines, it is to be concluded apparently that these great qualities have deserted them. Such is the *Kokkai's* view. It is a diverting speculation to forecast the hubbub that would be raised in the present reign of party jealousy if any body of statesmen were to take on their own authority such a step as that recommended by the *Kokkai*.

A NEW PLAN FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE KURILE ISLANDS.

The *Suisan Zasshi* (Journal of Marine Industry) discusses in its latest issue the question of sealing off the coast of Chishima (the Kurile Islands). In its opinion, the best practicable method of guarding the waters of Chishima against foreign poachers and of securing the permanent settlement of those islands, consists in the creation of fishing troops (*Gyodan-hei*) somewhat after the model of the agricultural troops (*Tonden-hei*) now existing in Hokkaido. The fishing troops could be under the Naval Department, their stations being in the various islands of the group. Like the (*Tonden-hei*) they would be periodically mustered for naval exercise, while ordinarily they would engage in fishing pursuits. After completing the specified term of service, they would be granted each a dwelling house, a tract of land, fishing boats, and fishing implements. The *Suisan Zasshi* also recommends the Government to give special encouragement to ordinary emigrants to Chishima. Another suggestion advanced by the same periodical is that the fishing monopoly in the waters of Chishima at present enjoyed by the Imperial Japanese Marine Products Company, should be revoked, and that these promising fishing grounds should be thrown open to all Japanese alike. In this context, our contemporary gives some interesting historical facts bearing upon the relations of the Japanese with the Islands of Chishima. The well-known merchant Takatayu Kahei seems to have been the first Japanese who ever engaged in fishing in that group of islands. In the 12th year of *Kwansei* (1800), he sailed to the island of Etorofu (Isburup) and inaugurated the capture of seals by hiring aborigines for the purpose. The industry thus opened up by Takatayu was, a few years afterwards, continued and further extended by Suhara Kakubei and Date Rinyemon of the Matsumaye Clan. In other words, the Clan Government of Matsumaye turned the Chishima seal fishery into a sort of State monopoly. Things continued in this state until the era of *Kei-o* (1865-1867), when the Russian Government planted in the island of Urup a colony of aborigines from Alaska, and neither the Clan of Matsumaye nor the Government of Tokugawa being in a position to resist the encroachment of the Russians, the latter soon made themselves masters in that district. Since the exchange of Chishima for Saghalien, the Japanese Government has promulgated various regulations for the control of fisheries in the Chishima waters, but the writer complains that nothing effective has been done for the development of the fishing industry there. The Government is censured for want of a definite policy in the matter.

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It never seems to occur to Japanese journalists in discussing this question of the Chishima seal-fisheries that the fault really lies, not with the Government's lack of paternal care, but with the people's want of enterprise. Time and again vernacular newspapers complain of raids made by foreign poachers upon the valuable fishing grounds of Japan, and write as though a property of great value were being gradually stolen from the country by unscrupulous agents. But if the seal-fisheries of the Kuriles are so lucrative as to attract foreigners, who have to come from a great distance, and who run the risk of having their ships seized and being themselves imprisoned, why on earth are they not sufficiently lucrative to tempt Japanese subjects who live within easy reach of them, and who are at liberty to exploit them without running any risks at all? The Japanese company which enjoys a monopoly of fishing privileges in the Chishima waters is an affair of the utmost paltriness. Its annual operations do not aggregate more than a very few thousand *yen*, and the profit on its transactions is too petty to be worth a thought. If that is all that the Japanese can make out of their own fisheries, have they such cogent reasons to complain of foreign inroads, or do foreign inroads really represent so much gain to those that undertake them? If the Japanese do not think it worth while to develop the resources with which nature has endowed them, they need not be surprised to find that all the world is not equally unenterprising. Instead of crying out because the Government does not incur large expense in employing men-of-war to preserve the Chishima waters, what the Japanese people have to do, we venture to think, is to show that the Chishima waters are worth preserving, and that they themselves are prepared to take advantage of the measures which they urge upon the administration. Truly it seems a little extravagant to raise such a clamour about the protection of a property which might almost as well have no existence for the Japanese, so insignificant are the benefits they derive from it. These incessant appeals for the paternal aid of the Government on the part of folks who show so little capacity to aid themselves, have become wearisome.

THE FISHERY DISPUTE IN TOKYO BAY.

A dispute, now of old standing, exists between the fishermen living on the north and south of Capes Kwannon and Myokin. The disputants being under the jurisdiction of the Governors of Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Chiba, those officials have endeavoured to settle the affair, but owing to their want of success, it has now to be submitted to the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce. It is an old-fashioned dispute. The southward fishermen, that is to say, the fishermen living on the side of the Cape that faces the open sea, have been in the habit of employing a kind of stake net, called *Kosarashi-ami*, which, according to the view of the northward fishermen, has the effect of preventing the fish from passing to the north of the Cape. On behalf of the southern men, however, it is contended that the net is used for only two hours a day, at sunset and sunrise, and also at the rising and setting of the moon; that it is not used every day, but only about ten days in the month; that the width of the Bay where the net is shot varies from five to seven *ri*, whereas the net is only from twenty-five to thirty-five feet wide; and that to accuse the netters of blocking the passage of the fish up the Bay is, in view of these facts, manifestly extravagant. The southern men further point out that independent and much more potent causes can be cited for the diminished supply of fish in the northward reaches of the Bay. For example, the trend of the currents has been changed owing to artificial obstructions in the form of forts, breakwaters, etc.; disturbing illumination is cast on the surface of the Bay by lighthouses as well as by steamer lights, and the frequent passage of steamers to and fro must also exercise a disturbing effect. Apart from these special

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considerations, the southern men claim that to deprive them of the privileges naturally connected with their situation towards the mouth of the Bay would be manifestly unjust. With such arguments to support them, the southern men are not likely to yield, and it is feared that the trouble may assume serious dimensions. We may mention that the fish in question are sardines.

RECORDS.

THESE figures will interest our local "sports":—"The fastest amateur sprinters in the world are: One hundred yards—J. Owen, Washington, 0.09 4-5; W. T. McPherson, Auckland, N. Z., 0.09 4-5, and J. H. Hampton, Canterbury, N. Z., 0.9 4-5. C. A. Bradley holds the English record; which is 10 seconds for 100 yards. The English and American record for 150 yards is 14 4-5 seconds. Sherell and J. Owen, Jr., are the Americans who have made this time. E. H. Pelling of England holds the world's record for 200 yards. His time is 19 4-5 seconds. W. Baker holds the American record at 20 seconds. L. H. Cary, of America, and C. G. Wood, of London, have both run a furlong in 21½ seconds. The records at 250 yards are:—W. T. McPherson, of New Zealand, 0.24 3-5; E. H. Pelling, England, 0.24 4-5; L. E. Myers, of New York, still holds the 300-yard record with 31½ seconds, and C. G. Wood the English record of 31½ seconds. The American record for a quarter is 47¾ seconds, made by W. Baker. The English record of 48½ is held by H. C. L. Tindall."

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"The following world's records are held by California-bred horses:—Half mile, Geraldine, 122 pounds, 0.46; four and a half furlongs, Geraldine, 114 pounds, 0 54; five-eighths of a mile, Dr. Hasbrouck, 122 pounds, 0 57; five and a half furlongs, Tormentor, 121 pounds, 1.03; one mile, Kildeer, 91 pounds, 1 37¼; one mile and seventy yards, Wildwood, 115 pounds, 1 44; one and one-sixteenth of a mile, Yo Tambien, 99 pounds, 1.45½; one and five-sixteenths miles, Sir John, 116 pounds, 2.14¼; one and three-quarter miles, Hotspur, 117 pounds, 3 00¾. All the above records were made in races. Fox, Guido, and Patsey Duffy hold world's records for heat races."

JUMPING.

JOE DARBY must be a marvellous jumper. Here is a reference to his latest performances:—"Representatives of the press were treated to an exhibition of the powers of Joe Darby, the world's champion jumper, now with the Country Circus Company, at the Olympic yesterday afternoon, says the St. Louis *Republic*. Darby performed a number of his most difficult feats for their edification, two of them for the first time in public. There is a singularly attractive grace and ease about Darby's jumping. He skims over the ground like a swallow, and at high jumping is particularly pleasing. Nearly all the other high jumpers in going over an obstacle turn partially to one side, but Darby goes over face forward and without even an attempt to twist his body. Several of the feats he performed were wonderful. One of these was jumping over a chair, alighting on a man's face and jumping off again without hurting the man. Another was jumping on a sheet of water and off again without wetting the upper leather of his shoes. The first of the new feats performed was flying leaps, with the ankles tied, over three chairs, fourteen feet apart, and in the fourth jump clearing a bar five feet high. The second was a jump off a brick, end up, over a chair, alighting on another brick, and leaping thence ten feet without knocking either brick down."

ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATION WITH LIGHTSHIPS.

Two vessels are being prepared, under the direction of the Trinity House, to relieve the lightships at the North Goodwin Sands and the Kentish Knock. The new ships are being built under contract, and they embody many improvements upon the lightships of the older type, each being supplied with powerful screws, the one for the North Goodwins being worked by steam and that for the Kentish Knock by a caloric engine. Both vessels will be in direct electrical communication with the shore, the cable from the North Sands having its land connection at Dumpton Gap and that from the Kentish Knock at Kingsgate Bay. The Post Office authorities will lay the cables, and the cost of the work and maintenance charges will be defrayed out of money specially voted for the purpose by Parliament.

ABUSE.

How easy it is to write abuse! So easy, in fact, that not a few who can accomplish little else are quite adepts at it. Here is a sample addressed to Mr. Labouchere, of *Truth*:—

I trust that the gentleman who forwards the following effusion to me will never be on a jury in a case in which I am concerned:—

Multiply the villany of that villain Lobengula a million times and it won't in the faintest degree approach yours, you vile, loathsome, imp of hell. I hope you will never bring an action without losing it. If I were on a jury I would find against you in every case, and only regret that I could not send you to the gallows. Why don't you go to Russia, you accursed beggar—you aggregation of everything that is evil and bad? Siberia, you beast, is too good for you.

May fevers long know you;
May agues long freeze you;
May influenza assail you;
May microbes creep o'er you;
May many tortures distract you;
May Heaven destroy you!

Success to Rhodes! Down with you, you traitor and bloody villain who attacks him!

WOOSUNG BAR.

THE Feima Channel, says the Shanghai morning journal, is now one foot deeper than the old bar channel. The fact that this channel has again deepened should urge those whose interests are centred in in the shipping to redouble their efforts to get the Woosung Bar attended to, for it is evident that if nature is assisted the Bar can be deepened considerably. The use of fascines to direct the current will be all that is needed to remove the present obstruction.

* * *

It is interesting to note that on the 19th inst. there were no less than five mail steamers at Woosung, beside four cargo steamers two large sailing vessels, and nine Chinese cruisers and gunboats.

CHRYSANTHEMUM.

Pale in the garden, where, in ragged guise,
She begged a welcome ere her day began.
Who was't that first found out the wondrous prize
Sent in this simple garb from far Japan?
Was she a minx, a flirt hid 'neath her fan?
Naught know we save she came from far Japan!

Then crept she from the garden, quite by stealth,—
Her feet are tiny, none can say she ran,—
And 'neath the guardian glass she spread her wealth,
Drawn coin by coin, no doubt from far Japan.
Who is her banker? We but know she can
Get heaps of gold, in flowers, from far Japan!

Now rules she Queen, where once she shrank afraid
Lest they should sweep her from the sight of man;
She's Queen Cophetua, not the beggar-maid
Who came a shivering fright from far Japan:
Here's evolution, truly! so let's scan
The gold-clad darling sent from for Japan!

—J. E. P. in the *World*.

COUNT GOTO.

SEVERAL of Count Goto's old confederates in the *Daido Danketsu* are said to be urging him to re-enter the political arena. When his retirement from the Cabinet began to be confidently talked of, letters poured in upon him, promising support and loyalty in the event of his once more raising his standard. The News Agency represents the ex-Minister as strongly disposed to follow these counsels, but make no attempt to forecast the kind of platform he would adopt. We do not see that the question of platform need trouble him much, however. Persons, not platforms, are the great desiderata in the Japanese politics of to-day. Any one sufficiently prominent to obtain a following may cut a respectable figure in the arena without any reference to the objects he has in view.

NOMINEES TO THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

ON Tuesday, the Emperor was pleased to nominate for life membership of the House of Peers, Messrs. Shibahara Kano, ex-Governor; Nomura Taizo, a retired Judge; Akizuki Taneki, ex-Senator; Funakoshi Mamoru, ex-Governor; Kubota Yuzuru, formerly Director of the Accounts Bureau in the Education Department; Oura Hei-nai, ex-Governor; Mayeda Kenkichi, ex-Senator; Ito Miyoji, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet; Hirayama Narinobu, Chief Secretary of the Privy Council, and Hori Motoi, formerly a prominent official in the *Kaitakushi* and subsequently in the Hokkaido Administration Board.

STRANDING OF THE "WOOSUNG."

MESSRS. BUTTERFIELD AND SWIRE courteously informs us, says the *Kobe Chronicle* of Saturday, that they have received telegraphic advice to the effect that the steamer *Woosung*, which left Hongkong for this port on the 14th inst., "has gone ashore at Honghai Bay and lies in a sheltered position. No further particulars are to hand." Honghai Bay is on the Chinese coast. The *Woosung* is one of the steamers chartered by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire for the purpose of bringing sugar up to Japan from Hongkong.

"ALL WORK AND NO PLAY," ETC.

THOUGH there is much *sturm und drang* in Bangkok journalism, "as she is wrote," says a Singapore paper, yet there are occasional halcyon days when the editorial mind, forgetting the world and by the world forgot, embarks on summer seas, to drift slumberously beyond the blue horizon into a boundless *nirvana* of soulful peace. It is thus that the happy editor announces his departure for the sunny islands of the blest down Koh Samit way:—"There will be no issue of the *Siam Observer* for the next three days, as the proprietor, editor, scissorer, reporter, and manager is going for a cruise in the office yacht.'

VISCOUNT TANI AND THE CABINET.

THE *Nippon Tsushin Sha* reports that it is informed on good authority that early on Wednesday morning Mr. Yoshikawa, Minister of Justice, called upon Viscount Tani, at the latter's residence at Ichigoya, and had a conversation with him. The Minister then proceeded to the Cabinet, where he met the Premier, and afterwards a letter was sent to the Viscount. This, the Agency suggests, is an omen that Viscount Tani has entered the Government, being appointed Minister of Justice, while Mr. Yoshikawa has accepted the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce.

THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE AT THE COURT OF ST. JAMES'S.

IT has been understood for some time that Viscount Aoki, at present Japanese Representative in Berlin, was soon to replace Viscount Kawase at the Court of St. James, and the fact is now reported by the *Fiji Shimpo*, which rightly expresses confidence in the truth of the intelligence. Our contemporary adds a rumour that Viscount Kawase, on his return to Japan, will be appointed a Privy Councillor, and that Viscount Aoki's successor at Berlin will be Viscount Tanaka Fujimaro, now a Privy Councillor.

MURDER AND SUICIDE IN SHIGA PREFECTURE.

A TELEGRAM despatched from Otsu on the afternoon of the 23rd instant, announces that Ikeda Kyosada, Police Inspector at Yechigawa in Shiga Prefecture, killed his wife and three children with a Japanese sword, on the 22nd instant, and afterwards committed suicide with the same blade. The cause of the terrible affair is obscure.

MR. OKAMURA TERUHIKO.

MR. OKAMURA, the distinguished Tokyo advocate, arrived in Yokohama yesterday by the 8 a.m. train from Shimbashi, and left for England per the P.M. steamer *Peru* on business connected with the *Chishima-Ravenna* appeal. Messrs. Hayashi, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Okayama Kenkichi accompanied him to Yokohama, while many persons assembled at Shimbashi Station to bid him farewell.

CHIEF TAX-COLLECTOR OF KANAGAWA.

MR. YOSHII TOMOYE, Chief Tax-Collector in Saga Prefecture, has been removed to Kanagawa Prefecture, his former position being taken by Mr. Muraki Masanori, an Attaché in the Finance Department.

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THE ORIGINATOR OF THE STRICT-ENFORCEMENT MOVEMENT.

A LARGE proportion of the political agitations in the world have their origin in personal considerations. An official occupying some position of distinction and emolument, finds himself thrust out of office. Forthwith he becomes the foe of all those with whom he has previously cöoperated. It matters little what may have been the cause of his fall from power. The fact of his exclusion from the circle of privilege and pay suffices, in the first place, to rouse his ire. Thereafter the more he nurses his grievance the lustier does it grow, until, by and by, he discovers all kinds of objections to the procedure of his some-time colleagues. The force of this personal equation it visible, more or less, in every phase of political life, and makes itself felt in the political arena of every country. But we are disposed to think that it is more conspicuous in Japan than anywhere else. Of course we do not pretend to imply that any general deduction as to the moral fibre of Japanese politicians may be drawn from such a fact. A thousand explanations might be adduced special to the *Meiji* era. Many occur to us as we write, but to enumerate them is beside our present purpose. We merely invite our readers' attention to things as they actually offer themselves to our view. Every Japanese political party in existence had its origin in the personal grievances of one or more ex-officials. Individual discontent not dissonance of fundamental principles, has been the key note in every case. The founder of the *Jiyu-to*, the founder of the *Kaishin-to*, the founder of the *Kokumin Kyokai*, as it is at present—all these were men who organized associations in opposition to the Government, not because they were inspired by any great projects of reform which they could not hope to achieve otherwise, but because they had personal grievances to redress or avenge. The personal element governs the situation completely. Principles are altogether secondary considerations. It is for this reason that the task of distinguishing between the platforms of political parties perplexes the keenest observer. Truly, if it were required to write down any radical points of difference between the various associations that call themselves political parties, we should be hopelessly puzzled. Not that there has been any lack of manifestoes. Time and again the leaders of each party have professed to take the public into their confidence, publishing for that purpose documents sufficiently voluminous and verbose to contain all the articles of all the political creeds ever conceived. But the upshot of it all remains an enigma. We can detect nothing in each case except a number of men grouped about a particular leader, the bond of union being their faith in his ability to lead them into office. It is curious but not unnatural that these agitators, who themselves recognize personal considerations only, should be perpetually inveighing against that very fault on the part of the statesmen in office. According to the *Kaishin-to*, according to the *Jiyu-to*, according to the *Kokumin Kyokai*, according to the *Domei* Club, according to every coterie of self-styled reformers represented in the Diet, the curse of the time is personal Government (*jojitsu seifu*), but not one of them seems to perceive that the curse of the time is, in at least an equal degree, personal politics (*jojitsu seito*). That fay sung by the poet is sadly wanted in Japan. The Opposition seem doomed to exhibit in themselves the faults that they chefly condemn in others. When they cried out against Count GOTO and Mr. SAITO for getting down from official stilts and walking on a level with every-day merchants and manufacturers, they appeared to forget altogether that their own perpetual grievance against officialdom is the use of stilts. They say that the Government treats the people *de haut en bas*, that officials hold themselves aloof from everybody not in office, and that one principle cause of the friction now existing is official self-sufficiency. Yet no sooner do a Minister and a Vice-Minister of State lay aside their dignity and bring themselves into familiar touch with the men in whose interests they are endeavouring to legislate, than the Opposition accuses them with not less vehemence of demeaning their position and forgetting what is due to their office. However, we did not set out to speak of these inconsistencies. Our purpose is chiefly to note that as the personal element has been prominent in politics during the last ten years, so we might expect to be able to trace it in the last great subject of political agitation—Strict-enforcement of the Treaties. And it can be traced. Those who are behind the scenes assert that had Mr. TAKAHASHI KENZO remained in office, the Representation introduced by Mr. ABEI HANKON would never have made its appearance in the House. Mr. TAKAHASHI KENZO was formerly Director of the *Official Gazette* Bureau. He enjoys the reputation of being the best expert in international law that Japan possesses. We trust that he does not deserve such a name, but at all events he has it. Exactly why he lost his official appointment need not be considered here. It is sufficient to say that from the time of the loss he became a man with a grievance, and that his method of "getting even" with the Government was to inspire the Strict-Enforcement agitation. He is Mr. ABEI HANKON'S adviser. To his ingenuity are due all the points set forth in the "Statement of Reasons" accompanying the Representation. Had the Diet remained in session a few days longer, Mr. TAKAHASHI would have been deported from Tokyo under the authority of the Law of Admonition. Dissolution saved him from that fate. But he has left his mark upon the history of the time. What can be stranger than to think that while anylists who profess to sound the depths of Japanese public opinion, are forming all sorts of disquieting estimated about the significance of the Strict-Enforcement agitation, about its importance as a guage of national sentiment, and about the unhappily retrogressive spirit that it displays, the fact is that it is virtually the work of one man, and that if a change had not taken place in the directorate of the *Official Gazette* Bureau, we should probably have heard nothing about Mr. ABEI HANKON and his now celebrated Representation.

THE "CHISHIMA"-"RAVENNA" CASE.

THE appeal to the Privy Council in the *Chishima-Ravenna* law-suit is, of course, exciting a good deal of interest in Japan. The *Jiyu* says that after the dissolution of the Diet, a Special Commission was appointed to consider future procedure, the Commissioners being the Minister and Vice-Minister of State for the Navy, the Superintendent of the Naval Accounts Bureau, the Chief of the Administration Bureau, the Chief of the Commercial Bureau in the Foreign Department and the Chief Secretary of the House of Peers. At a series of meetings careful enquiry was made into the history of international maritime questions and—for this statement our readers will please observe that the *Jiyu* is responsible—the Commissioners, on the strength of Japanese public opinion approached the British Representative as well as the Representatives of Germany, France, and Americe to elicit their views and those of the Governments by which they are accredited. These steps are said to be directed towards securing a favourable verdict from the Privy Council, and with the same object, arrangements have been made with Mr. MASUJIMA to proceed to England, and to discuss the matter with influential personages there. Things having been placed thus far in train, a meeting was held on the 18th instant at the Naval Department to put the finishing touches to the programme. The Government, adds our contemporary in conclusion, is resolved to settle this matter before the opening of the Diet's Special Session.

The *Jiyu's* ideas about appeals to the Privy Council appear to be rather confused. The results which it expects to ensue from approaches made to the Foreign Representatives, or from conferences between a Japanese barrister and public men in England, indicate a strange conception of a Privy Council and its functions. We may mention in connection with this that Mr. F. T. PIGGOTT has been retained for Japan. A better selection could not have been made. There is probably no man in Great Britain so thoroughly familiar with the theoretical and practical aspects of this

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most interesting case. Mr. PIGGOTT has accepted the Solicitor-Generalship in Mauritius, and will probably leave for that place at the end of February. That is most unfortunate. At the date of latest advices he was engaged drafting the case in appeal, and he will no doubt place in the hands of the leaders documents thoroughly well reasoned and exhaustive. But the case bristles with difficulties, and it is more than doubtful whether the great luminaries of the English Bar will be induced to devote to it attention sufficiently close to unravel all its intricacies. Take for example one point—the question of the status of the Inland Sea. Chief Justice HANNEN says that it is "high sea." With all deference, we believe that view to be quite untenable, but undoubtedly the Chief Justice had a measure of warrant for his position in the case of the *Saxonia*; if the Solent be "high sea," so also is the Inland Sea. The *Saxonia* case, however, is held to be capable of radical refutation, but who among the big wigs of the Bar can be expected to procure its refutation unless he be more fully saturated with the law on the subject than anyone is likely to be who has not made a special study of it. Many other questions of a similarly delicate character, and demanding not less subtle handling present themselves, but need not be cited here. We entertain no doubt that the Japanese Government would be serving the interests of the country in the most effective manner by applying to the British Secretary of State for the Colonies that special permission be given to Mr. PIGGOTT to return from Mauritius in time to assist at the argument. *Apropos* the question of the status of the Inland Sea, a curious consideration suggests itself. Sir RICHARD WEBSTER is retained for the Peninsular and Oriental Company. Now is happens that Senator MORGAN, in his argument before the Behring Sea Arbitration, adopted a line very similar to that taken by Chief-Justice HANNEN, and Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, on the English side, replied in the opposite sense. Will Sir RICHARD WEBSTER now consider himself justified in becoming the mouthpiece of Senator MORGAN'S views. It would be a sharp turn. Talking of Counsel, Sir CHARLES RUSSELL, as well as Sir RICHARD WEBSTER, is retained for the Peninsular and Oriental Company. Why did not Japan secure Sir CHARLES RUSSELL? She is to have ARTHUR COHEN and Sir HENRY JAMES, a powerful team no doubt, but considering that Sir CHARLES RUSSELL had made in connection with the Behring Sea affair a special study of some of the very points that will come up for discussion in the *Chishima-Ravenna* case, the failure to retain him for Japan is not easy to understand.

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble" sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & Co., Limited, Yokohama.

DEATH OF THE EX-LORD-ABBOT OF HONGWAN-JI.

THE ex-Lord-Abbot of the OTANI sect, who died at 1 p.m. on the 17th instant at his residence in Kyoto, was the head of all the Buddhist Priests in Japan. He had been suffering since the fall of last year, when he contracted a cold which appears to have been of the character of influenza, being attended with much pain and obstinate fever, and which finally wore out the strength of the old Prelate. From the 13th instant his case developed grave symptoms, and on the morning of the 15th he was declared by his physicians to be in a hopeless condition. He does not, however, seem to have been altogether prostrated, for at the moment of his last seizure, he was making his way along a corridor, attended by a maid-servant. The latter, seeing him fall insensible, gave the alarm, and instantly a cluster of women charged with all sorts of duties and ceremonial offices in the house of the Prelate, where state resembling that of a Court was observed, ran to the spot. There were about twenty of these women, but so inflexible is the etiquette of the ex-Lord-Abbot's household that in the absence of his wife, not one of his attendants might venture to touch the body of the incarnate BUDDHA, even in the moment of his death agony. All that they could do was to send a report to the official in charge of the general affairs of the household, and by him tidings were conveyed to the present Lord-Abbot, whose residence was about a furlong distant. Some thirty minutes elapsed before the Lord-Abbot arrived, simultaneously with a physician, and during the whole of that time the venerable old man, too sacred to be touched, however much his humanity needed tending, lay helpless on the ground. He died about an hour afterwards. A Court physician, specially despatched by the EMPEROR from Tokyo, had been in attendance on the old Prelate during the last days of his illness, and his son, the present Lord-Abbot, had been by his side almost continuously, yet it was his fate to die as we have described. One of his last thoughts related to the heavy debt under which the great temples of Hongwan lay until recently, and he is said to have observed that the intense anxiety caused by this unhappy state of affairs, and the emotion consequent upon the unexpected discharge of the obligation, had materially assisted to break down his health. He thanked heaven for having permitted him to witness the temples' exit from a terribly embarrassing situation, but he could not refrain from regretting that his life had not been spared to witness the completion of the magnificent edifices that had been in process of construction during so many years for the use of his fellow-believers. His remains, having been packed in vermilion, were laid in state in his residence, where, on the 18th instant, the public were allowed to visit them. The ceremony commenced at 8 a.m. and continued until three in the afternoon, during which time more than 20,000 persons paid their last tribute of respect to the body of the BUDDHA. On the following day the coffin was conveyed upon a splendid chariot to the two temples of Amida Daishi, and, High Mass having been performed in the Hokushoin, the remains were finally laid beside those of his predecessors, a quantity of the choicest Uji tea and incense having been laid over the vermilion immediately surrounding the corpse. The coffin itself was of pure white pine, without any special ornamentation other than its richly chased gilt mountings. It was enveloped, however, in gold brocade of the finest type, and upon it were laid the State robes of the deceased, the magnificence of which may be conceived from the fact that they are said to have cost ten thousand *yen*. This, however, does not represent the final rite of sepulture. A funeral ceremony on a great scale will be performed on the 29th instant. One feature of it will be a feast at which there will be present the dead Prelate's successor, the chief priests of the branch temples throughout the Empire, the wife, nearest blood relations and the immediate female attendants of the deceased. The duties of waiting, usually entrusted to the Councillors of the household, will be on this occasion delegated to the principal male attendants on the Lord Abbot's person. The viands served will be of the plainest kind—a little *miso* soup, with square-cut pieces of bean-curd and some rice. Similar simplicity will be observed with respects to the food distributed to the general body of mourners: it will be limited to a ball of rice and a few slices of pickled turnip. The recipients of this consecrated food do not eat it. They carry it home and treasure it carefully as a talisman against disease, distributing portions to friends who keep it for the same purpose. The bier, as carried in procession, will be surmounted by a golden phœnix standing on a ball of the same metal, and from each of the corners will hang chains supporting swallows, also of gold. In advance will walk six temple-officials, representing the "six roads" of the Buddhist doctrine, the fresh bamboo staves carried by them being emblematical of the salvation which a Buddhist Saint extends to all believers. The chief mourner will be shod with hemp sandals on bare feet, and twenty-six ladies of the household will have *zori* of straw, also on bare feet. Other ancient customs peculiar to this, the most solemn rite of the faith, will be carefully observed, and those privileged to be present on the occasion may expect to witness a most impressive ceremonial.

The deceased Prelate was born in March, 1817, and was therefore in his 76th

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year. At the early age of eleven he became Abbot of Daidoji, in Omi, and in 1846 he succeeded to the headship of Hongwan-ji. The services rendered by him to the Imperial Court were numerous. Thus, in 1862, when the SOVEREIGN was expected to take the field in person against foreigners, he presented to the Court ten thousand *ryo*, and a similar sum in 1867, together with 4,000 bales of rice, on the occasion of the Restoration. Thenceforth duties connected with the finances of the Court were entrusted to officers of the temple, and the manner of their discharge in connection with the northern expedition against the last adherents of the SHOGUN, as well as with the opening of Hokkaido, won the EMPEROR'S emphatic approval. In 1872 the deceased Prelate received a patent of nobility and a pension, and in 1889 he surrendered his high office to his son. Shortly before his death he was raised to the First Class of the Second Grade of official rank.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK.

IN the sensational accounts published by English local journals in Japan with reference to the failure of the New Oriental Bank, statements are made creating the impression that the Directors of the Bank behaved with gross dishonesty, obtaining large advances on wholly insufficient security. So unpardonably reckless has been the writing on this subject, that one journal (the *Japan Gazette*) confounds the securities given by the Directors with the advances made to them, although the former were, in every case but one, almost double of the latter. The plain fact is that these "choice specimens of Directors," as they are called by one of their ingenuous slanderers, so far from "taking advantage of their position to obtain heavy advances," simply appear to have borrowed money from the Bank in the ordinary, orthodox manner by lodging security that seemed ample. As the Directors are all well-known men—one of them at least having many personal friends in this community—and as, under any circumstances, it is contrary to public interest that libels should be circulated on such subjects, we reproduce here a table showing the total indebtedness of each Director at the time of the Bank's closing, and also the total face value of the securities then held by the Bank :—

Name of Directors.	Total Indebtedness. £ s. d.	Total face-value of securities held by Bank. £ s. d.
W. W. Cargill, Esq. ...	15,786 6 9	34,930 12 0
A. J. Macdonald, Esq.	8,427 14 7	15,641 7 6
Tod Heatly, Esq.	47,872 19 4	121,266 0 0
L. R. C. Boyle, Esq....	5,750 6 3	6,550 0 0

It is true that the real values of these securities had depreciated greatly, so that, instead of aggregating nearly twice the sums borrowed against them, they fell very much below the amount of those sums at the time of the Bank's suspension. But there is nothing whatever to show that the securities, when originally accepted by the Bank, did not amply cover the advances made on them. At any rate, we cannot applaud the accuracy of a journalistic critic who confounds a debt with the security given for it, and, under that delusion, represents the four Directors as having owed the Bank over a hundred and seventy-eight thousand pounds, whereas in truth they owed seventy-seven thousand and had given securities nominally aggregating a hundred and seventy-eight thousand. The same critic, avowedly basing his remarks on the Report of the Creditors' Committee, says that the Directors were "most of them connected wih other companies, and used their positions to foist upon the unfortunate Bank a large quantity of almost valueless securities." What the Report says, however, is this :—"It is not certain that any personal end of the Directors was advanced by means of the Bank's investments in the shares of and advances to or through, the various Companies above mentioned, beyond this —that some of them were Directors in these Companies, and no doubt in respect of that received fees." Very different is the language of the Report, compiled by men of knowledge and experience, acting on behalf of the creditors—very different is it from the exaggerated interpretation published in this Settlement. The unfortunate Bank and every one connected with it have suffered sufficiently without sensational attempts to magnify the catastrophe.

THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN ITALY.

ELSEWHERE we translate from the *Staatsbuerger Zeitung* a *résumé*, or what purports to be a *résumé*, of the Report presented by the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry recently appointed in Italy to investigate the bank troubles. The *Staatsbuerger Zeitung* does not, it is true, profess to be in possession of accurate information as to the results of the Commission's researches. It speaks only of a letter from Rome in which the verdict of the Commission, though not yet published authoritatively, is outlined by a correspondent who professes to have private access to sources of special information. Still the German journal's correspondent plainly intends to be interpreted as one writing with full knowledge, and doubtless he was so interpreted by his readers. Italian newspapers just received, however, contain the full text of the Commission's Report, and from it we learn that the *Staatsbuerger Zeitung's* article is disfigured by gross exaggerations and misstatements. It indicates CRISPI, NICOTERA, GRIMALDI, LACAVA and others as "hopelessly compromised;" it declares that NICOTERA purposely threw obstacles in the way of investigation for the sake of a cheque of 4,000 lire, thus "using the influence of his office as Minister of the Interior to shield the man towards whom he was under financial obligations;" it accuses GIOLITTI and MICELI of presenting forged bank notes to the Commission appointed to consider the question of extending the privilege of note issue; it represents CRISPI as having been aware of these two Ministers' action at the time, and it concludes by saying :—

> In a word, the Report contains a mass of revolting corruption which frightens the people, who are crushed under a burden of unfortunate reverses, when they learn how their distinguished leaders, who had been the pride of the nation, gave silent consent to the nefarious manipulations of a band of thiefs who bled the nation and ruined the social and material welfare of the country.

We find in the Report nothing to justify this sweeping language, which, when compared with the avowed source of its authority, must be pronounced slanderous and unwarranted. According to the Report, NICOTERA and GRIMALDI, so far from being "hopelessly compromised," refuted completely the slanders directed against them. LACAVA and MICELI do not escape entirely without blame. But the sum of the former's offence is pronounced to have been the sending of a telegram in the interest of a third party, and against the latter nothing could be shown except that he had given a letter of introduction to a perfectly respectable person. As for the ex-Premier, GIOLITTI, there is not a word impugning his honour or morality, though want of foresight and knowledge is laid to his charge. Perhaps the most flagrant defamation is that of CRISPI, for he is not even named anywhere in the Report. On the whole, the investigations of the Commission as embodied in its Report, give results diametrically opposed to the calumnies of the *Staatsbuerger Zeitung's* correspondent. The verdict of such a tribunal must, of course, be accepted as conclusive, and when we find that only three or four obscure Deputies are included in the limits of its condemnation, and that their crime was nothing worse than having obtained the renewal of promissory notes, we are constrained to conclude that the German journal quoted above, as well as the sensational correspondents of several American newspapers, were gravely misled. In fact, the Parliamentary inquiry into the Bank frauds has established precisely what the *Staatsbuerger Zeitung* sought to impugn, namely, the honour of Italian politicians. Certainly, Italy is passing through a grave financial crisis. Yet, reading the views expressed by the leading English journals just received, we can not but endorse the opinion of the Commission of Inquiry, which concludes its exhaustive Report with these words :—"Italy finds herself in a difficult period of her *renaissance*, and she will emerge from it intact, because she has in herself the greatest factors of national civilization—the glorious tradition which has reconstituted her; the varied wealth of her lands and of her institutions which will be developed by persevering initiative; and the heart of a people longing for work and for light. An Italian who doubted the national forces of Italy would live a stranger in his own country."

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

LADY DOCTORS IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In the *Japan Weekly Mail* of the 20th inst., I noticed an item headed "A new Doctor for Nagasaki." As the extract from "An American paper" which follows is misleading, I presume you will be glad to correct the statement. "Dr. Mary A. Suganuma" is *not* "the first women physician ever licensed for that purpose in Japan." I have a personal acquaintance with three Japanese women who have been licensed by the Japanese Government to practice medicine. They have all had a regular course of study and are well-equipped practising physicians.

I am, yours very sincerely,

(Mrs.) M. T. TRUE.

"EVOLUTION OF A NETSUKE."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have engaged to read a paper before the Japan Society of London next spring upon the "Evolution of a *Netsuke*."

As it is impossible for students situated like myself on this side of the world to do more than advance theories and probabilities which present themselves to them through their limited opportunities, I appeal through the medium of your admirable journal to fellow-students in Japan to aid me in my researches.

What I chiefly seek is:—

(*a*.) Evidence as to the use of the *netsuke* in a rude condition by the first wearers of it—and as to its then usual shape—such evidence to be gathered from photographs of actual *netsukes*, or of engravings of costume.

(*b*.) Like evidence as to its use in a rude condition in the present day by peasants, &c.

(*c*.) Notes of any dated *netsukes* or reliable dates as to when celebrated or other makers lived.

If any collectors would favour me with photographes of fine specimens in their possession, I should endeavour to return their kindness to me.

Believe me to be, yours obediently,

MARCUS B. HUISH.

New University Club, St. James's Street,
London, December 11th, 1893.

"HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS" AGAIN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Were I to retort in kind upon to-day's letter in the *Mail*, entitled "Spread Eagle Logic," in that title characterizing a communication of mine to you a few days ago, I could find an excellent analogue in the zoologic domain for my purpose, but I do not think epithets can settle a question such as that which I answered. Nor is throwing missiles from behind the convenient shelter of an anonym, however freely it may be indulged in, as by your "Amused Reader," calculated to give dignity or value to an attack, in the eyes of observers. It happens oftener that the derisive laughter of a foe who hides himself is laughed at than laughed with. At any rate "your large circle of disinterested readers" so far as I am concerned, may not be further entertained by any *tu quoques* and the like, upon such charges as "Pharisaism," "Pecksniffianism," *et id genus omne*. Besides, as misinterpretation is not refutation, let me say again what both you and your "Amused Reader" have ignored in my letter, that so far the people of the United States have in no way shown an aggressive foreign policy, that they have not yet had a disposition to annex Hawaii or any other extra-continental domain, and that any assertion that they are now desirous of foreign conquest is purely gratuitous. Unquestionably there have been attempts on the part of some ambitious Americans to arouse a "jingo" sentiment in the Union, but they have always met with disgraceful failure. For example, the United States have been offered more than once several of the West Indian islands, but they have always refused them. From the time of Washington until to-day, with one exception, or perhaps two exceptions, our Presidents have invariably counselled a policy of non-interference abroad. The Hawaiian affair, so far, has not disturbed the nation's intent in this direction. And while I am not a prophet even if I attempt prophecy, I should say with decided conviction that Hawaii is not to establish a precedent to the contrary. If then you will lay by, for the moment, your "diverting speculation," and if your "Amused Reader" can so control his visibilities that he can read with dry eyes with you, a second time what I wrote, you will both see that I claimed no virtue for the people of the United States beyond the possession hitherto of a policy of non-interference outside their continental limits. What may happen in coming years of course no one can now tell. The American people under the law which directs human progress have made a conquest of a large part of the North American continent. Some day they may, for all any one knows now, feel that the time has come for them to take the rest of the continent under their "Spread, Eagle." They may even reach out and gather under their "Bird uv Freedum's" wings the "vexed Bermoothes" in the Atlantic and also the "fairy archipelago" of Hawaii in the Pacific ocean. The financial centre of the world may be, within the next few decades, transferred to Gotham's Wall Street. The industrial control of the world will, in all probability, be acquired in Yankee land before another half century passes. But these things have nothing to do with the question now in issue. I claim now, only, that no student of the career of nations has a right to say that the American people have yet done anything to justify the charge that they have a greed of foreign conquest, and I claim that, so far, there is no disposition on the part of the Americans to annex to their Union the proffered territory of Hawaii. If this be "Pecksniffian" let your "Amused Reader," put these words into the mouth of Dickens's darling *bête noir*, so that we can see how well or ill they fit in with the doings of that well known character. As to Hawaii, the present Government, secured by the revolt of the men of intelligence, wealth and political virtue of the islands—Anglo Saxon conquest if you please so to name the revolution,—is justified, and should be, I believe will be, maintained. To this Government, the people of the United States are giving their cordial sympathy and will give their moral, and may be compelled to give other, support. But that is not political annexation to the American body politic. If this be "Pharisaism" the word has been transfigured and every American can well afford to let those who "imagine vain things" pelt him with it from their places of hiding as he passes by on the open road. Let us, please, find some more fruitful topic for "diverting speculation" and for amusement in ambush, than how far Columbia is exactly like the dear old Dame Britannia, mother of blessed memory still, however much the daughter has established a household of her own.

Yours very truly, CLAY MacCAULEY.

Tokyo, January 20th, 1894.

POLITICS IN TOSA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Judging the future by past experience merely, the public may naturally expect to become disgusted with the daily reports of actual dramas to be played before long on the election-stage of Tosa. Even in Kochi itself a feeling of great anxiety prevails among those who are not well acquainted with the complicated state of party politics. "Will they brandish swords and oaken clubs once more?" is the question asked in many quarters. The members, all Radicals, lately representing this constituency in the Diet, are hourly expected to arrive from Tokyo to canvass for votes in the new election about to take place; but notwithstanding this, not a single candidate from the *Kokumin-ha* is yet heard of to contest the Radical seats, and from this and other circumstances, unless I am greatly mistaken in reading the signs of the times, I fancy the Radical party will have a walk-over, and that there will not be any such serious disturbances and bloodshed as disgraced the last general election in this province. However, as the French say, in politics the unexpected always happens, and what unlooked-for turn affairs may take remains to be seen.

But politics aside, the topic which well nigh absorbs the attention of almost every one in this small community is what may be called the Shikoku railway question. In the circulars distributed the other day to persons of note and influence, the need of having a railway is urged on two grounds; namely, on the ground of National Defence and that of Economy.

As my space is limited, I can give here only the principal points contained in the circulars. They say:—

1. That in the event of a trial of arms with any foreign nation happening, unless there is speedy means of communication, this part of the country will instantly be made the base of operations whence the enemy, at their own convenience, may venture out to bombard Kobe and Osaka.

2. That the Shikoku railway would confer a great boon on the pilgrims who, from time to time, visit the Kompira Shrine in Sanuki.

3. That it would facilitate the transportation of goods to and from this province.

4. And lastly that it would vastly develop the material resources of the south-western part of the Empire which are already yearly on the increase.

Having thus shown an urgent need for the Shikoku railway, the authors of the circulars conclude somewhat as follows:—"As the realization of our hopes will not only directly affect the welfare of our six hundred brethren, but will also concern the safety and integrity of the Empire, we call upon all to unite their efforts with ours in order to enlist public opinion in our behalf and to induce the members of the Diet to support our views."

Apropos of the material resources of Tosa, perhaps some of your readers might be interested in the following figures concerning her exports and imports:—

	1890.	1891.	1892.
Exports.	*Yen.*	*Yen.*	*Yen.*
1. Various kinds of paper	1,075,373	1,487,565	1,181,920
2. Marine products	233,258	435,395	449,948
3. Timber and wood	123,395	137,816	233,853
4. Charcoal	140,743	114,972	163,692
5. Antimony	32,871	47,178	152,550
6. Tea	75,872	74,287	123,414
7. Sugar	143,458	94,182	117,223
8. Raw Silk	75,711	110,931	82,082
9. Camphor	185,451	141,539	71,206
10. Unwrought copper	24,464	49,796	64,073
Imports.			
1. Rice	465,947	199,199	452,557
2. Worsted and Cotton Yarn manufactures	85,999	120,801	272,811
3. Cotton Cloths (short stapled)	159,310	249,052	220,777
4. Silk and woollen textiles	115,231	106,314	118,653
5. Cotton yarn (long stapled)	102,543	155,338	92,048
6. Petroleum	55,691	74,778	72,860
7. Beans	39,193	46,612	62,518
8. Fancy goods (native and foreign)	184,210	326,142	60,288
9 Worsted cotton yarn	58,942	67,688	53,493
10. Barley and wheat	28,001	27,904	52,997

Believe me, truly yours,
K. C.

Kochi, Tosa, January 20th, 1894.

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The following paragraph has a great moral interest for me:—

. . . . After all, the theory that a country should belong to its countrymen depends primarily upon the hypothesis that its peace and prosperity are best secured by such possession. Is that true of Hawaii? Have not, on the contrary, the material interests of the country fallen into alien hands, and has not the spirit of its institutions been for many years inspired by alien minds?—*Japan Mail*, January 15th, 1894.

What I want to know is this. Is not the first sentence of the above paragraph intended as an answer to the claim of "Japan for the Japanese?" It strikes me that it is; but I may be mistaken.

What I also want to know is this. Does not the last sentence of the paragraph illustrate the present condition of Japan?

And finally, I want to ask this question:—Don't you think that the peace and prosperity of Japan might be better secured by forcibly depriving Japan of the right either to her own government or to the use of her own resources?

It is possible that as a mere globe-trotter I may be mistaken about the Occidentalization of Japan; perhaps I am in error in suggesting that her material interests are in alien hands and that the spirit of her institutions has been controlled for many years by alien minds.

But in the event of such mistakes on my part, pray allow me to ask another question or two:—

In case that at any time in the future Japan should become more Occidental, and that a larger part—say, a majority,—of her material interests, should be in alien hands, and her institutions be still more controlled than now by alien minds,—would it not then be high time to dethrone the present dynasty, and to set up a provisional alien government, so as to secure the peace and prosperity of the land?

And would not the opening of Japan to the world at large be the best way of bringing this change about without the cost of a big war? For the cost would, I fancy, be the greatest moral question.

Yours, etc.,
CORNU DÆMONIS.

January 20th, 1894.

[We cannot perceive that the conditions referred to exist in Japan.—Ed. *J. M.*]

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UNION CHURCH, YOKOHAMA.

The Annual Meeting of seatholders in Union Church, Yokohama, was held in the Van Schaick Hall on Tuesday evening. There were present Mr. A. J. Wilkin (in the Chair) the Rev. Dr. Meacham, the Rev. E. S. and Mrs. Booth, Rev. H. Loomis, Messrs. L. Pollard, C. V. Sale. F. G. Sale, T. Rose, H. MacArthur, C. Freyer, Miss Moulton, Miss Crosby, Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Ballagh, and Mr. and Mrs. Brokenshire.

After a short prayer from the Rev. H. LOOMIS, the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read by the Secretary (Mr. Pollard), and unanimously adopted.

The Rev. E. S. BOOTH moved that the Treasurer's report be taken as read.

The CHAIRMAN said the report was very satisfactory, and very many thanks were due to the ladies who had taken part in the organising and carrying out of the Kettledrum. Turning to the figures in the report, he thought that they presented matter for encouragement. About six years ago their income had been about $1,539, now it was nearly double, $2,756. As a congregation, he thought the Union Church had shown considerable progress.

The report and accounts were then adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The deficit of $203.81 brought forward from last Account has been wiped out and in place of that a balance in hand of $100.84 is shown This satisfactory result is due entirely to the energetic action of the ladies of the congregation in arranging a Kettledrum in aid of the funds of the Church, which proved a signal success, no less a sum than $405.38 being the net proceeds. Very special thanks are due to the ladies forming the Committees of Management, more particularly to Mrs S. D. Hepburn, Mrs. Merriman, Mrs. Morris, and Mrs. Poole for their untiring efforts.

On analysing the accounts, one unsatisfactory feature is the decrease of some $250 in the ordinary income namely: pew rents and collections.

A gift of $50 was received from Mr. Willis Paine, of New York, for the renewing of the platform carpet. This sum forms part of the balance in hand and must be appropriated in accordance with the wish of the donor.

The donations for the year are $430, as compared with $104 in 1892 In this sum is included Mrs. Brower's generous subscription of $100.

Appended is a comparative statement of income for the past few years.

GEORGE SALE, Hon. Treasurer.

UNION CHURCH, YOKOHAMA, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE HONORARY TREASURER FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST JANUARY, 1894.

Dr.

To Balance	$ 203.81
To Pastor's Salary, 12 months at $125	1,500.00
To Pastor's Rent, 12 months at $40	480 00
To Rent of Union Church to 31st December, 1893	300.00
To Rent of Van Schaick Hall to 31st December, 1893	60.00
To Printing and Advertising	9.00
To Electric Lighting	25.52
To Tuning Organ	75.00
To Organ Fire Insurance, premium	20.50
To Organ Blower	5.00
To Decorations at Christmas	28.80
To Sunday School Lesson Papers	20.91
To Balance in hand	100.84
	$2,829.38

Cr.

By Pew Rents	$ 917.50
By Collections	942.65
By Collections Van Schaick Hall	45.25
By Donations to General Funds, viz.:—	430.00

Miss Moulton	$10	Rev. E. S. Booth	$ 5
Mrs. Draper, Sen.	10	Mr. Merriman	5
Rev. G. Draper	10	Mr. Palmer	5
Mrs. Wallace	10	Mrs. Wood	5
Mr. Bunting	3	Mr. Komp	3
Mr. C. G. Wilson	3	Mr. Rose	70
Mr. W. D. S. Edwards	10	Mr. MacArthur	5
A Friend	1	Mr. Geo. Booth	10
Rev. J. Dearing	10	Miss Deyo	2
Rev. J. Harrington	5	Mr. Ballagh	10
Miss Brittan	3	Mr. A. J. Wilkin	10
Mr. C. V. Sale	10	Mr. Lay	5
Mr. Geo. Sale	35	Mr. Pollard	10
Visitor	5	A Friend	10
Mr. Loomis	10	Mr. W. H. Smith	10
Captain Young	5	Mr. Griffin	20
Captain Efford	5	Mrs. Brower	100

By Proceeds Kettledrum	405.38
By Cash from Decoration Committee	23.00
By Hymn Books Sold	15.60
By Donation for carpet from Mr. Willis Paine, New York	50.00
	$2,829.38

GEORGE SALE, Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with vouchers and found correct.

L. POLLARD.
E. B. STUART EDWARDS.

	1888.	1889.	1890.
Pew Rents	474.17	755.00	1,127.50
Offertories, &c.	437.65	552.69	442.47
		Special Subscription.	
Donations	628.25	922.44	42.98
Total	1,539.97	2,230.13	1,612.95
Added from Bazaar Fund			750.00
			2,362.95

	1891.	1892.	1893.
Pew Rents	1,085.00	985.00	933.10
Offertories, &c.	1,157.49	1,200.01	987.90
Donations	332.85	205.00	430 00
		104.00 *	405.38
	2,575.34	2,494.01	2,756.38
Added from Bazaar Fund	259.23		
Total	2,834.57	2,494.01	

* Kettledrum.

The CHAIRMAN said that a vote of thanks should be at once passed to the Treasurer, as a token of their sympathy with him upon his enforced retirement for a time on account of illness.—Carried unanimously.

Dr. MEACHAM proposed a vote of thanks to all the Ladies who were associated with the success of the Kettledrum.—Carried *nem. con.*

The SECRETARY then gave the following report upon the Chinese Mission:—The Committee appointed at the last annual meeting of the members of the Union Church and congregation can hardly be said to be now in existence; it consisted of the Rev. H. Loomis, Miss Deyo, and Messrs. Crouch, Griffin, and Pollard. Miss Deyo and Mr. Crouch have left the country, Mr. Griffin was unable to serve, and Mr. Loomis has of late been too unwell to attend to business matters; therefore the onus of the report has, of necessity, to be borne by the remaining member of the Committee, who also has acted in the capacity of Secretary, and Treasurer of the Mission, and Superintendant of the Sunday School. These facts are at once placed before you, in order that you may be prepared to elect a new Committee. The Treasurer's statement is on the table. It shows total receipts since the Mission was first organised of $517.11, and a credit balance of $84 05. In November, 1892, the Chinese contributed $60, and this last November $106.50, which is, perhaps, sufficient proof that they are anxious to continue the Mission. From the preacher's report it seems that five boys have received daily instruction at his hands, but only for a short period. His time has been chiefly devoted to private calls from house to house; sometimes he appears to have met with a fairly good reception, and at other times the Chinese have proved impatient and did not care to listen to his preaching. No converts have been made, so far as I can learn. A meeting for Chinese is held every Friday and Sunday evening, the attendance at which has steadily improved, commencing with an average of 6, and increasing of late to 10. At the Sunday School I notice an improvement in reading English, but whether there is any spiritual development or not is more than I can say. The attendance has been regular, averaging about 18, a slight increase on last year. It remains us for to say whether or not the Chinese preacher, Mr. Lau Ping, shall stay in Yokohama. The mission suffered a loss, in books and furniture, to the extent of about $50, and Mr. Lau Ping $20, in the fire which occurred at No. 145, Settlement, a week ago. No insurance was, unfortunately, effected. We have another room in view which we shall be in a position to occupy in about two weeks' time. Mr. Pollard also appealed for two further teachers.

The CHAIRMAN observed that the most satisfactory thing about the report was that the Chinese subscribed $106.50 towards the Mission, thus showing the interest they took in it.

On the motion of the Rev. E. S. BOOTH, the report was adopted with thanks.

The CHAIRMAN then briefly announced that the Sunday School held every Sabbath afternoon was attended on fine days by between 50 and 65 children. They were divided into seven classes, and the International Sunday School Lessons were adopted. Having described the working of the school, Mr. Wilkin said that the scholars had given Mr. W. D. S. Edwards a small testimonial upon his leaving for home, as a slight token of their appreciation of his services in the school for many years past. The various helpers, Miss Griffin, Miss Moulton, Mr. and Mrs. Brokenshire and Mr. Staniland he cordially thanked for their services. The collections during the year, the speaker incidentally mentioned, amounted to some $30.

The Rev. Dr. MEACHAM said that a year ago he had been able to report a total Church membership of 77. During the year under review they had lost two members by death, twelve by removal, and six others who had not yet applied for letters of dismissal. The loss was therefore the heaviest they had suffered during the past five years. Counting the six who had not applied for dismissal letters as still members, the Church had on its rolls 72 members, a decrease of five for the year.

Mr. BROKENSHIRE having reported the increasing prosperity of the Christian Endeavour Society, the elections of officers took place as follows:—

ELDERS—Rev. E. S. Booth, Mr. A. J. Wilkin, and Rev. Dr. Cleveland.

TRUSTEES.—Messrs. C. V. Sale (who takes the place of his father, Mr. Geo. Sale, owing to the latter's ill-health), T. Rose, J. T. Griffin, L. Pollard, W. F. Page, H. MacArthur, and Capt. Lee.

DEACONS—Rev. E. S. Booth, Messrs. W. D. S. Edwards, and Walter Young.

DEACONESSES.—Miss Crosby, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Bagnall, and Miss Roe.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.—Mr. A. J. Wilkin.

TREASURER and SECRETARY—Mr. L. Pollard, Mr. Rose declining the nomination of Treasurer.

USHERS.—Messrs. J. Carst and Robert Sale.

CHINESE MISSION COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Clarence Griffin, Pollard, Mr. and Mrs. Brokenshire, and Miss Brokaw.

A motion for strengthening the hands of the Treasurer in regard to an overdraft at the Bank, if the need at any time arose, was discussed and passed, while the Trustees were empowered to consider the feasibity of adopting the envelope-system of collection, and to put it into force without further reference to a Church meeting.

Mr. C. V. Sale was thanked for his assistance as organist, and the meeting closed with the Benediction, pronounced by the Pastor.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

At the meeting of this Society held in the Society's Rooms at No. 17, Tsukiji, Tokyo, on the afternoon of the 17th instant, B. H. Chamberlain Esq., President, in the Chair, a very interesting Paper, entitled "A Japanese Credit Association and its Founder," was read by the author, Garret Droppers, Esq., Professor of Political Economy in the Keiwo Gijuku University, Tokyo. In the introduction to his paper Professor Droppers stated that, while investigating the subject of land tenure in Japan, he had discovered the existence in certain agricultural districts of the country of a peculiar form of credit institution, bearing a considerable resemblance to the famous Raiffeisen Loan Associations of Germany. The founder of these institutions in Japan was Ninomiya Santoku, a man of the farming class, and one of the poorest even in that class, who was born in Sagami, in the territory of the chief of the Odawara clan, in the year 1787. A very minute account of his life was given by Mr. Droppers, who showed how, starting from the very humblest beginnings, he had slowly but surely, by intelligence, strict honesty, untiring industry, and the most patient self-denial, worked his way, at a time when feudalism, in its strictest form, prevailed throughout the entire Empire, up to the position of confidential adviser to the chiefs of not only his own native clan, but of others, and even of the Shogun himself; how by the careful management of local revenues, the institution of a series of reforms, such as cutting down unnecessary expenses, checking luxury, and devoting the savings thereby effected in one year to productive purposes in the following, he saved his own clan from threatening bankruptcy, and restored other places, whose inhabitants were sunk in poverty and lethargy, to a high degree of prosperity, among others the province of Iwaki, the territory of the now famous Soma family, and also by his energy, courage, and prudence largely alleviated in the town of Odawara and other places in his native province the horrors of the great famine of 1836. The Soma territory had at one time been very prosperous, but towards the end of the 17th century, the taxes were increased so as to constitute a heavy burthen on the people, the results being that the people became poor, lands were thrown out of cultivation and the public debt steadily magnified. The famine came as a final blow, and threw the whole people into absolute destitution. The aid of Ninomiya was then called in, and after long and careful investigation, an elaborate plan was prepared by him for the future management of the estates. This plan was faithfully carried out. It soon brought back prosperity to the clan, and though its continued operation was interfered with by the revolution, the Soma domain was, thanks to it, at that time one of the richest in Japan. A long life of ceaseless activity, continued down to the very last, came to an end in 1856, Ninomiya dying in that year at Nikko. His grave is in the temple of Mio-rai-ji at Imaichi. Mr. Droppers' paper concluded with an account of the teaching and doctrine of Ninomiya and of the constitution, organization, numbers, etc., of the societies now existing in Japan, founded by him, but time admitted of only an abstract of this part of the paper being given at the meeting.

An interesting discussion followed the reading of the paper, in which the President, Mr. Clay Macauley, Dr. Divers, Mr. Tison, and Mr. Longford took part, the last remarking that a great debt of gratitude was due to Mr. Droppers for having brought before the society a very noteworthy character in Japanese economic history, and by so doing, opened up what was an entirely new field of inquiry. Ninomiya occupied in his life-time a very prominent position in the eyes of a large number of his countrymen; his life was, in itself, a lesson worth whole volumes of moral precepts. His work is the subject of a fairly extensive literature, and may yet be productive of

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effects which will promote the happiness and prosperity of a large section of the agricultural class of Japan, and the advancement of what will probably always be Japan's chief industry. And yet how many foreigners, Mr. Longford asked, had until that day ever even heard of his name. It only came to his own knowledge in the most accidental manner. While reading last summer the details of the notorious Soma scandal, being struck by the great wealth which that family must have possessed to have warranted even the suggestion of such gigantic frauds as were alleged to have been perpetrated on its head without discovery, he asked, was it possible that any family not of the very first rank could have possessed such wealth. He was told, it was certainly possible in the case of the Soma family, as they had at one time in their service the great physiocratic economist, Ninomiya, and had profited at the time, and continued to do so for long afterwards, by his teaching and work; and very little inquiry soon showed that, in him, Japan had, long before the days of foreign intercourse, possessed a practical philosopher not unworthy of comparison with Turgot.

Societies founded by Ninomiya exist at the present time, principally in the provinces adjacent to Tokyo, Sagami, Suruga, Idzu, and Totomi. Their professed object is to advance the well being of the farming class especially, by inculcating frugality, and industry, and by helping its members with loans to be used solely in productive work. The principal doctrine is that merit should be rewarded with merit, that it should be every one's earnest effort to repay what he has gained by the merit of others with correspondingly adequate service on his own part. What we have gained most from are nature, the Emperor, and our ancestors. The latter we repay by keeping up the family line. To the Emperor, we render loyalty and pay taxes, but what can we do to reward nature for all she has done for us. Nothing better than to develop what she has given by more extensive and improved cultivation, by opening up land hitherto unused, and improving the cultivation and production of that which is already in use, and by so doing promote the general welfare of humanity at large. This can only be done with the aid of capital, and though each individual farmer may, by the practice of great industry and intense frugality, succeed in saving a little capital, his own individual efforts in that direction must always be limited, and it is besides not to the advantage of the community at large that the standard of living should be lowered to a scale which would be no more than sufficient to support life. But in each community there must be some who, by moderate frugality, are able to save some small amount each year. The societies take charge of these sums as deposits, and from them loans are made, not on material or substantial, but on personal, security, to members whose characters and industry are well-known to all the other members of the society and can be thoroughly relied on. The borrowers are not burdened by the payment of immediate, though in the end they pay what is rather a heavy, interest, and are able to devote themselves to the prosecution of the productive work for which the loan has been made, unhampered by continuous payments without diminution of the whole debt. No one is admitted into the societies whose character is not thoroughly tested. No loans are made to avoid the consequences of idleness or extravagance, though the claims of misfortune are recognised. Spendthrifts, irreligious or disloyal persons, or those whose sole object is clearly only their own welfare, are excluded from membership. All must be actuated to some extent by the idea of promoting, in no matter how small a way, the welfare of his fellow members, and through them that of humanity at large. These societies are still, as compared with the entire Empire and population, insignificant, but they are, at the same time, fairly numerous and widely distributed, and apart from their moral effects there can be little doubt that their further development would be of immense benefit to the agricultural classes at large, not only owing to the high degree of morality in all aspects that is demanded from their members, but in saving the struggling and deserving farmer from the clutches of pitiless usurers by granting loans in case of need on mere personal security repayable by easy installments. Farmers in Japan have been just as great sufferers at the hands of usurers as were their compeers in Germany and Ireland in past days. The advantages of the great banks that are now in existence have not yet reached them, but the place of those banks is to some extent supplied by Ninomiya's societies in districts where they are established. It is difficult, perhaps, for us to believe that societies which make loans merely on personal security can continue to flourish in the long run, but they have done so in Germany, and it is to be remembered that these loans are made only to persons whose characters are well known, and to a class who, above all others, are averse to change of occupation or residence. The subject is a most interesting one, and will well repay further research. We trust that we may hear more of it from Mr. Droppers, who, as a highly trained expert in economic science, is undoubtedly qualified to deal with it.

KOREAN NEWS.

(FROM OUR SÖUL CORRESPONDENT.)

Soul January 12th, 1894.

The exportation of rice is still strictly prohibited by the Korean Government. Strong and constant efforts have been made to remove the prohibition, but without success. The enforcement of the law means ultimate extinction of trade with Japan. Whether this is the object of the Korean Government does not yet appear, but it is very clear that the rice guilds have determined to keep the rice at home. They have the trade so thoroughly in their hands that they can raise or lower the price to suit themselves, and therefore prove to the uninitiated and unsophisticated the extent of the rice famine "in the south." A Korean remarked to me incidentally, a few days ago, that the Chinese Resident Minister was very popular among Koreans now because of the enforcement of this prohibitory act.

The Royal Korean College has gone the way of most enterprises undertaken by the Government. The school was begun eight years ago. A few months ago Prof. Bunker, seeing that there was no interest in the school, and declining to remain in the country simply to draw "back salary," tendered his resignation, and after a long delay it was accepted. All well wishers of Korea cannot but regret the closing of the College.

The "Military Academy" on the island of Kang Wha is the latest wild goose this impecunious, not to say contemptible, Government, with its swarm of harpies, is chasing. The chase will end as did others—in the *mud*. What this Government needs is not an act to prohibit the exportation of rice, but "a general act of oblivion and start afresh." If "nothing succeeds like success," then Korea has illustrated in the past ten years of intercourse with western nations that nothing is more conducive to failure than failures. They have failed in everything, from the time the match factory (which made matches "mitout heads") was built, down to the present mint at Chemulpo and the Military Academy at Kang Wha.

LETTER FROM BALTIMORE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Baltimore, December 18, 1893.

The Hawaiian matter has suddenly taken a new turn. The Hon. Mr. Thurston, Minister of the Provisional Government to the U.S., has sailed from San Francisco for Honolulu in order to establish a permanent republic over there. He had given up all hope of getting the islands annexed by the Cleveland Administration and thought it best to go home and tell his principals so. On the whole subject of annexation, public opinion in this country seems hopelessly divided, and almost bitterly antagonistic; Republicans as a party, with many Democrats, favouring annexation, and the rest of the country opposing. Conservative people naturally hesitate, as no one can tell what will result from taking the strange step. Our form of Government is hardly suited for consuls and pro-consuls. If we once began this kind of thing, no one but cock-sure politicians like Senator Chandler knows where to stop. This gentleman is voracious and wants a "reasonable number" of the West Indies also. All this heterogeneous mass of Chinese, Japanese, Malays, Creoles, and mixed-bloods, would add overwhelmingly to our present complications over the negro problem.

As to the rights of the present *de facto* government, they depend entirely on whether you believe Commissioner Blount, or Minister Stevens, the American representative in Honolulu at the time of the overthrow of the Queen's Government. According to Mr. Blount, it was clearly a case of conspiracy on the part of Minister Stevens, and a small knot of greedy Americans over there and not a move would have been made if the aid of the blue-jackets had not been promised. It is a little significant that Mr. Stevens has never attempted to answer any important specific points of evidence in Mr. Blount's report, but has, in speech and print, poured forth a torrent of scurrilous abuse on that gentleman, and impeached the motives of all who want to "go slow" in the case. It is still more significant that in his latest utterance, in the last issue of the *North American Review*, he has fallen back on the old "civilizing"-"manifest-destiny" argument. In effect, he says the natives used to be savages; "they have been civilised by American missionaries: the islands are a paradise of climate and productions; besides the Queen was terribly immoral—the islands were clearly intended for us."

On the assembling of Congress in the early days of December, an acrimonious debate broke forth in the Senate over the absorption of this territory. One of the Democratic Senators, in his opposition, drew a beautiful and apt illustration from classical history. He referred to the struggle between Rome and Carthage, and stigmatised the motives of our annexationists here by relating an incident in the life of Cato. In the course of a speech on his favourite subject of the destruction of Carthage, Cato laid some fine figs before the Senate, and impressively said:—"This splendid fruit grows within three days sail from Rome. *Carthago est delenda.*"

One of the most painful sides to this affair has been the attitude of the religious press. Nearly all the Church papers raised a threatening howl and apocryphal wail when it was proposed to undo the wrong that had been done to the Queen. They came out strong over the perils to missions and *civilization* that would follow if the Queen should be restored. But they forgot that Christianity won its success under a monarchy, and it couldn't be so fearfully bad to live under a monarchy. As a New York paper remarked:—Truth, justice, and right, form the indispensable basis of Christian civilization everywhere, and these virtues are a necessary preliminary to missionary operations in any heathen country."

In the presence of an immense crowd of engineers, specialists, and public officials, an important invention was tested a short time since on Erie Canal, in the State of New York—the application of electricity to propelling canal boats. A trolley of wires were strung overhead on a section near Rochester, and the current was supplied by a street railway company some six miles off. An ordinary steam canal boat had been fitted with motors, and when these were connected with the line overhead, and the power turned on, away she went merrily on her course. Though heavily loaded, she passed through locks without difficulty, and got up a speed of five or six miles per hour. The entire success of the effort has opened out a new and fruitful future for canals, as the energy can be cheaply developed from streams and falls alongside, and the charges on *slow* freights can be put far lower than railroads can afford.

About the first of February, 1894, one of the most notable enterprises in the history of electrical appliances will be completed—the harnessing of a part of Niagara Falls to generate the subtle fluid. Over three years have passed since this work was begun, and several million dollars have been spent, and some twenty lives lost in carrying it to its present stage. The river was tapped a mile and half above the Falls, and led off in a canal some 2,000 feet long to a point selected for the wheel-house, where a 140 foot head of water could be obtained above the turbines. Then a tunnel had to be pierced to take off the water after it had performed its task of whirling the wheels around. An electric current of a hundred thousand horse-power will be produced—it is the aim to carry the current over conductors to distant points, if desired. A large part will be used near by, but the engineers are confident of being able to cut out steam even here is Baltimore, over 400 miles away. If the demand increases, another plant will be put on the Canadian side, and the present one enlarged, and expansion to a million horse power will be safe and economical. For a radius of a couple of hundred miles all power for mills, factories, street railways, municipal lighting, domestic cooking and washing can be supplied from this source. Fortunately all this vast utility can be created without interfering with the beauty and grandeur of the Falls, as there will be no appreciable diminution in the volume of water tumbling down.

A short steam-road near New York has just substituted electricity for steam. This is perhaps the first instance of such a change, but it may be quickly followed by others. The latest scheme talked of now is to construct an electric elevated road from New York to Chicago, possibly on a single row of poles, with the cars hung on one side. However, this is all in the air as yet. But if we could travel without dust on our clothes smoke in our lungs, cinders in our eyes, and noises in one ears, it would be almost like paradise compared with the dirt and sand and other discomforts we now endure.

Some genius has a plan for heating electric

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street cars with the same current that hurries them along. He has nine coils enclosed in iron casing, to be placed in the front of the seats. The plan had a trial and was partly successful.

The most imperatively demanded improvement is a fender for street-cars. Rapid transit in Baltimore mowed down 29 persons during the year 1893. The law requires these life-saving devices, and officials threaten, but destruction goes on unchecked. The companies urge that they are not to be blamed? They are perfectly willing to adopt any practical invention offered, but they demand a crucial test. They want every inventor to stand in front of a swift car and be knocked down and then snatched from death by his own invention. Naturally few have been found confident enough to swallow their own medicine. This strict qualification was most likely adopted to save the managers from many a bore of an agent. If that long electric road should be started in Tokyo that was described in some American paper, there would be a heart-rending slaughter in those narrow streets full of frolicking children, unless the municipality should wisely require the road to be an elevated one.

The National Library building in Washington is now nearing completion, and will be fully ready in about two years more. There, as in all things, we had to beat creation, and we are going to have "the largest, costliest, finest, best lighted, completest library in the world." The structure is 464 by 332 feet, covers three and half acres, and has three floors, and is pierced by 1,800 windows. The cost runs up to more than three million dollars. It will have a capacity of some nine million volumes. The reading-room is an octagonal hall to accommodate three hundred readers. It measures one hundred feet in diameter, and is ninety feet high, with eight large semi circular windows, 36 feet in diameter. Each person will have a desk, and will be isolated from his neighbours by light screens or curtains. On the second floor will be an art gallery of liberal dimensions, a map room, and a scientific library. In the attic will be a restaurant and kitchen. The best of arrangements have been made to guard the books against their natural enemies, damp, dust, heat, and smoke or gas exhalation. All the heating and light apparatus, coal vaults, steam boilers and electric plant, are in a separate building, thirty feet in the rear of the library, and thus are avoided the heat and odours from such adjuncts if placed in the basement.

Our national pride is not so boastful when we think of the Nicaragua canal scheme. Last August the old company, after having made some progress, was forced to go into the hands of a receiver, and the President and Vice-President resigned. But lately there is every chance of a re-organisation, and a new start will be taken. It is positively said there will be no trouble to secure all needed capital, and as the Nicaraguan concession lasts for seven years more, there is a good time limit ahead. The fresh managers will not on the delusive hope of getting any indorsement rely on bonds from the U.S. government. The venture will be a commercial one altogether, and the strict neutralization of the waterway will be guaranteed by both England and America. Construction began in 1889, and some six million dollars have been spent, but the main difficulty has not yet been touched though considerable preliminary work has been done.

Competition is pitiless in cutting down time. In this Canal project, labour is lavishly devoted to saving a few days in going to the East. With the same motive, the Baltimore and Ohio, one of the largest railroad corporations in America, is putting over three million dollars into a tunnel under this city in order to shave off *sixteen* minutes from a five hour schedule between New York and Washington. It seems a sad waste of human toil, but the rivalry of a parallel line allows no choice. At present the Baltimore and Ohio has to ferry its trains across the harbour, less than a mile, and it is to prevent this delay that brawn and muscle are being worn out in the dark underground. The trains, so it is intended, will be hauled through the subway by electricity, so as to head off smoke and ashes.

The Rev. Joseph Cook, lectured here in Baltimore a few days since, but he seems to be wofully petering out in reputation or sensation. His audience scarcely numbered two hundred, deadheads and all. He is one of those supremely gifted, and extremely rare preachers who can deliver profound and erudite discourses, and settle all problems in any department of thought, whether in biology, psychology, geology, theology, ontology, sociology, or anything else. At one time he was widely quoted and looked-up to, but he has clearly lost some of his grip.

The influence of Japan is steadily growing in the west. It is really astonishing to see how boldly and widely Japanese taste and industry are invading American homes. Shop windows here are full of Japanese handkerchiefs, vases, table-ware, pictures, lanterns. It was greatly for cleanliness that the Japanese lantern was adopted in a large political procession through the streets, three days before election, in the early part of November. Long lines of men and boys trooped by, each swinging a paper bulb from *Dai Nippon*. Formerly sputtering candles, flashing torches, gasoline lamps, smoky, smutty and dirty, were carried, and no one in his senses wore anything but his old field suit. But with this new style, one could be easy in mind. It bore one again across the Pacific to see the goodly light.

But all this increase in trade with Japan remains in American hands. The Japanese, quick and bright as they are, don't seem to make good merchants. Several times they have opened stores here, but they seem to go to the wall. On the other hand, the Chinaman, much as he is despised, has a laundry in every town, and in many, flourishing stores.

Another incident re-called the Land of the Rising Sun—two chrysanthemum shows in Baltimore. There are as ardent devotees at this altar here as anywhere, and magnificent displays were the result. Some exhibitors shipped specimens several hundred miles by rail. Some of the flowers were seven inches in diameter, and some gigantic clusters of 150 full blooms.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, December 22nd.

Rev. E. R. Fulkerson, late of Japan, has become pastor of a Methodist Episcopal Church in Peoria, Ill.

The Epworth League of the Hyde Park M.E. Church recently gave a "Japanese Entertainment," in which Mrs. C. B. Allen and Miss Daisy Allen, formerly of Yokohama, bore an active and helpful part.

Rev. Wm. Elliot Griffis, D.D., delivered an address the other evening at Syracuse, N.Y., on "The World's Parliament of Religions."

Mr. Buckley's lectures at the University of Chicago will be on "Shintoism," and will be illustrated by his fine collection of Shinto paraphernalia.

Mr. John R. Bensley, ex-President of the Chicago Board of Trade, tells me that he was very much impressed during the Fair with the business ability which the Japanese displayed in all their dealings here.

The Japanese Government, represented, I suppose, by the Imperial Commission, has formally turned over the Hoöden on Wooded Island to the South Park Board. The last-mentioned body has accepted from the World's Fair Directors the offer of an indemnity of $200,000 for assuming responsibility of the Exposition buildings after January 1st.

Among the reported sales of art works we find "two small pieces," and a bronze figure, "Mysterious Music" (at $2,200), to the Imperial Japanese Museum.

Rev. Gibbert Reid, of China, is stiring up Presbyterian audiences on the subject of our unjust treatment of Chinese.

The Hawaiian matter is no longer on the shoulders of President Cleveland and Secretary Gresham, but now rests on those of Congress. The President's Special Message on this subject naturally called forth a rejoinder from ex-Minister Stevens; and the two documents, in the main, only thrash over the same wheat again. The truth in disputed points seems very difficult to ascertain even now. It is now pretty generally understood, however, that, without reference to the matters in controversy between Stevens and Blount, annexation and restoration are both out of the question, and that Congress will probably pursue the policy of "hands off." After Mr. Thurston had sailed on the 15th inst. for Hawaii, it leaked out that he had informed some friends in Oakland, Cal., that the Provisional Government would at once be superseded by a permanent Republic under a constitution.

The steamer *Mariposa*, which arrived in San Francisco yesterday, brought news from Hawaii up to the date of the 14th inst. The U.S. Cutter *Corwin* had just arrived there with cypher despatches for Minister Willis, and had, of course, created a tremendous excitement. The royalists were expecting immediate restoration, and the Provisional Government, fearing the same, were getting ready for military resistance. There wss also anxiety lest the ex-Queen, disappointed in the failure of President Cleveland's intention to restore her to the throne, might invite the aid of Japan to accomplish the same purpose; and that too, although Minister Fujii had openly disclaimed such intentions.

The House of Representatives had a very stormy session yesterday *in re* Hawaiian matters, but failed to accomplish anything of great importance.

The Navy Department has ordered more of our ships into Brazilian waters. The revolutionists seem to be gaining. Admiral Mello has blockaded Rio de Janeiro, has battered some of its forts, and captured some minor places.

The House of Representatives has passed Bills admitting both Utah and Arizona to Statehood.

Senator Voorhees has introduced into the Senate a Bill for the purchase and coinage of silver; but will probably be unable to secure its passage.

Prof. W. N. Hailman, a prominent educator of Indiana, has been appointed to the position of Supervisor of Indian Schools; and Hon. Wayne MacVeagh, of Pennsylvania, has been named and confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Italy, vice Van Alen declined. Mr. MacVeagh is a prominent Mugwump, and will honour the position.

Robert Adams, Jun., ex-U.S. Minister to Brazil, has been elected to Congress from the Pennsylvania district, to succeed O'Neill, deceased.

The special election for Mayor of Chicago to fill out the rest of Carter Harrison's term, was held Tuesday, the 19th inst. Acting-Mayor Swift, the Republican candidate, was defeated by the Democratic candidate, John P. Hopkins, by only 1,290 votes. The Mayor-elect is a young man, a leader in the Democratic party, and a machine politician. And the other man, by-the-way, was not much better!

Before dropping political items, I must add, that both the majority and the minority reports of the Ways and Means Committee have been completed with reference to tariff matters; and the House of Representatives may thus be expected to begin debate soon after the holiday recess.

The work of relieving the suffering is being vigorously pushed in this city and other places where it is necessary. It is not at all unlikely that many undeserving cases are getting attention, but it is also evident that the worst is over with the most deserving. The comparatively mild weather of the past few days has been very welcome. It is reported that some of the mines in the Gogebic Range will soon reopen, and thus prevent continued severe suffering in those regions.

In this connection the following list may not be uninteresting or valueless:—

John D. Rockefeller, New York	$125,000,000
W. W. Astor, New York	120,000,000
Russell Sage, New York	90,000,000
Jay Gould, New York	60,000,000
Henry M. Flagler, New York	60,000,000
Charles Crocker estate, California	60,000,000
Charles Pratt estate, New York	55,000,000
William K. Vanderbilt, New York	50,000,000
Cornelius Vanderbilt, New York	50,000,000
Fred W. Vanderbilt, New York	35,000,000
William Astor, New York	35,000,000
John Montgomery Sears, Boston	40,000,000
Louis C. Tiffany, New York	35,000,000
C. P. Huntington, New York	30,000,000
John I. Blair, Blavertown, N. J.	30,000,000
William Rockefeller, New York	30,000,000
Mrs. Elliott E. Shepard, New York	30,000,000
Leland Stanford, California	30,000,000
Mrs. Hetty Green	40,000,000
A. Pacler estate	70,000,000
Moses Taylor estate	50,000,000
E. A. Stevens, New York	50,000,000
Brown & Ives estate, Providence, R. I.	50,000,000
P. D. Armour, Chicago, Ill.	40,000,000
P. Goelet, New York	40,000,000
T. A. Scott estate, New York	40,000,000
J. W. Garrett estate	35,000,000
G. B. Roberts, Philadelphia, Pa.	30,000,000
Ross Winans	30,000,000
F. B. Coxe	30,000,000
Claus Spreckles, San Francisco	30,000,000
R. J. Livingston, New York	30,000,000
Mrs. Hopkins-Searles estate	30,000,000
S. V. Harkness estate	30,000,000
R. W. Coleman estate	30,000,000
I. M. Singer estate	30,000,000
Percy Pyne, New York	30,000,000
A. J. Drexel, New York	25,000,000
J. S. Morgan, New York	25,000,000
J. P. Morgan, New York	25,000,000
Marshall Field, Chicago	25,000,000
J. G. Fair estate, California	25,000,000
E. T. Gerry, New York	25,000,000
Gov. Fairbanks estate, New York	25,000,000
A. Schermerborn estate, New York	25,000,000
O. H. Payne, New York	25,000,000
John T. Davis, St. Louis	25,000,000
F. A. Drexel estate, Philadelphia	22,000,000
I. V. Williamson estate	22,000,000
W. F. Weld estate	22,000,000
Jabez A. Bostwick, New York	30,000,000

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Theodore Havemeyer, New York ...	20,000,000
H. O. Havemeyer, New York	20,000,000
W. G. Warden, New York	20,000,000
W. P. Thompson.....	20,000,000
Mrs. Schenley	20,000,000
J. B. Haggin	20,000,000
H. A. Hutchins	20,000,000
W. Sloan estate, New York	20,000,000
E. S. Higgins estate	20,000,000
C. Tower estate	20,000,000
William Thaw estate	20,000,000
Dr. Hostetter estate	20,000,000
William Sharyn estate, California ...	20,000,000
Peter Donohue estate	20,000,000
Henry Hilton, New York	20,000,000
Andrew Carnegie, New York	20,000,000
H. Victor Newcombe, New York.....	20,000,000
John Jacob Astor, Jr. New York	20,000,000
Mrs. H. McK. Twombley, New York	20,000,000
William C. Whitney, New York	20,000,000
The Misses Furness, New York	20,000,000
Darius O. Mills, New York	20,000,000
David Dows Stall, New York	20,000,000
Geo. M. Pullman. Chicago	12,000,000
Mrs. Bradley Martin, New York.....	10,000,000

The two extremes (immense wealth and utter poverty) show that something is wrong somewhere in the manner of the "distribution of wealth."

Chicago is to have a public bath house (called the "Carter H. Harrison Bath") where five cents from adults and three cents from children will pay for a scrub, a shower, a plunge and soap.

This year's edition of the *Répertoire-General de la Marine Marchande du Bureau Veritas* contains the usual mass of statistics respecting the merchant navies of the world. It shows that more than half of the steamships of the world sail under England's flag. The steamers of 100 tons net and upwards are divided as under:

Flag.	Number.	Tons Gross.	Tons Net.
British	5,694	9,383,361	5,886,621
German	779	1,144,199	801,084
French	500	850,375	480,921
American	423	642,788	447,112
Spanish	354	439,657	289,067
Norwegian	490	367,652	260,305
Italian	218	323,595	203,851
Dutch	201	302,013	207,246
Russian	297	235,525	153,424
Swedish	459	212,803	157,109
Austrian	137	209,696	128,501
Danish	226	182,094	120,775
Japanese	179	142,095	88,838
Greek	96	128,409	80,123
Brazilian	176	119,886	77,199
Belgian	63	113,424	80,668
Portuguese	39	64,769	42,657
Turkish	63	59,131	37,637

The total number of steamers measuring more than 100 tons net is 10,629 representing 15,134,436 tons gross and 9,674,814 tons net.

The total number of sailing vessels measuring fifty tons net and above is 29,786, representing altogether 9,829,063 tons net. The merchant navies whose collective tonnage is superior to 20,000 tons net are the following:—

British	9,277	3,574,847
American	3,372	1,423,275
Norwegian	3,278	1,375,738
German	1,386	661,210
Italian	1,904	536,471
Russian	1,704	356,157
Swedish	1,410	217,447
French	1,490	257,444
Greek	1,121	245,036
Spanish	1,053	175,380
Dutch	619	165,989
Danish	870	159,685
Turkish	659	125,186
Austrian	262	95,085
Chilean	149	76,545
Brazilian	282	65,100
Portuguese	166	43,087
Japanese	260	37,615
Argentine	115	29,223

The number of steamers of heavy tonnage continues to increase as the following figures will show:—

Number of steamers	1892.	1893.
From 3,000 to 4,000 tons gross	540	612
From 4,000 to 5,000 tons gross	203	238
From 5,000 to 6,000 tons gross	69	75
From 6,000 to 8,000 tons gross	33	37
From 8,000 to 13,000 tons gross	10	14
Total	855	976

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE JAPANESE ALPS.

By Walter Weston, M.A., F.R.G.S., English Alpine Club.

(CONTINUED FROM 20TH INST.)

THE VALLEY OF THE TAKAHARA-GAWA AND THE SOLITUDES OF HIDA.

Chartering a *kuruma* with two men for myself and baggage for the whole distance to Funatsu, (where the *jinrikisha* road then turns off westwards to Takayama) I started at 7.15 on a bright, warm morning for the ride of 36 miles thither.

As one crosses the broad plain in which Toyama lies, one in clear weather can get a view of Hakusan, the great "white mountain" of Kaga, but the haze of a sultry summer's day this time robbed me of the pleasure. The general direction of the high-road is due south, and after crossing the Kumanogawa near the village of that name, the worst part of the whole road begins, as for several miles the shocking state of repair in which the people seem content to leave it is almost incredible, and however much one may wish to speed over the first few miles of comparatively uninteresting country, it is a case of *shikata-ga-nai*, and if one wants to get on one must get out and walk for a considerable distance.

At Sasadzu a fine new bridge over the Jindzugawa is crossed, and we find ourselves really entering the mountains, the scenery of the river banks giving an endless variety of views of increasing loveliness. At Ioridani (15 miles) where a good tea-house by the bridge offers welcome rest and refreshment, a steep incline leads up to a great cutting in the crest of the ridge in front, so here I left the *kuruma* to come on afterwards while I walked on with an agreeable fellow-wayfarer to the top of the pass. On arriving, however, at a rest-house just below the summit and being joined after some time by the coolies, it was discovered that in spite of my injunctions to take care of the baggage they had allowed my vulcanite bottle to fall out, whereupon I sent them back to search for it. But a journey down to the tea house below was unproductive, so I sent them off again, and this time as the result of more careful search and enquiries they discovered the missing bottle had been picked up by a passing pedestrian, who was walking off with it in his possession. I was very glad to get it back, but much begrudged the hour and a half's delay which the carelessness of the coolies had cost me. However, it gave me an opportunity of solving some puzzling questions of topography which had been perplexing my mind as I compared the route given in "Murray" with the one I was actually following. A critical examination of guide book, Geological Survey Map, and information given by native fellow-travellers showed that the present route is really a combination of portions of two others which were followed by the early foreign travellers in this region. As far as Inotani, the Miayagawa road to Takayama is followed, whilst near that village we turn off by the way which leads to Funatsu by the Takaharagawa valley.

It is between Inotani and Yokoyama that the perfection of the lovely scenery in which this route abounds seems to be reached. Close to the former place the boundary line is crossed from Etchiu in Hida, and the magnificent view at the angle made by the confluence of the Jindzugawa with the Takaharagawa is one which it would be difficult to do justice to in common prose. Crossing the white bridge which spans the river just below the point of junction, a little distance brings us to still another lovely spot, where a wild mountain torrent, the Tanigawa, comes hurrying down a picturesque glen on the right to join the larger stream, while a pretty cascade falls over the rocks of the steep hill side on the left of the valley up which we are making our way. Insensibly the ravine closes in as we draw near to Yokoyama, and the bridge that here crosses from the one side to the other of the high river banks has but a narrow space to span. The last few miles before this have constantly reminded one of the beauties of the route along the Adzusa gawa between Ono-gawa and Shima-jima, though built on a somewhat smaller scale.

In half an hour from Yokoyama we reach the neat little hamlet of Modzumi, the most attractive of the scattered villages through which we had passed. For the traveller walking from Toyama along this route this would probably be the best place to spend the night on the way to Funatsu. The road for some distance past here is fit for a bicycle track were it possible to induce a rider to venture so far. Half an hour from Modzumi, however, it comes to a stop, and the scene that presented itself, as we arrived at Domura, where formerly a bridge crossed the Atotsuzawa, a torrent feeder of the larger stream, was such as for the moment to make it doubtful as to whether we might not have to turn back and test the resources of Modzumi for housing the unexpected guest. Owing to heavy rains during the spring, the imprisoned torrent had burst its confines and not only carried away the bridge but a good deal of the bank besides. It required a little scheming to get across the torrent oneself with a dry skin, but the spectacle of a coolie with a *jinrikisha* perched topsyturvy on his back was one which excited an admiration for his skill only equalled by the amusement one could not help feeling at its incongruity. This difficulty overcome the road again rises high above the river, and the tall straight cliffs towering high above its emerald waters on the opposite bank bring back recollections of the beauties of Matlock and the River Derwent, in the surroundings of one's English home. Instead of passing through Uneshiyama, as was formerly the case, the road goes straight on towards Funatsu, and in an hour and a half, after crossing the torrent bed, reaches the picturesque newly-built bridge at Kanayama, where are the extensive smelting works of the Shikama copper mine, large quantities of the metal, as well as a certain amount of silver, being produced higher up in the mountains on the right bank of the river. As the old road has been partly destroyed by a landslip, which took place some years ago, a new one takes us across the stream, and a few minutes' walk finds us in the narrow streets of Funatsu itself, where a civil reception, supplemented by capital attendance, awaits me at the house of one Watanabe, to whom my host at Toyama had recommended me to come. The distance of 36 miles took just 12 hours to accomplish, though it must be owned the coolies were of a very inferior stamp. Still the scenery after the first few miles was so exquisitely beautiful that it would have seemed almost like sacrilege to hurry through it intent on nothing but a quick arrival at the journey's end, and many a time one would have been glad to stop and linger indefinitely in the quiet enjoyment of all the lavish loveliness which nature had provided with so bountiful a hand in the calm solitudes where "The silence of the mountains spoke unutterable things."

The next morning, with a sturdy little porter to shoulder my baggage, I set out at 6.50 to renew the companionship of the river whose banks had already yielded me so much pleasure in the scenes of beauty which they had already afforded in the journey of yesterday. The sight of a foreign traveller passing through the village streets was productive of the usual amount of polite surprise and curiosity, and the country-folk coming in from the scattered cottages that dotted the fields lining the river's course were almost startled at the morning greeting from so unwonted a figure, but not too much surprised to answer with a kindly smile and respectful bow. An hour's steady tramp brings us into a sequestered vale where the low wide-spreading roofs of the newly built houses of the hamlet of Sugo, weighted with white boulders from the river's bed, make it almost impossible to believe it is not a picture is some Alpine valley traversed in wanderings of bygone days. Another hour passes on, and at Nakayama the path crosses a bridge over the Sugorokugawa, in whose broad pebbly bed a shallow stream hurries down to join the larger one. What a lovely spot it was! and the fellow traveller I had picked up by the way seemed almost amused at the enthusiasm of delight one could not help giving vent to at the sight. Leaving this behind and winding round a spur of the hill on the left we soon come to another picturesque little bridge, over which a path leads through a small collection of cottages called Miza, ultimately reaching Takayama by way of Yokamachi.

My now dwindling track, however, faithfully sticks to the right bank of the river and soon is rewarded by the welcome shade of a magnificent grove of cryptomeria, in the centre of which nestles a tiny shrine, the connection of the two forcibly reminding one of a noteworthy fact, viz., the almost invariable custom of the Japanese in choosing the *loveliest* spots in valleys and on hills for locating whatever erection they are rearing as a meeting-place for man and those powers without him of whose aid he feels the need and whose good offices he wishes to invoke. And in many a locality where the beauty of the landscape has been sacrificed on the altar of practical but ruthless utility, the one thing spared is the little way-side shrine, and frequently the only object that relieves the monotony of some wide expanse of paddy fields is a clump of tall trees in whose recesses lies sheltered a little rustic fane, the sacredness of which alone has saved its guardians from falling beneath the woodman's axe.

Some distance beyond the grove and shrine one passes on the left an enormous oval stone, called the *tsue ishi*, at the base of which is a slab bearing the Buddhistic invocation *Namu Amida Butsu* ("Save eternal Buddha"). Further on still, a pretty cascade falls over a projecting rock close by the side of the path, and offers a tempting opportunity for an impromptu shower bath. The position of the cascade and one's circumstances in making its acquaintance vividly recall a similar experience on an Alpine expedition some years ago. On a piping hot day a friend and myself were returning to our inn after an ascent near Zinal, in the Val d'Anniviers, when the sight of the very counterpart of this young cataract, as we descended the mountain side, attracted our attention and impelled us with a desire to cool ourselves beneath it. In spite, however, of our intense enjoyment of our bath, nothing would induce our guide, Joachim, to follow our example. "No, sir," persisted he, "I will never do so rash a thing—for does not history tell us that Alexander the Great

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himself thus met with an untimely end, through indulging in too cold a bath when his frame was too heated to stand so terrible a shock!"

By the time I had reached Taore, where a large newly-built house was pointed out to me as the "Tsu-un Kaisha," or "Express forwarding agency," the heat was beginning to make itself felt, for the long valley is too shut in to allow of much breeze to penetrate with cooling effect. It was now 1.30 p.m., and for many hours I had seen nothing of my coolie and my baggage, as the man soon after the start had begun to lag, and not until long after I arrived at my journey's end did he put in an appearance. Unfortunately I had left all my food in the small *kori* he was carrying, never imagining the resources of the wayside villages through which I had to pass would be so slight as to be almost unable to afford even the scantiest meal. However, as the pangs of hunger were now beginning to "gnaw" with a vengeance I had no alternative but to climb up the steep little incline leading to the "Tsu-un Kwaisha," and seek for relief. At first my reception was not of a reassuring nature, but on hastening to explain that anything solid would do, the old lady who seemed to be in charge of the establishment, her husband being rolled up in *futons* by the side of a fire, apparently sick, softened a little and began to get ready a meal of rice and dried fish which, seasoned by the proverbial best of sauces, hunger, went down uncommonly well. During the preparation of the food I threw myself down on the threshold of the house, with my rück-sack for a pillow, and strove hard to get a rest of "forty winks," but the pest of flies, so extraordinarily numerous and ubiquitous in nearly all these Hida valleys, effectually frustrated all attempts at *hirune*. Having, however, before me the prospect of plenty of food, with the hot mineral water baths of which I made the acquaintance at Gamada last year, I determined to lose no time, so at 2.10, I once more shouldered my sack, and set out for the last stage of my walk, a stretch of some four miles to the place last-named. In 20 minutes I found myself at Imami, a small village, with quite an imposing little Post Office, newly erected, which stands just at the junction of the Gamada-gawa with the Takahara-gawa. By degrees the valley through which I had come had been widening out, and near the place where the two streams meet, its broad expanse, hemmed in on either side with densely wooded hills, and apparently shut in front by higher peaks, presents a noble prospect. A steep declivity terminates the range of hills which separate the valleys of the two streams, and whilst the path to Hirayu skirts the base of this on its eastern side, my track to Gamada passes below it on the left or western slope. An hour's tramp along the rugged right bank of the stream takes me on to now familiar ground, and, passing the village bath-house on the left of the slippery, stony street, I soon find myself at the door of the hospitable farm house-inn which last year sheltered my genial companion and myself when, bent on the expedition which to-day has brought me here once more, we crossed over from the neighbouring baths of Hirayu. On that occasion our attention had been attracted, when staying at the latter village, by the magnificent form of the serrated ridge and snow-streaked sides of Kasa-dake, the view of which, seen far beyond the wooded slopes which rise up to the north-west of the valley of the Takahara-gawa, filled us with admiration and irresistibly impelled us to draw closer and make an attempt to scale the rugged heights. We therefore made our away across an intervening ridge to this same Gamada, having been directed to the house of one Jimbei (whose other name we were unable to find out), as that person was the one most qualified to give us both accomodation and advice. The former, though we were his first foreign guests, he provided to the full extent of his resources, and most comfortably we fared, but the latter he was less able to give. However, he called in the aid of the *kucho* or headman of the village, who arrived, I remember, some time after we had retired to rest, and brought us the disappointing news that, although it *was* possible to ascend Kasa-dake, still on account of recent heavy rains bridges had been broken higher up the valley, which it was necessary to cross; that the stream was impassable; and that, in short, the state of affairs was such that no one could be induced to make the attempt to climb the mountain with us. So, to our intense disappointment, we were compelled to return without even setting a foot on the side of the beautiful peak. However, as we turned our backs upon Gamada it was not without the determination that, should another opportunity occur, we would have another try to make the expedition. And it is as a result of this determination that I have again found my way hither, in the hope that this time I may succeed where before I failed. A simple but kindly reception greets me as I halt, stained with travel and the thick dust glittering white upon my boots, and pass into the wide open space at the entrance of the huge old-fashioned kitchen of the establishment. Not noticing my old host of last year stirring about the place, I ask where he is, remembering, as I make the enquiry, that he was even then not at all well and that my companion's professional help had been the cause of much genuine gratitude. To my regret I am told that he died six months ago of pneumonia, the complaint with which he was suffering when we first saw him. His successor, however, apparently an adopted son, had evidently not forgotten our visit, as to my astonishment, he suddenly came out with "Anata-wa, Kobe no Weston San desu ka? ("Are you Mr. Weston of Kobe?")

As I didn't remember ever having seen my questioner before, I naturally asked "Why, how did you know that?" "Oh," he said, "I remember your coming here last year; and, by the way, how is your friend the honourable Mr. Doctor?" Well, it was pleasant to be remembered by a person who had met one before, and not less so to find in the house another guest equally inclined to be friendly. This was a teacher of free hand drawing in the Chu gakkô at Takayama, who not only proved an agreeable acquaintance, but also afforded me all the assistance he could in making inquiries with a view to facilitating the accomplishment of my desires. Once more the headman was called in and between the trio of us a lengthy council of war took place. From the hesitation with which the *kucho* squatted on the mat, the many rap-taps which were needed to empty his diminutive pipe, and from the owl-like manner in which he screwed his head from side to side before approaching the subject, it was quite clear what the nature of his communication would be. "Well, really, I am afraid it's a very difficult matter." "Oh, how is that?" "Well, you see that for nearly seven weeks now we have had scarcely any rain, and I don't think any of the farmers can be induced to come with you up the mountain."

"But why not, they can't be busy in the fields just now, surely?"

"No, just the contrary. For as there is such a lack of rain, the men are all away in the hills, asking for it—they have all gone on an *ama-goi* expedition, and so its impossible to get any one to act as your guide!"

Ama-goi, "praying for rain"! Now I recollected that I had heard of the practice before. When at Omachi I had been told that for a similar reason—that of the long-continued drought—parties of peasants had gone out into the hills on the west of the Matsumoto plain to hold *ama goi* in the hope of obtaining rain. I was informed that fires were lighted on prominent heights, and prayers were offered at the bases of those great peaks whose grandeur seemed to indicate that the spirits which dwelt there would be the most likely to be able to work the relief so much needed and so earnestly sought. Of the two mountains chosen in the Matsumoto district, the principal one was Myojin-dake, whose majestic form towering 5,000 feet and more above the level of the narrow valley at its foot might well impress the minds and excite the imaginations of the simple-minded country folk, who believed that *there* must dwell a power superior to anything that could be found elsewhere to call upon.

Of course, beyond the *kucho's* dictum there was no appeal, for there was now no other means of obtaining the help without which the expedition was impossible. Had I been fortunate enough to command the companionship of my trusty comrade on former climbs in these glorious mountains, I would not have hesitated to endeavour to force a way up our peak independently of local aid. But as it was I had to accept the inevitable and ultimately to drown my disappointment in a visit to the adjoining bath house near the mineral spring.

The next morning, at 7.30, I once more found myself tramping down the narrow valley of the Yamadagawa and climbing the steep little ascent of Kamisaka, a curious natural barrier which rises between Gamada and a growing hamlet near the foot of the pass by which the ridge is crossed into the valley of the Takahara-gawa. From the top of the Kamisaka a magnificent view is gained of the western flanks of Varigatake and of part of the same side of Myojin-dake. Seen from here, the precipitous walls of bare rock, rising sheer above the valley at their bases, present an aspect of rugged wildness seldom met with in this country, where one usually associates the characteristic of its mountain scenery with richly wooded softly outlined heights rather than with bare jagged ridges and lofty isolated peaks.

Not that even here those milder forms of nature's charms were wanting, for the near foreground of the beautiful picture was that of lower hills densely wooded from base to summit, but it was certainly the unwonted sight of great mountains in their sterner aspects that now compels attention.

Before leaving Gamada, I had endeavoured to enlist the *kucho's* sympathies and help in a proposition to either make the ascent of Yari-gatake from this—the western—side, or, failing that, to cross over a ridge to the South of that peak so as to reach the valley at the base of Myôjin dake. This course would have in some measure compensated for the deprivation of the climb up Kasa-dake, and would further have saved two days out of the three which the détour by way of Hirayu and Shinajima would otherwise render necessary. Whilst feeling sure at the time, from the appearance of the mountains themselves and their geographical relations to each other, that both the climbs were feasible, I later on received strong confirmation of my views, for I found out that my Matsumoto landlord had himself a year ago done the former of the two expeditions in the reverse direction, and stated that the ascent I have referred to was therefore quite possible. As to the second, that also was made the opposite way, from east to west, a fortnight after I was at Gamada, by an official of the War Department of the Japanese Government starting *from* the very hut towards which I had proposed to force a way. However, "it is no use crying over spilt milk," and a disappointment is often the very best of disciplines, whether in connection with the pleasures of mountaineering or of one's every day life. So after taking a final retrospect of the glorious picture, I turned my back upon it to leave it for some other more fortunate traveller to accomplish what I had failed to obtain the facility for even attempting.

Passing down the opposite side of the Kamisaka, on the summit of which are a few stone images of the Buddha, the path to Hirayu takes a sharp turn to the left at a spot where there are a few houses, several newly built since I was here last year and looking very picturesque with their châlet-like overhanging eaves, weighted with large stones to keep the roof firm.

The place is scarcely large enough to be called a village, but goes by the same name as the hill between it and Gamada of which I have just spoken. Close by is a rustic *mannenbashi* bridge over the stream, the near end being moored to the bank, whilst the opposite one is made fast to a pile of huge stones standing in a position which, when the channel is full, must land the traveller from this side in the middle of the river bed. Now, of course, there is but comparatively little water in the stream, and the passage over the long springy planks and the bare boulders beyond is accomplished without difficulty. The pass then turns to the right and winds up the slope of the hillside through shady vegetation, the cold clear water of a sparkling mountain stream and the fresh sweetness of the wild raspberries growing here and there in profusion by the way-side proving most deliciously refreshing. Less than half an hour takes us to the top of the ridge from Kamisaka, and then comes a sudden plunge down the steep side beyond into the valley of the Takahara-gawa, the pass by which I have come joining that to Hirayu at a poor and dirty village called Hitoigane, whence a walk of an hour and a half towards the south east end of the beautiful ravine brings us to the old inn at Hirayu where we spent such a pleasant and interesting time a year ago. The path has certainly been improved since last I was here, and the walk up the valley is more charming than ever. About a mile and a half from Hirayu I found a stream of water strongly impregnated with iron, which before I had not noticed, trickling down the red broken rocks on the left of the road. This district seems quite rich in minerals and mineral waters, what with the productive silver and copper mine on Norikura, the hot springs at the village, and others of less importance in the surrounding hills.

The water at Hirayu is used both for drinking and for bathing, and on cooling some from the spring for the former purpose I found it tasted very much like the *tan san-sui* at Arima, minus the carbonic acid gas. It is conducted by bamboo pipes from the main spring into the various bath-houses scattered about the village, and whilst at its outlet it has a temperature of 190°, it is cooled down by admixture with water from a cold spring to about 113°. It is strongly impregnated with iron and also a fair amount of sulphur.

On arriving at Yomo Saburo's my first enquiry, after the usual salutations, for a coolie to accompany me on the way to Onogawa, where I thought of spending the night, was met with the reply, which I had half anticipated, that the master himself was away and that no coolie could then be got, as it was now too late in the day to find any one at home and free from his ordinary work to come with me. My next enquiry was after the

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fate of a certain pair of trousers which had been left behind by mistake and which subsequent inquiries by post failed to recover. On my mentioning the unmentionables the landlord's deputy at once rose to the occasion with an explanation.

"Oh, the honourable trousers, is it? Oh, yes, they are all right."

"But why were they not forwarded when I wrote for them?"

"Well, we got the letter, but the fact was, we were too busy to send them just then. Still we have them here. We've been keeping them for you all the time, and you shall have them in a moment." "Keeping them for you all the time," certainly sounded odd, as if they imagined that one was, figuratively speaking so "wrapped up" in the precious garments that one was sure to come back for the sole purpose of recovering them!

By and bye, a servant appeared with them, mud and all, just as I had given them over to the landlord exactly a year before in order to have them washed preparatory to my departure. I have often had to wait sometime before the washerman would return my things, before, but this, a whole year's delay since my return from the ascent of Norikura, was certainly a record as far my experience went, and additional interest lay in the fact that even after a year had passed the operation of washing had not been attempted! Having once recovered the things, I determined to keep them, and most fortunate was it that I succeeded in doing so, as subsequent events proved. But I anticipate—*Revenons á nos moutons*.

After waiting some time, most of which was spent in the bath-house close to the inn, which I found newly arranged, in fact almost rebuilt, the landlord returned, and after the usual greetings, disappeared only to return in a moment with a pocket knife I had given him, and a little india-rubber doll I had given to his daughter, acknowledging with the profusest obeisances these trifles of a year ago.

In the afternoon I walked up to the smelting works of the Norikura mine, some 15 minutes from the village, and these, too, I found had been enlarged as well as being neater and busier than last year. On what was then a piece of waste ground, just opposite to the smelting sheds, there now stand a number of spacious houses, some of which are used as offices whilst others are shops for the sale of common articles in daily use amongst the miners up at the mine on the mountain side and the workmen here below. Through the middle of the compound, partly enclosed by the buildings, the Takahara-gawa flows in its narrow channel, for it is on the western flank of Norikura that it takes its rise, and the beautiful fall, 200 feet in height, in front of us, is that which the torrent forms close to its source.

As I had to turn out betimes the next morning for a stiff walk of nearly 30 miles, including the crossing of two passes *en route*, I went early to *futon*, having previously obtained the assistance of the *kucho* in hiring a couple of coolies to act as my porters over the passes as far as Onogawa. With baggage re-arranged and packed so as to be ready to start without delay at dawn, for I wanted to get a good night's rest to fit me for the morrow's journey, I lost no time in turning in. But not, unhappily to sleep. For just as I am dozing off, the *fusuma* is slid open, and in a husky whisper I hear, *Danna san! danna san!*

"Well, what is it?" "Why, the coolies won't go at the price the *kucho* fixed, and they say they won't start unless you give them 40 *sen* each instead of 30."

"All right, tell them I will do so as there is no help for it, good night."

Then the *fusuma* closes, and I turn round again, but to no purpose. The ubiquitous flea, doubtless stimulated by the fresh mountain air, for Hirayu is over 4,500 feet above sea-level, is surprisingly active, and however tightly I close the mouth of my sleeping-bag sheet, it is impossible to keep out the intruder, and only after getting up again and again to sprinkle fresh libations of insect powder over bedding and mats can I venture to hope to be left to rest in peace. Once more I am sinking off into blissful forgetfulness of landlord, fleas, and similar interruptions when to my horror my next room neighbours, fired with *saké* and inflated with rice, begin to get up steam in their noisy carousals, behaving in the silly, childish way that only a Japanese reveller in his cups knows how to behave, and now I feel that I am "in for it" with a vengeance. Requests for a little consideration, remonstrances, regrets, are all useless, and it is only after five hours restless wakefulness that long past midnight I am able, through sheer weariness, to get off to sleep. The landlord had promised faithfully, after many careful exhortations, to call me at 3.30, so that I might be able to start at dawn, but at 3.45, after a rest of two hours which seemed more like two minutes, I awake to find the house resounding with snores, and the landlord still buried in *futons* and forgetfulness.

By the time breakfast was finished and the coolies started off with the baggage, it was 5 o'clock, and the dull grey clouds overhead gave warning that I need not expect the exquisite weather that last year made this journey so full of pleasure and interest. On that occasion the temptation was to linger on the way almost too long, whilst now there was no such inducement, and as the morning wore on the clouds began to swell to bursting point, and discharged their watery burden with such effect that, in spite of mackintosh and umbrella, one was so speedily soaked that it became a matter of indifference as to how much heavier the rain came down.

As I wished, for the sake of comparison, to read my barometers on the summit of the Abō-tōge as near 6 o'clock as possible, I went on with the instruments in advance of the coolies, and reached the top at 6.15, the altitude being 6,400 feet above the sea, and 1,900 feet above the little mountain-girt plain in which Hirayu stands. The overhanging clouds and steadily falling rain entirely shut out the entrancing views of Kasa dake which, on a clear day, lend its chief attraction to the walk along the side of the spur of Aboyama down which the path from the summit descends, but as the charm of distant views was denied I had perforce to devote my attention to what lay nearer to hand, the chief feature of this being the profusion of wild raspberries growing on the right hand side of the track. The younger of the two coolies, who also proved the speedier of the pair, and who treated the tramp through the pouring rain simply as a huge joke, informed me the name of the fruit was *uma-echigo*, which I think must have been a name coined for the occasion. His knowledge of the botany of his native mountains was even less than my own, and his invariable reply to my further questions about various plants I noticed was one which sounded intensely odd:—*Wagi wa shiranosu* being apparently intended for *Watakushi wa shiranu*—"I don't know." But he was a cherry little chap, being possessed of spirits even surpassing his strength and activity which, in one so small of stature, was most astonishing. During the early part of the descent I met a couple of woodcutters who volunteered the information that the rain had so swollen the waters of a torrent which had to be crossed lower down that it would be extremely difficult to make the passage, and that also in one or two places the path had been swept away by a small landslip, so we must exercise great care to avoid serious consequences. Thanking them for the information I passed on, and after a time arrived at the torrent in question, finding the rocks were sufficiently disarranged to make it a delightfully exciting little experience. Before applying myself to the task, however, indeed just as I was about to step off from the edge of the broken pathway, my attention was attracted by the sight of the most magnificent specimens of wild strawberries I have ever come across, and not until a careful search had resulted in consumption of every one of the luscious berries to be found at the spot, was it possible to proceed. The landslip, in due course, was successfully negotiated also, though I must own that the perils with which the warnings about it had invested the place were much more imaginary than real. By 8.40 we found ourselves at the cottage which stands by the path at a short distance from the corner overlooking the valley of the hot springs of Shirahone and here we halted for breakfast, whilst at the same time, in anticipation of a certain Blondin-like feat which I knew awaited me I changed my shoes for *waraji* (straw sandals), and thus fortified and refreshed plunged once more into the dense thicket through which the pathway leads down to the Adzusagawa. In half an hour we were at the bend of that stream where its rushing green waters are crossed by long thin pine-poles, tied in pairs with a looseness which gives them a most alarming elasticity, and makes the passage one not unlike the sensational performances of the acrobat of the slack wire. The beginning of the journey across is easy enough, for there the thing is fairly firm, and also, as the farther end is neared, one gains confidence enough to make a frantic dash and finish up with a wild leap that lands one on solid ground. But it is the middle portion that gives the most nervous work and tends to disturb one's mental equilibrium to such an extent that the loss of bodily balance is only avoided by the exercise of exceptional care. For the swaying of the insecure structure, whose weather-polished poles were now rendered unusually slippery through the rain, together with the swift rushing of the swirling eddying waters below, makes it imperative that the imagination should be subdued to the will if the crossing is to be effected with a dry skin. On a former occasion I had painfully realised the disadvantage of hobnailed boots in this very situation, and it is for that reason that I now resorted to the use of the *waraji* already mentioned. Once over this Alsirat like span of 50 or 60 feet, all is quite easy, though after winding round the base of an intervening spur and crossing a smaller stream on the right, a stiff ascent has to be faced before the top of the Hinoki toge is surmounted. From the huts on the summit of the pass, much improved in respect of their resources since a twelvemonth ago, when the withered old dame in charge could dispense no greater luxuries than dried peas, a fine view eastwards is gained, and it now looks as if the weather is really going to clear. One more short descent, then another little tug up an intervening ridge, and soon I am on the top of the steep, almost precipitous, declivity on which the cottages of Onogawa are perched, and with delightful anticipations of a warm welcome at the inn whose hospitality last year was so agreeable, I hurry down as hard as I can to greet my former hosts, and to make without delay the necessary arrangements for getting fresh coolies for the remaining part of the journey on to Hashiba (Shimajima). When here last summer we found the master of the house was ill, and when my companion's therapeutic powers were brought to bear upon his ailments, gratitude of both the patient and his wife knew no bounds. So it was with the feeling that now I should have a reception of an unusual kind, that I stepped into the house and sat down on the edge of the mats preparatory to taking off my *waraji* and making myself comfortable for my mid-day halt. It was indeed an unusual reception—for, whilst I was met with the announcement that the host was away, neither his wife nor his mother-in-law would have anything to do with me, at least that was what their reception of me implied! I was completely thunderstruck, and tried to explain the circumstances of my former visit with a view to melting the icy coldness of this greeting, but all was unavailing. The wife herself, was too much engrossed with the attentions of two gay young sparks who seemed to be making themselves very agreeable in the room where we had a year ago found rest and refreshment, and the old lady showed not the slightest willingness to even enter into a discussion of the merits of my case. It was with a feeling of intense disappointment that I turned slowly away from the door of the house to retrace my steps to the inn I had passed higher up the village, for the shock to one's feelings, trifling as the incident may seem, was by no means light, and this rebuff will always remain in my recollection, in vivid contrast with the simple but sincere recognition of a passing attempt to help on the part of the rustic I had met on the sultry slopes of Tōno sawa a fortnight before. At the hostel of Akuta Kiichi, however, I fared better, and there a warm welcome, with a hot bath followed by a substantial lunch, served to take off the edge of the disappointment. During the course of the meal the coolies arrived with my baggage, and as there seemed little prospect of getting a fresh couple at this time of the day, I endeavoured to induce them to come on with me right through. The older man, however, declined on the score of increasing age and bodily weakness, but to my delight the younger one agreed to my proposal, and not only shouldered the pack he had already carried but took up the other's share as well. As the remainder of the way was nearly all level, the most difficult part of the day's work was now done, there being only 5 *ri* more to traverse before Hashiba was reached, and plenty of daylight still remained for its accomplishment. After a change of clothing and a rest of an hour and a half, we found ourselves, at 1 o'clock, once more on the move, and with light hearts, in spite of heavy loads, strode out gaily down the grand gorge of the Maye-gawa and soon reached the point of its junction with the more important river, the Adzusagawa, whose volume it helps to swell. The beauty of the walk, which last summer was one of the most enjoyable of my expedition, was this time much marred by the threatening, and ultimately pouring, rain, although even this failed to entirely rob it of its charm. The road in some parts I found had been much improved since then, whilst in others it had been almost swept away, and many a ticklish spot had to be negotiated with care to avoid an involuntary descent through the giving-away of the shaky logs, which had been laid on timbers projecting from the side of the ravine, and formed the only foundation of the narrow track as it wound its way around corners that would otherwise have been impassable. Here and there the inevitable landslip had done its work, and presented but an insecure footing as one had to make a way across the surface of its yielding mass. The first 10 miles, from Onogawa to Inekoki, were traversed in 2½ hours, the drenching showers making it undesirable to linger on the

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way, but now the rain began to leave off, and by the time my half-hour's rest at the latter place was over, things were looking much better, and the remaining 2⅜ miles to Hashiba were in this respect the pleasantest of the whole 30. It was just after 4.45 when I found myself standing once more under the hospitable roof of the Shimizuya, which, on more than one occasion, had already afforded me welcome entertainment and rest. On this occasion too, the attention of my hosts was all that could be desired, but unhappily that of the multitudinous fleas was infinitely more assiduous. Moreover, for the first time within my recollection, and indeed during the whole history of the inn, so I was told, the mosquito pest was most painfully in evidence. Before this year, the landlord said, they had never had any experience of that insect in Hashiba, and as a consequence I found the establishment totally unprovided with any means of defence in the shape of nets, but I was promised that on my return I should find one in readiness. It was a little puzzling to understand why the immunity from the worry should have been thus disturbed, and I failed to obtain any reasonable explanation, nor could I discover any appreciable change in the circumstances or surrounding of the little mountain village that threw light on the subject. Sometimes one finds oneself in a country village at a comparatively low level, where one is quite free from mosquitoes, as, for instance, I had found to be the case at Funatsu (1,540 feet); whilst again one may ascend one or two thousand feet and be very differently situated. So whilst the position, surrounding vegetation, etc., of one place may make it a more congenial spot for the mosquito's happy hunting-ground than another would be, it was odd to find that in the same locality, whose position and surroundings were perforce unaltered, the creature should make so unexpected an appearance as this.

The afternoon following my arrival at Hashiba saw me on the way to Matsumoto, in another steady downpour. At Onoda, about 1½ miles from Hashiba, I found a picturesque bridge had been newly built, and as the road has, in some parts, been improved, whilst neat cottages and tea-houses are rising here and there along its edges, it is likely that the increased traffic will soon bring *jinrikisha* more commonly into use than at present is the case. Crossing from the left to the right bank of the Adzusa-gawa by this bridge the road at length passes through an extensive forest of pines, the dense foliage of which, by its cool shade and fragrant scent, makes the walk on a hot summer's day a delightful experience, whilst on a wet one it affords a fair amount of shelter from the showers. The wide-spreading network of the interlacing roots, though, forms one of the chief drawbacks to *jinrikisha* traffic through the wood, and as for some distance the only alternative is an almost impossible tug over a long stretch of smooth stones, varying in size from a racquet-ball to a football, the path, except for the pedestrian, is rather trying. For this reason *jinrikisha* are seldom found on the road, excepting at Murasaki—the eastern edge of the forest—and Matsumoto.

A pleasant greeting, supplemented by most assiduous attention, awaited me on my arrival at the Shimanoya, from Sasai Motoji, my host of former years, and he appeared to enter into my plans for some new expeditions in the Japanese Alps, with the keenest interest. But whilst thus giving careful attention to my projects, he was no less eager that I should enter into his, the main thing about which was a scheme he had in view for building an hotel of the like that Matsumoto had never seen. This remarkable structure was to be no less than five storeys high, one section of it being set apart for the sole use of foreign visitors (of whom at present he has about three a year). Of this section, one of the rooms was to be in constant process of decoration with the photographs of all those guests who from time to time should pay a visit, while attached to each likeness was to be an autobiographical sketch, together with sundry other interesting items of information, as to their dwellings, occupations, nationalities, etc. The way in which my friend handled the topic was exceedingly interesting, but his habit of flitting about from one subject to another was somewhat confusing. In almost the same breath with which he had been expatiating upon the magnificence of this prospective structure, he suddenly came down from his flights of fancy to the realm of facts, and astonished me with the request for a loan of $25.

"But how are you going to build your five-storied hotel next year, if you have this year to ask me lend you twenty-five dollars?" I asked.

"Oh, that's all right," he replied "there'll be no difficulty in getting the money for it."

"But where is it coming from?"

"Oh I shall just ask a friend to lend it to me for a little while."

"But supposing your friend hasn't the money to lend?"

"Oh, *that* won't matter. I shall just get him to borrow it *from some one who has!*"

From which conversation it may be safely concluded that any foreign traveller who shall chance to meditate a visit to Matsumoto next year will scarcely be likely to find accomodation in the pagoda-like erection which my host's ambitious desires prompted him to plan. And in my own mind I shall henceforth not fail to locate in the same fair region both the Matsumoto "inn of five storeys" and the proverbial *Châteaux en Espagne*.

But he was an interesting individual, this volatile landlord of mine, and though I have never seen or heard more of certain magnificent presents, with promises of which he prefaced his information about the hotel and the request for the loan, there were matters in which he showed much readiness to assist the furtherance of my plans, both in giving me information about the mountains when he possessed it, and in running hither and thither to procure is elsewhere if he did not.

One of my main objects in revisiting Matsumoto was to make arrangements for the ascent of Jonendake, the fine triangular peak which stands almost due east of Igari-gatake, and constitutes one of the most striking features of the view of the Japanese Alps as seen from any point of vantage on their eastern side. My attention was first attracted by its symmetrical outlines when, towards the close of a clear summer afternoon two years ago, I found myself on the summit of the Hofukuji-toge, the principal pass which crosses a parallel range of mountains on the eastern boundary of the plain of Matsumoto. I was then making my way towards the great peaks for the first time, and then and there I felt my heart was lost to them, a true case of "love at first sight," happily destined not to diminish but to grow more ardent as closer acquaintance only served to discover fresh attractions. The view burst so suddenly and so unexpectedly upon our astonished gaze that it was hard to realize that it was in Japan at all, and not in a land whose mountain forms were far more majestic than those with which one usually associates the sunny slopes and rounded summits of the hills of the Land of the Rising Sun. How grand and solemn the silent waves of the dark peaks and ridges rose! "Range beyond range of swelling hill and iron rock, for ever to claim kindred with the firmament and be accompanied by the clouds of heaven." Truly the prospect will ever abide as one of the choicest possessions that memory holds.

A few days later, when near the summit of Yariga-take, a closer view of the shapely pyramid of Jônen dake greeted us, but no opportunity, either that year or the following, was presented for the ascent. This year, though, I hoped to find it feasible, and my hopes were raised high by the confident assurance of my Matsumoto landlord that he would be able to obtain me the help I needed for their fulfilment. Accordingly, during my sojourn under his roof, he posted off westwards to a village on the western outskirts of the plain, where he expected to be able to secure the services of a hunter who knew the way to the mountain and would be willing to pilot me thither. But alas for the fallacy of such hopes as mine! His return from the quest was but to bring the same old story as had already twice driven me back from Kasa-dake without even setting a foot on the mountain—the stream, which had to be crossed high up a rugged valley near the base of the peak, had been robbed by recent rains of its only bridge, and until this had been replaced no passage could be effected. Sasa, said he, had tried to induce the rustics at the village to build a temporary structure, offering to purchase the pine-poles of which it would be made as soon as our expedition was over, but all in vain. In a fortnight, they said, it would be all right, for a bridge would by then have been thrown across the broad torrent by the local powers that be, and there would be no difficulty. But my plans would not admit of so long a delay, and once again I was compelled to accept the inevitable, with the reflection that some subsequent traveller would have a treat in store indeed in the actual accomplishment of an expedition up the beautiful peak, which I had been only allowed to look on, to, long for, but not to approach.

Having very pleasant recollections of a visit last year to the luxurious baths of Asama-no-yu, a village situated a mile and a half to the north-east of Matsumoto, I again betook myself thither, but found to my regret that the spacious premises of the Ume-no-yu were closed, the landlord of the inn having failed. However, a pleasant alternative remained in the shape of another establishment designated, somewhat confusingly, as the "Nishi-yama-ya," and here I spent a few pleasant hours of *dolce far niente*, bathing and lunching, bathing again and afternoon tea-ing in agreeable alternation. A grand night's sleep (a not too frequent occurrence hitherto) and then a delightful Sunday's rest were more than enough to make one feel fit enough for the remaining item on my list of expeditions in this neighbourhood. Monday morning woke me to start back once more for Hashiba, on the way to the finest of all the great granite giants of the range.

When first I told Sasa of my plans he had readily volunteered to accompany me, but on Monday morning, just as I was finishing my packing and getting ready to go, he came to say he had received a letter telling of the death of a friend at whose funeral it was incumbent upon him to be present. Still, he said, it wouldn't matter, as he had been able to obtain a substitute who was not only an experienced climber, but who also had an intimate acquaintance with the mountains to which I was going. Moreover, he was an exceptionally estimable person who, for the sake of the friendship he bore to Sasa himself, would do all that lay in his power to render me assistance. Sasa had known him, he said, from childhood, and had the greatest regard for himself and respect for his ability. What Mr. Nakazawa's estimate of Sasa was, and how far the affection and esteem were reciprocated did not transpire until a few days later on. I felt fortunate in gaining so able an ally, and in spite of a falling barometer one's spirits rose as I once more traversed the broad stretch of plain and plunged into the shadows of the pine-forest that lay between Matsumoto and Hashiba, the latter place being my starting-point for the expedition on which, after two years' longing unfulfilled through lack of opportunity, I had at last managed to make a beginning. A journey of some four hours, including a rest of 45 minutes for lunch, took us to our destination, on arriving at which my companion forthwith went off in search of a hunter-friend of his who was likely to be the best person to apply to for help and guidance. The results of the interview I did not learn till the following morning, as I retired to *futon* at an early hour, conscious, however, that as night fell, and with it a steady rain and still lowering barometer, there would be little chance for the present of our being able to do much towards nearing our goal. The report I received on the morrow only confirmed my forebodings, particularly as the rain continued, and every hour the swift waters of the Adzusa-gawa rose higher and grew more turbulent as they hurried noisily by the rocky headland on which our inn was perched. Nakazawa told me that Kamonji, the hunter, would be unable to start to-day, as the fullness of the streams meant plenty of fish, and he could make more money by fishing than guiding, although even had he preferred to do the latter, the bad weather would have made it impossible.

On my asking whether Kamonji thought we could climb our peak, Nakazawa assured me that we could; in fact, only a fortnight before, he, in company with another hunter in the neighbourhood, had succeeded in piloting to its highest point an official of the War Department, who had been sent to carry out a survey of these still little known and rarely visited heights and valleys of the central portion of the Alps of Japan.

But all the same, Kamonji warned us that the ascent should only be made in fine weather, as the rocks were so steep that the climb would be unjustifiably risky should rain be falling at the time. Indeed, the official in question had himself had the narrowest escape of losing his life near the summit of the mountain, as at a difficult spot he made a false step which sent him flying a distance of sixty feet, bumping from rock to rock with a violence that made his survival a matter of marvel. As it was, he was terribly knocked about, although, strange to say, no bones were actually broken, and at the present time he was resting at a hut in an adjoining valley, having been carried down the mountain by the hunters who had led him to the top. It was the first time the loftiest point had been reached, Kamonji said, although a few hunters and others had at times made the ascent of subsidiary heights rising from the same great ridge.

From all this it seemed evident that one had an expedition of unusual interest in store, and as I was unwilling to risk failure through ill-considered haste, I determined to wait until the weather had sufficiently cleared to justify a move. As the rain continued to fall steadily most of the day there was little inducement to do much walking, though once or twice the weariness of staying in doors prompted me to don my mackintosh and sally forth to prowl about the ins and outs of the forlorn little village by way of variation. On one occasion I found myself in the courtyard, or rather garden, of a house of such spacious proportions as I could scarcely have believed to exist in the midst of such an insignificant

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collection of cottages as those of which Hashiba consists. On the mats, in the middle of a large, lofty room at the front, sat a weather-beaten trio of hunters engaged in making a net, whose delicate silken meshes, loaded at the extreme edges with fine cylinders of lead, were in contrast with the horny, wrinkled hands that so deftly wove them. The face of one of the men seemed, as I drew near the party, somewhat familiar, and turned out to be that of a young hunter I employed on my last expedition in these parts. So I was hospitably received, and treated with as much courtesy by these untutored peasants as if I had been an honoured guest in a Tokyo villa.

On my way back to the inn, I noticed a pair of child's *zori* (straw shoes) hanging above the door of a cottage, and on enquiring the object, was told they were put there to ward off the ills of childhood from the juvenile inmates of the house. A curious story was told me, during the day, to account for the origin of the name of the picturesque bridge which spans the Adzusa-gawa just above the point where it receives the stream which rises near the Tokugo-toge, and here flows in on its left bank. The bridge is called "Zosui-bashi" and dates from the time when Hashiba on the right and Shimajima on the left bank were much more separate and distinct villages than they can now be considered to be.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CHESS.

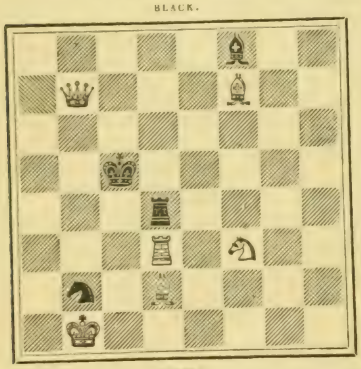
(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 86, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

PROBLEM No. 107.
BY DR. S. GOLD.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Local Chess affairs appear to be waking-up. In the Championship Contest of the Yokohama Chess Club the first round is finished, and the winners of the respective heats are Messrs. Schiff, Fardel, Balk, Pollak, Griffin, and Tennant.

The second round is now being played as under:

Schiff *versus* Griffin.
Fardel *versus* Pollak.
Balk *versus* Tennant.

The long-talked-of match between the Yokohama and Tokyo Chess Clubs is definitely fixed for Saturday next, the 3rd February, at the Hotel Metropole, Tokyo. Play from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., after which the teams dine together at the hospitable board of the Tokyo Chess Club. By mutual consent, Mr. R. A. Mowat, the President, of the Yokohama Chess Club, will act as umpire and adjudicator of unfinished games.

The following are the teams as at present arranged:—

TOKYO.	YOKOHAMA.
Cox.	Balk.
McGee.	Batavus.
Madeley.	Davieson.
Mason.	Fardel.
Mosthaf.	Kuhn.
Munzinger.	Mendelson.
Patton.	Pollak.
Pownall.	Schiff.
Walz.	Squier.
White.	Tennant.

It was expected that Mr. Griffin, the Secretary of the Yokohama Chess Club, would have been able to play for his Club: but his recent severe illness has put him out of the list of combatants on the present occasion.

There is nothing very new or startling in the latest home magazines. There seems to be a good chance of the great Lasker-Steinitz match being played at Havana. The Club there, with its habitual generosity, having offered the players great inducements to proceed thither.

We give below, from the *British Chess Magazine*, one of the games recently played in a contest for the Chess Championship of Australia, a young aspirant for honours, Mr. Crane, challenging the present champion, Mr. Wallace. The result of the contest was that Mr. Wallace easily held his ground and maintained his position as Champion. The game we give shows Mr. Crane at his best, and he probably has a future before him with care and further experience.

RUY LOPEZ.

NOTES BY JAMES MASON.

WHITE. Mr. Crane, Jun.	BLACK. Mr. Wallace.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to Q 3?
4—P to B 3	

The more energetic 4 P to Q 4 is justly preferred. White develops as in previous cases of this opening, apparently regardless of variation in the play of his antagonist.

	4—Kt to B 3
5—P to Q 3	5—P to K Kt 3
6—Q Kt to Q 2	6—B to Kt 2
7—Kt to B sq.	7—Castles
8—B to R 4	8—P to Q 4
9—Q to K 2	9—Kt to K sq.

..... This seems inadvisable, the chance of ..... P to K B 4 coming in soon with any good effect being small.

10—Kt to Kt 3	10—Q to Q 3
11—Castles	11—B to Q 2

..... Seriously obstructing the movements of the Queen, and the indirect cause of future trouble.

12—P takes P!	12—Q takes P
13—B to Kt 3	13—Q to Kt 4

..... The Queen should now go to R 4. She would not be very well placed there, of course: but retreat in the centre proves rather worse.

14—B to Q B 4	

To drive the Queen back to K 2. If now ..... Q to R 4 or R 5, the knight pawn would attack, with probable advantage to White.

	14—Q to B 4
15—Kt to K 4!	15—Q to K 2
16—B to K Kt 5	16—Kt to B 3

..... Interposing Bishop would be better. If then 17 Kt takes B, Kt takes Kt: 18 Kt to Q 2, Q to Q 3, and he might hope to escape numerical loss.

17—K Kt to Q 2	

White it seems must win something now, 17 ..... P to K R 3 giving up the pawn, appears to be Black's best resource.

	17—Kt to Q R 4

... . After this the piece cannot be saved, 17 ..... B to B 4 would be useless on account of 18 P to K Kt 4, &c. The move of ..... P to K R 3 is made too late.

18—Q to B 3	18—Kt takes B
19—P takes Kt	19—B to B 4
20—P to K Kt 4!	20—P to K R 3
21—B takes Kt	21—B takes B
22—P takes B	22—P to B 3
23—Q to R 3	23—K to R 2
24—K to R sq.	24—Q R to Q sq.
25—R to K Kt sq.	25—P to K Kt 4
26—Kt takes B ch.	26—Q takes Kt
27—Kt to K 4	27—Resigns.

..... Kt takes P ch., &c., cannot now be prevented. So far, this is the shortest game in the match, and the least well-played by Mr. Wallace.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL.")

London, January 20.

The Chamber of Deputies has adopted the Franco-Siamese Treaty.

London, January 21.

Jabez Balfour has been arrested in Argentina.

The House of Representatives of the United States has amended the Tariff Bill by abolishing the sugar bounties, the amendment to take effect immediately.

London, January 23.

Great indignation is felt in British military circles at Cairo in consequence of the Khedive's criticisms of the British officers and the troops, and a serious crisis is feared. The Earl of Rosebery has instructed Lord Cromer to request the Khedive to publicly praise the troops and dismiss the native Secretary for War, but the Khedive has so far declined to do so.

The financial crisis in Italy is becoming worse daily.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Nagasaki, January 22.

The Russian Volunteer steamer *Namboff* arrived at this port yesterday, bound to Vladivostock, with the usual cargo, but she will probably be compelled to remain until the spring, owing to the failure of the ice-breaking steamer *Silatch* to keep the port of Vladivostock open.

Nagasaki, January 24.

Word has reached this that the port of Vladivostock is open, and the volunteer steamer *Tarnboff* leaves for her destination on Friday.

[SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN DAILY MAIL."]
(FROM THE "NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS").

London, January 17.

The riots in Sicily continue, and it has been found necessary to despatch to the scene a reinforcement of 5,000 troops from Palermo. It is stated that the calling out of the reserves is the cause of the rioting in this province. At Massa a large number of anarchists paraded the streets and then attacked the barracks. The mob was dispersed by the military, several of the former being killed and wounded.

The Parish Councils Bill has been read a first time in the House of Lords.

There is much disorder in Leghorn, where the shops have been closed on account of the disturbances, which are believed to be part of the general movement which is being fomented by revolutionary plotters.

January 18.

A memorial has been issued by the Radicals which urges upon Sir William Harcourt the advisability of introducing a democratic Budget, raising the income-tax and certain duties by a graduated scale and freeing breakfast-table commodities. Sir William Harcourt has promised to consider the matter.

January 19.

A state of siege has been declared in the Provinces of Massa, Carrara, and other places in Northern Italy.

The Empress of Russia is suffering from influenza and fever.

January 20.

It is reported that France intends proposing the despatch of an expedition to Madagascar in order to impose a protectorate similar to the control existing at Tunis.

The Prussian Budget shows a deficit of seventy million marks, which will be covered by a new loan.

The French Government has appointed a Special Commission to examine and report upon the condition of the Navy.

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Osaka, Jan. 23, 2.40 p.m.

H.I.H. Prince Kitashirakawa, returned here yesterday from Hirakata, where he had been reviewing the troops under his command.

The Association of Farmers, Manufacturers, and Merchants was dissolved to-day.

Nagasaki, Jan. 23, 1.17 p.m.

Viscount Matsudaira, ex-Chief of the Shimabara clan, left for the capital yesterday.

Tsu, Jan. 23, 2.34 p.m.

Fire broke out at Matsusaka last night and destroyed eighteen houses.

Utsunomiya, Jan. 23, 1.12 p.m.

Mr. Hoshi Toru has left for Tokyo. Some fifty Radical *soshi* have entered the First Election District.

Kagoshima, Jan. 22.

The contest in the election of members of the Town Assembly between the business class and the *Dokuritsu* Club has ended in the victory of the former.

Osaka, January 23, 6.36 p.m.

The *Tokushima Nichi Nichi Shimbun* states that a letter despatched by Mr. Abe Okito, of Osaka, and received by Mr. Takechi Shoichi, of Tokushima, was opened before it reached the latter. He at once proceeded to interview the Director of the Post and Telegraph Office. The Director promised to return Mr. Takechi a satisfactory answer after due inquiry into the matter.

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Kagoshima, Jan. 24, 12.30 p.m.

About 2.50 this morning a destructive fire broke out in a house at Kinseicho, and by 7.30 a.m. Nakamashi, Higashisengoku-babacho, Yamanokuchi-babacho, and Yamashitacho were reduced to ashes. Five hundred and three houses were completely destroyed, besides eight godowns and twelve out-houses. Four men were burnt to death, and another was somewhat seriously injured.

Osaka, Jan. 24, 3 35 p.m.

Some electors of the Fifth District intend to nominate Mr. Seki Yoshiomi, ex-Governor of Tokushima, as their candidate.

Jan. 24, 3.08 p.m.

Viscount Matsudaira, ex-Chief of the Shimabara clan, accompanied by four attendants arrived at Kobe this morning. The party left for Tokyo by the 9.02 a.m. train from Sannomiya.

Sasayama, Tango, January 23.

A forest fire occurred on a Government estate at Hiokimura on the 22nd at 3 p.m., and burnt until 9 p.m., by which time great damage had been done.

Osaka, Jan. 25. 3.10 p.m.

A telegraphic message from the Korean Agency of the Osaka Mercantile Shipping Co., reached here yesterday, requesting the despatch of the *Shirakawa Maru*, which is arranged to leave to-morrow for Jinsen *vid* Fusan. This request is said to have been made in consequence of the recision of the Edict prohibiting the export of rice from Korea, which come into force on Chinese New Year's Day.

Kochi, January 25, 9 p.m.

The Headman and the Assistant Headman of Moroki, Agawa District, have been arrested on suspicion of embezzling official moneys.

Toyama, January 25, 3.45 p.m.

Messrs. Shimada Takayuki, Takebe Kibun, and Inagaki Shimesu have presented themselves as candidates in the general election.

Osaka, Jan. 25, 3.20 p.m.

A Disciplinary Court to examine the case of Mr. Seo Kan, an advocate of the Tokushima Bar, opens in the Osaka Court of Appeal tomorrow.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Jan. 26th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 28th.*
From America	per P. M. Co.	Monday, Feb. 5th.†
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Jan. 27th.‡
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, Feb. 1st.§
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Feb. 1st.‖
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 4th.¶
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Feb. 19th.

* *Gaelic* left San Francisco on January 9th. † *City of Peking* left San Francisco on January 18th. ‡ *Ancona* left Kobe on January 25th. § *Oceanic* left Hongkong on January 25th. ‖ *Empress of China* left Hongkong on January 24th. ¶ *Saphalien* (with French mail) left Hongkong on January 26th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Sunday, Jan. 28th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Jan. 28th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Jan. 30th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co	Friday, Feb. 2nd
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 3rd.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 3rd.
For Hongkong	per P. & O Co.	Saturday, Feb. 3rd.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 10th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 20th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 20th January,—Yokkaichi 19th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, J. Iwata, 20th January,—Hakodate 18th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 20th January,—Hongkong via ports 13th January, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 20th January,—Kobe 19th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 20th January,—Kobe 19th January, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 20th January,—Otaru viâ ports 16th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Meiji Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,010, Nakao Masakiyo, 21st January,—Kobe 20th January, Stores.—Lighthouse Department.

Océanien, French steamer, 2,127, Schmitz, 21st January,—Marseilles 10th December, Hongkong 13th January, Shanghai 17th, and Kobe 20th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 22nd January,—Vancouver, B.C., 8th January, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 22nd January,—Yokkaichi 21st January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, J. Jones, 22nd January,—Hakodate 20th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 22nd January,—Kobe 21st January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 23rd January,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 23rd January,—Nagasaki 19th January, Coal and General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, Shimadzu, 23rd January,—Hakodate 19th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 23rd January,—Yokkaichi 22nd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 23rd January,—Otaru viâ ports 19th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Keemun, British steamer, 1,985, Castle, 24th January,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 24th January,—Kobe 23rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 24th January,—Yokkaichi 23rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Telamon, British steamer, 1,555, 24th January,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Aglaia, German steamer, 1,666, Petersen, 25th January,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 25th January,—Otaru viâ ports 20th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 25th January,—Kobe 24th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, H. Walter, 26th January,—Hongkong 20th January, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, J. Iwata, 12th January,—Oginohama 26th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 26th January,—Shanghai and ports, 20th January, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 26th January,—Yokkaichi 25th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 26th January,—Kobe 25th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 26th January,—Hongkong 19th, Nagasaki 23rd, and Kobe 25th January, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Glenshiel, British steamer, 2,240, R. D. Jones, 20th January,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 20th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Irene, German steamer, 1,630, Schuder, 21st January,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 21st January,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 21st January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 21st January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, J. Iwata, 22nd January,—Oginohama, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lancaster (14), U.S. corvette, Captain McCormack, 22nd January,—New York.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 22nd January,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 22nd January,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, J. Jones, 23rd January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 23rd January,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, Shimadzu, 23rd January,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 23rd January,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Retriever, American schooner, 75, H. J. Snow, 24th January,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 24th January,—Moji, Light.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 24th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 24th January,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 24th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 25th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, Matsumoto, 25th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Maud S, British schooner, 97, R. E. McKeil, 26th January,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Capt.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—7 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *Peru*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Sewell and sister, and Mr. Neubert in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Hakodate viâ ports:—Messrs. J. W. Hall, K. Sui Tong, and Ushiyama in cabin and 30 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Océanien*, from Marseilles viâ ports:—Mr. Uchida, Mr. Nukurai, Mr. Taguchi, Rev. Domain, Mr. J. Rosenthal, Mr. Suzuki, Mr. Stein, Mr. Senchi Tsuta, Mr. Vernoux, Comte d'Hunolstein, Mr. Lafage de Michaux, Comte d'Hunolstein, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Gracey, Mr. Ullmann, Mr. Stone, Mr. Heinlein, Captain MacMillan, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Schlee, Mr. Sellier, Mr. Vendrelle, Mr. Yoshikawa, Mr. Saphiere, Mr. Bernard, and Mr. Darquet in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. and Mrs. Wilkes, Dr. and Mrs. Cross, Mr. P. C. Patton, Lieutenant Cammille Ricciardi, Colonel and Mrs. Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Lockhart, Miss Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. Mason, Rev. Syle Way, Mr. and Mrs. Blum, Mr. Stutchbury, Miss Marks, and Dr. Reiss in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—Messrs. Okada and Nakase in second class and 27 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mrs. Devine, Captain and Mrs. C. W. Crosby and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Tsunoda Touru, Mr. Watanabe Kumashiro, and Mr. Ikeda Naori in cabin; 5 passengers in second class, and 59 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—1 passenger in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 28 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. H. Hirata in cabin and 16 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Lo Tai Sang in second class and 19 Chinese and Arabs in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Wong Sin Chee, Wm. Laird, John Laird, S. Yanagi, and Captain James in cabin; Mr. Y. Uyeda in second class, and 121 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—1 passenger in second class and 22 passengers in steerage, and 299 emigrants for Hakodate.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Miss Daubirn, Staff-Surgeon and Mrs. Todd, Mr. and Mrs. Barbour, and Mr. W. E. Newham in cabin. Passengers booked to Yokohama who disembarked at Kobe: Miss H. S. Spicer and Miss Evans in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for

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Shanghai and ports:—Miss E. Swinney, Miss Murray, Miss Parmelee, Mrs. E. W. Geise, Mrs. J. Jones, Mrs. Horri, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Captain MacMillan, Captain James, Master James, Lieutenant H. H. Borroll, Messrs. R. Kirby, Marooka, T. Horii, and T. Tanaka in cabin; Messrs. Teramoto, M. Kitabara, and T. Aimoto in second class, and 32 passengers in steerege.

CARGOES.

Per American steamer *Peru*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	85	—	594	—	—	699
Hyogo	—	298	—	—	—	298
Yokohama	1,656	—	369	132	—	2,151
Hongkong	20	—	—	—	—	20
Total	1,755	298	963	132	—	3,148

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	434	—	434
Hongkong	—	59	—	59
Yokohama	—	508	—	508
Total	—	1,001	—	1,001

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $389,200.00.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain J. W. Ekstrand, reports:—Left Kobe the 19th January at noon; had moderate westerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 20th January at 4.25 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, Captain Sakai, reports:—Left Hakodate the 18th January at 8.45 a.m.; had moderate to fresh breeze and fine weather with following sea. Arrived at Ogi nohama the 19th at 8 a.m. and left again the same day at 3.43 p.m.; had moderate north-westerly breeze and fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 20th January at 5.40 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Higo Maru*, Captain J. Jones, reports:—Left Hakodate the 20th January at 6.30 a.m.; had light variable winds and calms, dense fog with snow; at 8 a.m. fog cleared off; light S.W. winds with thick snow, land obscured; at 1 p.m. strong westerly breeze with hard squalls, accompanied with dense snow, high sea, weather thick with snow; at 8 p.m. set in with fine, clear weather; on the 21st gentle to moderate N.W. breeze, weather fine and clear; at 10.15 a.m. passed Kinkasan; from Kinkasan to Inuboye, which was passed the 22nd at 3 a.m., experienced strong to moderate N.W. breeze, fresh sea, clear weather; from Inuboye had moderate to gentle N. to N.E. breeze, weather fine and clear; passing Noshima at 10.30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Sommer, reports:—Left Kobe the 21st January at 4 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather to Oshima; thence to Rock Island moderate north-westerly winds; thence to port moderate east-north-easterly winds. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd January at 7 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, Captain Nirei, reports:—Left Yokkaichi the 22nd January at 7.45 p.m.; had fine weather and strong breeze from north-west with heavy sea; passed Rock Island at 7.35 a.m. on the 23rd; thence to port fine weather and light north-easterly breeze and smooth sea. Arrived at Yokohama at 2.30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Pender, reports:—Left Hakodate the 16th January at 11.10 p.m.; had strong breeze with heavy snow squalls to Shirakami and heavy gale from N.W. with high sea to Otaru, arrived the 17th at 9 40 a.m., gale continued during ship's stay in port, with heavy snow. Left Otaru the 19th at 8 a.m.; had wind increasing to fierce gale, with terrific sea running, sweeping decks fore and aft; at noon barometer 29.59 and ship completely iced up; at 8 p.m. passed Okushiri; thence heavy squalls with snow and thick weather to Hakodate, arrived the 20th at 7.45 a.m. Left again the 21st at 8.25 a.m.; had strong N.W. winds and passing snow squalls to Kuro-saki, and fine weather to Ogimohama, arrived the 22nd at 7.10 a.m. Left again the same day at 4 p.m.; had fresh westerly winds with fine, clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 23rd January at 5 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Crichton, reports:—Left Otaru the 20th January at 5 p.m.; had moderate westerly winds and snow. Arrived at Hakodate the 21st at 3 p.m. and left the 23rd at 8.35 a.m.; had light W.S.W. winds and fine weather. Arrived at Ogimohama the 24th at 7.35 a.m. and left the same day at 4.20 p.m.; had light N.W. airs to Inuboye, which was passed at 5 a.m. on the 25th; thence to port moderate to fresh northerly and north-east gale and thick with rain. Arrived at Yokohama at 4.15 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, Captain Sakai, reports:—Left Kobe the 24th January at 12.20 p.m.; had gentle southerly breeze and cloudy weather till Oshima; thence moderate breeze and rainy weather till Omai-saki; thence wind shifted to east with heavy sea, and barometer falling down quickly. Arrived at Yokohama the 25th January at 9.35 p.m.

The German steamer *Nürnberg*, Captain Hugo Walter, reports:—Left Hongkong the 20th January at 5.21 a.m.; until Turnabout fresh E.N.E. to N.N.E. winds and rather rough sea; through the Eastern Sea had strong winds from N.E. to S.E. to E. with high choppy irregular sea and high easterly swell; on the coast of Japan up to Siwo Point stormy and squally from S.E. through south and west to north-west with a boisterous ranging sea and high north-easterly swell; thence to port stiff north-easterly to north-west moderate winds and rough sea, overcast sky, rainy and squally throughout the voyage. Arrived at Yokohama the 26th January at 8.45 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain E. W. Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 20th January at 9.30 a.m.; had fine weather and light north-easterly winds same continuing until arrival at Nagasaki the 21st at midnight and left the 22nd at 5 p.m.; had light northerly winds and fine, clear weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Kobe the 24th at 6 30 a.m. and left the 25th at noon; had light breeze and cloudy, rainy weather same continued until noon, when had fresh breeze and cloudy weather; evening had fresh N.N.W. gale with rough sea until the 26th at morning, when weather moderated some continuing cloudy to arrival at Yokohama the 26th January at 3 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, Captain Nirei, reports:—Left Yokkaichi the 25th January at 10.45 a.m.; had fine weather and strong north-westerly gale and heavy sea; passed Rock Island at 10.54 a.m. on the 26th; thence to port cloudy weather and strong north-easterly breeze. Arrived at Yokohama at 6 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Although there has not been a large business done in Imports during the past week, there has certainly been a marked improvement in the tone of the market. Neither Single nor Double Yarns have moved to any great extent, but demand has been fair—business being curtailed by the sharp fall in Exchange which prompted holders to raise their quotations. Shirtings have remained quiet but not without enquiry, while buyers have been found for Turkey Reds, Silk-faced Satins, and Victoria Lawns. Other Fancies are also enquired after, while in Woollens, Italian Cloths have started to move, and Mousselines give promise of participating in the general activity. Flannels are a shade cheaper, but other lines of Woollens are unchanged.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.30 to 2.80
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.40 to 3.15
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.55 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1 75 to 3 75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0 16 to 0 21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.40 to 8.75
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 3 inches	0.65 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.47½ to 1 57½
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1 62½ to 1.95
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.27½ to 2.67½
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2 85 to 3.10

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.25 to 0.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.20 to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.14 to 0.19½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0 60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0 70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb., per lb.	0.45 to 0 87½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 10/24, Ordinary	$36.50 to —
Nos. 16/24, Medium	37.00 to 37.50
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	37.50 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	— to —
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	37.50 to —
Nos. 28/32, Medium	37 75 to 38.25
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	38.50 to 39 75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	43.50 to 45 50
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 43 00
No. 42s, Two-fold	47.50 to 49.50
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Buyers show rather more inclination to operate, but the heavy fall in Exchange causes holders to raise their quotations and thus temporarily to stop business.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$4.30 to 4.40
Flat Bars, ½ inch	4 40 to 4.50
Round and square up to ½ inch	3.35 to 3.45
Iron Plates, assorted	3.45 to 3.55
Sheet Iron	4.55 to 4.70
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.00 to 9.20
Wire Nails, assorted	5.50 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.55 to 1.60

KEROSENE.

The market continues quiet with but little business doing. American Oil shows no change, but Russian is slightly firmer on account of the stock running low. No arrivals reported.

Chester	$1.82½ to 1.87
Comet	1.80 to 1.82½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.80 to 1.82½
Russian Moon	1.77½ to 1.80

SUGAR.

Demand for Browns has been well maintained, but no very great activity can be expected until the new crop comes on the market. Several contracts have been made for various grades "to arrive" at advanced rates, and any shipments that come to hand are quickly taken up at present quotations. Whites have fallen off in demand, and close rather easier for some grades.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Nom. $4.40 to 4.50
Brown Manila	5.35 to 5.45
Brown Daitong	4.75 to 4.80
Brown Canton	4.70 to 4.75
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.00
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last was issued on the 19th instant, since which date settlements on this market amount to 181 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 96 piculs; *Re-reels*, 39 piculs; *Kakeda*, 46 piculs. In addition to these figures direct shipments have been 124 bales, making the total export trade for the week about 300 piculs.

Since our last advices, business has still further fallen away, and the market displays no animation whatever. Prices for fine-sized *Filatures* have declined steadily, especially for the lower grades, while full sizes, although almost entirely neglected, do not show so great a reduction. This is doubtless owing to the fact that holders have a comparatively small stock of full sizes on hand, while fine sizes are plentiful. Also, during the week bad news has arrived from Europe, telling of heavy failures in Italian banking circles, which will probably place plenty of cheap silk on the market and stop any great demand for *Japans* for some little time; consequently, many of last week's purchases have only been finally accepted at heavily reduced prices, in some cases as much as $30, while other parcels have been rejected altogether.

Supplies continue to come in fairly steadily, so that during the week our stock has increased to 14,950 piculs.

Exchange rates fell heavily early in the week in sympathy with the London price of silver, and have remained steady at the lowest point touched, notwithstanding a partial recovery in the price of silver.

There have only been two shipping opportunities during the week. The P. & O. steamer *Verona* left on the 20th instant with 124 bales for Europe, while the American mail steamer *Peru*, on the 23rd instant, took 508 bales for the New York trade. These departures bring the present export figures up to 28,932 piculs, against 38,344 piculs last year and 34,589 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—Nothing done.

Filatures.—Again the week's business in this line has been almost exclusively confined to fine sizes, which have declined in price, owing to the reasons stated above. The top price paid during the week was $800 for a small parcel of *Choshinsha*, while a parcel of *Three Girl* chop fetched $765. *Inuyamasha* has been done at $750, with other grades in proportion.

Re-reels.—A parcel of *Maibash* (*Koseisha* chop) changed hands at $735, and other grades at proportionate rates.

Kakeda.—The purchases made during the week

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have been at reduced prices, *Daruma* having been done at $735 and *Asahi zuru* at $705, the latter being a fall of $30 on the previous week's quotation.

In other sorts, nothing to note.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	$810 to 820
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	810 to 820
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	790 to 800
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	790 to 800
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	740 to 750
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	710 to 720
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	730 to 740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	680 to 700
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	740 to 750
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	730 to 740
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	710 to 720
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	680 to 690
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	660 to 670
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	640 to 650
Kakedas—Extra	Nom. —
Kakedas—No. 1	730 to 740
Kakedas—No. 1½	700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 2	670 to 680
Kakedas—No. 2½	650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 3	630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom. —
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom. —
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 26th Jan., 1894.

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	16,153	14,238	12,330
America	11,957	23,420	21,442
Total { Bales	28,110	37,658	33,772
Total { Piculs	28,932	38,344	34,589
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	30,100	40,050	35,700
Stock, 26th Jan	14,950	5,800	14,100
Available supplies to date	45,050	45,850	49,800

WASTE SILK.

A fair amount of business has been done in this department, settlements amounting to 1,324 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 207 piculs; *Kibiso*, 1,117 piculs. No Waste has been exported direct during the week.

As will be seen from the above figures, demand has fallen off somewhat, owing principally to the discouraging news received from European consumers. Prices, however, show no change, and close firm at last week's quotations.

Arrivals have fallen short of sales by 600 piculs, so that our stock now stands at 17,100 piculs.

There has only been one shipping opportunity during the week, the English mail steamer *Verona* taking 182 bales for Europe. This departure makes the present export figures 15,367 piculs, against 26,605 piculs last year and 21,657 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Cocoons.—No purchases have been made by foreigners, but about 60 piculs have been taken up by native consumers.

Noshi.—The principal falling off in demand has been in this line, but prices are well maintained. A parcel of good *Filature* brought $145, while *Oshu* has been done at $140 and *Joshu* at $80.

Kibiso.—The bulk of the week's trade has been in this branch, and quite a brisk demand has been seen in the lower grades. Several parcels of *Filature* changed hands at $120, while prices ranging from $27 to $42 have been paid for various *Low Curlies*.

In other sorts, nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$150 to 160
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	140 to 145
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	130 to 135
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	140 to 150
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	125 to 135
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	70 to 75
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110 to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 26th Jan., 1894:—

	Season 1893-94. Piculs.	1892-93. Piculs.	1891-92. Piculs.
Waste Silk	12,136	23,915	19,562
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,690	2,095
	15,367	26,605	21,657
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	21,060	33,700	25,700
Stock, 26th Jan	17,100	7,600	11,200
Available supplies to date	38,160	41,300	36,900

Exchange experienced a sharp and sudden fall early in the week in sympathy with the London quotation for Silver. Although the latter has recovered somewhat, rates remain steady at the lowest points touched, which were:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/3⅛; Documents, 2/3⅜; 6m/s. Credits, 2/3¾. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $55; 4m/s. U.S. $56. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.90; 6m/s. fcs. 2.92.

Estimated Silk Stock, 26th Jan., 1894.

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	80	Cocoons	260
Filatures	8,380	Noshi-ito	8,100
Re-reels	4,490	Kibiso	8,260
Kakeda	1,900	Mawata	150
Oshu	50	Sundries	330
Taysaam Kinds	50		
Total piculs	14,950	Total piculs	17,100

TEA.

A rather better tone is apparent in the market. Operators seem to have been tempted by the late fall in Exchange to enter the market and pick up any desirable lots that may be left in the small stock now on offer.

	per picul.
Common	$12 to 13
Good Common	14 to 15
Medium	17 to 18
Good Medium	19 to 20
Fine	22 to 23
Finest, Choice, Choicest	Nominal.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has not recovered the smart drop experienced at the beginning of the week, but closes firm at rates.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/2⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/2⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/3⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/3⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/3⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2.81
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.90
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73½
On India—Bank sight	184
On India—Private 30 days' sight	187
On America—Bank Bills on demand	53⅛
On America—Private 30 days' sight	55
On America—Private 4 months' sight	56
On Germany—Bank sight	2.26
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.34
Bar Silver (London)	31

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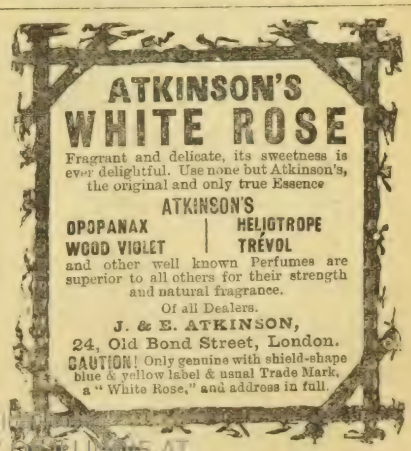
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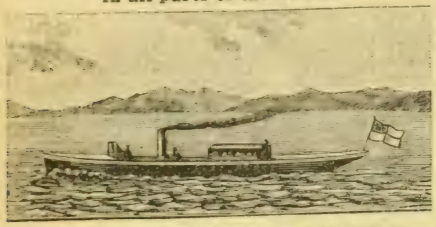
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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and cheques are made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 3RD, 1894.

BIRTH.

At No 46-c, Bluff, on the 29th ultimo, the wife of R. W. BORTHWICK of a Son—still-born.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

SOME false five-cent nickel coins are in circulation in Yokohama and district.

A FOREIGNER, who was suffering from small-pox, died in Nagasaki on the 28th ult.

THE Grand Hotel Directorate have declared a dividend of 6 per cent. for the past half-year.

MR. MATSUKATA SEISAKU, an Assistant in the Foreign Department, has been ordered to China.

MR. OI KENTARO, the anti-mixed residence agitator, will stand as a candidate for an Osaka district.

THE new premises of the Yokohama Fire Brigade were formally accepted by the Committee last week.

A MOMBAN'S lodge on the compound of Mr. Garfitt's house on the Bluff, was destroyed by fire on Monday last week.

INFLUENZA is increasing in severity in Yokohama, and catarrhal indisposition is being experienced by a large majority of residents.

THE *Yoshino Kan*, Japan's swiftest cruiser, arrived at Colombo on the 28th ult., and was to leave there on the 1st inst. for Singapore.

COL. N. W. McIVOR, the newly appointed U.S. Consul-General at Kanagawa, arrived on Saturday evening by the *Gaelic*. He was accompanied by his wife and two children. On the 1st inst. he took over charge of the office from Mr. W. D. Tillotson, the retiring Consul-General.

A KEROSENE lamp which exploded in the "Boatswain's Saloon," on Sunday evening, caused a fire, which was fortunately smothered ere it had proceeded very far.

AT the annual general meeting of Messrs. Langfeldt and Company, Limited, a dividend of 6 per cent. was declared, making 10 per cent. for the year.

A VERY extensive fire broke out in Yoshi-gawaro, Shinagawa, Tokyo, on the 28th ult., and before it was stayed 315 houses had been reduced to ashes.

THE last practice match at football, before the Interport match, took place on Wednesday, and resulted in a win for the selected Kobe team, after an uninteresting game.

MR. KANEKO KENTARO, Chief Secretary of the House of Peers, is gazetted Vice-Minister of the Agricultural and Commercial Department, in succession to Mr. Saito Shuichiro.

SOME fifty-three Chief Public Procurators of various Law Courts in the Empire, who recently assembled in the capital, were received in audience by the Emperor on the 27th ult.

SOME partisans of Mr Hoshi Toru, in the first election district of Tochigi Prefecture, are allowing their passions to get the better of their judgment, and several cases of assaults upon the opposite faction are reported from the locality.

THE annual meeting of members of the Nippon Race Club proved a very "breezy" affair, owing to the defalcations of the collecting shroff, who has appropriated to his own use over $700 of the Club's money. The Treasurer, Mr. E. Whittall, has resigned.

THE Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club's annual meeting on Tuesday last, was the largest on record, considerably over forty members attending. The Club has a big surplus in hand, and a part of it is to be devoted to improving the lighting and comfort of the Boat-house.

TSUBOI ZENSHIRO, a resident at Takasaki, Gumma Prefecture, threw a bomb into the residence of Kozawa Zembei at Myogi-mura, North Kaura District, during the night of the 23rd ult. Four inmates of the house were injured, one fatally. The miscreant has not yet been arrested.

MR. MATSUOKA, who formerly occupied the post of Chief Public Procurator of the Court of Cassation, and is a member of the Upper House, has been appointed Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs, in succession to Mr. Watanabe Chiaki, who has been nominated a member of the House of Peers.

IT has been resolved to throw open the Committee of the Victoria Public School to all nationalities in this community. Whether the school will be carried on or not after this year, remains for the community to decide, and the new committee will act in accordance with the wishes of the public, as expressed in the amount of support given to another appeal for subscriptions.

NINE persons were attacked by typhoid fever in Tokyo on the 28th and 29th ult., and Osaka reported ten typhoid fever cases and three deaths, forty-eight small-pox cases and eighteen deaths during the week ended the 28th, while there were fifty small-pox cases and seven deaths in Nagasaki during the week ended the 21st. Eighty-eight persons were affected by small-pox in Yamanashi during the week ended the 27th, of whom eighteen died.

THE Khedive has abandoned his ill-chosen position and praised the English and Egyptian officers of the Army, and also consented to transfer the native Minister of War to another post. It is stated that there is some danger of the Tariff Bill recently brought before the House of Representatives of the United States being sent back to the Committee, many of the Democrats resenting the decision to include the income-tax proposals. The Earl of Kimberley has recovered from his recent indisposition. Bismarck has been invited by the Emperor William to pay him a visit, and has consented to call on his Sovereign as soon as his health permits. A Decree has been issued by King Humbert which empowers the banks of Italy, Sicily, and Naples, to increase their note issues by 120,000,000 lire in order to meet the present run on the banks. Sir Gerald Portal, H.B.M.'s Special Commissioner to Uganda, is dead. The Emperor of Russia has been suffering from influenza accompanied by inflammation of the lungs and fever; he has, however, partially recovered. Corbett, the American, has defeated Mitchell, the Englishman, in the heavy-weight championship of the world. The Brazilian insurgent fleet, having fired upon American warships while they were convoying merchant vessels, were engaged by the Americans, and after a sharp encounter, the insurgents surrendered, being completely defeated. This is expected to put an end to the revolt.

THE Import trade has been small, not from want of buyers, who are anxious for business and have been making enquiries in all directions, but holders have put up prices to an extent that has entirely choked off purchasers for the time being. Consequently but little has been done in Yarns and Piece-goods, and not a great deal in Fancy Cottons. Certain lines of Woollens, however, have been taken in moderate quantities, and still more business might have been done if parties could come to terms. The firmness of holders has also told against operations in the Metal market, and with the present condition of exchange matters do not appear capable of immediate amendment. The Kerosene trade is quiet, and buyers are apparently waiting for a decline, and notwithstanding the arrival of cargoes of both American and Russian Oil, holders remain firm and prices show no sign of reduction. In the Sugar market Manila Browns have been fairly brisk, while White sorts have been rather quiet. New crop Formosa is shortly expected, but the greater part of these earlier cargoes to arrive have been sold "floating." There has not been much done in Silk, and prices have undergone no great change, the value of parcels suitable for the American market having been fully maintained, while fine sizes could have been obtained on slightly easier terms, but the bids from Lyons have not been taken to any extent, and the stock is still a heavy one. Reeling having ceased in the colder districts, supplies must fall off till the spring weather permits a resumption of operations, and if business can be done in the meantime a reduction of the stock accomplished. The Waste Silk trade has been less than 100 piculs. Buyers want concessions, and holders are stiff, the heavy business of a fortnight back having been followed by the hardening of rates all round. There has been a little done in the Tea trade. After holding out for some weeks, the owners of leaf have made such reductions as induced buyers to operate, and the total settlements for the season have risen to within a thousand piculs of those of last year at same date. Exchange has slightly declined.

INTERNET ARCHIVE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Rumours continue to be circulated, though to less extent than formerly, concerning further changes in the *personnel* of the Ministry. Some papers have revived the report that Mr. Mutsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is disposed to give up his portfolio. It is also stated that a growing coldness between the Minister President and the Minister of Home Affairs theatens to split up the Cabinet. Need it be again repeated that no foundation whatever exists for these rumours; the class of papers in which they are published clearly shows that their disseminators have a direct interest in discrediting the Government in public estimation. It is also noteworthy that there is an increasing tendency among the more respectable papers—even those belonging to the Opposition—to attach little importance to idle talk of the above kind.

* * *

Touching the position of the present Ministry, not a week passes but one journal or another gives expression to the feeling of impatience entertained by the rising generation at the continued exercise of power by the older statesmen of the era. During the present week it has been the *Shin Choya Shimbun's* turn to discuss the subject. The so-called "meritorious servants of the State" (*Gen-kun*), says our contemporary, have tampered sufficiently with the administration. For such work they are not provided with sufficient knowledge and experience, and their trial under the new régime has thus far been a complete failure. Taking the last Diet by way of illustration, the *Shin Choya* observes that the "all-talents Cabinet" showed itself utterly incapable of constitutional government by the erroneous steps it took on the questions of official discipline, the *Chishima Ravenna* case, and Treaty Enforcement. Why did not the Ministers manfully stand up in the Diet and defend themselves when these questions were brought up for discussion? The elder statesmen now in power may think that to surrender the reins of government to younger men would be going from bad to worse. But they are reminded that among the politicians of the rising generation, there are plenty of men more capable than themselves of conducting the Administration on constitutional principles. They are, therefore, assured that the sooner they resign in favour of younger men, the better it will be for their own sake and the sake of the country.

* * *

The *Kokkai* is more fair in its method of denouncing the Cabinet's incapacity, for at the same time it does not spare the irrational conduct of the Opposition politicians. Indeed it deplores the signs of degeneration visible on every side. If the statesmen in power have shown themselves incapable of elevating the prestige of the country by pursuing a resolute and far-seeing policy, the politicians of the Opposition have proved themselves no less blind to the true interests of the country by wasting their energies in fruitless conflicts with the Government over petty questions of the domestic politics. Not only in the field of politics but in every other department of national life, does our contemporary profess to find unmistakable signs of stagnation and degeneration. The *Kokkai* thinks that the national life of the people is now at its lowest ebb. What is to be done to cure the malady? Nothing short of a foreign complication can rescue the nation from the blight with which it is now afflicted. The Japanese will rouse themselves from their fatal stupor when they see a hostile fleet in the Bay of Tokyo or when they hear the thunder of cannon borne over the waters of the Japan Sea. Our contemporary has no doubt that a statesman really desirous of applying such a remedy to the national malady, can scarcely fail to find a suitable opportunity. The planting of a Japanese flag on some of the South Sea Islands, a fight with China over the Korean question, a conflict with Russia on the Sea of Japan—any of these events would suffice for the purpose. Unless the national spirit is thoroughly roused by some such method, the *Kokkai* sees no hope for any real improvement, not only in politics, but in commerce, industry, literature, and arts.

* * *

The speeches which the Minister President and the Minister of Home Affairs addressed to local authorities lately assembled in Tokyo, have, upon the whole, met with warm approval from the metropolitan papers. But the Premier's remark that the State is above the Constitution has provoked unfavourable criticisms from the Progressionist organs. They fail to see that any necessity existed for such a remark to local Governors, in connection with the subject of elections. Neither do they understand what meaning Count Ito wishes to have attached to his singular assertion. They affirm that he has made to local authorities a declaration which may be the cause of serious misunderstanding on their part in connection with the rôle they are to play at the coming elections. If any unconstitutional actions should be taken by them, the Progressionist organs warn the Premier that the blame must be laid on his own shoulders.

* * *

The date of the elections has been fixed for the 1st of March. The Opposition papers, especially those belonging to the Progressionist Party, blame the Government for not having chosen an earlier date. The *Hochi Shimbun*, for instance, charges the Government with indifference to the people's sufferings. For had it been so disposed, it might have issued the Imperial Ordinance for the elections immediately after the dissolution and secured the convocation of the new Diet in less than three months. The 45th Article of the Constitution provides that "the new House shall be convoked within five months from the day of dissolution;" but that is the maximum period, and the *Hochi* thinks that it was the duty of the Government to shorten the interval as much as possible. The order for the new elections has to be issued at least thirty days previous to the day of polling, while the order of convocation must be issued forty days beforehand. Thus, even allowing a few weeks for the settlement of disputes arising out of elections, the new House could easily have been convoked within 90 or 100 days from the day of dissolution. Had such a course been taken by the Government, it would have been possible not only to save the people much of the unnecessary expense connected with the elections, but also to give relief to the sufferers from inundations in Okayama and seven other localities without resorting, as the Government is supposed to contemplate resorting, to the doubtful course of granting aid to those localities by the issue of an Urgency Ordinance.

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As to the questions about which the coming elections are to be fought, the *Hochi* warns the Opposition candidates against dissipating their energy over too wide a range of topics. In our contemporary's opinion, the question of the question of the most pressing importance is that the Cabinet has dissolved the House of Representatives without assigning any reason. Such a course on the part of the Government is declared to be unconstitutional, and a Cabinet capable of so daring a disregard of the Constitution is pronounced unfit to be entrusted with the conduct of the Administration. So the Progressionist organ advises its partisans to concentrate their attention upon this topic. If seems that our contemporary thus seeks to divert public attention from the question of Treaty Enforcement; for to do it justice, the *Hochi* is sincerely opposed to stirring up public prejudices on the subject of the treaties. But unfortunately this laudable attitude is not shared by the rest of the Progressionist organs, which, in appearance at least, do not care much about the possible danger of exciting anti-foreign sentiments among the people in general.

* * *

Many of the papers, as we have noticed in previous summaries, have called upon candidates and electors to abstain from all illegal practices in the coming contests. The *Jiji Shimpo* now states that it is of little use to offer such advice. The only practicable way of preventing the evils prevalent at elections is to strictly enforce the laws and regulations relating to the punishment of such evil practices. That is just the course which the Cabinet has openly declared its purpose of pursuing. Our contemporary evidently means to advise the Government to be as good as its word.

* * *

Writing on this subject, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that, although the Minister President of State has enjoined upon Local Authorities the importance of maintaining strict mutrality in coming elections, the injunction must not be interpreted as forbidding officials to exercise in their private capacity the right of the franchise. They will, therefore, be free to associate with other people and take all lawful steps for the election of candidates in whom they repose confidence. In the choice of their favourite candidates, they will not be under any obligation to receive instructions from their superiors. They are, however, expected to choose such candidates as may be favourable to the policy of the Government. They cannot relieve themselves of that plain obligation to the Government under which they hold office, and any failure to discharge such a moral duty ought, in the *Nichi Nichi's* opinion, to be punished with dismissal. But the Cabinet, on its part, owes it to its subordinates to let them know what policy it is pursuing. Unless clear statements are made public on this head, inferior officials will experience great difficulties in casting their votes in the coming elections. The Cabinet is, therefore, urgently advised to take an early opportunity of announcing the reasons why the last House of Representatives was dissolved. Our contemporary suggests that the Minister President of State and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, should, on a suitable opportunity, deliver speeches on the internal and foreign policy of the Government. Failing that desirable step, the Cabinet may publish the memorial which it presented to the Emperor when it advise His Majesty to order dissolution. "Why," asks the *Nichi Nichi*, "does the Cabinet still hesitate to take a step of such vital importance?"

* * *

The recent nomination of new members to the House of Peers has called forth some unfavourable comments on the part of the metropolitan papers. They are agreed in thinking that these nominations have been made by the Government for the purpose of recovering the influence which it has of late been losing in the Upper House. The *Kokkai* protests against the attempt which the Cabinet is thus supposed to have made for keeping the House of Peers subservient to it. Our contemporary does not agree with journals which, angry at the too-often rejection of popular measures in the Upper House, go to the extremity of calling for the latter's abolition altogether. But it heartily condemns the Upper House's inclination to make itself subservient to the Government's pleasure. The Upper House's proper rôle lies in keeping itself independent alike of the Government and of the House of Representatives, and the Government is rebuked for attempting to recover its influence in the Upper House by nominating to its life-membership men willing to act at its bidding.

* * *

The *Nippon* proposes amendments in the Imperial Ordinance concerning the House of Peers. The amendments are to reduce the maximum limit fixed for the number of Imperial nominees, and also to reduce the term of their service to seven years. As the Ordinance at present stands, one half of the House may be composed of Imperial nominees. The original object of the framers of the Ordinance might have been to secure the service of men of independent judgment and sterling worth, but, as it is, the nominated members are said to be in most cases servile instruments of those in power. Thus the desired independence of the Upper House is at present well

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nigh impossible. If it be impossible to effect both of the suggested changes at once, the *Nippon* hopes that at least either one of them may be adopted.

* * *

Writing on the subject of Treaty Revision, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that, there being no objection on the part of the people to the revision of the Treaties, the Government has already taken some steps for the solution of the problem. The suspension of negotiations under the régimes of Count Inouye and Count Okuma having been decided upon at the initiation of the Japanese Government, the past delay in the attainment of Japan's object cannot be made a reason for renunciation of the existing treaties. But should any Power refuse to agree to Japan's reasonable and just demands for revision on a footing of equality, the *Nichi Nichi* contends that Japan would then be justified in renouncing her treaty with the Power concerned. "What Japan demands," says our contemporary, "is simply to exercise equal rights with the Treaty Powers and to discharge equal obligations with them. To reject such a demand is to act contrary to justice, and it is but proper for Japan to renounce her treaties with such Powers as may choose to set justice at defiance. Should even a single Power decline to agree to Japan's demands for revision, the 'All-talents Cabinet,' we hope, will not hesitate to declare the abolition of the Treaty with such Power." Of course the Power thus dealt with by Japan will protest against the renunciation of the treaty. But if the nation be united, the *Nichi Nichi* has no fear about the result of such a protest. "The issue of negotiations for revision," says our contemporary in conclusion, "may bring about such a state of affairs (renunciation); and we, consequently, warn our countrymen to be ready for the contingency. Perhaps the day may not be distant, when the Japanese will be able to enter on a heroic career as a strong and enlightened Power in the East."

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The *Nippon* is glad that the above-mentioned journal has taken such a strong stand on the subject of Treaty Revision. Our contemporary states that the renunciation of the treaties is the ultimate object of the majority of those who are in favour of their strict enforcement. These people have not yet demanded renunciation, because they did not think that the Government was prepared to adopt such a resolute course. Does it indeed, asks the *Nippon*, endorse the courageous views of the *Nichi Nichi*? Our contemporary hopes that such may be the case.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

CURRENT TOPICS.

We stated in a recent issue that twenty-nine members of the Upper House had presented a memorial to the Cabinet on the subject of Treaty Enforcement. We now learn that instead of twenty-nine, the number of the signatories was thirty-seven. Their names are published in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the more noted being Prince Nijo, Prince Konoye, Count Shimazu, Viscount Nabeshima, Viscount Torio, Viscount Matsudaira, Viscount Soga, Viscount Tani, Baron Date, Viscount Ozawa, Baron Watanabe, Mr. Matsuoka Koki, Mr. Yasuba Yasukagu, Mr. Tomita Tetsunosuke, and so forth. According to the *Nichi Nichi*, these memorialists consider it a sign of progress that the foreign relations of the country have come to be discussed with real interest by the people in general. In their opinion, the conduct of the House of Representatives in seeking to pass a Representation on the subject of Treaty Enforcement, cannot be regarded as an attempt to place impediments in the path of the Government's enlightened and progressive policy, for the supporters of the Representation were really actuated by a patriotic desire to elevate the prestige of the country. The Cabinet is, therefore, blamed for having twice prorogued the Diet on that account, and especially for having dissolved the Lower House when it had just been prorogued a second time. "What has been done," says the document in conclusion, "cannot be undone. But a caution may be offered for future purposes. It is our sincere wish that Your Excellencies may so far condescend as to pay attention to what we have stated, and correcting your past errors, may so conduct yourselves in future as to justly deserve the confidence placed in you by His Majesty the Emperor." Concerning the contention that the Government is blameworthy for having ordered dissolution while the Diet was still under prorogation, the *Nichi Nichi* remarks that such a contention betrays ignorance of constitutional procedure, inasmuch as it is a common practice to order prorogation by way of prelude to dissolution.

* * *

The *Chu-o Shimbun* states that Viscount Tani is exerting himself to pursuade Count Okuma, Count Itagaki, and Viscount Shinagawa to accept life membership of the Upper House should the Emperor be pleased to nominate them to that position. As noticed in these columns some time ago, Viscount Tani and a few other Peers called on Count Ito and asked the Premier to exercise caution in advising the Emperor to nominate life members to the Upper House. A few days subsequently, several nominations were gazetted, and the names of these nominees have not given much satisfaction to Viscount Tani. Consequently, he again called on the Premier, and urged him to give the few seats now remaining at his disposal to men universally recognized as fit for the post. Asked who were thus universally recognized, he named Count Itagaki, Count Okuma, and Viscount Shinagawa. The Premier, while admitting the merits of these statesmen, expressed doubts as to their willingness to accept an offer of life membership. The Viscount then obtained the Minister President's assurance that he would advise the Emperor to nominate them should they be willing to serve, and thereafter he proceeded to sound the views of the three statesmen. The first person on whom he tried his power of pursuasion was Viscount Shinagawa. The visit was made last Sunday. Viscount Shinagawa is said to have declared that, though he was quiet willing to take a seat in the Upper House if he were elected by the Peers of his Order, he did not desire to be nominated to a life membership. He does not think it convenient for him as leader of a large Party in the Lower House to take a seat in the other Chamber. However, in view of the kindness of his visitor, he consented to consider well before coming to a decision. Viscount Tani is said to have next called on Count Okuma, but nothing is as yet known about the results of the interview.

* * *

It is reported that extensive changes of *personnel* are about to be introduced in the Vice-Ministerships of State. Mr. Watanabe of the Home Office, rumour says, will be succeeded by Mr. Suyematsu, Chief of the Legislative Bureau, while Mr. Makino, of the Department of Education, will be appointed a Governor. Rumour also states that a change will be made in the Vice-Ministership of Foreign Affairs. As to the Vice-Ministership of Agriculture and Commerce, the vacancy has not yet been filled. Various names are mentioned for the post, the most likely candidate being, in the *Nichi Nichi's* opinion, Mr. Yamanouchi, former Governor of Kagoshima. With regard to the Vice-Ministerships, in other Departments, the *Nichi Nichi* thinks that appointments will be made from among members of the House of Peers.

COUNT INOUYE AND LOCAL GOVERNORS

The following is the report published in the *Nichi Nichi* of the address which the Minister of State for Home Affairs delivered at the meeting of Local Governors in the Home Office on the 22nd ultimo:—

"The House of Representatives having been dissolved, a general election is to take place before long. The right of the franchise which the people enjoy in virtue of law requires for its proper exercise perfect freedom of action on the part of individual electors. The exercise of the franchise, therefore, does not warrant obstruction and interference on the part of other people. In the coming elections you must be strictly neutral, showing no partiality to any person or party, and enjoining the same attitude upon your subordinates, so that the latter may not abuse their official power. In discharging your duties, you are to be right and just in the application of the laws, and impartial in the conduct of affairs. In connection with the elections, you are desired, on the one hand, to exercise effective control over the administrative business connected with the voting and, on the other, to cause the police to properly discharge their duties. In order to discharge your own duties in a satisfactory manner, you will have, in the first place, to exercise proper supervision over the chairmen of election and the officials charged with the control of voting places. What is still more important is that clear and definite distinctions should be made between the duties of administrative control which you yourselves or your delegates have to discharge in person over the conduct of elections, and the duties assigned to the chairmen of election and the official charged with the management of voting places; between the duties of purely administrative control and those of police control; and between duties of police control and the functions of the chairman of election and officials charged with the management of voting places. Unless these points are duly considered, an election can never be properly conducted, neither can it be possible to effectively maintain the good order and tranquility of society. It is, therefore, my earnest wish that you will pay particular attention to the points I have now enumerated. As to details concerning the control of elections and the conduct of police business, I intend either to give you special instructions or to hold consultations with you relating to the Law of Election and the punitive regulations for elections. Such in brief are the matters which I desire particularly to bring to your notice in connection with the coming elections. I hope that you will carefully turn over in your mind what I have thus far told you, and will spare no pains to properly discharge your duties.

COUNT ITO AND LOCAL GOVERNORS.

On the 23rd ultimo, the Minister President of State invited to dinner at his official residence all the Local Governors then as embled in Tokyo, and addressed to them a speech, of which the following is a condensed report, published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*:—

"Gentlemen—I thank you for the pleasure of your company to-night. A general election being about to take place as the consequence of the dissolution of the House of Representatives, the Minister of Home Affairs has summoned you to the capital to give you some instructions on the matter. In availing myself of this opportunity to obtain your company at dinner, I had no idea of addressing you on a political subject. I wish, however, to speak a few words to you about the election. The approaching general election will be the third since the coming into operation of the Law of Election. Now, what I particularly hope and expect from you is that you will endeavour to secure the conduct of the elections in a smooth and satisfactory manner. It is my earnest desire that, in carrying out the Law of Election, you will strive to prevent useless inconvenience from being occasioned to the people under your care. It is also my wish that efforts should be taken for preventing waste of money at the election, the expenses of which have a tendency to increase each time. The lower orders may be delighted to participate in the excitement and merry making occasioned by elections. But it is a matter of serious consequence that candidates for seats in the Diet thus squander their property in increasing proportions at each election, thereby augmenting the number of impecunious politicians. In this respect, each succeeding election increases a danger of serious nature in local politics. That is the reason why I ask you to exert your endeavours for the gradual diminution of the cost of elections. The Law of Election having been in operation as yet only a short time, want of experience is of course unavoidable, and proper control has not perhaps been exercised over elections thus far. In the elections which are about to take place, it is my urgent wish that you should exercise such control in the most rigid and impartial manner. You are not expected to assist the return of the candidates of any particular party. I hope you will bear in mind that the Government does not rely upon any of the political parties. It has been remarked by some scholars that the State occupies a position higher than that of the Constitution, and similarly I wish you to remember that the primary activity of the

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State must not be impeded on account of the operation of the Constitution. On this subject the opinion of scholars is fixed, and I need not dwell on it any further. What I ask of you, gentlemen, is briefly this, that in the coming election you will use the utmost caution and care so that the good inhabitants under your jurisdiction may be spared annoyance, and that your respective localities may be exempt from disturbances. Gentlemen, let me express the pleasure I feel in having your company at table by drinking your very good health.

COUNT INOUYE AND LOCAL POLICE CHIEFS AND CAPTAINS OF GENDARMES.

THE Minister of State for Home Affairs, as already noticed in these columns, delivered an address at the meeting of Local Police Chiefs and Captains of Gendarmes convened in the Home Office on the 16th ultimo. Various erroneous reports of the speech have found their way into the press. But the following, taken from the *Nichi Nichi* of the 28th ultimo, is said to be the only trustworthy *resumé* :—

Local Chiefs of Police and Captains of Gendarmes—You have been very suddenly ordered to assemble in Tokyo, because it has been thought necessary to confer with you in connection with the coming elections, of which the date is to be fixed ere long. In your past experience, there must have been cases where you were troubled with doubt about the true purport of the provisions of the laws and regulations bearing upon elections. There must also have been cases where you were suddenly called upon to deal with perplexing incidents. In view of these circumstances, it has been thought necessary to hold consultation with you before hand. It being the Government's particular intention to maintain strict neutrality in the elections, you will bear this fact always in mind, and will strictly refrain from interfering with political matters. In the past elections, general as well as occasional, strife between the various parties has always keen very been. Especially was this the case in the general elections of 1892, when there were 25 persons killed, 88 severely wounded, and 300 slightly injured. In the present elections, too, competition will probably be very keen, and therefore, you are especially desired to be strictly neutral and to refrain from all interference with politics. You are enjoined neither to show partiality to any political party or personal friend, nor, in abuse of your official functions, to annoy the people by interfering too much with their private actions. On the contrary, you are expected to use the utmost caution, to observe the utmost propriety, and to exercise the utmost prudence and intelligence in the discharge of your duties, thereby maintaining the good order and tranquillity of society, and securing the free and impartial operation of the laws relating to elections. You are specially desire to protect the people and to assist Government in its intention of maintaining strict neutrality.

THE SILVER WEDDING OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS.

THE *Official Gazette* of the 27th ultimo announces that a celebration will be held in the Palace on the 9th of March to commemorate the silver wedding of the Emperor and Empress. This is the first time that a ceremony of the kind on Western lines has been held in Japan. A custom of a similar character, but arbitrarily observed, has existed in some of the houses of the upper classes, friends and relatives being invited to a congratulatory feast, twenty, thirty, or it might be forty years after the marriage of the head of the house. Such affairs, however, have never been subjected to any fixed rule, whereas the celebration to be held at the Palace in March is spoken of as Their Majesties, "silver wedding" (*ginkonshiki*), doubtless the first practical employment of the term in Japan. The example thus set by the Sovereign will certainly be followed by the nation, and silver and golden weddings will henceforth occupy a recognized place in the list of domestic festivals.

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The ceremony at the Palace on the 9th of March, in commemoration of the 25th year of married life of the Emperor and Empress, is to be on a grand scale, according to the *Chu-o Shimbun*. All the decorations will be silver or silvern. A Levee will be held in the forenoon after the same fashion as that on New Year's Day, and in the evening there will a party at which the Court musicians will perform and various forms of entertainment will be organized. It is also alleged that a present of money will be made to every Japanese of or over 90 years of age, and that a general amnesty will be proclaimed for political prisoners. Doubtless the city will be illuminated, and the nation will not be wanting in demonstrations of loyal rejoicing.

YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE.

THE new buildings of the Yokohama Fire Brigade Station, erected from designs by the foreman, Mr. N. Morgin, were formally accepted by the Committee on Friday. For some long time the Brigade's property has been most indifferently housed, but the state of the Committee's funds precluded any step being taken to better the accomodation. At the last yearly meeting of subscribers, however, an announcement was made by Mr. James Walter, one of the most enthusiastic and hard-working members of this public-spirited body, that the finances of the Committee at last allowed of new premises being built. Arrangements were consequently made, which have resulted in the present substantial, well-designed, but unpretentious station. The buildings are two-storeyed, with a frontage on Satsuma-cho of 67 feet and a depth of 26 feet. They are constructed of brick with stone dressings, the only ornamentation on the severely plain façade being two owls, the emblematic bird of the fireman; a helmeted head of a fireman, with the letters Y.F.B, above, and the Brigade's motto, "Semper Paratus"—Always Ready—underneath; and two allegorical groups of hatchets, burning torches, foul pikes, etc. The engine-house opens straight on to the street, by three sliding doors, and is 45 feet by 26 feet, of a height of 14 feet, and arches of 10 feet. Here are placed in readiness the brigade's engines, manuals, hose reels, and small Hegt's engines. On the left hand side is a wide space for extra gear and appliances, while a deep pit is sunk in the concrete floor for the purpose of affording every facility in the repairing of the engine boilers and steamers. Opening out from this room are the store-room and work-shop, and beyond them the watch-room. In the last room hangs a spirited drawing of a London Fire Brigade turn-out, one of the figures in which is a likeness of the Y.F B.'s Superintendent, Mr. Kipling, and by its side is a sketch from *Harper's* of a fire in a Japanese town and its manner of extinction. The watch-room opens into a passage which leads to the staircase giving access to the upper rooms, where are located the living apartments of Superintendent Kipling and Foreman Morgin. On the first landing is built a doorway opening straight into the engine-room, affording instant access to the steamers in case of a night-alarm. The upper rooms are well arranged and excellently lighted, and have telephonic communication from the look-out tower, together with two means of entrance and exit. The premises are well worthy of the Settlement, and reflect great credit on their designer and builder.

DEATH OF SIR GERALD PORTAL, C.B., K.C.M.G.

THE telegram which we published on Tuesday, containing the news of the death of Sir Gerald Portal, is untrue in one particular, as the last London papers announce his safe arrival in London about the middle of December, and as his name subsequently appeared in the list of guests staying with the Prince of Wales at Sandringham, he must then have been in fairly good health. But the rest of the telegram must, we fear, be only too true, and if that is so, not only has the British Diplomatic Service been deprived of one of its most successful and able members, one before whom there was a career of the highest promise, but the entire public service of England has sustained a loss which may be regarded as little short of a calamity. Sir Gerald Portal entered the Diplomatic Service in 1879, and was first employed at Rome. In 1882, he was transferred to Egypt, and was present at the bombardment of Alexandria, for which he received the war medal and Khedive's star. In 1887, he was appointed to proceed on a Mission to Abyssinia, and for his services on that occasion he subsequently received the distinction of a C.B. Since then he has been employed exclusively in Eastern Africa, and his services there, as Commissioner and Consul-General, were so highly appreciated that he received, at an exceptionally early age, the distinction of K.C.M G., and was subsequently chosen by Lord Rosebery, with the fullest approval of the press of all shades of politics in London, to proceed to Uganda for the purpose of reporting on the best means of dealing with that country. Difficulties had, it will be recollected, arisen there from the differences between French Roman Catholic and English Protestant missionaries, which had culminated in a state of actual war, and quarrels between Protestants and Catholics were, it was reported in England, being fought out in the very heart of Central Africa, with a bitterness that could only find a parallel in the streets of Balfast. The British East African Company had also made a vigorous attempt, and sunk a large capital in doing so, to occupy and administer the whole of the district lying betweeu Zanzibar and Victoria Nyanza, and at the time when the reports of religious war reached London, the Company had just declared their inability to continue their work under the limitations originally imposed on them. A large and influential party in England was strongly in favour of withdrawing from the country altogether and equally strongly opposed to the granting of any assistance whatsoever to the East African Company. But on our continuance in Uganda entirely depended the keeping open of the trade routes to Central Africa, with all their possible future contingencies, and the question appeared so important that it was one of the very first to come under the deliberation of the Gladstone Cabinet. The Cabinet was divided on the subject, but Lord Rosebery, supported by strong expressions of opinion from Protestants of all sects throughout the country, carried the day, and it was decided that steps should be taken to secure the hold we had already obtained. This was in November 1892. Sir Gerald Portal's appointment quickly followed, and in January of last year he started from Zanzibar, escorted by a fairly strong force, on his march of 700 miles up to Uganda. A long report by him was published in *The Times* in September last, and in November he again reached Zanzibar on the conclusion of his work. His untimely death may have been caused by the severity of the change of climate from that of Central Africa to that of England in mid-winter, but whatever the cause, it will be universally deplored.

THE NEW HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

AN estimate of the composition of the House of Representatives is published by the *Shin Choya* newspaper, a journal favourable to the Opposition rather than to the Government. In this forecast the various parties and coteries are distributed as follow :—

SUPPORTERS OF THE CABINET.

	Members.
The *Jiyu-to*	95
The *Inokaku gumi* (followers of Mr. Inouye Kokugoro)	5
The *Kishu-gumi* (direct followers of Mr. Mutsu)	5
The *Jitsugyo-ha* (business-men's party)	10
The *Kanmuchi-gumi* (followers of Mr. Kanmuchi Tomotsune)	5
The Moderate Section of the *Kokumin-to*	5
The Moderate Section of the *Seimu-chosa-jo*	15
Total	140

OPPONENTS OF THE CABINET.

The *Kaishin-to*	45
The *Doshi Seisha*	25
The *Domei-Seisha*	35
The Extremists of the *Kokumin-to*	30
The Extremists of the *Seimu-chosa-jo*	5
Total	140
Independents	20

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Commenting on this list, our Tokyo contemporary offers certain explanations. First, with regard to Mr. Kanmuchi's followers, it observes that, in view of the decided line taken by them in the session just closed, their inclusion among the Cabinet's supporters may be thought strange. But in point of fact Mr.

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Kanmuchi, from the time of his first appearance in the political arena, has had the closest possible relations with Mr. Mutsu, and it was not until the question of strict enforcement of the Treaties came upon the *tapis*, that he broke away momentarily from his normal alliance. In the second place, it is beyond doubt that a section of the *Kokumin Kyo-kai* were always favorable to the Government, and never, at the time of the Party's organization, contemplated the possibility of finding themselves in opposition. But when the leader of the Party and the great bulk of its rank and file raised their hands against the Government, the Moderates did not dare, or lacked moral strength, to swim against the stream. It is certain, however, that when—as is inevitable in the sequel of the coming elections—the *Kokumin Kyo-kai* dwindles into such insignificance as to lose its power of attraction, the Moderates in its ranks will return to their old affinities. Again, as to the Moderates of the *Seimu-chosa-jo*. It will be remembered that, in the last session of the Diet, the *Seimu-chosa-jo* formed a prominent and seemingly implacable fraction of the Opposition. But in its numbers were included some fifteen men originally members of the *Shiba Shukai jo*, which association was always found on the temperate side in the fourth session of the Diet. The radically changed action of these fifteen men in the fifth session, is attributed to the immediate influence of personal friends, and the supposition is that the Government will find no difficulty in recovering their temporarily alienated support. Finally, with regard to the Independents, the fact that they refrain from entering the ranks of any political party show plainly enough that their proclivities are pro-official, and a little skilful management ought to secure them for the Government.

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According to the above estimate, the Government may reasonably hope to obtain the support of a majority of the whole House next session. But one most important fact has to be noted on the threshold of any such forecast: it is, that the *Jiyu-to* cannot fairly be reckoned as supporters of the Cabinet. Between the *Jiyu-to* and the Government there stand always two partitions: one is reduction of official salaries; the other, reduction of the rate of the Land Tax. The two may indeed be regarded as one in the sense that they are more or less inter-dependent. The *Jiyu-to* seek to cut down official salaries in order to provide funds for lowering the Land Tax. But this connection not having been openly declared either in the Diet or on the platforms, and the two questions having been hitherto treated separately, it cannot be confidently concluded that a settlement of the one would neccessarily dispose of the other. At all events, so long as the two remain on the *tapis*, it is certain that at some stage of their relations the *Jiyu-to* and the Cabinet will be found in hopeless conflict. Further, we fail to appreciate the *rationale* of including among Government supporters the Kanmuchi coterie, which is known to be antagonistic on the very subject that must be placed in the forefront of the fight next session, namely, strict enforcement of the Treaties. In truth it seems to us that, if the *Shin-Choya's* distribution of parties be correct, the Government will not have more than 35 or 40 uniform supporters in the next House of Representatives.

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Perhaps the most interesting features of the *Shin-Choya's* estimate are that it predicts virtual disintegration for the *Kokumin Kyokai*, that it does not anticipate any increment of *Kaishin-to* strength, and that it expects the *Jiyu-to* to make considerable gains. The *Jiyu-to*, at the commencement of last session, mustered 95, of which total 20 seceded in connection with the Hoshi Toru affair, and formed the *Doshi* Club. The *Shin-Choya* anticipates that the *Jiyu-to* proper will win 20 seats in lieu of these recalcitrants, thus recovering its original strength of 95, and that the *Doshi* Club will gain an accession of 5, the aggregate Radical increment being thus 25. For the *Domei* Club, also now numbering 25, an addition of 10 is foretold, our contemporary's idea being that the 35 seats thus won by the *Jiyu-to*, the *Doshi* Club, and the *Domei* Club, will be lost by the *Kokumin Kyo kai*, which Party will consequently dwindle from its present strength of 70 to 35. But it is all conjecture.

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An estimate published by the *Kokkai* on the 3rd of this month differed essentially from the above. It assigned the following members to the various parties in the new House:—*Jiyu-to*, 70; *Kaishin-to*, 50; *Kokumin Kyokai*, 50; *Domei* Club, 30; *Doshi* Club, 25; *Seimu Chosa-jo*, 20; Eastern Radicals, 5; Independent, 50 Of the two forecasts, that of the *Shin-Choya* seems the more closely reasoned.

THE SUNG PU MURDERS.

An impression prevails in Shanghai that the only satisfaction obtained by Consul-General Bock for the assassination of his two countrymen at Sung pu is a pecuniary solatium. That does not tally with our information. We were recently assured from a source that should be unquestionable, that the execution of two of the rioters—the ringleaders—had been agreed to. There is, as yet, nothing definite to disprove our version. The accused are still in prison and their ultimate fate is not known. Nevertheless, a great many persons seem convinced that really substantial justice will be evaded. On the strength of that belief, the leading residents of Hankow have addressed the following letter to the Foreign Representatives in Peking, under date January 2nd:—

May it please your Excellencies,

We the undersigned, members of various nationalities residing in the district of Hankow, regard with much apprehension the fact that, although six months have now passed since the deplorable Sung-pu massacre, there has been no adequate enquiry made in regard to it; nor, as can be ascertained, have the guilty been brought to justice. We are strongly of opinion that a thorough enquiry into this case would not only throw a flood of light on the long series of anti-foreign outrages, from which so many have suffered during recent years, but also greatly help to bring them to an end; while, on the other hand should the matter be allowed to drop without justice being done, we have much reason to fear the disturbances will continue.

We are also exceedingly grieved to know that a number of innocent natives have been made to suffer so seriously in connection with this case. Many of them have been driven from their homes, and have lost all they possessed, through no fault of theirs, but simply and solely because they happened to be associated with foreigners at that place. We feel assured that the righting of their wrongs would do much to prevent the like from happening another time, and we desire by this petition to show our sympathy with them, and how earnestly we hope that a party which has recently left for Peking, to lay their case before the higher authorities, may meet with success.

We do not presume to dictate to Your Excellencies in any way, but respectfully venture to bring these matters to your notice, in the hope that, through the deep interest you take in all that concerns the mutual welfare of foreigners and natives, and the powerful influence you can bring to bear, it may be possible to have something done.

THE YOKOHAMA-BOMBAY SERVICE.

"The various means," writes the *Hochi Shimbun*, "resorted to by the Peninsular and Oriental Company to impede and bring about the abandonment of the steamship service to Bombay started by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have simply produced the opposite effect. The Union of Japanese Spinners has now resolved to go hand-in-hand with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and to stand stoutly to its guns as originally stipulated. This attitude on the part of the Company and the Spinners has evoked corresponding enthusiasm in Bombay, where Mr. Tata, the spinners' agent, is reported as having resolved to apply two steamers to the service, one of which left Singapore on the 21st instant for Yokohama. The Yusen Kaisha's original arrangement was that four steamers should be placed on the line, but this activity on the part of the Bombay agent modifies the situation, and it is believed that for the present two vessels only, the *Hiroshima Maru* and the *Miike Maru* will be employed. The former vessel having lately returned from her maiden voyage to Bombay, the principal officers of the Yusen Kaisha met on the 22nd instant to hear the report which the Captain and Supercargo had to give about the proceedings of the Peninsular and Oriental Company in respect of the competition. The information obtained tallies with that previously given in these columns. After the Captain and Supercargo had stated their views, the officers of the Company are said to have decided that, under the present aspect of affairs, it is essential not only that the Union of Spinners should back the Yusen Kaisha to the utmost, but also that the Government and the public should pay due attention to the affair, inasmuch as its international character fully merits notice at their hands."

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Despite the *Hochi Shimbun's* information, we take leave to doubt whether the international element of this competition received any prominence in the resolution adopted by the officers of the Japanese Company. That the competing vessels belong to different nations is a mere accident. If there is to be a fight, it had better be confined to purely business lines. International feeling should have nothing to do with it.

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

An Imperial Rescript issued on Monday fixes the date for the General Elections on March 1st. The original supposition of the public was that the 20th of February would be the day chosen, but consideration for the convenience of electors and for facilities of communication induced the Government to decide upon a postponement of a week. In the northern parts of the empire it is often a matter of great difficulty to move from place to place during the month of February. Doubtless for the sake of the people inhabiting those less clement districts a date even later than that now announced would have been more suitable. But other questions also have to be considered, and, on the whole, the time appointed is probably the best.

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According to the Law of the Houses, the proclamation convening the Diet must be issued at least forty days before the date of convention, and according to the Constitution, when the Diet rises in consequence of dissolution of the House of Representatives, it must be convoked again within five months of the date of dissolution. Thus an inferior limit and a superior are fixed. Forty days from the 1st of March brings us to April 9th, the earliest date when the Diet could meet. Five months from December 29th—the day of dissolution—brings us to May 29th, the latest date when the Houses could be assembled. We imagine that the beginning of May will be selected as the most suitable time.

CURRENT GOSSIP.

Count Ito, Count Inouye, and Count Yamagata recently met at the Fujita-gumi's branch office in Tsukiji. This fact has given rise to various rumours. But we learn on good authority that the meeting had no political significance whatever, being merely a convivial gathering. That nothing requiring secrecy was discussed on the occasion is certain from the fact that there were present several outsiders, mostly literary men. It is not denied that political topics were introduced, and that some discussion took place, but as already stated, the conversation was friendly and informal. It is not true, as rumour alleges, that either Count Yamagata or Count Inouye was so overpowered with emotion in the course of a heated discussion as to shed tears.

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The *Niroku Shimpo* reports, with what truth it is scarcely necessary to examine, that the recent meeting of the three Counts was to consider the policy to be pursued at the time of the next general election. Count Yamagata, says our contemporary, was strongly in favour of interference, but Count Ito would not listen to such advice. The *Niroku* also goes on to observe that Count Ito's object is to forme neutral party out of the members returned for the new Diet. They are to be united on the

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Eastern Question, to the solution of which the Premier is resolved to devote his energy in concert with Count Goto. For this purpose Count Goto will be appointed Japanese Minister to China towards the end of March. This is the reason, says the *Niroku*, why Count Goto was so easily induced to give up the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce.

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Some members of the House of Peers, 29 in number, have presented a memorial to the Minister President on the subject of Treaty Enforcement. The principal peers among them are Prince Konoye, Viscount Tani, Viscount Torio, and so forth. They are in favour of Strict Enforcement. The incident in itself possesses little political significance, for a small section of the Upper House has always been understood to be in favour of the movement. The matter would not have attracted much public attention had not the Opposition papers announced it in an exaggerated manner. The *Hochi Shimbun*, for instance, declares the memorial to be a severe blow to the Cabinet. The evident object of our contemporary is twofold, namely, to obtain the goodwill of the Peers, and to discredit the Cabinet. It is reported that some ex-members of the Lower House asked to be allowed to subscribe their names to the memorial, but that they were refused by the Peers, who do not wish to work in common with political agitators.

STRIKE IN THE OSAKA SPINNING FACTORY.

A STRIKE took place on the 26th ultimo at the *Temma Boseki Kaisha* in Osaka. Out of a thousand hands employed, some two hundred took part in the strike. The trouble was not about wages: what the strikers wanted was that Mr. Kawa Seizaburo, the chief expert of the factory, and his two or three assistants should be dismissed. Their method of intimating their dissatisfaction with these experts was to assemble outside one of the workshops and exercise their lungs vehemently. Hearing this sudden shouting, the other workmen imagined that fire had broken out, and inasmuch as a vivid memory still existed of the terrible catastrophe that occurred in the same factory last year, a stampede was made to escape from the building, and in the struggle several persons were slightly injured. The police were speedily on the scene, and ordered the strikers to disperse, but though the order was obeyed temporarily, some of the men returned in the evening, having fortified themselves with liquor in the meanwhile, and by intimidation prevented their peaceably disposed fellow-workmen from entering the shops. Work had to be suspended at the factory for the night, but this victory cost the malcontents dear, as sixteen of their number were arrested by the police and locked up on a charge of unlawful intimidation.

MESSRS. SAMUEL SAMUEL AND CO. AND THE YOKOHAMA GUILDS.

THE long-protracted fight between Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co. and the Japanese Guilds is not yet concluded. We recently reported the fact that a watch had been posted by the Guilds in order to make their boycott effective. This watch was stationed in the street outside the firm's premises, and its duty was to intercept any Japanese who, by opening business relations with the foreign firm, violated the boycotting compact. In announcing this fact we expressed a very strong opinion as to the illegality of such action, and stated our conviction that it would never be sanctioned by the Authorities. We now learn from the News Agency that the Local Authorities have persistently set their face against the high-handed proceedings of the guilds. It is probable that preventive measures were adopted originally at the instigation of Her Britannic Majesty's Legation. Persuasion and argument were resorted to at first, the Chairman of the Guilds being summoned to the Prefectural Office, and advised to discontinue the stationing of a watch. Gentle counsels, however, having proved unavailing, the police made their appearance upon the scene, and warned the Guilds that the strong arm of the law would be put forth unless the Prefect's advice were quietly followed. Confronted by this prospect, the Guilds held a meeting on the 20th inst. to consider the situation. At first lofty notions seem to have been the order of the day. The worthy merchants failed to see why they should not place a guard in the street to restrain themselves, provided it did not at the same time inconvenience the public. But they ultimately resolved to entrust the matter to a Committee of twelve, and the Committee, after deliberation, decided that the watch should be discontinued. Of course there was no admission that this step was taken "on coercion." The Guilds amused themselves with the gentle fiction that the Minister of State for Home Affairs, the Prefect, and the police were negligible quantities, but that really as no member of the Guilds had ever attempted to go behind the boycott, it was a pity to disappoint the watch by keeping it in the street to no purpose. It will not matter a row of pins, we imagine, what salve the good people of the Guild employed to heal their dignity. The watch is gone, and that is all that was needed. We may note, *en passant*, that Japanese dealers in yarns have offered to mediate between the Guilds and the foreign firm. It is to be hoped that they will succeed.

JAPANESE CEMENT.

PROPRIETORS of the principal Japanese cement works, sensible of the serious blow that has been dealt to their enterprise by the failure of some of the blocks used in the Yokohama breakwaters, held a meeting in Osaka at the fall of last year to concert measures of improvement. They arrived, says the News Agency, at the conclusion that the best course to adopt would be to establish a union sales' office, where cements produced at different works would be graded according to their quality. This office would have a monopoly of cement sales, and as the various companies would merely send their produce there for disposal, an end would be put to the keen competition which is believed to be the primary cause of deterioration in the cements produced. Funds to meet current expenses, and also to furnish security in accepting contracts, would be obtained by each company paying 25 *sen* on each cask of cement produced. The total number of casks now produced is over 300,000 annually, so that ample capital would be provided by the above method. It seems to be thought that the scheme will very soon become a practical reality.

KOREAN NEWS.

LATER intelligence from Korea confirms what we have written as to the origin of the recent commotion in Song-do. The *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent, writing from Sōul on January 23rd, gives apparently trustworthy details, said to be based upon the report of Japanese policemen despatched to the scene of disturbance. Governor Li and his Lieutenant Kim, of Song-do, had been notorious for their merciless exactions and tyranny. Their extortions became intolerable, even to the patient Koreans. In the eleventh month of last year (Korean calendar), several of the richest inhabitants were thrown into prison on various pretexts, for the purpose of obtaining bribes, for their release—a practice commonly resorted to by local authorities in the peninsular Kingdom. The total amount demanded for the liberation of the prisoners was several hundreds of thousands of *ryo* (a *ryo* is equal to 25 cents.) The unhappy prisoners were told that unless they could get together the required sum, their ginseng fields should be confiscated. One of the incarcerated men, Kô Tosan, is said to have paid about seventy thousand *ryo*, but still failing to obtain his release, he attempted to end his miserable existence. In that, also, he failed. When these reports were noised abroad, the people of the district became excited and rose in insurrection against the local tyrants. The insurgents were under the leadership of public-spirited men (*otokodate*) of the place, and their number is said to have aggregated nearly thirty thousand. They forced their way into the local government buildings and fell upon all the officials they could find there, killing several and wounding many more. The Lieutenant Governor, informed of the impending danger in good time, had secretly fled to Sōul. But the Governor, less fortunate, was dragged from his house and beaten almost to death. The insurgents then went to the prison and liberated all confined there. Officials were at once despatched from the capital, but they could not do anything to restore order. It does not seem, however, that beyond the acts above described the insurgents resorted to any violence. They refused to return to their houses until guaranteed by the agents of the Central Government that the wrongs committed by the Governor should be redressed. The Lieutenant Governor was arrested in Sōul, and is said to be under criminal examination. As to the Governor, nothing is stated: he is perhaps too badly wounded to be brought up for examination. With regard to the Japanese who fled from Song-do on the outbreak of the disturbance, the policemen above referred to, found all their personal effects in safety. There is an impression among the Japanese in Sōul that their countrymen in Song-do left their personal effects behind with the object of bringing claims against the Korean Government, and the *Jiji's* correspondent animadverts upon their conduct in the severest terms.

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While the newly modelled educational institutions in Korea have come to a premature death one after another, the Japanese Language School is said to be in a prosperous condition. It is under the Korean Government, but moral support seems to be given by the Japanese Legation. Last December, Mr. Sugimura, Secretary of the Japanese Legation, bestowed rewards on students who had distinguished themselves at the term examinations. The new Consul, Mr. Uchida, is also said to evince an active interest in the prosperity of the school. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, from which we take these particulars, publishes letters written by the students to Mr. Sugimura, thanking him for the interest he has shown in their school and for the rewards he kindly distributed. These compositions are in the ordinary epistolary style common in Japan, and, notwithstanding occasional mistakes, must be counted wonderfully well-written, when we remember that their writers have not been in the school more than two years and a half at most. Besides the regular curriculum, the head Master, Mr. Nagashima, has established a special lecture course. The first lecture was delivered on the 13th of January, by Mr. Kikuchi Kenjo, on "the Difference between Oriental and Occidental Civilizations;" and the second was on the subject of "Sanitary Science," by Dr. Furujo. Apparently, this school is at present the only medium through which Korean youths come in contact with modern civilization.

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According to the *Kokkai*, the Government is said to be more and more opposed to the abolition of the prohibition on the export of rice. At first a large party in the Sōul Cabinet advocated yielding to the Japanese Minister's demands. But this faction is now said to have been over-ruled by another coterie, vehemently opposed to rescinding the prohibition. The members of the latter faction are said to be under the influence of General Le Gendre, who, writes the *Kokkai*, not content with instigating the Cabinet to resist Japan's demands, has addressed confidential circulars to the local authorities acquainting them with the state of things in the Sōul Cabinet and urging them to bring pressure to bear upon the Ministers of State for the continued enforcement of the prohibitory edict. Under such circumstances, even the Ministers who were at first favourably inclined towards the Japanese demands are stated to be now opposed to concession. The *Kokkai's* correspondent thinks that no ordinary course can induce the Korean Government to change its attitude. He consequently proposes that Japan should send five or six war vessels to Korea, and collect her naval strength in the Sea of Japan ready to take deci-

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sive steps at any moment. Unless some such method be adopted, he thinks it impossible for this empire to recover its prestige in the peninsular kingdom. His proposal is editorially approved by the *Kokkai*.

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The same journal states that the Government has received an important report from a Military officer in Korea. The fact has been kept a profound secret, but, says the *Kokkai*, it has gradually leaked out and considerable excitement is now said to prevail in Military circles. We (*Japan Mail*) are inclined to believe that our contemporary is misinformed, for whether or no such a report has been received, there is not the slightest excitement in Military circles, so far as we can discover.

FAILURE OF A CHINESE STEAMSHIP COMPANY IN KOREA.

THE *Yomiuri* newspaper, with pardonable exultation, describes the failure of the Chinese Steamship Company which, at one time, was expected to crush its Japanese rivals on the river between Söul and Chemulpo. The Chinese Company had long been talked of, but did not commence active operations until last autumn. It owned only one steamer, whereas its Japanese competitors had six boats, but the Chinese steamer, which cost 120,000 dollars, could have taken all the little Japanese craft into its hold without much difficulty. Probably it was because of the imposing dimensions of the steamer that it was expected to monopolize the trade of the river, but in point of fact its size proved its ruin, for in the first place it required a large crew, and in the second it drew too much water when filled with cargo to navigate the river conveniently. The prospects of the Company were excellent at the outset. In addition to a subsidy of 5,000 dollars yearly from China, it had also a contract with the Korean Government for the transport of 100,000 bales of rice from Chemulpo to Söul. Despite these advantages, a loss of 5,000 dollars was made on the working of the steamer for half a year, the result being that the Company was ignominiously wound-up and the steamer sold for 30,000 *yen*. Henceforth she is to have a Japanese crew and will carry tribute rice on the Chinese coast.

JAPANESE TEA.

THERE appears to be some reality in the much-talked-of movement for the improvement of Japanese tea. Mr. Otani Kahei, President of the Japan Tea Manufacturing Company, has been giving some information on the subject to a representative of the *Kokumin* newspaper. According to this information, Japanese tea-merchants have at length awoke to the fact that if their industry is to be developed, nay, even preserved, they must abandon the defective methods which have hitherto impaired the reputation of the product. In the Prefecture of Miye, the chief tea-producing district of Japan, the Local Assembly has voted a sum of 1,500 *yen* annually for three years commencing from the current year to be applied to the improvement of tea culture and preparation. It is not a large sum, but the fact that the assembly has voted it is significant. The formation of the *Kwanto Seicha-kai* on behalf of which Mr. Mayeda, ex-Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce has shown so much solicitude, must be mentioned in the same context. This Association is to commence operations on the 12th of next month, and is expected to exercise a very beneficial influence on the tea industy throughout the districts eastward of Hakone. Then we have the Japan Tea Manufacturing Joint Stock Company which aims at the direct export of the staple. The Company has not yet actually commenced operations, but its bye-laws being framed, and its preliminary arrangements completed, it will doubtless get to work at an early date. Direct export is an old fancy of the Japanese. It has always proved disastrous to those attempting it, and the tea business presents probably the most difficult field of all for such essays. Mr. Otani, however, declares that the Directors of the new Company are thoroughly alive to the difficulties of the task they have set themselves, and have made preparations of a complete character. It is to be hoped that he has reason for his words. The processes of re-firing and re-packing to which Japanese tea is subjected at the open ports constitute a tax with which it ought to be possible to dispense. But we have grave doubts whether the Japanese can effect this reform without foreign cöoperation.

PRO MIXED RESIDENCE PARTY.

A SOCIETY has been formed, under the name of *Naichi-zakkyo Hisei-kai*, to promote the cause of Mixed Residence. The statement of reasons that have led to the formation of this Society is brief and to the point. It says that although the advantages and disadvantages of Mixed Residence were long ago discussed and determined, there has nevertheless sprung into sudden existence a party of traitorous politicians who, under the pretence of proposing Mixed Residence, are in reality seeking to further their own selfish aims. The specious reasons advanced by these agitators have attracted to their camp a certain number of thoughtless or unintelligent persons, and if the movement be left unchecked, it may assume dimensions injurious to national interests. The society accordingly proposes to make the speedy consummation of Mixed Residence its prime purpose, to the end that Japan may gain admission to the comity of nations on a footing of equality. Beyond this there is nothing special to note about the society's programme, except that it intends to use all the resources of the pen and the platform in order to propagate its views; that it is to publish a journalistic organ; that it will have two great meetings every year, one in the spring, and one in the autumn, and one ordinary meeting every month; that each ordinary member is to subscribe a *yen* a month towards the expenditure, and that every lover of his country may be proposed for affiliation on the introduction of two members.

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We have always anticipated that the anti-Mixed-Residence movement would create its own antidote, and that out of the temporary distaste for things and persons foreign that has prevailed of late, there would spring a reaction tending ultimately to restore the old feeling of mutual sympathy and goodwill. Speaking practically, our idea was that in the next general elections there would be found for the first time politicians upon whom the exigencies of the situation would impose the necessity of openly advocating foreign intercourse. Something of that kind, as it seemed to us, was alone wanting to turn the tide. This pro-mixed-residence Society is a movement in the same sense, but a movement that we had not anticipated. It can scarcely fail to produce most useful effects.

REGULATIONS FOR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR STUDENTS.

BY Departmental Ordinance No. 1, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has just issued regulations for diplomatic and consular students sent abroad for purposes of linguistic studies. The languages specified are Chinese, Korean, Russian, and Spanish. The period of study is fixed at three years, subject to prolongation in the case of such students as may have been prevented from due application to their work by sickness or other unavoidable circumstances. Even before the expiration of the specified period of three years, such students as have made sufficient progress may be declared to have completed their course. While they prosecute their linguistic studies, they are to receive from the Government an annual allowance of 1,000 *yen* in European and 750 *yen* in Asiatic countries, besides travelling expenses to the particular places where they are ordered to prosecute their studies. On the completion of their course, they are to be appointed to clerkships in Legations or Consulates. The qualifications fixed for applicants for studentship are that they shall be not less than 18 and not more than 21 years of age, that they shall not have committed a crime or a delict punishable with hard labour, and that they shall not have been declared bankrupt or placed under liquidation, unless subsequently rehabilitated. Each applicant has to present to the Committee of Examination in the Department of Foreign Affairs a letter written in classical Chinese, in case the language to be studied is either Chinese or Korean, or in Russian, Spanish, English, or French, in case the tongue required is either Russian or Spanish. The note of application must be further accompanied by a record of the applicant's antecedents, and a medical certificate about his constitution. The examination consists in composition and conversation in the language in which each applicant has written his specimen letter above alluded to, as well as Japanese composition. The date of examination, the language to be studied, and the number of students required, will be published in the *Official Gazette*. These regulations will come into force from the 1st of April next.

SEVEN COOLIES KILLED.

A TERRIBLE accident occurred yesterday says the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 20th ult., on the Caine Road, resulting in the death of seven Chinamen. The scene of the disaster was Inland Lot No. 509, the property of Mr. Granville Sharp, a narrow strip of ground on the left hand side of Caine Road going west, and just below the end of Seymour Road and above No. 2 tank. A lofty retaining wall was being erected, and part having been completed, excavation was going on at the east end, about thirty yards of the wall having yet to be built. About ten o'clock, yesterday forenoon, men were engaged digging out the foundations, when, without any warning, an enormous mass of earth and boulders fell upon them, part of Seymour Road being carried away. The foreman contractor immediately gave information of the accident to the No. 8 Police Station, close at hand, and assistance was speedily sent. It was ascertained that seven men were buried beneath the débris, and of course not the slightest hope of saving life could be entertained. A large number of men were employed all day to dig away the avalanche of earth, and some idea of the quantity which fell may be gathered from the fact that it was not until noon that the first corpse was found. The unfortunate men must have been instantaneously killed. Up to the present only five of the bodies have been recovered.

JAPANESE FINANCE AND THE APPRECIATON OF GOLD.

JAPAN is feeling severely the effects of the appreciation of gold in her payments abroad on account of the maintenance and service of her Legations and Consulates, and her purchases of ships and arms. The Minister President of State, in a recent conversation reported by the *Shogyo Shimpo*, said that the cost of the warships now building for Japan in Europe would be increased by 611,751 *yen* according to present calculations on account of the rise in the silver price of gold, and that the appropriations on account of the Legations and Consulates would have to be augmented by 281,513 *yen* on the same account, the total difference due to this cause being thus 639,904 *yen*. Provision was made for this in the supplementary Budget submitted to the Diet last session, but as the Budget did not come into existence, the Government is obliged to seek some other method of meeting the deficiency. The reserve being insufficient for the purpose, nothing remains but to make it an Expenditure over and above the Items of the Budget, and to seek the consent of the Diet next session, a procedure which the Government would naturally desire to avoid, if possible.

THE SAVINGS BANK-BOOK OF A DEBTOR.

IN the Post and Telegraph School a debate was recently held on the topic whether a creditor is entitled to seize the savings bank-book of his debtor. There should not be much latitude for varying views on such a subject, one would imagine, but the youths in the Post and Tele-

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graph School managed to discuss it with some show of reason. The arguments against the creditor were of a sentimental character. It was claimed that since the object of the savings-bank system is to encourage an effective spirit of economy, and since a sense of security must tend materially to the development of such a spirit, a man's hoard in the savings-bank ought to be protected as far as possible against his creditor. It was also claimed that the creditor is always the stronger of the two, and that the law arms him with crushing powers against his debtor. Consequently, something should be done to redress the balance, and that something would be in great part achieved if savings bank-books were exempted from the effects seizable by a creditor. On the other side, the contention was simple, namely, first that the law actually in force authorized a creditor to seize his debtor's savings bank-book; and secondly, that to exempt the debtor's deposits in a savings-bank would open the door to fraud of a very serious character. It might have been added, we think, that inasmuch as debtors against whom a judgment of the Courts is obtained, are not usually in the happy possession of a deposit in savings-bank, though probably they often would be were such a deposit secured against seizure for debt. We need scarcely say that the vote taken after the debate was against granting any immunity to deposits in a savings bank.

EXAMINATION OF CHIEF PUBLIC PROCURATORS.

THE meeting of Chief Public Prosecutors of Appeal and Local Courts now in session should properly be called an "examination," says the *Niroku* newspaper. By way of explaining this definition, our contemporary adds that since Mr. Yoshikawa became Minister of Justice, he has spared no pains to sweep away the evils of favouritism long prevalent in the Department, and to establish strict official discipline, the result being that more than a hundred Judges and Public Procurators have been placed on the Retired List under his *régime*. In pursuance of his programme he seeks further means of ascertaining whether the posts of Chief Judges and Chief Public Procurators are filled by competent persons. To that end he has taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by the coming general election to convene a meeting of the Chief Public Procurators. Instructions bearing on the elections will of course be issued to them, but the more important object of their assembly is to ascertain their views with regard, first to the operation of the Law of Organization of the Law Courts; secondly, to the relations between Judges and Public Procurators; and thirdly, the relations between Public Procurators and Police. It is expected that in the sequel of this meeting, considerable changes will be effected in the Chief Public Procurators, and further that a similar meeting of Chief Judges will be convened at no distant state.

THE INTAKE OF THE YOKOHAMA WATER-WORKS.

WE recently re-produced from the vernacular press a statement that a copper mine had been discovered at the headwaters of the Doshigawa in Yamanashi Prefecture, or, in other words, near the banks of the river from which the supply for the Yokohama Water-works is obtained. It was added that application had been made for permission to work the mine, and that the fact having come to the knowledge of the Yokohama Local Authorities, a representation had been addressed to the Department of Home Affairs, pointing out the danger that would ensue to the Water-works if the mine were worked, and urging that permission should be withheld. But we now read in the *Jiyu* newspaper that the actual state of affairs is much worse than the above statement implies. It is not a question of seeking permission to work the mine; work is going on and has been going on for a long time. The mine was discovered in January, 1889, by Sato Hironami, an inhabitant of the district. He lost no time in securing a license for experimental working, and satisfactory results having been obtained, he applied for and received a permanent charter in October, 1890. Last December, however, he sold his right to Mr. Taguchi, a capitalist of Akita, who is now operating the mine. The *Jiyu* expresses the opinion that as the charter was granted three years ago, great difficulty would be experienced in dealing with the matter now, but that it must nevertheless be dealt with in the interests of the Yokohama Water-works.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

THE News Agency gives a statement of the Insurance Companies established in Japan during 1893:—

ESTABLISHED IN TOKYO.

Artizan's Life Insurance Joint Stock Company (*Shokko Seimei Hoken Kabushiki Kaisha*).
Health and Life Insurance Joint Stock Company (*Kenyo Seimei Hoken Kabushiki Kaisha*).
Marine Life Insurance Joint Stock Company (*Kaiin Seimei Hoken Kabushiki Kaisha*).
The Meikyo Life Insurance Joint Stock Company.
Merchants' Life Insurance Joint Stock Company.
Japan Union Life Insurance Joint Stock Company.
Japan Labour and Life Insurance Joint Stock Company (*Nippon Rodo Seimei Hoken Kabushiki Kaisha*).
Eastern Life Insurance Joint Stock Company.
Life and Sickness Domestic Insurance Joint Stock Company.

ESTABLISHED IN KYOTO.

Buddhist Life Insurance Joint Stock Company.

ESTABLISHED IN OSAKA.

Dojima Life Insurance Joint Stock Company.

ESTABLISHED IN NAGOYA.

Nagoya Life Insurance Joint Stock Company.

ESTABLISHED IN HIROSHIMA.

Kani Life Insurance Joint Stock Company.

ESTABLISHED IN EHIME.

Uwajima Life Insurance Joint Stock Company.

These are, it is added, not the only insurance companies established during the year. There were others also of less importance.

HAWAII.

THE latest reliable news of the state of affairs in Hawaii is conveyed in a telegram from Victoria, B.C., dated January 8th. It says:—The Canadian Pacific steamer *Warrimoo* arrived to-day, bringing Honolulu advices to January 1st. The most intense excitement prevailed throughout Honolulu until the arrival of the United States revenue cutter *Corwin*. After that Minister Willis made a demand upon President Dole to surrender the Government to the Queen. The Provisional Government promptly refused, and Willis took no further step to enforce a compliance of his order. The excitement rapidly subsided, and for a week before the sailing of the *Warrimoo* there was perfect tranquillity. It is now thought the crisis is passed.

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The *Corwin* returned to San Francisco on January 5th with cypher dispatches for President Cleveland, but their contents had not been made public when the mail left for the Orient.

THE NAVAL QUESTION.

THE scare in England about the condition of the Navy seems to have been shared by the most thoughtful and sober-minded persons. It is evidently realized that one of England's greatest sources of strength is her private dockyards, but that the unrivalled facilities she possesses in this respect, cannot be thoroughly utilized if payments for shipbuilding are dependent upon the exigencies of party politics. It was this conviction that led to the programme of the late Admiralty by which a large appropriation of twenty millions sterling was voted as a certainty to be applied to augmenting the Navy. But that programme came practically to an end last year, and according to competent authorities, it did little more than "repair the waste and balance the regular construction of other European Powers." England has to purchase her immunity from the cruel pressure of military service that weighs on other European nations by maintaining a fleet of compensatory strength. It has been shown that "though the whole life of France and Russia is essentially military, while England's is commercial, France is expending on her fleet 100 per cent. of her expenditure on her mercantile marine, Russia, 160 per cent., whereas England expends only 16 per cent. The proportions of England's commerce to that of France and Russia are even more tremendous. England's seaborne commerce is worth 970 millions sterling, that of France 277 millions, and that of Russia 55 millions." A very striking way of illustrating the preponderance of the British mercantile marine, is to say that a crowd of ships in any port or harbour of the world is an English crowd as much as a London crowd is an English crowd. Ships of other nationalities may be there, but they are as completely lost among the British ships as foreigners in London are lost among the British masses. That means, of course, that a fleet of torpedo boats running amok among a mob of ships on any part of the ocean would do incomparably more mischief to British property than to the property of any other nation. It is alleged that France's present plan is to allot a fleet of torpedo boats for work of that kind in the British Channel, freeing her vessels of war for concentration in the Mediterranean where she has thus established a distinct numerical superiority over the British fleet. These are the considerations that have naturally stirred the pulses of patriotic Englishmen, and made them anxious to continue the big programme inaugurated by the Conservative Government.

THE MISSING U.S. CONSUL TO AMOY.

A TELEGRAM, dated at Washington on December 30, says:—Colonel J. Hampton Hoge, of Virginia, was to-day permanently retired from the consular service of the United States. He was appointed Consul to Amoy, China, last April, and it took him until October to get ready to start for his post. After he had departed for China, stories came to the Department to the effect that Colonel Hoge had been bibulously celebrating his appointment all summer long; and accompanying these stories was a formal complaint, by a Washington tailor, that the Colonel had departed without paying for several new suits of clothes which he had ordered and carried away with. Thereupon Secretary Gresham, at the suggestion of the President, called Mr. Hoge back for an explanation. It took him about three weeks to reach the capital, and it was not until his friends went after him to El Paso, Texas, where he had been stranded, that he was induced to return. On reaching the city he explained that he had taken whisky under a doctor's directions, and that the rarified atmosphere along the southern Pacific had peculiarly affected him while he was under the influence of the liquor. After a careful investigation the State Department officials have concluded that Mr. Hoge violated the traditions of the Consular Service by taking the whisky treatment so early in his career, and that he has other moral delinquencies which demand his retention at home. Senators Daniel and Hunter, of Virginia, have been duly notified, and Mr. Hoge is now out of the Service. Thus a desirable post in the Consular Service has been made vacant, but there will doubtless be an ample number of applicants from which to choose a new consul without delay.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE H. H. FOWLER.

THE last number of *Punch* contains a most effective cartoon by Linley Sambourne representing a football match, in which Mr. Fowler, with the ball labelled "Parish Councils Bill," is making a clean run for goal, closely pursued, however, by the leaders of the Opposition, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Goschen, and Sir Henry James. At the time this cartoon appeared, the stage at which the Bill had arrived in the House of Commons scarcely appears to us to have justified picturing Mr. Fowler in a career of unimpeded triumph, barely one-third of the clauses of the Bill having then passed through the Committee, and the opposition to it being still vigorous and continuous. But the whole Bill, thanks no doubt to a liberal employment of the closure, has since passed, and for the success of this new and most important

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piece of democ atic legislation, the country is largely indebted to the tact, lucidity, moderation, good sense, and business capacity displayed by Mr. Fowler, who, on the part of the Government, had sole charge of the Bill throughout all the proceedings in regard to it in the House of Commons.

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Mr. Fowler, who holds the office of President of the Local Government Board, is in two respects unique as a Cabinet Minister, being at once the first Wesleyan and the first solicitor who has ever held Cabinet Rank. He is also an exception to the general rule that no man can ever succeed in Parliament who enters the House late in life for the first time. Although already over 50 years of age when first returned, in 1880, for his native town of Wolverhampton, he very quickly advanced to front rank, and in previous Gladstonian administrations, successively filled the subordinate offices of Under Secretary at the Home Office and Financial Secretary to the Treasury. None among the Gladstonian members was considered to have made greater advance in public or parliamentary estimation during the long period in which his party was last in opposition, and even before their accession to power he was already confidently spoken of as a member of the future cabinet. He proved himself on all occasions an able debater, never displaying any very high degree of eloquence, and sometimes laying himself open to the charge of pomposity, but invariably showing high argumentative skill and a straightforward practical style, which, for business purposes, far surpasses eloquence, whether in the House of Commons or out of it. His chief triumphs were obtained in his criticisms of Mr. Goschen's budgets, which his grasp of figures sometimes enabled him to tear to pieces mercilessly, but he also successfully led the Parliamentary Opposition to the persecution of the members of the Salvation Army at Eastbourne, and he has been at all times a champion of the poor, especially of the children of the poor, and an earnest advocate for the equality of all religions. His passion—for so it may be called—for religious equality did not, however, prevent him condemning in unsparing terms the tactics employed by co-religionists in the House of his own party in order to throw discredit on the Church of England by obstructing the Church Discipline Bill, brought forward by the late Government to facilitate the removal of drunken and disreputable men from the position of clergymen of the Established Church. Only two Non-conformists have heretofore preceded him in the Cabinet—Mr. Bright and Mr. Chamberlain—and it appears to be not improbable that, in time, not only the members of his own religion but the whole great body of the English middle class will have as much reason to be proud of him as they were of his two predecessors.

THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF MR. W. V. DRUMMOND.

On the 30th ultimo the Shanghai Branch of the China Association held a meeting to protest against the appointment of Mr. W. V. Drummond to the post of Acting Crown Advocate. A telegraphic communication had been previously addressed through the Consul General Mr. N. J. Hannen, to Her Majesty's Minister in Peking, asking that the appointment should be delayed pending full representations to be made subsequently to the meeting. The Minister replied, however, that without sufficient reasons he could not interfere in the case, and that if the China Association considered they had grounds for remonstrating against the appointment, they should appeal direct to the Secretary of State. This advice the Association at once acted on, telegraphing to their Honorary Secretary in London to "Strongly urge the Foreign Office to delay Mr. Drummond's appointment." The meeting was then held, and largely attended. To Mr. E. J. Hogg was entrusted the unpleasant duty of stating the reasons for protesting against the appointment. He did so in a speech of considerable length, but the whole pith of his argument was conveyed in the following portion of his address, where he refers to the duties devolving on the Crown Advocate as Legal Adviser to Her Majesty's Legation and Consulates in China :—

In the case of any person whose advice to the British authorities may influence British interests, we are right in desiring that he should be accustomed to approach the questions from an impartial, if not from a British, point of view. But Mr. Drummond during the long years he has been here has always been identified with the furtherance of Native interests, whenever they came into conflict with the interests of British subjects. That in itself would, we are all probably agreed, be a sufficient reason for withholding the appointment from him. That this ground of disqualification exists will not, I believe, be disputed even by his friends, while the weight of it as a proper objection cannot be denied by any. It is not the mere fact of his having been engaged for the most part as advocate on behalf of the Chinese authorities or other Chinese. It is something much more than this; it is the identification of himself with the Chinese side of things as opposed to the British, and this has gone so far as to create a very extensive feeling that British interests might suffer if dealt with under his influence. It would be quite possible to have such a feeling associated with one of respect for the object of it. If I thought that this was so in this case I should gladly say so, and failing to come to that conclusion I should be glad to pass the matter over if it were not an essential element in the question under discussion. I think it is most essential that anyone in the position of Crown prosecutor or of Crown adviser, and more especially for one who may become a Judge, should have the general respect and confidence of the community among whom he has lived for years and among whom his duties have to be performed.—(Applause.) Has Mr. Drummond the respect and confidence of the British community?—(Cries of "No.") This is a question which in the case of many people it might be difficult to answer, but in this case I think there is not much difficulty. I regret to say it, but I believe that the answer must be in the negative. Individually and for myself alone I should certainly answer it in the negative, and I consider I have good grounds for doing so. But what we are considering now is not so much whether I or other individual persons have cause to complain of Mr. Drummond, but whether his years of life and work in the midst of this community have left a general feeling of respect for him, or the contrary, and so far as the British community is concerned I believe they have left a contrary feeling. We cannot here decide whether the general opinion of Mr. Drummond has been justly earned or whether he is the victim of misunderstanding. Where a man has failed, as I believe Mr. Drummond has failed, to secure the respect and confidence of the community, I consider that the community would be failing in duty to themselves if they did not express their opinion of him when it is proposed to appoint him to a post, for the proper fulfilment of the duties of which the possession of that respect and confidence is so important.—(Hear, hear.)

The meeting, with only one dissentient voice, passed this resolution :—

That this meeting strongly deprecates the proposed appointment of Mr. W. V. Drummond as Crown Advocate as calculated to prejudice the interests of British subjects in China, the promotion and protection of which are the main objects of this Association.

DISTRIBUTION OF LAND IN JAPAN.

From statistics recently published, we learn that the distribution of land in Japan on the 1st of December last was as follows, the estimate being based on payments of Land Tax :—

Payers of 15 *yen* of Land Tax nd upwards	527,601.
Payers of 10 *yen* or more of Land Tax but less than 15 *yen*	352,106.
Payers of 5 *yen* or more of Land Tax but less than 10 *yen*	822,902.
Payers of 1 *yen* or more of Land Tax but less than 5 *yen*	1,994,017.
Payers of less than 1 *yen* of Land Tax	2,827 940

These figures furnish *data* from which we can form an idea of the practical effects that would be produced by the much-talked-of reduction of Land Tax. The total number of payers of Land Tax in the Empire is 6,515 566, and out of this total persons who pay less than 5 *yen* annually aggregate 4,821,957. In other words, the maximum benefit conferred on nearly five-sixths of the tax-payers by the proposed reduction—*i.e.* a reduction of one fifth—would never exceed one *yen* per head, and in the case of nearly one-half of the tax payers would be represented by sums ranging from 20 *sen* downwards annually. Arithmetic is often a troublesome affair for political agitators. When we discover that the great "reform" on account of which the House of Representatives has refused to pass every Budget in every session, has attempted unlawfully to invade the Prerogatives reserved to the Crown by the Constitution, and has impeded the general progress of the country, is a paltry lessening of the burden of taxation to the extent of from a few *sen* to a *yen* per head of some five millions out of an agricultural population of 6½ millions, we begin to appreciate how much foam and froth, and how little solid matter there has been in this agitation.

THE VICE-MINISTERSHIP OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

Mr Kanko Kentaro, Chief Secretary of the House of Peers, has been appointed Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. This, of course, is promotion. In respect of emoluments alone, it means that Mr. Kaneko passes from a yearly salary of 3,000 *yen* to one of 4,000, and we need scarcely say—though many foreigners seem doubtful on the subject—that the post of a Vice-Minister of State is considered much more important than that of a Chief Secretary. Mr. Kaneko, however, has always been a prominent figure in every office to which he was attached. He is an official of altogether exceptional abilities, and as Chief Secretary of the House of Peers his personality added so much to the importance of his functions that higher posts held by men of inferior calibre suffered by comparison. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce is fortunate in such an appointment.

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The same *Gazette* announces that Mr. Akizuki Sato, a second-class Consul, has been appointed a Councillor of the Department of Education.

RENT OF LAND NEAR YOKOHAMA.

At the annual general meeting of the Race Club last Tuesday a fact was elicited incidentally that strikes us as worthy of passing comment. In connection with a proposition to rent for the Club's uses a piece of land in the neighbourhood of the Race Course, it came out that the previous tenant of the land had paid $420 annually for it, and that the Club has now a chance of acquiring it for a yearly rental of $210. The land measures 3,650 *tsubo*, that is to say, three acres. For three acres of land, then, an Englishman was paying a rent of more than fifty pounds sterling annually—considerably more than £50 if the dollars disbursed by him be converted into sterling at the rate of exchange then ruling, but about £50 at present rates. The land is not in the Settlement. It is not building land. It lies at a comparatively remote part of the Bluff, and was used by its last tenant as a dairy farm. Seventeen pounds sterling per acre for a dairy farm! And the Race Club, by way of a great bargain, will have to pay more than £8 an acre. We commend these figures to the attention of Japanese who object to Mixed Residence and oppose foreign ownership of real estate. Would the land on the Negishi Bluff have any such value, or anything approaching such a value, were not foreigners the tenants? The same lot put up for purely Japanese competition would not fetch a hundred dollars a year.

THE "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY."

The thirty-second annual issue of the "Chronicle and Directory," for 1894, has just reached us, and as usual, leaves nothing to be desired in the way of completeness and scope. The field it covers, is indeed, very wide, comprising the whole of the Far East, from Penang right round to far northern Vladivostock, and taking in the Philippines and Borneo. The commercial directory for Japan has been revised up to date, and the statistics of trade, population, etc., are all brought up to latest Consular information. The Court rules and Consular fees of the various countries, the Treaties of China, and Japan, with various Powers, Chinese and foreign calendars, all regular features of this admirable direc-

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tory, are included, as usual, this year. The printing and get-up, we may observe, is more regular and neat than some volumes of the Directory have displayed, and reflects credit on the publishers, the Hongkong *Daily Press* Office.

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE LORD ABBOT OF THE HIGASHI HONGWANJI.

THE funeral of the Lord Abbot of the Higash Hongwanji, which took place on the 29th ult., is described as a spectacle of unparalleled magnificence and grandeur. The ceremony occupied altogether about twenty-four hours, commencing at 1 a.m. and ending at 2 a.m. the following day. Several days previous to the date fixed for the interment, believers from all parts of the country began to pour into the ancient capital in such numbers that by the 28th there was not a single inn which had not been filled with devotees to over-flowing, and fresh arrivals, who had not friends or relatives to apply for accommodation, had to pass the night out of doors. The number of people who came up to pay the last act of reverence to their late religious potentate is estimated at not less than 100,000. That this estimate is not exaggerated may be seen from the vast increase of railway passengers alighting at the Shichijo station for several days previous to the day of the funeral. Ordinarily, the arrivals at the station are not more than 1,500 per diem. The number began to increase as early as the 20th. From that day to the 25th the number was between 1,600 and 2,000. On the 26th it increased to 3,169; on the 27th, to 8,112; and on the 28th to 16,729. And those arriving by rail represented only a small portion of the assembled devotees, the majority of whom were frugal country folks who did not mind walking the whole way to and fro. At about 2 a m. on the 29th, the religious service began in front of the coffin. At 4 the coffin was removed to a temporary structure specially erected for the purpose, where prayers were offered by the Princes of the Blood, the relatives of the deceased, and the principal dignitaries of the sect. These tedious ceremonies took so much time that the procession did not leave the precincts of the temple before half past-ten, just two hours later than the time originally fixed. Such was the length of the cortége that the last person in it left the temple gate at noon. The entire number allowed to accompany the coffin was about 10,000. Eye-witnesses declare that the splendour of the gold-embroidered robes of the high dignitaries of the sect defies all powers of description. The spacious temple grounds, as well as the entire road between the temple and the place appointed for the performance of the cremation ceremony at Uchino, were closely packed with crowds, through which the police could hardly preserve a passage for the procession. As the coffin passed, the devotees knelt on the ground and offered up prayers, the air being thus filled with the sounds of *Namu amida butsu*, fervently uttered by tens of thousands of voices. The coffin, borne by men related to the deceased prelate, was followed by the latter's son, the present Abbot, who walked on foot like the rest of the procession. The Princes of the Blood were represented by special messengers, as were several of the Ministers of State. The so-called cremation ceremony commenced at 11 a.m. and was finished at 2 p.m. It was a complicated affair, but the principal feature seems to have been the offering of prayers, singing of hymns, and so forth. The ceremony, it should be noted, does not include the real business of cremation, which was conducted afterwards at the Cremation Grounds at Kazan. The procession from Uchino to Kazan was not so large as that which accompanied the coffin from the temple to Uchino; but its length was still nearly two miles, and the spectators were as numerous as before along the whole distance. As the process of cremation consisted in burning with charcoal on which were thrown some aromatic woods, and as the corpse was placed in a coffin with a triple covering, the whole operation took an unusually long time, it being half past 11 before the bones were gathered together into an oblong box covered with white silk, to be carried back to Uchino, where a ceremony called "the collection of the bones" was gone through. The remains were taken to the *Daishi* chapel in the Hongwan Temple, where the ceremony of "report on the collection of the bones" was performed. Finally, the box containing the cremated remains was removed to the *Chû-in* chapel, where it is to remain for ever. It was past 2 a.m. on the 30th that these ceremonies were completed.

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As might have been feared, the day was productive of an unusually large number of accidents. One of the newspaper correspondents states that, when once a person became involved in the dense crowds that lined the whole way, it was like labouring in a quick-sand; there was no hope of getting out. More than fifty persons had to be carried to hospitals, and among them some are said to have been seriously injured. The temporary bridge over the Kamogawa at Gojo fell, but happily no loss of life or limb was occasioned by this incident. At Kazan, where the cremation took place, a temporary structure gave way and a few persons were badly wounded.

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The sudden influx of so large a number of people into Kyoto is said to have caused a general rise of prices. The effect was especially marked in the case of vegetables, which rose twenty to thirty per cent. Fish, on the contrary, is said to have become cheaper for obvious reasons.

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The water used for washing the corpse of the late Lord Abbot was put into pieces of bamboo, and distributed among the temples of the sect throughout the country. The devotees who had flocked to Kyoto from the provinces were eager to get the *bento*, some 50,000 boxes of which were distributed by the Hongwan-ji on the day of the funeral, to carry them home as mementoes of the occasion. Anything coming from the household of the revered head of the sect is precious in the eyes of simple believers in the country districts.

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The funeral presents (*kô-den*) must have cost an enormous sum. According to the *Jiji Shimpo's* calculation, the total can not have been less than 300,000 *yen*. At the time of the death of the late Lord Abbot's predecessor, the sum exceeded 700,000 *yen*.

TIMELY COMPENSATION.

THE *Singapore Free Press* says:—Some of the firms in Singapore have increased the salaries of their European employés to compensate them for the fall in exchange. Others have been unable to do so in consequence of "bad times," which occasionally means that the old partners in Europe still want their pound of flesh, in spite of the depreciated dollar. The Chartered Bank, we understand, is in the fortunate position of being able to give its officials a bonus of twenty per cent. on their last half-year's salaries, so satisfactory has been the result of the six months working. Evidently the fall in exchange has done some good. It's an ill-wind that speeds no bark. A bonus of a month's salary comes in, as an envious friend said, handy occasionally. We congratulate the officials; less warmly the shareholders. As for the unfortunate clients who have to pay x per cent. interest on overdrafts! ah—that's another ledger.

PATRONIZED BY THE CZAREWITCH.

WE are glad to learn from the *Shin Choya* that the celebrated dealer in silken fabrics, Mr. Kawashima Jimbei, of Kyoto, has been authorized by H.I.H. the Prince Imperial of Russia to describe his firm as "patronized by the Czarewitch," and to mark his goods accordingly. An official despatch conferring this distinction is said to have been transmitted to Mr. Kawashima on the 26th ultimo. It granted permission to Mr Kawashima to call himself "weaver to His Imperial Highness," to emblazon the Imperial arms upon his signboard, and to weave them in the corners of his fabrics. Our contemporary adds that a die of the Imperial Arms was forwarded at the same time to the Kyoto firm. We read also that it is Mr. Kawashima's intention, so soon as his health, now slightly impaired, shall have been restored, to take a voyage to St. Petersburg in order to convey personally his gratitude for the honour conferred on him. If this intelligence be correct, as we trust it is, the Czarewitch has certainly shown wise discrimination.

JAPANESE SHIP OWNERS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS.

LAST October the Department of Communications issued a notification revising the Rules for the Inspection of Foreign-built ships, and supplementing them by some provisions which came into force from the current month. The alterations made were in the sense of restrictions. They shortened the voyage performable by a ship of a certain tonnage, and they reduced considerably the number of passengers that a ship might carry in proportion to the cubic space available. Doubtless these modifications were dictated by sound reasons, but they are strongly objected to by ship-owners, who claim that the earning capacity of their vessels is seriously impaired. Meetings to protest have been held, and the ship-owners, it is said, are determined to resist stoutly.

THE FIRE IN KAGOSHIMA.

SOME particulars of the recent fire in Kagoshima are published by the vernacular press. It appears that the flames broke out in the house of Inouye Shobei, a *soba* seller, in Kiusei-machi, and that, as a strong north-easterly wind was blowing at the time, they spread rapidly, reducing to ruins five streets, Kiusei-machi, Gofuku-cho, Higashi-sengoku-bashi-cho, and Yamashita-cho, the total number of houses destroyed being 547, with 12 out-houses and 7 godowns. The conflagration was not extinguished until 7 a.m. The names of the streets at which it was arrested in each quarter of the compass are given, but need not be reproduced here. Five lives were lost, a merchant residing in Nakacho, named Sakamoto Itaro, and four *employés* of his being burned to death.

BIG SHRINKAGE.

MR. DEPEW, the President of the New York Central railway and confidential adviser of the Vanderbilt family, estimates that when the wealthiest Americans shall have taken account of their investments in January they will find their fortunes from 25 to 40 per cent. less than they were a year ago, and in some cases much more. He calculates the depreciation of American railway securities alone to be a thousand million dollars! It is a common report in New York that one of the greatest bankers has lost $2,000,000 in a single industrial security and that another house may, through the inability of customers to meet their margins, be compelled to mark off a loss quite as great.

COUNT GOTO.

Now that Count Goto has left the Cabinet, we may expect to find him made the stalking-horse of all kinds of political opinions. Already he is represented as an analyst of the Administration's policy. He attributes to himself, according to the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, an unvarying desire while in office to comply with the wishes of the people, and says that the disfavour into which he fell was due to his sincere pursuit of that programme. He does not add, however, as he might with perfect truth, that it was the representatives of the people who pulled him down because he respected the will of the people over-much.

FIRES IN YOKOHAMA.

A FIRE, which developed to some magnitude before it was got under control, broke out in a lower room of the Tamai-ro, one of a block of five brothels standing in Maganecho, Yokohama, about eight o'clock on Friday evening. It was some time before the alarm was given, so that by the time the firemen reached the spot, the flames had made considerable progress. In a very short time, Kanaoka-ro,

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Naniwa-ro, Chitose-ro, and Sakurai-ro, all two-storied buildings, were burning furiously, and, the adjoining brothels also caught. Fortunately water was to be had in plenty, and only the five houses mentioned were wholly destroyed, two others escaping partially. No accidents are reported, the inmates all escaping at an early period of the fire. The cause is yet unknown, but a conjecture is current that the severe earthquake, which occurred some little time previously, upset a small Japanese lamp, and this being unobserved led to the disastrous conflagration.

* * *

About two o'clock on Saturday morning another fire occurred, this time in Ogicho, Yokohama. It broke out in an unoccupied house, and six buildings were destroyed.

BLUE JACKETS ON HORSEBACK.

"JACK ASHORE" occasionally indulges in horse riding, and usually steers a somewhat erratic course, the wonder being that there are not more accidents caused by his reckless career through crowded thoroughfares. On Sunday afternoon four men belonging to the *Marion*, while thus disporting themselves in Ishikawa, Nichome, unfortunately ran over a Japanese child. Three of the horsemen escaped, but the fourth was soon surrounded by a crowd of Japanese and held prisoner until he gave his own and companions' names. He made his way home, but the other three continued their gallop through the Settlement, to the great danger of passers-by.

THE ELECTION IN TOCHIGI PREFECTURE.

It is to be regretted that, in the interests of Mr. Hoshi Toru's reputation, his partizans in Tochigi Prefecture do not more carefully observe the dictates of good order. News is now published by the *Yomiuri Shimbun* to the effect that Mr. Kawara Asakichi, a supporter of Mr. Hoshi Toru's opponent, Mr. Yokobori, was shot at and severely wounded by one of Mr. Hoshi's partizans, at Sakasagawa, on the night of the 24th instant. Two bullets were discharged at Mr. Kawara, and one of them struck him in the shoulder. It does not appear, happily, that the injury is likely to prove fatal.

GERMAN EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY.

THE birthday of Kaiser Wilhelm II. was loyally celebrated by the German community of Yokohama on Saturday. The day opened grey and overcast, but long before noon the sun was shining from a deep blue sky. A large number availed themselves of the courtesy of the Commander of H.I.G.M.S. *Wolf* to participate in the special service on board. The ship was tastefully decorated and dressed in national flags. Many flags were hung out in the Settlement during the day. At noon an Imperial salute was fired and at night a dinner was given at the Club Germania, the President in the chair.

FRESH ELECTION TROUBLES.

THE supporters of Mr. Hoshi Toru in Tochigi Prefecture continue to disgrace their cause by acts of violence. On the 30th ultimo they went to the length of attacking the rival candidate himself. Mr. Yokobori was on his way home from a political gathering when his party was set upon by *soshi*, and three of those accompanying him were wounded. It must be observed, that this statement is taken from the *Hochi Shimbun*, which would naturally put the worst possible construction on anything connected with Mr. Hoshi Toru.

FOREIGN WAR VESSELS AND POSTAL MATTERS.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that on the 25th ultimo, the Minister of State for Communications issued instructions to post and telegraph offices throughout the Empire, to the effect that foreign men-of-war belonging to a country which has joined the Postal Union, should be granted all the privileges and facilities provided by the articles of the Union Postal Regulations in respect of the transmission of parcels.

AN OBSTREPEROUS INTERVIEWER

THE *Tokyo Asahi* says that about half-past three o'clock on the afternoon of the 1st inst. a Japanese, supposed to be a student from his appearance, visited the residence of Mr. Joseph Cosand, an American citizen, living at Kounmachi, Mita, Shiba, Tokyo, and requested an interview. Suspicions being aroused, the police were sent for. A constable and a gensdarme at once proceeded to the house and attempted to remove the lad. He resisted violently, but finally decamped, after inflicting two wounds on the constable with a sabre, which he had wrenched from the gensdarme.

THE RUSSIAN NIHILISTS.

THE News Agency publishes a telegram from an undeclared source to an undeclared address, to the effect that while a great meeting of Russian Nihilists was being held in secret in Moscow on the 20th instant, a large force of police surprised the conspirators. The Nihilists resisted stoutly, and wounded fifteen of the constables, but fifty of them were arrested. Two committed suicide rather than fall into the hands of the police and twenty-two escaped.

THE COURT.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE appears to include fencing among his favourite pastimes. He invited a number of officials to the Palace on the 3rd of December to hold a fencing match, and is reported to have been so much pleased with the performance that directions have been given for the construction of a fencing-court in the Palace.

* * *

Her Majesty the Empress-Dowager is to proceed to Hayama-mura in Kanagawa Prefecture on the 2nd instant, for change of air, and will remain there till the end of the month.

SILK IMPORTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE Imports of Raw Silk at the Ports of New York and the Pacific Coast, December, 1893, were :—

	Bales.	Lbs.	Value.
New York	255 ...	55,754 ...	165,658
Pacific Coast Ports	3,093 ...	419,406 ...	1,456,619
	3,348 ...	475,160 ...	1,622,277

The Imports of Waste, etc., were :

New York	307 ...	98,100 ...	60,495
Pacific Coast Ports	1 ...	63 ...	58
	308 ...	98,163 ...	60,553

SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS.

SOME more South Sea Islanders have been transported to Japan, and are now carried round to see the sights. They are naturally much impressed and even a little awe-struck, and their naïve expressions of admiration and surprise are reproduced by the vernacular press, partly, no doubt, because the workings of unsophisticated minds are always interesting studies, but partly also because the homage implied in these simple folk's wonder tickles Japanese vanity. It is a harmless kind of amusement after all, very agreeable for the visitors and not particularly expensive to the visited.

A NEW COTTON SPINNING FACTORY.

THE vernacular press reports a project for the establishment of another cotton-spinning factory. Shimonos-ki is the place chosen for the site, and the projectors are Mr. Katada, one of the members of Parliament for Yamaguchi Prefecture, Messrs. Toyonaga and Kimura, merchants of Shimonoseki and Tokyo, respectively, and Mr. Arakawa, a mechanical engineer of Kyoto. The capital is stated to be half a million *yen*, so that the enterprise must be of some magnitude. The cotton-spinning industry has certainly made great strides in Japan.

NOT RECOGNISED.

THE two Norwegians who were arrested on Tuesday for creating a disturbance and assaulting the police, were taken before their Consul, Mr. Van de Polder, yesterday, but as they possessed no papers he refused to recognise them. They are detained at the police station pending enquiries.

FIRE IN TOKYO.

A CONFLAGRATION of magnitude unusual in these times occurred in Tokyo at 3.30 a.m. on the 28th ultimo. It broke out in the Yoshi-kawa-ro in Shinagawa, and totally destroyed 315 houses, partially burning sixteen. One woman perished in the flames, and two men were wounded. Some boats moored in the neighbourhood were also burned. The flames had their origin in a bath-room. Twenty-seven of the houses were insured in the *Meiji* Fire Insurance Office for an aggregate sum of 8,300 *yen*.

THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

MR. WATANABE CHIAKI, Vice Minister of State for Home Affairs, whose nomination to membership of the House of Peers was announced in our last issue, has resigned his position as Vice-Minister, and Mr. Matsuoka Koki, a member of the Upper House, has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Matsuoka, formerly occupied the post of Chief Public Procurator of the Court of Cassation. His official rank is Second of the Third Grade.

GUATEMALA.

IN consequence of intelligence recently received in Japan to the effect that Japanese labourers in Guatemala are experiencing cruel treatment at the hands of their employers, Mr. Chinda, Japanese Consul in San Francisco, has been ordered to proceed to the scene of the alleged outrages. He started on the 16th December. The News Agency in responsible for this rumour

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

MR. HIRAYAMA NARINOBU, Chief Secretary of the Privy Council, has been released from office at his own request, and Mr. Hirata Tosuke, hitherto Chief of the Law Compilation Bureau, has been appointed to succeed him at the Privy Council. Mr. Watanabe Chiaki, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, has been nominated a member of the House of Peers.

BURGLARY IN SHIBA.

DURING the night of the 30th ultimo robbers broke into the house of Mr. J. Cosand, at 30 Kounmachi, Mita, Tokyo, and stole a hundred *yen* in five-*yen* notes, same the amount in ten-*yen* notes, and three hundred *yen* in one *yen* notes. The matter was reported immediately to the Shiba Police Station, but as yet no trace of the thieves seems to have been discovered.

ACCIDENT IN THE PORONAI MINE.

A TELEGRAM from the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration, dated 6 p.m. on the 25th ultimo, announces that, on the morning of the 24th ultimo, an explosion of gunpowder took place in the Poronai Coal Mine, and that ten of the convicts working in the mine were injured. Presumably no lives were lost.

A BRITISH DOLLAR.

THE report of the Special Committee appointed by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce to consider the expediency of coining a British dollar, recommends that a dollar be struck at the Indian Mints, which, it appears, are prepared to undertake the work at a seignorage of 1 per cent. or thereabouts.

THE U.S. CONSULATE-GENERAL.

COL. N. W. MCIVOR, the newly appointed Consul-General of the United States, took over the charge of the Yokohama Consulate-General on the 1st inst., from the retiring Consul General, Mr. W. D. Tillotson, who leaves by the *Oceanic* on Saturday.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN CHIBA PREFECTURE.

FLAMES burst out in a house at Funabashi, Higashi-Katsushika District, on the 27th ult., destroying eighty-nine dwellings, two godowns and five out houses, fourteen other buildings were damaged.

S. ANDREW'S CHURCH, SHIBA.

TO-MORROW (Sunday, Feb. 4.) the Sermon will be preached by the Right Rev. Bishop McKim. On the Wednesdays during Lent a course of addresses will be given at evensong, 5 p.m., by the Rev. Arthur Lloyd. Subject, Jeremy Taylor's "Holy Living."

Vera quidem, fateor, dixisti, quisquis es, artes
Geisharum laudans virgineumque decus.
Ast unam nimium ne tu laudaveris; omnes
Dum placeant pariter, fas erit: una nocet.
(Vates ignotus).

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THE VICTORIA SCHOOL.

THE British community—we may indeed say, the foreign community, so general have been the sympathy and support accorded—is once again confronted by the question, what is to be done with the Victoria School? It is a question of yearly recurrence. It was bound, from the outset, to be a question of yearly recurrence. For that we were quite prepared. When the idea of founding a school by way of commemorating HER MAJESTY'S Jubilee was started, we stated our firm conviction that funds adequate to give permanency to such a purpose could not possibly be collected, and that if an institution intended to serve as a loyal memento were to die of inanition within a few years, ridicule and humiliation would be the only outcome of the community's effort. The alternative scheme proposed at the time, namely to endow a Victoria Scholarship in the Japanese Imperial University, would have been easily within the resources of the subscribers, and had the further great advantage of being a form of commemoration that would last for all time. But considerations not difficult to appreciate turned the community from that scheme. The Victoria School was founded. Its history, from the moment when its doors were opened, may be approximately summed up in the statement that it has never been self-supporting but has existed uniformly on charity. Annual excesses of expenditure over income gradually ate up the capital subscribed at the outset, and when that source of supply was exhausted, the community had to choose between the alternative of letting the School die or subscribing again to give it a temporarily renewed lease of life. British subjects in the East are very loyal folks. Besides, they are for the most part practical men who hate to turn back when once they have set their hands to the plough. Twice the School was saved from perishing, and now again the question arises, shall it be saved a third time? There is no longer any room to be doubtful about its prospects. When public patronage shows itself coy, the axiomatic principle of sound business is to attract it by offers of fresh advantages and inducements. Precisely the opposite course has had to be pursued in the case of the Victoria School. The less the disposition displayed by the community to send their sons there, the more the educational attractions of the institution have been curtailed. It is still, doubtless, a good common school, but in the face of richly endowed and splendidly organized competition, it possesses in itself no recuperative capacities whatever. The attendance of students is about thirty-five. The income from all sources does not amount to three thousand dollars annually. The expenditure falls little short of five thousand. Unless the community come to the rescue with at least as much generosity as they displayed last year, the School must be closed forthwith. Now there cannot, we think, be the slightest hesitation about the conclusion inferable from the history of the School: Yokohama has no need of such an institution. Even if largely increased educational advantages could be offered at the same cost, there would still stand in the way of the School's success a fatal stumbling block, namely, the unconquerable desire of every parent to provide for his son the benefits of public school life in England. It is difficult to translate into language any exact measure of those benefits. But the lad who has enjoyed them is recognisable anywhere. He has acquired a moral robustness that never could be nourished in the atmosphere of an institution like the Victoria School. Thus it results that the School has uses solely for those whose means do not enable them to send their sons home, or whose circumstances suggest the inadvisability of such a course. That might have been foreseen from the first. It was, indeed, foreseen but not practically admitted. Granted, then, that the School must be content to stand on a comparatively low educational level, the British community have to ask themselves whether the duty devolves upon them of subscribing yearly to provide education of that kind. The general feeling, we think, answers in the negative. There is talk, however, of radically altering the character of the School by converting it into an institution for providing commercial and technical education only. Such an expedient might avert that most undesirable fiasco, the complete collapse of the British community's memento of the QUEEN'S Jubilee. But it must not be forgotten that to re-model the curriculum on a different basis is virtually to start an entirely new enterprise. The support enjoyed by the present Victoria School from its students could not be reckoned on after the educational objects of the place had been metamorphosed. Who is to be responsible that success will attend the metamorphosis? The institution can not be abandoned to private enterprise without at the same time abandoning its distinctive character as a memento; neither can any staff of teachers be asked to take it up without some guarantee as to their salaries. Hence, no course short of closing the place altogether will obviate the necessity of another subscription. Further, if a new departure is to be made, shall its period of trial be limited to one year? If not, and if self-supporting success be not attained within twelve months, a fresh subscription will be necessary next spring. Did any portion of the original endowment fund remain, it might be prudent to inaugurate a new programme within the limits of that portion. But nothing remains. There is not so much as a five-pound note in hand. A sale of the furniture and effects would scarcely realize more than enough to discharge current obligations. Hence to convert the School now into a place for commercial and technical education only, would be to inaugurate a totally new device for commemorating the QUEEN'S Jubilee. Is that seriously contemplated?

THE WRECK OF AMERICAN RAILROADS.

THE last mail from America brought details of the financial overthrow of still another great railway organization, the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé combination, which has hitherto held the position of the most extensive system in the world, and the most important in the United States as regards the amount of capitalization. The connected lines are nearly ten thousand miles in length; and represent a value of three hundred and fifty million dollars. Until within a few months ago this road was looked upon as one of the soundest institutions of its kind, and was popularly believed to be so firmly established and so carefully guarded against every chance of disaster as to defy the worst influences of the panic which has brought so many of its rivals to destruction. Ten years ago, it was a comparatively humble concern, possessing only some two thousand miles of track; but through the exertions of an unusually energetic directorate, led by a financier of singular courage, and ability, Mr. GEORGE C. MAGOUN, it gradually absorbed a great number of contiguous branches, and constructed new lines to an extent that fully warranted its claim to be distinguished as the largest and perhaps the wealthiest of American railway corporations. Mr. MAGOUN'S connection with the BARINGS and other important foreign houses enabled him to command an immense amount of capital, which he used with such discretion as to win universal confidence in the enterprise of which he was the leading spirit. While he remained in control, it does not appear that any doubts were expressed as to the fortunes of the Atchison system. He retired from the presidency about a year ago, but continued to hold the office of chairman of the board of directors, in which his power was supposed to be almost as absolute as before. Suspicion seems to have been first awakened by a hurried visit of the actual president, J. W. REINHART, to Europe. It was rumoured that he went in search of financial relief, which had become necessary in consequence of the unexampled pressure throughout the United States. Reports that he had failed in his errand began to spread immediately after his return, and at the same time the Company lost its strongest support by the sudden death of Mr. MAGOUN. Public distrust then manifested itself in the usual way. Atchison securities of all sorts were quoted at steadily declining prices, and the

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Four per cent. Bonds which sold freely for $800, or $825, six months ago, dropped to $650 at the close of last year. The great corporation was compelled to declare itself insolvent, and on December 23rd receivers were appointed by a United States Court in Little Rock, Arkansas. No further intelligence had been published when the mail left San Francisco, and nothing definite was know concerning the Company's future prospects. It appeared to be certain, however, that no interest on stock or bonds would be paid for some time to come. The confusion and distress consequent upon this suspension will be even greater than those recently caused by the default of the Northern Pacific road.

With respect to this last named corporation a new and extraordinary scandal has been put in circulation. A petition has been filed in the United States Circuit Court of Milwaukee, praying that the present receivers, who were appointed when the North Pacific became insolvent, be dismissed from office for gross abuses of their trust. The charges are especially directed against Receiver OAKES, the former President of the road, who, it is affirmed, has cöoperated with certain associates in stealing no less a sum than sixty million dollars from the great trunk line and its various dependencies. Formidable accusations are set forth with startling precision, and the story of the alleged robberies is told with a minuteness which is undoubtedly impressive, and might be even more so, but for the fact that some of the names involved are too high in public estimation to be thus summarily discredited. The person arraigned as Mr. OAKES'S chief fellow-conspirator is the President of a New York Trust Company, which has always stood far above the reach of criminal suspicion, and the officers of which are known to the community as men of unimpeachable repute. Whatever misdeeds may have been committed in the name of the Northern Pacific, no one is likely to believe that the Trust Company in question can have any connection with them. But the attack serves to illustrate the fierce and bitter temper into which vast numbers of people have been goaded by the losses they have suffered in the past six months; losses in many cases aggravated by negligence verging upon dishonesty, and sometimes traceable to unmistakably fraudulent practices; but for the most part plainly due to events which no human agency could wilfully or designedly set in operation, and which, when once started in their course, no power could control. When the business of a whole country is in a state of stagnation, and the railways carry no freight, it follows of necessity that they earn nothing, and consequently fail to meet their obligations. Especially is this the case in the thinly settled regions of the West and South. The Eastern States are not, however, entirely free from similar disasters, and ominous reports were making themselves heard, at last advices, even in the heart of New England. The avidity with which subscriptions have been offered for the new national loan, at prices which will reduce the interest to two and a half per cent. or less, may be taken as an evidence of the general eagerness to shun the more attractive investments in railroad securities and to accept smaller returns which bring with them the assurance of greater safety.

"SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR."

THERE is not upon the face of the earth any place farther from Tokyo than Yokohama. The distance, measured by vulgar methods, is 18 miles, which interval being spanned by a railway with an exceptionally rapid service of locomotives, and by a line of telegraph as quick as it is sure, one may transport oneself from the Capital to the Settlement in the incredibly short space of an hour by train, and communicate one's thoughts in about twice the same time by wire. But that is a physical statement of the case. Morally speaking, the two places lie at a vast distance. Tokyo stands to Yokohama pretty much in the relation of a fixed star to the earth. So long does the light of intelligence take to travel from the city to the port that the destruction of the former in some natural cataclysm might leave the latter still unconsiously collecting rays of news from the defunct source. In one respect, however, the analogy does not hold: the time taken by the light of a particular star to reach our planet is always uniform, but the time taken by intelligence to travel from Tokyo to Yokohama varies inversely as the truth of the intelligence, and is not even constant for different items of similar intelligence. Any canard of an evil or slanderous tendency traverses the interval at a high velocity; any information calculated to re-habilitate a reputation, or to enhance renown creeps across with tardy feet. As for inconstancy in respect of items of the same kind, let us illustrate. A quarter of a century ago, when the *Meiji* era was in its infancy, the Representatives of the Great Powers used to be followed whenever they went abroad by escorts of mounted men. The British Minister had a force of his own nationals for the purpose; the French was satisfied with Japanese. By degrees, the need of such a precaution disappearing, it was dispensed with. Of the British escort, only one remained; of the French, two. But though no longer useful for purpose of protection, these veteran relics could be ornamental. The French Representative adopted the habit of employing the two pensioners to accompany his carriage on State occasions, just as outriders with gold-laced coats and cockaded hats are used for a similar purpose in the West. His Excellency had been doing this for about twelve years, when intelligence of the fact made its way to Yokohama, and threw folks there into a flutter of excitement. They concluded that the days had returned when a Foreign Minister's person must be guarded against murderous assaults by two-sworded *samurai*, and that the era of "barbarian-expelling" terrorism was once more present. Twelve years were needed for the transmission of that ray of light. Yet, another of cognate character traversed the interval in four. In 1889, one of the French Representative's children was struck by a pebble in the streets of Tokyo, and shortly afterwards His Excellency's carriage became the target of a similar missile. In 1893, Yokohama discovered these occurrences. They were published in the local press, excitedly discussed at the bar of the Club, and Tokyo, which had forgotten them, was angrily arraigned for conspiring to bury the fossils in oblivion. Twelve years for the journey of one ray of news; four for that of the other. Yet Yokohama is very sensitive to one kind of light—light of the *ignis-fatuus* class. The slightest phosporescence glimmering over the morass of Treaty Revision permeates to the strained retina of the Settlement at once. A conspicuous example of that kind occurred in 1890, when the community fell into a state of perturbation, held a monster meeting, and passed all kinds of protesting resolutions on the strength of a will-o'-the-wisp rumour that unconditional Revision was on the verge of accomplishment. Never were grave business men agitated by a more unsubstantial chimera. In point of fact, Treaty Revision had drifted, for the time, out of the field of practical politics. It was momentarily defunct, and against its wraith only were Yokohama's forces ranged. But it must be confessed that a suspicion has always existed as to the genuineness of that bit of *naïveté* on the part of the men who promoted the agitation. Possibly, when they conjured up the ugly phantom, they well understood its flimsy character, and counted on the certain credit of averting a peril that never existed. If so, it was a *rusé* and successful device, for Yokohama still gratefully cherishes the belief that by a vigorous demonstration on that occasion the situation was saved, whereas the situation never was in any real danger. How many years must elapse before the rays of truth from Tokyo dispel Yokohama's darkness as to the delusion under which she laboured at that time? No one can calculate. There are no *data* from which the process of the Settlement's recovery from error might be estimated, for there are no instances of such recovery. Besides, the phantasy is still fostered by those whose interest suggests its preservation. How well these agitators have taken the measure of the credulity they play upon is shown by their latest per-

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formance. On the authority of a vernacular journal notoriously without access to diplomatic secrets, they informed the Settlement that Great Britain had sold her nationals in this country to buy Japan's goodwill, and that the ominous bargain would have become an accomplished fact had not Russia barred the way—Russia, the one Power that never asked for any conditions in connection with Treaty Revision! A wilder tale was never circulated. Yet it served to set beating again Yokohama's somewhat languid pulses of apprehension. Further, since fossils of ancient faith are not incongruous amid the decay of intelligent scrutiny, the occasion was naturally taken advantage of to circulate the hoary fables that if foreigners were placed under Japanese jurisdiction, "police censors would be able to enter a foreign newspaper office and send the editor and publisher to jail without trial," and "foreign women would be mere chattels who could be divorced by a notification to the *Kencho* of incompatibility of temper." It is years since Japanese police were deprived of the power of sending editors and publishers to prison without trial, and at no time in the history of Japan could a wife be divorced by the process described. But these antique delusions serve their turn as well as anything else. Since the press law was altered in 1889, there probably has not been time for the fact to precolate to Yokohama, and inasmuch as the Japanese law of divorce was last authoritatively expounded in 1885, Yokohama agitators cannot reasonably be expected to know anything about it yet. Hapless agitators! Their *métier* sometimes grows very embarrassing to themselves, and their manner of performing it very comical to others. Nothing could be quainter than their occasional cries for light where the darkness has no existence outside Yokohama; their querulous complaints that diplomatic doings are shrouded in secrecy, and that they themselves are never taken into anybody's confidence, when, in the first place, there are no diplomatic doings to be shrouded, and in the second, prudent diplomatists seldom make confidants of men whose business in life is to perturb the public mind and to set up the friction without which their own *raison d'être* would disappear. So the phenomenon goes on. Now, startled by feeble flashes of superannuated intelligence, the makers of mischief find an opportunity to "deliver brawling judgments;" now, awed by the shadows of ignorance that envelop them, they cry aloud for light that their own perverse proclivities debar them from receiving. So long as they exist, the distance between Tokyo and Yokohama must remain immense.

"Papa, have I got any children?" asked a little seven year-old girl of her father. "What makes you ask such a foolish question, Bessie?" "Because I want to know. I read in the Bible the other day about 'children's children.'"

ACTIONS FOR BREACH OF PROMISE.

TWO recent cases in the English Courts of actions for Breach of Promise of Marriage have served the *Spectator* as a peg on which to hang a very amusing article entitled "The Law and Lovers' Vows." One, the rather disreputable case in which our old friend, the Sultan of JOHORE, figured prominently, was dismissed on a technicality, the SULTAN'S plea that, as an independent Sovereign, he was not amenable to the jurisdiction of the English Courts, being held good, and the precise merits of the claim brought by the injured plaintiff will therefore never be known to the public. In the second case, an elderly and wealthy widower, carrying on the trades of an auctioneer and public-house broker, was sued by a lady, young enough to be his daughter, who had filled the position of music-teacher to the defendant's daughters, as old as herself. In this instance, no considerations of international comity, no deference to the prerogatives of Sovereign princes, interfered to prevent the injured plaintiff publicly vindicating her rights through the legal tribunals of her country, but a considerable conflict of evidence rendered the task of the jury no light one. The defendant had, it was asserted, proposed marriage to the plaintiff, been accepted by her, declared his intention to marry her, kissed her repeatedly, sat in a train with his arm round her waist, all in the presence of her relatives and friends; but, on the other hand, he answered her letters through the medium of his clerk—not a very lover-like proceeding—and through that medium informed her that he had never made an offer of marriage, but had only asked how such an offer would be received supposing it were made. An unsympathetic jury declined to endorse this view of his conduct, and awarded the plaintiff what she will no doubt consider a very adequate solatium for the loss of her elderly wooer.

The *Spectator* suggests, in view of this case, why should not the task of jurymen be lightened, and the world be spared from what is the painful and demoralising spectacle of the modern breach of promise case, by the adoption of the very simple expedient of holding no promise of marriage valid unless it is made in writing upon properly stamped paper. We should be inclined to sugggest that the same end might be attained with less shock to the romance of courtship and marriage by the still more simple expedient of adopting a uniform and inexpensive pattern of engagement ring, the presentation of which should be considered as essentially a part of every formal engagement as the wedding ring now is of every marriage. The giving and receiving of this ring might be considered as conclusive evidence of the fact that an engagement to marry had been deliberately made and ratified, and then, to continue in the words of the *Spectator*, there would be no need in breach of promise cases to go into all the history of a doubtful courtship, or to consider any other factor in the assessment of damages than the respective incomes of the contracting parties. There would be no need to recite the history of the lovers' wooing, to tell of kisses and embraces, to read old letters couched in the fond and foolish language of love, to lay bare for the whole world to gape at all the sad wounds that love forsworn has inflicted. There would be the ring. All that the jury would have to decide would be whether the defaulting lover had given it or not; and if he had given it, what compensation was owing to the woman he had disappointed? Even the most modest and sensitive maiden could then proceed against her lover without loss of pride or dignity. The subject of the total abolition of actions of this nature has more than once been brought before the House of Commons; no subject is or has been more frequently discussed in the University and Law students debating societies. Opinions in regard to it are very conflicting, but it is admitted, we believe, that undignified, or even sordid, as such cases most frequently are, and though "they are usually brought by those who least deserve the benefit of the law's intervention and who are most capable of taking care of themselves," the danger of abolishing this form of action altogether far exceeds the possible advantages to be gained thereby. In the meantime, however, a "simplification of the existing law and a more efficacious protection to the weaker party to the contract than that law affords" seem very easy of attainment.

THE RACE CLUB.

IT has come to be almost an invariable rule that after each annual meeting of the Race Club discontented members address to the local press letters airing their grievances. The fact is regrettable, and it certainly does not accord with the spirit of sport. For our own part, we are most reluctant to place the correspondence columns of the *Japan Mail* at the disposal of these writers, but we cannot well refuse to them the privilege accorded to all persons who desire to ventilate complaints which they believe to be well-founded, and who formulate their complaints in moderate language. Yet, if such bickering cannot be excluded from the field of sport, where may we expect respite from it? The case which appears to be now causing so much dissatisfaction is, in our opinion, particularly petty. A Chinese collector has betrayed the trust reposed in him, and his default is likely to cost the Club a few hundred dollars. It is one of those incidents from which the best management cannot guarantee immunity. Yet

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members are immediately found who think that the Honorary Treasurer should be held responsible for the loss, and the affair is speedily enveloped in an atmosphere of discontent and recrimination. The Honorary Treasurer is a member who gives his services for nothing; a man who performs most onerous duties from pure love of sport and from a desire to promote the community's pastimes. He happens in the present instance to be one of the oldest residents of Yokohama, a prominent figure in the community, and one whose business capacities render it certain, *à priori*, that no carelessness or want of foresight on his part was responsible for the trifling loss which the Club is likely to suffer. We can conceive nothing more ungracious or more unsportsmanlike than the notion of raising an outcry against such a man because he had the ill-fortune to be in office when a dishonest Chinaman was entrusted with the duty of collecting the members' subscriptions. If the spirit actuating such expressions of discontent were suffered to grow, it would soon become impossible to conduct the affairs of the Race Club on lines of friendship and pleasure. It seems to us that this paltry affair of a fraudulent Chinese collector, by which incomparably the greatest sufferer is the Honorary Treasurer himself, calls for nothing more than an expression of sympathy with that gentleman for the trouble and worry it has caused him. There is not even occasion to express confidence that, although no longer in office, he will use his best endeavours to reduce to a minimum the loss falling upon the Club. Comment of the same kind may be fairly extended, we think, to the criticisms elicited about the second question brought forward at last Tuesday's meeting, namely, the expediency of renting, on behalf of the Club, a piece of land adjoining the Race Course. The proposer and seconder of this project were men who have been associated with the Club for years, and whose names appear at the head of all schemes for the benefit of the community or for charitable purposes. They are thoroughly competent to determine whether or no the acquisition of the land would be in the interests of the Club, and it is at all events certain that their action in the matter is not prompted by selfish motives. Yet they, too, seem to be arraigned. It is a pity that people whose proclivities prompt them to be so captious and acrimonious as are the censors in this and similar cases, cannot persuade themselves to stand aside altogether, and leave the management of sports and pleasures to folks blessed with kindlier and franker dispositions.

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE, Limited, Yokohama.

THE ARDLAMONT MYSTERY.

NEARLY forty years have now elapsed since all Scotland, and indeed the whole United Kingdom, was thrown into a fever of excitement over the trial at Edinburgh, for the alleged murder of her lover, of a very young lady of remarkable personal attractions, a member of a family occupying a leading position in the society of the Scotch capital. All the circumstances of the case were of a highly romantic nature. The lover was a Frenchman of humble station, far beneath that of the family of the accused. The acquaintance between the two was surreptitious, the fact of its existence being entirely unknown to the accused's relatives or friends. It had existed for some time, had developed into a passionate love, followed by a long continued criminal intimacy. A time arrived, however, when the lady's hand was sought in marriage by one of her own rank in life, a suitor who was favoured by her relatives and was acceptable to herself. Even prior to this, she had begun to weary of her secret amour, but found unfortunately that she had involved herself in the meshes of a net not to be lightly shaken off. Her lover refused to be discarded, threatened a disclosure of all that had taken place between them, and insisted on her marrying, if any body, himself. One morning he was found dead in his obscure lodgings, having been on the previous night in perfect health, and a very slight examination soon brought to light that the cause of his death was poisoning by arsenic. Numbers of letters, of the most compromising nature, from the young lady were found in his possession, and police investigations quickly wove round the unhappy girl a web of evidence that seemed to establish her guilt in such a way as to leave for her not a single loophole of escape from an ignominious death. But, at her trial, she was defended by the late Lord Justice General of Scotland, then Dean of Faculty, who in her defence made what is probably the most powerful address that has ever been delivered in a Court of Justice, and by his irresistible eloquence, supported solely by the youth and striking beauty of his client, wrung from a reluctant jury the peculiar Scotch verdict of "*not proven*." The result of such a verdict is that the accused is discharged from custody, but while that of "*not guilty*" is, as in the English Courts of Justice, an absolute bar against any future proceedings whatsoever in the same cause and a complete vindication of innocence, "*not proven*" leaves open the way for a second trial should fresh evidence at any time be discovered, and leaves also of course a slur upon the character of the accused. Nothing further was ever heard of or done in this case, and it was entirely forgotten until, a little while ago, news reached London that its central figure had lately died in Australia. Almost simultaneously with the arrival of this news, strange to say, the Scotch capital was once more absorbed in the trial of a murder charge, less romantic perhaps than its predecessor of forty years ago, but no less exciting in its details, similar to the first in that the evidence, though purely circumstantial, appeared, while uncontradicted, of almost overwhelming strength, and similar to it also in that the same unsatisfactory verdict of "*not proven*" was the final result. The detailed account of the close of the trial has not yet reached us, but, at the date of our latest papers from England, it had already arrived at its eighth day, and the end came two days later. The papers all refer to the case as "The Ardlamont Mystery," and the absorbing interest with which its progress was followed at home is fully testified by the copious reports given of it in all papers.

The accused in this case was a person named ALFRED JOHN MONSON, a gentleman by birth and education, in dress and manners also unmistakably a gentleman, who appears to have carried on the occupation of an army tutor. A year or so ago, a young gentleman named CECIL HAMBOROUGH was committed to his charge to be prepared for entry into the Guards. The latter was a youth of splendid physique, about 20 years of age, with expectations of succeeding in due course to large estates and considerable means. In the meantime, his father possessed a life interest in both estates and money; this interest had been mortgaged ts its fullest value, and both father and son were for the moment in pecuniary difficulties. MONSON also was in the same plight, and the necessary means for defraying the expenses of the son's education could only be obtained through the medium of financial agents—in other words money-lenders—in London. The tutor appears to have obtained great influence over his pupil, and to have made his companionship and residence so attractive to him that both were preferred by the boy to those of his own father. Be that as it may, the two remained together until last summer, when, as it happened, a very beautifully situated property on the Loch Fyne side of the Kyles of Bute in Argyleshire, known as the Ardlamont Estate, came into the market for sale. It was taken by MONSON as a tenant, with the ultimate intention of purchasing it, apparently with money belonging to his wife, and his pupil appears to have been desirous of joining him in the purchase and becoming a joint owner of the property with him. The money for the purpose was to have been found for him also by Mrs. MONSON, and to secure her against loss large insurances were actually effected, and much larger ones attempted, on his life in her favour. The purchase was, however, never completed, nor had the necessary money been found, notwithstanding the completion of the insurance in Mrs.

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MONSON'S favour. In August last, the two—tutor and pupil—were living on the estate, and there was with them for a time a man named EDWARD SCOTT, who, though only a working mechanical engineer and evidently a person of very inferior position, lived with them on the footing of an intimate acquaintance. This man arrived at Ardlamont on the 8th of August. The theory of the prosecution appears to have been that MONSON had by that time determined to murder his pupil in order to obtain without cost the benefit of the insurance of his life, and that he had brought SCOTT to assist him in carrying out this fell purpose.

Early on the morning of the 10th of August, the three started from the house for the purpose of rabbit shooting in a neighbouring covert. In one part of the covert was a stone herb-covered dyke, about four feet high, sloping into a ditch lined with thick moss and bracken. After one rabbit had been shot, the deceased separated from his companions, and shortly after he had done so a second shot was heard by them. Receiving no answer to their inquiry, "what have you got," they proceeded to the direction from which the report of the shot had come, and there found young HAMBOROUGH lying dead in the ditch with a gaping gun shot wound in his head, two or three inches behind the left ear. They raised the body to the top of the dyke and returned to the house for medical assistance, which of course was of no avail. This was the story told by MONSON and SCOTT. The assumption was that the ill-fated youth had accidentally discharged his gun while trailing it over the dyke, himself standing at the time in the ditch, and falling dead into it. There are no coroner's inquests in Scotland, and this story was at first accepted without question, and the affair appeared to be nothing but an accident of a not uncommon though deplorable nature. But it was soon known that active inquiries into the matter were being made by the police. The body, which had been interred at Ventnor was exhumed, and no traces of singing, such as might be expected where a shot had been fired at very close range, were found on it; the pellets of shot were not scattered; it was ascertained that the moss and bracken in the ditch bore, on the day of the occurrence, none of the marks which must have been made by a heavy body falling on them; the fact of the large life insurance came to light; and, what was still more significant it was discovered that, on the previous night, MONSON and HAMBOROUGH had after dinner gone out in the bay to fish from a small boat, and that while they were in it, the boat suddenly filled and sank. MONSON was a good swimmer and easily reached the shore. HAMBOROUGH could not swim at all and with difficulty escaped drowning by clinging to a rock. It was found that a hole had been deliberately cut in the boat by some person unaccustomed to carpentry and working with insufficient tools, probably a pocket knife, and the inference was that, on this occasion, a deliberate attempt had been made to drown the deceased by swamping the boat. The man SCOTT disappeared from Ardlamont on the day following the alleged accidental shooting, and has never since been heard of, but MONSON was soon arrested and charged both with the attempted murder by drowning and the actual murder by shooting, and his trial for both offences commenced at Edinburgh on the 12th of December last. Over one hundred witnesses were examined for the prosecution. Evidence was given of MONSON'S pecuniary straits, of successful and unsuccessful attempts to effect large insurances on his pupil's life, and a whole host of expert witnesses—both medical and sporting—were called to show that while by no possibility could such a wound as that found on the head of the deceased have been caused by a shot fired at close range, it was precisely of the nature that might be expected if the firing had taken place at a distance of some ten to twelve feet, and the theory of the prosecution was that deceased, while standing on top of the dyke, had been shot by the accused from behind a bush at that distsnce from it; that he had fallen dead on top of the dyke, and that his body had never, as was stated by the accused, been in the ditch at all. Some very ghastly experiments had been made by the medical experts. They tested the results of shots fired at different ranges on dead bodies in the Edinburgh mortuary, and the result of these experiments had been to establish the theory suggested by them. Neither the whole of the evidence for the defence nor the closing speeches of the counsel on either side have as yet come to us, but at the date of the last available reports, a considerable amount of medical evidence strongly conflicting with that adduced for the prosecution had already been submitted for the defence. What explanation can have been given of the large insurances, and what was the general basis of the whole defence, we as yet know not, but both were such as to cause a not unfavourable reception to be given by the general public to the verdict, arrived at after a very short deliberation by the jury. The accused MONSON has gone forth to the world once more a free though not an absolutely untainted man. It will be interesting to all to learn whether any claim will now be made, either by him or by the relatives of the deceased, on the insurance companies by whom the policies were issued. The almost equally famous MAYBRICK case was followed by a successful claim on insurance companies, and as in it the accused, in whose favour the policies had been issued, was convicted, it may be that in the present, where no felony has been established, the claim, if made, must be met.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

The periodicals of the month are in large measure occupied with *résumé* and speculation appropriate to the New Year. The *Gokyo*, for example, gives an excellent synopsis for *Meiji* 26th of notable events affecting the religious world in Japan, as follows:—In January the dominant Christian theme was experimental religion. Christian work was characterized by much house to house visiting on the part of preachers and evangelists. February is to be remembered chiefly by the *Jiji Shimpo's* discussion of a proposition to release Buddhist priests from army service, and the establishment of a magazine, *Bungakkai*, representing a group of youthful Christians given to pessimistic views of life. The *Kokumin* Christian, in March called attention to the fact that in Japan there are still two important institutions to which freedom of religious belief has not yet been extended, namely, Normal Schools and Army Institutes. The memorable discussion by Inouye Tetsujiro on the conflict between Education and Christianity was started in April. In May, Takahashi Goro's attack on Professor Inouye's article appeared. Kutzumi Noritada published his book on the Christian "Conflict" in this month. The Japan Evangelical Alliance held its quadrennial sessions in Nagoya. The proposed dance by members of the *Shinshiu* sect in the Tsukiji Hongwanji was prohibited. A Kyoto Shinshiu Professor, Tokunagasu, published a "Philosophy of Religion" in July. In July also the Shinshiu priest Terada issued a largely circulated volume on the "Standard of Right and Wrong." The sessions of the Christian Summer School at Suma, near Kobe, took place also in this month. The record of August includes Mr. Uchimura's *Kin Anroku* (Founding of Peace); Professor Inouye's "Defence;" an article entitled "Nichiren-shiu not Buddhism;" and the *Mainichi Shimbun's* accusation that the prevalent attacks on Christianity are without justification. Rev. Naomi Tamura's much-discussed "Japanese Bride" appeared in this month, and the Tsukiji Hongwanji was burned. A "Biography of Christ," by Takegoshi Yasaburo, was issued in September. Rev. N. Tamura felt the hand of ecclesiastical discipline laid upon him in this month, and the cöoperate work of a French priest and the Japanese Maeyada Nagata, on Professor Inouye's "Conflict," was suppressed. The disgraceful *Sodo* sect disturbance was a prolific theme during October. And in November, among Christians, many public meetings were held for which a large hearing was secured. During the year the special interests of education were affected by the introduction of text books on Ethics, which the *Gokyo* characterizes as treating morality too much from a negative basis, and as being excessive even to fanaticism on the side of "nationalism." For this reason a strong demand for spiritual education was started. The temperance movement was vigorously advanced during the year. Women's Temperance Unions have been systematized. In literature, Christianity has taken an influential place. History and biography have led in the books published. Fiction has been much depressed. An old form of Japanese poetry, low and vulgar in tone, the *Haikai*, has had unfortunate popularity. Among Buddhist retrospects deserving notice is that of the *Kokkyo*. After naming the most prominent articles by

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Buddhists following Professor Inouye's attack, the writer says, when we look back upon the conflict we cannot but regret that most of the assailants of Christianity depended for the strength of their assaults upon the authority of the Imperial Rescript, the prestige of the Imperial family, State interests, Nationalism, etc. But few of them discussed the question with independent reasonings or sought to weaken Christianity by attacking its essential ideas. The *Kokkyo* sees in the publication of Buddhism to the world at the World's Congress in Chicago, the event of the year most fraught with joy and hope. The great cause of Buddha, however, has to remember three shameful facts as part of the past year, the disturbance in the Sodo sect as symptomatic of the decay of the old Buddhism, the corruption discovered among the priests of Onjoji, at Omi, and the immorality of the officers of Kiyomizuji in Kyoto. Let the new year show us better guided by the light of the sacred Buddha. The *Hansei Zasshi* reviews last year's events by saying that the conflict over Professor Inouye's attack made Christians seriously consider their position, and gave to Buddhists a good opportunity to publish their principles. In the World's Religious Congress it sees the most important event in the history of Buddhism, an event pregnant with great possibilities for the faith of Sakya Muni. The exceptional evangelistic work done in the Hokkaido, the Kurile Islands, Russia, Korea, and China, by Buddhist delegates is to be gratefully remembered, and the progress of the fixed foreign missions in Hawaii, Korea, Ogasawara-jima, Thibet, and India is not to be forgotten. The Summer Schools held at Kamakura, Futami ga-Ura, and Kumamoto are noted as having been very successful. Charity work has been advanced, as in hospital building, in forming an association for the protection of released criminals, and in the institution of a Buddhistic insurance company. The *Hansei Kwai*, a Buddhist temperance association, numbers now 16,464 members, an increase during the year of 1,219. This society has three branch offices, which have sent out to different countries a number of committees; it has also instituted an educational department in which there are more than eighty students. The *Daido Shimpo* has some counsels to give Buddhists for the New Year, which are worth noticing as signs of the times. The great question of the near future is the cultivation of the seed sown at the World's Congress. Buddhism should be propagated in the Western world. Next, the Sacred Shrine of Shaka in India should be recovered. But 50,000 *yen* are needed for this purpose. Only want of faith or ignorance will prevent the restoration. Then the thirteen Buddhist sects of Japan should unite in fixing some principle concerning the great question of Mixed Residence. Buddhist priests should not lazily shirk this question on the pretence that they are busy with supermundane affairs. Since they live in this land, they must think out this land's problems. There are many other matters to be dealt with by Buddhists in the near future, such as a mission to Siberia, continuance of the Hawaiian mission, cöoperation of Japanese and Chinese Buddhists, translation of the Sacred Books, devising measures against Socialism, arresting the tendency to a wider separation of rich and poor, &c. How many Buddhists will interest themselves in these questions, asks the writer. He expects most help from the "Young Men's Buddhist Associations" but these seem to regard Buddhism rather as a philosophy than as a religion. Priests and students appear to be contented with idle discussions. If things go on as they are now going, concludes the writer, there will soon be no real believing Buddhists, however much societies may increase in the name of Buddha.

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The Christian journals offer many plans for work in the year we have entered. We need not, summarize these plans at length. The *Christokyo Shimbun* says that until about four years ago Japanese Christians were blind followers of their teachers. They received dogma just as it was imparted. After *Meiji* 23rd, their relation to their teachers became better understood, and they felt free to discuss Christian doctrines for themselves. They entered an era of questioning. About two years ago the stage of conviction was reached. We can and should be therefore both tolerant and enthusiastic. Thus shall we secure a perfect development for our faith. Plans for the New Year, though often made, and made in vain, are not useless. We have our ideas of what should take place among Christians. Individuals should feel more than they do their personal responsibility. One new convert for each Christian in Japan would, in ten years, convert the whole people. The past year shows very few converts even in large churches. Some churches have even decreased in membership. Again, mission activity should be increased. An itinerant ministry should be encouraged, one minister caring for several separated churches. These two things should be our leading purposes for the new year. The *Gokyo* has a word to say on how missionary work should be conducted, in order to be made successful. It cannot be pursued as a method of manufacture from a pattern. The missionary's aim should be to communicate himself to the people, to influence men's hearts, to impress upon them the image of God, to leave himself in men's memories. There is no use increasing churches if the spirit of true faith and life is not in them. The same journal deals with historical criticism of the Bible, by declaring that if one has not first Christian faith, there is no use in his studying the sacred records critically. This much of narrow mindedness is needed. The primitive believers were narrow minded, and thereby had the conviction, devotion and courage necessary for an attack on heathenism. Biblical Criticism should really be nothing but an endeavour to ascertain the process of God's revelation through human cöoperation. God cannot be comprehended by man. Belief lies where the intellect can not reach. Criticism is the word of the intellect; religion is the product of faith. The *Fukuin Shimpo* finds in a firmer belief and a close organization the hope for future dominance of the Christian Church in Japan. This journal also commends interest in political, as well as in social and individual questions to Christians as part of the duty of believers. A writer in *Gokyo* thinks that the Japanese Churches have been too much inclined to self-preservation and tradition, and that the New Year should show a devoted, outgoing, progressive life. The hope cherished for the New Year is that spiritual faith shall grow deeper and stronger and that with that power the sceptical world shall be conquered. The *Fukuin no Tsukai* is rather severe in its review of the present propagation of Christianity. Japan is yet far from being a Christian nation. Evangelists in their zeal for politics and through their hostility to Buddhism ignore the essential Gospel. Moreover, philosophy which perplexes even philosophers can not take the place of the pure Gospel. Like Paul, John, and Peter, Christians in Japan should stand before man and God. Thus, some of the thoughts of the Christian press at the coming of the New Year.

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Among minor articles of importance for the purposes of this summary, we notice first, in the *Kirisutokyo Seinen*, the organ of the Young Men's Christian Associations, some opinions on the "Promotion of National Virtue" worth attention. Mr. Mashino, the writer, says he is not hostile to the principles of the conservatists, but he would go a step farther than they go. It is a popular notion of national virtue that it should show itself in an attempt to maintain an isolated dignity for the country; that a Japan of and for Japan should be established. Such an aim, however, Mr. Mashino thinks does not now express true national virtue. There was a time when it could be commended as such. There was a time, too, when the spirit of the *samurai* was an ideal manliness. But feudalism has disappeared, and with it the excellence of national isolation and the value of the *samurai's* spirit. Be self-respecting and self-reliant still of course, but in this mood national virtue would now best be reached by making a Japan not for Japan only but for the world. The grandeur of Fuji mountain and the beauty of the blum blossom are no longer types of national excellence; rather the expanding power and grace of things which move and develop. In the same journal, independence and self-control are spoken of as the characteristics to be aimed at by Christian young men and their associations. The writer finds much fault with the alms-giving and receiving which too often characterize individuals and organizations. Present wide-spread charities tend to promote a low, dependent tone of character. If the young men's associations exist mainly through contributions from others, the result will be the death of the manly spirit of their members. The Greek Church organ, the *Seikyo Shimpo*, speaking of the recent assaults made upon Christianity under the plea of patriotism, asks, what is patriotism? Would it be really destroyed by Christianity or mixed residence? There is a natural patriotism common to all animals. A land, because it is a native land, is loved. A Laplander, even in Italy, longs for his cheerless northern home. Unless Christianity first destroys natural instincts, it will not destroy this patriotism. There is in the next place a love of parents, of instructors, of friends, which may be called moral patriotism. Unless Christianity changes fundamental human affections it will not harm this form of patriotism. Nor will political patriotism, which seeks to increase the general welfare of the land, be destroyed by Christianity. Some forms of patriotism may disappear. In the great Japan Revolution, both hostile parties were patriotic, beyond doubt. Not patriotism, but its forms were involved in that struggle. Through Christianity, only an exalted patriotism surely will follow. The *Inochi* puts little faith in ordinary public opinion. Especially in religion public opinion should have no power whatever to control men. Christians should rise above the influence of what this, that man, or all men say, and be guided solely by the faith which gives them their name. The *Inochi* discovers a notable illustration among prominent Buddhists of doctors so disagreeing that it is proper to ask who shall decide. Prof. Inouye had opposed Christianity because it has a universal character, and is therefore unfitted to the peculiar life of the Japanese people. But Mr. Ouchi Seiran declares Prof. Inouye wrong. Christianity is not unfitted to Japan because of its universality. It is the product of Jewish nationalism. Therefore, it is in conflict with Japan and with this country's institutions. The true universalism is Buddhism. In China there arose a distinctively Chinese Buddhism. In Japan a really Japanese Buddhism exists. Christianity, on account of its nationalistic narrowness, has no place in this country.

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Among the articles in leading Christian periodicals, one by Mr. Harada in the *Rikugo Zasshi*, on the "Central Question in Practical Morality," deserves some notice. It is held by certain moralists, he says, that men need but to know the perfect moral code in order to become gradually more and more conformed to it. These thinkers are wrong. A stronger motive than knowledge is necessary. What is that motive? Many attempts have been made in Japan to establish such a supreme motive. Religion has been proposed. Education under some accepted system of ethics has been undertaken. Social sanction and power of public opinion have been offered. Appeals to the instinct of patriotism and to loyalty have been proclaimed as sufficient. But these motives are all imperfect. None of them recognizes the power of evil in the human soul. Again, none of them includes in its scope the criminal classes. A criminal is under the social ban. These motives will not affect him. Again, these motives do not lay hold of the conscience. Outward reform or pressure does not affect the soul so as to make a man love good and detest evil. Patriotism controls a man in times of great national crises, but in times of peace it is a

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feeble force. Under Confucianism much moral constraint was exercised, but Confucianism was limited to the higher classes, and now it belongs to the past. However, even under that code, the great motive power was the Chinese Sage himself as an ideal, perfect man—not his ethics as such. Mere ethics are not a sufficient motive force. In Christianity such power exists God, thought of as a God of Love, is such an incentive. "The pure in heart shall see God." The person of Christ produces such prime motive. This personality gives life to Christian morality. The hope for ethics in Japan lies in bringing human conduct under the spiritual force of Jesus; not in the way of miracle, but simply through the ordinary laws governing the spiritual life of man. The Nation's Friend, the *Kokumin no Tomo*, has some interesting reflections on "The Present Position of Buddhism." The writer notes that a great change has come over the mood of Buddhism. It has ceased persecuting Christianity. Buddhists are now turning their attention inward upon their own affairs. In the cessation of persecution of the Buddhist sects some may find signs of weakness, but the writer thinks these changes are symptoms of progress towards Christianity. Recently Christianity has been much affected by Buddhism, but Buddhism has been yet more influenced by Christianity. The changes in both religions will not stop where things are. The *Bukkyo*, the central organ of the Buddhist world, acknowledges the growing transformation. It says that the faith has had a dogmatic age in which disciples believed Buddhism to be the all perfect religion; its principles literal truth. But now it is becoming evident that the original faith was much changed in its development, and that in its growth, so much having been done to "give medicine according to the kind of disease," some things that conflict with science, and contradict reason, have been added to the ancient doctrine. In all probability, therefore, it is passing from a dogmatic to a skeptical era. Above every other thing the doubt that *Mahayana* is part of Buddha's teachings will probably give rise to a life and death struggle. When we must choose finally whether to continue to stand by it or give it up, although the *Mahayana* is not essential to our faith, a great revolution is sure to come. Along with this question myriad difficulties, cloud-like, await us. Our sceptical age has come. But, adds the *Kokumin no Tomo*, this may be only the beginning of the time when a free Buddhism is to arise, and in cöoperation with Liberal Christianity, lead Buddhism away from its dogmatism and self-conceit towards liberty and progress.

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The Liberal Christian press, as usual, contains many interesting articles on theology, criticism, and history, and experimental Christianity. The *Shinri* has a valuable summary of the various interpretations made of the name "Son of Man," in the New Testament, from the writings of eminent scholars, by Rev. Maruyama, also quite a full description by Mr. S. Fujita of the manuscripts of the New Testament, chronologically arranged down to the 10th century. The *Jiyu Kiristokyo* treats editorially of the essence of Christianity, and finds that essence not in theology but in the life of Christ. Under the heading "Japanese and Foreign Christians," is a good article showing how misunderstandings on both sides have disturbed the progress of Christianity in Japan. Foreign missionary associations are advised, in view of these misunderstandings, to send only their most generous and able men to this country. Japanese Christians are counselled to suppress their fanatic impulses, and not to stir up strife under the name of patriotism. Religion is not politics. In the *Shukyo* there is a noteworthy array of important articles which do not give themselves to brief summarizing. Mr. Tachibana's reply to Mr. Kimura's essay on "Knowledge and Conduct" is of value.

* * *

The Buddhist magazines are numerous, and some of them very interesting. We can take but little from them this month. Especially worthy of attention, however, is Mr. Nakanishi Gyuro's reflections in the *Kokkyo* upon the "Influence of the World's Religious Congress." He says:—The object of either Buddhism, or Christianity is to promote the brotherhood of men of all countries and of the world. Yet there has been nothing so instrumental as this aim in breaking national peace and producing bloody strife. Far-sighted men from ancient times, have longed for and looked for the day when all forms of religion should be united under the name Religion, and thus bring in peace for all mankind. This longing has at last begun its realization in the World's Congress of Religions. The World's Congress was, of course, the result of the general progress of mankind, yet there were some special causes leading to it. Material progress and spiritual need had much to do with bringing it about. The direction of thought has been much changed by the material evolution of the last three hundred years. Materialism, taking shape as sensationalism, the evolution theory, atheism, &c., has weakened confidence in intuitional truth, religious sentiment, and moral feeling. Humanity has become enslaved to things of sense and to money; national spirit and social order are endangered. It is clear that in this great tendency every religion has had a terrible enemy. They therefore have laid aside their mutual hostilities and faced a common foe. Secondly, the increase of free thought has compelled religions believers to see that all religions contain more or less truth, and that the comparative study of religions should be advanced. Hence the World's Congress was gathered. The results of the Congress for Buddhism and Christianity have been the discovery that at their source all religions are one. As far as Buddhism is concerned there are these cheering facts. Hitherto, as studied in the West, Buddhism has been much distorted. The works of Oldenburg, Burnouf, Max Müller, and Rhys Davies treat only of the *Hinayana*, or Southern Buddhism. But in the Chicago Conference the *Mahayana*, or Northern Buddhism, was first explained to the world. It must have broken down many prejudices. The people of the West learned that Buddhism is not necessarily pessimism, atheism, mere philosophical speculation or an obstacle to progress. It became also clear there that Buddhism may contain all other religions; that its profound theories do not conflict with science and philosophy. Yet, while at Chicago there was no fault found with Buddhist principles, many practical defects in the working of the faith were pointed out. This may be because, in the past, religious influences in Japan, in China, and in other Buddhist countries were not favourable. The trouble rests with faithless priests, not with the religion's principles. In the great Congress there was sympathy for the Eastern religion, and even some antagonism to Christianity. Mr. Joseph Cook failed in his attempted opposition to the East. This failure arose from the fact that the audiences were largely composed of free-minded men, and that Christians made assaults upon the Eastern faiths. Indeed, Christianity gained little and lost much in the World's Congress. On the religious world generally the effects of the Congress were as follows:—It manifested the power of religion to the non-religious. It opened ways of inter-communication between all religions. It showed to the world, much religious worth hitherto unknown in civilized lands. It was instrumental in breaking through the obstinate isolation of sects. It pointed out the religious tendency of the Nineteenth Century. It took away from proud Christianity its religious sovereignty, compelling Christianity to share this sovereignty with others. It laid the foundations for a future religious unity. It disclosed the fact that peace and progress rest with religion. It gave a great impetus to the science of comparative religion.

* * *

The Shinshiu agents at Chicago distributed, of five different tracts and volumes respecting their faith, over thirty thousand volumes, yet in the same magazine, the *Kokkyo*, only a few paragraphs removed is an article entitled the "Opportune Cunning and Wicked Measures of the Unitarian Mission." All Christians are cunning and wicked, says the writer. This last summer they distributed a book entitled "Friends of the Bible" to many thousand Government officers, thus leading them to learn some superstition. We had an appendix in our magazine giving the names of 4,200 priests who contributed money to send our delegate to Chicago. In the Unitarian Mission there are some traitor Buddhists. They sent Unitarian tracts and magazines to these priests, thus trying to disturb their faith. Some priests, detesting these Christian books, burn them; some blind ones are being injured by them without knowing their danger. In the *Dento* the pages are almost filled with New Year articles by rather immature contributors. Other Buddhists journals, such as *Michi no Tomo* (Follower of the Way), *Nori no Kura* (Storehouse of the Law), *Shimmei* (Guide to Public Opinion), *Hana no Sono* (Flower Garden), *Toku-fu* (The Beneficent Wind), *Nori no Hanashi* (Talk on the Law), are on our table, but their contents are not of sufficient importance to summarize now. The *Bukkyo* contains a suggestive article on the position of Buddhism in Japanese literature, but we have space to say of it only that after lamenting the low state of literature in this country, the writer calls upon Buddhist priests to go to its help. He urges them, if they cannot do more, to begin at least worthy compilations of the events belonging to the history of Buddhism. The *Kwatcho* speaks of the Grounds of Belief, Authority, and Reason, declaring that the first is not necessarily certain, and that the second is not necessarily uncertain. Each principle contains both truth and error. Buddhism inclines more towards authority. The *Daido Shimpo* is in an extremely unhappy mood over the present age. Through an excess of scepticism and critical work, men have become self-conceited and self-sufficient. They slander Shaka, abuse Confucius, and have lost the old spirit of hero-worship. Such are the signs of human depravity. The nation is now fickle and always unreliable. First, doubting the value of their country's institutions, the people turned to foreign things; then doubting foreign things they returned to things at home, and now they have become profoundly sceptical. All this is deeply painful. The *Eta* Mission, according to the *Hansei Zasshi*, is flourishing. The Roman Catholics, said the *Inochi*, were the first Christians to help the *Eta*. Now much is being done by the Christians. In Kami-oka-cho, Asakusa, the meetings begin usually at ten at night and last until after midnight. Many curious questions are put by the auditors, and skilled missionaries are often puzzled to know what to answer. Converted *Eta* are deeply in earnest. They are often even excessive in their zeal. To this note from the Presbyterian paper the Buddhist writer adds, if we should cöoperate with the Christians in this work, it is not impossible that these unfortunate people be gradually elevated, and at length given the equal place in society to which modern law and humanity have opened the way.

THE GRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

The ninth semi-annual meeting of shareholders in the Grand Hotel, Limited, was held on Tuesday afternoon in the Old Dining-Hall of the Hotel, the Chairman of Directors, Mr. J. F. Lowder, presiding. There were present Messrs. James Walter, J. Witkowski, J. Rickett, R. Howie, and J. Tornoe (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said that the meeting would take the report and accounts as read. There was really no comment to be made upon them, but he would take advantage of the opportunity presented to explain one item in regard to the furniture account, which might perhaps have arisen in their minds. It would have been noticed that on the 30th June last, the value of their furniture was put down at $56,759, while now its value was declared at $56,966. As a matter of fact, they had written off $4,500 from this account during the past half year, but during that same time they had spent $4,707 upon new furniture. In this $4,707, two new billiard tables were included which would account for $2,000, and the rest had been expended for linen,

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cutlery, etc. Another gratifying feature of the accounts was that the value of the wine-stock had been reduced from $8 510 to $6,741 during the interval. These were all the remarks he had to offer.

HALF-YEARLY REPORT.

Report of the Directors, to be submitted at the ninth semi-annual ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, on Tuesday, the 30th day of January, 1894.

The Profit and Loss Account, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the half year ended the 31st December, 1893, accompany this Report.

The net profit for the half year, including balance brought forward from the 30th June, 1893, and after providing for general expenses, Directors' and Auditor's fees, interest, and depreciation, and after writing off bad debts, amounts to	$20,000
Which it is proposed to apply as follows:—	
In payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. for the half year	$15,000
Balance to new Account	$ 5 000
	$20 000

The reduction of Liabilities by payment of $5,000 mortgage debt, has necessitated a corresponding deduction from Assets. Last year the whole sum was written off the value of the Electric Light Plant. This year $4,500 have been written off the furniture account; and the Steam-launch has been written down from $2,000 to $1,500.

It is proposed that the dividend shall be payable on the 31st day of January, when the warrants will be issued.

J. F. LOWDER,
JAMES WALTER, } Directors.

Yokohama, 16th January, 1894.

THE GRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on December 31st, 1893.

ASSETS.

Chartered Bank of I. A. & C.	$ 15,665.22
Cash in hand	447.58
Fire Insurance Policies	1,379 93
Ground	60,000.00
Buildings	149,901 08
Furniture	56,966. 4
Electric Light Plant	12,000.00
Steam Launch	1,500.00
Wines in stock	6,741.04
Provisions in stock	2,974 37
Bills receivable	5,400.00
	$312,575.00

LIABILITIES.

Stock, 5,500 Shares, at $100	$250,000 00
Mortgage	35,000,00
Bills payable	7,875 92
	$292,575 92
Balance, Profit	20,000.00
	$312,575.02

Profit and Loss Account—December 31st, 1893.

DR.

To General Expenses			$17,627.58
To Fire Insurance			1,168.12
To Interest			1,135.84
To Directors' and Auditor's Fees			900 00
To Bad Debts written off			49.30
To Balance, Gross Profit			$21,845.65
Less written off for			
Depreciation of Buildings	$ 874.87		
Depreciation of Electric light plant	930.65		
Depreciation of Steam Launch	40.13		
	$ 1,845.65		
Balance available for Division:			
Dividend 6%	$15,000.00		
Carried forward to new account	5,000.00	$20,000.00	$21,845.65
			$42,726.39

CR.

By Balance, brought forward from June 30th	$ 5,000.00
By Working Account	36,971 46
By Rent Account	455 00
By Share Transfer Fees	26.00
By Share Warrant Fees	1.00
By Sale of old Material	272.93
	$42,726.39
January 1st, 1894.	
By Balance	$ 5,000.00

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, December 31st, 1893.

J. F. LOWDER,
JAMES WALTER, } Directors.

I have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with vouchers of the Company, and certify them to be correct.

O. KEIL, Auditor.

Yokohama, January 15th, 1894.

Mr. WITKOWSKI moved, and Mr. WALTER seconded, the adoption of the accounts.—Carried.

Mr. CHAIRMAN—This, gentlemen, really concludes the business of the meeting, but I cannot allow you to separate without giving expression to the feeling entertained by every person connected with this hotel, to a feeling of regret which is entertained by all who knew him, at the loss sustained by the death of Joe. Joe had another name, but to us he was known as Joe, and he will be remembered, not only by us, but by every visitor to this hotel for many years past, as Joe. Joe's face and figure were as familiar to many residents in other parts of the world as they were [illegible] Yokohama. Joe was a man who was never known to say "No" to any reasonable request, and once having said "Yes" he could always be depended upon to carry out his promise thoroughly and well. This is very high praise, indeed. We may be able to find a substitute to take the vacant place, but we shall never be able to find Joe's equal.—(Applause.)

Mr. HOWIE moved a vote of thanks to the Directors and Manager for their services during the past half year. In Mr. Eppinger they had an excellent manager, full of tact and courtesy, while the interests of the shareholders could not be in better hands than in those of the present Board of Directors.

The CHAIRMAN having acknowledged the compliment on behalf of his colleagues, the meeting dispersed.

VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The annual general meeting of supporters and subscribers of the Victoria Public School was held in Kiel's Building on Monday afternoon, Mr. J. F. Lowder, in the chair. There were present Messrs. W. B. Walter, A. J. Wilkin (hon. sec.), P. E. J. F. Stone, J. Troup, T. Rose, M. Russell, J. Mendelson, R N. St. John, J. Smedley, I. Bunting, and the Rev. E S. Booth.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, the HON. SECRETARY read the minutes of the last general meeting, and they were confirmed and signed.

The HON. SECRETARY then read the following:—

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

When the Committee appeared before you at the last Annual Meeting they had to announce that considerable financial help was needed in order to maintain the School for the year then just commenced.

The manner in which the appeal for such help was received and responded to, both at the Meeting, and subsequently by the community generally, of all nationalities, here and in Tokyo and also from Kobe, was no small encouragement as well as satisfaction to them, and they wish to make their hearty acknowledgments to residents for their generous contributions to the funds of the Institution, and to those gentlemen, especially Mr. de Bunsen, Rev E S. Booth, Messrs. Sale and E. J. Moss, who took pains in canvassing.

Altogether the sum of $1 689 was thus received—as per list annexed. Some few of the subscriptions therein are annual.

Thus provided, your Committee set themselves to carry out as far as possible, the views of the friends of the School as set forth at the last Meeting.

In the first place, they decided to try the effect of a reduction in the fees; and accordingly for the Midsummer term, the $25 limit was extended so as to include all boys under 12 years, and a discount of 20 and 30 per cent, respectively was conceded for two and three members of the same family.

It may be assumed that these reductions had something to do with the goodly number of new pupils entered in September for the winter term.

Secondly, the Committee spent about $250 in the way of repairs, painting papering paint-oiling the floors, opening new windows, &c., all which has conduced much to the improvement in appearance and comfort of the School Room and dormitories.

Your Committee wish that they could report as a sequel to all this that the School had attained a self-supporting footing:—unhappily it is not possible to say that, in this respect, there is any material improvement.

At the close of the Easter Term, 8 boys left, all but one, seniors, for offices or for home; and the Midsummer Term commenced with a list of 30. When the School re-opened in September, it was with 12 new boys; an encouraging feature; but as 9 former pupils left (again with hardly an exception to commence office work, or for home) the total reached only 32. The current term commences with but 30.

Your Committee have thus been compelled to a consideration of the desirability of proceeding on another basis in the conduct of the School; a point which was indeed mooted and discussed at the last meeting;—viz, that of working it with a less expensive staff after close of this term.

It is need less to say that your Committee greatly regret to have to recommend such a course, but they feel forced to conclude that it is desirable; firstly, on the score of adapting the expenditure to the income; and secondly, they believe that a thoroughly good liberal education, sufficient for the requirements of the place can be secured with a modified staff, and at an expense adjusted to the probable income of the School. It may be added, that obviously, should the School hereafter expand again, it will be easy to return to a more extensive staff.

It seems evident that these are but these alternatives: either to adopt some such programme, or to undertake to provide this year for a deficit of $1,300 or more In any case it is necessary to ask for a small amount towards the expenses this year, say $500 or $600.

It is a satisfaction to be able to turn from this subject, and to report that the School, it is believed, has been doing good work during the year, under the good care of the Master and Assistant Master, Mr. Fardel and Mr. Fenton.

To see boys passing on from the School to take their places in local offices, and to hear good accounts of the progress of those who have gone home, is cheering. It is also a matter for satisfaction to see old boys taking a good part in local athletics.

A series of Oral Examinations was held in the week preceding the breaking-up, and a successful prize day, on the 14th July, concluded the year.

Mr. de Bunsen, H.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires, kindly presided on the occasion, and the boys acquitted themselves in their recitations by general consent, remarkably well.

Mr. Fardel, is, at his own request, leaving the School at the end of the present term, and the Committee desire to place on record their sense of the warm interest he has ever taken in promoting the welfare of the School, and his unwearying zeal for its progress and prosperity. They take the opportunity to add that in these respects he has also been ably seconded by Mr. Fenton.

The Committee wish to make special acknowledgments to the Rev. P. E. Freese, for having continued his attendance three mornings in the week to give Scripture lessons.

It is also their pleasant duty to record a kindly act of one of their old friends, and parent of former pupils,—Mr. O. A. Poole,—in exhibiting some of his bromide pictures for the purpose of raising a prize fund; and in presenting the gross proceeds, $57 50, for that purpose.

A Japanese class was arranged in the early part of the year, but the number of boys taking lessons in it has not been sufficient to make it remunerative.

It will be seen by the annexed accounts that the year commences virtually without any funds in hand.

The lease of the premises was renewed on 1st Sept. last for another year, on same terms as before.

As will have been seen from the Advertisement calling this meeting, notice is given of a proposed change in Art. IV of the Constitution.

Now that the original fund subscribed for the purpose of founding the School as a Victoria Jubilee School, has disappeared, and the school has had to seek support for its maintenance from other Nationalities than British, an opinion has been expressed that those other Nationalities have a right to expect to have a voice in the management. Any such extension would seem to need a larger number as representatives of the Community, on the Committee.

At the same time it cannot be forgotten that if such a change be adopted, the Institution must for the future forego some part at least of its character as the Jubilee School; but it is hoped that its monument of such a worthy origin will remain in the well-equipped life of many a youth among the 160 or 170 who have in former days passed though it.

Any change made in the Constitution must be confirmed by an adjourned meeting held not less than 14 days hence.

W. B WALTER,
P. E FRED. STONE,
J JOHNSTONE.
GEO. SALE. } Committee.

A. J WILKIN, Hon. Secretary.

THE VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ACCOUNT WITH THE HON. TREASURER.

DR.—Jan. 1st, 1893.

To Balance brought forward		$ 63.00
To Salary and allowances Head Master, 12 months		2,740 00
To Salary Assistant Master, 12 months		2,300 00
To Salary Japanese Master, 7 months		70.00
To Rent for 12 months		840.00
To Hongkong Fire Insurance, $2,000	$13.33	
less bonus for 1891	2.40	
		10.03
To Repairing, painting, and papering		205.75
To Opening 3 new windows in School-room		36 00
To Oiling and painting floors of School room		13 00
To Prizes for Midsummer per E. Flint Kilby, Esq., £4.31		31.50
To Medical attendance for year		75.00
To Cinders for playground		10.00
To Collecting School fees		30.00
To Advertising for year		67.50
To 6 Maps		20.00
To Electric Light for year		24.00
To Stationery, printing, and sundries		23.50
To Kanagawa Kencho some surveying gear		5.50
To Balance carried forward		32.46
		$4,498.14

CR.—1893.

By Fees paid for Christmas Term 1892	$ 63.00
By Fees 35 boys, Easter Term	1,028.95
By Fees 30 boys, Midsummer Term	827.00
By Fees 32 boys, Christmas Term	855.10
By Fees Japanese class at $1 per month	39.00
By Interest in current account, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	13.09
By Subscriptions as per separate list $1,689.00, less collecting $7	1,682.00
	$4,498.14

E. & O. E.

A. J. WILKIN, Hon. Treasurer.

Yokohama, January 22nd, 1894.

Examined with vouchers and found correct

J. RICKETT.
B. GILLETT.

VICTORIA SCHOOL.

Prize fund in account with Hon. Treasurer.

December 18th, 1893.

By, received from O. A. Poole, Esq. $ 57.50

A. J. WILKIN, Hon. Treasurer.

Yokohama, January 22nd, 1894.

The CHAIRMAN said the report just read by their honorary secretary was most full and painstaking, and left little if anything to be added. The thanks of the meeting were due to the Committee for the clear manner in which they had put before them the position in which it found itself that day. At the time of the establishment of the Victoria Public School its promoters hoped that in time it would become self-supporting. The passage of time, however, had shown that those who entertained that hope were oversanguine in their expectations, and they found now that it was impossible, with the present strength of the community, for the School to be self supporting. That this was so, was in no wise due to any failing on the part of the past Committees or the present Committee, or of any of the able masters whose services they had been fortunate to secure. If hard work, energy, ability, and perseverance had been all that was needed in the carrying on of the School, then the hopes of its promoters would have been realised and fulfilled. In the Committee's report which has just been read, they were told that the School cannot be carried on on its present basis unless it receives very material support this year, and the sum needed was placed at about $1,300. If that sum was raised, then the School would continue to be carried on as before. Again [illegible] some $500 or $600 was required to carry on the School this year, and that on an

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altered system. It was with regret that the Committee felt compelled to recommend the adoption of this different basis in the conduct of the affairs of the school. But he was glad to see the hope which the Committee expressed in the future of the School as contained in those recommendations. They had recommended such a course because they believed it to be desirable, firstly, on the score of adapting the expenditure to the income, and secondly, they believed that a thoroughly good liberal education, sufficient for the requirements of the place, can be secured with a modified staff, and at an expense adjusted to the probable income of the School. That, he considered, very reassuring. If the object aimed at could be attained, their thanks would be due to the Committee for pointing out the way. Before considering whether it would be possible to raise the larger sum or to adopt the modified scheme, the Chairman thought that the opinion of the community should be obtained through the Canvassing Committee. He was in favour of leaving the basis of the School's work to the future, at least for the present year, and to make it dependant upon the amount of contributions collected from the community. If only $500 or $600 were collected then they would be compelled to accept the proposition of the Committee. Therefore, he thought that the line of conduct to be pursued could be very well left to the Committee, assisted by the Canvassing Committee. The first duty of the meeting then was to receive and adopt the report and accounts, the second to discuss the advisability of the alteration of Article IV. of the Constitution, so as to allow the number composing the committee to be increased to not more than seven, and the members of it to be other than British subjects. If the proposed change did not find acceptance at that meeting the proposal would fall through, but if the meeting supported the proposal and it was carried, then it would require confirmation at an adjourned meeting to be held fourteen days from then. And if at that adjourned meeting the proposition was confirmed then it would be their duty to elect a committee of seven at that adjourned meeting. In looking over the list of subscribers which was before the meeting, he found that the Committee were supported by subscriptions from ten nationalities, Japanese, German, Italian, Chinese, French, Austrian, Swiss, Belgian, American, and British. It was always well to recollect that their community was essentially cosmopolitan. He did not think that any nationality in the community was strong enough to support alone an institution of this kind. He could recollect attempts of a somewhat similar kind that were made in days gone by. The English once tried to support a Club all by themselves, and the Germans also made a like attempt. Now a Club to some men was almost a necessity, yet both were without success until they decided upon admitting all nationalities. If they could not carry out such things as social clubs alone, he failed to see how Englishmen could expect to carry on by themselves such an institution as the Victoria Public School. He did not see why Britishers should expect to be able to do it. It was a very ambitious project from the very beginning, but it was one that they could all be proud of. He thought that there still remained a future before the School, and that the community would not desert the project now that it had been carried so far. With those few remarks he presented the report and accounts to the meeting.

Mr. St. John proposed and Mr. M. Russell seconded the adoption of the report and accounts. —Carried.

The Chairman—The recommendations and suggestions of the Committee, as contained in their report, are now open for fuller discussion, and I shall be pleased to hear the opinion of the meeting upon them.

Mr. Bunting wished for information from the Committees as to their intention in regard to reducing the expenditure.

Mr. Wilkin said that the Committee had not formulated any definite plan, because, in the first place, it was not in their province to do so. Mr. Fardel, as the report mentioned, was leaving them at the end of the term. The retiring Committee thought that Mr. Fenton, who had done good work for them, would be able to carry on the work of the School with occasional assistance of gentlemen from Tokyo. This assistance would not be forthcoming every day, but it would be frequent. Mr. Fenton would also have junior assistants in the school. The Committee who were leaving office left it to their successors to see in what way the reduced staff would best be able to carry on the work of the school. He thought that the arrangement would work efficiently and satisfactorily. Thirty boys was not a very large class to manage, if the lads were properly graded.

Mr. Rose enquired how it was that a school of 30 pupils carried on privately by a lady could be made to pay, while the Victoria Public School had spent something like $10,000 since its commencement and had nothing to show for it?

The Chairman—I think the school you mean is for very small boys, is it not?

Mr. Bunting took exception to that. The boys were as large as those at the Victoria School.

The Chairman—I only put it as a suggestion.

Mr. Bunting thought the reason why success had not attended the Victoria Public School was by reason of the number of schools existing in Yokohama. Could not something be done whereby the various schools could be administered in one building? There were some thirty boys at one end of the Bluff, some thirty more at the other end, and another thirty a little distance away. Without going to Tokyo, he found the education given by Mrs. Smedley and Miss Aebersold vastly superior to that given at the Victoria School.

Mr. W. B. Walter said that Mr. Bunting had certainly pointed out one of the reasons for their want of success, when he mentioned the multiplicity of schools in Yokohama and Tokyo. When the Victoria School was started there was no school other than those where juniors could go to. A few years ago, however, a very large and influential school, the *Ecole du Matin* was started in Tokyo, and it took away a considerable number of lads, as all well knew. In regard to Mr. Rose's remark as to the $10,000, he would merely mention that the original Jubilee subscription was about $6,000, so that with the sum collected last year the exact sum amounted to a little over $7,000—(Mr. Rose—I was under a slight misapprehension)—which has been spread over a number of years. About $1,000 of it has been spent on the building and various repairs. He did not think that the demand upon the community had therefore been very great, considering the amount of educational work that had been done. The question now was, shall the School be carried on, or shall it be closed. The School was certainly not so much a necessity in Yokohama as when it was first started, by reason of the many schools now in Tokyo and Yokohama. It was a question for the community to decide, however. If the community thinks that the School should be closed then let it express that desire. On the other hand, if it is desired to have the School carried on, then it must come forward with subscriptions towards its support. If that should be the general desire, then the community must say how they wish the School be carried on, either on the old system with the full staff of masters, or on the reduced basis of one master who will carry on the School with the assistance of those gentlemen who had so kindly offered their services in support of the School.

Mr. Rose said that if it were possible to reduce the expenses, as had been suggested, he did not see why the School could not be maintained and carried on.

The Rev. E. S. Booth deprecated any attempt at reducing the curriculum of the Victoria Public School to that of a Primary School. He thought the suggestion of throwing the School open to all nationalities would induce a larger number in the community to patronise the institution. The Victoria Public School was a higher grade school, and there was no other school, so far as he could learn, of the same high class in their community. It had not been well patronised of late, he knew, many boys being sent either to Tokyo or else straight home, but he thought this should not induce them to reduce their staff. They were at present doing higher grade work than private schools could, and it seemed to him that if the School were to become a *bona fide* cosmopolitan School it would turn out a success, and the private schools would find in it a serious competitor. There had been a feeling in the community that the School was maintained by one element, but this would trouble them no longer when once it was placed on a cosmopolitan basis. It seemed to him (the speaker) that the community would carry on the School, because they realised that such a high grade School was an institution most desirable to possess.

Mr. Russell—I think the School has had boys of all nationalities, Chinese, Japanese, American, etc.

The Rev. E. S. Booth—Oh, yes, I am aware of that, I was only pointing out that the feeling in the community was that the institution was a British School—the Victoria Jubilee School—and the other nationalities felt embarrassed and timid about saying or doing anything for the School. I made no reference to any nationality being denied if it applied.

Mr. James Troup said it was invidious to make comparisons between the Victoria Public School and other schools in the place. The same question had been broached at the last annual meeting. He had had the privilege of attending privately the examinations of the schools mentioned by previous speakers. In regard to one he might say that it was established as a girls' school. With regard to both he had nothing but favourable comment to pass upon the education given. But in regard to the lads attending, he must say that they were of younger age than the boys of Victoria Public School. Boys of the age of their Victoria School boys would be extremely difficult to manage in a lady's school. In reference to the financial position of the Victoria School, the speaker said that it had been noted at the last meeting by their present Chairman that there was a possibility, nay an almost settled probability of a position like the present having to be faced at the end of the year. Now the proposition before them was that the School should be put upon a broader basis. He thought that this was only a natural outcome of what had gone before. The School had been from the commencement open to boys of all nationalities. When it came to be a question of finding additional support for the School, after the original sum had been all used-up, the Committee had had no hesitation in appealing to other nationalities for support. Then why should not other nationalities have a voice in its management? To him, it seemed only natural that they should. He could see no objection. The school was a monument of Her Majesty's Jubilee, and as such was founded. If it continued to be carried on by the whole community the reason for its founding would still remain. The memorial of its work, a very worthy one—(hear, hear,)—still remained in its list of students who had passed through its course of study. It was only natural than the management of the School should be opened to other nationalities in a cosmopolitan community such as Yokohama was. He thought that they would meet on this occasion with just such a response as was accorded them last year. The question of reducing the staff and expenditure were matters of detail that could not be discussed at an open meeting, but should be left to the incoming Committee, who would be able to see what could be done in the interests of economy while guaranteeing that the standard of education should not be impaired. They had an excellent master in Mr. Fenton, a man who had a love for his profession, and was devoted to the best interests of the boys. He thought that there was little chance of there being less demand for educational facilities in Yokohama than now. Everyone felt the effect of the dollar being worth so little. This would, he thought, be sufficient in itself to effect the keeping of boys here. Parents would consider long now ere sending their boys home to receive their education. He failed to see also, how any private school in Yokohama could take the place of the Victoria Public School.—(Applause.)

Mr. W. B. Walter said the meeting was obliged to the last speaker for clearing up the point of comparison of age between the students of the different schools in the place. One of the drawbacks which they had to contend with was the greater age of the boys of the Victoria School—they so rapidly passed on into employment here, or to College in Europe or America. The boys were all older who attended the Victoria School than those at the ladies' schools. If the Victoria School was closed, these younger lads as they grew up would have to look around for other means of education, and they would find it a difficult matter to obtain it in Yokohama without the Victoria Public School. Their only alternatives would be Tokyo or Europe.

The Chairman—Mr. Rose and Mr. Bunting, from the remarks that have fallen from the Rev. E. S. Booth and Mr. Troup, will find a vindication of the necessity of maintaining the Victoria School. The best plan now to pursue was to elect the old canvassing committee to ascertain the wishes of the community.

The Rev. E. S. Booth, as an old member of the Canvassing Committee, urged the advisability of retaining the services of Mr. Fardel. He was a man of exceptional culture, wide education, and knowledge of languages. In his opinion the school could not do without Mr. Fardel.

The Chairman—I gather from the report that Mr. Fardel is leaving at his own request.

The Rev. E. S. Booth thought that request was formulated through the uncertain prospects of the School. A man of Mr. Fardel's parts and position could not afford to go on at such an indefinite tenure. He thought that with a little inducement, Mr. Fardel could be prevailed on to remain.

Mr. Bunting enquired whether the meeting was of opinion that the School Committee should be enlarged, so as to represent the whole of the cosmopolitan community. If so, why could not this be arranged before subscriptions were canvassed.

The Chairman thought this a good suggestion. It would make the canvass all the more successful.

Mr. W. B. Walter said it would simplify

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matters at the adjourned meeting if that course were pursued.

Mr. WILKIN then moved the amendment to Article IV., which ran:—"That the management of the School shall be vested in a Committee composed of not less than 5 and not more than 7 persons, and at all meetings 3 shall form a quorum." The alteration consists of the excision of the word "British subjects" from the Article, and the enlarging of the Committee to seven.

Mr. STONE seconded, and the proposition was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said the resolution would require confirmation at an adjourned meeting to be held within 14 days of the present meeting.

Mr. TROUP moved that the meeting be adjourned till that day fortnight, at the same hour and place.

The Rev. E. S. BOOTH seconded.—Carried.

The last speaker thought that a provisional Committee might very profitably nominate the Committee before the next meeting.

Mr. TROUP said that the usual practise was to ballot for the Committee at the meeting of subscribers.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, perhaps some subscribers might resent any other course.

The meeting was then formally adjourned for a fortnight.

YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB.

The twenty-second annual general meeting of members of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club, was held in Kiel's Building on Tuesday afternoon, the Captain, Mr. J. Rickett, in the Chair. There were also present Messrs. C. K. Marshall Martin, H. V. Henson, E. O. Kenyon, E. T. Nicholas (hon. sec.), W. W. Campbell, P. E. F. Stone, A. Rogers, A. Bouffier, H. S. Goddard, W. Tucker, F. Abbey, A. Cabeldu, K. Kingdon, J. B. Coulson, W. Cabeldu, L. Salabelle, J. Gibbs, P. E. Webb, T. Brown, W. Jackson, J. Eyton, J. Carst, G. Schellenberg, F. J. Hall, A. Lourenco, J. Schmidt, G. Hood, H. E. Adams, E. Mendelson, H. C. Litchfield, A. B. Smith, H. R. Main, S. E. Unite, D. McNeill, F. E. White, G. Barton, J. Libeaud, J. F Lias, H. Drummond, the Rev. E. Freese, and many others, some forty members in all.

The CHAIRMAN, in calling the meeting to order, expressed the pleasure it gave him to preside at such a large meeting, a thing a very rare in Yokohama.—(Hear, hear.) To save time he would be pleased if some gentlemen would propose that the minutes of the last general meeting be taken as read.

Mr. KENYON proposed, and Mr. SALABELLE seconded, a proposal that the minutes be taken as read.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN in placing the Committee's report and accounts before the meeting said that no comment was necessary, as they were so satisfactory and showed the Club to be in such a flourishing condition.

Mr. HENSON moved, and Mr. KENYON seconded the adoption of the report and accounts.

The CHAIRMAN said members would observe that notwithstanding the heavy expenditure in expenses, new oars, and boats, the Club was able to carry forward a very large balance.—(Applause.)

The following report and accounts were then adopted.

REPORT.

Your Committee's Annual Report, and Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for 1893, are now laid before you.

It will be seen from the Accounts, which show a balance of $759.72 to be carried forward, that the finances of the Club are in a most satisfactory condition.

ROWING.—Your Committee are pleased to record a further increase in the interest taken in rowing during the year, the entries for the Spring and Autumn Regattas being more numerous than for many years past.

An invitation was received from the Victoria Recreation Club, Hongkong, to participate in their Interport Regatta in December, but sending a crew down from here was found to be quite impracticable.

SWIMMING RACES AND AQUATIC SPORTS.—Your Committee regret that the Swimming Races fell through from lack of entries, but at the Aquatic Sports there was an unusually large number of competitors.

PROPERTY.—The "White Boat" and "Six-oar" have been re-planked, and all the Boats are now in excellent condition. Two single-sculling skiffs were built early in the year at a cost of $90, and have been much used and appreciated by the Members.

A new sampan, acquired in the spring on very reasonable terms, has proved of great service during the bathing season, and a rowing gig, lately purchased, is likely to be of considerable use to the Club.

A fresh supply of sculls and oars (12 pairs) has been obtained from England at a cost of $318.71. These, however, arrived just too late for the Autumn Regatta.

The roof of the Boat House was thoroughly overhauled in the summer, and the whole House put in a state of repair. It is not anticipated that any further expenditure on the building will be necessary during the coming year. The Bathing Barge will require new cross beams for the pontoons, which will cost about $75, but is otherwise in excellent condition. The Float is also in good order.

Your Committee tender their resignations with best wishes for the future prosperity of the Club.

E. T. NICHOLAS, Hon. Secretary.

Yokohama, January, 30th, 1894.

THE YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB IN ACCOUNT WITH THE HONORARY TREASURER.

DR.—December 31st, 1893.

To Working Account:—		
Wages, Gas, Water, &c.		$ 734.92
To House Account:—		
Insurance premium	$ 35.92	
Ground Rent	79.17	
Repairs	257.00	
Sundries	103.09	
		475.18
To Bathing Barge Account:—		
Insurance premium	18.50	
Painting, Hauling, and Sundries	163.81	
		182.31
To Landing Stage Account:—		
Repairs, Painting, and Sundries		42.46
To Boats Account:—		
Insurance premium	43.50	
Repairs and Sundries	281.22	
Cost of New Sampan and Gear	37.00	
Cost of 2 Single Sculling Skiffs	90.00	
Cost of 1 Rowing-boat	40.00	
		491.72
To Regattas and Aquatic Sports:—		
Bands, Refreshments, and Sundries		516.70
To Prizes:—		
Spring and Autumn Regattas and Aquatic Sports..		458.01
To New Oars and culls		318.71
To Subscription Account:—		
One Hon. Member Subs., 1892, refunded		10.00
Balance		759.72
		$3,989.72

CR.—January 1st, 1893.

By Balance brought forward from 1892 December 31st, 1893.		$ 198.30
By Subscription Account:—		
153 Active members 1st half-year	$918.00	
155 Active members 2nd half-year	930.00	
82 Honorary Members one year	820.00	
5 Honorary Members half-year	25.00	
1 Tokyo Member	10.00	
8 Members' Sons	40.00	
34 Entrance Fees	340.00	
		3,083.00
Sundries:—		
Sale of Canoe	$ 6.50	
Bank Interest	2.68	
		9.18
By Storage for Private Boats		55.00
By Regatta Account:—		
Entrances to Races		168.00
By Bar Account:—		
Profits, 1893		404.74
By Jerseys, etc., sold		71.50
		$3,989.72
Stock—Jerseys, etc.		$ 186.50

E. & O. E

Yokohama, January 29th, 1894.

P. S. BENT, Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with vouchers and found correct.

(Signed) S. WARMING.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, Mr. ADAMS and Mr. HENSON being appointed scrutineers of the ballot.

The result of the election of officers was announced as follows:—Captain:—Mr. J. Rickett; Honorary Treasurer:—Mr. P. Bent; Secretary:—Mr. F. J. Hall. The names were received with applause.

The CHAIRMAN, in returning thanks for the honour accorded him, referred to the fact that he had served on the Committee of the Club for many years, while for many years past the Club had done him the honour to elect him Captain. He had hoped that they would this year have elected a younger man, but as they had elected him he should, he hoped, be able to carry on the duties of the office to their satisfaction. He received the honour they paid him in electing him to the position with gratification and thanks.—(Applause.) He hoped that the other two gentlemen who had just been elected would be able to serve also.

The ballot for the Committee resulted as follows:—C. K. M. Martin, D. McNeill, W. W. Campbell, and E. Mendelson. The last named was voted for under four appellations, but the matter was got over by a second vote of his supporters, the first lot of papers being withdrawn.

Mr. HENSON, as soon as this matter was concluded, said he wished to bring forward a suggestion in regard to the disposal of the fair balance now standing to the credit of the Club. The Club had reached such a pitch of prosperity that the time had come for some steps to be taken towards making the place more comfortable. In the summer months they were often compelled to close the windows of the Club house in consequence of the gas having been blown out by the wind. He therefore should like to suggest that the new committee be empowered to install the electric light. It would be a distinct improvement, making the rooms much cooler, while there would be no occasion to close the windows, as that light could not be blown out. At the same time, steps should be taken to improve the amount of lighting. Another suggestion that he should also like to make to the Committee was, that they should glaze the front of the verandah, by putting in sliding glass-doors, which could be opened or shut as needed. In the later months of the year it was often impossible to go out on to the verandah in consequence of the wind and rain that blew in so freely upon it. Then again, he should like to see the two windows that looked on to the Bund, or rather did not look on to the Bund, made into proper windows, so as to admit a current of air to pass through. At present, that part of the house was very hot and close. He put these things before the meeting as suggestions for the new committee, but he would be very pleased to incorporate them into a formal motion.

The CHAIRMAN said he was quite in favour of the suggestions made by Mr. Henson in regard to using some of the balance for improving the lighting of the house and increasing the comfort of the members. But in regard to making windows on the side of the house looking on to the Bund, a clause, or stipulation in a clause, in their agreement, prevented them from making windows there. Still they could cut interstices into the wall there in order to admit air. Indeed, this step was considered by their Committee last year, and decided to be carried out, but for some reason or other the work was not done. It could be done this year. In regard to the electric lighting, the committee could be empowered to take steps to see what could be done.

Mr. HENSON—I will put my suggestions into a motion that the committee devote the balance, or part of the balance, to increasing the lighting and conveniences of the club.

Mr. W. W. CAMPBELL asked whether any idea had been arrived at in regard to the cost of an electric light installation.

The CHAIRMAN—It would cost about $500.

Mr. K. KINGDON said that there was a new light, introduced here by Messrs. Browne and Co., which was preferable to the electric light; it was cheaper, and could be affixed to the present fittings. Besides it also could not be blown out.

Mr. E. MENDELSON said the great objection to the electric light in Yokohama was that the company would not supply it at a monthly charge. They supplied the light by meter, but there was no guarantee as to the amount of the monthly bills. Besides, the charge for the meter was very heavy, and the system most unfair. He would suggest that the question of improved lighting be merely left in the hands of the incoming committee. If a motion was put it would have binding force, and that did not seem the most desirable course under the circumstances.—(Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN said he was about to make the same suggestion, that the matter be left to the Committee to carry out.

Mr. HENSON said his motion could be worded in that manner.

Mr. MCNEILL thought the matter of installing the electric light was of such importance that it would require the sanction of another general meeting of members ere it could be carried out.

The CHAIRMAN—I think it is a matter that we can very well leave in the hands of the Committee to dispose of to the advantage of the Club.

Mr. HENSON then moved that the Committee be empowered to devote the whole or a part of the balance in the Treasurer's hands, towards improving the lighting and the carrying out of other schemes for promoting the comfort of the Club, as it may think fit.

Mr. KINGDON—I think the surplus should be spent upon improving the boats; a minor matter like the lighting of the Club can be left over.

Mr. CAMPBELL—The boats are in excellent condition, and cannot be improved.—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. KENYON seconded Mr. Henson's motion on the grounds that the Club's boats were in excellent condition and would require little spent on them in the coming year, while the Committee's report, just adopted, also spoke of few expenses being expected during the ensuing season.

Mr. ROGERS said he wished to say a few words before the motion was put. There was one portion, and an important portion, of the Club which had never received the attention it merited. He referred to the Gymnastic section. They had elected Mr. Mendelson, that evening, to the Committee to look after the interests of that section of the Club, but what he wished to speak about now was the deplorable condition of the gymnastic apparatus of the Club. The parallel bars were positively dangerous, the horizontal bar deficient; there was no such things as sword-sticks, or decent helmets, they were deficient in foils, etc., and in no sense could they be said to possess a good gymnastic outfit. He would suggest that the Committee be instructed to spend a part of the

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surplus in putting the gymnasium in order, and in procuring a proper outfit. During the winter months this was the only portion of the Club's resources that could be used by the members.

The CHAIRMAN thought that it was not necessary to devote any of the surplus to the object mentioned by the last speaker, as repairs or additions to the outfit of the Club could be provided for in the ordinary current expenses of the season, and taken from the year's receipts. He was not in favour of going in for an extravagant gymnastic outfit; but the matter should receive the Committee's attention.

Mr. ROGERS said it would only cost about $200.

Mr. CAMPBELL thought it would be a great mistake to turn their Amateur Rowing Club into a gymnasium.—(Hear, hear.) Far from going to the expense suggested by Mr. Rogers, he only advocated spending some $12 on that department. He would spend about 30 or 40 cents on the parallel bars—(laughter)—the horizontal bar, which was the best ever brought out here, would not require more than about 50 cents—(laughter)—and the other things in proportion. There would be very little sense in spending $200 upon the present building. If they had a large floor and a high roof, then the matter would be different. As it was, there was no place to swing a trapeze, and the building was much too confined for a gymnasium. The mattress might be made softer, as some members sometimes fell heavily there—(laughter)—but that was all that was required. In regard to the foils, he would remind younger members that they were given to the Club by a gentleman who had no further use for them, being absolutely worthless—(laughter)—and it was the same with the helmets.—(Laughter.) He should suggest that they throw the foils and helmets away altogether—(hear, hear)—while they could get in a few single sticks instead. It was no use turning the place into a gymnasium unless they had a proper instructor. They had no instructor, and therefore being nothing but boys together, they would be doing more harm than good, being without instruction, and no one to teach them better. It would be a great mistake, he assured them, to make a gymnasium of their Amateur Rowing Club.—(Applause.)

Mr. HENSON'S motion was the them put and carried.

The Rev. F. E. FREESE wished to know if any arrangements could be made to organise a proper system of coaching for the regattas, etc.

The CHAIRMAN said the Club would be grateful to all their accomplished members who would help to teach the younger oarsmen. He and Mr. Campbell had once put their names down on the list for such work, but they did not find much encouragement.

The Rev. F. E. FREESE thought that if such a list of willing coaches was hung up in the boathouse it would be of considerable advantage.

The CHAIRMAN said that this concluded the business before the meeting. He hoped to see good sport at their regattas, swimming races, aquatic sports, etc., during the year. He would like to see new life thrown into the rowing, not that he had anything to complain of during the last two years, but with their large membership great things could be expected. He wished them a prosperous season in every way.

Mr. WHITE proposed a vote of thanks to the President and outgoing Committee. The financial report which they had presented showed how well they had worked.—(Applause.)

Mr. ARNOULD said he should like particularly to mention one person of the Committee, Mr. E. T. Nicholas.—(Loud and continued cheering.) The manner in which the name was received left the speaker no further word to say.

On the motion of Mr. NICHOLAS, a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. KIEL for the use of the room.

LANGFELDT AND CO., LIMITED.

The sixth annual meeting of the shareholders in Messrs. Langfeldt and Co., Limited, was held in Keil's Building on Wednesday. The Chairman of Directors, Mr. O. Keil, presided, and there were also present Messrs. E. Batavus, A. Langfeldt, F. Retz, E. Berger, and J. Feicke (Secretary).

The following report and accounts were taken as read, having been circulated seven days before the meeting among shareholders in accordance with the Articles of Association:—

REPORT.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities, and the Profit and Loss Account for the half-year ended the 31st December, 1893, accompany this Report.

The Net Profit, including balance brought forward from the 30th June, 1893, and after providing for General Expenses, Directors' and Auditor's fees, Interest, Depreciation, and Losses, amounts to..... $7,989.49

which it is proposed to apply as follows:

In payment of a Dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year	$6 000 00
In payment of a Bonus to Employés.....	$ 850 00
Balance to be carried to new account.....	$1,139 49
	$7,989.49

Messrs. J. F. LOWDER and O. KEIL retire from the Board, but offer themselves for re-election.

Mr. A. BARRON having left Yokohama, the Directors have invited Mr. G. T. How to audit the Company's accounts, and they recommend his re-election for the current year.

O. KEIL, F. RETZ, } Directors.

Yokohama, 24th January, 1894.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON DECEMBER 31ST, 1893.

Assets.

Stock of Merchandise, Ship Chandlery, and Coal ...	$ 85,152.94
Plant, Fixtures, and Furniture	7,000.00
Cash in hand	6,197.26
Fire Insurance Policies	527.94
Sundry Debtors	30,039 50
	$128,917.64

Liabilities.

Capital, 1,000 Shares at $10	$100,000.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corporation	11,653.87
Sundry local Creditors...	9,274.98
	$120,928.15
Balance, Profit	7,989 49
	$128,917 64

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—DECEMBER 31ST, 1893.

Dr.

To General Expenses		$ 8,125.12
To Rent		1,471.92
To Fire Insurance		379.74
To Interest...		1,088 59
To Depreciation of Plant, Fixtures, etc....		576.05
To Directors' Fees for the year 1893...		1,100.00
To Auditor's Fees		150.00
To Bad Debtors written off		187.71
To Balance, available for division	$7,989.49	
to be dealt with as follows:—		
Dividend at the rate of 6% for half-year	$6,000.00	
Bonus to Employés	850.00	
Carried forward to new account	1,139.49	$7,989.49 7,989.49
		$21,078.60

Cr.

July 1. By Balance		$ 1,133 91
Dec. 31. By Gross Profit on trade		19,952.65
By Share transfer fees...		2.00
		$21,078 60
1894.		
Jan. 1. By Balance		$ 1,139.49

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, December 31st, 1893.

O. KEIL, F. RETZ, } Directors.
J. FEICKE, Secretary.

I have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with vouchers of the Company, and certify them to be correct.

G. T. HOW, Auditor.

Yokohama, January 23rd, 1893.

The CHAIRMAN—Before passing on to the adoption of the accounts, I should like to say that your Directors, after mature consideration, thought it best, in the interests of the Company, to dispose of the Kobe branch, and it is for you to say to-day whether you agree with us in the step we have taken. Kobe has always held very heavy assets for us, but they have now been reduced by a great deal, besides Mr. Julien, the new purchaser, has agreed to act for us as our agent in Kobe, so that our interests will be safe-guarded, while at the same time we have not to pay for the whole staff down there, but only the commission on the business done for us. During the present year and for the last half of 1893, we have had a hard battle to fight against the falling value of silver. Had it not been for the tremendous alteration in the prices of commodities brought about by this cause the extent of your business would have made a better return and higher profits. Still your Directors are satisfied that they can distribute on this occasion a dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the whole year carry forward $1,000 over to the next year, and present a small gratuity to their servants. They make this latter suggestion because it is owing to the energy and hard work thrown into the business by the managers and employés that the success of the company is mainly due. The gratuity, in the opinion of the Board was well deserved, and in asking the meeting to adopt the report and accounts, I hope that you will adopt also this suggestion of the Board. That is all I have to say, gentleman, upon the accounts, but I shall be glad to answer any questions put to me.

Mr. BERGER proposed the adoption of the accounts.

Mr. LANGFELDT, in seconding, heartily endorsed the action of the Directors in disposing of the Kobe branch. He knew by practical experience what a drawback it was to have a business left in charge of other persons at such a distance away.

The accounts were then passed.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business is the election of two Directors. Mr. Lowder and myself retire by rotation this year, but we offer ourselves for re-election. There are no other names proposed for the positions.

Mr. BERGER—I move that Mr. Keil and Mr. Lowder be re-elected Directors by acclamation.

Mr. LANGFELDT—I second that.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you, gentlemen, and I hope we shall be able to discharge the duties of the office as satisfactorily in the coming year as we have done in the past. The other business is the election of auditor. The Directors invited Mr. G. T. How, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to audit the accounts just passed, and they recommend that he be elected to the post.

Mr. LANGFELDT—I second their recommendation.—Carried.

Mr. BERGER proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. KEIL for presiding as Director, and also for all his services during the year.

The CHAIRMAN having acknowledged the compliment, declared that the dividend warrants were ready on the table. The meeting then dispersed.

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

The annual general meeting of members of the above was held in the Club Hotel on Tuesday afternoon. Among those present were Mr. de Bunsen (in the chair), Messrs. W. B. Walter, T. Thomas, P. Domille, E. Whittall, W. W. Till, W. F. Mitchell, J. Dodds, Dr. Wheeler, R. D. Robison, A. R. Catto, A. Bianchi, U. Durand, E. Knaff, F. Biagioni, C. Abenheim, R. Abenheim, S. Isaacs, E. Andreis, S. L. Goldman, K. Kingdon, B. H. Pearson, M. H. R. Harris, A. C. Read, P. de C. Morriss, W. W. Campbell, H. Campbell, E. Berard, G. Philip, G. C. B. Dunlop, P. Beretta, and J. F. Pinn, Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN after having congratulated the members on the flourishing condition of the Club, remarked that its finances were in a very stable state. Last year there was a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of $1 545; whereas now there was double that amount, $3,290, besides a credit dependency of $795, with regard to which he would call their attention for a moment. This deficiency was due by the collector, less his salary; by defalcations of the collector this sum was lost to the Club. But there was a chance of recovering a portion of it. With regard to the accounts in general, they had been passed by the Executive Committee, subject to audit and subject to an explanation regarding the defalcation. It had been passed, subject to this. In regard to this matter, the opinion and observations of the meeting should be asked. After drawing some comparisons between this year and last, the Chairman added that it was a matter of congratulation to the Club that prospects are brighter than a little while ago. To set off, there was less offered in prizes, the sum being $5,337, whereas the year before it was $1,000 more. The reason why the Spring meeting entries were smaller than usual was because several races fell through; $1,990 was presented in prizes, while the entries only amounted to $1,540, and the Club did what it could to make up the difference. If the Spring meeting was not satisfactory, the Autumn meeting was a brilliant success, there being good sport and a large attendance; ponies were numerous and racing keen, with the China ponies especially. The members ought not to forget that the success was in large measure due to H.M. the Emperor.—(Applause.) His attendance at their meetings was no mere formality; he took a personal interest in the horses—of this he (the Chairman) could speak of his own knowledge, that he took a great interest in the sport. He congratulated the Club on the honour done it, and its respect was due to the ruler of the country. H.M. the Emperor also presented a handsome prize. With fine weather, the efforts of the Committee had been seconded by the members and the community. He had mentioned that the Emperor presented a prize, but he would remind them that H.M.'s Ministers had also shown their interest, H.E. the Prime Minister having given a prize. This should not be lost sight of; there were besides, others who had presented prizes whom it was not necessary to mention. He desired to state that when Mr. Utsumi retired from the Presidency and the Committee had asked him to take his place, he had agreed to do so, and was proud to fill the position. Another matter for congratulation was that so many riding members had come forward during the past year and taken part in the sport. It had been so in the earlier years of the Club and he hoped that it would go on. He had heard some flattering things said about their riding, and he hoped that this would increase. During this year two lots of ponies had come over from China, with most satisfactory results, for which thanks were due to Mr. Oram.—(Hear, hear.) He could not say the same with regard to the Japanese ponies, as the accounts made were complete failures. Arrange-

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ments had been made to get a batch from Hokkaido, but when they arrived at Hakodate it was seen that instead of four-year-olds most of the animals were only three, or rising three. Hence there could be no doubt that the Committee were justified in refusing them. They had then got a batch from Nambu; these had not proved satisfactory as racers, but they were strong and serviceable animals. While in this strait, Viscount Fujinami, of the Imperial Household, came to the rescue and placed at the disposal of the Club a number of half-bred ponies from Shimosa. As they were young, all did not run, but he expected they would be better able to do so next meeting. Since then some Hokkaido ponies had come down, and the Committee had informed him they were young and undeveloped, and they did not consider them worth the money paid for them. He could not tell how they would look with good food and care. The Committee had a scheme for the acquisition of some ground for stables, of which more would be said. There was no prospect of getting another lot of China ponies from Shanghai. He did not think it would be breach of confidence on his part were he to state, with Mr. Robison's permission, that he had received a letter from Tientsin that ponies might be procured there. He did not think such a good opportunity should be let pass, and he recommended it to the favourable consideration of the meeting. With regard to the accounts, he was sure the late Treasurer would offer an explanation how the defalcation happened if questioned.—(Applause.)

Mr. ANDREIS suggested that the Treasurer should be made responsible for the amount.

Mr. DODDS presumed that Mr. Andreis had not yet heard the explanation of how the matter occurred.

Mr. KINGDON said he would like to hear it, as it would be of interest to members and help them to decide what should be done.

Mr. WHITTALL said he had been Treasurer for two years. When he took over the post the collector was most strongly recommended by the previous occupant of the post, Mr. Merian, by whom he had been employed five years before. He was also employed by Mr. Easton, of the Union Insurance Co., who said he bore a good character and held ample securities. The man had previously paid up everything. A little before last meeting he noticed that money had not been coming in as usual, and he asked the man the reason, when he replied that people wouldn't pay. He then asked the man for the receipts, but he did not bring them. At the same time he noticed a falling-off in the gate money, and this increasing his suspicion, he insisted on seeing the bills. The man then informed him that $680 had been collected and not accounted for. He then saw Mr. Baird, of the Union Insurance Co., whose servant the man was. The former said he would look into it, when he discovered that $300 had been stolen from him also. Repeated applications to the Chinese Consul were unavailing, but as the man had swindled two people he wrote again, but received no reply. Finally, another letter was sent in January, very strongly worded, with the result that a reply was received, the man had been arrested. The next day Mr. Baird informed him the man had paid half the claim. He had heard nothing since. He was very much obliged to Mr. Andreis for his suggestion that he be made responsible. He must remind him that the position held by him had been that of Hon. Treasurer. It had been due to no carelessness; but it was very unfortunate that it had happened in his time. If the man had been his servant, he would be responsible.

Mr. ANDREIS was of opinion that a man in charge of funds was bound in honour to make it good should any be lost or stolen.

Mr. PEARSON asked whether Mr. Easton had not cautioned Mr. Whittall.

Mr. WHITTALL replied that such was not the case. It was he who was suspicious of the man, but Mr. Easton had re-assurred him.

In answer to Mr. KINGDON, as to whether he had any idea how the money was spent, Mr. WHITTALL replied that was what he wanted to know. The man had been liberated but the matter was coming on for trial.

Mr. PEARSON understood the receipts were given out in February and the affair found out in July.

Mr. WHITTALL replied that it was before the Spring Meeting, and his suspicions were confirmed about the gate money. The man had to get the money in when the receipts were sent out.

Mr. PEARSON—Then you send out receipts before money is collected?

Mr. WHITTALL—Yes, the usual thing was done, as he was of the opinion the Club, being composed of gentlemen, that was the best course. He would suggest that in the future a circular should be sent around asking members to send in their subscriptions.

The CHAIRMAN agreed with this plan.

Mr. ABENHEIM wanted to know what the $80 was for.

The SECRETARY replied it was a sum guaranteed but not paid.

Mr. GOLDMAN—If the accounts are passed, who is to look after the deficiency, Mr. Whittall or the Club?

The CHAIRMAN suggested it should be left in the hands of the officers elected by the Club. In the meantime the accounts might be passed.

Mr. WALTER proposed that in the matter of the accounts they should proceed in the usual way, and he would propose that they be passed.

Mr. ROBISON seconded.

The accounts are as follow:—

THE NIPPON RACE CLUB IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE HONORARY TREASURER FOR 1893.

Dr.

To Rent of Race Course for 1893 ... ...$	750.00	
To Rent of extra Ground Rent	30.00	$ 780.00
To Paid for 8 China Subscription Ponies ...		1,243.96
To Paid for Prize at Spring Meeting		1,990.00
To Paid for Prizes at Autumn Meeting ...		3,347.00
To Paid for 19 Chinese Subscription Ponies		2,958.30
To Paid for 18 Nambu Subscription Ponies.		1,170.00
To Paid for 9 Half-Bred Subscription Ponies		720.00
To Paid for 12 Hokkaido Ponies, U. Durand		960.00
To Paid Secretary's salary		200.00
To Paid return entries for Race No. 7 first day and Race No. 4 3rd day, Spring Meeting, not having filled		30.00
To Paid Momban's wages and sundry expenses of Course, &c....		454.70
To Paid Band for attendance Spring and Autumn Meetings		122.20
To Paid for Advertising		62.00
To Paid for Printing		119.95
To Paid for Sundry Expenses in connection with the Race Meetings as per vouchers		254.58
To Paid Mr. Kondo's salaries and expenses for Japanese Books, Programmes, &c. at Meetings		142.58
To Paid for Fire Insurance		43.33
To Paid for sundry repairs to Railings, &c..		83.15
To Balance in hands of Hon. Treasurer ...		3,290.43
		$17,920.58

Cr.

By Balance from 31st December, 1892		$ 1,545.97
By Subscriptions from full and Honorary Members... ... ...$2,140.00		
By Less amount due by shroff...	740.00	1,400.00
By Subscription of 4 full and 1 Hon. Member for 1893		90.00
By Received from defaulting Shroff on account ...		25.00
By Entries for Spring Meeting		1,540.00
By Entries for Autumn Meeting		2,593.00
By Received for 8 China Subscription Ponies		1,243.96
By Received for 19 China Subscription Ponies... ...		2,958.30
By Received for 18 Nambu Subscription Ponies ...		1,170.00
By Received for 9 Half-Bred Subscription Ponies...		720.00
By Received for 11 Hokkaido Ponies		880.00
By Received Balance of Ladies Purse from Mrs. Till		28.07
By Received for Interest on current account to 31st December		40.88
By Received Gate money for Spring Meeting		544.30
By Received for Books and during Spring Meeting.		123.00
By Received for Licenses for Jockeys Spring Meeting		180.00
By Received rent for Stables Spring Meeting		328.05
By Received rent of Refreshment room Spring Meeting		50.00
By Received from Pari-Mutuel Spring Meeting ...		91.20
By Received Gate Money for Autumn Meeting ...		1,121.45
By Received for Books sold for Autumn Meeting ...		148.50
By Received Jockey's Licenses for Autumn Meeting		30.00
By Received Rent of Stables for Autumn Meeting...		355.00
By Received Rent of Refreshment Room Autumn Meeting		50.00
By Received Pari-Mutuel for Autumn Meeting ...		196.90
By Received for Presentation Cups, Autumn Meeting		457.00
		$17,910.59

Dependencies.

Due for 1 Hokkaido Pony... ... ...$	80.00	
Due by the Collector, less his salary.	715.00	
	$	795.00

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, January 20th, 1894.

E. WHITTALL,
Hon. Treasurer.

I have examined the Subscriptions and Vouchers with the Books, and find the same to be correct.

J. RAMSAY PARSONS.

Mr. TILL wished to know, before the accounts were passed, if the members were of opinion the matter should be left to the discretion of the Treasurer.

The CHAIRMAN believed that was so.

Mr. TILL was of opinion that if Mr. Whittall knew of the defalcations in May, he should have acted earlier, instead of waiting till October to bring the matter before the Executive Committee.

Mr. WHITTALL acknowledged he had not informed the Executive Committee as a body, but had brought the matter to the notice of each individually. He had pointed out the fatuity of imprisoning the man, who might have taken opium and the money would have been lost.

Mr. THOMAS said he was only informed of the matter in July, when Mr. Whittall said he would use his endeavours to set the matter right.

Mr. TILL said he did not know of it officially, he was not told by Mr. Whittall, but by Mr. Baird. It had not been brought before the Committee. Before it was brought before them they could do nothing.

Mr. HARRIS thought it would be better to leave it as a dependency.

Mr. DODDS also was of this opinion.

Mr. THOMAS urged that Mr. Whittall should be asked to prosecute the matter through. He had taken the matter in hand and he should see it through.

Mr. PEARSON thought the language used by Mr. Thomas too severe. A Treasurer's position was a thankless one—little thanks and more cuss words.

Mr. WHITTALL remarked that Mr. Thomas had been most abusive, and that so long as he was a member of the Committee he would have nothing to do with the matter in hand.

Mr. WALTER remarked it would be the new Treasurer's duty to attend to the matter.

Mr. DODDS hoped Mr. Whittall would help.—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. WHITTALL expressed his willingness to do so.

Mr. TILL remarked that as the man was employed by Mr. Whittall, that gentleman should do all he could to recover the money.

Mr. WHITTALL pointed out the man was employed by the Club.

The CHAIRMAN said it had been settled that the Treasurer take the matter over and ask Mr. Whittall's assistance. Now as to the accounts, he hoped they would be adopted.

Mr. THOMAS then explained the scheme *re* the lease of land near the race course. He thought it would be well to acquire the land. It had formerly been in the occupation of Mr. Winstanley and was now lying waste. If the Club made an offer for the land he believed it would have the consideration of the Kencho. There was altogether 3,600 *tsubo*, which could be got for a rental of $210, the former rent being $420. He had taken estimates for railing round and putting up stables, and six or seven paddocks of 500 *tsubo* with stables able to hold 6 or 7 ponies each. The cost would be $1,000 for the first year, while each paddock could be rented for $50 a year which could be made use of for disabled ponies and animals out of work, and would be a useful adjunct of the Club. Previous to approaching the Government on the matter, the Committee were desirous of obtaining the consent of members.

Mr. ROBISON suggested that owners be consulted before anything was done.

Mr. THOMAS pointed out the fact that the Committee could do nothing without the sanction of the members.

Mr. TILL said they wanted the power only, not to pledge themselves.

Mr. WALTER pointed out the advantages of acquiring the ground.

Mr. HARRIS then moved, and Mr. ROBISON seconded, that the committee be empowered to take steps in the matter.

The CHAIRMAN said he would like to recommend one gentlemen to the committee, the Viscount de Labry, who he was sure would take an active interest in the Club's affairs. He would not be a sleeping member, and might induce others to join. At a meeting of the Permanent Committee, Mr. Walter had resigned his post of Vice-President. A vote of thanks had been accorded him and his resignation accepted, and Dr. Wheeler had taken his place.

While the balloting was going on, Mr. PEARSON proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Walter, which was passed by acclamation.

Mr. THOMAS then read a letter from the gentleman offering to procure ponies at Tientsin, which raised a discussion as to whether they could be got here in time to be trained for the races.

The result of the balloting was then announced as follows:—

Messrs. Till, Thomas, Philip, Mitchell, Mitsuhashi, Knaff, and Viscount de Labry.

The usual vote of thanks having been tendered the Chair, on the proposition of Mr. DUNLOP seconded by Mr. MITCHELL, to which the Chairman briefly responded, the meeting separated.

"*IN DARKEST YESSO.*"

The lantern exhibition given in Kiel's Building on Friday evening deserves to be red-lettered in the calendar of the Photographic Society of Japan. We have had occasion in previous years to return thanks to the members of the Society for pleasant evenings given by them to their Yokohama friends, but never, we venture to think, have the acknowledgments of the community been more justly bestowed than on Friday evening, for never has an audience's gratification been more complete. The seating arrangements were excellent, and the Masonic Hall comfortably filled. The refreshment department also left nothing to desire. As for the lantern-views, the great majority of the slides were entirely new to most present. Equally entertaining were the lectures and addresses given during the course of the evening by

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Dr. Van der Heyden, Dr. A. W. Wood, and Professor Milne.

The exhibition began with some miscellaneous views of Japan, the work of members of the Society. Then a set of views from Holland, kindly lent by the London Camera Club, were thrown upon the screen and a lucid explanation of the different slides given by Dr. Van der Heyden, who briefly described the historic land of dykes, dunes, windmills, and sturdy independence. At the conclusion of this display, Dr. A. W. Wood, one of the honorary secretaries of the Society, took advantage of a three minutes' interval to expatiate upon the idyllic virtues of the Society, in a little speech bubbling over with keen wit and kindly humour. He drew attention to the flourishing state of the Society's finances—so flourishing in fact, that the Treasurer's mind was distressed at the thought of the increasing accumulation of surplus, which no amount of cask-beer given away at the monthly meetings could appreciably diminish—and the ecstatic delights which the companionship of its learned and clever photographers conferred on ordinary members. The Society even had sent a representative to London last summer, who had won for them the applause of a Royal Society. The advantages of membership were many, but they could be summarised under three headings. Firstly, the pleasure that one was bound to get out of photography; secondly, the opportunity of associating with superior minds, in itself a liberal education; and thirdly, the unlimited free refreshment, one day in every month, so long as a member was resident in Japan.

Professor Milne's illustrated lecture, entitled "In Darkest Yesso," was an account of his journeyings in the island some two years ago. It was a very adventurous trip, and some of the views exhibited showed the straits to which the Professor, his English friend, and two Ainu were reduced before the tour was finished. Having left civilization behind, Prof. Milne hired a dug-out canoe, and in this his two Ainu guides paddled the party round the rock-bound northern coast. The sheer cliffs were continuous and thousands of feet in height, affording no hope of salvation had the crank craft capsized. The wonderful giant vegetation, dense, pathless forests, and active volcanoes of the island were all touched upon, particular attention being drawn to the volcanoic eruptions of sulphur which distinguish Hokkaido. One scene depicted the little party's encampment in the heart of the forest during bad weather. The hut of reeds and leaves let in wind, light, and weather everywhere, while the evening's illumination was provided by an improvised lamp, made from a sardine-tin fed by melted butter. During the passage of one of the rivers, two of the Ainu guides nearly lost their lives through being carried down the rapids. They escaped by a miracle. Portraits of Ainu folk were also shown, as well as distorted photographs of the worthy Professor, before and after the trip.

Mr. Ogawa, of Tokyo, exhibited some slides of the World's Fair and Atami, the latter taken at New Year's time, and Mr. Geo. Brinkworth contributed some English plates, obtained during his recent trip home. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded at the close to all who had contributed to the evening's enjoyment.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NIPPON RACE CLUB.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Although the Chairman at the meeting yesterday had the members well in hand, he is reported as having been compelled to put a stop to "personal recriminations" in progress. The members of the Nippon Race Club do not appear to be a happy family, and it is stated that several attended yesterday's meeting with the intention of airing their pet grievances and generally having it out with the Committee, but the attitude of the Chairman prevented this, which, perhaps, is just as well, though the speaker who suggested that the "atmosphere" had been "cleared" is entirely wrong, there being more smouldering discontent—because the discontent has been suppressed—than ever; and the ears of the Committee would have smartly tingled could they have heard what passed at an informal meeting afterwards. Of course the defalcation incident was discussed, and the remark of the delinquent Committeeman that "the loss was through no carelessness on his part" strongly commented on, and I say right here that it was generally considered to be the grossest carelessness. Imagine a Chinaman being given receipts for a large sum of money without making a return thereof *every day* he was sent out collecting. No man with the meanest business capacity can imagine anything of the kind. Why are the Club's funds not given for collection to a foreigner—a man who would do the work promptly and honestly for a small commission is to be found? The only answer possible is the mismanagement of the Committee. The Chairman congratulated the meeting on the financial condition of the Club, but there does not appear to be much cause for congratulation in that respect, and more especially is this the case if the Committee are to be permitted to squander the few dollars that have accumulated in the acquisition of Winstanley's dairy ground. What is this place wanted for? The only apparent object is to provide paddocks for the use of the Committee at the expense of the Club, for it is certain that no members outside the Committee would have a chance of obtaining any accommodation—"the Committee first, the rest nowhere"—who dare deny that would be the motto? If the thing would pay, let the Committee join hands and take it on their own account. They have no right to waste the Club funds on any such fanciful fads, and the members owe it to themselves to hold a meeting and protest against *their* money being frittered away on any such wild-cat scheme. There has been too much rope allowed the Committe, and individuals have taken liberties with the Club's funds in the prosecution of fads that should have been devoted to the legitimate business of the Club, namely, racing. Witness the money *thrown away* on the planting of trees—the fad of an individual. Witness the money *thrown away* on Pari-mutuel machine—it and its repairs close upon a thousand dollars—the fad of an individual. I guess the "atmosphere" is not yet "cleared."

Respectfully, &c.,
CHEROKEE.
January 31st, 1894.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Berlin, December 14th, 1893.

So long as smokeless powder was not introduced, it was considered one of the greatest difficulties to obtain, during a battle, a clear view of the disposition of the forces engaged. The same difficulty exists during great political events: an estimate of the exact relations between the Powers engaged must be made with extreme caution. This course should especially be recommended in regard to any opinion formed on the visit of the Russians to Toulon and Paris. It is necessary to leave the excitement of the moment, the effects of speeches and loving cups to pass off before forming an opinion on the real merits of the event.

Now, however, light begins to dawn gradually. The outlines of the political positions are becoming more and more distinct, the time has come when facts can be distinguished from illusions.

The primary question in regard to this interesting episode of contemporary history now is whether actually a treaty of alliance has been concluded between Russia and France, and to this we must attach the second question, whether, if such an arrangement has not yet been concluded, the respective interests of the two powers are so much bound up together that joint action may be counted upon in the event of either of them taking the initiative of declaring war.

Regarding the first, it must be granted, that so far the existence of a Treaty of Alliance between the two Powers has never officially or semi-officially been announced, or stated on any responsible authority, either in Russia or in France.

Regarding the existence of some secret agreement, there have been, it is true, various reports in circulation, but none of them are really worthy of particular faith. The consideration alone of the relations in the past between France and Russia should bring any one to the conclusion that the chances are altogether against the fact of any such treaty being concluded. The basis of any alliance must be pre-supposed to depend on the existence of identical interests, the attainment of common objects, or the resistance to a common enemy. But in the case of Russia and France not one of these primary conditions can be found. Even the maintenance of the European peace, lately repeatedly put forward, cannot be admitted as a sufficient motive, for whilst, owing to the eminently pacific intentions of the Emperor of Russia, this may be said to be one of the objects of the Russian policy, it must unfortunately be admitted that on the side of the French a similar desire is only conditional. For if it were not so, the primary condition for the maintenance of peace would seem to be on their part the intention of a strict adherence to the existing Treaties of Peace. And is not the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine and the phantom of revenge an almost dogmatical article of French political parties and as such contrary to the treaties of peace concluded with Germany?

The preservation of the peace of Europe alone could therefore not have been the motive for establishing the Russo-French *entente* as far as France is concerned, for one of the contracting parties would in all probability have been the first to break it. And does there really exist another object of common political interest for both parties? Here the currents will be found to run in diametrically opposite directions. The Russian policy has, for centuries past, had but one aim, the command of the Bosphorus in order to have a free outlet on the Mediterranean Sea. Has France ever encouraged this tendency, or is France, in consequence of her animosity against Germany, now ready to resign her prestige in the Levant and to forget with the sacrifices made during the past? (For instance the Crimean War?). And all this for the sake of a doubtful chance of revenge. The disadvantages of such a policy would be utterly out of proportion to any possible gain. No French Cabinet could resist the popular storm raised by any such concession for a single week. To make this clear we need only imagine a Convention in which Article I would read:—* "In consideration of the support promised by his Majesty the Emperor of Russia for a reconstruction of the frontiers established by the Treaty of Frankfort in 1871, the French Republic hereby formally consents to cancel the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris of 1850, and the Treaty of Berlin of 1878, and to admit the advance of Russia across the Balkans, the occupation of Constantinople, and the Russian navigation into and about the entire basin of the Mediterranean. In order to assist the realization of this object, the naval and military forces of the Republic will, upon the declaration of war by Russia, assist and support the Russian advance according to the terms of the military convention concluded this day." †

And believing even for a second that any French minister would be willing to sign a document of the sort with a "*reservatio mentalis*"—would not Russian diplomacy, astute and far-sighted as it has always been, insist that the eastern part of the common programme should be executed first: in other words, first Constantinople, and afterwards we will see about Metz and Strassburg.

If we look from questions of foreign policy to the interests of domestic policy, we discover still greater divergences between the parties which are utterly incapable of reconciliation. On the one side, the ideal of liberty, fraternity, and equality reduced to a concrete form of Government, the French Republic. On the other, the realization and maintenance of an autocratic and absolute form of government, the Russian Empire, intimately connected with the interests of the Imperial dynasty which notably are the object of the primary care of the Czar. Is France likely to change her form of government for the sake of pleasing Russia, or is Alexander II. likely to proclaim a constitution to facilitate a closer approach to the Republic? It is difficult to say which of these two alternatives sounds more absurd, for they are utterly inconsistent with the first principles on which each of these two States are formed.

We come to the examination of the last of our premises. Is there a common enemy to combat? Even on this point, if we look closely into the matter, we must recognise that there exists no common enemy to Russia and France—Germany has never openly or secretly interfered in the Russian Oriental policy. Even the terms of the Triple Alliance leave this question entirely open, and Russia can, if she avoids *attacking* Austria, continue to play her old game, as far as Germany is concerned. As Bismarck lately said through his organs, the avowed enemy of Russia is England, and the pretended enemy of France is Germany, so both parties, that is Russia and France, have different objects to hate or to fear, each of them feels itself wronged and injured by a different party. And to complete the argument it must be remembered that between England and Germany there exists no treaty of alliance, not even the outlines of a common action against Russia or France; hence even this pretext for hostility falls to the ground.

* Napoleon III. said on March 2, 1854, in his crown speech: "France has as much and perhaps more interest than England that Russia should not extend indefinitely to Constantinople, for to reign over Constantinople would be reigning over the Mediterranean, which forms 300 leagues of our coast. Besides, this policy dates not from yesterday: for centuries every national governme t of France has sustained the same."

† According to Notowich ("L'Empereur Alexandre III. et Son Entourage") Paris 1893, the following protocol was signed in Kronstadt:—

Art. 1. "Russia engages to support France against every aggression of a foreign power and to place on foot 600,000 men on the day of the declaration of war. France undertakes the identical engagement."

Art. 2. "The two contracting powers reserve to themselves entire liberty of action in case one of them should think it desirable to take the initiative of declaring war."

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But is it possible that millions of people should turn almost crazy with delight on the appearance of a few Russian ships and sailors? Surely there must be some cause for this outburst of intuitive sympathy, for this overflow of feeling.

Well, there exists something in the political constellation, something actual, and this something is of great value to the French, if they choose to recognise it.

France was, it is known, placed by Bismarck's policy hitherto in an isolated position. He had succeeded in establishing not only one of the strongest possible coalitions against France, but had also made no secret of his intention to reduce her to utter impotency, if ever she dared again to trouble the peace. To bleed her to death in this case—"Seigner a Blanc"—were the harsh words in which he expressed his future intentions towards France if she ever attempted to meet Germany again. To a highly sensitive and patriotic people this perhaps well meant and timely warning sounded more like a shout of defiance, and certainly was easily mis-interpreted by the French press into an evidence of further dangerous intentions harboured by Bismarck against France. This made the condition of international ostracism still more unbearable, and caused France to make still greater efforts to complete her military preparations, and though the vision of revenge may have contributed somewhat to the popularity of the sacrifices required, the real motives for the French nation were to a great extent the fear that Germany might again over-run France on the slightest provocation. By the close alliance between Germany and Austria, and the adherence of Italy, Russia found itself in a somewhat similar isolated position to that of France.

Russia also found out that it was of primary necessity to reform the European balance of power in her favour, perhaps not so much for the sake of promoting her future objects as for the sake of preserving her *de facto* position in the Danubian Valley against the advance of Austria, which Russia erroneously believed to be countenanced by Germany. It was for Russia at first probably an experimental move on the political chess-board—perhaps made not without considerable misgivings as to its ultimate effects, for in again introducing France as an important party in the European Areopagus, Russia was not altogether reassured that this combination would also turn the balance in her favour in her Eastern policy. What perhaps may have overcome these scruples and hastened the approch, was the observation that between the Triple Alliance and Great Britain a tendency of rapprochement was making itself felt.

The French fleet was now admitted to pay its visit at Kronstadt, and the "flirtation" became serious. This move was soon followed up on Germany's part by the gigantic increase of her military strength "to enable her to carry on a war on two fronts if necessary," and also by attempts which were evidently successful in placing the friendly relation between the two Imperial Houses on the intimate footing they had been of old, especially by means of the cordial relations established between the Emperor and the Czarewitch during his visit to Berlin. However, the oppposition of the agricultural interests in Germany have thrown great difficulties in the way of the Imperial Chancellor's desire to attach Russia more firmly to Germany by ties of commerce, especially by facilities granted to the import of Russian cereals. But, in the meantime, the goodwill in this respect has no doubt been remarked in St. Petersburg and produced its effects. The Russian fleet returned the French visit it, is true, and was received with the greatest honours and "empressement." But was the "empressement" on the Russian side as great? Were not the officials' speeches, the Czar's telegrams, the whole character of the visit, as far as the Russians were concerned, calculated to throw cold water on the French ultimate aspirations? There was not the slightest allusion to Third Parties. On the contrary, general peace was ostensibly the primary object to be secured by the established sympathy between the two nations, and it speaks certainly highly for the French that they diligently adhered in their demonstrations to the peaceable parole given out at St. Petersburg.

This review of the situation may be summed up by repeating that nothing justifies the assumption that an alliance exists between Russia and France, or that whatever influence the Russo-French *entente*, if we may so call it, exercises on the general political aspect of Europe will be contrary to the peace of Europe. Whether in the Far East the *entente* may not produce other symptoms, is quite another question, for it is evident that France will, wherever she can, assist Russia in her eastern interests, and *vice versâ* we may look forward to Russia's services to France outside her own hunting grounds in Asia. A joint action in specific Eastern Asiatic questions, especially where British interests are to be encountered, is therefore not by any means excluded from the programme, and the independent Asiatic States, as well as the Indian Empire, may be the first to feel the shock and to have to counteract its effects.

Beyond this, everything in Europe will for the present remain as of old: in the Balkan States the uncertainty of affairs will continue, though Russia will not depart from her present policy limited to the maintenance of the *status quo*. As far as German influence will have an effect upon Austria, it will not countenance any too active action on Austria's part, and hence the danger of conflict arising out of the Eastern question is for the moment avoided. The relations between France and Germany will certainly not be worse on account of the declared Russian friendship. On the contrary, Germany can consider herself fortunate that Russia was chosen by France as friend. The influence of the Czar is eminently pacific, and the sober advice of his Chancellerie can only be productive of happy results. This, coupled with the growing conviction in France that she has no reason to fear any attack from Germany unless provoked by her own action, will go a long way towards calming down the nervousness and irritation which by their outbursts have often caused alarm to the world in general.

In the meantime, the great social questions and the danger from the anarchist quarter seem gradually to be on the increase, and these may counteract to a great extent the international political discord. They will force all governments, France included, to a general defensive and repressive action for their individual and mutual preservation, and it is possible that the sense of this common danger before them will finally bring about a better and durable understanding between the Powers than diplomacy has been able to realise for the last quarter of a century.

LETTER FROM SCOTLAND.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Edinburgh, November 30th, 1893.

In the Edinburgh Chess Club lately we had a visit from Mr. Blackburne. One afternoon and evening he gave us a specimen of his powers as a blindfold player. Six of the first and second class of players encountered him. The President played a close defence, and after two hours accepted an offered draw. No. 2 resigned soon afterwards. No. 5 was played by the Secretary, who offered his queen's pawn at the first move. This Mr. Blackburne did not care for much—it was out of his usual groove. However, he took the pawn, and finally offered a draw. The game ought to have been a win for him, as Black's queen got badly blocked—but it was rather an intricate position for the blindfold player to grasp. No. 6 refused an Evans, and got badly beaten in consequence. Mr. Blackburne played a bold but risky game, by which he captured a rook with his queen, and left only one mode of exit after two moves; but Black failed to play the one set of moves that would have won the queen. No. 5 was offered a draw but thought he had the better of it. So the game continued until each was left with a rook and pawns in equal number, when Blackburne again offered a draw although, as he said, he had the winning position with pawns stronger on the queen's side. The game would probably have been a long uninteresting end game, but there is little question that the blindfold player would have won, as Black happened to be rather weak in pawn play. It was with board No. 3 that the Master had the toughest play. The opening was Kieseritzky's King's Gambit; and Black got an early attack with queen knight and pawn. Two of us sat down for a short time near Mr. Blackburne to watch his face, as he sat smoking with his back to the boards. My friend remarked, "It's no canny." At the moment Mr. Blackburne was deeply engaged with No. 3. After several sighs and shakes of the head, and a long stillness, he at last called out the move; then looking at us with a twinkle in his eye he said, "I don't like that knight." And the knight was troublesome. Black, however, had not a sufficient force to push his attack. He was dilatory in bringing out his other pieces. Also he did not exchange queens when it was for his advantage so to do; and in the end, White turned the tables and scored a third win.

The blindfold games were very instructive to the onlookers, chiefly by reason of Mr. Blackburne's own commentaries as he went along. He would often suggest what his opponent's best move was. At the end of the last game he said that the game had been more than usually interesting, and was especially complimentary to the other teller, Mr. Mills, who is the best player we have in Edinburgh, being, indeed, himself a blindfold adept.

On the next day, Mr. Blackburne played 15 simultaneous games against all comers. I went down early to look on, but was forced to take a board. There was a good deal of good, humoured chaff going; and so long as I was there not even a draw was scored against the master. In the course of the afternoon and evening, some 33 games were played, of which two were drawn and two were lost by Mr. Blackburne. He gave me a King's Gambit, and I felt quite satisfied in having kept him at arm's length for 2¼ hours. On the 27th move he had won a pawn, and was about to win another, so I resigned. During the first two hours, Mr. Blackburne played at an average rate of fully 3 moves a minute.

Exactly a fortnight after Mr. Blackburne had interested the few, came General Lord Roberts to excite the many. The prime purpose of his visit was to open the Session of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. All Scotsmen in Scotland, and the still greater number of our compatriots out of Scotland, should become members of this young but vigorous Society. It publishes a monthly magazine full of geographical, economical, and ethnological information of all kinds. Some of its features have been recently imitated in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society. In addition to concise excerpts from foreign geographical magazines, we always have two or more original articles. By payment of a guinea a year, each member not only gets a distinct return in the Monthly Magazine, but he has the further satisfaction of supporting a Society which has a true *raison d'être* in a country whose sons are geographically ubiquitous. All lovers of Scott, and all having the remotest interest in Scott's Land, have simply to write the Secretary here to reap the advantages; for the Society is established on a popular basis, and unlike its big exclusive brother of London, warmly welcomes Lady Members.

But to return to Lord Roberts. On the Friday evening the Hero of Kandahar gave an address on "India, a Retrospect," before a brilliant Edinburgh audience. The address was very masterly, and gave a succinct picture of the development of India from the years preceding the Mutiny, and a broad and sound presentation of the principles on which we should continue to govern our Eastern Empire. There was nothing of the pessimist in Lord Roberts. In his eye, England was of all countries the best fitted to rule, to the benefit of all concerned, the varied races inhabiting India. What she had done in the past, she could hardly fail in continuing to do in the future.

On the Saturday, Lord Roberts appeared at many functions, two of which merit special mention. In the forenoon he received the degree of LL.D. from the University, at a meeting convened for the purpose. The ceremony lasted a very short time, and the students in vain tried to get His Lordship to make a speech. The reception was none the less hearty, however; and, when the time came, the students unharnessed the horses, and, buckling-to pulled the General's carriage for nearly two miles through the streets of Edinburgh.

In the afternoon, Lord Roberts was presented with the Freedom of the City. In thanking the Lord Provost and Council for the honour they had done him, he delivered a really able speech, speaking with a facility and expression which are rarely heard, except from the lips of acknowledged orators. One great interest in the ceremony was the presence of nearly 200 veterans, many of whom had served under Roberts in India. These were all dressed in civilian clothes and bore their medals on their left breasts. When Lord and Lady Roberts entered the Hall, all rose, and the old soldiers gave three stentorian cheers with a precision and volume that only men trained to united action could give. A little later, the Lord Provost in his speech referred to the presence of these veterans, "many of whom your Lordship has led on to victory." Up they sprang to their feet, and once again filled the hall with their well rounded cheers. The scene was thrilling. Still again, when the new burgess received the usual silver casket into his hands, these worthies rose and cheered to the echo. The civilian audience applauded them. Lord Roberts, in his speech, paid a graceful tribute to the qualities of the soldiers of all ranks, without which he could himself have effected nothing. For a fourth time, as if moved by one spirit, the veterans sprang to their feet and pealed forth their hearty response. A final three times three completed the ovation as the General retired. Before this, however, he walked round amongst them and shook hands with those he recognised, and just before leaving said how pleased he had been to meet them, and how glad he was to see them all doing so well in civil life. A particularly interesting part of his speech to me was his reference to the reluctance of British

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capitalists to invest their money in Indian railways. With the exception of a few used for almost purely military purposes, Indian railways were distinctly profitable, and he was surprised that capitalists did not step in and help to develop them. The Government was unable to do more than was absolutely necessary. He hoped a fuller knowledge of India and India's needs would soon have the desired effect. The greater our stake in the country, the more secure our hold upon it. In all Lord Robert's utterances, the key-note is the naval supremacy of Great Britain. The *Victoria* disaster has awakened a great interest in our Navy, and the Government seems to be bestirring itself in the matter.

The Ardlamont Mystery bids fair to be one of the most exciting criminal cases that Scotland has had for many long years. The case for the Crown looks strong. The accused, Mr. Monson, and the vanished Mr. "Scott," are believed to have attempted, in the first instance, to drown Mr. Hambrough (who could not swim) in a leaky boat. This failed, so they are supposed then to have had recourse to powder and shot. The three sallied forth one morning on an innocent shooting expedition. A short time after, a few shots were heard, and a little later, Mr. Monson reported his youthful companion dead—presumably accidental suicide. He seems to have given the alarm in a very leisurely manner. Meanwhile, the mysterious Mr. "Scott" vanished into thin air. One romantic but altogether absurd theory was that he was Mrs. Monson in disguise. The police, however, declare they know him well by several *aliases*; and a reward of £200 is now offered for his discovery. Suspicion as to foul play was, as is not unusual in such cases, an afterthought. The body of the young man was exhumed and the wound on the back of the head carefully inspected. One part of the case for the prosecution is that such a wound could not have been self-inflicted in the circumstances. Startling revelations are expected as the trial goes on; and people are arranging prospectively their hours of leisure, so as to be able to attend the Court in person and experience all the excitement of the moment. It is said that managers of theatres have already been offered dramas based upon the case. What exact line of defence will be taken by the accused has not transpired. There are many ugly bits of evidence which will require much ingenuity to explain away. There is no popular feeling in the man's favour; for unfortunately his whole career is rather a chequered one. With the deep British instinct for fairplay there has been, however, no prejudgment. We are all content to hold judgment in suspense, and watch the development of this "plot" in real life.

As I send off this letter, the third day of the trial has ended. The evidence, though circumstantial, is very strong that there was foul play. Pellet marks on neighbouring trees, demonstrating so much "spread" of shot, prove in a most scientific manner that the shot must have come from about nine feet behind the victim's head, supposing he fell where the body was found. But full reports will be found in all the London papers. The Ardlamont Mystery is the one excitement of the season, all over the country.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Chicago, January 3rd, 1894.

Mr. E. Burton Holmes' lectures on Japan, "The Country," and "The Cities," have been repeated here during the Christmas vacation.

The *Herald* of this city continues to publish articles on Japanese art by Mr. H. Satoh.

Rev. W. E. Griffis, D.D., is one of the participants in a symposium on "The Parliament of Religions," in the December *Current Topics* All the writers of various shades of Christian belief unite in the opinion that the Parliament will prove of benefit to all religions, but especially to Christianity.

If reports from your side of the water are true, the Buddhist priests who represented Japan in the Parliament are entirely misrepresenting the meaning of the attitude with which they were received. They were heard and entertained with the utmost courtesy; and now, in their own land, with a discourtesy which is not really Japanese, they are engaged in distorting the facts. The "one very wealthy man from New York" is not a "man of great influence," whose conversion may "truthfully" be said to be equal to that of "ten thousand ordinary men." He *is* wealthy; but he is a Hebrew, who never had any sympathy for Christianity, and whose conversion to Buddhism was not, therefore, a severe blow to Christianity. All the non-Christian [illegible] received in the Parliament were treated with such courtesy and impartiality as seemed to many excessive, and as they are now failing to manifest towards Christianity. In the scales of justice and brotherly love the balance is against them and in favour of the Christian spirit of the Parliament.

The Chinese Y.M.C.A. in San Francisco has recently sent $42,000 to Canton as a contribution by the Chinese of the former city for the evangelization of their countrymen.

There are no exciting developments yet in Hawaiian affairs. The Sub Committee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has commenced an investigation, and has received valuable testimony from Rev. Mr. Emerson, Secretary of the Hawaiian Board of Missions, who, an eye-witness of the "revolution," denied the truth of many of Blount's statements.

The following clipping, if it states truth, gives currency to an important movement in the way of connecting the United States still more closely with Eastern Asia:—

Tacoma, Wash., December 26th.—W. D Richards, a contractor and builder of Chicago was in the city Friday and Sunday and has gone to Olympia Mr Richards is here for the purpose of looking up a Pacific coast terminus for the Amoor Steamship Company's line, which is to be run in connection with the Russian Government's contranscontinetal railway Mr. Richards will pass a week or so looking over the harbour of Tacoma and the city's accommodation for steamships and rail connections leading out of the city While here Sunday, Mr Richards said that the company had bought five steamers of the Brazilian Steamship Company already and that four of them would be on their way to the Pacific coast from New York within a few months The most important use to which the vessels will be put when first started will be to carry material to Vladivostock, the eastern terminus of the trans-Siberian road. Several months ago Richards was selected as agent of the Russian Government for the purpose of representing it in the matter of the steamship line and the transcontinental railroad which that country started with the object of securing closer trade relations with the Pacific coast of the United states The portion of Siberia traversed by the trans-Siberian Railway is a great plain similar to that west of the Mississippi River, only larger It is said to be capable of agricultural settlement, but destitute of timber. For this reason it is thought that close trade relations with the United State will be fostered by the Russian Government, not only for the building of the railway but for the construction of the cities and stations which will naturally spring up along the line of the road.

The Louisiana State Lottery Company has at last left New Orleans, as its charter expired Dec. 31st, 1893, and has removed to Honduras.

From San Domingo comes a report of indignities perpetrated on American sailors by soldiers of the Dominican army near the port of old Azua. We may have a repetition of the Chilean imbroglio.

The Chilean Government, by-the-way, has refused to extend the time of the Chilean Claims Commission, now sitting in Washington. By the terms of the existing treaty, many of the claims against the Chilean Government will thus fail of adjudication, and be debarred from further consideration.

The reports from Brazil are conflicting. The rumour that Rio Janeiro had fallen was false: on the contrary, Admiral Mello had left Rio for the high seas. Another rumour that U.S. Minister Thompson had recognized the insurgents as belligerents as yet lacks confirmation. From Brazil also comes a report of indignities suffered by American sailors at the hands of Peixoto's Government. The latest news, dated December 31st, from Montevideo, is that Admiral Mello has been seriously wounded.

Hon. Thos. S. Martin has been elected U.S. Senator from Virginia.

Patent Commissioner Seymour has under consideration a plan for the publication of the list of expired patents.

Major Hopkins, of this city, has been fortunate in securing as Auditor, Mr. W. K. Ackerman, auditor of the World's Fair.

The murderer of Carter H. Harrison has been found guilty, and sentenced to death; but he will, of course, seek an appeal.

The Carter H. Harrison free public bath is to be opened to-morrow.

The army of tramps who rushed to Chicago for free lunch and lodging have been disappointed, and have left to escape the necessity of work. But, as the number of deserving poor is still very large, the work of charity is going on. Agents of the Central Relief Association are trying to raise $1,000,000. Large sums have been secured from charity balls, but not as much as usual; so that it would seem that the rich also are pinched in these hard time. In Pittsburg Andrew Carnegie has agreed to double every dollar raised during the next two months. In this city during the last week of the year, nearly 6,000 clerks were dropped from their positions in retail stores. There is a plan to head off the mortgage sharks by organizing a bank to lend money to poor people in small sums at low rates.

Fortunately for the suffering poor the last week or ten days have been a season of mild weather. All the snow has disappeared, and the sun has been shining. New Year's Day here was almost as balmy as it used to be in Mito. We also had a "green Christmas," which, even if later it brings an epidemic and makes a fat church yard, has for the present at least, saved much suffering and death. "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb."

Both the New England Road and the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé System have gone into the hands of receivers. This has been an unfortunate year for railroads, as per the following list:—Atchison, 9,344; Union Pacific 7,600; Northern Pacific, 5,262; Reading, 2,222; Erie, 1,968; New England, 538; Toledo, St. Louis, and Kansas City, 450; Toledo and Ann Arbor, 307; total, 27,691. The total railroad mileage in the country on Jan. 1, 1893, was 711,804.

The following paragraph from the Chicago *Graphic* tells its own story:—

Chicago is referred to continually as the most remarkable example of the progress of a modern city. Someone recently has been looking over the records, and makes the following interesting statements and comparison:—The present site of Chicago was sold by the Indians for three cents an acre. Taking the most valuable corner lot in the business part of the city as a criterion, the value has increased 130,000,000 per cent. In 1830, when there were fifty people scattered around Fort Dearborn, a quarter of an acre of land in what is known as the "heart of Chicago" could have been purchased for $20. In the past sixty-three years there were only two years in which the city did not show an increase in population over the previous year. But there were thirteen years during that time when this quarter of an acre of land showed a decrease in value, according to the real estate appraisement. The greatest increase per cent. recorded was in 1835, when it rose in value 400 per cent. over the value of the previous year. It is easy to picture the vision the owner must have had of the future glory of Chicago when he raised the price of his corner lot from $200 in 1834 to $5,000 in 1835. To-day the lot is assessed at $1,200,000

On New Year's Day the new building of the Chicago Young Men's Christian Association was opened. It cost $1,000,000, and is the finest in the world.

On the same day the Kent Chemical Laboratory of the University of Chicago was dedicated; and last evening occurred the fifth (quarterly) convocation at Central Music Hall in this city. The principal address was given by Professor Ira Remsen, of Johns Hopkins University, on "Pure Science;" President Harper announced the degrees, honours, and awards, welcomed the new students, made his usual report, and also announced the gift of $50,000 from Mr. Rockefeller for books.

President Andrews, of Brown University, has again received a flattering call to come to Chicago, but has not yet decided what to do. In the meantime, Brown University has been left a large fortune for endowment with special reference to keeping eminent professors in that institution when they are enticed elsewhere.

Mrs. Harriet Hayden, born a slave, has left about $4,000 to Harvard University as a scholarship for colored students.

Yesterday afternoon at the Art Institute of this city, Mr. Chas. M. Kurtz delivered a lecture on "Impressionism," in which he paid a high tribute to Japanese artists as "the first impressionists." The next lecture in that course will be given by Mr. H. Satoh on "Japanese Enamel and Gold Lacquer."

The big Yerkes telescope of the University of Chicago is to be set up in an observatory on the shore of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

The Field Columbian Museum has now received almost all of the conditioned $1,000,000 of World's Fair Stock.

The World's Columbian Exposition is rapidly nearing a complete demise. In some departments the work is entirely finished; in all it will be completed by April 1. On New Year's Day the grounds passed out of the control of the World's Fair Directors into the hands of the South Park Commissioners, and are now known again as plain "Jackson Park" with admission free. During the time that the grounds were enclosed, more than $25 000,000 admissions with gate receipts of over $10,500,000 were recorded.

Since the grounds have been thrown open to the public (and especially on New Year's Day) crowds have been flocking there "to view the skeleton of the beautiful exposition," and have been carrying off flowers, sticks, boards, bamboo poles—anything and everything—as souvenirs!

The echo of the World's Columbian Exposition is the Midwinter International Exposition, which was informally opened on January 1, and will be formally dedicated at a later date.

An amusing incident of the World's Fair is recorded in the following clipping from the *Union Signal* of this city:—"A number of visitors were in the Japanese exhibit in the Agricultural building and paused before some silk cocoons. "Them's

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white pea-nuts, Mary Ann," said the wiseacre of the party. "They prob'bly grow that way in Japan."

The new Liberty Bell is to make a circuit of the globe. It will go from New York to Nashville, New Orleans, Mexico and the Midwinter Fair at San Francisco; and then will be taken to Europe. First it will go to England to be rung on the battle field of Runnymede on June 15th, 1894, in a celebration by the English speaking world of the anniversary of the signing of the Magna Charta. After that it will be taken to France to participate in anniversaries connected with political freedom, and to Germany for the same purpose, its next destination being St. Petersburg, where it will be rung on the anniversary of the emancipation of the serfs. Next it will go to Italy and thence to Constantinople, Jerusalem, Cairo, and thence through Australia, India, China, and Japan, back to the Pacific coast, making virtually a circuit of the world.

The New Year's Reception for 1894 at the White House was a brilliant affair, in which the gorgeous uniforms of the diplomatic corps (particularly the quaint costumes of the Korean and the Chinese) attracted much attention.

Hon. Orlando B. Potter, ex-member of Congress from New York City, died of apoplexy last evening.

THE RHYME OF THE THREE SEALERS.

By Rudyard Kipling.

". . . . and reports some trouble among the poachers of the Russian rookeries."—*Daily Paper.*

Away by the lands of the Japanee
When the paper lanterns glow,
And the crews of all the shipping drink
In the house of Blood Street Joe,
At twilight when the landward breeze
Brings up the harbour noise,
And ebb of Yokohama Bay
Swigs chattering through the buoys,
In 'Cisco's Dewdrop Dining Rooms
They tell the tale anew
Of a hidden sea and a hidden fight
When the *Baltic* ran from the *Northern Light*
And the *Stralsund* fought the two.

Now this is the law of the Muscovite, that he proves with shot and steel,
When ye come by his isles in the Smoky Sea ye must not take the seal,
Where the grey sea goes nakedly between the weed hung shelves,
And the little blue fox he is bred for his skin, and the seal they breed for themselves;
For when the *Matkas* seek the shore to drop their pups aland
The great man-seals haul out of the sea, aroaring, band by band;
And when the first September gales have slaked their rutting-wrath,
The great man seals go back to the sea and no man knows their path.

The dark they lie and stark they lie—rookery, dune, and floe,
And the Northern Lights come down o'nights to dance with the houseless snow.

But since our women must walk gay and money buys their gear,
The sealing-boats they filch that way at hazard year by year.

English they be and Japanee that hang on the Brown Bear's flank,
And some be Scot, but the worst God wot, and the boldest thieves, be Yank!

It was the sealer *Northern Light*, to the Smoky Seas she bore
With a stove-pipe stuck from her starboard port and the Russian flag at her fore.
(*Baltic*, *Stralsund*, and *Northern Light*—Oh! they were birds of a feather—
Slipping away to the Smoky Seas, three seal-thieves together!)

And at last she came to a sandy cove and the *Baltic* lay therein,
But her men were up with the herding seal to drive and club and skin.

There were fifteen hundred skins abeach, cool pelt and proper fur,
When the *Northern Light* drove into the bay and the sea mist drove with her.

The *Baltic* called her men and weighed—she could not choose but run—
For a stove-pipe seen through the closing mist, it shows like a four-inch gun
(And loss it is that is sad as death to lose both trip and ship
And lie for a rotting contraband on Vladivostock slip).

She turned and dived in the sea-smother as a rabbit dives in the whins,
And the *Northern Light* sent up her boats to steal the stolen skins.

They had not brought a load to side or slid their hatches clear,
When they were aware of a sloop-of-war, ghost white and very near.

Her flag she showed and her guns she showed, three of them, black, abeam,
And a funnel grey with the crusted salt, but never a show of steam.

There was no time to man the bars, they knocked the shackle free,
And the *Northern Light* stood out again, goose-winged to open sea.

(For life it is that is worse than death, by force of Russian law
To work in the mines of mercury that loose the teeth in your jaw.)

They had not run a mile from shore—they heard no shots behind—
When the skipper smote his hand on his thigh and threw her up in the wind.

"Bluffed—raised out on a bluff," said he, "for if my name's Tom Hall,
"You must set a thief to catch a thief—and a thief has caught us all!
"By every butt in Oregon and every spar in Maine,
"The hand that spilled the wind from her sail was the hand of Reuben Paine!
"He has rigged and trigged her with paint and spar, and, faith, he has faked her well—
"But I'd know the *Stralsund* deckhouse yet from here to the booms o' Hell.

"Oh, once we ha' met at Baltimore, and twice on Boston pier,
"But the sickest day for you, Reuben Paine, was the day that you came here—
"The day that you came here, my lad, to scare us from our seal
"With your funnel made o' your painted cloth, and your guns o' rotten deal!
"Ring and blow for the *Baltic* now, and head her back to the bay,
"For we'll come into the game again with a double hand to play!"

They rang and blew the sealers' call—the poaching cry of the sea—
And they raised the *Baltic* out of the mist, and an angry boat was she;
And blind they groped through the whirling white and blind to the bay again,
Till they heard the swing of the *Stralsund's* boom, and the clank of her mooring chain.

They laid them down by bitt and boat, their pistols in their belts,
And:—"Will you fight for it, Reuben Paine, or will you share the pelts?"

A dog-toothed laugh laughed Reuben Paine, and bared his flenching knife.
"Yea, skin for skin, and all that he hath a man will give for his life,
"But I've six thousand skins below, and Yeddo Port to see,
"And there's never a law of God or man runs north of Fifty-Three.
"So go in peace to the naked seas with empty holds to fill,
"And I'll be good to your seal this catch, many as I shall kill.
"Get out of this before you foul—the fog's as blind as a pup,
"And fog or clear, you'll not come here to hold the *Stralsund* up!"

Answered the snap of a closing lock and the jar of a gunbutt slid,
But the tender fog shut fold on fold to hide the wrong they did;
The weeping fog rolled fold on fold the wrath of man to cloak,
And the flame-spurts pale ran down the rail as the sealing-rifles spoke.

The bullets drummed on bend and butt, the splinter slivered free,
(Little they trust to sparrow-dust that stop the seal in his sea!)
The thick smoke hung and would not shift, leaden it lay and blue,
But three were down on the *Baltic's* deck and two of the *Stralsund's* crew.

And arm's length out and overside the banked fog held them bound,
And as they heard or groan or word they fired at the sound.

For one cried out on the name of God, and one to have him cease,
And the questing volley found them both and bade them hold their peace.

And in the waiting silences the rudder whined beneath,
And each man drew his watchful breath slow taken 'tween the teeth—
Trigger and ear and eye acock, knit brow, and hard drawn lips—
Bracing his feet by chock and cleat for the rolling of the ships.

Till they heard the cough of a wounded man that fought in the fog for breath,
Till they heard the torment of Reuben Paine that wailed upon his death:—
"The tides they'll go through Fundy race, but I'll go never more
"And see the hogs from ebb-tide mark turn scampering back to shore.
"No more I'll see the trawlers drift below the Bass Rock ground,
"And watch the tall Fall steamer lights tear blazing up the Sound.
"Sorrow is me, in a lonely sea and a sinful fight I fall,
"But if there's law of God or man, you'll swing for it yet, Tom Hall!"

Tom Hall stood up by the quarter-rail. "Your words in your teeth," said he.
"There's never a law of God or man runs north of Fifty Three.
"So go in grace with Him to face, and an ill-spent life behind,
"And I'll take care of your widows, Rube, as many as I shall find.
"For one you have left at Kennebunk and one on Vitu Beach,
"And a yellow girl at Tomiok'; but I'll be good to each."

A *Stralsund* man shot blind and large, and a warlock Finn was he,
And he hit Tom Hall with a bursting ball a handsbreadth over the knee.

Tom Hall caught hold by the topping-lift, and sat him down with an oath,
"You'll wait a little, Rube," he said, "the Devil has called for both.
"The Devil is driving both this tide, and the killing-grounds are close,
"And we'll go up to the Wrath of God as the holluschickie goes.
"Oh men! put back your guns again and lay your rifles by,
"We've fought our fight and the best are down. Let up and let us die!
"Quit firing, by the bow there—quit! Call off the *Baltic's* crew!
"You're sure of Hell as me or Rube—but wait till we get through."

There went no word between the ships, but thick and quick and loud
The life-blood drummed on the dripping decks, with the fog dew from the shroud,
The sea pull drew them side by side, gunnel to gunnel laid,
And they felt the sheerstrakes pound and clear, but never a word was said.

Then Reuben Paine cried out again before his spirit passed:—
"Have I followed the sea for thirty years to die in the dark at last?
"Curse on her work that has nipped me here with a shifty trick unkind—
"I have gotten my death where I got my bread, but I dare not face it blind.
"Curse on the fog! Is there never a wind of all the winds I knew
"To clear the smother from off my chest, and let me look at the blue?"

The good fog heard—like a splitten sail, to left and right it tore,
And they saw the sun-dogs in the haze and the seal upon the shore.
Silver and grey ran spit and bay to meet the steel-backed tide,
And pinched and white in the clearing light the crews stared overside.

O rainbow-gay the red pools lay that swilled and spilled and spread,
And gold, raw gold, the spent shell rolled between the careless dead—
The dead that rocked so drunkenwise to weather and to lee,
And they saw the work their hands had done as God had bade them see.

And a little breeze blew over the rail that made the headsails lift.
But no man stood by wheel or sheet, and they let the schooners drift.

And the rattle rose in Reuben's throat and he cast his soul with a cry,
And "Gone already, Tom Hall?" he said, "Then it's time for me to die."

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His eyes were heavy with great sleep and yearning for the land,
And he spoke as a man that talks in dreams, his head upon his hand.
"Oh, there comes no good in the westering wind that backs against the sun,
"Wash down the decks—they're all too red—and share the skins and run.
"*Baltic*, *Stralsund*, and *Northern Light*,—clean share and share for all,
"You'll find the fleets off Tolstoi Mees, but you will not find Tom Hall.
"Evil he did in shoal-water and blacker sin on the deep,
"But now he's sick of watch and trick and now he'll turn and sleep.
"He'll have no more of the crawling sea that made him suffer so,
"But he'll lie down on the killing-grounds where the holluschickie go.
"And west you'll turn and south again beyond the sea fog's rim,
"And tell the Yoshiwara girls to burn a stick for him.
"And you'll not weight him by the heels and dump him overside,
"But carry him up to the sand-hollows to die as Bering died,
"And make a place for Reuben Paine that knows the fight was fair,
"And leave the two that did the wrong to talk it over there!"

* * * * * *

Half steam ahead by guess and lead, for the sun is mostly veiled—
Through fog to fog, by luck and log, sail ye as Bering sailed;
And if the light shall lift aright to give your landfall plain,
North and by west, from Zapne Crest, ye raise, the Crosses twain.
Fair marks are they to the inner bay, the reckless poacher knows
What time the scarred sea-catches lead their sleek seraglios;
Ever they hear the floe-pack clear, and the blast of the old bull-whale,
And the deep seal-roar that beats off shore above the loudest gale.
Ever they wait the winter's hate as the thundering *boorga* calls,
Where northward look they to St. George, and westward to St. Paul's.
Ever they greet the hunted fleet—lone keels off headlands drear—
When the sealing-schooners flit that way at hazard year by year.
Ever in Yokohama Port men tell the tale anew
Of a hidden sea and a hidden fight
When the *Baltic* ran from the *Northern Light*
And the *Stralsund* fought the two.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR)

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 86, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 105.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to K sq.	1—P × Kt
2—Q to K 2	2—K to Q 5 or B 5
3—Q, mates accordingly	
	if 1—P to B 4
2—Q to Q 2	2—P to B 5
3—Q to Q 5	
	if 2—K × Kt
3—Kt to K Kt 4 dis. ch., mate	
	if 2—K to B 5
3—Kt to K B sq. dis. ch. mate	
	if 1—K to Q 5
2—Kt to K B 5, ch.	2—K to Q 4
3—Q to Q R 2, mate	
	if 2—K to Q B 6
3—R to K 3, mate.	

No. 106.

1—Q to K R 8	1—P to R 8=Q
2—Q to Q R sq.	2—Q × Q, or Q to K B 6, ch., or Q to K R 4, ch., or anything else.
3—Kt to K B 3, (double ch.) mate	
	if 1—Q to Q 8 moves,
2—Q × Q	2—P to R 8=Q
3—Kt to K B 3, mate	
	if 2—Any other move.
3—Q × P (K Kt 2), mate	
	if 1—Q to K B 6, ch.
2—Kt × Q ch.	2—K to R 8
3—Q × P (K R 2), mate.	

Correct solution of Problem, No. 105 received from W.H.S., Digamma, Omega, and Aling.

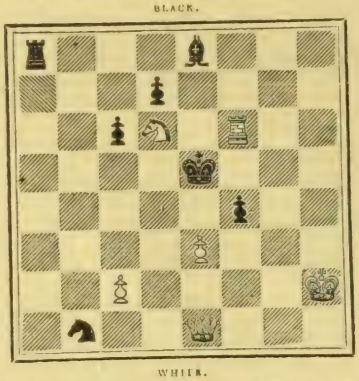
Correct solution of No. 106 received from W.H.S., Omega, J.D., Aling, and P.E.F.S.

A. L. Jordan.—Please see letter from W.H.S. below. We regret having been unable to examine the analysis before publication.

PROBLEM No. 108.

BY KOHTZ AND KOCKELKORN.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

The rooms of the Tokyo Chess Club presented an unusual spectacle on Tuesday afternoon last. A large gathering of the fair sex responded to the invitation for "Ladies' Day," and play—brisk, if not brilliant—was maintained with unflagging interest from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. Mr. W. D. Cox enlivened a pause in the proceedings by the reading of the following original *jeu d'esprit* :—

"So many of the fair ladies who have been entreated to honour us with their presence to-day, have, with true feminine diffidence, disclaimed all knowledge of the game, that a few plain words, free of all technicality, on the powers and value of the several pieces may not be out of place.

"On the principle 'Place aux dames,' the Queen first claims attention. She is the only feminine figure on the board, and, like every one of her charming sex, is by far the most powerful and important. Of course, being a lady, she can move anyhow and anywhere, creates a sensation wherever she goes, and is generally followed by a train of admirers. In fact, it is not considered discreet in her to travel far from home without efficient escort.

"The King moves one square at a time in any direction. He illustrates well the inconsistency of man; for though he is never made captive, he is often *mated*;—a good example to the bachelors around us. Yet he is a surly fellow; for he never willingly receives a mate. The more cheques he gets, the poorer his prospects become, and like a veritable spendthrift, whenever he *does* receive a cheque his first object is to get rid of it. Yet, for all this, he is a domestic man, and generally likes to be at home, or at least somewhere close at hand.

"The Rooks are thoroughly straightforward fellows, and for no *cawse* whatever will they move in any but a straight manner. Yet their temper is sometimes rather 'crabbed' when they move sideways. They are generally sedate and dignified in their gait, though once, and once only, in a game one of them may indulge in the sport of leap-frog. This, however, is for the King's amusement. His Majesty gives "a back," and the Rook leaps over it. Authorities have observed that the King's Rook more often indulges in these antics than the Queen's. It may be, that here again comes in the refining influence of woman's presence.

"We now come to the Bishops. Here we cannot but feel that we are treading on holy ground. How then shall we confess that the chess prelates are by no means straightforward in their motions, and invariably move obliquely? Let us treat lightly of this dangerous subject, merely quoting the beautiful sentiment of a local bard,

Only in the game of chess
Bishops are oblique, I guess,

and pass on the Knights. Authorities have described the moves of these gentry as the most difficult of all to explain on paper. Yet I would fain believe that every fair lady thoroughly understands instinctively the actions proper to a true Knight, even though she may assert that a Knight, like any other horrid man, rides roughshod over whatever is in his path.

"Regarding the opinion of feminine authorities as to the respective values of the Knight and the Bishop, the great consensus of opinion is in favour of the true Knight, though it is admitted on all sides that the Bishop comes in with *éclat* when it is a question of '*mating*.' A few authorities, however, chiefly of the sisterhood persuasion, are in favour of always sacrificing the Knight for the Bishop. That this opinion may always be limited to a very small minority is my devout wish, for the sake of those celebrated players who have never been 'mated.'

"As to the Pawns, as the chess board is a plane, it is hardly necessary to observe that they have no connection with the 'Mont de piété,' though I have heard one of our German *confrères* ejaculate, 'Ach mein lieber onkel,' when an adverse Pawn has reached its eighth square, on which occasion any pledge may be redeemed. I must not omit to observe that when a Pawn attempts to move two squares forward it may sometimes be taken on its way; but this remark merely 'en passant.'

"In conclusion, a game of chess resembles a three volume novel, inasmuch as it usually ends in a 'mate,' which, however, is generally recorded in the club registry office, and without the religious service that begins with 'Dearly beloved' and ends with 'amazement.'

MR. A. L. JORDAN'S PROBLEM.

THE CHESS EDITOR "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR.—My attention has been directed to an error in the analysis (not intended for publication) which I made of the above mentioned problem, in so far as regards the note of a dual game if White played 2—Q to Q B 8, ch. in reply to Black's defence of 1—K to Q B 4. In reality there is no mate in 4 moves if Black's second move is K to Kt 5, and overlooking that one variation was all the less excusable because, when trying to work out the problem with Kt to Kt 8 as the key-move, the same move on the part of Black, in a sub-variation, was the only thing that prevented the mate; in all other points it was complete, with some very pretty mates. There are, also, some pretty mates with Kt—B 8 as a key-move. These several variations, leading almost to success, constitute the real beauty and charm of this fine problem.

However, Mr. Editor, my excuses are due to Mr Jordan for noting what some people consider a blemish, which did not exist. My own opinion is that an unimportant dual of that nature, in a sub-variation, would not be a defect. In a clever "Essay on duals," (by F M. Iwe-d). I read that "*the importance of an optional attack is determined by the value of what it causes the solver to lose absolutely*. Hence, should a choice of attack be found against a defence which in any event brings out *nothing* of value, the "dual" is of *no* consequence."

I am, your obedient servant,
W. H. S.

Tokyo, 28th January, 1894.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL.")

London, January 27.

It is stated that there is some danger of the Tariff Bill recently brought before the House of Representatives of the United States being sent back to the Committee, many of the Democrats resenting the decision to include the income-tax proposals.

London, January 28.

The Emperor of Russia is suffering from a severe attack of influenza, accompanied by inflammation of the lungs and fever.

London, January 29.

The Emperor of Russia is better.

The Brazilian insurgent fleet has fired upon American warships that were escorting merchant vessels, and a sharp engagement was fought in which the Americans completely defeated the insurgents, who surrendered. It is believed that this will put an end to the revolt.

[SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN DAILY MAIL."]

London, January 24.

The Earl of Kimberley has recovered.

The House of Representatives of the United States has further amended the Tariff Bill by placing raw and refined sugar on the Free List.

The Emperor William has invited Prince Bismarck to visit him in Berlin, and the Prince has promised to come so soon as his health permits.

January 26.

A Decree has been issued by King Humbert which empowers the banks of Italy, Sicily, and Naples, to increase their note issues by 120,000,000 lire in order to meet the present run on the banks.

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January 27.

It is understood, in regard to affairs at Cairo, that France, though not supporting the Khedive, is advising moderation.

Prince Bismarck arrives at Berlin to-morrow on his promised visit to the Emperor William. Great preparations are being made to receive the ex-Chancellor, and universal rejoicings will be held on account of the renewal of friendly relations between the Emperor and the Prince.

Sir Gerald Portal in Uganda is dead.

The fight for the heavy-weight championship of the world took place yesterday at Jacksonville, when Corbett knocked out Mitchell in three rounds.—*N.C. Daily News.*

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Nagasaki, January 29.

Mr. Nielsen, tank engineer, died yesterday of small-pox.

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Sendai, 27, 2.46 p.m.

Influenza is very prevalent here.

Osaka, 27, 5 p.m.

Thirteen workmen of the Osaka Cotton Spinning Co. were arrested by the police last night, of whom six were sent to the Public Procurators' Bureau. The arrests are due to the alleged harsh treatment of their foremen and the rescinding of the grant of 50 *sen* per head this year.

Utsunomiya Jan. 31, 3.42 p.m.

Mr. Hoshi has left for the Haga District. At Ichiba-mura, in the above District, three supporters of Mr. Yokobori, the rival candidate, have been assaulted by Radical partisans, and two were seriously wounded. The contest is becoming more severe every day. The Chief Constable proceeded to the District to-day, and the police-force has been increased.

Osaka, Jan. 31, 3.07 p.m.

Mr. Oi Kentaro has been chosen candidate for the Eighth Election District by a large majority.

Jan. 31, 4.40 p.m.

The Osaka Railway Co. has petitioned the Minister of Communications, against sanctioning the project of the Kansai Railway Co., to construct a railroad between Yamashiro and this City *vid* Kawachi. The Osaka company says the scheme will be detrimental to its interests.

Osaka, Feb. 1.

Mr. Tanaka Ichibei, President of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, has resigned owing to the troubles connected with the railway question.

Viscount Kawase, Japanese Minister to England, is expected to arrive at Kobe to-morrow per the French Mail steamer *Saghalien*.

Kobe, Feb. 1.

Small-pox has broken out on board the *Kobe Maru*. The vessel was at once disinfected.

Shimonoseki, Feb. 1.

Heavy snow has been falling here since yesterday.

Yamada, Feb. 2, 2.42 p.m.

A public meeting held here yesterday by Mr. Ozaki Yukio, of the *Kaishin-to*, was dissolved by the police upon the speaker proceeding to discuss the *Chishima-Ravenna* affair.

Osaka, Feb. 2, 3.15 p.m.

Count Matsukata held a conference at the Senzaki to-day, at which Viscounts Takashima and Saisho and Messrs. Tsuchikura Shozaburo and Ijiun Kanetsune were present.

Tokushima, Feb. 2, 3.55 p.m.

Some eighteen fishermen belonging to Tsudaura anchored off Numashima, Awaji Province, on the 31st ult. They had not been there long when over 440 fishermen of Izumi Province, in 110 boats suddenly attacked them. Three boats and twelve fishermen of Tsudaura were taken captive, and the remaining six, though seriously assaulted, managed to escape. The President of the Tsuda Guild of Fishermen will attempt to settle the affair amicably. The cause of the fight is not known.

Kobe, 2, 1 p.m.

Viscount Kawase, Japanese Minister to England, arrived here this morning by the French mail.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Feb. 9th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Monday, Feb. 5th.*
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 4th.†
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 17th.‡
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Friday, Feb. 9th.§
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 11th.
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Feb. 19th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wednesday, Feb. 21st.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 25th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 1st.

* *City of Peking* left San Francisco on January 18th. † *Saghalien* left Kobe on February 3rd. ‡ *China* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on January 30th. § *City of Rio de Janeiro* left Hongkong on February 1st.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 4th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Feb. 6th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 10th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb 11th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 17th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 20th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, Feb. 23rd.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, Mar. 2nd
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 10th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Beatrice, British schooner, 48, A. J. Bjerre, 27th January,—Vancouver, B.C., 22nd November, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Conch, British steamer, 2,260, Moses, 27th January,—Batoum viâ ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 27th January,—San Francisco 9th January, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Akashi Maru, Japanese steamer, 856, Sakata, 28th January,—Moji, Coal.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 28th January,—Otaru viâ ports, 23rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 28th January,—Kobe 27th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Diomed, British steamer, 1,436, Dickson, 29th January,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Retriever, American schooner, 75, H. J. Snow, 29th January,—Put Back, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Peterborough, British ship, 1,680, A. Murchie, 30th January,—New York 28th August, Oil.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, Wilson, 30th January,—Nagasaki 27th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Forfait (4), French cruiser, Captain Ricaloux, 31st January,—Kobe.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 704, Yoshizawa, 31st January,—Kobe 30th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 720, Hayashi, 31st January,—Moji, Coal.—Order.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 31st January,—Otaru viâ ports 27th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 31st January,—Kobe 30th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 31st January,—Shimagawa 31st January, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, S. Tsuji, 1st February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 1st February,—Hongkong viâ ports, 24th January, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, V. Perkes, 1st February,—Hongkong viâ ports, 23rd January, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 2nd February,—Yokkaichi 1st February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 2nd February,—Shanghai and ports 27th January, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 27th January,—Otaru, Light.—S. Asano & Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 27th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 27th January,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, Hugo Walter, 28th January,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Océanien, French steamer, 2,127, Schmitz, 28th January,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Keemun, British steamer, 1,985, Castle, 28th January,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M Strachan & Co.

Telamon, British steamer, 1,555, Jackson, 28th January,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 29th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 30th January,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

St. David, American ship, 1,536, Lyons, 30th January,—New York viâ Kobe, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Akashi Maru, Japanese steamer, 876, Sakata, 30th January,—Moji, Ballast.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 30th January,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 30th January,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aglaia, German steamer, 1,666, Petersen, 31st January,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 1st February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 1st February,—Kobe, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 1st February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 704, Yoshizawa, 1st February,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Diomed, British steamer, 1,436, Dickens, 2nd February.—Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, V. Perkes, 2nd February,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 2nd February,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 2nd February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 2nd February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 2nd February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 3rd February,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco:—Mr. B. Guggenheim, Mr. H. Komada, Mr. Keisuke Niwa, Mr. U. Imura, Colonel N. W. McIvor, Miss Helen E McIvor, Mrs. Ada E. Bever, Mr. K. Matsuo, Mr. Thos. J. Cowie, Mr. S. Yano, Dr. K. Takayama, Mr. S. Sato, Mrs. N. W. McIvor, Miss Henrietta F. McIvor, Mr. C. E. Chapman, and Mr. C. Fukugawa in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. William Whiley, Miss P. Hollis, and Mr. M. L. Dan in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Messrs. T. Aoki, K. Yamakami, and S. Sugiyama in cabin; Miss K. Umeda, Messrs. K. Haga, G. Midzuno, G. Kobayashi, K. Ishigaki, K. Ishimoto, and one European in second class, and 44 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Kobe:—Master Dawns in cabin and 37 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Batchelor and Mr. B. Iwahama in cabin; 5 passengers in second class, and 40 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Kobe:—1 passenger in cabin; 1 passenger in second class, and 44 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Lieutenant W. E. Sewell, U.S.N., Rev. J. M. Francis, and Mr. R. L. Thompson in cabin; 8 passengers in second class, and 198 passengers in Asiatic steerage. For San Francisco:—Miss M. A. Sheldon in cabin. For Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. and Mrs. Shephard in cabin.

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Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. J. W. Harding, Mr. Geo. W. Noel, Mr. A. J. Lines, Dr. Morris, Mr. C. D. Moss, Mrs. Gray and 4 children, Major M. Nakaoka, and Rev. H. Moore in cabin; Mr. Wong Shao Hung and Mrs. S. Takenouchi in second class, and 21 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Dr. A. Schmidt, and Mr. James Gurney in cabin; 2 Chinese in second class; 2 Europeans in steerage, and 10 Chinese on deck.

Per French steamer *Océanien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. O. Vinals, Mr. Stutchbury, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Mason, Mr. Stein, Mr. and Mrs. Wilks, Mr. Ganten, Miss Baba Maron, Dr. Van Der Heyden, Mr. Balmonet, Sour Marie Auguste, Mr. Arnould, Miss Pelagie Revert, Mrs. Suzuki Soyo, Mr. N. Woog, Mrs. H. G. Lee, Mr. Gonsuke Hayashi, Mrs. E. H. Tison, Mr. A. Tison, Mr. Scheel, and Miss de Langalerie in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Governor K. Iwasaki, Governor Omori, Master Sasaki, Messrs. T. J. Cowie, E. W. Rutter, J. W. Compmann, S. Sasaki, H. Sakamura, Manabe, T. Fukuhara, T. Tokuhisa, Norisawa, and Y. Kumamoto in cabin; Messrs. Ozawa, Ishiguchi, and Kishimoto in second class, and 32 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong:—Captain J. C. Jaques, Mr. C. R. Walter, and Miss Minnie Hennessey in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Hon. H. H. Risley, Mr. Kawashima, Mr. and Mrs. Shephard, Miss M. A. Sheldon, and Mrs. E. Schöffler in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong via ports:—Prince Walkonsky, Mrs. A. E. Danforth, Mr. S. C. Davis, Mr. D. O. Earle, Mr. and Mrs. B. Hyde Pearson, Messrs. E. W. Tate, H. R Mair, F. J. Lias, F. J. Hall, A. Cabeldu, A. J. Watt, E. Libeaud, H. Pinckney, A. B. Smith, E. O. Kenyon, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Messrs. V. Blad, C. W. Arnould, R. Daniel, A. E. Wileman, P. Morriss, E. H. Snow, and Nunomiya in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Océanien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for Europe, 185 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 157 bales.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $134,000.00.

Per British steamer *Victoria*, for Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—

TEA.

	PACIFIC COAST.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	CANADA.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama	133	—	—	—	—	133
Hongkong	16	—	306	—	—	322
Total	149	—	306	—	—	455

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	81	.....	81
Yokohama	218	.....	218
Total	299	.....	299

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	2	—	—	43	10	55
Calcutta	—	—	—	24	—	24
Foochow	420	—	—	302	—	722
Shanghai	136	—	385	—	—	521
Colombo	—	—	—	66	—	66
Hyogo	156	—	298	—	—	454
Yokohama	290	—	283	51	—	624
Total	1,004	—	966	486	10	2,466

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	115	10	115
Shanghai	171	—	171
Yokohama	421	—	421
Total	707	10	717

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 214 bales; Waste Silk, 86 bales.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Pearne, reports:—Left San Francisco the 9th January at 3.42 p.m.; to meridian, had light southerly and easterly winds, with fine weather; thence to port south-west and westerly gales, with head sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 27th January at 8.10 p.m. Passage, 17 days, 10 hours, 50 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Otaru the 23rd January at 7.5 p.m.; had strong breeze and cloudy weather, snow at intervals, which at midnight increased to fresh gale with fierce squalls from N.W. and W.N.W., and high N.W. sea to Osutsuki; thence to Fort Rock Lighthouse fresh to strong breeze, high N.W. sea, cloudy weather, and snow at intervals; thence to Hakodate fresh breeze and fine, clear weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 24th at 4 p.m. and left the 26th at 8.10 a.m.; had moderate to strong N.W. and W.N.W. breeze, moderate sea and snow at intervals to Shiriya saki; thence to Oginohama fresh gale with hard squalls to moderate breeze, clear and cloudy. Arrived at Oginohama the 27th at 7.35 a.m. and left the same day at 3.40 p.m.; thence to Inuboye Lighthouse fresh N.W. gale to gentle variable winds and clear weather; passed Inuboye Lighthouse the 28th at 6.30 a.m.; thence to port strong, fresh, and moderate breeze, cloudy and clear. Arrived at Yokohama at 5.10 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Fushiki Maru*, Captain Wilson, reports:—Left Nagasaki the 27th January at 3.45 p.m.; had moderate N.E. winds with cloudy and overcast weather; passed through Shimonoseki Strait at 9.30 a.m. on the 28th, and cleared Bungo Channel at 8.30 p.m. the same day; thence to port moderate N.N.E. winds with cloudy and dull weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 30th January at 4.45 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain J. W. Ekstrand, reports:—Left Otaru the 27th January at noon; had strong W. and N.W. winds with heavy snow squalls and high sea. Arrived at Hakodate the 28th at 10.30 a.m. and left the 28th at 8 a.m.; had moderate S.W. winds and overcast, cloudy weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 30th at 8.30 a.m., and left the same day at 3.15 p.m.; had N. and N.W. winds, fresh breeze and misty rain; thence at noon fresh breeze and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 31st January at 4.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Crichton, reports:—Left Kobe the 30th January at noon; passed Oshima at 9.26 p.m.; had gentle north-north-westerly breeze and overcast, cloudy weather; passed Omai-saki the 31st at 9.30 a.m., had fresh northerly breeze and cloudy weather; abeam Rock Island Lighthouse at 0.10 p.m.; thence to port fresh north-easterly breeze and cloudy weather. Arrived at Yokohama at 7 p.m.

The British steamer *Victoria*, Captain Perkes, reports:—Left Hongkong the 23rd January at noon, viâ Shanghai, and Kobe, and arrived at Yokohama the 1st February at 11.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain G. W. Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 27th January at 2.30 p.m. and arrived at Nagasaki the 29th at at noon; had strong north winds with rain and snow. Left Nagasaki the 29th at 5 p.m. and arrived at Kobe the 31st at 9 a.m. Left Kobe the 1st February at noon and arrived at Yokohama the 2nd at 3.30 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There has been a fair amount of enquiry for various lines of Imports, but the continued unstable condition of Exchange has prompted holders to put up their prices to a prohibitive extent—thus almost completely choking off business. Yarns have been very quiet indeed, owing to the high figures asked by holders. Grey Shirtings and T. Cloths are dull for the same reason. A few small transactions are reported in Turkey Reds and other Fancies, while in Woollens there is a fair demand for Italian Cloths. Other lines are not without enquiry, but the two parties apparently find it impossible to come to terms.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38¼ yds. 39inches	$2.30 to 2.80
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38¼ yds. 45inches	2.40 to 3.15
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.55 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 14 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.40 to 8.75
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.65 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.47½ to 1.57½
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.62½ to 1.95
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.27½ to 2.67½
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.85 to 3.10

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.25 to 0.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.20 to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.14 to 0.19½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 10/24, Ordinary	$36.50 to —
Nos. 16/24, Medium	37.00 to 37.50
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	37.50 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	37.50 to —
Nos. 28/32, Medium	37.75 to 38.25
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	38.50 to 39.75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	43.50 to 45.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 43.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	47.50 to 49.50
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

There is a fair amount of enquiry for various kinds of Iron, but the present prices are far above buyers' ideas of value. Holders are very firm owing to the unsettled condition of Exchange.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	$4.30 to 4.40
Flat Bars, ½ inch	4.40 to 4.50
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.35 to 3.45
Iron Plates, assorted	3.45 to 3.55
Sheet Iron	4.55 to 4.70
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.00 to 9.20
Wire Nails, assorted	5.80 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.55 to 1.60

KEROSENE.

Buyers continue to hold off, and the market si very quiet. The tank steamer *Conch* has arrived with 2,550 tons of Russian Oil in bulk, while the ship *Peterborough*, which came in on the 30th ult. from New York, is reported to have 67,000 cases. Holders are firm and quotations unchanged.

Chester	$1.82½ to 1.87
Comet	1.80 to 1.82½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.80 to 1.82½
Russian Moon	1.77½ to 1.80

SUGAR.

Business in Browns has been fairly brisk during the past week—that is in Manila grades, which have arrived in fair quantities. The first shipment of Formosa new crop sugar is expected to arrive in the course of a few days. Whites are very quiet but show no change in price.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	Nom. —
Brown Manila	$5.35 to 5.45
Brown Daitong	4.45 to 5.00
Brown Canton	4.00 to 4.75
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.00
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 26th ultimo, since which date settlements on this market amount to 500 piculs, divided thus:—*Hanks*, 20 piculs; *Filatures*, 159 piculs; *Re-reels*, 176 piculs; *Kakeda*, 145 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

The market has been dull, but in spite of this there has been a fair amount of daily business and prices, especially for silks suitable for America, are well maintained. In fine sizes the market has been easy, and stock being plentiful, holders show some disposition to be moving; but they will not reduce their prices to any great extent, and the consequence is that the offers which come in from Lyons do not lead to business.

Arrivals from the interior have been small and the stock shows a slight reduction on the week. Supplies are likely to fall off for the next two months, as all the filatures in the mountainous provinces have closed down, as usual, for the winter and will not reopen again before the end of March or early April.

Exchange has again weakened slightly, closing a point or so below last week's rates.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the German mail steamer *Nuernberg*, 28th ultimo, taking 34 bales for Europe, and the French mail steamer *Oceanien*, which left on the same date (28th ult.) took 185 bales for the same destination. These departures make the present export figures 29,158 piculs, against 39,823 piculs last year and 36,070 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—The only business reported has been about 20 piculs medium *Shinshu* at $610. Stock in this department is very small and has apparently no great attraction for buyers.

Filatures.—A moderate business only. A few sample boxes extra quality, fine size, have been booked at $860, with second sorting of the same chop at $830. Fair No. 1 *Mino*, fine size, has been done at $790, with medium and inferior grades at $750, $740 and $720.

Rereels.—This class has displayed more activity than for some time past, and $760 has been paid for good *Maibash* of well-known chops. This is the latest price paid, although many parcels were settled at $10 less five or six days ago.

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Kakeda.—Holders have given way in price and considerable business has been done on the following basis:—*Daruma*, $710; *Horsehead*, $680; Quotation for *Horsehead* II, $650; *Horsehead* III, $625, and at this last price business has been done.

In other sorts nothing doing.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	$820 to	830
Filatures—No. 1, 10/15 deniers	790 to	800
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	800 to	810
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	740 to	750
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	760 to	770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	710 to	720
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	730 to	740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	680 to	700
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	760 to	770
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	750 to	760
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	710 to	720
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	680 to	690
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	660 to	670
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	640 to	650
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1	710 to	715
Kakedas—No. 1½	680 to	685
Kakedas—No. 2	650 to	655
Kakedas—No. 2½	625 to	630
Kakedas—No. 3		—
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 2nd Feb., 1894.

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	16,372	14,976	12,765
America	11,957	24,121	22,465
Total { Bales	28,329	39,097	35,230
Total { Piculs	29,158	39,823	36,070
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July {	Piculs. 30,600	Piculs. 41,250	Piculs. 36,800
Stock, 2nd Feb.	14,800	4,800	13,300
Available supplies to date	45,400	46,050	50,100

WASTE SILK.

Trade in this branch has fallen away to very small proportions and the settlements for the week are 97 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 66 piculs; *Kibiso*, 31 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

Demand from Europe seems to have fallen away to very small proportions, and dealers would be willing to accept lower prices to be moving. It remains to be seen whether they can tempt buyers in again by concessions; as the matter stands at present, they do not seem disposed to concede enough, but we shall see what the coming week brings forth.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the German and French mails both leaving on the 28th January. The former had 635 bales and the latter 157 bales, all for Europe, and the present export figures are 18,308 piculs, against 29,496 piculs and 22,998 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Cocoons.—Nothing done this week, either by foreign or native buyers.

Noshi.—A small business consisting of fine *Bushu* at $125, and good *Shinshu* at $100. Nothing done in *Joshu* or other descriptions.

Kibiso.—Very small business in *Filature*, medium quality, price ranging from $90 to $95. Nothing done in *Hira* descriptions.

Neri and *Sundries* have given rise to no business at all.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to	150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to	140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	135 to	145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	110 to	115
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to	105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to	95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	125 to	135
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85 to	90
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to	70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to	110
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to	100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to	80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to	35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to	20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		—
Mawata—Good to Best		—

Export Table Waste Silk to 2nd Feb., 1894.

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	15,077	26,806	20,903
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,690	2,095
	18,308	29,496	22,998
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 21,150	Piculs. 34,200	Piculs. 26,200
Stock, 2nd Feb.	17,400	7,300	11,000
Available supplies to date	38,550	41,500	37,200

Exchange has declined a point in spite of a slight advance in Silver at home. Present quotations:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/3⅜; Documents, 2/3½; 6m/s. Credits, 2/3⅝. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $55; 4m/s. U.S. $55⅜. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.88; 6m/s. fcs. 2.90.

Estimated Silk Stock, 2nd Feb., 1894.

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	60	Cocoons	260
Filatures	8,416	Noshi-ito	8,360
Re-reels	4,414	Kibiso	8,300
Kakeda	1,810	Mawata	150
Oshu	50	Sundries	330
Various Kinds	50		
Total piculs	14,800	Total piculs	17,400

TEA.

Holders have been offering their stock at rather easier rates, and buyers have responded to a fair extent. Settlements of the current season up to date amount to 225,344 piculs, against 226,550 piculs for the corresponding period last year.

	Per Picul.
Common	$12 to 13
Good Common	14 to 15
Medium	17 to 18
Good Medium	19 to 20
Fine	22 to 23
Finest, Choice, Choicest	Nominal.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has further declined a point.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/2½
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/2⅝
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/2⅞
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/3⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/3⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2.76
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.85
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	71½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On India—Bank sight	186
On India—Private 30 days' sight	189
On America—Bank Bills on demand	52⅝
On America—Private 30 days' sight	54½
On America—Private 4 months' sight	55¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.24
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.32
Bar Silver (London)	30½

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September 30, 1893.

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The BATHS are filled with a constant and never failing supply from the HOT MINERAL SPRINGS just above the Hotel, the medicinal virtues of which are too well-known to need recapitulation. It is sufficient to say that whereas Visitors find many of the hot springs enervating, those at Kowaki-dani are distinctly invigorating.

One of the features of the Kaikatei is the detached Suites of Apartments, where perfect quiet and privacy can be secured. This arrangement for invalids and convalescents from the Tropics is a great desideratum, as being entirely removed from the Dining Room, Billiard Room, Bar, and Baths, while all are connected by covered passages.

To a Liberal Table are added an excellent *Cuisine* and good attendance, supplemented by a large variety of Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors of the very best kinds.

For the amusement of Guests, a fine English Billiard Table, by Burroughs and Watts, has been added to the Establishment, as well as Archery, Quoits, and other Games, and Ponies for riding over the hills and a Yacht for sailing on Hakone Lake can be hired.

Visitors to Kowaki-dani who bring a rod with them will be shown the haunts of the speckled Trout, a nice stream of several miles in length being within easy walking distance of the Hotel; Hakone Lake is also well stocked with a variety of fish, including salmon, and the Fishing is FREE; while Entomologists will find rare and valuable specimens in the surrounding hills, and the Flora of the district is extremely interesting to the Botanist.

Apartments may be secured by Letter or Telegram, and Special arrangements made for the conveyance of Visitors and Baggage from the Tramway Terminus at Yumoto, by addressing

Y. HOSHINO,

KAIKATEI, KOWAKI-DANI,
HAKONE.

BOARDING HOUSE,

FOR MISSIONARIES & OTHERS.

MISS H. G. BRITTAN, 2, Bluff, Yokohama, will be happy to receive and accommodate Missionaries and others during their stay in Yokohama.

TERMS:—One Dollar and a Half per Day Children under Twelve Half Price.

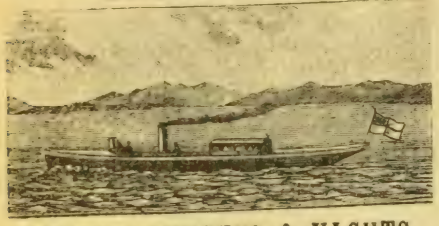
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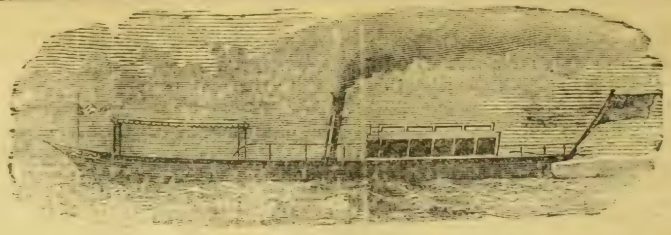
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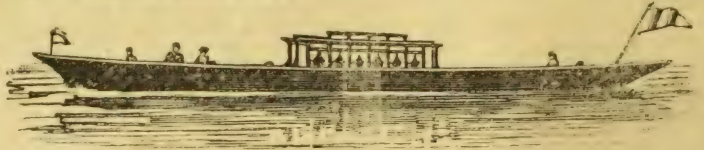
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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 10TH, 1894.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A VERY enjoyable ball was given at the French Legation on the 5th inst.

SOME additions to the Judicial Bench have lately been made from the Tokyo Bar.

ENSIGN MATSUOKA ICHIMATSURO, of the Artillery, has been ordered to France.

THE new British jury-list for the ensuing year was signed by his Honour, Judge Mowat, on Friday.

A NAVAL REVIEW in Yokohama harbour will very probably be held on the Imperial Silver Wedding day.

NINETEEN foreigners were in the service of Japanese in Kanagawa Prefecture at the close of last year.

THE foreigners resident in Tokyo at the end of last year totalled 761, of whom 493 were males and 268 females.

ELECTION disturbances are reported from several of the provincial districts. In all cases *soshi* were the belligerents.

SMALL-POX is ravaging Nagasaki Prefecture, eighty-four persons being attacked last week, of whom twenty-four died.

A POSTMAN carrying mails from Akegi to Ota, Yamaguchi Prefecture, was frozen to death during the night of the 30th ult.

A CLAIM was made in the British Court on Monday, by Mr. E. Whittall, to recover certain documents from Mr. T. H. Box; acting on the suggestion of the Judge, the parties settled the affair amicably.

THE plum trees on Noge-yama will be in full blossom on Sunday, while those at Sugita will flower a week later.

THERE is a very good prospect of the train service on the Tokyo-Kobe main line being greatly accelerated in the near future.

A RICE-DEALER in Yokohama, in a fit of jealousy, cut his wife's throat on the forenoon of the 2nd inst., and then committed suicide.

A GIRL, fifteen years of age, was burnt to death in a fire which occurred in Aoki-cho, Kanagawa, on the morning of the 2nd inst.

THE twenty-one days' of dry weather came to an end on Thursday, when rain fell copiously for many hours. It was greatly needed.

MR. KANEKO, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, has been appointed Chief Commissioner of the Fourth Domestic Industrial Exhibition.

THE Imperial University has lost an earnest student by the death, in his thirty-third year, of Professor Kikuchi Yasushi. He held the assistant-chair of Geology.

THE special Drainage Investigation Committee of the Osaka City Assembly has estimated the cost of improvement at *yen* 700,000. The work is to be completed in five years.

MR. TSUBORI JIRO, at the request of the Japan Sanitary Association, will represent the medical faculty of the Empire at the Medical Convention to be held in Rome next month.

THE King of Annam lately conferred decorations upon Mr. Megata, the Superintendent of Customs at Yokohama, and Mr. Tagi Takyu, an official in the Kanagawa Kencho.

THE Interport Football match was won by Yokohama—two goals to *nil*. The winners played one man short, owing to the centre-forward dislocating his knee-cap early in the game.

THE Chinese New Year was celebrated in the usual noisy pyrotechnic fashion by the Chinese community on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; all their houses suspending business for the three days.

DURING the recent conflagration at Ogicho, Yokohama, the warehouse of the Japan Kombu Kaisha was destroyed. Of the five thousand catties of edible sea-weed kept in the building, about one-tenth was damaged.

VISCOUNT SHINAGAWA, Count Okuma, and Count Itagaki, the leaders of the three most influential political parties in Japan, have all declined to accept the Cabinet's proposed nomination to life-membership to the House of Peers.

YOKOHAMA beat Tokyo in the Chess contests on Saturday last, by two games, the score at the close standing:—Yokohama 11, Tokyo 9. The teams afterwards dined together at the Club House, Hotel Metropole, Tokyo.

THE vernacular papers are filled with the various projects under consideration of patriotic subjects for the proper celebration of the Imperial Silver Wedding. The gifts ordered by the Imperial Household will be of great value and beauty.

THE annual meeting of seat-holders of Christ Church, Yokohama, was held on Thursday. The Committee reported a balance in hand of $463.81. They have raised the Rector's stipend from $200 to $250, in consequence of the increased cost of living owing to the depreciation of silver.

THE House of Lords has rejected the amendments made in the Commons upon the Lords' Amendments of the Employers Liability Bill. The French Government has introduced a Bill adding two francs to the existing duties on wheat. Later dispatches from Rio de Janeiro regarding the engagement between the Brazilian Fleet and the American man-of-war, state that after a few harmless shots had been exchanged, the Brazilians struck their flag to the United States ship. The United States House of Representatives voted the Tariff Bill and the Internal Revenue Bill as one bill by a majority of sixty-five. In the French Chamber of Deputies, the Government promised to remedy the defects of the Navy, and a vote of confidence in the Ministry was then carried. Mr. Gladstone denies the statement published by the *Pall Mall Gazette* that he has decided to resign office, though he says that his age, sight, and hearing for many months past have made relief from public cares desirable and rendered his tenure of office liable to interruption at any moment. The Magistrate has discharged Harness, the man prosecuted in connection with the electric belt swindle. The French troops have again attacked the British in Africa, and several were killed and wounded on either side. Vaillant, the bomb-thrower, has been executed.

THE condition of Exchange on one hand, with the falling off in demand on the other, has had the effect of bringing transactions in the Import trade almost to a standstill. Nothing at all has been done in Yarns, while Shirtings and certain other Cotton Piece-goods are extremely dull, and only a small amount of business has taken place in Victoria Lawns, Velvets, and Mousselines. But little has been done in Metals, and the present aspect of the trade presents the possibility of prices being higher before they lower. The Kerosene market is not strong, while the arrival of a cargo of American Oil has further weakened prices, though to what extent is not apparent, as transactions have been insufficient to make quotations trustworthy. Though heavy arrivals of new Formosa Sugar have come to hand, the stock has not been increased thereby, these having been sold "to arrive," and the market being bare of these brands there are no "spot" transactions to make a quotation. There is probably more on the road, but full rates may be looked for during the next few weeks. White sorts are quiet. The Silk trade has been dull—very dull—with no immediate prospect of a revival; and unless business becomes particularly active during the next two months a large portion of the now excessive stock—close upon 15,000 piculs—must be carried over to the next season. With more than 45,000 piculs in sight, and the certainty of a goodly increase of present stock by spring reelings, it is not difficult to forecast a further drop in prices if all goes well with the new crop on the basis of a still enhanced output. Looking at the possibility of a small demand from Europe and America during the next 9 months, the stock on this market may, at the end of that period, be very close to, if not, exceeding 30,000 piculs. If the trade in Raw has been small, that in Waste has been still less, the heavy stock of 17,500 piculs still remaining here unsold. The Tea trade is not large, but on an adequate scale for the time of year, and prices are unchanged. Exchange has further declined.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The Progressionist papers are doing their utmost to disseminate damaging rumours about the Cabinet Ministers. The *Hochi Shimbun* is especially conspicuous in this respect. It is a noteworthy circumstance that our contemporary shows itself anxious to say good things about Count Yamagata. As that paper is under the direct control of Count Okuma, the impression prevails in well-informed circles that the Progressionist leader is now very desirous of an alliance, through the President of the Privy Council, with the National Unionist Party. Count Okuma, according to some persons, is supposed to entertain hopes of being one of the successors of the present Ministers when they leave office. With that object in view he is said to be looking about for some clan statesmen willing to work in common with him. That these surmises are not altogether without plausible foundation may be seen from a significant article in the *Hochi Shimbun*. "It is now reported," says our contemporary, "that Count Yamagata does not like to be called the leader of the so-called Military Party. The present Ministry being in a very precarious state, it is time for Count Yamagata once more to place himself at the helm of State. It is idle to attach much importance to the artificial distinction between the military and civil parties. What is required is that the reins of Government should be in the hands of men bent upon the establishment of a system of responsible Cabinets and not actuated by clan sentiments. The Ito Cabinet was welcomed by the public at the outset, because it was then supposed to be inclined towards such a course of policy. But the public is entirely disappointed with the present Ministry, for it has proved incapable of freeing itself from clan prejudices. Count Yamagata ought to abandon all clan sentiments and devote himself to the introduction of a truly constitutional system of Government, in other words, Government by Party. If he be willing to pursue such a course, he might be assured of the support of the people," evidently in the present instance the Progressionist party. It is extremely doubtful (as the *Nichi Nichi* has justly observed) whether Count Yamagata will yield to the pursuasion of the Progressionist organs, but there is value in the knowledge that they to not think it entirely useless to try the effect of their exhortations upon him. It is also an interesting circumstance that these papers are assiduous in circulating rumours concerning a growing coldness between him and Count Ito.

* * *

In another article, the *Hochi* ventures to make a bold prophecy about the situation in the next session of the Diet. The Government's plan, it says, consists in condemning the parties of the Opposition as being conservative and old-fashioned, on the ground that they are in favour of Strict Treaty Enforcement, and thus in appropriating for itself alone the whole credit of furthering the enlightened and progressive policy of opening the country. The plan is not without some features of ingenuity, but such a device can no more impose upon the people than the temporizing schemes of the Tokugawa Government in the last days of its existence could deceive the nation. The present Government is struggling against a mighty current which daily becomes more and more powerful and irresistible. That current is the widespread revolt of the people against the continued existence of clan Government. Still deeper runs another current, namely, the universal desire of the people for the introduction of Parliamentary Government. However desperately the Government may struggle, it is doomed to surrender the citidal to the Popular Party, one of these days. In the *Hochi's* opinion the decisive day is not far distant, it will be somewhere about the sixth session of the Diet. Our contemporary consequently exhorts the Opposition politicians to keep up their courage for victory is in sight.

* * *

The *Shin Choya Shimbun* is also partial to Count Yamagata, Count Matsukata, and others of the same group. In spite of the boasted constitutionalism of the present Ministry, it has, in the *Shin Choya's* opinion, proved itself practically more arbitrary and despotic than either the Yamagata or the Matsukata Cabinet. These two Cabinets were called by the title of *Budan Naikaku* (Military Ministry), but in practice they showed themselves particularly anxious to follow constitutional lines of action. Further, they were more firm and decisive in their manner of conducting affairs of State than the present Cabinet. In our contemporary's opinion, the most urgent question for Japan is that of national defence. On the proper solution of that question depends the successful accomplishment of Treaty Revision and the recovery of the country's prestige abroad. Therefore the *Shin Choya* advises the Cabinet to introduce in the next session of the Diet comprehensive measures for the completion of the national defence. Public opinion being now united in demanding a daring and resolute foreign policy, the new Diet could not very well refuse to pass such measures. If, however, the present Cabinet feels itself incapable of adopting that line of action, it is urged to give place to a new Cabinet competent to make right use of the unique opportunity which the present anti-foreign movement presents for completing the defences of the country. The *Shin Choya's* object in writing these articles is no doubt to give a hint to the present Ministers to resign in favour of Count Yamagata and others of the so-called military Party. Our contemporary, however, makes no allusion to the desirability of calling Count Okuma to office in case the Yamagata Cabinet be formed. Neither does the *Chu-o Shimbun*, which is the recognized organ of the National Unionist Party, hazard any statement that may be construed into either approval or disapproval of the proposals for alliance advanced by the Progressionist papers.

* * *

In a concluding article on the subject of Responsible Cabinets, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* endeavours to expose some of the principal fallacies in the arguments advanced by journalists —and they form the majority of the members of the profession in Tokyo—who clamour week after week for the introduction of Government by Party. These writers refuse to recognize the possibility of maintaining the so-called system of Imperial Cabinets. Such a system, they contend, is incompatible with the very spirit of constitutional government. They allege that in a constitutional country, the Ministers of State must necessarily be responsible to the Diet directly and solely. The *Nichi Nichi* tells them that so long as the Japanese Constitution remains in its present form, the Ministers of State can never be held responsible to the Diet; they are responsible to the Emperor and the Emperor alone. Of course the trend of opinion in the Diet may be consulted by the Emperor in the appointment of his Ministers, but the latter have no duty or right to be responsible except to the source from which they derive their official power. Some writers also fear that, unless the Ministers are made responsible to the Diet, the Emperor may become an object of public criticism. This apprehension is unintelligible, for the political responsibility being borne by the Ministers of State, there can be no occasion to hold His Majesty responsible for any actions of his servants. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is at present the sole defender of the well-defined constitutional system adopted by Japan, but it is fully a match for the whole troop of democratic—we speak comparatively—writers on the press of Tokyo.

* * *

The question of Revision has caused momentary excitement in the capital. It is not altogether correct to ascribe this excitement to the absurd letter published by a local English contemporary. That letter in itself would not have induced the Tokyo papers to make such a fuss, had not its appearance coincided with the publication in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* of a strong article on the subject of the denunciation of the Treaties. Notwithstanding our contemporary's emphatic denial that its article had any reference whatever to the present stage of negotiations for Revision, a few papers hastily concluded that it must refer to some actual turn in the negotiations. Another circumstance that had prepared these papers to give credence to any report about negotiations with England was a rumour that Viscount Aoki would combine with his present post the charge of the Legation in London, and that the fact had something to do with the question of Treaty Revision. But such circumstances can not excuse the few papers of the inferior class in Tokyo which were so strangely taken in by the *Japan Gazette*. We have already noticed at some length the foolish effusions of the *Niroku* and the *Chu-o* on this subject, and we shall here refer briefly to some other articles which the recent excitement has called forth. The *Nippon* strongly attacks the Government for keeping its revision programme secret from the people. To withhold information on a question of such vital importance is declared to be tyranny of the most intolerable kind. The *Chu-o* also calls for the publication of the programme, in so far as such a step does not interfere with the practical conduct of the negotiations. The *Kokkai* does not repose confidence in the information given by the *Gazette*, but it is inclined to believe that negotiations with England have advanced very near to completion. Unless the Ito Cabinet is determined to pursue the negotiations through all difficulties and dangers, the accomplishment of the task is impossible. Our contemporary advises the Cabinet to take every precaution against repeating the failures of Counts Inouye and Okuma. The *Mainichi Shimbun* is sceptical that negotiations for revision have made any remarkable progress. A dog that snarls rarely bites. A Cabinet which talks of denunciation is not likely, says that paper, to be capable of bringing the task to any satisfactory issue.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES' SILVER WEDDING.

We read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that the Emperor intends to take gracious advantage of the approaching celebration of His Majesty's Silver Wedding by making it an occasion to extend aid to such of the peers as are in straitened circumstances. The description applies to not a few of the nobility. Outside the ranks of the territorial magnates, there have always been in Japan nobles whose incomes were of the slenderest dimensions, and since the Restoration these impecunious peers have fared worse than ever. His Majesty is said to entertain the project of forming a sustenance fund which shall serve to relieve distressed nobles under exceptionally severe pressure of the *res angusta domi*. The sum to be devoted to this excellent purpose is stated at a hundred and sixty, or a hundred and seventy, thousand *yen*, but apparently the total includes small gratuities to persons who have attained advanced ages, namely, fifty *sen* each to all who have reached the age of 80, 1 *yen* to those who have lived to see their nineteenth birthday, and a *yen* and a half to centenarians. The *Jiji* mentions in this context that the aggregate official outlay in connection with the ceremonial on the 9th of March will be about eight hundred thousand *yen*.

* * *

It is reported that the Ministers of State and the Privy Councillors have combined to present to Their Imperial Majesties, on the occasion of the Silver Wedding, a pair of beautifully chiselled silver storks, the weight of which will be about 9lbs. avoirdupois.

* * *

The estimate of total expenditure referred to above is confirmed by the *Nippon*, which observes that, large as the sum may seem for the purposes of a single day's celebration, it bears no comparison to amounts similarly expended in foreign countries. The Imperial Household is said to have given an order to a Yokohama silversmith for eight hundred tortoises and cranes chiselled in silver. These, doubtless, are designed as presents to the guests who have

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the honour to be invited on the auspicious occasion. The Empress-Dowager has also ordered some object of art from Yokohama at a cost of about 4,000 *yen*. This is supposed to be intended as a present for the Emperor and Empress. The idea of offering some memento to the Imperial pair has also been mooted amongst officials, and it is thought that the scheme will take the form of a contribution amounting to a day's pay from all officials, including naval and military. Meanwhile, there appears to be some perplexity among the people in Tokyo as to the method which they ought to adopt for celebrating the occasion. Inquiries said to have been addressed to the Tokyo Municipality have elicited a reply that the programme followed in connection with the promulgation of the Constitution may properly be taken as a guide. The vernacular press comments on the fact that notice of the Imperial intention to celebrate the occasion was deferred until an interval of little more than a month remained for purposes of preparation. It is not supposed that this was an accidental omission: evidently the intention was to avoid extravagant display.

* * *

In connection with this subject we may be permitted to suggest, though probably the idea has already presented itself generally, that some recognition of the happy occasion on the part of foreigners would be a graceful and particularly timely act. The ceremony contemplated for the 9th of March has its origin in a foreign custom. A domestic festival in connection with the 25th year of married life has never hitherto been included among recognized Japanese usages. The inauguration of such a custom by Their Majesties is a gracious adoption of one of the most beautiful habits of home life in the West, and from that point of view foreigners should not fail to evince their satisfaction of the Imperial initiative. Silver weddings will henceforth become a feature of Japanese national customs, and thus another link will be added to the chain by which Japan is rapidly becoming bound to the Occident. In addition to these considerations we have to remember that unhappily there is at present a little rift in the lute of international harmony so far as Japan is concerned, and that every possible occasion ought to be utilized to heal the flaw. A ceremonial so conspicuous and appealing so strongly to the hearts of the Japanese people as that of Their Majesties' Silver Wedding is precisely the kind of opportunity which will enhance the value of any friendly display on the part of foreigners. We do not wish to dwell upon this phase of the matter, but it is evidently worthy of notice.

THE JAPAN IRON FOUNDRY.

THE Japan Iron Foundry which was established chiefly for the purpose of manufacturing pipes for the Tokyo Waterworks, and which obtained the contract for the supply under circumstances that suggested grave doubts of its ability to discharge its promises, is now said to be in serious difficulties. Its original capital was 220,000 *yen*, and of that amount 200,000 was expended upon the construction of buildings and the purchase of plant. Further, when the contract for supplying pipes to the waterworks was taken, a sum of 100,000 *yen* had to be deposited with the Tokyo Municipality, and another large sum was required to obtain raw material from abroad. Under these circumstances the company was obliged to increase its capital to 400,000 *yen*, but the shareholders, doubting the prospects of the enterprise, showed much reluctance in subscribing the additional sum. The Managers were thus placed in great difficulties, and two of them having resigned, the others applied for aid to Mr. Amenomori, who has made himself conspicuous by his advocacy of iron-founding work in Japan. Mr. Amenomori consented to assist, and by his advice an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders was held on the 1st instant at the Yanagi-ya in Tokyo. After considerable discussion, the meeting agreed to leave the affairs of the company entirely in the hands of Mr. Amenomori, and he accepted the trust on condition that the Managers who had resigned should resume their posts, and that each shareholder should subscribe a sum of 250 *yen*, to pay the wages of the workmen and to defray other current expenses. The total liabilities of the Company are said to be about 300,000 *yen*, of which 130,000 *yen* is due to the 119th National Bank on the security of raw iron, and 115,000 to Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company on account of articles imported through that firm.

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The Company contracted with the City Council to supply twenty thousand tons of iron pipes for the Waterworks. Of course, under the circumstances, it cannot hope to fulfil the contract in time, and it has accordingly asked the Council to grant an extension. What action the Council will take remains to be seen. Our readers will remember the agitation got up at the time of opening the tenders to force the Council to place the order in Japan, instead of sending it abroad. This failure of the Company is said to have persuaded the Council that if the manufacture of the pipes in Japan be insisted on, the interests of the Waterworks must be sacrificed. The *Jiji Shimpo*, from which these particulars are taken, thinks that, whatever may be the decision with regard to the twenty thousand tons for which the Company has already contracted, the remaining thirty thousand will certainly be procured from abroad. Perhaps we may venture to remind the City Council that the hopelessness of getting the pipes manufactured in Japan was strongly urged in these columns at the time.

THE "KOKUMIN-NO-TOMO" ON THE SITUATION.

WHILE some Opposition journals are trying hard to pursuade the public into the belief that a serious rupture between the statesmen of the Satsuma and the Choshu Clans is impending, the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* takes a more rational view of the situation, and observes that the present tendency is toward a firmer alliance between them. Past history proves that these two Clans, however much they may quarrel in ordinary times, know their own interest and stand by each other in seasons of danger. The first instance of their close alliance since the Restoration is said to have been furnished in 1881, when Count Okuma and other non-clan elements were banished from the Government. Count Ito and Count Inouye had, until then, been of the same view with Count Okuma so far as the establishment of a constitutional system of Government was concerned, but so soon as Count Okuma was observed to be bent upon the demolition of the power of the two clans, he was deserted by these two colleagues and had to leave the Cabinet. The undisputed enjoyment of power by the statesmen of the two Clans since then speedily led to the accumulation of various abuses in the Government. Count Ito's reforms in 1885 were designed to correct these abuses, but he failed to attain his object. Subsequently a reconciliation was effected with Count Okuma, but it did not continue long, and the opening of the Diet led to repeated changes of Cabinet, until it seemed that the days of Clan Government were numbered. Thereupon the alliance of the two Clans was once more revived, and its result was the formation of the present Cabinet. The ultimate object of alliance was the same in the two cases, but the conditions under which that object was to be attained were essentially different. In 1881, the two Clans sought to maintain themselves in power by resisting popular demands; whereas in 1892, they proposed to prolong the term of their united ascendency by propitiating the people. To further their object they entered into a secret and informal understanding with the Radical Party. But, on the other hand, they drove the National Unionists into opposition; and as a net result they had to confront the determined attack of a majority of the Lower House. In short, they have signally failed in their policy, and their political ascendency is now in serious danger. What will they do under the circumstances? In the *Kokumin's* opinion, the most probable result of the present situation will be the formation of a Cabinet by Sat-cho statesmen, whoever they may be, with the sole object of maintaining their position against the attack of the Opposition. But whatever course of policy be adopted, the Tokyo journal is convinced that nothing can long delay consummation of the Opposition's object, namely, the displacement of Clan Government by a system of Government by Party.

PAVING THE WAY.

WHEN the road to the bourne men seek to reach is rough and hard to travel, they frequently resort to the device of paving the way. It is a work that generally demands great address and patient exercise of skill. Every one upon whom the duty of paving the way does not devolve, possesses greater capacity for the task than those who are obliged to undertake it. That is the rule of life: round folks are always getting misfitted into square holes. Yet, if it were otherwise, we should lose a great deal of shrewd and piquant criticism. We should not know, for example, what a multiplicity of methods exist for achieving Treaty Revision, nor should we know that the method adopted is invariably the wrong method and that at least a score of journalists are acquainted with the right method. Men are always so much wiser than their neighbours where their neighbour's affairs are concerned, for it is an invariable rule that everybody knows one's business better than one knows it oneself. Japanese statesmen, for example, might have achieved Treaty Revision long ago if, instead of resorting to the hacknied device of seeking to come to an understanding with the Foreign Representatives who have plenipotentiary commissions to discuss Revision, or with the Governments who have the final right of decision, they had adopted the obvious plan of sending to Western capitals Ministers qualified to make themselves popular. There is not at present among Japanese Representatives in Europe or America a single person fit to stand in the second or even the third rank of statesmanship; not one man of versatility, of experience, of ability, of trustworthiness. Instead of a number of incapables like those now serving abroad, send but one good man to Paris and one to Washington, and the problem is solved forthwith. This is the nostrum and those are the opinions of an anoymous "statesman" who has been giving his views gratis to a vernacular journal. Would that he could be caught and put upon the tread-mill of Treaty Revision, or, worse punishment still, confined in an asylum with all the sapient builders of royal roads that belong to his class.

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

ACCORDING to statistics compiled up to the 31st of last December, the Red Cross Society numbered at that date 20 honorary members, 122 special members, 36,789 ordinary members, and 8,386 associate members, being a total of 45,317. The yearly income of the Society is 118,398 *yen*.

BALL IN TOKYO.

ON Friday, the 2nd instant, the Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Madame Hayashi gave a brilliant ball at their official residence in Tokyo. The decorations were simple but very beautiful, the arrangements were quite remarkably excellent, and the number of invitations had been so carefully regulated that while the suite of spacious rooms available for reception purposes seemed always hospitably full, there was at no time any semblance of crush, and the dancers were able to enjoy themselves thoroughly. It is very noticeable now on such occasions that the Japanese ladies have absolutely renounced the some-time apparent disposition to rival their Western sisters in this particular field. At the last three balls in Tokyo only one Japanese lady danced, and she is a lady whose early education in a foreign house and whose long residence at legations in Europe have so thoroughly familiarized her with Occidental ways that she can impart to her adoption of Western costume and to her practice of Western social customs all

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the charm and grace distinctive of her countrywomen in their own homes. But such isolated examples serve only to give more marked prominence to the general distaste that exists for dancing in foreign style. The dancing classes of former years and their not very happy products are things of the past, nor have they, so far as we can see, left any permanent trace, except a conviction that they represented a false and uncongenial tendency. There is no reason to regret the fact. Japan can very well afford to dispense with that extravagant and demoralizing feature of Western civilization.

THE HARBOUR WORKS.

THE *Mainichi Shimbun*, which has always made a point of keeping its readers accurately or inaccurately informed as to the history of the Yokohama Harbour Works, writes that the cost of effecting the repairs necessitated by the failure of the concrete blocks will be 200,000 *yen*, namely, about 125,000 *yen* for materials and the rest for labour. Our contemporary alleges that the causes of the cracking of the blocks are now definitely ascertained to have been that they were placed *in situ* before the cement was thoroughly set, and that some of them were manufactured during the severe frost of winter. We venture to express strong doubts about the accuracy of these conclusions. They shift the blame from the shoulders of the cement to those of the late engineer-in-chief, who was far too skilled an expert to use the concrete blocks prematurely, or to make them at a wrong season.

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The same paper says that a sum of 290,000 *yen* would have been asked for by the Government from the last Diet, for the purpose of the Works, had not the dissolution of the Lower House anticipated consummation of the intention. Of that total, 200,000 *yen*, as above stated, would have been for replacing blocks, and 90,000 for deepening the harbour. Presumably a supplementary estimate providing for the outlay will be laid before the Diet in May. Doubtless the public will then have an opportunity of learning the truth about the cracks in the blocks.

THE RUSSIAN SCHOOL IN TOKYO.

SUBORDINATE to the Oriental Association is a school for the study of the Russian language. It has not been very long in existence, nor has its success been very marked, for although seventy students entered it originally, the greater part of them left without completing their course, and at the first graduation ceremony held on the 20th ultimo, only four passed out. The occasion derived interest from a speech delivered by Count Soyejima, President of the Association. Having briefly congratulated the graduates, he proceeded thus:—"Some time ago our Association became practically alive to the importance of studying the Russian language in view of the close proximity of this country to Russia. Our great neighbour has sent shiploads of emigrants to Saghalien, and now intends to despatch carriageloads to Vladivostock. It used to be imagined that Russia found herself embarrassed by superabundance of territory, but signs are now apparent that she will soon be troubled by superfluity of population. Confronted by the certainty of constantly increasing activity in the intercourse, and of important, if not strained relations, between the two peoples, who can question the necessity of our study of the Russian language? These were the considerations that led the Oriental Association to establish this school. The life of the individual is at best very short, but the life of the nation is endless. What distinguishes men of ability from common folks is that the former do not take the term of their own lives as a limit for the works which they inaugurate in the cause of their country. Our Association flatters itself that some credit of that kind attaches to its enterprise in connection with this school. In such a far-seeing spirit, Peter the Great of Russia planned his fruitful designs, and our Association seeks always to be guided by similar inspirations. Those upon whom devolves the duty of governing a nation must never forget the functions attaching to spirit, strength and physique. Moral capacity is the evidence of spirit; vigour, the outcome of strength; and growth the proof of sound physique. Moral capacity remains a useless power until it is cultivated and employed; vigour may be merely mischievous, when not trained and directed; and growth can never be healthy unless the body is duly nourished. The remarks may perplex some of you, but they embody the principle of the survival of the fittest, and express my own deep conviction. The history of the past attests their truth. The history of the future will bear similar evidence."

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Count Soyejima is oracular. He seems to understand the principle so cleverly obeyed in Delphic days, namely, that the imagination of the audience is always more fertile than the conception of the speaker. We can well imagine that if the students of the Russian school have not enjoyed more tangible pabulum than His Excellency's speech offers, they were gradually starved out. However, it is beyond doubt that the study of the Russian language has much value for the Japanese. But it is chiefly a patriotic value. The rewards that immediately offer for proficiency in the language are few and far between, and whatever Count Soyejima may say about the life of a nation, individuals can only be expected to take thought for the things that fall within their own span of years.

JAPANESE ECONOMICAL VIEWS.

MR. OZAKI SABURO is a prominent member of the House of Peers. Political economy seems to interest him much, as might indeed have been inferred from the active part played by him in the parliamentary discussion about the reassessment of the taxable value of land and the reduction of the Land Tax. He believes—according to an *exposé* of his views in the vernacular press—that tight money and high interest are not by any means evidences of commercial depression, but should be interpreted as a sign that capital is being attracted from the groove of stocks and other public securities, into the route of trade and industry. That, of course, is not an opinion originating with Mr. Ozaki. Western economists also have expressed it, but not in such general terms. Their doctrine is that no hard and fast inference can be deduced from a tight money market until the cause of the tightness is investigated. When public confidence is shaken, interest becomes high and money difficult to procure because those that have it fear to lend it. Such a time can scarcely be described as a season of commercial and industrial activity. But interest may also be high and money hard to obtain because the demand for it is keen, and because ways of employing it profitably are numerous. Mr. Ozaki thinks that the latter is Japan's case at present, and he bases his opinion on the rapidly growing dimensions of the cotton-spinning industry. We trust that he is right.

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The ex-Senator further finds consolation for the defects in Japanese banking machinery. In the West, he says, where credit is the ruling factor, the fall of one bank means the embarrassment, it not the simultaneous fall, of several others, because the ramifications of business are so extensive. But in Japan each bank stands, so to speak, on its own bottom. It is a kind of pawnbroker's shop. If it comes to grief, the disaster is virtually limited to itself. For example, the recent insolvency of the 33rd Bank and the closure of the 60th Bank involved no evil consequence for others. Thus Mr. Ozaki; but, for our own part, we infinitely prefer the Western fashion, being persuaded that the great obstacle to commercial and industrial development in Japan is the want of a system of credit.

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Another opinion expressed by Mr. Ozaki is that the cycle of economical panics in Japan is five years. In the Occident ten has generally been selected as the ominous number, but for Japan Mr. Ozaki takes five, and since 1890 was a year of panic on a small scale, he suggests the advisability of exceptional precautions next year. As for the cause of panics in this country, he considers that it is to be sought chiefly in the excessive starting of companies. A species of mania seems to impel people to that kind of enterprise, and then disasters inevitably ensue. We have greatly epitomized Mr. Ozaki's observations, but their gist is here.

RETRENCHMENT IN SALARIES.

EVER since the first Budget Committee sat in the House of Representatives, the Cabinet has declared its resolve not to reduce official salaries, and the House, with equal persistence, has announced its determination never to pass the Budget until they are reduced. In view, therefore, of the Budget's perennial non-existence, the Ministers of the Crown, according to the *Kokkai* newspaper, have conceived the idea of amending the Salary Regulations so as to effect a total saving of about 2¾ million *yen* in this item of expenditure, and of applying the surplus thus obtained to coast defence and other pressing State needs. Our contemporary enters into a more or less elaborate explanation of the methods that would be followed in accomplishing this reform. Briefly stated, the gist is that officials of *Hannin* rank, that is to say junior officials, would be chiefly affected; that daily pay would be substituted for monthly salary; that all absences from duty would involve more or less loss of emolument; and that some contrivance should be inaugurated for apportioning pecuniary rewards to work actually done.

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We do not believe this, or at any rate we do not wish to believe it. All experience has shown that the Opposition in the Lower House are not really working for reform, but that they simply seek to embarrass the Government. Retrenchments effected by a system such as that described above would never satisfy the agitators; first, because they do not care a row of pins about the fact of retrenchment as compared with the fashion, and secondly, because they want to have their own way in disposing of the money retrenched. Their great aim is to dock the salaries of officials in the upper ranks, not so much because Japanese high class officials are over-paid, as because their political opponents owe them a grudge which would be best satisfied by cutting their incomes. Further, they have always justified this part of their agitation by pretexting a desire to reduce the people's burdens. They want money to reduce the Land-Tax, and they want to take it out of the pockets of officials. That being the sum and substance of the matter, a programme of retrenchment such as the *Kokkai* indicates would not placate the Opposition at all. If, however, the interests of the public service dictate such a programme, that is a different matter. Let us have the saddle on the right horse.

MR. WADA ON THE PROSPECTS OF IRON INDUSTRY IN JAPAN.

THE question whether or no Japan is to become self-supplying in the matter of iron possesses very great interest for foreigners. Mr. Wada, ex-Director of the Mining Bureau, ought to be an authority on the subject. In a speech delivered by him at a meeting of the Geographical Society on the 23rd ultimo, he expressed very positive opinions. He maintained that Japan is emphatically rich in iron ore. Recent investigations by Mr. Kuwabara have proved that China possesses ample stores of the valuable mineral, and it was already known that Korea and Russian Siberia are similarly fortunate. It might have been inferred that the same was true of Japan; and Mr. Wada says that there never would have been any doubt of the fact had not the deposits been deep below the surface, and had not the ore differed in quality from that of England, France, and Germany. In short, engineers have been greatly deceived, as they ought not to have been had they taken due note of the deflections of the magnet. Almost everywhere throughout Japan iron is found imbedded in granite and calcareous rocks. The total supply visible at Kamaishi in Rikuzen, Sennin-zan in Akita, and Akatami-zan in Echigo is over thirty million tons, and fresh

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discoveries of ore are of daily occurrence. On the other hand, Japan's annual consumption of iron is from eighty thousand to a hundred and thirty thousand tons, and her needs must greatly increase for military, naval, and railway purposes. It is true that the attempts made by the Government in former years to establish iron-smelting works at Kamaishi were a failure, but the causes are to be sought, not in any natural difficulty, but in the facts that the enterprise was premature and that the magnitude of its inception was out of proportion to the locality. The remoteness of the place entailed heavy expense on account of transport. In those days it cost 4.48 *yen* to carry a ton of metal from the works to Tokyo, whereas the same transport can now be effected for 1.80 *yen*. Coal for smelting, also, could not then be obtained under 14 *yen* a ton, while now it is procurable for less than 5 *yen*, delivered at the works. That the enterprise can be made profitable under proper management is demonstrated by the experience of Mr. Tanaka, whose foundry, placed at the very spot where the Government's works were, flourishes well. He is not provided with first-class engineers or other experts, yet his opportunities are such that a ton of iron costing only 14 *yen* before shipment at Kamaishi sells in Tokyo for 22 to 23 *yen*.

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Such was the gist of Mr. Wada's address. He dwelt also upon the immense obstacle that appreciated gold offers to the purchase of foreign iron for Japanese use, and he came to the conclusion that there is a margin of from 40 to 70 per cent. as between home-produced and exported iron. In fact, nothing could be rosier than the view he took of the industry's prospects.

TREATY REVISION.

CONCERNING the question of Treaty Revision, a section of the metropolitan papers is beginning once more to indulge in the favorite pastime of ventilating speculations, airy and irresponsible as usual. The writings of the *Niroku Shimpo* and the *Chu-o Shimbun* are perhaps the most noteworthy examples of this tendency. The *Niroku* states that the Government is now resolved to undertake the task of Treaty Revision even against the wishes of the nation, and that, in order to attain its object, it will not hesitate to dissolve the new House of Representatives, should the latter oppose its foreign policy. That is the reason, we are told, why the Cabinet remains so singularly indifferent as to the probable results of the coming elections, and also why the members of the *Kishu-gumi*—namely the members representing Kishu in the late Diet, who are supposed to be under the personal direction of Mr. Mutsu—and other prominent persons enjoying facilities for knowing the Cabinet's intentions, do not show themselves in the least desirous of being returned for the new Diet. The Cabinet seems to be convinced of the ultimate success of its new attempts to revise the Treaties. The statesmen of the Satsuma and Choshu clans are resolved to devote their whole energies to the solution of this problem, because, in our contemporary's opinion, they regard the successful settlement of such a knotty question as a fitting achievement with which to close the career of Clan Government.

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The *Chu-ô Shimbun* has a long article on the same subject. It mentions that of late two contradictory reports have been circulated concerning the attitude of a certain European Power towards the Japanese Government's demands for Revision. By some it is reported that the Power in question has shown itself ready to comply with the terms proposed by Japan; others state that the same Power has raised a serious difficulty and is opposed to Japanese wishes. Whatever may be the truth, it seems certain that the Cabinet is already taking some active steps for the solution of this great question. Then proceeding to discuss the sentiments entertained by the people, the National Unionist organ observes that the attitude of the nation remains unaltered, in other words, that the people are united in demanding the Revision of the Treaties on a footing of absolute equality. Of late the question has not been discussed by the people as noisily as formerly, but their comparative silence must not be taken as a sign of any real diminution of zeal. The nation is pursuaded that in order to attain the cherished purpose of the time, it is absolutely necessary to bring strong pressure to bear upon the Cabinet so as to compel it to abandon its weak and helpless foreign policy. The present movement for strict enforcement of the Treaties is merely a manifestation of popular revolt against the Government's weak foreign policy. Even the warmest promoters of the movement have no idea of adhering to the existing Treaties. They want to have them strictly enforced, because they are convinced that such a course would essentially conduce to the attainment of their fundamental object, Treaty Revision on an equal footing. The *Chu-o* then reviews what the Government of the *Meiji* era has hitherto done to solve this problem. Having discussed the programmes of previous Ministries, it observes, with reference to the present Cabinet, that Mr. Mutsu has been carrying on negotiations with some Powers in secret, his object being to surprise the nation one fine morning by the announcement that the long cherished aspirations of the empire have at last been attained. According to our contemporary's information negotiations are progressing very smoothly. As to the basis of Revision, the *Chu-o's* knowledge is vague, but it alleges that Mixed Residence will be granted simultaneously with the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. On the subject of the tariff, despite the moderate position assumed by the Japanese Government, further concessions are said to be under contemplation. The *Chu-o* next proceeds to discuss the attitude entertained towards Japan by England and Russia. These two Powers, says the National Unionist organ, are now competing for Japan's friendship in view of a possible war between them in this quarter of the world. The recent visit of the Russian Crown Prince, and the fact that Lord Salisbury, while in power, caused some investigations to be made about Army organization in Japan, are referred to as instances of the interest which the Governments of the two States have begun to take in the friendship of this Empire. However, despite England's general willingness to comply with Japan's demands, a certain point is believed to have arisen concerning which an agreement has not yet been arrived at. According to some persons, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* recent article on the denunciation of the Treaties had particular reference to the new difficulty that has arisen between Japan and England. But the *Chu-o* is not inclined to repose any faith in that opinion. Another rumour is to the effect, that England has taken umbrage against Japan on discovering the existence of a secret understanding between this country, on the one hand, and Russia and France on the other. France is said to have assumed the initiative in the task of organizing what may almost be termed an alliance between the three countries. She made the proposal to Russia, who readily agreed to it, and they together approached Japan. The Japanese Ministers of State are represented as having been at first surprised by the proposal, but after deliberate consideration of the useful purpose which such an alliance would serve in the country's foreign relations, especially with reference to the question of Treaty Revision, they at last resolved to accept the proposal. About that time—the date is not given—the Japanese Government began to assume a very strong attitude in its negotiations for Revision, so that both England and Germany were led to suspect that something must have happened to bring about such a sudden change in the tone of the Japanese Cabinet. They soon discovered the true cause of the change, but the alliance between the three countries being already an accomplished fact, they could do nothing to prevent it. At the instance of the Russian and French Representatives, the Japanese Government is said to have used various endeavours to keep Germany aloof from England on the question of Treaty Revision, and having thus isolated England, the Government is believed to be at present doing its best to induce her to accept its proposals, being resolved even to resort to denunciation if necessary. As to that, however, some folks doubt the existence of any real intention to resort to such strong measures. Yet another authority is quoted as having assured our contemporary that the present Cabinet is resolved to stand or fall by the question of Treaty Revision. Count Inouye is reported to have once remarked that, in order to obtain its object, the Cabinet is prepared to sacrifice even the life of Mr. Mutsu. It is further alleged that the Cabinet entertains a hope of settling this question before the convocation of the sixth session of the Diet. Lastly, with reference to the people's sentiments towards the present Cabinet's programme for Treaty Revision, the *Chu-o* believes that a general and violent outburst of popular opposition is inevitable.

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Was ever such a hotch-potch of contradictory rumours gravely advanced by a newspaper professing to think its words worthy of public attention? *N* says "Yes" and *M* says "No"; *P* says this, and *Q* says that—it is, in short a lottery of inventions. Any curious person may thrust his hand into the hat and draw out a different fabrication. All are equally valuable and there are no blanks. One thing alone emerges clearly from the *mélange*: the Japanese Cabinet is trying to effect Treaty Revision, and the *Chu-o* is quite sure that if it succeeds on the lines contemplated, there will be a general and violent outburst of popular opposition. But what those lines are, truly the *Chu-o* does not know and does not greatly care. The main point is that they are Government lines: that suffices to make them objectionable in the eyes of every true patriot of the *Chu-o's* type. We do not suppose that any sober-minded person will give a second thought to such obviously conjectural writing. Should Treaty Revision enter the field of practical politics, the public will hear about it in good time, and from sources not quite so nebulous as those we have quoted. In the meanwhile, we have thought it well to notice these wild rumours that our readers may learn how entirely in the dark a section of the Japanese press is labouring.

THE "NICHI NICHI SHIMBUN" ON THE PRO-MIXED RESIDENCE SOCIETY.

WRITING about the Pro-Mixed Residence Society, the formation of which was noticed in these columns some time ago, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that, in its opinion, the society, as it now stands, has no *raison d'être* whatever. As to the personality of its originators and its mode of operation, our contemporary professes entire ignorance. Neither does it pretend to understand very clearly the aims for which the society has been organized. But if its name indicates anything, and its published rules have any meaning, the *Nichi Nichi* does not hesitate to declare most positively that the formation of such an association at the present moment can serve no useful purpose. Mixed Residence in itself is not the object of the Japanese nation. It is simply a necessary and natural consequence of the magnanimous and enlightened policy which His Majesty adopted when he ascended the Throne. When the iniquitous treaties now in force are done away with, the opening of the interior for the residence of men of all nationalities follows as a matter of course. What, then, is the use of forming a society for the purpose of bringing about a result that will necessarily come to pass in the natural course of things? It would be intelligible enough to organize a league for the purpose of promoting the recovery of the country's judicial or tariff autonomy, but there is no excuse for raising any standard in a cause like that of Mixed Residence. The Grand Japan Union has been dissolved, but a section of the nation still entertains anti-foreign sentiments. In view of that circumstance, it might not be unadvisable to organize a society for the promotion of friendly feelings between Japanese and

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foreigners. But there is no good reason to form a society for the sake of Mixed Residence pure and simple. Some scholars think that Mixed Residence will prove useful as a means of race improvement, while some merchants desire it because it will promote the introduction of foreign capital, and yet another class of men believe that it will serve as a stimulus to internal improvement. The *Nichi Nichi* does not endorse any of these views, but thinks that the promoters of the Pro-Mixed Residence Society would have had some excuse, had they been actuated by such motives. But that does not seem to be the case, for the rules of the society simply state that "Its object is to promote the early opening of the country for Mixed Residence and to place the Empire on a footing of equality with other Powers." How can the opening of the interior for Mixed Residence place the country on an equality with foreign Powers? The *Nichi Nichi* does not wish to be understood as being opposed to Mixed Residence, but as to the propriety of forming a society for the sole purpose of bringing it about, our contemporary can not chose but expose the entire uselessness of such a measure.

THE "NICHI NICHI SHIMBUN" ON THE DENUNCIATION OF TREATIES.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* of the 4th instant returns once more to discuss the question of Treaty Denunciation. Its first article on the subject was reproduced in our last weekly summary. One of the principal reasons why our contemporary is opposed to the doctrine of strict Treaty Enforcement, is that the existing treaties being anomalous and unjust, the strict carrying out of their stipulations would not be advantageous to Japan. For instance, the Treaty between Japan and Portugal does not define the qualifications of the Consuls in whom the right of jurisdiction is vested. Consequently, strict enforcement of that Treaty would mean restoration of the defunct provisions relating to Consular Jurisdiction, for Japan's objection to merchant Consuls exercising jurisdiction might be untenable from the point of view of the strict letter of the Treaty. Had the doctrine of Strict Enforcement been adopted, it would thus have been impossible for Japan to recover her judicial autonomy *vis-à-vis* even of Portugal. The present Cabinet does not endorse such a suicidal policy, and stoutly rejected the proposals which the Portuguese Minister made for the resuscitation of the provisions bearing on Consular Jurisdiction. Now that Revision of the existing Treaties is a matter of the most urgent importance, it is, in the *Nichi Nichi's* opinion, the height of self-humiliation to agitate for the strict enforcement of those Treaties. "When," says our contemporary, "we recently stated that it was necessary to be prepared for the possible denunciation of the Treaties, the announcement caused the advocates of strict enforcement profound surprise. They declared that such a course would be too strong. Concerning the draft of proposals now forming the subject of negotiation between Japan and England, some people imagine that it is the same as that which was elaborated by Viscount Aoki, while others seem to believe that unreasonable concessions are being made to England. The so-called Aoki programme was shown privately to a few Privy Councillors, but with the retirement of Count Yamagata from the Premiership, it fell to the ground. Under Count Matsukata's Administration, Viscount Aoki again elaborated a scheme, but before he was able to open negotiations on its basis, he was succeeded at the Foreign Office by Viscount Enomoto. His scheme was improved upon by Viscount Enomoto in concert with the Imperial Commission for Treaty Revision appointed while the Viscount was at the Foreign Office. Viscount Enomoto, however, did not have an opportunity to carry out the scheme. The task thus left uncompleted by preceding Ministries was zealously taken up by the present Cabinet, which is still engaged in its prosecution. Whether the Cabinet has adopted the Aoki programme, which was abandoned long since, or whether it has chosen a later scheme, or whether it has elaborated an entirely new one, the *Nichi Nichi* does not profess to be in a position to know. But it ventures to state that, in view of the various failures since 1887, the Cabinet is not likely to repeat the folly of giving the people just cause for opposing its programme. Moreover, important progress having been made since that time by Japan, it goes without saying that the Government will not revise the Treaties except on a footing of perfect equality. How should the Government proceed otherwise in view of its determination to put an end to the Treaties by a declaration in case its demand be not acceded. Perhaps persons satisfied with strict enforcement of the existing Treaties, may count denunciation difficult of accomplishment. But such a measure is easy enough to an independent Empire not inferior to countries like Spain, Portugal, Holland, Switzerland, Belgium and so forth. If the Government be incapable of maintaining the Empire's prestige even to that extent, the Japanese should do everything in their power, to attain their object of Revision, even by appealing to the Sovereign to replace the Cabinet with a better one. The advocates of strict enforcement are wont to say that the Government is not strong enough. But Treaty Revision being a national question, the people ought to stimulate and encourage the Cabinet, if they think the latter too weak for the purpose. Indeed, those who urge the Cabinet to rigidly enforce the existing treaties practically recognize the importance of giving a stimulus to the statesmen in power. Why do they not, at the same time, advise the Cabinet to denounce the treaties? We are led to suspect that they are really speaking of themselves when they inveigh against invertebrate folks. However that may be, it will be fortunate for the country if our (the *Nichi Nichi's*) own writings prove the means of infusing courage into them.

TOKYO TOPICS.

IT seems tolerably certain that we are to have a cable-car system in certain parts of the capital and electrical trolleys in others. It is said that the authorities object to cable-cars in the great thoroughfare that runs from Shimbashi to Megane-bashi and thence to Uyeno, on the ground that several of the bridges would be unequal to the increased weight and strain. And really, when one comes to think of it, some of these bridges, however great their name and historic fame, are very poor specimens of architectural skill. Both Shimbashi and Nihonbashi are absurdly, even dangerously, narrow, and are daily growing more of an obstruction than a help to traffic. Yoroi-bashi and Azuma-bashi, as well as other bridges that span the Sumida, are excellently and most durably constructed; yet here the traffic is not to be compared with that of Tori or Ginza. Sooner or later the time-honoured arches will have to be replaced.

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The new municipal buildings (Tokyo Fu) are outwardly complete, and we hear that everything will be done to make them habitable by the middle of March. The new offices of the Court of Cassation are expected to be in readiness before June. These fine and spacious buildings will add greatly to the stateliness of the metropolis, which has had hitherto nothing much to boast of with regard to its public offices. It is amusing to see the country-folk watching with mingled pride and amazement the masons and bricklayers at work on these comparatively colossal edifices. The little minaret above the new Municipal Offices, with its slender columns and airy appearance—an utter eye-sore to educated eyes—never fails to elicit loud-mouthed exclamations of *Domo, erai nei!*

* * *

Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, having generously retired from candidature for the new Parliament in favour of his friend and quondam literary associate, Mr. Aoki Tasuke, is doing good work in the *Keizai-gaku Kyokwai*, or Economic Society, of which he is the principal supporter. The members of this society, as already briefly noticed, held a meeting at the Fujimi Tei, Kojimachi District, on the 20th ultimo. Mr. Watanabe, Minister of Finance, honoured the meeting with his presence. In the course of his address he expressed the following pertinent and noteworthy view:—"The State Economy of Japan has made all its wonderful progress so far *not as the result of any concerted design but by pure chance.* That is what makes us economists feel so anxious, and should cause us to take every precaution for the economy of future years." Mr. Nakakuma Keizo, another distinguished guest, spoke on the following theme:—"What we call our rights is the physical might of the country,"—in a manner not calculated to calm the perturbed minds of the Yokohama terrorist press. Mr. Taguchi gave a fine and (in consideration of the presence of a Cabinet Minister) somewhat daring address, choosing as his subject:—"The Collision between Nationalism and Individualism." His speech was on a theme that has interested the far-seeing economists of Europe for a number of years:—"The railway ought to be a national possession, and carry people or convey freight as far as possible *free of charge!* Altogether the meeting was most instructive.

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Speaking of Mr. Taguchi, reminds us that his historical magazine, the *Shi-kai*, "Ocean of History," has become decidedly heretic in its views, or, at all events, much more plain of speech in everything that concerns the hitherto all-but-sacred portions of Ancient Japanese history. In this direction the Educational Department has relaxed the rigidness of its censorship, very much to its credit: scientific criticism of a nation's annals is always necessary to obtain trustworthy data. The spirit of the century is that everything must be tested *au fond;* no matter how old or venerable the book, it must needs be subjected to the scalpel of science. If, deciphering the cuneiform inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar, we can trace vain-glorious misstatements of his prowess—great monarch though he was—and if we may minutely examine into the chronology of the Book of Books and calmly relegate the compilation of the Book of Daniel to the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes III., then is the scientific world justified in accepting the stories of the *Kojiki* and *Nihonji* with all due deliberation and precaution: as justified as it is in deciding the legend of the Sun Goddess to be very little more than a mere myth, and in refusing to accept the cosmogony of the Japanese writers of olden times.

* * *

It may interest our readers to learn that, in spite of the hard times and general standstill of trade, the theatres have been doing a large business during the holidays and social festivities. Nearly all the leading metropolitan theatres have enjoyed unlooked-for "runs," particularly the Kabuki-za, Haruki-za, and Meiji-za. The last-named advertises a continuance until the 13th instant; while the Kabuki-za, with its meagre list, all things considered, of star-actors, has twice had to postpone the date of the final representation of the melodrama now on its stage. The ever-welcome *Chushin-gura* was given at the Fukano-za from February 1st, with several entirely new scenes. The Aizome-sa in Negishi (near Uyeno), a second-rate theatre, promises a revival of the *Shiranui Monogatari* this month,—a play that never appears on first-class boards. Kawakami Otojiro and his troup of *soshi*-actors have been playing to crowded houses at the Asakusa-za. It is said that Kawakami has signed an agreement to "star" in various Hokkaido theatres, $1,500 being assured him for the spring season. Although these *soshi* make, as a rule, decidedly poor histrions, Kawakami has a genius for acting and, we hear, intends remodelling several of Shakespeare's dramas for the Japanese stage. Mr. Fukuchi Genichiro, sometime editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and acknowledged to be Japan's leading playwright and feuilletonist, has for some time been engaged upon an attempted adaptation of "Hamlet," and the "Merchant of

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Venice." An incident very similar to the plot of the former occurred, he alleges, during the days when Kamakura was the capital of Japan. At the Shimizu-za in Hachioji, Dansho, a one-time favourite of the larger theatres but for sundry misdeeds now confined to those of the middle class, has been reaping the plaudits of audiences for his excellent impersonation of Minamoto Tametomo. The veteran actress, Kumehachi, the star of her guild, has had to discontinue acting at the Naniwa-za in Osaka owing to ill-health. She is now over sixty years of age and excels in impersonating the heroes of olden time. Her place has been taken by Katsura, another favourite actress. Goto Matabei and his troupe are going to revive the old play of *Wageno Kiyomaro* at the Kado-za, in Osaka, next month. This was last seen on the stage more than twelve years ago.

* * *

Stocks are always risky things to meddle with, and never more so than at present, when no man can say what a share may be worth for two days together. The recent history of the Tanko Tetsudo Kaisha is instructive in this connection, as it plainly shows that Japanese stock-brokers are not far behind their peers in Wall Street or the Stock Exchange. About September of last year, just before the mild panic that gave so many speculators a rude awakening, the shares sold at 106, or considerably more than 100 per cent. premium. In forty-eight hours they fell to 94, and have since gone down nearly one-third of this figure. The retrieval of the stock from utter ruin, is the work of Mr. Amenomiya Keijiro. He is a skilful manager of his men as well as a stock operator of unparalleled finesse. Those in his employ become proverbially wealthy,—witness Sato Jutaro, Nambu Sukenojo, and Doi Kikue! The prosperity of the Tanko Railway Company is and has been principally due to stock-brokering strategy. Backed by Mr. Amenomiya, such men as Inouye Kakugorō, the Chrysostom of the Lower House, and Tanaka Heihachi played the little game known as *Kai-shime saku*, which, being interpreted, means "effecting a corner." This pretty plan was, however, to some extent invalidated by a sudden increase in the Bank rate of interest. So another scheme was put on foot, and large transactions in the Company's shares were foisted on public credulity in the names of noblemen, opulent merchants, and leading bankers. But most unfortunately for the tacticians, the Nippon Ginko again raised its rate of interest a few days ago, and the "House that Jack built" now threatens to fall about the shareholders' ears. Yet with such crafty steersmen at the helm, the coal-barges of the Tanko Tetsudo Kwaisha will probably ride out the storm. Non-participants are looking on at the game with unusual interest, for it is sink or swim this time in grim earnest.

GIFU AGAIN.

THE unfortunate Gifu Prefecture seems to have been demoralized as well as devastated by the great earthquake of 1890. At first an object of pity, it soon became, and has since remained, a subject for slander. All sorts of heinous charges were preferred against the local officials in connection with the distribution of the earthquake relief funds, and when that topic appeared to have been exhausted, another crops up. This time the trouble relates to works of reconstruction on the Kiso River. Since the scheme of reconstruction was drawn up in 1887, the price of land has risen greatly—from about 320 *yen* to 720 *yen* per acre. Hence the funds appropriated by the Local Assembly for purposes of reconstruction prove quite inadequate. In order to discover some exit from the deadlock, the Governor delegated to the Standing Committee of the Assembly the duty of investigating the question, and certain land-owners, it is alleged, apprehensive lest the project should be abandoned unless the Committee's report were prepared in the right sense, set about winning the good-will of the Committee-men by entertainments and douceurs. Out of the five Committee-men, four succumbed to this pleasant pressure. But the fifth, too sturdy for such methods, gave information of the plot. It appears that the land-owners suspected of behaving in this crafty manner are not the possessors of the lands concerning the purchase price of which the difficulty has arisen, but are owners of other lands, whose market value would be greatly enhanced were the works of reconstruction carried out. Their idea was to induce the Committee to adopt, in respect of the land in dispute, an appraisement so moderate that the prosecution of the works would not be imperilled. Naturally the possessors of the lands directly concerned are indignant, and there is trouble. It seems a common-place kind of affair, and may not be without the proverbial grain of truth. But we observe that the vernacular newspapers recounting the story attribute the rise in the price of land in Gifu to the appreciation of gold. How in the name of reason can such a proposition be established?

VERACITY AND CREDULITY.

THE Japanese newspapers which allowed themselves to be deceived into reproducing and attaching credence to the letter published in the columns of the *Japan Gazette* on the 1st instant, with reference to Treaty Revision, will perhaps be more circumspect hereafter in selecting their sources of news. The *Japan Gazette* prefaced its publication of the letter by stating that the writer "evidently had access to the best sources of information on diplomatic affairs." It further took the document as the text for a leading article, in which the foreign residents were told that they ought to "awake to a sense of their position," and follow the example of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association by holding a meeting and entering a united protest against the threatened "sacrifice of their interests for no adequate return." The letter, though to any careful reader it contained internal evidence convicting its writer of marked ignorance of diplomatic affairs, seemed sufficiently interesting to justify inquiries, the result of which was that on unimpeachable authority, we were able to declare every essential point about Treaty Revision contained in the letter to be absolutely untrue. To this the *Japan Gazette* made rejoinder in its issue of the 3rd instant:—"We can assure the public on the most incontrovertible authority, that nearly every essential point about Treaty Revision advanced in the letter is absolutely true, and that the whole story about negotiations with Great Britain is based on fact." It further accused the *Japan Mail* of "not hesitating to perpetrate any prevarication which should subserve its own ends." That was the position taken by the *Japan Gazette* on the 3rd instant. But on the 6th, three days later, it suddenly published this confession:—"Since that letter was written the political situation has undergone a complete change, and even assuming that the letter contained an accurate description of the position of affairs early in December last, affairs have fortunately altered. * * * The letter therefore is of no value except perhaps as a fairly faithful record of what is now past. The agitation in the Japanese press with regard to its contents is very amusing, but comes too late."

* * *

We invite the vernacular newspapers that have been so ill-advised as to attach any faith to the *Japan Gazette's* information, we invite them to consider these facts:—On the 1st instant the *Japan Gazette* published a letter purporting to describe the actual situation of the Treaty Revision question. At the same time, it made the letter the text of an article exhorting the community to "seriously consider the present state of affairs," and telling them that "if they were content to view these things with equaminity," they would soon be brought under "a Treaty which would make life unbearable." On the 6th instant, it declared that "the agitation in the Japanese press with regard to the contents of the letter was very amusing but came too late," inasmuch as the letter was of no value except, perhaps, as a fairly faithful record of what is now past. That is the history of less than a week's journalism. On the 1st instant we have a newspaper publishing a letter the contents of which it makes the basis of an editorial attempt to agitate the community and incite the foreign residents to hold an indignation meeting. On the 6th instant, it laughs at the Japanese newspapers for having paid any serious attention to the letter, and tells them that their "agitation with regard to its contents comes too late."

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We invite the deluded Japanese journals to consider also the following facts:—On the 3rd instant, the *Japan Gazette* solemnly "assured the public on the most incontrovertible authority that nearly every essential point about Treaty Revision advanced in the letter was absolutely true," and with regard to the *Japan Mail*, which had declared the contents of the letter to be untrue, the *Gazette* accused it of "not hesitating to perpetrate any prevarication which should subserve its own ends." On the 6th instant, the same *Japan Gazette* announced that the same letter was "of no value," but that it might perhaps have been nearly true at some past time. We know of nothing quite up to the level of this in the history of journalism. Vernacular newspapers will probably hesitate in future before they attach any credence to the contents of the *Japan Gazette*.

THE "KOKUMIN SHIMBUN."

THE *Kokumin Shimbun* having of late been rather unguarded in giving vent to its democratic opinions about the responsibility of Ministers of State, has dearly paid for its extravagance. It has been placed under the ban of suspension. The point particularly reprehensible in the eyes of the Authorities must have been our contemporary's contention that the Constitution, instead of being the Sovereign's spontaneous gift, owes its origin to the irresistible rights originally existing in the people, an argument entirely at variance with the fundamental principle of the Japanese polity. Such being, in its opinion, the *raison d'être* of the Constitution, the *Kokumin* insists that the Ministers of State must be responsible not to the Emperor but to the Diet, which presumably represents the will of the people. Our contemporary does not hesitate to charge the present Ministers with having craftily shifted the responsibility to the shoulders of their Sovereign. In short, the *Kokumin's* idea is to introduce here at once a democracy of the English type. Such an ambition is not confined to that paper alone; it is shared by all the organs of the Progressionist and some other factions. These journals have repeatedly ventilated similar opinions without once calling for the interference of the authorities, and the *Kokumin* would no doubt have been left free to expatiate upon its favourite theme of a Responsible Cabinet, had it not allowed itself to write in a tone showing little respect towards the Sovereign, and had it not used seditious language against the present holders of power.

THE MITSUI BANK.

THE Mitsui Bank, though one of the oldest and most influential in Japan, has only now, for the first time, published a report of its transactions. In former days it was not the custom in Japan to publish such reports, but their issue has become compulsory under the provisions of the new Commercial Code. We gather from the *Nichi Nichi's résumé* of the report, that the capital of the Bank is 2 million *yen*, and that its deposits aggregate 15 millions. Fixed deposits, however, do not amount to 5 millions, the smallness of which sum is attributed, not to any unwillingness on the part of the public to entrust its money to the Bank under that system, but to the fact that the Bank, desiring to confine itself chiefly to banking functions proper, namely, the collection and distribution of capital, has never sought to encourage fixed deposits by offering attractive rates of interest, and has declined Government and Municipal deposits. This explanation we take from the *Nichi Nichi*, but we do not pretend to under-

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stand it fully. It has always been supposed in the West that the receipt of fixed deposits was a Bank's most convenient method of collecting capital for purposes of useful distribution, but apparently that rule does not apply in the present instance. Reverting to the Bank's report, we find that the sum appropriated for the payment of the half-year's dividend was eighty thousand *yen*, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, whereas the sums set aside for reserved funds aggregated a quarter of a million. This relation between dividend and reserve is remarkable. Comparing the figures for the 1st National Bank, an institution of equal importance in commerce, we find that whereas it paid a dividend of 12 per cent. its reserve appropriations amounted to only seventy-five thousand *yen*. No Japanese bank of the Mitsui's standing has made such large profits and such small losses. Since the Bank was established, its total of uncollected debts has been less than five million *yen*, which good fortune is said to be due to the extreme caution invariably observed in lending money on security.

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The Mitsui Bank, according to the *Shin-Choya* newspaper, had forty-three agencies throughout the empire at the close of 1892. But having resolved at that time to restrict itself to banking operations proper, it declined to handle money belonging to the Treasury or the local tax-offices, so that it was enabled to close its agencies in Sapporo, Nemuro, Ogaki, and about a dozen other places. The closing of other agencies is expected to follow, so that ultimately the Bank will have only ten branches in the principal commercial centres.

A DISCONTENTED JUDGE.

From the Court of Cassation in Tokyo to the Local Court in the Riukiu Islands is a transfer sufficiently radical to disturb the equanimity of any Judge. It was the fate of Judge Senya Toshinori to find himself gazetted to such a change on the 15th of last month, and the event chagrined him greatly, in part because the idea of the exchange was unwelcome, and in part because he had received no notice. Several of his colleagues in the capital are said to sympathize with him—as well they may—and the *Hochi Shimbun* espouses his cause with vigour characteristic of all that journal's anti-official campaigns. The Authorities are represented as relying on the Law of Organization of the Law Courts, where it is provided that a Judge may be transferred to a new post without previous notice when there is question of filling a vacancy or when a removal to the Retired List has taken place. Judge Senya, however, contends that the vacancy contemplated in the Law must be an accidental vacancy, and not a vacancy resulting from the transfer of the officer previously holding the post. The Riukiu Judge whom Judge Senya is ordered to re-place, has been moved to the Kagoshima Local Court, and his transfer, as well as that of his *remplacant* from Tokyo, might very well have been notified. So thinks Judge Senya, so, also, thinks the *Hochi Shimbun*, and so, too, do we think. Why treat Judicial officials with so little ceremony? But is the tale, thus told, true? We doubt it, at any rate there is talk of Judge Senya's refusing to proceed to Riukiu, in which event he may find himself presently at the bar of the Disciplinary Court.

WRESTLERS IN MINIATURE.

The large attendance at the wrestling bouts in Atago-chō, Shiba,—particularly noticeable despite the non-attendance of the two great champions—Nishi-no-umi and Ko-nishiki—shows how inordinately fond all classes are of this kind of amusement. In order that the "patrons of the ring" might enjoy their favourite pastime, even when real wrestling was out of season, an ex-*sumō* in Shizuoka invented, last year, a very ingenious toy. This consists of a box surmounted by a circular, sand papered wooden platter, which is made to jerk rapidly up and down on turning a crank attached to some primitive machinery in the box. On this platter are placed tiny wrestlers made of earthenware, tricked out in gorgeous paper *mawashi* bearing their names. The up-and-down motion sooner or later makes one of the combatants fall helplessly, with outstretched arms, on his back, in which case he is adjudged to be vanquished. Over twenty thousand of these toys were sold within two months after the patent had been obtained. Another, less complicated toy represents three wrestlers, Konishiki, Ozutsu, and Otohira, standing on a small circular platform, which is made to revolve above a wooden base on which the names of these three are written. When the platform ceases to revolve, each of the corpulent little dolls stands above either its own name or that of one of the two others. If above its own title, the match is a draw; if above another, the wrestler whose name is written below is declared vanquished.

THE LATE PROFESSOR KIKUCHI YASUSHI.

The Imperial University has sustained a great loss in the death of Professor Kikuchi Yasushi, who occupied the Assistant Chair of Geology in that institution. Professor Kikuchi was born in Mito in 1861, and was consequently only thirty-three at the time of his death. He graduated at the University in 1883, and after discharging for some years the duties of Instructor in the First Higher Middle School, he was transferred, as Assistant-Professor, to the University. An earnest and industrious student, he conducted several original researches, and published papers which have been embodied in Occidental text-books. It was generally felt that these successful labours fully entitled Professor Kikuchi to the degree of *Hakase*, but not until the eve of his death did the Council established for determining such matters, decide to confer the coveted distinction on him. His funeral took place on the 4th instant, the service being performed at the temple of Yanaka, near Uyeno, in Tokyo, whence the remains were subsequently sent by train to his native place, Mito. An interesting feature of the ceremony was a sermon preached by the officiating priest, in the familiar colloquial style of Buddhism. Memorial addresses were given by Professor Koto, on behalf of the students of the University, by Mr. Watanabe Koki, as President of the Geographical Society, and by several other distinguished persons.

PATRONIZED BY THE CZAREWITCH.

We are glad to learn from the *Shin Choya* that the celebrated dealer in silken fabrics, Mr. Kawashima Jimbei, of Kyoto, has been authorized by H.I.H. the Prince Imperial of Russia to describe his firm as "patronized by the Czarewitch," and to mark his goods accordingly. An official despatch conferring this distinction is said to have been transmitted to Mr. Kawashima on the 26th ultimo. It granted permission to Mr. Kawashima to call himself "weaver to His Imperial Highness," to emblazon the Imperial arms upon his signboard, and to weave them in the corners of his fabrics. Our contemporary adds that a die of the Imperial Arms was forwarded at the same time to the Kyoto firm. We read also that it is Mr. Kawashima's intention, so soon as his health, now slightly impaired, shall have been restored, to take a voyage to St. Petersburg in order to convey personally his gratitude for the honour conferred on him. If this intelligence be correct, as we trust it is, the Czarewitch has certainly shown wise discrimination.

A BRITISH DOLLAR FOR HONGKONG.

The people of Hongkong still continue to give utterance to their very natural desire for a dollar that shall supplement the often battered, always roughly coined Mexican, and that shall possess the characteristics of a comely and trustworthy token of exchange. For the purpose of considering the subject, the Chamber of Commerce of the Colony appointed a Committee, and the Committee drew up a report, the gist of which is well stated by the *Hongkong Daily Press*:—

> The difficulty that has hitherto been urged as standing in the way of the introduction of a coin bearing the Queen's head has been that of the cost. The seignorage charged at the Hongkong Mint when that institution was in existence was 2 per cent. and naturally silver could not be attracted on those terms, since Mexican dollars could be obtained at an average of say ½ per cent. above their intrinsic value. As the Hongkong Mint could not afford to work at less than 2 per cent., or it was supposed that it could not, it was closed, though if it had continued open the profit on the subsidiary coinage alone would have paid its expenses, and the Colony would have been spared the inconvenience it was so long subjected to by the refusal of the home Authorities to allow a sufficient supply of small coins to be imported. The Special Committee of the Chamber of Commerce state that they are "given to understand the Indian Government is prepared to coin a British dollar at the Bombay Mint, and that the charge for seignorage will be 1 per cent. or thereabouts." If this be so, the British dollar could be laid down at present cheaper than the Mexican, which for some time past has been selling in the London market at considerably over 1 per cent. above its intrinsic value. It does not follow that high price will be maintained; ere long the coins may be again selling at ½ per cent premium or less, and when the Mexican dollars can be laid down cheaper than British dollars naturally they will command the preference when bullion has to be sent in quantities into the interior. But the Colony can no longer afford to rely exclusively on a foreign coin which is so uncertain in its supply and its cost. The Committee say:—"The Mexican exchange has been unable to adapt itself to the serious decline in the price of silver, Mexican dollars continue extremely scarce, insufficient for the requirements of the trade of the Colony and there is no likelihood of any increase in the supply under present circumstances." That being the case, it is imperative that the Colony should undertake the regulation of its own currency and be no longer dependent on Mexico. At the same time, the possibility of the Mexican undercutting the British dollar in point of price cannot be overlooked. At present it would pay to import British dollars at a premium of 1 per cent. on their intrinsic value, but that may not always be the case, and it has been urged that a Mint cannot be started to work only sometimes, that if a British dollar is established it must be coined under whatever circumstances all the year round, otherwise the Mint would not pay. But though that might be the case with the Indian Mints, which could be put to work on the dollar or rupee coinage as occasion might require and which would be no doubt glad to get orders from the Far East at any time, seeing that they cannot be altogether closed and that there is likelihood of their being fully engaged on rupee coinage for many years to come. At all events the matter is one of arrangement: the Colony can have a British dollar if it choses to pay for it, and it is evident it must have one as a stand-by in case of the continued dearness of the Mexican, if not for use under all circumstances. The recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce Committee is only that the British dollar should run concurrently with the Mexican; whether the new coin would drive the Mexican out would depend entirely on the relative cost of the two, but with an alternative coin available the fluctuations in the price of the Mexican, which are so embarrassing in trade, would become less acute.

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By way of corollary to the above the following may be quoted:—

> Mr. Henniker Heaton asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the 15th ult., whether he was aware that there had been great scarcity and inconvenience in Hongkong and Singapore through short supplies of the Mexican dollar, which is the principal currency there; and whether he would comply with the wishes of the leading bankers and commercial men of the East by giving instruction for the coinage of a British dollar at the Indian or Sydney Mints at the present favourable opportunity
>
> Mr. Buxton—It is true that there was some scarcity of Mexican dollars in the month of July, and during the first week of August last. This was, however, owing to exceptional causes, and there is now an ample supply. The idea of a British dollar does not appear to have found much favour in the Straits Settlements; and at Hongkong it has been abandoned. In the latter colony it is now proposed to legalise the Japanese *yen*—a coin of equal weight and fineness with the Mexican dollar. This proposal is at present under the consideration of Lord Herschell's committee as reconstituted for the consideration of colonial currency questions. The *yen*, I may observe, is already legal tender in the Straits Settlements.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Rumours continue to be circulated in certain quarters in the capital that a serious rupture is unavoidable between statesmen of Satsuma and those of Choshu. Count Kuroda and Count Saigo are said to be discontented with the overwhelming influence exercised in the Cabinet by the Choshu Ministers. It is also reported that Count Matsukata, Viscount Takashima, and others of the Satsuma clan, not now in office, are secretly conspiring for the overthrow of the present Cabinet. These rumours are emphatically denied by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, and we do not believe that they deserve any credence.

* * *

The Progressionist organs are taking much pains to win the goodwill of Count Yamagata. He is told by them that, if he is resolved to conduct the Administration on truly constitutional, rather than clannish, lines, they will not hesitate to support him in power. The obvious inference suggested by such language is that the Progressionists are desirous of forming a coalition Cabinet with the National Unionists.

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It is, however, highly doubtful whether such an alliance would be approved by the President of the Privy Council.

* * *

Various absurd stories are circulated in the press about Mr. Mutsu. Their general import is that, having lost his influence in the Cabinet, he contemplates resigning the portfolio of Foreign Affairs. It is even stated that many of his colleagues are opposed to his remaining in office. Count Ito is declared to have originally had high words with Count Inouye, because the latter warned him against placing confidence in Mr. Mutsu, but the Premier is now said to have changed his mind a little, and to have become less unreserved with the Minister of Foreign Affairs. These rumours of course have no foundation. Mr. Mutsu's relations with the Minister President and his other colleagues have undergone no change whatever, according to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*.

* * *

The fact that Mr. Kadono Ikunoshin, an instructor in the *Kei-o Gijuku* School, has offered himself as a candidate in an election district of Miye Prefecture, has led the *Niroku Shimpo* to draw some interesting inferences. Mr. Kadono is a very scholarly man, and apparently has hitherto taken little interest in politics. He has declared himself a supporter of Radical principles. Now our contemporary infers that there must be behind him Mr. Fukuzawa Yukichi. Nobody save Mr. Fukuzawa could have induced such a retiring student to associate himself with politics. Besides, the *Niroku* professes to have heard a rumour that Mr. Fukuzawa entertains the intention of forming a political party out of the graduates of his school, and of fighting in the coming session against the adherents of the strict Treaty Enforcement movement. His idea is to let his followers compete in the principal centres of commerce, where the movement for Treaty Enforcement is not so influential as in the country districts. Our contemporary states that Count Goto is secretly working in concert with Mr. Fukuzawa, and that Mr. Inouye Kakugoro is one of the most active agents in promoting the scheme. These rumours are received with caution in well informed circles. There is no doubt that Mr. Fukuzawa is on intimate terms with Count Goto, and that his paper, the *Jiji Shimpo*, has thrown its vast influence into the scale against the Treaty Enforcement movement. But it is extremely doubtful whether Mr. Fukuzuwa intends to assume the rôle of a party leader.

* * *

Viscount Tani, Prince Konoye, and some other members of the Upper House have been trying, as already stated, to pursuade Count Okuma, Count Itagaki, and Viscount Shinagawa to accept life membership of the Upper House, should nominations be offered to them by the Government. Viscount Shinagawa was the first to be canvassed. He is said to have declined the offer on the ground that the presence of party leaders in the Upper House would be destructive of its independence. Count Itagaki also declined, alleging that his assiduous duties as leader of the Radical Party would leave him little time to devote to the discharge of his duties as member of the Upper House. Count Okuma is reported to have expressed his willingness to fall in with the proposal, did he not fear that his bodily infirmity would seriously impede the proper discharge of his duties. He consented to consider the matter, but it is believed that he will not accept the offer.

THE NAVY.

It is stated in the *Jiji Shimpo* that the authorities have determined to make the Navy contribute henceforth, as much as possible, to the development of commerce, and that, in pursuance of that policy, men-of-war will be stationed in the principal treaty ports. The first practical evidence of the new departure in naval policy is said to be that the *Yoshino Kan*, a man-of-war recently constructed for Japan in England, has been ordered to call at Bombay on her way out, for the purpose of observing the commercial customs and routine of that place. Apart from the inference suggested by this order to the *Yoshino Kan*, the *Jiji* thinks that her calling at Bombay will promote the interests of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha in its competition with the Peninsular and Oriental Company.

SILVER PURCHASES UNDER THE SHERMAN LAW.

The annual report of the Director of the Mint of the United States contains some interesting figures with regard to the purchases of silver under the Sherman Law and other matters relating to the white metal. We reproduce *Bradstreet's résumé* of this part of the report :—

According to these figures, the amount of silver bullion offered for sale to the Government during the year aggregated 98,461,890 fine ounces. The amount purchased was 54,008 162 fine ounces, costing $45,531,374. The average price paid per fine ounce was $0.843. The amount of silver offered from July 1 to November 1, 1893, was 19,578,000 fine ounces, and the amount purchased 11,917,658 fine ounces, costing $8,715,831. The total amount of silver bullion purchased under the Act of July 14, 1890, to November 1, 1893, was 168,674,682 fine ounces, costing $155,931,602, and the average price per fine ounce was 92.74 cents. The coining value of the total amount purchased (in silver dollars) was $218,084,131. The total number of silver dollars coined under the Act of July 14, 1890, from August 13, 1890, to November 1, 1893, was 306,087,285. The seigniorage on the same was $6,977,098. The balance of silver bullion on hand November 15, 1893, purchased under the Act of July 14, 1890, was 140,699,825 fine ounces, costing $125,758,280.

It goes without saying that the Government has been a large purchaser of silver since 1873. The total amount purchased since April 1 of that year was 496,984,899 fine ounces, costing $508,933,975, the average cost per fine ounce being $1.029. The total number of silver dollars coined since March 1, 1878, was 419,332,550.

The report contains some figures also regarding the stocks of metallic money in the United States and in the world at large. The stock of gold in the United States on July 1, 1893, is estimated at $597,697,685 and the stock of silver at $615,861,484, making a total stock of metallic money amounting to $1,213,559,169. The approximate stocks of gold, silver, and uncovered paper money in the principal countries of the world were, according to the report, as follows :—

Gold	$3,901,900,000
Silver	3,931,100,000
Uncovered paper money	2,700,000,000

The production of the precious metals in the world during the calendar year 1892 is estimated to have been :—Gold, $138,861,000 ; silver, $196,158,800.

The course of silver prices since the year 1848 is traced in the report. According to the figures given the average London price in 1848 was 59⅜d. It advanced until 1859, when it reached 62 1/16d. Between 1860 and 1866 a decline took place, the yearly average ranging from 61 11/16d. to 61⅛d. ; from 1867 to 1872 the variation in the average yearly price was only 1/16d. In 1873 it was 59½d., equal to $1.29983. Since that time the decline has been steady, with but four exceptions. The average price for October, 1893, was $0.73672, a fall of nearly 57c. in a little over twenty years. The causes of the depreciation of silver have been, in the opinion of the Director of the Mint, the demonetization of silver by Germany and the Scandinavian States, the suspension of its coinage by the Latin Union, the Netherlands, Austria-Hungary, and Russia, and the increased production of the metal—this last being the most potent—the increase of production having been over 140 per cent. since 1873.

MR. JAMES WHITTALL.

The death is announced of Mr. James Whittall, one of the best known and most highly respected British merchant that has ever worked in the East. The *London and China Express* has the following reference to him :—

It is with very sincere regret we have to report the death of Mr. James Whittall, which occurred on the 18th Dec. after a short illness. Mr. Whittall had only recently returned from a visit to Ceylon, and caught cold on his return journey between Brindisi and London. On this he caught influenza, which is so prevalent everywhere at the present time, and on this, again, pneumonia supervened, which was the actual cause of death. Mr. Whittall was born sixty-six years ago, in Smyrna, and after being educated in Liverpool, left there in 1847, with an introduction to Mr. Max Fischer, at that time agent of the P. and O. Company at Hongkong, who took him into his office, where he remained some two years. He joined the firm of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., in Hongkong, in 1849, and became junior partner in the Canton branch at the end of 1852. He remained with the firm until 1868, when he left China, and shortly after started the firm of James Whittall and Co., London and Colombo. In Ceylon he was interested in several ventures in tea and coffee, besides general business in Colombo. In October, 1883, he joined the board of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, of which institution he remained a director up to the time of his decease. Of a very kindly disposition, he was ever ready to assist by all means in his power, anyone connected with the Far East, and many a man will feel the poorer by his death. He was a splendid specimen of what the British merchant can be—shrewd and honest, and with a kindly thought and word for all with whom he was brought in contact. The funeral took place at Brompton Cemetery on the 21st Dec., and was attended by many of his old friends.

* * *

There are probably not many men in the East who have any personal recollections of Mr. James Whittall when he presided in Hongkong over the fortunes of the great English firm. Never was East-point the scene of more genial and hearty hospitality, and never was the name of Jardine and Matheson more highly thought of. Sir Richard MacDonnell, then Governor of the Colony, used to say of Mr. Whittall what Sir Harry Parkes was wont to say of a later representative of the firm, Mr. Frank Johnson, that he doubted whether sounder or more far-seeing views about commercial and financial matters could be obtained from any man outside England. It is with no little pain that we, who remember Mr. Whittall at his prime, and who have often listened with admiration and advantage to his lucid expositions of Eastern tradal questions, record the loss that the world of commerce suffers by his death.

INVIOLABILITY OF DOMICILE IN JAPAN.

Inasmuch as foreigners will one day or other be placed under Japanese jurisdiction, it is a point of interest to know whether or not the police in Japan have power to enter a private house without a warrant. We assert that they have not, and in support of our assertion quote the XXVth Article of the Constitution, where it is laid down that "except in the cases provided in the law, the house of no Japanese subject shall be entered or searched without his consent." The *Japan Gazette* asserts that they have, and in support of its assertion quotes an article from the Code of Civil Procedure empowering the police to enter, without a warrant, any house where they have reason to believe that a crime, or offence punishable with imprisonment, is in actual process of commission. Such an argument, if seriously advanced, betrays very curious thoughtlessness. In every civilized Occidental country the police are empowered to take immediate steps with respect to flagrant violations of law. If a London constable had reason to suspect that a crime was being actually perpetrated within any house on his beat, his duty would be to enter without a moment's hesitation. That is a fundamental principle in the preservation of public peace and good order.

* * *

But there may be in different countries a difference between the kinds of offence that justify direct police interference. The social conditions existing in Japan may require that stricter measures should be adopted than are necessary in England for the repression or prevention of a particular crime. Such is indeed, the case. Gambling is one of the most besetting tendencies of the lower orders in Japan, and is also responsible for the incidental perpetration of many serious crimes. Hence the Japanese laws against gambling are proportionately stricter than the English laws, and the powers consequently entrusted to the police in Japan are more thorough. This point is advanced with much insistance by the *Japan Gazette*. Our contemporary claims, in effect, that Japanese jurisdiction would be intolerable because, under it, foreigners might have less liberty to gamble than they have at present. The contention, in itself, is scarcely comprehensible, while, as an argument in support of the general proposition that in Japan the police

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are at liberty to enter private houses without a warrant, it has not even the merit of being ingenuous. Had the *Japan Gazette* stated, at the outset, that gambling exposes persons in Japan to legal risks from which they enjoy comparative immunity in England, the proposition might have passed, though no serious person could possibly have accepted it as a reason for exempting foreigners in Japan from Japanese jurisdiction. But when the *Japan Gazette*, in support of its general assertion that inviolability of domicile does not exist under Japanese law, advances as evidence the fact that particular measures of repression have to be adopted against one particular crime in Japan, it can not expect to be treated as an intelligent pleader. It may endeavour to strengthen its case by abusing the *Japan Mail*; by accusing us of "audacious casuistry," of "consummate impudence," of "endeavouring to deceive our readers," of "specious impertinence," of "adding ignorance to mendacity" and so forth. But all that, however, appropriate to columns of the *Japan Gazette*, has no more to do with inviolability of domicile in Japan than has the *Japan Gazette's* plea for liberty of gambling.

PROFESSOR E. FENOLLOSA'S POEMS.

PROFESSOR ERNEST FENOLLOSA is certainly a versatile man. He came to Japan originally to teach political economy. Then, by a radical transition, he became an art critic. Now he figures as a poet. We have not yet had an opportunity of reading his book of verses in full, but from the *Boston Evening Post* we extract the following lengthy notice of the poems :—

In form they are in the nature of an experiment. Poems have been often written to music, but in these, particularly in the second, the attempt has been made, as Mr. Fenollosa says, "to expand the resources of poetic art by the inspiring analogies of music;" it is "a symphonic poem," in consecutive movements, correlated and bound together by one grand idea running through them, but with themes and counter-themes, expressed in different keys and occurring and recurring in accordance with the dominant forms of thought. Symphonies appeal to the limited few :—"The Discovery of America" is cast in too elevated and, one might say, too transcendental a mould to make its form plain and popular. And yet it is a wonderful composition; rhythmical, melodious, varied. It has the four great prerequisites of poetry—imagination, thought, sentiment, technical perfection. No one can complain that the lines, by misplacement of frame-syllables, are lame and prosy; the imagery is direct, and if sometimes the language seems obscure, it is not from haziness of meaning, but because it is packed with thought; it is forceful, often almost too heavily laden with poetic figures of startling vividness and beauty.

It opens with a picture of the occan at midnight; Columbus watching on the dock of his caravel and, as it were, overshadowed by powers felt but not visible. He sighs—

"O mocking, sighing, treacherous sea,
Whisper thy fathomless secret to me."

And the answer comes, not as he desires,—

"Then the coo
Of a soft wind blew.
And a shiver ran up to the flag at the masthead high;
And the blast of disruption blew, and the night wailed
loud in her pain,
And the stars hid under a cloud that was heavy and blue
with rain;
And the small waves writhed as they came,
Writhed like the wreaths of a flame,
Like the luminous, drifting breath
Of a wraith in the chamber of death;
And their pleadings fell
With the moans of a petalled shell,
As they curled with purrings and hisses,
Their warm lips bubbling with kisses,
Rolling in tremulous eagerness
Of an amourous siren's soft caress
For this second Ulysses."

He cries in his agony—

"Away with thy cursed lips, O sea!"

Even the calm that follows—

"A fragrant calm
Like the hush of a psalm
That hangs on the boughs of the cocoanut trees,
That hides in the heart of a great, cool palm,

does not satisfy his yearning. A storm comes on, and after it "lost on the breast of heaven" a small brown bird—a land-bird—"a messenger of hope" flutters to the deck :—

"There it lies with heart a-tremble,
Plumage torn by fire and hail;
While earth's boldest sons assemble
Weeping o'er its body frail—
Even as angel choirs are weeping
Round some stricken, tortured soul,
Freed from storms of sin, and sleeping
At its last unconscious goal."

The Northern Lights appear—

"What gossamer network of comets' tails,
Shrouds heaven in rainbow veils,
Pulsing in changeable gold on the breast of this astral Antinoüs!
Filaments scattered like crowns of enamel on walls of Alhambra,
Orbital laces of loops on the centres of darker penumbra,
Flashing of manes from the chargers in star-clustered perihelion.

And these "soft skeins of astral floss" condense into "a blinding prophecy in the central skies," and form a cross! while on the "tossing edges of the East"—

"A higher wave of molten silver flashes!
'T is a luminous golden orb with expanding wing.
It shakes the sea from its breast as a king-like bird.
'T is the saintly, impersonal moon,
As a godlike thing
With solemn and dignified motion.
She rises—she leaps—she is free.
She soars away on the constellated march
Of the deathless Zodiac.
Her parting smile irradiates the ocean."

"With 'her virginal kiss' on his brow," Columbus sleeps, and in his dreams the past comes back to him; that is described, or rather painted, in the second movement.

He "stands by the dark gray gates of a city" and sees the soldiers of Spain come in from victory. It is a march movement—

"Hark, 't is the drums! and a dark line comes
With a trumpet peal o'er a wave of steel:
Where the heroes march in a wide blue arch,
And the chargers prance in a stately dance.
Each knight sits light with his thin steel lance
Mid banners in lanes of the ribboned manes;
And strict in time to the martial chime
A loud hymn reigns o'er the proud glad plains."

His remembered monologue at the first sight of Queen Isabella is magnificent, but too long to quote. Especially dramatic is his remembrance of how he "climbed the steep Ligurian Cliffs in lusty joy" and gazed

"Through tender brooding miles of purple haze
Till soft-winged isles
Seemed lifting orange bosoms to the sun's last smiles"

and how in a trance, not knowing what he did, he

"Snatched the iron cross from his panting breast,
That cross his mother hung
To keep him ever innocent and young,"

and "flung it to the ether's vast abyss," and cried—

"Oh, God! whose sweet torn martyred frame
The Virgin mother gave
The fierce relentless worlds to pacify and save,
I'll follow thee.
Thou Master who canst walk upon the sea."

And then came the long, hard struggle of the decaying years; it is worked up with a fervid passion and power comprehensible when one remembers that Mr Fenollosa's ancestry was Spanish. It is a splendid hymn to Faith; he cries—

"O Christ, how every dotted island teems
With the potent agonizing bliss of thy dying dreams!
All far-blown faces, and races, and spaces
Are merged like drops in the omnipresent sea of thy luminnous graces:—
Dwarfed Ethiopians who dare the furnace of sand-choked wind,
And dark, soft-spoken ruby-merchants from the templed rivers of Ind,
And moon-bosomed, languid Arabian girls that sigh for a kiss as they play
In broken notes, like a sob, on the zither at close of day,
And yellow, fur-clad gentlemen that hawk with the tented khan,
Or in fish-scale armour covetous scan
The blue of the rifted sea that hides the gold-towered roofs of Japan:—
All these,
And as many more as the shrunken earth may please,
Thine anointed Admiral shall seize,
And lead to the tomb-throned capital of thy Monarchy of Man!"

The third movement is entitled "Wedding-Music." It is an epithalamium for the mystical union of two hemispheres; an "ecstatic canticle" in Brahms like melodies, interwoven with a passion almost superhuman; singing to the

"Sweet virgin land that lies like a leaf
In the cup of the seas, in the lap of the drifting skies,"

The key of it is the stanza—

"He who seeks
Shall find;—
Whether on mountain peaks,
Or in the desert wind;
Whether with white, dumb hands he shrieks
To the future deaf and blind;
Whether on wasted knee bespeaks
The lonely God of his mind."

The fourth and last movement is "Triumph." It begins with a theme several times repeated—

"Hark! From afar elemental voices prophesying!
Hist! 'Tis the tune of the sirens of the deep!
Mark where yon star to an altar-flame is magnifying
List to the moon like a sibyl in her sleep!
Hark through the mist,
List.
For a shiver like a wind upon a glassy river!
List through the dark,
Hark.
For rattle like the omen of a coming battle!
Mark
Where the spark
Of a trumpet like a lark!
Cuts against the dawny flashing of the dark!
List
While the murmur of the mist
Dies away:—
Dies away in the sobbing of the spray;
Of the spray of silver falling on a pool of amethyst!"

It is full of subtle harmonies of rhyme and rhythm, as, for instance, in the passage where the sailors first discover a light on an unknown shore—

"But what is it puffs like a swift, pale, passionate lip in the half-furled sail on the great cross-tree?
Hark! 'T is the prayer of an altar-flame afloat!
O Christ-like voice of a Judgment lightning-bell that shook wild orbs from the heart of the sea!
'T is a star!—'T is a light afloat like a tossing boat!
It flickers as fire-flies weave their ominous golden gleams with the braided grasses!—
Steady!—It glimmers!—It passes.
As if like a luminous snake it glided through trees that shrank on a distant shore!—
Blank heaven! 'T is drowned once more!—
Again it lives!—It swims!—It swerves like a lantern that waves on a strand!—
O bursting prophecy of the ages grand!
It thrills to my soul! It throbs like a living flame in my hand!—

Columbus sings—

'T is land! 'T is land!"

"The heavens are melting; they swoon in their gladness.
The womb of great Nature is bursting with blisses!
O helmsman, thou Anak, stand firm through thy madness
Flash lights to the Niña! Shout horns to the Pinta!
O Martin Alonzo! immortals together.
We have shared the cold scorn, we have dared the dark winter.
I crown thee, my brother, with stars of spring weather.

And from this point it works up into a crescendo of triumph and exultation. No extracts can do justice to a conception so unified and so magnificent, where diction is made the medium of a thought that would seem too lofty for words. Mr. Fenollosa has certainly showed in many passages a mastery of English unexcelled even by Swinburne. "East and West" was the Phi Beta Kappa poem of two years ago. It was criticized at the time as too long, but in reading it the end will perhaps be seen to justify the means, for it is a noble conception nobly carried out; it was to bring the East, particularly Japan, which Mr. Fenollosa, by twelve years' residence, came to know so thoroughly, to the knowledge of the West. The pictures of Japanese life are entrancing, but there are grotesque features also, not the least of which are apings of English, French, or German customs and costumes; and one of the five movements, which would be a scherzo in a symphony, portrays these. In this poem also there is an opulence of epithet and figure that is truly Oriental; but it needs to be read as a whole, and thus its motive, the marriage of Scientific Analysis as represented by the West, and Spiritual Wisdom as seen in the East, is made plain.

The volume contains thirty or more shorter lyrics; one or more may be selected without comment, though it should be remarked here that some of them are remarkable for their grace, fine fancy, and beautiful rhythm.

Very simple and dainty is the song entitled

PASTORAL.

'Neath the hill, beside the stream
Stands a lowly shepherd's cot;
But contented doth he seem
In his humble lot.
Seldom strays the traveller here.
No one helps him sow and reap,
He, as our Redeemer dear,
Loves to tend the sheep.
Fragrant is his simple life,
Earthly sin to him unknown;
All his friends the flock and fife,
Otherwise alone.
Innocent devoted one.
Would my heart could be as thine!
Sweet the crown for service done.
Lord, like his be mine!

So also is the Requiem which begins—

"Speak softly and low
Of the dead that are laid 'neath the willow asleep.
They have felt their last pain; they have dealt their last blow—
Tread softly and weep."

Several of the lyrics, "Telepathy" and "Karma" are inspired by the philosophy of the East. "Karma" is a more passionate and fiery conception of reincarnation than that in the famous speech of Siddartha in "The Light of Asia." And the opening stanza of Maya has an exquisite, enticing swing :—

"Where the willow meshes tremble
On the bosom of the night;
And the fire-flies reassemble,
And in happy dance delight
With their golden skein a-tangle
To deceive the stars that spangle,
Like a universe a-quiver,
All the surface of the river;—
Have I seen the subtle vision
Of a strange unearthly thing
Peering forth as in derision,
And an eye as of a creature
That was crouching for a spring.
Be it fiend or be it human,
I could feel each hidden feature
Had the semblance of a woman."

The casket in which these gems are found is quite worthy of them—a creamy cloth stamped in gold from a Japanese stencil over a century old, and exquisitely delicate, while the inside of the cover reproduces another of still more delicate pattern. We have no hesitation in saying that, while these poems of Mr. Fenollosa's will not in any way appeal to the general reader, there will be many who will recognize in them the work of a true poet, and who will hail this volume as one of the most original products of the American muse.

A SUGGESTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE SILVER WEDDING.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Keizai Zasshi* makes an excellent suggestion with reference to the Silver Wedding of Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress. It is that a special postage stamp should be issued in connection with the occasion. We are not quite clear whether the scope of the suggestion is not wider: whether it does not extend to the whole of the postage stamps in use, or, in other words, whether the correspondent does not recommend a totally new issue of stamps. At all events the idea seems good, and might be carried out with profit and pleasure. Stamp collecting has become a mania among civilized people. It is, in our opinion, one of the most incomprehensible manias ever recorded, but, of course, that view may be the result of some lack of appre-

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ciative faculty on our part. That the mania exists, and that it presents every symptom of permanency, no one can question. Each new issue of stamps at once imparts a fictitious value to the old, and whenever a stamp is issued in connection with some special occasion, collectors purchase it with avidity.

* * *

The *Keizai's* correspondent gives some interesting figures with regard to the market prices of the original Japanese stamps. The 48 *mon* (half a *sen* approximately) stamp of 1871 now sells for 15 *sen*, and is difficult to procure even at that figure. Indeed, the correspondent says that the early Japanese stamps can be obtained more easily in the United States than in Japan, for the stamp-merchants of the former country, anticipating the value that would ultimately attach to the stamps, bought them up in former years by thousands, while the Japanese regarded them as so much waste paper. The most valuable of the old stamps are the red four-*sen* stamp, issued 19 years ago, and the light-brown one-*sen* stamp of 28 years ago. They sell for more than a *yen* each, and so does the wrapper for newspapers in use about the same time. The three-*sen*, five-*sen*, and six-*sen* post-cards issued in 1877 fetch five *yen* for a set of three. On the whole, the stamps in use during the early part of the *Meiji* era are now worth from one thousand to two thousand per cent. more than their issue price. Western Governments, especially those of South America, take frequent advantage of this mania by changing their issues of stamps or by striking stamps and cards to commemorate noteworthy events, and there is no reason why Japan should not follow their example. The occasion is unique, and something really artistic might be devised in the way of a postal card, apart from a new issue of stamps.

THE ELECTION CONTESTS.

A TELEGRAM, despatched from Utsunomiya on the evening of the 7th instant, says that the police have seized all the pistols and swords in the possession of the partisans of Messrs. Hoshi Toru and Yokobori Sanshi, the rival candidates in that district. It is a salutary measure, fully justified by the events of the past month.

* * *

In Saitama Prefecture excitement seems to be running high. On the evening of the 6th instant, four members of the *Seigi-ha* proceeded to Kisaimachi on business connected with the election of members of the Prefectural Assembly. There they were attacked by fourteen or fifteen *soshi*, said to belong to the *Jiyu-to*, and two of the *Seigi-ha* men received pistol wounds. The other two returned to the office of their Party and reported the occurrence, whereupon a Mr. Kobayashi, one of the *Seigi* partisans, went in much anger to the office of the *Jiyu-to* and demanded an explanation. He, too, was set upon by the *soshi*, wounded by a pistol bullet in his right hand, and severely slashed on the back with a sword-cane. The *Kokkai*, in recounting these incidents, justly notices that they ill become a party like the *Jiyu-to*, which professes to be the champion of liberty.

* * *

The Minister of State for Home Affairs has addressed two Instructions to the Local Authorities. They run as follow:—

INSTRUCTION No. 5.

With respect to the election of Members of the Imperial Diet, Shinto officials of all classes are hereby interdicted from interfering, whether directly or indirectly, beyond the due exercise of their franchise right, whether by taking part in political discussions or by associating themselves, with political parties, and are expected to confine themselves to their own proper duties.

INSTRUCTION No 6

Unless persons upon whom devolves the function of giving religious instruction and leading men into the way of faith, stand entirely aloof from political parties, it is to be apprehended that the moral control of those believing in their creeds cannot be effected, that the security of their places of worship will be imperilled, and that the good order of their sects may be impaired Above all, should religious persuasion be made a means of employing men as political weapons, the spirit of the XIIth Article of the Law of Elections is violated, and in extreme cases religious believers may be so far led astray as to endanger the public peace. All religious instructors and priests are therefore exhorted to exercise extreme circumspection on the occasion of the approaching general election of members of the House of Representatives, so as to avoid any of the conjunctures indicated above.

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It will scarcely be possible for any political party to quarrel with the spirit displayed by the Government in its instructions about the coming elections. Absolute impartiality has been the guiding principle throughout. Perhaps it is to some extent because of that attitude on the part of officials that comparative freedom from disturbance has prevailed thus far in election districts. The general elections in 1892 were held on February 15th, and before the end of January serious rioting and fighting were reported from several Prefectures. It is true that the elections being still more than three weeks distant, any forecast now formed may prove premature. But the indications at present suggest that the disgraceful scenes of the last elections will not be repeated on this occasion.

GLADSTONE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

TRULY remarkable is the sturdy vigour displayed by Mr. Gladstone. It was only the other day that he attained his eighty-fourth birthday, and yet he can almost boast with Moses that his natural force is not abated. He has just contradicted the assertion that he intends retiring from public life, although he recognises the limitations which advanced age has naturally imposed upon him. He has nearly outlived the whole of his contemporaries. Almost his only surviving school-fellow at Eton is Lord Arthur Hervey, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who is nearly two years his senior. This venerable prelate has lately been giving some reminiscences to the world, principally of the days of his far-off boyhood. Here is one story which he tells. When the Duke of Wellington opened the Waterloo Bridge and distributed commemorative medals to the select invited spectators, the future Bishop put his hand on the bag and was sternly admonished by the Duke to "take only one!" The House of Commons contains only one member six years older than Mr. Gladstone, the Hon. Charles P. Villiers, who has sat fifty-eight years for a single constituency. He now represents a division of Wolverhampton in the Liberal Unionist interest. But his part in public affairs is very negative. Even older still is Admiral Sir L. T. Jones, Governor of Greenwich Hospital, who bore part in the Walcheren Expedition of 1809—the year of Gladstone's birth—and was wounded at the bombardment of Algiers in 1816. Surely there is no other country where men live like this.

KOREAN NEWS.

THE Korean Government is believed to have awakened to the importance of guarding Port Hamilton against possible occupation by a foreign Power. An officer named Ken Tôchin, said to be well-known for bravery and ability, has been appointed Governor of the island. He is one of the Korean officers who received a military education under the late Lieutenant Horimoto of the Japanese Army.

* * *

Considerable alarm is said to have been caused to the Authorities in Söul by the flight to Japan of Jo Ryojun, an intimate friend of Kim and Bok, the unfortunate leaders of the abortive revolution of 1884. Jo is a native of Fusan, and his early intercourse with Japanese residents there seems to have made him an admirer of Japanese progress and civilization. It does not appear that he took any part in the ill-fated enterprize above alluded to, for had he done so, he could not have been allowed to live in Korea, much less to earn his livelihood by serving in a local office. However, he has long been a personal friend and admirer of the well-known fugitives now in Japan, and has been carrying on secret correspondence with them. Recently a letter from them miscarried and fell into the hands of his official colleagues. Becoming conscious of the fatal discovery, he fled with his son to the Japanese settlement at Fusan, where, through the assistance of numerous friends, he was able to depart for Japan on board the *Genkai Maru*, sailing on the 18th ultimo. The Korean Authorities, finding that he had already escaped to the Japanese settlement, requested his surrender on the false pretence that he had been guilty of daring embezzlement. But by that time the fugitive was already on his way to Japan. It is reported that at present Jo and his son, a lad of 13, are living somewhere in the vicinity of Kobe.

* * *

According to the *Tô-A Boyeki Shimbun*, a Japanese paper published in Fusan, the Korean Government is sorely perplexed as to the manner of converting the tribute rice into cash. The Japanese merchants at Ninsen having resolved, as already reported, to make no purchase of the tribute rice until the prohibitory edict against the export of grain shall have been removed, the Korean Government is said to have caused a certain Chinese resident at Ninsen to send the rice to Fusan for the purpose of disposing of it there. The Japanese merchants at Fusan do not seem to have originally joined their countrymen at Ninsen in the demonstrative resolution, but in deference to that resolution, they are said to be disinclined to buy the grain brought over from Ninsen. The shrewd Chinaman is reported, however, to have effected a sale of about 250 bales.

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The ringleader of the recent insurrection at Song-do, Kim Kun, is in prison. His arrest is said to have caused considerable excitement in the district. About 31,000 of the local inhabitants signed a petition asking for the immediate release of Kim. A fresh disturbance being feared in case the petition be not granted, the new Governor is reported to have sent it by a special messenger to Söul with all haste.

THE SILVER WEDDING AND NEW PEERS.

THE list of patents of peerage likely to be conferred in connection with the approaching celebration of the Silver Wedding of their Imperial Majesties, is growing larger. Originally the only names mentioned were those of Mr. Saigo Kikujiro, son of the great Saigo Takamori, and Mr. Mutsu, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. The former, it was said, would be created a Marquis and the latter a Viscount. The vernacular press now adds a Viscountship for Mr. Yoshikawa, Minister of State for Justice, and Baronages for Mr. Watanabe, Minister of State for Finance, and Mr. Inouye Ki, Minister of State for Education. There is also a report that Mr. Yokoi Tokio, son of the famous Yokoi Heihachiro, will be made a Viscount, and that a peerage, of what grade no information is furnished, will be conferred on Mr. Taku Kanichiro, now an official in the Board of Ceremony, whose father was feudal chief in Hizen. The patent of Marquis is accompanied by a grant of 40,000 *yen*, and that of Viscount by a grant of 20,000 *yen*, and that of Baron by a grant of 10,000 or 15,000, so that the outlay in connection with these additions to the peerage would be considerable.

* * *

We may mention, in connection with this subject, that although the approaching ceremony is spoken of by the vernacular press as Their Majesties' Silver Wedding (*Gikon-shiki*), no such term is officially employed. The name given to it in the Court is *Daikon-nijugonen-shikuten*, or the Great Marriage Celebration of the Twenty-fifth year."

SHANGHAI.

A NEPHEW of Captain Wu of the Chinese steel corvette *Paoming* was sailing in a sampan with three sailors from Woosung to Shanghai on Jan. 29 when it capsized near the Yingsiangkong Creek at Yangtse-poo, and the unfortunate man was drowned, the sailors being rescued. · · · The Telephone Company's cable was broken on January 29th by the *Monocacy*, but it was expected that it would be repaired in a few days. · · · A rather good story comes from Peking concerning a recent theatrical performance before the Emperor. An actor named Sia Chiao-t'ien, who some time ago achieved great success in Shanghai, was ordered to perform in three short pieces before his Majesty. After the

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second piece it was stated the actor was indisposed, and no further performance could be given. His Majesty, however, was not to be disappointed and ordered the members of the troupe to have forty blows each for their "laziness." This apparently had good effect for their subsequent acting is said to have been particularly spirited. Probably many theatrical managers at home would like to see similar punishment awarded to wayward popular favourites when they shirk their engagements on the score of "sudden indisposition."

THE COMPETITION ON THE BOMBAY LINE.

CURIOUS rumours are circulated about the competition between the Peninsular and Oriental and Japan Mail Steamship Companies. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that the agents of the former Company have induced the Japanese shippers in Kobe to depart from their agreement as members of the Shipping Union, and to give their goods for carriage to the Peninsular and Oriental Company. The Tokyo merchants, we learn from the same source, profess to be highly indignant about this breach of faith on the part of their Kobe associates, but in reality some of them rejoice at the prospect thus afforded of obtaining better terms from the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

* * *

Another rumour published by our contemporary is that the Peninsular and Oriental Company has set aside a million dollars for the purposes of this competition, and the Japan Company is urged to be prepared for very resolute opposition. Of course there are wise folks who see cause to criticise the proceedings of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and equally of course the basis of their criticism is the hackneied pretence commonly found in the mouths of all Japanese who don't know what they are talking about, namely that the Company has no fixed policy. The *Nippon* justly condemns such silly talk. It observes that the fact is, not that the Company lacks a fixed policy, but that, since the directors are prudent enough to keep their mouths shut, their critics don't know anything about their policy, and mistake their own ignorance for the absence of anything to learn.

THE VOLUNTEER STEAMER "TAMBOFF."

As predicted in our last issue, says the *Rising Sun*, there is every prospect of the Russian Volunteer steamer *Tamboff* having to remain idle here for the next two months at least, owing to the ice-breaker *Silatch* being incapable of keeping open a passage through the ice in Vladivostock harbour. On Wednesday last telegraphic news was received by the agents, Messrs. Holme, Ringer & Co., to the effect that the *Silatch* had been repaired, and was working slowly; and arrangements were made for the *Tamboff* to leave on Friday a.m. But in the interval another message was received, announcing the total break-down of the *Silatch*. A considerable quantity of wheat, put afloat for the purpose of being shipped by the *Tamboff*, had to be landed again, and a lot of heavy machinery was discharged from the ship, under the shear-legs at Akunoura, which will have to be re-shipped, and which would not have been taken out if it had been known that she would remain here until the opening of Vladivostock in the Spring.

* * *

Since the above was in type we learn that the *Tamboff* is discharging her cargo into the *Baikal* in order that she may return home. There is a prospect of the *Baikal's* having a good number of "lay days."

AFFAIRS IN SIERRA LEONE.

THE telegram which we publish this morning lends additional interest to the following account of the former blunder by French troops in Sierra Leone :—

London, Jan. 6.—Col. A. B. Ellis of the West India Regiment has telegraphed to the Secretary of State for War from Warina, under date of Dec. 23, as follows :—

"Before daybreak this morning our camp was suddenly attacked by a strong force of natives, several of whom were armed with rifles. For forty minutes there was a hot fire. The enemy used trees for cover. The killed of the West India Regiment are Lieut. Liston, Second Lieut. Wroughton, Sergeant Carraher, and four privates. The killed of the Constabulary were Capt. Lendy and two privates. The severely wounded were Sergeant Field and fourteen privates of the regiment, and three privates of the Constabulary.

"The fire slackening we advanced and found seven magazine rifles and eight chassepots. Shortly after a wounded prisoner reported that we had been attacked by Lieut. Moritz, of the French army, thirty-two Senegalese sharpshooters, and 1,200 Kissi natives. The prisoner said that Lieut. Moritz had left Farana with this force against the Sofas at the end of September, and had arrived on Dec. 21 at Tenbikundu, fifty miles north-east of Warina. Lieut. Moritz, hearing that there was war in the Connoh district, believed that it was being carried on by the Sofas under Porokerri, a Sofa chief who was trying to escape from the British troops and join the Sultan Samadu. Lieut. Moritz left on the morning of Dec. 21, and halted on Dec. 22 fifteen miles north-east of our camp. He left this point at midnight, under a full moon, and attacked us, believing us to be Sofas.

"I wrote to Lieut. Moritz explaining the situation. A letter had been previously sent on Dec. 13 to the commanding French officer at Kissi in Santhara, giving notice of the approach of the British troops.

"At 11 o'clock Lieut. Moritz was found severely wounded. Despite all medical attendance he died at noon. Before his death he said that natives had told him that we were Sofas, and that he had no idea that we were British. Lieut. Moritz and ten Senegalese, who had been killed in the fighting, were buried with military honours.

"Capt. Lendy and two constables were shot by their own men. Another letter has been sent to the French commander at Kissi, informing him of the occurrence, and assuring him that the friendly relations existing will not be disturbed owing to Lieut. Moritz's mistake.

"Warina is within our own sphere, in which is the source of the Babbee River, which flows eastward."

Paris, Jan 6.—It is understood that if the English version of the affair is true, France will not contest the making of ample reparation It is not easily explained why the French force was in territory that is indisputably British.

The West India Regiment, a number of men from which were killed and wounded in this fight, is unique among the British forces in being the only regiment of negroes in the British army It is officered by white men, but the rank and file are all negroes, and with few exceptions the privates are pure-blooded blacks. The regiment is recruited in the British West Indian Island of Jamaica.

The men are carefully picked for height, breadth, and strength, and are without exception fine physical specimens of men.

The regiment is unique in the British army in dress, too. Its uniform is a kind of zouave dress Baggy blue trousers, with broad yellow stripes down the outside leg seams, reach to the calves, and there are fastened so as to make a bulging overhang. White gaiters cover the shoes and reach to within a couple of inches of the trousers, black stockings filling the gap.

A loose tunic of bright scarlet, embroidered across the chest with yellow braid, and with dozens of brass buttons close set down the front, reaches to within an inch or two of the waist. This tunic flies open, showing a white vest beneath.

The head dress is a peculiar turban, a cross between a Turkish fez and an East Indian turban proper. It is of white and red, and is adorned with a long yellow tassel. If the French once saw these soldiers they would certainly recognize them on later occasions.

This regiment is stationed only at Sierra Leone, and near by West African stations, and at Jamaica. They are sent to garrison these African posts because they stand the deadly climate so much better than do the white soldiers.

SOME FIGURES RELATING TO THE UNITED STATES.

NEWSPAPERS received by the last mail bring statistics of much interest relating to the United States. Under the section of fires, we find, that the total destruction of property was 189 millions of dollars in round numbers, and that the number of lives lost was 1,817.

* * *

The list of lives lost by disasters stands as follows :—

Drownings	2,756	Lightning	188
Fires	1,817	Falling bridges, etc.,	732
Cyclones, storms	4,462	Railways	4,693
Explosions	777		
Mines	556	Total	11,241

To this total must be added 4,864 persons seriously injured by railroad disasters in the same period.

* * *

It is a curious coincidence that the number of lives lost in battle throughout the world in 1893 was 11,481, or very nearly the same number as the aggregate deaths from disaster in the United States during the same epoch. The Brazilian Revolution was the most destructive war of the year: it cost 4,491 lives. After it in order came the Matabele war in Africa (3,650 lives), and the Nicaragua Revolution (1,140 lives). The preceding year (1892) was much more fatal to human life in the matter of war, its record having been 26,521 killed.

* * *

In 1893 cholera, the most destructive of all diseases, carried off 66,000 victims throughout the world, against 563,341 in 1892. Russia was the greatest sufferer in the former year: she had 31,000 deaths.

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On the ocean and on the lakes 6,058 citizens of the United States lost their lives in 1893, against 3,346 in 1892.

* * *

The record of suicides is particularly distressing. It would almost seem as though a mania for that kind of death were growing in the States. No less than 4,436 persons died by their own hand in 1893, against 3,860 in 1892, 3,331 in 1891, 2,640 in 1890, and 2,224 in 1889. Of the suicides in the year just closed, 3,578 were males and 858 females. It is a remarkable fact that physicians not only continue to head the list of professional persons who have taken their own lives, but that the number is on the increase year by year. In 1891 there were 23 physicians and 12 clergymen; while in 1893 there were 53 physicians and but 8 clergymen. The causes of suicide were as follow :—

Despondency	1,913	Liquor	297
Unknown	972	Disappointed love	220
Insanity	450	Ill health	242
Domestic infelicity	245	Business losses	97

In these 4,436 cases of self murder 1,599 shot themselves, 1,208 took poison, 641 hanged themselves, 391 drowned themselves, 372 cut their throats, 86 threw themselves before locomotives, 62 threw themselves out of windows or from housetops, 48 stabbed themselves, 16 burned themselves, 10 starved themselves, and 3 killed themselves with dynamite.

* * *

The total number of murders committed during the year was 6,615, against 6,791 in 1892. A slight decrease in here observable, but it is stated that, during the last 16 years, the record of murder shows a steady increase, at times out of proportion to the increase in the population.

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The record may well be closed with the significant statement that the total amount of benefactions made, both by gift and by bequest, by citizens of the United States, during 1893, for charitable, educational, and other philanthropic purposes, was no less than $33,319,866. It will interest our readers to look at the list of sums of over half a million dollars, and the purposes for which they were given :—

John Huntington, for Art School	$1,500,000
Emily Eckert, to charities	800,000
Gorden Mackay, to Harvard University	2,000,000
Logan H. Roots, for park purposes	700,000
Leland Stanford, to Stanford University	2,500,000
Anna A. Wilstach, for Art Gallery	950,000
A. J. Drexel, to German Hospital, Philadelphia	1,000,000
A. J. Drexel, for Art Gallery	1,000,000
C. B. Beck, to institutions	4,539,000
Jane Holmes, to charitable institutions	1,300,000
Marshall Field, to Columbian Museum	1,000,000
S. Montgomery, to San Francisco College	1,700,000
Mrs. R. C. Johnston, to San Francisco Hospital	666,666

JAPANESE FOLK-LORE.

THE *Folk-Lorist*, which, some of our readers may not be aware, is the journal of the Chicago Folk-Lore Society, contains in the fourth number of its first volume an essay by Mr. E. W. Clement on Japanese Folk-Lore at the World's Columbian Exposition. It is a cleverly compiled paper, but, of course, one does not look for much that is original under such circumstances. Many writers have already exploited this field, and there is little left for an author to do—unless he has exceptional facilities for research—except to collect and collate the work of others. The chief merit of Mr.

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Clement's paper, apart from his graceful handling of the subject, seems to us to consist in the fact that it is not merely a collection of disjointed fragments, but rather an explanation of the branches of folk-lore that constitute the Japanese artist's favourite motives: Collectors will therefore find in this paper many helps to the interpretation of the objects they love to bring together. Mr. Clement advances some statements that invite criticism. For example, he adopts the not uncommon misconception that the term *yusen-some* means fairy-dyeing, whereas the expression has no such fanciful origin, being derived simply from the name of its inventor, Yuzen, who lived about three centuries ago. The essay will well repay perusal.

LITERARY NOTES.

MR. YAMADA TAKETARO, better known by the *nom de plume* of *Bimyo-Sai*, has just completed his great Dictionary of the Japanese Language on which he has been engaged for some years. Within the past ten years several good dictionaries have been issued, the principal among them being the *Genkaï*, the *Kotoba-no-Sono*, and the *Kotoba-no-Hayashi*. Of these the first named by Mr. Otsuki is considered the most complete and trustworthy. But the high position it has hitherto occupied must henceforth be yielded to Mr. Yamada's new Dictionary, which is fuller in words, and far more scholarly in its methods of treatment, than any of its predecessors.

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Now that his great work is finished, *Bimyo-Sai* will for the present devote himself to writing plays for the stage. Indeed he has already published one entitled *Murakami Yoshimitsu Nishiki-no Hata-kaze*. It is founded upon an episode of the heroic struggle which the great Kusunoki family maintained in the cause of the legitimate line of Emperors during the latter half of the 14th century, an epoch abounding in subjects suitable for dramatic representation. *Bimyo-sai* has his own ideas about reform of the stage. He seems to think that the work cannot be effected unless plays are written by literary men of the rising generation, many of whom are at present deterred from attempting anything in this field, because they fear that their productions would not be accepted by Danjuro and Kikugoro, the two stars of the stage, who have the final conclusive vote upon the merits or demerits of every new piece. A production rejected by either of them is condemned to permanent death. Such has been the fate of many a work produced by aspiring play writers of the younger generation. Against this state of things *Bimyo-sai* declares defiant revolt. Writers of originality, he says, need not be afraid of anything that actors like Danjuro and Kikugoro say about their productions. If they find these actors disinclined to present their works on the stage, young authors are advised to be content with reproduction at the hands of the *don-chô* players, namely, those in the lowest rank of the profession. If they persevere and go on producing piece after piece without minding what the conservatives say about them, they are told that one day they will surely find themselves controlling factors in the reform of the stage.

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Mr. Tsubouchi Yuzo, alias *Haru-no-ya*, *Oboro* or *Shoyô*, has not published anything worth noticing for some years. Idleness, however, is not the explanation of his apparent inactivity. He has founded a literary periodical, the *Waseda Bungaku*, which now occupies the foremost place among the journals of the kind. Through the columns of his magazine, he is doing excellent work to introduce English writers to his countrymen. We learn that he is occupied with a certain work on which he intends to found his claims to a position in the history of Japanese literature.

* * *

Of the other literary men of the rising generation, it is stated that *Saganoya* is studying the grammatical construction of the Japanese language to fit himself for inaugurating a new style of poetry for children, *Takenoya*, who has long been known to be engaged on a history of novels in Japan, is reported to be in a fair way for issuing the long expected work before the end of the present year. Mr. Kubota Beisen, a well known author on the staff of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, has proved himself a master of graceful prose. He is devoting his spare hours to writing dramatic criticisms for that paper.

FRENCH PLUCK.

THE news of Vaillant's execution recalls a scene that occurred in the French Chamber of Deputies after the throwing of the bomb; a scene furnishing one of the most remarkable examples of quiet nerve that humanity has a right to be proud of. Cognate incidents have occurred in the history of nations; for instance, the splendid conduct of the Chicago police at the time of the anarchist dynamitards. But the affair in the French Chamber was almost uniquely dramatic. Among the applauding comments evoked from the English press, none seems to us to describe the situation better than the following, which we take from the *Spectator*:—

> It is a pity not to dwell for a moment upon the scene presented by the French Chamber immediately after the explosion of Vaillant's bomb. Events nowadays so often leave a sickening taste in the mouth, that it is useful as well as pleasant to record one which restores in any degree the faith in human nature. The moment the bomb had fallen into the Chamber there was every reason to expect a panic among the Deputies. They are Frenchmen, to begin with,—that is, they must be classed among the most excitable of mankind. All around them were men staggering or falling from the seats, covered with blood and crying out with pain, above were women shrieking in the galleries, while on the staircases sounded that rush of feet which, when a theatre is on fire, serves as much as anything to deprive men of their self-command. For aught the Deputies knew, the fall of the bomb was but the beginning of a massacre, and organised by men of whose pitilessness they have an understanding which Englishmen, exempt as yet from any successfull attempts of the kind, and little accustomed to the threatening literature of the Boulevards, have not acquired. The air was full of acrid smells and of the fine dust which always attends an explosion of dynamite, and which might have indicated that the building itself was giving way. The rush which might have been expected had begun, when M. Dupuy, once school-master, now the untried President of the Chamber, cried out in a voice just raised enough to be heard through the hall, and with the customary ring of his bell to enforce attention —"Gentlemen, the sitting continues. It would not be to the dignity of France, nor of the Republic, that such attempts, whencesoever they may come, of the cause of which, moreover, we are ignorant, should be able to disturb your deliberations. At the close of the sitting, the Bureau will hold a meeting and take, in all calmness, the necessary measures. The next speaker is M. de Montfort." The words instantly calmed the ferment. The Deputies sank into their places, and M. de Montfort, though unable to refrain from the single self-applauding touch implied in the statement, 'my daughter is in the gallery,' went on with his speech about nothing, the validity of the election of a M. Mirman. And for twenty minutes—with the groans of the wounded faintly audible from the ante-rooms, and the knowledge that a score or more of Deputies were among the injured or the dying—debate and the voting went on till by 346 votes to 123 M. Mirman was declared duly elected. That was very fine. The adequacy of the wholly untried President, the instant response of the Chamber, the calm and endurance of that droning rubbish about an uninteresting person, all brought out one of the best sides of the French character, its singular power—singular, we mean, when the essentially Celtic and Southern nature of the people is considered—of responding rapidly to a call for energy or for self-control. It is true that the Deputies have an advantage in such a scene, which Englishmen do not at first remember. They have all been through the military mill, and most of them have been under fire, that is, they have learned to obey audible words of command almost without thinking, and to feel rather than to reflect that when the shot is beginning to fall, the first, the imperative duty is to endure in silence. It is true also that the peculiarity of the French character which Englishmen most dislike, its tendency to the histrionic, lent to M. Depuy's words a force they might not elsewhere have possessed. To be still in the face of bombs, that was heroic, that was grand, that would rivet the attention of mankind; and the Deputies, folding their arms, sat still. For all that, the scene was a great one, and may serve to remind Europe that Frenchmen are not only brave, which nobody doubted, but that they have in them besides a nobility which it takes danger fully to call forth, and a quality of efficiency in which they are surpassed by no race on earth.

THE TAIHO OUTRAGE.

"WE extracted recently from the *Shenpao*," says the *North China Daily News*, "an account of an attack made on a Roman Catholic missionary by villagers near Taiho, in Anhui. A correspondent has sent us the facts of the case, which put a very different complexion on the affair. The Father, who was the victim of the assault, was coming from his mission at Taihohien, and passed through the town of Huaiyuen, between Taiho and Fungyangfu. He put up at the inn of a man named Lo, in the southern suburb of the town. A member of the gentry, whose name is known, came to beset him with a crowd of young scholars, demanded his passport, declared that it was a forgery, and tore it up. He asked to see the Father's books, tore them up, and trampled on them; among them being the Emperor's latest edicts in favour of the Christian religion and the missionaries. After a long course of insult, at about 7 in the evening, the door was forced, the Father was dragged out into the street, and a general attack was made on him. The Father happened to notice one of the young *literati* coming towards him with a tub full of filth, and he seized one of his attackers and held him as a shield. An indescribable row followed; the Father was knocked down, trampled on, and dragged right and left, but he held on through it all to one *literati*. How long this lasted is uncertain, but at last the Father managed to get on his feet, and ran with all speed to the nearest *yamên* to avoid re-capture. The affair is now before the local mandarins, and their decision must be awaited, but in the meantime it is important that the true story should be known."

THE "CITY OF PEKING."

WHEN the steamer *City of Peking* arrived in San Francisco on Jan. 13th, she was looking the worse for a battle with a typhoon into which she ran on December 22nd last. The storm occurred off the Japan coast, and came near wrecking the vessel. The skylight covering the engine-room was crushed in, and part of the rail on both sides of it was damaged. The wave that wrought the havoc carried away one of the starboard lifeboats and flooded the engine-room and social hall. The storm commenced on the forenoon of December 22nd, and at about 12.30 an immense sea was observed rolling toward the steamer on the starboard bow. The order was given by the first officer to bring the ship around, so that she might strike the comber head on. The *Peking* did not answer promptly enough to her helm, and the great mountain of water struck her on the starboard quarter, forward, heeling her over to a dangerous angle and shipping the sea over her bow in such a manner that it made a clean sweep of the main deck. The shock was felt throughout the ship as if she had struck a rock. Tons of water came over the skylight combings to the engine-room, and Chief Engineer Stewart and his men were in water up to their kness. In the saloon the water did great damage, smashing the piano and making a mess of the music-rack and bookstand. Captain Searle was caught in the *débris* as he came out of his cabin-door and thrown violently into the scuppers. A panic ensued among the passengers, but the officers acted admirably and with great coolness, and succeeded in calming the fears of the frightened people. Had another wave followed the one that broke over the *Peking* she would have gone to the bottom. Thus a San Francisco journal. The *Peking* encountered some very bad weather in her previous trip, both out and home.

THE PROHIBITION OF THE EXPORT OF GRAIN IN KOREA.

THE question between this Empire and Korea does not appear to be yet within sight of a solution despite the reassuring telegram recently received. The Korean Government is said to be behaving with considerable obstinacy, and according to the News Agency, instructions have been sent from Tokyo to Mr. Otori Keisuke directing him to adopt a more peremptory tone in his communications to the Foreign Office in Söul. It really is miserable that these perpetual disputes should arise between the two countries.

METALS.

MESSRS. ROYSE & Co. in their Circular of Dec. 29th, report:—The slight improvement in the Pig Iron Markets, to which we referred in our last, has been continued during the first half fo this month, prices during that time having advanced about 6d. per ton for Scotch Warrants, and about 1s. 3d. per ton for Middlesbrough. Shipments from Glasgow were good, and stocks

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in the public stores decreasing. Since then, however, the position has changed, values have steadily declined, and are quite easy at present with very little business doing, which may be attributed to some extent, though not altogether, to the holidays. The Manufactured Iron Market in the Midlands is quiet, but there are hopes of some improvement after the turn of the year. Copper has not fluctuated much during the month, but closes slightly lower, and is easy. Tin, after advancing, has quite given way, and is quiet at about 20s. per ton less than at the beginning of this month. Spelter has fallen slightly, but is at present steady. Pig Lead, after falling, has advanced again, and is steady with rather an improving tendency.

THE ARMY OF HAWAII.

THE following characteristic letter appears in the *Washington Post* of December 30th :—

Editor *Post* :—In your issue of the 25th instant you republished a letter from a gallant Irishman, Patrick Hutton by name, a soldier of fortune in the missionary army in Hawaii, at $40 per month. This warrior, Hutton, writes that there are in Hawaii 1,200 men under arms. This in not true, as are not true all the other statements made by the commissioners, sympathizers, and agents of the Provisional Government of Hawaii. The statements of the Hon. Robert W. Wilcox on the fighting pretensions of the Provisional Government of Hawaii and published in the *Post* of Dec. 21 are far more correct than that of the soldier Hutton.

To-day it comes my turn to tell the real truth and give the exact number of the soldiers of the missionary army in Hawaii, divided by nationalites and copied from the book of the so-called Provisional Government.

Army of Hawaii—Germans, 54; Portuguese, 49; Americans, 32; Norwegians, 27; British 19; Swedes, 17; Italians, 15; Russians, 7; Danes, 5; Russian Fins, 3; Polish Jews, 2; Greeks, 2; Dutch, 1; Native Hawaiian, 1; assorted, don't know themselves, 16; total, 250.

Only one native Hawaiian can be found in this army destined for protecting and defending the Hawaiian Islands. This is the best standard for judging how limited is the confidence of the Hawaiian people in the missionary government, temporarily existing in the Hawaiian Islands.

My opinion is that this army, formed by the pious missionaries for the purpose of defending themselves and for intimidating the native Hawaiians and other peaceful residents, is merely a rare and monstrous conglomeration of mercenary soldiers, composed of the scum of all nations, the majority of whom were recruited among the hoodlums of barbary coast in San Francisco.

This army of mercenaries is more of a danger than protection for Hawaii, because there is no patriotism, no high ideals in those men, except the $40 per month. Each and all are so many Swiss Dugal Dougherty, who fight for provender and pay, and also prey.

CELSO CAESAR MORENO.

DISCOVERY OF UNINHABITED ISLANDS.

MR. NODA, of Kumamoto, is said to have discovered a group of uninhabited islands at a distance of 90 nautical miles northward of Yayeyama in the Riukiu Group, and 101 nautical miles north-east of Formosa. The *Hochi Shimbun*, from which we take this information, says that the islands are marked on British charts, from which we infer that Mr. Noda's discovery is limited to the fact of their being uninhabited. The group is said to consist of eight islets, their neighbouring seas abounding in fish, their lands well watered, and their soil suited for growing cereals. It is added that despite these natural advantages, no traces of human settlement are to be found on the islands, and they are not included in the territory of any country. These facts having been reported to the Home Office through the local officials of Kumamoto, orders are said to have been issued for the inclusion of the islands in the Japanese Empire, the right of property in them being conferred on Mr. Noda.

MASUDA KOSAI.

ON the 31st of July, 1885, there died in a house in Shiba Park a man who had lived there for some ten years, and whose life had been singularly adventurous. Masuda Kosai was not his original name, but Tachibana Kumekichi. The son of a military retainer of the Totomi Feudal Chief, he was fully trained in all the warlike arts of the time and attained much proficiency in them. But wild and dissipated habits led to his flight from his master. He drifted into the lowest orders of society, and was guilty of the brutal crime of throwing his illegitimate child into the Rokugo river. This event proved the turning-point in his career. He adopted the tonsure, serving his novitiate at the Ikegami Temple, where his conspicuous ability soon gained him preferment to a high rank in the priesthood. Vicious propensities, however, once more asserted themselves. Fleeing from the temple he led a wanderer's life, finally coming to Shimoda in the province of Izu just at the time when a Russian war-vessel had put in there for repairs. Tachibana became acquainted with the Captain of the ship, and accepted his invitation to travel by her to Russia, where, after study of the language, he received an appointment in the Diplomatic Service through the good offices of the Captain. He now called himself Yamatonow (son of Yamato), and discharged his duties with such zeal that he received a Russian decoration. When Oguri Kozukenosuke visited Russia in the capacity of ambassador accredited by the Tokugawa Government, Yamatonow was appointed to receive him, and thereafter rising gradually in the Russian service, he was ultimately appointed Inspector of Foreign Legations. At the time of the Restoration, when Prince Iwakura went as ambassador to Europe, he made the acquaintance of Yamatonow, and persuaded him to terminate his twenty years' service in Russia by returning to Japan. The Czar accepted Yamatonow's resignation, paid his travelling expenses home, and conferred on him a life-pension of three hundred roubles a year. On arriving in Japan, he changed his name to Masuda Kosai, and took up his residence in a small house in Shiba Park, where he lived the strict life of a Buddhist recluse, declining all offers of official appointment, and devoting the greater part of his money to his friends and relatives. Thus the *Hochi Shimbun*.

CHILDREN'S MAGAZINES.

IT is only the *Osaka Asahi Shimbun* that has a circulation at all commensurate with the size of the city in which it is published. And yet, even this progressive and well-edited sheet prints less that forty thousand copies. As Tokyo is about the size of Philadelphia, one might, at first sight, expect to find some daily with at least fifty or sixty thousand subscribers, particularly in consideration of the fact that the metropolitan press speaks with comparative authority, and that therefore a circulation of considerable magnitude might will be hoped for in the prinpal towns of the interior. This is, however, by no means the case. The *Jiji Shimpo, facile princeps* among the great newspapers of Tokyo, and undoubtedly the chief advertising medium, has an issue of very little over ten thousand. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, the Nestor of the Japanese press, and one of the prosiest of periodicals, cannot have more that seven thousand subscribers, if it has that many. All the rest of the *O Shimbun* fail to pass the ten thousand limit. On the other hand, the small fry or *Ko Shimbun*, teeming as they do with questionable stories and relying more on the exciting nature of the novelettes they publish than on the exactness of the news they purvey, sometimes have a circulation of twenty thousand copies, as in the case of the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*, while the *Kaishin Shimbun* and *Miyako Shimbun* are not far behind. These figures are nothing when compared with the those relating to one or two Children's Magazines. The *Sho Kokumin*, or "Little Nation," once had an unquestioned circulation of forty thousand—and was pecuniarily in hot water at the same-time. The *Yonen Zasshi*, or "Youth's Magazine," publishes twice a month fully twenty-five thousand copies; *Nippon no Shonen*, or "Young People of Japan," by far the most carefully and elegantly edited of all, has about fifteen thousand subscribers. There are several others of less importance, one of the most recent appearances being the *Ya-gaku*, or "Evening School," which, as its name implies, aims at instruction rather than amusement. The *Yonen Zasshi* and *Nippon no Shonen* are both published by the Hakubun Kwan, at once the most progressive and most cordially disliked (by other booksellers) of any publishing house in Japan. The contents of such children's Magazines are, even in the best cases, largely educational. A moiety of the short stories to be found therein are *verbatim* translations, illustrations included, from *St. Nicholas* and *Harper's Young People*. Prof. Tsubouchi, of the Semmon Gakko, one of the most facile and pleasing writers of the day, is a constant contributor to the *Nippon no Shonen*, as is also the well-known poet, Owada, who recently gave an excellent translation of Thomas Campbell's "Hohenlinden." The same magazine is also publishing a series of articles on Early English Literature; and now and then one of Charles Lamb's delightful "Essays of Elia," which, however skilfully rendered, lose something of their original interest when clothed in Japanese phrases. Descriptions of Icelandic and Swiss scenery, bits of European history, easy Chinese poems, sporting and hunter's tales, glimpses of Japanese history, and semi-fictitious stories founded upon some incident in the lives of the heroes of old, instruction in the elements of English speech, amusing anecdotes and tales of school-boy prowess, or of the tireless pursuit of knowledge under difficulties—these fill upon the body of the magazine. The *Sho Kokumin* makes a specialty of teaching the primary rules of physics and chemistry, accompanying the text with copious illustrations and detailed experiments which can easily be carried out. Specimen pages of caligraphy and daintily written poems are often published, as well as instruction in those bold, free-hand sketches which have given Hokusai his world-wide fame. The "Puzzle Department" is very meagre, drop-word poems, riddles, and a sort of word-square being the only representatives of this class. Sometimes there is a quaint-looking picture which, when properly deciphered, proves to be a combination of a number of Chinese characters and Japanese *Kana*, forming a short poem. Sly political hits also find their way between the covers of Children's Magazines, probably for the amusement of the adult generation. Specimens of needle-work for girls; eccentricities of kite-flying and novel shapes for kites; new games and descriptions of field-sports that are steadily growing more popular,—such are the contents of the leading magazines of Young Japan. And, taken as whole, they are far more pleasant reading and more carefully edited than any other Japanese periodical, and thus thoroughly deserve their popularity.

ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE *Keizai Zasshi* appears in the new rôle of an adviser to the Government and people of the United States concerning the restoration of the value of silver. Strictly speaking, says our contemporary, the value of silver has not depreciated, for the prices of commodities remain relatively steady in the silver-using countries of the East. Since 1887, prices have slightly risen, but the rise has been exceedingly small. Such being the case, the Tokyo periodical fails to see any reason why the United States should endeavour to displace silver from its rank as a medium of exchange. The perplexity is increased when we consider that the trans-Pacific Republic is one of the greatest silver-producing countries in the world. The *Keizai* gives statistics showing the steady decrease of the output of gold and the equally steady increase of the produce of silver in that country. Reference is also made to the gradual steps through which America has come to discontinue the coinage of silver. Elaborate statistics are then adduced to show that about one-fourth of all the silver in the world has hitherto been coined in the United States and also to illustrate the vastness of the effects which the suspension of silver coinage in America has produced upon the relative value of gold and silver. The effect of the policy pursued by the present Administration in the Republic has been, in the *Keizai's* opinion, simply to lower the prices of commodi-

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ties and cause a derangement of the economic system in general. What policy ought the United States Government, then, to pursue? In the opinion of the Tokyo journal, it ought, in the first place, to employ all the surplus in the Treasury (except the amount set apart for the issue of gold and silver certificates) for the purpose of redeeming public bonds. This measure would increase the volume of gold and silver money in circulation, and silver being money, a certain portion of gold would naturally become less needed, and would consequently depreciate in value. Secondly, the United States Government ought to stop the issue of gold certificates but continue to issue silver certificates,—a measure calculated to widen the sphere of the circulation of silver. Thirdly and lastly, it ought to prevail upon the French Government to put into circulation the gold accumulating in the national banks there, while, on its own part, the American Government should undertake the coinage of silver during a certain period of years to meet the requirements of increasing trade. Should these steps be adopted, the *Keizai* does not doubt that the ratio between gold and silver would again return to that of 1 to 16. Upon the recovery of the old ratio, the United States might restore the free coinage of silver, to the benefit of the world in general and of the United States in particular.

THE "HOKKAIDO."

THE increasing attention paid by the public to the colonization of Hokkaido has led to the establishment of a fortnightly journal in Tokyo, devoted to the dissemination of trustworthy information about the condition of things in the northern island, The name of the new periodical is *Hokkaido*, and its chief editor is Mr. Murao Motonaga, a well knowu authority on things pertaining to Yezo. No man has done more to make Hokkaido known to the people in the main island. In the opening article, the editor explains that the object of his journal is two-fold; namely, on the one hand, to furnish trustworthy information about Hokkaido to intending emigrants as well as to public men desiring to investigate the northern question, and, on the other, to let the people in Yezo know the opinions and sentiments entertained by the men in the South about Hokkaido. With such a purpose in view, it was thought convenient to publish the journal in Tokyo. The number before us contains the usual congratulatory letters from eminent persons, the principal among them being Prince Konoye, Baron Ozawa, Mr. Murata Tamotsu, Dr. Sato Shosuke, Director of the Sapporo Agricultural College, and so forth. In the columns of special contributions, we notice valuable articles by men like Professor Nitobe, of the Sapporo Agricultural College, Mr. Shiga, editor of the *Nippon-Jin*, and a few others. In the columns of "Queries and Answers," there are important facts concerning the cost of emigration and salmon fishing. The paper contains also interesting notes about the condition of various agricultural establishments and industrial enterprises in Hokkaido. To complete the enumeration of the contents, reference must be made to accounts of interviews with distinguished persons on the Hokkaido question, and special columns devoted to biographical sketches of early settlers in the northern island.

THE OLD SCARECROW.

WE observe that the ancient scarecrow periodically trotted out to alarm the foreign community has again been brought upon the scene. The public is asked to believe that Treaty Revision is again imminent, and that unless decisive measures be adopted, a serious result cannot be averted. This time the basis of the alarm is a letter "addressed to a Japanese by his friend in London," and published by the *Japan Gazette*, which journal says that the writer of the letter "has evidently access to the best sources of information on diplomatic affairs." Well, for our own part, we can assure the public on the most incontrovertible authority that every essential point about Treaty Revision advanced in the letter is absolutely untrue, and that the whole story about negotiations with Great Britain has no foundation in fact. In making this denial, we do not claim to have had access to any source of information that was not equally accessible to the *Japan Gazette*. But the conviction is reluctantly forced upon us that facts, even negative facts, are the last things sought by the *Japan Gazette*, and that to be furnished with them before compiling its articles would embarrass it painfully.

COUNT OKUMA.

THE *Kokkai* publishes an account of an interview which its representative recently had with Count Okuma at his Waseda residence. In response to his visitor's remarks on the repeated collisions between the Cabinet and the Opposition, the Progressionist leader is said to have observed that such collisions are unavoidable in a period of transition like that through which Japan is now passing in her endeavours to introduce a truly representative system of government. Until such a result is achieved, it will be necessary to face several more dissolutions of the Diet. As to the ultimate and complete victory of the Opposition over the Government, he does not seem to entertain the slightest doubt. The case, he says, is like two tigers fighting in a den; the quarrel will not be over until the stronger kills the weaker. Alluding to the dissolution of December last, the Count charges the Cabinet with cowardice and incapacity on the ground that the measure was taken while the House of Representatives had not yet expressed itself on the question at issue, nay, while there was a truce between it and the Government. Could such a measure be called courageous and decisive, then every conceivable step would deserve those epithets. A dissolution is the last measure to which the Cabinet can have recourse, and that the Ministers had to fall back on that measure, shows the degree of ability they possess. Count Okuma then goes on to speak of the expense of a general election, and expresses sympathy with those who have been forced to undergo the costly and troublesome process of competition in this cold season of the year.

* * *

His visitor then inquired his opinions on the subject of a Parliamentary versus an Imperial Cabinet. On this subject the Count has long been known to entertain opinions directly at variance with those of Count Ito the present Premier. What may his notions really be? In reply to that question, Count Okuma proceeded to speak as follows:—"My opposition to the system of Imperial Cabinets (*Teishitsu Naikaku*) dates back as early as when I left the Government in 1881. My opinions have not changed since that time. The expression Imperial Cabinet sounds well, but in reality it is nothing more or less than another name for a Cabinet resting upon the ascendency of the two clans of Satsuma and Choshu. It must be remembered that a constitutional form of Government has already been adopted, and that His Majesty has declared that all affairs of State should be conducted in consultation with and in obedience to public opinion. Which is likely to be the more trustworthy, the advice of a few high dignitaries about the Court or the public opinion of the people? The Constitution expressly provides that "the Emperor is sacred and inviolable." His Ministers must then be held responsible for the duty of giving good advice to the Emperor. Can they be said to have rightly discharged their responsibility, when they forfeit the confidence of the people and act contrary to public opinion? The so-called Imperial Cabinet can never be satisfactorily put into practice, neither is it consistent with the spirit of the Constitution and with the declarations of the Emperor already alluded to. A constitutional Government must necessarily be a parliamentary Government. The march of opinion in the world is irresistible. Look at Germany. In that country the system of Imperial Cabinets was formerly in vogue, but public opinion having steadily improved, the situation is now very different from what it was some years ago. In short, a system of Imperial Cabinets may be maintained, so long as public opinion approves it. But from the moment that public opinion begins to reject it, such a system can never endure." He then goes on to predict that before this century is ended, or at the latest in the early years of the 20th century, public opinion in the world will have completely thrown such a system over-board.

* * *

The *Kokkai's* representative then remarked that supposing Parliamentary Government to have been adopted, His Majesty would have to call to office men he had never met and whom he may not particularly like. How would His Majesty be reconciled to such a system? There ought, answered Count Okuma, to be no anxiety on that head. It is His Majesty's unalterable pleasure to consult in all things the wishes of the people, and to appoint his Ministers from among men enjoying the confidence of the people. His Majesty knows very well that, however enlightened and wise a sovereign may be, it is absolutely necessary for him to choose for his advisers men of proved honour and ability. And in making such a choice, it is safer to trust to public opinion than to the recommendations of a few officials about the Court. Then turning to the present political situation, the Count regretted to observe that the Administration is as completely paralyzed as the Tokugawa Government was in the last days of its existence. He hoped, however, that things would be mended ere long by a complete redistribution of political power. "People say that I am not on good terms with Ito. Personally there is no discord between us. Politically speaking, however, I can never join a Cabinet whose organization I cannot approve. I have not met with Ito for four or five years, but formerly we used to eat at the same table. A difference in political opinions like ours, can not be accommodated on account of personal relations. As to Shinagawa, I do not know him at all."

THE ALLEGORICAL ENAMEL VASES.

MANY of our readers will probably remember a colossal pair of vases and a censer of cloisonné enamel sent by Mr. Suzuki Shiroyemon, of Nagoya, to the Chicago Exhibition. They were described in these columns before they left Japan, being remarkable not only on account of their enormous dimensions, but also because a political allegory was woven into their decorative design. We read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that these three specimens have been sold for fourteen thousand dollars. Presumably the price is stated in gold, in which case it becomes twenty-four thousand *yen* approximately. This is said to be the largest price obtained for any Japanese exhibit at the Columbian exhibition. If so, the magnificent tapestry sent from Kyoto must have remained unsold, for its value was incomparably greater that than of Mr. Suzuki's cloisonnés. Indeed, we are surprised to learn that a purchaser was found for the latter. But happily tastes differ.

THE RE-ASSEMBLY OF THE DIET.

THE dissolution of the House of Representatives in 1892 took place on December 25th, and 19 days later, namely, on January 12th the general election was fixed for February 15th, being just 52 days from the time of dissolution. Seventy-six days later the Diet was convoked in Tokyo. Turning to the present case, we find that the sentence of dissolution went out on December 30th; that an interval of thirty days elapsed before the Edict was issued (29th January) fixing the date of the general election for March 1st. Thus between the general election and the day of dissolution there is a space of 59 days, against 52 days in 1893. One week's difference! Yet this pretty matter of a week has been made the basis of all kinds of charges, among them being the amusing assertion that the delay is a measure of the Cabinet's resolve to cling to office! The question now arises, on what day will the Diet re-assemble? Should the precedent of 1893 be followed, it will re-assemble on May 15th. But the *Jiji Shimpo* thinks that it will be May 20th. It must be before the end of May, according to

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law. Well, supposing that it is May 20th instead of May 15th. That is a difference of five days. Surely such a petty matter is not capable of being converted into a peg for hanging out a huge inference. Yes, but it is capable. The *Jiji Shimpo* finds that one of two deductions must be drawn: either the Government intends to issue an edict that will "startle and shake" (*odorokashi-ugokasu*) the whole empire, or there will be a change of Cabinet. What an inferential *Jiji*, to be sure! Very unlike that journal's usual sobriety and mental balance.

BIG MONKEYS.

THE following is taken from a Dutch paper:—Two enormous Pongoo monkeys, natives of Borneo, recently arrived in Brussels. They measured fully 1.60 and 1.70 mètres in height, and while one possessed a very human-like face and small ears, the other was distinguished by a ferocious animal expression and gigantic ears. They were captured in the interior of Borneo, where they inhabited a kind of hut, built high up in the trees. They appear to have seldom come to the ground, clambering and swinging from tree to tree in search of food, The natives accordingly felled the trees in the neighbourhood of the monkeys' hut, and in consequence the animals descended to the ground, where they were caught in a net of strong rope which had been placed around the trunk of their place of domicile. The monkeys fought desperately for liberty, and two lives were lost ere the ropes were bound around them. During the voyage to Europe both fell sick and refused to take any of the medicines proffered them. Finally the ship's surgeon hit upon a device. Taking a favourite fruit, he cut a small hole in the side, and gave it to the animals. At first they were suspicious and declined to eat it, but after a while, hunger compelled them to make a meal, and finding the hole contained nothing whatever, their fears were allayed. This stratagem was carried out for two or three days, the hole being gradually enlarged, till all suspicion had faded out of the monkeys' minds; then medicine was introduced into the hole in the shape of a powder. The unsuspecting animals ate the fruit and the powder too, and a speedy restoration to health followed. The monkeys both possess enormous strength and held their own easily in a tug against ten strong men. They were sold for 30,000 marks after a keen competition among wild animal buyers, and go to the Zoological Gardens at Leipsic.

BALL AT THE FRENCH LEGATION IN TOKYO.

ON the evening of the 5th instant, His Excellency the French Representative and Madame Sienkiewicz gave a reception at the French Legation in Tokyo. The salons were crowded, and the perfectly exercised hospitality of the popular host and hostess lent a special charm to the entertainment. The cotillon, which commenced after supper and continued until 4.25 a.m., with two intervals for a second and a third supper, was perhaps the most picturesque dance of the kind ever seen in Tokyo, the favours—procured specially from Paris—being of great variety and beauty, the leading faultless, the figures admirably conceived, and the spirit of the dancers indefatigable. Even at the French Legation a more enjoyable evening has never been experienced.

BRITISH JURY LIST.

A SPECIAL Court was held on Friday by His Honour, Judge Mowat, to revise the British Jury List for 1894. The only applicant for exemption was Mr. Wm. Bourne, No. 43, Bluff. In answer to His Honour, he said he asked for exemption on the score of age. His Honour, after perusing the Order in Council bearing on the subject, said that he did not find any maximum limit of age mentioned there. There was a minimum, all persons of 21 and upwards being entitled to serve. Mr. Bourne said he understood the previous Judge of that Court had held that persons over the age of 60 years were exempt; he was born on the 28th March, 1833, and therefore had reached that age. His Honour said that he was aware that that was the limit of age at home. Whether the authorities in drawing up the Order in Council supposed that all foreigners who came out here made fortunes and went home before they reached the age of 60 years; or whether they imagined that the older men got the wiser they became and therefore the more useful for serving upon juries, he could not tell; at any rate no limit was fixed. A similar application for exemption was made to him in China, and he had disallowed it. He had observed, however, that since then an application on the ground of age had been allowed over there. It was desirable that the practise of the two Courts should be alike, and therefore although he did not see that Mr. Bourne was entitled to exemption, he would hear his claim; but it was distinctly by reason of the precedent set in China. Mr. Bourne then testified on oath as to his age, and His Honour said:—"I will follow the precedent set in China and exempt you, but it is only on the score of the case that was so dealt with there." The applicant thanked his Honour, and the new jury list was signed.

THE G. O. M.

THESE lines are delicious—we take them from the *Spectator*:—

THE HAWARDEN HORACE.

I., XXXVIII.

Ad Cyrillum Flosculum.

Persicos odi, puer, apparatus,	Oriental flowers, my Cyril,
Displicent nexae philyra	(Save of language), I detest:
coronae;	Cull for me no costly orchid
Mitte sectari, rosa quo locorum	To adorn my blameless breast.
Sera moretur.	Nor essay to deck my raiment
	With the blushing English
	rose,
	For its brutal Saxon odour
	Aggravates my Scottish nose.
Simplici myrto nihil allabores	Me as Minister the fragrance
Sedulus curo: neque te minis-	Of the leek doth most arride,
trum	With the shamrock and the
Dedecet myrtus, neque me sub	thistle
arcta	In a triple posy tied:
Vite bibentem.	So, beneath my grand umbrella
	Firmly fixed on College Green,
	Let us deviate from duty
	In a deluge of poteen.

C. L. G.

THE JAPAN SOCIETY AND THE CHISHIMA-RAVENNA AFFAIR.

VERNACULAR newspapers report, on the authority of alleged telegraphic intelligence from England, that the issues involved in the *Chishima-Ravenna* law-suit at its present stage, especially the question of the status of the Inland Sea, are receiving much attention at the hands of the Japan Society, and that, through the exertions of the Society, the English public is becoming keenly interested in the matter. The lady members of the Society, it is added, are conspicuously active in espousing Japan's cause. That is very pretty and very graceful on the part of the lady members, but unfortunately there are no lady members.

WHOLESALE DISTRAINT.

A HUNDRED and ninety householders of Nango Division in Shizuoka Prefecture have been officially distrained for payment of local taxes. There is no question of their ability to pay; it is all a matter of reluctance engendered by discontent. A recent change of Divisional boundaries displeased the inhabitants, and they declined to meet the demands of the tax-collector since that would have been to endorse, by implication, the act of the Authorities. The latter, of course, declined to be thus turned from their purpose, and an execution was finally put into the hundred and ninety houses forming the Division. Appeal has been made by the aggrieved folks to the Home Minister.

OSAKA WATERWORKS.

TENDERS have been invited both from Japanese and foreign firms for pipes for the Osaka Waterworks, the authorities having issued specifications for cast-iron pipes of 3½, 5, 6, and 12 inches diameter, amounting in the total to 3,558.72 tons. The tenders have to be in the hands of the Osaka City Council by the 21st inst.

JAPANESE COAL IN INDIA.

THE following extract from an Indian exchange has great interest for Japanese coal-mine owners:—"Japanese coal is beginning to attract considerable attention. A recent shipment received in Bombay has been tried and is very well spoken of, and it is announced that telegraphic instructions have been received for its shipment to England. This is literally taking coals to Newcastle! The Japanese coal is nearly 50 per cent. cheaper than Welsh coal landed at Bombay, and its consumption only 8½ per cent. higher, so that, if it keeps up its quality, it should have a future before it in these days of strikes."

MR. J. N. TATA.

THE other evening, says a London paper, a farewell dinner was given at the Reform Club to Mr. J. N. Tata, of Bombay, the prime mover and organiser of the new line of steamers between India, China, and Japan. Mr. Jeremiah Lyon (Mr. Tata's representative here) presided, and among those present were Lord Reay, Sir Wm. Wedderburn, M.P., N. N. Bhournuggree, C.S.I., Mr. Alderman W. Vaughan Morgan, Mr. N. G. Soper, J.P., Mr. W. B. Jameson, of Bombay, Mr. George Jameson, of Colombo, Mr. A. Lyon and Mr. J. S. Walker (of J. Lyon & Co.), and Mr. R. J. Turner (of Weddel, Turner & Co.).

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

THE latest story about the Bank of England, says a home paper, is that its authorities contemplate the employment of female clerks—"Young Ladies of Threadneedle-street," as the obvious joke goes. The experiment appears to be well worth trying. The young ladies could probably do the work as well as their brothers, and they would not be subjected to the temptation, which has proved so fatal in the Post Office, of being impertinent to the public. In any case, they could hardly think more of their position, or express the opinion more clearly, than does the average male clerk of the Bank.

THE PACIFIC MAIL.

THE Pacific Mail Steamship Company has withdrawn the steamer *San Blas* from its way-port run between Acapulco, Mexico, and Panama, says a San Francisco journal, and the steamer *City of Sydney* will not return to the Panama route but will probably be used as a substitute for the lost *City of New York* between San Francisco and China. The *San Blas* will be put on the through run to Panama. Captain Seabury will probably take charge of the *Sydney*, should she be sent to the Orient. The vessel is a sister ship to the wrecked *City of New York*.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE IN ITALY.

THE telegraph says that Count Antonelli has been appointed Under-Secretary of State in Italy. The Count is a nephew of the celebrated Cardinal. He enjoys a high reputation in his own country, and owes much popularity to the fact that his counsels and exertions are credited with having given the initiative to the movement which won for Italy her Red Sea settlements.

THE YOKOHAMA WATERWORKS.

THERE appears to be some discontent among the Japanese residents of Yokohama about the management of the Waterworks. We read in the *Yomiuri Shimbun* that 127 of them have presented a document containing twenty questions to Mr. Watanabe, President of the Town Assembly.

NAVAL ORGANIZATION.

THE *Kokkai* says that a Naval Squadron, which has hitherto consisted of six ships only, will henceforth contain eight, two of which are to be reserve vessels, their special duty being to protect Japanese life and property in the districts where the squadron of which they form a part is stationed.

VISCOUNT KAWASE.

VISCOUNT KAWASE, Japanese Minister to England, arrived at Shimbashi at 10.10 a.m. on the 4th inst. Count Inouye, Home Minister, and the officials of the Foreign Office, were at the station to receive him.

SANITARY BUREAU.

MR. TAKATA ZENKICHI, Secretary of Hiroshima *Ken*, is gazetted Chief Commissioner of the Sanitary Bureau in the Home Office, his former position being taken by Mr. Seki Shingo, ex-Secretary of Niigata *Ken*.

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MISAPPREHENSIONS.

IT is in the interests of the public that the truth should be known about Japanese jurisdiction and what submission to it involves. That conviction induces us to notice some very misleading statements contained in the *Japan Gazette* of the 1st instant. The public is informed by that journal that if foreigners were placed under Japanese jurisdiction, "policemen would be able to enter houses without a warrant." The statement is baseless. A policeman in Japan may not enter any private house without a warrant, or without the consent of the householder. In that respect Japan is on precisely the same footing as England or France. The XXVth Article of the Japanese Constitution says:—"Except in the cases provided for in the law, the house of no Japanese subject shall be entered or searched without his consent." This Article secures for Japanese subjects just the same inviolability of domicile as British subjects enjoy, and the provision is strictly observed in practice.

The *Japan Gazette* next writes:—"Men could be cast into prison on suspicion and only liberated when the Authorities chose to consider their innocence established." This assertion is scarcely less incorrect than the former. The XXIIIrd Article of the Constitution says:—"No Japanese subject shall be arrested, detained, tried, or punished, unless according to law." The Constitution, therefore, provides explicity against the very abuse which the *Japan Gazette* describes as one of the features of Japanese jurisdiction. It is true that political exigencies have necessitated the issue of a law called the "Peace Preservation Regulations." Under the provisions of these Regulations political agitators in Japan may be treated as political agitators were treated in Ireland by the British Government a few years ago. But we do not imagine that any journalist could be sufficiently disingenuous to pretend that a piece of exceptional and temporary legislation applicable only to political agitators, can be construed as typical of the administrative system of a country whose Constitution contains the Article quoted above.

The *Japan Gazette's* third misconception is this:—"Police censors would be able to enter a foreign newspaper office and suspend it and send the editor and publisher to jail without trial. By Article XIX. of the Newspaper Regulations a newspaper can be suspended and no reasons given except that the authorities consider it prejudicial to good order, and the editor be sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, the so-called 'facts' of the public procurator over-riding all objections of the unfortunate editor, especially under Art. XXXII., by which the police can construe almost any criticism into a crime." Here again we have an entirely baseless assertion, except in so far as concerns the suspension of a newspaper. Suspension is the only penalty that can be inflicted on a Japanese newspaper without due recourse to the Courts of Law and to public trial. The Minister of State for Home Affairs has power to order the suspension of a journal, merely on the ground that he considers its writing prejudicial to public peace and good order. But neither he nor the police have power to impose a fine of so much as a *sen* on a journalist, or to sentence him to even a minute's imprisonment. If his offence be deemed worthy of criminal punishment, worthy of fine or imprisonment, he must be arraigned before a judicial tribunal, like any other offender against the law of the land, and he can then be defended by counsel and can plead his cause, in accordance, with the XXIVth Article of the Constitution, which says:—"No Japanese subject shall be deprived of his right of being tried by the judges determined by law." If these fundamental principles of Japanese Jurisdiction were unknown to the *Japan Gazette* when it undertook to tabulate the "grievances under which foreigners would labour" were they subjected to that Jurisdiction, surely our contemporary might have recalled some of the cases recorded since 1887—the date of the promulgation of the revised Press Regulations—where Japanese editors and publishers of newspapers were cited before Courts of Law by a Public Procurator for alleged offences punishable under the Regulations by fine or imprisonment. Why should a Public Procurator go to the trouble of appealing to a Law Court if the police possessed power "to send an editor and publisher o jail without trial"? And if neither those reminiscences or this inference occurred to the *Japan Gazette*, is it too much to expect that our contemporary might have remembered instances where it has itself pronounced editorial approval of Law Courts for refusing to sentence either to fine or to imprisonment editors and publishers arraigned by the police? If the police possessed power "to send an editor and publisher to jail without trial," how did it happen that in these instances, which evoked the *Japan Gazette's* applause, that power could not be exercised without the preliminary of a trial at law, and how did it happen that the accused journalists escaped all punishment because, after trial, the Law Courts declined to condemn them? The public is certainly justified in expecting a little more accuracy both of knowledge and memory than our contemporary displays in this matter.

Our purpose in making the above corrections is not in any sense controversial. We simply desire that the public should not be misled about a subject of vital interest. But we may note, *en passant*, that of the four cardinal objections to Japanese jurisdiction presenting themselves to the *Japan Gazette*, the above, which we have shown to be explicitly contrary to the letter of the law and opposed to recorded facts, constitute three. The fourth is this:—"Women would be mere chattels, to be divorced for offending the husbands' parents, for incompatibility, and for several other trivial causes." Now, supposing this version of the Japanese law of divorce to be correct—which it is not—supposing it to be correct, however, what are we to say of the contention that foreigners should be excluded from Japanese jurisdiction lest they might be tempted to treat their wives with unfaithfulness? Such an argument involves the confession that we do not divorce our wives now simply because a legal pretext for doing so is difficult to discover, but that if only the law were more complacent, the poor dames would be sent packing *instanter*. Surely that is not the true measure of our conjugal morality, yet among the *Japan Gazette's* "grievances under which foreigners would labour," it is the only one that possesses even a shadow of substantiality. Usually we have been warned against Japanese Jurisdiction because of the restraints it would impose, hypothetically, upon our personal freedom, but we are now warned against it because of the license into which we should be betrayed by its laxity. Be that as it may, however, the sum total of the case is this, that four reasons are adduced by the *Japan Gazette* as cardinal objections to Japanese jurisdiction; that of the four three are proved to be wholly chimerical, and that the fourth has no value except on the supposition that the law alone keeps foreigners faithful to their wives.

A HISTORY WHICH VAINLY REPEATS ITSELF.

WE observe that Mr. THOMAS R. VAN BUREN, formerly well-known in Yokohama as the son of Consul-General VAN BUREN, is taking a leading part in the latest movement of New York citizens against the notorious Tammany organization. He presided at the first great mass-meeting in which the order of battle was promulgated, and made a resolute and courageous address, pledging himself unequivocally to the cause of honest government in the American metropolis. Mr. VAN BUREN is remembered as a sturdy fighter in the field of athletic sportsmanship, and his right arm could always be trusted to do good service in base-ball contests. It is to be hoped that he will not be found wanting in the more serious campaign to which he has now devoted himself. It should be borne in mind, however, that he has enlisted in a warfare which has always proved disastrous, in the end, to the side of honesty, morality, and public decency. Over and again the citizens of New York have risen in wrath and might with the declared purpose of overthrowing the political monstrosity known as Tammany,

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which has for fifty years controlled the administration of the city and a large part of the State of New York, but on every occasion, although temporary successes have been won, the power built up by corruption and terrorism has ultimately conquered. Men may come and men may go, but Tammany, serene and confident in its sway over the basest and most ignoble qualities of human nature, goes on forever. Repeated exposures of its crimes count for nothing. The discovery, twenty-five years ago, that TWEED and his fellow-bandits had robbed the community of fifty millions or more, and the incarceration of the principal malefactor in a state prison, had scarcely a perceptible effect in checking the triumphant course of the iniquitous system. TWEED *est mort, vive* KELLY, was the cry; and when KELLY died, the succession fell to DICK CROKER, who now sits enthroned in the Fourteenth-street palace, dispensing the bounty stolen from the municipal treasury, ruling the great body of public officials with a brazen sceptre, and scoffing at the occasional struggles of his victims to free themselves from the yoke which he and his partners have fastened upon them. It is a pitiable spectacle;—the entire populace of one of the first cities of the world held in political bondage by a gang of lawless adventurers who govern neither by intellect nor integrity, but merely by a species of brute force, and with the rapacity of the tiger which is the emblem of their organization. What will be the outcome of the uprising in which Mr. VAN BUREN appears as a standard-bearer, no one can foretell, though the experience of the past warrants but few hopes of a permanent amendment. Tammany is there, and it means to stay. It is in earnest, and holds to its purposes with a tenacity which nothing, thus far, has shaken; whereas its assailants, though fully capable of defeating it in open conflict, seem unequal to the task of securing the legitimate fruits of victory. After each engagement they throw down their arms, abandon the strongholds they have captured, and leave the way absolutely clear for the return of the army of plunder and pillage, and the restoration of its chiefs to almost unlimited power. It may be that this present onslaught is inspired by a more lasting determination, and that something better may come of it than the ridiculous *non sequiturs* of previous years; but outside observers may be pardoned for remaining incredulous until some stable and enduring reform shall have been achieved.

He (humbly, after being accepted):—"I know I am not worthy of you! Tell me, my beautiful darling, what you saw in such a plain sort of fellow to—— Do you know, I was dreadfully afraid you were going to refuse me!" She: "I did intend to—but you know my weakness. I never could resist a bargain, and when you proposed you did look so awfully cheap! How could I let you go?

THE PARIS AND THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITIONS

COMPARISONS between the Paris and the Columbian Expositions are now the order of the day. It seems that the average Chicagoan is unwilling to admit that there can be any doubt as to the overwhelming lead of the Chicago Fair at all points; that is a state of mind rendering it difficult to argue with him on any topic where opinions have room to differ. But the figures of attendance are plain and palpable data, and it is on just this one point that the expectations of the Chicagoans seemed destined to at least a partial disappointment. It will be worth while to notice the relative standing of the two Expositions in the matter of attendance. Accurate statistical information upon the attendance at the Paris Exposition of 1889 (the only one that rivals the Columbian) has been obtainable only recently in the shape of an official report issued by M. ALFRED PICARD, on behalf of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. The figures of the Chicago attendance have been published from day to day.

To begin with, the Paris enterprise, in the figures of total paid attendance, is apparently hopelessly ahead of the Chicago undertaking. The former foots up, 28,149,353; the latter, only 21,477,212. On the face of the returns a lead is shown of 6,672,141. But this is one of the cases where figures undoubtedly do lie. For purposes of demonstration it is necessary to explain the financial arrangements at the two places; for they differed assentially in two features.

In Chicago, first, one ticket represented one visitor, that is, no more than one ticket was required for admission at any time during the Fair; second, the tickets were sold directly to the visitors by Exposition officials and (until the last few weeks) a ticket was good only on the day of purchase. In Paris, however, all this was different. The directorate, long before the opening, issued bonds with (in all) 30,000,000 tickets attached, thus practically placing the whole number at once upon the market. The tickets were then peddled out in various ways by the first investors, the nominal price being one franc, but the market price ruling from nine-tenths to three-tenths of a franc. Thus, the money for the whole number was already in the hands of the Exposition authorities before the day of opening. The authorities, however, had reserved the right to determine, within certain limits, the number of single tickets required for the admission of a single visitor. Thus, on ordinary days, one ticket only was required from each person for admission between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., but two tickets between 8 and 10 a.m., and two tickets after 6 p.m. On the opening day three tickets were required between 8 and 6 o'clock, and five tickets after 6 o'clock. On special festal days, in particular after 6 p.m., five tickets were required; and on the day when the Shah of PERSIA and the diplomatic corps attended one had to give ten tickets after 6 p.m. The problem is, then, to find the total number of actual paying visitors. That, however, is what no record shows with exactness. To begin with, the total number of admissions upon single tickets was 22,576,878. To this must be added one half of 1,742,130—the number of tickets taken when two for one person were required—or 871,065. Finally out of the 3,439,926 tickets taken when three, five, or ten were required for one visitor, an average must be struck; and if we take four as a fair divisor, we have 827,491 persons represented. The remaining 400,000 odd out of the 280,000,000 went to various classes of exhibitors and represented some 100,000. Thus the approximate number of persons paying for admission was 24,375,434, or 2,898,222 more than at Chicago.

Speculation as to the allowances necessary to be made on either side in order to determine on the whole which is the greater achievement, is hardly useful; because there is a good deal to be said on both sides. The Chicago Exposition had against it, as its journals are never tired of repeating, the unprecedented financial distress prevailing in the United States; the short-sighted and unpardonable niggardliness of the railroads in refusing substantial reductions of rates; the persistant indifference and even misrepresentation of the press of the Atlantic States; and the untoward weather of May and June. But the Paris Exposition had equal drawbacks, not least of which was the fact that the bulk of the European population has no money to spend on Expositions and is by no means so ready as are Americans to pack up and travel to a distant metropolis. The sufficient fact is that more people paid to see the Paris Exposition than the one at Chicago.

This allowance, however, must in fairness be made. The Chicago management was much more liberal in giving out passes to exhibitors than was the Paris management. At Paris, for instance, only exhibitors themselves were allowed passes; but at Chicago all the regular assistants of exhibitors were allowed to enter free on passes. The total number of free admissions at Paris we do not know: at Chicago it was 6,052,188. This would seem to leave a margin of from one to two millions in favour of Chicago, to be deducted from Paris' excess of paid admissions, to make a fair comparison. Perhaps we may say that this reduces the fair actual excess of the Paris paid attendance to between one and two millions.

Taking the attendance by months (that of Paris approximated) the singularity appears that in Chicago, as at Philadelphia, the attendance by slow gradations reached its maximum in the closing month;

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while at Paris the attendance fell off towards the close. Thus:—

	PARIS.	CHICAGO.
May	2,208,045 (25 days)	1,050,037
June	3,786,529	2,675,113
July	4,037,669	2,760,263
August	4,529,619	3,515,593
September	4,843,839	4,658,902
October	4,571,029	
November	1,421,879 (6 days)	

One reason for this was the reduction of fares by the railroads towards the end of the season; another was perhaps the reputation of Chicago for hot weather in summer, a reputation which it certainly does not deserve.

But one of the most interesting indications of the figures is that it was the Continental Sunday that placed the total Paris record in advance of the Chicago record. One may say that but for the Sunday of the Puritans the Paris figures would have been exceeded. It is of course not at all a matter of the restraint of the law, for even after the injunction was issued (in August) for keeping open the grounds on Sunday, the attendance was only meagre. Each month has the same showing, but that of September will suffice as a type:—

	PARIS.	CHICAGO.
Sept. 1	233,702 (Sunday)	126,778
Sept. 2	153,324	148,560
Sept. 3	140,529	25,950 (Sunday).
Sept. 4	127,049	160,382
Sept. 5	135,098	144,706
Sept. 6	144,730	175,409
Sept. 7	137,873	203,460
Sept. 8	307,106 (Sunday)	180,746
Sept. 9	210,774	231,522
Sept. 10	176,441	36,038 (Sunday).
Sept. 11	158,122	160,128
Sept. 12	140,616	167,108
Sept. 13	138,743	162,291
Sept. 14	135,777	196,700
Sept. 15	269,327 (Sunday)	157,737
Sept. 16	184,217	202,376
Sept. 17	162,819	41,245 (Sunday).
Sept. 18	143,788	152,586
Sept. 19	135,323	174,905
Sept. 20	111,760	180,587
Sept. 21	97,916	199,174
Sept. 22	187,815 (Sunday)	170,559
Sept. 23	138,657	215,643
Sept. 24	133,177	36,415 (Sunday).
Sept. 25	128,693	180,967
Sept. 26	143,116	195,210
Sept. 27	128,683	196,423
Sept. 28	108,366	175,931
Sept. 29	307,515 (Sunday)	151,513
Sept. 30	122,783	107,853

The total attendance on the five Paris Sundays footed up nearly 1,300,000; while the four Chicago Sundays brought scarcely 140,000. A similar proportion holds for the other months. The lack of attendance, to be sure, is not to be attributed entirely, or even in great part, to greater strictness on the part of the community in observing Sunday by fasting from the Exposition; but to the genuine Yankee thrift which wants to get its full half-dollar's worth of enjoyment when it does go; for the majority of the exhibitors covered their exhibits on Sunday and no machinery was going, so that the general feeling was that it was not worth while to pay full price to see a fraction of the show. Moreover, the exhibitors closed their exhibits chiefly because of the extra expense required to keep them open for an extra day. However it may be, the excess of the Paris attendance is more than made up by its high figures of Sunday admissions.

But in the records of single days Chicago has attained its ambition; it can boast one day on which the attendance was nearly twice as great as on any single day at Paris. The highest attendance in Paris was 387,877, October 13th, and the next highest 370,354, the closing day. At Chicago the highest figure was that of Chicago Day (Oct. 9th), 716,881.

This is the one bright jewel of glory which the Chicago editors are able to claim on the score of attendance; for both in days of over 200,000 attendance (29), and in days of over 300,000 attendance (7), Paris makes the better score, leaving Chicago behind with 25 and 4 respectively.

It is interesting to notice the occasions which at Chicago brought forth the greatest attendances. The highwater mark was reached on October 9th, "Chicago Day," when Chicago rose and went *en masse* to the Fair, when local patriotism grew hoarse and weak with joy, when the country towns for 100 miles out of Chicago were nearly denuded of their inhabitants by the metropolitan festival, when the 650 acres of the Exposition were so crowded with humanity that personal volition for purposes of locomotion was absolutely incapable and ineffective. The overflow of the country Reubeus and Rachels was so great that the next two days were two of the largest on record over 300,000 each. Then came the Fourth of July, in order of attendance, with 283,000, celebrated as "United States Day." "Manhattan Day" (New York), "Illinois Day," "California Day," "Polish Day," "Iowa Day," "Indiana Day," "Odd Fellows' Day," "British Day," "Cymrodorian Day" (Wales), "German Day,"—all these celebrations attracted special crowds and give the distant reader some idea of the influences and ideas that predominated among the multitudes thronging the city this summer.

THE SUNG-PU MASSACRE.

THE despatches that passed between the Doyen of the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking and the *Tsung-li Yamên* up to the 7th of September are now published. From them we learn that this lamentable affair is by no means settled. The Swedish Consul-General, negotiating directly with the Viceroy CHANG CHIH-TUNG, came to an agreement that an indemnity should be paid to the relatives of the murdered men, that the ringleaders of their assailants should be duly punished, and that after a time the mission should be re-established at Sung-pu. We recapitulate these terms in common justice to Mr. Consul-General BOCK. From the first that official, as it seems to us, has been treated with great and undeserved harshness. Even after the conditions of his agreement with the Viceroy CHANG had been published, the foreign press of Shanghai persisted in declaring that he had been content with a pecuniary indemnity, and had treated the capital punishment of the murderers with virtual indifference. Our own information did not bear out that statement of the case, and in the despatches now published we find confirmation of our version, for the Ministers of the *Tsung-li Yamên*, in their despatch, state that three of the rioters have already been arrested, and that vigorous punishment will be meted out to the miscreants. We observe, however, that in commenting upon the despatches, the newspapers which accused Mr. BOCK of such a serious dereliction of duty take no notice of the vindication his conduct indirectly receives from the documents. This by the way, however. The point of vivid interest is that the Foreign Representatives have preferred a charge of culpable negligence, and have demanded, and reiterated their demand, that the negligent officials be "severely punished," whereas the Ministers of the *Yamên* deny any official culpability, and consequently decline to take any punitory measures. They tell a curious story, do these dispatches. The case for China, as stated in them, has much strength. We read there that the ill-fated missionaries, despite repeated remonstrances from the local officials, insisted on going, for purposes of propagandism, to a district never before thus visited, and that when, in the opinion of the officials, grave danger threatened, the missionaries nevertheless refused to remove temporarily to a position where effective protection could have been afforded them. These points have already been urged in extenuation of the massacre. But a new contention appears in the *Yamên's* despatch. The missionaries are there charged with having engaged on their own account the services of a guard to protect them, and of having used this guard in a manner proximately responsible for the tragedy. Here is the *Yamên's verbatim* account of what occurred:—

> Unexpectedly, after the festival was over, on the 1st of July, some villagers who were passing the door of the house occupied by the missionaries desired to enter and see the place, when the missionaries called the guard whom they had employed, who seized four men, bound them and took them out of the back entrance, and by a round-about way escorted them to the city. When the villagers demanded their release, they were not to found; and this led to the suspicion that they were dead, which had the effect of exciting the angry feelings of the people, who began to shower stones in a most violent and determined manner at the missionaries, which caused their death.

Is this true, or should it be regarded as a mere fabrication? It is quoted by the *Yamên* from a telegraphic communication addressed to Peking by the Viceroy CHANG, and is presumably entitled to credit on the strength of his *imprimatur*. But the Foreign Representatives evidently have little faith in it, for they reply thus:—

> The statement that the two foreigners had guards employed and that these guards arrested some villagers and the people became incensed thereby is one of which we have no information. While we are absolutely ignorant of this alleged fact, it appears to us so extraordinary and contrary to the attitude of these poor missionaries, who allowed themselves to be slaughtered without

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even attempting to defend themselves, that we cannot admit the existence and the intervention of these guards to whom the poverty of the missionaries, and especially their principles forbade them to have recourse.

The *Yamén*, however, has its answer ready:—

As to the point concerning the employment of guards by the missionaries, after the affair was over these men (the guards) came forward and admitted in evidence that they were so employed—it was not a fabrication of mere words without proof. Though these missionaries were poor, still at the time, they took with them a number of converts of Huangpi, in Hanyang. And if it happens that missionaries are assisted financially by converts it should not be regarded as strange.

There, then, this incident rests. Foreigners, constitutionally sceptical about Chinese statements, and correspondingly credulous as to Chinese capacity for manufacturing evidence, will doubtless be disposed to deny that the unhappy missionaries ever employed any guards. One thing is certain, namely, that if they did employ guards, these men disappeared effectually and unaccountably at the precise moment when their services were most required, and left the helpless missionaries to be battered to death by a furious mob.

It will be seen from the above extracts that the tone of the despatches is emphatically acute. In truth, we do not remember to have ever read in any diplomatic communication sterner language than that employed by the Foreign Representatives in their second note to the *Yamén*. The Chinese Ministers, in their despatch, embodied, and apparently endorsed, the Viceroy CHANG'S statement that "the missionaries were wrong and created the trouble," and added on their own account this verdict:—"The action taken by the officials of Hupeh, high and low, in this matter has been befitting and proper." The Foreign Representatives replied in words which we cannot choose but quote in full:—

The riot which resulted in the murder of the two Swedes lasted several hours. It commenced in the morning and terminated after two o'clock. During all this time no hand was raised to protect them. It is a matter of surprise and regret that in view of the plain facts of this revolting case, your Highness and your Excellencies permit yourselves to say:—"The action taken by the officials of Hupeh, high and low, in this case has been befitting and proper." If the highest authority in China can deliberately applaud the conduct of officials who did not raise a hand to prevent the murder of two foreigners, then the only hope of protection remaining for the foreigners, in spite of the Imperial Edict, is to protect themselves. We shall feel it to be our duty to inform our respective governments so. We brush aside as irrelevant the various excuses brought forward to screen guilty officials.

We cannot admit that the local magistrates do their whole duty when they inform foreigners that there is danger in remaining in particular localities, and desire them to leave and go elsewhere. Their duty is to afford protection when they are able to do so. If they can escape the performance of this duty by simply advising foreigners to leave, it is to be apprehended that few, if any, foreigners would be suffered to remain anywhere outside the treaty ports.

The activity and energy of the officials are always displayed in putting down any riots which are directed against the government, why cannot these qualities be shown in preventing the murder of foreigners by mobs? It is difficult to avoid the belief that these oft-recurring riots are not reprehended by the officials, but are, on the other hand, encouraged. The energy and ability of the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung are known of all men; yet it is in the two provinces under his control that almost incessant attacks on foreigners take place. Why is this?

Your Highness and your Excellencies say:—"Mr. Consul-General Bock is familiar with the circumstances of the case, hence there is no need to go into any discussion about it here." The Foreign Representatives have no desire to intrude on the particular sphere of duty of Consul-General Bock. All men know that the populace does not distinguish between the nationalities of foreigners. Riots are never directed against persons of one nationality only, but they are directed against all foreigners alike. Each case is a precedent for other disorders. Unless prompt punishment be awarded to negligent officials the populace will believe that the crimes are encouraged, or at least winked at by the officials.

We have made representations to Your Highness and Your Excellencies in this matter, because we believe that unless crimes against foreigners are punished when they occur, there will be no adequate safety for foreigners in China. We have so acted in the interests of China as well as in that of our own nations.

The Foreign Representatives renew their demand that the officials who failed to do their duty at Sung-pu, and the ringleaders of the mob, be severely punished.

After such a despatch, it is not to be supposed that there will be any "variableness or shadow of changing" on the part of the Foreign Representatives. They mean to stand to their guns, and since their target is the "exemplary punishment of all the officials, high and low, who failed to obey the Imperial Decree above cited, and who by their culpable negligence have permitted this atrocious crime to be committed," a great deal of shooting will be required to reach it. The Chinese Ministers, however, do not seem to take the matter very seriously. They quietly inform the Foreign Representatives that, "as to the expression regarding the officials encouraging the rioters, this would appear to be closely approaching to an unwarranted accusation; though they leave themselves a loophole of escape by asserting—quite incorrectly as it seems to us—that they did not themselves in their despatch applaud the action of the officials concerned, but only transmitted representations made by the Viceroy CHANG. Of course, if the Foreign Representatives remain a resolute unit, China must yield, and the publication of the correspondence seems to indicate that they intend to be firm. It is plainly a case of sufficient importance to justify the somewhat lengthy reference we have made to it here.

M. WADDINGTON.

M. WADDINGTON, the eminent French Statesman, died at Paris on the 15th of January. By his death the world has lost a great man, a loss which to England is little less than to his own countrymen. Scarcely a year has elapsed since he resigned the Ambassadorship he had continuously filled for over ten years, remaining in England in that capacity for a longer period than any of his predecessors since the days of the first NAPOLEON. During that period it was his fortune to take part in the discussion of many important questions that arose between the two countries, and in each and all of them his action, so far as publicly known, was characterized by tact and firmness and won invariably unstinted praise and admiration from the London Press. His departure from London, universally regretted, evoked every possible public manifestation of esteem and good wishes for the future, which the people of England and their chosen representatives invariably and ungrudgingly bestow upon men, whatever their nationality, whose merit and services deserve such recognition.

M. WADDINGTON was born in Paris on the 11th of December, 1826, and was therefore, at the time of his death, in his 68th year. His grand-father was an English cotton manufacture who established a large factory at Rouen, still in existence, and whose son subsequently became a naturalised Frenchman. The late Ambassador, who followed his father's adopted nationality, received his early education at the Lycée de St. Louis, in Paris, but while still a boy was removed to Rugby, where he was for a long time a pupil during the famous headmastership of Dr. ARNOLD. He subsequently entered at Trinity College, Cambridge, and on graduating in 1849, took a first class in classics and the Chancellor's medal, one of the highest honours that the University bestows. Both at Rugby and at Cambridge he played a very prominent part in athletics, being distinguished at football, and pulling No. 6 in the University crew which won the boat race in 1849. To the last he maintained unimpaired the strong interest which, in his youth, he had taken in these pursuits, keenly watching their marked development during recent years in France, and using his best efforts to promote the success of the international contests between French and English oarsmen on the Seine and the similar football contests in England. Speaking himself of the part he had played in life, and especially of his services while Ambassador in England, he said that he found, while in England, that though occasionally described as the scholar, the statesman, the ex-senator and Prime Minister, no opportunity was ever lost of referring to the great incident in his life—his *palma nautica*—the fact that he had taken an active part in an inter-university boat race. He returned to France, on the completion of his education, a thorough Englishman in appearance, pursuits, and tastes, but he was at the same time always thoroughly and loyally devoted to the country of his birth. During his early years in France he applied himself to the study of antiquities and numismatics, and in the latter fascinating science he became one of the leading recognised authorities, though at the moment we cannot recall any of his writings in regard to it. In 1865, he was elected to membership of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Letres. His political life commenced in 1871, when he was returned to the National Assembly as deputy for Aisne, a department to the north-west of

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Paris, in which he had purchased an estate where his home continued to be till his death. In 1876, he became senator for the department, and in the same year Minister for Foreign Affairs, and in the following year he represented his country as Plenipotentiary at the historical Congress in Berlin. In 1879, he became President of the Council, or Prime Minister, under the Presidency of M. GREVY, and after having, in the meantime, represented France at the coronation of the CZAR, he came to London as Ambassador in 1883, an appointment which was welcomed in England from the first, and which subsequently more than fulfilled all the highest expectations entertained with reference to it. Of the esteem which he won from the English nation, while occupying that post, he said that he regarded it as superior to any honour that he might receive, from whatever quarter it came. Like Mr. GLADSTONE, he never allowed politics to so entirely absorb his time as to leave none for the literary and scientific pursuits in which he won his early fame, and speaking in London of the refuge which he had found in such pursuits from the cares and vexations necessarily incidental to the life of a politician in a country ruled by a constitutional government, he said :—

With regard to my classical studies, which date from far back, when I was at Trinity College, Cambridge, I would strive to remind political men what an advantage it is among the hazards, the ups and downs, of political life, to be able to turn to those faithful friends, classical studies, in some shape or other, whether that of numismatics or of archæology, or of ancient geography, or simply of some dear classical book. It is the fate of most political men—I may say of all—it has been my fate three times to be suddenly turned out of a Ministry, and freed from great activity, responsibility, and absorbing interests. Then it is very difficult to avoid a certain discontent, a certain angry feeling, one, I may almost say, of revenge, against those who have turned you out. At such times you have no idea what a source of contentment and peace of mind a really absorbing literary or classical or scientific pursuit is to a fallen politician. I have experienced it more or less in my own life, only the classical or scientific pursuit must not be a mere plaything. It must be in a *bonâ fide* manner, one that absorbs and interests. I do not think that there is any solace or consolation like that given by a dearly-loved study.

There is only one more fact which we need mention. It was an ancestor, in the direct line, of the Prime Minister of France and Ambassador in London that concealed CHARLES the Second in the oak at Boscobel, and his descendants for many generations received a pension for that service from the British Government.

THE PRO-MIXED RESIDENCE SOCIETY.

THE Pro-Mixed Residence Society seems to be a mystery. It was at first reported that the movement owed its in itiative to the efforts of Mr. HOSHI and the leaders of the Radical Party. Some papers devoted to the anti-Mixed Residence cause went so far as to suggest that the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs were involved. What is strange about the Society is that, although its rules and a sort of manifesto setting forth its objects, have been published, all information has been withheld concerning the personality of its promoters. The publication of their names would have been the first thing resorted to under ordinary circumstances. But no such step has been taken in the present case, and the public has been left free to indulge in conjectures as to the real originators of the Society. Most papers seem to have concluded that it must be closely connected with the Radical Party. But we now have the authority of the *Jiyu Shimbun* itself, the organ of that Party, that such is not the case. Our contemporary most unequivocally denies that any member of its Party has anything to do with the Society. According to results of enquiries instituted by the *Jiyu*, the Society was organized by two obscure men named OKADA and KUBOTA. Probably they imagined that they saw an opportunity to become famous. For our own part, when the news of the Society's organization first reached us, we were strongly inclined to welcome the fact, because we believe that the anti-foreign current running through certain strata of the political world in Japan, might very easily be checked, if not permanently changed, by a resolute movement in the other direction on the part of leading and responsible men. But much, if not everything, depends upon the intellectual, political, and social status of the persons heading such a movement. Evidently, a pro-Mixed-Residence campaign, owing its initiative to insignificant persons and receiving no solid support from important quarters, could not further the principle it espoused, and might, on the contrary, greatly injure it. The nation cannot afford to have it imagined that, outside the ranks of officialdom, none are found to advocate the enlightened policy of the *Meiji* era except a few adventurers inspired by the occasion rather than by the cause. From that point of view the pro-Mixed-Residence Society, as it now presents itself, is to be deprecated rather than encouraged. Besides, there exists among far-seeing and well-informed Japanese a conviction that to honour the anti-Mixed-Residence agitation by a display of organized opposition would be to impart to it something of the vitality which it could never, of its own unaided strength, develop. These readers of the time and of the nation's mood maintain, and every unbiassed person must, we think agree with them, that the anti-Mixed-Residence movement, if left to itself, is bound to die of inanition. Unquestionably there are still to be found a handful of genuine conservatives who would keep the alien permanently at arm's length. There are also to be found a few commercial men who, having built a prosperous business on the existing bases, oppose every change. Some others there are—and these the most numerous—who honestly doubting whether their countrymen's capacities are as yet sufficiently educated to fit them for direct contact and competition with foreigners, would consequently postpone the complete opening of the country. These various coteries, each insignificant and incapable of exercising any sensible influence or effecting any real mischief, are brought into one camp by agitators like Mr. OI KENTARO and Mr. ARAI SHOGO, who have no special sympathy with any of their creeds, but who see in them material capable of being utilized for political ends. But the bulk of the nation has nothing in common with such a movement. The people in the provinces are emphatically favourable to the advent of foreigners, in which they see no prospect except that of profit for themselves. We do not venture to formulate this statement on the authority of our own observation. It is the verdict of Japanese observers whose competence to be heard on such a question cannot be doubted, and it is endorsed by all foreign travellers with whom we have conversed. Local English journals published in Yokohama insist that the nation at large is opposed to Treaty Revision and to Mixed Residence. These same journals have invariably shown by their writings that they attach in reality no sort of value to the wishes and aspirations of the Japanese nation. Now, however, having, as they suppose, discovered that those wishes run on all fours with their own illiberal desire to perpetuate the country's semi-isolation, they pretend to be very considerate of Japan's mood. But on what evidence is the discovery based. The two great political parties are openly pledged to Revision and Mixed Residence. The *Kaishin-to* were ardent advocates of opening the whole country years ago. The *Jiyu-to* are avowed advocates of the same policy to-day. Who then are its opponents? A little body of insignificant politicians who, having failed to make their mark in any legitimate field, fall back upon this desperate expedient for courting notoriety. Surely it is altogether extravagant and unreasonable to regard the voice of these men as the voice of the nation at large. The deliberately formed opinion of Japanese statesmen is that the anti-Mixed-Residence movement can never win its way among the masses, and that unneeded opposition can alone raise it from its position of insignificance. Therefore the pro-Mixed Residence Society finds no supporters in influential circles, and will probably expire on the threshold of its existence.

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE, Limited, Yokohama.

"Mrs. Mulcahy," said the Justice, "why did you strike Mrs. Muldoon?" "Sure, yer Anner," said the defendant, with the air of one who has suffered, "I says to her as pleasant as dho shapkin' to an angel, says I, 'You has brass enough in yer face sufficient to mek a six-quart pail!' An' wid that Missis Muldoon ups an' says, says she, 'It's yersilf as hasn't manners enough to fill the half of it, Missis Mulcahy, says she; an' 'twas thin I interrupted her wid a jintle tap, sor."

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

CORRESPONDENCE.

TREATY REVISION FROM THE SINGLE TAX STANDPOINT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—There has been a great deal of discussion about treaty revision, but none from the standpoint of the above caption. The greatest political question of the age is that of land, and it is a religious question of such importance as few appreciate, who have not studied its bearings. The ownership of land is equivalent to the ownership of people. The Japanese rightly fear foreign landlords. But unfortunately it doesn't make much difference whether the landlord be a foreigner or a fellow countryman, it is in the nature of the case that he must oppress the tenant, that is what he becomes a landlord for. In case the "single tax" were adopted, the oppression of the landlord would be done away with, and the foreigners who would come here would bring money with them (labourers would not come to compete with the Japanese), and the more that might come the better for the people here. The danger is that about the time Japan is ready for treaty revision, the United States, for instance, may change her mind, and say, "We do not want these people to come to our shores." The trend of matters in America is in that direction. Under the Single Tax, a tax on land values, independent of improvements, Japan has nothing to lose, and she would have everything to gain as to freedom of colonization. A single tax on land values is the only one that will stand every test of logic.

If a man has a God-given right to life, he has to land, because land is necessary to the support of life. The right to land is inherent and inalienable, consequently a special class of landlords is a subversion of the order of nature. This is the age of monopolies, but the land monopoly is the basis of them all. By taxing land to its rental value, whether in use or not, there would be no profit in holding land out of use. Public lands in Japan should be surveyed and leased to the highest bidders. What could be more absurd than a nation, eighty per cent of whose land is vacant and eighty per cent. of her people idle?

The single tax is the solution of all treaty relations, and would be easily applied in Japan, because in some respects she is near to it—this solution is in her own hands, is easily applied, perfectly just. Free land is the basis of all freedom, and freedom is necessary to human relations that are to be permanently happy!

CHAS. E. GARST.

Hongo Ku, Tokyo, February 2nd, 1894.

ON BALL-ROOM DANCING.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Observing a paragraph in your paper with reference to the judgment the Japanese have arrived at on the subject of dancing, may I, as a teacher of that social accomplishment, be permitted to offer a few remarks thereon? In the first place, I would point out that of this, as of all other things, it may be said that "there is dancing *and* dancing," and that any objections lie not so much in the thing itself, as in the way in which 'tis done. During my 5 years' sojourn in Japan, it has only been my privilege to attend *one* of the many official Balls given in Tokyo, but I was assured by those who knew, that it was an entirely representative one of its kind. That was between three and four years ago; therefore I am unable to say whether the style I then witnessed remains unaltered to the present time, but if so, it called forth the remark from me at the time that "if that was the manner in which ball-room dancing had been presented to the Japanese it was no wonder they had already, as I was informed, begun to discard it as an undesirable social custom," for such hopping, kicking, skipping, pounding, awkward and ungraceful movements, I had never witnessed in the country I came from, save at open air gatherings where servants and factory girls and boys disport themselves on public holidays; and I grieved that a nation so naturally graceful as the Japanese should have had such models presented to them of *how not to dance!* In making these observations, I by no means intend them to be sweeping. There were of course many exceptions in an assemblage of 1,500 people, but still it was only too evident that those who danced in best form were either residents in Yokohama, or visitors from the port, including naval officers, etc. All *habitués* of ball-rooms can discern in a moment a man or woman of good breeding, for in their manner of dancing there is a repose and ease that is conspicuous by its absence in those who think it necessary to hop and skip through round dances, and pound through square ones, totally regardless of time and rhythm of the dance. It is no wonder that to the minds of the Japanese, inevitably tinged, as they must needs be, by the associations with which all Eastern nations regard dancing, such exhibitions appear not only undesirable, but perhaps (who knows) even positively indecent and immoral!

However, since dancing as a social adjunct, has become too strongly incorporated into our social system to be ousted even by the strongest prejudices (religious or moral) against it, it seems to me that all who profess to teach the art, should make it their first aim to see that all motions of the body, arms, and feet, should be made subservient to the natural laws of balance and rhythm, and all movements kept in the same subjection as in our ordinary social gatherings. There is no reason why men and women should depart from the usual calm and dignified carriage they assume at a dinner party and convert themselves into mad whirling Dervishes, simply because they happen to find themselves in a room where music is playing, and they are moving rhythmically to it. Then would Terpsichore be as chaste and pure to the eye and mind as if the nymph were carved in marble, for ball-room dancing can be indulged in with the apparent coldness of a statue without sacrificing in any degree the reasonable enjoyment to be derived from it as a living being.

For my part, I think the Japanese have shown great wisdom and discernment in rejecting for their young people, the acquisition of such dancing only as they appear to have had opportunities of getting in Tokyo, and I should not wonder if it took a long time to remove their very reasonable prejudice against it.

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

EMILY S. PATTON.

No. 47 A, Bluff, Yokohama, Feb. 6th, 1894.

SOME PHASES OF THE AMERICAN NEGRO PROBLEM.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In answer to the question, "What are the qualifications to citizenship?" Bishop Henry C. Potter, of New York, has recently made this reply:—"I should be disposed to answer, in the first place, Intelligence. Citizenship is not an inherent right. The State confers it upon certain conditions, and withdraws it under others. It can be forfeited by certain acts, and it requires certain others to perfect its exercise. In some States it may not be actively exercised except under certain conditions, such as the ability to read and write and the possession of what is known as a property qualification. They imply that no one may equitably have a part in determining who shall bear office, levy taxes, make laws, administer justice, and the like, unless he have both a substantial stake in the common well-being and a mental training competent to inform and guide him."

This is sound political doctrine, and shows that the Bishop is not only an eminent divine but that he possesses some qualities that make a true statesman. And there are probably very few intelligent people to-day that would think of challenging these statements of Bishop Potter, except as they affect our peculiarly-situated, and much talked-of people: namely, the Negroes of the United States. In the minds of many honest people the American negro stands out as a miraculous exception in history, and some of the civil and social laws that are considered just and right in governing him are such as universal jurisprudence and practical sociology would not sanction if applied to any other nation, race, or class under the sun. A very large percentage of the negroes in the South cannot read their printed ballots, and a still larger percentage do not possess a dollar's worth of taxable property. In one Southern State there were, in 1890, more than one hundred negroes who were born in the wilds of Africa, and can still speak some of their old barbarous dialects, but cannot read, and can talk nothing but the "Uncle Remus" dialect of English. Yet they can go to the polls and deposit a ballot worth as much as that of the wealthiest or most intelligent man in the State.

Now let us enlighten our subject a little by drawing a practical illustration from an outside source, and see how it fits the question under consideration. The editor of the New York *Press*, a professed friend of human rights and equality, recently had this to say on the situation in Hawaii:—"The special Washington dispatches indicate the probability that the report of Mr. Blount will recommend that the question of annexation shall be submitted to a popular vote in the Hawaiian Islands. There is a prevalent impression in Washington that the President's message to Congress on the subject will strongly urge that this course shall be taken. If the great body of Hawaiians were intelligent and responsible persons, and if it were possible to procure an absolutely fair expression of the popular will, no serious objection could be urged to this plan. But multitudes of Hawaiians are notoriously venal, superstitious, and ignorant. There are many thousand ignorant and degraded Chinese and Japanese coolies in the islands. A plebiscite in Hawaii would be a farce which might pave the way for a tragedy."

There are probably not many intelligent, unbiased persons that would deny the wisdom of the *Press's* assertions about the ballot in Hawaii, but the interesting point is that this editor is one of a large class that raised their voices in "holy horror" about what they claimed to be oppression, injustice, and robbery thrust upon the negroes in a certain Southern State a few years ago, when a law was passed requiring every voter to be able to read the State Constitution and his printed ballot before he could vote. Of course this deprived some white people and many negroes of the privilege of the ballot, but every honest, thoughtful citizen in America knows that such a course is best for the future of the Republic. But this present position of Mr. Blount and the New York *Press* illustrates, not exactly the "irony of fate" but what might be called the "irony of history." Here is a statesman who fought against the unconditional enfranchisement of five millions of negroes, most of whom were and are still "notoriously venal, superstitous, and ignorant," as dangerous to the welfare of society and the State; but accepting the verdict of history, now comes forward with a proposition to continue and extend the same doctrine to another race and people, and is ridiculed by the negro-enfranchising editor, who exclaims in alarming tones that such an act "would be a farce that might pave the way for a tragedy."

The rarity of the jewel of consistency among many of the negro's professed friends, together with their ignorance of his real needs and interests, are the first causes of much of the trouble and lawlessness between the white people and negroes in the South to-day. That a gulf has been constantly widening between the whites and blacks since the latter's emancipation is lamentably true; yet it would be difficult to find a man who would call back the old *ante bellum régime* if he could. The future historian will have some interesting work to do in connection with this perplexing problem, which no one that has not lived amid its daily scenes can possibly understand. For that reason much that is silly, sentimental, and impossible has been written about it.

It is said that history does not furnish a single instance of two widely different races of people living together permanently in peace and prosperity. One of three things is inevitable, if history teaches anything: namely, (1) colonization, (2) amalgamation, or (3) extermination. About 3000 years B C., a branch of the great Aryan family wandered down into India and subdued the barbarous black aborigines, and by amalgamation we find to-day in India the only black representatives of the Aryan stock in the world. When the present race of Japanese came down from heaven (the Asiatic continent) they found a widely different race of people here known as the Ainu, who were expelled or exterminated. The end of the 20th century will most probably find Africa a continent of prosperous Aryan nations with the negroes exterminated or living by government permission on grants and tracts in the unhealthy and undesirable jungles. The millennium of Aryan humanitarianism has not yet come to subdue his innate love of conquest and dominion, and until that is done, his professed sympathy for inferior races is a mere sentiment, when national issues are at stake. A nation that would simply for gain of wealth or power, rob a weak nation of its land and people, or one that would force opium into the unwilling mouths of millions of weaker human beings, is still at heart as dire an enemy to true human liberty as the slave-merchants of Kartoum. The poor and oppressed people who fled from political and religious tyranny in Europe to the wide and free expanse of American forests, themselves turned oppressors, and the result is one of the most pathetic stories in all history,—the approaching extermination of the American Indian. While the wigwams on the fertile banks of the Connecticut, the Hudson, the Susquehanna, the Rappahannock, and the Savannah, were being burned and their inmates butchered or driven deeper into the forests and western plains, the conquerors were importing negroes to clear the forests and cultivate the soil. But the pious Pilgrims finding that their slaves did not thrive in the uncongenial climate of New England, sold them to the cotton planters of the South, where about thirty

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years ago they were given their freedom,—the best possible thing that could have been done for the future well-being of both whites and blacks. But the negroes' subsequent *unconditional enfranchisement* was the "deadliest crime against republican government and civilization" that has ever been perpetrated. I believe that time will prove and history will record and sustain the verdict that the absolute and unconditional freedom of the ballot and unrestricted civil rights conferred upon five millions of ignorant and superstitous negroes immediately after their emancipation from slavery under a democratic form of government, were not only lamentable legislative blunders of well-meaning statesmen, but an irreparable injury to the very people they were intended to ameliorate. The fruits of this unparalled experiment are being gathered in greater abundance as the years go by.

Bishop Atticus G. Haygood, author of "Our Brother in Black," who has spent years of earnest labour for the betterment of the negro's condition, writes thus in the *Forum* for October:—"An ignorant race that in and through the ministry of slavery had grown into all that made it better than naked Africans, were suddenly turned loose, without knowledge of civil law, into freedom they did not understand mistaking most naturally license for liberty. The recoil was tremendous. It is a wonder that the negro did not do worse. Presently came enfranchisement and complete citizenship without fitness of any sort. The manner of his enfranchisement and the methods employed by self-seeking demagogues in controlling his vote led him to believe that the gift of the ballot to him meant two things; first, the peculiar love the North had for him; second, that it was given to him to keep the old master and rebel down. The inevitable result was to tend to make the negro lawless in his dealings with his white neighbours."

Then on the question of his education the Bishop has this to say:—"Added to the evil influences that grew of corrupt and corrupting reconstruction politics, were unwise methods in the earlier efforts to educate him. Many consecrated, noble-minded, but mistaken missionary-teachers from the North were more impressive, if not more insistent in teaching the young negro his rights than in teaching him the responsibilities of citizenship. The result was he became more anxious to secure his rights than to fit himself for their exercise. All these influences developed in thousands of the younger negroes a spirit of insubordination to the social order. Crimes of violence against the white race were the natural fruitage of the influences that dominated the younger negroes. Under the conditions of southern life it was inevitable that these crimes should be met by violent punishment without law, and partly for the reason that Southern Government was in the hands of strangers and negroes. Nearly all crimes committed by negroes now are committed by those who were children in 1865 or who have been born since that time. Nearly all the negroes in Southern penitentaries are under thirty-five; if any wish to test these statements the facts are on record."

The same writer believes a proper system of education to be the saving relief from a dreadful future, and continues by saying that the above "statement is no plea against the education of the enfranchised negro, but an invincible argument for it—which for many years, I have made by pen and tongue to the best of my ability. The negro must be educated. The uneducated negro is unfitted for the new order. It is absolutely necessary to both races that his education go on. As a rule rapists and murderers among Southern negroes are not only products of *post-bellum* life. They are uneducated. It is the rarest thing that an educated negro commits these crimes against virtue and life."

It has been asserted by some who know nothing of the negro problem except what they have learned though a biased, sensational, and exaggerating journalism, that the "lynchers are the representatives of public opinion in the South," and that there is no public sentiment against it. This is as broad and as sweeping a libel on sixteen millions of American citizens, as it would be upon the forty millions of Japan, if one were to assert that because licensed houses of prostitution are to be found in every large city and may small towns in Japan, there is no public sentiment against immorality here, or that the owners and keepers of such houses are the representatives of public opinon on moral questions in this country. He who makes such assertions about the south exhibits less knowledge of the truth of his subject than Clement Scott did when he wrote of what he saw in the vicinity of Yokohama and Tokyo as the real Japan. That there is a large class of *soshi*-like bullies in the South who feel that they are honour-bound as true patriots to act as legislator, judge, and sheriff, all at one time, and as they see fit, is true enough. And in some sections they wield great influence. But for their ideas and conduct I have a profound contempt, yet I never saw one of them to recognize him, although I was born and lived for twenty-five years in the heart of the South. Bishop Haygood, whom I have already quoted, a Southerner by birth, education, and a life of labour, has this to say on the lynching question:—"In organized society there is no higher civil or social duty than obedience to law; the lyncher is of all men the violator of law. Lynching is a crime against God and man. Lynching breaks the law, defies it, despises it, puts it to open shame. Punishment by government according to law, represents the judgment of God; punishment by lynching is vengeance. Legal punishment educates men into respect for law, lynching educates them into contempt for law. Lynching does more to put down law than any criminal it takes in hand; lynching kills a man, the lyncher kills the law that protects life; lynching is anarchy. The government that winks at lynching is vicious; the government that does not care is foolish and wicked; the government that cannot put it down is weak." Is the English language capable of uttering a stronger denunciation of lynching than this. And while I freely admit that there is a large class of people in the South that are perfectly indifferent to the question of lynching, there is at the same time another large class of the most intelligent people who recognize the enormity of the evil and its dangerous tendencies and are expressing their disapproval of it in a vigorous manner by tongue and pen. Why is it, then, you may ask, that lynching of negroes is permitted to continue? I answer by asking how is it that a band of robbers can stop a passenger train in broad day time in some of the most thickly populated States in the North, and carry off safes' full of money? How is it that anarchists and disgruntled strikers can impede commerce, burn loaded cars and factories in open daylight, create riot, defy law, and murder citizens in the great states of Pennsylvania and New York, or in any part of England, France, or Germany, even where every fourth man is an armed soldier?

What will be the final outcome of this perplexing and interesting negro problem is one of the most absorbing questions in current history. That they will be exterminated no one for a moment seriously believes; that they should be colonized in Africa some of their own leaders not only believe, but are activity engaged in trying to arouse public opinion to that belief, and to perfect plans for its accomplishment. The most prominent person in this movement is Bishop H. M. Turner, probably the leading orator and scholar of his race. That they will by-and-by lose their racial distinction by amalgamation with the whites is a question that time only can decide. That the black ones despise their colour is a fact too well-known to need proof. The mulatto is proud of the white blood that trickles through his viens, and the more the better, so he thinks. He feels himself to be as far above the common thick-lipped negro, socially and otherwise, as the average white man does. The mulattoes are increasing in numbers, but how fast proportionately I have no way of knowing. Marriage between the whites and blacks is prohibited by law; and it is said that "quadroons, octoroons, and pure mulattoes marry, but a flat-nosed, thick lipped African must mate with his colour and kind."

Yours truly, WILL PATTILLO.

THE IMPERIAL SILVER WEDDING.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—As a long resident of Japan, I should be glad to be able to possess in some way a souvenir of the Imperial Silver Wedding. I would venture to say that the Post Office Department ought to take a leading part in the festival programme, by issuing on the Jubilee Day a special Stamp or Postal Card. The general public and absent friends of Japan who are anxious to keep a memento will look with joy on the little paper, the record of a great event.

Yours respectfully ROMULUS.
Feb. 8, 1894.

THE BATTLE OF HOROBETSU.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have just finished reading a very interesting, yet at the same time, one of the most unconscionably incorrect and misleading books it is possible to purchase for money. I refer to "Alone with the hairy Ainu," by A. H. Savage Landor. It is a book which will doubtless be read with pleasure by those who know nothing of Yezo with its 450,000 Japanese and 16,000 Ainu inhabitants; but by those who know Yezo and its people it will be read with astonishment and wonder. Mr. Landor is to be admired for the plucky way in which he went round Yezo, but his physical endurance and so-called pluck sink into insignificance before the evidences of lack of moral discrimination and intelligent tact in dealing with people exhibited in his book.

In the Preface to his book Mr. Landor says:—"Without any claim to infallibility I have tried to take an open-minded and sensible view of everything I have here attempted to describe." I should think, indeed, Mr. Landor did *not* claim infallibility, for from cover to cover his production is stuffed full of absurd mistakes and misrepresentations. And, as to being open minded and taking a sensible view of things—well, that is the very thing he has *not* done. After carefully reading his book through, I am bound to say that I have never met with a more biased, hopelessly one-sided, and grotesquely imaginative work than this. Mr. Landor has taken a few facts, distorted them and used them as a basis for fiction.

I have nothing to say about his illustrations, even though here Mr. Lander is not correct in every case. He gives the Ainu too much hair as a rule; moreover, on page 77 of his book there appears an engraving with the words, "Ainu hook for smoking bear-meat" written underneath. As it happens, that engraving represents an instrument the Ainu call *shu-at*, and that literally means "pot hook," and as a "pot-hook" it is used, not for drying "bear-meat."

Farther, Mr. Landor gives us a new derivation of the word Ainu. He derives it from *Ai-num*, or *Hai num*, and says that means, "they with hair," "come with hair." As a matter of fact there is no such word in the Ainu language as *Ai-num* or *Hai-num*, and if there were, it could not possibly mean "come with hair," or "they with hair." Almost all of Mr. Landor's derivations of Ainu words are as far afield as this. He truly found a mare's nest is Ainu land, and has hatched some lovely eggs.

To attempt anything like a review of the whole work would be altogether too formidable a task, for one would have to say something on every page of the book, there is so much to correct. There is, however, just one point I cannot allow to pass without a few remarks and that is Mr. Landor's affair at Horobetsu. I have named it

THE BATTLE OF HOROBETSU.

In Chapter II., page 12, Mr. Landor informs us that the Ainu of Horobetsu were nearly all Christians when he visited that place, and that he considered it very hard that these should show a little muscular Christianity when he insulted them. He says, "In Southern Japan, previous to my visiting Yezo, I was told that nearly all Ainu of Horobetsu had become good Christians." If this is so, Mr. Landor was certainly misinformed. When he visited Horobetsu in 1890 there were but five Christians there, two adults and their three children, while there were about 150 non-Christians! It happened that two Ainu had the good fortune to catch a dolphin the morning Mr. Landor arrived. (He, however, calls it *ushi-sakana*, "cow-fish.") As that gentleman was walking along the seacoast, sketch-block ready in hand, he espied some men cutting the fish up for transportation and drying. Mr. Landor tells us that there was a crowd of men working on that one fish, and that they were "stark-naked." Now, as a matter of fact, no Ainu is ever to be seen "stark naked" in public. A man never has less than his loin-cloth on, however hot it may be, and the women are always most careful to have their breasts and knees well covered. I have seen many dolphins cut up, but never a "stark-naked" adult Ainu, man or woman, during 16 years residence in Yezo. Mr. Landor informs us that upon proceeding to sketch the scene, the crowd rushed upon him, knives in hand, knocked him down, and held him and his easel fast by the legs and arms, seized his sketch block and threw it away, held a knife well over his head, and kicked him. When let go, Mr. Landor hurried off to the tea-house and got his revolver. He then returned to the Ainu who had attacked him and brought them up to the village, and accused them before a policeman, by whom they were arrested, tried, and let go. Law was not quite like that in 1890. Policemen did not then try the people whom they were called upon to arrest any more than they do now.

The account given by Mr. Landor differs from that given both by the Ainu and Japanese eye-witnesses. They plainly state that Mr. Landor's 15 or 20 Ainu were only four men at the time of attack, though they increased when all was over. I am personally acquainted with all four. Again, they say, Mr. Landor was not attacked with knives, he was not knocked down, he was not kicked, and the men were not arrested. There was then no policeman stationed at Horobetsu, and no policeman tried and acquitted the Ainu. The whole affair was settled by a Mr. Kondo, a Japanese Christian of Horobetsu, and perhaps

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Mr. Landor owes this Japanese Christian more for his timely interference than he is aware. The Ainu laugh at the Landor affair, even at the present day. All they did was to take Mr. Landor's sketch-block, rub out his sketch, and fling it on the sand! All agree in saying that Mr. Landor was mad with rage, but as none understood his language they were not much troubled.

Mr. Landor was evidently unaware of the fact that by sketching those Ainu in a partly nude condition he was insulting them by trampling on a deeply-rooted superstition. But he was really doing them a grievous injury, for it is their belief that by being sketched in such a condition their life is thereby shortened in some mysterious way or other. But of this I have written elsewhere, and will not repeat here. Thus Mr. Landor's battle of Horobetsu was, for the most part, merely imaginary.

Mr. Landor speaks somewhat unkindly of the the British Consul at Hakodate because he did not produce his letters immediately upon being asked for them. But when it is remembered that, incredible though it may appear, Mr. Landor called at the Consulate *minus his trousers*, it is not to be wondered at if the Consul did get rid of him as quickly as possible. If he had no proper respect for himself or the Japanese, Mr. Landor surely ought to have some little consideration for the feelings of others. There was not the slightest necessity for him to wander about in such an indecent manner, for he could have got clothing at Otsukushiro, Akkesh, Nemoro, or Apashiri. Why did he not?

I am, yours truly, J. BATCHELOR.

Hotel Metropole, Tokyo,
February 7th, 1894.

CHRIST CHURCH, YOKOHAMA.

The annual meeting of seat-holders, and subscribers of Christ Church, Yokohama, was held on Thursday afternoon in Kiel's Building. Mr. J. Rickett, chairman of the committee, presided, and there were also present Messrs. J. F. Lowder, E. Whittall, and J. A. Fraser.

The CHAIRMAN said they were a very small meeting, but he thought that the business before them could be easily put through. He would suggest that as the minutes of the last annual meeting had been published in the papers at the time, that they be taken as read. The first business therefore, before the meeting was the passing of the report and accounts for the year 1893. These also had been published and need not be recapitulated.

Mr. LOWDER proposed that the report and accounts, as presented, be taken as read and adopted.

Mr. J. A. FRASER seconded, and the motion was carried.

REPORT.

The Accounts for the year 1893, as given below, show an improvement this year, the balance in the hands of the Honorary Treasurer being $463.81 against $177 04 at the end of 1892.

A Concert was organized by Mrs. Irwine in October last in aid of the funds of the Church and the nett proceeds, $419 92, were handed to the Hon Treasurer to be expended as the Committee thought proper.

As the principal object in having this Concert was the improvement in the lighting of the Church, the committee made enquiries as to the most economical and at the same time effective method of lighting the Church, and decided on gas, which is in course of installation.

The Committee take this opportunity of thanking the Ladies and Gentlemen who took part in the Concert.

The Committee regret to report that during the year the Church was twice entered by burglars, and several articles, including the Incumbent's hood, stole and two surplices and the surplices of the choir boys, were stolen and have not since been recovered.

With a view to afford greater protection, some alterations have been made in the vestry windows and doors, the cost of which $58 45 was defrayed out of the proceeds of the concert.

The thanks of the Committee and Congregation are due to the Honorary Organists, Mr H. I. Chope, Miss Leach, and Miss Willcox, and to the Members of the Choir for their kind services.

The repairs to the Church and Parsonage amount this year to only $52 35.

The Revenue derived from pew rents is about the same as last year, being $2,519 58, against $2,580.82 in 1892.

The offertories show an increase over the previous year of $160.52.

In addition to the sum given in the account, the collections on the first Sunday in each month amounting in the aggregate to $144.06 were handed to the Rev. E. C. Irwine for the relief of the poor, and this money was expended in food, medicine, clothing, and sundry other aids, distributed among 64 poor people.

During the year there have been 250 Services held in the Church, 43 Celebrations of Holy Communion to 782 Communicants on Sundays, besides two Celebrations on Easter and Christmas when 66 and 83 persons Communicated.

There were 23 Baptisms, 8 Marriages, and 13 Burials during the year.

In consequence of the present low value of Silver and the enhanced prices of all necessaries of life, the Committee have deemed it right to increase the stipend of the Incumbent from $200 to $250 a month to commence from the 1st January of this year, and trust that the members of the Congregation will aid them in maintaining it at this figure.

J. RICKETT. Chairman,
E. WHITTALL,
J. A. FRASER,
JAMES WALTER,
JAS. DODDS,
E. J MOSS,
} Committee.

THE HON. TREASURER, CHRIST CHURCH, YOKOHAMA, IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE TRUSTEES FOR 1893.

EXPENDITURE.

To Cash in hands of Treasurer	$ 177.04
To Collected Pew-rents, 1893	2,519.58
To Collected Offertories, 1893	693.49
To Mrs. Irwine Proceeds of Concert	419.42
To Fire Insurance Bonus and Bank Interest	12.35
	$3,821.88

REVENUE.

By Incumbent's stipend	$2,400.00
By Momban Account and Wages and Coal	201.01
By Ground-rent	180.19
By Fire Insurance Premia	213.17
By Interest on private loan	220.00
By Repairs, &c.	52.65
By 2 Surplices and 1 Stole for Mr. Irwine	20.10
By Advertising	18.00
By New lined steel netting window covers, with 2 locks complete, for Vestry	58.45
By Sundries	60.43
By Decorations Easter and Christmas	44.07
By Balance on December 31st, 1893	463.81
	$3,821.88

Yokohama, January 24th, 1894. E. WHITTALL, Hon. Treasurer.

I have examined the Accounts with vouchers and found the same correct. J. RICKETT.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of a new committee.

Mr. LOWDER—I propose that instead of a new committee, the old committee be re-elected.

The CHAIRMAN said he was willing to serve again, and he thought the other committee-men were also willing, so he would declare them duly re-elected.

The CHAIRMAN—There is one matter I should like to make a slight reference to, before parting. Mrs. Till and some other ladies, whose names are unknown to me, have presented an altar-cloth to the Church. There is no mention of this in the report of the Committee, because, in the first place, it was not formally presented to them, and I understand it was not presented by any one person. It was not presented in 1893, either, so that it could not come within the range of the report for last year, having been presented some time in January, and it was purposely left out. I think that we should not be adequately returning our thanks to those ladies for their handsome present unless we express our acknowledgements to them publicly at this meeting.—(Applause.)

This concluded the business.

DEDICATION OF THE BYRON-STONE-CLARK HALL AT THE DOSHISHA.

The 30th of January was a day of joy and gladness at the Doshisha School, in Kyoto. Graduates and friends gathered from different parts of Japan, and joined with the faculty and students in the dedication of another fine brick and stone building,—the Theological Hall. The tablet in the main passage is framed in a marble arch and reads:—

THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED
IN
MEMORY
OF
BYRON-STONE-CLARK
OF
BROOKLYN, N.Y., U.S.A.,
Who Died Jan. 1892.
Aged Twenty-three Years.

The Study of the Word of God
Was Dear to Him.

The mother of this young man first thought of erecting a memorial hall in connection with some mission school in Turkey, but was induced to bestow her gift of $11,500 (gold) on the Dōshisha. Thus all the departments of the growing school now seem to be well provided with substantial buildings, the conspicuous row consisting of Recitation Hall, Chapel, Science Hall, Theological Hall, while across the street is the large Library.

As the audience room in the new hall could not begin to hold those who gathered, the chapel was used for the afternoon services. The spirit of the great meeting was one of deep earnestness in evangelical faith combined with a broad and fearless sympathy with truth. Dr. Ichihara, acting President of the School, in the opening address, stated that the object of the School was to look broadly out upon the needs of all Japan, while avoiding, on the one hand, the extreme of a toleration that amounted to indifference, and on the other hand, that extreme which seeks to build up a sectarian religion. There should be the broadest scholarship united to the deepest sympathy with the practical needs of Japan, in which even widows and orphans should not be overlooked.

Rev. G. E. Albrecht's address of an hour on "The Authority of the Scriptures," showed a ripeness of scholarship that cannot fail to be a blessing to the institution which he serves. He went over the results of the recent historical and critical studies, showing that they had to some extent impaired the authority that was supposed to reside in an infallible Book, and that the real authority must come from a practical realization of the experience of God speaking to us through His Word, enabling us thus to say beyond the shadow of doubt, I know the religious authority of the Bible rests in its spiritual self-evidencing power. Any one who thus thinks will not be shaken by any historical criticism, even though it should make the story of Abraham a parable—which, however, it is not likely to do.

One may go up and down Japan for a long time and fail to hear in Japanese, by a foreigner, an extempore discourse so rapidly and idiomatically given, and so well sustained to the end, as the one delivered at the Doshisha on the 30th.

He was followed by the Rev. K. Miyagawa, who never speaks to a sleepy audience. His subject, "The Christianity of Christ" showed that he was on the war-path to some extent. His severe arraignment of denominations, who so exalt their peculiar tenets as virtually to hide the Christ they professedly come to reveal, is needed, and will be needed here and everywhere, until the Church of Christ goes back to his law of mutual love and helpfulness. The speaker went on to say that the Japanese were somewhat like the prophets of old, in that they have an intuitive knowledge of moral truth to a remarkable degree; that they are somewhat like the Bible-writers whose minds were filled with ideal and poetical forms of truth, in that the Japanese heart is full of poetry and love of the beautiful; and as the Jews were intensely patriotic, so are the Japanese. We therefore are fitted to understand the Bible as well as the westerners. But, alas, we are all afire one day, and cold and indifferent the next. We are drawn off into details, and neglect the all-comprehensive truths. So we must study and study, think and think, year after year, on old and new lines. Yet, in order to save Japan, we need something different from and better than old or new theology, we need to return to the simplicity of Christ and his teachings, which are all summed up in two things, Knowing God the Father and His Love, and Getting into Real Union with Him. With these vast and, yet simple, truths we can give life to all Japan."

The two orators, starting from entirely different points, ended in the same inspiring thought,—exalting the direct spiritual contact of man with God, the possibility of immediate union and communion with the one Father of all men.

In the evening there was a social meeting in Clark Hall, of the theological students, graduates, pastors, and evangelists, with the faculty and guests, in which the same earnest note of faith in God and in the cause of Christ in Japan was again sounded by many speakers.

Occasionally fears are expressed in private conversations and even in print, that the Doshisha is in a shaky condition so far as its evangelical faith is concerned. It is not impossible to take isolated statements of its teachers and graduates and thus show up its lack of orthodoxy. But let any one see the spirit manifested on the 30th, or visit the students' prayer-meetings, or attend the voluntary church services on Sunday, and he will find, in my opinion, as deep and reverent and earnest and evangelical a spirit as he is likely to find in the average evangelical churches of Japan and of the United States. It must be added, however, that when one gets more into the inside thought and workings of the institution, there seems to be a spirit of doubt that is in danger of becoming so chronic among the students as to unfit them for lives of strong, aggressive, moral, and spiritual convictions, unless such meetings as those of the 30th, or some other causes, can make the spirit of faith vastly more powerful than that of doubt. J. H. De F.

Kyoto, January 31st, 1894.

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Healesville, Victoria, December 25th, 1893.

Unusual pressure of business accounts for the long interval since despatching my last letter. The Mercantile Bank Prosecution, on which I commented in my last communication to you, has been proceeding slowly. Counsel for the defend-

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ants has resorted to some extraordinary modes of procedure. One of these was an attempt to prove that the law of Victoria does not allow of magistrates hearing complaints not brought forward within twelve months from the date of the offence. This point was referred to the Supreme Court, and a special sitting of judges was called to discuss and decide it; with the result that the clause of the Justices' Act on which counsel for the defence relied was declared to apply exclusively to cases in which magistrates had summary jurisdiction, and not to indictable offences. On Friday, November 17th, it was announced that the Court had decided to commit for trial Sir Matthew Davies, Chairman; Mr. Muntz, director; and Mr. Millidge, general manager of the Bank, the charge being the issue of a false balance-sheet. The general public regard this termination of the inquiry as satisfactory. Another case of great interest has been before the Court for some 90 days, during which time a number of jurors have suffered the protracted strain of drawing £2 2s. a day, and barristers have been paid at the rate of £30 per day. The trial referred to is an action brought by Mr. Speight, Chairman of the Railway Commissioners from 1884 to 1892, against the *Age*, a daily newspaper, for libel. Mr. Speight is of opinion that he lost his position as Chairman through representations of mismanagement and misappropriation published in the leading columns of the *Age*. The length of the trial is accounted for by the fact that both counsel for plaintiff and defendant are obliged to base their cases on the working and general management of the railway during the period under review. The costs of the trial are said to be greater than any yet known in Victoria, and the general opinion seems to be that, like so many other trials, the lawyers are the only parties who will reap any benefit from it.

The Government of Victoria has lately despatched an agent, Mr. Wilson, to China, Japan, and various other countries, whose mission is to take measures for opening up, or further developing, as the case may require, trade between Victoria and the lands visited.

Statistics bearing on the increase of crime in Victoria have lately been attracting public attention. It seems that Victoria shows a blacker record than any of the other colonies. Here is a comparison between New South Wales and Victoria for the period 1881-91:—

Population—Increase	Vic., 32·24 / N.S.W., 50·26
Arrests for drunkenness—Increase	Vic., 63·19 / N.S.W., 3·0
Arrests for all crime—Increase	Vic., 39·73 / N.S.W., 8·33
Serious offences—Increase	Vic., 54·69 / N.S.W., 15·66
Apprehension and summons cases per 1,000 of the population	Increase, Vic., 8·79 / Decrease, N.S.W., 19·65
Summary convictions per 1,000 of the population	Increase, Vic., 8·02 / Decrease, N.S.W., 14·50
First commitments for trial per 10,000 of population	Increase, Vic., 2·09 / Decrease, N.S.W., 10·26
Convictions after commitment per 10,000 of the population	Increase, Vic., 1·24 / Decrease, N.S.W., 7·17

The following table shows the consumption of drink in Australian Colonies during the year 1891.

Colony.	(Gallons Per Head of Population.) Beer.	Spirit.	Wine.	*Equivalents in Alcohol (Proof Spirit). Gal.
West Australia	11·23	1·47	4·12	4·15
Victoria	17.23	1.19	1·72	3·93
New South Wales	11·42	1·11	0·84	2·83
Queensland	10·56	1·16	0.64	2·72
South Australia	11·23	0·65	1·66	2·61
Tasmania	9·29	0·64	0·17	1·88
New Zealand	7·65	0·70	0·17	1·74

* Mean for Australia, 2·93 gals.

The subject of the increase of crime in Victoria and its causes has been discussed freely in the press and on the platform. The religious section of the public are confident that the absence of biblical teaching from the State Schools is the chief cause of the present downward course of the Colony. Secularists are equally confident that the low tone of morality which prevails is to be traced to other sources. I think it is admitted on all sides that parental authority exists in few families among the lower orders. The boys and girls of the peasant class are objectionally forward and conceited, to a degree hardly reached even by the would-be instructors of statesmen in Japan. To a stranger the tone and manner of the typical Australian semi educated youth are most repulsive. There are few places in the world where, combined with no small amount of outward profession of religion, morality is at so low an ebb as in Victoria. In the majority of families, children in their teens are allowed to contract what connection they please with schoolmates and acquaintances, with the result that in the knowledge of evil the lad or girl of fifteen is a perfect savant. It is generally supposed that in most countries immorality is more prevalent in towns than in country districts. This certainly does not apply to Victoria. In fact from what I have seen and heard, I should say that the contrary was the case. Yet notwithstanding this state of affairs, which the clergy of late have emphasized in public, the Colony is dotted over with churches and chapels; little towns of some 500 inhabitants often boasting of five or six places of worship. Judging by the magnificent buildings which one sees on all sides, the church has hitherto been well supported. During the boom time her coffers were filled with the easily obtained coin of her supporters. She is at present suffering from the general depression, and has been forced, in many instances, to curtail her operations in various ways. The efforts of the clergy do little to stem the tide of immorality that exists. Here, as elsewhere, respectability demands that the church be supported, and the conservative instincts, which it is so hard to extinguish in the Englishman, prompt him to prop up this time-honoured institution. But any interference with his freedom of action, any crusade against his racing, betting, and general speculating propensities, the Australian will not brook. He has a creed of his own, every article of which is dear to him. Without it, life to him would not be worth living. This creed is a pure product of the colony. It has grown out of the experiences of old settlers, and so suits the nature of the rising generation that no persuasion is needed to insure its adoption. On this subject I shall have more to say on some future occasion.

Great efforts are being made to push Australian wines in Europe. One great difficulty in effecting sales of Colonial wines in Europe hitherto, has been the great alcoholic strength of these wines as compared will those of France and Germany. It has been ascertained by a careful analysis, that Australian wines are half as strong again in alcohol as French and German. This fact is accounted for by the great sugar strength of Victorian musts as compared with those of Germany and France. The acidity is also lower, and though not much lower absolutely, it is much lower in relation to equal quantities of sugar. Sugar gives half its weight of alcohol; accordingly, the average Victorian must of 1893 would, if completely fermented, give a wine containing 12·8 grammes per 100 c.c., while the average German and French must, were all its sugar fermented, would give a wine containing 8·5 grammes of alcohol per 100 c.c., the *actual* average strength of German wines being 7·6 grammes per 100 c.c. In order to suit the palates of European wine drinkers, a decrease in the sugar strength, that is, the alcoholic strength of Australian wines, and an increase of their acidity are absolutely essential. This can be effected by gathering the grapes at an earlier stage of ripeness than has hitherto been the practice. On this subject it is interesting to know that as long ago as 1851, the great Leibig (Letters on Chemistry, third edition) says:—"The free acids which are present in the fermenting juice take a most decided part in the formation of those aromatic matters upon which odour and flavour depend. The wines of Southern regions are produced from perfectly ripe grapes; they contain tartar, but not free organic acids. They scarcely possess the characteristic odour of wine, and with respect to bouquet or flavour they cannot bear a comparison with the noble French or Rhenish wines." There is no doubt a great future for Australian wines. There is nothing in the climate of Victoria to prevent the production of wines equal to those of France and Germany, and experienced vine-growers assert that when grapes are grown on an extensive scale, wine can be supplied at cheaper rates than those now prevailing for continental wines."

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, January 13th.

At the University Congregational Church last Sunday evening Prof. Edmund Buckley, formerly of the Doshisha University, gave an address on "The Future of Religion in Japan."

The new U.S. Minister to Korea is Mr. John M. Hill, of Michigan.

The following clipping from the *Inter-Ocean* speaks for itself, and depicts an unfortunate state of affairs for a land of liberty:—

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 5.—*Special Telegram.*—Nineteen friendless, and thoroughly disheartened contraband Chinamen have been lying cooped up in the Wayne County Jail for nineteen months, with a good prospect of lying in the same wretched condition for at least three years to come. The Chinamen are awaiting result of an appeal from a decision of the United States Circuit Court, where they were convicted of being in the country unlawfully. The privilege of furnishing bonds has been denied the Chinamen under a rule.

The Chinamen have had a streak of hard luck. They have been deserted by their own countrymen and every one else with the exception of their attorney, F. L. Brooke. He took the trouble last October to write to the Chinese Minister at Washington and told him the condition of the Chinamen here. The Minister did not reply to the communication.

Mr. Brooke has also written to Attorney-General Olney asking that, in view of the terrible position of the Chinamen, he order their release on bail or advance their case, but the appeal had no effect. Assistant-District-Attorney Finney thinks that something should be done to get the Chinamen out of the jail and has written to the Attorney-General explaining the case. But his appeal had no more effect than that of Mr. Brooke's.

Hawaiian affairs still continue to form the most absorbing topic of the hour. The sudden arrival of the U.S. revenue cutter *Corwin* at San Francisco from Honolulu caused tremendous excitement, and set flying the wildest rumours. Some thought that our Minister Willis, having received his passports from the Provisional Government, was on board; others that the ex-Queen had been brought over to this country; and still others that President Dole and all his cabinet were prisoners on the cutter! The secrecy maintained by all connected with the *Corwin* only enhanced the mystery and whetted public curiosity. "Paramount Commissioner" Blount was at once summoned from his home in Macon, Georgia, to Washington, and is now at the Capital. On the 8th instant, a Canadian Pacific steamer arrived at Vancouver with advices from Honolulu to January 1st. The reports from there all said that Minister Willis had made a formal demand on the Provisional Government to surrender; that, after the first excitement, everything was quiet; that the provisional government had taken Willis's demand under formal consideration, and would undoubtedly decline to yield; and that Hawaii would stand firm against the restoration of Liliuokalani. The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the U.S. Senate is still investigating, and has had Blount before it. In the open Senate both Davis (Rep.), of Minnesota, and Turpie (Dem.), of Indiana, have made fierce attacks on the administrative policy. Everybody is anxiously awaiting later news from Hawaii by the *City of Peking* already post due at San Francisco.

The most recent news from the scene of war in Brazil is that the insurgents are preparing to make another attack on Rio Janeiro, and have succeeded in running the blockade of the forts at the entrance of the bay. A rumour that President Peixoto has resigned as yet lacks verification.

Senator William Lindsay (Dem.), of Kentucky, has been honoured with a re-election.

Hon. T. L. Johnson (Dem.), of Ohio, has made a fierce attack in the House of Representatives on the Wilson Tariff Bill, because it does not go for enough toward free-trade. He would like to see passed such a radical bill as this:—

Section 1. All import duties and corresponding internal revenue duties are hereby abolished, and all officials engaged in collecting such duties are hereby discharged.

Section 2. The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed to sell all custom-houses and revenue cutters, and pay the proceeds into the treasury.

The upper mill-stone of high protection, and the nether-mill stone of absolute free-trade, threaten to crush Prof. Wilson's moderate and reasonable tariff reform measure.

The Central Relief Association of this city is doing a grand work in the line of charity. Money, clothing, and food are freely and generously contributed. All persons who have a fixed income have been urged to give to charity one day's earnings. The eighth annual charity ball was successful in raising $17,000, the largest amount ever realized in that way.

The weather, though a trifle colder, is still not severe, and is favouring the poor. "The oldest inhabitant" has never known the like of it, a severe December and a mild January. From Thanksgiving Day to Christmas Day snow, winds, and bitter cold; since Christmas no snow, light winds, and mild weather with plenty of sunshine. The weather prophets are all astray: their sure signs have all failed. But we may yet experience enough winter!

By a recent decision of the Courts some lands near Ashland, Wisconsin, have become open for settlement; and, up to date, almost 50,000 acres have been covered by applications.

Miss Elizabeth P. Peabody, prominent in educational and philanthropic work, and well known as the first to introduce the kindergarten system into the United States, died the other day.

On the 3rd inst, Toledo, Ohio, was visited by a disastrous conflagration which left "the best portion of the business centre of the city a mass of smoking ruins." The loss has been estimated at $1,500,000.

"The White City," whose beauty, it had been hoped, would not immediately disappear, has been sadly marred by a fire which broke out last Monday about 6 p.m. in the Casino. The origin of the fire is unknown; its rapid spread is now too well known. The Agricultural Building, fortunate-

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ly was saved; but the beautiful Peristyle was ruined, the Music Hall completely destroyed, and the Manufactures Building considerably damaged, both outside and inside, by fire, smoke, and water.

It is scarcely necessary to say that people rushed to Jackson Park as soon as they heard of the fire. Not only did almost all Hyde Park turn out: but from all over the city, even miles away, they hurried to see a fire which might have destroyed all the Exposition buildings.

The foreign commissioners and exhibitors, whose goods had not been removed from the Manufactures Building, were naturally excited and worried, especially as all goods were in bond. Commissioner Matsudaira secured permission to carry out the Japanese exhibits; but, finally seeing that his section was out of reach of danger, did not act upon it. President Harper and Dr. Goodspeed, of the University, were there to look after the big Yerkes telescope. The French suffered the worst, and will probably prefer a claim for damages. The whole loss, outside of the destruction of the buildings, is estimated at about $100,000. One firemen was killed, and two were injured. It is unfortunate that all the exhibits had not been removed before January 1st. The fault is said to lie with the U.S. customs officers and the railroads.

The trustees of the Field Columbian Museum announce that the doors of that institution will be opened May 1st.

A *plébiscite*, recently taken in the province of Ontario, resulted in almost 100,000 majority for prohibition. Not only country, but cities also, voted for prohibition, Toronto giving more than 2,000 majority. In this election for the first time, female suffrage was exercised to a limited extent.

Rev. Dr. Tupper, a Baptist pastor in Denver, Col., having been in communication with various ministers of Baptist and Christian Churches, announces his belief that there will soon be effected a union of both denominations.

That the Chicago *Graphic* appreciates the justice of Japan's claims for Treaty Revision is herein plain:—

> Japan exhibits its progressiveness by asserting as its right the power to try foreigners guilty of violation of local laws before Japanese courts. When the treaties were made with other nations, about thirty years ago, there were comparatively few subjects of other countries in Japan, and it was agreed that foreigners should be governed by the laws of their respective countries, the consuls being vested with authority in such cases. These treaties having expired, Japan claims the right to adopt the same laws relating to trial of foreigners as prevail in other countries. Popular feeling is represented as being very strong on the issue, and it is stated that the introduction of two anti-foreign bills was the cause of the adjournment recently of the House of Representatives for two weeks. It is not probable that any feeling will be aroused against foreign residents, as all will readily acknowledge the justice of the Japanese Government's claim to the exercise of full police powers within its domains.

"The Story of Japan," by Dr. David Murray, as No. 39 of the Stories of the Nations Series, has just been published by Geo. P. Putnam's Sons. It contains maps and illustrations and costs $1.50 in cloth binding.

In Nitobe's "Intercourse between the United States and Japan" is found the following interesting anecdote:—A very significant story is told of the celebrated Prince of Mito [Mitsukuni], a grandson of Iyeyasu. Among his retainers was a Christian believer, who was well-known for his loyalty and bravery. He made no secret of his faith and used to carry a banner with a cross on it. The prince summoned him to his presence and asked him the "reason of the hope that was in him." In answer thereto, the man held out a Chinese Testament, adding that his whole hope was to be found therein. Mito read and re-read it with increasing interest. Finally he shut the book and wrote on its cover:—"Surely this is a wonderful book, worthy of acceptance. Its effect is to create in the believer a longing for liberty and freedom, for which the present state of our country is not ripe." He [then] sealed the book, and wrote upon it [the seal]:—"Mito Komon forbids this book to be opened. [Compare story concerning Nariaki, eighth Prince of Mito, as related on page 14, of Vol. XVIII., Part 1., of the "Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan"].

Rev. W. E. Griffis, D.D., has a valuable article on "Social, Artistic, and Literary Holland" in this January *Chantauquan*.

President Andrews, of Brown University, has declined a very flattering offer to become co-President of the University of Chicago.

The Chicago Relief and Aid Society finds work for the unemployed in its wood-yard; but it is now embarrassed, because it can not find customers for the slabs, kindling and hard wood, thus supplied.

R. G. Dun and Co's. *Weekly Review of Trade* says this morning:—

> Business has distinctly improved since the new year came, and the gain is no longer visible in speculative markets only. It is the only kind of improvement that has in it possibilities of lasting, because it is based upon actual increase in the production by industries. As all rejoice to see it, there is, perhaps, a little disposition to reckon the gain greater than it is as yet, but several large establishments have started with part forces hoping to increase, and more smaller works have started than have stopped.

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE JAPANESE ALPS.

By Walter Weston, M.A., F.R.G.S., English Alpine Club.

(CONCLUDED FROM JANUARY 27TH.)

ZOSUI-BASHI "THE LOVERS' BRIDGE."

"*Mukashi-mukashi*" "Once upon a time," my informant began, "when first these villages were founded on either side of the river's banks, their inhabitants used to have hardly any intercourse with each other owing to the difficulty of getting across from side to side of so wide and swift a stream. But it chanced that amongst the men of Shimajima there was one, Abe by name, who had fallen in love with a certain O Setsu ("Miss Constance" we should call her if she had been English), a young lady living in Hashiba, who, in spite of the difficulty of love-making at a distance, showed unmistakably that she returned his affection. Whether, as they gazed upon each other across the intervening current, "distance lent enchantment to the view" has not transpired, but certain it is that some means were found of communicating their sentiments to each other and of settling upon a happy plan for the consummation of their affection. The suggestion, a result of long and anxious cogitation on the lady's part, was duly communicated by her and carried out by them both in concert. For, returning to their homes, they set to work to cut down their expenses of living by henceforth abjuring all such luxuries as rice and *daikon*, and confining themselves to the meanest food in the shape of *zōsui*, a pottage of the cheapest vegetables and herbs they could get. By this means they each succeeded in saving enough money to be able to buy a pine-tree, the pair of which, stripped of their branches, they fastened to their respective sides of the river so as make the ends meet in mid-stream. On the slender bridge thus thrown across the water, the gallant swain passed over to claim his faithful bride, and so, of course, they "lived happily ever afterwards;" while, in commemoration of the romantic episode, a proper bridge was built in the orthodox way and given the name which its successor still bears "*Zōsui-bashi*."

When Wednesday morning broke, the weather still showed little signs of clearing up, though Kamonji assured me that even if it did it would be useless to start to day, as the heavy rains of the last few days would have so swollen the rivers in the hills that it would be impossible for us to make the passages we had before us. However, as the day wore on, the rain ceased and the air began to clear, and soon a perceptible diminution of the now roaring torrent gladdened our eyes. From observations of the sides of the channel, and of rocks in mid-river, we saw that the level of the stream had risen at least a dozen feet, but it was only several weeks afterwards that I learnt how destructive these heavy rains had been in the effects they produced on the volumes of the larger rivers running into the sea on the East and West coasts. The unfortunate towns and villages in the Gifu district had suffered terribly, while the Jindzu-gawa had also overflowed its banks in the plain of Etchiu, in the neighbourhood of Toyama, and done much damage. The cause of disaster further afield, however, had very different effects here, the "harvest of the waters" being so plentiful that the fishermen were in high glee at their good fortune, and a special *bon* (feast) was proclaimed to celebrate it. The result was that a number of youths, who had nothing whatever to do with the affair really, happened to light upon my inn as the rendezvous for their carousals, and for hours made night hideous with their insane childish revellings. Moreover, by way of adding insult to injury, when a few days later I called for my bill on leaving the place, I found they had actually caused me to be charged with the *sake* they had swilled!

THE TOKUGO TOGE.

Thursday dawned bright and clear, and at 7.15 a.m. I left Hashiba with Nakazawa, Kamonji, and another hunter for the hut which stands at the base of Myojindake by the side of the Adzusagawa, just where that river takes an abrupt turn in its downward course from its source in the snows on Yarigatake's rocky slopes. To reach the hut, one has to pass up the valley of a fine mountain torrent which falls into the Adzusagawa just below Hashiba, and near the head of which a steep path winds up a densely wooded spur of Kasumigatake and crosses it by what is known as the Tokugo (or Tokumoto) toge. Year by year the Agricultural Board is improving the path, and appears to contemplate carrying it over a parallel range of hills, on the right bank of the Adzusagawa, down to the valley of Gamada, with which in bygone years communication of some sort seems already to have existed. As far as the hut in question, the route to Myōjindake is the same as that to Yarigatake which I attempted to describe when writing of that delightful expedition a year ago in these columns. I was now for the fifth time passing along the beautiful valley whose charms seem fresher than ever, and whose rocky walls, and torrent-dinned ravines, ever and again opening up some side view of lovely vales on either hand, present new points of interest. "What a gallery of lovely pictures!" exclaimed Nakazawa as we reached a magnificent bluff, which rises sheer from the water's edge opposite to a little rustic shrine erected by some hunter on the side of the path about a couple of miles from Hashiba. Two miles further on we find ourselves at the Furo-taira, a nearly level spot opposite to some rocks on the left bank which send down a small spring strongly impregnated with iron. The water of this spring was last year turned into bamboo pipes, which now convey it across to the right bank, where a semi-enclosed bath house and one or two rude huts have been built for the accomodation of guests; who it is hoped, will in due course begin to patronize the establishment for the sake of its strengthening waters. On stopping to have a chat with the old bath-house keeper, who last year gave us a most delighted welcome, I found that about five persons on an average daily use the bath, the contents of which are artificially heated by means of a charcoal stove and a pipe which rises from the centre of the wooden tank. As Kamonji and his companion had not arrived, I decided to wait, and in the meantime I found that amongst the visitors at Furo-taira was the Rikugunsho official who had been brought there after his accident, but having now nearly recovered was pluckily returning to his work at the foot of Myojin-dake. From Furotaira to the Dashi-no-sawa hut is a walk of about an hour, the last bit being through a fine wild gorge, at the bottom of which the river comes dashing down over its rugged bed with a thunderous roar. As Kamonji and his companion had our provisions and had not been seen since shortly after the start, we crossed over the curious slanting bridge of pine-poles and sat down under the shadow of the hut to wait for their arrival, and our breakfast. On the opposite side of the torrent, a party of woodcutters were engaged in felling the trees on the steep hill side, and piling it in large stacks by the side of the narrow path. It is then sent down the stream to Matsumoto for sale. It seems odd to find large portions of the forest-clad slopes being entirely denuded of their fine timber in this way, instead of being gradually thinned out, but after once the trees have been cut down the place is left alone for twenty or thirty years. These forests are the property of the Noshomusho (the Agricultural Department), and the right to fell and sell the timber is granted on certain conditions to private individuals.

After waiting for three quarters of an hour, Kamonji and his companion at last turned up, having with them a third coolie, whose help was considered necessary on account of the steep climb over the toge in front of us. After a hearty meal, we set out at 11.30, no less than 1½ hours having been spent at the hut, and soon found ourselves at the foot of the hill, up who steep, dark slopes the path now winds to the summit. In less than a couple of hours the highest point was reached, and a halt made to take some observations, which ultimately showed the attitude to be 7,100 feet, or 4,700 above Hashiba, and would indicate that next to the Harinoki-toge this is probably the highest pass in Japan. The nomenclature of the pass is a little puzzling, as I have at various times heard it referred to by no less than three names, viz., Tokumoto-toge, Tokugo-toge, and Kaminchi-toge, though on the whole I think the second of these is to be preferred, as being the best known amongst the people in the neighbouring valley. The view from the top is interrupted by trees, but on descending a few feet on the N. side one finds oneself face to face with a picture as striking as it is unexpected, for the view of Mijojindake, seen at its best from this point, is worthy of an alpine setting, and differs entirely in its grandeur and in its wildness from the ordinary character of Japanese hill scenery. A steep path, much improved during the last two years, falls steeply down or near the bed of a rough torrent, and leads through a forest glade to the Tokugo hut, a small wooden place with a couple of rooms, erected by the Agricultural Department. This is occasionally tenanted by some herdsman or other in charge of a few cattle sent over during the hot summer months for pasturage from the Matsumoto plain. On the way down a fine view of the triangular top of Jonendake rises far up the wild glen of the upper waters of the Adzusagawa, which immediately below us sweeps round westwards at the base of Myojindake, whose stern, granite cliffs seamed with long slopes of glisten-

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ing snow, tower steeply almost from the water's edge. The hut stands at an altitude of 5,100 feet, a couple of hundred yards from the left bank of the stream, and is a good starting point for the ascent of Yarigatake if one is prepared to sleep out on the descent from that peak. I arrived at the hut at 3.30, a leisurely descent having taken about 1½ hours, and just succeeded in escaping some smart showers which came down almost immediately afterwards. Later on in the afternoon Kamonji and the other men turned up, but after depositing their burdens, and promising to be ready to start at daybreak, they crossed the river at the ford near the hut in order to spend the night at a little private shanty built by Kamonji himself as a sort of hunting-box when in quest of trout in the neighbouring streams, and of chamois and bears on the adjoining mountains. Nakazawa, who went with him just to see what the place was like, returned the same evening, bringing with him a dozen fair-sized trout, which, when toasted at the fire we made in the *irori* (an open space in the middle of the floor), proved a delicious addition to our menu. In anticipation of a start betimes in the morning we had to make our preparations for returning early, though these were necessarily of the simplest kind, my own consisting of an air-pillow for my head, and a small cushion laid on the bare boards to rest the hip bone on which most of one's weight naturally falls. By way of protection from the midnight breezes which swept in with great freedom through the wide cracks in the loose boards forming the walls of the hut, I put my pillow inside the lid of a *kori* standing on its side, and found it a capital screen from the draught.

MYOJIN-DAKE.

The morning broke dull and cold and gray, but in spite of its unpromising aspect I was up betimes, and quickly completed my preparations for the start. But a keen disappointment was in store. Nakazawa first of all told me that he was not well, in fact he had caught a chill in his stomach, he said, through wading across the river the previous afternoon, and didn't think he was fit to join in the expedition. As a matter of fact, his shirking of the climb was, probably, simply a case of "funk," and he afterwards owned to me that so far from his having had a wide experience of mountaineering in the Alpine range of Japan, he had not even been to the top of one single peak, his nearest approach being part of the way up Ontake some years ago. His achievements therefore as a mountaineer might fitly be compared to those of a certain youthful French *intrèpide*, who boasted immoderately over his *ascension du Mont Blanc*. "And did you *really* reach the summit?" he was asked. "Well, no, not exactly *that*, but I climbed up *jusqu' au montanvert*?" which, in other words, is about equivalent to a person boasting of making the ascent of Fuji, "that is, as far as Subashiri!"

But Nakazawa's defection was not the only thing, for he next proceeded to tell me that Kamonji had informed him the night before that the ascent I proposed to make was utterly impossible in one day from the hut, and it would be therefore useless to attempt it! Why Kamonji had himself said nothing to me about it, even leaving with the promise to be ready to start on the expedition at daybreak, I was utterly at a loss to understand, and one could only sadly remind oneself that one was still in a land whose inhabitants, delightfully pleasant and agreeable though they so often are, nevertheless are prëeminent as persons of much promise but of little performance. No doubt it is owing to the almost universal shrinking from doing a disagreeable thing which so frequently leads them to say not what they think you *ought* to know, in answer, it may be, to your enquiries, but rather what they think you would *like* to believe.

A couple of hours or more had passed slowly by in fruitless expectation before at last the stunted form of the sturdy little hunter was seen pushing through the trees on the opposite bank, and making his way carefully across the ford in the direction of our hut. On his arrival, I enquired why he had not appeared at daybreak according to our arrangement. "Oh," he said, "the weather looked too threatening, and I thought it wouldn't be fit to start. Besides, it is impossible to get up and down the mountain in one day from here, without getting benighted and having to sleep out on the rocks on the way down."

"But, Kamonji, why didn't you tell me this last night when we were talking about it? You said, before we left Hashiba, that we could get up in about six hours and down in about four," I remonstrated.

"Oh, well, I thought you only meant to ascend the lower peak. I didn't know you wanted to climb the highest point of all." This, I am sorry to say was an absolute untruth, as the only thing contemplated and arranged for was the ascent which had so nearly proved fatal to our Rikugunsho friend, *i.e.* the highest peak of Myojin-dake, which is sometimes also called Yokoo-dake to distinguish it from several other but lower points rising from the same great ridge.

That Kamonji's feelings at the prospect of repeating the ascent were akin to those of Nakazawa I could scarcely believe, although the way in which he talked of the climb up Yarigatake as mere "child's play" compared with this, was evidently intended to show that the expedition was one of unusual difficulty. However, I insisted upon making the attempt, believing that, as I had often found to be the case before, the guides' estimate of the perils and difficulties of the climb was an exaggerated one. Accordingly, after a time the leader reluctantly gave in, and at 7.45 a.m., taking in my *rücksack* plenty of food, some extra clothing, etc., in case of emergencies, we were actually on the move towards the mountain. Crossing the Adzusa-gawa at the ford we quickly made our way through the lower part of the forest, covering the bit of level ground on its right bank, and after half an hour's walk up the valley leading towards Yarigatake, a sudden turn to the left brought us to the mouth of a small mountain torrent hidden in the denser trees at the east base of our peak, which now towers right above us in all its majesty. One could now more fully appreciate the allusion, which in "Murray's" description of this part of the valley, draws attention to the great cliffs and snow-seamed gullies here rising so impressively almost over our heads.

"Noble mountains are these precipitous masses of granite, surpassing in wildness any to be seen elsewhere in Japan, their curiously steep forms being not unlike some of the ideal crags depicted in Chinese art." (*Vide* 3rd Edition, p, 237.)

Judging by the extraordinary way in which Kamonji forced the pace as he led the way through the forest, regardless of obstacles, which were both many and various, it was quite evident he had no intention whatever of spending the night on the inhospitable cliffs of Myojin-dake. Whether it was in the hope of tiring out his traveller, or simply of ensuring a timely return I am not quite sure, though I am rather inclined to think he at first hoped the attempt to continue the ascent would not be ultimately persisted in. However, I thought the best thing was to follow the example of Uncle Remus's friend "Brer Rabbit," to "lay low and say nuffin," so on we went, now plunging through the icy water of the torrent, again jumping from boulder to boulder, or scrambling over fallen trees that barred the way when we had to take to the banks. No vestige of a path was to be seen, and our way we had to make as well as we could; sometimes pushing through the closely interlacing undergrowth, whose cord like creepers would twine themselves round the ankles of the unwary one, greatly to his confusion; at other times the leader had literally to cut through the bushes with a great knife, a welcome diversion, however, for the person placed in the rear of the caravan, since it afforded both breathing-time and space for reflection on the novelty of a situation which promised developments more interesting than anything I had yet experienced. After about an hour of this kind of work we found ourselves clear of the denser portion of the forest, near whose upper limits the stream disappears, but then comes a tiresome struggle through a stretch of bamboo grass, wet with the early morning's rain, a considerable portion of which moisture now transfers itself at every step to our clothing and persons. However, as long before this stage we had got thoroughly soaked, a little more or less made no difference, so we pushed on until we reached better going in the shape of loose rocks, a slope of which stretched steeply upwards towards the foot of the broken cliffs in front. Here we halted for a few minutes, and shortly after resuming our climb suddenly became aware of a familiar scent, which again and again brought back recollections of English fruit gardens, such as I had been hitherto unaccustomed since leaving home. What the fragrance proceeded from I could not for a little while be sure, until a short distance higher up I found myself face to face with nothing less than a clump of the black currant bushes. The find was no less surprising than welcome, and not until a satisfying feast had been indulged in, did I leave the spot. As a memento of the occasion I plucked a leaf of the plant, but unfortunately it later on disappeared with an accumulation of rubbish of many kinds which, during that memorable day's climb, found a resting place in my pockets. The fruit varied in colour from a raw-looking green to dusky brown and sable black, and both in flavour and form, differed nothing from the berry we are used to in our domestic gardens at home. I am aware that the plant has been introduced from abroad into this country, but so far I had not actually come across it in my travels, though I had since read that it is found wild in some parts of Russia. The altitude at which I noticed it for the first time was about 7,500 feet, and further on I also fell in with raspberry bushes bearing a magnificent-looking berry, whose sweetness, however, was by no means proportionate to its size, and not nearly so luscious as the more common variety found in plenty in adjoining valleys.

On getting clear of the bushes and undergrowth above the forest itself, the impracticable nature of the cliffs above forced us across the slope of loose stones to the right, on traversing which we found ourselves on the crest of a sharp ridge, up which we climbed above the western side of a small pool of water near the top. Far beyond us stretched a mighty *couloir*, which on the right ends in a precipice, over which a cascade, fed by the snows far above falls with a roar, whilst to the left it gives access between walls of wild cliffs to the main *arête* of the mountain. In order to reach the *couloir* we had to cross the ridge and pass across the face of a nearly perpendicular wall of rocks, where the only hand-hold was afforded by the creepers and ferns which grew in the crevices. As we started across this part, Kamonji, whose face had now assumed a somewhat anxious look, turned round to me and asked "Can you do it? It needs great care." Reassured by the answer he got, he passed on, and after a rather exciting scramble we descended into the great *couloir* and turned our faces eastwards towards the summit. A rapid climb up some loose rocks brought us, at 10.30, to the base of an overhanging cliff on the right, and here we halted for half an hour for another breakfast, for our hard work made us hungry amazingly soon. Resuming our climb over loose, steep rocks we reached the first snow at 11.30, at an altitude of 9,000 feet, the inclination of the slope being about 40°, the steepest angle at which I have found snow lying on any of the peaks or passes I have been on in Japan. My "Alpine walking stick," which I had this year substituted for my old ice-axe, as being lighter and handier, here came in very useful, and proved still more so on the descent. Progress was somewhat slow until the snow was left, but after a few hundred feet of it we were again able to take to the rocks, and from here to the summit was the most enjoyable part of the whole climb. The rocks were bigger and firmer than any we had yet met with, and it was a real pleasure to get something that called for a putting forth of one's best energies to surmount the obstacles before us. At 12.45 we were on the *arête*, and as Kamonji pointed to a great rock pinnacle on our right, he exclaimed, exultingly "Ah, we shall soon be there."

"But," I said, "I don't think that is the highest point. Look at that one over there on the left. That is certainly higher."

"Wait a moment, then, and I'll go and see," answered Kamonji, and turning the corner at the foot of the rock tower on our right he climbed up and out of sight to reconnoitre. In a few minutes, with monkey-like agility, he was scrambling back to where I stood, acknowledging, as he rejoined me that my surmise was correct, so without delay we set ourselves to the remainder of our task, What a glorious scramble it was! The like I had never before enjoyed in this land of mountains, and I could now understand why my companions should have spoken so respectfully of the grand peak to which they had compared Yarigatake as but child's play. The summit was reached at 1.20, not quite 5½ hours from the start, but unfortunately the clouds which rolled in ragged masses round the wild, broken peaks prevented a good view being obtained. Occasionally the grey curtain would part here or there for a moment, and a glimpse of Ontake or some other distant peak would appear. One could, however, form a fair idea of the prospect in clear weather, as the position of the mountain is similar enough to that of Yarigatake to make the view very much the same. A cold wind was blowing from the South-East and the very ragged state of my nether garments, now hanging partly in ribbons that fluttered wildly in the breeze, made a lengthy stay undesirable, soaked as we were by the rain in which we had for several hours been climbing. On the top I found the little stake driven into a cleft in the disintegrated rocks, a fortnight before, by the Rikugunsho official. As I looked at the rocks down which he had fallen on the descent, it seemed almost incredible that the man could ever have survived. The summit is composed of an intensely hard close-grained granite of a dark colour, and the altitude I made to be 10,150 feet. The appearance of the precipitous depths and snow-filled gullies, above which towered the jagged pinnacles of granite was wild and desolate in the extreme, the view on the western side of the main ridge being especially striking. After half an hour's rest I was obliged to turn away from the spot, and

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begin the descent, the guides soon getting into difficulties and losing the way, but at last we found ourselves on the right line and went quickly down the rocks above the *couloir* until the snow slope was reached. Here I announced my intention of having a glissade, but no sooner had I stepped upon the snow than my companions sprang forward almost in terror, exclaiming against the awful risk. Doubtless to a person shod only in the yielding straw sandal of the country it may have seemed somewhat rash, as the sole of the *waragi* affords no friction against the smooth surface of the snow, but with hob-nailed boots, and a sharp pointed stick, such as I carried, the operation was one of the most harmless and pleasant. A grand exhilarating rush it was, no exertion being needed to descend the slope which had consumed a considerable amount of time and energy on the upward way. In a few minutes I found myself at the base of the cliff where we had stopped to breakfast, and shortly afterwards was rejoined by the guides, who were roaring with laughter at the spectacle of the glissade, now successfully accomplished. Underneath the cliff I noticed a number of small flies, which immediately on our arrival began to pester us most unmercifully, and for nearly the whole of the remaining part of the descent proved an intolerable nuisance, and several times almost caused me to miss my footing through getting into my eyes at inconvenient moments. I was told that they are particularly fond of annoying the chamois found on these wild peaks, and that it is generally near the haunts of these animals that they are to be found.

Crossing the ridge on the right side of the *couloir* we passed the little pool we had noticed on the ascent, and from here slightly changed our course, bearing more towards the South so as to avoid the descent down the torrent bed, and continuing in almost a straight line towards the inside of the bend of the river at the base of the mountain. The loose rocks or "screes," which the disintegration of the great peaks above constantly sends down on the slopes below, succeeded by the tangled undergrowth and dense bamboo grass as we reached the forest once more, made the descent far from easy. But all went well, and the lower we got the higher our spirits rose, and we were just congratulating ourselves on a successful termination to our climb when a remarkable diversion occurred. Kamonji had just halted and was turning to make some observation to me about a fallen tree trunk which lay in our way, when, to my amazement, the whole appearance of the man suddenly, without a moment's warning, underwent a most extraordinary change. In a moment his face assumed the aspect and his form the attitude of one of the *Ni-o*, the guardian demons, at the gate of the shrine of Iyeyasu at Nikko. Even in times of repose Kamonji's features are odd enough, but on this occasion they were almost like those of a being from another world. On my hurrying up to learn the meaning of the strange transfiguration, he began to dance about in the wildest manner, and my first impression was that he had become almost insane under the belief that the spirit of the mountain had been insulted at the intrusion of a foreigner in his sacred fastnesses. For the first moment I prepared myself to resist an onslaught from the hunter, but the next instant I found out that the real danger was from an entirely different quarter, an attack against which resistance seemed hopeless. For Kamonji had stepped upon a wasp's nest, and the creatures were just rising in their fury as I approached him! The tight fitting tough, blue garments he wore protected my companion fairly well from the onslaught, but the great gaps in my thin flannel knicker-bockers, and my exposed neck offered a grand field for their operations, and in a few seconds I found myself the selected target of ten or a dozen stings. Only by dint of much painful self-flagellation, aided by well-meant violence on the part of Kamonji was any relief at all obtainable, though I still continued to receive, from various hidden corners of my nether garments, most unpleasant reminders of the presence of the foe. For the moment the situation presented a somewhat painful parallel to that of Mark Twain's unsuspecting friend, as related on a memorable occasion in the "Tramp Abroad," where the experience of the "Agent" is so graphically described:—"When the musing spider steps upon the red-hot shovel, he first exhibits a wild surprise, and then he shrivels up." By and by though one's sufferings abated a little, and we were able to continue the descent. The incident, however, served as a vivid, though totally unexpected illustration of the Japanese proverb which corresponds to our own saying, that "Troubles never come singly." The proverb runs:—*Naku tsura wo hachi ga sasu*; *i.e.* "A wasp stings a weeping face," and seeing that but a short time before I had been mourning over a huge rent in my only pair of knicker-bockers, and over the fact of one of the heels of my boots having been torn clean off during the rough descent on the broken rocks, the Japanese rendering of the old saw seemed singularly appropriate. At length we reached the little shanty erected by Kamonji, called *Miyagawa no Koya*, standing close by the still waters of a secluded mere, whose glassy surface reflects the form of the giant height at the foot of which it nestles so securely. Passing once more over the river at the ford, we reached the Tokugo hut at 6.15 p.m., our expedition having occupied 10½ hours from start to finish. Both for variety and interest it stands out in my memory as the grandest climb I have ever had on any single peak in the "Land of the Rising Sun."

MAJINAI—A CURIOUS EXPERIENCE.

On our return to the hut, Kamonji had a good deal to say about our adventures, particularly about that with the wasps, which in more ways than one had produced such an impression upon us both. Amongst the various remedies suggested for my benefit was the employment of *kuma-no-i*, bear's gall, said to be an infallible cure for the stings. However, as no bears were handy to supply us with what was needed, and as I could not afford to wait until the winter hunts began, Nakazawa conceived the idea of remedying the deficiency in a manner as novel to me as it was unexpected. Indeed, it was not until the following performance was partly over that I realized what he was about.

While I was standing near the fire in the middle of the hut, busily engaged in hanging up various garments to dry, my companion came up and said, "Will you please tell me where you were stung by the wasps this afternoon?" Not suspecting anything unusual, I pointed out the position of the wounds on the back of my legs and on my neck, and then went on with my drying operations at the fire. At length I became conscious that Nakazawa was solemnly engaged in making a series of mesmeric passes over the injured parts, without, however, touching them at all. He then went to the open door of the hut, turned his face towards the sombre precipitous cliffs of Myojindake, now wrapped in the dark shadows of evening, and clapping his hands together before his face, he bowed his head in an attitude of prayer. At first I was inclined to laugh outright at the absurdity of the proceeding, but checked myself on seeing that to him at least it was anything but a joke. As soon as his prayers were finished, he once more clapped his hands, and then returned to where I stood, with the remark: "This is what we call *Majinai*—(*i.e.* exorcism),—you will be all right in the morning!"

I now realized what he had been doing, and my mind went back to a curious scene I once witnessed near the Summit of Ontake, the great mountain to the south-west of the Japanese Alps, whose sacredness is second only to that of Fuji itself.

Two years ago, on a fresh clear summer morning, I was galloping down the slopes of the mountain, in company with my friend Mr. H. W. Belcher, when we were suddenly compelled to pull up short to avoid landing in the midst of a party of white-robed pilgrims squatting in the narrow track before us. With his back towards us sat a person, clad in garments of a somewhat priestly pattern, whilst in front of him were a dozen or so of the pilgrims, seated one behind the other, all intently engaged in watching his proceedings in connection with the foremost of the line. What ailed the individual I do not know, but he was evidently regarded as being possessed by some evil influence which must be exorcised if relief were to come. The priest was occupied in making his mesmeric passes in front of his patient, from time to time bursting forth into a sort of chant in which the rest of the band did its share in the way of responses. Gradually the possessed person was worked up into a sort of mild frenzy, and a ghastly inward struggle appeared to be convulsing his whole being, when suddenly, with a great gasp, he fell back in the arms of the person next behind him, weakened by his agony but apparently delivered of the torment within.

The whole scene was so unexpected, and withal so uncanny, that one scarcely knew what to make of it, and it will be interesting to hear the results of the investigations which I understand have been recently made by Mr. Percival Lowell on the subject, he having himself also been a witness of a similar scene only a few days before the occasion I have just described, on the same mountain. I am told that with regard to the exorcisms practised on Ontake, there is something quite peculiar to them and not found in the case of those used elsewhere. I believe, however, that had Nakazawa had the help of suitable assistants, and the cōoperation of a more orthodox patient, his incantations would have assumed a form uncommonly like that of the ceremony I witnessed as a curious spectator that summer morning on the "August Mountain" itself.

The severe pain caused by the stings effectually prevented me from getting much sleep that night, and as I lay awake watching the bright flames leaping up from the burning logs, I fell to musing upon the memories of other bivouac fires in bygone days. Sometimes the picture that seemed almost to shape itself in the glowing embers was that of a be-nighted party under the great rock at the foot of Yarigatake's monolithic peak; whilst again it resolved itself into a weather-bound trio sheltered for two stormy spring nights in a solitary shanty in the great forest that clothes the lower slopes of Fujisan. And as the bright recollections of those cheery, trusty comrades rose unbidden but ever welcome before the mind, one could not but realize how different may be the impressions, and how much deeper may be the enjoyment of an expedition which is shared by congenial companions. For given a comrade after one's own heart, and then the old saying anent the advantages of the life of a Benedict above that of a bachelor is invariably realized, that you "halve your sorrows, but double your joys," for, to adopt the beautiful iambics of Menander, *ὅταν τύχῃ τις εὐνοοῦντος (φίλου), Οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν κτῆμα κάλλιον βίῳ.*

The following morning, Saturday August 26th, broke gloriously bright and clear, and the climb over the Tokugo pass to Hashiba was delightful in the extreme. Owing to the late arrival of the two guides a start was not made until 7.15 a.m. A steady ascent of an hour and three quarters, including a halt for photography, took us to the top of the *toge*, whence a quick descent brought us into the beautiful valley where the delicious shade, the scented coolness, and the lights and shadows of the forest trees all combined to make the walk unspeakably delightful. Indeed, it might almost have been of these very scenes themselves that Ruskin wrote—"How many deep sources of delight are gathered into the compass of their glens and vales; and how, down to the most secret cluster of their far-away flowers, and the idlest leap of their straying streamlets, the whole heart of Nature seems thirsting to give, and still to give, shedding forth her everlasting beneficence with a profusion so patient, so passionate, that our utmost observance and thankfulness are but, at last, neglects of her nobleness, and apathy to her love."

In a little over a couple of hours from the summit of the pass I was once more at the Furo-taira, where an hour sped quickly by in enjoying the delights of the primitive bathing establishment, and from here another hour's walk took me into Hashiba, the whole distance, exclusive of halts, from the Tokugo hut to the latter place occupying some 4½ hours. At Hashiba I paid off the coolies, and went on alone to Matsumoto, getting a *jinrikisha* at Murasaki, and so getting over the last, and most uninteresting three or four miles of the journey quickly enough to enable me to reach my resting-place before nightfall.

THE "BASHA."

A quiet Sunday's rest was very welcome after the week's wanderings, but on Monday morning I had to be up at 3 o'clock in order to catch the *basha* which leaves every morning for Uyeda *viâ* the Hofukuji-toge. My landlord had expressed his intention of accompanying me on this occasion to Karuisawa, as he was anxious, he said, to climb Asamayama, the famous volcano of which he had so often heard but never seen. To my astonishment, however, after going with me as far as the *Basha* Company's office he suddenly informed me he had changed his mind, and decided not to come.

Long will that extraordinary ride of five and thirty miles linger in my memory as an unwelcome reminiscence of almost unmitigated discomfort. Indeed, I never bid a glad good-bye to that nerve-destroying instrument of torture without wondering at my astounding temerity in having so rashly risked the miseries it never ceases to inflict. I was promised only an eight hours' incarceration on this occasion before reaching my journey's end, but it was not till eleven hours from the start that we rattled, wildly and recklessly, into the busy little town in question. On the way the roads had turned out to be in hideous condition, at least for many miles on either side of the pass, and even going down hill it was necessary in some places for all the passengers, of whom there were 8 or 9, to alight before the miserable vehicle could be dragged down the serpentine windings of the steep incline. Nor was this the only kind of hindrance. Sometimes a collision, by way of lending variety to the journey, would occur, the behaviour of the contending coatchmen being then unaccountably idiotic. On one occasion the encounter was with a cart driven by a mere child, who, as soon as the wheels of his vehicle and ours had got hopelessly locked, proceeded to frantically urge on his

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horse, with the natural result that the creature got frightened, fell down, and refused to move. By dint of showing much perseverance and perspiration, our driver managed to get the *basha* free, but the other horse obstinately declined to proceed until compelled to do so by a passer-by who, seeing all other arguments had failed, came to the child's rescue in a brutal fashion and compelled the creature to rise and move on by hurling at it not oddly abusive epithets but a huge piece of rock to enforce his arguments.

At last Uyeda was reached at 3.20 p.m., and after an hour's wait I left by the 4.20 train for Karuisawa, where, in less than a couple of hours, I found myself once more in the midst of civilisation and comfort, and after a day's rest in the delightful country house of some Kobe friends, my mountain scrambles came to an end with a moonlight ascent of Asamayama, which nearly resulted in asphyxiation by the great volcano's sulphurous fumes, a drawback, however, more than compensated for by the glorious spectacle of sunrise as seen from near the summit of the cone.

FINAL NOTES.

A note or two may here be added, for the sake of clearness, on a few points in the foregoing article. The *aititudes* recorded were nearly all determined by observations made with a mercurial Mountain Barometer kindly lent to me by the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, which I have had the opportunity of comparing with standards at Kobe and Nagano (Zenkoji). The calculations were worked out with the greatest care by my friend the Rev. H. L. Bleby, of Osaka, to whom my best thanks are due.

With regard to *clothing*, an all important question when one's expeditions may take one from hot tramps on a burning highway to a night bivouac at snow level, I have found a light grey flannel the best thing for ordinary wear. In the way of under-clothing, a light Jaeger vest, of the thinnest make for ordinary use, with a shirt of medium thickness when something warmer is wanted, are invaluable. Care should be taken to get the *real* Jaeger things, and not one of the many imitations, which may be possibly a little cheaper but are not nearly so durable.

One of the most difficult problems to solve is that of really satisfactory *foot gear*. *Waragi* (straw-sandals) do very well, for those who can wear them, on slippery boulders and for fording streams, but on snow they are absolutely useless, and on broken rocks are apt to hurt the feet, and readily get cut to bits. I have found the best plan to be to do one's ordinary walking in good hob-nailed boots, which are of course absolutely necessary on the snow, and for climbing over smooth rocks, etc., to use shoes similar to what are sometimes seen at French watering-places for the use of bathers. Something of the same kind is used for walking purposes in that country under the name of *spadrilles*, whilst in parts of the Pyrenees they go by the name of *alpargatas*. They usually consist of a thick sole of plaited hemp, with uppers of strong canvas or similar material. I have been told by Japanese that there is a shoe of this description called *asa-gutsu*, and I have also heard that foreign pedestrians have employed them in this country, but I have not yet come across them myself. They give a wonderfully secure hold on slippery rocks and are cool and light to the feet.

For use on snow and in steep places generally, some sort of an iron-pointed pole or stick is necessary. The best thing of its kind for expeditions such as I have attempted to describe is the "Alpine Walking Stick," made by Messrs. Hill and Son, Haymarket, London. It consists of a strong ash stick, rather bigger than an ordinary walking-stick, having at one end a strong iron point, and at the other a sort of handle which can be used also for cutting steps in a slope of snow or a steep talus of earth.

In the way of *medicines*, a very useful companion is the "Mountaineer's Pocket Case," made by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., of Snow Hill Buildings, London.

This is a small leather case containing most of the ordinary remedies put up in the form of tabloids, and even if one doesn't need them oneself, it is often useful to be able to help a Japanese acquaintance, or some of the poor rustics who, in their far away Alpine valleys, never see a doctor from the beginning to the end of their days. The weight is about 20 ounces, and the price 25s.

A lady told a party of friends that she had quarrelled with her husband, and had planted a tree in memory of this, their first falling out. "What a splendid idea," whispered another lady in her husband's ear; "if we had adopted that plan, we might have had by now a fine avenue of trees in our garden."

IN H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. A. Mowat, Esq., Judge.—Monday, February 5th.

CLAIM FOR RECOVERY OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.

This was a claim brought by Edward Whittall, of No. 59, to recover certain documents from Thomas Holyoake Box. A petition had been filed in the suit.

His Honour, upon taking his seat, said that no answer had been filed by defendant.

Defendant—I should first like to file a cross-suit in this matter.

His Honour—I must first see what your answer is to the petition.

The answer, in writing, was then handed to the Bench.

His Honour—It is very inconvenient to put in a long answer like this at the last moment.

Defendant—I brought it to the Court, your Honour, some days ago, but was informed that there were certain fees to pay upon it, and I was not in a position to pay those fees. I was informed that I could put it in now.

His Honour said that his remark had reference to the plaintiff's convenience; the document was long and would take some time to read and appreciate. What relief did defendant now desire to ask for?

Defendant—That first, plaintiff be ordered to return to me the promissory note for $1,500 given by me to him and dated the 13th March, 1893; secondly, that the mortgage upon my house and furniture at 166, Bluff, and held by plaintiff, be cancelled; thirdly, that plaintiff return to me my life insurance policy, given by me to him as security for the promissory note, and also that I be paid my allowance of $120 a month, for carrying on the business, up to the 12th December, last year. I have had nothing since the end of Oct.; also—

His Honour said he could not deal with all these matters at once.

Plaintiff having read the answer put in, denied the truth of the allegations contained in it.

His Honour asked if the arbitrators in the case were still willing to arbitrate.

Defendant said that his arbitrator was willing to act, but the arbitration had fallen through in consequence of plaintiff taking up the position he did in regard to the matter.

His Honour (to plaintiff)—Is your arbitrator willing to act still?

Plaintiff—I would not ask him to act as arbitrator in the matter again.

His Honour thought that it was a pity the matter could not have been arranged amicably by arbitration. It would have been more to the advantage of both parties. He would be willing to adjourn the case, if plaintiff desired, in order to allow him time to consider the answer just put in. Under ordinary circumstances the time allowed would have been ten days.

Plaintiff said he would rather go on with case at once.

His Honour (to defendant)—I am unable to accede to your request for leave to file a counter-claim, at least at present, because until the case has gone a little further I cannot see whether it arises out of these proceedings or not. It may do so, but at present I do not know, and the case therefore had better go on.

Defendant—The cross-suit does arise out of these proceedings.

His Honour—Very well, we shall see. I will now hear what plaintiff has to say about his case.

Plaintiff—Some time last March, Mr. Irwine, the rector of Christ Church, came to me and asked me whether I could do anything for Mr. Box. He said Mr. Box was "in a very bad way."

His Honour—I would like you to give your statement without using any expressions that would cause pain to anybody.

Plaintiff—I must protect myself your Honour.

His Honour—But no one is attacking you, Mr. Whittall; try and give me your side of the case in as few words as possible, and without giving pain to other parties.

Plaintiff—Well, on the 12th December, Mr. Box came to me and told me that he required cheques for some $150 or so, and I told him that I wanted an explanation, and that I would not allow any more payments for goods, until—

His Honour—One moment, you have not told me how your connection arose.

Plaintiff—I was about to tell your Honour, only you stopped me.

His Honour—I did that because I did not wish you to use any unkind expressions that might possibly get into the public prints. You commenced by using the words he was "in a very bad way"—now, I think, such an expression quite unnecessary, and uncalled for, in such a statement as I require for the purposes of this case.

Plaintiff—The day after Mr. Irwine had spoken to me, Mr. Box called. He said he thought his late firm had treated him badly—

His Honour—Leave that out, it is unnecessary.

Plaintiff—Well, Box said that he was a good judge of silk piece-goods, and he asked me for the loan of $1,500, wherewith to set up a business in America. I said that I had myself been thinking about such a trade, and no doubt there was something in it, but that I myself knew nothing at all about it. I said I would give him letters to friends in San Francisco, and would be very glad to assist him if he could get a business together in America, and would give him half profits. There was nothing beyond that *if* in the matter. Well, he went over, and soon wrote a lot of letters to me about the business.

His Honour—What business?

Plaintiff—The silk piece-goods business. He got letters from me to other people and friends in the United States, and he returned to Yokohama with a few orders.

At a previous stage of the proceedings plaintiff said that he wished to call the Rev. E. C. Irwine as a witness, to prove how the introduction of Box to the business came about. His Honour now thought that from the statement just made, that Mr. Irwine need not be called at all. He had only been the instrument of introduction between the parties, and had nothing to do with the documents—the matter then before the Court.

Plaintiff—But something transpired afterwards, of which he can speak.

His Honour thought that there was no use in keeping the reverend gentleman waiting, as it would be a long time before proceedings reached that stage; besides, he thought the matter could be arranged without calling anybody, or taking up anybody elsès time. Would Mr. Box give up the documents?

Defendant—I have always been disposed to give them up under certain conditions.

His Honour—Well, tell me of those conditions.

Defendant—The whole of the arrangements between us have been verbal. Plaintiff ejected me from his office and I kept these papers.

His Honour—But what are your conditions for giving them up?

Defendant—That he admits me as being his partner.

His Honour—Do these papers have any value?

Defendant—Yes, in connection with the business.

His Honour—So the business is going on then, I thought you said it was stopped.

Defendant—I will carry it on if I can.

His Honour—Then what you want is your salary?

Defendant—Yes, and damages.

His Honour—But if you are a partner you don't want salary.

Defendant—I do as working partner.

His Honour—What other relief do you want; you stated that you wanted something else, did you not?

Defendant—In my cross-suit I ask for $7,500 as compensation for damages sustained by me through plaintiff failing to carry on the business as arranged, and for stopping the business.

His Honour—If he gives you compensation you will give up the documents I presume. You will have fees to pay on your counter-claim.

Defendant—Your Honour, I am compelled to appear in *forma pauperis*.

His Honour—I understand. Then why do you not sue Mr. Whittall for these things altogether?

Defendant—If he has the documents in his hands I lose everything of evidence on which to base my claim.

His Honour—But you can make copies of those documents, and they can be kept.

Plaintiff—I should certainly keep the papers; they are of value to me in all my business. They are letters connected with shipments, and invoices and other memoranda, all connected with the business which Mr. Box looked after. He can always come to my office to look at them. I wrote him a letter to that effect. There is one question I should like to ask him; it is about the way in which his name appears in the Directory. It runs:—No. 59, Thos. Holyoake Box, and then underneath that, Neeshima, clerk; what does that mean?

His Honour—That doesn't seem to concern the documents. Let me look at them.

The papers and documents in the possession of defendant were then all handed over to the Bench.

His Honour—I don't see any letters addressed to Mr. Whittall yet.

Plaintiff—He may have destroyed them.

His Honour—No, no, you cannot possibly mean that.

Defendant here explained that Mr. Whittall's

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letters were under some others which his Honour had not yet looked at.

His Honour—Why can't you (defendant) give up these papers, and then if you think yourself aggrieved sue Mr. Whittall for damages.

Defendant—Because I don't wish to transfer myself into a plaintiff.

His Honour—But you must be a plaintiff in the counter-claim.

Defendant—I wish to be able to preserve the letters as my evidence.

His Honour—You can easily do that. They are of value to the other side as well as to you; they would not be destroyed. Have you any objection to handing them over to Mr. Whittall?

Defendant—I have no objection, but I hand them over only on one condition. I would like to ask him what position I am in, whether the business is only his, or whether it is run conjointly for the benefit of both of us?

His Honour—Very well, plaintiff disputes the position you maintain. But he has no objection to your taking copies of the documents in his possession and a copy of the documents which you now hold. You can keep the copies of all the documents connected with the business.

Plaintiff—I am very willing to accept those terms.

His Honour—That settlement would be perfectly satisfactory I should think.

Defendant—I am asked to give up the documents, but I hope that it will not cause my claim to fall through.

His Honour—You have not begun that yet.

Defendant—Then there is my ejection from the office.

His Honour—That would probably make the ground for your claim against him, but that does not arise in this case.

Defendant—What must I do, then.

His Honour—You must file a petition in the usual way.

Defendant—Those documents which you ask me to give up all tend to prove my claim for partnership.

Plaintiff said there were other documents too.

Defendant—But you have all the others; can I not have access to those?

His Honour—All those that came in afterwards, Yes.

Defendant—It is those letters that were received afterwards that I can't see.

Plaintiff—But I wrote to Box telling him he could see them whenever he wanted to.

Defendant—But I could not go to your office.

His Honour—Well, then, take copies of them now.

Plaintiff—May I ask that Mr. Box hand over copies of receipts of moneys obtained from my compradore, and which are mentioned in the answer.

His Honour—He has given up the papers you asked for; have you any objection to leaving the papers you have, and which he desires to copy, in the Court-room?

Plaintiff—There are some accounts among them which I should not like to lose. He ran away with the others.

His Honour—Well, he thought that as partner he had a right to them,—that they were his. It won't occur again.

Defendant said the receipts which plaintiff had asked for were among the papers he had handed over.

His Honour—This really ends the matter. Here are the documents which you, plaintiff, ask for, and which you are to preserve and produce whenever you may be called upon at any time to do so. Those which you hold, Mr. Box may inspect and take copies of.

Plaintiff—I have one request to make. There are $1,500 worth of goods lying at No. 59, my office, which Box in his answer says were purchased by him for himself and by himself entirely. I have paid for them, but I do not know anything at all about them. They were referred to the arbitration, but Box has got the key of one room. The goods are loose and some have been stolen. I have done nothing in the matter because I do not know anything about the goods; but I should like the Court to ask Mr. Box who paid for them. If your Honour could ask him that it might settle the matter.

His Honour—I can't go beyond the petition. The petition merely asks for the recovery of certain documents. Those you have now obtained, and I can't go beyond that.

Plaintiff—But in my petition don't I make reference to some memoranda.

His Honour—There is mention of memorandum of goods.

Defendant—That memorandum is there among the other documents.

His Honour asked if plaintiff was satisfied with that.

Plaintiff—Entirely; I am willing to make over to Mr. Box all his rights in these goods.

His Honour—Are they yours or his?

Plaintiff—He says they are his; I paid for them. But I don't know what they are, or what he bought them for.

Defendant—I say that they are ours conjointly.

His Honour—Had they not better be shipped?

Defendant—They can't be shipped.

His Honour—Are they no longer of use?

Defendant—I don't think so.

His Honour—When were they bought?

Defendant—These are the goods that have been the subject of arbitration all along. Some were bought in August, some in September, and so on. They would be shipped at great disadvantage now.

His Honour—What is their value?

Defendant—About $2,000. They were paid for in Mr. Whittall's money.

His Honour—Can't they be shipped when the time comes round again; or are they kept here because the business is stopped; (to Plaintiff) are you willing to have them shipped?

Plaintiff—I have all along been willing; but I deny *in toto* the allegations in the answer that I stopped the business.

His Honour—Do you agree to ship them Mr. Box?

Defendant—I agree to ship them, they were bought as sample consignments, but Mr. Whittall refused to do business that way.

His Honour—You have no objection to shipping them, I suppose.

Defendant—I agree to ship them for our mutual advantage, but they will have to be sent to different people now.

His Honour—Well, that is settled. Now, don't you think you can go along to Mr. Whittall's office and make copies of the documents you require.

Defendant demurred.

Plaintiff—If he is afraid to enter my office he can bring policemen along with him.

His Honour—That is not the case at all; you cannot mean it.

Defendant said he would be willing to go to Mr. Whittall's office, if that gentleman would agree not to molest him, and if he could have the use of the office he used to use.

Plaintiff—The office which Mr. Box used when in my employ is entirely at his service.

His Honour—Then the whole matter is settled by consent.

Plaintiff—May I ask for my costs?

His Honour—It is not the rule to give costs when a case is settled amicably by consent. If the case had gone on I cannot say which side I should have taken, whether yours or the other party's. It did not go so far, but you agreed to settle it by consent, and you are in the some position as if you had settled it outside without appearing before the Court. In no cases of amicable settlement by consent can costs be given against the other side.

The Court then rose.

SUPREME COURT, HONGKONG.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Before His Honour Sir FIELDING CLARKE, Chief Justice.—THURSDAY, January 25th.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIOGO HOTEL, LIMITED.

The liquidators of the Hiogo Hotel, Limited, Messrs. H. J. Pearce and H. J. Rothwell, having taken steps to enforce the payment of $48,600 by Mr. R. H. Cook, manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Kobe, on account of 486 shares held by the Bank for the Company, and a judge's summons having been taken out calling upon the liquidators to show cause why the name of Mr. Cook should not be struck off the list of contributories, His Lordship ordered the hearing of the case in public.

Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., instructed by Mr. E. C. Ellis (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), represented the liquidators; and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master), represented the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

It was stated at the outset that the Bank took upon itself all the responsibility in the matter which might attach to Mr. Cook.

Mr. Leach read an affidavit made by Mr. Pearce, and read the various sections of the local Ordinance conferring powers upon liquidators to make up a list of contributories, as was done in this case, and to make calls upon the contributories. Mr. Cook was placed on the list of contributories on 22nd December, 1892, a call was made and notice given of the call on 26th April, 1893, and no steps whatever had been taken either by the Bank or Mr. Cook to remove his name from the list of contributories, and, therefore, the Liquidators had to come to this Court to enforce the call. Having placed Mr. Cook on the list of contributories and having made a call, a *prima facie* speciality debt was established against Mr. Cook. That was to say, that having done nothing himself to get his name removed from the list and having allowed the call to be made, there was *prima facie* liability on him to show that he was not liable for the shares standing in his name at the date of the winding-up of the Company. That it was a speciality debt was shown by Sec. 73 of Ordinance 1 of 1865. With reference to a motion by the Bank, Mr. Leach held they had taken quite an unnecessary step, having allowed more than a year to go by without taking any steps to get the name removed from the list of contributories. The same issue was raised by the motion as was raised by this summons, namely, were the 486 ordinary shares standing in the name of R. H. Cook at the date of the winding-up of the Company fully paid-up shares or not, and if not fully paid-up was the Bank liable to pay them up. After other arguments to the effect that the issue raised by the motion was similar to that raised on the summons, the learned counsel concluded by submitting that it was for Mr. Francis, on behalf of the Bank, to remove the *prima facie* liability.

Mr. Francis submitted it was removed by the affidavit by Mr. Master, showing that the shares were fully paid-up.

His Lordship asked if that was all the case.

Mr. Francis said it was not, but it was an answer to the statement of the other side that the onus of proof lay upon him.

His Lordship pointed out that counsel had been briefed to submit to him the points of law arising from the case.

Mr. Francis said no points of law had yet been raised.

His Lordship said Mr. Francis could not be heard again. He did not understand that they were merely discussing the onus of proof.

After some further desultory discussion, Mr. Francis read a long affidavit by Mr. Master, which was to the effect that the Hotel Company was started with 1,700 ordinary shares of $100 each and 340 founders' shares of $15 each. The purchase-money to go to the late W. G. Johnson, the vendor, was $175,100, of which $133,900 was to be paid in cash and $40,000 by the allotment to the vendor of 400 fully paid-up ordinary shares and 80 founders' shares. Of the cash, W. G. Johnson had to pay J. D. Carroll, to whom a reference was made in the prospectus of the Company, $90,000 for a portion of the property owned by him. Only $99,280 was subscribed by the public. This sum, with the $41,200 agreed to be taken by Mr. Johnson in fully paid-up ordinary shares and in founders' shares, made up $140,480 of the $175,100 and left a sum of $34,620 still to be subscribed. Mr. Johnson agreed to receive this amount in fully paid up shares in lieu of cash, and there was a receipt in hand, signed by Mr. Drummond, Secretary to the Company, "Received from W. G. Johnson the sum of $75,820 in full payment of 736 Ordinary shares and 148 founders shares in the Hiogo Hotel, Limited." On account of loans to Mr. Johnson, 486 shares were deposited as security by him with Mr. Cook, and subsequently the shares were registered in Mr. Cook's name. If the shares issued to the late Mr. Johnson were to be treated as unpaid, it was maintained that the representatives of Mr. Johnson had a good claim on the Company for the balance of the purchase money of the Hotel, and that this ought to be paid out of the assets of the Company in liquidation before any adjustment could be made between the contributories. The affidavit concluded by stating that a judge's summons had been taken out calling upon the Liquidators to show cause way the name of R. H. Cook should not be struck off the list of contributories.

Mr. Francis entered upon a long and involved legal argument, and the case was adjourned till to-morrow morning at 10.30.

FRIDAY, January 26th.

The hearing was resumed of the application by the liquidators of the Hiogo Hotel, Limited, to enforce the payment of calls for $48,600 made on Mr. R. H. Cook, manager at Kobe of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. E. C. Ellis of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), appeared for the liquidator, and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructor, by Mr. G. C. C. Master, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented the Bank.

His Lordship—Have you any other evidence to tender, Mr. Francis?

Mr. Francis—Not at present, my lord.

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His Lordship—There is hardly any evidence at all; only an affidavit of hearsay.

Mr. Francis—That affidavit is admitted by the other side.

His Lordship—I cannot take mere presumptions. As to the execution of the transfer, for instance, I cannot assume that there was any transfer on that particular date. I cannot assume that you acted on that receipt. The matter is within your own power to prove if you choose to do it. There is no reason why Mr. Cook should not make an affidavit.

Mr. Francis—But I contend, my lord, that the onus of proof is on the other side. We are the registered holders of the shares. We hold the certificate to the effect that they are fully paid-up and it is for them to prove the contrary.

His Lordship—As regards 400 of the 736 shares, at any rate you must have had some knowledge that the agreement was not registered.

Mr. Francis—I submit that there is not sufficient evidence to satisfy any Court that we did have that knowledge, although it looks on the face of the papers as though we might have had that knowledge.

His Lordship—I agree with you as to the burden of proof in respect to the shares over and above the 400.

Mr. Francis—No evidence has been given that we had any knowledge. It looks *prima facie* as though we had, as regards the 400 shares, but beyond that there is no evidence of our knowledge of the non-registration of this agreement, and this does not seem to have dawned on any of the parties until after Mr. Johnson's death. The position we take up is that we are in possession of evidence of a *bona fide* transaction between the Company and Mr. Johnson. Whether these transfers were given or not at the time they were made, the Hiogo Hotel, Limited, has recognised them and on the faith of those transfers they have issued fresh certificates and registered us as the holders of these shares. If those transfers were not properly executed then they had no right to put us on the share register at all. No amount of requests on our part would have entitled us to that.

His Lordship—It might affect your position if you were the transferee before the correspondence took place. But you ought to produce some document which is inteligible in itself. I cannot understand anything from looking at that transfer.

Mr. Francis—We do not produce it.

His Lordship—But you rely upon it.

Mr. Francis—It is the whole of the information we have.

His Lordship—You rely on the fact of transfer.

Mr. Francis—I rely on the fact that it is admitted on the other side that an advance of $8,000 was obtained on the security of those shares on that date.

His Lordship—I think it would be made much more satisfactory if we had some evidence. The matter is now brought to an issue and the Court ought to have satisfactory materials before it from which to draw inferences. There is a large sum of money at stake and all we have at present is a hearsay affidavit, and an entire blank as to several of the facts which must be within the parties' knowledge.

Mr. Francis—I have already explained the position, my lord. There is only one person in Hongkong who was at Yokohama at the time of this transfer.

His Lordship—It is quite possible to go beyond Hongkong. I offer you now an adjournment for the parties to obtain evidence of these facts. Do you wish it, Mr. Francis?

Mr. Francis—Yes, my lord.

Mr. Leach—I cannot oppose it, my lord.

His Lordship—I think it is exceedingly desirable that the facts should be brought out more clearly and fully than at present.

Mr. Francis—It would facilitate the matter to arrive at a rough statement of the issues.

His Lordship—If you and your friend can agree to a statement of the facts it would undoubtedly be a good thing.

Mr. Francis—We can make an attempt.

His Lordship—It looks to my mind—I say it with all caution—it looks as though there was one certificate for the whole of the shares and that was deposited with the Bank, that there was no enumeration of the shares, that the transfer was executed in blank to be filled up when the certificates were ready, that the Bank probably knew that the 400 shares were founders' shares, that it is not shown that the Bank had any knowledge that no contract was registered, that the burden of proof as regards the balance that the Bank knew there was no cash payment—if indeed there is any burden of proving the fact that there were no cash payments—lies on the Company, and no such proof has at present been adduced. It may be a point, but I am not prepared to say, as to what effect was produced on the action of the Bank by the deposit of this receipt. They may have been misled and it is an important fact whether they actually were misled. I think it is probable that the Bank must have known that those 400 shares were founders' shares.

Mr. Francis—It is probable.

His Lordship—But it may be so, and the Bank ought to have the opportunity of showing that it is not so. If I draw inferences from the present material one of the parties might appeal to produce evidence which might be given now, and I think that the party who does not adduce his evidence now ought in such an event to be visited with the costs. I think it is far best that the parties should collect evidence now. I do not like connecting links in the dark.

Mr. Francis—There was a case I referred to yesterday of appeal to the House of Lords—

His Lordship—We have not got a House of Lords here yet, Mr. Francis. I think that it would be more satisfactory to the Court and to all parties for the proper adjudication of this matter that there should be an opportunity given of getting some evidence. The matter has been rather hurried and anxiety was exhibited to get into Court. The summons was only taken out the other day. I thought at the time that the facts were not fully brought out, and they ought to be.

Mr. Francis—I think it would be much better, my lord.

His Lordship then adjourned the case until March 1st, enjoining on the parties to obtain the books and papers relative to the matter.—*Daily Press.*

THE INTERPORT FOOTBALL MATCH.

YOKOHAMA VESRUS KOBE.

The teams selected to represent their ports in the great annual Interport Match were as follows:—

YOKOHAMA.		KOBE.
Mr. E. W. Tate.	Goal.	Mr. F. L. Marshall.
Mr. B. Hyde Pearson. Mr. F. J. Lias.	Backs.	Mr. Geo. Braess. Rev. W. Weston.
Mr. J. Hall. Mr. H. Pinckney. Mr. C. W. Arnould.	Half-backs.	Mr. C. E. Stephens. Mr. G. W. Whymark. Mr. W. Kerr.
Mr. E. J. Libeaud. Mr. H. R. Mair.	Right Wing.	Mr. F. J. Collins. Mr. S. Meadows.
Mr. P. Morriss.	Centre.	Mr. C. H. Lightfoot.
Mr. A. J. Watt. Mr. A. Cabeldu.	Left Wing.	Mr. F. E. Wilkinson. Mr. C. K. Lucas.

Grave doubts were expressed on Monday morning as to the weather, and it looked for some time as if the heavy clouds of the morning would descend in rain during the afternoon. The strong wind which sprang up from the north prevented the clouds from discharging, however, but the keen wind rendered play very unpleasant and reduced the number of spectators materially. The Kobe Town Band was present and attempted to make things lively for the shivering spectators. After the teams had been photographed, a start was made shortly after three o'clock, when Pearson, winning the toss, chose the southern goal. Mr. C. N. Crosse acted as Referee, and Messrs. Brushfield and Kenyon as linesmen, the trio in every respect performing their duties in a manner satisfactory to everybody.

On the ball being started the visitors made a rush, and thus early in the game it was apparent that the home team were out-paced, and their backs had difficulty in clearing. Unfortunately, at this point, the visitors' centre forward was disabled, having dislocated a knee cap, which necessitated his being carried off the field. On resuming, the visitors, with Arnould in place of Morriss, still attacked vigorously, and splendid work was done by Cabeldu and Mair, the latter especially. The home forwards were also doing well, but Lias and Pearson were too much for them, and repeatedly frustrated attempts at goal. Just before half-time was called, some excellent passing by the visitors' forwards took place, and ultimately Mair got the ball, beat the backs, and scored. At half-time the record was—Yokohama one goal, Kobe *nil*.

After the interval, the visitors, with a strong freshening wind in their favour, attacked the southern goal, and despite the efforts of the home team, who certainly worked hard to retrieve their position, early scored a second goal. Instead of depressing, this seemed to develop new energy in the local forwards, and both wings tried hard to score, Wilkinson getting several long shots, and Collins and Meadows, who worked together exceedingly well, also taking the ball close up to their opponents' goal, but the wind and the backs were unconquerable. During the remainder of play the local team held its own, but against the wind then blowing it was simply an impossibility to keep the ball out of their half. Nothing further resulted, however, in the way of scoring, and at the call of time the score stood—Yokohama two goals, Kobe *nil*.

For the defeated team all the forwards did fairly well, but the cracks of the weekly matches had players of different calibre to contend with to those of their *confrères*, and the result was disaster. The backs and half-backs showed themselves weak, Braess proving the pick of them. For the winners, it may fairly be said that all did well without exception, and the point may be emphasised by remarking that the little 'uns were just as good as the big 'uns, and that is saying a great deal.—*Kobe Chronicle.*

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the fifty-seventh report of the Court of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 17th February, at noon:—

To the Proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Gentlemen,—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the bank, and balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, 1893.

The net profits for the period, including $119,280.16, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to $1,236,401.94.

The directors recommend the transfer of $300,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the reserve fund, which fund will then stand at $4,200,000. They also recommend writing off bank premises account the sum of $100,000.

After making these transfers and deducting remuneration to directors, there remains for appropriation $826,401.94, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of one pound per share, which will absorb $355,555.55.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 2/3, the rate of the day, amounts to $355,555.56.

The balance, $115,290.83, to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. C. J. Holliday has been appointed Chairman for the year 1894, and Mr. J. S. Moses Deputy Chairman.

Mr. J. S. Moses, Mr. Carl Jantzen, and Mr. Julius Kramer retire in rotation, and being eligible for re-election offer themselves accordingly.

Mr. R. M. Gray has been invited to join the board; all these appointment require to be confirmed at this meeting.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson, Mr. A. G. Wood, and Mr. S. G. Bird, who offer themselves for re-election.

H. HOPPIUS, Chairman.

Hongkong, 3rd February, 1894.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

LIABILITIES.		
Paid-up capital		$ 10,000,000,00
Reserve fund		3,900,000.00
Marine insurance account		250,000.00
Notes in circulation		9,761,110.76
Deposits:—		
Silver	$59,343,306.41	
Sterling	£3,415,992.2.5 30,364,374.40	
		89,707,680.81
Bills payable (including drafts on London bankers and short sight drawings on London office against bills receivable and bullion shipments)		19,138,992.09
Profit and loss account		1,236,401.94
		$133,994,185.60

ASSETS.		
Cash		$ 18,014,254.50
Bullion in hand and in transit		3,714,347.91
Investment viz:—		
£100,000.0.0 2¾ per cent. Consols.		
£150,000.0.0 3 per cent Indian Government sterling loan.		
The above lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve	$1,900,000.00	
£597,540.0.6 Consols and other sterling securities	5,311,466.67	
		7,211,466.67

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Bills discounted, loans and credits.	40,626,957.64
Bills receivable	63,033,526.29
Bank premises..... ...	1,232 538.95
Dead stock	161,093.64
	$133,994,185.60

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.—DR.

To amounts written off:—Remuneration to directors .....$	10,000.00
To dividend account:—£1 per share on 80,000 shares=£80,000 at 4/6..	355,555.55
To dividend adjustment account:—Difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 2/3, the rate of the day.....	355.555.56
To transfer to reserve fund	300,000.00
To transfer to Bank premises account	100,000.00
To balance carried forward to next half-year	115,290.83
	$1,236,401.94

CR.

By balance of undivided profits, 30th June, 1893	$ 119,280.16	
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 31st December, 1893, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due.....	1,117,121.78	1,236,401 94
		$1,236,401.94

RESERVE FUND.

To balance .....$	4,200,000.00
	$4,200,000.00
By balance, 30th June, 1893 .....$	3,900,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss acccount	300,000.00
	$4,200,000.00

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR)

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 86, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 107.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—B to Q B 4	1—Anything
2—Mates accordingly.	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Omega, and J.D.

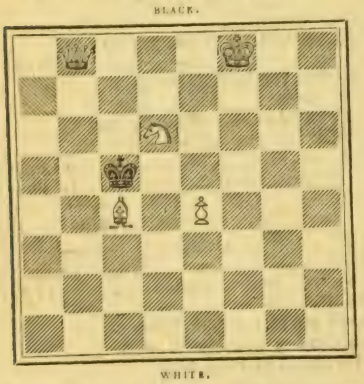
P.E.F.S.—If Black replies Kt to R 5, mate cannot be effected on the next move.

Correct solutions of No. 98 and 99 received from Alfred Tozer, Cleveland, Ohio.

PROBLEM No. 109.

BY A. I. JORDAN, Nagasaki.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

The great event in local Chess circles has, of course, been the match between the Tokyo and Yokohama Chess Clubs on the 3rd instant, when the Yokohama Club sent up ten players to Tokyo for the purpose of playing a friendly match with the youthful Tokyo Club.

Play commenced shortly after 3 p.m., and was concluded by 6 o'clock, the final score standing 11 to 9 in favour of the Yokohama Club.

We append the detailed score:—

Yokohama.		Tokyo.	
Balk	0	1	McGee 1 0
Tennant.....	0	0	Mason 1 1
Kuhn	1	½	Mosthaf..... 0 ½
Batavus	0	1	Walz 1 0
Fardel	1	1	Pownall 0 0
Pollak.....	0	1	Munzinger..... 1 0
Squier.....	1	1	Cox 0 0
Davieson	0	1	Madeley 1 0
Mendelson.....	½	0	White..... ½ 1
Schiff	1	0	Patton 0 1

From this it would appear that the teams were well matched, and the President of the Tokyo Club is to be congratulated on making the top score for his side.

At 7 o'clock the teams sat down to dinner, and the only toasts were "the Guests" and "the Hosts." Much interesting chess-chat ensued; and an adjournment was soon made to the Chess-room, where many post-prandial games were played until the Yokohama friends had to leave for home. Altogether it was a charming evening; and we understand that it is proposed to have a return match in the Yokohama Club rooms some time next month.

There is no particularly fresh intelligence from the great Chess world beyond the ocean. It seems that the great Steinitz-Lasker match will come off soon; but that Lasker has put difficulties in the way of accepting the generous invitation of the Havana Club, and it is probable that the match will be played partly in the States and partly in Canada, the Montreal Chess Club being very anxious to have some of the games played in their city. Further news expected by next mail.

We give a brilliant game between Kolisch and Paulsen, exhibiting the first-named player at his best:—

GIUOCO PIANO.

WHITE. Kölisch.	BLACK. Paulsen.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to B 4	3—B to B 4
4—Castles	4—Kt to B 3
5—P to Q Kt 4	5—B takes P

The game is now transposed into an Evans' Gambit.

6—P to B 3	6—B to K 2
7—P to Q 4	7—P takes P
8—P takes P	8—K Kt takes P
9—P to Q 5	9—Kt to Q R 4
10—B to Q 3	10—Kt to Q B 4
11—B to R 3	11—Kt takes B
12—Q takes Kt	12—Castles
13—P to Q 6	13—P takes P
14—Kt to Q B 3	14—P to Q Kt 3
15—Kt to Q 5	15—Kt to Q Kt 2
16—B to Kt 2	16—Kt to Q B 4
17—Q to K 3	17—Kt to K 3
18—Kt to Q 4	

The initial move of a grand combination.

	18—B to K B 3
19—Kt to Q B 6	

Extremely brilliant and also sound. Nothing can be much finer than the sacrifice of both Knights and the subsequent play. If 19 ..... Q to K sq.; 20 Kt takes B ch. etc.

	19—P takes Kt
20—Kt takes B ch.	20—P takes Kt
21—Q to R 6	21—P to Q 4

If 21 ..... P to K B 4; 22 B to B 6, followed by R to K sq. winning.

22—B takes K B P	22—Q to Q 3
23—P to K B 4	23—R to K sq.
24—R to K B 3	24—Resigns.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 6.

An official telegram from Sierra Leone states that the French troops have again attacked the British, and several have been killed and wounded on either side.

Vaillant, the perpetrator of the outrage in the Chamber of Deputies, has been executed.

[SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN DAILY MAIL."] (FROM THE "NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS").

London, January 31.

The House of Lords has rejected the amendments made in the Commons upon the Lords' Amendments of the Employers Liability Bill.

February 1.

The French Government has introduced a Bill adding two francs to the existing duties on wheat.

February 2.

Later dispatches from Rio de Janeiro regarding the engagement between the Brazilian Fleet and the American man-of-war, state that after a few harmless shots had been exchanged, the Brazilians signalled to the United States ship "surrender."

In the medical electric battery case, the opening evidence being insufficient to enable the jury to convict, other persons have been accused.

The United States House of Representatives has amended the Tariff Bill by passing the Internal Revenue Bill, which includes the income-tax.

February 3.

The House of Representatives voted the Tariff Bill and the Internal Revenue Bill as one bill by a majority of sixty-five.

In the French Chamber of Deputies, the Government promised to remedy the defects of the Navy.

Mr. Gladstone denies the statement published by the *Pall Mall Gaette* that he has decided to resign office, though he says that his age, sight, and hearing for many months past have made relief from public cares desirable and rendered his tenure of office liable to interruption at any moment.

The Magistrate has discharged Harness, the man prosecuted in connection with the electric belt swindle.

On the announcement in the House of Commons of an increase in the number of cruisers and the strengthening of the coast defences, a motion was thereupon adopted of confidence in the Government by a large majority.

(FROM MANILA PAPERS.)

Madrid, January 17.

The Socialist insurrection in Italy is increasing.

Should the situation become worse it is said the Pope will take refuge in Spain.

Madrid, January 18.

The German Government has submitted a Bill to Parliament imposing an import duty on tobacco.

London, February 1.

Later despatches from Rio de Janeiro, regarding the engagement between the Brazilian insurgent fleet and an American man-of-war, state that a few harmless shots were exchanged. The Brazilians then signalled to the U.S. ship to surrender, but the Americans finally decided against surrendering, therefore the *status quo* is maintained.

London, February 2.

In the French Chamber of Deputies the Government promised to remedy the defects in the Navy, to increase the number of cruisers, and to strengthen the coast defences. A motion of confidence in the Government was thereupon adopted by a large majority.

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Mito, Feb. 3, 8.30 p.m.

The three youths, who lately created a disturbance among the *soshi* have been arrested, and everything is now quiet.

Mito, Feb. 4, 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Iimura Jozaburo, ex-M.P., was to-day assaulted by a *soshi* armed with a sword-cane, and named Sakai, while staying at an hotel in Shimodatecho, Makabe District. He sustained a slight injury on the shoulder. The *soshi* decamped, but his accomplices were arrested.

Osaka, Feb. 7, 3.05 p.m.

A report from Jinsen has reached here to the effect that the Edict prohibiting the export of rice will be withdrawn on the 21st or 22nd inst. Mr. Sugimura, Secretary of the Japanese Legation in Korea, has arrived at Kobe.

Kofu, Feb. 7, 12.03 p.m.

Some students of the Ordinary Middle School have been expelled, and great excitement prevails among the lads.

Kyoto, Feb. 7th, 4.55 p.m.

Count Itagaki arrived here at 3.30 p.m., and

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was received by a large number of Radicals. After a brief rest at the Kashiwa tei, the Count was conducted to the Kyoraku Hall, where over five hundred persons were assembled. Speeches were delivered by Messrs. Mizoguchi Ichijiro and Tatsuno Shuichiro, and Count Itagaki. The party proceeds to Osaka to-morrow.

Urawa, Feb. 6th, 7.30 p.m.

About two o'clock this morning some nine *soshi*, armed with sword-canes, broke into the house of Mr. Ozawa Shusuke at Iizumi, in the Kita-saitama District.

Feb. 7th.

Over one hundred *soshi* have been staying in Kita-Saitama District engaged in the electoral campaign carried on by the *Jiyu-to* and *Kaishin-to* in the election of half the members of the Prefectural Assembly. One hundred and sixty constables have been despatched to the District.

Later.

About 8 o'clock last night two *soshi* belonging to the *Doshi-kai* were assaulted by Radical *soshi* at Kisai-machi, Kita-Saitama District. Another *soshi* visited the Radical office to arrange the matter amicably, but before he could obtain any reply, he was violently attacked by some seven *soshi*. The police were soon on the spot, and arrested three Radical *soshi*.

Fukuoka, Feb. 8, 1.58 p.m.

It has been discovered that some supporters of Mr. Tsutsumi, ex-M.P., a candidate in the Seventh Election District of this Prefecture, have bribed Mizuhami Manzo with two *yen*. The police have the matter in hand.

Urawa, Feb. 8, 4 p.m.

Mr. Baba Yoshinao was slightly injured by a *soshi* this morning at his residence, Gosho-mura, Osato District, Saitama Prefecture. The *soshi* was in the employ of Mr. Hori Kakutaro, a candidate in the election of members of the Prefectural Assembly. The *soshi* decamped.

Oshi, February 8, 8 a.m.

Over seventy *soshi* belonging to the *Kokumin-ha* arrived from Tokyo to-day to support the *Seigi-ha* in this Prefecture. They assembled at the *Seigi* Hall, and discussed their policy. Fifty Radical *soshi* met at the Toitsu Club for a similar purpose, and some serious fights are expected to take place between the factions.

Urawa, February 9, 7.20 a.m.

About three o'clock yesterday afternoon five or six *soshi* fired off pistols at Shitami, in the North Saitama District, but no persons were injured. The lads decamped. They are said to belong to the *Jiyu-to*.

Later.

Six *soshi* were arrested by the police this morning. They are alleged to be the assailants of Mr. Baba Yoshinao, of Gosbo, Ozato District.

Utsunomiya, February 9th, 1.20 p.m.

A man, named Sakuma Tsuto, was arrested at Kisaicho yesterday on suspicion of having attacked the supporters of Mr. Yokobori at Ichiba, Haga District, the other day.

Matsuyama, February 9th, 2.45 p.m.

The French gunboat *Comète* arrived at Mitsugahama yesterday.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Feb. 16th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 17th.*
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 18th.†
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Feb. 19th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wednesday, Feb. 21st.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 25th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 1st.

* *China* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on January 30th.
† *Sydney* (with French mail) left Hongkong on February 9th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 11th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Feb. 13th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O Co.	Saturday, Feb. 17th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 20th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, Feb. 23rd.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, Feb. 23rd.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co	Friday, Mar. 2nd
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 10th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 3rd February, — Hongkong viâ ports, 25th January, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 3rd February,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Oka.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 3rd February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenorchy, British steamer, 1,822, Fergusson, 3rd February,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 3rd February,—Yokkaichi 2nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 3rd February,—Kobe 2nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saghalien, French steamer, 2,580, Chevalier, 4th February,—Marseilles viâ ports, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 4th February,—Kobe 3rd February, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 4th February,—Yokkaichi 3rd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, S. Tsuji, 5th February,—Yokkaichi 4th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 895, Barstow, 5th February,—Manila viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 5th February,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

Benmohr, British steamer, 1,935. Clarke, 5th February,—London viâ ports, General.—Comes & Co.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, J. Jones, 5th February,—Kobe 4th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, J. R. Hill, 5th February,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carill & Co.

Grace Hanvar, British ship, 1,750, Hunt, 6th February,—New York 16th May, Petroleum.—China and Japan Trading Co.

Maud S., British schooner, 97, R. E. McKeil, 6th February,—Put Back, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Daphne, German steamer, 1,394, F. Voss, 6th February,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 6th February,—Otaru viâ ports 4th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 7th February,—Shinagawa 7th February, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 7th February,—Yokkaichi 6th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tritos, German steamer, 1,085, Desler, 7th February,—Takao, Sugar.—Flint, Kilby & Co.

Mutsu Maru, Japanese steamer, 552, J. Miyagi, 7th February,—Hachinohe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 7th February,—Kobe 6th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, W. B. Seabury, 8th February,—San Francisco 18th January, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 8th February,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, S. Tsuji, 8th February,—Yokkaichi 7th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 8th February,—Kobe 7th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aikoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,057, Furukawa Yaichi, 8th February,—Moji, Coal.—Oiye.

Itsukushima Kan (12), Japanese cruiser, Captain K. Ijichi, 8th February,—Yokosuka 8th February.

Tantalus, British steamer, 2,199, H. Jones, 9th February,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 9th February,—Yokkaichi 8th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 9th February,—Otaru viâ ports 4th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takao Kan (6), Japanese cruiser, Captain M. Sawa, 9th February,—Yokosuka 9th February.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, R. Swain, 9th February,—Shanghai and ports 3rd February, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kriemhild, German steamer, 1,638, Hildebrandt, 10th February,—Hamburg via ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 10th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, 9th February, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Conch, British steamer, 2,260, Moses, 3rd February,—Hamburg and London, viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, S. Tsuji, 3rd February,—Nagasaki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 720, Hayashi, 3rd February,—Moji, Light.—Order.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 4th February,—San Francisco, viâ Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219 J. Wilson, 4th February,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 4th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 4th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 5th February,—Otaru, Light.—S. Oka.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 5th February,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Hinode Maru, Japanese steamer, 789, G. Sofuye, 5th February,—Otaru, Light.—S. Asano & Co.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 5th February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 5th February,—Bonin Islands, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 5th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Anaconda, American schooner, 40, A. Lawson, 6th February,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Kanazawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 895, Nakai, 6th February,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Asano & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 6th February,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, Matsumoto, 6th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 7th February,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Asano & Co.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, J. R. Hill, 7th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 860, J. Jones, 7th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Retriever, American schooner, 75, H. J. Snow, 7th February,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 7th February,—Kobe, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 7th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenorchy, British steamer, 1,822, Fergusson, 7th February,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 8th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 8th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 8th February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Beatrice, British schooner, 48, A. J. Bjerre, 9th February,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, S. Tsuji, 9th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, W. B. Seabury, 10th February,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Daphne, German steamer, 1,394, F. Voss, 10th February,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from Hongkong viâ ports.—Miss Martin, Miss Werthernier, and Mr. Morgan in cabin.

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Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, from Kobe:—47 Japanese in steerage. For Hakodate: 2 Japanese in steerage. For Otaru: 1 Japanese in steerage.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, from Marseilles via ports:—To Kobe: Messrs. Kumagaya, Robie, Bretel, Azuma, Jaffree, Le Naraquer, Marime, Guyonnard, Domergue, Blanc, in cabin; and 49 seamen. To Yokohama: Viscount and Viscountess Kawase and servant, Messrs. T. Shimidzu, Yut Harada, Inoko, Iwashima, Vano, Kareha, Laumonier, Holozet, Corlay, Ratallec, William Arndt, A. I. Ibrahim, Odou Vinals, T. Upton, Dr. H. Berend, and Mr. P. Hermann in cabin; and 51 Marines.

Per British steamer *Tacoma*, from Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—6 Japanese and 27 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Hakodate viâ ports:—Mr. Nagashima in cabin and 16 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Kobe:—Miss A. Young, Mr. F. J. Lias, and Mr. A. J. Watt in cabin, and 17 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. Jas. B. Wood, Dr. and Mrs. D. A. Drew, Rev. M. H. Houston, Mr. Sho Nemoto, and Mr. G. E. Miner in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. Urano and Mr. Uchida in cabin; 6 passengers in second class, and 26 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. W. E. Hunt, A. Reddelien, Kosugi, H. Kessler, and Captain N. Senju in cabin; Mr. McGirmitz in second class, and 12 passengers in steerege.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco, via Honolulu:—Mr. Charles Comelli, Mrs. D. Daniels and child, Mrs. Fuji, Miss Gracey, Hon. Samuel L. Gracey and wife, Mr. J. W. Harding, Miss Markham, Mrs. R. H. Miner, Miss Moore, Mr. H. W. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sale, Mr. F. G. Sale, Mr. V. Sale, Miss Ada Sale, Mrs. W. E. Sewell and child, Hon. Dr. O. H. Simons, Hon. W. D. Tillotson, Mr. P. Takezawa, and Miss L. Wertheimer in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Andrie de la Porte (2), and J. Vidal in cabin; Miss Ah Tai, Messrs. T. Mishima, Takashita, Wakamoto, Hirata, Sano, and Kee in second class, and 33 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	75	2,248	—	—	—	2,323
Yokohama	328	—	—	—	—	328
Hongkong	130	—	—	—	53	183
Total	533	2,248	—	—	53	2,834

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	54	—	54
Hongkong	—	130	—	130
Yokohama	—	142	—	142
Total	—	326	—	326

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $200,000.00.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $15,618.00.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain W. M. Smith, reports:—Left Hongkong the 25th January, Nagasaki the 30th, and Kobe the 2nd February. Arrived at Yokohama the 3rd February at 9.12 a.m. Passage from Kobe, 1 day, 2 hours, 37 min.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, Captain T. S. Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 2nd February at 0.30 p.m.; thence to Oshima had gentle to moderate breeze and fine weather; from Oshima to Rock Island gentle, fresh, and light variable winds and fine, clear weather; on the 3rd at noon, passed Rock Island Lighthouse; at 1 p.m. observed a full-rigged ship, S.E. of Toshima, apparently bound inward; from Rock Island to port gentle to moderate E.N.E. breeze and fine, clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama at 6.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru*, Captain Barstow, reports:—Left Kobe the 4th February at daylight; had moderate westerly and north-east winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 5th February at 12.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Higo Maru*, Captain J. Jones, reports:—Left Kobe the 4th February at 10.30 a.m.; had light south-easterly winds, fine and clear weather. Arrived at Shiotsu at 2 p.m. and left the same day at 4 p.m.; passed Oshima at 11.36 p.m., light north-east to northerly winds and cloudy; from Oshima had strong N. to N.W. breeze with sharp sea, weather clear; passed Rock Island the 5th at 4.15 p.m., strong north-easterly winds and cloudy; passed Kannon-saki at 10.20 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama at midnight.

The British steamer *Tacoma*, Captain J. R. Hill, reports:—Left Tacoma, Wash., the 17th January and Victoria, B.C., the 18th; had moderate winter weather during the voyage.

The Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, Captain T. Sakai, reports:—Left Hakodate the 4th February at 8.5 a.m.; had light variable airs and snowy weather throughout the day. Arrived at Oginohama the 5th at 8.12 a.m. and left the same day at 12.21 p.m.; had light north-westerly breeze and fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 6th February at 2 p.m.

The American steamer *City of Peking*, Captain Seabury, reports:—Left San Francisco the 18th January; had the usual winter weather, strong head winds the entire passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 8th February at 10.30 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Pender, reports:—Left Otaru the 4th February at 2 p.m.; had light northerly winds and fine weather, arrived at Hakodate the 5th at 9.15 a.m. Left again the 7th at 8 a.m. and arrived at Oginohama the 8th at 7.30 a.m.; had light southerly winds and cloudy weather. Left again the same day at 1 p.m.; had fresh northerly winds and clear weather up to arrival. Arrived at Yokohama the 9th February at 2.15 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 3rd February at 9.30 a.m.; had light variable winds accompanied with remarkably fine, mild weather up to arrival at Nagasaki the 5th at 2 a.m. Left Nagasaki the same day at 5 p.m.; had light increasing to moderate northerly and north-east winds, and continued fine, clear weather; arriving at Shimonoseki the 6th at 6 30 a.m. Left Shimonoseki the same day at 11 a.m.; had light easterly and north-east winds and fine, clear weather through whole of Inland Sea, arriving at Kobe the 7th at 7 a.m. Left Kobe the 8th at noon; had moderate N.W. breeze up to passing Oshima at 8 p.m.; thence wind increasing to a fresh N.W. gale accompanied with clear weather and strong N.W. sea, up to arrival at Yokohama the 9th February at 3.45 p.m. N.B.—Passed a square-rigged ship about 5 miles south-westward of Rock Island, apparently bound to Yokohama.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There has been but little demand for Imports from the interior during the past week owing to the old *Shogatsu* holidays. Moreover, the further heavy fall in Exchange has caused holders either to raise their prices to a prohibitive extent or to withdraw their goods from the market. Not a single bale of Yarn has changed hands; Shirtings are dull and T. Cloths neglected. Early in the week Victoria Lawns moved slightly, Velvets found a few purchasers, and Mousselines experienced a light demand. Latterly, however, the whole market has been lifeless, and owing to the unsettled condition of Exchange our quotations must be taken as nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8⅓lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.30 to 2.80
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.40 to 3.15
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.55 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.40 to 8.75
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.65 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.47½ to 1.57½
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.62½ to 1.95
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.27½ to 2.67½
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.85 to 3.10

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.25 to 0.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.20 to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.14 to 0.19½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb. per lb.	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$36.50 to —
Nos. 16/24, Medium	37.00 to 37.50
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	37.50 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	37.50 to —
Nos. 28/32, Medium	37.75 to 38.25
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	38.50 to 39.75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	43.50 to 45.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 43.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	47.50 to 49.50
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

A very quiet week, owing to the holidays and unstable Exchange. Prices naturally are very firm, and will probably start rising as soon as there is any prospect of business reviving.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$4.30 to 4.40
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	4.40 to 4.50
Round and square up to 1 inch	3.35 to 3.45
Iron Plates, assorted	3.45 to 3.55
Sheet Iron	4.55 to 4.70
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.00 to 9.20
Wire Nails, assorted	5.50 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.55 to 1.60

KEROSENE.

A further arrival of American Oil has had a weakening effect upon the market, but owing to the absence of business it is difficult to say to what extent. The arrival mentioned above was the *Grace Harwar* on the 6th inst., with 71,833 cases of Comet.

Chester	$1.82½ to 1.87
Comet	1.80 to 1.82½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.80 to 1.82½
Russian Moon	1.77½ to 1.80

SUGAR.

There have been very heavy arrivals of Browns during the week, but these were almost all contracted for afloat. The steamers *Higo Maru* and *Tritos* brought an aggregate cargo of 45,000 piculs of new crop Takao, which fetched 4.40 to 4.45 per picul. Further arrivals from China and the small stock on offer at the beginning of the week have all been bought up, so that at present there is absolutely no Brown sugar in stock. Whites remain quiet.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.40 to 4.50
Brown Manila	5.35 to 5.45
Brown Daitong	4.45 to 5.00
Brown Canton	4.70 to 4.75
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.00
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last was dated the 2nd instant, since when there has been a small business on this market, settlements amounting to 220 piculs, divided thus: *Hanks*, 23 piculs; *Filatures*, 93 piculs; *Re reels*, 52 piculs; *Kakeda*, 42 piculs; *Oshu* 10 piculs. In addition to these purchases direct shipments have been 135 bales, making the total export business for the week 350 piculs.

The market is very dull, although while writing there is some rumour of a few purchases for the United States trade; but the general position seems to be that consumers in both hemispheres are holding off for lower prices. With regard to quotations in this market, the prices may be left practically unchanged from last week, but of course exchange is lower and so far this benefit of exchange has gone to the shipper, as holders here, while refusing to reduce their quotations, seem inclined to go on at the same rates.

Arrivals from the interior are now small, and the stock list shows a reduction of 100 piculs on the week. The export figures to date still show a very heavy decrease when compared with those of last year, and from present appearances it would seem that we must carry over a large unsold stock into next season.

There have been four shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The *Empress of China*, 2nd instant, had 420 bales for the New York trade; the *Victoria*, leaving the same date, had 218 bales; the English mail *Ancona*, 3rd instant, 214 bales for Europe, and the *Oceanic*, 4th February, 142 bales for the United States. These departures make the present export figures 30,207 piculs, against 40,668 piculs last year, and 36,622 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—A few more bales of *Shinshu* have been taken, the price paid being noted as $617½.

Filatures.—A small business is noted in the books, chiefly in the medium and common kinds, from $750 down to $690, according to quality. While writing, a purchase is reported for the United States of *Kaimeisha Filatures*, summer-reeled, at $825, with some *Choshinsha*, winter-

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reeled, at $765. A few bales fine-size *Usen* also done at $780.

Re reels.—A small business in these, chiefly in *Bushu*, at the following prices:—*Kodama*, $700, with common *Shimosa* at $650.

Kakeda.—Not much business has been done, but prices are well maintained and holders refuse any offers which are made below the following rates:—*Horsehead* I, $675; *Horsehead* II, $645; *Horsehead* III, $630.

Oshu.—Another small purchase of *Hamatsuki* at $660 completes the list.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—	
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—	
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—	
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	$610 to	620
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—	
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—	
Hanks—No. 3	—	
Hanks—No. 3½	—	
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	770 to	780
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	810 to	820
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	740 to	750
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	760 to	770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	710 to	720
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	730 to	740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	680 to	700
Re-reels—Extra	—	
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	760 to	770
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	750 to	760
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	710 to	720
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	680 to	690
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	660 to	670
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	640 to	650
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1	705 to	710
Kakedas—No. 1½	675 to	680
Kakedas—No. 2	645 to	650
Kakedas—No. 2½	625 to	630
Kakedas—No. 3	—	
Kakedas—No. 3½	—	
Kakedas—No. 4	—	
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—	
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½	—	

Export Raw Silk Tables to 9th Feb., 1894.

Season	1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	16,586	15,132	12,906
America	12,737	24,801	22,871
Total { Bales	29,323	39,933	35,777
Total { Piculs	30,207	40,668	36,622
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	30,950	42,000	38,600
Stock, 9th Feb.	14,700	3,950	11,600
Available supplies to date	45,650	45,950	50,200

WASTE SILK.

There has been a very small business in this branch, the total settlements amounting to 127 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 22 piculs; *Kibiso*, 105 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

As in the Raw Silk department, consumers seem to be very apathetic and very little business results. They are sending in low offers, and are trying all the time for cheap prices, but the Japanese holders will not bring down their figures sufficiently to induce a large business. Meantime, the stock is heavy, but dealers appear to carry it wonderfully well, and will probably be able to maintain their position for some time to come.

There has only been one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the English mail steamer *Ancona*, leaving on the 3rd instant, took 86 bales for Europe. This departure makes the present export figures 18,567 piculs, against 29,803 piculs last year, and 23,498 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—The only sale entered has been about 20 piculs of *Oshu*, good quality, at $140. Other sorts quite lifeless.

Kibiso.—A very small business consisting of *Oshu* at $40 and *Kusu ito* at $60. Beyond these small affairs, nothing whatever has been done.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—	
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to	150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to	140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	135 to	145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	110 to	115
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to	105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to	95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	125 to	135
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85 to	90
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to	70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to	110
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to	100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to	80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—	
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—	
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to	35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to	20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—	
Mawata—Good to Best	—	

Export Table Waste Silk to 9th Feb., 1894.

Season	1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	15,336	27,113	21,403
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,690	2,095
	18,567	29,803	23,498
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	21,300	34,700	26,400
Stock, 9th Feb.	17,500	7,000	11,000
Available supplies to date	38,800	41,700	37,400

Exchange has declined steadily and present quotations are as follows:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/2⅝; Documents, 2/2¾; 6m/s. Credits, 2/2⅞. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $53½; 4m/s. U.S. $54¼. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.79; 6m/s. fcs. 2.81.

Estimated Silk Stock, 9th Feb., 1894.

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	40	Cocoons	260
Filatures	8,380	Noshi-ito	8,430
Re-reels	4,473	Kibiso	8,330
Kakeda	1,724	Mawata	140
Oshu	32	Sundries	340
Tavsaam Kinds	51		
Total piculs	14,700	Total piculs	17,500

TEA.

Considering the time of year a fair amount of business has been done during the past week. Stocks are low, arrivals small and prices unchanged.

	Per picul.
Common	$12 to 13
Good Common	14 to 15
Medium	17 to 18
Good Medium	19 to 20
Fine	22 to 23
Finest, Choice, Choicest	Nominal.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has steadily declined point by point till it has reached the quotations below:—

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/1⅜
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/1⅜
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/2⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/2⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/2⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.69
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.77
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	71¼
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72¼
On India—Bank sight	184
On India—Private 30 days' sight	187
On America—Bank Bills on demand	51¼
On America—Private 30 days' sight	52⅜
On America—Private 4 months' sight	53⅜
On Germany—Bank sight	2.20
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.28
Bar Silver (London)	29¼

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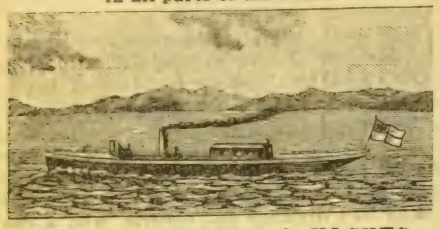
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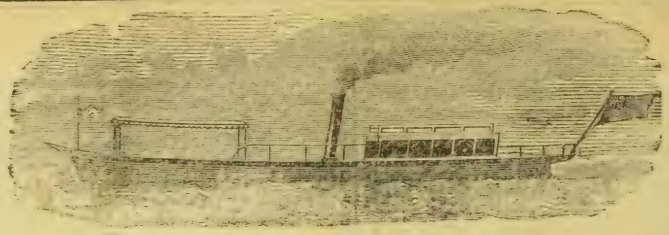
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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 17TH, 1894.

BIRTHS.

At No. 74, Bluff, on the 13th inst., the wife of C. V. SALE of a Son.

At No. 168, Bluff, on the 13th instant, the wife of PAUL COLOMB of a Daughter.

MARRIAGE.

At Yokohama, on February 10th, by the Rev. E. S. Booth, before U.S. Consul-General N. W. McIvor, GEORGE L. TAIT to GEORGIANA C. FURBER.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Two seamen of unknown nationality were sentenced to four months' hard labour by the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, for assaulting the police.

MR. YOSHINO SEKEI has been elected President of the Tokyo Municipal Assembly, Mr. Matsuda Hide being selected for the position of Vice-President.

THE Kobe Guild of Fancy Goods dealers have declined the advice of the Yokohama Guild to terminate the boycott against Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Co.

THE Emperor Francis Joseph has decorated Mr. Onoda, Chief Commissioner of the Police Bureau in the Home Office, in recognition of his services during the visit of the Archduke Ferdinand to Japan.

SOME very interesting photographic appliances, principally improved cameras, were shown and described at the last monthly meeting of the Photographic Society of Japan, Professor W. K. Burton being the lecturer.

THE adjourned meeting of the Victoria Public School subscribers, came off on Monday. A new and enlarged committee, consisting of Britishers and Americans, was elected. The Chairman expressed confidence of a hearty response being accorded to an appeal for further subscriptions towards the supoort of the school.

ACCORDING to recent investigations, the number of persons above 80 years of age in Tokyo are 3,000 in urban and 300 in rural divisions.

THE weather is very genial for the time of year, notwithstanding two half-hearted attempts at snowing during the early morning hours of Tuesday and Wednesday.

SMALL-POX is still very prevalent in the capital and the south-western provinces. The influenza wave seems to have passed out of Yokohama now, but a few cases of typhoid fever are reported in the native town.

A PARTY of seven Ainu performed the *Kumamatsuri*, or the ceremony of sacrificing a bear, before a number of peers on the 12th inst. in the inclosure of the Noble's Club, Tokyo. The affair had many quaint features.

MR. JOHN MCLEAN, Deputy and Vice-Consul-General of the U.S. in Yokohama, had a narrow escape from death by suffocation on Tuesday evening last, his bed being set on fire by a piece of coal which had fallen from the fire-place.

THE Town Councillors of Yokohama have passed a resolution to present a congratulatory address to the Imperial Household, in the name of Yokohama residents, upon the Silver Wedding of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress.

COUNT ITO has made a very statesman-like and decisive reply to the members of the House of Peers who are opposed to the Government's policy in regard to the dissolution of the Lower House. Naturally it has evoked a good deal of criticism.

MANY loyal subjects of the Empire having expressed a desire to present their Majesties the Emperor and Empress with some substantial memento of their Silver Wedding, the Court has acceded to the general request, and announced that their Majesties with be pleased to accept such tokens of patriotic good-will, but at the same time wishes it to be understood that the presents must not be given in a spirit of emulation.

MR. MCIVOR, the new U.S. Consul-General in Yokohama, intends to strongly support the local police while in the proper discharge of their authorised functions. He sent one American blue-jacket to prison this week, for ten days' and further fined him $10 and costs for tearing up a warrant of arrest, while another blue-jacket of the U.S. navy was sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment and fined $60 for assaulting the police while in the execution of their duty.

IT is believed that a Cabinet crisis is impending in Egypt, the Khedive being incensed at the Ministers on account of their not supporting him against Lord Cromer. The United States Senate has referred the Tariff Bill to the Finance Committee. The House of Lords, before passing the Parish Councils Bill, carried numerous amendments generally tending to lessen the powers of the Councils. In consequence, the Gladstonians are organising a campaign in the country against the Upper House's action. A free fight took place on February 8th in Trafalgar Square between the police and the socialists, most of the latter being German Jews, and many of the mob were injured by the batons of the police. The Commercial Treaty between Russia and Germany has been signed. It reduces the German duties on grain and petroleum. The Emperor William, when speaking at a Parliamentary dinner, alluded to the signing of the treaty, insisting on the necessity of ratification, otherwise a tariff war would lead to real war. This has caused some uneasiness in France, being regarded as the beginning of a *rapprochement* between the two Powers. The French have hoisted their flag at Cavally on the borders of Liberia. The French and English Press greatly deplore the collisions that have taken place between their respective military forces in Western Africa, and urge the necessity for the avoidance of these dangerous incidents in the future. At a meeting of the Bimetallic League in Manchester, Sir David Barbour, who stated that he was convinced that an international agreement was the only way to arrive at a settlement of the currency question, said that he was unable to agree that the experiment made in India had failed, but whether the step taken by the Indian Government ended in success or failure, India had the gravest situation to face. Mr. Edmund Robertson, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, in a speech at Dundee, stated that Her Majesty's Government intended to extend the naval programme of their predecessors, as foreign nations were now building more ships than Great Britain. The new estimates indicate no intention of forfeiting Great Britain's relative position as to naval strength, the estimates only providing for the year's needs. Part of the detailed programme will be kept secret at present, in order not to inform other Powers of the intentions of the Government in regard to the ships to be laid down. A recent meeting of the British North Borneo Company declined to entertained Rajah Brooke's proposal to acquire the Company's rights, but empowered the Directors to offer him the post of Governor-General.

THERE is not much to be said about the Import trade, fluctuations in exchange rendering business nearly an impossibility. Yarns, Cotton Piece-goods, and Woollens are almost entirely neglected, holders in self-defence being compelled to raise their prices, would-be buyers consequently being prevented from putting through the transactions for which they are ready. Due to the same cause, the Metal market is in a similar condition, there being scarcely enough business to make quotations. Kerosene has arrived freely, and large additions have been made to the already heavy stock of both Russian and American Oil. There are doubtless buyers in the market, but the business has only been on a small scale. The only import that appears to be active is Sugar, and while "spot" business is brisk, offers for parcels to arrive are freely made, especially for new Formosa. Prices, which generally show little or no change for Brown descriptions, are fairly strong. White sorts are arriving in moderate quantities, but the business in these has not been extensive, and values are unchanged. In the Tea trade, buyers have taken up several desirable parcels of medium leaf, and, as there is very little coming in, the stock on the market is not large. The Silk trade continues dull, the small daily business of the week only amounting to 750 piculs, about 100 piculs of which have to be credited to direct export. Prices are practically unchanged, though the market may be called easier for certain kinds, but the stock remains heavy and the settlements to date are more than 10,000 piculs less than those of last year at same date. The Waste Silk trade has again been exceedingly small, business in this branch being almost at a standstill. Exchange has again fluctuated, and there is no appearance of stability in rates.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

INSPECTION OF JAPANESE WAR-SHIPS BUILT IN ENGLAND.

ENGLISH ship-builders are incorrigible rascals. It is Japan's habit to send some of her own experts to the United Kingdom for the purpose of supervising the construction of any ships ordered by her. Already she has two naval constructors there, Messrs. Takayama and Miyahara, and she has now ordered two others, Messrs. Kozaka and Iwata, to proceed thither on the same mission in connection with the building of the ships for which funds were voted by the Diet in its fourth session. But of course this natural precaution will be abandoned in view of the startling discoveries which the *Nippon* has made about the supreme villainy and craftiness of British shipbuilders, and the successful manner in which the innocent Japanese are taken in by them. The Japanese expert has no show at all against these *rusé* manœuverers. There is a regular routine for throwing dust of varying density in his eyes. The first step in the programme is dining and wining. Then follows the bestowal of gifts which sometimes take the form of solid sovereigns. Should these pleasant plans fail to deflect the austere Japanese from the path of strict duty, recourse is had to a system of obstructions. Obviously objectionable features in the methods of ship-building adopted cannot be successfully remonstrated against because no one to remonstrate with is ever forthcoming, and when, after infinite search, the constructor-in-chief is at length discovered, that unconscionable person is abandoned enough to argue the point with so much persistency and such show of reason that before the controversy is ended the objectionable feature in the building has been permanently fixed and all help is past. There are even instances where these faithless builders, acting in collusion, undertake work for one another, so that, while a guileless Japanese inspector is placidly waiting to see the construction of a ship commenced, the parts arrive by rail from another yard, and are put up with such dazzling celerity that the Genie's palace is not in it, and before a respectable, normally-constituted person has time to collect his breath for a remonstrance, everything is finished and over. Nor does this exhaust the catalogue of contrivances. Should all comparatively lawful devices fail, there remains the scheme of dropping an armour-plate on the head of the inquisitive Japanese or enticing him across the path of a flying crowbar. After that the building generally goes on without further interruption from the Japanese side. But if Japan gets nothing but hoodwinked and dilapidated inspectors by ordering her ships in England and sending her sons to look after the building, would it not be much better for her to do her own building at home, thus preserving herself from demoralizing contact and saving her nationals from battering and bloodshed?

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Thus, in effect, the *Nippon*. The good, patriotic journal! Patriotism now-a-days consists apparently in abusing other nations. English shipbuilders have been working at their trade for centuries on Great Britain's account and on the account of other States. They are reckoned, we think we may fairly say, the best builders in the world. They have managed to build for England and for other nations ships so excellent that nine-tenths of the countries in the Occident and the Orient carry their commissions to British dockyards. British merchants, too, are counted about as honourable and upright as merchants are made in this human sphere. It would be very painful to think that Japanese money should be purloined by the knavery of British ship-builders and the trickery of British merchants, or that Japanese morals should be contaminated by contact with such evil persons. Were there many Japanese who thought as the *Nippon* thinks, we should say, truly Japan had better carry her orders elsewhere; Englishmen want neither her silver nor her slanders. But happily, as we believe, there are not many Japanese so oblique-visioned as our crabbed contemporary. Only, it has become the fashion now-a-days with some very crooked-minded writers to demonstrate their love for their own country by parading their hatred for other countries. The fashion, we think, had its origin among Yokohama journalists. The canon observed by them is, that to abuse Japan is to laud Great Britain, and that to say a kindly word of Japan is to be a renegade to England. The *Nippon* is qualifying admirably for admission to the ranks of that enviable society. We congratutate our Tokyo contemporary.

ELECTION TROUBLES.

WE had hoped that, owing to the attitude of strict impartiality assumed by the Government, and to the efficient steps which the present Minister of State for Home Affairs may be trusted to take in the cause of public peace and good order, comparative tranquillity might be expected to characterize the approaching general elections. We are sorry to see, however, that the Tokyo News Agency makes a different forecast. The number of persons, it says, apprehended and punished for crimes of violence during the first elections was 140 approximately, and during the second, no less that 200 offenders against the public peace were convicted. At the approaching elections, the laws against all sorts of corrupt practices and improper conduct will be enforced with more strictness than ever, and consequently —we still quote the News Agency's opinion— the number of malefactors will probably aggregate as many as 300. Already in Tochigi Prefecture three men have been arrested, and in Saitama, two, which record the News Agency finds very ominous. But truly we (*Japan Mail*) fail to follow this reasoning. It seems to us that a conviction of the Authorities' resolve to employ all the force at their disposal for the preservation of good order must exercise a deterrent effect upon agitation. Besides, the unquestionably neutral attitude of the Government must help in some degree to calm the frenzy of partizanship. If there is question of comparison, we may draw a not unreasonable inference from the state of affairs that preceded the general election of 1892. We are now within twenty days of the next election, and before the last had become equally close, reports of rioting and disturbance were to hand from various districts in the interior. So threatening, indeed, was the state of affairs at the end of January the year before last that the Government was obliged to issue the celebrated Law of Premonition. Complaints too were loudly heard about official interference, and leading newspapers were under sentence of suspension on account of writing judged likely to foment the tumult and violence existing in so many districts. Nothing like that is yet on record, and we still hope that the troubles of 1892, so far from being exceeded on the present occasion, will not be equalled.

THE MINER'S HANDBOOK.

WE note in the *Athenæum* a very favourable review of the recently published "Miner's Handbook," by Professor John Milne, F.R.S., of the Imperial University of Tokyo. The work, though published in London, was printed in Japan, and the paper and type are, the *Athenæum* remarks, both excellent, the entire get-up being most creditable to the craftsmen of Tokyo, and while misprints are not absent they are not more numerous nor of a different kind to what might be expected in a work of the same nature printed at home. The book, besides its practical instructions, compiled from a large number of well-known works, to which full references are invariably given, contains many fresh and interesting notes relating to Japanese mines.

POWDER EXPLOSION.

A TERRIFIC gunpowder explosion occurred at Wuchang on the 22nd ult., writes the *N.-C. Daily News*, and according to the first report upwards of a hundred lives were lost. Eye-witnesses inform us that the explosion occurred at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when an immense column of smoke ascended some three hundred yards, and then spread out like an umbrella. The concussion was felt at Hankow on the opposite side of the river. The explosion took place at the powder works at Huangtupu. According to a later report, twenty-six people out of thirty odd engaged at the works, and all the cattle used to turn the mills, were killed. The prompt arrival of a number of fire engines saved the large magazine near by, otherwise the disaster would have been much greater. The results of this explosion, frightful as they were in the loss of human and animal life, would possibly in former times have been glossed over by the high authorities and reported to the Throne as of slight consequence, the losses being made good by the officers immediately in charge, a way of doing things which happened more than once in former days. But these easy times are past, and all the officials of Wuchang and Hanyang, from the Viceroy Chang downwards, in any way connected with the accident, will have to suffer more seriously than would otherwise have been the case. This is owing to the recent memorial of H.E. Hsüeh, Chinese Minister to England, calling attention to the importance of proper care of the powder works of the whole empire, and with reference to which the Emperor's Rescript was particularly earnest, warning delinquents that no mercy would be shown to them for their carelessness of human life and Government money.

OBSTRUCTION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OBSTRUCTION in the House of Commons in England is rapidly becoming a scandal of the worst order, and though Opposition journals in London are loud in their outcry against the so-called tyrannical coercion of the Government, we venture to think that even the most rabid Primrose Leaguer will, in the innermost recesses of his own heart, whatever he may profess in public, hardly venture to deny that at no time has a strict application of the closure ever been more called for than it was on the re-assembling of Parliament after the brief Christmas recess. An uninterrupted and unchecked continuance of the tactics employed, apparently with the tacit assent of the leaders of the Opposition, by a small section of insignificant members of their party, must have resulted not only in the complete destruction of all new legislation but even of the practical administration of the Government. On the adjournment of the House before Christmas, six full weeks had already been spent in the discussion of the details of the Parish Councils Bill in Committee, and yet at that time only 19 clauses had been passed out of the 71 of which the Bill consisted, and to the remaining 52 clauses no less than 654 amendments had already been entered on the notice-book. Many of the vital problems of the Bill, such as might most fairly and properly be assumed to require fair and proper discussion, such as sex and qualifications of electors and elected, mode and principle of election, had as yet been untouched, and if the same rate of progress had continued to be maintained, the time of the House of Commons would have been entirely absorbed for another six months to come with this single Bill. Delay was caused by the same points being raised over and over again in slightly different form, on each occasion being accompanied by speech-making as factious and irrelevant as it was interminable, but the time of the House, limited as it now is by fixed hours of adjournment, was also shamelessly wasted by long strings of the most absurd questions, enough to make the English Parliament, as a machine for carrying on the Government of a great empire, the laughing stock of the world. We can throw no stones at the Japanese Diet in its early infancy, when we see the proceedings avowedly adopted for the mere purpose of thwarting the Government by certain members of our own Parliament, with all its grand history and traditions, and its procedure firmly established by precedents extending over centuries. Two members of the Conservative party have throughout the session been conspicous in their efforts to bring Parliamentary Government into utter contempt, Messrs. Bowles and Bartley. The latter is the member for the Metropolitan constituency of North

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Islington, and was at one time the paid secretary of the Central Conservative Association. He is a big, burly man, with a loud voice and brazen assurance, and as an illustration of his activity in the House of Commons, we quote the following extract from the *Daily News* describing his share in the proceedings on the 24th of December, prior to the adjournment for the Christmas recess:—"Of forty-eight questions on the paper, Mr. Bartley was responsible for seventeen, dealing with an encyclopædic variety of topics—Irish evictions, seamen's savings banks, soldiers' billets, evening schools, the Victoria Tower flag, miners' wages in West Scotland, post cards, the Killarney crofters, the Anarchists, reporting Parliamentary debates, Article 1,402 of the Queen's Regulations, milk analysis, the cadastral survey in Behar, teachers' pensions, illiterate voters, Matabeleland, and the responsibility of directors. At first he put his questions without notice, the House apparently having failed to remark his large share of the paper; but in a short time ironical cheers were given when his name was called. A little longer, and the cheers changed to groans, which became deeper and more prolonged as the full extent of the infliction was gradually realised. Mr. Bartley came off badly in an encounter with Mr. Arnold Morley, who informed him that the time to ask about adhesive stamps on cards for the post would be when the new contract was made. 'When is that?' inquired Mr. Bartley. 'In about three years,' replied Mr. Morley, to the great amusement of the listeners." In the worst days of Irish obstruction even the late Mr. Biggar never achieved such a record as this, and looking at it, we cannot wonder that members of the Government party are calling for strong and speedy measures of repression as loudly as the Conservative press complains of those already taken."

THE TEMMA COTTON-SPINNING FACTORY.

THE prosperous record of cotton spinning in Japan begins to be chequered. The trouble amongst the Temma Factory's operatives was described in a previous issue, and it now appears that fresh troubles have occurred in the same factory owing to two items in the January accounts, namely, a waste of 25,000 pounds of cotton during that month, and a charge of 16.40 *yen* for the manufacture of each bale of yarn. It is admitted that some waste is inevitable, but more than 800 pounds a day is a little too much, and as for the cost of manufacture, it is held to be 30 per cent. too high. The President and Managers are held accountable for these unsatisfactory items of account, and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* statement seems to indicate that they admit the justice of the charge. Another report says that the operatives are greatly demoralized since the recent arrest of some of their number by the Osaka police, and the consequence is that work is progressing very slowly. Altogether the affairs of the Company seem to be in a most unsatisfactory condition.

THE LATE SIR HARRY PARKES.

WE learn from the *Athenæum* that in December the long promised life of the late Sir Harry Parkes was nearly through the press, and that it would be published in January by Messrs. Macmillan. The work will be, or is, we should perhaps now say, in two volumes, the first of which deals with Sir Harry Parkes' early career in China, and the part he played in the first and second China war—the Peking campaign of 1860, when he was treacherously seized and thrown into prison by the Chinese authorities. The latter incident has been already fully described in the works of Sherard Osborn and Sir Henry Loch, who shared Sir Harry Parkes' prison experiences, and we cannot therefore expect to find much that is new in regard to it in the forthcoming volumes; but the story of the first Chinese war yet remains to be well told, and its recital should, even at this late day, be full of interest. The second volume deals almost enclusively with Sir Harry Parkes' long career, extending over eighteen very eventful years, in Japan. We can scarcely consider that the late Minister has been fortunate in his biographers. Mr. Stanley Lane-Poole, who is responsible for the first volume, is an experienced book maker: as an authority on Egypt he deservedly occupies a foremost place, and his works on Egypt and Assyrian art are, in their way, almost classics. But what are his special qualifications for writing on China, we know not. Mr. F. V. Dickins, who is the author of the second volume, resided for a long time in Japan, had some acquaintance with the language and history, and is an able writer. But his place of residence while here was exclusively in Yokohama, outside the limits of which he seldom stirred; he took no interest at the time in the political movements of the day; he had absolutely no acquaintance with Japanese officials; and with Sir Harry Parkes himself not at all that intimate one which the *Athenæum* ascribes to him. Mr. Dickins may, however, have been allowed access for his work to the archives of the Foreign Office, and if so all personal deficiencies will have been amply remedied. Whatever may be the shortcomings of the whole work, it will, we are sure, be heartily welcomed by all Englishmen throughout China and Japan, as a memorial of one who, whatever his faults and mistakes, was by far the greatest Englishman that ever served his country in the Far East, and whose guiding principle throughout the whole of his long and distinguished career, was the interests of his own countrymen and country.

BANK AGENT.

SOME discussion is now going on with regard to the question whether the officer in charge of a Bank's Agency is competent to institute legal proceedings on behalf the Bank: whether, in fact, he is a "legal person" in the sense contemplated by the Commercial Code. Some the time ago the question was submitted to the well known barrister Mr. Okamura Teruhiko by the Tokyo Clearing House. His reply was that a Bank Agent being simply an employé did not possess the legal status of a representative and could not institute legal proceedings. Mr. Okamura pointed out, however, that the inconveniences contingent upon such incompetence might be obviated by the Head Bank conferring a power of attorney on its agent. But a judgment lately given in the Tokyo Court of Appeal does not support Mr. Okamura's view. The appellant claimed that the officer in charge of the Tokyo Branch of a National Bank, being only an employé, could not represent the Bank legally or institute a law-suit in its behalf. The Judges ruled, however, that a Brahch being, in effect, part of the principal Bank, is competent to take all legal steps essential to the discharge of the business entrusted to it, and that, inasmuch as full responsibility *vis-à-vis* the public devolves upon a Bank Agent, correspondingly complete powers to discharge his responsibility must be vested in him. It is plain to the commonest intelligence that the Court's decision accords with the dictates of practical convenience and tends to develop banking facilities. Nevertheless, Mr. Okamura may be technically correct, and there is obviously some perplexity on the subject.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* confirms our surmise that, despite the favourable reports published in certain vernacular journals with reference to the Korean imbroglio, a settlement is not yet in sight. That negotiations between Mr. Otori and the Korean Government have frequently taken place, that a certain amount of progress towards an understanding has been made, and that the Edict against the exportation of grain will ultimately be revoked—all this our contemporary affirms to be trustworthy. But such a statement of the case is very different from the confident assertion advanced by other vernacular newspapers to the effect that a day—the 22nd of the current month—has actually been fixed for the repeal of the restriction. The *Nichi Nichi*, taught by past experience, observes that where the Korean Government has to be dealt with no reliance can be placed upon anything short of an accomplished fact. For our own part, we are disposed to think that although Mr. Otori's representations may ultimately effect the recall of the objectionable Edict, it will meanwhile have worked all the mischief that its drafters contemplated. It is an Edict prohibiting the export of grain, an operation which like everything else has its proper season. If the Edict remain in force throughout that season, its subsequent revocation will be about as useful as the Manx cat's tail. These considerations have of course presented themselves to diplomatists, and will doubtless become the basis of fresh demands for indemnity. Korean rulers, under whatever impulse they act, seem determined to create causes of international friction; petty causes, it is true, but these littles may make a mickle one fine day.

RETURNS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN AMERICA.

ADVICES by last mail are unanimous in declaring that the point of greatest depression has been passed in the United States, and that business is now on the upward grade. Prices are still low, workmen in great numbers are still out of employ; many factories are still closed, altogether or in part; and relief has still to be constantly provided for thousands upon thousands of destitute persons. Nevertheless, signs visible to careful seekers are perceptible that the lowest depth of depression has been reached and that prosperous times begin to be once more visible. Those signs are, first, that despite of the prices of iron and steel being the lowest on record, and despite the prospect of radical tariff changes, the number of blast furnaces open on January 1st was greater than the number open on December 1st, and even during the dull, holiday month of December, there was an added output of 240,000 tons of pig-iron. Secondly, deposits have begun to come back to the Savings Banks. Confidence is almost re-established. Thirdly, industrial establishments show a renewed tendency to spring into existence. Interpreters of the situation speak with becoming caution, but their tone is unquestionably re-assuring. "Even," writes *Bradstreet's*, "after all arguments are exhausted to show that the depression is or is not as severe as it was recently, or that it is lifting, the fact remains that the first and all important point in recovering from the results of panic and resulting commercial and industrial disturbance is to realize that the worst has happened, and that signs are not wanting that improvement has already begun."

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ITEMS.

EXPERIMENTS conducted by Professor Takamatsu, of the Tokyo Technological School, are said to have demonstrated that the wild indigo plant is distinctly better for obtaining the valuable dying material than the common plant cultivated largely in Shikoku and elsewhere. The wild plant gives a larger proportionate quantity of dye-stuff, and is less costly to grow, especially in warm climates like that of Riukiu and the islands along the coast of Kagoshima. The Professor exhorts the people of these latter districts to turn their attention to the matter, so that home-produced indigo may be substituted for the Indian article, now imported in considerable quantities.

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It has been demonstrated, we read in vernacular newspapers, that the inventor of silk crape in Japan was one Kinuya Jirobei, who flourished about 170 years ago. The invention is said to have been the result of many years of experimental weaving, carried on under circumstances of no little difficulty. He was a native of Hachiyama, in Tango, where the industry now flourishes, and the people of the place have conceived the idea that something should be done to perpetuate the name and fame of an expert who conferred such a boon on his country. Subscriptions have been invited for the purpose, and the cöoperation of the Kyoto weavers has been sought.

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We read in the *Mainichi Shimbun* that the kerosene obtained in Echigo has now a bright prospect of competing successfully with the imported product. Hitherto the Japanese oil

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has been fatally handicapped by the cost of transportation. The carriage of a ton from Shinoi, the place of production, to Yokogawa, a station at the foot of the Usui Pass on the Naoyetsu line, used to cost 22.26 *yen*, but has now been reduced to 5.30 *yen*, and the freight from Shinoi to Uyeda has become 2.20 *yen* instead of 9.24 *yen*. The province of Shinano uses a good deal of kerosene—from April to December last year more than 8,000 cases were sold there—but owing to the difficulty of reaching it from Yechigo, the latter's product has always been beaten out of the field by the imported article. It is expected that the tables will now be turned.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN KOBE.

THE Settlement of Kobe has of late years earned a somewhat unenviable reputation in connection with *fracas* between foreign sailors and Japanese police. There is a natural antipathy on the part of every Jack Tar to have hands laid on him by a man of another nationality, and when the layer-on of hands happens to be a Japanese of greatly inferior physical endowments, Jack's reluctance develops into an irresistible impulse to "strew the place with" his would-be convoy and sail away free. This explanation does not cover the whole case probably, but it does cover a great deal of it, and we have no doubt that it extends also to many of the rows between liberty men and *jinrikisha* coolies. The coolie is perhaps rude and extortionate on occasion, but we have ourselves seen several cases in which the roughness and intimidation were chiefly on the other side. At all events, one must be very prejudiced to conclude that the fault rests entirely with either party.

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In connection with this we learn from the *Shin-Choya* newspaper that, owing to a disturbance which occurred recently between two German man-of-war's men and some Japanese coolies on the Kobe Hatoba, the Captain of the German ship made to his Consul such representations that the latter urged the Governor to establish a police station in the immediate vicinity of the Hatoba, and also to cause placards to be posted stating in English and German the proper *jinrikisha* fares payable by persons hiring vehicles from the Hatoba to the places usually visited in or near the Settlement. The Governor has taken these steps, and it is to be hoped that they will conduce to the better preservation of order. Association of the English and German languages on notice-boards in Japan is a more or less pleasing novelty.

POACHING AND ITS PREVENTION.

AMONG the wild and wonderful stories related from time to time by the vernacular newspapers—many of which really seem bent upon discrediting all Japanese newspaper utterances, so strangely indifferent are they about the truth, or even the probability, of what they insert—we have seen none wilder or more wonderful than the *Jiyu's* allegations about the instructions officially issued to the *Iwaki Kan* and the *Kaimon Kan* when those ships were sent northward to prevent poaching by foreign vessels in the neighbourhood of the Kuriles. The *Jiyu* would have its readers believe that the men-of-war were told to carefully avoid discharging the very duty on account of which they were sent. If they saw a foreign vessel acting in a suspicious manner, they were to give her a wide berth; if they detected a foreign vessel poaching, they were to assume ignorance of her doings and sail quietly away. Only in the event of complaints being formulated by the people against the proceedings of a foreign vessel were steps to be taken for its restraint. If the *Jiyu* believes that kind of nonsense, it must not expect others to be equally credulous. Its object is to represent the Government as too timid of foreigners even to protect Japanese property against their depredations.

ENVELOPES.

THE functions of post-office officials are not limited to sorting and distributing letters. It often devolves upon them also to have to refasten envelopes that have come undone or been torn in transit. During the month of January of this year, the number of letters whose envelopes needed such treatment aggregated 1,540 in the Tokyo Central Post Office alone, being an average of over 50 per diem. Similiar inconvenience occurs with newspapers and periodicals and with books and commercial samples. The Post Office is caused much labour and correspondence is exposed to many risks by the use on the part of the public of bad or rudely fastened envelopes and wrappers. The Department of Communications has had an advertisement inserted in the vernacular press urging people to employ more durable envelopes, and to fasten them more securely. Referring to this, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* suggests that the letter about which Mr. Abe Okiudo, formerly member of the Diet for Tokushima Prefecture, made such loud complaints recently because it reached him open, may have been an example of the carelessness referred to by the Department of Communications.

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It has probably happened to several of our readers to receive from the post office a torn or dilapidated wrapper, with an intimation that if the recipient could indicate the nature of the original contents of the wrapper, they should be sent to him. Generally one is quite unable to furnish such information, but if one can give any intelligible clue, it may be considered tolerably certain that the Post Office folks will find the missing newspaper and send it.

THE YOKOHAMA SPINNING COMPANY IN TROUBLED WATERS.

FROM the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* we learn that the Yokohama Spinning Company was recently much perturbed on account of a loss of over 30,000 *yen* incurred during the second half of last year. The loss appears to have been kept from the knowledge of the shareholders for a long time, but it was finally discovered, and the regular general meeting which ought to have been held at the close of the year was deferred in consequence. Explanations demanded from the managers elicited the fact that a loss of 15,000 *yen* had been made in the period from July to October, and that attempts to recoup it had merely aggravated the disaster. Satisfactory proofs of this explanation were not forthcoming, and the books of the company did not corroborate it. Hence suspicious arose that the loss had not been incurred in the ordinary course of business, but had resulted from arbitrary and unwarranted acts on the part of the Managers. There was talk for a time of holding the Managers responsible, but through the intercession of outsiders, an arrangement was finally effected on the somewhat curious basis that the money lost should be entered as a loan to the Managers for a period of three years without interest; that the services of an expert should be procured from England, as had been repeatedly proposed by shareholders, and that no dividends should be paid until the financial affairs of the Company had been brought into a thoroughly satisfactory condition. The difficulty having been thus arranged, the regular general meeting was held on the 27th ultimo.

AMERICAN FINANCIAL DISORDERS.

THE hardships suffered by investors in American railway securities, to which references have appeared in these columns, have been made the subject of an elaborate investigation by the finance editor of the *New York Sun*. This writer asserts, after what is claimed to be a careful computation, that the amount in default on bonds alone is not less than $1,300,000,000; and that the interest stopped or suspended on stocks is correspondingly large. Not only is the present situation depicted as painful and harassing beyond precedent, but emphatic warning is given of the hopelessness of immediate improvement. The signs of recovery are said to be "few and doubtful." "Much time must elapse before the activity which prevailed a year ago will return, and until its return, the suffering will have to be endured." The evil plight of the railways is especially dwelt upon, for the reason that the mutations of this description of property are the most easily followed and ascertained. They stand as a fair illustration of the general flood of disaster that has befallen the community. The decline in real estate cannot be so readily traced, but it is stated that wholesale readjustments of rents have been found necessary everywhere, tenants being obviously incapable of meeting the obligations they entered into a year ago. The condition of affairs is exceptional in the circumstance that in this crisis the heaviest aggregate losses have not fallen upon speculators, or even legitimate traders. "Retired capitalists and the numerous small invertors have lost more than persons actively engaged in business," and their reduced income will, "by itself alone, be a potent cause of restricted expenditure and consequently of a restricted demand for the products of industry." "It is idle to expect anything but a diminished value of the interchange of commodities and services by which wealth is created and distributed." Money is of little avail. "There is plenty of gold and silver coin awaiting employment, but it is as useless as so many paving stones." These are not the inconsiderate utterances of a sensation-monger. They are the deliberate conclusions of a writer who holds a high reputation as a cautous and judicious observer of events. His views are, on the whole, far less discouraging than those of the average American journalist. If the forecasts of the extreme prophets of calamity were liable even to partial realization—of which, we trust, there is little likelihood—we should have to look for a social revolution such as the American republic has never yet witnessed. But the conservative and law-abiding middle-class of the United States has shown itself capable of meeting more serious emergencies than those which now confront it. The hardships complained of do not fall upon the excitable and irresponsible labouring masses, but upon a body capable of patient endurance, and educated to the understanding that redress for great grievances cannot be secured by violent means. The pessimists who point to general and wide-spread disorder, as the inevitable culmination of the business troubles in the United States, have reckoned without due consideration of the best qualities of American citizenship.

THE NEW ELECTIONS AND THE KAISHIN-TO.

THE prospects of the *Kaishin-to*, to judge by what its partisans say, are growing steadily brighter. Mr. Koizuka Ryu, of the *Mainichi Shimbun's* editorial staff, is to carry Hyogo Prefecture beyond the least doubt; Mr. Hadano Denzaburo, of the same staff, is certain of the moiety of votes in Niigata Prefecture; while, of course, Mr. Shimada Saburo, the "dark horse" of the party, is a moral for the representation of Yokohama and its woes. In Tokyo, the *Kaishin-to* people seem to be having things pretty much their own way. Mr. Aoki Tadasu is the favourite for the Hongo and Shitaya Districts, although a much-monied competitor has this month made his appearance in the person of Mr. Abe Kosuke, the proprietor of the well-known Kawagoeya, one of the largest *gofukuya* in the metropolis. He is said to be spending his money right and left, in lieu of using other convincing eloquence. Takagi Seinen, another Progressionist, has a fair chance of being elected from Shinagawa (Ebara-gori), though opposed by so formidable a man as Mr. Hirabayashi, a member of the *Kokumin Kyokwai*. Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo has no opponent for the representation of the Hongo, Ushigome, and Yotsuya Districts, while Mr. Tsunoda Shimpei is sure to be chosen as the member for Kanda. Out of 800 votes, Mr. Hayashi Waichi (the father, by-the-bye, of Mr. Hayashi Saiji, the largest dealer in American flour in Tokyo) has already secured over 550; his quondam successful rival, Mr. Kitaoka Bumpei, having announced his intention of retiring from public life. In Tokushima, the Progressionists are sure of putting Mr. Abe Okito through, while a new partisan, Mr. Kashima Hidemaro, stands every chance of being elected from one of the

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ku of Hyogo Prefecture. The impetuous and fire-eating Tanaka Shozo will find it an easy matter to persuade the unsophisticated inhabitants of Tochigi Prefecture into sharing his views and sending him once more into his parliamentary Elysium. If the increase in the numerical power of the *Kaishin-to* means anything, it is that the Sage of Waseda is man for the hour. Or—a coalition cabinet? But these are forecasts inspired by the hope of their veracity.

CURRENT TOPICS.

According to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, Count Okuma is said to have recently remarked more than once that, out of the 800,000 *yen* popularly believed to be the amount appropriated on account of expenses connected with Their Majesties Silver Wedding, about one half will in all probability be spent on purposes connected with the elections. For our own part we are not ready to believe that so rash an assertion could have been made by Count Okuma. But at the same time the *Nichi Nichi* is too respectable a journal to advance an allegation of the kind without having taken some steps to ascertain its truth. The assertion, if it really emanated from the Progressionist leader, is disrespectful to the Imperial Court, for its implies an extremely disordered state of financial management in the Household Department. It should be borne in mind that the management of finance in the Household is under the supervision and control of a Board of Inspectors, and no room exists for any irregularity, much less for such a grave diversion of funds as is said to have been suggested by Count Okuma.

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All sorts of rumours are circulated as to the pecuniary assistance which the Radical Party is said to have received from the Cabinet. One of these is that extensive forest lands in the province of Yamato, belonging to the Household Department, have been sold at a nominal price to Mr. Tsuchikura Shozaburo, a rich and well-known land owner in that locality. Mr. Tsuchikura is a great friend and admirer of Count Itagaki, and since the marriage of his daughter to Mr. Hara Rokuro, the former President of the Specie Bank, he is believed to have won the friendship of Count Inouye. Mr. Tsuchikura had once previously applied for the sale of the forest in question, but on that occasion his request was not granted. Recently, however, so runs the rumour, he succeeded in obtaining his long coveted forest, on the secret condition that he should contribute one half of the profits to the Radical Party. In consequence of this prospect, the Radical Party, is said to have been able to obtain a loan of 100,000 *yen* each from the Mitsui Bank and the Specie Bank. Mr. Furusawa's appointment to the Governorship of Nara is also said to have been for the purpose of effecting the sale of the forest lands in question. The forest lies at the boundary between the Provinces of Yamato and Kii, and the programme attributed to Mr. Tsuchikura is to cut a road through the district for the convenience of the pilgrims to the formous Shrine of Kumano. But the fact is that the lands having been in the actual possession of the Household Department, no Minister of State could have done anything to control their sale. These rumours are assiduously circulated by the Progressionist organs, but we do not imagine that they receive any credence. Meanwhile, it is unfortunate for the Progressionists that the Imperial Household should be implicated in all their attempts to discredit the Ministry.

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The *Niroku Shimpo* is responsible for a rumour that there exists a secret understanding between the Cabinet and Mr. Fukuzawa Yukichi. That he is a friend of Count Goto is a fact. Our contemporary now states that he is on equally intimate terms with Count Inouye. There is nothing, however, to support this rumour, except that Mr. Fukuzawa's paper is bitterly opposed to the agitation for Treaty Enforcement, and that it has not hesitated to express very unfavourable opinions about the conduct of the late House of Representatives. This is probably another of the rumours fabricated by the advocates of strict Treaty Enforcement.

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The *Kokumin Shimbun* states that a secret understanding exists between Count Ito and Count Inouye as to the appointment of the latter to the post of Minister President of State after the coming general elections. With regard to Count Ito himself, it is not yet decided, says our contemporary, whether he will retire into private life or occupy a Ministerial post. We (*Japan Mail*) venture to assert with confidence that there is no foundation for this story.

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It is believed that Mr. Kiyoura, Vice-Minister of State for Justice, is disposed to resign, if, indeed, he has not already tendered his resignation. According to some persons, he will be appointed a Minister abroad, while others state that he will join the National Unionists. In case of his resignation, his successor is supposed to be Mr. Komatsubara, Governor of Shizuoka, who was summoned to Tokyo on the 9th instant.

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There is a rumour that Count Ito is endeavouring to pursuade Prince Konoye to accept the post of Minister to some foreign country, —some say Italy, while others believe it to be China. We are not certain as to the truth of this rumour. Certain papers allege that the Minister President and the Prince recently had a conference. But according to the *Nichi Nichi* although a meeting had been arranged between them at 3 p.m. on the 7th instant, it did not take place, because, when Prince Konoye called at the Premier's residence, the latter was away at the Palace, and was unable to get home by the appointed hour. Count Ito immediately wrote Prince Konoye asking him to renew his visit the following morning, but the Prince replied that he had an engagement on that day. On the 9th instant, Count Ito called at the Prince's on his way to the French Legation, but the latter was not at home. Thus the expected meeting has not yet taken place.

COCKSUREDNESS.

There is nothing like being cocksure. It is a state of mind that enormously enhances the effective value of one's capacities, perennially tinges the future with a rosy hue, and greatly tempers the mortification of failure. Americans are always cocksure. It is one of their elements of greatness. Somebody has said that the size of a man's gullet depends much on his belief as to what he can swallow. Our American friends could swallow the Pyramids, were faith alone in question. They are our unmistakable blood relatives in that respect. The Britisher doesn't know when he is beaten simply because to be beaten at all is a totally unfamiliar contingency to him. He is blessed with incapacity to calculate adverse odds. Yet, we think, the American beats him. *Palmam qui meruit ferat.* Major Gilray, Mayor of New York, says that it is the manifest destiny of the vast population and immense business interests of which the port is the centre that they shall be consolidated under one municipal government and form the metropolis of the world." London, it will be observed, occupies no space in the vista of the Major's municipal vision. London's day is past. The Lion is moribund, and the great Eagle is soaring with vast spaces of blue empyrean still separating him from the point where he is destined to soar his tail off.

TEARING A WARRANT.

On Tuesday morning in the United States Consulate-General, Thomas Jamieson (*alias* H. Howard) a seamen on board the U.S.S. *Marion*, was brought before N. M. McIvor, Esq., Consul-General, charged with obstructing the police while in the execution of their duty on Monday last. A warrant had been issued for the man's arrest as a deserter, and upon Inspector Kawada Tetsuyo, of the Settlement Police, proceeding to arrest the main, prisoner snatched the document from the Inspector's hands and tore it in half. Prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge. Inspector Kawada having proved the case, His Honour fined the prisoner $10 and costs, and sentenced him to twenty day's imprisonment, the man to be put aboard his ship if the *Marion* leaves port before the expiry of the term of imprisonment.

THE COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE CABINET BY THIRTY-EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE UPPER HOUSE.

The original communication addressed to the members of the Cabinet by Prince Nijo and thirty-seven other members of the Upper House runs as follows :—

Their Excellencies, the Members of the Cabinet.

Sirs,—The question of our Foreign Treaties has important bearings upon the prosperity or decline of the country and the interests of the people. More than twenty years have elapsed since the date originally fixed for the Revision of those Treaties, but successive efforts for the attainment of our object, including those of Count Inouye and Count Okuma, have all ended in failure, not because the work of Revision was difficult, but because the rights of the country and the welfare of the people had to be strictly guarded and secured against all possible molestation. Our countrymen are no longer the same countrymen of former days. There are now among them plenty of men well educated and competent to discuss the foreign affairs of the country by the light of the history of other nations. That these people should be prompted by anxiety for the preservation of the national independence to offer criticisms upon foreign policy, is quite rational and does not in any sense constitute a subject of surprise. The opinions advanced by them may, in some cases, have a tendency not to further the smooth conduct of the country's foreign affairs. But that circumstance should be regarded as a sign of the progress made by the nation in civilization, and precisely therein lies, in our opinion, the strength of the country.

Ever since the opening of the Diet, the tendency of the House of Representatives has always been to concentrate its attention on making reductions in the Budget, almost to the exclusion of other affairs of State. The House doubtless thought it necessary first of all to effect reforms in the finance of the country, but we sometimes feared that the tendency of its policy might be to neglect the discharge of its proper legislative functions. The late House of Representatives, however, recently changed its policy, and directed its attention to the recovery of the national rights and the maintenance of official discipline, voting, or attempting to vote, on these subjects addresses to the Throne and Representations to the Government. It must be observed that the House has thus shown itself ready to discharge its important legislative functions and express its views on the eradication of national evils. It must consequently be acknowledged that in voting, or attempting to vote, upon those measures the House has kept itself within the limits of its legitimate functions.

We, therefore, fail to recognize the propriety of your conduct, when, in misinterpretation of its motives, you hastily concluded that the House of Representatives was bent upon impeding the course of the enlightened and progressive policy of opening the country. Of course among our countrymen there may be a few persons wedded to ultra-conservative views. Even among European and American nations there are not wanting some who hate and persecute alien races and nationalities. Our country having but recently been opened for foreign intercourse, it is unavoidable that there should be some bigoted and irrational persons. The members of the late House of Representatives, being mostly men of note in their respective localities, can not be classified in the same category with conservatives of the above-mentioned type. But you have put them in the same category, and that is the reason why we can not approve your conduct. The Representation which the House was about to vote on the subject of Treaty Enforcement, was simply an expression of its wish to the Government that the latter should carry out the provisions of the existing Treaties. If our country were incapable of enforcing its present Treaties, it would be impossible for her to maintain her rights in practice, even if those Treaties should be revised on a footing of equality. If the Treaties are not enforced, the result will be the same as though there were no Treaty at all, and in such a case it may even become impossible to maintain order and tranquillity. Such, in our opinion, must have been the ideas of the members of the late House of Representatives. If there were anything improper or wrong in such views, it would

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have been your duty to point out the fallacies and favour them with full and repeated explanations, thereby giving them an opportunity to exhaust their opinions on the subject. Instead of taking such a course, you rashly concluded that the House was applying itself to impede the course of the progressive policy of opening the country, and at once advised the Emperor to order its prorogation. We regret extremely for the sake of yourselves that you thus prevented the House from expressing its opinion on the matter.

It being His Majesty's pleasure to govern the country in a constitutional manner, it is the duty of all His Majesty's subjects to unite joyfully in the promotion of the Imperial wishes. If you really consider the majority of the members of the late House of Representatives in the light of the *jo-i* agitators of former days, you would not only fail to discharge your duties as advisers to the Sovereign, but would even, on the one hand, provoke the opposition of the nation and, on the other, excite the suspicion and doubt of foreigners, thereby possibly bringing grievous misfortune upon the country This is consequently a matter of sincere anxiety for the sake of the Empire. Moreover, the prorogation and dissolution of the Diet belonging to the prerogative of the Emperor, you are not free to advise such measures to His Majesty on the mere spur of the moment, for such a course of action would have the effect of weakening the respect of the people for the Imperial orders. Yet, after advising a prorogation for two weeks, on the day following the issue of the Imperial order to that effect you again advised His Majesty to dissolve the House of Representatives, thus destroying the effect of the former Order of prorogation. That is to us another matter of profound regret for the sake of the country. What has been done cannot be undone. But precautions can be taken for the future. It is our sincere wish that you should not disregard what we have thus far ventured to offer for your acceptance, and that, correcting your mistakes, you will exert yourselves to discharge the duty you owe to His Majesty the Emperor.

We remain your obedient servants,

(Signed) Prince NIJO HIROMOTO, and others.

January 24th, 1894.

COUNT ITO'S ANSWER TO THE OPPOSITION PEERS.

WE publish above the communication addressed to the Cabinet by 38 Members of the Upper House, with reference to the Dissolution of the Diet. The following answer has been given by the Minister President of State, Count Ito, and published on the 13th instant by the vernacular press :—

TO PRINCE NIJO MOTOHIRO AND THIRTY-SEVEN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the communication you did me and my colleagues the honour of addressing to us, in which you have been so good as to favour us with your opinions concerning the late dissolution of the House of Representatives. I desire to express my deep sense of gratitude for your extreme consideration in the matter. Unworthy as I am, I have been charged with the grave responsibility of exercising general control over the conduct of the administrative Affairs of the State, and upon me devolves the duty of tendering advice to the Sovereign. But I have not assumed such heavy responsibility without some corresponding sense of confidence in myself.

The general purport of your communication to us is to criticise the Government's conduct in advising the Emperor, towards the end of last year, to dissolve the House of Representatives. I must, therefore, explain to you the reasons why I advised such dissolution.

The proper carrying out of the Constitution depends upon the harmonious working of the different parts of the machinery of State. That is precisely what His Majesty was pleased to announce at the time of the promulgation of the Constitution, and it has been repeated in the Imperial Speeches at the openings of the successive sessions of the Diet.

That was made especially clear and definite by the Imperial Rescript of February 10th of last year.

The Houses of the Diet and the Ministers of State are equally under obligation to duly observe the above precept. In obedience thereto, the Houses of the Diet and the Ministers of State are bound to confine themselves within the limits of their respective functions when considering matters of State. By doing so, notwithstanding occasional differences of opinion between them, they ought to find no difficulty is promoting, in concert, the progress of the country as relates to the more important affairs of State. Since accepting office, I have diligently applied myself to the discharge of the grave responsibilities connected with the post I occupy, and I have been at particular pains never to take any precipitate course of action. I shall always be glad to have the opinion of the two Houses of the Diet on any subject, and hope thereby to acquire the means of supplying my own difficiencies. Therein lies, it is my conviction, the duty which the Constitution lays upon me. The House of Representatives, on the other hand, has been making it its principal business to oppose the important measures of the Government without taking the trouble to consider the advantages or disadvantages of such measures. For instance, the House of Representatives endeavoured to effect such reductions in the Budget as would have been difficult to carry out in practice, while on the question of national defence, attempts were made to suspend measures of the most urgent importance. Noise and tumult characterized the proceedings in the House, which hardly gave ear to the explanations offered by the Ministers of State. In the fourth session of the Diet, the House of Representatives was fortunately able to discharge its constitutional duties, thanks to the benevolent Rescript which His Enlightened Majesty was pleased to issue. In the fifth session of the Diet, and even previous to its opening, the various political parties began to manifest a tendency to revile and injure each other, as they had done in the early part of the preceding session. When the late session had been duly opened, the House of Representatives, regardless of the law of the land, which fixes a certain definite period of time for the examination of the Budget in Committee, and notwithstanding the fact that Standing Committees must be elected immediately after the opening of the session, at once proceeded to discuss a question regarding the propriety of the conduct of its President. The House, in connection with that matter, went to the length of abusing the power vested in it of presenting an Address to the Throne, and when asked by His Majesty for an explanation of its meaning, it had to apologize for the igorance it had displayed.

Can such conduct be considered appropriate to men qualified to take part in the management of national affairs?

The maintenance of official discipline is of course a duty incumbent upon the Government. Had the House put questions or offered advice to the Government, at the same time plainly pointing out in a frank and disinterested manner, the facts that formed the subject of complaint, the Government would have gladly met the House in a like spirit of frankness. But in, point of fact, the House of Representatives very suddenly voted an Address to the Throne on the subject, without having even given notice of the motion by placing it on the Order of the Day. The House appealed to the Imperial judgment in this manner, perhaps because it had thought from the beginning that the Government was not worthy of being taken into its councils. A few days afterwards, the House, not having yet received any intimation of the Imperial pleasure, passed a resolution which, under the pretence of expediting the Government's decision, really pressed for an Imperial reply to the House's Address.

How was it possible that with such a House harmonious cöoperation could be maintained?

In obedience to the Imperial Rescript of Feb. 10th of last year, my colleagues and I introduced reforms in the various branches of the Administration. With due regard to the requirements of the machinery of State, to the greater development of various useful undertakings, to the convenience of the people, and to the economic growth of the country, we devised a plan consistent with the actual condition of the country and the people; and on the basis of that plan, reductions of a large amount were effected in the ordinary expenses of Administration, over and above the decrease in the Budget for the preceding year. The amount thus obtained was to be employed for meeting various urgent requirements of the State and of the people.

In conformity with the Official Organization thus amended, and with other Imperial Ordinances, the Budget for the 27th fiscal year was compiled with due provision for all the various measures whose importance gave them a title to consideration.

When this Budget was introduced by Imperial permission, the Budget Committee in the House of Representatives, without taking the trouble to ascertain the general purpose of the Bill, adopted as a standard for the amendment of the Budget precisely the same general plan of reductions that had been drawn up in the preceding session in connection with the Budget compiled before the above-mentioned administrative reforms had been carried out. The Ministers of State, on their part, gave full explanations at the meetings of the Budget Committee, so that the objects and motives of the Government might be duly appreciated by the members of the Committee. The latter, though they at first demanded explanations from the Ministers of State in person, did not extensively criticise or oppose the statements made by the Ministers, but contented themselves with obstinately adhering to the general scheme of reductions above alluded to, and manifested no inclination to recede from their original attitude. As a result of their investigations, they proposed the abolition of the contribution of one tenth of the salaries of officials—a proposition contrary to the Imperial Rescript of February 10, 1893—and recommended various unreasonable reductions. They even went so far as to propose cutting down appropriations for the construction of forts on the shores of various straits. Their pretext for recommending such reductions was that the reforms effected by the Government fell short of what had been indicated in the declarations of the Cabinet in the preceding session. But the declarations I made to the Committee which the House of Representatives had elected for the purpose of ascertaining the Government's views, were confined to the statement that efforts should be directed not to reducing official salaries, but to simplifying the organization of the various branches of the Administration and to diminishing the number of officials. The determination of the official organization in accordance with the actual needs of the time, is a matter for which the Government is solely responsible, and it is therefore a subject beyond the interference of any others.

Should the suggestions of the Diet be of a nature to supply the incompleteness of my knowledge and to aid my judgment, I shall always be glad to accept them. But when the measures proposed by the Government are indiscriminately opposed on the vague plea that they are endorsed by public opinion,—no trouble being taken either to ascertain actual facts or to consider the reasons assigned for those measures, and not the least attention being paid to the requirements of the administrative machinery of the State,—I have then to abandon all hope of harmonious cöoperation with the Diet.

It may be contended that, however true thees observations may be so far as relates to the conduct of the Budget Committee, the House of Representoves itself had not yet pronounced any verdict on the subject. But the Budget Committee's opinions thay practically be regarded as reflecting the views m the House by which it had been elected. Moreover, as you will no doubt remember, the opinions which were then publicly expressed on the subject by members of the different political parties were, if anything, more unreasonable than those advanced by the Committee. You state in your communication that "the House of Representatives had changed its accustomed policy with regard to the reductions in the Budget and manifested a tendency to consider the affairs of State in a spirit of sincerity and disinterestedness." But on this point actual facts compel me to entertain an opinion at variance with your own.

The progressive policy of opening the country must be carried out by the Government in spite of all difficulties and dangers. It is of course necesary to strictly enforce such provisions of the existing treaties as are essential to the assertion of the national rights; and when required, efforts must be put forth for the abolition and amendment of such provisions as may interfere with the exercise of the sovereign rights of the country. It must, however, be borne in mind that the existing treaties having been concluded previous to the Restoration or immediately after it, their provisions in many cases are not responsive to the actual state of affairs of the present day. It is, consequently, not advantageous for the country to adhere too rigidly to the letter of those provisions. It would be the height of folly to seek to enforce them indiscriminately, without considering the practical consequences of such a course. In the conduct of its foreign policy, the Government is obliged to give due consideration to all the different aspects of contemplated steps, so that propriety of action may always be secured. Care must also be taken not to endanger peace by wantonly originating causes of complications out of pure love of contention. Yet, while pursuing such a deliberate course, the Government has never once suffered any encroachment upon or derogation from the rights of the country save such as have been consequences of the treaties now in force. But several parties in the House of Representatives combined together for the introduction of a Representation, the purport of which was to charge the Government with having suffered the rights of the country to be injured; and on the pretext of securing strict enforcement of the treaties, they concocted various projects for restraining

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fessed that they were French Marine officers and had been travelling under asumed names. The real name of the older of the two, who had called himself Dubois, was Degony, 41 years of age, lieutenant of the First Class and member of the General Staff of the French Navy. He also admitted that he had been specially assigned to the work of studying the German coast defence, which in recent years the French government had regarded as a subject of special importance. His younger comrade was a lieutenant of the Second Class, also a member of the General Staff and had been passing under the name of Delguey, while his true name is Daguet. They had jointly chartered the steam yacht *Insect* at Cowes. The charge against them was "spionage," inasmuch as they had secretly inspected the German fortifications of Heligoland, Wilhelmshaven, Bremerhaven, &c., as also the terminus of the North Sea canal, Brunsbuettel and Kiel, and had by so doing endangered the interests of the German empire. At first both denied that they were acting under orders from the French government. The reason why they were travelling under a British flag, they said, was simply because they did not succeed in finding a French ship, but they admitted, at the same time, that they felt all the safer on board of a British ship in German waters. In the course of the trial, the fact was established that a year ago Degony had tried to observe the manœuvres at Dueppel. He was, however debarred by the officials, although accompanied by his wife in order to obviate suspicion. Throughout the examination of the experts, concerning the question to what extent the work of the accused may be called "dangerous spionage," the court was held with closed doors. During the further examination of the accused, they admitted that they had come to an agreement with an Apothecary firm in Paris to travel nominally as agents for the house, under the pretence of wanting to introduce its wares into Germany. Finally, after repeated denials, they both confessed that they had come to Germany under instructions from their superior, namely, the chief of the General Staff of the French Navy. They had received the following instructions:—1. They should not bribe German subjects. 2. They should always make their drawings on board of their ship, and never at the place where they were making inspections. 3. They should proceed very careful and circumspectly. As travelling expenses they had in the first place received 4,000 francs, the most of which was used in paying for the *Insect*. Their drawings and photographs they had in part sent direct to Paris, and in part to M. Le Clerque, the French Marine Attaché in London. After having, finally, confessed this much, Degony endeavoured to convince the Court that they had acted with becoming "honour" of French officers and, while admitting that they could make no claim for consideration before a German court, yet he would beg to be sentenced to imprisonment in a fort, and thus be spared the humiliation of being confined in a common prison. After brief deliberation the High Court said it would not impose the heaviest penalty, and thereupon sentenced Degony to 6 and Daguet to 4 years' imprisonment, and that they should be confined within the fort of Magdeburg.

THE NEXT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the *Shin-Choya* newspaper there appears an estimate—said to have been made by a person well versed in politics—of the probable results of the approaching elections. The figures given are:—*Jiyu-to*, 90; *Kokumin-to*, 42; *Kaishin-to*, 40; *Domei-ha*, 23; *Doshi-ha*, 25; *Seimu-ha*, 10; *Kinkoritsu*, 11; *Jitsugyo-ha*, 5; *Osaka-ha*, 5; *Kishu-ha*, 5; Inokaku-gumi, 4; *Hoshu-chusei*, 2; Uncertain, 37. Of the 37 entered as "uncertain," it is thought that the *Kokumin* and *Kaishin* Parties will secure 10 each, the *Jiyu-to*, 7, and the *Domei* and *Doshi* Clubs, 5 each. It is evident that, if this estimate be correct, the balance of power will lie with the *Kokumin* Party. For it may be assumed confidently that the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to* will be in opposite camps, the former numbering 97 and the latter 50. If the *Kokumin* adherents (52) go with the former, we should have a phalanx of 149 votes; if with the latter, the *Kaishin-to* would aggregate 102. The *Domei* and *Doshi* Clubs, as well as the *Seimu-ha* will certainly be found with the *Kaishin-to*, and as the above estimate gives these two coteries a total of 58 votes, they constitute a very important factor in the situation. The *Kaishin-to*, *Doshi-ha*, and *Domei-ha* aggregate 108 votes, and the *Jiyu-to* numbers 97. The scale will turn, therefore, to the side into which the weight of the *Kokumin-to* is thrown; it will be *Jiyu-to* 149 and *Kaishin-to* 108; or *Jiyu-to* 97 and *Kaishin-to* 164. But all this is mere guess work.

INSANITY OF A CAPTAIN.

Captain Kubo Gosuke, of the Japanese Infantry, has been for some time under surveillance on account of symptoms of insanity. On the 13th instant, his guards—two soldiers—failing to watch him sufficiently narrowly, he obtained possession of a sword and slashed his sister—a woman of 43—so desperately that she expired at once. He then attacked a maid-servant—aged 23—and having inflicted on her head a wound from which she is not expected to recover, he fled from the house, which is in Kogai-machi, Azabu, carrying the sword with him. Arrived in Minami-machi, in the Aoyama district, he thrust the weapon into his own throat, but failed to inflict a fatal injury, and before he could repeat the act the police seized him and carried him to the Red Cross Hospital, where he is now undergoing treatment. His recovery is considered certain, so far as the wound is concerned. Captain Kubo is a native of Satsuma, and his age is 41.

ELECTION EXPENSES.

It is notified by the Finance Department that a sum of 26,245.55 *yen* is to be alloted out of the reserves in accordance with a requisition from the Minister of State for War to defray the expense of despatching gendarmes to the election districts for the preservation of peace and order. It is further notified that a sum of 45,000 *yen* is appropriated from the same source to form a secret service fund for police purposes also in connection with the elections.

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We need scarcely say that this second appropriation has provoked some unfavourable comments from the vernacular press. The *Shin Choya* newspaper is particularly severe. It seems to associate secret service money with all sorts of dark doings and nefarious practices. But nobody, we imagine, attaches much importance to these criticisms.

THE JAPAN IRON FOUNDRY COMPANY.

The Tokyo City Council being now engaged deliberating whether the pipes required for the Waterworks shall be ordered from abroad, or whether the Japan Iron Foundry Company shall be granted additional time to carry out its contract for their supply, that Company has submitted to the Council various reasons in support of the latter alternative. It will be remembered that the Company undertook to supply twenty thousand tons of pipes and that, without considerable license in the matter of time, it cannot hope to supply more than half of that quantity. There is, consequently, immediate question of an order for ten thousand tons. The Company's contract price for pipes manufactured in Japan is 45.857 *yen* per ton, whereas Osaka has had to pay £6 per ton for imported pipes. Six pounds sterling is declared by the Iron Foundry Company to be equivalent to 64.7 *yen*, but that is evidently a mistaken calculation. Probably the Osaka folks had to pay more than £6. Assuming, however, that 64 *yen* was the actual silver cost of the Osaka pipes, it follows, of course, that Tokyo is getting its pipes for fully 18 *yen* less—a total difference of 180,000 *yen* on the ten thousand tons. The Company further asserts that additional outlay would have to be borne, since an inspector must be sent to Europe were the pipes ordered thence, and since also the carriage from Yokohama to Tokyo would have to be paid. But neither of these pleas has any real validity. An inspector would not be necessary, and the contract could be for pipes delivered at the Works. The third objection urged is that the pipes usually cast in England measure 12 feet and 9 feet, whereas those required for Tokyo measure 4, 3½ and 3 metres. Special moulds would therefore have to be made were the Tokyo pipes cast in England. That contention, also, is obviously valueless. Japan would have to pay a fixed price for pipes of fixed lengths, and would not have to give herself any concern about the moulds used in casting them. When all is said and done, however, there is no denying that the appreciation of gold greatly handicaps British competitors in such a matter.

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The Company concludes its representation with a general appeal on behalf of the industry that it is endeavouring to inaugurate in Japan. It frankly accepts the blame of having made a partial failure, but it claims that, since it is now capable of turning out 40 tons of pipes daily, success may be said to be within sight, and that upon the decision now taken by the Council depends, in all probability, the fate of the iron-founding industry in Japan, and the solution of the question whether Japan is to become self-supplying, or to remain perpetually dependent in this respect upon foreign countries. From the shadow of such arguments we may expect to see the *Soshi* emerge once more.

THE KOBE IMPORT MERCHANTS.

According to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* information the foreign import merchants of Kobe have taken a step which has often been recommended, as well in these columns as elsewhere—they have combined to protect themselves against the irregularities of their Japanese clients, and against currency difficulties. On the 9th instant, says our contemporary, they held a meeting in the Club, when it was decided that, in view of the great fall in the gold value of silver, and in view of the fact that prices in Japan had not yet adjusted themselves to the state of exchange, goods now in stock should not be disposed of until the market improved. It was also resolved that when a Japanese dealer, on whose account goods had been ordered, failed to take delivery within the fixed period, interest and warehouse rent should be charged to his account, and failing payment the goods should not be delivered to him. Joint action of this kind on the part of the foreign merchants might greatly contribute to the smooth conduct of trade.

THE STEAMER "TAMBOFF."

The Russian "Volunteer" Steamer *Tamboff*, says the *Rising Sun* of the 7th inst., not being able to complete her journey to Wladivostock, owing to failure of the ice-breaker *Silatch* to keep that port open, was expected to remain here until the Spring; but under instructions from the head office arrangements have been made to discharge her cargo into the steamers *Baikal* and *Vladimir*, which are laid up for their usual winter overhaul. The work of discharging was commenced on Wednesday last, and is expected to be finished about Wednesday next, after which the *Tamboff* will load a cargo of coal for Singapore, *en route* to Odessa.

EXTREMELY MALAPROPOS.

French newspapers announce with effusion that the Imperial Theatre of St. Petersburg will gracefully contribute its part toward cementing the *entente cordiale* between France and Russia by a special production of one of Molière's comedies on the anniversary of the great dramatist's birth. This intention was communicated by telegraph a few weeks ago from the national play-house on the bank of the Neva to the older institution on the bank of the Seine, and the despatch was read at the footlights to an exuberantly delighted audience. It does not appear that the name of the piece selected for the event attracted much attention at the moment, and it may perhaps be left for the wits of Germany

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the movements of foreigners, heedless of the fact that such measures were in conflict with the provisions of the present treaties. Moreover, taking advantage of the ignorance under which some persons labour as to the important bearings which the conduct of foreign affairs has upon national interests, they even tried to promote the aggrandisement of their parties by disseminating exaggerated opinions on the subject, thereby exciting the passions of the public.

Such persons must be considered trifleis with the grave and important interests of the Empire.

The Government is assiduously engaged in the recovery of the sovereign rights of the country by the route of treaty revision,—a task which is regarded as forming part of the great work of the Restoration. Nothing daunted by repeated failures in the undertaking, the Government is determined sooner or later to attain the great aim kept in view by the country. This determination on its part being fixed and irrevocable, the Government does not find it necessary, in deference to political considerations, to use, nor has it ever used, inconsistent or equivocal language on this subject either to the Japanese people or to foreign nations. The Government is convinced that Japan is not called upon permanently and indefinitely to sacrifice her rights by complying with the existing treaties. The Government is at the same time opposed to that pettiness which exults in the subjection of people from distant realms to vexatiously conceived inconveniences and disadvantages. The object of the allied parties in the House of Representatives was to have the Government pursue the latter, rather than the former, course. That, in their blind adherence to erroneous ideas, they were wanting in the sincerity of mind essential to the calm and deliberate discussion of the country's important foreign affairs, was shown by their manner of listening to the speech which the Minister of State concerned addressed to them on the subject of our foreign policy.

Thus, although I am convinced that the various measures brought in concerning strict enforcement of the treaties were antagonistic to the true sentiments of the nation, it was nevertheless not difficult to forsee, from the attitude of the House, the verdict which a majority of the members were resolved to pronounce on the subject.

It declared in the Representation that the Government had permitted encroachments to be made upon the rights of the country, and in the Explanatory Document attached there were advanced various unfounded assertions which plainly indicated that the object of the introducers of the motion was to keep foreigners at arm's length.

These things must of course have been noticed by you.

I am pleased to believe that members of the Diet have the rights of the country so much at heart. But I cannot approve the conduct of those who, instead of deliberately and calmly striving to promote the progressive policy of opening the country, indulge in discussions which exclude the idea of a proper sense of responsibility.

The facts thus far dwelt upon induced me to conclude that there was no hope of cöoperating harmoniously with the late House of Representatives towards the furtherance of the national policy of the country.

While, on the one hand, continuously increasing in the violence of its opposition to the Government, that House, on the other, had nothing to show for itself, unless, indeed, that it neglected its legitimate duties of legislation and prevented the carrying out of measures highly beneficial to the country and to the people.

The House even tried more than once to neglect its functions by proposing adjournment.

The Government consequently decided to advise the dissolution of the House, and as a preparatory step leading up to that measure sought His Majesty's consent to prorogation.

The period of prorogation had to be fixed, for it is so required by the law of the country. The dissolution was recommended to the Emperor on the following day, because there was no necessity to wait for the expiration of the period of prorogation, and not because any change had taken place in the views of the Government. In other words, it was necessary that the Imperial Orders should be issued in rapid succession, simply because the Constitution requires that the prorogation of the Diet, whether as a step preparatory to dissolution or otherwise, is to be announced through the exercise of the Prerogative of the Emperor. Dissolution takes place by the exercise of the Imperial Prerogative upon the responsible advice of the Ministers of State, and it is not therefore necessary that the measure should be decided upon in direct consequence of any particular questions.

But if it be required to point out the reason why the present dissolution was advised, I do not hesitate to declare that the measure was re-commended to the Emperor because the conviction had been forced upon me that there was no hope of furthering the grand policy of the Empire in harmonious cöoperation with the late House of Representatives.

Harmonious cöoperation does not mean blind compliance with the wish of others, and I do not expect the House of Representatives to extend indiscriminate approval to measures introduced by the Government. If both the Government and the House consult together on the affairs of State gravely and soberly, and if each confines itself within the limits of its own legitimate functions, it will not be difficult to secure the proper working of the Constitution. Such, indeed, was the injunction contained in the Imperial Rescript of February 10, 1893,—an injunction which it is the constant effort of myself and of my colleagues to obey. It is not my desire to controvert the opinions you have been so good as to address to us. But I have here frankly revealed my sincere opinions to you, in deference to the kind consideration you have displayed towards myself and my colleagues.

I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

ITO HIROBUMI.

February 10th, 1894.

A NEW JOURNALISTIC DEPARTURE.

THE Japanese press has made another step of progress. It has taken a new leaf out of the book of its foreign prototype. It now devotes columns to abusing its country's Representatives abroad. These gentlemen, according to journalistic showing, are everything that is incompetent. They calmly neglect the interests of their nationals, and have not even yet developed the faculty of collecting trustworthy information. The Minister in Paris comes in for a lion's share of criticism. The Tokyo newspapers appear to think that if he had exerted himself efficiently, he might have succeeded in getting Japanese silk exempted from the import duty recently imposed by France. At all events, it is claimed that he treated with great *hauteur* and coldness a deputation of his country's merchants who waited on him for the purpose of calling his attention to the subject. We know nothing of the merits of this question, and do not venture to express any opinion. But we do know how precipitate and unjust the verdicts of the press generally are about its country's Representatives abroad, and we presume that the Japanese press copies the spirit as well as the fashion of this kind of crusade in its new departure.

THE UYEMURA AFFAIR.

A STORY of inordinate length and singular minuteness was recently published by the *Yomiuri Shimbun* with reference to the affairs of Viscount Uyemura. It amounted to a sweeping arraignment of the Viscount's factor, Mr. Komai, who figured in the sinister light of a most dishonest steward, a peculator, and a bully. But now the same journal lays before its readers a diametrically different version, in which the same Mr. Komai is depicted as a loyal and astute servant, who has registered a part of his master's property in his own name in order to save the Viscount's possessions from the clutch of unpitying creditors. Which of the tales is to be believed, the *Yomiuri* furnishes not the smallest suggestion. It calmly submits each with an equally confident *imprimatur*. The bewildered public can only concluded that the *Yomiuri Shimbun* belongs to the race of hoardings: anything may be pasted by anybody into its columns.

JAPANESE COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION.

JAPANESE newspapers, referring to the competition between the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Peninsular and Oriental Company on the Bombay line, write in a strain which shows that any unpopularity hitherto attaching to the former Company as a recipient of Government subsidy, will soon be dispelled by the international feeling which the contest excites. In the project for the extension of commercial navigation submitted to the House of Representatives last session, but not brought up for debate, companies already in receipt of official aid were purposely excluded from the list of those to which state encouragement should be given. But no such principle of selection is likely to be exercised when the matter again comes upon the *tapis*. Even a sober journal like the *Jiji Shimpo* appears to have caught the contagion of enthusiasm. It writes in a confident strain about the adequacy of Japanese resources to endure the strain of such a competition as has now been commenced; talks of the gratuitous transport of passengers and merchandise to and from Bombay as a natural incident of the fight, and attributes to patriotic politicians a design of greatly extending the scope of the Bill for promoting commercial navigation.

COLONEL FUKUSHIMA'S HORSES.

QUITE a pretty little story is told in the vernacular press about the horses that carried Colonel Fukushima in his long journey across Asia. One of these horses was presented to the Emperor, and the other two are kept in the Zoological Gardens at Uyeno. The animals, it appears, are so much attached to the Colonel that when he comes into their vicinity, they recognize him immediately, and make violent efforts to break loose and go to his side. The Colonel, for some reason not stated, did not visit the horses for a considerable time, but his heart too is with the faithful animals, and he recently went to their stable at Uyeno, concealing his face, however, and taking precautions which he thought would prevent his recognition. The instinct of the horses was not to be deceived by any device of that kind. They neighed loudly, and struggled so hard to get loose that the Colonel had to bring his visit to an abrupt conclusion.

THE NISHIGORI CASE.

THE long expected public trial of the Nishigori Case was opened in the Tokyo Local Court on Monday last. Such was the interest excited by this case that the gate of the Court began to be besieged by expectant spectators as early as two in the morning. By half past seven, when policemen appeared to open the gate, the crowd had swelled to over five hundred. It being thought dangerous to throw wide the gate, a side entrance was employed and the assembled persons were admitted one by one. Those who were fortunate enough to obtain tickets of admission did not number more than about 130 in all. The Court was hardly spacious enough to accommodate even such a small number of spectators, and several had to be contented with standing all the while in the passage. People were also looking into the Court through the windows on all sides. At a quarter past 10 a.m., the accused were conducted into the Court each under the charge of a jailer. They took their seats on the front benches in the following order, commencing from the left side as they faced the Judges:—Nishigori Takekiyo, aged 39, a former retainer of the Soma Clan and an artist and art connoisseur; Yamaguchi Jun, aged 33, a Judge of the Tokyo Local Court; Goto Shimpei, aged 37, Director of the Sanitary Bureau in the Home Department (retired); Okano Kan, aged 49, a barrister, Yamada Jubei, aged 49, a tailor; Koyama Toki, aged 25, wife of Nishigori; Watanabe Naokata, aged 36, an ex-jailer; and Hoashi Seisui, aged 52, a Judge of the Nemuro Local Court. It was noticed that all the prisoners, except Yamaguchi, carried their heads erect and conducted themselves throughout the proceedings with remarkable calmness. As to Yamaguchi, he was in a miserable condition, with his head drooping on his breast and, as some observed, with tears in his eyes. Composure of demeanour was especially remarkable in the case of Nishigori and his young and fond wife. A few minutes after the prisoners had taken their seats, there appeared in their respective places the Presiding Judges, Assistant Judges, Clerks, Public Procurators, and the Counsel for the accused. The Counsel numbered more than twenty, the principal among them being Messrs. Kikuchi Takeo, Kishimoto Tatsuo, Takanashi Tetsushiro, Kishi Kosaburo, and so forth. Before the proceedings were opened the Counsel for Watanabe and Hoashi preferred a request that, as their clients were

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not concerned with the calumny charge, their cases should be tried separately. Public Procurator Nagamori partly concurring in that view, it was announced by the Presiding Judge that, although the cases would be simultaneously opened, the prisoners in question and their Counsel should not be called into Court save when matters relating to them happened to be under examination. Nishigori then stood up and began to address the Court, but the Presiding Judge stopped him and at once proceeded to question the prisoners, one by one, about their names, ages, social status, professions, and so forth. When these preliminaries were over, Nishigori asked the Court to postpone the opening of the trial for four weeks on the ground that the leading counsel for himself, Mr. Ooka Ikuzo, being away in the country in connection with the election, he could not be back in town before the 10th of March. Mr. Ooka, he stated, had a most intimate acquaintance with the facts of the case, and his absence was a serious disadvantage not only to himself but to all of his fellow prisoners. He also requested that, as the case under trial was inseparably connected with the Soma Murder affairs, the reports of the Judges entrusted with the preliminary investigation of the latter case should be either read in Court or given to the Counsel for the prisoners to be copied by them. After listening to the views of the Public Procurator, the Presiding Judge announced that Nishigori's requests should be considered in consultation with his colleagues. Meanwhile, the Public Procurator was directed to proceed with the indictment. The facts stated by him were in all essential respects the same as those published in the *Japan Mail* in the beginning of the present year. When he had read nearly half of the indictment, the clock struck twelve and the Court took a short recess for tiffin. The proceedings were resumed at half-past one in the afternoon. When the Public Procurator had concluded the indictment, the Presiding Judge declared that Nishigori's request for the postponement of the trial could not be granted, because Mr. Ooka's absence was in no way connected with the present case. As to his other application about the copying of the documents connected with the preliminary examination in the Soma case the Presiding Judge gave a favourable ruling. The Court adjourned at half-past two. The date for the next hearing was not announced; it is to be fixed after the above mentioned documents shall have been copied by the Counsel for the prisoners, which will require several days at least.

CLEVERLY SWINDLED.

NISHIGORI, now awaiting trial for perjury and wholesale swindling, must be confessed a clever rascal. The Soma story as related by him was thoroughly calculated to appeal to Japanese sensibilities, ever quicker to respond to tales of loyalty than to the most piteous cases of want and destitution. Posing as the unselfish hero of a most loyal cause, Nishigori obtained sums of money varying from 100 to upwards of 1,000 *yen*. Some few of those thus imposed upon, who parted so readily with their pelf out of sympathy with the struggles of an apparently loyal retainer to obtain justice for the *manes* and descendant of his supposititiously murdered master, have had recourse to law; but by far the larger portion of the victims of his specious schemes, have concluded to suffer in silence; for most of them gave generously on account of what they supposed was the furtherance of a most righteous cause and without a thought of ever getting their money back again, much less of reaping any profit. Still, it must be hard to find one's self swindled, be the deception never so clever. A Mr. Ezawa, of the Shitaya District in Tokyo, an elderly gentleman of the old *régime* and far from being ready to part with his hard-earned shekels, invested five hundred *yen* in Nishigori's unparalleled fidelity to a lost cause, and is now trying to invent a befitting epithet to express his opinion of the "faithful *kerai*." Another wealthy merchant in Fukagawa contributed a like sum. Neither of these cases has hitherto been made public. In one instance the wily Nishigori over-reached himself. He called upon a well-known lawyer, whose offices are not far from Kami-maki cho, in Nihonbashi-ku, and endeavoured to enlist his sympathy; for the legal gentleman was, and is, well known for his generosity and unselfish advocacy of the oppressed and unjustly treated. But Nishigori's statements sounding a little improbable, he invited the man to a further talk at his private residence in Hongo. After a detailed recital of all the "facts" in the case, he candidly told Nishigori that he could not credit his assertions, no matter how strong the first aspect of his plea. Nishigori left in high dudgeon, as he had been certain of finding an easy prey in this public-spirited man. But this is a solitary instance. In nearly every other case, Nishigori was successful in obtaining substantial sums of money.

THE RUSSIAN ADMIRAL AT KAGOSHIMA.

ADMIRAL TYRTOW and the officers of his flagship appear to have been very hospitably entertained by the people of Kagoshima on the occasion (31st January) of their last visit to that place. The vernacular press reports that the Governor together with all the leading men of the town, to the number of about a hundred, invited the Admiral and eighteen officers of his ship to the Bansho-tei restaurant, and gave them an entertainment lasting from 5 p.m. till nearly midnight. Speeches were made, but for the rest everything was in pure Japanese style, dancing, of course, being a principal feature of the affair. The Admiral, it is added, despatched a telegram to the Czarewitch, informing His Imperial Highness of the friendly reception given to the Russian officers at Kagoshima, and the Czarewitch sent a gracious reply, thanking the Admiral's hosts for their hospitality, and especially for the references made to himself on the occasion.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

THE discovery of mare's nests is such a favourite pastime with some journals in the East that every story published by them must be received with the utmost diffidence. Under the influence of that conviction we read some disclosures made by the *Shanghai Mercury* with reference to Russia and China. It appears that Count Cassini, Representative of the former Power in Peking, has just been decorated with the *Shuang Lung*, or Double Dragon, First Division, First Class. Our contemporary claims that no other foreigner in China ever received such a mark of honour, even Sir Robert Hart only holding the Second Division of the Order. Evidently such a piece of intelligence would be incomplete without some explanation of the distinction conferred on the Russian Minister, and the explanation is that, in the first place, he has never given any trouble on the Audience Question; in the second, he has rendered some solid services to China in the matter of telegraphs, and in the third, he has conveyed to the Government in Peking a solemn assurance from the Czar that Korea shall be henceforth secure against Russian designs. We need scarcely say that Russia and her Representative are not accused of the weakness of doing all this for nothing. The *quid pro quo* is that China has promised to abandon all her claims in the Pamirs, leaving Russia free to settle the dispute with England, single-handed. Our readers can imagine what a stirring homily is inspired by these texts—Russian astuteness, Chinese perfidy, and British naïveté. For our own part, since we place no faith whatever in the tale, its significance does not greatly stir us.

A STRANGE STORY.

INSTANCES of extreme want are not unfrequently narrated in the columns of the metropolitan dailies, but the following case has not been given the attention it deserves. Some months ago, a certain man set up a small school in the outskirts of Negishi, a village on the eastern side of Uyeno Park. He professed to teach poetry and give instruction in composing *hokku* and *dodoitsu*,—two of the most popular poetical styles of the day. Very few students came to him; things went from bad to worse, and shortly before the close of last year he disappeared, some claiming that he was arrested by the police. At all events, he left six or seven *deshi*, lads of about 17 years of age, on an average, to keep house during his absence. The landlord repeatedly called to collect his rent, but was always put off on one plea or another, and the people in the neighbourhood soon learned that the little band of followers was in the utmost distress. As the lads paid no heed to the landlord's command to quit the house, he went, a few days ago, with a policeman in order to forcibly eject them. Upon entering the house, they were surprised at the absolute stillness and the fearfully poverty-stricken appearance of the whole place. A prolonged search resulted in the discovery of the six lads, concealed in one of the closets. They were absolutely naked, having only one thin garment between them, which they wore in turn. The wood-work of the *shoji* as well as most of the planks of the *itanoma*, or flooring, had been torn up and used as fuel. For more than three weeks they had subsisted upon a scanty diet of sweet potatoes, and the whole furniture of the house consisted of one portable earthen-ware furnace, one broken tea-pot and a cracked cup! The lads were haled out of their retreat and bade leave the house at once, the landlord yielding so far as to supply each one with a piece of coarse matting so that they might appear in public in something more than the clothing they were born in. The last seen of the forlorn group, they were gathered under a tree back of Mishima-no-Yashiro, consulting as to what they had better do. Their plight deserves, says the *Kaishin Shimbun*, but very scanty pity. Why could they not have gone out into service before becoming reduced to such a state? This is one way of putting an argument. Surely mere idleness or the dislike of hard work could not have kept them where they were. The story is altogether a very strange one and merits stricter investigation.

FRENCH SPIES IN GERMANY.

AT the end of August last, two Frenchmen were arrested by the German authorities, on board of a British yacht lying in the harbour of Kiel. The yacht had been cruising along the North German coast for some weeks prior to the arrest. Meanwhile, the movements of the two "commercial travellers" aroused suspicion, which ultimately culminated in conviction on the part of the German officials that these two "passengers" were none else than French officers engaged in spying the fortifications along the German coast. In this they were not mistaken, as the recent trial in the Imperial Court at Leipzig clearly demonstrated. This trial was of more than usual interest, and besides the presence of some of the ablest legal talent, there was a goodly number of Government experts constantly in attendance. The first to be called for examination were the captain and the crew of the British yacht, and fortunately for them, they were able to convince the court that they were entirely ignorant of the real object or business of the two Frenchmen, who had chartered the yacht, ostensibly, for the purpose of making a pleasure trip along the German coast. The first suspicion, on the part of the German officials, arose while the two Frenchman were stopping at Heligoland, where they were closely surveying the fortifications. At Cuxhaven a German officer succeeded in boarding the yacht, during the absence of the Frenchmen, where he observed a large number of suspicious photographs and drawings. Finally, at Kiel, while the Frenchmen were again absent, a more thorough inspection of the yacht disclosed, in an obscure corner, a carefully hidden package of important sketches and "instantaneous" photographs of German forts, &c. At first the accused flatly denied the charge of spying, alleging that they were commercial travellers, but and made the present trip merely for pleasure. Later on, the elder of the two said that he had taken the photographs in behalf of a publishing house, for the purpose of publishing a work on German coast defence. In the cross-examination, however, they finally both broke down and con-

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to inquire how it happened that "Tartuffe," the crowning illustration of all that is hypocritical, cunning, and self-seeking in human nature, should have been chosen to celebrate an alliance obviously based upon no considerations but those of candour and virtuous simplicity. A dramatization of "Paul and Virgina," or a revival of "Orestes and Pylades" would be infinitely more to the purpose. The salient speeches of "Tartuffe" are the last things that French visitors to the Russian theatre should care to hear, under existing circumstances, and except by cutting out the principal character of the play altogether, it would seem impossible to avoid giving offence. The trustful and ingenuous relations of the two enamored Powers ought not to be imperilled by awkward applications of Molière's biting gibes to the charming international drama of brotherly love which now enlivens the European stage.

AN EXPENSIVE BITE.

MATSUMOTO and Kikuchi were two farmers of the Kano Division in Toyama Prefecture. They fought about the common boundary of their farms, and Matsumoto bit the fore-finger of Kikuchi's left hand. It was a virulent bite. The wound declined to heal; the finger began to slough away, and the inflammation finally extending upwards, Kikuchi's life could be saved only by amputating his arm below the elbow. Permanently crippled, Kikuchi sued Matsumoto, claiming damages to the amount of 6,982.181 *yen*. He calculated this amount, carrying it to the third place of decimals, thus:—Being 56 years of age, he computed his remaining years of active labour at 14, and estimating the value of his labour as an agriculturist at 20 *yen* per month, he obtained a total of 3,360 *yen* under this heading. Thereto headded doctor's fees, hospital charges, medicines, and other sundries, so that finally the above curious total was reached. The Osaka Appeal Court, before which the case ultimately came, judged Kikuchi's calculations to be accurate and proper; condemned Matsumoto to pay the whole, and, moreover, sentenced him to a year's major confinement for having crippled a man by violence. It was a costly bite.

TORTURE.

IN a thoughtful article on "the horror of torture," the London *Spectator* adduces as an example of extant forms of torture that "the Chinese cut up serious criminals slowly into little bits." The London journal has a great many more instances to give of tortures still practised, but its Chinese illustration leads us to suspect that the whole list requires to be largely discounted. It has been shown on unimpeachable testimony that the slicing process in China is not applied to living persons: before the slicing commences the criminal is killed, and however revolting the mutilation of a corpse may be, it can scarcely be classed among methods of torture.

* * *

The problem that the *Spectator* sets itself to solve in the article to which we have alluded, is of the deepest interest: what moral influences have effected the great difference that now exists between the Occident and the Orient with regard to the use of legal torture? Why do the laws of various Eastern States sanction torture whereas it is forbidden by the laws of all Western countries? Many persons will be disposed to attribute the difference to Christianity. But that contention will not hold for a moment. Some of the most awful tortures on record were perpetrated in the name of Christianity, and men's minds had been subject to the influences of the Nazarene's creed during some sixteen centuries before any moral revolt against the brutality of torture began to assert itself. Racial characteristics cannot be credited any more than Christianity, for racial characteristics had already been many centuries in operation during long ages when *autos da fé* were practised in Madrid in 1750, when a prisoner was sentenced to be boiled alive in England three hundred years ago, when men were broken alive on the wheel in France during the last century, and when negroes who had insulted white women were burned alive in the Southern States of America. Failing the influence of religion or the effect of racial difference, where is the explanation to be sought? Precisely at this crucial point the *Spectator* becomes utterly disappointing. It falls back on the broad assertion that "man's moral nature in Europe has made a distinct stride forward." But why it has made such a stride, no suggestion is offered. The problem remains exactly where it was. Besides, it seems a pity that the *Spectator* did not include Japan in its category of cases. Japan during the past twenty years has effectually abolished legal torture. It exists no more in this country to-day than it exists in Europe. Has Japan's moral nature made a distinct stride forward since the Restoration, and if so, why?

THE JAPAN SOCIETY.

AT the twelfth ordinary meeting of the Japan Society, held on Friday, December 22nd, Dr. Enest Hart, D.C.L., read a paper on "Masters, Periods, and Styles in the Lacquer Work of Japan." A report of the contents has not yet reached us, but the paper must have been of exceptional interest and value, judging from the Synopsis:—

I.—The early beginnings of the Art of Lac-Working in Japan:—The sword of Shohu and of Hirabumi. The Treasures of Todaiji at Nara. Imperial Rescripts and Orders. The Lacquer-work of Yoshimasa. Kamakura Lac. The Lac-works of the Tokugawa. Modern Lac.

II.—Methods and Varieties in Lacquer:—*Makiye* and *Takamaktye*. *Nashiji*, *Kinji*, *Hirame*. *Giobu*, *Togidashi* Lacquer. *Hiomon*, *Nuritate* and *Nojiro Shunkei* Lacquer-work in monochrome. Polycromatic *Wakasa* and *Tsugaru* Lacquer. *Aogainuri* (Mother-of-Pearl) Lacquer *Mokume* (Wood-veined). *Tsuishu* (Carved) Lacquer-work. *Guri* (in variously coloured layers).

III.—Masters and Schools:—The Early Lacquer Ware prior to 17th Century. Names, Periods, and Styles of celebrated Art Workers; (1) Work and Style of Soyetsu, Koyetsu, Korin, Kenzan, Hanzan, Kenya, Zeshin, Minshu:—(2) Work and Style of Koma Kiuhaku, Koma Kwansai, Koma Koriu and their it School; Work and Style of Shunsho, his successors and followers; Shiomi the Kajikawa and their School; Kanshosai; Nagata Komai and Somoda; the Shibayama, Zokoku and Zonsei; the *Nashiji* and *Kinji* Lacs (sometimes called "*Daimio* Lacs"); *Tsuishu* and *Guri* Lacs; *Haneno-Bori*; Chinkin and his School: "*Chinkin Bori*"; Modern Lacquer-work of Harui and others.

In connection with this paper, the Society held its second exhibition, the objects shown being a classified loan collection of specimens of Japanese lacquer, illustrating the work of each master and school. The exhibition remained open for four days, December 23rd, 27th, 28th, and 29th, admission being free to members and their friends.

* * *

The Society is fortunate in its prospect of paper future meetings. The following are already announced:—

"On *Iwō*," by Mr. M. Tomkinson, M.J.S.

"The Popular School of Japanese Pictorial Art." by Professor Wm. Anderson, F.R.C.S., *Chairman of Council*.

"Japanese Shipping, Ancient and Modern," by Dr. F. Elgar, L.L.D., F.R.S.E., (late Director of Dockyards at the Admiralty,) &c., *Member of Council*.

"Some Difficulties encountered by beginners in the Study of the Japanese Spoken Language," by Mr. A. Diósy, *Hon. Secretary*.

"Fishing and kindred Sports in Japan, and their Influence on the National Character and Art," by Mr. F. M. Jonas, M.J.S.

"The Chrysanthemum in Japanese Art," by Mr. G. C. Haité, R.B.A., *Member of Council*.

"On the *Torii*," by Mr. S. Tuke, M.A., M.J.S.

"The Evolution of a *Netsuke*," by Mr. M. B. Huish, LL.B., *Member of Council*.

THE SHIMONOSEKI COTTON-SPINNING FACTORY.

WE spoke in a recent issue of the establishment of a new spinning factory in Shimonoseki. It is now stated that the factory owes its inception to the advice of Count Inouye, whose business shrewdness has already been the means of starting the Onoda Cement Works in the same Prefecture. The place has all the advantages required for manufacturing success—abundance of coal, cheap expert labour, and easy accessibility. Count Inouye is said to have pointed out these advantages years ago, and his astuteness is now bearing fruit. Of the capital of half a million *yen* in shares of 50 *yen* each, the three promoters, whose names we have already given, take a hundred shares, and a period of three years is to be allowed for the sale of the rest. Two-fifths of the capital are to form a working fund, and the remainder will be applied to the purchase of plant and the erection of buildings. There are to be 10,638 spindles and an engine of 300 horse-power, and the first yarns spun will be No. 20, finer counts being subsequently produced. The site chosen is about a mile from the town of Shimonoseki, and, in consideration of the facilities above enumerated, it is expected that the factory will prove a serious thorn in the side of its rivals in Osaka and other adjacent places.

THE NAVIGATION BILL.

EXTENSION of her mercantile marine is one of Japan's most earnest aims at present. It figures in the programmes of all political parties and formed the subject of a Bill drafted by the Government last session for presentation to the Diet. Concerning that Bill, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is stated by the *Asahi* newspaper to have addressed a representation to the Authorities, urging the advisability of amending portions of the project. The Company points out, in the first place, that under the projected system of subsidies there will be nothing to prevent a foreigner from obtaining the benefits of the Act for his ship by transferring her temporarily to Japanese ownership. To obviate anything of that kind, it is suggested that the grant of a subsidy should be limited to ships which have been during three years in the possession of Japanese subjects. In the second place, it is recommended that subsidies should be granted on a sliding scale—the smaller the vessel the less the rate of subsidy—and even that they should not be given at all to ships under 500 tons burden. Finally, the representation urges that a Company already in receipt of a Government subsidy should not be excluded from the privilege of receiving further State aid, in the event of its undertaking any special service to foreign countries. All these recommendations being more or less reasonable, are said to be receiving favourable consideration.

WHICH VERDICT.

"WHAT is truth?" asked the Roman Governor. The question might appropriately be varied for Eastern uses into "Where is truth?" For example: In Japan the foreign critic constantly asserts that the Japanese man of business is almost always untrustworthy, and contrasts him, very greatly to his disadvantage, with his Chinese *confrère* who is extolled as possessing precisely the quantities of integrity and honour denied to the Japanese. But in China the foreign critic tells a different tale, as witness the following extract from the correspondence columns or the *North China Daily News*:—Of all the countries in the world in which to transact business, China will take the lead as the most difficult place. This remark does not apply to the open ports where Chinese come in contact with foreigners, but to the interior where one sees duplicity in all its quintessence, and where the common adage among buyers and sellers is, "if you do not cheat you cannot make a living." The settling of business difficulties is so hard to perform that often by a comparatively small trouble a man's whole business will be ruined.

THE THIRTY-EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE UPPER HOUSE.

THE thirty-eight members of the House of Peers who were recently favoured by the Premier with an elaborate reply to their communication to him on the subject of the late dissolution of the House of Representatives, seem to be dissatisfied with the reply. On Wednesday last, they assembled at the Rokumeikan to consider what course should be taken on the matter. There were present Baron Ozawa, Viscount Soga, Viscount Tani, Prince Konoye, Mr. Tomita Tetsunosuke, Prince Nijo, Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu, and others. After a long consultation with closed doors, they decided to address another letter to Count Ito. They also talked of the

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desirability of amalgamating the two sections of the members of the Upper House, the *Sanyo-Kai* and the *Konwa-Kai*. The project for union was at once approved by those present.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ON COUNT ITO'S REPLY TO PRINCE NIJO AND OTHERS.

As might have been expected, the great majority of the metropolitan papers comment unfavourably upon Count Ito's reply to the thirty-eight members of the Upper House, setting forth the Government's views concerning the dissolution of the House of Representatives. Many journals have commenced criticisms of this important document in an elaborate and exhaustive manner, and some of them have not yet concluded their remarks. Their comments look bald and insipid by the side of the comprehensive and well reasoned arguments contained in the document they essay to tear to pieces. How far they have succeeded in their task, it will not be difficult to see from the following résumé, in which we do not pretend to do full justice to the incoherence and insufficiency of their reasoning.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* (Progressionist) wastes at the outset hundreds of words in setting forth reasons why it regards the document in the light of a formal declaration of the Cabinet about the late dissolution of the Lower House,—a useless task assuredly, for no man of sense has read the communication in any other light. Our contemporary, having established that point to its satisfaction, proceeds to remind the Cabinet of its responsibility in the event of the people pronouncing an unfavourable verdict. Should the country refuse to endorse its policy, the Cabinet is told that there will be no course for it but to surrender a position to which it is no longer entitled. The *Mainichi* next complains of the frequent use which Count Ito makes in his document of expressions indicative of Imperial authority, such as "Imperial Message," "Imperial Order," "the Throne," etc., it being suspected by our contemporary that the Premier's object may be thereby to interpose the halo of Imperial authority between himself and public criticism. The Progressionist organ then proceeds to catalogue the various points on which it proposes to refute the Minister President's declaration. But before discussing these points, it observes, by way of prelude, that the fundamental reason for the dissolution of the late House of Representatives lies deeper than any of the specious causes assigned by the Premier. What may that reason be? It is, says the *Mainichi*, the unavoidable and natural conflict between clan elements and non-clan elements—elements which can never be expected to work in harmony. Starting on such a sentimental basis, the *Mainichi* naturally fails to discover any sense in the Premier's reply. Its comments on the particular points raised in the document not being finished, our notice of them must be deferred to another opportunity.

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The *Yomiuri Shimbnu* (Progressionist) begins by condemning the Premier's expression that he "will always be glad to have the opinion of the two Houses of the Diet on any subject,' and that he "hopes thereby to acquire the means of supplying his own deficiencies." Are the Diet's functions limited, asks our contemporary, to serving as a sort of adviser to the Executive? Reference is made to the Fifth Article of the Constitution, where it is provided that "the Emperor exercises the legislative power with the consent of the Imperial Diet," and on the strength of this provision the *Yomiuri* charges the Premier with having adopted an entirely false view of the functions of the Diet. That is reading a sermon to Buddha, as the Japanese proverb says. The *Yomiuri* then proceeds to refute the charge that the House of Representatives was bent upon indiscriminate opposition to the Government. But finding little to commend in the conduct of the Lower House last session, the *Yomiuri* wanders back to former sessions in search of some good done by the people's representatives, and refers to measures with the introduction and discussion of which the fifth session of the Diet had nothing whatever to do. On the strength of such irrelevant evidence, our contemporary endeavours to defend the House of Representatives against the charge preferred by Cabinet. Indeed, the *Yomiuri*, goes so far as to turn the tables on the Cabinet which it accuses of a tendency to reject indiscriminately whatever measures were proposed by the Lower House. There curious articles have not yet been concluded.

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The *Kokumin Shimbun*(Philo-Progressionist) finds in the document nothing but a repetition of what has been stated in the columns of the official organ, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* being of course referred to. Concerning the consideration by the late House of Representatives of the Hoshi question prior to the election of Standing Committees, our contemporary states that, under extraordinary circumstances, such a procedure may be justifiable. As to the Address to the Throne on the same subject, it is said to have been no abuse of power on the part of the House. The latter, in the *Kokumin's* opinion, was obliged to apologize to the Emperor for having recommended His Majesty to nominate to the Presidency a man so far from suitable for the important post as to forfeit in so short a time the confidence of those over whom be presided. On the question of official discipline, our contemporary cannot believe Count Ito to be sincere when he states in his reply that, had the House dealt with the Government frankly and moderately, the latter would have met it in a like spirit. For even after the Emperor censured the incriminated officials, the Cabinet hesitated to deal with them in a proper manner. The Premier is severely criticised for having regarded the views of the Budget Committee as expressing those of the House itself. Whatever may have been the tendency of opinion in the House, the latter's views must be held distinct from those of the Committee. But, after all, says the *Kokumin*, Count Ito does not mean what he says: his true object in criticising the conduct of the Budget Committee is probably to furnish the Radicals with a plausible pretext to defend themselves in the coming elections against the imputation of alliance with the Government, for the Committee was composed almost exclusively of Radicals. As to Administrative Reforms, the House of Representatives, in the *Kokumin's* opinion, had a right to see them carried out duly, since they were the result of a public pledge wrung by the House from the Government in the preceding session. With reference to the question of Treaty Enforcement, the *Kokumin* fails to understand the reason why the Government could not adopt the measures recommended by the House of Representatives. Our contemporary strongly defends the House against the charge that it demanded indiscriminate enforcement of the treaty stipulations. Had there been anything wrong or undesirable in the views expressed by the House on this subject, it would have been the Cabinet's duty to point out the errors by offering full and prompt explanations. But the Cabinet did nothing of the kind, and before the Representation for Strict Enforcement was even discussed by the House, the latter was ordered to dissolve. Thus the *Kokumin* does not hesitate to declare that none of the reasons adduced by the Premier is sufficient to justify the dissolution of the House of Representatives.

* * *

The *Chu-o Shimbun* (National Unionist) has just begun a series of articles on the subject. In what it has thus far written, it follows the lines of argument adopted by the *Kokumin*. It professes to be delighted with the opportunity afforded by the Premier's letter for attacking the Government's policy.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* (Radical) does not think itself called upon to defend the "rash and thoughtless conduct" of the "petty parties" in the last session of the Diet. As the Radical Party had no share in the ridiculous conduct of those parties, it has little to do with the indictments contained in the Premier's reply to the Peers on the subject of dissolution. However, our contemporary is constrained to say something in defence of the conduct of the Budget Committee, because the majority of its members belonged to the Radical Party. With the reductions of expenses effected by the Cabinet, the Radical Party was entirely contented, but on the point of official salaries that Party, unable to approve the temporizing course taken by the Cabinet, adopted the general plan of reductions drawn up in the preceding session. The *Jiyu's* articles have not been finished.

* * *

The *Nippon* (Independent) does not go into any details; it simply observes that, among the reasons adduced, there is not a single case where the House expressed its opinions by a final vote. If it be allowable to dissolve one House on the ground that the Cabinet cannot work in harmonious cöoperation with it, it would be equally justifiable to dissolve the next for the same reason, and to go on dissolving one House after another until a majority entirely subservient to the Cabinet could be obtained. That is a question, says the *Nippon*, that must be carefully studied by all politicians.

* * *

The *Kokkai* (Independent) is of opinion that it was not the House of Representatives but the Cabinet itself which made it impossible for the two to work in harmony. It does not endorse the policy of the Lower House, but criticizes the Government for having refused to give explanations in a conciliatory and frank manner on important questions, when it had ample opportunity to do so.

* * *

Other papers like the *Shin Choya* and the *Niroku* have also much to say on the subject, but enough has been reproduced to enable our readers to perceive the tone of their articles; they merely repeat, in different terms, the views expressed by the above papers.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo*, though in an incidental manner, approves in all essential respects the points raised in the document. It does not hesitate to declare that, in all respects, the House of Representatives was to blame.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi* completely endorses the views expressed in the document. Our contemporary is criticising in an elaborate manner the original communication addressed to the Cabinet Ministers by the thirty-eight members of the Upper House.

LYNCHING IN THE UNITED STATES.

An article published in these columns last autumn on the subject of lynching in the United States evoked much comment from correspondents. The impression apparently produced upon readers of our writing was that we had spoken too strongly of the condition of things existing in America, and that the general feeling against lynch law was much more actively pronounced than we had suggested. It must, of course, be frankly granted that upon such a subject the people of the United States have a far better title to be heard than any outsider. We, who write at a distance, have no materials on which to base a judgment other than bare statistics, on the one hand, and the stories told by journals which too frequently subserve truth to sensation, on the other. Yet we can not think that we over-stated the case, and our conviction of the justice of our comments is strengthened by the latest official returns. During the year just closed, the total number of legal executions throughout the Union was 126, including 47 whites, 76 negroes, 2 Indians, 1 Chinaman, and 1 woman. Against this we read that the total number of persons lynched was 200, of whom 154 were negroes, 30 whites, 5 Mexicans, 7 Indians, and 4 women. In other words, for every five persons put to death by due process of law, eight were summarily despatched without any trial, by violent and lawless methods. Could anything be more significant? A ratio of five to eight. It may be

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true that public opinion is beginning to revolt against such a murderous method of protesting against either inefficient laws or their perfunctory administration. It certainly is true that lynching in the Northern States shows a marked tendency to decline, and that in the South several legislatures are enacting penalties to check it. Thus, while the North was disgraced by only 17 such crimes in 1893, no less than 183 stand to the discredit of the South. But that makes the record still more appalling so far as the South is concerned. Going through the list of persons lynched, we find the following causes assigned in the case of coloured men, 51 for rape or alleged rape; 11 for incendiarism; 5 for robbery; 3 on account of race prejudice; 2 for insulting whites; 1 for turning State evidence; 1 by mistake; and 1 for violence shown in self-defence. It appears to us that such a catalogue justifies the remarks published by us last autumn.

APPOINTMENT OF BARRISTERS TO THE BENCH.

In introducing in the Diet last session a Bill shortening the period of probation of expectant Judges and Public Procurators from three years to a year and a half, one of the Government's objects, it is believed, was to establish a means of drafting new blood into the Judiciary, so as to displace the men whose competence is considered questionable. But owing to the dissolution of the Lower House, the Bill did not become law. It is now asserted that the Authorities contemplate taking advantage of the 65th Article of the Law of Organization of the Law Courts, which provides that a barrister of three years standing may be appointed to a judgeship or procuratorship without undergoing the usual examination. The vernacular press thinks that the adoption of such a course would cause great rejoicing among the barristers, many of whom—there are more than 500 practising in Tokyo alone—find it scarcely possible to make ends meet, and are sorely perplexed to pay their monthly contributions to the Barristers' Association. But considering that there are only seven appointments to be made, we do not see that the prospect becomes much rosier for the indigent barristers.

SEALING ENTERPRISE.

We are glad to learn from vernacular newspapers that there is some prospect of the Japanese people taking steps to help themselves in the matter of sealing. It has been repeatedly urged in these columns that nothing could be more unpractical or less reasonable than the constant outcry raised against official failure to protect Japan's sealing grounds against foreign encroachment, seeing that it is raised by people who show themselves practically quite indifferent to seals and sea-otters, organizing no expeditions to capture them, and merely inveighing against foreigners whose superior enterprise and courage induce them to come all the way to Japan for the purpose. There is, we believe much misapprehension among the Japanese on the subject of sealing. They imagine that every schooner coming to Japan in search of pelts must of necessity be a poacher, whereas, in truth, the vast majority of such ships engage in the perfectly legitimate pursuit of pelagic sealing. Be that as it may, however, we read that Mr. Kito, Japanese Consul in Vancouver, is about to start a company for seal-hunting at the Kuriles. He purposes a capital of 100,000 *yen* at the outset, and he holds that unless the people themselves show a disposition to use the country's sealing grounds, they cannot reasonably reproach the Government for not protecting them against foreigners.

"JINRIKISHAS" AND NATIONAL DIGNITY.

A speculative American, we read in the vernacular press, conceived the project of running a hundred *jinrikisha* in connection with the Winter Exhibition in San Francisco. He procured vehicles from Japan, but it then occurred to him that the scheme would be very incomplete unless veritable Japanese were put between the shafts of the *jinrikisha*. Accordingly, he advertised for a hundred drawers, and his advertisement elicited prompt replies from no less than five hundred Japanese in San Francisco. Thereat the well-to-do Japanese residents of the city concluded that the dignity of their nation was imperilled, since so many of their countrymen were about to figure as beasts of burden before the American public. They held a meeting at the Japanese Consulate on the 4th instant, and passed a resolution to take every possible step for preventing the consummation of the project. We do not see how this news reached Japan, nor do we see what steps can be successfully taken in such a case.

FOREIGN POPULATION OF THE OPEN PORTS.

The latest statistics of the foreign population of the open ports show that the numbers of the various nationalities residing there on the 31st of December last, were as follows:—

	American.		British.		Russian.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Tokyo	112	113	112	72	5	2
Osaka	26	38	26	30	—	—
Yokohama	162	108	481	282	5	3
Kobe	44	36	228	123	2	—
Nagasaki	26	25	47	35	29	26
Niigata	3	3	—	—	—	—
Hakodate	1	3	13	9	1	—
Total	374	326	907	551	42	31

	French.		Dutch.		Portuguese.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Tokyo	55	10	7	5	4	—
Osaka	4	5	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	86	33	31	13	50	28
Kobe	57	34	13	7	43	17
Nagasaki	37	12	2	—	4	0
Niigata	2	4	—	—	—	—
Hakodate	3	7	—	—	—	—
Total	244	105	53	25	101	51

	German.		Swiss.		Belgian.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Tokyo	62	33	7	1	2	2
Osaka	3	—	1	—	1	—
Yokohama	126	33	46	14	4	3
Kobe	113	29	1	—	1	—
Nagasaki	11	6	—	—	2	—
Niigata	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hakodate	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	315	101	55	15	10	5

	Italian.		Danish.		Swede and Norwegian	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male	Female.
Tokyo	10	—	1	—	—	—
Osaka	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	13	2	13	1	8	1
Kobe	2	—	16	14	4	4
Nagasaki	3	2	6	6	—	—
Niigata	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hakodate	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	29	4	35	21	12	5

	Spaniards.		Austrian.		Hawaiian.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Tokyo	—	—	2	1	3	—
Osaka	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	9	1	16	9	5	4
Kobe	—	—	1	1	—	—
Nagasaki	—	—	3	8	—	—
Niigata	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hakodate	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	1	22	19	8	4

	Chinese.		Peru.		Korean.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Tokyo	150	21	—	—	3	—
Osaka	200	21	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	2,618	721	—	—	—	—
Kobe	936	197	1	—	—	—
Nagasaki	549	71	—	—	—	—
Niigata	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hakodate	48	12	—	—	—	—
Total	4,501	1,042	1	—	3	—

	Mexican.		Canadian.		Nationality not declared.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Tokyo	2	1	—	—	1	1
Osaka	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagasaki	—	—	—	—	—	—
Niigata	—	—	2	1	—	—
Hakodate	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	2	1	1	1

	Grand Total.	
	Males.	Females.
All Nationalities exclusive of Chinese	2,225	1,267
Chinese	4,501	1,042
Grand Total	6,726	2,309

THE KOGAICHO MURDER.

From particulars published in vernacular newspapers it would seem that the Kogaicho tragedy is ascribable to the combined carelessness and cowardice of Captain Kubo's guards. It had been recognised for some days that the Captain's condition rendered it unsafe to leave any weapons within his reach, and precautions were taken in that sense. But the demented man succeeded in finding a Japanese blade in a cupboard, and with this he attacked one of his guards, wounding his hand. The man ran into the garden and warned his comrade, and the two, instead of attempting to master their patient, fled incontinently to the nearest police-station. In their absence Captain Kubo killed his sister—inflicting the fatal blow as she was attempting, in a wounded condition, to effect her escape—and slashed the maid-servant, who, with courage very different from that of the guards, had not hesitated to proceed to the scene of the fracas. His next act was singular. Proceeding in search of his son, a lad of nine, he took the boy by the hand, and left the house, concealing the blood-stained blade under his garments. *en route* for Aoyama, whither he directed his steps; he called at the residence of several persons with whom he had no acquaintance whatever, and solicited their good offices on account of the boy's education. Meanwhile, gensdarmes and police, warned by his guards, had started in pursuit, and they overtook him before he could consummate the tragedy by killing himself. It appears that the unfortunate man is separated from his wife, by whom he has two children. His elder sister, whom he killed, had been in the house for only two days, having come there to assist in domestic duties during his illness.

OFFICIALDOM AND COUNT ITO'S REPLY TO THE PEERS.

The *Jiyu* newspaper alleges that considerable dissatisfaction is expressed in official circles with reference to Count Ito's Reply to the thirty-eight Peers. The view attributed by the Radical organ to these critics is that the letter addressed to the Minister President by the Peers was simply an expression of individual opinion, and that the reply to it ought to have taken the same form, instead of being given the character of a Government pronunciamiento. But if such dissatisfaction exists—a state of affairs which certainly cannot be credited without confirmation—the critical officials do not appear to stand on very substantial ground. No document emanating from the Minister President of State with reference to such a topic as the dissolution of the House of Representatives and in reply to a joint representation from the leaders of the Opposition in the House of Peers, could possibly take the form of an expression of individual opinion. If Count Ito answered at all, his answer must of necessity be regarded in the light of an official declaration. As to the publication of the answer, it has to be remembered that the thirty-eight Peers took the initiative by publishing their own representation simultaneously with its transmission to the Premier. The Japanese seem to stickle about trifles. It is not a time for officialdom to be divided against itself.

NAVAL DEPARTMENT.

The *Kokkai* alleges that the Diet, next session, will be asked to give its consent to a programme involving an expenditure of 120 million *yen* on account of Naval development. The outlay would be spread over a period of twenty years, being at the rate of 6 millions annually. The ordinary revenue of the State affords no surplus from which so large a sum can be drawn. Hence the project is to raise a Naval loan of 100 million *yen*, and to defray the remaining 20 millions out of the revenue. The purposes of the outlay, according to the *Kokkai*, are to raise the Navy to a strength of 120,000 tons, and to complete the system of Naval Stations. How far this statement may be worthy of trust, we do not pretend to say, but we notice that it is confirmed by the *Niroku Shimpo*, which journal has also a good deal to say about the last vessel constructed for Japan in France, the *Itsukushima Kan*. The *Niroku* alleges that the *Itsukushima's* boilers developed faults on her voyage from Europe, and that the Yokosuka experts deem it necessary to replace them, an operation that will involve a delay of some two years. If that be true, it is a serious matter. But is it true? Really there has ceased to be any possibility of attaching credence to the statements of some vernacular journals.

HAWAII.

The situation in Hawaii remains unaltered, but the Provisional Government are said to be making every preparation for declaring a Republic. The general outline of the proposed government is in line with that under which the United States is governed, says an exchange, with the exception of franchise for the Lower House, or Legislature. It is proposed to place an educational and property

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qualification upon voters for President, Vice-President, and Senators or members of the Upper House, leaving Representatives to the Legislature, or Lower House, to be elected by franchise, without qualification further than being able to read and write the English language. This would give the Hawaiians and a large number of the foreign elements, including the Portuguese and Japanese, the right of suffrage. Power is to be invested in the Executive and Cabinet to act in connection with the Upper House, or Senate, in the event of the Legislature, or Lower House, refusing to enact necessary legislation, or in case of a deadlock, or the attempted passage of obnoxious or special legislation.

THE SUNG-PU MASSACRE.

MR. EDWARD S. LITTLE, of Kiukiang, China, writes in the *Christian* of December 14th, of the Sung-pu Massacre, as follows:—"Since then a perfect reign of terror has set in in the neighbourhood. Extra officials, with some 300 soldiers, have gone there, and captured every man they could lay hands on who had sold to the foreigners or in any way assisted them. A poor innocent coolie, who had carried water for them as well as for others, was arrested, tortured, imprisoned in foul dungeons, and now has an iron rod passed through a hole bored in his collar bone, to which a chain is attached, and with which he is fastened in his cell! Other horrors, two evil even to be thought of in Christian lands, have been perpetrated on innocent men. The officials have done their work there, and come away with the boast that no foreigner will dare to go to that place again. The policy of the great officials of the empire (and of course they are eagerly backed up by all the smaller officials) seems to be to make it impossible for any foreigner to obtain any assistance from the natives; and thus they hope eventually to starve him out. In connection with the Sung-pu riot not a single offender has been punished so far; and none will be punished unless strong pressure is brought to bear by Western Governments." Does any rational person credit all that?

COUNT ITO AND THE EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE UPPER HOUSE.

SOME time ago we stated that Prince Konoye and a few other members of the House of Peers had called on Count Ito and discussed with him the subject of the nomination of life members to their House. We also noticed that, in the sequel of this conference, Prince Konoye, Viscount Tani, and others tried in vain to pursuade Viscount Shinagawa, Count Okuma, and Count Itagaki to accept such membership if offered by the Government. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* now publishes particulars of the conference. It took place on or about the 26th of last month in Count Ito's private residence at Isarago, Shiba. The visitors were three, namely, Prince Konoye, Mr. Ozaki Saburo, and Mr. Matsuoka Kôki, who has since been appointed Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs. They produced a lengthy document and asked the Premier to peruse it, alleging that it contained the views of themselves and fifteen other members of the Upper House concerning the question of the nomination of life members. The paper need not be reproduced here *in extenso*. Reference to the principal points raised in it will suffice. The eighteen signatories, among whom were Prince Konoye, Viscount Torio, Viscount Tani, Baron Ozawa, Viscount Okabe, Baron Senge, Mr. Tomita Tetsunosuke and others—regretted to observe that the House of Peers did not enjoy sufficient public confidence and did not possess sufficient influence to discharge the fundamental duty assigned to it, namely, on the one hand, to prevent the extreme and radical tendency of the House of Representatives from involving dangerous results, and on the other, to save the people from the oppression and tyranny of those in power. To give more weight to the Upper House, they asked the Premier to advise the Emperor to nominate to life membership those persons who had rendered signal services to the State but who had not yet been honoured with such nomination. Several members of the Privy Council were mentioned, as also were Count Itagaki, Count Okuma, and Viscount Shinagawa. The nomination of these distinguished statesmen to the Upper House would not only add weight to its councils, but would also serve a useful purpose when it became necessary for the present Ministers to leave office. The signatories of the document were convinced that to hand over the administrative power to the Opposition politicians in the House of Representatives is a step not warranted by the present state of things, and they seemed to think that, in case it became necessary to make a change of Ministry, candidates for Ministerial posts should be selected from amongst the members of the House of Peers. In other words, they were opposed to the introduction of Government by Party, believing that the inauguration of such a system would have to be preceded by an era of coalition Cabinets. As to Privy Councillors, their presence in the House of Peers was prohibited according to the present usage. Such a precaution might have been necessary in the first days of constitutional Government, but the signatories of the document were convinced that there no longer existed any necessity for the veto. They then proceeded to dwell at some length on the advisability of nominating enterprising statesmen to membership of the Upper House, since their position there would probably have the effect of preventing much of the mischief they might otherwise cause.

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Count Ito, after carefully reading the document in the presence of his visitors, at once proceeded to make comments on it. As to the position of the House of Peers, he begged to differ from his visitors. In his opinion, the Japanese House of Peers surpassed in weight of vested power every other institution of the kind in the world, except perhaps the Senate of the United States. The United States Senate exercised some powers of sovereignty, as in the case of the ratification of treaties and the appointment of officials of the higher grade. The Upper Houses in European countries, with the exception of that of England, were merely nominal institutions exercising little influence over the actual course of politics. In the case of England, the House of Lords still possessed some effective influence in politics on account of the great part which the noble class in that country had played in its past history, as well as of the splendid character of the present members of the order. But even the English House of Lords seldom dared, except in extraordinary cases, to oppose measures passed by the House of Commons. Here in Japan, the House of Peers had on more than one occasion rejected Bills sent up from the House of Representatives. In all respects the Upper House was seized of the same degree of power as the Lower House, and there was no reason to prefer one to the other. With reference to the character of the men composing the House of Peers, the Premier failed to recognize any ground to complain as to their want of capacity, learning, or experience. He was firmly convinced that the Japanese House of Peers occupied a unique position among similar institutions throughout the world. As to the suggestion that the Privy Councillors should be allowed to take seats in the House of Peers, the Premier declared himself positively opposed to such an innovation. The Japanese Privy Council differed essentially in the object of its creation from its namesakes in foreign countries. It was, not, like those of other countries, a merely nominal institution; on the contrary, it was entrusted with distinct and highly important functions for the smooth working of the Constitution. In case of a collision between the Government and the Diet, appeal lay to the Throne, and His Majesty was called upon to decide between the parties. In such cases, it was the duty of the Privy Council to offer just and impartial advice to the Sovereign. Under these circumstances, it would be highly injudicious to allow Privy Councillors to take part in the deliberations of the House of Peers. As to the suggestion about nominating men like Viscount Shinagawa, and Counts Okuma and Itagaki, to life membership of the Upper House, Count Ito gave unreserved approval to the views of his visitors. Party politicians in the House of Representatives voted in blind obedience to instructions from the head-quarters of their parties, and there was little chance of their proceedings in the House being accommodated to the varying requirements of the moment. This arose from the fact that the statesmen who directed their movements were not present with them in the House. The appointment of such statesmen to the Upper House might not be the most direct and best remedy. Still it would be better than nothing. At all events, when they took their seats in the Upper House, they would be able to give expression to the views actuating their respective parties. Count Ito, consequently, promised his visitors to recommend the names of these party leaders to His Majesty, should they be willing to accept life membership. The conversation ended there, and the three visitors went away, saying that they should take immediate steps to ascertain the views of the three party leaders on the matter. The results of their efforts are already well-known, but we learn from the *Nichi Nichi* that no report has as yet been made to Count Ito.

NEW RAILWAY LOAN.

THE Minister of Finance announces the issue of a five per cent. loan amounting to one million *yen*. Applicants for stock are required to send in their applications from the 24th instant to the 3rd proximo, to the Bank of Japan or its agencies, accompanying them with ten per cent. of the amount applied for, by way of security. The results of the operation will be made public on the 15th of March and successful applicants will have to pay up the remaining ninety per cent. of the amount by the 24th of that month. This loan is made under the provision of the Railway Extension Law, passed by the Diet in its fourth session.

MEETING OF TEA MEN.

THE Kyushu Tea Association, the Kwansei Tea Association and the Kwanto Tea Association having been organized through the exertions of Mr. Mayeda Masana, who is now popularly known as the "Buddha of Tea," a grand meeting of the members was held at his residence in Shiba Park on the 12th instant. About ninety persons were present, representing the principal tea districts of Japan. Mr. Mayeda presided and addressed the meeting at some length, prefacing his remarks by an expression of extreme satisfaction at this successful organization of such a great society. He stated that the inception of the affair was due to Mr. Yamamoto Kametaro, of Hyogo, and Mr. Otani Kahei, of Yokohama. But he exhorted the members to recollect that a first step only had thus far been taken, and that the attainment of the final objects of the Association depended upon their sustained and intelligent exertions. He also urged that undue attention should not be paid to trivialities like the enactment of bye-laws and matters of that nature, which generally occupied too much attention, but that the maintenance of friendly and smooth relations between tea men should be counted of much greater importance. He concluded by thanking them for the half-pound of tea which each member, at his request, had contributed towards the expense of organizing the Association. A draft of rules relating to the Central Office was then submitted and unanimously approved. These rules provide that the Central Office shall be under the control of a President, a Superintendent, and a Manager; that the three Associations shall make regular reports every other month and special reports in case of necessity to the Central Office on matters connected with tea, and that the Central Office shall spare no pains to devise means for improving the tea industry at home and placing the commerce abroad on sound lines. Messrs. Mayeda and Tada Motokichi, of Shizuoka, were unanimously elected to the offices of Superintendent and Manager, on

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the recommendation of Mr. Otani Kakei, and it is believed that the post of President will be offered to and accepted by Count Matsuoka. The Councillors of the Central Office, three from each of the Associations, were then nominated by Mr. Mayeda.

* * *

The following day a friendly gathering of the same tea men took place at the Maple Club. Many speeches were delivered and letters read, among the latter being one from His Excellency Viscount Enomoto expressing regret at his inability to attend, congratulating the Associations heartily on their successful organization and predicting a great future for them. It is interesting to record that among those present were Mrs. Mayeda and her three-year-old son, who had come expressly from Kamakura to attend the *réunion* so long desired by her husband, and who were objects of hearty welcome and much notice.

A CHINESE PROTEST.

A correspondent of the *North China Daily News*, writing over the signature of "Mercator," having animadverted in very strong terms on the Chinese official who is to became Taotai in Shanghai, the following quaint letter has been addressed to that journal by way of reply:—

SIR,—Perusing Mercator's letter is enough to arouse our dignity, and at the same time with a smile to think how folly he makes himself; imagining the Chinese Government to be in the hands of the right quarters in Peking; the protest of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce; the foreign residents will have any moral effect. I must remind him of the remark made by the oldest resident not long ago. The size of the concessions in comparison to that of Peking renders their safety. Law-abiding people cares not who holds the rein of the Government when different treaties clearly states, the subjects of the different nations should be under their respective law. What business has foreigners to protest against the political affairs of the Chinese Government? Observe strictly the treaty rights is the best policy; the act of taking advantage of other nation; transgressing upon other people'a rights; trying to gain, to grasp and to exercise that power over the jurisdictions which they have not are the people who make themselves rancored, hated and to the end calamities falls unto them. The minute a foreigner lay hands upon a Chinese subject, he a breack of the treaty stipulation, not withunderstanding this occurred every day, the worse is that the victum is place before one of (so-called) surgeon for examination, etc., etc. One may ask why is this allowed? I should reply because the present Taotai is very courteous, and it will take such Taotai as Lu Peh-yang a person who knows the right of man, not anti-foreign, but will exercise all his power to keep the Consuls hands full, not of obstruction and difficulties on the Chinese part but on the part of their own subjects to mind their own business. Every Government has some defects but not so much as the excess of freedom leads to: "Let the President mind his own business and I will attend to mind." And hissing at their ruler's name, why not such babarous manners be punished? This is what they call liberty and freedom; not only bad manners are practiced even in the eye of civilize nation. Laws and acts are passed contrary to their own conscience and regardless to the international law. Many cases of Chinese subjects in America where they are barbarous murdered, houses torn down, property taken away. Has there been any one punish? Has there been any indemnity paid? Then why don't the representatives of other Powers hold meetings of indignity and join China to protest against the wrong? Why should meetings be held and petitions written, while the proper party concerned requests to keep your hands off? For the reason the hungry and rapacious wish to take the opportunity to reap the harvest which they have not sown. H.E. Lu Peh-yang is just the man to fill the important post, the line has been let loose long enough and it is time to reel it in. And not because let foreigners do what they may speak good of you, but a firm, upright, just, fearless of death, patriotic such is the character worthy of thepost.

It must be known Ch'ing Chang was removed by promotion and not on account of Foreigners.

Yours truly,
LU POK-SHING.
January 16th.

A NEW METHOD OF CRIBBING.

HERE is an excellent story told by the *North China Daily News* of an incident said to have occurred in connection with the celebrated examinations in China:—

It must not be thought that the examiners are invariably to blame, whenever a degree is obtained fraudulently. Candidates who wish to cheat can often obtain assistance from the guards and attendants employed in the examination halls. The vigilance of the examiners and proctors is severely taxed in endeavouring to cope with the ingenuity of these underlings. To what an extent their audacity will sometimes go is well illustrated by a story which has been told to us, and which, if not literally true, is at any rate *ben trovato*. The earliest examination of all is conducted by the district magistrates. It is what one might almost call that for matriculation, for it must be passed before the candidate is qualified to compete for the first or Bachelor's degree. In a certain district the suspicions of the magistrate were aroused by the fact that a young fellow of a wealthy family passed head of the list at his first attempt. He therefore determined to re-examine the student. He gave him a subject for an essay, placed him in an inner room, and himself waited in the outer apartment, so that no one could possibly have communication with him. After an hour or two the student, whose abilities were most inferior, was sitting hopelessly sucking the top of his pen, and wondering how he should get out of the scrape. The door opened and the magistrate entered, bringing tea and refreshments in his own hands, for he would permit no one, not even his own most trusted servants, to come near the student. The latter rose politely and bowed, and as the Magistrate turned to go out again, he saw fluttering on the great man's back a piece of paper covered with writing. He stretched out his hand, pulled off the paper and, as soon as he was alone again, discovered that it was an essay on the given subject. The magistrate's servants had been heavily feed, and finding themselves unable to communicate with the prisoner, as a forlorn hope had lightly pasted the essay on to the back of their master's loose robe, a thing easy enough to do with thin and soft Chinese paper. Thus the poor mandarin, after all his pains, was himself made the unconscious instrument for conveying the illicit information to the student. Of course this particular trick could not be played at a regular examination; nor would it be necessary, for at such times the attendants have easy access to the candidates at work.

JAPANESE COAL IN INDIA.

WE recently quoted from an Indian journal a paragraph speaking favourably of the prospects of Japanese coal in India, and we now learn from the vernacular press that the idea of sending coal to Bombay was first put into practise by Mr. Asano Soichiro, a prominent Tokyo merchant. Mr. Asano tried in the first place to obtain favourable rates of freight from the Peninsular and Oriental Company, but as his own calculation fixed a superior limit of 2 *yen* per ton, he could not come to terms with the Company. Subsequently the Yusen Kaisha agreed to take the coal at that figure, and a consingment of Takagawa coal sent to Bombay by the *Hiroshima Maru* found a ready market there. Mr. Tata, whose name has been before the public so much of late, in connection with the cotton-carrying enterprise, acted as agent. The result having been so satisfactory, further shipments are contemplated, but the *Fiji Shimpo* says that the Yusen Kaisha asked for a higher rate of freight, and that Mr. Asano has consented to pay it.

IMMORALITY AMONG SOLDIERS.

DESPITE severe regulations and harsh punishments, it is stated that immorality among the soldiers in barracks is greatly increasing. An ex-corporal relates that the vice has assumed appalling proportions and that it is undermining the vigour of the whole army. If subordinates are caught in malpractice, the case is at once reported and the criminals punished as they deserve; but where the men are of equal rank, it is customary to preserve silence or feign ignorance of what is going on. The fact is that the men have, for the most part, neither ethical training nor inculcated instincts of virtue. They are drilled and treated as mere automata, the spiritual part being altogether ignored. Towards the close of last year there were, in the whole First Regiment of the Imperial Bodyguard, only ten Christians, and this little band had to put up with much contumely and hard treatment, for Christianity, though tolerated, is not popular among soldiers. So long as there is an absolute want of all ethical instruction, the only help lies in still more rigid surveillance and severer regulations. It is high time that this matter should receive the attention of the military authorities.

LACQUER FOR AMERICA.

THE Tokyo Municipality despatched Mr. Saito Masakichi as a Commissioner to the Chicago Exhibition for the purpose of preparing a report on the subject of lacquer exports to the United States. Mr. Saito has returned and presented his report. It appears to be a very practical document. He makes two suggestions. The first is that if Japanese manufacturers of lacquer desire to obtain a wide market for their wares in the United States, they must adapt them to the taste of the ladies. The fair sex appears to be supreme so far as the choice of household furniture and ornaments is concerned, and the fancy of the fair sex has turned from gold designs on a ground of black lacquer to lacquer in which the ground as well as the design are gold. In the second place, he repeats a caution already, we should think, very familiar to Japanese art artizans, namely, that the first thing to be considered in making lacquer wares for America is to provide against splitting and warping. Few articles of wood can stand the extremes of temperature that exist in an American house. The Germans are sending large quantities of lacquer to New York where it finds a market to the extent of half a million dollars annually, its purchasers regarding it as genuine Japanese lacquer, whereas in reality its basis is not wood at all, but cardboard. With such a material the difficulty about exposure to great variations of temperature is overcome, but at the cost of important qualities.

* * *

Speaking of this, we may mention a Kyoto innovation for which we believe the well-known bric-à-brac dealer, Mr. Ikeda, is responsible. In the new Kyoto ware the base is copper, and it seems that the lacquer can be applied to such a ground without any conspicuous loss of its most beautiful characteristics. The copper is made so thin that no inconvenience results on the score of weight, and of course there is absolute immunity from splitting or warping. Mr. Ikeda, we believe, has patented his invention, and a number of specimens have gone to America, but whether they have been sold there as lacquer on copper or as lacquer on wood, we are unable to say.

A YOUNG PRIEST'S ESSAY.

THE following little composition was written as it stands, in English, by a young priest of the Jōdō sect. The subject given was "A Rainy Day!—"It was on a holiday in spring that I made myself comfortable in my easy-chair and settled down to read my favourite books. Just then I began to hear a murmur in the leaves of the bamboos which had been rustling softly outside my window, and it was raining already when I stepped out on the verandah. The view is a solitary one; no friend has come to visit me and no birds are singing their wonted roundelays on the boughs of the tree in the garden. On such a lovely day as this, it is a consolation to read the newspapers, with their description of the events happening throughout the world; some praiseworthy, others deplorable, others again amusing and some most saddening. The most curious thing to read is that many good men have met with evil fates, while wicked men have won happiness. There are several arguments which may be adduced in explanation of this phenomenon, which is an apparently improper causation; to my mind, however, the question is not a difficult one. I believe that we have lived, and have yet to live, in many worlds, our condition being the result of our own actions; so that we are living out now the consequences of a former life, and are shaping at the same time the terms of our future existence. While thinking of this and other subjects, the bell rang for supper; I advanced once more to the window and lo! there was a tinge of sunset glory in the sky; the earnest of fair weather on the morrow.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF OFFICIALS AT ELECTION TIME.

A SUM of 47,000 *yen* having been demanded by the Minister of State for Home Affairs and granted by the Treasury, on account of the travelling expenses of officials at the approaching elections, the News Agency offers an explanation of the uses to which the money is to be applied. In the first place, it is deemed necessary to summon to the offices of the Prefectures the District Headmen and Chiefs of Police, in order to instruct them accurately as to the policy that the Government desires to have pursued. Then, further, the police have to closely watch the movements of subordinate officials, who have hitherto played an in-

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fluential part at the elections. For purposes of this nature, the total sum appropriated is thought to be as small as possible.

HORSES IN THE JAPANESE ARMY.

We read in the *Jiyu* that the number of horses in the Japanese Army at present is 11,100, or 340 more than the number at the corresponding date last year. A steady annual increase is observable in this part of the military establishment, and will continue to be observable until the Army attains, in 1897, the full development contemplated by the latest programme of organization. The full complement of cavalry is three regiments, but as yet there are only two, nor will the former figure be reached before 1897. The *Jiyu* adds that the various horse-breeding establishments throughout the empire are now in a flourishing state.

THE KOSEI-KWAN.

Most of our readers probably know a building in the Tsukiji quarter of Tokyo where religious assemblies are often held, where travelling troupes have sometimes acted or sung, and where Japanese politicians occasionally orate. It appears that this Kosei-kwan is now in pecuniary difficulties, and that its proprietors have disposed of it at a comparatively low price to a purchaser who is said to represent a foreign capitalist. If this be true, the object of the buyer cannot be commercial, but philanthropic. Perhaps for that reason the Japanese newspaper from which we take the news refrains from invective against the grasping foreigner.

SUICIDE.

An engine-room artificer named Jarret, one of the crew of the U.S.S. *Petrel*, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor on January 28th. He had once before attempted his life and was ordered home on the *Lancaster*, but although queer in his mind was never violent. Deceased apparently took his life without any motive whatever. He was in no trouble so far as can be ascertained, and there is a balance of upwards of $1,000 (gold) standing to his credit on the *Petrel's* books. Deceased, who was an Englishman by birth, was only 29 years old.

EXCHANGES.

We have already referred to the uneasiness inspired in some minds by the number of Rice Exchanges established in Japan since the passage of the Bill relating to exchanges in the 4th session of the Diet. The subject continues to be discussed in a desultory manner. It is stated that the exchanges throughout the empire now aggregate 150, and that some are separated from each other by a distance of less than ten miles. It is apprehended that such a state of affairs will tend to increase gambling in margins, but it appears to us that the greater the number of Exchanges, the less opportunity is there for an abuse of that nature.

JAPANESE STOWAWAYS.

A British steamer, the transliterated name of which reads like *Macduff*, is reported by the *Asahi Shimbun* to have been on the point of leaving Kuchinotsu harbour with nine Japanese women and one man in the hold, when the police instituted a search and discovered the stowaways. The Tokyo newspaper writes as though the ship had been engaged in some illicit traffic and as though such a proceeding were common with foreign vessels, but that is a new view of the case. Stowaways, for such we presume the Japanese to have been in this instance, may be helped to conceal themselves by some of the crew, but generally the ship objects to them at least as much as the police do.

HAKODATE.

Hakodate actually seems to be growing. We did not believe it capable of startling the public by such an unexpected proceeding, but we were mistaken. The Governor has incited the chief men of the place to consider measures for extending the city, with the view of accommodating 300 000 inhabitants; also to examine the question of reconstructing the harbour and to determine what share the people should bear of the cost; further to investigate means of extending the Waterworks, and finally to deliberate upon the advantages of making Wakamatsu-cho the terminus of the Hakodate-Otaru railway.

NOTIFICATION OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

The following Notification has been issued:—

Notification No. 36.

Yen 47,000 Travelling Expense in the Interior.

In accordance with the request of the Minister of State for Home Affairs that, as the travelling expenses in connection with the duty of enforcing order in the general elections now pending, the above mentioned sum should be defrayed out of the Reserves, Class II., I hereby gave my consent, and obtained the sanction of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, on the 1st instant.

Feb. 10th, 27th year of *Meiji*.

(Signed) Watanabe Kunitake,
Minister of Finance.

STRAW HATS FOR HORSES.

The enormous heat which prevailed last summer in the south of France induced an inventive genius in Bordeaux to provide his horses with straw hats, and the scheme proved so successful that very soon all the cab, 'bus, and cart horses in the neighbourhood were rigged out with similar headgear. The latter covers the eyes and forehead of the horse, whilst a couple of openings are left for the ears. A sponge is placed inside the straw hat, and is moistened with vinegar from time to time to keep the animal's head cool.

THEIR MAJESTIES AND THE SILVER WEDDING.

Many loyal subjects of the Emperor and Empress, being desirous of offering some objects for Their Majesties' acceptance on the occasion of the Silver Wedding, an inquiry addressed by the Governor of Kanagawa to the Imperial Household on the subject, has elicited a reply that, with the exception of gold and silver (*i.e.* money), presents will be accepted in this instance only. Their Majesties, however, have expressed a desire that everything like persuasion or rivalry should be avoided on the part of persons offering gifts.

FLOATING GOLD.

The cashier of the United States Sub-Treasury in New York reports that from July 1, 1878, down to June 30, 1892, more than a thousand million dollars in gold crossed the Atlantic, $498,000,000 going one way and $508,000,000 the other. The difference in these amounts is only $10,000,000, but on the total movement of gold the freight and insurance amounted to $2,500,000, and loss of interest during transit amounted to $1,369,900. To avoid this heavy expense it is suggested that an international clearing-house be formed, saving an enormous and useless shipment of the yellow metal.

COURT MARTIAL.

On the 3rd instant Frederick W. Austin, engineer of H.M.S. *Rattler*, was tried by Court Martial on board the *Victor Emanuel*, in Hongkong harbour, on a charge of drunkeness. Captain McQuhae was president of the Court, and the other officers constituting it were:—Captain Burr, *Porpoise;* Commander Kirby, *Swift;* and Commander Kingsford, *Imperieuse*. Lieut-Commander Cotesworth, *Rattler*, prosecuted. The charge was established, and the accused was sentenced to lose eighteen months' seniority and to be dismissed his ship.

THE SILK TRADE IN AMERICA.

The *American Silk Journal*, referring to the late condition of business in the States, says:—

"Sustained by a courage that is characteristic of the American mill owner, and backed up nobly, as a rule, by their raw silk merchants and commission houses, there have been remarkably few failures among the silk manufactures during this trying period. There is in this cause for congratulation all around."

THE NEW LAMP.

We understand that the new incandescent light recently installed in several private houses as well as numerous business places in Yokohama by Mr. Janni, will shortly be introduced in the capital. The light has just been adopted at the Oriental Hotel, where a good example of the lighting power of the new lamp may be seen—the billiard-room, formerly lit by fourteen electric lights being now very much better illuminated by six of Mr. Janni's incandescent lamps.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

A very pleasant time was spent by members of the Yokohama Literary Society on Friday evening, the programme being extremely well balanced. The lecture on Chinese Social Customs, by Mr. Happer, proved as entertaining as the previous essay on the same subject by this gentleman, and was accordingly as well received. The musical items were bright and interesting.

CHANGE IN THE POSTAL REGULATIONS.

The 1st clause of the 16th Article of the Japanese Postal Regulations has been amended to read as follows:—

The following shall not be conveyed by post:—Letters upon which at least a part of the postal charge has not been paid, or parcels that contain letters or documents partaking of the character of mutual correspondence, or legal documents, commercial documents, commercial samples, or printed matter, not wrapped in such a manner as to be easily inspected.

THE OUTPUT OF THE SADO GOLD MINE.

In the *Asahi Shimbun* we find a statement that the total output of the Sado gold mine from the 18th year of the *Keicho* era (1613) to 1892, an interval of 280 years, was 10,361,-286,219 *kwamme* of pure gold (86,344 lbs. av.) the value of which was 26,382,674.268 *yen*; the total weight of pure silver, 517,291.913,316 *kwamme* (4,310,765 lbs. av.) of the value of 79,595,529.39 *yen*.

MIDWINTER FAIR.

The California Midwinter Fair was formally opened in San Francisco on the 27th January. The Exposition is far from complete, and weeks must pass before all the exhibits will be in place and the buildings and grounds in thorough order. The *jinrikisha* was in evidence on the opening day, but drawn by white men, the Japanese refusing to draw them.

LAW RELATING TO TAXES.

When districts are visited by natural calamities, it is often a matter of necessity, either to remit or reduce the taxes payable by their inhabitants. There is, however, no law providing for such emergencies. Certain members of the Upper House are said to be directing their attention to the question and to be preparing a Bill for submission in the next session of the Diet.

VISCOUNT AOKI.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* states definitely that Viscount Aoki has been appointed Japanese Representative in London, in lieu of Viscount Kawase, whose nomination as a Privy Councillor is announced. Viscount Aoki will doubtless be gratified by this appintment, as his desire from the time that he ceased to be Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, was to represent his country at the Court of St. James's.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. Takata Zenichi, hitherto Secretary in Hiroshima Prefecture, has been appointed Chief of the Sanitary Bureau in the Home Office, his post in Hiroshima being given to Mr. Seki Shingo, formerly Secretary in Niigata Prefecture and subsequently on the Retired List.

FIRE IN SAPPORO.

A telegram received in Tokyo reports that the public hospital in Sapporo was destroyed by fire during the night of the 11th instant. Three lives were lost. No particulars are given.

RETURN OF MR. FRASER.

Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, Mr. Fraser, has reached Hongkong, *en route* for Japan, and will arrive in Tokyo by the 25th instant.

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THE GOVERNMENT & THE DIET.

WE publish in this issue a carefully prepared translation of a most important State Paper—the reply of the Cabinet to a section of the House of Peers who recently addressed a Representation to the Government on the subject of the dissolution of the House of Representatives. The document is so lucidly conceived, its arguments are so skilfully marshalled and its language is so succinct that the task of analysing it becomes superfluous. It is impossible not to be struck by the gravity of Count ITO'S tone, by the statesmanlike character of his views, and by his emphatic manner of enunciating them.

The Peers, or to speak more correctly, the Members of the House of Peers who are hostile to the Government, under the leadership of Princes NIJO and KONOYE and others, complained in their Representation that the Cabinet had recommended the EMPEROR to dissolve the House of Representatives without allowing the latter to discuss the measures concerning which the Government and the Opposition were understood to be at variance, and that the sentence of dissolution had been pronounced without submitting to the nation any definite *exposé* of the causes that necessitated such an extreme step. The Representation embodying these accusations was not of necessity a public document. Had its compilers and signatories been actuated by any genuine desire to ascertain the Government's explanations, to deduce from them a frank and impartial analysis of the situation, and to contribute to the nation's intelligent comprehension of the unfortunate deadlock now existing between the Administration and the Legislature, they would certainly have awaited the Minister President's defence before publishing their own arraignment. But their precipitate action forbids us to credit them with any such laudable motives. Their first step was to make public through the press the charges formulated by them against the Government, and Count ITO has consequently been forced to give similar publicity to his reply which, we observe, was drawn up by permission of the EMPEROR, HIS MAJESTY having also perused the Representation from the Peers. The result, however, is fortunate, for, although no honest person could pretend to be in any real doubt as to the causes of the sentence of dissolution, opportunity for misrepresentation was undoubtedly afforded by the Government's silence. The Opposition in the Peers have therefore performed a public service. But they cannot themselves be too well-satisfied with the result, for they have elicited a most crushing retort.

Generally stated, the reason assigned by Count ITO for the dissolution of the House of Representatives is that all hope of cöoperation with such a Legislature was precluded by the persistently vexatious and indiscriminately hostile attitude of the majority in the House. It cannot be pretended by any advocate of popular government that the object of constitutional institutions is to obstruct the smooth working of State machinery, to prevent the consummation of every measure of public utility, and to check the material progress of the nation. Yet that, and that only, was the programme achieved by the Lower House last session. It commenced by displaying flagrant indifference to the letter of the laws enacted to control its procedure. In those laws there is a provision explicitly laying down that the first duty devolving upon the House is the appointment of Standing Committees; a provision which derives additionally binding force from the fact that to one of those Committees is entrusted the function of examining and reporting upon the Budget within fifteen days from the date of that document's submission to the House. Instead of obeying the law in this important respect, the House applied itself to the invidious task of driving its President from the chair, a task which, even assuming its propriety and justice, called for no immediate action, and could have been performed equally well after the election of the Standing Committees. By this display of contempt for the rules of procedure, the House afforded a clear indication of its temper towards the Government, for the degradation of its President was a mere preliminary to an assault of a similar character upon Government officials. The President was vaguely charged with demeaning his office by interested association with persons in inferior social positions, and the same accusation was preferred in even vaguer terms against Government officials. There was not the smallest room to credit the formulators of this charge with sincerity, the charge itself being ridiculously inconsistent with the general principles of liberalism professed by them, and the method of preferring it being purposely designed to prevent an understanding and provoke a collision. This spirit of wholesale hostility was further displayed in the House's treatment of the Budget. The Government, in the preceding session, had pledged itself, in compliance with Imperial instructions, to undertake administrative reforms with economic bearings, and the House had definitely accepted the pledge, this mutual agreement being testified by a compromise on the question of the Budget. In pursuance of its promise, the Government elaborated and put into operation a scheme of reforms which rendered possible further Budgetary reductions aggregating several millions of *yen*. But the Committee of the House behaved just as though no reforms had been effected. They assumed for their own alterations of the Budget exactly the same bases as those devised by them at the commencement of the preceding session, prior to the understanding with the Government, and prior to the latter's re-formatory measures. They did not even give themselves the trouble to examine the motives and scope of the Government's reforms, and they persisted in trespassing on the Imperial Prerogative by invading the domain of official salaries, which the Constitution explicitly reserves to Imperial control, although in so doing they had to interfere with an arrangement specially fixed by Imperial Edict a few months' previously. Harmonious cöoperation between two parties within the lines of a certain system is plainly impossible when one side insists upon ignoring those lines, and over-riding them at its convenience.

There remains the question of the empire's foreign relations. We have already had the liberal and re-assuring statement of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on this subject. We now have the confirmatory declarations of the Minister President of State. Nothing could be more satisfactory than Count ITO'S pronouncement:—"The Government is opposed to that pettiness which exults in the subjection of people from distant realms to vexatiously conceived inconveniences and disadvantages." In such a policy the present Cabinet can have no act or part. As for Treaty Revision, the Ministers of the CROWN are resolved to accomplish it. Past failures have not daunted them. They will pursue to achievement the country's great aim. In the context of this promise there is a significant declaration:—"The Government is convinced that Japan is not called upon permanently and indefinitely to sacrifice her rights by complying with the existing Treaties." Failing to obtain Revision on reasonable terms and after due diplomatic effort, she will resort to other means of shaking off her fetters. But there shall be no recourse to undignified and unworthy methods, such as those suggested in the Representation which the House was about to discuss when the sentence of dissolution interrupted its debates. The Minister President declares his conviction that the nation at large would never endorse such methods, and that their advocacy by a majority of the Lower House was wholly a matter of party tactics: that, in short, their advocates did not hesitate to subserve the most serious questions of foreign intercourse to the petty purposes of party politics. "Such men," says Count ITO, "must be considered triflers with the grave and important interests of the Empire." To say that the House should have been allowed to debate the Representation, and that dissolution prior to debate involved a premature assumption of the majority's mood, is mere persiflage. The result of a debate and a division admitted of no doubt whatever, and when the Opposition Peers contend that some shadowy disrespect was shown for the House's dignity by this summary method of procedure, they conveniently ignore the substantial contempt uniformly and violently displayed

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by the House towards the Government and its measures. Reckless of the laws controlling its procedure, indifferent to the restrictions imposed by the Constitution on its functions, careless of the Imperial behests, setting the aims of party politics above the interests of the nation, practising obstruction for obstruction's sake, effectually impeding useful legislation, prostituting the foreign relations of the empire to the purposes of political polemics, and converting the Diet into a mere arena for baiting the Administration—surely the Japanese nation would be insulted by the supposition that it was properly represented by such Representatives.

TWO FAMOUS AND HONOURED SPIES.

ON the 25th of November last an imposing monument in the City Hall Park of New York was dedicated to the memory of NATHAN HALE, who suffered death as a spy during the American war of revolution. The occasion was one of peculiar interest to local historians, several of whom united in an endeavour to throw light upon certain details of the young soldier's execution and burial which have hitherto been hidden in obscurity. Through their diligent efforts many interesting facts have been discovered, tending to modify the long accepted conviction that WASHINGTON'S secret messenger was treated with exceptional severity after his capture by the British, and was hurried to his end with a brutal disregard of the usages of war. Incidentally these researches, undertaken chiefly by members of the New York Historical Society, have brought into prominence various circumstances connected with the tragic adventure in which another famous spy lost his life. There has always been an impression that the fate of NATHAN HALE had some bearing upon that of JOHN ANDRÉ, notwithstanding the lapse of four years between the two events; and the recent investigations were consequently carried beyond the original object of inquiry, and in their range included the English, as well as the American, victim of martial law.

The evidence now collected seems to demonstrate conclusively that HALE'S doom was not taken into material consideration by the tribunal which pronounced sentence upon ANDRÉ. The association of the two names may in the first place have grown out of the record left by Major TALLMADGE, to whose charge ANDRÉ was committed immediately after the latter's apprehension. The British officer took, or affected to take, so light a view of his position that TALLMADGE was reluctant to reveal the inevitable truth, and sought to prepare his prisoner by recalling the penalty inflicted upon HALE, and pointing out that the two cases would be regarded as identical by Americans. The example of HALE presented itself most naturally, since HALE and TALLMADGE had been classmates and comrades at Yale College; but there is nothing to show that the idea of performing an act of retribution existed in anybody's mind. There had been, in the interval, numerous executions of spies on both sides, and HALE'S death had occurred under conditions which made his name almost forgotten, for the time. Only his nearest companions, of whom TALLMADGE was one, would have been likely to think of it in the confusion of those exciting days. No acknowledgement of HALE'S undertaking was ever made by WASHINGTON or by any of those who would have profited by the perilous Long Island expedition, had it proved successful. His fate was rarely alluded to, except by intimate friends. The presumption that ANDRÉ was harshly judged because of the condemnation of HALE is entirely swept away.

Another question long in dispute is also disposed of;—that of the opinion of ANDRÉ'S Court Martial with respect to his liability to the extremest penalty. It has been held by many that if he had followed the orders of his commanding officer, and made no attempt to disguise himself, he might at least have escaped the degradation of death by hanging, which was the only circumstance to which he could not be reconciled. The willingness of several American officers of high rank to intercede in his behalf, to the extent of supporting his petition that he be accorded a soldier's execution, has been construed as a partial admission of his claim to exemption from the worst ignominy, and as evidence of an uncertainty on this point in the minds of his judges. But it now appears that the highest authorities on international law were expressly consulted by the board of general officers before whom he was tried, and that the decision was given without an opposing voice. Even if ANDRÉ had worn his uniform throughout,—as he did in the interview with ARNOLD, and until a short time preceding his detection,—he would have been held amenable to the charge of "suborning and seducing" the enemy, with the purpose of securing the surrender of an important post. His request to be shot was therefore refused as "contrary to the practice and usage of war," and "the indulgence he solicited" was declared, "circumstanced as he was, inadmissible."

From an English point of view, the most disagreeable result of the late investigations is the discovery that the remains exhumed in 1821 from ANDRÉ'S supposed grave, and conveyed for interment in Westminster Abbey, may not have been those of the man upon whom his King and countrymen desired to confer this posthumous honour. The testimony gathered and carefully examined, though in some respects conflicting, strongly indicates that immediately after being cut down from the gallows ANDRÉ'S body was delivered, with his clothes and other effects, to his servant, and was at once carried through the lines to Sir HENRY CLINTON'S camp in New York. Letters believed to have been written by actual witnesses are published, describing the transportation of the corpse from the place of execution to a boat which awaited it, by permission, on the Hudson River. It is true that no sufficient explanation is given of the failure to record the burial in New York, supposing it to have taken place, but this negative circumstance can scarcely controvert the explicit assurance that no burial occurred within the American lines, and several probable reasons are suggested for the English General's unwillingness, at that particular time, to make the event needlessly notorious. It is known that the remains unearthed in 1821 were not clothed in uniform, and the belief was freely expressed, by many who assisted in the proceedings, that the bones carried to England were those of an unknown deserter from the continental army, who had been hanged at the common execution ground of 1780. When Mr. CYRUS FIELD erected a monument to ANDRÉ, about fourteen years ago, it was found impossible to identify even the traditional spot of interment, and the shaft was set up without any definite information as to the correct locality. It was proposed by Dean STANLEY, for whose personal gratification Mr. FIELD offered to build the memorial, that the ground in the neighbourhood should be thoroughly searched for traces of the dead soldier; but as no trustworthy land-marks remained, this suggestion was not carried out. The attempt would in any case have been fruitless, if we may credit the statements understood to have been written by persons who were present at ANDRE'S death.

With regard to HALE, the principal disclosures bear upon the usage he received in his last hours. It has always been asserted that he was subjected to the grossest indignities at the hands of the British provost-marshal, CUNNINGHAM, and that inhuman efforts were made to break down the courage and calmness with which he met his fate. It now appears possible that the evil reputation of CUNNINGHAM, who was the WIRZ of that period, may have been answerable for the worst reports of his barbarity toward this particular prisoner. Of the stories heretofore accepted as authentic, the most painful are not substantiated by direct proof, while it is ascertained that HALE was to some extent under the protection of a worthy and honourable officer, Captain MONTRESSOR, who was a spectator at the excution, and who took pains to carry out the sufferer's final wishes. It is believed that we owe to MONTRESSOR the preservation of HALE'S impressive words on the scaffold. That the provost marshal's demeanor was offensive, and his language [illegible] the condemned man [illegible] violent, seems to be fairly

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established; but the evidence of ill-treatment goes no farther.

The imposing ceremonies at the unveiling of the statue in New York, and the tributes paid to the young hero's simple faith and devotion, were most effective in demonstrating that the judgment of mankind cannot always be controlled by arbitrary and conventional standards of honour or disgrace. In all ages and countries, the office of the spy has been held up to contumely, and a stain has been supposed to rest upon the character of the men who have accepted it. The odium attached to the position has been largely if not wholly due to the degrading penalty consequent upon detection. Insufficient consideration has been given to the fact that by the stress of this penalty the importance of the duty may be accurately measured. Officers of rank and intelligence shrink from the prospect of a felon's death, and it is to prevent all such from volunteering for a service in which they can perhaps defeat their enemy's most elaborate plans that they are made liable to what they deem an infamous fate. Physical danger does not daunt the soldier, but the fear of the hangman overpowers him. It is, however, a very short-sighted fear, as the events we are here reviewing clearly show. ANDRÉ'S buoyant spirit was crushed only when he learned that he must die by the halter. Let us suppose that he had refused to act as a spy; or that he had completed his errand in safety; or that WASHINGTON had been merciful. In either of these cases he would have escaped the gallows, but there is little likelihood that he would ever have gained the prize upon which the hope of one so great as NELSON was bent in his hour of trial,—a grave in Westminster Abbey. Except as a spy, he would probably have been as entirely unknown to history as the average of the young officers who served in CLINTON'S army. Is it conceivable that he would have felt the stigma of his execution so bitterly if he had foreseen the recompense that awaited him forty years later? However this might have been, we are now taught that the office which military authority stamps with obloquy may be elevated to dignity and renown by public opinion. We see that the form of death which ANDRÉ dreaded and HALE invited is scarcely thought of in connection with their destiny. How they died concerns no man in these days; that they died in the loyal fulfilment of their duty crowns their names with honour and ennobles their memory.

By the appointment of Lieut.-General H. Rowlands, V.C., C.B., to the command of the troops in Scotland, the post of Lieutenant of the Tower of London, worth £400 per annum, has become vacant. The post, which can only be held by a general on the active list, counts as full-pay service, has been given to General J. H. Dunne, a late commandant of the Chatham District. General Dunne, who is one of the youngest officers of his rank in the army, being only fifty-eight years old, served in the Crimea and China campaigns, and has been unemployed for nearly five years.

THE TONTINE SYSTEM OF LIFE INSURANCE.

IT has always been recognised that under the old familiar system of life insurance a long life was distinctly disadvantageous from the point of view of the insured. The ideally fortunate man—setting aside the value of his life to himself—was he that died immediately after the payment of his first premium, thus securing to his heirs a large sum of money in return for a very small outlay. *Per contra*, the man who lived fifty or sixty years after effecting an insurance on his life, found himself, at the end of the chapter, in an incomparably worse situation than he would have been had he banked, year by year, at a reasonable rate of interest, the amounts paid in the form of premiums. That inequality could not be avoided, of course, so long as the average duration of life was taken on the sole basis for calculating premia: those who lived beyond the average had to pay compensation for those whose lives did not attain to it. To remedy the defect various plans were introduced, such as an arrangement by which, in consideration of a higher premium, the insured received a fully paid-up policy at the end of a fixed number of years, or became from the first entitled to a share in the profits made by the company with which he was insured, and so forth. To American offices, however, we owe a radical departure from stereotyped grooves. They introduced the "tontine system." Briefly described, the tontine system admits the insured to partnership with the insurer for a fixed term of years. If the insured die before the end of the fixed term, his heirs become entitled to the sum for which his life is insured, and nothing more. If he live beyond that term, then he reaps the benefit of his longevity by becoming entitled either to the cash value of his policy at the time—a value supposed to be always considerably more than the total amount disbursed in the form of premia—or to a fully paid-up policy warranting his heirs to receive at his death a sum also considerably larger than the amount originally insured; or to an annuity during the remainder of his life together with the originally insured sum at death. In return for these benefits, he has to pay a higher rate of premium than that charged under the ordinary system. It must be observed, however, that the insuring office does not guarantee the precise value of the above benefits in each case. It only *estimates* the value, and the estimate is of course subject to such errors as are inseparable from all human calculations. In other words, the insuring company believes that it can conduct it affairs with sufficient success to be able to hold out to the insured a tolerably certain chance of certain tempting results, and it invites him to subscribe a sum of money yearly in order to become eligible for that chance. It does indeed pledge itself, in the event of his death, to pay to his heirs a definite amount, but with regard to the advantages accruing from extended life, it makes no hard-and-fast promise. There thus arises for the general public a very interesting question, namely how far have events justified the estimates formed by tontine companies? What guarantee does past experience furnish as to the value of the chances which a man purchases by insuring his life with such a company? A reply to these questions is furnished by the Equitable Life Insurance Company, one of the largest and best known associations of the kind in the United States; a company that has paid over twelve millions sterling for death claims during the past ten years, no less than 68 per cent. of the claims being settled on the day of presentation. The Equitable has recently published the following advertisement:—

The following are the results of Policies issued in 1873 which matured in 1893 on a basis of £1,000 in the Undermentioned Society:—

TWENTY-YEAR ENDOWMENT POLICIES.

Age at time of issue in 1873.	Annual Premium.	Total Premiums Paid during 20 years.	Cash Value paid in 1893.	Or in lieu thereof fully Paid-up policies payable at death without the payment of any further premium.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£
38	50 17 6	1,017 10 0	1,684	2,980
35	49 15 10	995 16 8	1,653	3,140
30	48 10 10	970 16 8	1,619	3,470

ORDINARY LIFE POLICIES—(TWENTY YEARS TONTINE).

Age.	Premium.	Total Premium.	Cash Value.	Paid-up Policies.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£
38	29 3 4	583 6 8	726	1,290
35	26 7 6	527 10 0	644	1,220
30	22 14 2	454 3 4	532	1,140

These figures, our readers will observe, show actual results, and it must be admitted that they are most favourable. But, curiously enough, a correspondent of the London *Economist*, whose letter appears in that journal on December 2nd, tells a somewhat different story. He instances the case of a policy for £2,000 effected in 1873 on a life aged 38, which matured in 1893, and he gives the following figures showing the difference between the Company's original estimates and the results actually obtained:—

	Estimate. £ s d	Actual Results. £ s d
Cash value at maturity	2,396 0 0	1,451 16 0
The assured may then draw out, continuing policy at same premium	1,738 6 0	794 2 0
Or have a paid-up policy for	4,520 0 0	*2,570 0 0
Or an annuity during life and the £2,000 at death, of	143 18 0	71 6 0

—and the information, "This amount, together with regular annual dividends beginning at same time, can be used hereafter in the payment of premiums. If a balance remains after the payment of a premium, it will be paid to the beneficiaries under the policy."

* Subject to evidence of good health.

Commenting on this letter, the *Economist* itself gives another example of a policy for £2,000, effected in 1873, having a tontine period of 15 years:—

Options.	Estimate Given in 1873.	Actual Results in 1888.
(*a*) Paid-up policy	£2,920	£1,838
(*b*) Cash surrender value.	1,434	968
(*c*) Cash profits	931	466

There is no burking the fact that we have here a very marked discrepancy between

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original calculations and actual results, and it appears to be admitted—judging from the letter of another correspondent who undertakes to answer the former in the columns of the same journal—that the original estimates were too sanguine. But there is one point to be noted before we attempt to compare the results advertised by the Equitable with the results given in the *Economist*. It is that the premium paid in the case quoted by the *Economist's* correspondent was only £58 6s. 8d., a rate smaller by nearly one-half than that given in the Equitable's table of results for a corresponding life. The premia paid in the *Economist's* example aggregated £1,166 13s. 4d. in twenty years, and the cash value of the policy was £1,451 16s., so that the insured person was offered in cash £285 2s. 8d. more than the total of his annual payments. That is not at all a bad result, though it falls considerably short of the original estimate. Neither is it a bad result that a man who has paid a sum of £1,166 13s. 4d., spread over a period of 20 years, finds himself at 58 with a policy involving no further outlay to keep up, and assuring to his heirs a sum of £2,570. Nevertheless, the fact remains that, good as these results are, they are by no means as good as the insured was led to anticipate at the time of taking out the policy, and it therefore becomes a question of very great interest to learn how the results now published by the Equitable compare with the estimates put forward by that Company when the policies referred to were taken out twenty years ago. If discrepancies like that shown in the *Economist's* correspondent's case have to be admitted for the past, what conclusion may be formed as to the future. In other words, if the Company's estimates have been so far falsified by results during the past twenty years, how far may those results be accepted for the working of the next twenty?

MR. FUKUZAWA.

MR. FUKUZAWA, otherwise the Sage of Mita, has emerged, according to some observers, from his philosophical retreat, and now stands in the political arena. The basis of this assertion is that three Instructors in the *Keio Gijuku*, Mr. FUKUZAWA'S College, have presented themselves as candidates for election to the House of Representatives. They stand in the Radical interest and appeal to the constituencies under Radical auspices. The *Kokkai*, assuming the truth of this view, is very severe upon Mr. FUKUZAWA. It alleges that he is acting under the influence of Counts INOUYE, GOTO, and ITAGAKI, who have repeatedly endeavoured to enlist his cöoperation for securing the return of members who shall exercise a moderating effect upon the House of Representatives, and help to divert Japanese parliamentary politics from their present extreme groove. Mr. FUKUZAWA, according to the *Kokkai*, has yielded to these representations, and in doing so "has made a great mistake. It is true that since 1877 he has lost the power he once possessed of persuading society, but he has always enjoyed the respect of his countrymen as a leader of enlightened progress. Now, however, we can only feel pity that the weakness of old age has betrayed him into lending the influence of his paper and of his College to bolster up the cause of Clan Government."

We trust that the *Kokkai's* inference as to Mr. FUKUZAWA'S attitude is correct, but from the comments inspired by that inference we dissent *in toto*. They seem to us to betray all the superficiality and want of insight that disfigure so many journalistic utterances in Japan at present. Into the source of the *Meiji* statesmen's tenure of power, we need not pause to make any scrutiny. The main fact, not to be disputed by even the most violent members of the Opposition, is that there live in history no body of administrators who have conferred more substantial benefits on their country than the men whom their opponents now seek to discredit by applying to them the epithet, "Clan creatures." The experience of all time demonstrates that a nation has the rulers it deserves to have. Whether it invariably deserves the rulers it has, may be, perhaps, a slightly different question. If Clan influence has been, as some critics allege, a chief factor of political stability in Japan ever since the Restoration, it is beyond doubt that Clan influence was needed, and the country owes it a debt of gratitude whatever may now be the desire to substitute a new system. We do not by any means hold to the doctrine that whatever is is right. The polity of a nation must be judged, like all other human institutions, by its fruits. Had the administration of the so-called "clan statesmen" in Japan been productive of evil for the country, we should join heartily in condemning it. But it has not been productive of evil. On the contrary, it has been productive of signal good. Under it the nation has made really remarkable progress. Under it the finances of the State have been brought from utter confusion and seemingly hopeless embarrassment to a thoroughly sound and prosperous condition. Under it trade and industry have flourished to a degree unprecedented in the annals of the empire. Under it Japan has earned from the West respect and goodwill such as never before fell to the lot of an Oriental country. Under it the people have been conducted quietly and smoothly from a military feudalism and an absolute sovereignty to free institutions and constitutional government. Under it the harsh and insufficient codes of early times have been replaced by laws modelled on the most enlightened principles of jurisprudence, and for magistrates, lics, not between clan influence and par-without any qualifications save the accidents of place and favour, there have been substituted trained legal experts. Under it the independence of the Judiciary has been assured, and the influence of the Executive eliminated altogether from Courts of Law. Under it the cosmos of a united and uniformly governed empire has emerged from the chaos of fifty local autonomies with varying laws and dissimilar administrations. Under it the blessing of absolute security of life and property has been bestowed on the nation. Under it the country, without incurring any inconvenient debts, has come into possession of all the chief products of Occidental civilization, railways, telegraphs, post offices, steamers, an efficient military organization, a good system of police and prisons, excellent educational facilities, many fine public buildings, and other benefits of a minor character. With such a record before us how can we possibly join in any sweeping condemnation of the *Meiji* statesmen? They may have perpetrated blunders. Amid such a mass of multifarious undertakings, such a labyrinth of new departures, they could not possibly have avoided all errors or escaped all deviations from the best route. But had the nation abler hands to hold the reins? Who shall venture to answer in the affirmative? The time has come, however, when men cry out against the clan influences that have hitherto lent stability to the Administration and enabled it to accomplish these remarkable results. Party Cabinets are now the shibboleth of political agitators. Well, to Party Cabinets the country will come eventually. It is scarcely possible to doubt that. History shows that Party Cabinets are the inevitable outcome of constitutional institutions. But history further shows that Party Cabinets are not at all the least faulty of human devices, and that a long course of political education is necessary before the inauguration of such a system can be guaranteed against serious dangers. Has Japan undergone a sufficiently thorough course of education to be fitted for the introduction of this extreme product of democracy? Are Japanese political parties so fully organized, have they such cohesion, and do they possess the confidence of the nation to such a degree that they can be trusted to assume the responsibilities of administration from this time forth? No prudent person can honestly answer these questions in the affirmative. The curse of the country at present is that its extra official politics are directed by agitators who, attaching no manner of importance to the measured progress that can alone be pursued with safety, would carry the country at one bound to the *ultima Thule* of constitutional institutions. These are the men that have raised the anti-clan clamour, seeking thereby to obscure the issue really at stake, and to delude the masses into forgetting that the question

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liamentary supremacy, but between sound progress and reckless revolution. If Mr. FUKUZAWA appreciates the danger of suffering these agitators to work out their wild programme unchecked, no act of his long career of public usefulness does him more honour than his now rumoured endeavour to promote the return of moderate members to the House of Representatives. It is not the act of a misguided dotard, as the *Kokkai* would have us believe. It is the act of a wise patriot.

JAPANESE JURISDICTION.

IT is certainly a matter of some importance that the foreign community should not be gravely misled as to the things that may be expected from passing under Japanese Jurisdiction. Therefore, without any idea of controversy, but solely to establish facts, we return briefly to certain allegations recently advanced and subsequently iterated by the *Japan Gazette* when tabulating "the grievances under which foreigners would labour" were they subjected to Japanese Jurisdiction. The allegations were four: first, that "the editor and publisher of a newspaper could be sent to jail without trial;" secondly, that "policemen would be able to enter houses without a warrant;" thirdly, that "men could be cast into prison on suspicion and only liberated when the Authorities chose to consider their innocence established;" and fourthly, that "women would be mere chattels," subject to divorce for trivial and insufficient reasons. We do not propose to make any special reference here to the fourth point, because it belongs obviously to a different category from the rest. With regard to the first three, however, it becomes necessary to be more explicit than we have hitherto been. We shall take the points seriatim.

First, then, as to the assertion that "public censors would be able to enter a foreign newspaper office and * * send the editor and publisher to jail without trial." We have shown, and we now repeat, that this is totally false. No Japanese editor or publisher can be fined or imprisoned on account of matter appearing in his paper except after regular trial in a Court of Law and by virtue of a Judicial sentence. It is therefore untrue to say that a foreign editor or publisher would be exposed to any such danger were he placed under Japanese Jurisdiction. The *Japan Gazette* has not attempted to repeat this false statement. But neither has it had the grace to acknowledge its flagrant perversion of the truth.

Secondly, as to the assertion that "policemen would be able to enter a house without a warrant," the XXVth Article of the Japanese Constitution says:—"Except in the cases provided for in the law, the house of no Japanese subject shall be entered or searched without his consent." Now the criminal laws of Japan are embodied in two Codes—the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure—compiled in strict accord with the most enlightened principles of modern Jurisprudence. These Codes having been subjected to close scrutiny by eminent jurists of France, Germany, and Belgium, were unanimously approved as thoroughly satisfactory bodies of law. Further, their excellent character has never been challenged even by the bitterest critics of Japanese Jurisdiction, who, however disposed to question the capabilities of Japanese criminal Judges, have invariably been constrained to acknowledge the propriety of Japanese criminal laws. When, therefore, the Constitution is quoted as guaranteeing inviolability of domicile within the limits of the law, and when the law is, in effect, the law of Germany, the law of Italy, the law of Belgium, it becomes apparently impossible to throw honest doubts on a householder's security against arbitrary police intrusion. But nothing seems impossible to the *Japan Gazette* It cannot attempt to deny the language of the Constitution. That admits of no misrepresentation or prevarication. But it can make false statements about the law, and that is precisely what it does. "The Constitution," it declares, "provides explicitly for the abuses we have denounced by making those abuses according to law." Now if that assertion stood alone, our contemporary's readers might be disposed to assume the correctness of its knowledge of Japanese law, and even to believe that, despite the approving verdict of eminent European jurists, the law of this empire permitted the police freely to enter houses without a warrant. But the *Japan Gazette* is sufficiently injudicious to quote the law upon which it bases its charge, and in so doing it convicts itself of a performance for which we shall leave our readers to choose an epithet. For it inserts in the quoted provision words which do not occur at all in the original, words which radically alter the character of the law, words in whose absence the *Gazette's* assertion would be utterly baseless, but whose pretended presence fully justifies that assertion. The 58th Article of the Code of Criminal Procedure is thus quoted by the *Japan Gazette*:—

> Judicial police, Policemen, or Gendarmes, in the exercise of their functions may, whenever they are aware of *or have reason to suspect* the actual commission of offences coming into the category of major crimes, or minor crimes deserving imprisonment, arrest the offender without awaiting a warrant.

The italics here are our own. We employ them to indicate the words falsely inserted by the *Japan Gazette* in what purports to be a verbatim transcript of the 58th Article of the Criminal Code. Relying on those words, the *Japan Gazette* proceeds to say:—"If Japanese Jurisdiction were in force, it would only be necessary for a constable to imagine that cards were being played in a private house for him to rush in without a warrant, to arrest the people on the spot, and carry them off to prison, there to await trial. * * * * On suspicion of gambling a policeman could enter any and every house without a warrant." Now no such words occur in the Article quoted. Here is the official French translation of the Article in question, to which we append an English version for the convenience of those that do not read French:—

> *Tout officier de police judicaire, tout agent de police, tout gendarme, se trouvant dans l'exercise de ses fonctions, qui surprendra au individu au moment où il commet un crime ou un délit de nature à entraîner un imprisonnement, devra saisir le dit individu, sans qu'il soit besoin de mandat ou d'ordre d'arrestation.*

> Every officer of judicial police, every police agent, every gendarme, who, in the exercise of his functions, surprises an individual at the moment when he commits a crime or a delict of such a nature as to involve imprisonment, shall seize the said individual, without there being need of a warrant or order of arrest.

It will be seen that this article is nothing more than a provision, existing in the laws of all civilized countries, which entitles the police to apprehend flagrant offenders without recourse to the tedious preliminary of obtaining a warrant. How did the *Japan Gazette* happen to insert in the Article words empowering the police to enter a house "*on suspicion*" without a warrant, words totally changing the nature of the law, and perverting it from a proper and necessary enactment into a most improper and most arbitrary one? Whence did the *Japan Gazette* procure such words? Without them the Article is wholly useless for its purpose. With them, the *Gazette* finds legal warrant for the monstrous falsehood that Japanese police are entitled to break into a house on the chance of finding people engaged in "an innocent game of whist for ten cent points." We repeat that we have no desire to fit adjectives to the conduct of a newspaper which, in order to support its own false position and to grossly mislead the public, inserts a fictitious clause into the body of a law that it pretends to quote verbatim.

We come now to the third point, namely:—"Men could be cast into prison on suspicion and only liberated when the Authorities chose to consider their innocence established." Did this general statement stand thus, it might be fully answered by quoting the Constitution and referring to the acknowledged character of Japanese criminal law. But as the *Japan Gazette* avowedly places its chief reliance on facts and as it furnishes two illustrations of the abuse it condemns, we shall briefly examine its illustrations. The Japanese servant, it tells us, of a foreign barber in Yokohama, was apprehended by the police in the streets of Yokohama when apparently engaged in gambling. In examination before a magistrate he confessed that he had been gambling, and was sentenced to a short term of imprisonment. Nothing could be simpler or more in accord with common experiences everywhere. But

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what does the *Japan Gazette* say :—"Mr. BATCHELOR" (the barber,) "who knows the lad well, asserts that he was not a gambler, and as a proof of his confidence in him has taken him back into his service." That is the one of the *Japan Gazette's* evidences that in Japan "men may be cast into prison on suspicion and only liberated when the Authorities choose to consider their innocence established." The police arrest a Japanese apparently *in flagrante delicto* and admittedly forming one of a group engaged about a lottery. The man confesses his guilt and is imprisoned. But the foreign barber, his master, does not believe him to be a gambler, and takes him back into his service. Therefore, in Japan "men may be thrown into prison on suspicion and only released when the Authorities choose to consider their innocence established." Could anything be sillier or more inconsequential? The mere statement of the "facts" suffices to demonstrate their extravagance. Now let us examine the *Japan Gazette's* second "fact":—"In Japan, Japanese subjects are constantly summoned by a messenger with a slip of paper, called a *Yobi-daski*, to go at once to the police station, no cause or reason for the summons being alleged. What is the difference whether you are arrested in your own house, or summoned to go at once to the police station, and arrested there, no information having been sworn or warrant issued? It is an abuse of terms, and a mere fiction, to call such a process an arrest by warrant, as in England or France." All this is a tissue of the grossest misrepresentations. Had the *Japan Gazette* set itself deliberately to falsely state the law of Japan, it could not have succeeded more thoroughly. It declares that "Japanese subjects are constantly summoned by a messenger with a slip of paper." But the third clause of the 76th Article of the Code of Criminal Procedure lays down that "mandates to appear shall be notified to the person summoned by an usher, and mandates of arrest or of detention shall be executed by police agents and gendarmes." So much for the *Japan Gazette's* "messenger with a slip of paper." It further alleges that persons so summoned are required to go "at once to the police station." But the 69th Article of the Code of Criminal Procedure says:—"When a Judge of Instruction issues a mandate to appear against a person suspected of a crime or a delict, he must suffer a delay of at least twenty-four hours to intervene between the service of the summons and the moment fixed for the appearance of the person summoned." So much for the *Japan Gazette's* allegation that "Japanese subjects are constantly summoned to go at once to the police station." Finally, this extraordinarily ill-informed journal writes:—"No cause or reason for the summons is alleged." But the 76th Article of the Code of Criminal Procedure says:—"Every mandate shall contain a statement of the accusation, together with the name, prenom, profession, and domicile of the person against whom the mandate is issued." And the 77th Article says:—"At the moment of serving a mandate, an original shall be shown to the accused and a copy shall be given to him." So much for the *Japan Gazette's* assertion that "no cause or reason for the summons is alleged."

These, then, are the laws on the strength of which the *Japan Gazette* declares that "the Constitution provides explicitly for the abuses we have denounced by making those abuses according to law." The "abuses" it formulates are three, as we have shown. The first is an invention, the second a fabrication, and the third a tissue of false statements.

There are many and excellent reasons to be found for the attitude of those who honestly object to being placed under Japanese Jurisdiction. But their cause is brought into supreme ridicule and robbed of all title to respect by contentions such as those we have referred to above.

MEDITERRANEAN FLEETS AND NAVAL STATIONS.

SINCE the publication of ex-Secretary TRACY'S estimate of the relative strength of European Powers in the Mediterranean, the question of naval superiority has received unusual attention from English political leaders, and has twice been made the subject of Parliamentary discussion. On the first occasion, an inquiry introduced by Mr. EDWARD GOURLAY, an advanced liberal, respecting the extent of dock accommodation at Gibraltar and Malta, was rather curtly disposed of by the Secretary of State for War, who said it was "not consistent with the public interest" to disclose the condition of affairs at the two stations referred to, or to make known the number of ships employed in guarding them. He added that the Government was alive to the important duty of maintaining British defences, and warned his questioner that applications for information of this kind "might provoke mischief." The House of Commons was evidently in no humour to be satisfied with so perfunctory a reply, and on the 19th of December last a motion was made by Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, First Lord of the Admiralty in the Cabinet of Lord SALISBURY, setting forth the necessity of an immediate enlargement of the Navy, and demanding an announcement of the Government's intentions with respect to securing a preponderance over the growing forces of other nations. The argument in support of this motion was extremely temperate in tone, and the statistics upon which it was based were submitted without the slightest attempt to heighten their effect by rhetorical devices. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON took pains, indeed, to assert that he did not speak as a party leader, and had no desire to press a vote of censure against the Ministry; but sought only to elicit an explanation that should allay the constantly increasing anxieties of the country.

Somewhat to the disappointment of his hearers, if we may accept the comments of the London press as accurately discribing the situation, Mr. GLADSTONE declined to consider the motion in any other light than that of an endeavour to commit the House to a declaration of want of confidence. His response was entirely in the spirit of a party appeal, and after a debate in which Messrs. BALFOUR and GOSCHEN, Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, Sir CHARLES DILKE, and Admiral FIELD took animated parts, the demand of the Opposition was rejected by a strict party majority. For the moment, therefore, the question was set at rest; but signs are not lacking that the Government's success is regarded as far from complete or final. It is not believed that the Admiralty will give an unqualified support to the confident assurances of Mr. GLADSTONE and his chief lieutenant. On the contrary, it is admitted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer found it expedient to withdraw one of his boldest statements in the debate, to the effect that the Naval Lords were in full accord with the Prime Minister. Leading newspapers, moreover, have closely studied the facts and figures put in array by Lord GEORGE HAMILTON and his colleagues, and have contrasted them with the broad and sweeping denials of the Government, drawing conclusions which are not, apparently, considered encouraging. In view of the widely different positions taken by the two sides, it may be interesting to show upon what specific grounds the attack of the Opposition was based, and what methods of refutation Mr. GLADSTONE saw fit to employ. Of the correctness of sundry details now presented for the first time we have no means of judging. We simply reproduce the most important of the statements advanced in Parliament and in public journals of high standing.

The weakness of Great Britain in the Mediterranean Sea is declared to be the chief cause of alarm. The stations in her absolute possession are but three in number, and only one of these, Malta, is provided with docks or hydraulic slips. At Alexandria and Port Said she has, as long as Egypt remains under her control, the use of a floating dock and two small slips; but her total reckoning of these essential adjuncts to a modern Navy does not exceed twelve. Malta is, in this particular, her sole reliance. Without that post, she could not dock a single ship, except by favour of some other Power, for neither Gibraltar nor Larnaka has any of the requisite accommodations. Malta is undoubtedly one of the finest harbours in the world, and its fortifications are still believed to be as nearly impregnable as the

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science of engineering can make them, notwithstanding the criticism of some English experts that the works are within the destructive range of modern ordnance; but its position is isolated, and all supplies are necessarily brought from a distance. France, on the other hand, has at least eight strongholds on the northern shore of the Mediterranean, two in Corsica, and six or seven on the African coast, among which are distributed twenty docks and slips. At Toulon alone, eighteen ships of war can be simultaneously repaired, and twenty-four coaled. The number of French fighting vessels ready for active service, including torpedo boats, is one hundred and twenty-two;—without torpedo boats, thirty-five. The English fleet numbers altogether thirty-seven;—excluding torpedo boats, twenty-five. France has also eight other large ships nearly ready for duty, and is building six more, of which three are already launched. England has but one ship undergoing repair, and is building none. It will be understood that the documents and reports from which we take these calculations are designedly arranged to represent the British force in the most unfavourable aspect; but even thus regarded, the figures, allowing them to be authentic, are strikingly suggestive.

To these and similar allegations the answers of the Government and its supporters, though almost boisterously defiant, are in many respects less explicit than might be desired. All comparisons between the number of British ships and of those belonging to other nations are denounced as fallacious, the English Navy being composed not only of better constructed, but as a rule, of larger vessels than any that can be brought against them. If comparisons of bulk and weight were made, the supremacy of Great Britain would be obvious, she having 557,000 tons of fighting material, while France and Russia combined have only 318,000 tons. Mr. GLADSTONE claims positively that England possesses heavier and more powerful warships of every class than the Continental Powers can show, and points out that her prospective advantages, in the ability to build rapid and formidable additions to her fleets, surpass even the actual advantages she now enjoys. But no immediate additions, according to his estimates, are imperatively called for. He affirms that if no building were undertaken during the next three years, England would still command an excess of tonnage over any two rivals, although she might be slightly outnumbered. For these and kindred reasons he holds that instead of standing in a position of peril, the country is as capable as ever of confronting the united navies of any conceivable hostile alliance, and that the outcry of the alarmists is too irrational and absurd to receive the serious attention of either the Ministry or the people.

The data which the controversy has thus far brought forth are not conclusive, nor do they warrant the expression of a definite opinion upon the matters in dispute. But it can scarcely be denied that the Government has failed to meet, squarely and openly, the issues raised by its opponents. The most damaging accusations bear exclusively upon the defences of the Mediterranean and the armament in that sea. The rejoinders are so diffused as to cover the entire naval strength of Great Britain, without especial regard to the locality in question, and the complaints with respect to insufficient and ill-provided stations receive virtually no attention whatever. No prospect is held out of an increase in the number of the posts, or of improvements in the quality of those which exist. The fact that between Plymouth and Malta there is no place where English ships can be repaired,—a fact upon which great stress in laid by the Government's adversaries,—cannot, of course, be gainsaid. Earl SPENCER has stated, in extremely vague terms, that proposals for a dock at Gibraltar have been entertained; but it is contended that no dock of any kind can be constructed there, except by cutting into the solid rock; and even this costly experiment would be attended by so many difficulties that its practicability is uncertain. The indifferent attitude of those at the head of affairs, and their superficial treatment of a subject of such vital importance to the country's maritime prosperity, have created marked discontent. While the right of Ministers to maintain a discreet reserve, and to disclose nothing that may be of benefit to a possibile enemy, is fully recognized, the careless and "happy-go-lucky" tone in which their chief indulges excites not only irritation, but a shade of distrust. The faith in England's naval resources, which he proclaims with robust cheerfulness, is not felt on all sides to be deep or genuine. At the best, the exuberance of those who avow this faith is thought over strained and misplaced, in consideration of the earnestness and sincerity with which the whole course of inquiry appears to have been instituted. We are probably safe in saying that unless the Government prepares itself to deal with the matter in a graver spirit than that hitherto displayed, the manifestatious of public displeasure will take a form that cannot be overlooked or trifled with.

It is a significant coincidence that while the interest in this question was at its height in England, precisely similar agitation was running through France, in consequence of a series of charges brought by M. CLEMENCEAU with reference to the condition of the Navy of that country. The complaints were less severe than those formulated by Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, and were accompanied by fewer ominous details, but they had the effect of arousing the Government of the Republic to prompt action. Instead of rejecting the evidence laid before them, the Ministers signified their willingness to make every required investigation and to take such measures as should be needful for the national welfare. A telegraphic dispatch from London, dated the 2nd of February, brings the later information that they have pledged themselves to remedy all defects, to increase the number of cruisers, and to strengthen the coast defences. Under these circumstances it is reasonable to suppose that the vote of confidence which followed, and which was carried by a great majority, was something more than an acknowledgement of party obligation, and represented the feeling of a large proportion of the Chamber of Deputies. The vote of the British Parliament, on the 19th of December, may be taken as representing the determination of Mr. GLADSTONE'S followers to be guided unreservedly by his dictation, and to allow their judgment to be influenced by no testimony which in any way conflicted with his optimistic opinions.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW POSTAL REGULATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have to bring to your notice a slight mistake made in your to-day's issue under the heading "Change in the Postal Regulations."

It is not Japanese postal regulation, but Art. 16 of the Universal Postal Convention, and should be read as follows:—

"1.—These shall not be forwarded—

Commercial papers, samples, and printed papers which are not prepaid, at least partly, or which contain letters or documents having the character of actual or personal correspondence, or which are not made up in such a manner as to admit of an easy examination of the contents."

Yours very sincerely,

M. SUGIURA,
Clerk in charge of Foreign Mails.

Yokohama, February 13th, 1894.

EXPLOITATION IN MEXICO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Mr. Sho Nemoto, who was commissioner from the Government for the Exploration of Mexico, returned by the steamer *City of Peking* this morning. He had an extensive trip, largely on horseback, for nearly 2,500 miles throughout the Republic of Mexico, from New Laredo, the boundary of the United States and Mexico in the north, to Tapatula in the "Departmento de Soconusco." Thus he travelled through ten states and one district, such as Coahuila, Nuevoleon, Mechoacan, San Luis Potosi, Zuanajuato, Mexico, Morelos, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Chiapas. He says that the northern states, which are situated at 22° north latitude, are especially noted for mining but not for farming; Merelos produces a large quantity of sugar; Guerrero is best for cattle. Rich land for plantations can be found in Soconusco and Chiapas, where coffee can be well produced. Midway between the Pacific and Atlantic, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, beautiful and most productive land can be bought. The price of these lands will be from $12 to $6, in silver, per one hectara (two acres and a half). Many American, English, and German people are trying to put their capital there; but the difficulty is to get good labourers. They are certain to have great success if they have industrious people with capital. In Mexico, good labourers are more in demand than capitalists.

In Mexico, the mode of transportation is quite primitive, and in some places in the Republic it seems hard to say when they will have good communications, as there are so many gigantic precipices and rocky mountains which may not easily be cut into good passes by any scientific method now existing. However, with great care the Government is build-

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ing good roads. There are six thousand miles of railroad. The most interesting road will be the Tehuantepec line of 230 miles, which will connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and from each side can transfer freight in eight hours. The railroad will be completed during this year. By this road, transportation between New York, Yokohama, Hongkong, and the ports of Australia will be very much shortened, and likewise the cost will be largely reduced. Thus the Tehuantepec railroad will open a new enterprise for the world's markets.

When Mr. Nemoto makes his report public we shall know more about his journey. We have confidence in his explorations, and prophesy that Soconusco, in the State of Chiapas, Mexico, where coffee can be produced, is a place with a great future.

Yours, &c.,
Z.

Yokohama, February 8th, 1894.

THE IMPERIAL SILVER WEDDING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Referring to the letter your correspondent "Romulus" inserted in yesterday's issue, kindly grant me a little space, simply to add a few suggestions to the same.

Your correspondent says that "The general public and absent friends of Japan who are anxious to keep a memento will look with joy on the little paper." I should say that not only the absent "*friends of Japan*" but the whole world (as no doubt Japan ignores that at least 1/8 of the world's population are philatelists), would be glad to possess a specimen of a Jubilee stamp of Japan, and I can say that were a Jubilee stamp for sale one day throughout Japan, at least 1 million would find purchasers. Japan's revenue would not only be increased at the expense of Collectors, but she would be ranked as a civilized country (philatelically). Why not let Japan imitate the example of the other countries? See Great Britain's Jubilee Card 1840-1890, Hongkong's 2 cent red uncharged 1841, Hongkong Jubilee 1891 (present value $1), Roumania's issue in 1891 "Jubileul de 25 ani ai domniei regelui Carol I." Let us not go so far; take last year only for example. Jubilee issues were as follow:—Full set Columbian Issue, United States; Shanghai Jubilee 1843-1893; Salvador Columbian Issue, Honduras Columbian Issue, Chilie Columbian Issue, Argentina Republic Columbian Issue (12th October, 1892—12th October, 1892, issued for 1 day only); Porto Rico Columbian Issue (19th November, 1493—19th November, 1893, issued for one day only) Costa Rice Columbus issue, Montenegro Jubilee (25th to 29th July, 1843-1893) Venezuela Columbus Issue, &c., &c. It would take too much space of your valuable paper to enumerate all here, and I believe the above is enough to show that nearly every country of the world adopts this system of increasing its revenue. I would then suggest that the Communications Department issues a decree to the effect of, say, surcharging the present 2 *sen* rose (the stamp mostly used) { *Meiji* 2 / Jubilee / March 9th / *Meiji* 27 } in black or, say in Red; that the same be put for sale on the 9th of March for 1 day only, and I say that all the Post Offices of Japan will not have enough with a stock of 5,000 each.

Thanking you in advance for inserting this letter, and enclosing my card, I am, yours faithfully,

PHILATELIST A. T. W.

Yokohama, February 10th, 1894.

THE JAPAN SOCIETY AND THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—With reference to an article in to-day's issue of the *Japan Mail*, permit me to point out that, so far from *Jujutsu* being "a subject which has . . . never hitherto been described in English by any writer, and of which very little is known even by the oldest European residents in Japan,"—permit me, I say, to point out that Vol. XVI., Pt. II., of the "Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan" contains an elaborate article on the subject by Rev. J. Lindsay and Mr. Kano Jigoro, the well-known educationlist. The meeting at which their joint paper was read—now some five or six years ago—was numerously attended; and after the reading, Mr. Kano and his pupils gave a practical exemplification of the art. The credit of first drawing attention to it belongs, therefore, not to the Japan Society of London, but to the Asiatic Society of Japan. It seems a pity that in this, as in so many other instances, scholars in different parts of the world should waste their time in doing over again work which has already been done. More inter-communication, even so simple a thing as the consulting of indexes and tables of contents, would avoid such useless clashing.

Yours, etc.

A MEMBER OF BOTH SOCIETIES.

Tokyo, 14th February, 1894.

THE SETTLEMENT POLICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I wish to publicly acknowledge through your columns, the efficiency of the Japanese Police Authorities, especially Inspecter Kawada and Detective Wakajima Mitsukata.

On the night of February 12, my house at No. 128, Settlement, was entered by some thief, and several articles of value and a sum of money were stolen.

Among the articles was a gold watch and chain, which were recovered by the detective from a Chinese pawn-shop. Hardly twenty-four hours had elapsed since the report of the robbery, and I consider the work well and rapidly done.

I am assured that it is a mere matter of time before the thief will be caught.

Very respectfully,

F. T. GORDON, U.S.N.

U.S.S. *Marion*, Yokohama, February 14th, 1894.

THE DARWINIAN THEORY AND RELIGIOUS THOUGHT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In your weekly issue of September 16th, you have called attention, in a leading article on "The Darwinian Theory," to an important work on this subject by Dr. Romanes of Oxford. At the end of this volume we find a brief statement of the bearings of the subject upon religious thought, presented in a most candid spirit, by one whose life has been devoted to discovering and expounding the natural causes of the great cosmic process. The single page of this most interesting passage quoted in your article last September must have awakened the desire of many of your readers for a fuller statement from one approaching the subject from the point of view there indicated. Of the six or seven pages I should like to quote for such readers, I content myself with the following paragraphs. Comment is not needed from me, especially as I have ventured to ask for so much of your space for bare quotations. I simply wish to say that the work by Prof. Le Conte, to which Dr. Romanes refers as "the best treatise on this subject, is thoroughly theistic in its philosophy.

"Whether we look to the facts of adaptation or to those of beauty, everywhere throughout organic nature we meet with abundant evidence of natural causation, while nowhere do we meet with any independent evidence of supernatural design. But, having led up to this conclusion, and having thus stated it as honestly as I can, I should like to finish by further stating what, in my opinion, is its logical bearing upon the more fundamental tenets of religious thought.

"As I have already observed at the commencement of this brief exposition, prior to the Darwinian theory of organic evolution, the theologian was prone to point to the realm of organic nature as furnishing a peculiarly rich and virtually endless store of facts, all combining in their testimony to the wisdom and the beneficence of the Deity. Innumberable adaptations of structures to functions appeared to yield convincing evidence in favour of design; the beauty so profusely shed by living forms appeared to yield evidence, no less convincing, of that design as beneficent. But both these sources of evidence have now, as it were, been tapped at their fountain-head: the adaptation and the beauty are alike receiving their explanation at the hands of a purely mechanical philosophy. Nay, even the personality of man himself is assailed; and this not only in the features which he shares with the lower animals, but also in his god-like attributes of reason, thought, and conscience. All nature has thus been transformed before the view of the present generation in a manner and to an extent that has never before been possible: and inasmuch as the change which has taken place had taken place in the direction of naturalism, and this to the extent of rendering the mechanical interpretation of nature universal, it is no wonder if the religious mind has suddenly awakened to a new and a terrible force in the words of its traditional enemy—Where is now thy God?

"This is not the place to discuss the bearings of science on religion; * but I think it is a place where one may properly point out the limits within which no such bearings obtain. Now, from what has just been said, it will be apparent that I am not going to minimise the change which has been wrought. On the contrary, I believe it is only stupidity or affectation which can deny that the change in question is more deep and broad than any single previous change in the whole history of human thought. It is a fundamental, a cosmical, a world-transforming change. Nevertheless, in my opinion, it is a change of a non-theistic, as distinguished from an a-theistic, kind. It has rendered impossible the appearance in literature of any future Paley, Bell, or Chalmers; but it has done nothing in the way of negativing that belief in a Supreme. Being which it was the object of these authors to substantiate. If it has demonstrated the futility of their proof, it has furnished nothing in the way of disproof. It has shown, indeed, that their line of argument was misjudged when they thus sought to separate organic nature from inorganic as a theatre for the special or peculiar display of supernatural design; but further than this it has not shown anything. The change in question, therefore, although greater in degree, is the same in kind as all its predecessors: like all previous advances in cosmological theory which have been wrought by the advance of science, this latest and greatest advance has been that of revealing the constitution of nature, or the method of causation, as everywhere the same. But it is evident that this change, vast and to all appearance final though it be, must end within the limits of natural causation itself. The whole world of life and mind may now have been annexed to that of matter and energy as together constituting one magnificent dominion, which is everywhere subject to the same rule, or method of government.

But the ulterior and ultimate question touching the nature of this government as mental or non-mental, personal or impersonal, remains exactly where it was. Indeed, this is a question which cannot be affected by any advance of science, further than science has proved herself able to dispose of erroneous arguments based upon ignorance of nature. For while the sphere of science is necessarily restricted to that of natural causation which it is her office to explore, the question touching the nature of this natural causation is one which as necessarily lies without the whole sphere of such causation itself: therefore it lies beyond any possible intrusion by science. And not only so. But if the nature of natural causation be that of the highest order of known existence, then, although we must evidently be incapable of conceiving what such a Mind is, at least we seem capable of judging what in many respects it is not. It cannot be more than one; it cannot be limited either in space or time; it cannot be other than at least as self-consistent as its manifestations in nature are invariable. Now, from the latter deduction there arises a point of first rate importance in the present connexion. For if the so-called First Cause be intelligent, and therefore all secondary causes but the expression of a Supreme Will, in as far as such a Will is self-consistent, the operation of all natural causes must be uniform,—with the result that, as seen by us, this operation must needs appear to be what we call mechanical. The more unvarying the Will, the more unvarying must be this expression there of; so that, if the former be absolutely self-consistent, the latter cannot fail to be as reasonably interpreted by the theory of mindless necessity, as by that of ubiquitous intention. Such being, as it appears to me, the pure logic of the matter, the proof of organic evolution amounts to nothing more than the proof of a natural process. What mode of being is ultimately concerned in this process—or in what it is that this process ultimately consists—is a question upon which science is as voiceless as speculation is vociferous."

JOHN T. GULICK.

Osaka, February 7th, 1894.

* The best treatise on this subject is Prof. Le Conte's "Evolution and its Relation to Religious Thought" (Appleton & Co. 1888).

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A regular meeting of the above mentioned Society was held at the rooms of the Geographical Society (Chigaku-Kyokai), Nishikonya-cho, Kyobashi-ku, Tokyo, on Friday, 9th Feb., at 5 p.m., Mr. W. K. Burton in the chair.

Mr. K. Ogura showed plane collodion that he had prepared himself, the supply both of plane collodion and of pyroxaline in the country having fallen short. He had prepared the cotton himself, and it made a clear smooth solution, excellent for enamelling, stripping, and like purposes. He also showed some bleached lac solution. He had found the bleached lack of commerce insoluble in alcohol, but taking brown shellac, bleaching it with chlorine, and treating it with alcohol at once,

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he had found it readily soluble. It soon tended however, to become insoluble.

Samples of portraits taken on "Ilo" collodion paper were shown by Mr. Konishi and were much admired.

A Steinheil tele-photographic lens had been sent to the meeting by Messrs. Mosle & Co. The lens consisted of an extra-rapid aplanat, working with an aperture larger than f: 6—in fact No. 2, Great Britain Standard—with a focal length of about 14½ inches, the lenses closer together than is common, and with the diaphragm slit quite close to the front lens. To this was attached a negative element of nearly the same diameter as the aplanat.

The Chairman showed comparative results of exposures with a long-focus single lens, Steinheil's tele-photographic lens, and Dallmeyer's tele-photographic lens, all taken from the same position, and with the same extension of camera. The Steinheil lens gave an image much larger than the single lens, and admirably clear and sharp. The Dallmeyer lens gave an image quite as much larger than that given by the Steinheil lens, as the latter was larger than the image got by the long-focus less. The Steinheil lens was more rapid than the Dallmeyer with the same extension of camera, but less rapid with an extension necessary to get a like amplification. The Steinheil, giving a less amplification than the Dallmeyer, was naturally easier to use. In fact, a comparison between the Steinheil lens, and the only Dallmeyer tele-photographic lens that the Chairman possessed, was not a fair one. Dallmeyer had recently introduced a tele-photographic lens for moderate amplification which he (the Chairman) hoped to be able to bring before the next meeting. A comparison between it and the Steinheil tele-photographic lens would be instructive. The Chairman also showed comparative results of prints made in the ordinary way, in contact with the negative, and those made by doing part of the printing in contact, and part with a plate of glass inserted between the negative and the paper. The result is a softening, which is not actual blurring, inasmuch as a perfectly defined image is superposed on an ill-defined one. The effect could be indefinitely varied, by varying the relative times of printing with and without the glass between the negative and the paper, and by varying the thickness of the glass. The process was a very old one, having at one time been sold as a secret process for large sums of money. This seemed a suitable time to revive it, when the "Modern School" of photographers went in so much for—to put it as mildly as possible—"softness." There was some difference of opinion as to whether landscapes were improved by the treatment, but all agreed that portraits were.

Mr. K. Ogura had analysed some of the "tabloids" that had been distributed at a recent meeting. He found that the "Pyro." tabloids consisted of pyrogallic acid, sulphite of soda, and gum Arabic. The "Accelerator" contained potassium carbonate, potassium bromide, and gum Arabic. The same gentleman showed prints on albuminized paper that has been only partially printed. They had then been cut in two, and in each case one half had been toned and fixed in the usual way, the other half had been developed by a weak hydrokinone developer, and had been toned and fixed in a special bath. The halves of the prints treated in the ordinary way were mere ghosts, the other halves were admirable in every way. They showed pure whites, an unusually full gradation, deep shadows, and were of a fine brown tone. It was considered that the process would be a most useful one for printing in dull weather—though dull weather is, fortunately, unusual in Japan.

A number of pamphlets which had been sent by Messrs. R. & J. Beck & Co., descriptive of the "Irena" camera, were distributed.

The proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The adjourned annual meeting of subscribers to the Victoria Public School was held in Keil's Building on Monday afternoon. Mr. J. F. Lowder presided, and there were also present the Rev. E. S. Booth, Dr. Cleveland, Messrs. J. Troup, J. Mendelson, E. J. Moss, I. Bunting, M. Russell, F. G. Woodruff, W. B. Walter, A. T. Watson, G. C. Charlesworth, J. Johnstone, and A. J. Wilkin (Hon. Sec. and Treas.).

The Honorary Secretary first read the minutes of the last meeting, held a fortnight before, and these being confirmed were signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman said that after the reading of the minutes he need hardly remind those present that this was the adjourned annual meeting of subscribers to the Victoria School—the adjournment having been necessitated by the Rule in their constitution which provided that any alteration in the Rules must be brought forward at the annual meeting, and then having been carried there, must be properly confirmed at a meeting to be held within a fortnight of the original meeting. At the annual meeting an alteration amending the Rule governing the selection of their Committee had been proposed and carried, and this needed confirmation at the meeting that day. It had been fully discussed at the time, but he thought that possibly there might be some gentlemen present that day, who were unable to attend the previous meeting, and therefore some further discussion might be desirable. The amended rule was now before the meeting for discussion, and he should be happy to hear any gentleman's remarks upon it.

There being no remarks, the Chairman proposed that the Rule as amended be confirmed. The proposition was carried unanimously.

The Chairman—The next business before the meeting is the election of a Committee for the current year. In accordance with the resolution just passed, it could now consist of not more than seven members, and its members might belong to any nationality—those were the two points which the resolution comprised. The election of the seven members of Committee could be conducted by ballot in the room, or if the meeting considered it desirable, the ballot-box could be sent round to subscribers. He would suggest however, that the present meeting could very well carry out the duty of electing the Committee. He, the Chairman, had taken the pains during the week to individually ascertain the names of persons who would be willing to serve upon the Committee. He had no wish whatever to appear as dictating to the meeting, but experience had taught him how convenient it was to have the assistance at such times of a list of gentlemen willing to serve on a body of this sort. He had a list of nine names of gentlemen who had expressed their willingness to serve on the Committee of the Victoria Public School. Before reading the list he would again remind them that it was only for the sake of convenience that he put the names forward. They would hear with regret that Mr. W. B. Walter would be unable to serve, as he was leaving Yokohama. The Chairman's list was then read out as follows:—Bishop Bickersteth, Mr. J. Troup, Mr. A. J. Wilkin, Mr. J. Johnstone, Mr. P. E. F. Stone, Rev. E. S. Booth, Mr. J Mendelson, Mr. C. D. Moss, Mr. E. J. Moss, and Mr. N. F. Smith. Mr. Kilby, the Chairman, added, was returning to Japan, and he might be willing to serve also.

Mr. E. J. Moss said he must decline the honour of nomination to the Committee by reason of his other public duties.

The Chairman observed that he was sorry to hear that Mr. Moss must decline.

Mr. M. Russell said that only two nationalities were represented in the Chairman's list.

The Chairman—It was only intended as a guide, does it not bind any one present in any way whatever.

Mr. Troup suggested that the list of founders and subscribers could be taken as a guide.

The Chairman thought that that was a very good suggestion.

Mr. Moss and Mr. Johnstone were then appointed scrutineers of the ballot, and they finally reported the result to the Chair.

The Chairman—The ballot, gentlemen, has resulted as follows:—Messrs. J. Troup, A. J. Wilkin, P. E. F. Stone, J. Johnstone, Rev. E. S. Booth, J. Mendelson, and C. D. Moss.

The result was received with applause.

The Chairman—Having selected a Committee for the present year, it now behoves us to resume the discussion of ways and means, at this adjourned meeting. You will remember that at the first meeting the Committee made two alternative proposals, which were both dependant upon the amount of subscriptions collected this year. A suggestion fell at the first meeting, in the course of the discussion, from myself I believe, that a canvassing Committee should be appointed like as last year; but I think now, in view of the Committee just elected, that such would not be a desirable course. Each member of the committee will have before him the names of gentlemen who subscribed last year, and I have every reason to believe that those gentlemen who evinced an interest in the maintenance of the Victoria School last year, will not have lost their interest in it this year, so that I do not apprehend any difficulty will be encountered in collecting subscriptions this year. But with regard to the alternative schemes proposed by the Committee for the future carrying on of the school, whether it shall continue on its present basis, namely as a classical school, or take the form of what is now termed a modern school, I think that those matters can very well be left to the incoming Committee. They must depend upon the amount of subscriptions coming forward—if the classical foundation is to be maintained, then it will be necessary to raise a sum of $1,300 or so, while $500 or $600 will be sufficient to carry it on as a modern school. But in regard to these matters, I think that the incoming Committee will be in a better position to be able to decide than we can this afternoon.—(Applause.) I take it that the Committee has invited the meeting's opinion upon this matter, however, and the subject is open for discussion. The Committee too should be empowered to collect subscriptions.

Mr. Troup wished to remove any misconception which might possibly arise through the Chairman having used the expressions, classical school and modern school. The suggestions from the Committee had reference to the filling up of the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Fardel. He thought that the school had never been what might be called a classical school. Latin had been taught there certainly, but it was the English classics on which the greatest stress was laid. He begged to propose that the Committee be authorised to collect subscriptions and take such steps as they may think most desirable in regard to the practical working of the school.

The Chairman—I will put the proposal to the meeting formally in writing. It is:—"That the collection of subscriptions be undertaken by the Committee, to which this meeting leaves, with all confidence, all questions relating to the practical working of the school."

Mr. W. B. Walter seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman—That is all the business before the meeting gentlemen, but your honorary secretary reminds me that the Committee are always ready and willing to receive on these occasions suggestions and expression of opinions from all friends of the school which would conduce to its benefit and usefulness.

There being no suggestions offered, the Chairman declared the meeting closed, and thanked all present for their attendance that afternoon.

Mr. Wilkin—Before we separate, gentlemen, I beg to propose a hearty vote of thanks to our Chairman for the able and efficient way in which he has presided over our meeting, and also for the trouble he has taken in devoting his time and given us his advice in furtherance of our object.—(Loud applause.)

The Chairman—Thank you, gentlemen.

The meeting then dispersed.

REVIEW.

The Transactions of the Japan Society, London.

The first volume of the Transactions and Proceedings of the Japan Society, London, has been issued, and if it can be taken as an augury of the future, the Society should have before it a brilliant and successful career. The volume is an extremely handsome octavo, worthy from its appearance of a place on the shelves of any library, of considerably over 300 pages, exceedingly well printed on paper of the best quality, abundantly illustrated with over forty full-page plates and numerous smaller engravings, some, indeed most, of the former being specimens of the very highest type of the engraver's skill. No work at all comparable with it in point of appearance has as yet been, or is likely to be, we fear, for some time to come, produced by our own Asiatic Society. The literary contents of the volume are on the whole scarcely inferior to its appearance, though, at the same time, we must in justice state that they fall far short in every sense of those presented in much less attractive dress by the sister Society in Japan. They consist of five papers read during the first session of the Society, between April and July 1892, one of which was written by a Japanese gentleman, and one by a lady, one by an old and well-known resident of Japan, one by a gentleman who has visited Japan, and the last by one whose knowledge of the country was derived entirely from reading. Mr. Gowland's paper, the third in the above list, on "The Naturalistic Art of Japan," was characterized by all the learning and research that might naturally be expected from a gentleman and a scholar, who is undoubtedly the second living European authority on the subject of which he was treating, and was illustrated by the exposition of a selection from the rich and varied collection of pictorial works of art made by him during his long residence in Japan. The reading of the paper was followed by an interesting discussion, and both were honoured by marked attention on the part of a considerable audience. The paper entitled: "The Genealogy of the Miochin

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Family," the famous armourers and swordsmiths of Japan, is little more than a catalogue. Those on "The Uses of Bamboo," and on "Industrial Art Workers," contain little, if anything, that is new or valuable to us who are in Japan, but it is to be remembered that they were written for the benefit and information mainly of those who have never been here, and should therefore be judged accordingly. On the other hand, that by Mr. Shidachi, on *Fujitsu*, more properly, we believe, spelt *Fujutsu*, or wrestling by sleight as opposed to strength, dealt with a subject which has, so far as we can recollect, never hitherto been described in English by any writer, and of which very little is known, even by the oldest European residents in Japan. We ourselves can only remember one resident who has given any attention to it, and even his knowledge of it is entirely of a practical nature. Mr. Shidachi's paper contains a history of the art (for so he called it), and describes its different schools, both those of bye-gone days and those in actual existence in Tokyo at the present time. It was illustrated, not only by drawings, but by practical demonstrations given in the lecture hall with the assistance of Mr. Goh, chancellier of the Japanese Legation in London, and one of the secretaries of the Society, who, to use the words quoted from the *Saturday Review*, "performed his part in sacrificing himself for the good of the Society with a smiling good humour and a total absence of anything like self-consciousness which were beyond praise." To the younger members of our own community we have no hesitation in commending Mr. Shidachi's paper, thinking that some part of their energy in athletics might well be devoted to the study and practice of the art of which it treats. It is a graceful art, mainly working its feats by skill but also calling for strength and activity, a point in which we differ, we should remark, from Mr. Shidachi; entirely free from all the reproaches of coarseness and brutality often justly levelled at modern boxing and wrestling, and even football, the grandest of all games; and it is one which may be practised in the most limited space without the smallest risk of injury, while it is at the same time also one which may be employed with even fatal effect should occasion require. Aided by his skill in it, the weak may easily be a match for the most powerful bully, and employment of the few—the very few—tricks in it that are open to the reproach of being un-English, is only sanctioned in desperate circumstances, such as against a garrotter.

The Japan Society of London was originally organised towards the close of 1891, its professed object being to encourage Japanese studies and to bring together all those in the United Kingdom who are interested in Japanese matters. Under the first heading are included Language, Literature, History and Folklore of Japanese Art, Science, and Industries, of the Social Life and Economic condition of the Japanese people, past and present, and of all Japanese matters. With such objects, the Society well deserves any assistance which we, who are in Japan, can give to it, either pecuniarily or otherwise. Politics and all the vexed questions of Treaty Revision are beyond its scope, so that the most conservative anti-revisionist can join or help it without compunction. It already numbers in its ranks 365 members, in the list of whom we recognise the names of many former residents in Japan, who were both of note while here and have since attained eminence or distinction in England. That it should include so many old employés of the Japanese Government, so many men, who, having served their employers well and faithfully while here, were, when their help was no longer considered necessary, dispensed with, often with very scant ceremony or consideration, affords, we think, a good object lesson to the implacables of Japanese journalism, whose invectives are too frequently hurled against the European employés of the Government, both past and present. Occasionally we read in the columns of the low-class Tokyo vernacular newspapers unworthy diatribes, couched in terms as impolite as the mildness of the Japanese language allows, against those who, it is stated, after having fattened for years on large salaries paid for little work, return to England or America only to spread libels and slanders on the country which had received them with all friendship, and in every way to use their puny efforts to the detriment of its best interests? And what is the actual case as exemplified by the ranks of the Japan Society? Taking names almost at random from its list of members, we find distinguished representatives of Science such as Messrs. Anderson, Elgar, Grigsby, Morse, Gowland, Netto, and Piggott, all of whom are, in their several lines, well known in Europe, all of whom were long in Japanese employment using their best efforts and ungrudgingly giving their time, in co-operation with equally well known representatives of trade in Japan—the latter all men whose interests are most falsely supposed and often asserted to be in absolute conflict with those of this country and of diplomacy—to spread among the whole English people a better knowledge of Japan and its people, and especially of all that is good and attractive in both. We wish that the lesson could be taken to heart by those who are most in want of it, but we can hardly hope that it will be so. Unscrupulous, ignorant, and vituperative politicians and journalists are the curse of Japan at the present day, and no lesson conveyed in gentle terms is ever likely to reach them, or if it does, to teach them the cruel injury which their methods and action cannot but cause to the welfare of the country whose interests they profess to serve.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO THE U.S. VICE-CONSUL-GENERAL.

On Tuesday evening, Mr. John McLean, the United States Vice-Consul-General for Kanagawa, had a narrow escape from death in one of its most horrible forms—suffocation from smoke and subsequent incineration. It appears that Mr. McLean, who resides at No. 206, Bluff, retired to rest early, having first taken the precaution to have a good coal fire banked up in the fire-place of his bed-room. Through carelessness on the part of of somebody, the wire fire-guard, instead of being hooked on to the bars of the grate, was merely put-up in front of the fire, resting upon the fender. After a time the lumps of coal, which had caked on top owing to the action of the heat, fell in, the supply of coal beneath having been exhausted. As the lighted coal fell into the cavity thus prepared, the mass lost cohesion, and a portion fell forward. It was sufficiently large to upset the fire-guard, and the latter fell out into the room, carring the flaming combustible with it. One piece gaining impetus in its fall rolled on the skin rugs which were strewn round the hearth, leaving a train of sparks behind, and finally reached the bed vallance. This being of cotton, was highly inflammable, and the now smouldering coal soon set it ablaze. The flames ran along the bed and up the curtains, and before the sleeping occupant was aware of what was happening, these were flaming, a silk *futon* had been half consumed, and the coverlet, blankets, and mattrass were on fire. Aroused by the smoke, Mr. McLean tore the blazing curtains down and leaped to the floor, only to find his feet on burning rugs. Half dazed with the heat and nearly suffocated with the dense smoke, he struggled towards the chimney corner, near which was a window. He had just sufficient strength to cry out for help, but not enough to reach the window. Fortunately his cook had heard the alarm, and looking up saw the flash of flames through his master's bedroom window. Without a moment's hesitation he entered the house and dashed upstairs. He arrived just in time to save his master's life, for the smoke and fumes had almost done their worst. Picking up Mr. McLean, the cook, a tall, athletic Japanese, carried him out into the hall, and then catching up the water jug he threw its contents over the bed. Other Japanese had by this time come upstairs, and these calling in the assistance of *jinrikisha* men from the roadway outside, the flames were fought down. The room, which has six windows, had its wall paper burned between the two windows on the side overlooking the harbour, while the ceiling is also damaged by fire. The bed furniture was ruined as well as the rugs upon the floor, and also some other things. As soon as possible medical assistance was sent for and Dr. Tripler answered the summons. He found Mr. McLean to be badly burned upon both feet and right hand, the nature of his injuries being sufficient to keep him a prisoner for some days, while the shock to the system has been acute. Mr. McLean undoubtedly owes his life to the energetic action of his cook; a few moments more and help would have been of small avail. The house and furniture are partly insured. During the day many expressions of sympathy reached Mr. McLean, while some of his host of friends called personally upon him.

"FALSE RELIGIONS."

A letter from a friend asks what I mean by the foot-note to "Prince Siddartha, the Japanese Buddha," in the *Japan Weekly Mail*, Jan. 20. It reads:—"It is to be regretted that the Rev. Dr. F. E. Clark, who writes the Introduction, has spoken several times of false religions."

Thinking a public reply, showing the trend of Christian thought on this subject, might not be altogether useless, even to your many non-Christian readers, I venture to send some quotations, taken from such books as happen to be at hand. Aside from the quotations, the word *false*, as applied to religion of any kind, has always seemed to me so rude and unloving, so un-Christian, that I have shrunk from using it, as well as similar words, *heathen*, *pagan*, &c. Since Christ and his apostles never used these terms, there is no need for a Christian's clinging to them. To be sure, *false* has some dozen shades of meaning, among which are "not well founded," "imperfect." When used in this sense there can be no objection, save that the average reader will probably put in the meaning, "given to deceit," "dishonest," not true." And it is this latter and general meaning of the term that Christians are rapidly giving—have already given—up as applied to extra-Biblical religions.

Until the early part of this century, this word was most freely used and thoroughly believed in. "There was the theological bias, which caused all religions except one to be regarded as utterly false."—*Brit. Encl. Religion.* Everybody knows the story of "the Jesuit father who was struck with the similarities between the Thibetan and the Roman Ritual, and thought the devil had deluded those unfortunate people with a blasphemous imitation of the religion of Christ. The Spaniard Acosta advances a similar explanation of the Mexican ritual."

But a new spirit is certainly coming over not only those who are shy of the organized Christianity of the nineteenth century, but over the whole Church. Everybody expects Herbert Spencer to say:—"Through the great body of dogmas, traditions and rites, (of all religions), a soul of truth is always visible, clearly or dimly, as the case may be." No one is shocked to see in a magagine like *The Universal Review*:—"A new Catholicity has dawned upon the world. All religions are now recognized as essentially Divine—all creeds which have enabled men to overcome their bestial appetites with visions of things spiritual and eternal."—Dec. 1888. We may not assent to such statements, but apparently they have come to stay. Lecturers of the great universities, and scholarly missionaries have almost completely come to regard the other religions somewhat as above. Rhys Davids, in his Hibbard Lectures, 1881, p. 3, somewhat strongly says:—The fact that truth can be found among all peoples and in all creeds has been acknowledged through so many centuries by men eminent in the Church and out of it, that it has become almost a truism and needs scarcely to be stated, certainly not to be proved." J. Wordsworth, Bampton Lectures, 1881, "The One Religion, p. 73," says:—"To us Christians the religion of heathenism is rather a mysterious, half-ruined temple, in which it is more meet to fall down and worship, than to wander unawed and unabashed." Robert Flint in St. Giles Lectures, says:—"All heathen religions contain some erroneous and evil principles among their essential tenets, and in so far as such is the case, Christianity must be hostile to them. All heathen religions are defective and disproportionate, and therefore ought to give way before Christianity which is complete and harmonious. All heathen religions comprise elements of truth, features of goodness, disclosures of God, means of spiritual life; and in so far they lead up to the absolute religion, the full-orbed faith, in which all rays of light are concentrated, and on which there is no darkness at all."

Other writers, like Monier Williams, speak of *false* systems and *false* philosophy, but in view of all they say, we must take the adjective to mean *imperfect*. He says:—"I admit that Buddhism conferred many benefits on the millions of Asia. It introduced education and culture, it encouraged literature and art; it promoted physical, moral, and intellectual progress up to a certain point; it proclaimed peace, goodwill, and brotherhood among men; it deprecated war between nation and nation; it avowed sympathy with social liberty and freedom; it gave back much independence to woman; preached purity in thought, word, and deed (though only for the accumulation of merit); it taught self-denial without self-torture; it inculcated generosity, charity, tolerance, love, self-sacrifice and benevolence, even towards the inferior animals; its advocated respect for life and compassion toward all creatures; it forbade avarice, and hoarding of money; and from its declaration that man's future depended on his present acts and condition, it did good service for a time in promoting good works, and elevating the character of humanity. . . . It taught the existence of unseen worlds; it permitted prayer; it inculcated faith and trust in celestial beings; which operated as good motives in the hearts of many, while the hope of being born in higher conditions of life, and of residing to acquire merit by reverential acts, [illegible] to the development of devotional services

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which had much in common with those performed in Christian countries."—"Buddhism," pp. 551-1. Sir W. W. Hunter, in *Nineteenth Century*, July 1888, p. 21, says;—"During the last twenty five years the study of the Science of Religion has profoundly modified missionary methods. That study has led the world, and is compelling the Church, to acknowledge the good in other faiths. It has disclosed the services which all the greater religions have performed for mankind, the binding power which they supplied to feeble social-organizations of ancient days, the support which they gave to the nascent moral sense, the function which they have discharged in developing the ideas of national obligation and of social duty."

I have not gone through these authors searching for the words *false religions*, and cannot affirm that the term is never used by them. Yet it seems safe to say that such writers would cut off their right hands before they would use that term in the old and popular sense. Passing on now to preachers and theological teachers, we find the same avoidance of the word *false*. I have found but one exception, Dr. F. F. Ellinwood, "Oriental Religions and Christianity," whose opening chapter sufficiently shows his animus;—"The Need of Understanding the False Religions." Of course there are others who talk and write in this way, but they are growing conspicuous for their small number. Contrast what the late Prof. Stearns says in his "Evidences of Christian Experience," p. 41:—"The heathen systems were usually ranged under the common and indiscriminate designation of 'false religions.' Little allowance was made for the direct influence of God upon the vast masses of mankind lying outside of Christianity. But we have come to a better and truer view. We find that the religions of the world form part of one great system, with common characteristics, and well marked relations to each other. Great as are the errors and abuses which inhere in the ethnic faiths, a careful study of them shows that they contain an immense amount of moral and spiritual truth. Even Christianity—though radically differenced from them by its provision for redemption through Christ, which is its essential characteristic—is vitally correllated with them. The thoughtful Christian sees in these "religions running wild," as Schelling calls them, not mere human construction, but the human perversion of an essential and indefeasible relation between God and man, and he recognizes in their history the presence of God's Providence educating the human race for its high destiny in the Kingdom of God. Christianity is at once the remedy of all that is false in the ethnic religions and the fulfilment of all that is true in them."

Cardinal Newman somewhere says, I do not know the book and page:—"There is no such thing as a false religion, whatever the amount of error it may be mixed up with. All religions have done something to lift man above the senses, to idealize life."

"Principal Caird, "Faiths of the World," p. 2, says:—"The study of the earlier and imperfect forms of faith has another than practical interest for the Christian mind. The maxim of Christian wisdom rests on the principle that there is an essential relation between Christianity and the pre-Christian religions."

Dr. G. Matheson, the blind minister of Edinburgh, and one of her ablest writers, says in his "Distinctive Messages of the Old Religions," p. 342:—"For each and all of these religions there is a justification in the light of the manifold wisdom of God."

There is no need of more room to show how impossible it is for the phrase "false religions" ever again to have currency among thoughtful and scholarly Christians. Every other possible adjective is brought into requisition;—"non-Christian," "ethnic faiths," "nature religions," "extra-Biblical," "different faiths," "older religions," "pre-Christian," &c., &c., but if the word false is used, it seems to be either in the sense of imperfect, or else as in Prof. Stearn's quotation, strictly limited to some part of the ethnic religion.

To all this there will be some who will say, "But we say the true God, the true Light, &c., which implies that these other gods and religions are false. Must we become so cultured and careful that we cannot even say the true religion? Christ calls himself The Truth, and can there be more than one Truth?"

The unhesitating reply must be: We must be true and loyal to Christ if we take him as our Lord and Master. When, however, we hear such men as Max Müller saying:—"It is easy to say it before an audience like this, but I should not be afraid to say it before an audience of Brahmans, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jews, that the one religion in the whole world which, in simplicity, in purity of purpose, in charity, and true humanity, comes near to that religion which Christ taught to his disciples," ("Natural Religion," p. 570); or such men as Monier Williams affirming, "How vast, how profound, how impossible is the gulf separating the true religion from the false philosophy of Buddhism;" or even Sir Edwin Arnold (though what he says will have very little weight with most of us), who declared that "one verse of the Sermon on the Mount is worth more than all the Buddhistic books;" we need not be in the least afraid to talk fully and freely of the true religion and the true God. Only we need to bear in mind that the word true is sometimes opposed to false, and sometimes to vague or imperfect. Any scholarly commentary will set forth this two-fold contrast. Godet on John 1, 9 p. says: "This word *true*, αληθινος, is one of the characteristic terms of John's style. Of twenty-eight passages in which we meet with it in the New Testament, twenty-three belong to John. It is also used in the classics. It contrasts, not the true with the false, but the normal appearance with the imperfect realization. The light of which John speaks, consequently, is characterized by it as the essential light, in opposition to every light of an inferior order."

Milligan and Moulton's Commentary on the same passage is as follows:—"It is unfortunate that two different words, αληθινος and αληθης must be represented by the same English word; true, the second one, used thirteen times in John's Gospel, denotes truth in contrast with falsehood.—Jno. 3:33, &c. The first one, however, expresses the real as contrasted with the phenomenal, that which is perfect and substantial, as opposed to what is imperfect and shadowy."

Canon Cook's Commentary does not differ:—"Αληθινος" marks the essential nature of the light as that of which all other lights are only partial rays or reflections. The "true light" in this sense is not opposed to "false light," but to an imperfect, incomplete, transitory light."

Is it not a remarkable carefulness on the part of the sacred writers of the New Testament that in the only places where "the true God" occurs, (Jno. 17:3, 1 Thess. 1:9, 1 John 5:20) the word, αληθινος, which is never contrasted with false, is the word used? And ought not believers of the true God, to be equally careful and considerate?

In view of these facts, it seems all the more regrettable that Dr. Clark was so free with the word *false* in his Introduction to Mr. Atkinson's "Prince Siddartha." It seems all the more proper to congratulate Mr. Atkinson, who, while agreeing emphatically with Monier Williams that there is an "infinite difference" between Christianity and Buddhism, and while calling Buddhism a teaching of "gloom, depression, darkness, despair, and irremediable death," yet gives this very fitting and discriminating close to his book:—"The one may be as indeed he has been, the Light of Asia. His light also may have been, indeed it has been, a great good to many peoples. At its best, however, it has been more like the light of the moon, clear, luminous, and cold, rather than like the sun, bright glowing, and life-giving. The moon stands as a fitting figure of Buddha, the Light of Asia. The sun stands as a no less fitting figure for Jesus Christ, the Light of the World."

In other words, Mr. Atkinson does not say:—"Christ is the True Light, and Buddhism is false," but virtually that while Christ is the True Light: Buddhism and all other systems are partial and imperfect lights.

J. H. De F.

Kyoto, January 30th, 1894.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, January 25th.

Imperial Japanese Commissioner Yamataka and three or four attachés of the Commission return to Japan by the *China*.

Prof. Romyn Hitchcock read a paper the other evening before the Ethnological Section of the Academy of Sciences in this city on "The Ainos, or Bear-Worshippers of Yezo, Japan."

Prof. Frederick Starr, of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Chicago, spoke on "Shintoism" last Sunday evening in the chapel of that institution. To-morrow evening Massuo Ikuta, Ph.D., is to address the Chemical Club of the University.

A recent number of the *Union Signal* of this city contained a communication from Tottori, Japan, by Adelaide Dunghaday, "for eleven years resident in Japan." The article was entitled "An Answering Cry from the Orient," and was intended to reply to some slanders against Christianity in "A Cry from the Orient," in a Chicago daily paper.

Sueh Beung Kim, a Korean, has entered as a student at Roanoke College, Virginia. The only other Korean student in this country is in the University of Pennsylvania.

Miss Oy Yoke, a young Chinese woman of San Francisco, is trying to obtain a medical education. For three years she has supported herself by nursing the sick among her own people. She has made application at some of the San Francisco hospitals, but the other nurses have raised objections, and to prevent trouble the directors have felt obliged to exclude the Chinese girl. Oy Yoke was sold to the highbinders by her parents when a baby, and brought to this country. While still a baby, she was taken charge of by the Methodist Mission.

A recent social incident of Washington life has been the appearance in public of the Chinese Minister's wife, who was present at one of Mrs. Cleveland's receptions. Mde. Young Yu thus enjoys the distinction of being the first among the wives of Chinese Ministers to cross the White House threshold.

It is reported that the resident Chinese are not availing themselves rapidly of the new opportunity, under the amended Geary Law, for registration; and that President Cleveland intends, on May 1st, the limit of time, to enforce the law very strictly, and to see that all unregistered Chinamen are deported.

Rear-Admiral George E. Belknap has been put on the retired list of the U.S. Navy.

Hawaiian affairs again demand a paragraph. At the annual meeting of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce resolutions were adopted in favour of annexation. The Yale Hawaiian Club, twenty strong, on the 17th inst., celebrated the first anniversary of the revolution. On the 19th a steamer arrived from Honolulu, and brought not only news but also notable passengers in the persons of Minister L. A. Thurston, Vice-President F. M. Hatch and several prominent friends of the ex-Queen. One of these has refuted the statement that Liliuokalani intends to seek damages from the U.S. Government. In Honolulu business was still stagnant, and the political excitement had considerably subsided. Minister Willis and President Dole had been engaging in some spicy correspondence relative to their strained relations. There was a great deal of talk of the establishment of a permanent republic with a constitution. The general outline of the constitution followed that of the United States, except that in the election, at least of the highest officials, an educational and property qualification would be required of the voters. This would leave members of the Lower House to be elected "by franchise without qualification further than being able to read and write the English language."

President Cleveland has submitted another "batch" of Hawaiian correspondence to Congress, and among other things, sent in a petition of the Hawaiian Patriotic League, "claiming to represent 8,000 legal voters," in favour of the restoration of the Queen. Ex-Minister Stevens has had a chance to tell his side of the story before the Senate Committee.

The latest news from Samoa is as follows:—

Apia, Samoa, Jan. 3. via San Francisco, Jan. 19—The natives in the district of Hana have rebelled and proclaimed Tamasese king. This Tamasese is a son of a former German puppet king, and he has a large following. The people of Savaii have declared allegiance to King Malietoa and are gathering to his support. The Chief Justice, President, and Consuls meet tomorrow to consider the situation. The Consuls have sent a request by Monowai for war ships. The rumoured intention of the Powers to disarm the natives is the principal cause of discontent, and the natives say that they will resist any such attempts.

It seems almost impossible to learn the truth with reference to affairs in Brazil, except that, as business in Rio Janeiro is impeded by the seige of that city, the inhabitants are hoping for a speedy termination of the struggle. Admiral Benham, as mediator, is trying to arrange for peace.

Senator Hill, of New York, succeeded in securing the rejection of the nomination of Hornblower to be Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, but President Cleveland has since "struck back" by sending in the nomination of another "anti-snapper," Wheeler H. Peckham. The new nominee is a Union College graduate, a prominent lawyer, and president of the Bar Association of New York City.

W. I. Buchanan, of Iowa, ex-Chief of the Department of Agriculture in the World's Columbian Exposition, has been appointed U.S. Minister to the Argentine Republic, now called Argentina.

Hon. John H. Gear, now Representative from the Burlington (Iowa) district, has been elected to the U.S. Senate to succeed Hon. Jas. F. Wilson, the supply honour of the Democratic nomination recently given to Gov. Boies. Senator Gear has

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had large experience in political life, as Mayor of Burlington, Member of the Iowa Legislature, Governor (two terms) of Iowa, and Member of Congress (several terms).

Senator Walthall, of Mississippi, has resigned for the remainder of his present term on account of ill health, and will take a trip abroad.

Secretary Carlisle, on the 17th inst., issued a circular inviting proposals on 5 per cent. bonds to the amount of $50,000,000, to meet the present demands and maintain the credit of the United States at home and abroad. No offer of less than 117.223 will be received; so that the interest is really equivalent to 3 per cent. at par. The bonds will be dated February 1st, 1894, and will be redeemable after ten years from date of issue. The Knights of Labour threaten to get out an injunction against the Secretary; but have not yet made any open move in the matter.

The Ways and Means Committee of Representatives have voted by 9 to 7 to report an income tax bill to the House. According to this proposed measure, all incomes over $4,000 will be taxed at the rate of 2 per cent.

It looks now as if sugar, coal, and iron would go on the free list; and it is not unlikely that cotton machinery will fare the same. But any tariff reform measure, even if it passes the House, may fail in the Senate with its small Democratic majority, although the reform be only moderate and not radical.

The obituary list this time is quite lengthy. It includes ex-Senator Henry M. Rice, of Minnesota; ex-Gov. Wm. Gaston, of Massachusetts; Judge C. P. Thompson, of Massachusetts (he once defeated Ben. Butler for Congress); Miss Helen H. Shafer, LL.D., President of Wellesley College, Massachusetts; and ex-Gov. William Gilpin, of Colorado. Geo. W. Childs, the eminent philanthropist of Philadelphia, is also seriously ill.

Purdue University, at Lafayette, Indiana, has met with a great loss. On the 19th inst. its new shops for mechanical and engineering classes, with complete equipments, were dedicated; and on the 23rd, the night before it was to used for the first recitation, it was burned to the ground.

At the University of Chicago the great attraction at present is the series of Sunday afternoon lectures of President Harper on "The Stories of Genesis." Next in attractive power is, perhaps, Prof. R. G. Moulton's Wednesday afternoon series of recitations of "Ancient Tragedies for English Audiences."

Dr. Talmage has given out, that soon, after 25 years of active service, he will give up his pulpit work.

Old Boreas, after giving us the benefit of a long vacation from his blasts, has just visited us again with renewed vigour. Several inches of snow cover the ground; and the mercury has dropped below zero. The severity of the cold has, of course, increased the sufferings of the poor. On the other hand, business shows a slight and slow improvement.

On the 30th of this month the Bell Telephone patents expire; and it is hoped, but probably in vain, that the cost of telephone service, whether rented or purchased, will be considerably reduced.

In the Coughlin trial the prosecution has rested its case; and the defence has begun its active efforts in behalf of the accused. The trial bids fair to be very lengthy and tedious.

The recent fire in the World's Fair damaged to a large extent the valuable furniture exhibit of Coleson and Locke, of London; and has also caused the exhibitors to hasten their efforts to get their exhibits out. It is probable that by Feb. 1 all the buildings will be entirely cleared of exhibits.

The Fine Arts Building, containing the valuable exhibits of the World's Columbian Museum, is undoubtedly unsafe. The underwriters, thinking it too heavy a risk, have raised the rates of insurance, which the officers of the Museum insist are exorbitant. It seems the height of folly to allow such valuable articles to undergo so much risk. The Museum, by the way, has just received an offer of the Corey Ornithological Collection, containing 15,000 specimens and a large library, and valued at $100,000, for $17,000.

The assets of the World's Columbian Exposition have dwindled $400,000 in one month, and seem likely soon to drop below the $1,000,000 mark. The stock-holders are, of course, becoming anxious.

The people of Atlanta, Georgia, have become interested on the subject of an inter-state exposition. "A corporation with a capital of $1,000,000, and power to extend to $5,000,000, has been chartered, citizens have contributed $200,000 toward preliminary expenses, and the enterprise is fairly on its feet." In 1881 Atlanta had a flourishing "Cotton Exposition;" in 1895 it may have a Midwinter Inter-state Exposition.

Novel schemes of advertisers for reaching the public and attracting attention, are constantly being developed. About two weeks ago I received a postal card containing no message except, "You are in luck!" A few days later I received a second card, containing:—"You are in luck, for you are invited!!" To-day I received a circular, containing, on its first page, "You are in luck, for you are invited to participate in the Chicago Record's Second 'Free Book Distribution.'"!!!

The official account of the "Parliament of Religions," edited by Rev. John Henry Barrows, D.D., has been issued in two large volumes of 800 pages each. It is a very valuable work.

THE EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY.

The following article about the Emperor's Birthday, appears in the *Empire*:—

"Queen's weather" has passed into a proverb in the English language, on account of the bright, genial sunshine with which Her Majesty's birthday, falling, as it does, in what is in England, perhaps, by far the pleasantest month in the year, has almost invariably been favoured throughout her reign. The Emperor of Japan has been hardly less favoured in this respect during the twenty-six years he has been on the throne. His birthday falls upon the 3rd of November, a month not as a rule associated by English people with pleasant climatic recollections, but one which is in Japan usually characterized by every attraction of the Indian summer. The enervating damp heat of the very early autumn has gone, even memory of the tropical oppressiveness of the summer has faded away, and a bracing and inspiring atmosphere which makes the mere fact of existence a pleasure prevails over nearly the whole of the main island of the empire. The vividly blue expanse of the sky is seldom broken by as much as a single cloud, the wonderful rarity of the amosphere confers a great expanse on the range of vision, and Fujiyama, the peerless mountain, the pride of every Japanese heart, the joy of every Japanese artist, and the first object to which the eye of every passenger on the inward steamers from the far west is directed, with its summit already covered with snow, is seen to better advantage glistening in the bright morning sunshine than at any other season of the year. Doubly fortunate are those passengers whose first glimpse of it is from the deck of their steamer, still too far out at sea to raise above the horizon even the tops of the hills among which

FUJIYAMA RISES PROUD AND MAJESTIC.

The course now followed by the majority of steamers allows but in rare cases the enjoyment of this wondrous spectacle. At the same time a happy chance may still occasionally grant it, and when it does the solitary peak in its sparkling whiteness, standing apparently alone in the midst of the wide ocean, presents a sight worthy of fairyland, and drives the mind to thoughts of the enchanted islands of the Arabian Nights. Visitors not fortunate enough to enjoy this chance need not repine. Everywhere they stay and everywhere they go throughout the 13 great provinces that lie around Tokyo, they will constantly have the mountain before them, the first object which greets their eyes each morning and the last at night, in ever changing aspect and form, crystal white in the early morning, russet red beneath the rays of the setting sun, now, when interrupted by intervening hills, with only its summit visible, and again, when viewed from one of the many vantage points, with

THE WHOLE OF ITS GLORIOUS SWEEP

extending almost right down to the ocean's edge.

"For more than 40 years," said a venerable old priest in a temple on the island of Enoshima, "have I been gazing at it, and I am not tired of it yet."

None, not even the most insensate to nature's beauties, could fail to share and sympathize in the old man's admiration, or to think that such a prospect ever before him may render more tolerable the severest austeries of the rigid Buddhist ecclesiastic, who faithfully observes all the tenets of his order.

Turning from Fusiyama to the lower lying hills, new and different beauties everywhere at this season meet the eye in the infinite variety of the rich colouring of the maples in their autumn dress; and again, leaving the hills altogether and coming down to the plains, one is absolutely bewildered by the profusion of the glorious chrysanthemum, the national flower of Japan, the crest of the imperial family and the badge of the highest order of knighthood in the empire, that reserved exclusively for members of royal families. In every variety of colour and form and species are they now seen, in every house and garden, from the palace and the grounds of the Emperor down to the hut in which the poorest of the people dwell. From within gaily coloured nightly crowd a dozen toiling coolies or *jinrikisha* men; at every street corner they are for sale; the monthly flower markets, held on different days in different quarters of the city, present a show which would throw the glories of the London Temple, to which flock annually all the fashion of London, completely in the shade; and the price is such that, with a little bargaining, a moderate house can be decorated from end to end with growing plants for less than a couple of dollars, and

THE POOR, STRUGGLING LABOURER

whose earnings on good days may be little more than a quarter of a dollar, can obtain the one plant he wants to brighten his room, growing and in the full bloom of a dozen single flowers, for two or three *sen*, less than one penny sterling. Pleasure seekers, whose thoughts are turning towards this land, will see it at its best if they time their visit so as to arrive here during October, and to be able to remain until any time not later than the conclusion of the New Year's festivities. Here and there may perhaps be found an old resident who will recommend the spring, but trust him not. Spring is variable and uncertain; if fine, it is full of delight, but even then it falls far short of the autumn. When the year has shaken off the giddiness of youth, and shows at the close of its career a steady continuance of unbroken climatic loveliness, which will in vain be looked for while it is still in the freshness of youth or the full vigour of middle age. Its infancy is always cold and disagreeable. In autumn, too, the social festivities of the capital are in full swing and visitors, who come properly accredited, can easily obtain entrée to the best of everything. The leading events are the ball, always given on the Emperor's birthday by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the chrysanthemum garden party, given by the Emperor himself. The former has just taken place; the latter comes off to-morrow, and may form the subject of a subsequent letter.

THE TWO GREAT HOLIDAYS

throughout the year in Japan are the Emperor's birthday and New Year's day. Business on both days is entirely suspended; the houses down to the poorest are universally gaily decorated with national flags and lanterns; the streets thronged with brightly dressed, good-humoured, laughter-loving, pleasure-seeking crowds; civil officials, military and naval officers in full uniform, are constantly passing, the whose affording a spectacle not to be surpassed in the gayest capital of Europe. For the Emperor himself his birthday is a busy one. All Japanese are and always have been early risers, perhaps more so than are the people of any country in the world not within the tropics, and the Emperor is no exception to the general rule. In the writings of Ma Twin Lin, the Herodotus of China, who flourished in the twelfth century of the Christian era, a description is given of Japanese life and customs about the year 600 A.D., and among other facts mentioned by him is the one that the Emperor always begins the conduct of the business of the state at dawn. His present Majesty can scarcely be said to go so far as this, but he observes the custom of his ancestors in rising before the sun on great fête days, his birthday included, to make his devotions at the family shrine within the palace. The reception of all the members of the Imperial family follows, and when this is over, still at a very early hour of the morning,

HIS MAJESTY LEAVES THE PALACE

in State for the principal parade ground, fully four miles off, where a grand review of all troops in Tokyo is held. Then, on his return to the palace, he entertains at luncheon all the great ministers of state and the diplomatic representatives of the foreign treaty powers. More receptions follow in the afternoon, and it must be far on towards nightfall ere the formalities of the day are concluded. But, as regards foreigners at least, the great event of the day is the ball given by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which is attended by all the princes and princesses of the Imperial family, though not by His Majesty, and which this year has just been celebrated with an even greater degree of splendour than on previous occasions. It was held in a magnificent building, specially constructed some years ago, and possessing therefore every possible requisite for such functions, known by the somewhat poetical name of the "Hall of the Calling Deer," and was attended by about 500 guests, among whom were all the foreign visitors now in Japan, whose positions in their own countries entitled them to be present, and by all the leading members of

TOKYO SOCIETY, BOTH JAPANESE AND FOREIGN.

Foreign science and Japanese art were exquisitely combined in the external illuminations, and numberless electric lights shed forth their brilliance on

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Japanese lanterns, an expedient the imitation of which on a similar occasion at home would be both easy of attainment and certain to be attended by unqualified success. The internal decorations were composed of huge banks of chrysanthemum, in ball room, corridors, and staircase; supper, wines, and music were all that the most exacting could ask; and when, at an early hour of the following morning, the last guest departed, he did so with the conviction that the Foreign Minister had in every sense worthily celebrated the birthday of his Imperial master, the one hundred and twenty-second Emperor in an unbroken line of descent. The motto "Sei Jiu Banzai" (long life to His Sacred Majesty), in chrysanthemums was a conspicuous object in the ball-room. It was echoed by every guest present, and with a cordial and heartfelt repetition of it now the present letter may be concluded.

Tokio, Japan, Nov. 1893.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 108.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to Kt 6	1—K to Q 4
2—Q to Q sq. (ch.)	2—K to B 4 or K 4
3—Q mates at Q 4	
	if 2—Kt to Q 7
3—Q mates at R 5	
	1—B × R
2—P × P (double ch.)	2—K × P
3—Q to Kt 3 (mate)	
	if 2—Any other move of K
3—Q mates at K 5	
	1—P × P
2—Q × P (ch.)	2—K to Q 4
3—P to Q B 4 (mate).	

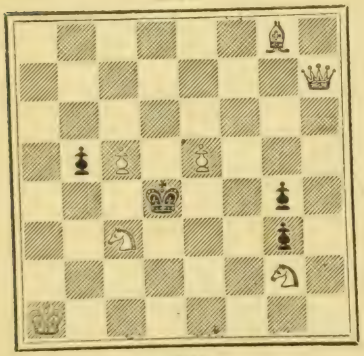
If 1—P to K B 6, Q checks at Kt 3 and mates at Kt 5; if 1—P to B 4, P × P (double check) and Q mates. Other variations easy.

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Omega, Digamma, and Aling.

A. Tozer (Cleveland, O.) is credited with correct solutions of Nos. 100 and 101, and Aling and O.B. with correct solutions of No. 107.

PROBLEM No. 110.
By E. J. WINTER-WOOD.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

There is nothing much new in local Chess affairs, neither does there come any startling news from home.

Negotiations are being made for a return match (between Tokyo and Yokohama Chess Clubs) which will probably take place at the end of March in Yokohama; and on that occasion we may rest assured that the Tokyo Club will do their utmost to put a victory to their credit against our local team.

We reprint from Gossip's "Chess Brilliancies" the following interesting game.

GAME PLAYED IN THE NEW YORK TOURNAMENT, 1889.

(PETROFF'S DEFENCE.)

WHITE. Gunsberg.	BLACK. Weiss.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to K B 3
3—Kt takes P	3—P to Q 3
4—Kt to K B 3	4—Kt takes P
5—P to Q 4	5—P to Q 4
6—B to Q 3	6—Kt to Q B 3
7—Castles	7—B to K 2
8—R to K sq.	

Inferior to 3 P to Q 4.

Superior to the usual move—8 P to B 4 given in the books.

	8—B to K Kt 5
9—P to B 3	9—P to B 4
10—Q Kt to Q 2	10—Castles
11—Q to Kt 3	11—K to R sq.

11..... P to Q Kt 3 was better; for if then White captured the knight with either piece, Black's reply Kt to R 4 before re-taking would have yielded him the advantage.

12—Q takes Kt P	12—R to B 3
13—Q to Kt 3	13—R to Kt sq.
14—Q to B 2	14—R to K Kt 3
15—P to Q Kt 3	

B to K 2 followed by Kt to B sq. was far preferable.

	15—B to Q 3
16—B to K 2	16—B to K R 6
17—B to B sq.	17—Q to B 3
18—P to Kt 3	

Again 18. R to K 3 was better; for if 18 ..... P to B 5; 19 Kt take Kt P x Kt; 20 R takes P, B to KB 4; 21 B to Q 3, and if Black now take R, White will come out two Pawns ahead.

	18—B takes B
19—K takes B	19—R to K B sq.
20—Kt takes Kt	20—B P takes Kt
21—Kt to R 4	21—R takes P

..... Grandly played!

22—P takes R	22—B takes P
23—K to Kt 2	23—B takes Kt
24—B to K 3	24—Q to B 6 ch.
25—K to R 2	25—B to K 2
26—K to Kt sq.	26—R to B 3
27—K to B sq.	27—Q to Kt 5

..... Another splendid *coup*!

28—Q to Q sq.	28—R to B 6
29—Q R to B sq.	29—Q to R 6 ch.

A remarkably fine ending. If 30 K to K 2; R takes B, ch. and mates next move. If 30 K to Kt sq; B to Q 3 (threatening mate in five moves by B to R 7 ch; followed by B to Kt 6, Q 7 to R 7 ch, and R takes P ch.) 31 Q to B 2, R to B 3 wins.

30—Resigns.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 12.

The Gladstonians are organising a series of meetings in London and the provinces to agitate against the recent action of the House of Lords.

[SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, January 5.

It is believed that a Cabinet crisis impending in Egypt, the Khedive being incensed at the Ministers on account of their not supporting him against Lord Cromer.

January 9.

The United States Senate has referred the Tariff Bill to the Finance Committee.

The House of Lords, during the discussion of the Parish Councils Bill carried numerous amendments generally tending to lessen the powers of the Councils.

A free fight took place yesterday in Tralfalgar Square between the police and the socialists, most of the latter being German Jews, and many of the mob were injured by the batons of the police.

The Commercial Treaty between Russia and Germany has been signed. It reduces the German duties on grain and petroleum. The Emperor William, when speaking at a Parliamentary dinner, alluded to the signing of the treaty, insisting on the necessity of ratification, otherwise a tariff war would lead to real war.

The French have hoisted their flag at Cavally [close to Cape Palmas], on the borders of Liberia.

The French and English Press greatly deplore the collisions that have taken place between their respective military forces in Western Africa, and urge the necessity for the avoidance of these dangerous incidents in the future.

At a meeting of the Bimetallic League in Manchester, Mr. Barbour, who stated that he was convinced that an international agreement was the only way to arrive at a settlement of the currency question, said that he was unable to agree that the experiment made in India had failed, but whether the step taken by the Indian Government ended in success or failure, India had the gravest situation to face.

Mr. Edmund Robertson, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, in a speech at Dundee, stated that Her Majesty's Government intended to extend the naval programme of their predecessors, as foreign nations were now building more ships than Great Britain. The new estimates indicate no intention of forfeiting Great Britain's relative position as to naval strength, the estimates only providing for the year's needs. Part of the detailed programme will be kept secret at present, in order not to inform other Powers of the intentions of the Government in regard to the ships to be laid down.

A recent meeting of the British North Borneo Company declined to entertained Rajah Brooke's proposal to acquire the Company's rights, but empowered the Directors to offer him the post of Governor-General.—*N. C. Daily News.*

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Urawa, February 10th, 1.30 p.m.

While some forty electors of Shimo-oshimura, North Saitama District, were passing Hoshu-in on their way to the voting station at Oshicho, forty or fifty *soshi* of the Radical Party suddenly attacked them with bamboo spears and other weapons. The roughs were driven back by police constables, and one was arrested.

Kagoshima, Feb. 10.

The anti-*Min-to* parliamentary candidates in this Prefecture are as follow:—Messrs. Atsuchi Masatoshi, for the 1st; Ikebunuro Keizo, for the 2nd; Utsu Ryonosuke, for the 3rd; Kashiwada Moribumi, for the 4th; Saigo Kikujiro, for the 5th; Hirata Heigoro, for the 6th; and Oshima Akira, for the 7th district.

Urawa, Feb. 10, 10.25 p.m.

The *soshi* of the *Kokumin-ha* and the *Jiyu-to* assembled at the Yoshioka office to-day, each armed with a lethal weapon. The police ordered them to disperse. While the constables were endeavouring to break up the assembly the *Kokumin soshi* suddenly attacked the *Jiyu-to* office, and cut down a Radical youth. The disturbance which ensued was only allayed by the Chief Police Constable ordering his men to deprive the mob of its weapons. The *soshi* who wounded the lad was arrested.

Feb. 11th, 6 a.m.

About a quarter past nine o'clock fire broke out in a house near the voting station at Omiya, Chichibu District, and eventually destroyed three buildings. The ballot-box was saved.

Feb. 11th 4 p.m.

The election of half the members of the Prefectural Assembly has concluded, and the *soshi* of various political parties have left the Prefecture.

Tokushima, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

A constable attached to the Tokushima Police Station is being prosecuted for having assaulted a citizen while on duty.

Sapporo, Feb. 12, 3.24 p.m.

The Otaru Public Hospital was destroyed by fire last night, and three persons were burnt to death.

Utsunomiya, Feb. 13th, 6 p.m.

A supporter of Mr. Yokobori was wounded at Motegi, Haga District, during the night of the 11th.

Nagasaki, Feb. 13th, 2.25 p.m.

The Russian gunboat *Sivoutch* has arrived here from Shanghai.

Urawa, Feb. 12th, 9.30 p.m.

About half-past three o'clock on the afternoon of the 11th, some fifteen *Dashi-ha soshi*, while passing Fukiage on their way to the capital, created a disturbance. They were considerably under the influence of *saké*. One of the lads assaulted Mr. Yokota and one other resident, and the latter sustained a slight injury. About seven *soshi* were arrested on the spot.

Kumamoto, Feb. 13, Noon.

The *Kokken-ha* candidates for this Prefecture will be as follow:—Messrs. Sasa Tomofusa and Ariyoshi Heikichi for the 1st, Toda Kumahiko for the 2nd, Furusho Yoshikado and Shito Kanji for the 3rd, Watanabe Keisei for the 4th, and Kozaki Yoshiakira for the 6th District.

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Kyoto, Feb. 13th, 4 p.m.

The Kyoto City Assembly has resolved to expend *yen* 500 upon the public celebration of the Imperial Silver Wedding.

Kumamoto, Feb. 14th, 9 a.m.

The Radicals of Ihoku and Kinmu Districts have withdrawn from the Party.

Kagoshima, Feb. 14th, 4 p.m.

Over two hundred *Mu-to* partisans and business men gave a banquet last night to Mr. Kano, the new Governor of this Prefecture. The Governor expressed the pleasure he felt at being received so warmly by the residents.

Osaka, Feb. 14th, 3.20 p.m.

A general meeting of cotton spinners took place to-day, at which a resolution was passed to petition for permission to ship cotton goods from the special export ports.

Later.

Some thirty-one supporters of Mr. Doi, a candidate in the 2nd Election District of this City, have been accused of having distributed a number of circulars inviting electors to a social entertainment. It is alleged that they have infringed the Publication Law by so doing.

Fukuoka, Feb. 15th, 11.08 a.m.

A political lecture meeting held at Mayebara, Shima District, yesterday, was dissolved by the police upon Mr. Tsuda Morihiko, ex-M.P., using some strong expressions while discussing the question of the Strict Enforcement of the Treaties.

Kobe, Feb. 15th, 2 p.m.

A public meeting of Radicals took place at Meiki, Mino District, yesterday, and passed off very successfully, an audience of over three thousand persons attending. During the course of the proceedings some opponents created a disturbance, and several of the audience were slightly injured.

Osaka, February 15th, 6.30 p.m.

The Gensdarmerie Head Quarters in this City has received instructions to despatch a party of Hiroshima Gendsarmes to Kagoshima.

Osaka, February 15th, 3.37 p.m.

Suzuki Tota, an officer of the 16th National Bank, Gifu, was robbed of a wallet containing *yen* 43,800—which he had drawn from the 32nd National Bank—while waiting at Umeta Railway Station. He had left the bag containing the money in the waiting-room while he went to buy his ticket.

Later.

The wallet lost at Umeta Station was found hidden in a public urinal on the road-side. The money was all gone.

Okayama, Feb. 15th, 12.10 p.m.

The police have instituted legal proceedings against some members of the Prefectural Assembly for having used bribery during the past election of members of the Assembly.

Nagasaki, Feb. 16, 3.30 p.m.

The Chinese merchants have formed an alliance against the Japanese traders, which is causing much trouble among the latter.

Nara, Feb. 16, 1.17 p.m.

Mr. Urano Johei, a Radical, who is a candidate for the seat in the Lower House for the 9th district of this Prefecture, having for a rival Mr. Fukuoka Seiichi, a Radical, has been expelled from the Party.

Takamatsu, Feb. 16, 1.41 p.m.

Mr. Akao Kantaro, an advocate, was to-day arrested on suspicion of fraud.

Osaka, Feb. 16, 1.05 p.m.

Messrs. Matsumoto Jutaro, Shibusawa Yeiichi, and about thirty other wealthy merchants of Tokyo and Osaka meet here to-night to consider the establishment of a big sugar factory with a capital of *yen* 1,000,000. The promoters propose limiting the import of foreign sugar.

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE, Limited, Yokohama.

The *Justice* publishes a telegram from Toulon reporting that the engines of the transport *Nive*, which has recently returned from the Far East, have been found to be in a deplorable condition. It also states that most of the engineers on board the ship are quite incompetent.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Feb. 23rd.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 18th.*
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, Feb. 22nd.†
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 25th.‡
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Feb. 19th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wednesday, Feb. 21st.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 25th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 1st.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 6th.

* *Sydney* left Kobe on February 17th. † *Gaelic* left Hongkong on February 14th. ‡ *Ancona* left Hongkong on February 16th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Moray*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Feb. 20th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Feb. 20th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, Feb. 23rd.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, Feb. 23rd.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 24th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, Mar. 2nd
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 3rd.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 4th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 10th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Inchbarra, British steamer, 2,785, Major, 10th February,—Batoum, 140,000 cases Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 10th February,—Yokkaichi 9th February, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 10th February,—Kobe 9th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 10th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, 2nd February, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Carl, German ship, 1,932, Hashagen, 11th February,—New York 17th August, Oil.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, S. Tsuji, 11th February,—Yokkaichi 10th February, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wolf (6), German gunboat, Captain Kretschmann, 11th February,—Target Practice 11th February.

Caroline (14), cruiser, Captain C. J. Norcock, 12th February,—Kobe 11th February.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 12th February,—Otaru viâ ports 7th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 704, Yoshizawa, 12th February,—Hachinohe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 12th February,—Shinagawa 12th February, General. —Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Casco, British schooner, 63, Otto Bucholz, 14th February,—Victoria, B.C. 26th December, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Charles E. Moody, American ship, 1,915, R. L. Leonard, 13th February,—Yokosuka 13th February, Ballast.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Enterprise, British steamer, 68, Oscar Scarf, 13th February,—Victoria, B.C. 17th December, Sealing Gear.—Browne & Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 13th February,—Kobe 12th February, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 13th February,—Yokkaichi 12th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 14th February,—Yokkaichi 13th February, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Formosa, British steamer, 2,616, Bishop, 14th February,—London viâ ports 16th December, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 1,662, F. Davies, 14th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, General. —Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Setsuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Kawano, 14th February,—Kobe 13th February, General. —Kabushiki Kaisha.

Wolf (6), German gunboat, Captain Kretschmann, 14th February,—Target Practice.

Mattie T. Dyer, American schooner, 103, C. E. Mockler, 15th February,—San Francisco 7th January, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 15th February,—Kobe 14th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 15th February,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 15th February,—Otaru viâ ports, 10th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,183, Sachett, 15th February,—London viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 15th February,—San Francisco 30th January, viâ Honolulu 5th February, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Diana, British schooner, 64, A. Neilson, 16th February,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 16th February,—Yokkaichi 15th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 16th February,—Shanghai and ports, 10th February, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, Gidye, 16th February,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Saghalien, French steamer, 2,580, Chevalier, 10th February,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 10th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wolf (6), German gunboat, Captain Kretschmann, 10th February,—Target Practice.

Aikoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,067, Furukawa Yaichi, 11th February,—Moji, Ballast.—Oiye.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 11th February,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 11th February,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 895, E. S. Barstow, 11th February,—Manila viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 11th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 11th February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tantalus, British steamer, 2,199, H. Jones, 11th February,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 11th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tritos, German steamer, 1,085, Desler, 11th February,—Hongkong viâ Moji, Light.—Flint, Kilby & Co.

Mutsu Maru, Japanese steamer, 552, J. Miyagi, 12th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takao Kan (6), Japanese cruiser, Captain M. Sawa, 12th February,—Tateyama.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, Matsumoto, 12th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 13th February,—Kobe, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Benmohr, British steamer, 1,935, Clarke, 13th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Itsukushima Kan (12), Japanese cruiser, Captain K. Ijichi, 13th February,—Tateyama.

Wolf (6), German gunboat, Captain Kretschmann, 14th February,—Target Practice.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 704, Yoshizawa, 13th February,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 13th February,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 14th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 14th February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 14th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kriemhild, German steamer, 1,638, Hildebrandt, 15th February,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Setsuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Kawano, 15th February,—Shinagawa, General.—Kabushiki Kaisha.

Carl, German ship, 1,932, J. Hashagen, 15th February,—Kobe, Petroleum.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 15th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Adolph Harboe, Danish bark, 1,049, E. Petersen, 16th February,—Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—Order.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 17th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

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PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Major and Lady M. Gore Browne, Mrs. K. Southard, Rev. and Mrs. J. Craighead, Mr. H. G. Griffith, Mr. E. Lascillas, Mr. D. Byromji, Mr. John Eriksson, Mr. A. M. Vondenberg, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Campbell, Mr. F. H. Tanner, Mrs. W. F. Mitchell, Mr. V. Blad, Mr. F. R. Daniel, and Mr. E. Oswald Kenyon in cabin.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Dr. Turnbull, Mrs. Turnbull, Misses Turnbull (2), Messrs. Yardley, J. C. Medd, Paul Keutmann, E. J. Whitfield, H. S. Waldo, Mr. and Mrs. Saxton Noble, and Mrs. Ah Sham in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—1 passenger in second class, and 27 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. T. Fayette Cole and Mori in cabin, and 11 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Formosa*, from Hongkong: Mr. Buckle in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. Wong Shoo Ling (Chinese Consul at Hakodate) and family in cabin; Miss K. Takahashi, Mr. S. Tamamoto, and Mr. T. Higuchi in second class, and 6 Chinese and 36 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe:—13 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, from San Francisco, viâ Honolulu:—Mrs. H. C. Dearborn, Mr. F. C. Sinton, Mr. B. C. Howard, Mr. N. Hayakawa, Miss M. Richards, Mr. T. Uchida, Mr. K. Watano, Mr. S. Suwa, Lieut. Nathan Sargent, U.S.N., Mr. T. Yamaguchi, Mr. M. Yamamoto, Mr. K. Konishi, Mr. S. Ishida, Mr. K. S. Minami, Mr. K. Noro, Mr. N. Yamataka, Mr. R. L. Wolcott, Dr. H. Tuck and son, Mr. P. Philipon, Mr. Wm. M. Adams, Mr. Chas. Freeman, Mr. Akiyama, Mr. M. Takiyi, Mr. K. Tawara, Mr. K. Ishizawa, Mr. Araka, Dr. Eldridge and family, Mrs. M. E. Torbert, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. H. Grove, Mr. T. H. Wilson, Mr. J. O. Hutchinson, Mr. S. Takagi, Mr. Y. Naoki, Mr. K. Sano, Mr. Chandler Gibbens, Mr. W. D. S. Edwards, Mr. S. Nishimura, Mr. Y. Tanimura, Mr. N. Saito, Mr. M. Yamagiya, Mr. J. McD. Gardiner and family, Miss Ana de F. Thompson, Mr. James Hall, and Mr. Chan Tai Chew in cabin. For Hongkong:—Dr. W. E. S. Fales, Mrs. Richards, Miss Tenny, Mrs. W. E. S Fales, Mr. J. E. Oxis, Mr. R. C. Oxis, Mr. H. S. Coleman, and Miss Thompson in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, Mr. T. D. Lyon, Mr. N. Orita, Mr. and Mrs. A. MacMillan, and Mr. P. Morriss in cabin; Mr. K. Kuwabara, Mr. K. Kawara, and Mr. Y. Koike in second class, and 23 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. Verneux, Mr. H. Schauffer, Mr. and Mrs. Stole and boy, Mr. and Mrs. Yungbluth and 3 infants, Miss Colombe, Mr. A. Sophiere, and Mr. Tassard in cabin; 6 in second class, and 48 seamen in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco:—Mr. W. E. Newham, Mr. Z. Horizoshi, Miss G. C. Furber, and Mrs. K. Southard in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. R. Pender, Mr. and Mrs. Macmillan, Mr. and Mrs. D. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Woods, Captain H. Du Buisson and wife, Captain M. Kabunagi, Rev. M. H. Houston, Mr. E. B. S. Edwards, Mr. A. Mori, Mr. W. E. Hunt, and Mr. T. Saigo in cabin; Mrs. Saigo in second class, and 29 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France, 127 bales; Waste Silk for France, 212 bales. Treasure for Shanghai, $300,000.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	ST. PAUL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	282	—	—	—	282
Yokohama	160	316	350	451	—	1,277
Hongkong	57	—	—	—	—	57
Total	217	598	350	451	—	1,616

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	47	—	47
Hongkong	—	205	—	205
Yokohama	—	424	2	426
Total	—	676	2	678

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $961,000.00.

REPORTS.

The American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Captain J. T. Smith, reports:—Left Hongkong the 1st February, viâ Nagasaki the 6th, and Kobe the 9th. Arrived at Yokohama the 10th February at 8.38 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain E. W. Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 10th February at 1.30 p.m.; had strong N. to N.W. winds to Nagasaki, arriving there at 6.45 a.m. on 12th. Left Nagasaki at 5 p.m.; had heavy rain and hail squalls off Yeboshi, arriving at Moji the 13th at 6.25 a.m. Left Moji the same day at 11.25 a.m.; had fine weather through Inland Sea easterly winds prevailing, arrived at Kobe the 14th at 8.12 a.m. Left Kobe the 15th at noon; had fresh N. and N.W. winds and heavy rain off Sagami. Arrived at Yokohama the 16th February at 2.45 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain W. Thompsen, reports:—Left Kobe the 14th February at 0.7 p.m.; had light winds and fine weather to Oshima at 7.47 p.m.; thence moderate and freshening winds to fresh N.W. gale and high quarterly sea to Rock Island the 15th at 8.15 a.m.; thence fresh head winds, smooth sea, and fine weather to arrival at Yokohama the 15th February at 1.40 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The continued violent fluctuations in Exchange have done serious damage to the Import Trade during the past week. Holders naturally persist in their policy of raising quotations as fast as Exchange falls, but, buyers not being willing to follow them, business comes to a standstill. Not more than a dozen bales of Yarn have changed hands during the week. Cotton Piece Goods and other Manchester wares are entirely neglected, so that the position is one of waiting and speculating as to the ultimate result. Under existing circumstances, it is impossible to give trustworthy quotations, therefore the following are merely nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.30 to 2.80
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.40 to 3.15
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.55 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0 16 to 0 21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.40 to 8.75
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.65 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.47½ to 1.57½
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.62½ to 1.95
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.27½ to 2.67½
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.85 to 3.10

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.25 to 0.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.20 to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.14 to 0 19½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0 57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 10/24, Ordinary	$36.50 to —
Nos. 16/24, Medium	37.00 to 37.50
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	37.50 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	37.50 to —
Nos. 28/32, Medium	37.75 to 38.25
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	38.50 to 39.75
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	43.50 to 45.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 43.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	47.50 to 49.50
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

This market continues to be in a most discouraging condition. Exchange fluctuations have wrought havoc with quotations, and holders seem inclined to lie off and await developments. There has been some slight enquiry for Wire Nails of the shorter lengths, but otherwise the market is completely dead, consequently the following must be regarded as nominal quotations.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$4.30 to 4.40
Flat Bars, ½ inch	4.40 to 4.50
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.35 to 3.45
Iron Plates, assorted	3.45 to 3.55
Sheet Iron	4.55 to 4.70
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.00 to 9.20
Wire Nails, assorted	5.50 to 5.90
Tin Plates, per box	1.15 to 1.30
Pig Iron, No. 1	1.55 to 1.60

KEROSENE.

The principal feature of the week has been the heavy additions to the already abundant stock. On the 10th inst. the steamer *Inchbarra* arrived with 140,000 cases of Russian Anchor brand, while on the 12th the German ship *Carl* came in with 83,000 cases of Chester. It is reported that about half of the Russian shipment will find its way down to Kobe, but these arrivals naturally tend to further weaken the market. Holders, however, —owing to the freaks of Exchange—refuse to lower their rates, and business in consequence is very restricted.

Chester	$1.82½ to 1.87
Comet	1.80 to 1.82½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.80 to 1.82½
Russian Moon	1.77½ to 1.80

SUGAR.

There have been several arrivals of Brown sugar from Hongkong, but the market continues to be well filled with buyers, and trade progresses merrily. The second shipment of the new Formosa crop is expected early next month—amounting to about 33,000 bags, half of which have been already contracted for at $4.50 to $4.55 per picul. Other prices show no change. Whites also have received new supplies, but the market is quiet with but a light demand.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.40 to 4.50
Brown Manila	5.35 to 5.45
Brown Daitong	4.45 to 5.00
Brown Canton	4.70 to 4.75
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.00
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 9th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 657 piculs, divided thus: *Hanks*, 39 piculs; *Filatures*, 373 piculs; *Re-reels*, 67 piculs; *Kakeda*, 178 piculs. In addition to these figures Japanese shipments have been 99 bales, making the total export trade of the week 750 piculs.

The market is dull, but at the same time there is something doing each day, although we hear rumours of threatened rejections while writing. Telegraphic intelligence from abroad is certainly not brilliant, and we hear of reduced limits with, in some cases, cancelled orders, both here and at Shanghai. With regard to quotations, prices may be left practically unchanged from last week, for although after our last issue holders tried hard to get an advance, which in some cases was successful, still they do not seem disposed to push their claims too far, in spite of a declining exchange.

Fine-sized Filatures are decidedly easy in tone and it is interesting to compare the quotations current to-day with those of a year ago. On the 16th of February, 1893, No. 1 Filatures, 10/13 deniers, were worth $950, with exchange on Lyons, four months' sight, fcs. 3.54; to-day, equal silks can be bought at $780, with exchange fcs. 2.74, a difference of something like 35 per cent., and yet consumers do not seem to be attracted.

Our export to date still shows between 10,000 and 11,000 piculs shortage when compared with the same date last year and it seems as though the New York trade could not possibly recover from the crisis of last year, at least during the remainder of the present season.

Arrivals from the interior are now practically stopped; and the stock list shows a reduction of 750 piculs upon the week. It is probable that we may have very small supplies for the next three or four weeks; after that time, no doubt the spring reelings will commence to replenish our stock.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the French and American mails both leaving together at the end of last week. The former, *Saghalien*, had 127 bales for Europe, and the latter, *City of Rio*, took 426 bales for the United States. These departures make the present export figures 30,794 piculs, against 41,218 piculs last year, and 38,372 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—A few more parcels have been taken into godown; *Shimonita* are noted at $622½, with *Chichibu* at $620 and $610. A small parcel of *Shinshu* has also gone in at $615. Stock in this class is practically nil.

Filatures.—A moderate demand from day to day, principally in sorts suitable for Europe, prices ranging from $770 to $690, according to quality. In goods suitable for the United States, but very little has beeen done since the purchase of *Kaimeisha* noted in our last. One small parcel of *Choshinsha* is said to have been booked at $800, with

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some medium *Koshu* and *Shinshu* at about $700; *Roku-monsen* and *Shojokan*, $810.

Re-reels.—Not much done by foreigners, but prices are well maintained and *Five Girl* chop has been entered at $755, with common *Joshu* at $665.

Kakeda.—Considerable business at advancing prices and holders have succeeded in getting $690 for *Horsehead I*; *Oxhead I*, $685; *Oxhead II*, $650; *Horsehead II*, $650, with equal silks at equal prices.

In other sorts, nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	$610 to 620
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	770 to 780
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	810 to 820
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	740 to 750
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	710 to 720
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	730 to 740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	680 to 700
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	760 to 770
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	750 to 760
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	710 to 720
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	680 to 690
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	660 to 670
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	640 to 650
Kakedas—Extra	Nom. —
Kakedas—No. 1	710 to 720
Kakedas—No. 1½	680 to 690
Kakedas—No. 2	645 to 650
Kakedas—No. 2½	625 to 630
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom. —
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom. —
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 16th Feb., 1894.

Season	1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	16,713	15,678	13,533
America	13,163	24,801	23,940
Total { Bales	29,876	40,479	37,473
Total { Piculs	30,794	41,218	38,372
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	31,350	42,700	39,800
Stock, 16th Feb.	13,950	3,300	10,450
Available supplies to date	45,300	46,000	50,250

WASTE SILK.

There has again been a very small business in this branch, settlements for the week amounting to 133 piculs, divided thus; *Noshi*, 33 piculs; *Kibiso*, 100 piculs. Direct shipments are 40 bales of *Boseki wata*, weighing 60 piculs.

There has been very little done, consumers holding off. Holders do not seem inclined to reduce their prices very much and trade is consequently at a standstill.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the Canal steamer *Glenorchy*, 9th instant, taking 75 bales for Europe and the French mail steamer *Saghalien*, 11th instant, taking 212 bales various Wastes for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 19,379 piculs, against 30,468 piculs last year and 24,144 piculs to the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—Very trifling sales consisting of fair *Shinshu* at $95; medium *Filature*, $130 to $140. Nothing done in *Joshu* sorts this week.

Kibiso.—Moderate enquiry for *Filature*, prices ranging from $95 to $115 for the uncleaned stock. Beyond this nothing done except some ultra-common *Kibiso*, apparently sweepings, at $9.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	135 to 145
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	125 to 135
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	85 to 90
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to 110
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 16th Feb., 1894.

Season	1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	16,148	27,378	22,049
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,690	2,095
	19,379	30,468	24,144
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	21,450	35,700	26,500
Stock, 16th Feb.	17,750	6,600	11,050
Available supplies to date	39,200	42,300	37,550

Exchange after a short spurt has declined again and is now quoted as under:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/2⅛; Documents, 2/2¼; 6m/s. Credits, 2/2⅜. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $52½; 4m/s. U.S. $53¼. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.74; 6m/s. fcs. 2.76.

Estimated Silk Stock, 16th Feb., 1894.

Raw.	piculs.	Waste.	piculs.
Hanks	25	Cocoons	250
Filatures	8,020	Noshi-ito	8,580
Re-reels	4,365	Kibiso	8,440
Kakeda	1,480	Mawata	140
Oshu	25	Sundries	340
Tavsaam Kinds	35		
Total piculs	13,950	Total piculs	17,750

TEA.

Having been favoured by the late fall in Exchange, buyers have been picking up any desirable medium leaf left on the market. Arrivals are now falling off to very small proportions, and consequently there is but not much stock on offer. Quotations remain without change.

	per picul.
Common	$12 to 13
Good Common	14 to 15
Medium	17 to 18
Good Medium	19 to 20
Fine	22 to 23
Finest, Choice, Choicest	Nominal

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has again fluctuated and closes without much apparent stability as under:—

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/1¼
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/1⅛
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/2⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/2⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2.65
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.74
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	71¼
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72¼
On India—Bank sight	187
On India—Private 30 days' sight	190
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50⅝
On America—Private 30 days' sight	52¼
On America—Private 4 months' sight	53¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.16
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.24
Bar Silver (London)	29⅛

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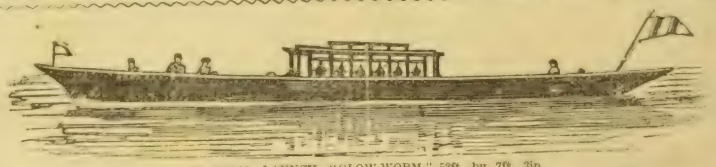
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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 24TH, 1894.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A MAN was burnt to death at Shiba, Tokyo, on the 20th inst.

SNOW fell during the early hours of Wednesday, but by mid-day not a trace was to be seen.

ONE hundred and seventy-one of the candidates for parliamentary honours belong to the *Jiyu-to*.

IN the foot-ball match on Saturday, H.M.S. *Caroline* was defeated by a local team by two goals to *nil*.

A GENERAL holiday has been proclaimed in all Government offices on the occasion of the Imperial Silver Wedding.

PROF. MILNE gave an instructive lecture on "Movements of the Earth's Crust" at a meeting of the Asiatic Society, held at the Public Hall, Yokohama, on Thursday evening.

THE Opposition Peers have sent another memorial to Count Ito, in answer to his reply to their first communication. It is signed by Prince Konoye and Viscount Tani only.

THE U.S.S. *Baltimore* has been docked at Yokosuka; the *Marion* has left for home; while the *Concord* has gone out for torpedo practice, thus leaving no U.S. Warship in harbour.

MR. OMURA WAKICHIRO, a Radical, has been expelled from the *Jiyu-to* on account of his contesting the Seventh District of Shizuoka against the official Radical candidate.

THE souvenirs of the Imperial Silver Wedding banquet will be silver cranes four inches high, while those guests attending the after-dinner entertainment will receive *bonboniéries* of silver in the form of tortoises standing on a rock.

TOLD has been discovered at Hitokuri-mura, Gamazukuri-gun, Miyagi Prefecture. Mr. Hirose, a well-known expert, has certified that one hundred *kwamme* (one *kwamme* = 10lb. Troy) of the ore obtained contains 3¾ *momme* (one *momme* = 58 grains) of pure gold.

FIFTEEN coolies and Mr. Sugimura, second officer of the *Sakata Maru*, lying wrecked near Fushigi, were drowned in the after tanks of that steamer through a breach in a leak suddenly bursting open.

A FARMER'S son who had been sent to collect some money in Yokohema last week, jumped from a train in motion on his return journey and was picked up in a dying condition near Tsurumi station. No notive can be assigned for his action.

MR. EDWARD MÜLLENDORFF, of the bankrupt firm of Pollett and Müllendorf, was brought up before the Belgian Minister and two Assessors on Monday last, and examined relative to his affairs. On Tuesday he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

A PLOT has been discovered in Korea to assassinate the King, Crown Prince, and Ministers of the Crown, together with the blowing-up by gunpowder of the Shrine of the Royal Ancestors. Many arrests have been made. The Tai-won-kun is said to be the instigator of the conspiracy.

A GOOD many election disturbances are reported from the provinces, the most severe being in the First Election District of Tochigi, where party rivalry runs high between the Hoshi and the Yokobori factions. A smart fight took place between *soshi* and *betto* in the Twelfth District of Tokyo on the 20th.

A JUNK which left Suma-mura, Osumi-gun, Kanagawa Prefecture, on the morning of the 15th inst. for Chiba, was upset by a sudden gale which sprung up when she about two *ri* from Nagai-mura, Miura District, the same day. The crew of four men were rescued by fishermen who were in the vicinity.

THE parents of Mr. Nemoto Sho, an *employé* in the Foreign Office, who recently returned from a tour of investigation in Mexico, will celebrate their golden wedding on the 25th inst. at their native place, Godai-mura, Naka District, Hitachi Province. They are the first venerable couple who have observed such a festival in this country.

A VERY shocking triple murder was committed at Negishi on Sunday morning, when a venerable priest and his acolyte were strangled to death, and a maidservant stabbed in many places, after the temple had been plundered. The murderers sought to cover their crime by setting the place on fire, but the wounded servant managed to raise an alarm, and the flames were put out. This woman died the next day from the effects of her injuries. Two arrests have been made.

A SOMEWHAT strong shock of earthquake was felt in Tokyo and Yokohama on the 20th inst. at 8h. 29m. 3s. a.m. It lasted for four minutes and twenty seconds. The direction was from east to west, the maximum horizontal motion being 5 1 milimètres in 1.6 second. The ground moved very slowly for the first 3m. 12s., after which the oscillations became considerably stronger, and about thirty seconds later the horizontal motion reached its maximum velocity. The shock was also experienced at Yokosuka, Utsunomiya, Niigata, Nagoya, Sakai and Fukushima about the same time.

MR. JOHN BURNS speaking at Battersea on the subject of the recent action of the House of Lords *re* the Parish Councils Bill, urged that no surrender should be made. A country which had beheaded Charles I. would stand no veto of the Queen recommended by Lord Salisbury. When the House of Commons met on the 14th it was announced that fifty officers and nine hundred men of the Royal Naval Reserve had been drafted into the Navy to supply the deficiency in the *personnel*. According to a statement in *The Times*, Lord Kimberley is determined that until the closing of the Indian Mints has been fairly tried, a resolution of the House of Commons alone would not induce the Government to re-open them. The Indian Government has resolved to adhere to the selling of Council Bills weekly at market rates and not to consent to an import duty on silver, with a view to supporting the value of the rupee. The House of Commons, by a majority of two, has accepted the amendment made by the House of Lords in the contracting-out clause of the Employers Liability Bill, with the further amendment limiting the operation of the clause to three years. The House of Lords, however, has reinstated the Contracting-out Amendment as they originally drafted it and it is believed that the Government will now drop the Bill. The statement made last week that the House of Lords had passed the Parish Councils Bill, was premature; the Bill was only read a third time. On the 15th the Bill, greatly amended, was carried through, thus requiring a return to the Commons. The Government is determined to reject the amendments. A French official dispatch regarding the latest collision near Sierra Leone, explains that English frontier police occupied a village in the possession of the French and tried to impress the villagers for the purpose of making roads. A serious hitch has occurred in the negotiations between Russia and China regarding the Pamirs, and a satisfactory conclusion of the difficulty is considered improbable.

THE steady downward fall of exchange is hampering the Import trade more seriously than ever. Early in the week buyers, fearing another rise in price, took a few hundred bales of Yarn, and rates went up as much as $1.50 in 42's two-fold. But the rush was only transient, and everything is now dead quiet again. In Shirtings and T. Cloth, nothing has been done, and holders have raised their prices again to compensate for the fall in silver values. The same tale must be told of Metals, the out-look, perhaps, in this line, being even more discouraging. Stocks of Kerosene have been greatly augmented through the arrival of another American ship, but holders are still resolved upon top prices. Sugars remain active, although demand for China and Manila Browns has fallen off slightly, causing a decline in prices, but contracts for Takao, "to arrive," are being freely made at somewhat higher rates. A fair amount of Leaf has changed hands, exchange being in favour of purchasers, but prices practically show no change. The decline in Silver has not helped silkmen much, for holders will not budge, and, indeed, talk of putting up prices again. One or two shippers, however, have been making enquiries for Raw Silk suitable for the American market, and several parcels have been accepted at full prices. There has not been much doing in fine-sized Filatures for Europe, although holders have been more current this week. Taken altogether the outlook does not seem very promising, the stock being some 11,000 piculs heavier than this time last year, and there is little inclination to buy, while every day brings us nearer to the Spring reelings. The tone of the Waste Silk market is rather weaker, but there is only a very limited demand just at present. Exchange is far from steady and closes with irregular rates.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

(For the Week ending Feb. 17.)

The Premier's reply to the thirty-eight members of the Upper House on the subject of the dissolution of the House of Representatives has formed the principal topic of discussion in the vernacular press during the present week. Journalistic comments on the subject have already been separately noticed. The attitude of the majority of the papers was a foregone conclusion; it had been known from the first that they would severely criticise the Cabinet's declaration. But the fact is noteworthy that the metropolitan journals have evidently found it a very difficult task to controvert the conclusive arguments contained in the document. The utmost they can do is to turn the tables and in general terms charge the Cabinet with having shown little disposition to deal with the House of Representatives frankly and candidly. Meanwhile, the recipients of the document are understood to be determined to address another communication to the Minister President, who, in their opinion, has entirely mistaken the general purport of their first letter to him. We shall, therefore, hear more on the subject in the course of the next few weeks.

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A certain section of the metropolitan press persists in circulating the rumour that Mr. Fukuzawa Yukichi has entered into a secret agreement with the Cabinet. Some papers even state that on the occasion of Their Majesties' Silver Wedding, Mr. Fukuzawa will be raised to the peerage with the title of Count. That seems to be a pure fabrication. A man who has so repeatedly and positively avowed his disapproval of the creation of new Peers can scarcely accept a patent of nobility himself. The report that there exists a secret understanding between him and the Cabinet is also understood to be baseless. It emanates from politicans who are alarmed at the fearless manner in which Mr. Fukuzawa's organ is using its vast influence in favour of the Government's enlightened foreign policy. During the past ten years or more, Mr. Fukuzawa has consistently and fearlessly contended against the reactionary tendency in the national mind on the subject of foreign affairs. He now sees with delight that the Government is determind to pursue its progressive foreign policy in spite of all difficulties and dangers. He is, therefore, giving independent support to the Government through the columns of his paper, in so far as relates to foreign affairs. Such, in our opinion, seems to be the most rational interpretation of Mr. Fukuzawa's present situation. It is, however, to be perhaps regretted that the *Jiji Shimpō*, with its usual contempt for the idle talk of interested politicians, has taken no step to contradict the rumours now assiduously circulated concerning the position of its proprietor and editor-in chief. Its silence is artfully adduced by these persons in confirmation of their assertions. Whatever may be the editor's connection with those in power, it is highly interesting and important to know his ideas on the present situation. We will, then, briefly refer below to several important articles which have appeared in the *Jiji's* columns during the present week.

* * *

Concerning the aspirations of the Opposition politicians to demolish clan Government, the *Jiji Shimpo* earnestly asks them to consider whether it is not injurious to the country to proceed as they are proceeding. Nothing is to be said against their object of introducing a system of Government by Party, for our contemporary itself is of opinion that, a liberal constitution having come into operation, the introduction of such a system is unavoidable sooner or later. But it thinks that the young politicians of the Opposition, though well informed, perhaps, and rich in parts, have not yet succeeded in winning the people's confidence sufficiently to form an effective Government. Nay more, the rash and imprudent steps they have thus far taken have made not a few men of sense and judgment regret the granting of the Constitution. They may believe that the cherished object of their political ambition—the introduction of Party Government—is already in sight; but the *Jiji* frankly assures them that, in the present state of things, there is little hope for the realization of their aspiration at an early date. Imagining for an instant, that they had succeeded in pulling down the Clan Government, are they in a position to form a Cabinet? Divided among themselves and enjoying little of the people's confidence, the task would be more than ordinarily difficult, if not absolutely impossible. The common desire of all the Parties to get into power may perhaps induce them to form a sort of Coalition Cabinet. But such a Cabinet would not stand a day. First of all, it would have no authority to control the Army and the Navy, and it would lack that unity among its members which is absolutely essential to the effective conduct of the Administration. The *Jiji* has no personal objection to seeing these persons in power, neither has it any interest in the continuance of the older statesmen in office. Its object is simply to have a strong and capable Government. For the present, therefore, the younger politicians are advised to curb their ardent spirits and wait patiently until the time shall naturally ripen for their coming to the helm of State. The best they can do to hasten the advent of that time is, in the *Jiji's* opinion, to secure the entrance into the Cabinet of their aged leaders who, on account of their past services to the State, still enjoy more or less popular confidence. In other words, the *Jiji* recommends the formation of a Coalition Cabinet between the elder statesmen now in office and some of those at the head of political parties. Turning to the members of the Cabinet, our contemporary asks them what policy they have adopted for the future? They have dissolved the old House of Representatives, but how are they going to manage the new one? There are a set of men in the ranks of officialdom who advocate a high-handed policy, and who recommend the dissolution of House after House of Representatives until a majority favourable to the Government is obtained. But such a course of action is not practicable, and the Ministry must think of a more feasible plan to carry them through the coming struggle. In our contemporary's opinion, the only statesmanlike policy is to form a definite alliance with some of the political parties. The method of *chōzen* (standing aloof from all parties) looks pretty enough on paper, but is not practical. If they really meant to pursue such a policy, they ought not to have advised the Emperor to grant such a liberal Constitution to his subjects. A Diet modelled somewhat on the lines of a Local Assembly would have answered the purpose exactly. But having given such large powers to the people, it is idle to talk of preventing them from aspiring to a share in the actual conduct of public affairs. In the *Jiji's* opinion, the cries for a so-called Responsible Cabinet are destined to grow stronger and stronger, until the object sought is attained, whether those in office like it or not. The elder statesmen now in power are therefore earnestly advised to combine with some political parties and secure a working majority in the coming House of Representatives. They will then have a free hand to settle the question of Treaty Revision according to their pleasure and discretion. There is a tendency among the parties, as well as in officialdom, for men to gravitate into two large groups, those, namely, who favour a conservative and militant policy and those bent upon a progressive policy. Thus our contemporary is not without hopes of seeing the political world ultimately divided into two definite camps. Taking advantage of such a tendency, the members of the present Cabinet are advised to lead the way to the smooth introduction of Government by Party.

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The *Kokkai* thinks differently from the *Jiji*. It apparently has no confidence in the statesmen of the elder generation. They have had their day, and it is now high time for them to retire from a field where their presence only makes confusion. The hour has come—such is the hopeful tone in which our contemporary writes—for the energetic and ambitious spirits of the younger generation to take into their hands the direction of State affairs. Many hopes had been founded upon a Cabinet presided over by the statesman who has constituted himself guardian of the Constitution. But those hopes have been completely disappointed by the singular incapacity of the present Ministers to cope with the requirements of the juncture. On the other hand, where are their successors to be found? Our contemporary bitterly denounces the false-hearted and self-seeking Progressionists, and is disgusted with "the corrupt Radicals." But it says that there are plenty of able men in the younger generation. Is it, then, among the National Unionists that the *Kokkai* proposes to find new statesmen for Japan? It may perhaps have in its mind a group of politicians—including no doubt its own editor—who denounce the Government as well as all the existing parties, but who have nothing to entitle them to take the place of the men they condemn.

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The *Mainichi Shimbun* protests against the injustice of denouncing the advocates of Strict Treaty Enforcement as men actuated by an anti-foreign spirit. "We are," says our contemporary, "at least as enthusiastic as the Government in promoting the enlightened policy of opening the country. But we are at the same time aware that, unless the sovereign rights now remaining to Japan be rigidly and jealously guarded and exercised, it will be impossible to curb foreigners' arrogance and assumption of superiority, when they are permitted to enjoy further privileges. That is the reason why we insist on the enforcement of the existing treaties as well as on their speedy revision. In demanding such a course, we have in view only the furtherance of the right of the country and the interests of the people."

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The *Jiyu Shimbun* has much to say against the inconsistency of the Progressionist Party in joining the present movement for Strict Enforcement of the Treaties. In spite of all that the *Mainichi* and other Progressionist organs say to the contrary, this movement is but a manifestation, under a different aspect, of the anti-Mixed Residence agitation. The Progressionists did everything in their power to assist Count Okuma to conclude imperfect treaties, under which the country was to have been thrown open to foreigners with little reservation. But they are now working in concert with men opposed to Mixed Residence, because they value their party interests more than the interests of the country. The Radical organ is convinced that the people no longer repose their confidence in such selfish politicians.

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The Opposition papers have begun to publish rumours about alleged partiality on the part of local authorities in carrying out laws and regulations relating to elections. Cases of violation of these enactments were lately reported from some localities. These incidents of rumoured official activity furnish occasions for the Opposition papers to vent their feelings against the Government.

(For the Week ending Feb. 25.)

The election drawing near, various estimates are formed as to the probable complexion of the next House of Representatives. Naturally they differ according to the personal equation of each prophet. But most people seem to agree that the Radicals and Progressionists will preserve nearly the same relative strength in the new House as they had in the old, though each receiving an increase of a few members. The National Unionists, it is believed, will suffer a considerable diminution of numbers, while the *Doshi* Club and the *Domei* Club will probably remain much as they were in the last House. Such at present seems to be the estimates most generally received in the capital. There are, however, men apparently well informed and trustworthy, who entertain san-

guine hopes for the return of the Radicals, if not in an absolute majority, at least in numbers sufficient to secure such a majority in combination with some neutral or independent members. Already more than 200 Radical candidates are competing in all parts of the country, and more, it is said, will yet appear in the field. But mere numerical strength of candidates furnishes no indication of success at the polls.

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As was expected, some papers have already begun to complain of official interference in elections. The *Chu-o Shimbun* is the loudest of these. It is a strange circumstance that the acknowledged organ of a Party generally supposed to owe its existence to official interference, should now make the greatest noise about precisely that abuse. But the *Chu-o* has special reasons for stirring up this question, because its editor and proprietor, Mr. Ooka Ikuzo, is reported to be fighting a forlorn battle with an antagonist in Yamaguchi. In that locality the doctrine of Strict Enforcement of the Treaties is stated to be very unpopular, and naturally little favour is shown to one of its most energetic advocates. The Minister of Home Affairs and the Governor of Yamaguchi as well as other influential officials of the locality are charged with having conspired to prejudice the people against Mr. Ooka. But his paper has thus far failed to produce any facts in support of its allegations.

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The second communication which some members of the Upper House have addressed to the Minister President of State on the subject of the dissolution of the House of Representatives, has attracted considerable journalistic attention. The Opposition papers are naturally glad to see their cause so enthusiastically espoused by a section of the Peers. They consequently find little to take exception to in the document. Indeed, the communication of the Peers, as the *Nichi Nichi* has remarked, may be regarded as a recapitulation of the arguments advanced on the same subject by these papers, especially those belonging to the Progressionist Party. There is a rumour, as we have already noticed, that the members of the Upper House who took part in the presentation of their document were under the influence of the leader of the Progressionist Party. Whether the story is true or not, it is certain that the leaders of the Opposition, most of all Count Okuma, have keenly felt the danger of suffering the Premier's recent reply to the Peers to pass unchallenged. Unfortunately the second communication of the Peers is not such as to do much service to the cause of the Opposition. We must also notice another rumour concerning this affair. It is that, though the Cabinet was at first inclined to make no declaration of the reasons for dissolution, it afterwards found out the mistake of such a course; that, being consequently desirous of procuring an opportunity to make the required declaration, it caused some of its adherents in the Upper House to instigate the simple-minded members of that House to address a communication to the Premier demanding an explanation of the dissolution; and that these instigators have since received official appointments in recognition of their services. The report is assiduously circulated by the Progressionist papers. It is not difficult to perceive its absurdity. The *Kaishin-to* organs pay a poor compliment to the intelligence of the Peers who are doing their utmost to promote the interests of the Opposition.

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It is not necessary to refer to the articles that have appeared on this subject, for they are in the main mere repititions of what has already been written. We may notice, however, that the indiscreet language used by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* when commenting on the Peers' communication, has called forth several angry articles from the Opposition papers, whose irritation under the circumstances is only natural.

* * *

A vague impression seems to exist in the public mind that negotiations for Revision of the Treaties are making rapid progress. The *Jiji Shimpo*, alluding to this idea, observes that, although it is not disposed to place confidence in mere rumours, the present impression looks probable enough in view of the general aspect of affairs. Whatever may be the state of feeling in the country, there seems to be little doubt that foreign Powers are very favourably disposed towards Japan in relation to the question of Treaty Revision. If, then, the Japanese take up the matter in earnest, there need not be much difficulty in accomplishing the nation's long cherished object. Such a favourable opportunity must not be lost by the Government, especially as it has avowedly made itself responsible for the progressive policy of opening the country. That the statesmen in power have assumed an air of decision about their foreign policy is, in the opinion of the *Jiji*, presumptive evidence that they have confidence in their ability to carry to a happy solution the long discussed problem. There is, however, one thing which the Tokyo journal wishes particularly to bring to the notice of the Government. It is that, unfortunately, circumstances have made Japanese statesmen very jealous about the question of Treaty Revision. Let it once be known that an issue is within sight, and there will instantly be set up a powerful agitation against the Government on one ground or another as past experience painfully indicates. Consequently, the Cabinet is advised by the *Jiji* to preserve strict secrecy, and not to announce the fact to the nation until after accomplishment. When this question has been satisfactorily disposed of, the present Ministers of State are recommended to retire from office. Such a step is, in the *Jiji's* opinion, advisable for the sake not only of their own personal interest but also of the country's good. Should they, after the event, continue in office, they will become objects of intense hatred to a certain class of men, and the fact may even lead to a disturbance of national tranquillity.

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In another article, the *Jiji* attempts to make a forecast of the results likely to follow Treaty Revision. In its opinion, the event will not entail such great changes as many people seem to believe. Trade, for instance, will continue to centre in the open ports, for example, Yokohama and Kobe. As to manufacturing and mining industries, some persons imagine that foreigners will enter into competition with the Japanese in these fields; but the *Jiji* has no such fear. For the interest of money—the principal point with regard to which the Japanese have hitherto stood at a grave disadvantage as compared with foreigners—has gradually fallen to about four or five per cent. per annum. In point of technical skill, too, the Japanese have nothing to apprehend from foreigners, while in the tractable disposition of workmen and in cheapness of labour, the capitalists of this country have a clear advantage over their foreign competitors. Our contemporary seems to forget that the benefit of low wages and of the gentle character of workmen are equally within reach of foreign employers of labour in Japan. The *Jiji* then remarks that, although it is not known whether the privilege of owning real estate will be granted to foreigners, no evil result could follow such a concession. For foreigners would be deterred from acquiring land in the interior by exactly the same considerations that make capitalists in Tokyo unwilling to invest money in land in far off country districts. Possibly some foreign merchants might establish themselves in the larger business centres, as Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, and so forth; and the number of foreign travellers in the interior would doubtless increase. But these would probably be the only perceptible results of Treaty Revision.

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Much noise is made by the Progressionist papers about the transfer of Judge Chitani from the Court of Cassation to the Local Court of Nawa in Okinawa. Judge Chitani was not previously consulted on the matter by the Minister of State for Justice. Consequently when he received the order to proceed to Okinawa, he refused to do so, in virtue of the 73rd Article of the Law of the Constitution of the Court of Justice, where it is provided:—"Subject to the provisions of Articles 74 and 75, a Judge shall not, against his will, be either transferred from one Court to another, or removed from one office to another in the same Court, or dismissed, or have his salary lowered, unless it be by virtue of criminal sentence or a disciplinary judgment. But a Judge may be transferred from one Court to another regardless of the above provision, either when he happens to be on the Reserve List, or in case it is necessary to fill a vacancy." The Judicial Department holds that Judge Chitani's case comes within the purview of the second clause of this Article, for the President of the Nawa Local Court having been transferred to Oita, there was a necessity to fill the vacancy thus occasioned. But the Progressionist organs think otherwise. They argue that, if transfer from one Court to another, even against the will of the Judge concerned, be permissible in case of a vacancy caused by the removal of the former occupant of an office, the guaranty provided in the first clause of the Article which we have quoted amounts to nothing. The object of the guaranty is to give security to Judges, but if they can be removed after the manner adopted in Judge Chitani's case, then the Minister of Justice always has it in his power to transfer to a remote corner of the Empire any Judges that may be objects of his dislike. Cases, therefore, say these papers, in which the transfer of a Judge may be ordered, even against his will, must be limited to vacancies caused by unavoidable circumstances, such as death, dismissal, resignation and so forth. These papers warn the Government, that unless the mistake be corrected, or the functionaries responsible for it be properly dealt with, the matter will form a subject of discussion in the next session of the Diet.

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The competition between the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company on the Bombay route receives considerable attention from the Tokyo papers. They unite in urging the Japanese spinning companies to stand stoutly by the Yusen Kaisha. Strong appeals are made to their patriotism, their public spirit, and their interest, to reject the tempting offers of the English Steamship Company. Some papers also state that, if necessity arise, State aid should be given to the Yusen Kaisha in order to enable it to maintain the new service to India, for upon the success of that enterprise depends, in a large measure, the further development of the country's carrying trade.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE SILVER WEDDING.

THE programme for the 9th proximo appears to be pretty definitely fixed. In the forenoon their Majesties will grant audience in the Palace to Princes of the Blood, Ministers of State, members of the First Order of nobility, the the Foreign Representatives, and all Japanese holding First Class Decorations of Japanese Orders. These represent a comparatively limited number, but the list is understood to have been purposely restricted so that the duration of the Reception may be brought within reasonable limits. In the afternoon there will be a review of all the troops in the Tokyo Garrison on the Aoyama Parade Ground, and in the evening a great number of persons are to dine at the Palace. Those honoured with invitations to dinner will be much more numerous than those entitled to attend the levée in the morning, but as to the exact composition of the guests, we cannot speak with certainty. Their number will be between six and seven hundred, including some seventy ladies, and the party will be increased after dinner by a further list of invitations bearing among others the names of the Government's foreign employés holding *chokunin* rank, as well as those of Secretaries of Legation. The arrangements for the entertainment after dinner will, it is understood, be identical with those made on the occasion of the Promulgation of the Constitution.

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We need scarcely say that no one room in

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the Palace is sufficiently spacious to dine 600 persons. It will be necessary to divide the guests among at least four rooms. The Throne Room in the Palace will accomodate fully 120 diners with ease. It could be made to accomodate more, but as the table in this room will be presided over by Their Majesties in person, anything like a crush will of course be avoided. Those not privileged to sit at the Emperor's table will be distributed in three other rooms, two in the Palace proper and one in the Akasaka Palace. At the first of these three tables Their Imperial Highness Prince and Princess Komatsu will preside; at the second, Prince and Princess Arisugawa Takehito, and at the third, Prince and Princess Kanin. The diners at the Palace will receive a more than usually beautiful souvenir of the occasion, a *bonbonnière* of silver in the form of a rock surmounted by a crane, the whole standing nearly five inches high. Guests invited to the after-dinner part of the entertainment will not be so fortunate, though their souvenir also will doubtless be worthy of the occasion.

* * *

The lighting of the Palace on the evening of the 9th will be quite an undertaking. Originally the rooms were fitted with electric lights, and the magnificent electroliers constituted quite a feature of their internal decoration. But it appears that the installation, though superintended by a foreign expert was more or less defective from the first, and complete confidence in immunity from fire has never been felt. After the destruction of the Diet buildings by fire, which catastrophe was generally attributed to the electric lighting, the Emperor conceived a dislike and distrust of that method of illumination, and that fact coming to supplement the uneasiness already felt about the security of the installation settled the doom of the whole affair. Ever since then, candles have been employed and an idea of what that means on an occasion like that of the 9th proximo may be gathered when we say that in the Throne Room and the broad corridor surrounding it on three sides, no less than a thousand candles will have to be lit. Altogether some five thousand candles will be burning in the Palace on the night of the 9th. There have already, we understand, been lighting rehearsals, a precaution abundantly necessary when the character of the undertaking is considered. It would be interesting to know how much money will flow into the pockets of purveyors, chandlers, decorators, wine-merchants, and so forth on this memorable occasion, but of course the Imperial ledgers will never be opened to public gaze. We imagine that there has already been a considerable flutter amongst the Tokyo milliners and tailors, for ever since the fatal edict of 1886, it is *de rigueur* for ladies visiting the Palace to wear Western costume, and doubtless the seventy or eighty distinguished dames and demoiselles who will have the privilege of being present on the 9th will conform with this unhappy custom.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL AND THE SILVER WEDDING.

THE number of silver cranes that will be called into existence by the ceremony of the 9th proximo may be worth counting hereafter when curious statisticians come to write an account of the celebration. Silken-tailed tortoises and softly plumaged cranes have been from time immemorial emblems of longevity and felicity in Japan, so that their appearance on all the objects of art specially constructed for the Silver Wedding is natural. The 600 guests at the Imperial banquet are to have silver cranes on silver rocks as mementos of the occasion, and we now read in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that a similar design is to be adopted for the Crown Prince's gift to his Imperial parents. There will be a difference in size, however, for the silver cranes of the Prince are to stand two feet high, whereas those of the banquet souvenir will measure only four inches. Speaking more precisely, the Prince's present will consist of two groups, namely, two cranes standing on a rock, and two tortoises mounted in the same way. The well-known artist, Mr. Ito Katsumi has been entrusted with the chiselling of these objects and the wax moulds in which the first castings are to be made have already been completed. Our contemporary does not state the name of the painter from whose drawing the glyptic model has been taken, though that is certainly one of the most important and interesting points.

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In speaking of the souvenirs to be presented to guests at the Palace on the evening of the 9th, those for the banquet *invités* will be as stated above, storks on rocks. Reading the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* notes, we infer that the after-dinner guests will receive *bonbonnières* in the shape of tortoises, for our contemporary says that from four to five hundred have been ordered. We are glad to see that this commission has been given to Mr. Suzuki Chokichi, whose admirable work on the Twelve Falcons for the Chicago Exhibition attracted so much well-deserved attention.

THE KWANTO TEA ASSOCIATION.

THE Kwanto Tea Association—our readers will remember that the Kwanto, Kwansei, and Kiushu Associations have combined to form one great guild—is to have its central office in Yokohama, and will send agents abroad for the purpose of "extending the market for Japanese tea." From this we infer that the members of the Association have undertaken the pursuit of that *ignis fatuus*, direct export. We recommend them to pause. Every Japanese who has hitherto essayed that experiment did but serve to illustrate the familiar fable of the man that went out for wool and came home shorn. The tea trade, too, of all businesses, is least capable of being successfully exploited by amateurs. There is not the slightest chance for Japanese in such work unless they act in cöoperation with foreigners. The time may come, probably will come, when they will be able to dispense with all extraneous aid, but for the present nothing of the kind is possible without heavy loss.

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE Codes Investigation Committee held a general meeting on the 16th instant, when they carried the consideration of the Civil Code as far as Article 85 of the General Provisions. The mode on which the work of revision is conducted is as follows:—Professors Tomii, Hozumi, and Ume are charged with the task of drawing up such changes as they deem proper in the various articles. These amendments are then carefully considered by a section of the Committee, consisting of the above mentioned Professors and a few other legal experts. The results of their deliberation are finally laid before a general meeting of the Committee which is convened from time to time as the work of the special revisers above alluded to progresses. Hitherto the revision has not progressed very speedily, because a considerable time has been consumed by the these Professors in considering the broad aspects of the Codes. But the general subjects having already been disposed of, it is believed that the work will go on much more rapidly. The special experts' meeting will no longer be held only once a week, but twice. Even at this increased rate of progress, however, it is thought impossible to complete the work within the stated period, that is three years, ending some time in 1896.

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Count Oki, former Minister of Education, is leading a very retired life, but he does not seem to have entirely turned his back on politics. Some time ago, if we may believe a very extensively circulated rumour, there was a scheme to have him appointed leader of the National Unionist Party, and, through his influence, to effect an alliance between that Party and the Progressionists. We do not know that Count Oki and Count Okuma are on particularly intimate terms, but as they belong to the same clan of Saga, they are doubtless friendly to each other. By whom the above scheme was primarily devised, it is not very accurately known, though rumour points to the leader of the Progressionist Party. However that may be, the project did not succeed, Viscount Shinagawa being, it is said, positively opposed to any alliance with the *Kaishin-to*.

* * *

Count Oki does not appear to be well affected towards the present Cabinet. Recently he expressed his views on various current topics to a representative of the *Kokkai*. When asked his opinion about the doctrine of Treaty Enforcement, he is said to have observed that, as he had not yet read the Representation introduced in the House of Representatives on this subject, he could not say whether or not he approved all the arguments put forth in that document. But he did not hesitate to endorse the principle of Strict Enforcement of the Treaties. At the same time, he thought it absurd to make so much fuss about the possession of land by foreigners in the names of Japanese subjects; for the right of ownership being legally in the hands of these Japanese, nothing disadvantageous to the country could result from the practice. On the question of Mixed Residence, the Count does not seem to have expressed himself very clearly. He evaded a direct answer by saying that it is not necessary to discuss whether or not the time is ripe to throw open the interior for Mixed Residence. His retirement from office seems to have converted him into an advocate of an heroic foreign policy. Strongly blaming the negligence of the Government on the question of Treaty Revision, which still remains unsettled, he urges the Cabinet to approach the Powers with a demand for revision on a basis of absolute equality, and should that demand be refused, to adopt a resolute course of action. The old Count states that, in such a case, he would head an anti-foreign movement himself, and give foreign nations proofs of the courage possessed by the Japanese. Lastly, commenting upon Count Ito's reply to the thirty-eight members of the Upper House on the subject of the dissolution of the Lower House, he thinks that the Premier has shown by that document that he has not courage to face difficulties. Count Oki does not give any reason for this extraordinary assertion; neither would it have been easy for him to do so.

THE "YOSHINO KAN."

THE *Singapore Free Press* in noting the arrival in the Singapore roadstead of the *Yoshino Kan*, Japan's latest addition to her navy, says that after leaving Newcastle the cruiser called at Plymouth, Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, and Aden, leaving the latter port for Bombay on the 8th January, where she took part in the reception of the new Viceroy of India on the 21st ult. Fine weather was experienced throughout the voyage, and the health of the crew is good. In addition to her complement of seamen and officers, the *Yoshino* boasts of a Japanese mastiff, the largest dog, so a visitor to the vessel informed an Indian paper, he ever saw or heard of, which patrols the bridge with the officer on duty, and which is most useful in keeping away from the vessel the hawkers and riff raff who usually infest steamers visiting the harbour. The *Yoshino Kan* is expected to arrive in Yokohama on the 5th prox.

THE JAPAN SUGAR MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

SOME Osaka merchants have formed an Association, the avowed object of which is to make Japan self-supplying in the matter of sugar, and thus put an end to the import of that staple from abroad. The vernacular press says that they have taken advantage of the general meeting of cotton spinners in Osaka to obtain support for their scheme, and that the enterprise is now to be finally lodged with a capital of a million *yen*. The items of the programme are these:—(1) The Company is to be joint stock. (2) In the first year of the enterprise nine thousand tons of white sugar are to be manufactured which amount will be subsequently increased. (3) A suitable site for the factory shall be chosen between Hyogo and Osaka, and subsequently a

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second factory shall be established between Tokyo and Yokohama. (4) The Company shall start with a capital of a million *yen* to be subsequenrly increased if necessary. The shares shall be fifty *yen* each. (5) The capital shall be raised in Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, and Hyogo. (6) The promoters shall take half the shares. (7) The machinery shall be obtained from a competent firm in either England or Germany, from which firm an expert also shall be employed. Provided that this expert shall, in addition to his salary, receive a share of the profits in order to incite him to exertion. (8) A suitable person shall be sent abroad to purchase the machinery, and shall be commissioned at the same time to enquire into the business.

ELECTION ITEMS.

AT present the situation is so uncertain that nobody is bold enough to make any forecast about the results of the coming election. Competition is very keen between the various political parties, and, in some cases, even among members of the same party, which is especially true of the Radicals. In an election district in Nagano, as many as three Radicals contest the seat. The matter having been referred to the head-quarters of the Party, Mr. Kono Hironaka, at once went down to the district to effect an amicable arrangement between the contending candidates. But even his authority having failed to bring them to reason, the leader of the Party, Count Itagaki, had to decide that his Party would support the candidacy of Mr. Tatekawa Umpei, the well-known ex-M.P. The two other rivals then either seceded or were expelled from the Party. Similar instances have occurred in several other localities. Speaking of the Radical Party, we may observe that it is making gigantic exertions to secure a working majority in the coming House of Representatives. The candidates openly avowed by the party already number nearly 180, and are daily increasing, so that we may expect to see more than 200 Radicals in the field by the end of the present month. Count Itagaki and Mr. Kono Hironaka are separately making lecture tours in various parts of the country, paying particular attention to localities where the candidates of their Party have to contend against formidable rivals. If success be at all commensurate with zeal, the Party ought to obtain a large increase of strength in the new House of Representatives.

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The other parties fall far behind the Radicals in the number of their candidates. According to the most trustworthy authority, the following figures are said to be nearest to the truth; Progressionist candidates, 90; National Unionist, 80; *Domei* Club, 26 or 27; *Doshi* Club, 25; and *Seimu Chosajo*, 18. In the case of these parties, the candidates are left to fight their battles unaided, their leaders being apparently occupied with their own affairs or confident of success.

* * *

The Government is taking active steps to prevent resort to violence, and other unlawful proceedings at the elections. Preparations have been completed for despatching gensdarmes to any locality at the request of the Governor. In extreme cases, the troops will be called out. Moreover, an Imperial Ordinance is said to be ready for promulgation, strictly prohibiting the carrying of all sorts of weapons, including sword canes, at the time of the election.

* * *

Mr. Kawashima Jun, a leading member of the *Domei* Club, is fighting a hard contest with Mr. Niino Kikujiro, the second son of the great Saigo. The family name of Niino, it seems, has been assumed by the young man to obtain the necessary qualifications for candidature. The family of Niino is very illustrious, having always occupied the first place among the hereditary retainers of Shimazu, and it still enjoys high prestige in the district. Hence the influence of his adopted family and the popularity of his illustrious father, have, it is reported, secured for him a large number of followers. At present the chances are said to be evenly divided between the rival candidates.

* * *

Mr. Hoshi Toru is the object of insatiable hatred on the part of the *Doshi* Club, which, as our readers may remember, consists of seceders from the Radical Party whose disloyal conduct gave his enemies the opportunity of expelling him from the House of Representatives. The Club is said to have recently despatched spies to Tochigi to watch the movements of Mr. Hoshi and his agents. Their object is to obtain materials for disputing his election in case he obtains a majority, which, by the way, seems to be a foregone conclusion.

* * *

Mr. Murayama Ryuhei, the well known proprietor of the *Osaka Asahi*, the *Tokyo Asahi*, and the *Kokkai*, at first declined to stand in the coming election. But the inhabitants of the constituency which he represented in the late House of Representatives having repeatedly begged him to give his services once more, he has at last consented to comply with their wish, and is reported to be meeting with little opposition. Mr. Maruyama is the first man who has demonstrated the possibility of making money out of newspapers. The *Osaka Asahi* now boasts a circulation of as much as 80.000 copies per day, while the *Tokyo Asahi* claims more than one half that number,—a previously unheard of circulation in Japanese journalism. Unhappily, his papers are devoted to propagating the misleading doctrine of, Strict Treaty Enforcement, Mr. Takahashi Kenzo being chief editor of the *Osaka Asahi*.

* * *

Mr. Shimada Saburo, who represented Yokohama in the past two Diets, has now very slender hopes of success on the 1st of March. His adherence to the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement has alienated many of his former partisans, and his rival candidate, Mr. Kimura, is said to be more popular than he. Mr. Shimada, seeing the number of his partisans daily decreasing, has endeavoured to recover popularity by declaring his willingness to support the transfer of prison expenditures from the charge of the localities to that of the Treasury, —a measure to which the Progressionist Party stoutly objected in past sessions of the Diet. His example has been followed by some other members of the same Party who are competing in the capital. This circumstance has called forth well merited strictures from the *Keizai Zasshi*. The Progressionists, say that periodical, have now committed themselves to as many as eight fiscal reforms, which would altogether require an annual outlay of more than 14 million *yen*. Where is the money to come from? "How convenient are their tongues, and how accommodating their opinions!"

* * *

It will be a great relief to all well-wishers of Japan to learn that the next House of Representatives is likely to be rid of Messrs. Hasegawa Tai and Shimizu Bunjiro. There seems, however, to be little hope of the overthrow of Mr. Tanaka Shozo, the third and worst of the disgraceful triumvirate. He is a very popular figure in his district in Tochigi. The straightforward and stout old gentleman, Mr. Awaya Shinazo, of Osaka, has, we are glad to say, every chance of being returned to the new House.

THE PRESS AND THE LAW.

WHEN the trial of the Soma case recently commenced, the Tokyo newspapers began to publish the affidavits sworn at the preliminary investigation. On the same day the nominal editors, summoned to the office of the Public Procurator of the Tokyo Local Court, were informed that the publication of such matter was a violation of the Press Regulations, and that legal proceedings would be instituted against their journals. All refrained from further publication except the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which journal, having its own doubts about the Public Procurator's ruling, and having also the courage of its opinions, went on publishing the affidavits as before. Leave to open proceedings against it was therefore duly sought, but refused, the Judges holding that the Press Regulations did not apply. Two days were expended in making this discovery, and at the end of that time the editors were informed that the previous injunction had been withdrawn. Of course they were very indignant, especially the *Kokkai*, which has much to say on the subject. Such mistakes ought surely to be avoidable.

THE INUNDATIONS IN OKAYAMA PREFECTURE.

WE have received the following letter:—

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a sum of two hundred and forty-three *yen*, collected by you and forwarded through the Kishida Bank of Tokyo to be used for the relief of sufferers by the inundations in Okayama Prefecture in October of last year. I desire to express my heartfelt thanks to the charitable persons who subscribed the money, and to you, Sir, who took so much trouble to collect it. The gratitude of the persons relieved by this bounty is very great.

I am, Sir, &c.,

(Signed) CHIZAKA TAKAMASA,
Governor of Okayama.

January 17th, 1894.

This letter appears to have been more than a month *en route* from Okayama to our office. We are unable to account for the delay.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

THE annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Japan was held on the 17th inst. in the Bank Chambers, among those present being Mr. Shirane, Treasurer of the Imperial Household Department; Mr. Tajiri, Vice-Minister of State for Finance; and Mr. Matsuo, Superintendent of the Bank. The chair was occupied by Mr. Kawada, President of the Bank, and the accounts for the half-year just ended were read, as follow, and passed without objection:—

	Yen.
Total Income for the Half Year	1,420,146.651
Total Losses	392,630.316
Balance, Net Profit	1,009.516 335
Brought forward foom Last Account	110.575 211
Total	1,120,091.546
To regular dividend (6 per cent. per annum)	300,000.000
To Reserves	120,000.000
Rewards to Officers, &c.	70,000.000
To Second Dividends (9 per cent. per annum)	450,000.000
Balance, carried forward to Next Account	180,091.546

Note.—The two items of Regular Dividend and Second Dividend added together, being the total Dividend for the half year, amount to 15 per cent. per annum.

* * *

The President then addressed the meeting as follows:—

GENTLEMEN—I propose to preface my remarks on the business of the Bank by a brief reference to the conditions existing in the money market during the past year. The great dullness that prevailed in 1892 had suggested that something similar must be expected in 1893, and the forecast was justified by events. At the commencement of 1893 the balance of the foreign trade was in the country's favour, so that, from that source, a sum of over 5½ million *yen* flowed in. The deposits in the Bank increased steadily, aggregating at one time more than six million *yen*, and complaints were heard on all sides about the difficulty of finding investments. This very juncture was chosen by the Government for the redemption of various kinds of Bonds, an aggregate of twenty-three million *yen* being thus dealt with in the months of March and April. Moreover, the privilege of exchanging the redeemed securities for Consols was denied in the case of Six per-cent and Kinsatsu Exchange Bonds, totalling 11¼ million *yen*, which sum of money was consequently poured into the already over-flowing market. Bankers found themselves compelled to lower their rates of interest, and on the 31st of May the Bank's daily rate was 1.3 *sen*, the lowest known since its establishment. A still lower point was reached by other banks, the rate at the Osaka Clearing House falling to even half a *sen* per day, which fact becomes the more remarkable when we remember that the Bank of Japan is generally from three-tenths to four-tenths of a *sen* below other banks in its daily rate of interest. Things remained thus until June, when a reaction set in. Various new enterprises were started and additions were made to the capital of those already in existence. The exact sum

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thus withdrawn from the market is not yet known, but in Tokyo and Osaka alone it aggregated more than twenty million *yen*. Successful harvests and sericulture during two or three years in succession helped to restore activity by increasing the purchasing power of the localities. Nevertheless, had the balance of the foreign trade continued as before, money must have remained cheap. But here also a change occurred, imports beginning to preponderate from the close of April, chiefly owing to currency disturbances in India and especially in the United States of America, Japan's greatest customer as to silk and tea. In the matter of silk alone, more than 27,000 bales remained sold through the whole year. Hence the exports during the second half of the year suffered such a decline that they showed an average monthly reduction of 910,000 *yen*. On the other hand, though the appreciation of gold tended to enhance the silver price of foreign articles, the purchasing power of the people was so strong, and the demand for foreign machinery was so much stimulated by the starting of new industrial enterprises, that imports steadily grew until they showed a monthly average of 1,410,000 *yen* in excess of the preceding year. Thus, from May to the close of the year, the outflow of specie aggregated 6,620,000 *yen*, or nearly a million more than the inflow during the previous four months. This, of course, helped to make money dearer, and the Bank was gradually able to return to normal rates of interest, above all at the end of the year when the demand for accomodation became accentuated. An idea of the situation may be gathered from the fact that the loans made by the Bank during the second half of the year totalled 34,620,000 *yen*, exclusive of advances to the Government against 11,520,000 *yen* during the first half. Further, the total issue of notes redeemable with silver grew from 31,810,000 *yen* at the close of May, to 62,730,000 *yen* at the fall of the year, so that the Bank found its issuing power reduced to the narrow margin of 110,000 *yen*.

In previous years such a radical change in the conditions of the money market might have been expected to produce embarrassing results, but the greatly improved development of the credit system saved the country from anything of that kind in the year just ended. By way of illustrating this point, reference may be made to the matter of cheques. The total amount of cheques paid into the Tokyo Clearing House last year was 148,010,000 *yen*, against 113,770,000 during the preceding year, an increase of 34,240,000. Further, the bills discounted at the Bank and its agencies in 1893 aggregated 34,470,000 *yen*, which amount exceeded the corresponding figure from February to December of 1892 by 12,790,000 *yen*. If to these sums we add the cheques paid in at the Osaka Clearing House and circulated in other places throughout the empire, a very large total would be reached.

I now pass to the principal features in the business of the Bank. The affairs of the Treasury and the handling of Government bonds in Sapporo, Hakodate and Nemuro used to be entrusted to the Mitsui Bank, but that institution having intimated its desire to be relieved of the work, branches of the Bank of Japan were established at those places from April 1st. Further, on September 1st, the Western Branch of the Bank was established in Shimonoseki, in accordance with the system of reorganization then adopted. Let me refer briefly to that system. The part to be played by the Bank may be described by stating that, as the mechanism of State finance, it has to discharge various Government business, and further it has to act as the centre of the country's monetary circulation. So far as concerns the former of these functions, nothing could be urged against the Bank, but its manner of discharging the latter seemed to call for some improvement in consideration of the advance of society. The time had passed for adhering to the old methods of conducting business, and greater facilities for the circulation of money had to be provided for public convenience. Hence it was resolved that branch offices should be opened at business centres, the first place chosen for the purpose being Shimonoseki, which occupies an important position with regard to both the main island and Kiushu. I am persuaded that if funds be procurable from these branch offices at comparatively low rates of interest, if aid be given by them to other banks, national and private, and if the system of credit be promoted by discounting bills and notes extensively, a most salutary change will be brought about in local money markets. With respect to details of reorganization, I may mention the abolition of the office of chief clerk and the appointment of managers and vice-managers, who are to combine the offices hitherto discharged by the directors, namely, those of chiefs of bureaus and heads of branches. It was considered that such multifarious duties could not possibly be discharged satisfactorily by the directors in view of the contemplated increase of the Bank's business. Finally, the rules relating to the deposit of money and to the control of securities placed with the Bank were amended, and business was commenced in accordance with the improved system on November 1st.

A part of the Commercial Code having been put into operation from July 1st of last year, it became necessary for the Bank to adjust its affairs in compliance with the provisions of the new law. This was effected by the close of the year, and the conduct of the Bank's business now conforms in every respect with the Commercial Code.

The violent fluctuations in the relative values of gold and silver have caused me much anxiety, and with the view of investigating the causes and effects of this vital problem, officers of the Bank were despatched to India and the United States in October of last year. Their reports, embodying the results of their investigations, will be taken as a basis for the conduct of the Bank's business hereafter.

I desire to add a word with respect to the profits realized by the Bank last year. That they were less than the profits for 1892 by 230,000 *yen* is attributable to the state of the money market during the first half of the year. It is true that things mended towards the close, but not sufficiently to compensate fully for the results of the previous period of dullness. Nevertheless, I think we may congratulate ourselves that the Bank was not obliged to reduce its dividend to shareholders.

The address concludes with a reference to the appreciation of the Bank's properties and to the re-compilation of the list of those properties in accordance with the provisions of the Commercial Code.

DOCTOR KOTAI MASUDA.

Two curious little books have reached us; one is entitled "My Studies in America," and the other, "The Value of Dentistry." Their author is Dr. Kotai Masuda, a Japanese who seems to have had some stirring experiences. He set out for America at the age of 20, fairly well provided with funds, his father being a physician of some means. By the time he reached San Francisco and had spent a few days in that bewilderingly busy city, he had fallen into the mental condition not uncommonly experienced by persons who pass from the tranquillity of the East to the rush and turmoil of the West: "the sweetness and stillness of starry nights and the reflection of the moon's shining face in the boundless ocean where mermaids rejoice to live," occupied his thoughts whenever the crowd was not hustling him or the street cars threatening to annihilate him. America exercises a kind of automatically corrective influence upon the motley mass of folks that visit its shores in search of fame and fortune, and young Masuda, being too poetical for everyday life, the kind people of the States soon set about reducing him to a practical level. Some of them flourished a pistol in his face as he was travelling by train through the Hoosac Tunnel. This made him jump from the car which was "running a mile a minute," and he naturally lost consciousness for a time. Some Samaritans picked him up and carried him to a barn, where some others knocked him on the head and relieved him of his clothes and money. This preface was followed by a career of a less uncommon kind, the principal feature of it being a struggle not to starve. But for once the Great Republic failed to fashion a practical citizen out of this romantic Japanese. He continued to think as persistently as ever in disjointed verse and became at last a poetical dentist. To this result we owe the second of the booklets mentioned above. It is the sort of thing that Martin Tupper might have written had he been deprived of his knowledge of syntax and in lieu of it provided with a dentist's tools. We learn from this little book much wisdom. But above all we learn for the first time what a dentist really is. We learn, for example, that he is "an artist who studies the expression of human nature, the nature of the teeth, jaws, gums, palate, and face to make artificial ones; and he will never paint the Alps which are covered with snow, nor forest hills for the summer's sky, but he will paint a white blue magnificent sky, and beautiful fragrant flowers where bees and butterflies are wandering on a sunny day." We also learn that he "has the reflective faculties (comparison, causality and mirthfulness) for the making of artificial teeth." We also learn that "gold in the teeth gives physical beauty to the body to glorify God;" that "gold filling is a precious treasure in the mouth as the glittering stars of the night;" that "sharp instruments are used to work gently, tenderly, thoroughly, with affection and love, for the affection is the sail of the intelligent boat, and the love is the spring-breath of frozen hearts;" and that "God made the tooth, the tooth made the dentist, and the tooth is not for the dentist, but the dentist for the tooth." This remarkable treatise concludes with a musical verse from the dentist bard:—

> I cried out, "Tooth for tooth!"
> If you pay dentist for the tooth,
> You can get tooth for tooth.

We are glad that Mr. Masuda has come to cry out in Tokyo. A phenomenon of his kind could not spared to the United States.

THE "HANGCHOW" COLLISION.

On the afternoon of February 9th, says the *Daily Prees*, the China Navigation Company's steamer *Hangchow*, which left Hongkong for Shanghai on the 7th inst., put back to port owing to somewhat extensive injuries received in collision with an unknown vessel. From what we can gather the *Hangchow* ran into, or was run into by, a steamer on the night of Wednesday off Breaker Point, which is about 40 miles South of Swatow. The port bow of the *Hangchow* was stove in above the water line, but the damage done to the vessel with which she collided is unknown, and her fate at present is a mystery. Blue fire was burnt on both ships for some time, but the unknown steamer, which is described as heavily laden and having a yellow funnel, suddenly disappeared in the darkness and nothing more was seen of her. From the description given it is believed that she was the *Saint Asaph*, which is expected from Japan with a cargo of coal. What her fate has been is a matter of conjecture, naturally not unmixed with anxiety. It may be that she is safely beached—if her injuries were serious enough to necessitate such a course—or she may be even now on her voyage down under reduced speed. On the other hand, apprehension is entertained that, low in the water as she was, she may have filled rapidly and sunk in a few moments. It is to be hoped that the more sanguine views may be proved correct, but if no news arrives this morning it may be deemed advisable to at once institute a search for the vessel, whatever she may be, which has been in collision with the *Hangchow*.

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On the 14th a Hongkong journal wrote that there could be no doubt that the lost vessel was the *Saint Asaph*, and that she had gone down with all hands.

SEIZURE OF LETHAL WEAPONS IN ELECTION DISTRICTS.

An opinion is said to be entertained in legal circles that the recent action of the Governors of Tochigi and Saitama Prefectures in depriving the *soshi* in election districts of lethal weapons was *ultra vires*. The only law under which such a step could be taken, they say, is the Peace Preservation Regulations. On the other hand, local Governors ought unquestionably to possess such power, and there is consequently talk of enlisting the cöoperation of the Diet next session to supply this deficiency in the means of preserving public peace and good order.

THE YOKOHAMA-BOMBAY LINE.

The *Jiji Shimpo*, assuming that the total shipments of cotton and cotton yarn between Japan and Bombay aggregate 150,000 tons (bales?) annually, that a reduction in freight of about 8 rupees per ton has been caused by the competition of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and that the Peninsular and Oriental Company loses most of its cargoes by the competition, estimates the total loss to the latter Company at 800,000 *yen* a year. A rumour was recently circulated with much assurance that the Peninsular and Oriental Company was willing to indemnify

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any Japanese shipper for fines incurred through shipping by its steamers, but the *Jiji* thinks that the financial situation can not possibly warrant such a sacrifice. We need scarcely say that this struggle between the two competing companies is very keenly watched by the Japanese public, and that many curious paragraphs, inspired by it, appear in the vernacular press. As a rule they are not worth detailed reference or reproduction.

NEW SUGAR REFINING COMPANY.

We have already spoken of the new Joint Stock Sugar Refining Company inaugurated in the Keihan districts, the promoters—of whom there are 100 in all, namely, 50 from Osaka, 30 from Tokyo and 20 from Kobe—being headed by Messrs. Shibusawa, Nakagamigawa, Matsumoto, Abe and others. The prospectus of the Company is now before us. It reads as follows:—"Sugar is one of the daily necessaries of life. The quantity manufactured in Japan, however, being insufficient to meet the demand, large stocks have to be obtained from abroad. This reliance on foreign supplies is gradually increasing, so that, during the past ten years, the quantity of refined sugar imported has more than doubled. It is very plain that the consumption of this important article will grow constantly, and there is, consequently, urgent reason to devise some means of meeting the requirements of the nation by the home-made staple alone. Two plans suggest themselves for consideration: one is to encourage the cultivation of sugar-yielding plants; the other, to import raw sugar and refine it in Japan. As to the former, various essays have been made with sugar canes, beet-root and sorghum, but the results have not been encouraging. Great differences are observable in the cost of producing sugar in Japan and elsewhere. In Kagoshima, for example, the expense of producing 100 lbs. is 5.84 *yen*—some put it as high as 7.36 *yen*—whereas the expense in Riukiu is 4.31 *yen*, and the expense in the Philippines, 1.67 *yen*. It may be that the cost of production in Japan is capable of reduction, but certainly it could not be made as low as the cost in the Philippines. Moreover, there is a serious disadvantage connected with the home-grown canes, namely, that the quantity of saccarine crystals they give is comparatively small. Were domestic production solely relied on, all hope of checking foreign imports would have to be abandoned. Imported refined sugar comes from Hongkong, whither the raw material is brought from Java, the Philippines, and neighbouring places. Now coal and labour are beyond comparison dearer in Hongkong than in Japan, as is well-known, the only advantage possessed by the former being proximity to the producing districts and facilities of transport: But it would obviously be less costly to bring the raw sugar at once to Japan and refine it here, than to carry it first to Hongkong and re-ship it thence after refining. From every point of view it may be concluded that the refining industry could be conducted at least as cheaply in Japan as in Hongkong, and moreover the import duty upon raw sugar being less than that upon the refined staple, an advantage would be gained in that respect also. All these considerations have prompted the organization of a joint stock company to carry on the business of sugar refining. It is confidently believed that should the enterprise be successfully inaugurated, the cost of refined sugar may be reduced, and an important industry will be added to those already in existence."

TRIPLE MURDER AT NEGISHI.

Early on Sunday morning, between three and four o'clock, two burglars effected an entrance into a Buddhist temple, called the Kaishoji at Rokujizo, Negishi. The temple was occupied by the priest, a female attendant, and a youth. The burglars after waking the inmates and obtaining what money they could, which did not amount to more than nine *yen*, proceeded to tie-up the two men. The woman thereupon raised an outcry and was at once stabbed with a *deba-bocho* with which one of the men was armed. She received seven or eight severe wounds on her head and face. Exhausted through loss of blood, she fell down and feigned death. Meanwhile, the two men had been tied, and then the miscreants deliberately took out their *tenugui* (head-cloths) and strangled them to death. They then ransacked the building, having heard that the temple was rich, but finding nothing they piled up some inflammables, set fire to the heap, and decamped, with the intention, no doubt, of hiding their crime by burning the bodies of their victims. Upon their departure, the wounded woman got up, and although her hands were tied behind her, opened the *shoji* and called for help. Nobody seeming to hear her, she ran to the village where she met a policeman and with his and the villagers' help succeeded in putting out the flames, but not a minute too soon, as the ceiling had already caught fire. When the bodies of the priest and his acolyte were examined life was found to be extinct. The temple is somewhat isolated, but the usual village watchman is on duty during the night and every now and then passes in front of the edifice. The burglars consequently effected an entrance from the back. It is suspected that the men are coolies who were known to the temple people, hence their nefarious attempt to hide all traces of their robbery.

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The Japanese woman O Moto, who was so severely slashed by the murderers that broke into the Buddhist Temple at Negishi succumbed to her frightful injuries on Monday. Two suspicious-looking characters were arrested by the police the same forenoon in connection with this affair, and taken to the Ishikawa station for examination. Although no particulars can be gleaned from the police, there seems to be but little doubt that they are the men who committed the dastardly murder.

* * *

One of the men arrested in connection with the Negishi murders was traced through having been recognised by the woman Moto, who, before she died, stated he was a relation named Tsune. This testimony led to the arrest of both men.

EMIGRATION ABUSES.

There appears in the *Kokkai* a very irate article charging three Japanese, whose names are suppressed, with evil practices in connection with emigration. It is a somewhat complicated story, but the gist of it is that these Japanese have entered into collusion with a North American Company for the despatch of Japanese labourers to some place not clearly indicated. The profits of emigration agents are generally derived by levying toll upon the earnings of the emigrants, but in this case the plan is to treat the men with such cruelty that they have no choice but to abandon their work, thus forfeiting a sum of 100 *yen*, for which they were obliged to give duly endorsed bonds at the outset. We presume that the *Kokkai* derives its information from good sources, but it seems to us that a goose laying golden eggs of that kind must be very short-lived.

THE THIRTY-EIGHT PEERS.

A division of opinion is said to exist among the thirty-eight Peers who, under the leadership of Princes Nijo and Konoye, recently addressed a representation to the Cabinet. A section of these peers is said to be indignant at the reply and to be desirous of attacking it vehemently. Another section favours the idea of sending a second representation to the Premier, and a third section thinks that, since after the receipt of such an answer as Count Ito has penned, nothing could be gained by approaching him, the only rational course is for the Peers to carry their views direct to the Throne. Under these circumstances a compromise is likely to be the issue. The Peers will once again address Count Ito, and should his answer prove unsatisfactory, they will appeal to the Sovereign. We imagine that they would be better advised did they let the matter drop. It has been publicly stated that Count Ito's answer was seen and approved by the Emperor before its transmission to the Thirty-eight Peers. There is, consequently not the smallest reason to anticipate that His Majesty will give favorable consideration to any protest directed against Count Ito's statement.

THE SUNG-PU MASSACRE.

The consequences of the Sung-pu massacre assume a graver aspect every day. It has involved the Foreign Representatives and the Chinese Government in a discussion from which the former can scarcely retire without exacting conditions to which the latter are most unlikely to agree. It has created a wide-spread feeling of uneasiness and indignation throughout the foreign communities in China, and it continues even after this long interval to be the incentive to steps which show that there will be no rest until a reassuring settlement is made. The latest of these steps is a petition addressed to the Foreign Representatives in Peking by the foreign residents of Kiukiang. Here it is:—

To Their Excellencies the Foreign Ministers at Peking.

Sirs,—We the undersigned residents at the port of Kiukiang beg to respectfully petition you as follow:—

The facts of the Sung-pu massacre, the alleged trial and subsequent acts of the Chinese officials and people are well known to you and need not be here recounted.

The conduct of the whole case is exerting a most malevolent influence over Central China. Of the two provinces under H.E. Chang Chih-tung's government one is entirely closed to foreign travel; in the other hitherto unknown restrictions and dangers to travel and residence are being encountered. This province of Kiangsi and neighbouring provinces will probably be soon equally involved. Your petitioners are convinced that the Chinese officials have entered upon a crusade, the object of which is the exclusion, as far as possible, of all foreigners from these interior districts.

The settlement thus far of the Sung-pu case is most unsatisfactory and only serves to bring foreigners into contempt. We are further persuaded that no satisfactory evidence will be produced unless competent foreigners with a knowledge of the language sit in a new trial as Judges equal in authority and numbers with the Chinese officials.

Your petitioners most earnestly beg that the whole subject be taken officially into consideration and while we would not presume to suggest what course should be pursued, we do most respectfully urge that the matter be not allowed to remain in its present condition.

We also pray your Excellencies to render any assistance possible to the native refugees who are now in Peking with a view to an audience of the Emperor.

We beg to remain, Sirs, your Excellencies, most obedient humble servants,

(Then follow the signatures.)

30th January.

THE RUSSIAN MINISTER IN JAPAN.

The Russian Representative in Tokyo receives eulogistic notice from the vernacular press because of his predilection for objects of Japanese art. His Excellency has a keen appreciation of the wonderful sword-blades of this country, and of its sword furniture, which exhibits the most beautiful work in metal ever achieved by the experts of any nation. But we are not aware that his love of this particular branch of Japanese art has reached the length of furnishing aud decorating the Legation entirely in Japanese style, as a Tokyo journal serts. The same newspaper adds that on the occasion of a recent visit to the Peeresses' School, M. Hitrovo expressed disapprobation of the tendency of Japanese artists to derive inspiration from Occidental sources, and urged that the future of the art consisted in adhering to its own national lines. He obtained several specimens of painting done by students of the School who graduated last year, saying that he purposed sending them to the Empress of Russia.

THE BUDGET.

His Majesty the Emperor has issued authority for the carrying out of the Budget of last fiscal year, the Budget for the current year having failed to come into existence owing to the dissolution of the House of Representatives. This of course does not mean that the economies effected by the administrative reforms which the Government introduced last Fall will not be applied. So far as concerns that

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old Budget is simply that there will be a large surplus in hand at the end of the current fiscal year. We suspect, however, that by the time the extra outlays resulting from the appreciation of gold and from the necessity of succouring the districts devastated last year by flood and tempest have been defrayed, the coffers of the Treasury will not be found in a very plethoric condition.

A STRANGE DISCOVERY.

INCREDIBLE as it may at first seem, says the *Rising Sun* of the 14th inst., it appears that a danger hitherto not generally known exists in this much-frequented harbour, of which deep-draught vessels require to beware. It is situated S.S.E. of the black buoy in front of the Tategami dock, and is believed to have been "discovered" by H.M.S. *Imperieuse* in November last. The N.D.L. steamer, *Nürnberg* is also reported to have "scraped an acquaintance" with it, but fortunately without any serious result. It is described as a large boulder rock, which was formerly surmounted by a smaller rock but the latter now lies alongside the former, in comparatively deep water. The exact position is given as follows:—

Tomi no-hana, south point	S. 81° 30′ W.	
Minage zaki	N. 13° 0′ E.	
Kosuge-hana	S 3° 33′ E.	

Magnetic:—Minage-saki and Kencho signal staff, angles 37° 15′; Kencho staff and North end of Kosuge slip point, angles 97°; Kosuge slip, North end, and Kozaki point, angle 77°. The depth of water on it at low spring tides is variously estimated at from fifteen to seventeen feet, with from five to nine fathoms in the vicinity. It is entirely distinct from the well-known reef off Tategami, and the only wonder is that it has not been discovered before. Until such time as the Government places a beacon or a buoy over the spot, or what would be far better, removes the danger altogether, it is advisable for large vessels to keep the buoy well on the port side when coming up the harbour.

LAST YEAR'S FLOODS.

INVESTIGATIONS officially conducted, we read in the *Jiji Shimpo*, assesses at nearly nine million *yen* the damage inflicted by last autumn's inundations in the seven prefectures of Okayama, Tottori, Shimane, Oita, Yehime, Wakayama, and Gifu. The most serious sufferer was Okayama: its losses aggregate two million *yen*. Next comes Tottori, with a total of 1½ million. The others follow in the order of their recapitulation above, Gifu's account of half a million *yen* being the smallest. This terrible suffering can receive only two millions of relief from the local taxes, so that the Treasury must come to the rescue with a sum of some six millions. It is expected that an Imperial Ordinance will soon be issued, ordering the necessary disbursement as a matter of urgency.

BRITISH JUSTICE IN SHANGHAI.

AN anonymous correspondent has sent us a marked copy of the *Hupao* which, as many of our readers are doubtless aware, is a Chinese journal published in Shanghai. The portion thus brought to our attention is an article on the administration of justice by British officials in Shanghai. The *Hupao* alleges that times have greatly changed for Chinese suitors in British Courts. In former years a majority, indeed the great majority, according to our Shanghai contemporary, of cases brought by Chinese suitors against British defendants were decided in favour of the former, whereas of late the opposite has been the case. An ordinary inference from these premises would be that the Chinese, encouraged by former success, began to carry frivolous cases into court and were consequently cast. But the Chinese themselves do not take that view of the matter. On the contrary, they are persuaded that justice has been deflected from its straight course by causes which the readers of the *Hupao* are left to conjecture for themselves, but which they are led to regard as distinctly uncommendable. Urged by that conviction, the leading Chinese merchants of several branches of trade recently held a meeting at which, after deliberation, they decided to formulate their supposed grievance in a document for despatch to the Viceroy Li. Presumably this route of transmission to Peking was chosen because Li Hung-chang is Northern Superintendent of Trade, but as to that, we speak from conjecture only. The Viceroy is said to have forwarded the document to the capital for favourable consideration, and on its receipt by the Tsung-li Yamên, the Ministers of the latter approached the British Representative on the subject. In what form the Yamên's representations were made to Mr. O'Conor, what reply they elicited, and what was the exact nature of the charges prepared by the Shanghai merchants, we do not know. If, however, the story have any basis of truth, it appears to indicate that their century of intercourse with Great Britain has not taught the Chinese much about the British judiciary. Prayers for rain may be said by Christians in time of drought, and the Great Dragon may be supplicated by Chinese in seasons of pestilence with some hope of favourable result, but to ask the British Government to interfere in any way with the administration of justice by British Courts in Shanghai is about the most hopeless undertaking that could well be conceived, and the Chinese ought to know as much by this time. Yet it is certainly matter for regret that any doubts, however chimerical, should be cast upon the efficiency and impartiality of institutions which British subjects justly regard with eminent pride and confidence.

COTTON MILL OPERATIVES.

WITH the introduction of factories after the Western model, Japan must of course expect her share of the troubles incidental to such enterprises. We gather from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that a state of affairs very far from satisfactory exists among the operatives in cotton-spinning mills. These men, who are often taken from the lowest strata of the people, show little concern for the interests of their employers. Receiving low wages during their period of training, they ought, of course, to serve on moderate terms for some time at least after acquiring expert knowledge. But they respect no such obligation. So soon as they see a chance of bettering themselves pecuniarily, they do not hesitate to transfer their services to a different factory. There exists among the factories a union one of the conditions of which is that hands thus deserting may be claimed by, and must be returned to, the factory where they were educated. But the men manage to disguise themselves so effectually that their identification among a number of hands is almost impossible. Some of them, too, are persons of such depraved character that a factory is often relieved by their desertion, for thefts of cotton are constant with them, and occasionally they do not shrink from deeds of violence. Of course, the story is not altogether one-sided. The *Nichi Nichi* alleges that the men are sometimes very harshly treated by their employers, and instances the case of a mechanic at the Izumi Factory who was kept confined for two whole days under the floor of one of the buildings, and another at the Dojima Factory who was beaten so badly that his life was endangered. On the whole there seems to be much need of regulations which the Authorities are now said to be drafting for the control of relations between operatives and their employers.

RAILWAY SPEED IN JAPAN.

THERE is talk of some practical steps being taken with regard to the speed developed upon Japanese railways, above all upon the Tokaido line between Tokyo and Kobe. This distance of 376 miles (English) involves a journey of 19½ hours by train at present, the average speed being less than 20 miles an hour. Such a miserable performance upon the main trunk road of the country, from the Eastern to the Western capital and thence to places of great commercial importance like Osaka and Kobe, does little credit to railway management in Japan, and furnishes to the public just cause of complaint. There should be, indeed there is, no insuperable obstacle to increasing the speed of transit so that the journey might be shortened several hours. The *Jiji Shimpo* says that the Railway Authorities now have the matter under serious consideration, and that, from the 1st of May next, a service of trains will be organized, enabling travellers to leave Tokyo at 6 a.m. and reach Kobe at 7 p.m. the same day. We confess that our contemporary's prediction seems to us over-sanguine. Thirteen hours would mean an average speed of 29 miles an hour including stoppages, and there is good reason to doubt whether that velocity, however insignificant compared with Western records, will be attempted upon Japanese lines in the immediate future. That the thing is quite possible actual experience proves, for the distance (18 miles) between Yokohama and Tokyo has been negotiated, when lost time had to be recovered, in 27 minutes, which means nearly 40 miles an hour. Any considerable increase of speed on the Tokaido road, however, would involve very rough travelling. Already the oscillation of the train is often distressing.

THE THIRTY-EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE UPPER HOUSE ONCE MORE.

THE thirty-eight members of the Upper House, who recently received such a crushing reply from the Minister President of State, have again addressed a communication to him on the same subject. It is not altogether correct to say the thirty-eight members, for several of them are understood to have declined to take any further step in the matter, while still others, being away from town, have not been able to express an opinion. The document is, consequently, signed only by Prince Konoye and Viscount Tani, who describe themselves as the representatives of those who recently assembled to hear the Premier's reply read and to discuss the measures to be adopted. It will not be necessary to do more than refer briefly to the points now raised by the Peers in their second communication. First, concerning the necessity of harmonious cōoperation between the Executive and the Legislature, they do not mean to offer any objection, but they wish to state that the desired end can not be attained unless both sides are willing to make concessions. "Your Excellencies," they say, "have been at the helm of State for more than twenty years, and if during that period of time you have rendered great services to the country, your long tenure of office has not been free from great errors. It is therefore not to be wondered at, if violent collisions occur between the Executive and the Legislature. Forbearance is incumbent on both sides, but it seems to be the opinion of the Government that the harmony so much desired must be secured at the expense of the independence of the Legislature—a view which can not be suffered to pass without positive disapproval. Secondly, the Peers take exception to the Premier's statement, "I shall always be glad to have the opinion of the two Houses of the Diet, and hope thereby to acquire means of supplying my own deficiencies." From this declaration, it is inferred that the Cabinet attaches no more weight to the opinions of the Diet than if the latter were simply a consultative body entirely dependent on the former. Thirdly, the Peers complain of the injustice of calling into question the conduct of the House of Representatives in the fourth session. That the Government was principally to blame for the collision which took place in the earlier part of that session, is proved—so says the document—by the fact that, after the issue of the memorable Rescript, the Cabinet renounced its former position and adopted the views advanced by the House of Representatives. It is, therefore, held to be an act of injustice to blame the Lower House for its conduct in the fourth session. Fourthly, concerning the conduct of the House immediately after the opening of the fifth session, the Peers state that there are several precedents for proceeding to the consideration of important business before the election of Standing Committees. As to the Hoshi question, its discussion was perfectly proper as a preliminary step to the introduction of the question of offi-

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cial discipline. In reporting the results of the debates on this subject to His Majesty, the House, in the opinion of the Peers, did not abuse its power of presenting an Address to the Throne. There was thus nothing to blame in the House's conduct in apologizing for its former ignorance about the character of the man it had recommended for Imperial appointment to the post of President. Fifthly, concerning the question of official discipline, the writers of the document do not hesitate to express doubts about the sincerity of the Premier when he states that, "had the House put questions or offered advice to the Government, at the same time plainly pointing out in a frank and disinterested manner the facts that formed the subject of complaint, the Government would have gladly met the House in a like spirit of frankness." Had the Government been really disposed to deal with the House in a frank manner on this subject, it ought to have taken the required steps for the maintenance of discipline in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce before the Houses of the Diet were called together, for the irregularities on the part of certain officials of that Department had long before been established in a Court of Law. Although the Cabinet complains that due notice of the introduction of the question was not given, the Ministers must have been fully aware of the House's intention, and had therefore ample opportunity to speak on the subject had they been so disposed. Moreover, the House can not be blamed for having urged the Ministers to take a decisive step, for its intention was not, as alleged by the Premier, to press for an Imperial answer to the Address, but simply to hasten the action of the Ministers of State. Sixthly, the Peers criticise the Cabinet for regarding the views of the Budget Committee as those of the House itself. The Committee represented only one or two of the parties in the House and its views could not fairly be regarded as those of the House itself. It was, therefore, unfair to judge the House before it had an opportunity to express its own opinion. Moreover, the power of considering the Budget is not exclusively enjoyed by the Lower House; it belongs to the House of Peers also. As an instance of the power which the Upper House possesses, reference is made to the resuscitation of the appropriations for the construction of war vessels in the third session of the Diet. Again, it is stated that the Budget Committee's demand for large reductions in the Budget was only natural in view of the Government's conspicuous want of consistency since the first session of the Diet. The Government is to blame for having afforded the Diet ground for suspecting that there are always large margins of reduction in the Budget. Seventhly, the Peers can not agree with the Ministers of State in regarding the Representation on the subject of Strict Enforcement of the Treaties as an impediment to the progressive policy of opening the country. Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, on the contrary, is held to be a step towards their revision. Even the Government once carried out such a policy to a certain extent. The Premier has declared that "it is of course necessary to strictly enforce such provisions of the existing treaties as one essential to the assertion of the national rights; and when required, efforts must be put forth for the abolition and amendment of such provisions as may interfere with the exercise of the sovereign rights of the country." Now the Peers assert that these words exactly embody the opinion held by the Lower House when it introduced the Representation. Even granting that the Representation contained erroneous views, the Cabinet ought to have debated the matter with the House, pointing out whatever misstatements of facts or erroneous opinions the document may have embodied. But the Cabinet did nothing of the sort; it was contented with a speech by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs alone, and, before the House expressed its views, prorogued and finally dissolved it. Which side is then to blame for having prevented harmony between the Government and the Diet? Even supposing that the Representation had been endorsed and actually passed by a majority in the House, the Government would not have been obliged to adopt everything recommended in that document. Thus from every point of view, the Representation can not justly be held up as one of the principal reasons for dissolution. Eighthly, the Peers can not regard the second prorogation as a preliminary step to dissolution. Had such been the case, what necessity would there have been to fix the period of two weeks, whereas a day or two would have sufficed. Ninthly and lastly, the Peers remind the Cabinet Ministers that dissolution of the House of Representatives should only be advised when important measures are rejected by it. Now in the case of the late dissolution no such charge can be laid at the door of the House. In conclusion, the Peers state their primary object in presenting their first communication to the Government was simply to advise it to correct its conduct in the future, but their kindly meant epistle having elicited Governmental explanations about the dissolution, they have thought it necessary to again address a few words to the Cabinet.

EDUCATIONAL TEXT BOOKS.

THE Department of Education, under its present Minister, has displayed a desire to increase the precautions employed in choosing common-school text books. This duty used to be entrusted to a Committee composed of members of faculty of Normal Schools, but the Committee's numbers were augmented under the new system by a Counsellor of the Local Government Office, and a Middle-School Director. This precaution seems to have been suggested by the acute competition existing among publishers who seek to have their text books adopted. The 1st of next April is the date fixed for the adoption of text books on ethics, and there are said to be no less than eighty publishers in the field. One or two localities only have thus far made their choice. Some fifteen Prefectures are now discussing the question, and curious stories are current about the methods resorted to by publishers in some of places. The *Kokkai* makes itself a vehicle for retailing several of these stories, but they are all of the vaguest description, and the gist of each and every one is the same, namely, personal influence corruptly exercised. Such tales need not be reproduced.

RAILWAY LOAN.

THE construction of the O-U and Hoku-Riku railways having been decided upon in the 4th session of the Diet, a sum of over three million *yen* had to be raised for the purpose. The first installment of one million was raised in April last year, and the circumstances being very favourable, proposals were received aggregating over seven million *yen*, so that the bonds were sold at an average of 105.6 *yen*. It would seem that the work has progressed more slowly than was originally anticipated, for the issue of the second installment was not announced till the 14th instant. Doubts are expressed as to the character of the result, the condition of the money market at present being by no means so well adapted for such operations as was the case last April.

A DANCING CAT.

ON a recent night when the moonlight had begun to make shadows in one of the *geisha* alleys of Shimbashi, a girl's voice was heard crying out excitedly, "Look at the cat dancing!" There was an immediate clatter of pattens, and an audience of the fair but frail denizens of the district assembled quickly to witness the prodigy. Certainly there was a cat dancing in the moonlight on the eves of one of the houses. She was not dancing after the fashion of European ballet-girls, but was waving her fore-paws and pacing with her hind after the orthodox methods of the Japanese minuet. A wag who had joined the crowd suggested that the cat had become intoxicated with the atmosphere of the *geisha* quarter, and was taking advantage of a fortuitous *samisen* to practise a *pas* on her own account, but the girls indignantly declined to accept this explanation of a weird spectacle which had set all their little bosoms palpitating. At last a duenna among the damsels took her courage in both hands, and entering the room above which pussy was pirouetting, called her softly to descend. But the cat danced more vigorously than ever, though the strains of the *samisen* had ceased to be heard. Finally, the plucky lady seized the cat and carried her down, when the source of the dancing inspiration was at once discovered. Puss had a clam-shell fixed over each of her whiskers. She had incautiously essayed to steal one of the bivalves lying shell open in a pail of water, and the clam had clasped her muzzle and set her dancing in the moonlight. This is a Japanese journalistic item.

DISASTROUS COLLISION IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA.

Two small coasting steamers named the *Teck Seng Guan* and the *Aing Hoe*, belonging to the same company, Messrs. Wee Bin & Co., collided in the narrow Slat Rupat strait between Bagan and Bengkalis on February 1st. The *Aing Hoe* was in command of a native captain, while the *Teck Seng Guan*, 72 tons, was commanded by Captain Miller, and registered in Johore. The former was bound from Singapore to Bagan, while the latter was proceeding in an opposite direction. The effect of the collision was to completely overturn the *Teck Seng Guan*, and she sank in deep water almost immediately, but most of those on board managed to effect their escape to the other vessel. The steamer *Hanoi*, Captain Thow, was near the place of the collision and offered assistance, but the *Aing Hoe* declined it, saying that all on board were all right and that they intended to steam for shallow water. Captain Thow then determined to lay around to pick up any survivors from the sunken vessel. He saw the *Aing Hoe* cross his bows, and then having taken on board his vessel all the persons picked up by the *Aing Hoe's* boat, he resolved to follow that steamer to the shore. All of a sudden he lost sight of her lights, and hearing shouts lowered boats. From the persons rescued he discovered that the unfortunate steamer had gone down head foremost in deep water. Dropping anchor, after an hour's steaming about the place, Captain Thow lay-by till morning and succeeded in picking up from wreckage and the beach, 47 persons in all, including Capt. Miller and Mr. Pirie, Chief Engineer of the *Teck Seng Guan*, the only Europeans involved in the catastrophe. Some 40 or 50 souls were lost in the two vessels.

THE "NICHI NICHI SHIMBUN" ON THE SECOND COMMUNICATION OF THE PEERS.

COMMENTING on the second communication addressed by the disaffected members of the Upper House to the Minister President of State, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that the arguments contained in the document seem to have been gleaned from the writings of the organs of the Progressionist Party, and even hints that, in addressing this second epistle to the Premier, the thirty-one members of the Upper House—for the strength of the league has dwindled to that number—acted under the advice and instigation of the Progressionist leader. We (*Japan Mail*) do not venture to endorse that assertion, but we may state that a rumour to the effect is extensively circulated in well informed circles. It is a fact that the action taken by the malcontents of the Upper House is warmly supported by the Progressionist papers, one of which even publishes a report that the same attitude is maintained by the leader of the Party, Count Okuma. But we proceed to give a résumé of the *Nichi Nichi's* comments, premising that in places our contemporary seems unnecessarily to lay itself open to the charge of insolence and contempt toward both Houses of the Diet. The members of the Lower House, for instance, are sneeringly designated "shop keepers and ploughmen" (*cuchonin* and *dobyakusho*); while the thirty-one members of the Upper are called "illiterate" and "ignorant." It is the more regrettable that such intemperate language has been used by the

Nichi Nichi, because its refutation of the fallacious arguments contained in the document is concise and unanswerable.

* * *

With regard to the first point raised, that the Government is responsible for want of harmony between the Executive and the Legislature, the *Nichi Nichi* refers to the Peers' statement that the present holders of power "have been at the helm of state for more that twenty years." The simple truth is that the present Cabinet has been in existence only about a year and a half. Nothing could be more absurd than to hold it responsible for the actions of preceding Cabinets—those even which contained such men as Okuma, Okabe, and Saigo. That the present Cabinet is really bent upon securing the harmonious cōoperation of the Diet is seen from its conduct in the fourth session of the Diet in connection with the amendment of the Public Meetings Regulations and the Publication Regulations as well as with the passing of the Budget after the issue of the Imperial Rescript of February 10th, 1893. The Premier declared in his reply that "harmonious cōoperation does not mean blind compliance with the wish of others." So, then, the Cabinet has striven both in action and words to secure the cōoperation of the Diet by making reasonable concessions to its wishes, and it is the height of injustice and falsehood to declare that the Government is bent upon purchasing the Diet's concert at the expense of the latter's independence.

* * *

On the second point, the *Nichi Nichi* remarks that the Premier does not mean any contempt to the Diet when he says, "I shall always be glad to have the opinions of the two Houses of the Diet, and hope thereby to acquire means of supplying my own deficiencies." Nobody knows better than the Premier himself that the Diet is not "a consultative body entirely dependent on the Cabinet." It is not disputed that the Diet is an independent branch of the state machinery. But in the exercise of its powers, it can not overstep the limits imposed by the consent of the Emperor and the concurrence of the Government. The Executive is not bound to be guided in everything by the opinion of the Legislature. There is, therefore, nothing improper in Count Ito's declaration that he is glad to supply his own deficiencies by reference to the opinions of the Diet.

* * *

As to the third point, namely, the complaint against the alleged injustice of criticising the conduct of the Lower House in the fourth session, the *Nichi Nichi* states that there is no impropriety in making reference to the fourth session, because the House which took part in the drama of that session was the same House dissolved in December last. The complaint, moreover, comes with ill grace from men who do not scruple to hold the present Cabinet answerable for actions committed by its far off predecessors of two decades ago. Neither is it just to state that the Government was principally to blame for the collision which took place in the earlier part of the fourth session, for it must be in the memory of even the present critics of the Government that, in that session, the latter clearly manifested its intention to come to an understanding with the Diet by offering various important concessions, notably on the question of the re-assessment of the taxable value of land, and in connection with the amendment of the Public Meetings and the Publication Regulations. They ought, also, to remember that, notwithstanding such a conciliatory attitude on the part of the Cabinet, the House of Representatives insisted on large and unreasonable reductions in the Budget, and in its headlong zeal to embarrass the Ministry, did not hesitate to neglect its duties by adjourning of its own accord on more than one occasion. Concerning the situation after the issue of the memorable Rescript of February 10th, 1893 it was not, as the Peers intimate, the Government alone that abandoned its former position; the same conciliatory course was adopted by the House of Representatives, which not only gave up its scheme of reductions and resuscitated the Naval appropriations, but ceased to advance its contentious views about the 67th Article of the Constitution. Thus there is not the slightest ground to maintain the singular charge that the Cabinet alone had to make concessions, and that, therefore, it was alone responsible for the former collision.

* * *

With reference to the fourth point, the *Nichi Nichi* observes that the Premier's object was not so much to complain of the delay in the election of Standing Committees as to criticise the House's inability to finish the examination of the Budget in Committee within the specified period, devoting its precious time to the discussion of the Hoshi question which could have been considered without interfering with the discharge of duties laid upon the House by the Constitution. As to the propriety or impropriety of President Hoshi's conduct, opinions naturally differ, but there can be no connection between that question and the question of official discipline. The House, moreover, had it in its power to remove its President in a perfectly legal manner, without resorting to the extraordinary process of appealing to the Throne. The House's object, it is clear, in laying the matter before the Emperor, was to intimidate Mr. Hoshi into resigning his office.

* * *

As to the fifth point,—the question of official discipline, the *Nichi Nichi* remarks that the true facts concerning this subject being best known to the Cabinet, the latter would most willingly have given explanations to the House. Indeed, when the news of the introduction of the question in the House reached Count Goto, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, he at once ordered his carriage to repair to the Diet. But before he set out, a second report informed him that the Address had been passed. This fact shows how sudden and precipitate was the action of the House. When the matter was laid before the Emperor, it behoved the Ministers to abide by the Imperial judgment. The Cabinet had nothing to do with the House, pending the Imperial decision. Yet the House, under such circumstances, voted a resolution calling upon the Cabinet to take some definite step in the matter, a vote clearly tantamount to pressing for an Imperial answer to the Address.

* * *

On the sixth point, relating to the Budget, the *Nichi Nichi* points out the fallacy of the Peers' reasoning that, because the Budget Committee of the Lower House in the last session represented only one or two parties, it could not be regarded as representing the House itself. To whatever party or parties its members might belong, the Committee had been elected by the House and might consequently be regarded as expressing the views of the House. It was, moreover, well known that the Progressionist Party, the *Domei* Club, and other groups, which were not represented in the Committee, were bent upon reductions far more sweeping than those recommended by that Committee. Again, the Peers refer to frequent changes of policy on the part of the Government about the Budget since the first session of the Diet. They forget that the Cabinet as frequently changed during the same interval. Do they mean to insist that the present Ministry must hold itself responsible for the policy of its predecessors? The Peers also attach much importance to the circumstance that the verdict of the Lower House on the Budget is not final, the Upper House having the same power. They forget that, although the Upper House is entitled to deal with the Budget according to its independent judgment, it has no power by itself to correct false steps taken by the Lower House. The utmost it can do is to ask for a conference with the latter, and it is not likely that the House of Representatives would easily have agreed to changes suggested by the Peers. Under such circumstances, it is simply silly to contend that dissolution of the Lower House should have been deferred until the Upper House had its say on the Budget.

* * *

As regards the question of Treaty Enforcement which constituted the seventh point raised by the Peers, the *Nichi Nichi* denies that the House of Representatives held the same view on the subject as that stated in the recent reply of the Premier; for the Representation introduced in the House did not say anything as to either the abolition or amendment of provisions in the existing treaties. The sole object of that measure was, on the contrary, simply to carry out the existing stipulations to the letter. The Peers also blame the Cabinet for having entrusted the task of addressing the House on this subject to the Minister of Foreign Affairs alone, but their complaint is unreasonable, seeing that that Minister is a responsible official of the Crown charged with the conduct of the county's foreign relations. Moreover, the House was bent upon hurrying through the measure and then adjourning of its own accord. It was in no mood to listen calmly to speeches by Ministers of State.

* * *

Concerning the eighth point, namely, the question of the second prorogation of the House of Representatives in December last, the *Nichi Nichi* admits that it would have been quite possible to fix the period of prorogation at a day or two, as the Peers suggest, had such a short length of time been considered sufficient for completing the preparations for dissolution. That a period of two weeks was chosen, was owing to the fact that a possibility existed of the necessary steps not being completed quickly.

* * *

As to the necessary conditions for dissolution of the House of Representatives, which constitute the ninth and last point propounded by the Peers, the *Nichi Nichi* is of opinion that, to order dissolution, it is not at all necessary to connect it with any particular measure or measures before the House. A House which attempts to throw obstacles in the path of the progressive policy of opening the country; a House which, being engrossed with the consideration of secondary questions, neglects the consideration of the Budget in due time; a House which does not hesitate to prevent the completion of the national defences—such a House more than deserves to be sent back to the country.

INVIOLABILITY OF DOMICILE.

More than enough of our space has already been devoted to showing the baselessness of the accusations preferred by the *Japan Gazette* against the laws of this country. The controversy—if such it can be called—has ended just as we anticipated. The charge originally preferred was that the laws of Japan sanction certain grave abuses. When it was shown that the laws do nothing of the kind, their accusers dropped the question of the laws altogether, and fell back upon alleged instances of illegal proceedings on the part of the police! That is to say, in order to prove that the laws are bad, examples are adduced of police acts that can not be reconciled with the provisions of the law! Logic of that kind is at least diverting. We might argue with equal consistency that because clergymen have been known to steal church funds, therefore the Ten Commandments sanction theft. No wonder that in default of better arguments than that, our contemporary has fallen back on the old device of calling the editor of this journal a "hireling." That is thoroughly relevant to the question of the merits and demerits of Japanese law.

* * *

However, the *Japan Gazette* having perceived the hopelessness of all attempts to establish its calumnies against the laws themselves, has had recourse to a case of police impropriety said to have occurred in September, 1892, in Kobe. The police, it alleges, made their way into the office of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha and arrested some clerks who were playing cards—gambling, in fact. Hence inviolability of

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domicile does not exist in Japan. With respect to this remarkable incident the *Gazette* propounds to us four questions:—On the authority of what law did the police enter? Did they "know" or only "suspect" that cards were being played? If they did not derive their authority from the XXVth Article of the Constitution, whence did they derive it? If they did derive it from that Article, how can domicile be said to be inviolable in Japan? That is an imposing array of queries. It has its funny side too. The XXVth Article of the Constitution says:—"Except in the cases mentioned in the law, the house of no Japanese subject shall be entered or searched without his consent." We did not imagine that even our ingenious contemporary could suspect such an Article of empowering the police to "enter any domicile without warrant when they have reason to suspect a game of cards is being played." The Article forbids all entry except in cases provided by law. Yet the *Japan Gazette* professes to imagine that it empowers all entry. May we not be pardoned if we decline to pursue such a discussion?

* * *

But as to this particular case that occurred, we are told, in September, 1892, in Kobe. The time and place are a little remote, it is true. Still, being desirous of resolving the *Gazette's* perplexity, we have applied for information to the head office of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha in Tokyo. Our contemporary's story is that the Kobe office of the firm was entered by the police in September 1892, and that several of the clerks were arrested for playing cards. That, we repeat, is the *Japan Gazette's* story. Certainly such an incident must have caused no little excitement, and must occupy a conspicuous place in the records of the Firm. Not at all. The people at the head office never heard of the affair, and are persuaded that it never occurred at all. It is disappointing to be baukled in our desire to answer the *Japan Gazette's* queries, but really if this terrible inroad of the police is not even remembered by its victims, our search for information becomes difficult. We recommend the *Gazette* to devote a little closer scrutiny to this last remaining shred of its dilapidated argument.

WHOLESALE ARREST.

A SINGULAR incident is reported from Gifu Prefecture. A vacancy having occurred in the membership of the Local Assembly, the usual bye-election was recently held, the candidates being Messrs. Yamada Gensuke and Yuye Toshiro. Success fell to the lot of the former, whereupon the latter, hoping to discover some illegality that would invalidate the election of his rival, instituted a searching inquiry into the proceedings prior to the day of polling. This suggested a similar course to Mr. Yamada, who perhaps thought that the defeated candidate's suspicions had their origin in a guilty conscience. The result of Mr. Yamada's scrutiny was that apparently incontrovertible proofs were obtained of bribery in the case of no less than a hundred voters who had plumped for the beaten candidate. The facts were laid before the police, who lost no time in arresting the century of venal franchise-holders. They are now awaiting trial. Mr. Yuye Toshiro seems destined to go down to posterity as the most unlucky candidate on record. To be beaten at the polls and afterwards convicted of corrupt practices is a severe duplication of misfortunes. We have never before heard of an unsuccessful aspirant to parliamentary honours being subsequently prosecuted for bribery. But Japan is making her own history.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE SECOND RESERVE.

EVEN such a paltry matter as the forty-seven thousand *yen* which, in accordance with a requisition from the Minister of State for Home Affairs, is to be appropriated out of the Second Reserve on account of the travelling expenses of local officials and police, and generally to defray the cost of preserving public order and peace in the election districts, excites the suspicions of opposition journals. They pretend to think that the money is to be devoted to some improper purpose in the interests of Government candidates, as, for example, to promote the canvass of Mr. Hoshi Toru in Tochigi Prefecture. Thus it appears that a bagatelle of some five thousand pounds for police use throughout the whole empire at such a time as that of a general election, cannot be appropriated without provoking slanderous insinuations against the statesmen in power.

AIZU YAKI.

AN article in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* on the subject of Aizu porcelain expresses surprise that the ware is not better known, considering how universal is the domestic use of keramic articles throughout Japan. It thinks that perhaps the comparatively small favour shown to the *Aizu-yaki* is due to its coarseness, and it predicts that, in view of the abundant supply of porcelain clay as well as of fuel possessed by the district, a little more care on the part of the manufacturers would soon secure a wide market for the ware. We fully endorse our contemporary's remarks. The Industrial Exhibition of 1890 contained nothing more unexpected than the blue-and-white porcelain of Aizu. The *pâte* of the ware was quite equal to that of Owari porcelain, the glaze was more rich and lustrous, and the blue *sous couverte* possessed remarkable strength and purity. But if the Aizu potters made themselves conspicuous by the excellence of their exhibit, they also earned the undesirable reputation of being among the least business-like of the exhibitors. They evidently thought that an exhibition was simply a place for displaying *tours de force*, and not at all a place for familiarizing the public with products seeking an extended circle of custom. Many foreigners tried to have the Aizu exhibits duplicated, but either their orders were treated with quiet indifference, or, if taken, were subsequently ignored. Aizu ought to occupy an important place in the keramic market if it only utilized its opportunities and cultivated business notions.

CIRCULAR LETTER TO SILK MANUFACTURERS.

A CIRCULAR letter, says the *Shogyo Shimpo*, has been sent by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to silk manufacturers throughout the Empire. The letter is not public property, the Department being of opinion that publicity might inflict unwarranted injury on certain manufacturers. The *Shogyo Shimpo*, however, obtained access to its contents, but deems it advisable to observe a measure of reticence with regard to them. The letter, we read, had its origin in a report sent by Mr. Shimamura, Consul-General in New York, pointing out that the reputation of Japanese silk goods was in danger of suffering seriously on account of the inferior material employed by some manufacturers. To these careless persons the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has addressed an emphatic warning. Their names are known to the *Shogyo Shimpo*, but it refrains from publishing them, not, however, without a threat that if they persist in their fraudulent courses, and, for the sake of temporary gain, inflict permanent injury on the country's silk trade, no hesitation will be felt about publicly denouncing them.

AN ANCIENT FAMILY.

THERE is no lack of ancient families in Japan. The representative of one of them is said to be a candidate for a patent of nobility in connection with the Silver Wedding of Their Majesties. He is a direct descendant of the celebrated Wake Kyomaru, who died at the close of the eighth century of the Christian era. Wake Kyomaru opposed the machinations of Yuge Dokyo, who plotted to ascend the Throne. He suffered banishment for his too zealous loyalty, but after Dokyo's fall he was recalled from exile and rewarded with a perpetual pension of 500 *koku* of rice. Seven centuries later the family received the name of Nakarai, or "middle well," because of the fact that the water of a well in the compound of the Kyomaru mansion was used, on account of its great purity, in the Imperial Kitchen. Another distinction is that for many generations the head of the house enjoyed the honour of being physician to the Sovereign, and might still be enjoying it but for an unlucky prescription which did more harm than good to the great-grandfather of the present Sovereign. The Shogun Iyemitsu added a thousand *koku* of rice to the family's income, and invited its representative to settle in Yedo, but those marks of consideration did not prevent the Nakarai of Restoration days from espousing the Imperial cause heart and soul. Opinions may differ as to the validity of such titles to a patent of nobility, but some Japanese journals seem to find them sufficient.

A FALLACY.

SUPERFICIAL observers, distressed by the disturbed condition of the Japanese political world at present, sigh for the advent of *Deus ex machinâ* in the form of a Saigo Takamori or a Hideyoshi. The wish is not very complimentary to the statesmen now in power, and is moreover a very unreflecting fancy. Somebody has been talking to the Minister of State for Finance on this subject, and Mr. Watanabe's views are briefly reproduced in the *Kokkai*. His Excellency observes that the dawn of Constitutional Government in all countries has been cloudy, and that Japan is not entitled to expect a clear sky more than any other State. Four years of her Parliamentary history have already included two dissolutions of the House of Reprseentatives, a somewhat breezy record it must be admitted, but not tempestuous, and not at all perilous to the safety of the ship of State. The much desired *Deus*, on the contrary, might prove precisely the element that is wanting to make the storm really mischievous. His method of saving the situation must necessarily be devised at the signal cost of either Imperial Prerogatives or popular privileges, contending forces which, if left to themselves, will ultimately work out a *modus vivendi* without any very terrible tale of carnage on either side.

A BRAVE MAN.

AN act of humane gallantry, performed by Mr. Tajiri, a clerk in the Tottori Post and Telegraph Office, is described by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. Last October, just when the terrible inundations of that time were commencing, he was sent on a tour of inspection which took him through the village of Matsubara. Seeing reason to apprehend that the village would soon be submerged, he returned thither at day-break the following morning and found that the houses were almost completely under water, the unfortunate inmates were cut off from succour, their boats being moored at some distance, and that the people of the vicinity were too much alarmed on their own account to render any effective aid. He attempted to swim to the boats but was unable to reach them on account of the current, and would have failed to effect anything had not the boats broken from their moorings and drifted past him so closely that he was able to seize them as he swam. After much difficulty he persuaded some of the neighbours, and toiling throughout the whole day, succeeded in rescuing no less than a hundred and fifty people, all the inhabitants of the hamlet in fact. Mr. Tajiri's noble conduct has been brought officially to the notice of the Government, and it is believed that he will be suitably rewarded.

YOKOHAMA JIZENKAI HOSPITAL.

WE learn that a public entertainment was given at the Tomitake-tei, Yokohama, on Sunday night by Kosan and a few other famous story-tellers of Tokyo, for the purpose of raising money in aid of the funds of the Jizen-kai Hospital. The affair was a great success, over one thousand tickets being sold. The proceeds were handed over to the Jizen-kai.

SEWERAGE IN OSAKA.

THE municipal authorities of Osaka have come to the conclusion that faulty sewerage is a prime cause of the city's suffering from zymotic diseases, and that, as no solid relief is obtained by the outlay of large sums annually for purposes of sanitation, thorough reconstruction of the

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sewerage system must be undertaken. The estimated expense of the work is 700,000 *yen*, one half of which it is proposed to obtain by municipal rates, the remainder being raised by a loan in five installments—one of thirty thousand *yen*, two of ninety thousand, one of fifty thousand, and one of seventy-five thousand—repayment commencing in 1899 and ending in 1904. The work will be five years in process of construction. Approval has not yet been obtained from the City Assembly, but no serious opposition is anticipated.

DYSENTERY.

THE Governor of Kanagawa has issued the following Instruction with reference to preventive measures in the matter of dysentery:—"Last year, when dysentery made its appearance in Osumi District, the Local Authorities adopted special measures to prevent its spread. But their measures were apparently inefficacious, for during the same year 551 persons were attacked by the disease and 107 succumbed to it. Past experience indicates that epidemics do not develop their full virulence in the first year of their appearance, but are much more fatal and wide-spread when they re-appear the following year. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance to adopt the strictest preventive measures before the hot weather sets in this year, since otherwise the epidemic, should it again break out, may work great mischief.

LOTI.

THERE are various ways of stimulating the imagination. "Pierre Loti's" way is to dress himself in the garb of the time and country about which he is writing, and to surround himself with objects characteristic of the people and the era which he describes. Then his genius awakes. But it would seem that to be surrounded with realities, to live actually in the country and among the people of which he speaks, does not suit him. His imagination may strike the truth when the truth is at a distance, but when the truth lies visible at hand, the absence of occasion for exercising his imagination involves erratic results. When he was in Japan he could have discovered facts by merely opening his eyes. But that would have been too prosy. He kept them shut, and discovered fancies.

THE LABOUR QUESTION IN JAPAN.

THE Department of Agriculture and Commerce is taking steps to procure trustworthy information about the relations between employers and employed in the manufacturing industries organized during recent years in Japan. The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce was officially moved to conduct a similar investigation last year, but the replies elicited by its queries from the various factories were so difficult to reconcile with apparent facts, that the results were counted of no value. In its renewed effort the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has been guided by that experience. On the 15th instant, it invited the various factories and guilds to send representatives to a meeting, at which a programme of investigation was determined.

RAILWAYS IN THE NORTH.

ACCORDING to the Railway Bill passed by the Diet in its fourth session, the lines between Fukushima and Aomori, and Tsuruga and Toyama are to be constructed in eleven years, commencing from 1893, at a total cost of 18,451,080 *yen*. The portion of this sum to be raised in 1893 was 3,040,000 *yen*, leaving an average of 1½ millions approximately for each succeeding year. The *Jiji Shimpo* says that only two million *yen* were employed in 1893, and that an amount—two million *yen*—somewhat in excess of the average, will probably be raised for the purpose during the current year.

THE NAVAL STANDING SQUADRON.

IT was recently stated in the vernacular press that the Naval Department contemplated increasing the Standing Squadron by two ships so as to bring its number up to eight. This rumour is now contradicted. The News Agency explains that there is no intention of increasing the Standing Squadron, but that three ships—the *Tsukushi* and *Oshima*, now at anchor in Jinsen, and the *Akatsu*, now in Shanghai—are to be attached to it temporarily, for purposes connected with the duty of protecting life and property in the foreign settlements. The reason assigned for this step is not very clear, but the fact that the three vessels above named are to be temporarily attached to the squadron is distinct. The *Tsukushi* is a steel cruiser of 1,372 tons, and the *Oshima*, a steel gun-boat of 640 tons.

THE KOREAN COMPLICATION.

THE trouble between Japan and Korea with reference to the latter's veto upon the export of rice, has been happily adjusted. News of the fact was received in Tokyo on the 21st, but did not appear in the *Official Gazette* until the 22nd. Particulars are not given, and are not, perhaps, necessary. It is enough to know that Mr. Otori's repeated representations to the Korean Government have produced the desired effect, and that the edict forbidding the export of rice is to be revoked from the 3rd of March. Whether any compensation will be demanded or allowed on account of losses incurred during the period when the edict was in force, we have not learned.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE "SAKATA MARU."

WE have received the following from the Yokohama Agency of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha:—"We regret to have to inform you that the Head Office has received news from the steamer *Sakata Maru*, ashore at Fushiki, to the effect that on the 18th inst., whilst some 15 coolies and the second officer Mr. T. Sugiyama, were employed in clearing out the after tanks, they were drowned through a sudden break out of the leak. Everything was done to rescue them, but without success. The bodies of ten of the coolies were recovered on Sunday evening, but up to latest advices the body of Mr. Sugiyama and the other coolies had not been found."

WELCOMING THE SPRING IN SHANGHAI.

FEBRUARY 4th being the festival of the Spring Solstice, the Shanghai magistrate and his subordinates, the assistant and deputy magistrates of the native city, performed the ceremony of welcoming the spring cow and god of the year, clad in full regimentals and attended by a complete retinue of tag-rag and bob-tail. The mandarins proceeded beyond the South Gate to the temple of the Year God, where they were met by some men clad in ancient garments with a paper cow and a boy. The cow had a black head, red back, yellow stomach, yellow legs, and a red tail. The paper boy represented the Year God. The procession then filed back to the *yamén*.

A SHIPMASTER'S WARNING.

CAPTAIN F. C. MELLAN, master steamer *Romney*, informs the British Consul-General at Shanghai that the beacon which was on Gotzu Reef, Hayasaki Channel, and marked on late Admiralty charts, does not now exist, having been destroyed by a typhoon some three months ago. According to the sailing directions for Kuchinotzu recently issued by the Mitsu Bussan Kaisha in their book on Miike, the Gotzu rock is a dangerous one, as it lies at the entrance to Shimabara Gulf and uncovers five feet at low water. It is the only danger in the Hayasaki Channel.

DECORATIONS.

IT is gazetted that Mr. P. de Groote, Secretary of the Belgian Legation, has been decorated with the Third Class of the Order of the Rising Sun, while the late Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Squadron in the Pacific, has been decorated with the First Class of the Order. A few other distinguished officials in the French Foreign Office have also been decorated.

MR. HIRANUMA SENZO.

MR. HIRANUMA SENZO, the well known Yokohama money-lender, who was arraigned on a charge of giving false evidence in connection with the Soma case, has been found guilty, and was sentenced by the Tokyo Local Court on the 20th instant to a month's imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of ten *yen*. Nishigori's accusations against his fellow-clansmen have fallen very flat, but he seems likely to drag down into the mire a good many of those whose sympathy and assistance he enlisted in prosecuting his plot.

THE "IMPERIEUSE."

H.M.S. *Imperieuse* returned to Hongkong from a cruise on Feb. 13th. She proceeded to sea again the next day, intending to pay a visit to Singapore and Borneo. She will return to Hongkong in March in time to meet the new flagship *Centurion*. Lady Fremantle accompanied Admiral Fremantle to Singapore in the *Imperieuse*. H.M.S. *Alacrity* was to leave for the same cruise on Feb. 16th, and H.M.S. *Leander* on the 20th inst.

DEATH OF DR. HAAS.

DOCTOR HENRY JOSEPH HAAS, of the M.M. Co.'s steamer *Océanien*, died at Woosung on the morning of February 15th. He was taken ill on Tuesday, but on Thursday morning drank a little milk, said he felt better, and almost immediately expired, his death being the result of peritonitis. The deceased had served in the French army and had the rank of Surgeon-Major. He saw active service in Mexico, Algeria, and Tongking, and was an Officer of the Legion of Honour.

FIRES.

THE fatal fire at Hongkong on Feb. 7th, which was caused by a spark from a cracker alighting on a stock of crackers in a paper-seller's shop, entailed the loss of fourteen lives. The contents of the place were insured in the Meiji Office for $2,500. The Hongkong Dispensary in Stanley-street also had a narrow escape from destruction by fire the same night, and from the same cause—a cracker spark.

OCEAN RACE.

AN interesting ocean race started from New York on 27th December between the ships *Matterhorn* and *Brynhilda*, both bound to Shanghai. The *Matterhorn* is a four-masted barque of 1,839 tons, owned by Russell & Co., Greenock, while the *Brynhilda* is a three-masted ship of 1,400 tons, owned by Mr. J. W. Carmichael, Glasgow.

THE TEA ASSOCIATIONS.

ONE of the objects of the Tea Associations recently organized is to export brick tea to Russia. The leaf of the Kiushu plant being comparatively small, is said to be suited for that purpose. Whether any connection with the distributing centres in Russia has been established, we do not discover.

SALE OF THE "TEHERAN."

THE Japanese fleet of ocean-going steamships is steadily being augmented. We hear that, after negotiations extending over some weeks, the P. & O. steamer *Teheran* has been sold to Japanese for the sum of £10.000, delivery to be taken on the 14th March.—*Kobe Chronicle.*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

MR. NAKANE JUICHI, hitherto Councillor of the Law Bureau, has been appointed Chief Secretary of the House of Peers *vice* Mr. Kaneko Kentaro, whose transfer to the Vice-Ministership of Agriculture and Commerce recently took place.

PROFESSOR MILNE.

AMONG the medals to be presented at the anniversary meeting of the Geological Society of London, which was to be held on Friday, the 16th February, we learn that the Lyell medal was to be awarded to Professor John Milne, F.R.S., of Tokyo.

CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that Mr. Nakane Juichi, a Councillor in the Law Bureau, has been appointed Chief Secretary of the House of Peers.

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JAPANESE JURISDICTION.

WE did not imagine that the *Japan Gazette* would have had the courage to attempt any defence of the wholly untenable position assumed by it with regard to the laws of Japan. What we supposed was that the editor of the *Gazette* had been misled in one case by a singularly erroneous translation, in another by flighty stories of shipping clerks and barber's boys, and that he himself would be the first to acknowledge his collection of errors when clear and publicly accessible proofs were furnished. But we were mistaken. Though its avowed object is to place before its readers the actual provisions of Japanese laws, and though direct reference to the text of the laws shows that every one of its charges against them is wholly baseless, the *Japan Gazette* nevertheless essays to maintain the justice of its original strictures. Such an impossible task could not fail to betray our contemporary into fresh extravagances; extravagances so flagrant that the most cursory reader cannot be deceived by them. Nevertheless, for the sake of the *Gazette's* avowal of a desire to arrive at the truth, we devote a brief space to further explanations.

It now appears that our contemporary's sole standard of good law is the law of England. With the law of Germany, the law of Italy, the law of Belgium, it will have nothing to do. "We never upheld the laws of those countries as models," it says. So, then, the laws of Japan must be better—*i.e.* better in British estimation—than the laws of Germany, of Italy, of Belgium, before foreigners can be safely placed under Japanese jurisdiction. We shall not insult our contemporary's intelligence by assuming that it intends to support such a monstrous proposition as that.

With regard to the particular point in dispute—inviolability of domicile—we are not aware that any difference exists between the laws of England and those of countries like Germany and Belgium. The *Japan Gazette*, however, seeks to elude the real issue by pretexting such a difference, though without making any attempt to demonstrate it. There is no occasion to be misled by a device of that kind. The question is simple—does the law of Japan entitle policemen to enter private houses without a warrant for any purpose other than that of seizing a flagrant offender? The Japanese Code of Criminal Procedure exists in two forms: a French version, which is officially authorized, and a Japanese version. The two versions are identical in meaning. The French version says that arrests may be made without warrants when a policeman "*surprendra un individu au moment ou il commet un crime.*" The Japanese version says that such arrests may be made by a policeman "when he has knowledge of the fact of a flagrant crime" (*Keizai no genkohan aru koto wo shiritaru toki wa*). By no possible perversion of language can either of these versions be interpreted as conferring on the police authority to enter a house without a warrant except for the purpose of arresting a person whom they know to be committing a flagrant offence. It will be observed, doubtless, that the provision contains no direct reference whatever to entering houses. But of course if the police are entitled to go anywhere and everywhere without a warrant *on the chance* of finding an offender, then they can enter private houses for that purpose. In order to establish that the law does confer on them that license, the *Japan Gazette*, in its first translation of the Article in question, inserted the words "have reason to suspect," thus making the law read that arrests may be effected without warrants "whenever the police are aware of, *or have reason to suspect*, the actual commission of offences." Now these forged words, "*have reason to suspect*," radically alter the whole character of the provision. As it stands in the French authorized translation and in the Japanese original, it is simply a provision enabling the police to dispense with the tedious formality of a warrant when flagrant offences have to be dealt with. As it stands in the *Japan Gazette's* forged version it becomes a provision enabling the police to seize without a warrant anybody whom they suspect to be a violator of the law. No writer endowed with ordinary intelligence could fail to apprehend this fundamental difference. No writer possessing the most rudimentary knowledge of Japanese, French, and English could pretend to endorse the *Japan Gazette's* version. Yet, even when plainly convicted of having based its argument on a forged clause—by whomsoever forged—the *Japan Gazette* has now the wonderful audacity to declare that the Japanese word "*shiritaru*," the French word "*surprendra*," and the English word "know" may each be translated "be aware of or have reason to suspect."

Since the *Japan Gazette* does not hesitate to expand a common and perfectly unequivocal verb into two verbs of palpably different meaning, and that, too, in the translation of laws, a work demanding, above all others, strict accuracy, we cannot reasonably expect it to concern itself about the legal definition of the word "flagrant act" (*genko*), to which reference is made in the Article quoted. Yet the definition lies at the root of the matter. The Article, we repeat, treats simply of the arrest of flagrant offenders, and says nothing whatever about entering houses. To discover in what cases, if any, the power of arrest it confers may be taken to mean arrest within a private house, some supplementary and correlated law must be examined. What then is a flagrant offence, and under what circumstances can a flagrant offender be apprehended by the police in a private house? The law is perfectly explicit on this point. The two articles of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Arts. 56 and 57) immediately preceding that quoted by the *Gazette*, define "flagrant offence" and its "assimilated acts" to be: (1) An offence discovered at the moment when it is committed. (2) The case of an individual pursued as an offender by the cries of one or several persons. (3) The case where an individual being found in the possession of arms, implements, or other objects, or presenting on his body or dress palpable traces of an offence, there is ground to suspect him of being an offender. (4) The case where the head of a house requisitions the aid of a magistrate to establish an offence committed in his house, or to arrest the presumed author of an offence. Here, then, we find ourselves on ground so plain that no prevarication or misconstruction is possible. The police may, without a warrant, arrest a person whom they discover in the very act of committing an offence; or a person who is pursued with hue and cry as an offender; or a person on whom they find palpable evidence of crime committed or intended; or a person for whose apprehension, as an offender, the householder in whose house he is, makes application to a magistrate. In one and only one case are the police empowered to enter a private house for the purpose of apprehending an individual whom they do not actually see in the act of committing an offence, or concerning whom they have not visible evidence of lawbreaking, and in that sole case the previous requisition of the master of the house to a magistrate is essential. After this *exposé* of the law, we imagine that neither the evidence of barber's boys, nor yet appeals to imaginary differences between English law and German law, nor yet the ingenious device of interpolating in the body of a Japanese law fabricated clauses wholly subversive of its meaning, will justify the *Japan Gazette's* marvellous contention that the police are empowered to enter private houses at any moment on suspicion.

It is not wonderful that the bewildering task of establishing the impossible and sustantiating the imaginary should have broken down the *Japan Gazette's* reasoning faculties. But the facts surpass anything that could have been anticipated. What our contemporary undertakes to prove is that the Japanese police may enter a private house at any time without a warrant. The evidence it has to adduce in support of its assertion is that the law permits the police to arrest, without a warrant, any one whom they "know," to be a flagrant offender. "How are the policemen to 'know,'" says the ingenuous *Gazette*, "until they have entered a house?" Our contemporary is reduced to such a state of mental confusion as to

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be incapable of perceiving that if the police cannot acquire the necessary knowledge without illegally entering a house to seek it, then they must dispense with the pleasure of making warrantless arrests. That is all there is about it. The necessity of "knowing" that a flagrant offence is in process of commission does not justify any and every method of acquiring that knowledge. A corresponding proposition, deduced from every-day life, would be:—A man has the privilege of shaking hands with any lady at whose table he has dined; therefore he is entitled to force his way into the house of any lady, for how can he dine with her until he has entered her residence?

We would finally remind the *Gazette* that the question turns on the written laws of Japan, not on tales constructed from the experiences of shipping clerks and barber's boys. The *Gazette* has advanced three charges against the laws of this country. We have shown, by verbatim quotations from the laws themselves, that the first of those charges is a fable, the second a forgery, and the third a series of fabrications. If our contemporary can find any logical method of escape from such a humiliating position, we invite it to make the essay.

LIFE INSURANCE.

THE discussion commenced by a correspondent of the London *Economist* with reference to the Tontine system of life insurance has excited much interest in the East, and has been the means of showing that many people labour under great misconceptions as to the differences between the systems of insurance under discussion, and as to their relative advantages. The question is of vital importance to every one upon whom devolves the responsibility of providing for those he leaves behind him. Could a man be sure of three things—first, that his life will be prolonged for a certain number of years; secondly, that throughout the whole of that period the "spirit of effective economy," as MILL calls it, will sway him sufficiently to induce the putting by of a fixed sum of money annually; and thirdly, that for the sums thus put by he will always be able to find profitable and safe forms of investment—could he be sure of these three things, there would be no occasion for him to have recourse to life insurance. But since he cannot be sure of any one of them, there is nothing for it but to insure his life. Under what system, then, should he insure? Thirty-five years ago, there was no occasion to give oneself any concern about a choice. Only one system then existed—the old English system, the basis of which was that a number of capitalists combined to form a company on a joint stock arrangement, the company undertaking the business of insuring lives and appropriating, for the benefit of the projectors and shareholders, the greater part of the profits accruing from the business. Evidently the longer the life of a person insured under such a system, the smaller the advantage he derived from it. To correct that hardship, a modification was introduced providing that the payment of premia should terminate after a certain number of years, and, again, some companies gave to policy-holders at fixed intervals, a share of the profits earned. But, in effect, the old system was modelled on the lines of an ordinary commercial enterprise: that is to say, the business was carried on in the interests of a limited number of persons, the shareholders. In 1859, however, the idea of cöoperation was extended to the field of life insurance. A company—the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States—was started, the principle of which was that every policy-holder should be a shareholder to the amount of his policy; should, in fact, engage on his own account in the business of life insurance, deriving regular profits on all the money invested by him in the form of annual premia, while, at the same time, obtaining for himself, the usual advantages of life insurance. It need scarcely be said that marked success attended this innovation from the outset. It stood to preceding methods of insurance in the same relation that cöoperative aocieties stand to ordinary mercantile firms. By and by another feature was added at the suggestion of a Mr. TONTINE, whose name it thenceforth bore. This new departure enabled a man to take out s policy, the premia on which should be paid for a fixed number of years only—ten, fifteen, or twenty, as determined at the time of taking out the policy. During that time the full annual premium, undiminished by bonuses, had to be paid. If the insured died within the period, his heirs received the amount of the policy. If he lived, he became entitled to a full share of all the profits accumulated during the period, and he might take that share in various ways, which may be summed up by saying that he could receive either a sum in cash, or an annuity, or a paid-up policy for an amount considerably larger than that of the original policy. The Tontine system was inaugurated in 1871. In laying the system before the public, the directors of the "Equitable"—which Company inaugurated it—appended an estimate of the profits that they expected to make during the next two decades: in other words, an estimate of the profits that each holder of a Tontine policy would be entitled to share at the end of his Tontine period. The first period of twenty years terminated in 1891, and there was naturally much curiosity to ascertain how far the Company's original estimate had been verified by experience: what profit, in short, the holders of Tontine policies actually received, as compared with the profit which they had been led to expect. It was this comparison that the London *Economist* recently undertook to make, and its conclusions, being unfavourable, have caused a good deal of curiosity and some anxiety, for the "Equitable" is now a great Company, doing an immense business, and insuring a multitude of lives. The *Economist* showed that the results of twenty years working had not been so good as originally forecast, and that the benefits accruing to holders of Tontine policies at the end of the Tontine period of twenty years had not been equal to the benefits predicted when the policies were taken out. For the sake of strict accuracy it should be mentioned here that these benefits are not wholly a matter of estimate. Included among them is a share of the Company's reserve at the time of taking out the policy, and the reserves being then a known quantity, the insured's share of them is also known. Otherwise, however, the profits coming to him at the end of the period depend upon the success of the Company's operations, and, pending an official refutation of the *Economist's* figures, it certainly appears that the success achieved during the interval from 1873 to 1893 was not as great as the Company predicted in its prospectus issued at the former date. None the less it was a remarkable success. What each policy-holder found was that all the money paid by him during twenty years in the form of premia stood to his credit, together with interest at the rate of over 6 per cent., as the maturing endowments show; that he could recover that amount in full, or devote it to purchasing either a paid-up policy for an amount very much larger than the original policy, or an annuity; and finally, that all the while he had been thus saving up his money and receiving a fine rate of interest on it, he had enjoyed the security of having his life insured. It appears to us that insurance managed on such a system as that gets about as near being thoroughly satisfactory to the insured as any system can get. Of course the question will immediately suggest itself, has the insured to pay for these privileges a higher rate of premium than is charged under the ordinary system? With regard to that, we find on closer examination that the statement made recently in these columns was incorrect. The rates charged, so far from being higher than those paid under the ordinary system, are in truth conspicuously low. Out of 92 old-system insurance offices tabulated in "Whitaker's Almanack," only 5 offer better rates than those of the Equitable. ehT circumstances being therefore, so favourable, it becomes a matter of very great interest to know whether policy-holders may reasonably expect that the results of the next twenty years' working will be as good as the results of the past twenty were. The *Economist* thinks not, and is disposed to infer that since the Company's original estimates have

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been shown to be too sanguine after two decades, its present calculations based on the Society's experience to date may be found equally in excess of the truth twenty years hence. But such a mode of argument appears misleading, for it takes no note of the important consideration that whereas the Company had only 14 years' experience in 1873, when it commenced the Tontine system, it has 34 years' experience now. Its forecasts ought to be proportionately more trustworthy, and its methods of working better established. It may be difficult, indeed, for the Company to obtain hereafter such high interest on its investments as it has hitherto obtained. But if that be so, the same rule will obviously apply universally. Policy-holders cannot reasonably expect to receive 6½ per cent. on their premia if no such rate of interest be procurable in the market on sound security. All that they can fairly look for is that their shares in the Company—for they are in truth shareholders—will yield at the end of the next twenty years returns as good, in proportion to the general earning power of capital during that time, as similar shares have now yielded with regard to the past twenty years. The *Economist* further notes that the Company has lost a source of income by modifying its forfeiture clause. Formerly failure to pay a premium at any time before the expiration of the Tontine period involved forfeiture of all premia previously paid, but now a policy-holder who ceases to pay his premia retains a title to the portion of his policy represented by past payments. Thus, if the Tontine period be 20 years under limited payment or endowment forms, and the amount of the policy £1,000, a holder who stops his payments at the end of 5 years, is entitled to one-fourth of that amount, or £250, al his death, or, under the latter form, to himself at maturity, say in 15 years. The London journal argues as though considerable profits used to accrue under the old forfeiture clause, but that does not seem at all probable, and at any rate such a source of gain may very welt be given up. It remains to note one point upon which criticism has been based. It is that at the expiration of a Tontine period, an insured person who desires to surrender his policy for a paid-up assurance larger than the amount of the original policy, must submit to medical examination. Some critics appear to think such a condition harsh and even unjust. But it seems plain that if a man desires the Company to accept an additional risk on his life, he must show himself to be a fit subject. We presume that the gauntlet thrown down by the *Economist* will be officially taken up. But in the meanwhile the great interest of the subject and the evident misconceptions prevailing about it, justify our comments.

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FAMILIAR METHODS.

IT used to be a matter of profound surprise to us to discover the singular views attributed to this journal and the extraordinary interpretations put upon our words by the vigilant critics who devote such close scrutiny to the contents of our columns. Surprise was subsequently, replaced by amusement, and it is now a subject of frequent hilarity to learn, on the authority of our ingenuous censors, that we are renegades, that we are hirelings, that we have betrayed our country for a mess of pottage, that we are more Japanese than the Japanese themselves, and so forth and so on. Sometimes, however, occasions arise when a question of practical interest to the foreign community has to be answered, and it is then a little inconvenient to find that the propounders of the question have about as many ways of escape from the issue raised by themselves as rabbits have holes in a warren. An illustration of our meaning is now on the *tapis*. The public have a distinct interest in knowing what, if any, objectionable features are presented by Japanese laws; how much, if any, arbitrary interference and vexatious surveillance are permitted to the police by those laws. Everybody wants to know that, because the knowledge has an important bearing on foreigners' willingness to submit to Japanese jurisdiction. Various assertions have of late been advanced by the *Japan Gazette* with regard to Japanese criminal law and criminal procedure, and we have shown, by verbatim quotations from the laws themselves, that those assertions are either fables, forgeries, or fabrications. Never did a simpler issue present itself for discussion, since the text of the laws has alone to be considered, and the laws of Japan, unlike the statutes of England, access to which must be obtained by years of study, are not only codified in brief and easily accessible form, but have also been published in French, the French version being officially authorized. "The laws of Japan permit, this; the laws of Japan allow that; the laws of Japan sanction the other," says the *Japan Gazette*. One would imagine, then, that reference to the text of the laws themselves should suffice to finally establish the correctness or incorrectness of the *Gazette's* declarations. One is the more disposed to arrive at that ordinary conclusion, because the *Gazette*, at the outset, pinned itself to the proposition:—"The Constitution provides explicitly for the abuses we have denounced by making those abuses according to law." But, in point of fact, the laws which it thus undertook to convict of sanctioning all kinds of abuses, have been quietly ruled out of the discussion by the *Japan Gazette*, which now takes refuge solely in the tales told by a foreigner who deliberately flouts the law of Japan by keeping a public lottery and who has been unsparingly denounced by the *Japan Gazette* itself for his lawless conduct, and by a barber's boy who underwent a sentence of imprisonment for an offence to the commission of which he had himself confessed. Now, in all gentleness, we must tell the *Japan Gazette* that although the stories told by such persons may constitute bases for its own leading articles, they have no manner of value for common-sense folks as against the explicit provisions of the Codes themselves. Were foreigners placed under Japanese jurisdiction, it is to the letter of the Japanese Codes that they would look, not to precedents established by quotations from the autobiographies of barber's domestics or flagrant law-breakers. We do not care a row of pins what kind of experiences such individuals may have had, nor yet do we care how keenly the *Japan Gazette* may sympathise with their moving grievances. What we care for is the Law of Japan. It is equally useless for our contemporary to talk of police regulations. Police regulations can not over-ride the laws of the land. Their provisions must be in strict accord with those laws. If the *Japan Gazette* can quote the text of any police regulations which violate the spirit and letter of the Codes, it will have furnished interesting proof of an abuse demanding immediate remedy. But it will not have established anything whatever against the laws themselves. Failing such proof, its vague reference to imaginary regulations is as worthless as are its flagrant mis-statements of the published law and its arbitrary interpolations in the text of special articles.

So much for the general question. Before dismissing it, we shall refer, as a point of controversial curiosity, to one or two of the methods adopted by the *Japan Gazette*, in order to find some means of escape from its embarrassing situation.

The Japanese Codes—Criminal and Criminal Procedure—exist in two forms; the Japanese original and an officially authorized French translation. So far as concerns the great mass of the foreign residents, the provisions of the laws are accessible only through the French translation, and in case of dispute it is to the French translation that every foreigner would go, since that translation and that only is officially authorized and officially published. Therefore, when reference was made to the text of a particular article of the Code of Criminal Procedure, we quoted the French authorized translation in full. Further, we prefaced our quotation by these words:—"Here is the official French translation of the Article in question." How did the *Japan Gazette* reply? Thus:—"On (*sic*) the meaning of the Article and the *Mail's* subterfuge of quoting the French which it alleged to be the original version, we must leave our readers to judge." So then, according to the *Japan Gazette*, a newspaper which, when publishing a provision of Japanese law for the

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information of European and American readers, quotes from the officially authorized French translation, is guilty of "subterfuge." Further, the *Gazette* accuses us of "alleging the French to be the *original* version," whereas our words were "here is the official French *translation* of the article in question." The plainest English has evidently no significance for such a critic, and the most straightforward methods are incomprehensible to it. It can not distinguish between the terms "translation" and "original," and it does not hesitate to charge a writer with "subterfuge" who prefers the authorized official translation of a law to any outside rendering.

The second point to which we shall refer is this. Among the baseless "grievances" tabulated by the *Japan Gazette* as incidental to Japanese jurisdiction, was the following:—"Public censors would be able to enter a foreign newspaper office and * * * send the editor and publisher to jail without a trial." Now it is utterly untrue that any newspaper editor and publisher in Japan can be sent to jail by a public censor without a trial. Therefore we wrote thus:—"Here again we have an entirely baseless assertion, except in so far as concerns the suspension of a newspaper. Suspension is the only penalty that can be inflicted on a Japanese newspaper without due recourse to the Courts of Law and to public trial. The Minister of State for Home Affairs has power to order the suspension of a journal, merely on the ground that he considers its writing prejudicial to public peace and good order. But neither he nor the police have power to impose a fine of so much as a *sen* on a journalist, or to sentence him to even a minute's imprisonment. If his offence be deemed worthy of criminal punishment, worthy of fine or imprisonment, he must be arraigned before a judicial tribunal, like any other offender against the law of the land." It will be seen that these sentences do not contain so much as the shadow of a comment, whether condemnatory or laudatory, on the press law of Japan. The language employed is rigidly limited to an explanation of what the law really is. The law, we wrote, permits the suspension of a newspaper without recourse to any judicial process, but does not permit the imprisonment or fining of the editor or publisher without judicial process. How does the *Japan Gazette* reply? How does it justify its unpardonable falsehood that the law empowers "a public censor to send the editor and publisher of a newspaper to jail without a trial"? Why thus:—"There are some cases which even barristers may not defend, and we are pained to discover that any English newspaper can pose as an advocate of one of the most tyrannical laws for the repression of the freedom of the public press ever invented outside of Japan." So then, to state what a law is, to define the powers it creates, is to "pose as its advocate." Is it conceivable that any honest controversialist could be so reckless as to charge an opponent with advocating a law the provisions of which he has simply stated? We do not find it conceivable. The conclusion forced upon us is that the *Japan Gazette*, unable to explain its own false statement about the arbitrary fining and imprisonment of an editor, deliberately tries to discredit us by pretending that we "pose as advocates" of the suspension clauses of the law. Our words were:—"The Minister of State for Home Affairs has power to order the suspension of a journal, merely on the ground that he considers its writing prejudicial to public peace and good order." Do these words contain the remotest hint of approval? Not the remotest. So, too, later on the *Gazette* writes, "the *Mail* lays great stress upon the fact that the Home Minister does all this," and then proceeds to show that the Home Minister cannot possibly do it all but must of necessity delegate the duty to police. Now where have we laid "great stress on the fact?" Is any notion of "great stress" conveyed in our simple words "the Minister of State for Home Affairs has power" &c.? In truth, all this only serves to deepen the impression conveyed by the previous writings of the *Japan Gazette*. It can not even quote a contemporary journal's language correctly, though undertaking to controvert it. It can not employ even the commonest fidelity in reproducing an opponent's views. It does not hesitate to put into his mouth words which he never used, to attribute to him opinions which he never expressed, to charge him with advocating principles to which he never made the faintest allusion. The whole thing is a miserable display. The laws of this country have been charged by the *Japan Gazette* with sanctioning three serious abuses, the first of which rests on a fable, the second on a forgery, and the third on a series of fabrications. And now, to rehabilitate itself after the humiliating *exposé* to which its extraordinary ignorance and carelessness have subjected it, the *Gazette* proceeds to subject our words to the same processes of misquotation, perversion, and falsification that the laws of Japan have already undergone at its hands.

THE UNION INDUSTRIAL GIRLS' SCHOOL ("JOSHI KYORITSU SHOKUGYO GAKKO").

IN September, 1886, when the movement for raising the status of women attracted a large share of public opinion in Japan, there was established in Hitotsubashi-dori, Kanda, Tokyo, a school the purpose of which was to give technical instruction to girls. The founders were Messrs. HATTORI ICHIZO, now Governor of Iwate Prefecture, but then chief of a Bureau in the Educational Department; NAGAI UYUICHIRO, a Secretary of the same Department; and TEJIMA SEIICHI, Director of the Technical School. The curriculum included five distinct courses of study, namely, plain sewing (Japanese and foreign), fancy work of all kinds, embroidery, painting, and artificial flower making. A special course was arranged at the outset in foreign needlework and millinery, and attracted a considerable number of students, but as the fashion of wearing Occidental costume gradually went out, the attendance in this section fell off, so that finally the needlework was included in the same course with Japanese sewing and and the millinery became a branch of the fancy-work course. In each course the students are divided into two classes, of which one graduated in three years, the other in one year. Frequently, however, girls pursue the studies in both classes simultaneously. From the beginning the number of pupils was large: it reached 217 in the first year, and rose to 342 after three years, since which time there has been no noteworthy change, the attendance at the close of the last academic year being 365. Our readers will probably be surprised that an institution of such magnitude has hitherto attracted so little public attention. But the policy of the school seems always to have been avoidance of ostentation in every form. There have not been any of the extensive graduation ceremonies usually organized by educational institutions for purposes of advertisement, and reliance has been placed only on thoroughness and efficiency of method. In conformity with the principle of the school, which is to inculcate self-reliance, the expenditures have always been defrayed from the earnings, no benevolent aid of any kind being sought. Each girl attending the higher courses pays a monthly fee of 1.30 *yen*, and each student in the short term courses 80 *sen*. These fees are emphatically high. They virtually exclude all girls of humble position, and limit the advantages of the institution to the middle and upper classes. The fact is fully recognized, and it is hoped that, by and by, when the finances of the school have been placed on a firmer basis, the fees may be reduced so as to render the courses more widely accessible. An additional income of some three hundred *yen* yearly is derived from the sale of the girls' work, but of that sum only one-half is applied to meet current expenses, the remainder being lodged in the Post Office Savings Bank to the account of the girls, who receive their portion of it after graduation. The total annual expenditure is more than covered by the fees and earnings, and a sum varying from 500 to 1,000 *yen* has been laid by every year to form a reserve, which would by this time have aggregated some five thousand *yen* had not a considerable portion been devoted, in 1891, to the erection of a spacious

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addition to the buildings. There was, however, some fifteen hundred *yen* in hand at the close of the last academic year. The Imperial Court evidently takes much interest in the school, and has extended special patronage to it. The EMPRESS visited it in the spring of 1889, and, as a memento of the occasion, bestowed on the institution a gift of 200 *yen*, which, together with a like sum also given by HER MAJESTY the preceding year in acknowledgement of a presentation of the girls' productions, was carefully laid aside to form a fund the interest of which is applied to the purchase of prizes. In 1892 the Court extended another favour to the school by endowing it with the land and buildings which it now occupies. The Imperial interest is also shown by large orders for artificial flowers to be used for decorative purposes on State occasions, instead of the natural flowers formerly employed. Silver medals were bestowed by the jurors at the Paris and Columbian Exhibitions on the exhibits sent from the school, and, on the whole, it has attained a measure of success that promises to be permanent. The total number of girls that had graduated, up to the end of the sixth academic year (1893), was 469, an average of over 78 annually. It would be interesting to know how many of these girls have made their school acquirements serve as means for earning an independent livelihood, but we have no information on that point. We may note that, more than once, girls of Western origin have been among the students, and that no less than seven of them were in attendance at one time. It is a charming sight to see the girls at work. A visit to the school will well repay the trouble of going there.

RECIPROCITY.

PEOPLE who have studied the history of Japan's industrial development are familiar with the fact that at the end of the 16th century, when Korea was overrun by the troops of the *Taiko*, a number of the peninsular kingdom's experts were made captive and carried back to Japan. These men were not ordinary prisoners taken with arms in their hands. Their capture was made in obedience to orders issued by HIDEYOSHI, who, being well informed of the comparatively high standard that Korea had obtained in the technical arts, and being constantly solicitous to encourage Japan's progress in the same direction, had conceived the idea of obtaining Korean assistance by the most efficacious route that presented itself, namely, by seizing a number of Korean experts and transporting them, *nolentes volentes*, to Japan. One result of this policy on the part of the great captain and statesman was that a number of the captive Koreans settled in Satsuma and devoted themselves to the pursuit of the keramic art, becoming the originators of the most beautiful faience ever manufactured in Japan. Perhaps we ought to add that the credit of producing the well-known *Satsuma-yaki*, so much valued by modern collectors, belongs only in a very small degree to the Korean settlers: they laid the foundation upon which Japanese artists afterwards built so successfully. This by the way, however. What immediately concerns our subject is that a settlement of Korean experts was formed in Japan more than three centuries ago, and that, until quite recently, they preserved in their customs and fashions many traces of their alien origin. Curiously enough, it now appears that a similar settlement of Japanese was formed in Korea at the same epoch. We read in the vernacular press that in a mountainous district of Korea—a district which we fail to identify geographically—there is a hamlet inhabited by some three hundred persons, to whom, on account of their essentially Japanese methods of cooking, the attention of Japanese merchants travelling in the peninsula has been occasionally drawn. Inquiries conducted locally have elicited the fact that the founders of the hamlet were Japanese warriors. who, having come to the country in the train of the *Taiko's* generals, were taken prisoners by the Koreans, and instead of being put to a cruel death, as was the custom of the time, were granted residences and means of sustenance on condition that they remained quietly in the kingdom practising and teaching the craft of gun-making, which, having been imparted to the Japanese by Portuguese immigrants, was better understood in that empire than in any other part of the Orient. The settlers at the village of Tsuboya, in Satsuma, do not appear to have preserved any distinctive system of nomenclature, but the Japanese settlers at the village of Boku, in Korea, are said to have received from the king the family name of Kin which they have used through all these centuries. It is an interesting instance of international reciprocity. The Japanese who have visited Boku are disposed to infer from information there obtained that other villages of a similar origin exist in the peninsula.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

THE "EQUITABLE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have read with the greatest interest your article of to-day's date on "Life Insurance," and fully agree with your appreciation of the Tontine system. I beg, however, to point out that the originator of the Tontine system was not Mr. Tontine, but a celebrated Italian banker, Lorenzo Tonti, and particulars of his scheme will be found in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," ninth edition, Vol. XXIII., page 444.

I should like further to point out that the minimum term in which an insurance policy can be surrendered in case of discontinuing the payment of the premium is three years, which is even better than stated in the *Mail*, after which term a paid-up policy, to be cashed either after death or at the end of the original endowment policy, will be issued.

As I am one of the many people in the East who have insured his life in this most liberal Society, the "Equitable," and desire that no misunderstanding may be entertained with regard to its dealings, I should esteem it a favour if you will kindly publish this letter.

I may add that I was insured in a British Company, and that on account of their illiberal treatment I dropped their policy, and took one in the "Equitable."

Enclosing my card, I am, Sir, yours truly,

A POLICY-HOLDER.

February 17th, 1894.

[Our correspondent has not read our article carefully. We did not mention any "minimum period" for surrendering a policy, but merely gave an illustration of the results of ceasing to pay premia after 5 years. As to the derivation of "Tontine," we accept "A Policy-Holder's" correction with due acknowledgments.—ED. *J.M.*]

LIFE INSURANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In your issue of the 17th inst., in an article on the above subject, you write:—

"Thirty-five years ago there was no occasion to give oneself concern about a choice. Only one system then existed. . . . . In 1859, however, the idea of cöoperation was extended to the field of Life Insurance. A company, the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, was started. . . . . "

You will allow me to correct a very palpable error. It was as a matter of fact in connection with assurance that the idea of cöoperation originated, and this at a time considerably prior to the foundation of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States—considerably prior indeed to the foundation of the United States themselves.

In 1696 was founded the Hand-in-Hand Fire Assurance Society, probably the oldest cöoperative institution in the world; in 1836 this became the Hand-in-Hand Fire and Life Assurance Society. The "Amicable Society" for mutual life assurance was started in 1706, and was eventually incorporated with the Norwich Union Mutual Life Office, founded in 1808. But the most influential and important of the early cöoperative assurance societies is the Equitable Life Assurance Society, founded in 1762, a society that carries on business without agents, without the payment of commission, and without wasting its substance in riotous advertisement.

Without going through the whole list, I may say that there are in existence at least eleven important cöoperative life assurance societies that were founded in Great Britain prior to 1859.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

MAURICE EDEN PAUL.

Sendai, February 18th, 1894.

WANTED, A MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—It now seems to be only a question of time—and that not many years—when some practicable plan of international bimetallism will be adopted. There is plenty of evidence that England is waking up to the importance of the subject, and the next bimetallic conference, whether it meets at the suggestion of England, the United States, or any other country, will surely not adjourn without coming to some definite agreement in regard to silver.

All bimetallists agree that some definite international arrangement will be for the benefit of the trade and industry of all the world, particularly of England herself, but there can be no doubt whatever, even in the minds of those most impervious to the arguments of the bimetallists, that the East will be an enormous gainer. We may be sure that if silver be restored to its old par with gold, the whole face of mercantile Yokohama will be transformed. The uncertainly, the general air of failure that now characterizes nearly every enterprise, the depression of nearly all securities, it may be confidently affirmed, will not pass away until silver is once more established on a firm basis.

If this is so, does it not behoove the merchants and bankers, especially the British merchants and bankers, to take some action to express their opinion? If bimetallism is coming—and who can longer doubt it?—the sooner it comes the better. A memorial on the subject presented by representative Englishmen of Yokohama to the home government would contribute something, however little, to hasten the welcome day. The present attitude of the East has been described as veering

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between the policy of drift and the policy of despair. But indifference and submission have never accomplished anything, nor do they characterize the temper of the Anglo-Saxon. A memorial clearly stating the evils of the present state of monetary anarchy would undoubtedly expedite the good work.

It may fairly be claimed at present: (1) that the chief obstacle in the minds of those who have pondered on the subject of bimetallism is not any inherent impracticability, but the difficulty of international agreement; (2) that much of this difficulty would be overcome if England expressed a decisive willingness toward a common understanding; (3) that some of the most eminent economists, statesmen, and men of affairs in England are trying with all their might to overcome English inertia and prejudice.

If this is true, is there any room for doubt that a memorial from Yokohama clearly stating the benefits to be derived from bimetallism might be productive of much good?

* *

February 17th, 1894.

FOOTBALL.

Y.C. & A.C. *v.* H.M.S. "CAROLINE."

The football match on Saturday afternoon between H.M.S. *Caroline* and a team of the Y.C. & A.C., was favoured with most genial weather, the sun shining out from a pale blue sky dappled o'er with faint white clouds, beneath which scarcely a breath of wind was stirring. Owing to this fortunate circumstance, as well as to the fact, no doubt, that the game had more than a local interest, a good many spectators put in an appearance, among them a fair sprinking of ladies, and for once in a way the Club's tea-table at half-time was largely patronized. The Naval team led off, defending the Pavilion goal, and during the greater part of the first half the ball was in their territory. They lacked little in combination and dash, however, but the wary backs of the home-team, Pearson and Lias, could never be passed. Mair and Libeaud on the right wing, and the brothers Cabeldu on the left made repeated dashes down to the visitors' goal, but were repelled, time and again, by the steady play of Waldram and Clarke, while Biss, in goal, could always be relied upon to relieve in an emergency. Once or twice Yokohama seemed on the point of scoring, but their front line fell to pieces opposite goal, or else over-shot the posts in the various attempts at knotching a point. Cabeldu had had several trys at goal ere he drew first blood for his team, after some tangled play in front of goal, and then he was a trifle favoured through the goal-keeper being out in the field. The *Caroline* team pulled themselves together after this, and play was much more even, although no alteration had been effected in the score when the whistle signalled half-time. On changing ends, Yokohama pressed again and again, but the visitors returned the assaults with interest and seemed much the fresher of the two teams, retaining their combination better. Indeed, the heaviest part of the work from now fell on the Yokohama back division. Pearson getting the ball, worked it up on his side of the ground, but the opposing wing were not to be broken and the leather was transferred to mid-field. Once more it was worked into the home back line, and then Lias secured it. Instead of sending back at once, he dribled it on to the wing and ran down the field. With excellent judgment he passed to the forwards, planting it right in front of goal. Cabeldu took it, and with a hot shot secured the second goal for his side, and the second of the match. Nothing further resulted, and the score stood, at the close, 2 to *nil* in favour of Yokohama. With such an excellent team to put in the field, we hope H.M.S. *Caroline* will challenge the local club again ere she leaves port; a very good game would result, and probably Dame Fortune would smile upon another essay and grant them the victory. The following were the teams:—

Y.C. & A.C.	v.	H.M.S. "CAROLINE."
Mr. Kenyon.	Goal.	Mr. T. Biss.
Mr Pearson (Capt.) Mr. Lias.	Backs.	Mr. W. Waldram. Mr. S. C. Clarke.
Mr. Hall. Mr. Pinckney. Mr. Campbell.	Half-backs.	Mr. T. Gibb. Mr. W. Clarke. Mr. McLean.
Mr. Mair. Mr. Libeaud. Mr. McNeill. Mr. A. Cabeldu. Mr. W. Cabeldu.	Forwards.	Mr. Hargraves. Mr. C. Short. Mr. J. Brown. Mr. W. Andrews. Mr. J. Edwards.

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Troubles," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE, Limited, Yokohama.

"MOVEMENTS OF THE EARTH'S CRUST."

A meeting of the Asiatic Society was held in Yokohama on Thursday evening in the small anteroom of the Public Hall, Yokohama, when Professor John Milne, of the Imperial University, Tokyo, delivered a capital lecture upon his favourite study "Movements of the Earth's Crust." There was a fair attendance of the general public, but the size of the gathering was scarcely worthy of the fame of the lecturer nor the extremely interesting character of his subject. Mr. James Troup presided.

The CHAIRMAN, in commencing the proceedings, said that it was almost unnecessary to introduce to a Yokohama audience Professor John Milne, for his name was a household word among them, while his fame was world-wide in connection with the scientific study of seismology, which pursuit he had made his own.—(Applause.)

Professor MILNE at the outset disclaimed all intention of speaking that night upon earthquakes—they were only rough and coarse movements of the earth. What he wanted to demonstrate to them in the brief space at his disposal was the indisputable existence of far more universal movements which were taking place upon the surface of the earth, and of which he had made a special study and taken innumerable observations in recent years. He wanted to prove to them that not only was the earth's surface constantly moving or tilting, but that even the very room in which they were then assembled was moving—that it might at that moment be tilting upwards at one end and declining at the other. For they had evidence now that the land's surface was subject to movements which were felt all over the world, here, in London, Berlin, and other places of the earth; that it could slowly rise to 12 or 18 inches and then slowly return to the normal again. In a word, what he wanted to demonstrate was that there is a continual pulsating motion in and over the earth's crust, which he could, in fact, call the earth's breathing. The phenomena of course was gradual in its action, like all other forms of natural movements, and could be traced from far beyond historical time back to the Paleozoic age. The lecturer took as illustration, the evolution of peat from moss, and of coal from once living trees and vegetation. Proceeding, he said experiments had been made to discover the interior heat of the earth, and it had been demonstrated that the lower one went the greater became the heat, and any further observations on the subject would not give a single drop more knowledge to the big sea of facts already obtained that this heat gradually increased as one went from one mile to two, three, or four miles beneath the surface. He did not want to dwell on the subject of whether the interior was liquid or not, but at any rate he could tell his audience that the pressure of the cooling crust was enormous, and that as the earth lost heat—for we could now measure the amount of heat lost—so it contracted. Well, he had now arrived at the question, could the crust support itself? After taking several examples, such as a granite arch of eight miles span, which would have to fall in by reason of its own weight, the learned Professor returned an emphatic No to his query. Well, as the earth's crust contracted so a wrinkle was formed on its surface. Why these wrinkles should take place in certain parts of the earth and not in others he could not tell,—it might be along the line of least resistence—he only knew that they occurred, and of course could go on talking about the theories of the matter for ever so long. Well, an ancient wrinkle of the earth was the Rockies' range, while it would no doubt be a pardonable pleasure to Scotsmen to know that the small range of the Grampians was equally ancient—(applause)—and so were the Scandinavian ranges. Now these were some of the first wrinkles to develope themselves upon the earth's surface; they began to bend first. Well then, if this movement went on in geological times, why could it not continue to go on now? He saw no reason why it should not. These first wrinkles, as he had said, were formed in Paleozoic times, and among them were the mountains of Scotland, the Grampians. Diagrams of the Paleozoic strata, the Silurian, and the Old Red Sandstone were then drawn upon the black-board in their mountain formation, and the lecturer pointed out that they were not parallel, some being bent in one direction, some in others. They were originally formed at the bottom of the sea-level, and fossil remains of sea-shells were to be found in some; the mass was more or less stratified horizontally and then in due time it was crumpled up. The Ural mountains, too, were of a very respectable age, but they were formed after carboniferous times. The Pyrenees, the Alps, and the Himalayas, the biggest of all the mountains, were younger. They were, like all young things, very much stuck up—(laughter)—but they were only formed in Mezozoic times, and therefore served to prove the truth of the old axiom that one must not tell of the age of a man from his height. But to come to historical times. It had long been suspected that the coast line of some countries was gradually changing, and the Swedish Government, or rather the hydrographical department, had various rocks marked along its coast, and then examined some years later. It was then discovered that the Northern part of Sweden had been gradually elevated while the Southern portion had been as gradually going down—it had tilted in fact. The famous temple near Naples which had sunk below the waves and risen again—having gone up and down a distance of 20 feet—within historical record, was also instanced. There was plenty of evidence of this sort on the coast of Japan. Indeed, within half a mile of that room there was abundant evidence of the coast line having been elevated within recent years. Shells could be found in the rocks 10 feet above high water mark. There was no reason to suspect that these shells had climbed up there of their own accord, nor that the water had been drawn off to that extent. That the elevation had not taken place so very long ago, too, was demonstrated by the extreme softness of the rock, and the Professor put the period at something about 50 years, certainly not anywhere near 100. His own experience corroborated the statement that the coast line of Japan near Yokohama was growing from the water at the rate of one inch per year, because he had himself marked rocks and watched their rise; and he could now walk dryshod round places which 18 years ago he could not have passed round on foot. Having described the rise in other places on the East coast, the Professor proceeded to state that his observations at Tokyo, by means of delicately poised and specially constructed instruments, had led him to discover that there was a horizontal and angular change always going on. In Tokyo, the plain on which it stood tilted up during the night and returned to its normal level during the early morning. Various observations taken on different instruments had agreed upon this point. The lecturer next pointed out the futility under these circumstances of expecting perfect observations for determining the height of Fuji or other mountains either by barometrical or trigonometrical survey, and the hopelessness of expecting a perfect level of whatever kind. He related his struggles with levels in the early days of his earth-tremor observations and the discovery of the instrument he now uses. He lucidly described the working of this and the manner in which photographic records were obtained; its susceptibility to all earth-tremors, whether they came singly or in perfect storms, how, though placed on a most solid pillar of stone with immense cement foundations, it can feel the pressure of a hand laid on one corner of the pillar, or the presence of a candle at any side, which causes the stone to expand gradually through heat, and yet how indifferent it was to heavy traffic, the falling of heavy hammers, sharp earthquakes, and other elastic vibrations. And now what was the good of all the voluminous rolls of observations recorded, the hours and days which he had spent in constructing the instrument and taking its records? Well, he told an American friend the other day that there were "no dollars in it," but he could answer as did Faraday when questioned as to the problematic good that might be derived from his observations with a copper disc on a magnet; what good is a baby? We never know what it will grow to; but from Faraday's observations resulted motors and the incandescent light. The instrument he had described to them recorded the daily tide of the earth's crust, the tilting of its surface, whether small or great; and it showed that districts of the earth's surface could be used as barometers. Professor Paschwitz of Potsdam was engaged in the same work as himself. Paschwitz had started with the lunar influence, while the speaker had started with earthquakes, and now they had passed each other upon the road. Prof. Paschwitz had recorded in his observatory at Wilhelmshaven, the Great Earthquake of Japan—so his instrument had determined the rate at which those movements travelled round the earth. The great bulk of earthquakes were due to the crumpling of the earth; it went on till it could go no further, then the impulse was given to the earthquake shock. Well, his instrument traced the whole of the crumpling process, rom its beginning—as was demonstrated only so lately as the 18th inst., when the instrument recorded the starting of a violent movement of the earth's surface fully three hours before the earthquake shock was felt. It therefore increased our knowledge of the earth's physics. Still, he was not satisfied with

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the results obtained, but would endeavour to get more certain observations. The instrument had demonstrated that it was impossible to get anything like a steady level in alluvial plains—whether it was possible to get it on rock he now wished to find out, and would endeavour to discover in future observations. Having shown how useful the instrument might become in other ways, the Professor concluded by saying that he was annoyed whenever anyone spoke to him about earthquakes now. There were far more important movements going on than those rough things, and the further study of these earth-tremors would lead to far higher results which would prove of great benefit to mankind.—(Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN expressed in hearty terms the thanks due to Prof. Milne for his lecture. Such addresses modified popular ideas upon these subjects, and he hoped Prof. Milne might long be able to continue his observations of the phenomena which he had just explained—(Hear, hear.) He had alluded in his lecture to the fact that he was not quite so young as he had been, still Professor Milne was now in the prime of life, and he hoped that he might long be spared to carry his observations to a successful issue.—(Loud applause.) The thanks of the meeting were also due to the Asiatic Society for holding a meeting in Yokohama. He hoped the success of the meeting would induce them to hold another here, and that they would not let such a long time elapse again between their Yokohama meetings.—(Hear, hear.)

The vote of thanks to the lecturer was then carried with acclamation.

THE FORMER ETA OF JAPAN.

BY THE ABBÉ EVRARD.

(Translated for the *Japan Mail* from the *Révue Française*.)

All that recalls an age that has disappeared for ever and that offers to the human mind a problem which it strives to pursue to its solution, with little hope of finding it, captivates the attention while stimulating curiosity.

The history of the Empire of the Rising Sun presents, more than any other, many of those obscure points that it would be of the highest interest to elucidate. How great would be one's satisfaction if one could raise a corner of the veil that covers the mysterious origin of its birth, of its development, of the formation of its aristocracy, of its pristine legislation and, above all, of those ancient customs which, even now, form the essential part, as it were, of the character and mind of the Japanese people!

Among those questions here is one which, although appearing to be more modern, remains unanswered notwithstanding much research, and is enveloped in intense obscurity. It relates to the existence of a numerous group of individuals living isolated, excluded from Society and, consequently, making a class apart, with its own particular laws and customs, a class despised, almost abhorred by the people. We allude to the pariahs of Japan known under the name of *Eta*.

With a breadth of view and with a grandeur of soul that place the Japanese nation above all other Asiatic peoples, the Imperial Government, in the beginning of the era of *Meiji*, decreed the equality of all of its subjects before the law, and has thus officially suppressed that odious distinction that separated the *Eta* from the rest of the nation. But the ideas of a people cannot be transformed from one day to another, rarely can they be made to esteem instanter and by command those whom for long centuries they have despised. So it is not astonishing that in this case prejudices have not been so much modified as would have been desirable. Nevertheless, the stigma stained upon the foreheads of the former *Eta*, keeps on obliterating itself daily. Another half century and doubtless it will have disappeared entirely.

The question, then, of the *Eta* must be considered as being classified from henceforth among purely historical ones: but actual or not the question of the *Eta* exists, and we do not hesitate to add that it deserves attention, were it only for various bizarre peculiarities attending it which are not known to all the readers of the *Révue Française*.

Where do the *Eta* come from? When did they first appear? What was their social condition?

It is not easy to throw light upon these questions. The *Eta* of to day possess absolutely no traditions in this respect, and the astonishment they display when interrogated about the matter seems to indicate that placidly accepting their sad social state, they have never asked themselves what could have been the cause of it. It is possible, if not probable, that much precious information hereon would be found in old manuscripts, which evidently must still exist in more than one temple. Perhaps one of these days we will have some now hidden treasure at our disposal. Meanwhile, we are limited to the various opinions that are current among the Japanese, and these, unfortunately, rest upon no material historical proof.

Some say that the *Eta* are the descendants of former Korean prisoners, who, brought over to Japan, have multiplied here without having been able ever to efface that well-nigh indelible stigma of infamy always attached to the vanquished by all ancient peoples.

According to others, they are the descendants of foreigners who immigrated to Japan or were shipwrecked upon some uninhabited part of its coast, where they formed a colony, living principally upon the product of the chase and having, in the beginning, no communication with the aborigines. Later on, they probably continued to live apart without mixing with the Japanese people, who thus came to look upon them as being an inferior race. This contempt for them was intensified by the progress made by Buddhism, one of the fundamental laws of which is a prohibition to eat meat. The *Eta* eat meat, to the scandal of the ancient Japanese, and were regarded as impure, were despised and abhored as being such and, from that very fact, were definitely excluded from society, forming a class by themselves, intermarrying among themselves only, and living in mewed-up localities, without communication with the rest of the people. Consequent upon this isolation, they have always remained in a state of inferiority and have been unable to assimilate Japanese civilization, which facts must have augmented the general contempt entertained for them.

Another opinion somewhat analogous to the above, is found in the Japanico-Chinese encyclopedia, *Wakan sansaigue*. In Book VII. of that work, which dates from 1715, there is an engraving that represents a man cutting up an animal, and it bears this inscription, *Sentara*,[1] *Etori, Eta, Kabata*, expressions figured by Chinese characters which mean *knacker*. The explanatory text adds: The business of the *Eta* was originally to slaughter animals, to cut them up, and out of their meat to prepare food for falcons and fowls; thence their ancient name of *Etori*, or preparers of food. They were led eventually to traffic in meat and skins. It was only later on that the epithet of *Eta* was given to them. It means *defiled, impure*, doubtless on account of the kind of calling they carried on. They nevertheless lived among the people. But, from the day that the Emperor Temmu (973-686 A.D.) forbid the use of the meat of these six animals, the horse, the ox, the goat, fowls, the pig, and the dog, the *Eta* had to group themselves in distinct villages; for having become objects of execration, they were kept aloof as much by the partisans of Shintoism, who held them in horror on account of their material defilement, as by those of Buddhism, who ostracized them because Buddhistic doctrine condemned the putting to death of any living creature.

There is another opinion that is not without a certain romantic character and that gives the *Eta* a more noble origin. The son of an illustrious family had, it would seem, voluntarily exiled himself in a fit of pique, with a few faithful followers, in consequence of the failure of his ambitious projects. He became a misanthropist, and he and his followers broke off from society and went and lived in the mountains, not wishing any longer to hold communication with a people they despised. Their descendants acted similarly and, deprived of all exterior cöoperation, became semi-barbarians, the effect of which was that the Japanese came to look upon them as an inferior race, which they called *Eta*. This somewhat strange opinion is based upon a tradition, traces of which are to be found, it is said, in Shidzuoka *Ken*. According to this tradition, under the Emperor Kwammu, a lord of a powerful family, or rather a leprous son of that Emperor, established himself in the province of Suruga, and a group of *Eta*, actually living there now, constitute the descendants of that Prince's servitors. A tumulus that can yet be seen near the village inhabited by these *Eta*, is supposed to be the tomb of the same Prince: a mirror of rude workmanship is also kept there, and is said to be a relic coming from him.

Let us not confine ourselves to this curt story information which offers nothing positive, nothing probatory, and which is inadequate to enlighten us upon the real origin of the *Eta*. Happily, we possess more certainty as to what regards their existence in later times. It is undeniable and undenied, that there has been in Japan a class of pariahs, the descendants of whom are yet alive, and that their occupation was that of knackers. It was to them that all dead beasts were turned over: they carried them away, either gratuitously or for slender pay, to skin them, cut them up, and to tan their hides. The leather was used by them partly to sole Japanese foot-gear called *Setta*, to head drums, etc., some of it was sold to workmen in the towns, who needed it for the making of armour, harness, plastrons, and articles in wrought leather.

The pariahs were found in all the provinces, here united in groups or in straggling villages, there isolated and dwelling at the entrances of towns or of villages. The general laws of the land were not applicable to them: they paid no tax on real property acquired prior to the advent of the Tokugawas; but they were subjected to a special régime. Each part of the territory in which they were dispersed made a district placed under the direction of a chief: depositary of the civil and judicial powers, he exercised over them an authority pretty nearly sovereign; at the same time he was their protector.

The *Eta* were distinguished by great activity and great ardour in working.[2] While the men were busy at their work as curriers, the women and children were making writing and other brushes, and various articles made of the bristles and hair of animals. Comfort reigned in their midst. They never sold their daughters. Each one of their villages had its primary school maintained by contributions furnished by the community and by the parents of the pupils. And this was the class of pariahs that bore the name of *Eta*, a class of people ostracized by society and left to public execration. Their social inequality, officially confirmed, was shown forth in the contact of daily life most brutally. We shall mention some of its principal features.

If any matter or other called an *Eta* to the house of a man of the people, the visitor never sat inside upon the mats; no fire box and no tea was set before him; the matter in question was discussed upon the threshold of the house. The bonzes themselves would not enter their premises, nor attend their funerals, nor hold any communication with them otherwise than in writing. The *Eta* could not marry except among themselves: if it has occasionally happened that *Samurai* of inferior rank, instigated by interested views, have given their daughters in marriage to the Danzaemon family,[3] they have taken care, in order not to compromise their names, to make use of the intermediary of people of lower condition than their own, whom they had previously made to adopt these children.

It was forbidden to any *Eta* to rise from his condition and to enter the ranks of the people. The latter could, on the contrary, if they wished it, have themselves registered as *Eta*, and, later on, if they desired to have themselves reinstated in their original condition, it was sufficient for them to be authorized thereto, to address a request to that effect to the competent authorities, endorsed by relatives that had remained members of the people.

Under all circumstances where the *Eta* found themselves contending with any of the people, the latter was always favoured.

Did a dispute arise and did the parties appear in that connexion before the Court, occasion was never missed to assign to the *Eta*, were they plaintiffs or defendants, places lower than those assigned to their adversaries, members of the people. An incident that occurred in 1854, allows us to point out precisely what was that degree of inferiority. An *Eta* had been killed in an affray, Danzaemon, in his capacity of chief, complained to the Governor, Ikeda Harima-no-Kami, and demanded the punishment of the murderer, who was a man of the people. The magistrate began by advising a compromise, which advice was not accepted; at last, upon Danzaemon's reiterated entreaties, he received the complaint and transmitted it to the Court. The latter, inspired, doubtless, by the Governor, rendered the following singular judgment:—"Whereas an *Eta* is of the value but of one-seventh of a man of the people, in order that the murderer could be punished, it would be necessary that he had killed six more *Eta*." Danzaemon protested against this decision and insisted upon the condemnation of

[1] *Sentara* seems to be a Sanscrit word, indicating a certain class of pariahs in India. It may possibly be a corruption of *Saketiyan*, a tribe of pariahs carrying on the business of shoemakers.

[2] A circumstance, the account of which we heard recently, furnishes us an example of this. A policeman whose post was near Ueno, noticed an old cobbler, once an *Eta*, come and establish himself, every day, at the corner of a neighbouring street, and pass there the whole day without having much work to do. The sight pained the policeman and moved with compassion, he questioned the old man as to his means of subsistance: "I am, said he, the owner of a plot of land in Tanaka, that brings me in from 7 to 8 *yen* a month: my daily labour, slight as it is, serves to occupy my time and to increase the income of my family."

[3] It was from this family that, from father to son, the chief of the *Eta* was taken: we will speak of this at length further on.

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the guilty party, alleging in support of his cause, a circumstance out of which he thought he could derive some advantage. "Two years ago, said he, four drunken men were frolicking on a boat with a *heinin*[4] woman; one of them, having by accident caused her to fall into the water where she was drowned, was condemned the death. If such was the punishment of the murderer of a *heinin*, how much the more severe should be that of the murderer of an *Eta*."[5]

The Court would not admit that argument and maintained its unjust and arbitary decision, which had, as a consequence, the encouragement of the people in their hateful brutality to the *Eta*.

What precedes is amply sufficient, we think, to show in what degree of inferiority the *Eta* were held, and how they were reduced thereby to form a class apart but under the ban of society. Besides, in their sad and timorous attitude and in the aspect of their habitations, the impression of the odium they were overwheloned with, was fully realized. Not a tree, not the tiniest bit of garden, not an ornament was there about their dwellings. However, for a lot so little enviable, there was some compensation. And that was the comfort, as we have already said, that generally prevailed among them. Not only were they all safe from want, but many of them possessed lands and money and could be considered rich. More than once has it happened that not a few of those who despised them, who publicly avoided them, came in secret to humble themselves before them and beg loans of them. There was no reckoning with an *Eta* as a pariah, but it had to be done with him as a creditor. Thus, whenever the occasion presented itself, they never failed to make their debtors expiate the contempt that was shown them. We cannot refrain from relating in connection with this subject, the following anecdote:

Danzaemon, the chief of the *Eta* of the Kwanto district, enjoyed a considerable fortune; his strong-boxes always held upwards of 1,700,000 *ryo* in gold, and his store-houses over 15,000 bags of rice reaped upon his own fields, to say nothing of what he had in stock of leather. His debtors were numerous: they were merchants and *samurai* that need had brought to cringe in secret before him, and that, in public, made a show of the contempt with which he inspired them. He took, one day, advantage of a festival to invite them all to a banquet at his house. Most of them, horrified, took good care not to go to it: they had no desire to defile themselves by attending an entertainment given by a vile and despicable fellow. A few of them, however, with whom interest outweighed repugnance, dared to present themselves. They reached Danzaemon's mansion, where nothing had been neglected for receiving them magnificently. The great room of state had been lighted with candles in massive silver candlesticks. The screens and all the other ornamental articles had come from the hands of the very best masters. Dazzled at first by this profusion of gold and of silver, the guests were beginning to recover from their amazement, when once more they were struck with surprise. In the midst of all this luxury there was no appearance of the indispensable *tobaco-bon*, a kind of small brazier at which to light a pipe and which is always placed before every visitor even before the master of the house presents himself. However, servant girls came in and arranged before each guest, little tables laden with covered bowls and dishes. Danzaemon then made his appearance and, in conformity with the laws of etiquette, having saluted his guests, begged them to do honour to the repast he was offering them and which he added, was a very simple one. For any one that can understand the horror, so to speak invincible, that was felt at receiving anything whatsoever from an *eta*, the embarrassment of the guests will be readily conceivable. However, there could no longer be any hesitating: they looked at each other, encouraged each other by glances and ended by uncovering the bowls and dishes. But by way of viands, oh mighty surprise! they were filled with *koban* (gold money). After having enjoyed the astonishment of his guests, Danzaemon directed a roll of paper to be handed to each of them as a souvenir: these rolls were the engagements entered into and signed by the one or the other of them, and that at a stroke of the pen had been cancelled. Upon taking their leave, loaded with gold and released from their debts, the guests could not help acknowledging that, if Danzaemon had put their *amour propre* to a severe test, at least he had known enough to respect their susceptibilities by dispensing them from having to eat in his house and even to smoke there. It did not fare so well with those that had abstained from appearing: the creditor, without a day's delay, demanded payment by them of their over due indebtedness and enforced it without deduction of a single *tempo*. Danzaemon's conduct, under the circumstances which we have just related, quite irreproachable though it was, was none the less indicative of a well marked state of reciprocal antipathy which was not liable to show itself upon all occasions, under so courteous a form, especially in localities where the *Eta* were superior in number. It is well known that in Edo, especially from the beginning of this century, they behaved like despots towards persons of the people, and it is very probable that, in instigating the court to render the decision referred to above, Governor Ikeda Harima-no-Kami's precise object was to put a check upon the arrogance of the *Eta* that had become intolerable.

With this information upon the social status of the *Eta* and upon their relations to other classes of the population, we have now to speak of the form of authority to which they were subjected.

Each district, as we have said, was under the direction of a chief that was at the same time the protector of those under his administration. The Kwanto[6] district being the most important one in the whole Empire, as there were in it not far from 10,000 families scattered throughout all the provinces, it seems to us preferable to study the system of administration that was in force there, and in the first place Danzaemon himself who was the chief of it.

Who was this personage? What was his origin?

Danzaemon (Dan-saemon), whose name is synonymous with Chief of the *Eta* of the Kwanto, is the name borne from generation to generation for many centuries, by the head of the Dan family, one that ascribes to itself great antiquity.

Here, according to its claims, was its origin.

Chinese annals say, that after the death of the Emperor Shinshikotei (221 B.C.) founder of the Great Wall, the Shin dynasty was shortly overturned by that of the Han. Shinshikotei's son, Fuse, was obliged to fly. He went and established himself in the country of the Saihoka, where his descendants lived for several generations. In the sixth, the family passed into Korea, whence one of its members, Prince Kyugetsukan, came and settled in Japan. That was in the 14th year of the reign of the Emperor Ojin (284 A.D.). The Prince was accompanied by immigrants from 127 Korean villages. He brought rich presents to the Emperor, consisting of gold and silver ingots, of precious stones, and silken stuffs. Ojin Tenno gave him a kind reception and presented to him the domain of Asazuma Wakigami in the province of Yamato: as to the immigrants in his suite, he made them distribute themselves throughout the province and, knowing them to be silk husbandmen, he prescribed the culture of silk upon them as an occupation. The goods they manufactured were so soft and so pleasant to the skin that to testify his satisfaction to the Prince, the Emperor conferred upon him the patronymic of *Hada-gimi* (Prince Skin). It is since then that the Chinese character has been read in Japanese, *hada*. Several centuries after that, a descendant of the Hada family named Hada Zaemon-no-jo Taketora, found himself under the necessity, on account of the following adventure, of changing his patronymic, and adopted that of Dan. Taketora was a *samurai* in the service of Masamori of the House of Taira, who, considering his bravery, had attached him to his own person. Smitten with a violent passion for his master's daughter, Taketora endeavoured to seduce her, but was foiled by her indifference. He conceived the project of carrying her off by force and was seeking the means of executing it, when the Prince discovered his attempt. A pitiless punishment was waiting for the perfidious creature; but, warned in time of the danger he was running, he fled and sought an asylum among the Minamoto people, in the Kwanto. Taketora was welcomed and made chief of the *Chori* (an ancient name of the *Eta*) of Kamakura, but in order to baffle any search for him, he had abandoned his name of Hada to take that of Danzaemon.

Towards the 4th year of *Chisho* (1180 A.D.), one of his descendants, chief like himself of the *Chori*, Danzaemon-no-jo Yorikane, took side with Yoritomo in his struggle against the Taira. The signal services he rendered in this war procured him as a reward from the victor, a commission appointing him officially chief of *Chori* in Kwanto and assigning to the latter a social rank thereafter superior to *Hinin*, and to those of the following trades: plasterers, founders, tinkers, potters, manufactures of writing brushes and of ink, custom-house officers (tide-waiters), frontier-guards, blind men, puppet showers, proprietors of *lupunars*, etc.[7] Besides, it would seem, as far at least as the very obscure wording of this commission can be understood, that Yoritomo had at the same time entrusted to the *Eta*, the service of the public police in the Kwanto.

Later on, following upon the ruin of the Yoritomo family, intestine wars began, during which the feudal lords contended for his inheritance; there was no longer any stable government; the authority of the official chief of the Kwanto *Chori* could not be exercised, for each Lord, master of a region, appointed at his whim the chief of the *Chori* of that region, and there were such kinds of chiefs appointed by powerful Lords, to wit the Shingen of the Province of Kai and Hojo of Odawara. The disorder was great. It came to an end when the victory of Sekigahara empowered Iyeyasu, of the Tokugawa family, to pacify the Empire and to reorganize its institutions.

Danzaemon did not lose a moment: he went to Iyeyasu who had just established himself in Edo (to-day Tokyo) and met him at Fuchu, in the province of Musashi. He explained to him the situation that his family had occupied since the time of Yoritomo, and asked him for its continuance. His claims were considered by the Shogun just, and he immediately appointed the Dan family hereditary chief of the Kwanto *Chori*. Some hundred years afterwards, in the 5th year of *Genroku* (1691), Danzaemon, a *Chori* of the village of Nitta (Joshu) betook himself to Edo. He came, armed with a commission formerly signed by Shingen, to contest Danzaemon's rights; but the Shogun's Supreme Court, after having examined the matter, gave judgment in favour of the latter, and since then the Dan family has exercised in peace its authority over the Kwanto *Eta*.

Such is the origin that the Danzaemon family ascribes to itself here is a singular coincidence to note. It is notorious that the Princely house of Shimadzu (of Satsuma), one of the grandest of the Japanese nobility, also descends from a Prince of the Chinese dynasty of the *Shin*. And a still more singular thing is that Shimadzu's and Danzaemon's crests are identical, namely a cross inscribed within a circle. Is there any indication therein that for the two families there has been a common origin? It may be so: but it must not be forgotten that formerly there was no lack of fellows ready to devise genealogies purposely to satisfy the vanity of the ambitious, and that what they avouched must be accepted only with grains of allowance. Such would seem to be the case as regards what concerns the origin of the Danzaemon family, and of its crest.

However it may be, as to the origin of the Danzaemon family and as to its claims to nobility, its calling was not of the loftiest. It consisted in preparing skins and leather as well as in making lamp-wicks. Danzaemon enjoyed a monopoly of these articles in the capital and in the eight provinces of the Kwanto. This monopoly, which was very lucrative, had never, however, been officially granted to him: he had appropriated it by abusing his title of purveyor to the Shogun's Court. Nevertheless, in return for this privilege, he furnished the palace with the following articles gratuitously: lamp-wicks, war drums, drums for the towers of the castle of Edo and for fire look-outs, bridles for the Shogun's stables at Edo, at Fuchu (Musashi), and at Koganei (Shimosa). Excepting as regards lamp wicks, there is total ignorance as to what were the quantities of these diverse articles that the chief of the *Eta* was to annually furnish the palace with. Documents upon the subject are wanting. It is known, however, that the Shogun required, in the most absolute manner, that for his drums the leather of chesnut horses should be used to the exclusion of that of horses of other colours. It is even added, that when giving orders for them, he had the raw material examined as a preliminary step, at the manufacturers' establishment. The exploitation of the leather industry offered no difficulty. The raw material was more than abundant. To the chief of the *Eta* had been exclusively reserved the business of removing all dead animals from horses and horned cattle to dogs and cats. The Shogun's stables paid one *ryo* and one *bu* for the carting away of a dead horse; Daimyos paid a greater or a smaller sum. It was, however, forbidden to utilize the hides of the Shogun's saddle horses, which had to be buried intact at the rate of 2 *ryo*[8] and 2 *bu* for each animal.

In Edo and its vicinity, as soon as Danzaemon had been put in possession of a dead beast by the owner, he had it carried away without delay; this work was done by three *Hinin* chiefs, in consider-

[4] The *Heinin* were a class of individuals inferior to that of the *Eta*: the Japanese term that designates them means *not-men*, and the definition given by dictionaries is, individuals "wandering along the roads and begging their food." They were numerous, without, however, being all of them beggars, at least in times the least remote from us. In Edo, there were more than 30,000 families of them, whose chief was Kawaradono Benshichi.

[5] This decision proves to us that criminal justice was at that time but little enlightened, for the penalty of death cannot be reasonably applied for a homicide committed by imprudence.

[6] The Kwanto includes the provinces East of the Hakone Pass.

[7] It will be seen further on, that followers of these kinds of occupation, with the exception of the *Hinin*, could raise themselves in the social scale to the rank of men of the people.

[8] A *ryo* is the money replaced by the *yen*: a *bu* was worth the fourth of a *ryo*; but at that time the *ryo* had a value greatly superior to the present *yen*.

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ation of the concession to them of a Kanjimba[9] 25 Kilometres square. He had a tannery, in his Shimmachi quarter behind the prison.

To Danzaemon belonged the monopoly of the leather industry, but he had authorised the *Eta* of his jurisdiction to follow the trade of curriers on condition that they would send to him at Edo, to receive his stamp, all skins prepared by them and that they would pay him for each skin one *momme* in silver (58 grains Troy).

The quantity of vegetable lamp wicks that Danzaemon had to present each year to the Shogun's palace, was fixed at 500 *kwamme* (1,875 kilogrs). Delivery took place the 1st day of the 11th moon.

It is well known that this merchandise is made out of the pith of an aquatic plant of the rush family; it was of prime importance for the Dan family that their stock of it should be looked after. Danzaemon was clever enough to have the first Shogun confer upon him and upon his successors a concession granting to him and to them the privilege of requisitioning 15 villages at his choice, and within his jurisdiction, for the cultivation of the plant, and the crop had to be delivered to him gratuitously. This privilege was not a dead letter. Each year Danzaemon designated the 15 villages upon which this tax should fall. Each one of them had to furnish 250 *kwamme* (937 kilogr. ½). The bales were taken to Danzaemon's store-houses where the wicks were prepared for use. Once the supplying of the palace effected, the surplus was sold in Edo and in the eight provinces of the Kwanto.

It is scarcely necessary to say that it was not without murmuring that the peasants performed this *corvée*. If they did submit to it, it was entirely out of respect for the will and pleasure set forth in the concession granted by the Shogun Iyeyasu. Again, if the *corvée* had been imposed equally upon all the provinces within the jurisdiction, there would have been no occassion for objection; but as the cultivation of the plant succeeds well only in the provinces of Shimosa and Hitachi, it was upon the villages therein that constantly fell that heavy burden. Nor is it surprising that the peasants frequently strove to escape from it, with more or less success. Once among other times Danzaemon's agents had come, in their chief's name, to assign the corvée to a village within the domain of the family of Ii Kamon-no-Kami (Province of Shimosa). The villagers, confident in the great influence they knew their Lord enjoyed with the Shogun, thought the moment well-timed for protesting against Danzaemon's orders, refused to listen to his intendents and declared themselves ready to have the matter carried before the courts, if necessary. A lively discussion followed; but the peasants had the worst of it and had to give way before their adversaries' arguments. The reason the latter advanced to prove the indisputable character of Danzaemon's rights, was that the power of Gongen Sama (the 1st Shogun deified) was eternal and divine, whilst the influence of their master was only ephemeral. Danzaemon in this way reaped an advantage, over the feudal lords, out of the prestige enjoyed by the Shogun.

At another time, however, in the era of *Kampo* (1741), matters did not turn out as favourably. Danzaemon's intendents had entered the domain of the Prince of Mito in order to enforce, according to custom, the plant *corvée:* but they were ill received and were maltreated by the villagers, who went so far as to threaten them with death. Their favourite arguments about authority were without effect, and it was with much trouble that they were able to extricate themselves from their bad predicament and to flee to Edo. The unfortunate result of this mission having been reported to Danzaemon, he became alarmed and at once expedited bearers of excuses to the Lord of Mito's farmers. From that time the domain of that prince was freed from the *corvée*.

The market for the sale of wicks was held once every two months, when Danzaemon handed over to the traders of the city, a certain number of bales of them. There is one thing to be noticed, and that is that there has never been any imputation that Danzaemon had ever abused his monopoly in order to make himself master of the market; but there may have been some ordinance by the Shogun that fixed the prices at which the wicks were to be sold there.

The Danzaemon family must certainly have derived handsome profits from those two industries; but the people under his administration or rather his clients the number of whom, less great in the last few years, had been at first very imposing, were another source of revenue to him.

Under Yoritomo and his successors, Danzaemon had jurisdiction not only over the *Eta* and the *Hinin*, but also over the followers of 18 different trades or callings. The latter had succeeded, one after another, in freeing themselves from it and there remained submitted to it under Iyemitsu, the 3rd Shogun, only hair-dressers, stone masons, and dyers, and they too were liberated from it in 1891 under the celebrated Minister Hirakawa Kaku-ō.

We have no precise information as to the amount of dues that these bodies of workers paid, but it is known that each family of *Eta* sent, as its yearly contribution, one bag of rice (72 litres). Now, as the number of these families amounted to nearly 10,000, there entered Danzaemon's warehouses, under this heading, more than 70,000 hectolitres a year. It is known, on the other hand, that the chief the *Hinin*, Zenshichi was obliged to furnish him every month 30,000 days work by labourers. Whenever, for one reason or another, this figure was not reached, there was owing for each day short, an indemnity of 130 *mon*. Blind shampooers and begging singers were likewise bound to pay something, but it was the intendents that benefited thereby.

Such were the obligations of the *Eta* and of the *Hinin* to their chief; but in return, he had to deal justice out to them and to conduct public matters for them. The Shogun had ceded to him his judicial power over them. Danzaemon had to exercise that power by conforming with the provisions of the law called "of the hundred articles". Naturally, in the application of them, it was not rarely that arbitrariness was seen to play a certain rôle. Yet, defined restrictions had been imposed: the penalty of banishment and every higher one, could not be carried into execution without the previous authorisation of the Governor of Edo. The court house was near Danzaemon's residence; he often sat in judgment in it himself, but, the more often he delegated his functions of judge to an intendent. The prison had about it nothing particularly worthy of note? It was situated in an enclosure of 1,000 *tsubo* (about 65 *are*) and was composed of three buildings, two of which were intended for *Eta* and *Hinin*, while the other was kept for criminals that in case of necessity the Governor of the city from time to time committed to his custody.

To arrest fugitive criminals and to supply executioners and their aids for the execution of those condemned to death, came within Danzaemon's functions; originally he selected *Eta* for this business, but later on he prescribed this tax upon the *Hinin*. The latter had also assigned to them the duty of marking the banished with the special kind of tattooing that pointed them out to public scorn. This tattoo consisted of a black band 7 to 8 centimetres long by 1 centimetre wide pricked into the right arm 10 centimetres from the shoulder. All these penalties, however, were executed only after the sanction of the Governor of the city had been obtained.

The rôle played by Danzaemon was, it appears, a considerable one. Besides his participation in the exercise of the public power, he enjoyed privileges that were almost identical with those of the Daimyos, and was bound, with regard to the high functionaries, to certain social obligations.

The quarter within which he had his residence, was then known under the name of Shincho, and was upon the site now occupied by the three islets (itchome, nichome, and sanchome) of Kameokacho in the Asakusa ward. It made as it were a town of itself, having a total area of about 4½ hectares and being covered with hundreds of shops kept exclusively by *Eta*: here were seen displayed drums, sandals with leather soles, and other articles made of leather. In the centre of this quadrilateral, upon a plot of ground of some 85 *are* enclosed with a fence, arose a sumptuous mansion, such a one as might have been the palace of a feudal lord whose annual revenue would not have been less than 10,000 *koku*[10] of rice. There it was that Danzaemon lived with his family.

A first exterior gate called *Nagaya-mon*, led to a second one called *Chu-shaku-mon*, gate of honour which two gates the Daimyos belonging to the Shogun's family and a few other feudal lords alone had the right to erect. From this gate of honour the *Genkwan*, the principal door or the porch, was reached. The interior of the mansion was decorated with unexampled luxury; besides the private apartments, there was a reception room of 65 *tatami* (105 square metres in area) and four other rooms named after the style of ornament appropriated to each of them; they were the pine room (*matsu-no-ma*), the bamboo room (*take-no-ma*), the plum room (*ume-no-ma*), and the chrysanthemum room (*kiku-no-ma*). The wall paper, and the carved wood represented the flowers, the leaves, and the branches of the plant to which the room was dedicated. In the northern frontage there was a back door, and in the western a secret door had been contrived through which visitors gained admittance, those who wished to enter *incognito*, such as *samurai* or citizens that money troubles had driven to have recourse to the chief of the *Eta's* purse. Within the enclosure, by the side of the mansion, there were seven *kura* filled with the family's riches, and eleven store houses for leather and lamp wicks. There was also an office especially appropriated to transactions in loans of money.

The private service of the mansion was discharged by a great number of young girls chosen in *Eta* families. For the conducting of his commercial affairs and for the exercise of his public functions, Danzaemon maintained a staff of 225 persons, including 15 intendants upon whom devolved the most important functions, and who each one had the management of some special line of duty, 65 sub-intendants, 70 various employés, and 75 workmen detailed for the preparation of skins and leather. The intendants and sub-intendants alone had access to their chief. With the exception of two intendants whose functions were hereditary from father to son, the 13 others as well as the 65 sub-intendants, were elected by vote from among the most recommendable *Eta* of the Kwanto. But if all were eligible, the right of election belonged only to the 500 notables that in each group or commune, performed the duties of mayor.

Each group possessed its autonomy: the notable administered affairs without Danzaemon's direct intervention; he received depositions relating to births, marriages, and deaths, and was not obliged to transmit them to Edo. It was through them that Danzaemon acquainted the *Eta* with the laws or edicts that concerned them. The elected remained in office for 5 years; but it happened sometimes that for Danzaemon's convenience, their renewal was postponed for 8 or 10 years. The greatest liberty was left to the electors: it was allowable for them to write upon the voting papers their estimation of the personality of those they wished to elect, to re-elect, or to reject. However, neither the electors nor their delegates proceeded to ascertain the results of the ballot. Danzaemon, assisted by a few intendants only, performed that operation. This system, devoid of control, was certain, it can be readily understood, to open the door to many abuses. Indeed, candidates that were desirous of being elected, had no scruple in endeavouring to bribe the intendants and they did so pretty often. However that may be, one cannot help being struck with wonder at seeing the *Eta* offer in this way the spectacle of a limited monarchy, while the rest of the Japanese people was, still under the régime of the Shogunal despotism.

Danzaemon was bound to present himself at certain times before the Shogun's high functionaries. When he set out to fulfil these obligations, he had the right to the same dress and to the same retinue that Daimyos of 10,000 *koku* had, with this difference, however, that the halberdiers, instead of carrying their pikes upright by resting them against their shoulders, did so by sloping them, a particularity that separated him from the nobility. He ordered to be cried on his passage "*shita ni iro*" (on your knees), to impose a respectful attitude: but this prerogative of his was limited to his own quarter of the city, whilst for the Shogun and for the Daimyos, it extended the whole route they followed.

When he wished to send his wife and children to enjoy themselves at Ueno at the cherry blossom season, for instance, he made them descend the Sumida river in a boat, to the Ryogoku Bridge to thence direct their steps towards the objective point of their promenade. In this way, no one knew whence they came and their costume enabled them to pass for members of a noble or of a rich family. Moreover, orders had been given beforehand to all the cobblers under his authority and working in the city, to keep themselves away from the streets through which his wife and children would pass.

The principal occasion that bid Danzaemon to go officially to tender his homage to the high functionaries, namely, the *Goroju*, the *Wakadoshiyori*, and the three Governors, was New Year's time. He paid his visit between the 3rd and the 8th of the 1st month and did so in grand attire.

Upon his arrival before the exterior gate of the functionary's mansion, his name was given to the porter, who cried it out aloud but curtly, to notify it to those within. At the porch, Danzaemon alighted from his chair and expressed his congratulations suitable to the occasion, to the *Samurai* on duty, who advanced a step or two to receive him; he then handed them as a New Year's gift for their master, a pair of sandals called *Kongosori*. The *Samurai* stood erect and answered him in a haughty tone of voice. Beyond these New Year's visits, it was rarely that Danzaemon presented himself before functionaries, or at the offices of the Government. Usually, when he was

[9] A *Kanjimba* was one quarter of the city within the limits of which a person was licensed to beg. Edo was divided into several *Kanjimba*, the distributor of which was Danzaemon. Many *Hinin* had no other means of support than mendicancy.

[10] A *koku* is equal to about 180 litres.

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personally and by name summoned anywhere, he substituted one of his intendants in his place, who performed his mission attired in the same way as were *Samurai* retainers of Daimyos. It was observable, however, that his *hakama* had a border on them of a colour different from that of the stuff they were made of, and that in returning, he no longer had his two swords stuck through his belt, his valets carried them on their shoulders. These particulariites designated to the eyes of the public the delegate of the chief of the *Eta*.

On the 2nd day of the 1st month, all the *Eta* living in Edo, came to present their compliments to their chief, on the occasion of the New Year. His intendants and sub-intendants, who, as we have said, were alone admitted to Danzaemon's presence, were received in the grand hall and invited to drink *toso*, a perfumed liqueur partaken of at that season. As to the other employés and to the workmen, they crowded about the principal entrance and, vieing with each other, shouted out the usual compliments.

The groups of *Eta* spread over the Kwanto district, sent to Edo, at New Year's time, five delegates, to convey their congratulations to their chief and presents of various kinds; but, on account of the length of the journey and of the difficulties attending it, they had until the 15th of the 2nd month to acquit themselves of this obligation.

The *Eta* renewed several times during the year, this mark of respect for and devotion to their chief, especially at the time of the dog-days, at the beginning of winter and at the festival of the dead in the 7th month. At the time of this latter festival, Danzaemon had a religious service celebrated in the *Jokoan* temple at Senju, near Edo, "for the repose of the ghosts of dead animals," and he paid for that ceremony two bales of rice and a *ryo* and a *bu* in gold. He in this way paid reverence to animals, the source of his revenue.

Danzaemon was accustomed to give two magnificent festivals a year to those subjected to him. One was a religious ceremony which he had celebrated on the 17th of the month, in honour of Gongen Sama (the divine name of the 1st Shogun deified). It was an offering of gratitude to Iyeyasu to whom he owed the maintenance of his old position and of his fortune.

The other festival was that of Jinjin-sama, the patron god of Shimmachi, that is of the *Eta* quarter, and was most brilliant. Upon that occasion there were processions in the streets of that quarter of the town. Seven cars magnificently decorated and bearing the representation of some national legend, were dragged through those streets and each car was preceded by young people uniformly attired. The festival lasted three days and to give it more splendour and animation, he invited to it besides *Eta*, young folks of both sexes of the people, and, to attract them to it, he distributed to each one of them a dress of white crape and at the same time boxes filled with viands prepared at Yaozen's celebrated restaurant in Edo. It is thus seen that it was by means of his gold profusely spent, that he succeeded in overcoming repugnance and that he had the satisfaction of detaining for a few days within his quarter and in the midst of the *Eta*, a certain number of persons of the people. It is again thanks to his gold that he was accommodated in restaurants. He was an habitué of Yaozen's place, where there was a room reserved for him. If, for one reason or another, this room was not disengaged, Danzaemon was introduced into another one, but in that case he, the next day, had the mats polluted by his presence, renewed. The same obligation was incumbent upon other *Eta* who frequented the restaurants and even houses of ill-fame, but, in order to escape from it, they took pains to repair to them secretly so as to be not recognized.

Such was Danzaemon's social condition and that of the *Eta* under his administration.

It was in vain that the chief of the *Eta* possessed the prerogatives of a Daimyo, everything reminded him, even his princely retinue, that he was but a pariah, not a wit less than were his subordinates.

However, as we said at the outset, after it had existed for many centuries, the odious appellation of *Eta* was suppressed in the beginning of the era of *Meiji*. The Imperial decision was published by two notifications issued from the *Daijokwan* (Supreme Council) and addressed one to the country at large and one to the Prefects.

Here is the translation of the two documents.

Notification to the People:—"The appellations of *Eta* and of *Hinin* are suppressed. Persons belonging to these two categories of subjects shall henceforth have the same social rank as have *Heimin* (commoners) and the same legal capacity as they for the following of professions or of trades."

The 28th day of the 8th month of the 4th year of *Meiji*.

(Seal of the *Daijokwan*).

Notification to the Prefects:—"The appellations of *Eta* and of *Hinin* having been suppressed, the local authorities are required to enter in the registers of the social status of the people, all persons belonging to those two categories of subjects and to let them enjoy the same social rank as men of the people and the same legal capacity as they enjoy for the following of all professions and of all trades."

"The exemptions from land tax or from others that old customs have allowed to exist in favour of *Eta* and of *Hinin*, are abolished. A draft of a law for the assessment of taxes to be paid by them shall be prepared and submitted to the examination of the Minister of Finance."

(The same date and Seal as above).

This great social reform is assuredly one of those that does the most honour to the Restoration of the Imperial Power and that cannot be praised too highly. And now that the whole of the Japanese people without distinction of classes, has obtained from the Emperor, political rights proclaimed by the Constitution, *Eta* are electors like *Heimin* and are eligible to Parliament. The title, then, of *Heimin* granted to *Eta* is a real dignity for them.

IN THE BELGIAN CONSULATE-GENERAL.

Before Baron D'ANETHAN, Belgian Minister, President, and Messrs. DE LA PENNE, Italian Consul, and P. DE GROOTE, Belgian Secretary, Associates; Mr. MEES, Clerk of the Court.

MONDAY, February 19th, 1894.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION OF EDWARD MÜLLENDORFF, OF THE FIRM OF POLLET AND MÜLLENDORFF, FAILURES.

On the assembling of the Court, the President first read the Report of the Liquidator, Mr. J. Ph. von Hemert, made on the 20th day of November, 1893; also the evidence of the Failure, E. Müllendorff, and J. P. Darbier, and extracts from others having claims on the firm.

The defendant was then examined by the Court, and in reply to questions said that he was twenty-seven years of age. He resided and did business in Yokohama. He recognised the books in Court, and acknowledged that they had been badly kept for some time. His only partner was Pollet. He could not positively state the amount of capital invested, as no exact amount had been fixed—200,000 francs more or less. It might have been 250,000, but he believed it was nearer the mark to say 200,000 francs.

The President pointed out an item of $13,085, which had been expended during a period of 21 months on personal expenses, and also submitted a list of cheques drawn for personal accounts. He did not find these items in the cash book?

Defendant replied that the items were not cash, so had not been entered. He had, however, used it on his own account, and had put it in his own pocket. There was something he could not understand in the accounts; the Liquidator had made it $13,085, while he made it only $10,108.

Mr. Von Hemert was here sworn, when some discussion took place relative to various items in the account.

The Court—There was a balance of $16,710, what has become of it?—It had been used in a portion of the business.

The Court—You have said that the cash allowed you was insufficient, and that you had to get more from home?—Yes.

The Court pointed out to defendant that what he had put down as personal expenses was excessive. The expenses of the firm were also excessive, amounting to $13,700 for 21 months. Did defendant not think the amount excessive for a business of $40,000 per annum?

Defendant replied that such an expenditure was absolutely necessary. If less money had been offered to the men, Messrs. Richler and Blundell, the latter especially, he might not have been able to retain their services. The latter was not only a clerk, but he had a business of his own which was to be worked in the interests of the firm.

The Court reiterated that the expenses, as shown in the books, were excessive—exaggerated. In the month of February defendant had already written to his partner the expenses were too heavy. In such a case why did he not reduce them? Richler, it seemed, was the only item dispensed with.

Defendant replied the others were necessary.

The Court pointed out that the accounts did not show a very considerable business—about $40,000 a year on an average. Besides the affairs of the firm were already embarrassed early in 1893.

Defendant said that much of this was due to a misconception between the firm and the bank.

The Court remarked that, on the 8th of March, 1893, which might be considered the beginning of the year, defendant had written that he absolutely had not a cent.

Defendant replied that the firm here was referred to.

On the 22nd June, 1893, defendant again wrote in the same strain; that he had not a cent, and was thinking of announcing the failure of the firm unless Pollet, his partner, sent him money. In July also he wrote a similar letter, but had in the interim been helped out of his embarrassment by some friends?

Defendant replied in the affirmative.

The Court—Steps were then taken to retard the crisis?

Defendant was of opinion that the steps taken by him had nothing to do with the case. If he had had all his papers he could have answered the questions put him in his preliminary examination differently, but as all his answers were purely from memory, he might have made mistakes.

Some documents, consisting of a bank cheque and paying-in book, as well as other papers, were shown defendant, which he stated he recognised.

The Court pointed out that some of the items mentioned in those books, for instance, the sale of shawls, had not been entered in his books.

Defendant did not think the sums should necessarily been passed through the cash book, as the money may have been paid by cheques.

J. Darbier was here called up by defendant, and asked to look at an entry on September 5th, and give an explanation as to an item of $2,030 which had been entered as $230?

Witness said he might have made a mistake, as one of the books was made up a long time after. That was the only explanation he could give.

Defendant here stated that on the 11th November $80 was received from Messrs. Eyton and Pratt on account of Sales, which was paid Mr. B. Gillett for rent. The balance, $74 odd, was expended on sundries.

The Court asked, with regard to 24 cases liqueurs, $200, how it was that no entry appeared in the books?

Defendant replied that in his preliminary examination this had been omitted unintentionally, but the money must have been used up in the business. Another item of $66 had been divided into three or four different expenses. He had ceased payment in October or November, but his employés were partly paid to 20th November.

The Court—You know your signature was protested, or rather questioned in February, and again in July?

Defendant said not protested, but refused for non-payment.

Defendant here entered into a lengthy explanation as to the reasons which led him to write home in the strain he did.

The Court—Anyhow the firm here was embarrassed?—Yes, the same as are other houses here, suffering from a temporary want of money.

The Court then asked why defendant did not have a Journal as prescribed by Art. 6 of the Code Belge?

Defendant said he had a sort of journal in which all was entered.

The Court—But all was not entered?

Defendant said all his transactions would be found in it.

The Court—The book you call a Journal is a Day Book?—Yes.

Defendant here read a paper showing the progress of his business, his partnership with Pollet, and the final collapse of the concern, which he did not consider was due to any fault of his own.

The Court—But your books were all wrong?

Defendant said he had nothing to do with the books; he only attended to the correspondence and the business.

J. Darbier, recalled, said all the accounts of Pollet and Müllendoff were entered in the Day Book. He knew nothing of Müllendorff's private cheques. In August he received $80 on account of salary, and subsequently got it in driblets of $15, $20, and $50. He knew nothing of the Journal; he could not have written it up until the other book was exact. The book they kept was a Day Book combined with a Journal.

Defendant, in his defence, briefly said that the whole matter was the fault of the home branch. He had been doing business entirely in the dark, When he took up matters here, after his return from home, he found everything in great disorder, books, papers, and everything being incontinently mixed up, and he had had much

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difficulty in putting them together. He had been placed in a false position, and did not know how he stood, in fact he was between two fires. As to non-payment that did not occur till the failure of the firm.

Judgment was reserved till 2 p.m. to-morrow.

TUESDAY, February 20th, 1894.

Judgment was delivered in this case to-day. After recapitulating various matters which had been elicited in the examination of the defendant and the books and papers of the firm, in regard to which several sections of the Commercial Code were cited, the Court decided defendant's case was one of simple bankruptcy and sentenced him to three months imprisonment and to pay the costs of the Court amounting to 61 francs.

A full text of the Judgment will be given when a certified translation is issued.

CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT AT KOBE.

At Kobe on the 19th inst. before Mr. R. von Krencki, H.I.G.M.'s Consul for Hyogo and Osaka, and Messrs. R. Hoeckert, O. Münch, M. Pons, and A. Simon as assessors, Carl Friedrich Reimers was placed on trial, charged with appropriating for his own use the proceeds of 100 cases of beer, consigned to him and sold by him for account of the Gaardener Export-Bierbrauerei in Gaarden (near Kiel), instead of remitting same at once to the consignors of the goods. The charge was brought under Par. 246 of the German Imperial Penal Code, which runs as follows:—"A person who unlawfully appropriates for his own use moveable property which he holds in trust or on commission, shall be punished for embezzlement with imprisonment up to three years, and if the property be held in trust, with imprisonment up to five years. If mitigating circumstances are proved, a fine may be imposed up to 300 thalers in lieu of imprisonment."

Mr. Ernst Becker, of Messrs. Becker & Co., holding a power of attorney for the Gaardener Export-Bierbrauerei, appeared in support of the charge, and after the facts as above alleged had been proved in evidence, the Court delivered Judgment, the following being a translation:—

"The merchant, C. F. Reimers, is accused of having unlawfully appropriated the sum of $750, the proceeds of 100 cases of beer consigned to him by the Gaardener Export Brewery, employing for his own use the money received by selling such cases between the 26th June, 1891, and the 15th September, 1892. From the evidence given by the witness (Mr. Ernst Becker) it appears that the accused received 30 cases per steamer *Exe* on the 26th June, 1891; 100 cases per steamer *Corinth* on the 28th September, 1891; and 20 cases per steamer *Lydia* on the 16th January, 1892. In defence the accused states he sent 50 cases to Osaka, for which he has not yet received account sales, and while acknowledging that he has used for his own purposes certain moneys received on account of the remainder, he alleges that a number of cases were stolen, and he maintains that he has not yet received a considerable part of the money due from the persons to whom he sold the goods. For this last statement the accused brought no proofs, and it appears on the face of it untrustworthy, as since the day that he gave in his accounts (5th September, 1892), nearly eighteen months have passed, and it must therefore be assumed in default of evidence to the contrary that he has devoted the whole of the proceeds of the 100 cases to his own use. According to the civil law, the consignee becomes the owner of the money received for the goods, and the consignee is bound to pay, not the actual money received, but an equivalent amount to the consignor. This claim, however, takes form *ipso jure* with the receipt of the money, so that the sum so received does not actually become the property of the consignee, but remains foreign (*fremdes Eigentum*) to him according to the natural conception and that of commercial usage, because the essential quality of the right of property—its right of disposal *ad libitum*—must be excluded. Therefore the proceeds of consignments remain, so far as the consignee is concerned, property over which he has no right of disposal, and which he cannot lawfully use as his own. As restitution takes place only *in genere* the mere employment of the money does not in itself constitute an unlawful appropriation. To constitute such an offence it must be proved that such use took place with knowledge that the restitution of this money was not in the power of the user at any moment it might be required. This knowledge—which does not exclude hope of future restitution—Reimers had or must have had, because his circumstances were already in an involved state when he received the first consignment, as numerous minor cases in this Court within the last few years have proved. The accused has therefore committed an offence against Par. 246 of the German Imperial Penal Code. It has also to be taken into consideration as an aggravation of the offence that on account of the distance of the consignors an efficient supervision over the consignee was made difficult, the offence proved therefore constituting an especially dangerous breach of trust. The accused is sentenced to imprisonment for three months, and to pay costs of trial and of imprisonment."—*Kobe Chronicle.*

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 19.

A serious hitch has occurred in the negotiations between Russia and China regarding the Pamirs, and a satisfactory conclusion of the difficulty is considered improbable.

The House of Lords has reinstated the Contracting-out Amendment in the Employers Liability Bill, and it is believed that the Government will now drop the bill.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO JAPAN MAIL."]

Kobe, February 19.

C. F. Reimers, charged to-day before the German Consul, sitting with Assessors, with embezzlement, was found guilty and sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

[SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 14.

Mr. John Burns speaking at Battersea on the subject of the recent action of the House of Lords *re* the Parish Councils Bill, urged that no surrender should be made. A country which had beheaded Charles I. would stand no veto of the Queen recommended by Lord Salisbury.

When the House of Commons met to-day it was announced that fifty officers and nine hundred men of the Royal Naval Reserve had been drafted into the Navy to supply the deficiency in the *personnel*.

According to a statement in *The Times*, Lord Kimberley is determined that until the closing of the Indian Mints has been fairly tried, a resolution of the House of Commons alone would not induce the Government to re-open them. The Indian Government has resolved to adhere to the selling of Council Bills weekly at market rates, and not to consent to an import duty on silver, with a view to supporting the value of the rupee.

February 15.

The House of Commons, by a majority of two, has accepted the amendment made by the House of Lords in the contracting-out clause of the Employers Liability Bill, with the further amendment limiting the operation of the clause to three years.

February 16.

The statement made on the 9th instant, that the House of Lords had passed the Parish Councils Bill, was premature; the Bill was only read a third time. Yesterday the Bill, greatly amended, was carried through, thus requiring a return to the Commons. The Government is determined to reject the amendments.

A French official dispatch regarding the latest collision near Sierra Leone, explains that the English frontier police occupied a village in the possession of the French and tried to impress the villagers for the purpose of making roads.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

(FROM MANILA PAPERS.)

Madrid, 29th January.

A telegram from Rome reports the death of the Rev. Father Martin, General of the Jesuits. [The deceased was a Spaniard and had occupied his position for little more than a year.]

(FROM TONKIN PAPERS.)

Paris, January 31.

The negotiations for the treaty of commerce with Siam are to be opened at Paris.

Colonel Bonnier has been recalled for taking Timbuctoo without orders.

Paris, February 1.

The Bill authorising an advance of 8,695,000 francs for the completion of the Langson railway has been introduced in the Chamber.—*Daily Press.*

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Nara, Feb. 19, 7.48 p.m.

Some gamblers employed by the *Sakurai-ha* in the Third Election District assaulted some members of the *Matsumoto-ha* on the 17th. They have been arrested.

Kagoshima, Feb. 19, 7.56 p.m.

Eighty gensdarmes arrived here from Hiroshima to-day. They are in command of Lieut.-Colonel Inouye.

Nagoya, Feb. 20, 3.44 p.m.

Mr. Katano Toshiro, ex-M.P., died this morning.

Miyagi, Feb. 20, 12.05 p.m.

A destructive forest fire broke out during the night of the 18th, and is still burning. Some six *ri* of forest have already been damaged.

Nagoya, Feb. 20, 11 a.m.

Mr. Miura Hekisui, a candidate in the Eleventh Election District of this Prefecture, is being examined by the police on suspicion of having purchased votes.

Toyohama, Feb. 17, 9 a.m.

Certain schoolmasters having become connected with electioneering movements here, some residents have addressed the Governor and the Home Minister upon the matter.

Osaka, Feb. 17, 4.08 p.m.

A meeting of promoters of the Sugar Manufacturing Co. took place last night. The promoters are fifty Osaka men, thirty Tokyo men, and twenty Kobe and Yokohama men. Messrs. Shibusawa Yeiichi, Nakakamigawa Hikojiro, Matsumoto Jutaro, Abe Hikotaro, Noda Kichibei, Yamamoto Hikoichi, Sano Tsuneki, Abe Kosuke, and Ogawa Zenkichi were appointed a committee to take charge of business connected with the establishment of the company. The meeting resolved to despatch a deputy abroad to investigate matters relating to the industry. The capital was fixed at one million *yen*.

Nagasaki, Feb. 17, 1.53 p.m.

The contest between the *Min-to* and the *Ri-to* partisans in Ishida District, Iki Province, is becoming very severe, and eleven police constables have left here to maintain order.

Gifu, Feb. 17, 11.46 a.m.

A report has reached here to the effect that a police constable visited some electors of the Sixth Election District, and advised them to vote for Mr. Kumagai Magorokuro.

Gifu, Feb. 17, 11.16 a.m.

Over one hundred persons are accused of having received bribes during the election of a member of the Prefectural Assembly for Ono District. Some arrests have been made.

Miyazaki, Feb. 17th, 11.50 a.m.

Some anti-*Min-to* partisans of the Second Election District have assaulted certain *Min-to* adherents at Yanagase.

Mayebashi, Feb. 17th, 10 a.m.

Two *soshi* belonging to the *Takatsu-ha* were arrested last night on suspicion of having assaulted some members of the *Nakajima-ha* in the Third District.

Osaka, Feb. 19, 2.25 p.m.

A telegram despatched from Jinsen on the 16th at 11.49 a.m. has reached here to the effect that a Japanese was murdered at Kaijofu during the night of the 13th.

Utsunomiya, Feb. 19, 4.45 p.m.

About one hundred *soshi* of the *Hoshi-ha* assaulted some *soshi* of the *Yokobori-ha* at Saboi in the Haga District yesterday morning. Some of the latter were much injured.

Nagoya, Feb. 19, 9.30 a.m.

Mr. Namino Johei, a candidate in the Nineth District of this Prefecture, was arrested to-day

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on suspicion of having used bribery to secure votes.

Okayama, Feb. 19, 3.15 p.m.

Radical *soshi* have wounded some Progressionists at Katsumata in Mimasaka Province.

Nagano, Feb. 19, 2.45 p.m.

The *soshi* belonging to the *Kaishin-to* are behaving in a violent manner. They attacked some Radicals to-day, but two of the attacking partly also sustained injuries. Mr. Kono Hironaka has left for the capital.

Tsu, Feb. 19, 2.25 p.m.

Kaishin-to partisans have assaulted Radical speakers in the Six Election District. The youths have been arrested.

Miyazaki, Feb. 19, 11.32 a.m.

Six anti-*Min-to* partisans and one *Min-to* man have been arrested in connection with electioneering matters.

Shimonoseki, February 19, 1.37 p.m.

At a general meeting of tobacco manufacturers which took place here the day before yesterday, it was resolved to petition the Diet and the Government for a reduction of taxes. A Committee was appointed. The next meeting will be held at Saga.

Nagoya, February 19, 4.05 p.m.

An appeal raised against the decision of the Local Court, which found Shibuya Rihachi guilty of having murdered the Mayor of Ogaki, has been decided in the Nagoya Court of Appeal in favour of the judgment of the Lower Court.

Nagasaki, Feb. 18, 7.40 p.m.

Some forty or fifty colliers of Matsu-shima, intended to create a disturbance a few days ago, with the object of forcing the mine-owner to increase their wages. The police getting wind of the movement scattered the colliers as they were assembling on the beach. The ringleader was arrested.

Osaka, Feb. 21, 1 p.m.

Details of the murder of a Japanese at Kaijofu, Korea, are to hand. The man who was fatally assaulted by Koreans was a resident of Hakatashima mura, Ochi-gun, Ehime Prefecture; Akase Yoshizo by name, and a commission merchant by occupation, who recently proceeded to Korea to recover a debt amounting to *yen* 240, from a Korean. During the night of the 13th inst. Akase had a dispute with a Korean in front of the Nantai Gate, which attracted a large crowd to the spot, and some Koreans, who are alleged to have been instigated by Chinese, commenced an assault upon him. He defended himself with a sword, and cut down two or three of his assailants, but was finally overpowered and carried by the Koreans to the house of Tsuno Tazo, the only Japanese living in the locality, where the mob completed their crime. Tsuno Tazo managed to escape from his house and arrived in Söul the following day, where he reported the matter to the Consul, who at once despatched Mr. Hagiwara, a police inspector, and two constables to Kaijofu. Negotiations between the Japanese Consul and the Korean authorities commenced at Jinsen on the 16th.

Osaka, February 21, 1 p.m.

Ri-Chu-kaku and twenty-seven other Korean residents of Kokai, Keikido, who attempted to blow up the temple of the Royal ancestors with gunpowder, and to murder the King, the Prince Imperial, and the Ministers of the Crown, were arrested on the 2nd inst. One of their associates, named Ryu-Tokon, secretly communicated the plot to the authorities. It is said that a large quantity of gunpowder, which was abstracted about a month ago, was stolen by the would-be assassins. Some thousand persons were connected with the conspiracy which is alleged to have been instigated by the Tai Won-kun.

Osaka, Feb. 21, 1 p.m.

Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister to China and Korea, will proceed to Peking at the end of next month.

Utsunomiya, Feb. 21, 4.10 p.m.

A quarrel between *soshi* occurred at Masukomura, Haga District, last night and five persons were more or less severely injured. The roughs were arrested on the spot. Five gendarmes have proceeded to the District.

Fusan, Feb. 21, 9.57 a.m.

News has reached here, from the Foreign Minister of Korea, to the effect that the prohibition of the export of rice will be rescinded on the 1st of February (or March 7th) of the Chinese calendar.

Osaka, February 20th, 11.18 a.m.

A Chinese employé in the Ajigawa Iron Factory has been accidentally killed. The *post-mortem* examination of the remains took place to-day at the Hospital in the presence of the Chinese Consul and the Public Procurator, but no suspicious circumstances were discovered.

Osaka, Feb. 21, 6.04 p.m.

The opening of tenders for the contract of supplying 3,558.728 tons of iron pipes for the Waterworks, took place to-day. The lowest tender was offered by the China and Japan Trading Company (£22,553 8*s.* 2*d.*).

Nagano, Feb. 22, 5.28 p.m.

Mr. Yoshikawa, Headman of Mikuriya, belonging to the Kojima wing in the First Election District, has been severely assaulted by some Radicals. A few individuals have been arrested on suspicion of taking part in the disturbance.

Kobe, Feb. 22, 3.10 p.m.

The election of half the members of the Hyogo Prefectural Assembly has resulted in the return of twenty-two Progressionists, twenty Radicals, and two Independent members.

Chiba, Feb. 21, 7.52 p.m.

A public meeting of Progressionists held at Kisarazu to-day was dissolved by the police in consequence of a serious disturbance.

Utsunomiya, Feb. 22, noon.

A social entertainment of the supporters of Mr. Hoshi took place at Hiraishi-mura, Kawachi District, last night. One of his electors while returning from the gathering was suddenly assaulted and received two deep cuts on his head. It is stated that the assailant was one of the *soshi* employed by Mr. Yokobori. A fight occurred at Nanai, Haga district, the same night between *soshi* of Mr. Hoshi and Mr. Yokobori. One of the former and two Yokobori *soshi* were injured.

Gifu, Feb. 23, 9.07 a.m.

A fight took place between firemen employed respectively by the *Jiyu-to* and the *Min-to* at a public meeting held on the 21st inst. by the Kumagai wing in the Sixth Election District, and a few persons were injured. The police ordered the dissolution of the meeting.

Kobe, Feb. 23, 2.35 p.m.

Mr. Hugh Fraser, British Minister, arrived here from Hongkong by the P. & O. steamer *Ancona* yesterday, and left for Yokohama and Tokyo by the same steamer to-day.

Osaka, Feb. 23rd, 5.30 p.m.

A political lecture meeting was held yesterday at Mogi, in the Fifth Election District, in support of the Unionist candidates. The speeches of Messrs. Yabu Hiromitsu and Haya Sadanori were interrupted by the police, who finally ordered the dissolution of the meeting upon Mr. Sasa Tomofusa proceeding to discuss the question of the strict enforcement of the Treaties.

Osaka, February 23, 4.03 p.m.

Arakawa Shokichi, who recently stole, at the Umeda-station, a bag containing over *yen* 40,000 which belonged to a banker, was arrested at Nara to-day. The man had *yen* 644 upon his person.

Nagano, Feb. 23, 10.18 a.m.

A serious fight broke out last night between nine *soshi* of Mr. Takizawa and thirteen youthful followers of Mr. Kojima, candidates in the First Election District. Some casualties resulted on the both sides. Three youths were arrested. Wada Yutaro was arrested on suspicion of having assaulted the Headman of Mikuriya-mura.

Kobe, Feb. 13, 11 a.m.

Mr. Sunaga Kiyoshi, formerly Superintendent of the Tottori Police and now a candidate in the First Election District of Hyogo Prefecture, has been detained on suspicion of having unlawfully confined a certain person.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 109.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—B to K 2	1—K to Q 5
2—Kt to Q B 4	2—K × P
3—Q to K 5 (mate);	
	if 2—Kt to Q B 6
3—Q to Q Kt 2 (mate);	
	if 2—K to Q B 4
3—Q to Q Kt 6 (mate).	
	1—K to Q B 3
2—Kt to Q Kt 5	2—K to Q B 4
3—Q to Q 6 (mate);	
	if 2—K to Q 2
3—Q to K 8 (mate).	

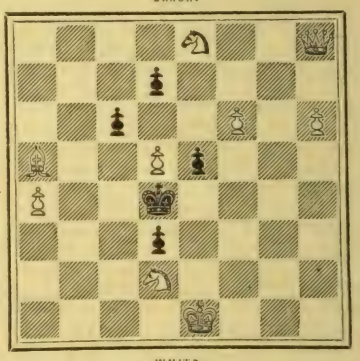
Correct solutions received from Omega, Digamma, W.H.S., Dr. Hispanus, Shogi (who styles the problem "a charming composition"), and J.D.

J.D. is credited with a correct solution of No. 108 also.

PROBLEM No. 111.

By A. G. FELLOWS.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

The Chess Magazines for January are to hand but do not contain anything very fresh or unexpected. Reviewing the late Tarrasch-Tschigorin match:—The general opinion is that the Russian showed himself decidedly the best man, and would have won the match had more games been played. Unfavourable comment is made on the German's avowed resolution to confine his play to Ruy Lopez and French Defence; and take it altogether Dr. Tarrasch does not seem to have added much to his reputation by his recent visit to St. Petersburg.

Lady chess players are coming rapidly to the front, as witness the following which we clip from the *British Chess Magazine*:—

"It is stated that Mrs. Showalter, the wife of the American champion, is a capital chess player. She is only twenty-two years of age, and was married to him at sixteen. Soon after this event her husband taught her the moves, and then gave her the odds of Queen: but she progressed so rapidly that he cannot now give her the Knight, and she has won two games off Mr. Lasker at that odds. Not long ago, at Kokomo, Indiana, she played four games on even terms with Mr. Jackson, the champion of that State, with the result that she won three and the other was drawn."

There seems to be a "decline and fall" of the chess glories formerly pertaining to Simpson's Divan, the famous rendezvous in past years of world-famous players. Mr. Blackburne has had to leave London for the South Coast because he finds the winter fogs of the metropolis too severe for his constitution. But from his residence at Hastings he hopes to make occasional visits to London. Then Mr. Gunsberg is hardly ever seen at the Divan now-a-days. His journalistic work and his engagements as instructor to various Clubs taking up all his time. Mr. J. Mason also is much occupied with literature; and it seems that Mr. Bird is the sole remaining representative of the great masters who used to throng the well known resort. Times change. There are now so many large clubs in London that the need of "Simpson's," of evergreen memory, seems to have passed away.

We reprint from the *Illustrated London News*

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a game recently played in London, wherein the veteran Bird gives an example of an unusual defence to the very prevalent Ruy Lopez opening.

Game between Messrs. ROLLAND and another consulting against Mr. BIRD.

(RUY LOPEZ.)

WHITE. Allies.	BLACK. Bird.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Q Kt 5	3—Kt to Q 5

A defence not frequently adopted, but characteristic of the Black player.

4—Kt × Kt	4—P × Kt
5—P to Q 3	5—P to K R 4
6—P to Q B 3	6—B to Q B 4
7—Kt to Q 2	7—P to Q B 3
8—B to R 4	8—P to Q 3
9—Kt to Kt 3	

White has not opened well and this last move does not improve matters. Kt to K B 3 was better, as the text move only leads to an exchange distinctly in favour of Black's development.

	9—P to Q Kt 4
10—Kt × B	10—P × Kt
11—B to B 2	

Taking the K B quite out of play. B to Kt 3 was the correct reply.

	11—B to K Kt 5
12—P to B 3	12—B to K 3
13—Q to K 2	13—Q to B 3
14—B to Q 2	14—Kt to K 2
15—Q to B 2	15—P to R 5
16—P to K B 4	16—P to R 6
17—P to B 5	

Again weak; P to Kt 3 followed by B to Q sq. yields a sound enough position.

	17—P × P
18—Q × P	18—Kt × P

A sacrifice that obtains a strong attack, but we doubt if it is altogether sound against correct play.

19—P × Kt	19—B to Q 4
20—Q to K 2 ch.	20—K to Q 2
21—Castles (K R)	

A strange and fatal blunder. Castling (Q.R.) would have left White distinctly stronger in material force and with but little inferiority of position. Black now finishes the game neatly enough.

	21—R to R 5
22—Q R to K sq.	22—Q R to R sq.
23—B to B 4	23—R × P
24—B × R	

and in reply Black mates in three moves.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Mar. 2nd.
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Feb. 24th.*
From America	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 8th.†
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Feb. 25th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 1st.‡
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 4th.§
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Friday, Mar. 3rd.‖
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Mar. 19th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, Mar. 21st.

* *Ancona* left Kobe on February 23rd. † *Peru* left San Francisco on February 17th. ‡ *Empress of India* left Hongkong on February 21st. § *Calédonien* (with French mail) left Hongkong on February 23rd. ‖ *City of Peking* left Hongkong on February 23rd.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Sunday, Feb. 25th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Feb. 27th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, Mar. 2nd
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 3rd.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 4th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 10th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 20th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Argyll, British steamer, 1,886, Williamson, 17th February,—New York viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 17th February,—Yokkaichi 16th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 17th February,—Kobe 16th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dora Seiward, British schooner, 93, F. Cole, 18th February,—Victoria, B.C., 29th December, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Laertes, British steamer, 1,674, Greer, 18th February,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Sydney, French steamer, 3,450, Augé, 18th February,—Marseilles 7th January, Hongkong 9th February, Shanghai 13th, and Kobe 17th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 18th February,—Otaru viâ ports 13th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 18th February,—Kobe 17th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 19th February,—Vancouver, B.C., 5th February, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 19th February,—Yokkaichi 18th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saint Oswald, British steamer, 1,781, Attreete, 19th February,—Cardiff, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Agnes MacDonald, British schooner, 107, M. Cutler, 20th February,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Corolla, British ship, 1,265, Fraser, 20th February,—New York 28th August, Petroleum.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Kaisow, British steamer, 1,934, Jas. Gray, 20th February,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 20th February,—Shinagawa 20th February, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Sikh, British steamer, 1,827, J. Rowley, 20th February,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, 20th February,—Kobe, General.—Tanaka Shoten.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 20th February,—Yokkaichi 19th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 21st February,—Otaru viâ ports, 17th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 21st February,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Lawang, German steamer, 1,578, Von Binzer, 21st February,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 21st February,—Kobe 20th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, I. Iwata, 22nd February,—Yokkaichi 21st February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 22nd February,—Hongkong viâ ports, 14th February, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, G. W. Conner, 23rd February,—Shanghai and ports 17th February, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, H. Walter, 23rd February,—Hongkong 17th February, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 704, Yoshizawa, 23rd February,—Shimonoseki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 23rd February,—Yokkaichi 22nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 23rd February,—Kobe 22nd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 17th February,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 17th February,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 17th February,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 17th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 17th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompson, 17th February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Concord (6), U.S. gunboat, Commander Goodrich, 17th February,—Yokosuka.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 1,662, F. Davies, 17th February,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tokei Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, Asiatic steerage. In transit for Hongkong:—

18th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Baltimore (14), U.S. flagship, Captain W. R. Bridgmann, 19th February,—Yokosuka.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 19th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 19th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, Gidye, 19th February,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 20th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 20th February,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 20th February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 20th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Laertes, British steamer, 1,674, Greer, 21st February,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 21st February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Casco, British schooner, 63, Otto Bucholtz, 22nd February,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Enterprise, British schooner, 68, Oscar Scarf, 22nd February,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Browne & Co.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,183, Sachett, 22nd February,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, I. Iwata, 22nd February,—Hakodat, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kaisow, British steamer, 1,934, Jas. Gray, 22nd February,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Inchbarra, British steamer, 2,785, Major, 22nd February,—Kobe, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Diana, British schooner, 50, A. Nelson, 23rd February,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Maud S., British schooner, 97, R. E. McKeil, 23rd February,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Sikh, British steamer, 2,735, J. Rowley, 23rd February,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Argyll, British steamer, 1,886, Williamson, 23rd February,—New York viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 23rd February,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 23rd February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 23rd February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 23rd February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 24th February,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, 24th February,—Otaru, Ballast.—Tanaka Shoten.

Wolf (6), German gunboat, Captain Kretschmann, 24th February,—Kobe.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, from Marseilles viâ ports:—Mr. Hector Tilden, Mr. H. Foin, Mr. Pollet, Mr. and Miss Hubert, Mr. Abilis, Mr. Zimmer, Mr. Spiegel, Mr. Schackee, Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor, infant, and amah, Messrs. Komor, Catton, Metivier, Pigott and servant, Gillard, Yoshikawa, and Chavanne in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. D. Dewey, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. F. S. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. C. Stoddart, Mr. B. Matsuka, Mr. J. H. Rosenthal, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Flood, Miss Lucy, Miss Mary Wilkin, Mr. C. W. Collier, and Mrs. Bishop in cabin; 12 passengers in second class, and 11 passengers in

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Mr. Wallace Johnstone, Mr. V. Holmes, Mr. L. J. Thomson and valet, Mr. and Mrs. Alloway, and Mr. S. Smith in cabin, and 39 passengers in Asiatic steerage. For Shanghai:—9 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. J. K. Trafford, Miss M. Henessey, and Mr. P. J. Stutchbury in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. T. G. Gowland, Mr. Lee Se Chang, and Mr. O. Seligmuller in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Warren Moore and Mr. T. Suda in cabin; Mr. J. Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. Shimura in second class, and 41 passengers in steerege.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, from Hongkong:—Mr. E. Schaeffer in cabin; Dr. F. Trisawa, Mr. W. Rowland, and Mr. Cok Ling in second class, and 10 Chinese on deck.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Paul Kentman, Mr. C. H. S. Sarl, Mr. and Mrs. Barbour, Mr. and Mrs. E. Popp, Mr. Kwong Sang Woh, and Mrs. Ah Ling in cabin; 7 Chinese and 1 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, for Hongkong:—Mr. I. Bunting, Captain J. W. Lee, Mr. Lo Wy Tong and child, Lieut. N. Sargent, U.S.N., and Mr. B. C. Howard in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. M. E. Torbert, Mrs. Dearborn, Captain M. Squire, Messrs. L. Roux, Jas. Hall, J. C. Hartland, A. Reddelien, Grimsey, Wong Shu Ling, and R. Uchiyama in cabin; Misses Wong (3), Mrs. and Miss Wong Shu Ling, Mr. Wong Man Wa, and 4 children, and Mr. Mok Kuong Chee in second class, and 52 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—Messrs. Geo. Ashley, C. E. Chapman, E. C. Fearon, T. G. Gowland, M. H. R. Harris, John Laird, William Laird, Le Se Chang, E. Marshall, B. Schake, C. A. Spigel, and Henry St. Clair in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 222 bales; Waste Silk, 193 bales.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $151,100.00.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	ST. PAUL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	278	—	—	925	1,203
Yokohama ...	462	259	296	250	—	1,432
Amoy.....	107	11,274	1,249	—	—	12,630
Total.....	569	11,811	1,545	250	925	15,265

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL
Shanghai	—	199	—	199
Hongkong	—	120	—	120
Yokohama	—	823	—	823
Total	—	1,142	—	1,142

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Otaru the 13th February at 2.14 p.m.; had moderate S.W. winds and snow squalls at times to Hakodate, arriving the 14th at 9 a.m. and left the 16th at 8 a.m.; had light variable airs and fine weather throughout the passage. Arriving at Oginohama the 17th at 6.10 a.m. and left the same day at 1.12 p.m.; had fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 17th February at 2 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Crichton, reports:—Left Kobe the 17th February at noon; passed Oshima at 8.55 p.m.; had light air and fine, clear weather; from the coast of Owari up to Rock Island fresh north-westerly breeze and fine, clear weather; thence up to port strong south-westerly breeze and fine, clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 18th February at 5.15 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain F. L. Sommer, reports:—Left Hakodate the 19th February at 8 a.m. Arrived at Oginohama the 20th at 6.14 a.m. and left the same day at 11.15 a.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 21st February at 11.30 a.m. Had moderate west to south-westerly winds and fine, clear weather to Oginohama; thence fresh north-north-easterly winds and cloudy weather with occasional passing showers to port.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Pearne, reports:—Left Hongkong the 14th February at 7.36 a.m., viâ ports; had variable winds and fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd February at 11.03 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain G. W. Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 17th February at 10 a.m. and arrived at Nagasaki the 19th at 3 a.m.; had southerly winds and pleasant weather. Left Nagasaki the same day at 5 p.m. and arrived at Kobe the 21st at 3 a.m. Left Kobe the 22nd at 0.5 a.m. and arrived at Yokohama the 23rd February at 6 a.m.; had moderate northerly breezes throughout the passage.

The German steamer *Nürnberg*, Captain Hugo Walter, reports:—Left Hongkong the 17th February at 1 p.m.; through the Formosa Straits and up to the Linschoten Islands, had fresh N.E. and E. winds, moderate sea; thence to Siwo Point experienced strong N. gale with very high sea; thence to port fresh N. and N.E. winds, moderate sea, fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 23rd February at 8.15 a.m.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Formosa, British steamer, 2,616, Bishop, 14th February,—London viâ ports, 16th December, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Lawang, German steamer, 1,578, Von Binger, 21st February,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Saint Oswald, British steamer, 1,781, Attreete, 19th February,—Cardiff, Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

MEN-OF-WAR.

Caroline (14), cruiser, Captain C. J. Norcock, 12th February,—Kobe 11th February.

Forfait (4), French cruiser, Captain Ricaloux, 31st January,—Kobe.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The unprecedented decline in Exchange has continued to have an adverse influence on the Import Trade and seriously hampers business. It is said that, fearing higher prices in the near future, buyers were anxious to purchase Yarns. From this or some other cause a few hundred bales changed hands early in the week, causing prices to rise as much as 1.50 per picul in the case of 42s two-fold. This rush, however, has died away and the market closes quiet. Shirtings and T.-Cloths have been entirely neglected, but holders are raising their quotations to compensate for the fall in Exchange. Other lines close as last reported, although there was also a slight desire to purchase various Fancies a few days ago.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39inches	$2.30 to 2.80
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45inches	2.40 to 3.15
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.60 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.40 to 8.75
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.65 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.47½ to 1.57½
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.62½ to 1.95
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.27½ to 2.67½
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.85 to 3.10

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.43
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.25 to 0.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.20 to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.14 to 0.19½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$36.50 to —
Nos. 16/24, Medium	37.00 to 37.50
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	38.00 to 38.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	39.50 to —
Nos. 28/32, Medium	38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	39.00 to 40.50
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	45.00 to 46.50
Nos. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42s, Two-fold	48.75 to 51.00
	PER PIECE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Nothing of an enlivening nature has arisen during the week. In face of the continuous decline in Exchange, holders have been forced to raise their quotations. Buyers seem far from anxious to operate and the market is dull and discouraging.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$4.50 to 4.60
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	4.60 to 4.70
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.45 to 3.55
Iron Plates, assorted	3.55 to 3.65
Sheet Iron	4.60 to 4.80
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	5.60 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.65

KEROSENE.

Another quiet week has passed. Stocks have been further augmented by another arrival of American Oil—the ship *Carolla* coming in on the 19th inst. with 44,260 cases of Comet. The ship *Carl* reported last week landed only 15,000 cases of her cargo, the remainder being carried on to Kobe. Buyers hold off, but holders remain firm.

Chester	$1.82½ to 1.85
Comet	1.80 to 1.82½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.80 to 1.82½
Russian Moon	1.77½ to 1.80

SUGAR.

Demand for China and Manila Browns has fallen off slightly and in consequence prices show a decline especially for Canton grades. Contracts for Takao "to arrive" are being freely made at somewhat higher rates. Whites experience a fair amount of demand but show no change in value.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.55 to 4.60
Brown Manila	5.25 to 5.30
Brown Daitong	4.20 to 4.30
Brown Canton	4.40 to 4.60
White Java and Penang	7.00 to 7.10
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 16th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 596 piculs, divided thus: *Hanks*, 1 picul; *Filatures*, 425 piculs; *Re-reels* 76 piculs; *Kakeda*, 94 piculs. In addition to these purchases, Japanese shipments have been 4 bales, making the total business of the week 600 piculs.

There has been more enquiry for the American market, but business is far from general, being confined to one or two shippers. Prices paid have been full, but are set off to some extent by the recent drop in exchange. While writing, holders are talking of putting their prices up again to compensate for this. In fine-sized *Filatures* and silks generally for Europe, there has not been so much doing, and for these kinds holders are more current but without reducing their prices to a level at which consumers there are willing to buy. Altogether, the outlook all round does not seem very promising and with the approach of spring weather the trade will soon be anticipating the coming crops.

Exchange has further declined in sympathy with lower silver in London, and it appears that a settled basis is very far from being reached.

Arrivals have been small and the stock list shows a further reduction of 350 piculs upon the week. Every day brings us nearer to the spring reelings, but in the meantime holders are doing their best to make what capital they can out of the reduced stocks. Our present stock, however, looks formidable when compared with last year. Now it is 13,400 piculs, whereas last year at the same date it was 2,600 piculs.

There has been only one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the English mail steamer *Verona*, which sailed on the 17th instant, taking 222 bales for Europe. This departure makes the present export figures 31,021 piculs, against 42,276 piculs last year, and 39,353 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—Nothing done beyond a sample bale of good *Shinshu* at $630. The stock in this class is quite insignificant.

Filatures.—A fair amount of business has transpired, chiefly for the United States; prices ranging from $790 to $750 for decent *Shinshu*. Beyond this, little has been done, although some few parcels are mentioned as being settled for Europe at from $770 to $730 for good medium *Mino*, *Bishu* and similar Filatures.

Re reels.—A few parcels have been taken at full rates, holders being very strong. Present quotation for "best" *Joshu* is fully $760, with "good" *Joshu* at $730; "medium," $700. The stock is not very large and is apparently held in strong hands.

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Kakeda.—Some busines has been done at a further advance in price; *Horsehead* I commanding $695 and is now held for $700. There has not been much business doing, but holders are strong and seem to get what they ask by a little waiting. *Daruma* was done in the early part of the week at $715, but this price would not be practicable now. In other sorts, nothing to remark.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	$850 to 860
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		790 to 800
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den		810 to 820
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers		750 to 760
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den		760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		720 to 730
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		730 to 740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1		760 to 770
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		750 to 760
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		720 to 730
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		690 to 700
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		660 to 670
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		640 to 650
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1		710 to 720
Kakedas—No. 1½		690 to 700
Kakedas—No. 2		650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 2½		640 to 645
Kakedas—No. 3		—
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 23rd Feb., 1894:—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	16,935	16,029	13,781
America	13,163	25,493	24,662
Total { Bales	30,098	41,522	38,443
Total { Picul	31,021	42,276	39,353
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	31,000	43,350	40,200
Stock, 23rd Feb.	13,400	2,600	10,000
Available supplies to date	45,300	45,950	50,200

WASTE SILK.

Settlements in this branch are 538 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 142 piculs; *Kibiso*, 390 piculs; *Boseki-wata*, 6 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

The tone of the market is rather weaker, as holders seem inclined to move and are apparently getting tired of holding their stock. Still, this does not seem to attract consumers and the demand for Europe continues very limited.

There has been only one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the English mail steamer *Verona*, on the 17th instant taking 193 bales for Europe, and the export to date is 19 959 piculs, against 30,885 piculs last year, and 24,600 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Cocoons.—Nothing done and it is probable that no more shipments will be made before the new crop.

Noshi.—Some few parcels have entered the list; medium *Filature*, $135; good *Oshu*, $135; common *Joshu*, $65.

Kibiso.—Several parcels have passed the scales, especially *Zagouri* bringing from $45 to $57½, according to grade. One small parcel of *Sendai* noted at $82½, with lower grades at $70 and $65. Small doings in *Filature*, $110 being paid for best, with $105 for good average quality.

Sundries.—Only one parcel of *Boseki-wata* is noted, $230 being paid for extra quality.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to 110
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 23rd Feb., 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	16,728	28,193	22,505
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,095
	19,959	30,885	24,600
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	22,000	36,500	26,700
Stock, 23rd Feb.	17,600	5,800	10,900
Available supplies to date	39,600	42,300	37,600

Exchange:—This has gradually weakened to the following quotations:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1⅛; Documents, 2/1⅛; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1⅛. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $51½; 4m/s. U.S, $52. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.66; 6m/s. fcs. 2.68

Estimated Silk Stock, 23rd Feb., 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	20	Cocoons	250
Filatures	7,650	Noshi-ito	8,620
Re-reels	4,280	Kibiso	8,240
Kakeda	1,410	Mawata	150
Oshu	10	Sundries	340
Taysaam Kinds	30		
Total piculs	13,400	Total piculs	17,600

TEA.

Exchange continues to move in favour of buyers, and consequently a fair amount of leaf has changed hands. Prices practically show no change, but for anything above Medium grade holders are very firm.

	Per picul.
Common	$12 to 13
Good Common	14 to 15
Medium	17 to 18
Good Medium	19 to 20
Fine	22 to 23
Finest, Choice, Choicest	Nominal

EXCHANGE.

The vagaries of Exchange all tend downwards; the bottom is evidently not yet reached.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/0¾
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/0⅞
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.53
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2 62
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	71¼
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72¼
On India—Bank sight	182
On India—Private 30 days' sight	185
On America—Bank Bills on demand	48⅜
On America—Private 30 days' sight	50¼
On America—Private 4 months' sight	51
On Germany—Bank sight	2.04
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.12
Bar Silver (London)	27⅛

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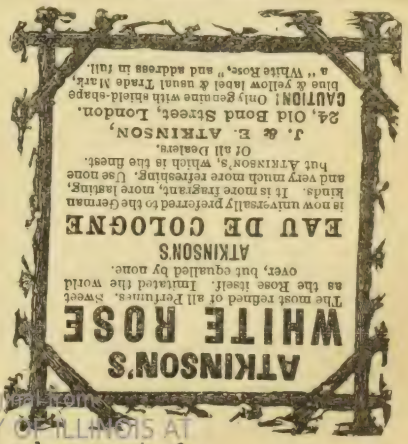
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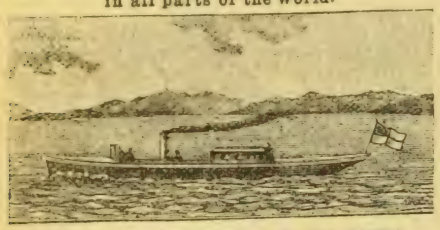
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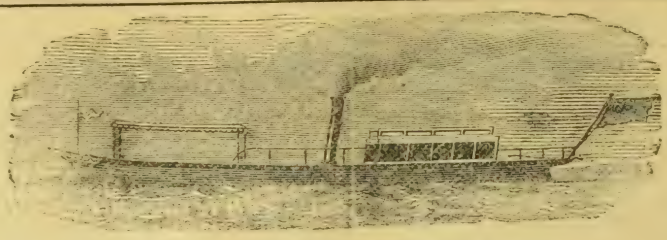
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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD, 1894.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Naval Authorities have obtained Imperial sanction to despatch the *Takachiho Kan* to Hawaii to relieve the *Naniwa Kan*.

A very severe earthquake shock was experienced in Yokohama, Tokyo, and Yokosuka shortly before one o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. No damage was done.

THE two murderers of the priest attached to the Buddhist Temple at Negishi have been examined in the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho and sent for trial.

THE performance of *Ali Baba up-to-data* by the Kobe amateurs has been an unqualified success. The local allusions were peculiarly happy and up to date.

HIS EXCELLENCY Mr. HUGH FRASER, H.B.M.'s representative at the Court of Japan, accompanied by Mrs. Fraser, arrived by the P. & O. steamer *Ancona* on Sunday.

MR. UCHIYAMA has won his appeal in the Osaka Appeal Court, in the libel action instituted against him by Mr. Asahina, an interpreter in the German Consulate at Kobe.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU AKIHITO, Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Body Guard, has been commissioned to command the review which takes place on the Imperial Silver Wedding day.

THE general elections took place on Thursday, but the full returns are not yet to hand. As the day drew near, many accusations of bribery were preferred against some of the candidates, but only a few will be brought into the Law Courts.

Two Jubilee stamps will be issued on March 9th, in commemoration of the Imperial Silver Wedding. They will be of the same colour and value as, only of different design and shape from, present the 2-*sen* rose and 5-*sen* royal blue.

THE annual meeting of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club took place on Monday. A balance in hand of $98.67 was reported, but a large expenditure will be necessary this year on account of repairs. An alteration in the rules relating to the subscriptions of visitors was proposed and carried.

IT is proposed to send a congratulatory address to the Imperial Household from the Japanese residents of Yokohama. On the 9th inst. a general Assembly will be held in the Public Gardens, where a procession will proceed to Ise-yama. A lantern display will take place at night on the road between Mayeta-bashi and Sakaicho.

THE Merchant Guilds of Yokohama have again placed watchers opposite the premises occupied by the boycotted firms of Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co., and Messrs. A. S. Rosenthal & Co., notwithstanding the police injunction. The men now walk up and down the streets instead of standing in one position, the Guilds thereby hoping to escape a breach of the law.

THE former secretary of Messrs. Deakin Bros., who had lately been carrying on business on his own account in Yokohama and San Francisco, has absconded, leaving many debts and liabilities behind him. He is supposed to have left by the *Gaelic* on Saturday morning. His office effects have been sold up by one of the creditors. The severest sufferers are supposed to be Japanese and Chinese exchange shops.

JUDGMENT in an appeal case raised by Mr. Mitsui against the Minister of Finance in connection with the Miike coal mine was given by the Tokyo Court of Appeal on the 26th ult. The judgment was partially in favour of the plaintiff. The Court ordered Mr. Mitsui to pay royalty on the out-turn, but found that the Minister was responsible for the damages to the mine caused by the earthquake. The Minister has appealed against the decision.

THE Nagasaki Guild of Japanese Commission Merchants has presented Mr. Nakano, Governor of Kanagawa, with a tortoise-shell vessel in recognition of services rendered by him to local trade and industries while Governor of Nagasaki. Yokohama has much to thank Mr. Nakano for already; for the manner in which he has restored the streets of the Settlement to a condition of excellent repair, and also for his suppression of the worst of the flaunting tea-house jades whose habitats lie on the outskirts of the town.

THE annual general meeting of shareholders in Messrs. Deakin Bros., Limited, was held on Wednesday, Mr. J. Rickett in the Chair. The accounts were subjected to much criticism, but were eventually passed. One shareholder suggested that the accounts should be properly straightened out, and then, if it was found that the Company could not pay its way, that the best course would be to liquidate. The Chairman announced that the Directors intended calling an extraordinary meeting for the purpose of deciding whether the capital should be reduced.

THE colonial party in the House of Commons has received a deputation from the Straits Settlements protesting against the military contribution, and promised to raise a debate upon the subject at the first opportunity. Sir Edward Grey, speaking in the House of Commons, stated that the delimitation of the Upper Meikong was postponed till the autumn owing to climatic reasons. A steam-pipe exploded during the speed-trial at Kiel of the German ironclad *Brandenburg*, and forty-one men were killed and seven injured. Yellow fever is raging upon the foreign men-of-war in Rio harbour. The German Emperor dined with Prince Bismarck at Friedricksruhe, recently. Mr. Asquith, the Home Secretary, has stated that the British Government is ready to co-operate with foreign Powers to ensure the effective watching of the Anarchists. He deprecated the amendment of the law in the direction of empowering the expulsion of suspects. Another bomb outrage has been perpetrated in Paris, resulting in many persons being injured. Mr. Gladstone has announced in the House of Commons that the Employers Liability Bill has been dropped, the amendments made by the House of Lords having poisoned the Bill. The majority of the amendments made by the Lords, in the Parish Councils Bill, have been rejected by the House of Commons. Great Britain, France, Italy, and Austria have strongly advised Morocco to comply with the demands of Spain. The French Chamber of Deputies has adopted a duty upon corn at the rate of seven francs per hectolitre. It is stated that Russia sent a diplomatic note to France intimating that if through the increase of the French corn-duties the exports of Russian cereals be disturbed, Russia will terminate the commercial treaty with France. The financial statement of the Italian Government shows a deficit of a hundred and twenty-seven million *lire*. It is proposed to raise fresh taxes to the amount of one hundred million *lire*. The new tariff bill is still before the finance committee of the U.S. Senate. A British Naval force sent against some slave trading chiefs near Bathurst, West Africa, has suffered a severe reverse, resulting in the deaths of many officers and men, while a field-piece has also been lost.

THIS has been a blank week so far as Imports are concerned, not a single sale in Woollens, Yarns, or Piece-goods being reported. The Metal market is similarly paralysed—and all on account of the ever decreasing value of the silver dollar. Both buyers and sellers are frightened of doing anything, and will continue to be so long as this great uncertainty continues. The outlook for Kerosene is not quite so mournful as it was a fortnight ago, holders having given way a bit, thus inducing a few transactions. The recent arrivals of Brown Sugars from Hongkong have nearly all been sold at the old figures, and in Whites a fair amount of business is also reported. In Tea only a few small transactions are to be noted, as tasters will soon be looking for garden musters of New Crop. The mild winter should bring on early spring pickings. Settlements for the season to date are just about on a par with last year; the exact figures being 227,150 piculs against 227,000 piculs at same date in 1893. The heavy fall in Exchange has assisted the Raw Silk market, many buyers being enabled to fill orders which had been somewhat long delayed. The principal business for Europe has been in fine-sized Filatures, and the Japanese, although willing to get rid of their large stocks, have forced prices up a little. Accounts from consuming centres are very dull, especially the United States, manufacturers appearing to expect still cheaper silk. Business in Waste has been small, only about 300 piculs being accepted. Trade is undoubtedly curtailed through holders sticking out for fabulous prices, but probably before another week is out buyers and sellers may meet on a mutual base.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The full results of the general election are not yet known, but it is certain that the voting has not been attended by serious disturbance in any part of the country. That the Government has been strictly impartial seems to be tacitly admitted by the Opposition papers. Nay the *Yomiuri Shimbun* goes so far as to publicly acknowledge that the Authorities have by their vigilant impartiality enabled the electors to exercise the franchise without molestation. Some papers, however, refuse to give such unqualified praise to the Government. The *Hochi Shimbun*, for instance, indirectly charges the Authorities with having supplied the official party (meaning the Radicals) with resources to corrupt electors, and suffered them to interfere with the free exercise of the franchise by making frequent use of deadly weapons. It is a noteworthy circumstance that this paper most violently opposed to the Government does not dare to prefer a direct or tangible charge. It may be expected that when details of the election become known, the Opposition journals will not fail to discover some plausible reasons for complaining of partiality and injustice on the part of local officials, but from the present tone of the metropolitan press it seems tolerably certain that the Opposition will be unable to advance any serious accusation of actual interference on the part of the Government. As to the results of the voting, there appears to be little doubt that the allied Opposition parties have gained a majority, though some persons believe that the Radicals and the neutrals have been the more successful. The Radical organ, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, is confident that at least a hundred Radicals have been returned. This estimate no doubt excludes Mr. Hoshi and other politicians, who, while not actually belonging to the Party, are nevertheless committed to the same programme. Thus by a skilful combination of the Radicals and the Independents, it may be possible to form a phalanx nearly as numerous as the allied sections of the Opposition. But definite reports will be received in Tokyo before this appears in print.

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Taking it for granted that the new House of Representatives will be more uncompromisingly opposed to the Government than its predecessor, the Opposition papers are already calling upon the Ministry to resign. The points at issue between the Government and the Opposition, say the Progressionist organs, no longer relate to domestic politics only, but bear also upon the foreign policy of the country. In other words, the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement being the principal ground of dissolution, what can the Government do except to resign, when the same attitude is maintained by the new House? Another dissolution, they state, is entirely out of the question, for such a step is contrary to the true purpose of constitutional Government. The organs of the allied parties do not, however, seem to have any hope of their leaders succeeding to the present Cabinet, even if the latter should be willing to resign. This aspect of the situation is touched upon by the *Jiji Shimpo* in its usual frank and outspoken manner.

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The *Jiji* commences by alluding to the comparatively peaceful character of the election just ended. This is attributed to the strict impartiality of the Government, to the growing experience of the people, and to the increasing financial embarrassments of the competitors. Generally speaking, however, our contemporary does not hesitate to state that the way in which the present election has been conducted shows that another stage of political progress has been achieved by the nation. Though declining to hazard any positive statement on the subject the *Jiji* thinks there is little doubt that the new House of Representatives will be opposed to the Government at least as much as its predecessor. If the Government can accomplish Revision of the Treaties before the sixth session of the Diet opens, then the situation may be essentially changed, but such a speedy settlement of the question seems, in the *Jiji's* opinion, doubtful. The Cabinet may also gain something by anticipating the attacks of the Opposition and addressing the House on this subject in the very beginning of the session. But a step so bold is not to be expected from the present Government. Hence the *Jiji* thinks that the result of collision in the coming session will be another dissolution. That course, however, would have very disastrous effects, for it would only increase the strength of the anti-foreign movement. The Government is, therefore, advised to devise some means to avert such a calamity. On the other hand, the Opposition politicians are plainly told that, however violently they may attack the Government, they have as yet little hope of succeeding to office. Hence the *Jiji* urges them to desist from the policy of blind opposition to the Government, and prepare the way for the formation of a coalition Cabinet in which their leaders may have seats. The consummation of such a scheme is attended with some difficulties, but the Government being in a very embarrassed position, it will not be impossible to induce the statesmen now in power to favourably entertain the project of a coalition Cabinet. At all events, the Opposition politicians are advised to take this opportunity of giving up their absurd policy of blind obstruction.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* cannot agree with papers extravagant enough to assert that the results of the present general election will decide the fate of clan Government, as well as that of constitutional institutions in Japan. As to clan Government, our contemporary does not pretend to know whether or not it enjoys the confidence of the nation. But this much is certain, that in the fourth session of the Diet a motion for a vote of want of confidence in the present Cabinet was rejected, while in the fifth session no party based its opposition to the Government on the ground that it is composed of clan statesmen. Moreover, some of the allied Opposition parties themselves are under the sway of clan statesmen. Consequently, whatever may be the result of the elections, the *Nichi Nichi* is confident that the time is far distant when the administrative power will pass from the hands of clan statesmen. With reference to constitutional institutions in Japan, they stand on a basis sufficiently lofty to be independent of the effects of elections. Such extravagant statements as those here criticized, are simply devices contrived by the followers of Count Okuma to deceive the electors. If the Count thinks himself alone qualified to guide the destiny of the country, why does he not repair to the Emperor and recommend his services to His Majesty? When, instead of taking such a manly course, he and his followers devote themselves to obstructing the Government's efforts to complete the national defences, to develop the country's resources, and to carry out the progressive policy of opening the country, every lover of Japan ought to assist in freeing the Lower House from these unreasonable politicians. The *Nichi Nichi* is inclined to believe that the new House will support the Government in carrying out its enlightened foreign policy. If, however, the House prove incorrigibly committed to the same rash attitude as that of its predecessors, it will then be the bounden duty of the Government to weigh the relative importance of the State and of the Diet, and to adopt some decisive measure.

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The question of Treaty Revision receives increasing journalistic attention. As yet few papers claim to have obtained any trustworthy information about a scheme of revision, although the *Shin Choya Shimbun* and the *Kokkai* have ventured to construct imaginary programmes, for which they have paid dearly, having been placed under the ban of suspension. The majority of the metropolitan papers as yet refrain from expressing any definite opinion on the subject. Among them the Progressionist organs particularly distinguish themselves by affecting an air of supreme incredulity as to the ability of the present Government to make any real impression on the problem of Treaty Revision. Papers more or less friendly to the anti-foreign movement, as the *Niroku Shimpo*, the *Shin Choya Shimbun*, the *Kokkai* and so forth drop hints of opposition to the treaty programme of the Government. The *Niroku Shimpo*, for instance, observes that, although the political world appears at first sight to be tranquil, there runs at present a dark undercurrent of popular excitement in respect of the question of Treaty Revision. The nation, it states, is not so dull-witted as not to feel the danger by which it is threatened. The people will know when and how to raise their voices on this subject. The *Shin Choya* hints that the precipitate haste with which the Government is reported to be considering the question of Treaty Revision is a sign that the task has been undertaken, not from a sense of responsibility, but because of a selfish desire to secure some political advantage over the Opposition. "If," says that paper, "the object of the elder statesmen in power be to sacrifice this important national question for some petty political advantages, they will be the sellers and betrayers of the country and of the people,—a stain upon the brilliant and unsullied history of the Empire, which the nation will never permit. The time has now come for you, our dear countrymen, to rise and give yourselves, body and soul, to the cause of your country."

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The *Kokkai*, after giving a short historical sketch of the question, proceeds at some length to explain the reason why England, formerly opposed to Japanese demands, has of late begun to show an especially favourable attitude towards Japan. That reason is to be found in England's eagerness to secure Japan's friendship in view of the growing intimacy between France and Russia. According to our contemporary's information, England has offered unasked to settle the question in a satisfactory manner. But at the same time she is believed to have proposed several provisions more or less objectionable. The first if these is said to be to the effect that the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction shall take place five years after the ratification of the new Treaty, provided that England, in the meanwhile, shall have declared herself satisfied with the working of the Codes during an interval of twelve months. The next objectionable clause is stated to be that from the date of the ratification of the Treaty, and pending the opening of the interior for Mixed Residence, passports good for 12 months shall be issued to British subjects. Before our contemporary could complete the enumeration of its alleged undesirable provisions in the proposed Treaty, it received the order of suspension.

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The *Jiyu Shimbun* is glad that the Cabinet has set itself to settle the question of Treaty Revision, for it is inclined to believe the report that the British Minister has returned to his post with full powers to negotiate. As to the taunt expressed by some papers that a Government unable to enforce the existing Treaties has little chance of securing their revision, the Radical organ observes that there is no necessity to talk about the enforcement of treaties which are about to be thoroughly revised. The *Jiyu* hopes that the Government will take care to revise on a basis of strict equality.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, alluding to the circumstance that several papers blame the Cabinet for undertaking the revision of the Treaties either for some political purpose or for the sake of the credit attending the accomplishment of the task, remarks that, even supposing such to be the case, there would be nothing improper, provided always that the step coincided with the true interests of the country. Where is there to be found a statesman who has neither passion for glory nor inclination to employ political tactics? Nevertheless, the *Nichi Nichi* does not mean to say that love of glory or political strategy are the only incentives to action. Sincere and disinterested devotion to the welfare of the country

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should be the ruling motive when a fundamental national problem has to be solved. But in carrying out such a programme it becomes necessary to make use of political strategy, and it is but proper that the accomplishment of the work should bring credit with it. In this sense the Cabinet may be said to desire credit and to employ political stategy, and those who on such a ground try to thwart the object of the Administration must be held to be the worst enemies of the nation. As to the basis of negotiation, the *Nichi Nichi* declares that, the nation having unanimously expressed its resolution to endure nothing short of equal treaties, there is no reason to fear that the Government will submit to any humiliating terms. The treaties accepted by the Cabinet will at least satisfy the points enumerated in the Address which the Lower House presented to the Throne in the fourth session of the Diet. If there be any tendency on the part of the Cabinet to hurry on the negotiations for revision, it is, in the *Nichi Nichi's* opinion a good sign, for it shows that a unique opportunity has presented itself for the attainment of the nation's long cherished desire.

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The *Jiji Shimpo* points out the error of thinking that the revision of the Treaties and the consequent opening of the interior will lead to an inroad of Chinese in overwhelming numbers. In the first place, so long as the Treaty with China remains as it is, she can not claim the privilege of Mixed Residence on the strength of a most favoured nation clause, for she has no most favoured clause in her Treaty. As to the possibility of her opening the interior of her own dominion to Japanese in return to a similar favour from Japan, the *Jiji* is convinced that China will not easily consent to such a proposal, for she is more afraid of the political troubles that would arise from the admission of Japanese than Japan is afraid of the economical evils attending the coming of Chinese. The havoc which Japanese pirates formerly worked on the coasts of China, as well as the repeated attempts made by Japan for the conquest of Korea, have filled the Chinese with a strong apprehension of Japanese designs and doings. When the interior of China is opened for Mixed Residence, political adventurers of all sorts will flock there from the Island Empire, to cause infinite trouble and, it may be, serious danger to the reigning dynasty. Hence, in the *Jiji's* opinion, nothing will induce the Chinese Government to grant Mixed Residence to Japanese, and without such concession on its part, the Japanese Government will be under no obligation to give a similar privilege to Chinese subjects.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NOVEL METHODS OF INSURANCE.

THE utility of insurance is more or less impaired when a man finds that having insured his house, paid the premium, and been the victim of a fire, the insurance office does not exist and never did exist in any responsible form. That is what has just happened to Mr. Ono Hidegoro, of Shinagawa. Attracted by the prospectus of a company which declared its capital to be a million *yen* and placed two Members of the Diet at the head of its Directors, he insured his house for six hundred *yen* last December, paying a premium of 24.90 *yen*, being at the tolerably high rate of 4.15 per cent. Eighteen other householders in the same district were similarly misled by the prospectus, and they all suffered in the fire of the 28th ultimo. When Mr. Ono carried his policy to the so-called office of the Company, he found a bare room inhabited by two spry youths and a jinrikisha-man. Of capital, registered Company, shareholders and other items usually connected with a going concern, nothing existed. That is the story told by certain vernacular newspapers, but the Company declines to be regarded as a myth, and avers that its non-payment is not due to non-existence, but to the fault of the applicants whose statements of claims are unsatisfactory. The incident will be elucidated by the Law Courts, but in the meanwhile the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has instituted inquiries as to the actual condition of the various insurance companies recently started in Japan.

DINNER AT THE MAPLE CLUB.

To celebrate the success that attended the operations of the Central Tea Guild of Japan at the Chicago World's Fair, a banquet was given on Friday evening at the Maple Club, Shiba, Tokyo. More than two hundred guests were present, among them being Their Excellencies the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce and the United States Representative, the Vice-Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, and other distinguished persons A noteworthy feature of the *réunion* was the presence of several foreign merchants from Yokohama, no less than fifteen being among the *convives*. The usual amusements in the form of dancing by the staff of the Club were provided, and the dinner, in pure Japanese style, was admirably served and thoroughly enjoyed. Speeches were happily conspicuous by their absence, the only thing of the sort being a brief address by Mr. Otani Kahei, President of the Central Guild, who, in a few well chosen words, described the success achieved by the Guild in Chicago, and attributed it to the good management of the Japanese Government as well as to the sympathy invariably displayed by the people of the United States toward Japan. This address was translated by Mr. Motono. The Guild, as our readers may remember, established a tea-house at the Columbian Exhibition, and caused tea to be served there *à la Japonaise*, with the object of introducing it in that form to the taste of the foreign public. No less than 166,124 persons visited the tea-house during the Exhibition period, and the income derived was $23,608. Whether the earnings covered the expenses we do not know, but that is a secondary point, as the main object of the enterprise was advertisement. We may mention, *en passant*, that direct export does not enter into the plans of the Guild at present, the sole purpose being to improve the quality of Japanese tea. Before each person at the banquet on Friday was placed one of the cups specially made for use at the Chicago Exhibition, and these the guests were invited to carry away as a memento of the occasion. It was altogether a very pleasant and hospitable entertainment.

THE BOYCOTT OF MESSRS. SAMUEL SAMUEL AND COMPANY.

THE Japanese merchants who have combined to boycott Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company are said to have agreed among themselves that if any member of the Association does business with the tabooed firm, he shall be fined not less than 5 *yen* and not more than 100 *yen;* that a repetition of the proceeding shall entail a double penalty, and that one half of the fine shall go to any one giving information against the offender. How is all that to be effected, we wonder. The Association cannot lawfully impose a fine upon any of its members. There is nothing to prevent a number of men from agreeing among themselves not to deal with a particular firm, and if they please to confirm their resolution by putting up a certain sum of money which shall be forfeited in the event of any violation of their agreement, they are acting within their rights. But it is not stated that they have put up money in that manner or under a compact of that kind. The statement published by the vernacular press is that the Association intends to fine any member violating the rules, and that a system of espionage is to be inaugurated to facilitate the detection of backsliders. The leaders of the movement seem to be treading on very perilous ground. At all events, the fight has gone on long enough. It must be quite evident to the Japanese dealers that they cannot hurt Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company, and that they are merely depriving their country of an important customer by keeping up this obstinate struggle. We do not say that right may not be on their side, nor do we pretend that the obduracy of one party alone can be held responsible. But it is in the nature of the Japanese to prefer compromise to extremities, and surely this must be essentially an occasion for comprise. There can not be the slightest question that a great firm like Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company acts always under an absolute conviction of the propriety of its doings, and if the Japanese could persuade themselves of that fundamental principle of British commercial methods, they would find no difficulty in coming to an understanding with the boycotted house.

PROTOPLASM.

FOR many years a hopeful belief has existed that, some day or other, chemists might be able to produce the vital principle, "the speck of undifferentiated protoplasm endowed with vital force." This belief rested on two assumptions: first, that protoplasm was practically uniform; secondly, that it was a single chemical compound allied to albumen, at least, a simple mixture of allied compounds. But these assumptions are now shown to be untenable, and with their disappearance must disappear also the hope that what has hitherto been regarded as the only living substance in nature can be produced by human processes. Professor Conn writing in the *Methodist Review*, says:—

It now appears, that there is no such thing as protoplasm in general, but only particular forms of protoplasm. Each organism has its own particular kind, and protoplasm in different animals is, perhaps, as varied as the animals themselves. As Huxley first knew it, protoplasm was a homogeneous, structureless jelly. As we know it to-day, it is one of the most complicated bodies of which we have any knowledge; complicated not only in its chemical composition, but in its physical structure. The basis of the mass, and that which gives it consistency, is a complicated network of delicate fibres, sometimes comparatively coarse, interwoven with each other in apparently great confusion. The more intimate structure of the fibres or even their chemical composition is unknown. Giving fluidity to the mass, there is suspended among the meshes of the network a clear watery liquid of varying consistency. On and among the fibres are infinite numbers of extremely minute dots or granules barely visible to the highest powers of the microscope; and these may be seen to move to and fro, frequently travelling along the fibres almost like beads on a string; now grouping themselves in one way, and now in another, and exhibiting an appearance of ceaseless activity. These bodies are so minute, that under the miscroscope they show no structure; and yet there are reasons for believing that there are great differences between them, and that they are themselves made up of still more minute parts, which must ever baffle the powers of optics to discern.

Nor does the matter end here. Protoplasm never exists free as undifferentiated protoplasm, but is always associated in little independent bits called cells. In such cells, the structure is more complicated than above indicated, for, each cell contains, besides the clear protoplasm, a specially differentiated part called the nucleus. In the nucleus we find a repetition of fibres, liquids, and granules, in a fashion even more complicated than in the body of the cell. In addition to these, there is a new structure in the form of a compound, called nuclein. This latter appears sometimes in the form of dots, or rods, or granules, grouped in various fantastic ways. Frequently it is enclosed in a most wonderful body, known as the nuclein-tubule. Now, this same nuclein, whether in the form of rods or dots, or enclosed within the tubule, is the most wonderful part of the whole protoplasm. Minute as it is in amount, the microscopist has learned that it must contain the properties of the whole protoplasm, and, in many cases, at least, all of the essential characters of the adult animal or plant to which the particular cell belongs. For instance, in the nuclein of the reproductive body are probably seated all the hereditary characters which the plant may transmit to its offspring, as well as an unknown quantity of other characteristics which we know may be transmitted from generation to generation, remaining dormant in one, to reappear later.

There is, then, no such thing as undifferentiated protoplasm. The word itself has almost disappeared from the cytologist's nomenclature, and in its fall, the keystone of the mechanical theory of life has been rudely shaken. Here too, as elsewhere, the nearer we go to what seems to be the solution of nature, the further that solution is removed.

THE DOSHIN KAISHA.

THE Doshin Kaisha, a firm which for many years has been engaged in the direct export of silk to the United States and Europe, seems to have fallen into the condition normal to such enterprises in Japan. Owing to the extremely unsatisfactory state of business in the United States during the year just ended, and the numerous bankruptcies that occurred there, the Kaisha incurred actual losses aggregating 130,000 *yen*, and moreover, instead of doing a business of 4,000 bales of silk, its transactions totalled only 1,500, with, of course, a corresponding diminution of commission and other earnings. There is further a sum of 400,000 due to the Company from American firms

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which, though not insolvent, can not be expected to pay for a considerable time. In 1882 the Kaisha's transactions gave such favourable results that, after paying a good dividend, a sum of 18,000 *yen* was carried to the Reserve for Equalizing Dividends. But according to the provisions of the Commercial Code which came into force last year, a company is precluded from declaring a dividend until its losses have been made good. Hence there is not the least prospect of the Kaisha's paying a dividend this year, and, on the whole, its affairs seem to be in a disastrous condition. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, from which we take these particulars, is naturally much concerned about the Kaisha's ill-success, and invites public sympathy in consideration of the fact that had not the Doshin Kaisha established direct relation with Occidental consumers and thus brought Japan into touch with the markets of Europe and America, the sericulturists of this empire must have remained at the mercy of the local foreign merchant.

THE BOMBAY-JAPAN SERVICE.

THE resolution attributed to the Cotton Spinners Union by the *Asahi Shimbun* requires to be modified, according to the *Jiji Shimpo*. The *Asahi's* report was to the effect that in consideration of entrusting to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha the total shipments of cotton brought to Japan from Bombay, the Company should be required to reduce its rate of freight below the present charge of twelve *rupees* per ton. But it now appears that the Union's resolution was emphatically more favourable to the Yusen Kaisha. It was agreed that all the cotton should be shipped by that Company's steamers without any condition as to reduction of freight. This course was adopted chiefly on the advice of Mr. Shibusawa who, while admitting the commercial discretion of asking for a reduction of rate in consideration of increased business, nevertheless pointed out that twelve *rupees* a ton was the smallest freight that could be charged with any hope of reasonable profit, and that the lower rate offered by the Peninsular and Oriental Company was not based upon any principle of sound business but was due simply to the foreign Company's desire to crush its Japanese rival. If successful in that effort, the Peninsular and Oriental Company, Mr. Shibusawa predicted, would be sure to recoup itself afterwards by greatly increased rates. These arguments convinced the Union.

FOREIGN TOURISTS.

THE Columbian Exhibition is expected to be of great indirect benefit to Japan by bringing an increased number of tourists to her shores this year. The *Jiji Shimpo* is very confident on this subject. It thinks that the acquaintance which the American public formed with Japanese objects of art at the Exhibition inspired in many cases a strong wish to visit this country; it asserts that among the late arrivals by the steamer *China* there were many whose coming was due to that cause, and it foretells that large sums of money will be spent in the country during the next eight months. We should be prepared to endorse this forecast altogether did we not fear that a strongly deterrent factor is at work in the shape of exaggerated rumours about the rude treatment of foreigners by Japanese roughs. This country will have to pay a very heavy fine for the thoughtless conduct of some of its young folks.

MEETING OF THE DIET.

THE News Agency reports that the new House of Representatives will be convoked for the 15th of April, and that the Edict of Convocation will be issued on or about the 4th or 5th of March. This is unexpected. In 1892, although the election took place on the 15th of February, that is to say a fortnight earlier, than this year, the official opening of the Diet did not take place until the 6th of May, and it was generally supposed that the date of convocation this year would be the 15th of May. Possibly the News Agency may be mistaken, but technically speaking there is nothing to prevent convocation on the 15th of April. The law requires that an interval of at least forty days must separate the issue of the Convoking Edict from the date of convocation, but that condition, of course, can be easily satisfied before the 15th of April. Some of the exceedingly clever folks who discover holes in the soundest garment were full of indignation a short time ago because the 15th of February was not fixed for the elections instead of the 1st of March. Their microscopic insight enabled these wise men to discover that the Government were postponing the elections for the immense period of a fortnight owing to their desperate desire to cling to office. Perhaps these same people will now infer that by hastening the assembly of the Diet a whole month the Government show wild anxiety to clamber out of office as fast as possible. Much more interesting than such conjectures, however, would be an explanation of the reasons why the meeting of the Diet affects the Cabinet's tenure of power at all.

TREATY REVISION.

POOR old England. After basing her views about Treaty Revision on practical and straightforward considerations throughout all these weary years of intricate negotiations, she has finally broken down, and suffered herself to be cajoled by the golden guinea. We regret to have to record, on the authority of the *Shin-Choya* newspaper—which can not be doubted for a moment in consideration of the accuracy it recently displayed with reference to the French Representatives mounted escort—that the complaisance of several influential English statesmen was purchased by Mr. Henry Siebold with money supplied by the Japanese Government in the form of a secret service fund. Viscount Aoki set this ball of humiliation rolling by proceeding to London incognito, and there, through the good offices of the omnipotent Mr. Henry Siebold, obtaining interviews with Lord Rosebery, who showed himself most accommodating. Thus everything was speedily settled. England was bought and Japan was the buyer. It is true that Mr. Henry Siebold is an official in the Diplomatic Service of Austria-Hungary and that he has not been in Europe for many months. But that is a detail. We cannot imagine that Yokohama will sit quiet under this sword of Damocles. Another public meeting should be held at once, and the most strenuous protests should be formulated on the grounds of Habeas Corpus and married women's rights. It is just like a Liberal Cabinet to sell the poor exiled *civis Romanus* for a few wretched guineas.

A SPINNING FACTORY AT HYOGO.

WE recently reported that the shareholders of the Kanagafuchi Cotton-spinning Factory had decided to add a million *yen* to their capital and to establish a new factory with forty thousand spindles. It remained uncertain, however, what site would be selected for the purpose. But after the late meeting of the Cotton Spinners Union at Osaka, the Kanagafuchi representatives proceeded on a tour of inspection to the various eligible positions in the vicinity of that city and of Hyogo, and finally decided to choose the latter town as the scene of their new enterprise. "It seems that labour and coal are much cheaper in Hyogo than in Tokyo; so much cheaper that yarns the cost of manufacturing which in Tokyo is 18 *yen*, can be produced in Hyogo for 10 *yen*. The daily wage of a factory girl in Hyogo is 9 *sen* whereas in Tokyo it is 13 *yen*, and ten thousand lbs. of coal, costing from 22 to 23 *yen* in the latter city can be had in the former for from 18 to 19 *yen*. Even in the case of yarns destined for the Tokyo market, the advantage remains with manufacturing in Hyogo, the carriage thence to the capital being only 75 *sen* per 400 lbs.

THE COTTON SPINNERS' UNION

THE members of the Cotton Spinners' Union met at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce rooms to discuss their agreement with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha in the matter of the Bombay service. According to the *Asahi Shimbun*, they came to some very important decisions. They resolved in the first place to renew their contract with the Yusen Kaisha for another year from October next, the month in which the present contract expires. They also decided to abolish the conditional clause which provides that until the shipments of cotton by the Yusen Kaisha's steamers reach fifty thousand bales—for which amount the Kaisha has been guaranteed—no cotton shall be shipped in a steamer belonging to another country. By this clause the spinners reserve to themselves the right of shipping by any company so soon as the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has had its fifty thousand bales, but the excision of the clause from the contract means that they bind themselves to transport all the cotton that they purchase from Bombay, without any limit of quantity, by the steamers of the Kaisha. With regard to the rate of freight, a conference has to be held between a Committee appointed by the spinners and the Directors of the Kaisha. It is understood that the Kaisha is willing to still further reduce the present rate of twelve *rupees* per ton, provided that it gets the carriage of all the cotton imported from Bombay, namely, 150,000 bales approximately. There is little doubt that a mutually satisfactory arrangement will be elaborated between the Union and the Kaisha.

THE YOKOHAMA HARBOUR WORKS.

THE question of funds for carrying on the reconstruction works required in connection with Yokohama Harbour, is said to be causing the Authorities some perplexity. The outlay is estimated at about three hundred thousand *yen*, a sum too large to be easily found. In the ordinary routine of procedure a supplementary Budget would be submitted for the approval of the Diet, but to do that means a delay until May or June, and in the meanwhile the unfinished breakwaters must suffer continuously. At present temporary expedients are employed to prevent rapid deterioration of the injured parts, and so long as the weather continues fine, no very serious damage need be anticipated. But the consequences of a gale might materially alter the aspect of affairs and entail large additional outlay. Another point is that the jetty will be finished by the end of March, but must remain useless until the breakwaters are completed. Finally there is the question of the season for making concrete blocks: if that operation be delayed until June, it may not be brought to a conclusion before the fall, and the works would then have to be extended over another winter. The *Jiji Shimpo* refers to all these difficulties and says that the Authorities are thinking of providing the necessary funds as a matter of expediency, and seeking the Diet's consent subsequently.

THE MEIKYO LIFE-ASSURANCE COMPANY.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES are now springing up in all the larger cities and their bids for patronage are at times not a little amusing. The Meikyo Life Assurance Company, recently established in Kyoto, aims chiefly at making things pleasant for believers in Buddhism. Its prospectus states that the Company was called into existence for the purpose of insuring the lives of sincere Buddhists. The vernacular press has indulged in a laugh at this, "for," they remark, "do not the priests of that religion continually tell us that the life of man is like the dew on the leaves in early morn? And, if so, how can the Company expect to be prosperous? If Buddhist doctrines are true, very few annual premiums can be expected before the relatives of the policy-holder put in their claim."

AN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE.

SIR EDMUND HORNBY, the former Chief Justice of H.B.M.'s Supreme Court of China and Japan, has sent to Lord Rosebery his draft of the proposed International College, the establishment of which he advocates for the purpose of settling international disputes. Sir Edmund would, by appointing the members for ten years, by absolving them from allegi-

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ance to any State while in office, by rendering them eligible for re-election, and by assuring them of retiring pensions, place them beyond what he himself calls the necessity of truckling to Governments. Then, by confiding to them the elaboration of a new system of international jurisprudence, he would, he believes, provide an inducement to study with the object of perfecting it. No member would regard himself as the representative or mouthpiece of any Government. Then under no circumstances would the judgment of the College be regarded as other than the judgment of the general tribunal. Individual dissent from a judgment would only be regarded as an interesting memorial of an individual opinion. The detailed reasons for any award would not be given until its conditions had been complied with, and every member of the tribunal would be forbidden entering into communication in reference to a judgment. Such is an outline of the salient conditions which Sir Edmund would impose.—*Exchange.*

THE "MATABELES."

It appears that we are all wrong in applying the name "the Matabeles" to the people with whom certain Englishmen are now carrying on a little war in South Africa. The term is as erroneous as it would be to write "the *les français*." The language of the tribe in question has a definite article the singular of which is *ou*, and the plural *ma*. Hence "ma Tebele"—for so it should be written—means men of the tribe of Tebele. In English we ought to say "the Tebele," or "the Tebeles."

* * *

Whatever be their proper appellation, however, the Tebele seem to be most objectionable folk. Here is what the *Volks-Stem* of Pretoria says about them:—"The Matabele people have proved a curse to whatever country they settled in or near. Their lust for blood and slaughter is ever on the increase. With no industrial arts of their own, they prey on the weaker and less warlike tribes around, robbing them of the fruits of their industries and their flocks and herds. There is hardly a month in the year but their Impi (expeditions) are out, harrowing the timid Mashona and Zambezi tribes. They destroy the towns, and with savage glee assegai the unresisting people. All are murdered except girls and children, whom they carry off as slaves. Sometimes, when these fiends can put sufficient restraint on their passions, a certain number of adults are spared. These are employed to carry loot and drive the captured stock. But when they arrive within easy distance of Matabele-land, and carriers and herdsmen are no longer required, they are stabbed to death in cold blood."

THE 9TH INSTANT.

Perhaps it is hardly necessary to say that the 9th of March will be a public holiday, but inasmuch as the *Official Gazette* takes the trouble to make the announcement, we follow suit. *Apropos* of this we may mention that the foreign *employés* of the Government contemplate presenting to Their Imperial Majesties a handsome memento of the auspicious occasion. The missionaries also, or some of them at any rate, were desirious of taking a similar step, but have abandoned the intention for reasons with which all thoughtful persons must sympathize.

* * *

The Japan Railway Company announces its intention of reducing the fares on its lines by 20 per cent. on the 8th, 9th and 10th instant. We presume the Government lines will be equally enterprising, for certainly on such an occasion every possible facility should be given to persons desiring to visit Tokyo.

THE TRAFFIC IN JAPANESE WOMEN.

An unsuccessful attempt was made on the 8th ultimo, to import some 34 Japanese girls into Singapore for immoral purposes. In consequence of information received by the Chinese Protectorate, Mr. Wray, accompanied by Inspector Black, boarded the S.S. *Macduff* on her arrival from Japan, and the whole party, together with six Japanese men, were taken charge of, the women to be sent back to Japan, and the men with a view to their being called upon to answer a charge of kidnapping.

* * *

This vessel, it will be remembered, was boarded by the police as she was leaving the harbour of Kuchinotzu, and nine Japanese women and a man were discovered stowed away in the hold. They were smuggled on board without the knowledge of either the captain or the owners' agent, native procurers on shore alone having knowledge of the fact at the time.

AN ADULT LOAN.

Here is a pretty figment from the *Figaro*:—

I cannot understand how any one could doubt the transmigration of souls. I have had the most unpleasant experience just now with a soul which I have known nearly twenty-three centuries. I met my friend Peter once, just before the battle of Salamis; and being a little short, and he flush with money, I borrowed a drachma of him. I next met him a few years after the birth of Christ, in a suburb of Rome, but had not much time to speak to him. His health was good. Then I encounted him in a certain city of Gallia. He seemed strangely well informed of the doings of the Merovingian kings, and predicted the conversion of King Chl dwig to Christianity—an event which came about a few days after. He always managed to be a man about town. I met him next in the society of Marat. He asked me how my wife was, and was very polite to me. Last week I received a letter from him in which he says:—"During the Franco-Russian festivities I have spent money very freely, and I am now a little hard up. I must, therefore, ask you to return the drachma which you borrowed of me, with the usual interest, amounting to 33,444,000,000,000 francs, and oblige,

Yours sincerely, PETER."

I think it is awfully mean of him. Such things should not happen among old friends

AERIAL NAVIGATION.

Two resolute men continue to wrestle with the problem of navigating the air. One of them is Lilienthal, the other, Maxim. Lilienthal wants to fly. He has devised a system of wings—we say system advisedly, because when the man is hooked on to the wings, he appears to become the centre of a confusion of canvas—by the aid of which he has succeeded in flying down inclines sustaining himself the while at a height of some yards above the ground. His experiments are carried on in the neighbourhood of Berlin, but as yet they do not seem to have given earnest of very practical results. The man's wings support him, it is true, but they also expose him to be taken up and whirled away by a gust of wind, an accident from the perils of which he can escape only by extricating himself rapidly from the wings. Lilienthal's flights begin by being horizontal, but the line of flight descends in an increasing ratio and used often to end in distressing tumbles which, however, are now avoided. Up to the present only eighty metres have been covered at a flight, but after all that is not a bad beginning.

* * *

Maxim, meanwhile, is elaborating his "air-ship" at Baldwin Park in England. He bases his ideas upon the acroplane, vulgarly speaking, the kite, and his machine is truly a wonderful affair in appearance. Briefly speaking, the "air-ship" is a species of screw-steamer supported in its flight through space by a great expanse of parachute-like top-hamper. Two large screws attached to the sides are made to revolve at a great speed by electricity, and they serve, not only to drive the ship through the air, but also to support it. We do not find that Maxim has hitherto made any extensive flights. He works his machine at present on a railway track. But he possesses the prime element of all success, absolute confidence in his own ability to succeed. He says that his machine will be used at the outset for military purposes, and that the nation which first employs it will have all the others at its mercy.

THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE MISSION.

That extraordinary piece of thoughtlessness, the American Alliance Mission, which has sent a number of young men and women to China to teach the gospel under circumstances that amount almost to a public scandal, is beginning to be severely criticized in Europe. Very emphatic views were expressed on the subject in these columns last year. We learn from writings in home papers that the projectors of the Mission are a Swedish evangelist named Transon, and an American of New York, Mr. B. Simpson, and that their plan is to evangelize the whole world before 1900 A.D., by sending out 20,000 missionaries. Needless to say that the funds come from the American partner. In 1892 Transon called on Sweden and Norway for 200 missionaries to be sent to China. They were to be unmarried, and under thirty years of age. Numerous responses were received, and in December of the same year, 49 young missionaries were sent to England to receive a three months' training in the business of propagandism. Subsequently the number of the missionaries steadily increased, and there are now 134 members of the Alliance serving abroad, of whom 102 have been sent to China. It is evidently believed by Messrs. Transon and Simpson that neither theological training nor special education is required in a saviour of souls. A man can not card wool or spin cotton without due practice and instruction, but any youth or maiden can teach religious truth provided only that he or she has an impulse in that direction. If there were question of repairing a river bank or mending a road, the Alliance Mission's method of numerical effort would be all well enough. But when the problem is a contest of creeds and the elucidation of profound ethical doctrines, to entrust its solution to uneducated lads and lasses, is to insult not only the intelligence of the Chinese people, but also Christianity itself.

CHOLERA.

The latest cure for cholera, a cure said to have succeeded in numerous cases which had been given up by old-fashioned practioners as hopeless, is a subcutaneous injection of a tincture, the sole base of which is the poison of the cobra. Dr. A. L. Sandel, a Scotchman, Municipal Commissioner in Calcutta and late medical officer to the Bengal Local Government, is responsible for this statement. He vouches for its truth and says that the employer of the cure was an empirical practicioner whose success was phenomenal.

* * *

It may be that the poison of the cobra is destructive of the cholera bacillus. Speaking of this reminds us that the element of the blood which is fatal to diseased germs has been discovered and isolated by American experts. Some years ago Dr. van der Heyden, writing in these columns, expressed the opinion that the most promising method of treating or preventing cholera was to administer hydrochloric acid, since that is the particular stomachic agent that destroys disease germs. He explained that everyone of us at every moment swallows immense numbers of such germs, but that they are killed in the stomach of a healthy person. A germicidal element in the blood is another matter, however. Its existence was established twenty-two years ago, but only now has it been isolated. Drs. Vaughan and McClinticle have obtained from the cerum of blood a nuclein which kills the germs of anthrax, cholera, and other diseases. This discovery is full of promise. The idea of treating zymotic diseases by injecting blood-cerum has been entertained but found impracticable: too large a quantity of the cerum had to be injected in order to bring its germ-killing property into play. But if the germicidal element has been isolated, its successful employment in germ diseases ought soon to be an accomplished fact. Perhaps the poison of the cobra is particularly rich in such elements.

THE RECALCITRANT JUDGE.

Judge Chitani—the ideographs with which his name is written are not pronounced "Senya" as we previously supposed—continues obstinately to refuse his appointment to the Riukiu Court. The document ordering him to proceed thither has been journeying to and fro between the Department of Justice and himself, and now finally remains with the former where the propriety of summoning the Judge before a Dis-

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ciplinary Court is said to be under discussion. Apparently the only charge on which he could be arraigned before such a Court is neglect of duty, for insubordination does not seem to be included among offences liable to be committed by Judges. We do not know enough of Judge Chitani's case to express any opinion about it, but we find it difficult to see how any official can be justified in refusing to obey the orders of his superiors. The *Hochi Shimbun* finds a profound motive for the affair. It calls it a result of the card-playing scandal. Judge Chitani is said to be a partisan of the officials who suffered in connection with that affair, and he and his friends have been waiting for an opportunity to retaliate, which they think has now come.

A MATTER OF HEALTH.

DR. SHARP, in his Report on the Health of Pakhoi, for the eleven months ended 31st March 1890, just published in the Special Series of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China, describes the manner in which residents in the East often contract serious kidney trouble (nephrolithiasis), which they usually mistake for rheumatism or lumbago. It has to be remembered that in climates where profuse action of the skin takes place during eight months of the year, the work done by the kidneys is correspondingly reduced. Thus much premised, here is what happens:—"At the change from the hot to the cold season a person goes to bed perspiring; the body is only covered by pyjamas and usually a "cholera belt." About 4 a.m. the temperature falls, a cold wind blows through the room, and, being asleep, no extra covering is drawn up. Most cholera belts protect the abdomen, but not the loins. The jacket of the pyjamas is, in most cases, made too short; and if a person be seen who has been asleep for some time, it will nearly always be observed that the waist is uncovered, unless the jacket is tucked inside the trousers at the waist, which is a hot way of wearing them. This is a common made of getting what is called a chill. The loins being thus exposed to a cold wind, the person rises in the morning feeling "out of sorts," and in a day or so is in bed sick. The kidneys have become congested, and, being already hampered by the lack of sufficient flushing, resent the increased work thrown upon them. In these cases, although calculi may not form, the urine very probably precipitates, it may be in the renal pelvis or in the ureters, causing pain from the irritation of the passage of the precipitate."

WHEAT CULTIVATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

MR. JOHN PLUMMER of Sydney has applied himself to the task of compiling articles to afford trustworthy and unvarnished information about New South Wales, its character and resources. The articles promise to be very interesting. Here is the first of them:—

Australia has been so long popularly identified with wool and gold production that its agricultural capabilities—especially so far as wheat growing is concerned—have been generally overlooked. Yet there can be no question that New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia are destined to become included among the leading sources of grain and flour supply to the United Kingdom. Already South Australian flour has a good name in the British market, and as the area under rust-resisting wheat in the southern colonies becomes increased, the larger will be the surplus produce available for export to the Mother Country, a fact of some importance in the event of an European war. The total yield of wheat in the seven colonies of Australasia during 1891-92 was 2,353,918,929 bushels, and the average consumption in each higher than in the United Kingdom or the United States, and in several exceeding that in Canada. Yet, save in South Australia, the cultivation of the grain has been very irregular, especially in New South Wales, where according to the Government Statistician of that colony, the area of land under crop for some years prior to 1867 remained almost the same from year to year, being little more than 125,000 acres. In 1867, however, the wheat area had increased to 175,000 acres, and at that acreage it remained practically unaltered for twelve years. Then, again, more land was laid under wheat, and in 1878-9 the area had increased to 233,252 acres. Since then the area of land under this cereal has been greatly extended, the maximum being reached in 1892-3, with 452,921 acres and an average yield of 15 bushels per acre, the highest since 1887. The improvement effected in the modes of cultivation is illustrated by the fact that during the ten years, from 1863 to 1872, the yield per acre appears to have been comparatively a small one, the mean being only 10.9 bushels. Then followed a period of fair seasons, extending over seventeen years, when the average fluctuated between a minimum of 17.4 in the season 1885-7, with a mean of 14.6 bushels per acre for the whole period, 1871-2 to 1887-8. In the early days of settlement the Hawkesbury River valley and the country adjacent to the towns of Parramatta, Liverpool, Penrith, Camden and Maitland were the principal centres of wheat cultivation. Unskilful farming, and the consequent exhaustion of the soil, with the attendant evils of rust, smut, and other diseases, caused these districts to be abandoned little by little as wheat country, and on the discovery of the Bathurst Plains their importance at once ceased. The districts of Bathurst, Goulburn, Gundagai, Tumut, Young, Monaro, and New England were each in turn occupied by agriculturists, and the suitability of their soil and climate, as well as that of the whole of the extensive plateau of the great Dividing Range, for the growth of this cereal became definitely established. Subsequently, the area of cultivation became extended in a southwesterly direction to the immense plains of the Riverina, where it is steadily increasing. Only a limited portion of the area suitable for wheat cultivation is under crop, much of the land taken up by selectors ultimately becoming added to existing extensive pastoral properties, but there is sufficient unalienated land belonging to the State to enable the amount of wheat production, by means of skilful cultivation, to become more than doubled within the next few years should the work of water conservation and obtaining supplies from artesian wells be persevered with. The subterranean supplies of water in what has hitherto been regarded as the dry portion of the colony are enormous, and the successful tapping of these has had the effect of transforming portions of the once almost arid desert into fertile gardens, and enabling the salt bush to become replaced by fruits and cereals. New South Wales, like the other Australian colonies, is in the infancy of its productive developments, which bid fair to make it in reality the Britain of the South.

THE PRESENT TENDENCY OF JAPANESE LITERATURE.

As in all other departments of Japanese activity, the national literature has recently undergone a remarkable change, and one that, from a foreign standpoint, can only meet with approval. For the last few years the greatest interest has been taken in Ancient Japanese literature, simultaneously with a revival of the study of the Chinese classics. A well-known writer attributes this to the "general tone of lifelessness and dullness noticeable in the learned world." But at all events, this very fondness for archaic lore resulted in the publication of a host of magazines devoted to the subjects in vogue, with the gratifying result that a number of colloquial and time-honoured grammatical errors have been completely eradicated from modern Japanese; words incorrectly used have further been relegated to their proper sphere, and the whole style of composition has enormously improved. Having done this much towards the refining of modern diction and essay-writing, the ancient literature of Japan as well as the Chinese classics have of late been less highly rated. During the course of 1893 several new elements made their appearance. Philosophy was—and still is—the chief study of the hour. Hence the great prosperity of the *Tetsugaku Kwai*, or Philosophical Association, in Hongo, Tokyo. Hence, too, the critiques of 19th Century Philosophers that fill the pages of the learned magazines and the admiration for the specious theories of Arthur Schopenhauer, who is unquestionably the momentary favourite with Japanese thinkers,—as might indeed be expected, for Schopenhauer is the most imaginative and didactic of the German school of philosophers. The art of criticism has found numerous admirers, and logical and rhetorical styles are discussed with all the vigour of the Leyden school in Spinoza's days. History and biography have made great advances, and the whole system hitherto observed in these branches is being remodelled and renovated. Quite apparent is the prevalence of the Occidental style of thought and argument, especially in religious matters. One can with justice say that the Japanese, as a people, never wrote or spoke better than at present. This same revolutionizing literary tendency has made itself strikingly apparent even in light literature. The novels published within the last twelve months are very different, as a rule, from their trashy, often pernicious, predecessors. A graver, deeper note has been struck, and the discordant jar of superficial penny-a-liners no longer meets with popular approval. This is particularly owing to the publication of some of the best English novels in Japanese form, as well as to the excellent translation of some of the masterpieces of English and American poetry: such as Gray's immortal "Elegy" and Bryant's beautiful "Ode to a Waterfowl." Even the humourous style is less broad than of yore, less inclined to *double-entendres*, and the same people who once enjoyed the coarse, if very funny, jokes of Ikkiu's *Hizakurige*, now find a keener enjoyment in a very excellent rendering of the adventures of Don Quixote, the Knight of the Woeful Figure. The only literary department which has hitherto not been affected by the change is dramaturgy. Since the death of Mokuami, the greatest of recent Japanese dramatists, very little progress has been made, old plays are being revived, in default of better material, and it is a matter for regret that the *Engeki Kaiyro Kwai* should not have fulfilled the high promise of its birth. Mr. Fukuchi Genichiro is the only one in this field who works with an unvarying view to the improvement of the Japanese drama.

RESPONSIBILITY OF ACCOUNTANTS IN JAPAN.

THE Board of Audit has just rendered a decision which seriously affects the position of accountants in Japan. Mr. Shikakura, a clerk and accountant in the Mayebashi Local Court, left the financial duties of his office to be discharged by a colleague, in order that he himself might be able to devote closer attention to superintending the construction of the Court-house. During the interval an *employé* in the finance section of the Court obtained possession of the Accountant's seal, and fraudulently used it to pass cheques aggregating 850 *yen*, which, being perfect in all respects, were honored by the bank at which the Court's funds were deposited. The affair having been discovered, Mr. Shikakura sued the *employé* and obtained judgment against him, but was unable to recover anything substantial, the thief being a man of straw. The Minister of Justice thereupon ordered the accountant to make good the loss, but the latter refused on the pleas that in his capacity of accountant he was not obliged to furnish security; that the bank had showed culpable negligence in cashing the cheques; and that the thief having been duly tried and condemned, no grounds existed for proceeding civilly against the accountant. The Board of Audit has just decided against the validity of all these contentions, and has ordered the Accountant to make good the sum of 823 *yen*.

THE COLUMBIAN EXHIBITION.

IT is now possible to compare the Columbian Exhibition with previous enterprises of the same kind. The total number of paid admissions for the Columbian Exposition was 21,530,854; the total disbursements were $31,117,353; the total receipts, $33,290,065; the average receipts per day during the Exposition period were $89,501, and the average expenses, $18,380. With the aid of these figures and the following table the required comparison may be made:—

Exhibition.	Acres Covered.	Number of Exhibitors.	Number of Visitors.	Estimated Cost.	Total. Receipts
London, 1851	21	17,000	6,039,195	$1,460,000	$2,530,000
Paris, 1855	24.5	23,954	5,162,330	1,700,000	1,280,000
London, 1862	—	28,653	6,225,000	2,300,000	2,942,410
Paris, 1867	37	50,226	10,200,000	4,000,000	2,103,675
Vienna, 1873	40	42,000	4,100,000	7,690,000	1,030,000
Philadelphia, 1876.	60	30,833	9,910,916	8,500,000	3,800,000
Paris, 1878	60	32,000	16,032,725	—	2,532,650
Paris, 1889.....	1,373	60,000	32,354,111	11,000,000	8,380,000

A YOUTHFUL INCENDIARY.

IIGURA, in Shiba District, close by the English Chapel, had a very narrow escape from fire the other day. It appears that smoke was seen emerging from the godown of a charcoal and fuel vendor in the Third Ward, shortly before sunset. Prompt investigation showed that several bales of charcoal were smouldering and the whole store-house was upon the point of breaking into a blaze. Before, however, the assistance of a fire-company in the neighbourhood was obtained, the energetic action of the residents

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in the vicinity succeeded averting the danger, in —and well that it was so, for Iigura is a thickly populated quarter. The matter was reported to the police, but they refused to credit the idea of spontaneous combustion and had a thorough search instituted. They found that several bales of charcoal had been drenched with kerosene oil and that elaborate preparations had been made to burn the whole godown and its contents. A strict examination of the neighbouring houses elicited the fact that an apprentice in an adjoining oil-store was suspected. The lad was arrested and confessed that he had tried to burn out the charcoal-vendor for some insult that he had received from the latter's wife. She had scolded him for spilling some water on her while using a well that stood in the courtyard, and the young ruffian had tried to "make things warm" for her, in every sense. He will have ample time in future to reflect on the folly of playing with fire.

HEAVY SUBSTANCES.

MAKE a decimal point and on the right of it put twenty-two ciphers preceding the figure four. Then this infinitesimal fraction of a gramme shows the weight of a molecule of hydrogen. This weight multiplied by fifty-five gives .000,000,000,000.000,000,002,2 which is the weight of a molecule of iron. This is all very fine arithmetically, but at the same time it shows the comparative coarseness of our senses. We can describe the weight of a molecule in intelligible mathematical language, but when we come to apply any practical test of the presence of these tiny bodies we find that a mass of $1\frac{1}{2}$ quadrillions of molcules is the smallest body we can detect by the senses.

THE AGE OF THE EARTH.

ONE of the interesting problems of modern times has been to determine the age of the earth. The very few thousand years assigned to it by people who took all their information on such subjects from the Bible and who interpreted the Bible within rigid limits, have long been recognised as absurd. But how to determine the age of the planet? One method is to calculate the rate of the earth's loss of heat by radiation, and thence estimate the time required for the consolidation of the globe. Sir William Thomson has applied this method but his result is a little vague: it ranges between twenty million and four hundred million years. Another plan is to compute the influence of tidal friction in retarding the earth's rotation. This takes us back to the time when the moon was thrown off from the revolving molten earth. The date thus obtained is fifty-seven million years ago. Geologists have another device. They base their calculation on the present rate of denudation of river beds, the erosion of land surfaces, and the thickness of the sedimentary rocks. But the figures thus reached are also provokingly vague: twenty-eight millions to several hundred millions of years. It is evident that data for a definite computation are not available. We must wait. But the lowest estimate shows that we need not be in a hurry.

STUDENTS' HORSE-PLAY IN TOKYO.

ON Monday evening, at about 7 p.m., as Mr. Chiossone and Mr. Braccialini were walking from the Italian Legation in Tokyo to the residence of the former gentleman in Hirakawacho, they became objects of close attention to a party of some ten or twelve students, who appeared to think that a couple of foreigners were fair game for a display of rude annoyance. The youths addressed various opprobrious remarks to the two gentlemen, and varied the pastime by making concerted rushes from behind as through for the purpose of attack, but in reality merely to intimidate. Messrs. Chiossone and Braccialini preserved their *sang-froid* admirably. They saw that to notice the conduct of the lads or to resent it would probably precipitate a disturbance, and they accordingly proceeded on their way as calmly as the circumstances permitted. Arrived in the immediate vicinity of Mr. Chiossone's compound, the lads, by way of parting compliment, began to brandish their sticks, whereupon Mr. Braccialini drew a sword that he carried in a cane. At sight of the blade the youths fell back, and in the meantime Mr. Chiossone, having summoned a policeman who is always on watch in the compound of his house, six arrests were made. The affair is of little importance so far as concerns any actual violence, but had the two gentlemen given practical effect to the objection that every peaceful wayfarer must feel to such wanton molestation, there might be a different story to tell. We do not wish to put an exaggerated construction on conduct which may not have been prompted by any motive more serious than mere love of mischief, but it is evidently most undesirable on Japan's account that incidents of the kind should occur, since they will certainly be magnified to her great discredit. Besides, it is intolerable that two peaceable gentlemen, one an ex-employé and the other an actual employé of the Japanese Government, can not pass from place to place in Tokyo without encountering rude obstruction. We entertain no doubt that whatever course is salutary and sensible will be adopted by the Authorities to check such discreditable displays.

A SEISMIC PHOTOCHRONOGRAPH.

HERE is an item for our Seismologists:—

In *L'Eletrécista*, for November, Dr. A. Caucani describes an instrument for recording photographically the precise time at which an earthquake-shock is felt at the observing-station. This is done by obtaining a photograph of the face of a chronometer at the instant of the shock. In the apparatus in question, the chronometer is illuminated for an instant by an incandescent lamp, thrown into circuit by any one of the seismic instruments in the observatory. The mechanism, which is rather complicated, consists essentially of a horizontal lever, carrying a pan with nine potassium-bichromate cups on one arm while the other is provided with weights and is kept in position by the raised arm of an electro-magnet. When the circuit of the latter is completed by one of the seismoscopes the armature is attracted, the bichromate pots are raised, and the zinc carbon couples fixed above them are immersed in the liquid, thus supplying the current for the lamp. After about a quarter of a second, the lamp-circuit is broken by one of the weights sliding off the lever, and the whole apparatus is automatically adjusted for the next shock. It has been in use in the Rocca di Papa Observatory, and has worked well.

TRIAL BY JURY.

ONE of the alleged defects in the criminal procedure of Japan, which frequently serves as a subject of unfavourable comment on the part of certain foreign journals published in Yokohama, is that no provision is made for the trial of offenders by jury. A striking illustration of the ill-results that may occasionally attend this form of trial is afforded by the verdict recently delivered by a French jury in what is known as the Aigues Mortes affair. Aigues Mortes is a small town in the South-East of France, noted for its extensive salt works. Italian labourers, who worked at much lower rates of wages than were usually paid to and expected by the French, were introduced into these works, with the inevitable result so often seen under similar circumstances in England, America, and Australia: exceeding ill-feeling was created between the new comers and the natives. In the middle of August last, this ill-feeling culminated in a savage conflict. The original assailants were the Italians, by whom two Frenchmen were killed, but the French workmen then rose *en masse* and attacked the Italians with the utmost vindictiveness and fury. The latter were greatly outnumbered, but barricading themselves in their houses they fought in their defence with no less fury than was shown by their assailants. The local police and gendarmerie were wholly powerless and unsuccessful in their efforts to separate the combatants, and it was not until the military arrived, and more than fifty persons had been killed and one hundred and fifty wounded on both sides, that the riot was at last quelled. The Italian workmen were then all dismissed and cleared out of the works, and a proclamation was subsequently issued by the Mayor congratulating his fellow townsmen upon this result. In Italy the matter provoked on the part of the people a series of outbursts of national hatred against France. The French Embassy in Rome was attacked by a mob, the tramcars belonging to a French company were burnt, numerous assaults were made upon individual Frenchmen in several cities, and, as at Aigues Mortes, tranquillity was only restored by the aid of the military. Angry feeling fortunately did not extend to the Government of either country, and official explanations made on both sides were speedily accepted. By the French Government especially, on the side of whose people the greater wrong lay, every possible amends were promptly made. The Mayor, who had issued the extraordinary proclamation, was at once dismissed from office, compensation was given to the families of the Italian workmen who had been killed, and the guiltiest of the rioters were brought to public trial, the French authorities in fact fulfilling their duty in all respects in the most exemplary manner. But France possesses what Japan does not, the inestimable boon of trial by jury, and the perverse verdict of a jury has in this instance nullified to a large extent the good effect of the action of the Government and its representatives. The guilt of the accused was proved in the clearest manner, it was in fact admitted by themselves, and yet, in the face both of evidence and admissions, a verdict of not guilty was returned by the jury in all cases.

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The *Spectator* terms this verdict a defiance of justice only to be explained in one of three ways—that southern Frenchmen look upon Italians as dangerous enemies not entitled to ordinary justice, that the jury may have taken sides in a trade quarrel, and regarding all Italian workmen as "blacklegs" may have intended to express by their verdict that blacklegs deserve in all cases all that they get, even if it is death; or lastly, that the jury may have been terrorized. Whatever the explanation, the verdict will do much to increase the distrust of juries which, the *Spectator* alleges, is everywhere spreading throughout Western Europe outside of Great Britain. "Juries are felt to be untrustworthy as against desperate parties with which they partly sympathize." The Vaillant jury has, we know, unlike that in the previous Ravachol case, done its duty in Paris, but the authorities had, prior to the trial, not been at all confident that, in the face of the clearest evidence, another failure of justice would not occur. In Ireland, in trials of agrarian offences, verdicts have over and over again been obtained only by wholesale systematic packing of juries, carried on so openly and unblushingly as to bring the entire system into the most absolute contempt; and recently in Spain, fear as to the possible verdict of a jury caused the attack on Marshal Campos to be dealt with, not as a civil offence, but as one against the army. A few more instances of verdicts like those in the Ravachol and Aigues Mortes cases, and a serious blow will be struck at the jury system. "This system develops," the *Spectator* continues, "confidence in the administration of justice, and if that confidence is to pass away, the loss will be terribly great." But, "the jury is nothing but a democratic vote interposed between the law and its trained exponents and the prisoner. It is hopelessly illogical as a system, twelve stupid men taken at random, with no guarantee either for their characters or other position, constantly override an able Judge."

THE SUISAN KAISHA.

THE Imperial Marine Products Company appears to be at last awakening to the realities of the situation. During the past few years it has been the fashion with the Japanese to complain bitterly of the depredations of so-called "foreign poachers" in the northern seas, and to charge their Government with gross neglect because it did not seem to take effective steps for checking the trespassers. But to outsiders it has appeared unaccountable that if foreigners could find it profitable to come from distant lands to hunt seals and otters in Japanese waters, the Japanese themselves, while complaining that their property was unlawfully appropriated by others, were not able to turn it to any good account, but remained content, year after year, with operations of the most trivial character. A few hundred *yen* annually represented the earnings of the Imperial Marine Products Com-

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pany, whereas foreigners were supposed to be coming from places thousands of miles away, and carrying off skins to the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is now stated that the Marine Products Company is resolved to put an end to such an anomalous state of affairs. It is about to engage American hunters for its sealing vessels, and to employ all the latest appliances devised by Western experts. If the Company succeeds in obtaining results at all commensurate with those attributed to foreign sealers in Japanese waters, there will be reason to call upon the Government for fuller protection against poachers, though, for our own part, we believe that there has been no lack of such protection in the past.

KUDAN-ZAKA.

BROAD and gentle as is the slope of Kudan-zaka,—the hill which connects the Kojimachi District with that of Kanda and which leads to the Shokonsha and Arsenal—it is one of the most dangerous places in the capital and notorious for the number of fatal accidents that take place on the hill-side. A statistician has declared that during the daylight hours there are never less than eighty foot-passengers on the slope, not to speak of *jinrikisha*, carts, carriages and equestrians. As a rule, *jinrikisha*-men go down at a walk or slow trot; but when the weight is heavy, the trot too frequently becomes a furious race, which is almost certain to result in an accident. No less than eight deaths occurred during the course of last year on this spot, while three times that number of people received more or less severe injuries, nearly all of which resulted from collisions. On the morning of the 19th inst., a *kurumaya*, emerging from the street which runs at right angles with the base of the slope, was instantly killed by another vehicle descending at a terrific pace, the puller of the latter having lost all control of his *jinrikisha*. A few days before this, a restive horse became unmanageable on the slope and severely wounded two people. Towards the end of last year, a cart heavily laden with large cobble-stones gave way while being dragged up the hill, and the stones rolled down, killing two people and wounding others. Apparently more efficient steps are needed to prevent such lamentable accidents. There is a police-station just beyond the brow of the slope, at the entrance of the race course, but very little is done to ensure the safety of pedestrians. If not absolute, at all events comparative, safety could be secured if police-constables were stationed at the top with injunctions to see that vehicles as well as foot-passengers kept to the proper side; and further that all descending vehicles should proceed slowly and with the utmost caution. Nor would it be amiss if another constable at the foot of the slope were to keep *jinrikisha* and the like, on emerging from the side-streets, at a foot-pace. Doubtless the police have given the matter much thought but the mishaps are too numerous.

THE LETTERS OF JUNIUS.

MACAULAY, according to Lord Brougham, was more cock-sure of everything than the great jurist was of anything, and one result of his cock-sureness was that he arrived in his history at all sorts of conclusions based, not upon facts, but upon his own way of regarding facts. Guilini, the immortal tenor, used to be the terror of conductors, for the charm of his own notes entranced him so much that he often dwelled upon them in complete forgetfulness of time. Similarly, Macaulay was wont to be so completely carried away by his own style that he set the value of an epigram far above that of the truth. In one thing, however, his instinct was unerring. After examining the evidence that Sir Philip Francis and Junius were one and the same person, he declared his conviction that the proofs were sufficient to obtain a verdict even in a criminal case. Macaulay is now shown to have been right. The manuscripts of Sir Philip Francis came into the market some months ago, and among them were discovered documents that dispel all doubt as to Francis' authorship of the famous Letters. Macaulay spoke of five marks found in Francis which were all present in Junius also, and of which probably not more than two could be found in any other person whatever. But it has always surprised us that one thing escaped Macaulay, namely, the similarity between the character of Francis and the tone of the Letters. Civilization has advanced at least sufficiently to make the publication of such letters an impossibility now-a-days. They abound with virulence, venom, malice, and personalities such as would damn any writer to-day. Nothing saves them except the wonderful nervousness of their language, their graces of classic diction and the intense directness of their style. Francis, as history reveals him to us, was precisely the man to write such letters.

PARADISE.

M. EDOUARD BLANC says that the Garden of Eden was in the Pamirs. In the Pamirs one cannot breathe with comfort and the whole ground is covered with snow for at least nine months of the year. Under these circumstances we can appreciate the anxiety of our ancestor and ancestress to find fig-leaves. But perhaps the Pamirs were very different in the days of the Four Rivers and the Tree of Knowledge. However, M. Blanc's theory imparts such interest to the question now pending between China, Russia, and England, that every one will be curious to learn the bases of his views. Here is an epitome of them:—

Even in the present day, those domestic animals with which we are familiar, and which, in ancient times, probably accompanied man in his conquests, are found in these regions in their primitive and savage state. There are seen in abundance on the Pamir plateau a great variety of wild mountain-sheep, goats, horses, and camels, from whose ancestors the domestic animals now used among civilized people are probably descended. Quoting from the original text of Genesis, Mr. Blanc notices the curious identity of the river Gihon with that of the Djihoun—a name that the great River Oxus bears even now among all peoples speaking the Arabic language. Two localities in the Pamirs answer more or less to the description given in the Book of Genesis, and by referring to local etymology the "Valley of Alai," in the Kirghiz language, signifies "The Valley of Eden." Placing the original Paradise in this valley, the four great rivers would be: the Tarim, which flows to the East, represented by one of its sources, the Kizil-Sou, or the Markhan-Sou; the Sourk-Ab, which flows to the West, and which, by its junction with the Pendj, forms the Djihoun, or Oxus; the Jaxarte, which flows to the North; and, lastly, the ancient outlet of the great Lake Karakoul. By another hypothesis, the Garden of Eden would be more to the South, and in the Valley of Ouakhan, called also the Little Pamir, the place which forms the subject of the frontier disputes between England and Russia. In this case, the four rivers mentioned would be the Indus, or one of its two affluents, the Houza or the Yarkoun; the Tarim, which would be the river Pisan; and the Ak Sau, flowing towards the North; and the Pendj, flowing towards the West. It is in the basin of the Tarim that are found not only mines of gold, but, as we read in Genesis, "there is bdellium and the onyx stone." These regions were entirely unknown to Europeans a few years ago, and everything agrees, "apart from the delights of the place, even its mines of gold," with the accounts in Scripture of the Garden of Eden.

AN ANCIENT FAITH.

WE think of China, from a religious point of view, solely as a Buddhist country. But what was the faith of the Chinese before the introduction of Buddhism? What was the creed of the people who established themselves on the banks of the Houang Ho in the twenty-third century before Christ, coming thither from Central Asia and possessing already a very advanced civilization both moral and political. Professor Harlez of Louvain says that it was a creed of the simplest kind.—"They believed in one personal God, the sovereign over heaven and mankind, and the master of empires, although the books of the Chinese do not tell us that they regarded God as the creator of the world. They do not seem to have been concerned with the origin of things. This God they called "supreme emperor" or "Shangti," and considered his position in heaven similar to that of the Sovereign-master on earth. They believed, likewise, in spirits of an intellectual nature inhabiting heaven or earth, and in charge of the different elements. These spirits, they said, watched over the moral law, and observed the actions of men, penetrating even to the depths of the heart, seeing everything, even the invisible, and aiding in the recompense of the good and the punishment of the wicked. It was not fear that gave rise to the conception of the divinity among these ancient people, for they represented God to themselves with all the traits of a good and compassionate father, and in their eyes the Emperor, who represented the divinity, should be to them the "Fa Mu" or the "father-mother" of his people. It was gratitude which inspired their early conceptions of God, and their offerings and sacrifices were those of gratitude rather than those of propitiation.

DIFFERENT CIVILIZATIONS.

MODERN philosophers have come to the conclusion that the great difference between Occidental and Oriental civilization may be stated in the briefest of phrases. The Oriental lacks individuality as much as the Occidental abounds in it. There are folks whose metaphysical insight is so defective that they might apply to this difference the terms "altruism" and "egoism." But the case can be stated in a manner much more agreeable to Western self-respect: we may say that the Oriental mind has not attained to clear self-consciousness. A new philosopher puts it thus:—"If we take through the earth's north temperate zone, a belt of country whose northern and southern edges are determined by certain limited isotherms, not more than half the width of the zone apart, we shall find that we have included in a relatively small extent of surface almost all the nations of note in the world, past or present. Now if we examine this belt and compare the different parts of it with one another we shall be struck by a remarkable fact. *The peoples inhabiting it grow steadily more personal as we go west.*"

DAMAGING A RUSSIAN MAN OF-WAR.

A NEW YORK telegram, dated February 7th, says:—His Imperial Majesty, the Czar of all the Russias, Alexander III, is the plaintiff in a libel case on trial to-day before Judge Addison Brown, in the United States District Court, in admiralty. The Russian sovereign claims $8,000 damages against the owners of two steam tugs. The papers in the case state that during the recent naval celebration in New York harbour, the Russian man-of-war, the *Dimitri Donski* was anchored in the North river, off Forty-eighth street. The Russian Counsel claim that this vessel was properly manned and officered, that the anchor lights were in place, and alongside the man-of-war was her steam launch, in which was one of Russia's sailor boys. They further assert that two tugs came down the river at midnight on June 12, 1893, lashed together and having in tow a fleet of canal-boats and coal barges. According to the libel, the steam launch was struck by one of the canal-boats and capsized, the man on board being thrown into the water. It is also alleged that the boom and tackle of the *Dimitri Donski* were badly damaged. The tugs passed, it is alleged, without paying any attention to the accident."

A JUBILEE STAMP.

IT has been decided to issue a Silver Wedding postage stamp. The decision was reached before any suggestion appeared in any newspaper, so those that wrote on the subject need not lay any flattering unction to their souls. There will be a two-*sen* and a five-*sen* stamp, the colours—owing to International Postal Union arrangements—being the same as those of the corresponding stamps now in use, namely, the two-*sen* rose, and the five-*sen* light royal blue. The stamps will be oblong in shape, about the same height but twice the width of the existing stamps. In the centre there will be a chrysanthemum, and within a band immediately surrounding it the legend *Dai-kon nijiu-gonen shiku-ten* (celebration ceremony of the great wedding's twenty-fifth year), and on the lower half in English "Imperial Wedding, 25 anniversary." The circle will be supported on either side by a crane in scroll-work. Above will be printed the usual

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Dai Nihon teikoku yubin (Great Japanese Empire Post), and below "Imperial Japanese Post." The figures "2 *sen*" and "5 *sen*" will appear in the lower corners only. The stamps will be for sale and use on and from the 9th instant, and we believe that a notification of the fact will appear in the *Official Gazette* about the 3rd or 4th instant.

THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS.

THROUGH the courtesy of the local agents here, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, & Co., we learn that a telegram was received in Yokohama on Tuesday announcing that the annual meeting of the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits was held on Monday and passed off quite satisfactorily.

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A Hongkong journal was informed by the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, that the past year's working shows a net profit of £18,000, which, however, is absorbed by exchange and other losses amounting to £137,000. Full provision has been made for the loss in exchange on all funds remitted home and for all London assets. The balance of Eastern assets remain at 3/- for the dollar and 1/4¾d. for the rupee.

THE SUNG-PU AFFAIR.

WRITING on the 17th ult., the *N.-C. Daily News* says:—Our German contemporary *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd* states in its issue of yesterday that the following telegram has been received from a high official in Peking *re* the petition of the two Swedish missionaries, Messrs. Lund and Lindström, to the Diplomatic Body in Peking, concerning the settlement of the Sung-pu affair:—"The Diplomatic Body cannot interfere with the settlement already arrived at in the Sung-pu case. They consented to demand of the Yamên better protection for missionaries, their employés and Christian converts in Hupeh, and agreed to use their influence to secure some alleviation of the sufferings of the natives who were friendly to the two murdered missionaries."—It is obvious that the Diplomatic Body could not interfere with Mr. Bock's settlement, and the demands which they have consented to make of the Yamên cover just the points which Messrs. Lund and Lindström went up to Peking with the hope of securing.

THE "HANGCHOW" COLLISION.

H.M.S. *Pigmy*, which left Hongkong on Wednesday, February 7th, for the scene of the recent collision between the China Navigation Co.'s steamer *Hangchow* and an unknown vessel, returned on the afternoon of February 18th. The *Daily Press* reporter was informed on board that the search in the locality at which the disaster occurred had been absolutely fruitless, not a vestige of anything which would establish the identity of the missing vessel having been recovered. A strict look-out was kept both day and night, and enquiries were made at villages and among the fishing craft around Breaker Point. At one village about 20 miles to the North a report was received that the body of an Englishman had been recovered, but it afterwards transpired that it was that of a Chinaman. The lighthouse keepers at Breaker Point had no knowledge of the occurrence of any disaster. There is no reason to doubt that the ill-fated vessel is the coal-laden steamer *St. Asaph*.

* * *

A Marine Court of Inquiry has been held at Hongkong into the circumstances attending the *Hangchow* collision off Breaker Point. After taking a lot of evidence from the master and crew of the *Hangchow*, the Court adjourned to consider its finding. On re-assembling the President read a long finding. In the earlier portion the opinion was expressed that it was the *St. Asaph* which was run into. The concluding sentences were as follow:—"We are of opinion that the master of the *Hangchow* fully recognised the duty of standing by after the collision as long as the safety of his own vessel and the lives on board were not unduly endangered thereby, also that the steps taken by him were all taken with this end in view; but while recognising the danger to the *Hangchow*, we regret that the master should have decided to leave the scene of the disaster without even more strenuous efforts being made to discover what had become of the other vessel. The Court do not deal with the certificates of the master or officers, and they are, therefore, returned to them."

STEAMSHIP COMMUNICATION WITH AMERICA.

REFERRING to the agreement lately made between the Canadian Pacific, Great Northern, and Northern Pacific Railroad, by which each road agrees to haul freight and passengers for the others on certain division of through rates, *Bradstreets* says:—"Somewhat in line with this are the current indications that the Pacific Mail Steamship Company has taken steps to regain the subsidy of $75,000 formerly paid it by the transcontinental roads for maintaining rates, the withdrawal of which was one of the chief causes for the breaking up of the old association. It is reported that the suggestion has been not unfavourably received by the railroad interests, though shipping interests on the Pacific coast have naturally taken alarm at any possible move which would mark up through rates and restore conditions which the merchants of San Francisco and other California points denounced as oppressive and destructive of business. It is indeed understood that Mr. Leeds, the official representative of the San Francisco shippers, has been delegated to come east for the purpose of defeating such a project, or counteracting it by an arrangement which will insure the continuance of independent steamer opposition to any combination for the restoration and maintenance of through Pacific coast rates. In this connection there are further complications. The Pacific Mail, by its compromise with the Panama Railroad, virtually withdrew from the Atlantic coast, resigning its business between New York and Aspinwall to the steamship line controlled by the Panama Railroad. Three ships of the Pacific Mail fleet employed on the Atlantic were rented to the Panama's organization at a rate which, it is said, insures a profit of about $180,000 a year. Business has been unprofitably light, and there is an alleged disposition on the part of the lessee to abrogate or modify the contract, which, in the event of the restoration of the subsidy paid by the Pacific Railroad, would doubtless be agreeable to the Pacific Mail. The latter company, it should be noted, is practically under the control of Southern Pacific Railroad interests, that corporation having the most immediate interest of any of the transcontinental lines in bringing about the stability of through rates."

THE JAPANESE T-CLOTH INDUSTRY.

ANOTHER inroad seems likely to be made on the import trade by Japanese T-cloths, the manufacture of which by the Osaka Cotton Spinning Company is said to be now conducted on a considerable scale. The weavers of Kii, also, have embarked in the same enterprise. It is said that the Japanese T-cloth can be sold for 20 *sen* less per piece than the foreign, the prices of the three grades at present being 1.60 *yen*, 1.50 *yen*, and 1.40 *yen* respectively. The recent appreciation of gold has greatly assisted the Japanese weavers in their competition with fabrics imported from gold-using countries.

SILVER IN INDIA.

As an example of the criticism evoked by the Indian Government's silver policy when the Legislative Council decided, in the third week in January, to abandon its programme of maintaing a minimum rate for Council drafts, we quote the following:—The Government of British India has at last made what is equivalent to a confession that the act of the legislative council of last June closing India's mints to the free coinage of silver and fixing a minimum rate of 1s. 4d. for India Council bills of exchange has been a failure. Last week (22nd January) came the announcement that in view of the beginning of the export season from England's great eastern dependency it was no longer expedient to continue the attempt to maintain the minimum, and that offers for Council drafts of from 1s. 3⅛d. and upward would be considered on their merits. The expected import duty on silver which the supporters of the India government's policy in question had considered likely has not been imposed, and the speculation in silver which had been in progress for some time past based on that idea has collapsed. There has accordingly been a sharp fall in the market price of bar silver, the London quotation falling during the week to 30½d. per ounce, with a corresponding decline in New York bullion dealers' prices to 67c. per ounce, these figures being only fractionally above the extreme depression which the silver market experienced when the Indian authorities took their stand last June. Cable advices state that the reversal of the Council's policy has been received with amazement in England, while in India general business, already strained by the uncertainty of the situation, is reported to be in a state of actual demoralization.

RELICS.

THE *Mainichi Shimbun* reports that a man named Kato Goyemon of Takabata in Yamagata Prefecture, has made a discovery of relics in a cave near the hamlet where he resides. It appears that there are several caves—some twenty—in a hill there, some of them being open and others partially blocked with debris. In digging out stones from one of them, Kato came upon various relics—*Kuda-dama*, *magatama*, crystal balls, pearls, sword-blades, lance-heads, arrow tips and gold rings. It is an interesting find. Probably quantities of such things lie buried under the soil at various places in Japan.

AN ENORMOUS ESTATE.

THE Vladivostock correspondent of the *Hokuriku Shimbun*, published in Kanazawa, writes that recently in Manchuria, at a distance of some thirty Japanese miles from Vladivostock, a stone was found bearing the following inscription: "Zeniya Gohei's estate begins from this place." This Zeniya Gohei flourished about sixty years ago, and was the pioneer of Japan's trade with the outer world. He made several visits to the South Sea Islands and believed that commercial relations with that part of the world would prove of immensed profit to Japan, thus considerably anticipating Mr. Taguchi. After a number of most adventurous voyages, he suddenly disappeared and a rumour gained credence that he had died on one of the southern isles that he loved so well. "Historians," says the *Hokuriku Shimbun*," have for years been investigating the question as to where he established his tradal centre; but if our correspondent is correct in his statements, Zeniya Gohei must have been familiar with the Russian possessions in Northern Asia and there possessed a landed estate. In this case, the boundaries of his lands reached from Manchuria to the Southern Pacific, and it was in this vast territory that he carried on his schemes for the rehabilitation of Japanese commerce."

TYPHUS.

A DOZEN years ago a writer in these columns predicted that one day or another every ill to which flesh is heir would be found to be due to a parasite. It would be curious to tabulate the results that since then have verified the prediction, but we have not the statistics at hand. The latest verification is the discovery by the German Professor Dr. Fraenckel of a typhus bacillus. He has used this bacillus in vaccination so as to produce a rapid benign course of the fever. Another German Professor has cultivated a bacillus which, he says, will cure typhus in eight days.

SIERRA LEONE GEOGRAPHY.

A CORRESPONDENT very kindly writes to say that in the Geographical Magazine, "Petermann's Mittleilungen," there are to be found special maps containing accurate information about the localities where a collision is reported to have recently taken place by misapprehension between British and French troops. The vol-

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umes indicated by our correspondent are:—Vol. 1880, Map 12; Vol. 1882, Maps 13 and 14; and Vol. 1883, Map 11.

CURRENT TOPICS.

CONCERNING the question of Treaty Revision, which continues to attract much attention, the Metropolitan papers may be roughly divided into two classes, of which the one persists in writing as though the task of revision were nearly completed, while the other adopts an extremely sceptical attitude, alleging that the reports pointing to a speedy solution of this knotty question are secretly circulated by the Cabinet with a view to diverting public attention from the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement. The former class is represented by the *Shin Choya Shimbun*, the *Niroku Shimpo*, and a few others, while to the latter belong the *Hochi Shimbun*, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the *Nippon* and so forth. The first named papers are ready to believe any report making for their own views, and even go so far as to publish imaginary schemes of revision, their evident object being to excite public prejudice against the Cabinet. On the other hand, journals affecting an attitude of extreme incredulity, wish to impress their readers with the notion that Revision is a task quite beyond the capacity of the present Government.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, writing on this subject, observes that there ought to be no surprise if the problem of Treaty Revision should now be solved, seeing that twenty years have elapsed since the nation's attention was first turned in this direction at the time of the late Prince Iwakura's embassy to the West. The *Nichi Nichi* is evidently sceptical as to the negotiations having made progress such as some papers assert, yet it entertains no doubt that *pour-parlers* are going on. It further remarks that papers which pretend to believe nothing pointing to Revision virtually confess to a conviction that the time has not yet come for the assertion of Japan's national rights and may well be ridiculed for the low estimate they entertain of the power and position of their country. As to the schemes of Revision published by some journals, the *Nichi Nichi* observes that the points enumerated remind it of the Aoki programme which has long since been laid aside The materials out of which these imaginary schemes have been constructed seem, in our contemporary's opinion, to have been gleaned from certain old official papers said to have been obtained from a certain Count who died last year. The *Nichi Nichi* blames the Metropolitan Police Board for the needless alarm it exhibited when these visionary schemes were published. The police authorities prohibited other papers from reproducing the items though truly they might have been left in peace, seeing that wilder rumours have been suffered to pass without official notice.

* * *

The Chitani question is still much talked-of. The Minister of Justice naturally felt disinclined to adopt harsh measures against the refractory Judge Chitani, and on the 26th ultimo, he instructed the Judge to proceed to his new post within a week. The Judge definitely declined to obey the Minister's order on the ground that his appointment was contrary to law and therefore null and void. There can be no doubt that he will now be arraigned before a disciplinary tribunal. According to the *Hochi Shimbun*, considerable sympathy is felt with him by the barristers of Tokyo and other places where he has served.

* * *

Count Oki seems to think that there is yet a chance for him to play a conspicuous part on the political stage where he has never hitherto been a prominent figure. He is represented as expressing very bold opinions to newspaper men. According to an account of a recent interview with him, he dwelt much on the importance of administering the government of the country according to principles of morality. He made many opportunities to quote from the writing of Confucius and other Chinese philosophers, and he told his visitor that shortly before the issue of the Imperial Rescript in 1881 announcing the grant of a Constitution, he insisted on the necessity of deferring the opening of the Diet till the 50th (1917) or at least the 30th year (1897) of *Meiji*. Finally, he declared his resolution to take the direction of national affairs into his own hands.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for January showing the foreign trade of the empire for the month:—

	1893. SILVER YEN.	1894. SILVER YEN.
Exports	7,587,506 210	7,556,762.190
Imports	6,102,162,280	8,851,157.860
Total exports and imports		16,407,920.050
Excess of imports		1,294,395.670

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Exports	143,660 458
Imports	289,860 605
Miscellaneous	12,459.036
Total	415,980.099

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
China	367 646.580	2,356,705.060	2,724,351.640
Hongkong	1,773.890,160	589,731.890	2,363,622.050
British India	238,716.230	351.519.420	590,235.650
Anam & other French India	10.062.000	453,117 950	463,179.950
Korea	68,873.120	206,354 760	275,227.880
Niigata	—	132,077.390	132,077.390
Russian Asia	5,457.900	102,017.840	107,475.740
Philippine Islands	18,538.600	37.963.690	56,502.290
Great Britain	443.046.010	2,793,045.200	2,236.091 210
France	1,116,292.610	413,383.890	1,529,676.500
Germany	104,126.490	565,738.730	669,865 220
Italy	120,099.300	9.870 650	130 869 950
Switzerland	30,647.970	60,871.870	90,919.840
Belgium	897 200	79,304.650	80,201.670
Spain	8,185 300	2,173.980	10,359.180
Austria	2,280.840	750.240	3,031.080
Holland	1,066.400	738.020	1,804 420
Russia	1,073.660	—	1,073.660
Sweden & Norway	—	581.290	581.299
Portugal	—	414.780	414.780
Turkey	278.000	—	278.000
Denmark	70.000	27.420	97.420
United States of America	2,798,000.300	645,934.720	3,443,935.020
Canada & other British America	156,850 880	4,036.060	160,886.940
Australia	45,559 130	20,840.640	66,399 770
Hawaii	5,391.330	6.000	5,397.330
Other Countries	67,191.470	24,951.720	92,143.190
Total	7,384,541.200	8,851,157.860	16,235,699.060

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

Yokohama	4,839,312 680	3,429,162.660	8,268.475.340
Kobe	1,067,302 580	4,359,623 400	6,226,926.988
Osaka	75.321.450	616,657.590	671,959 040
Nagasaki	253,854.420	391,636.210	643,490.630
Hakodate	9,590.550	82.700	9,673.250
Shimonoseki	75,259.600	41,163.700	116,423.300
Moji	208,945.100	—	208,945 100
Hakata	—	5,075.000	3 075.000
Karatsu	37,164.500	—	73,164.500
Kuchinotsu	193,896 750	—	193,896.750
Idzugahara	299 500	7,965 210	8,264 710
Shishimi	614,900	862 199	1,181.860
Otaru	16,967.500	—	16,967.500
Specie and Bullion	Exports		1,327,492.710
	Imports		1,237,899.670
Total			2,565,392.380
Excess of exports			89,5930.40

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants	Exports	1,074,415.510
	Imports	1,930.465.260
Imported by Government		197,776.480

TOKYO AND THE SILVER WEDDING.

THAT the City is going to do its best to make the Silver Wedding of Their Imperial Majesties a never-to-be-forgotten festival, is becoming daily more noticeable. Most of the principal thoroughfares will observe the day as a strict holiday: all the stores will be closed and clerks and apprentices permitted to go whither they please. The main-street in Nihonbashi Ku, will be exceptionally gaily decked, the show-windows and shop-fronts being made a parterre of flowers, with silver screens as a background. Large triumphal arches are to be erected at Shinbashi, in two or three places in Ginza and along the Uyeno Parade (*hirokoji*). All the metropolitan schools will send their students to march past the main approach of the Imperial Palace, and special songs have been written and will be sung on this occasion. The chief inns of the metropolis have all their rooms engaged in advance, for it is calculated that nearly, if not quite, one million visitors will be in the city on that day, which would bring the number of local celebrants up to almost thrice that figure. Indeed, there is every reason to believe that the *fête* will be celebrated with all the pomp and enthusiasm that attended the promulgation of the Imperial Constitution. This is the more gratifying, as it testifies to the deep love and reverence the people have for their Sovereign. Irrespective of party politics and factional clamour, there is a solid, unshakable substratum of loyalty for the Imperial House. A speaker recently said at a meeting of the *Kaishin-to*, "Loyalty is a monopoly of the Japanese!" We do not admit that, but the claim is suggestive.

* * *

The gifts made to the Imperial Celebrants will bear ample testimony to the love of the people for the Imperial Family. We have already referred to some of the offerings that will be made by persons of wealth and rank. But it is no less pleasant to read of the eagerness of all classes to show their reverent affection in some substantial manner. Even the poor can make their tribute, for the Imperial Household has let it be known that gifts of flowers will be accepted. Poems will, of course, be a favourite mode of expressing congratulations, and the columns of the local press are already filled with odes, penned by the best writers the Empire possesses. In order to gratify the popular desire to express in verse the loyalty that all would show, the Imperial Household Department has given the following theme for versification, *ō ka kei ban shun*, or *Uguisu to hana wa yorozu no haru wo chigiru*:—"The nightingale and the flowers give promise of ten thousand Springs. The nightingale is the bird of love, while flowers as well as the vernal season are similar symbols, so that the theme is certainly well-chosen. Thousands of poets and poetasters have already sent in specimens of their skill, the principal repository of these effusions being the *Miyako Shimbun*, which has, for some time past, being publishing daily, on its first page, some sixty or seventy of the best odes received. The style chosen in versification is that known as *waka*, or a stanza of 31 syllables (5,7,5, 7,7). A number of the metropolitan book-stores have agreed to publish, in book-form, a selection of the finest verses on the theme given. The Hakubunkwan, in particular, is making a specialty of this, having each ode subjected to the criticism of competent judges. The book of poems is to be ready by March 9th. A specimen of these congratulatory odes may not be out of place:—

Kimi ga yo ni
Iku chi yo Kakete
Chigiruramu;
Ume ga ko-ue ni
Uguisu no koe.

[The note of the nightingale from the top-most branch of the plum, promises that our Lord's reign will endure a hundred decades].

* * *

Among the many strange or remarkable gifts that are to be offered to the Emperor, one of a brush-maker in Shiba is especially noteworthy. Certain faultless hairs have been chosen from no less than three thousand pelts of the hare, each animal having only five or six of the particular kind wanted. These nave then been worked up into two Japanese writing-brushes with silver handles, on which appropriate congratulatory characters are engraved. On the other hand, it is said that the Imperial Household Department will present silver cups to all persons of unusually great age now resident in the capital; while some of the vernacular newspapers urge, with great propriety, that the day should further be privately observed by making up family feuds, reconciliation of estranged husbands and wives and a general amnesty of connubial differences. Others propose that the festival of *Ohina-sama*, the Feast of Dolls or girls' festival, which falls and has hitherto always been celebrated on the 3rd of March, should in future be held on the ninth of the month, in commemoration of the Imperial Wedding Day.

* * *

The comic element is not lacking. One of the largest bazaars in Ginza is doing a roaring

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trade in *Gunkon Kappu*, or "Silver Wedding Caps," said caps being a sort of fez covered with silver tissue paper. These are, of course, to be worn only on the great day. A school wherein book-keeping is taught, combines business with patriotism by advertising, in very large capitals, that "owing to the Imperial Silver Wedding being celebrated next month," no entrance fee will be required from those who matriculate in March. Finally, a journalistic wiseacre propounds the startling theory that we may expect a rise in exchange shortly, as the great demand for silver within the next fortnight is calculated to render that metal somewhat scarce, if not more highly appreciated than heretofore!

THE ELECTIONS.

Up to last evening the following returns had been received from election districts:—

Name of successful Candidate.	Political Party.	Political Party of previous Representative.
AICHI PREFECTURE.		
*Komuro Shigehiro.	Radical.	National Unionist.
*Yezaki Hitoshi.	Radical.	National Unionist.
*Kurachi Iyemon.	Radical.	*Domei* Club.
Mori Toichiro.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Kato Kiyemon.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Amano Iyemon.	*Domei* Club.	Re-elected.
*Ota Zenshiro.	National Unionist.	National Unionist.
Imai Isoichiro.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
Kato Rokyo.	*Domei* Club.	Re-elected.
*Miura Hekisui.	*Kaishin-to.*	National Unionist.
*Kunijima Hiroshi.	Radical.	do.
KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE.		
Haseba Junko.	*Doshi* Club.	Re-elected.
Kawashima Jun.	*Domei* Club.	do.
Mita Kenshi.	*Doshi* Club.	do.
NARA PREFECTURE.		
*Matsumoto Chobei.	Independent.	Independent.
TOKUSHIMA PREFECTURE.		
*Yuaki Teitaro.	Radical.	*Seimu Chosa-jo.*
Morino Tamegoro.	*Kaishin-to*	Re-elected.
Kawamata Tokusaburo.	do.	do.
HashimotoKintaro	do.	do.
Abe Okito.	do.	do.
MIYAZAKI PREFECTURE.		
*Iwasaki Monji.	Radical.	*Seimu Chosa-jo.*
*Yasuda Yuitsu.	*Doshi* Club.	Independent.
Kobayashi Kenichiro.	do.	Re-elected.
NAGASAKI PREFECTURE.		
*Shiba Sankuro.	Radical.	National Unionist.
HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE.		
Fujita Takayuki.	*Kaishin to.*	Re-elected.
*Sasaki Koyei.	Radical.	*Inokaku ha.*
Oda Kwanichi.	do.	Re-elected.
*Waki Yeitaro.	Independent.	*Inokaku ha.*
Kurata Jungoro.	*Kaishin-to.*	Re-elected.
Inouye Kakugoro.	Independent.	do.
SHIMANE PREFECTURE.		
*Okayama Isami.	Radical.	*Seimu Chosa jo.*
*Namikawa Rizaburo.	Independent.	do.
*Takahashi Kiujiro.	National Unionist.	do.
*Tsunematsu Rinkei.	Radical.	do.
Sasada Tsutomu	Radical.	Re-elected.
KAGAWA PREFECTURE.		
Nakano Buyei	*Kaishin-to*	Re-elected.
*Hayashi Kyoichi	Radical.	Independent.
*Ayai Takeo	Independent.	*Kaishin-to*
Misaki Kamenosuke	Radical.	Re-elected.
*Mori Terumi	Radical.	*Kaishin to.*
YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE.		
*Mori Seizo	Independent.	National Unionist.
*Yoshitomi Kanichi	do.	do.
*Nishimura Reisaku	do.	do.
*Isobe Juzo	do.	do.
*Sera Tokuju	do.	do.
*Kawakami Itsu	do.	do.
OKAYAMA PREFECTURE.		
*Take-no uchi Seishi	do.	do.
Imgai Ki.	*Kaishin-to.*	Re elected.
*Moriya Kanozumi.	do.	National Unionist.
Kato Heishiro.	Radical.	Re-elected.
*Ide Mozo.	Radical.	Radical.
MIYE PREFECTURE.		
Ozaki Yukio.	*Kaishinto*	Re-elected.
TOCHIGI PREFECTURE.		
Hoshi Toru.	Radical.	Re-elected.
TOKYO CITY.		
*Suyeyoshi Tadamasu	*Domei* Club.	National Unionist.
*Hiyama Tetsusaburo.	Radical.	Independent.
*Oku Saburobei.	*Domei* Club.	National Unionist.
Tsunoda Shimpei.	*Kaishni to.*	Re-elected.
Abe Kosumi.	National Unionist.	National Unionist
Hatoyama Kazuo.	*Kaishin-to.*	Re elected.
*Inada Masakichi.	do.	Independent.
Kusumoto Masataka.	*Domei* Club.	Re-elected.
Takanashi Tetsushiro.	Independent.	Re-elected.
KANAGAWA PREFECTURE.		
Shimada Saburo.	*Kaishin to.*	Re-elected.
HYOGO PREFECTURE.		
*Kashima Hidemaro.	*Kaishin-to.*	Independent.
CHIBA PREFECTURE.		
Chiba Teijiro.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Kokura Yoshinori.	do.	do.
Akimoto Sanyemon.	*Kaishin to.*	do.
Osuka Yonosumi.	*Domei* Club.	do.
Nishimura Junyemon.	Radical.	do.
Ito Tokutaro.	do.	do.
*Takahashi Kisoji.	do.	Radical.
*Suzuki Seizo.	do.	do.
*Yasuda Kun.	*Kaishin-to.*	do.
YAMAGATA PREFECTURE.		
Sato Satoji. *Satake Masanori.	Equal votes. *Domei* Club. Independent.	Radical.
*Yamashita Chio-o.	Radical.	National Unionist.
*Komabayashi Koun.	do.	do.
*Shigeno Kanjiro.	do.	do.
*Abe Magozayemon.	do.	do.
GUMMA PREFECTURE.		
*Arai Go.	National Unionist	Radical.
Kawai Mitsugi.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Nakajima Yuhachi.	*Doshi* Club.	do.
*Kokuse Budayu.	Radical.	National Unionist.
*Shimitsu Yeisaburo	Radical.	Radical.
FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE.		
Ogasawara Sadanobu.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Hirashima Matsuo.	Radical.	*Seimu Chosajo.*
Kono Hironaka.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Shiba Shiro.	*Domei* Club.	do.
Yamaguchi Chyosaku.	do.	do.
Aizawa Neiken.	Radical.	do.
KYOTO CITY.		
Sakamoto Sokui.	*Seimu Chosajo.*	do.
Takemura Tobei.	do.	do.
AKITA PREFECTURE.		
*Meguro Teiji.	*Doshi* Club.	National Unionist.
*Yokoyama Yakichi.	do.	do.
Node Shozaburo.	do.	Re-elected.
Sakamoto Riichiro.	do.	do.
Takeishi Keiji.	do.	do.
FUKUI PREFECTURE.		
*Takeo Shigeru.	Radical.	Radical.
Suzuki Teiichi.	do.	Re-elected.
*Kuroda Doshin.	Independent.	National Unionist.
*Tokioka Matazayemon.	Radical.	*Doshi* Club.
IWATE PREFECTURE.		
Tanigawa Shochu.	Radical.	Re-elected.
*Ogasawa Teiichi.	do.	National Unionist.
Sato Shozo.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
*Shimoizaka Gonzaburo.	Radical.	National Unionist.
*Hirata Shin.	do.	*Kaishin to.*
OITA PREFECTURE.		
Ando Kiuka.	National Unionist.	Re elected.
Minoura Katsuto.	*Kaishin to.*	do.
Asaakura Chikatame.	National Unionist	do.
Hiroso Sadabumi.	do.	do.
Motoda Hajime.	do.	do.
*Yamaguchi Hanshichi.	*Doshi* Club	National Unionist.
IBARAKI PREFECTURE.		
Sekido Kakuzo.	*Domei* Club.	Re-elected.
Seki Shunnosuke.	Radical.	do.
*Hama Shimpei.	do.	*Toyo Jiyu to.*
*Hatsumi Hachiro.	*Domei* Club.	do.
*Okubo Tanzo.	Radical.	*Kaishin-to.*
SAITAMA PREFECTURE.		
Kato Masanosuke.	*Kaishin to.*	Re elected.
Takata Sanaye.	do.	do.
Fukuda Hisamatsu.	do.	do.
Saito Keiji.	Radical.	do.
Yumoto Yoshinori.	National Unionist.	do.
KOCHI PREFECTURE.		
Komatsu Sansei.	Radical.	do.
Hayashi Yuzo.	do.	do.
Kataoka Kenkichi.	do.	do.
Nishiyama Shicho.	do.	do.
FUKUOKA PREFECTURE.		
Tsuda Morihiko.	National Unionist.	
*Tada Sakubei.	Radical.	National Unionist.
*Fuji Kinsaku.	do.	do.
*Hayakawa Isami.	National Unionist.	do.
Sasaki Shozo.	do.	Re elected.
Nakamura Hikoji.	do.	do.
*Tachibana Chikunobu.	Radical.	Radical.
*Fukuye Kakutaro.	do.	National Unionist.
Suyematsu Kencho.	Independent.	Re elected.
SAGA PREFECTURE.		
*Taketomi Tokitoshi.	*Doshi* Club.	National Unionist.
*Noda Tsunesada.	do.	do.
Kawara Mosumi.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
*Nii Keicho.	*Doshi* Club.	National Unionist.

* * *

We have here returns for 139 constituencies. Analysing them, we find them divided thus,

Radicals	57
Independents	16
Kaishin to	22
Domei Club	12
Doshi Club	14
National Unionists	16
Seimu Chosa-jo	2

Thus the Radicals and Independents aggregate 73 and the remaining parties (*i.e.* the Opposition), 66. Proceeding with the analysis we find 67 new members, of whom 36 are Radicals. This does not mean that the Radicals have actually gained 36 seats. In eight constituencies a Radical merely replaced a Radical. But in twenty-eight a Radical candidate ousted the representative of another party. Speaking more accurately, the Radicals gained 15 seats from National Unionists; 4 from representatives of the *Seimu Chosa-jo*; 2 from the Independents; 3 from the *Kaishin-to*, and 1 each from the *Domei* Club, the *Inokaku-ha* the *Doshi* Club and the Oriental Radicals. On the other hand, they lost 1 each to the National Unionists, the *Kaishin-to* and the Independents. Thus the net gain of the Radicals up to the present is 25. Of the remaining new members, 13 are Independents, of whom 12 defeated the representatives of other parties, winning 8 seats from the National Unionists and one each from the *Inokaku-ha*, the *Seimu Chosa-jo*, the *Kaishin-to* and the Radicals. Hence—noting that gains from the *Inokaku-ha* and the Independents do not strengthen the Radical-Independent coalition for purposes of Government support—we see that the net gain to the hypothetical pro-Cabinet combination is 32. As for the *Kaishin-to*, they win 2 seats from National Unionists, 2 from Independents, and one from a Radical. But they lose 3 to the Radicals, and 1 to the Unionists, so that their net gain is only one seat, thus far. Six of the new members are representatives of the *Doshi* Club, 3 of the *Domei* Club, and 5 of the National Unionists. Hence the actual gain of the *Doshi* Club is 5, and that of the *Domei* Club, 4. As for the National Unionists, they have fared worst of all, their net loss being 32 seats.

* * *

Mr. Hoshi Toru has been re-elected in Tochigi Prefecture, and Mr. Abei Hankon, the introducer of the Strict-Enforcement Memorial and of the vote of want of confidence in Mr. Hoshi, has been rejected by his constituency in Fukushima Prefecture.

SILVER.

From 1881 to 1887 numerous articles were published in these columns urging the vital importance of the silver question, not only to the commerce of the Far East directly, but also to the international trade of the whole world, and to the prosperity of civilized peoples. In those days bimetallism was a discredited creed. The gold men were the Solomons of the situation.

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They had merely to shake their heads and talk pityingly of the "fools that wanted to meddle with the currency," or the "poor silly bodies that sought to substitute artificial legislation for natural laws." Sententiousness is a valuable refuge for ignorance. The sententious man always makes an imposing impression on less courageous hearers, and thus it fell out that the monometallists were able for a long time to stifle inquiry and to silence timid opposition by the very intensity of their contempt for "silver faddists." But truth is horribly pertinacious. The attitude of the world towards bimetallism is now very different from what it was fourteen years ago when the subject first began to receive editorial attention in these columns. Of course we do not for an instant pretend to think that our contribution to the change is worth mention, but we do find that all the arguments used by us between 1881 and 1887 are now appearing once more upon the *tapis*, having gained only strength by maturity, and we do perceive that bimetallism, instead of being tabooed and poohpoohed, as it was then, is the burning problem of the day.

* * *

The most recent resurrection of these arguments is in a circular letter issued by the Shanghai Branch of the China Association. The letter disposes of the fallacious notion too commonly entertained that the trade of India is of more importance to Great Britain than the trade of the Farther East. The total India trade for 1891 was 110 millions sterling, and the total Far-East trade 130 millions sterling. As to the effect produced upon the latter by gold appreciation, the letter says:—

The medium of exchange in these countries is silver employed in the shape of coin, as rupees and dollars, or as bullion; its purchasing power in these countries having throughout the period of gold appreciation remained practically unchanged.

When by means referred to silver was maintained at a reasonable ratio with the gold currency of the West foreign commerce flourished and gave promise of enormous extension. When the tie between the metals was dissolved that commerce became disorganised; each year has seen greater difficulties; and at the present time the position has become intolerable.

The appreciation of gold means that every article of commerce produced in England must fall in gold and rise in silver price: it is manifest that to this there must be a limit; and it is not unreasonable to conclude that the limit is now reached. The manufactures and products of West and East continue in themselves practically unchanged: the cause of the trouble which now threatens this commerce with virtual extinction is not in the nature of the commerce itself, but in the medium in which it is conducted.

If the money of the East continues to be discredited, and the ounce weight of silver which formerly was the equivalent of one fourth of a pound sterling has now fallen to be one-eighth of a pound sterling, and may decline still further, the export trade from gold to silver-using countries becomes a practical impossibility: and the hundreds of millions people who have hitherto been consumers of English manufactures and products will find it distinctly to their interest and benefit to manufacture or produce for themselves to enable them to dispense with the use of commodities they have heretofore found advantage in importing from the manufacturing nations of the West.

When once Eastern nations begin to invest in manufactures, English industries will be confronted with powerful, and it may well be invincible, competitors. Not only will the mills, workshops and mines of England suffer, but the decline of exportation to the East will deprive millions of tons of shipping of occupation: and the capital value represented by these great interests must inevitably suffer enormous depreciation.

* * *

The letter concludes with the following appeal, which we print as a duty, not because we count on any result in apathetic Yokohama:—

That the evils complained of are capable of amelioration does not admit of dispute: the great difficulty lies in the ignorance of the people of England of the true gravity of the situation, and not in the application of a remedy.

Such representations as bodies like the China Association and Chambers of Commerce are able to make are of little real service; they seldom reach the persons most intimately concerned. If the cause is to prevail more active and energetic measures must be adopted: and the first and most important is the nomination of a delegate or delegates to England, to interview members of Parliament, and address public meetings, educate the people to a fair understanding of the situation, and endeavour with the aid of prominent men and persistent agitation to make the currency question the leading question of the day.

This Branch of the China Association is prepared, if required, to send a delegate; and the object of this proposition is to invite co-operation, either by associating a delegate from your Branch, or by empowering the Shanghai delegate, after conferring with your Branch, to represent you.

If this proposition meets with the approval of the Associations and members to which it is addressed, consideration must be given to the creation of a fund to defray the expenses of the delegates, and the attendant charges.

Members willing to contribute to the fund are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary.

THE ROLLING "RESOLUTION."

In reference to the reported excessive rolling of the armour-clad *Resolution*, it may be pointed out that the behaviour of these vessels at sea has an important bearing on the controversy in which Mr. W. H. White and Sir E. J. Reed hold directly opposite views. With the system of a heavily-armoured citadel and light ends, likely to be greatly damaged in action, it is necessary to make the vessel of such a breadth that the armoured part is sufficient in itself to provide stability, and consequently when the vessel is intact she has excessive stability and rolls heavily. With the system advocated by Sir E. J. Reed, the buoyancy at the water-line is protected fore and aft, and a much less breadth can be adopted. This plan is exhibited in the *Sultan*, *Hercules*, and *Alexandra*, known to be amongst the most comfortable vessels in the Navy. Who is to decide as to the relative disadvantages of these two systems when such professors disagree?

THE "SPECTATOR'S" BARD.

Here is another of the delightful efforts that now grace the columns of the *Spectator*:—

THE HAWARDEN HORACE.

III, 9.

Hor. Donec gratus eram tibi,
Nec quisquam potior brachia candidae
Cervici juvenis dabat,
Persarum vigui rege beatior.

Will. When in the golden days of yore
Thy favour I enjoyed
(Though purely Scottish to the core),
My bliss was unalloyed:
Proud of a love that jealous fate
Methought could never mar,
I envied not the high estate
Of Kaiser or of Czar.

Lyd. Donec non alia magis
Arsisti, neque erat Lydia post Chloën,
Multi Lydia nominis
Romana vigui clarior Ilia.

Brit. So long, sweet William, as I reigned
Unrivalled in thy breast,
Ere blarneying Hibernia gained
The throne I erst possessed;
Proud of thy genius and thy love,
I candidly confess
I ranked Victoria's realm above
The realm of good Queen Bess.

Hor. Me nunc Thressa Chloë regit
Dulces docta modos et citharae sciens,
Pro qua non metuam mori,
Si parcent animae fata superstiti.

Will. Me now Hibernia holds in thrall,
My crownless harpy Queen!
With her I chant in Tara's Hall
"The Wearing of the Green."
For her dear sake I'd rant and rail
At every institution,
Although such conduct should entail
A sudden dissolution.

Lyd. Me torret face mutua
Thurini Calaïs filius Ornyti,
Pro quo bis patiar mori,
Si parcent puero fata superstiti.

Brit. Me Cecil fires with mutual flame,
My masterful *Marquis*!
I love him for his noble name,
His ancient pedigree.
Two dissolutions in two years
For him I'd undergo,
Provided that the House of Peers
Escaped an overthrow.

Hor. Quid, si prisca redit Venus,
Diductosque jugo cogit aëneo?
Si flava excutitur Chloë,
Rejectaeque patet janua Lydiae?

Will. Suppose the old familiar fire
Afresh within me burned?
Suppose the lady and her lyre
In weariness I spurned?
What if I bowed my Irish bride
Politely to the door,
And swore uuswervingly to bide
With thee for evermore?

Lyd. Quanquam sidere pulchrior
Ille est, tu levior cortice et improbo
Iracundior Hadria,
Tecum vivere amem, tecum obeam libens.

Brit. Though fairer than the *Star* were he,
Than Hottentot thou sabler,
More flighty than Mid-Cork's M.P.,
Than Channel chops unstabler;
With thee as guardian of my race
Life's bliss anew would bloom,
With thee unfalteringly I'd face
The deadly ding of doom.

C. L. G.

For the benefit of those of our lady readers who do not understand Latin (we know of several who, we are glad to say, do) and who are on that account unable to appreciate the fidelity and humour of the above rendering, especially the first and third lines of the last stanza, we append, not having any metrical translation at hand to refer to, the following literal version of the original:—

Horace. So long as I was pleasing to you, and no more favoured youth was wont to throw his arms around your fair neck, I lived more happy than the Persians' king.

Lydia. So long as you burned for no woman more than me, and Lydia in your love) did not rank after Chloe, I, Lydia, of high name, lived more renowned than the Roman Ilia.

Horace. Me Thracian Chloe now governs, learned in sweet measures and skilled upon the lyre; for her I would not fear to die, if the Fates would spare her soul to survive mine.

Lydia. Me Calais, son of Thurian Ornytus burns with mutual torch: for him twice would I bear to die, if the Fates would spare the boy to survive me.

Horace. What if former love returned and with a yoke of brass joined us who have been parted? If Chloe with her yellow hair is spurned, and the door lies open to the rejected Lydia?

Lydia. Although he is fairer than a star, and thou lighter than a cork and more passionate than the wicked Adriatic, with thee I should love to live, with thee I should gladly die.

The *Star* is the leading London Radical evening paper, founded by Mr. T. P. O'Connor and now edited by Professor Stuart, M.P. for Shoreditch. It has a great circulation and exercises immense influence in London. Mid-Cork's M.P. is Dr. Tanner, whose eccentricities in the House of Commons are well known. Lord Salisbury's unfortunate and ill-judged allusion to the Irish people as Hottentots will be remembered.

CLOTHES DEALERS AND THEIR WAYS.

The Kanda and Hachyobori region of Nihonbashi district, says the *Shin-Choya*, are noted for the number of second-hand-clothes stores that abound there. The owners places are in reality dealers in stolen goods. Their method of procuring goods is ingenious. When supplies become slack, they make one of their subordinates perpetrate a petty theft which lands him in jail. There he cultivates the acquaintance of the prisoners, and gives them to understand that purchasers of stolen goods on lucrative terms may always be found at such and such places; information which the prisoners, after their release, do not fail to turn to good account. Garments coming into the hands of the Kanda dealers are quickly ripped and remade, so that identification becomes almost as impossible as in the case of metal objects melted down. Moreover, still further to baffle the police, clothes are seldom sold in the neighbourhood of the districts where they were stolen, the proceeds of provincial robberies being sent to Tokyo and *vice versâ*. The dealers are on the best of terms with the suppliers of pilfered property, and are always ready to "accommodate" the latter to the extent of a few *yen* in the event of emergencies. On the other hand, when one of the fraternity of dealers is arrested, his family can count on faring comfortably during the absence of the bread-winner.

A FALLACY.

What is it that the Indian Government has been trying to do? It has been trying to confer upon the rupee a value in excess of the market price of the silver it contains. It has been trying to legislate the rupee into a position quite fictitious so far as the rupee's intrinsic value is concerned. When the Indian Government inaugurated that policy, it was defended by the gold men. Monometallists indignantly repudiated the idea that any violation of their pet principles had been perpetrated by British financiers. Yet, these same monometallists have always sought to crush bimetallic opponents by heaping upon them various forms of the truism that laws should never interfere with nature, and that nothing could be more improper or extravagant than to seek to impart to any metal by means of legislation, a value not intrinsically belonging to it.

* * *

How did the Indian Government hope to impart to the rupee a value in excess of the market price of its silver? By reducing the volume of rupees in circulation. That is precisely what monometallism has been doing all along for gold. It has thrown upon one metal, and that a metal the supplies of which are constantly diminishing, the whole constantly increasing functions of exchange. Yet the monometallists pretend that the immense gulf now existing between the former and the present gold prices of silver is due chiefly to excessive production of the white metal. They do not hesitate to apply

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in practice to silver the method whose efficacy in the case of gold they have always denied, to apply it for the purpose of producing the very results with respect to silver which they have always denied its capability of producing with respect to gold.

MISSIONARIES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A NEW YORK telegram, under date of January 18th, says:—Representatives of sixteen foreign missionary societies from as many different denominations in almost every portion of the United States and Canada met in conference in New York to exchange opinions on the question of the best methods to adopt in the foreign missionary field. Rev. Dr. C. H. Mabie, of Boston, read a paper on "The Development of Self-Supporting Churches in the Foreign Field." He said that the missionaries in the foreign field were altogether too fond of placing all their dependence on the treasury at home and were not content to push their work so they might make their churches self-supporting. He added, "they live extravagantly and build houses and churches in far better style and appointments than those which surround them. If the heathen houses of worship are of bamboo, bamboo is good enough for Christians." Resolutions were adopted for the appointment of committees to make investigations and propose some plan at the next conference by which missions in foreign lands may be made self-supporting. We (*Japan Mail*) would be interested to learn on what principle the Rev. Dr. Mabie contends that Christian missionaries should live down to the absence of civilization in the countries where they work.

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.

THE Shinjuku-Misakicho road is steadily progressing and it is now definitely stated that it will be open to traffic some time in June. Two tunnels have been successfully completed; the one through the Ichigaya Mitsuke, the other through that of Ushigome. The road is excellently and strongly constructed and, considering all things, the work has so far been very rapidly carried on. The Misakicho terminus will be on the former Misaki Parade-ground, owned by Mr. Iwasaki Yanosuke. This piece of land is most centrally situated, lying, as it does, at the juncture of the Kojimachi, Kanda, Hongo and Koishikawa Districts. When the line is pushed on to Shitaya, Tokyo will have a metropolitan system of rails very little if at all inferior to the Ringbahn of Berlin or the Chemin de Fer du Cercle of Paris.

HEADS.

ALL Western ideas find a practical echo in Japan sooner or later. Some time ago, we forget how long, a London journal, probably the *Pall Mall Gazette*, published a schedule showing the sizes of the hats worn by distinguished Englishmen, and now a Japanese newspaper has followed suit for Japanese statesmen. We read that, as a general rule, 6⅞ is the size worn by the citizens of Tokyo, but that men of note have larger measurements. Count Oyama, Minister of State for War, and Mr. Watanabe, Minister of State for Finance, top the list with hats of 7½. Next comes Count Soyejima with 7⅜. Then Counts Inouye and Goto, Viscount Nomura and Mr. Ito Myoji with 7⅛, and finally the remaining members of the Cabinet, together with Count Katsu and Mr. Kaneko, who wear sevens. Counts Oki and Higashikuze are lowest on the list, their sizes being 6⅞ and 6¾ respectively.

LONGEVITY.

INSURANCE offices take a good deal of trouble to encourage the formation of fire brigades and to guard against the erection of insecure stoves on the premises insured. But there is another precaution which they have hitherto failed to take: they have not entered any clause in their policies as to the position of a man's bed with respect to the points of the compass. Therein, however, lies the secret of long life, according to a French physician who has just died at the age of 107. One has only to place one's bed so that it shall stand due north and south, "in the direction of the great magnetic currents." How easy that is! We may become centenarians if only we sleep in a proper position. It is worth while to try the experiment. Scientific observers say that the flow of the electric current is more intense in a northerly direction during the night than during the day. In considering the favourable effects of the current so often experimented on, it has become evident that turning the head towards the north or rather slightly towards the east, you are under the best conditions for having sound sleep. The influence of the magnetic current on the human body was proved long ago, and, in 1765, a Doctor Clarick, at Göttingen, used to cure the toothache, by turning to the north the face of the person on whom he operated and touching the aching tooth with the south pole of a magnetic bar."

THESE BE THY GODS.

"MOST gods, when you trace them to their source," says a writer in the *Cornhill Magazine*, "have the humblest origins. Half of them appear to have been savage chiefs, big stones or dangerous wild animals." But one of the humblest of all, according to this writer, was the sacred scarab of Egypt. The scarab is a common dung beetle. Its titles to distinction are simple. In the first place, it lays its eggs in a ball of manure the size of which it increases by rolling after the manner of a snow-ball. Then it buries the unsavoury globe. The grubs hatch out underground, and live, during their larval stage, upon the materials composing the ball. In the second place, there are multitudes of scarabs; such multitudes that they force themselves upon observation. In the third place, they walk backwards as they roll their ball, and in consequence meet with all sorts of awkward *contretemps*. These various credentials to deification are quite sufficient. The Egyptians never suspected anything so commonplace as the presence of eggs in the middle of the dirty ball. What they saw was an insect endowed with a deeply religious feeling, inspired with a sure and certain hope of a speedy resurrection. The pious scarab buried its ball of dung just as they themselves buried their mummies, and "new scarabs sprung from it under the vivifying rays of the supreme Sun-god, just as the glorified body would spring, in the end, from the dried and withered form of the human mummy." That is how the scarab was apotheosized. And now English ladies wear the old Egyptian insect gods to conciliate the deity of good luck. Thus the world journeys along in its vicious circle.

AN INDUSTRIOUS INSECT.

THE worm is a hard worker. The casts thrown up by him annually on a square mile of surface amount to no less than six thousand four hundred tons of dry earth. That was Mr. Darwin's calculation in his latest book *Vegetable Mould and Earthworms*. At this rate, as Mr. Darwin observes, the whole soil of the country must in a few years pass through the bodies of worms, thus undergoing a process of milling which reduces its mineral matter to the finest state of subdivision and mixes it intimately with organic materials, subjecting it at the same time to chemical processes which greatly increase its fertility. This is a hard fact for those who believe in the resurrection of the body. Many of our revered ancestors must have passed ere this through the bodies of earthworms. Swinburne, speaking of the moment that follows death says:—

> We shall know what the darkness discovers,
> If the grave-pit be shallow or deep;
> And our fathers of old and their lovers,
> We shall know if they sleep not, or sleep.

Did Swinburne know anything of the industrious earthworm?

ALUMINIUM GROWING CHEAPER.

THE price of aluminium, says the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, which a year or so ago declined to 50 cents a pound, but subsequently rose to 75 cents a pound, at which it now stands, is about to decline again to lower figures than ever before reached. The day is not distant when this interesting and, for many purposes, valuable metal will be produced in what would now appear enormous quantities at prices which will give it many new uses. The Aluminium-Industrie-Actien-Gesellschaft, of Neuhausen, in Switzerland, informs us that the increase of its dynamo capacity to 4,000 H.P. and some improvements in the processes employed, have enabled it to increase largely the production of aluminium, and that the price from January next will be five francs per kilogram, or 45 cents per pound. It must be remembered that, owing to the low specific gravity of aluminium, if equal bulks, not weights, of the different metals are taken, this price is really lower than that of copper as recently as 1890, and is actually less than that of tin at the present time. Such a reduction in price is likely to be followed by a very considerable increase in the use of the metal for various purposes.

SILK IMPORTS IN THE U.S.

THE imports of Raw Silk at the ports of New York and the Pacific Coast for January, 1894, were:—

	Bales.	Lbs.	Value.
New York.....	406 ...	87,240 ...	$ 269,173
Pacific Coast ...	3,595 ...	476,440 ...	1,687,886
	4,001 ...	563,680 ...	$1,957,059

Imports of Cocoons and Waste, in the same period:—

New York.....	507 ...	162,550 ...	$ 82,758

THE NEGISHI MURDERS.

THE two men Oka Junji (42), and his son, Hiroyama Taisuke (21), who have been arrested on suspicion of being the men who broke into the Buddhist temple at Negishi and committed the dastardly murders there, were brought up in the Public Procurator's Bureau in the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Tuesday, and privately examined. The men resided at No. 951, Negishi-mura.

A COINCIDENCE.

ON the last trip of the steamship *Tacoma* from the Orient to Victoria and the Sound, says an American exchange, a curious incident occurred. She crossed the 180th meridian, where shipmasters coming east always add an additional day to their calendar, on January 1st, and all on board enjoyed the very rare novelty of two New Year's days occurring together.

THE TOKYO STUDENTS.

IT appears that drink was responsible for the rude conduct of the students who annoyed Messrs. Chiossone and Braccialini on Sunday evening. The six youths arrested were all under the influence of liquor. They had been dining too well. This fact imparts a different aspect to the affair.

THE BOYCOTTERS' WATCHMEN.

IN consequence of the police forbidding the placing of watchmen in front of the premises of the two boycotted foreign firms, Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. and A. S. Rosenthal & Co., the watchmen have taken to patrolling the streets, thus, in a measure, evading the letter of the law.

A VENERABLE CHINESE DAME.

AN old lady of Tungkuang, Kuangtung province, China, aged 104, who has seen seven generations of her descendants, has been made the recipient of Tls. 10 and a piece of silk from His Majesty's own stock, as an Imperial recognition of her great age and prosperity.

OPENING OF TIENTSIN.

ON the afternoon of the 19th inst., a telegram was received at Shanghai from Tientsin stating that the Peiho was clear of ice and that vessels could be despatched at once. The Shanghai steamers will not leave Shanghai till the 4th of next month.

THE IMPERIAL SILVER WEDDING POSTAGE STAMPS.

ON Friday's *Offical Gazette* has a notification issued by the Minister of Communications to the effect that the Silver Wedding 2-*sen* and 5-*sen* postage stamps will be issued on the 9th inst.

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THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED.

THE numerous shareholders of the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, in Yokohama and Tokyo must be very anxious for information that will enable them to reconcile the official telegraphic news published in these columns yesterday with the statement wired to a Hongkong journal and reproduced by us simultaneously with the official intimation. According to the latter, the annual meeting had been held on the 25th and had passed off quite satisfactorily; according to the former, there had been a net profit of £18,000 on the Bank's working for the year, but a total loss of £137,100 on exchange and otherwise. The same telegram further says that the Eastern assets remain at 3s. for the dollar and 1s. 4¾d. for the rupee. We find it difficult to understand the telegram. More detailed figures received by the *North China Daily News*, indicate that the sum of £18,400 is the net profit on actual working, against £34,800 similarly realized in the preceding year. As for the total £137,100, it is made up of two sums, namely, £80,600 loss by exchange, and £56,500 other losses. Evidently these are not losses properly belonging to the working account. It is conjectured that they were incurred in the process of realizing loans, advances, and mortgages made on a silver basis, which had undergone serious shrinkage pending maturity in consequence of the violent fall in the gold price of silver. But that is a hypothetical explanation. A sum of £2,000 was carried over from last year's account, and this, together with the profit of £18,400, being deducted from the gross losses, shows a net loss of £116,700, which amount is specifically mentioned in the *North China Daily News*' telegram. But it is further added that the Eastern assets remain at 3s. for the dollar and 1s. 4¾d. for the rupee. Last year the whole of the Bank's Reserve Fund of £220,000 had to be appropriated to writing down the Eastern funds of the Bank to the above sterling values, which are now more than thirty per cent. too high. Were the Bank to undertake the operation of writing down its Eastern funds to their actual sterling value at present, a sum of at least a quarter of a million sterling would be required for the purpose. The prospect is decidedly gloomy, if these figures be correct. Many persons had been buoying themselves up with a hope that when the Bank's accounts for 1893 were published, they would be found to include a large sum said to have been realized by exchange operations on the Indian market. But there is no indication of anything of the kind. Exchange has, in truth, been the *bête noir* of the Bank. In the sequel of its first year's working, as the Trust and Loan Company, it paid a dividend of £8 on each £1 founder's share and 16 per cent. to the ordinary shareholders, carrying £55,000 to Reserve. At the end of the second year, as the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, it paid 8 per cent. to the shareholders, and raised its Reserve to £223,629, by adding to it the premia on an issue of 100,000 new shares. At the end of the third year, no dividend was paid, and the whole Reserve Fund was appropriated to write down the Eastern funds to sterling values then approximately correct. At the end of the fourth year, there is a net loss of £116,700, and the Eastern funds stand at 30 per cent. above their actual sterling values. Assuming these figures to be right—and we do not pretend to vouch for them—the shareholders will naturally be anxious to know the purpose for which a further call was made upon them last year. The impression conveyed by the document making the call was that capital was required for the purpose of undertaking exchange operations, a branch of business hitherto lying beyond the sphere of the Bank's working. But, in face of the figures given above, there will certainly be a disposition to conclude that the call was designed to cover losses rather than to provide capital for a new departure in business. It is true that the already paid-up capital of the Bank would probably suffice not only to meet last year's losses, but also to write down the Eastern assets to true sterling values, and last year's call may therefore have been described with literal correctuess as a means of obtaining capital for new and extended business. Still people will naturally be inclined to argue that had not losses been incurred, there need not have been any call, and that, consequently, the genuine object of the call was not explained with perfect frankness. We trust that fuller details may dispel all these disquieting conclusions and hypotheses. Meanwhile it appears that silver has dragged the Bank a long way down hill, and that silver only can pull it up again with corresponding activity. There is, however, no discernible probability that any disasters like those resulting from exchange in 1893 will have to be encountered in 1894. But is there much hope of profits sufficient to pay off the losses of last year and leave a dividend for this?

MR. DRUMMOND.

THE Hongkong *Daily Press* has a strong article on the subject of the action taken by the Shanghai Branch of the China Association against Mr. DRUMMOND. The main point made by our colonial contemporary—a point that must have struck every moderate man on reading the proceedings of the Association—is that two serious charges were publicly preferred against Mr. DRUMMOND without a particle of evidence to support them, the charges themselves being couched in language so vague that Mr. DRUMMOND was virtually precluded from any attempt to rebut them. To say that a man has "so thoroughly identified himself with the Chinese and with Chinese interests as to be incapable of giving trustworthy and disinterested advice to HER MAJESTY'S Minister or to a British Consul," and to say that he has "failed to secure the respect and confidence of the community"—these assertions are, after all, mere expressions of opinion against which any protest of Mr. DRUMMOND'S must be as futile as every effort to controvert them would be impossible. The Association could not have chosen a crueller fashion of attack, and it of course laid itself open to the reproach of having deliberately placed the affair on an *ex-parte* basis. Such, in effect, is what the Hongkong *Daily Press* says, and we confess that the perusal of an article so outspoken and courageous fills us with respect for our contemporary. Seldom, very seldom, does any newspaper in the East venture to raise its voice against the view of the majority. LOWELL'S admirable sentiment,

> They are slaves who would not be
> In the right with two or three,

represents a creed virtually unknown in Eastern journalistic circles. What the majority thinks, that the journalist echoes. He does not propose to himself the rôle of softening prejudices or removing race antipathies. Rather does he endeavour to accentuate the one and deepen the other. Who shall blame him? There are familiar records that tell what must be expected by any man venturing to judge an Eastern people and their civilization with friendly eyes. GORDON of Khartoum summed up those records when he said that such a man could not live among any foreign community in the Orient: he would be hounded to death. The journalist understands that perfectly well. He has to make his choice at the outset between the esteem of the few that love justice and respect moral independence, and the applause of the many that regard as an opponent every one who is not a blind partisan. Naturally he casts in his lot with the many, for though the commercial advantage of doing so may not greatly weigh with him, the desire to be well with his fellows, to play the pleasant part of their perpetual champion, to earn the reputation of practising a patriotism too ardent to be discriminating, sways him with a force not to be resisted. At rare and long intervals, so rare as to be memorable, does he venture to set his own judgment against that of the multitude. The Hongkong *Daily Press* has done so on this occasion and we venture to congratulate it. But it will suffer for its independence. It is on record how things fared with a newspaper in this Settlement when it ventured to point out the illogical and unreasonable character of the resolutions passed by a general meeting of Yokohama

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residents a few years ago. A group of Englishmen formed themselves into a Committee and went round the Settlement urging people to withdraw their subscriptions and advertisements from that paper. No journal, according to their creed, should be subscribed for or advertised in unless it agreed to subserve its own judgment to the voice of the majority, to slavishly echo their sentiments and applaud their proceedings. Anything more un-English, more unmanly, could scarcely be conceived. It was to that kind of thing that General GORDON alluded when he spoke of a man being hounded to death who dared to oppose race prejudices in a foreign community in the Orient. Let us hope, for the sake of liberty of thought and independence of opinion, that Hongkong is larger than Yokohama.

But much as we admire the courage of our colonial contemporary, we cannot endorse its verdict. It appears to us that the Shanghai branch of the China Association carefully restricted itself to an expression of opinion, and that it had a perfect right to adopt that course. Every community is entitled to say whether one of its members enjoys general respect and confidence and whether the majority regard him as competent to discharge certain functions. Public respect and confidence, are things of slow growth. They may be forfeited much more quickly than they can be earned, and it is often just as difficult to say why a man possesses them as to explain how he has lost them. The meeting in Shanghai was absolutely unanimous in declaring that Mr. DRUMMOND had failed to secure the respect and confidence of the community. Those present may not have been warranted in constituting themselves representatives of the whole community for such a purpose, but they certainly were warranted in speaking on their own account, and we do not see why they should have been expected to be more explicit than they were. To say that they "endeavoured by inuendo and insinuation to damage a man against whom individually and collectively they were afraid or unable to bring any definite charge," appears to us a harsh and unjustifiable condemnation. It must be granted, indeed, that the Shanghai meeting showed no manner of consideration for Mr. DRUMMOND, and did not even attempt the task which the bitterest parliamentary politicians impose on themselves when they introduce a vote of want of confidence, namely, the task of expounding and justifying their views. But it may fairly be suspected that if parliamentary politicians could count on an unanimous vote as the Shanghai meeting could, they would be far less punctilious. If, however, we cannot agree to condemn the meeting's methods, we do emphatically think that it invited a fiasco. The Crown Advocate in Shanghai has two functions to perform: to prosecute on behalf of the SOVEREIGN and to give legal advice to HER MAJESTY'S Minister or Consuls if required. As to the latter, the British Government is obviously the sole and only judge of a barrister's competence to advise its officials, and as to the former, its due discharge is in no wise dependent on enjoying the "respect and confidence of the community," or on being "identified with the Chinese and Chinese interests." We prophesy that Mr. DRUMMOND will be appointed Acting Crown Advocate in the teeth of the meeting's protests, and it surprises us that proceedings so plainly destined to be futile should have been taken by such a body of men as the Shanghai branch of the China Association.

JAPAN AND THE SEAL FISHERIES.

SEVERAL announcements have recently been published in American newspapers respecting the intentions of the United States Government in the matter of guarding and preserving the seal fisheries of Behring Sea. The information is derived chiefly from Washington, and in most cases appears to be officially sent forth. It is evident that the preparations for the coming season are proceeding on an unusually extensive scale. A fleet of at least ten ships will rendezvous at San Francisco in April, and will start for their appointed stations on the line of migration at the beginning of May. Others will follow later, as the necessity for strict watchfulness increases. The harbours along the American shore will be kept under surveillance by steam launches, and for certain purposes the services of merchant coastwise steamers will be brought into requisition. The signs of activity, even at the close of January, were sufficient to excite the liveliest apprehensions of the poaching fraternity, some of whom professed to believe that the collectors of customs at Canadian and American ports had been instructed to refuse clearances to all suspected persons. In consequence of this belief numbers of ships, it was reported, had hurriedly left Victoria and San Francisco, and others were getting ready for immediate departure, notwithstanding the improbability that any seals could be caught for months to come.

In one of the notifications purporting to emanate from the State Department at Washington, reference is made to an alleged promise of cöoperation by Japan in the work of protecting the fisheries. Mr. GRESHAM is reported to have stated that the Japanese Government had signified its willingness to take any desired steps toward preventing the slaughter of seals, even to the extent of sending a fleet to act in conjunction with the ships of the United States, Great Britain, and Russia. This assertion, unaccompanied by explanations of any sort, is calculated to convey a totally erroneous impression. Whatever Mr. GRESHAM may think upon the subject,—and, doubtless, his wish is father to the thought—there can be no warrant for the declaration that Japan has agreed to add her naval strength to the forces about to be employed in Behring Sea. That she may eventually be persuaded to do so is possible; but the announcement that she has already given her consent is certainly premature.

By one of the Articles of the Treaty concluded between England and America on February 19th, 1892, it was stipulated that the contracting Powers should endeavour to obtain the adhesion of other nations to such regulations as might be enacted by the Paris Court of Arbitration for the proper preservation of the sealing industry. There is reason to believe that the United States promptly recognized the importance of enlisting Japan as an ally, and that advances to that end were made in the regular diplomatic course. Under existing circumstances there is nothing to restrain ships which fly the Japanese flag from cruising at will in the waters forbidden to American and English sealers, and if the Imperial authorities could be induced to issue and enforce a prohibitory decree, it would obviously be to the advantage of Mr. GRESHAM'S countrymen. But nations are not accustomed, nor are they expected, to render services of this magnitude gratuitously. Japan has interests of her own to consider, and although little has yet been done toward their development, she looks forward to a time when her northern islands may supply the material for a prosperous industry. The waters of Yezo and the Kurile chain are constantly liable to invasion by foreigners, and when she is requested to join in the labour of conserving the fisheries of other countries, she naturally regards herself as entitled to similar good offices at their hands. If the Powers now pledged to abide by the Paris regulations would make Japan an equal party in their agreement, and would execute a joint Convention by which each should be bound to uphold the rights of all, the cordial and earnest cöoperation of this Government might safely be reckoned upon. Probably the United States, whose citizens have more to gain or lose in connection with the fisheries than those of any other country, would welcome the prospect of a mutual compact, and it may be that Great Britain, though less directly concerned, would also find the arrangement convenient. But as matters stand, there appears to be no reason why Japan should incur trouble and expense solely for the benefit of her neighbours, nor can she fairly be asked to assist in checking the depredations from which they suffer unless they are disposed to contribute like assistance where she requires it. Interests which are identical in character, if not in degree, may properly be fostered by concert of action. At present, no action of any kind is obligatory upon the Japan-

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ready to participate in operations for the common welfare, and that if a satisfactory reciprocal Treaty is signed, they will lose no time in applying themselves to their share of the duty with diligence and energy.

THE GILDED AGE OF PRIZE-FIGHTING.

IN the revulsion of feeling which followed the memorable prize-fight between HEENAN and SAYERS, thirty-five years ago, the infallible organs of public opinion in England and America solemnly proclaimed that the days of pugilism were ended, and that the outraged instincts of humanity would never again tolerate so foul an affront to the intelligence of the nineteenth century. A few years later all Britain was ablaze with excitement over the contest of HEENAN and KING, and on the morning after their meeting it was announced in *The Times*, with a sobriety transcending that of a bench of judges, that prize-fighting was then and forever dead, and utterly beyond the possibility of resuscitation. "As well hope to revive the sports of the arena," was the line appended by Mr. DELANE, with his own hand, to the leading journal's report of the savage encounter. Likewise in the United States, no battle of famous boxers during the past quarter of a century has failed to call forth the most eloquent denunciations,—after it was over,—accompanied by the stereotyped assurance that this particular diversion of depravity could no longer stand against the wrath of a long-suffering community. Yet in spite of all these protestations the prize-ring remains a fixed "institution;" desperate and sometimes fatal combats are of annual occurrence; and the men engaged in them are elevated to something more than notoriety,—to a species of distinction which surrounds them with an abnormal glamour, and actually makes them popular, for a season, not only among their own class, but often in every grade of society.

It might be profitable for moralists to inquire into the reasons why a "sport" so revolting in its characteristics should be regarded with eager interest, if not with approval, by a large proportion of the public. The convenient argument of original sin and natural depravity will scarcely serve in this instance. There may be a certain survival of barbarity in the best of us, but we have at least advanced beyond the spurious civilization of Rome, which rejoiced in exhibitions of carnage for the sake of carnage, and whose climax of gratification was the reversal of the thumb at the critical point of a gladiatorial fray. The attraction of the prize-fight is not, except to the prize-fighting order, of the kind that would inspire a longing to witness it at short range. The interest of modern society is, we apprehend, attributable to causes with which the odious features of the "sport" have no concern, and some of which may be easily divined. Fifty years ago a fisticuff match was among the lowest and most obscure of events. It appealed only to a vicious element of the populace, and if no change had taken place in its methods and management, it would remain to-day what it formerly was—a revel of sheer brutality. But it began to take on a different shape when men were pitted against one another in a way that made them the representatives of diverse or antagonistic opinions, on a broad scale. The new era of the ring came in when HEENAN and SAYERS were set to batter and maul one another in a spirit of national rivalry. Their fight was no more entitled to public sanction than any that had preceded it, but it was adroitly planned to stimulate a feeling that is always quick in asserting itself, and under the influence of this feeling it became the absorbing topic of the period. The present generation can hardly realize to what excess the excitement rose on both sides of the Atlantic ocean. The disreputable nature of the contest was overlooked, and nothing was considered but the preposterous assumption that England and America were arrayed against each other in a struggle for mastery. Slight heed was given to the circumstance that the self-constituted champions of these great nations were a pair of lawless ruffians, unworthy of citizenship in any but a commonwealth of criminals and desperadoes. They were, at the moment, accepted at their own rating, and the avocations of the English-speaking race were well-nigh suspended on the day when they met to maintain with their fists, in a sixteen-foot ring, the honour and glory of their respective countries. Few of the millions who watched for the result knew what a prize-fight really meant. Not men alone, but women and children, shared the universal delirium. The horrible side of the affair,—the awful butchery, the hideous disfigurements, the crushed and mangled features, the quivering bodies slashed with gore, and the murderous ferocity of the mob in attendance, which the spectators of that scene cannot even now recall without a shudder of disgust, all this touched no chord of aversion, and was not admitted to the consciousness of the expectant multitudes, who cared for nothing but to learn the name of the conqueror, and whose sole lament was that, after all, the victory remained undecided.

It was an event full of valuable lessons to the fraternity of bruisers—lessons from which those who live by pugilism have not failed to gather wisdom. Since that occasion the leaders of the craft have been careful to bring into prominence men through whom some appeal to real or fictitious sentiment could be made. The device of opposing one nationality to another has been the most frequently employed, because it can be put in operation with the least difficulty. Sometimes a Canadian is measured against a Yankee; sometimes an Australian is brought into the American field. The animosities of sections are successfully exploited, as when the northern rough stands up before the southern tough. Prejudices of colour are effectively aroused by contriving a bout between a negro and a white man. Whenever anything is offered that the imagination can work upon, the public is sure to respond. Laws against prize-fighting are of no avail in such cases, no matter how earnest or genuine may be the efforts to enforce them. If the police are too persistently troublesome, as they threatened to be in England when SULLIVAN and MITCHELL were the principals, a sudden migration to adjacent territory takes place, and the fight goes on in France or elsewhere. So long as the parties are aware that they have the support of a considerable number of the community, nothing can deter them. No one doubts that the Governor of Florida did his best to prevent the recent match between CORBETT and MITCHELL. He strained the law to its extremest tension, and kept detachments of the State Militia under arms for several days, with the purpose of occupying any ground that should be chosen for the encounter; but he was not cordially seconded, even by his own subordinates, and the game was carried through with virtually no attempt at concealment. The people of the United States favoured it. Not all of them, of course, but enough to satisfy the law-breakers that they would not be seriously molested. It was one more of the celebrated "international" combats, this time with pleasing embellishments, MITCHELL being the Englishman who fought SULLIVAN "to a draw," some years ago, and CORBETT the American who first pounded SULLIVAN to the extremity of humiliation. The usual burlesques of patriotic ardour were resorted to, and one of the contestants was paraded as a claimant to sympathy on a novel and highly original ground,—that of being a cultivated gentleman. He drinks nothing stronger than milk; he swears less than the average boxer; he can dance other steps than those practised in the ring; he is married to a pretty ex-schoolmistress, and he brushes his hair erect over his forehead. Consequently he is "Dashing Dandy CORBETT" and "Pompadour JIM." Owing to his possession of these titles, he seems to have been regarded in the light of a lustrous ornament, and the praises of his elegant demeanour have been sounded all over the States. But the reports of the fight show that this model of deportment was transformed into a raging madman as soon as he had MITCHELL in his power, and that if he had not been forcibly restrained he would probably have killed his antagonist out-right. It takes very little scratching to get below the graciousness and refinement of a heavy weight prize-fighter.

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"Pompadour JIM" will now be an object of more admiration than is good for him or the country to which he belongs. He is booked for a series of future battles, and while he can maintain his supremacy, prize-fighting will flourish without obstruction. Even should he be defeated, the "sport" will hold its own, with a new favourite as the central star. The trick of investing a prospective champion with fabulous attributes, and thus inflaming popular curiosity, can be played indefinitely; and the press, to its discredit, is always ready to encourage each repetition of the fraud. Through its agency JOHN L. SULLIVAN, a creature apparently without a redeeming trait to balance his vices, was made to appear a citizen of credit, as well as renown. When he was dislodged from his pedestal, CORBETT was exalted to the succession, and given a picturesque prominence among the lofty of the land. Statesmen of the first rank may occasionally command equal consideration, but as a rule his only rivals are a few particularly notorious actors and actresses. Of all the faults and follies that can be charged against American journalism, this flaunting of vulgar criminals like CORBETT and SULLIVAN into notoriety is surely not the least grave. It is true that after each fight a perfunctory sermon is preached, and the evils of the ring are set forth in vehement though conventional phrases, with predictions that no further violations of the law will be adventured. But these pretences no longer deceive anybody, if, indeed, they ever did. Prize-fighting will never be checked while it is so ingeniously conducted as to captivate the humour of the careless and unthinking majority, and is actually if not avowedly promoted by the most widely circulated newspapers of the United States.

"SOME ONE HAS BLUNDERED."

THE papers by the last Canadian Mail contain full particulars of what is justly and generally termed the deplorable occurrence in West Africa, in which British and French troops came into collision with the most lamentable results, on the early morning of the 23rd of December last, at a place called Warina. It is, at the same time, quite evident that even the great London Daily Papers, with all the sources of information that are at their disposal, could furnish but the vaguest information either of the geography of the locality or of the more remote reasons which brought the troops of the two nationalities to it, and the Paris *Temps* frankly confesses that the situation of Warina is unknown. For ourselves all that we are able to gather, and that only in the most uncertain manner from the maps available, is that it is possibly some distance to the north-west of the town of Segu, situated on the River Niger at the entreme west of the Bambarra country. British and French spheres of influence in West Africa run side by side in this district, but the two spheres have already been delimitated by a Convention which was published in the early part of 1892. Both nations, it is needless to say, possess a considerable coast line, and the French settlements on the coast are contiguous on the north with the old English colony of Sierra Leone. To both the trade with Central Africa, and especially with the large district known as the Hinterland of Sierra Leone, has long been an object eagerly sought, and it is alleged that the French Representatives design to divert this trade from Sierra Leone to their own coast settlements on the Northern Rivers. Considerable trouble has for several years past been given to them by the Sofas, a marauding tribe of aboriginal Mohammedans, under a chief known as ALMAMY SAMADEE, who was, however, said to be well disposed towards the English. Against this chief a French force of Senegal Riflemen and other native soldiers, under command of Lieutenant MORITZ, left Farana in French territory about the end of September last, and subsequently operated against him with more or less success. In the meantime, other bands of Sofas, under a chief named PORA KERRI, had been attacking native tribes in the Sierra Leone Hinterland under British protection, burning their villages, carrying off cattle and reducing the people to slavery. To check this, a force of the West African Frontier Police was despatched from Sierra Leone under the command of Captain LENDY, an English officer of, strange to say, French extraction, reputed to be one of the best and most courageous officers in the military service. He appears to have arrived in the early part of November last with his force at a place called Falaba, which is marked on the map somewhat beyond the Eastern frontier of the colony of Sierra Leone, but no clear information as to his subsequent movements was received until, on the 23rd of November, a messenger arrived at Freetown, the capital of the colony, with the tidings that he was completely hemmed in by the Sofas at Koranko, a spot which we are unable to identify, and also that the latter were still continuing their marauding. It now became necessary that a much stronger force should be sent to his relief, and this force, consisting of a further detachment of 120 frontier police and 430 men of the West India Regiment, under the command of Colonel ELLIS, started from Freetown early in December, and by the 13th of the same month had advanced far into the Bambarra country, whence the march was continued with occasional fighting as far as Warina, which was captured on the 21st of December. Capt. LENDY had evidently been relieved prior to this, as his force was already acting in conjunction with that of Colonel ELLIS, and it was then the latter's intention, after a few day's rest at Warina for the purpose of preparing the necessary supplies, to pursue the Sofas, who had retreated to Kara Yemma, three days' march to the North West. Lieut. MORITZ with his French force, who were operating against ALMAMY SAMADEE, was at this time some 50 miles to the north east of Warina, towards which he marched—starting on the same day as that on which the town was taken by Colonel ELLIS—with the intention of preventing a junction being effected between the Sofas, who were retreating before the British expedition, and those against whom his own was primarily directed. Having apparently made a very forced march, Lieutenant MORITZ committed his lamentable error on the early morning of the 23rd of December, surprising and attacking the British camp under the belief that he was attacking the Sofas. It was a bright moonlight night, the British force was completely taken by surprise, but soon replied vigorously to the French fire that was poured in upon them, and after the fighting had continued for about forty minutes the French retired. In this short period three British officers, including Captain LENDY, and several men, both of the Frontier Police and West India Regiment, were killed, some of them in the first wild confusion meeting their deaths from the fire of their own men, and many others were wounded. Ten of the Senegal Riflemen and a number of the native irregulars were killed on the French side, and their commander, who was found on the field severely wounded, died after having been brought into the British camp, although all possible medical assistance was given to him. He only survived long enough to explain that he had no idea of the nationality of the force he was attacking, having been misled by his native allies into the belief that it consisted only of Sofas. Both he and the men who had died with him were buried with the same military honours that were accorded by the British force to their own comrades who had fallen.

The whole affair was a lamentable blunder, and should it ultimately appear, as is now asserted by the English and not denied by the French press, that its scene was well within the sphere of acknowledged British influence, the responsibility for it must rest on the unfortunate French commander, who has already paid for his error with his life. It might easily have been productive of the most serious misunderstandings between the two great nations whose forces were engaged in it, but it has fortunately been viewed by the Governments and press of both in the most dispassionate manner, and while, sentiments of the deepest and most sincere pity are freely and universally expressed for the ill-fated young officers who have been the victims, on the

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British side moderation and patience, pending the receipt by the French authorities of reports from their own officers, are almost needlessly counselled, while on the French, the fullest and frankest readiness has been shown to make every possible and proper amends, so soon as their just liability to do so is proved. Such a spirit affords the only possible consolation we can look for in the face of what has been in every sense one of the most lamentable occurrences in recent years. Two points in it are full of mystery, and one of them is well nigh inexplicable at the present moment. How could so complete a surprise of the British camp have been effected on a bright moonlight night in a hostile country, had the most ordinary military precautions been taken against a possible attack? A stern inquiry is to be made into this point in England, and if Colonel ELLIS is shown to have been guilty of any neglect in regard to it he will no doubt have a heavy reckoning to pay. His force was not a guerilla one, but mainly composed of a highly drilled and thoroughly efficient British regiment, and under his command were also officers of the Royal Engineers, whose duty it would have been to place the camp in a proper condition of defence. The second point, less mysterious, perhaps, than the first, is how the French could have mistaken the British force for that of the West African savages against whom they were operating, had ordinary prudence been exercised before delivering the final assault. The Frontier Police are natives of Sierra Leone, but they wear a distinctive uniform of red cap, blue coat and trousers reaching to the knee, with a red sash and red facings; and as to the men of the West India Regiment, who are recruited from among the negroes of the West India Islands, but are commanded exclusively by officers of English birth, they wear one of the most striking and distinctive uniforms in the British army, consisting of red turban, white jacket and gaiters, and red trousers, and are in every respect as well equipped as any regiment of the line. It was said by the French survivors that the white campaigning dress of the English officers was mistaken for the white dress of Arab chiefs, who were supposed to be commanding the Sofas. But even so, there is little if any difference to be discerned between the uniforms of officers and privates in the British army unless the observer is close at hand, and the entire force of the West India Regiment cannot all have been supposed to have been Arab chiefs in command. They constituted by far the greater part of the whole strength of the expedition, and the smallest scrutiny should have been amply sufficient to show that they could not be savages. We have made no special allusion here to the second collision telegraphically reported to have taken place, because, in the absence of confirmation, we can not believe that anything more serious than a brawl between privates of the two camps occurred.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

The press of the month offers us an embarrassment of riches. A summary of these treasures within the limits imposed by our columns, can give but a glimpse at their wide variety and worth. An exceptional interest attaches, for example, to a "revival" movement among Christians, having its origin at Nagoya during the "Week of Prayer," a service general in Orthodox Christendom the world around, at the opening of each new year. Union meetings of the different Christian denominations at Nagoya, were held during the prayer week. In the *Kirisutokyo Shimbun* we read that during the progress of these meetings believers rapidly became deeply interested in their spiritual experiences. Nothing markedly unusual occurred, however, before the meeting of the 17th when a kind of Pentecostal enthusiasm burst forth. "Prayers and speeches were like fire." Suddenly an old woman trembling with emotion, cried out "God please pity the brethren and sisters who do not come to these meetings." At this, all believers in the crowded room shed tears, and as the meeting continued extreme consciousness of sin and of longing for Divine blessing was reached. Before the meeting closed it was resolved, this day being the last of the "Week of Prayer," to continue the meetings three days longer, transferring them to the large Methodist Church. The leader of the meetings gave up the next day entirely to meditation, fasting, and prayer, that he might be led by the Holy Spirit. Others went to a hill top not far away, *Ippon Matsu*, prayed for a long time there, and then went into the city visiting from house to house. Believers carried the truth to their neighbours. That evening about two hundred and fifty persons met in the Church, and the general prayer was "Release us from Satan! Give us the Holy Spirit and peace!" Children as well as men and women wept for their sins. No satisfaction came that night. Long past midnight the meeting continued. The next night more than three hundred people assembled. The evangelists talked until their faces were heated as with fire. The cry was, "Do not be disappointed! Pray earnestly! Let the Holy Spirit lead! This night full blessings will come!" At last the change came. Words of rejoicing and thanksgiving were heard instead of prayers. Some shouted, "The Holy Ghost fills this place." And at last the whole assembly stood up filled with blessing. On the following day the evangelists held a meeting of thanksgiving and said to one another, "Let not this grace stop in Nagoya, but let us propagate it from place to place until the empire be filled!" That night money was collected from the disciples and evangelists sent out. That night even, one evangelist started with the good news for Tokyo and another on the same errand for Kyoto, and prayers for the two were continued as they went on their journeys." At that time also it was decided to open nightly two devotional meetings in Nagoya, and two days afterwards a third messenger of the New Pentecost was sent away to Gifu. Neither sentiment nor superstition, says the reporter, started this revival, but a genuine consciousness of sin and a search for spiritual peace. The *Fuochi* remarks, Nagoya was thought to be a place very difficult to convert. But it now hears that the rain of the Spirit has descended upon it. This opens the opportunity for the empire. For a long time we have bemoaned the depressed lot of our faith. But at last the blessing has come. Let us pray for the empire. Editorially the *Kirisutokyo Shimbun* adds, as a reaction against the low state of Christianity for several years, this year show revival in every part of the country. Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagoya are especially noticeable. The Holy Spirit has come into the midst of the believers. Yet let Christians now especially be careful. Revivals are often like the electric storm. When the rain and thunder have ceased, the lightning flash is seen no longer. The revival will not be worth anything unless it enables the believers to free themselves from their many burdens. Its emotional quality soon ceases. It should transform character, make the timid brave, the wavering firm, not destroy individuality but revitalize it, as with the Christian Apostles of old. The organization of Christianity in Japan is thorough, the form is perfect; power is what it needs, the Holy Spirit is absent. We have long wanted a true revival. Let this day of Nagoya be the Pentecost of Japan.

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In view of the exceptional religious activity astir among native Christians at present, quite a number of the Christian periodicals have made "Revivals" a leading theme for editorial comment. The *Gokyo* (Methodist) says we must never doubt the reality of revivals. As our parents seek to instruct and to perfect us, so does our Father, God, only much more so. Prophets, sages, our own thoughts, life's experiences, are all attempts of God to lead us aright. Prayer is the means by which men can reach God. Those who doubt the value of prayer must think of God as wood or stone. God is conscious, and he therefore can hear and answer prayer. And if we believe in prayer, the "revival" is sure to be a reality and in due time will come. In the *Fukuin Shimpo* (Presbyterian) a writer observes that it is necessary, in order to understand a "revival," to experience one. We are weak beings and are burdened by sin. Alone we can not throw off this burden. We must therefore pray to God for help. We must, indeed, stand before God resolved not to go back until the needed blessing has been given. The "revival" is not the result of superstition. It was "revival" which last century aroused the British people from their sleep, and which since then has been spreading throughout the world. It has come to this country now. We are saved because Wesley appeared. He made the people of Great Britain feel benefit without this experience. This experience will do away with the dullness of soul which has hitherto prevailed in Christianity in this country and bring to us great salvation.

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By way of contrast with this recent extraordinary spiritual awakening among Japanese Christians, there has been operating contemporaneously with it a very different psychical experience among the lower classes of the people of this country. The two movements are alike in that they are both religious, both aim at purity of life and are both marked by exceptional emotional force. Otherwise they move in wholly different spheres. *Ten-ri-kyo* (the Religion of Heavenly Truth) starting from the province of Yamato a few years ago, as the revelation of a prophetess, has so far extended itself, that now there are but three provinces in the country in which its devoters do not exist in noteworthy numbers. And its adherents are devotees. The *Bukkyo*, an independent Buddhist magazine, speaking of *Ten-ri-kyo* says that though we call the Japanese an intelligent people, there are many persons among them who are apparently not more civilized than primitive man. In the *Daido Soshi*, a preacher of *Ten-ri-kyo* is represented as saying. "Our gods are ten. 1. Kunitokotachi-no-Mikoto. This is the God of Supreme Virtue. He govern all the waters of the world. In man he rules the humours and the eyes. In the heavens he is the Moon God. He is lord of the north. 2. Then comes Omotari-no-Mikoto, whose special virtue is fire, and who governs the fires of the world, and heat in man. In the heavens he rules the Sun and lords it over the south. 3. Kunisatsuchi-no-Mikoto is the God whose virtue is metal, who is governor of all attractive, connecting forces in the world, and of the muscles and the skin of man. In the heavens he appears as the star Gensuke-boshi and has control of the south-east. 4. The virtue of wood is to be attributed to Tsukiyomi-no-Mikoto. In the world firmness and rigidity are in his charge, in the human body, the bones. Shusei-boshi is his star, and the north-west his direction. 5. Kumoyomi-no-Mikoto (not in the Shinto pantheon) has the virtue of fluidity. The world's ascending and descending waters are in his charge, as also man's eating

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and drinking. He appears as Ake-no-Myojo, the morning star, and rules the east. 6. Kono-no-Mikoto, without specialized virtue, is God of the wind; rules man's breathing, and lords it over the south-west. 7. Another God original with *Ten-ri-kyo* is Taishaku Tenno-no-Mikoto, God of separation or repulsion, who is active in all differentiation in the world, who has in charge the genesis of man's life as separate from the mother's life and the next great vital change which takes place at death. The north-east is this God's direction. 8. Otonobe-no-Mikoto, is lord of the germination and putting forth of seeds and of man's physical birth—Yoi-no-Myojo, the evening star, is his abode in in heaven. He is God of the West. 9. Izanagi-no-Mikoto is the God of all spermatic matter. 10. Izanami-no-Mikoto, is the goddess of all fruitful ground in the world and of the human germ cell. These last two deities directed the creation of the universe and have their abodes on the right and left of the Heavenly River. From all these Gods together flows the truth which has come to man in *Ten-ri-kyo*. But, says the reporter of the *Ten-ri* preacher, after all, the religion is not a real polytheism. There is a kind of unity among the deities which makes faith, in a measure, monotheistic. Yet it is only like all ancient mythologies. Nakayama Miki, the prophetess of the superstition, has revived, or indeed created, a mythology in this age of science. These deities, excepting the fifth and seventh, are Shinto in name, but none are Shinto in reality. The prophetess has put her own interpretations into the names. In this setting forth of a new array of deities, however, the incentive to the rapid extension of *Ten-ri-kyo* is of course not disclosed. Other reasons there may be, but of chief effectiveness the following seems to be the doctrine which has special influence upon the minds of the classes among whom the rapid spread of the faith has been taking place. A coming "rain of heavenly dew" is the "vision splendid" by which the souls of thousands of Japanese have been aroused, and is the "heavenly truth" by which the hearts of believers are now sustained and made consecrated followers of the Yamato prophetess. Yamato, where Nakayama Miki was born, is the place where Izanagi and Izanami, also, first appeared. Mishima-mura, O-Miki San's home, was the place where these dieties consummated their marriage. This village is thus the place of origin for this nation and of all mankind. The time will come when all mankind shall acknowledge this country as their primæval home and the *Ten-ri* religion as their divine truth. From all parts of the world pilgrimages will stream into Yamato Mishima-mura. This was been settled by the gods. The Alpha and Omega of humanity is connected with Yamato. There mankind originated and thence in these days the divine truth has begun to extend, first to Japan, and then to all countries of the world. The universal conquest of mankind by this new faith is foreshown by its present almost universal prevalence in Japan after but a short time of propagandism. The spread of the faith as now seen could not have been accomplished by human power. It is the result of a miracle. The universal acceptance of the faith will soon take place. With that glorious event, the sublime consummation will be brought about. The hope of all ages will be met. Sweet dew from heaven will fall upon the earth-mound altar now standing in the centre of the *Ten-ri* temple in Mishima. Upon this mound Izanagi and Izanami spent their bridal night; upon this mound, now that the fullness of the times has come, the gods will send their chiefest blessing to men. With the touch of the drops of this heavenly dew, the blind will receive their sight, the deaf will hear, the dumb will speak, the crippled will walk, the leper will become clean, the consumptive will be healed, the madman made sane and all forms of human ill be destroyed. Such is the gospel which the prophetess of Yamato has put before the suffering masses of her country people. What wonder that many receive it as word from heaven. Even now, as the faith develops, it is said that by way of earnest of the more than millennial blessedness to come as the reward of world-wide faith, miracles are constantly being performed among the devout blind, crippled, unclean and otherwise diseased. This foolishness, says the *Bukkyo*, cannot be controverted. If *Ten-ri-kyo* were an impotent fanaticism no one need care except to pity its chance converts. But it is far from powerless; it is extending in every direction. Temples are being newly established and filled with worshippers. The music of *Samisen* and *Kokyu* prominent in this new superstition, is heard in many places, together with the dancing and singing of the enthusiastic believers. Daily work is neglected by the fanatics for their craze and general good order is broken up where they abound. The *Bukkyo* calls upon governors of provinces to stop the harmful superstition, educators to use their power in the schools and priests to do all they can to counteract the fanaticism. The *Bukkyo* summons even Christians to share in the work of saving the Japanese people from the peril of accepting *Ten-ri-kyo*.

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Questions raised by the growth of nationalistic ways of looking at things among the Christian denominations in this country sustained quite an interesting discussion recently between the Methodist *Gokyo* and the Congregationalist *Kirisutokyo Shimbun*. The former said in an article on "Conservatism, Eclecticism, and Liberalism" that the Christian Church which seeks to lead the people must be Conservative in order to be successful. The Liberals are necessarily investigators and investigators are first necessarily doubters. Doubt has no bottom. There are all sorts of questions concerning Bible, God, the Soul, and Destiny which need answers. But seeking these answers is no work for religious believers. Religious believers can not be investigators. They must accept what investigators have found for them They must be themselves dogmatists and conservatives. Denominations of religionists which encourage investigation have no vitality, no prosperity. But, it may be asked, if religionists are dogmatists, what is to be done when dogmas are found to be superstitions? Of course cast them away. But let us not leave old paths, before new ways are found. In fact, if one wishes to be religious, he must not try to be an investigating scholar in religion. If one seeks to be such a scholar, he must give up the name and reality of religion. He must abide only by the teachings of the Bible. To these assertions the *Kirisutokyo Shimbun* opposes decided opinions. Christians in Japan have been exceedingly desirous of a renewal of the influence of their faith during the past few years. "Revivals" have been proposed by some, reformation of theology and change of Church organization by others. While the discussions have been going on, Christianity has been weakening. Now we see disappointed believers ascribing the decay of Christianity to the incoming of the New Theology, and seeking to recover strength for the faith by a restoration of the Old Theology and its methods. With such persons we deeply sympathize, but at the same time we must be careful in giving them our aid. A great crisis is upon the Churches. Real faith must underly all genuine effort. Real faith is indifferent to outward success or failure. It has its support in itself. It exists because it is assured of truth as its basis. An assumed faith, one resting upon dogma as its foundation, is insincere and even false. How can such faith move either Church or world? The Old Theology and its methods are not in question here; our plea is for sincerity. The calculators in religion are the true hypocrites. What is needed is the truth, whether it be for or against our schemes. The New Theology has made its way in Japan, because it satisfies our minds better than the old faith. We can not return to the Old Theology unless reason leads us back to it. Let the agitators for a revival of the Old Theology do their work in accordance with enlightened methods, and let the legitimate result of these methods be accepted. The present depression in the churches has its origin chiefly in lack of well grounded faith.

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The dominant topics of political parties can hardly be ignored even in the columns of religious journals. Several references to "the burning question of the day" appear in the Christian periodicals. Worthy of notice here is a reply in the *Inochi* (Presbyterian) to an article in the *Hyoron* not long ago, on "Strict Enforcement of the Treaties and Christianity." The *Hyoron* had said that if the present treaties were strictly enforced, especially in relation to the possession of land and to travel in the interior, the consequent inconvenience to foreigners would speedily bring about the long-sought-for revision. Missionaries in particular should be brought under pressure. School lands and buildings supported by foreigners and hidden under Japanese names should all be brought under Japanese control. To this and more the *Inochi* has replied. The buildings and lands spoken of are already in Japanese possession. Of course it is natural that the givers of this property should wish to take part in its management, but the share they seek is really of no importance whatever. If there is only nominal ownership on the part of the Japanese, unquestionably there is reason for the attack made. But real ownership exists. Truly an agreeable sight is it, to see men, under the name "Christian," raise the cry of "Enforcement of the treaties," seeking somehow thereby to become themselves possessors of mission property! Is it against the spirit of the treaties for us to own lands bought for us by foreigners? Fools, those who imagine that treaty revision would be hastened by our annoyance of these people from other lands!

* * *

If one were to judge from the temper of some journals, Japanese institutions civil and religious, are rotten through and through. In the *Fukuin Shimpo*, for example, the publication of the fact that the late Chief High Priest of the Hongwanji had several concubines as well as a lawful wife, and a son by a concubine, leads a writer to lament his country's lot. He knows that such things are common in small villages and among ordinary monks, but here was the great pope of Japan, the so-called living *Hotoke*, or divine incarnation, given to this life. What can be said? In one sense the Hongwanji is merely a temple, and its pope is but a priest, but the influence of this temple pervades the nation and its pope does much to shape the national development. Such things are poison to Japan, the traitor of the State, the sword of Satan. They are of profound importance to our welfare now and for the future. In the *Shukyo*, a writer on "National Reformation" bewails his nation's corruption. Those in whose care the moral life of the people lies, are themselves immoral. Upper as well as lower classes are tainted. Private utility is pursued through the sacrifice of public good. Vices of the lowest and meanest kinds are common. The Land of the Rising Sun is in a dense cloud of falsehood. The light of conscience is fading away. A fundamental reformation is needed. Improvement in politics or social customs will not bring about this needed change. Individual regeneration is a necessity, and to this end the regeneration of young men is the ground of hope. The destiny of Japan lies in the character of its youth. The remainder of the article is a valuable historical sketch of forces leading to national grandeur and decay, and it closes with an earnest appeal to the fathers and mothers of the land, for the sake of their country, to lead lives of high aim and deed, that their children may make Japan worthy the love of patriots.

* * *

We are compelled to give but very hasty glances at the large amount of instructive material in the numerous magazines yet before us. A writer in the *Gokyo* urges new methods for missionary work considering the limited funds for evangelizing purposes at the disposal of the missions. He advises preachers to have their means of livelihood apart from their religious

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service. The method adopted by old Chinese scholars is now good for Christian teachers. The rise of literature in the Tokugawa age was not due to the university of Yeddo or of Mito, but to the work of nameless scholars working in private throughout the empire. Buddhism is not the enemy of Christianity, says another Christian writer. It is a step in God's education of mankind. Sakya's self-denial and pain were but a true striving for spiritual ease. God gave Sakyamuni to the Orient to teach the world that this life in itself really has no more value in it than the morning dew. He was God's pioneer. Some call Buddhism pessimistic. But how can this world be a happy place for man without God? Buddha's teaching leads man necessarily to seek God for rest and peace. The Buddhist pessimism thus has its use, in compelling the soul to long for the true happiness. Mr. Yokoi in the *Kirisutokyo Shimbun* deals with the "Mystery of Pain" as a theodicy. Dr. Imbrie, we see, has been lecturing on "Evangelization in Japan" at Princeton University in America. He approves of cöperation of Missionaries and Japanese Christians. Bishop Bickersteth is reported in the *Nichiyo Soshi* as having, at the last Conference of Episcopalians, charged Unitarians from America and Germany with having sown seeds of scepticism in the Japanese Churches, which have tended to overgrow the faith. The *Jiyu Kirisutokyo*, among other interesting matters, compares Buddhism and Christianity and Reason and Revelation. We should like to speak at length of the Christian Endeavour magazine, the *Kyosei Zasshi*, but must pass it by for the present. In the *Seikyo Shimpo* a valuable history of the introduction of Christianity into Japan is continued.

* * *

The *Bukkyo* has rather a hopeless article on the "Present Condition of Society." It sees no deliverance from "the polluted air filling this nation," in Shinto, Confucianism, or Christianity. Even in Buddhism there is so much confusion and debility that help from this seems far away. The order of the Home Department to priests to stand clear of politics the *Bukkyo* thinks is well timed for some of the sects. In the *Dento* Mr. Juko Sugiura complains that Buddhist schools are now paying too much attention to science and show too little interest in religion. Let the university care for science; the religious schools should make religious meditation and discipline their principal object. The present condition of the priesthood is disgraceful. Priests are priests only in name. From ordinary people they differ only by having shaven heads and peculiar robes. The first duty of Buddhist leaders to-day is to deliver the priests and priest students from their degradation. Mr. Inouye Enrio is now studying peculiar psychical phenomena. Mr. Takahashi Goro says that for scholarship this investigation is good, but for religion especially, where a study of prayer is involved, it is suicidal. The trouble in the Sodo sect which has divided its adherents into parties, of the North and of Eheji, is growing worse according to last reports. It is reported that Mr. Fukuzawa has devoted himself to the Shinshu sect and is about to establish a preaching centre in Kyobashiku, Tokyo. In the *Dogaku* the tendency of Buddhism just now is seen in a prevalent cry for moral reform. Lately speculative study was uppermost. True progress lies in devotion to both. Another writer declares that the pious man should now pass his life in sadness, weeping over the condition of the world and the tendency of humanity. Buddhist literary men, says another, are at present very inactive. They should be up and doing in the crisis now at hand. The *Kwatcho* sees Buddhism more and more invaded now by Christianity. It is like a castle defended by sleeping soldiers. It is in great danger. Prof. Inouye Tetsujiro in the *Ten Soku* doubts the necessity of religion for mankind henceforward. A new Buddhist magazine, *Tsuzoku*, devoted to the universal Buddhism underlying all the sects, has appeared. It is to present this universal faith in the language of the people, in the thought of the people and for the sake of the welfare of all. Three great temples have lately freed themselves from debt, the Eastern Hongwanji at Kyoto, 1,500,000 *yen*, the Chionin 120,000 *yen*, and the Koseiji which had almost become bankrupt, 300,000 *yen* at which deliverance all the faithful greatly rejoice.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

NIKKO IN FEBRUARY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—After a residence in Hongkong for three years I recently arrived in Yokohama with my family.

Announcing our intention to visit Nikko, my Yokohama friends considered me rash to venture there at this season owing to the great cold they anticipated we would suffer from.

However, the tempation to visit that famous locality caused me to disregard their friendly warnings, and a three days' visit to Nikko last week induces me to mention how thoroughly enjoyable our excursion proved to be.

The brilliant sunshine and clear atmosphere enabled us to see all the grand mountain scenery to the best advantage.

With ordinary winter clothing we experienced no cold in our wanderings during the day, and in the comfortable and well appointed Kanaya Hotel we were warmly and comfortably housed during the frosty nights.

As we had similar experiences at Miyanoshita in the previous week it may interest fellow tourists to hear of them.

Yours truly, M.D.

February 26th, 1894.

MR. SHAKU SOYEN AND THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—At the Parliament of Religions in Chicago there was a Buddhist priest from Japan, named Shaku Soyen, who spoke on "'Arbitration Instead of War,' treating the subject from the standpoint of a Buddhist and believer in universal peace and brotherhood." In that speech he used the following language:—

"Our Buddha, who taught that all people entering into Buddhism are entirely equal in the same way as all rivers flowing into the sea become alike, preached this plan in the wide kingdom of India, just three thousand years ago. Not only Buddha, but Jesus Christ, as well as Confucius, taught about universal love and fraternity. We also acknowledge the glory of universal brotherhood. Then let us, the true followers of Buddha, the true followers of Jesus Christ, the true followers of Confucius, and the followers of truth, unite ourselves for the sake of helping the helpless and living glorious lives. * * * * * We must not make any distinction between race and race, between civilization and civilization, between creed and creed, and between faith and faith. You must not say 'go away' because we are not Christians. You must not say 'go away' because we are yellow people. All beings on the universe are in the bosom of truth. We are all sisters and brothers; and let us understand one another much better and be true sons and daughters of truth. Truth be praised!"

Thus our "Brother" Shaku Soyen stood before the people of America and made quite a fine impression with his lofty thoughts and beautiful sentiments on the "brotherhood of man." But fortunately, or rather unfortunately, another chapter has now to be published that will, I am afraid, spoil all the beauty of our "Brother's" big speech. He returned to Japan last October, on the steamer *Empress of India* from Vancouver. On the same steamer were several missionaries, to one of whom—Rev. B. C. Haworth—I am indebted for the following account of an incident on the voyage that will be doubly interesting in the light of the above quoted speech:—

"One of the Japanese passengers in the steerage was sick unto death. When the ship's surgeon found that the end was near, supposing that the dying man would like to enjoy the comforts of his religion, if there be any comfort in it, he sent for the Rev. Shaku Soyen, requesting his presence at the bed of death. To the Westerner it would seem that common humanity, to say nothing of the ties of country, would have prompted an instant compliance with such a request. Not so in the case of the "Reverend" Shaku Soyen. He had many questions to ask in regard to the name, circumstances, and so on of the patient. Among these questions was one to this effect:—"Do you think he belongs to the labouring class?" The surgeon replied that as nearly as he could judge from appearances, the patient was a labouring man. This answer seemed to be decisive. Through the interpreter, the reverend gentleman sent back the reply that he did not think it worth while to go.

When the report of this first reached me, I was inclined to think that the priest had been misunderstood, because of his defective knowledge of English. Wishing to know the facts, I interviewed the surgeon, and learned that the report was true. The surgeon offered to write a statement over his own signature, and suggested that the incident be published in the American papers. Following is his statement:—

Rev. Mr Haworth, Dear Sir,—In answer to your inquiry about the Japanese passenger, Mr. Koratechi, who died at sea, I beg to say that learning the presence of a Japanese Buddhist priest,—Rev. Mr. Shaku,—on board, I went to him and informed him of the serious condition of the above passenger, and that he would die within two hours, and was asked what occupation he followed, if he was a labourer? I replied in the affirmative. I then asked him if he would come to the hospital and see him. He consulted with some Japanese friends, and said that he didn't know him and it wasn't worth while.

Yours truly,

H. Bruce, Surgeon,
R. M. S. *Empress of India*

Kobe, October 29th, 1893.

Few of us would dissent from the statement of the surgeon expressed in conversation with me that this conduct on the part of the priest was shockingly inhuman. The poor fellow died the same night, and early in the morning of Sunday, Oct. 22, his body was committed to the deep. Mr. Shaku Soyen did not even attend the burial, which was conducted by the captain with a few appropriate words.

It may be added that the interpreter through whom the surgeon communicated with the priest, in reply to questions on the part of some of the passengers who had heard of the affair, said that the reason which kept the Rev. Shaku Soyen from attending his dying countryman, was that there are so many religions in Japan and he did not know to which religion the patient belonged! A significant comment as regards human brotherhood."

The above is part of a letter written by Rev. B. C. Haworth to an American paper, and will be published there. He has given me the privilege, however, of using the manuscript as I see fit, and I thought that as a number of people in Japan are now purchasing copies of the proceedings of the Parliament of Religions held at Chicago, which book contains Mr. Shaku Soyen's speech, they ought also to have this ocean incident to paste on a back fly-leaf of their books in order to give them a little of the spice of variety.

It would no doubt have been a most "quaint and curious volume" of never to be "forgotten lore" on human duplicity, if some second Dr. Barrows could have followed all of those promiscuous religionists from Chicago back to their native homes and collected all the speeches made by them with a biographical sketch of each one during these subsequent twelve months. It would make a sequel that would outwit the antecedent in the study of comparative religion and unfeigned truth.

Yours truly, W. P. TURNER.

Kobe, February 26th, 1894.

YOKOHAMA CRICKET & ATHLETIC CLUB.

The annual general meeting of members of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club was held on Monday evening, in Room No. 5 of Kiel's Building. The President of the Club (Mr. J. P. Mollison) took the chair, and there were also present Messrs. A. S. Garfit, H. V. Dickinson, A. W. Cabeldu, H. V. Henson, H. Tennant, A. B. Walford, F. E. White, E. R. Morriss, H. R. Campbell, E. O. Kenyon, J. Dodds, H. Allcock Captain Allen, B. H. Pearson, K. Wilson, W. W. G. Ross, E. Coutts, F. R. Morse, T. J. Healing, W. Sutter, H. F. Cornes, R. D. Robison, and C. W. Arnould (hon. secretary).

The Chairman, having announced the object of the meeting, said the first business was to confirm the minutes of the last meeting, which he suggested should be taken as read.

Mr. Walford proposed, and Mr. Campbell seconded, a proposition to this effect.

The Chairman, continuing, said the report for last year had been circulated among the members, and as it was rather lengthy he would suggest that it also should be taken as read. The

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accounts were fairly satisfactory, there being a credit balance in hand, but the outgoing committee would remind the new that there was an expense which they would have to meet in regard to the fence. The past season was a success, in all branches of the sport except in Athletics—why, he was unable to say, but he hoped it would be better this year. In Cricket they had a very good record—thanks to very good averages and steady play they had been able to hold their own against visitors and others. He had much pleasure in presenting the Kirin Cup to Mr. White (applause) who had made the highest average for the past year. He hoped that Mr. White would take good care of it and hold his own against all comers. Mr. White had also won the bat presented by Mr. Arnould for the highest scores in the Interport match. Prospects for the next season remained about the same. They were sorry to have to lose Duff, who was going to Kobe, and would no doubt be in the opposing team in the Autumn match, but Crawford and Edwards would be here and he hoped they would be able to hold their own. Football had been equally a success; for this he had to congratulate Mr. Pearson, who captained the victorious team (applause). As to Baseball, Mr. Morse had contributed an interesting paragraph. He trusted that with the assistance of Cricketers some games would be played, and hoped generally for a successful season.

Mr. PEARSON then proposed, and Mr. KENYON seconded, the passing of the following accounts:—

ANNUAL REPORT—SEASON 1893-1894.

In submitting the Report for the past year, the Committee are able to record another successful season on which they congratulate the members.

ACCOUNTS.

The Committee have the pleasure to lay before members a statement of accounts for the past year, showing a Credit Balance of $98.67.

While this is a satisfactory result, considering the small amount brought forward from the old account, and the heavy expenses incurred on gear account, the Committee beg to point out that the Club will in the very near future be put to a considerable expenditure for necessary repairs to the Pavilion and Fence.

THE GROUND.

The Ground at the commencement of the Season was in a very bad state, and to get a true pitch on it was impossible, but we are glad to say that by the Autumn it had quite recovered, and good wickets were obtainable. Repairs to the Pavilion and Fence were necessary, but as the estimate for mending the latter came to nearly $200, it was thought advisable to let them stand over until more Funds were forthcoming. The new practice pitches were used for the first time and found to be a great improvement on the old.

CRICKET.

The Club is to be congratulated on another successful season and on the increased enthusiasm shown by members. Owing to bad weather it was impossible to begin cricket as early as usual, and only one match was played in May. Rain again interfered in September, but still the number of matches played during the season was quite up to the average. Three matches were played against the Fleet who were each time defeated, though not without a struggle. The XI that played against Kobe was easily victorious and afterwards furnished a serviceable contingent for the China-Japan match which was drawn in favour of Japan. The Kobe Festival will remain as the pleasantest recollection to all who visited the port and were thus enabled to enjoy the splendid hospitality of the Kobe Cricket Club.

The thanks of the Club are due to the Directors of the Japan Brewery Company, Limited, for their presentation of a handsome challenge cup for the highest batting average. The first holder of the cup is Mr. F. E. White with an average of 31.90. The nearest to him were Mr Duff 31 81 and Mr. Dickinson 28.53. Three centuries were made in the course of the season, namely, Mr. W. D. S. Edwards 137, Mr. White 129 not out (against Kobe), and Mr. Duff 121 not out. Mr. White was also the winner of a bat kindly presented by Mr. C. W. Arnould, the Hon. Secretary of the Club, for the highest score in the Interport Match. In bowling, the chief work was done by Mr. Lias (47 wickets for an average of 5.78 runs), Mr W. D. S. Edwards, Mr. Walford and Mr. Ross. In some of the matches there were serious mistakes in the field which have materially affected the bowling analyses. It is in the direction of improved fielding that the Club must now look for an increase of strength.

FOOTBALL.

In this branch of sport the past season has been on the whole a good one, although the Inter-Club games played were perhaps not quite so interesting as in some years. The team chosen to represent the Club against Kobe did remarkably well, and scored a decisive victory (two goals to *nil*), although somewhat handicapped by playing on a foreign ground, and the enforced retirement of a Forward from the field, in the commencement of the game, owing to an accident. The two matches played against H.M.S. *Imperieuse* and H.M.S. *Caroline* were also won by the Club teams. Mr. B. Hyde-Pearson was made Captain of Football for the season, and the thanks of the members are due to him for considerable trouble taken to organize the various matches and the Interport team. It is hoped that the numbers of playing members will increase before next season as it has been found very difficult, if not impossible, to get together two full teams for an Inter-Club Match without help from non-members.

ATHLETICS.

It is to be regretted that pressure of other amusements prevents sufficient interest being taken in this form of sport to enable the Committee to secure an Autumn Meeting every year. In the past year it was found advisable to abandon the attempt to organize a meeting.

LAWN TENNIS.

The courts were much used by members in the early part of the summer, but towards the latter end of the season they were somewhat neglected. In May a Handicap was begun which lasted until July, when the final tie was easily won by Mr. J. M. Mollison. The number of entries—twenty-three—for this competition was larger than usual.

BASEBALL.

The opening of the Season was not at all promising for this sport. Owing to the absence of several of the best players, and there being no American men-of-war in port, it was found impossible to get up a game before the 2nd September, but from that up to the 17th November seven matches were played, five against the Navy and two against the Cricket players. Against the Navy, the Club won two games, the Navy scoring in the 5 games a total of 52 runs against the Club's 38 The matches "Cricketers" *vs* "Baseball Players" excited considerable interest; the first match was won by the former, 22 to 13, and the second by the Baseballists, 35 to 18. It should be mentioned, however, that in the last game the latter had the assistance of a number of players from the Navy team In all the games played the Shore nines were supplied with either pitchers or catchers from the men-of-war, it being found impossible to make up a "battery" from among the Club's players. The interest taken in the game by the Cricket players towards the end of the season was very encouraging to the sport, and it is to be hoped that it will continue during the coming season. With practice there are a number of the Cricket players who would be of great service in matches.

A supply of new gear has been received, which was very kindly purchased and brought over by Mr. E. Holden Smith.

THE HONORARY TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH YOKOHAMA CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS—SEASON 1893-1894.

March 1st, 1893.		Dr.	Cr.
To Balance Brought Forward		$ 2.91	
To *Entrance Fees* 29 New Members		145.00	
To *Subscriptions:*			
1st Half 1893/4	$690		
2nd Half 1893/4	680		
Tokyo Members	30		
Visitors and Fleet	60		
2nd Half 1892/3 (1 Member's unpaid)	5	1,415.00	
To *Gear account:*			
Sale of Bats and Lawn Tennis Balls.		39.25	
To *Fire Insurance account:*			
Return pm. on Policy		3.03	
To *Interest account:*			
Interest on current account H. & S.B.C. at 2 per cent.		4.76	
By *Working Expenses:*			
Momban's wages, Coolies wages, weeding, turfing, &c., Water Rate (12 months) and Sundries			673.81
By *Gear Account:*			
Purchases of Gear for Cricket, Lawn Tennis and Base ball			371.75
By *Match Expenses*			98.40
By *Fire Insurance account*			20.90
By *Stationery*			10.20
By *Refund of Subscription overpaid*			5.00
By *Photographs account:*			
Photographs of former Cricket Groups purchased for the Club			3.00
By *Ground Rent* for 1894			328.22
By Balance in hand			98.67
		$1,609.95	$1,609.95
1894.			
Feb. 1. To Balance Brought Forward...		98.67	

H. V. DICKINSON,
Hon. TREASURER.

Audited and found correct.

G. F. FENTON,
J. F. COX-EDWARDS. } *Auditors.*

The CHAIRMAN said that the next business would be the election of a committee for the coming year. The first ballot would be for a President. But while this was going on, however, and to save time he wished to bring to the notice of the meeting an alteration of a rule proposed by Mr. Walford. He would read it first as it stood, as well as the amendment. The rule in question was No. 7 which reads:—

"That non-resident Naval and Military Officers, and visitors, be eligible as Honorary Members, free of subscription for a period of one month, and for a further period on payment of a subscription of Two Dollars per month, without entrance fee, but shall not be entitled to any vote in the management of the Club." The proposed alteration brought forward by Mr. Walford was as follows:—"That non-resident Naval and Military Officers and visitors be eligible as Honorary Members free of subscription for a period of one week from the date of their first arrival in Yokohama in any year, and for a further period to the end of the current year on payment of a subscription of three dollars in advance; but they shall not be entitled to any vote in the management of the Club."—This would require a seconder before it was put to the meeting. He might say that the proposition would define more clearly the position of the Naval Officers and such other visitors as came; it would at the same time simplify matters for the Hon. Treasurer and bring in more money.

Mr. WHITE seconded the amendment.

Mr. WALFORD, in bringing forward his motion, said that there were many reasons for his doing so, not the least of the influences being that which had been mentioned by Mr. Mollison. There were a lot of visitors from H.M. ships who made use of the ground, bats, and balls, and required a number of assistants to be kept. He would be very sorry to think the rule would be hard upon them, as it was not in any such way intended. What he particularly called the attention of the meeting was the state of the Club's finances. There was at present $98 in hand, usually they only had $2 in hand or were $2 in debt. As a matter of fact they had never paid their way. He would remind them that this year they were under heavy liabilities for repairs, and that they had no funds to meet it. Now the Club had never any funds in hand, they had always to send the hat round, whenever required, for subscriptions. If they liked to pay for repairs or improvements as before, they could send round the hat, or raise the annual subscriptions, but he was of opinion this was high enough. Consequently, he suggested that this money be raised from visitors who made use of the ground and were willing to pay for their own pleasures. As the rule now stood it would not allow it. All were not liable for this, but some forgot to pay. Hence his suggestion that the period be lessened from one month to one week and the fee be made payable in advance, and instead of $2 a month $3 would cover the year. He did not know how the members liked it, but it was for them to decide. He did not think that $3,—about 6 shillings—was anything too much. It was not a matter that cost nothing, as there was the wearing out of bats and balls as well as the ground. He would be very sorry indeed if the rule lessened the number of visitors. He hoped the Club would play as many games as before and that they would be equally as enjoyable, but they must in some way raise money and they did not consider it fair to ask the members to do so, seeing that it could be raised from gentlemen who made use and derived so much pleasure from the ground. The matter rested entirely with the members to decide. (Applause.)

Mr. HENSON proposed as an amendment to Mr. Walford's proposition, the following—

"That non-resident Naval and Military Officers and visitors be eligible as Honorary Members free of subscription for a period of one week from the date of their first arrival in Yokohama, and for a further period to the 1st of March following on payment of a subscription of three dollars in advance; but they shall not be entitled to any vote in the management of the Club."

Mr. DICKINSON seconded.

Mr. WALFORD expressed his acquiescence in it.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that Mr. Henson's amendment was rather an alteration of Mr. Walford's.

This, on being put to the meeting, was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then announced the result of the ballot for President, declaring that the choice had fallen upon himself. (Applause). He would be glad to accept the post until his departure from Yokohama, which would be yet a long time.

The next business was the election of the Vice-President and Captain of Cricket.

While this was going on, Mr. Pearson raised the question as to whether Hockey could not be played. He was aware that Rule 11, having reference to the closing of the ground was an obstacle, but if the committee agreed to it this could be overcome. The space required would be 100 yards by 50, while Football required 100 yards by 75. The rules were the same as association football and the game was not as rough as football.

Some discussion then took place relative to the matter, the Chairman intimating that it would be taken into consideration.

The vote for Vice-President and Captain of Cricket resulted in the election of Mr. Walford.—(Applause).

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of seven members of Committee. Mr. Dickinson was willing to take the post of Hon. Treasurer, while Mr. Kenyon had expressed his willingness to act as Secretary. They would be sorry to lose Mr. C. W. Arnould, who was shortly going to Hongkong. They would no doubt see many to the useful work he had

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done and suggested a vote of thanks be tendered him. This was carried by acclamation.

Mr. WALFORD took advantage of the opportunity to thank the meeting for his re-election. He was sorry that Mr. Dodds had just left the room, but he might say that on receiving the Cup from the Directors of the Kirin Beer Co., a letter of thanks was sent them expressive of the Club's sentiments. Reverting to Cricket, the speaker said that every opportunity was taken to play, and he hoped that matches would be as numerous this year as last. He would suggest that some one be asked to take charge of the others—he could only attend to the Club's strongest team—and make up an eleven to play such visitors as were not strong enough to play against the Club's full force. If the Committee agreed he would do everything he could to further it. Another matter he wished to bring before the meeting was a suggestion that those who had played Cricket and Football in Inteport matches should have some permanent mark, say a badge to distinguish them. The Kobe Club was ready to do the same. They had had a pressing invitation to play Hongkong, but as they could not get up a team it had to be declined, but an invitation had been sent to Hongkong. The Club would make arrangement to meet Shanghai either here or in Shanghai.

Mr. GARFIT, speaking for the "duffers,"—among whom he included himself,—thought they might leave the matter to the committee.

The result of the ballot for Committee was then announced as follows—Messrs. White, Layard, Dickinson Kenyon, Pearson, Stone and MacNeill.

Mr. ARNOULD proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Keil for the use of the room, while Mr. Sutter proposed a similar vote to the retiring Committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

DEAKIN BROTHERS AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of shareholders of Messrs. Deakin Bros., Limited, was held in Kiel's Building on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. J. Rickett, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presided. There were also present Messrs. E. Andreis, H. W. Lea, T. H. Box, S. L. Goldman, C. K. M. Martin, J. Eyton, W. J. S. Shand, S. Isaacs, C. W. Arnould, A. B. Walford, and C. H. Fearon (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN, rising at half-past four o'clock, announced that sufficient shareholders were then present to form a quorum, he therefore called the meeting to order.

The SECRETARY first read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—The last annual general meeting of shareholders was held on the 23rd February, 1893, the minutes of that meeting take up twenty-three closely written pages, and I put it to you whether they had not better be taken as read.

A proposition to this effect was then put and carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The next important business before the meeting is the presentation of the report and accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1893. They have been printed and circulated during these last few days, and have no doubt been attentively studied, so I will propose that they be taken as read. They are submitted to you for your acceptance, but I shall be happy to answer any question that may be put upon them. I am sorry that they are not so satisfactory as I could wish. But, as the report explains, there have been very few purchasers in Japan last year, on account of the fewer number of tourists; and so our hopes in that direction have not been realised. Business has been bad in all parts of the world, and of course this has had its effect upon us. Indeed, considering the state of trade, it would be strange if our experience had been singular from the rest of the world in regard to the amount of business done. There is one good point in regard to the accounts, however—the entire debenture account of $18,000 has been wiped off, thus effecting an annual saving of $1,260 from the end of December of last year. As you know, a fire occurred in the living apartments above our store-room, and it was the proceeds derived from the damage done to articles which we surrendered to the insurance companies—the insurance value of the surrendered articles—which enabled us to redeem the last $13,000 worth of debentures. I shall now be glad to hear any remarks which you may desire to make upon the accounts which are now before you. I am fully aware that they are not very brilliant but I place them before you for your acceptance.

Mr. S. L. GOLDMAN asked what the item Sundry Debtors, $8,133.09, among the assets, stood for; was it money owing for goods sold?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, it is money for goods sold.

Mr. GOLDMAN—It has not been collected yet?

The CHAIRMAN—Not the whole, and only a very small proportion can be recovered, I am afraid. During the last month we have written to these debtors who reside in all parts of Europe and America, but have not received any replies up to the present time.

Mr. WALFORD—Might I ask if this Sundry Debtors account is the same as the Sundry Debtors account presented at the last annual meeting?

The CHAIRMAN—They are the same?

Mr. WALFORD—Are the debts still good?

The CHAIRMAN—Some are extremely doubtful.

Mr. WALFORD—They have not been written-off, I suppose?

The CHAIRMAN—They cannot be written-off until we receive replies to our letters. Probably they will have to be written off eventually—at least a good many of them.

Mr. S. ISAACS—The sundry debtors of the previous year then have not been written-off? Who are they?

The CHAIRMAN—They have not all been written-off, because we have not received any replies up to the present. Some of them are local, some are put down as owing by the late secretary.

Mr. BOX—How much is owing by the late secretary?

The CHAIRMAN—That is rather difficult to tell just at present. There are some put down in the books as apparently owing by him, and they possibly amount to some $1,300. Whether he is liable for the whole of them or for most, we have been unable, up to the present, to ascertain.

Mr. BOX—You won't know till you receive replies?

The CHAIRMAN—Not till then.

Mr. BOX—Can any reason be given why the general charges have increased. The salary-list of the staff, I see, has been decreased, but the general charges have increased 50 per cent?

The CHAIRMAN—The general charges are a shifting charge upon the business, they vary very much. Among them is an item of some $600, which was incurred on account of some bronzes being shipped to America and returned, and dues on which we had consequently to pay. It was either an error of the late secretary or arose from a misconception on his part. The other charges on that item are all due for various things, of which I have a list here.

Mr. BOX—This stationery account of $999, does that not mean the old stock of stationery?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, it consists of old forms.

Mr. BOX—And is worthless?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. BOX—I should like to know a little about the Fire Insurance; the stock has decreased, but the premium increased from $970 to $1,033, what is that due to?

The CHAIRMAN—To the rebuilding of the place.

Mr. BOX—What does it cover? $1,033 seems a large amount to pay on $47,000 worth of stock.

The CHAIRMAN—It covers the stock, fittings, furniture, etc., the insurance was considerably higher before the fire.

Mr. SHAND—The charge is 1⅞ nett, and ½ per cent. has been paid on the building since the fire.

The CHAIRMAN—Some of the stock was formerly under insured, and we raised the amount of insurance at the suggestion of Mr. Ure.

Mr. BOX—Has the insurance then been brought into proportion with the stock?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. EYTON—In regard to the balance of $11,735.56, Profit and Loss account, do we still owe that?

The CHAIRMAN—That is a loss on the working account, and is not owing.

Mr. SHAND—We owe nothing.

The CHAIRMAN—We owe nothing at all, with the exception of a small amount, Sundry Creditors $1,797.49, and are therefore practically owing nothing.

Mr. ARNOULD—Does that represent our position at the present moment—that we owe nothing.

The CHAIRMAN—I cannot answer on the spur of the moment. The late secretary has absconded, and it will take some time to find out how much of that $8,000 odd, we shall be able to recover; we may lose a great part of it, but the loss, if there is any, will not amount to more than $5,000 or $6,000 odd. I may mention here that we hold in our possession 193 shares belonging to Mr. de Souza, and the Company has a lien upon the balance—his total number of shares being 500.

Mr. GOLDMAN—This item Sundry Creditors, $1,797.49, is it for goods received and not paid for?

The CHAIRMAN—Some of it is for goods received and not paid for, the other is a private account of Mr. Deakin's and will probably be arranged.

Mr. LEA—This $13,000 received from the fire insurance, was it applied to the stock account *in toto*?

The CHAIRMAN—It was applied to the stock, furniture, etc.

Mr. LEA—It appears, after deducting a certain amount applied to the redemption of debentures, to be about equal to the item, profits from sales.

The CHAIRMAN—$13,000 was applied to the redemption of debentures, and then there were a few debts.

Mr. LEA—It appears at present that it was from this source that the profits on sales was derived.

Mr. SHAND—There was no profit made on the goods damaged by the fire—not a cent, the offices took good care of that.—(Laughter.)

Mr. LEA—At present I can't see how it is credited.

Mr. MARTIN—The Chairman has explained that the remaining debentures were all taken up by money derived from the insurance, and the stock was decreased to that amount.

Mr. BOX—Considering the unsatisfactory state of business in these hard times, don't you think, Mr. Chairman, that we might discontinue the electric-light, something might be saved in expenses.

The CHAIRMAN—We must have light, and the electric light is installed there, and I don't see how we could save anything by adopting your suggestion.

Mr. BOX—It was simply a suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN—Besides, a good many of our sales are conducted in the evening. Guests stroll over from the Grand Hotel in the evening after dinner, and the electric light brightens up the place and shows the goods to advantage.

Mr. BOX—I was under the impression that nothing was done in the evening.

The CHAIRMAN—Oh, we do a good deal then. If there are no further questions upon the accounts to be put I shall be pleased if some gentleman will propose their adoption. They have been very carefully audited by Mr. Ure, who has been to considered trouble about them; he has very carefully checked every item, and after taking every possible trouble and care has signed them, certifying them to be correct to the time they were made up, the 31st December, 1893.

Mr. EYTON—I propose the adoption of the accounts as presented.

The CHAIRMAN—Of course, gentlemen, you have it in your power to ask for an adjourned meeting at which the accounts can be gone over, item for item, but you could go on adjourning meeting after meeting for 20 years without getting them into any better form. Mr. Ure has been most careful in his preparation of them.

Mr. GOLDMAN—I second the proposition, and in doing so suggest that a further meeting should be held to see how much can be realised of this $8,133.09; to clear up this stationery account, and to see generally what we are worth and how the accounts really should appear. We want to know how much has been lost, and how we really stand. Such a meeting would be very beneficial, for we have in our balance-sheet now several thousand dollars of assets which are really worthless, and are consequently of no good at all. We could then ascertain how much de Souza has absconded with, what stock we have, what debts we can recover, and what must we write-off, and generally find out how we really stand.

The CHAIRMAN—With regard to what Mr. Goldman has just said, I must state that the question of the goodwill came up at an annual general meeting a few years ago, and it was decided by your directors, after much careful deliberation, that nothing could be done—that, in fact, it was impossible to write-off anything unless we had something to write it off with, and that the only way possible was to reduce the capital. Last year a meeting was held at which a resolution was carried empowering the directors to reduce the capital whenever they considered it necessary. This resolution was embodied in the Articles of Association and it was my intention to-day, to draw your attention to it—this suggested reduction of capital—so as to get your opinions upon it. The directors did not mention it in their report; but it has been discussed among shareholders. It appears to me that the resolution which has been much before the Board meetings is strongly to be recommended, for it is very desirable that the capital be reduced. The face-value of shares, at present $50, would be written down to $25 or $20—[A voice, "$10."]—or whatever figure it was decided to have. A special meeting would, of course, have to be called before such a thing could be done, but I shall be glad to get shareholders' opinion upon the subject now. I have had some conversation with some of our largest shareholders before this meeting, with regard to the reduction of the capital and I find that they are in favour of the measure, while your Board of Directors wholly support it.

Mr. GOLDMAN—I should like to say something

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about this question of reducing the capital, but I think there is a proposition before the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—The proposition of Mr. Eyton's is that the accounts, as presented, be passed, and Mr. Goldman has seconded it. I will put it to the meeting.

The proposition was carried unanimously.

REPORT.

The Directors beg to lay before the Shareholders a general statement of the affairs of the Company, and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1893.

The Directors regret that the profit on sales for the year amounted only to $3,096.05 as against $15,026.84 last year.

This is attributable to failures, and the bad state of business all over the world, and the consequent lack of purchasers.

The running expenses have been reduced to their lowest limit, and every care has been taken with a view to economy. On the 29th October a fire occured in the dwelling above the store, by which considerable damage was done to the Company's premises and stock, and $16,228.44 was received in respect of the damaged goods, out of which $13,000 was applied to paying off Debentures. The total Debentures paid off during the year amounted to $18,000, and a great saving in interest has thereby been effected. There are now no Debentures existing. The Directors can only hope that the business will show a better result in the coming year.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. B. C. Howard resigned his seat on the Board in August, and the vacancy was filled by Mr. J. J. de Souza, late Secretary, who resigned his seat this month, and there is therefore a vacancy on the Board.

Messrs. J. Rickett and C. K. M. Martin retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

SECRETARY.

Mr. C. H. Fearon was appointed Secretary in September, in place of Mr. J. J. de Souza.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. C. W. Ure, and the Directors have much pleasure in proposing him again as Auditor. J. RICKETT, Chairman.

Yokohama, February 21st, 1893.

BALANCE SHEET TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

ASSETS.

National Bank of China	$ 331.42
Cash in hand	463.95
Cost of Goodwill, Fixtures, etc.	80,000.00
Cost of Furniture	8,718.24
Cost of Stationery	999.50
Cost of Stock	47,810.80
Bills Receivable	543.21
Sundry Debtors	8,133.09
Balance from Profit and Loss account	13,544.15
	$152,549.86

LIABILITIES.

Capital subscribed	$150,000.00
Suspense	192.27
General charges	560.10
Sundry Creditors	1,797.49
	$152,549.89

WORKING ACCOUNT TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

To Salaries	$ 3,984.20
To Rent	2,025.00
To Commission	231.17
To Breakage	50
To Discount	25.75
To Fire Insurance	1,031.34
To Interest	2,120.83
To General Charges	3,180.90
To Bad and doubtful debts	170.37
	$ 11,775.06
By Freight	$ 3.00
By Transfer fees	36.50
By Balance	11,735.56
	$ 11,775.06

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

To Balance from last year	$ 2,704.64
To Auditor's fee	200.00
To Balance of Working a/c.	11,735.56
	$ 14,640.20
By Profit on sales	$ 3,096.05
By Balance	11,544.15
	$ 14,640.20

C. H. FEARON, Secretary. C. K. M. MARTIN, E. ANDREIS, } Directors.

I have compared the above statements with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and find the same in accordance therewith.

CHAS. W. URE, Auditor.

Yokohama, 21st February, 1894.

Mr. GOLDMAN—In reference to straightening out the accounts, I think it can be done without reducing the capital. We have among the assets a sum of $11,544.15 which is valueless. This could be wiped off without recourse to reducing the capital. To effect the reduction in capital will cost I am told, about $500. That is an amount which should be saved. If the face value of our shares are reduced, their market price is also reduced, but the value of the stock is not increased by a cent. I think we should straighten out affairs, see how we stand, and then if we find that we cannot get along and pay our way, we must liquidate. That is the position we have to face.

The CHAIRMAN—I have no wish to raise false hopes nor pose as an alarmist, but I do not think that the outlook is as bad as at present appears. If we have a good business during this year, I do not perceive any reason why the Company should not pay a dividend. While we have any debts upon us and the books show a loss, no dividend can be paid. A reduction in capital would, I believe, enable us to pay a dividend. Our shares, if not quoted at par or even at a premium, would yet not be quoted at such a very great discount. The matter has been thought out carefully by the directors and they are in favour of this reduction in the capital, while many of our largest shareholders are agreed upon the point. Before the matter drops, I may mention that it is the intention of the directors to call an extraordinary meeting of shareholders at which the proposition for the reduction of capital will be brought up; due notice will be given so that you may all have plenty of time in which to formulate your opinions upon the subject. Now, gentlemen, our business is to elect two directors. Two retire now by rotation, Mr. C. K. M. Martin and myself, and we offer ourselves for re-election. There is one other vacancy, but the directors will themselves decide whether it shall be filled. They ask you now to fill the two vacancies.

Mr. GOLMAN moved and Mr. ISAACS seconded the re-election of Messrs. Rickett and Martin.—Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you gentlemen, on behalf of Mr. Martin as well as myself. The next business is the appointment of an auditor. If you will permit, I would propose Mr. Ure for that position. He has devoted much time and trouble to our affairs.

Mr. LEA—I will second that.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen, I thank you for your attendance.

Mr. BOX—Before we seperate I should like to propose a vote of thanks to our Chairman. I hope next year, however, he will be able to present a better balance sheet.

The CHAIRMAN in acknowledging the compliment, said that he gave his best attention to shareholders' interests, and he was well supported by his colleagues on the board. He would like to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Kiel for the use of the room.

This vote was carried unanimously and the meeting dispersed.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The fifty-seventh ordinary half yearly meeting of shareholders in this Company was held in the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 17th inst. Mr. H. Hoppius presided, and there were also present the Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. C. J. Holliday, R. M. Gray, C. Jantzen, J. Kramer, A. McConachie, J. S. Moses. D. R. Sassoon (directors), T. Jackson (chief manager), V. A. C. Hawkins, H. E. R. Hunter, W. S. Bamsey, J. D. Humphreys, J. M. E. Machado, K. A. Chinoy, C. J. Gonsalves, W. G. Heurmann, R. Isherwood, C. Beurmann, C. C. Cohen, A. G. Wood, A. P. MacEwen, H. Humphreys, A. Coxon, Hon. E. R. Belilios, Hon. C. P. Chater, J. S. Ezekiel, F. N. Firth, J. M. Alves, R. Shewan, F. Henderson, W. R. McCallum, S. G. Bird, S. L Darby, A. Coutts, G. de Champeaux, K. M. Ross. C. A. Tomes, S. Hancock, A. Hancock, P. Jordan, J. B. Coughtrie, B. Layton, H. N. Mody, G. M. Bain, R. Lyall, E. Jones Hughes, St. C. Michaelsen and others.

The CHIEF MANAGER having read the notice of meeting.

The CHAIRMAN read the report of the directors (which has already been published) and continued—Gentlemen, the past half year has witnessed a steady decline in the price of silver and in Eastern Exchanges; it has been throughout a period of anxiety to all connected with the East, Nevertheless we have the pleasure to present to you a very favourable balance-sheet for the six months ended 31st December, resulting in a dividend of £1 per share, 3 lacs to reserve, and one lac to credit of Bank Premises account; the latter account has been increased by the erection of new premises at Singapore, where they were very much needed. Some of our friends think, considering the profits realized, that a larger dividend might have been declared, but with the experience of recent years fresh in our memory, and taking into consideration the present unsettled state of silver, we consider that in strengthening the Reserve Fund we are acting in the true interests of the shareholders. It will be noticed that it now takes twice as many dollars to pay one pound per share as it did twenty-five years ago, when we used to look upon the par value of the dollar as 4/6. The present dividend is calculated at an exchange of 2/3. I take this opportunity of mentioning that the way the exchanges of the Bank are managed we do not stand to lose, no matter how violently the price of silver may fluctuate; we endeavour at all branches of the Bank not to have heavy commitments, in fact we run along upon an even keel as far as it is possible to do so. During the period under review this policy has stood us in good stead, and however much we regretted to see the continual drop in Exchange, we had the satisfaction of knowing that we had safeguarded ourselves against its direct consequences. It will be noticed that during the half-year our sterling deposits decreased £872,384.11.3; on the 31st of October when the London half-year closed they stood at £3,415,992 2.5, and we learn both by post and wire that a steady decrease has since been going on. This we were quite prepared for, and throughout the half-year our London office has been in a strong and independent position. Considering the recent decline in exchange it would not have suited us to have larger deposits in London than we have recently had, or than we have at present. On the contrary, the fact that deposits were leaving us caused us to curtail advances in the East, and remit to London, which has turned out to our advantage. You will notice that during the six months bills discounted, loans, and credits have decreased from $46,983,148.31 to $40,626 957.64, say $6 356,190 67, while on the other hand bills receivable during the same period have increased by $7,517,279.78. The object attained has been a reduction of our home liabilities, and a large increase of our home assets. Corresponding with the decline in our sterling deposits we have to point out that during the six months our silver deposits have increased by $3,779,185 20, so that we have ample funds for conducting the large exchange business we are doing, without being haunted by the fear of a constantly falling exchange. The closing of the Indian mints, as experts predicted, has turned out to be a most unfortunate measure. Artificially protecting the rupee and leaving silver unprotected has completely turned the natural course of the Indian trade, so that latterly imports have been larger than exports; such being the case it seems difficult to answer the question—how is India going to pay her sterling commitments? There is, in my opinion, only one cure for the present deplorable state of Indian finance, viz., an international agreement for fixing the parity between gold and silver. I hope the wreck that is being made of all silver interests will result in another conference being assembled, from which some decision sounder in principle than a protected and fictitious currency will be the outcome. I am glad to say that during the half-year the Bank has been almost wholly free from bad debts, and never during its career has it done a sounder or more profitable business than it is doing at the present time. Before proceeding to move the adoption of the report and accounts, gentlemen, I shall be glad to answer any questions that may be addressed to the chair, to the best of my ability.

There being no questions the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the reports and accounts.

Mr. BELILIOS—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, it is with unfeigned pleasure I rise to second the adoption of the report and accounts. In doing so I should like, first of all, to express my hearty appreciation of the excellent management which has produced such good results as those set out before us.—(Cheers.) It should not be forgotten for one moment that these results have been attained in the most troublous times financially that I, or perhaps any one present, has ever witnessed—a time of such dislocation of exchanges and such a destruction of credits as would suffice to task the prudence and tact of the wisest and most experienced bankers to steer our ship through safely. It has, as you know, been steered with consummate tact, and the cool head at the helm has never faltered, never failed in the hour of trial,—(Applause.) The management has been ably seconded by a competent staff—(hear, hear)—and now we find, as the outcome of all their care and prescience, the Bank in a position equal to that held by it before the recent reverses overtook it. The Reserve Fund is again rapidly growing and in another one or two years will fully regain its former dimensions. Under such circumstances I think we may calmly look forward to this great financial institution, of which we are justly proud, attaining to a position of eminence yet undreamed of.—(Applause.) And now a few words with regard to the finacial policy of the Indian Government—a policy that has done so much to damage and reduce our trade with

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that great Empire. Gentlemen, I am sure that you will agree with me that the policy pursued has been foolish and irrational. The Indian Government should have done in effect what the Court of Directors of this Bank has done—convert their profits into sterling and make the sum in sterling subject to payment of dividend in sterling less loss in exchange. The revenue of India should have been dealt with in the same manner as the profits of the working of the Bank during the past 15 or 20 years. The experiment of closing the mints will certainly fail in its object; and the last state of the rupee will be worse than the condition from which it was sought to save it. I emphatically agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that nothing short of an international agreement between the Powers to bring about a fixed ratio between the precious metals will settle the present silver difficulty on a permanent basis. Gold is now being hoarded and thus taken out of circulation. It is gold that is appreciating, not silver that is depreciating, because it is a fact, a notorious fact to-day in Europe, a certain sum in gold buys more real estate than it did twenty years ago, whereas in the East a certain sum in silver buys as much produce and provisions as it did twenty years ago.—(Applause.) If this enhancement in the value of gold, this appreciation, is allowed to go on unchecked, we shall probably find in a few years eighteen-pence or less of gold buying one ounce of silver. England expended vast sums of money and many valuable lives to open up China to her commerce and secure a valuable market for her manufactures; she conquered India at enormous trouble and expense for a similar purpose, yet now she is faltering and hesitating to take the proper step to secure in the future those, the chief markets of Asia, for which she has paid so high a price. If she hesitates too long—and a few months may prove most disastrously long—she may find her manufactures shut out of these markets altogether. I can only hope that her rulers will become alive to the serious nature of the crisis which the national interests have reached before it is too late. Gentlemen, the evidence given by our Chief Manager before Lord Herschell's Committee will remain extant for ever, a standing monument of good advice, intelligence, and foresight. His prediction has been realized to the letter.—(Applause.) The remembrance of every word of that prediction I trust will rankle in the hearts of those members of that Commission who voted adversely to the expressed opinion of such an expert, and by so doing brought disaster on India.—(Applause.) Gentleman, with such a manager at the head of the affairs of this Bank we need fear nothing—(applause)—but hope, confidently hope, for our local institution a continued advancement and a long career of prosperity.—(Applause.)

The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. MICHAELSEN proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Messrs. Moses, Jantzen, and Kramer, and the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. R. M. Gray as a director.

Mr. B. SHEWAN seconded.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. J. D. HUMPHREYS moved the re-election of Messrs. F. Henderson, A. G. Wood, and S. G. Bird as auditors.

Mr. J. B. COUGHTRIE seconded.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business before the meeting. I thank you very much for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

Mr. BEURMANN—Before this meeting closes I wish to propose a vote of thanks to the directors, the manager, and members of the staff of the Bank for their different parts in the work which has produced such good results. I hope that at the close of the present half-year a similar balance sheet will be forthcoming.—(Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you very much, gentlemen, on behalf of my colleagues and the chief manager and staff for the vote which you have just received so well and carried. I can only say that I am quite sure that we owe a great deal to the chief manager and the staff for the brilliant results which have been achieved.—(Applause.)

This concluded the meeting.—*Daily Press.*

A communication transmitting copies of contracts for the supply of steel ship plates and protective deck plates for a new battleship to be built at Pembroke Dockyard was on 15th inst. received by the Captain Superintendent of the yard. The new ship will be a vessel of the *Magnificent* class, and will rank as the largest and heaviest ever constructed at Pembroke. Her dimensions will be 390ft. in length, 75ft. beam, and displacement 15,000 tons. It is intended to push forward the construction almost immediately.

FUTURE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

A FORECAST FROM AFAR.

The title of this paper may seem to be too ambitious, and the fact that it is written by one whose lot in life has been cast for many years past in a place outside of the limits of the British Empire, and ten thousand miles distant from the British Isles, may be thought sufficient to indicate obvious incapacity in the source. Yet prefaced by these admissions, the paper is submitted, with your consent, to the indulgent consideration of your readers.

The recent course of events in the three great self-governing branches of Great Britain has brought about a strong feeling of unrest in England in regard to the future of the British Empire.

Canada, Australasia, and South Africa are moving in parallel lines towards the same goal, and the pace at which they are moving has been much accelerated of late. This has naturally given rise to great anxiety in very many of the leading minds in England as to what the real goal in each case is, and what will be the effect upon the British Empire of the arrival at the destined goal, of each and all of these three great countries. The political ties between the British Government, and the Governments of each of these countries is even now of the very slenderest nature, though it should never be forgotten that in certain eventualities of war, the connection would become one of very practical and powerful effect. At present there are two matters in which the Imperial Government directly affects the lives of dwellers in these three countries. The first is by the appointment of Governors. These Governors, however, have no real power whatever. They can neither appoint nor dismiss any one except their own private secretaries, and the only function of any importance in which they have a real discretionary power is to grant or refuse a dissolution of the Colonial parliament. The second is the appellate jurisdiction of the Privy Council. Signs are very plainly discernible that in each of the three countries men are beginning to consider whether they cannot conveniently dispense with both of these remaining points of political connection with the Home Government. Strenuous assertions of "loyalty" are being constantly made from many sources, but this, as a real factor in the situation, may, I think, be eliminated from consideration as being not likely to prevent, though it may retard, the inevitable course of events.

The success of the United States of America in attracting a vast and rapidly increasing population, and in achieving a position as one of the great Powers of the world, has already exercised a fascinating influence upon the dwellers in the three countries I have named, and this influence is undoubtedly growing stronger daily. The success has been attained by means of a federal system of Government, and consequently "federation" is regarded by the peoples of Canada, Australasia, and South Africa, as the grand system by which they will be able, in the near future, to bring about their new birth as "nations." In England people are becoming deeply impressed with the importance of these facts, and they have seized upon the "federation" idea also, but for the purpose of using it to perpetuate the Empire, and to prevent the birth of new nations.

"The Imperial Federation League" has obtained the adhesion of a great array of names of men of light and leading, but although the society has been but a short time in existence, it is evident that a feeling of hopelessness pervades very many members of the Society itself. This feeling has led to the creation of another Society called the "United Empire Trade League," which already includes on its rolls a very large number of very distinguished names. The objects of this society are, however, in reality just as impracticable as those of the former society, and though admirable in intention will be found to have practically no effect upon the course of history. When this is seen and acknowledged, as it soon will be, other societies will probably arise with the intention of grappling with the problem by a different method, but in so far as they attempt to stop the operation of the laws of nature, and prevent these three great countries from starting in the business of life on their own account, they must all fail. The only society that could do any real good, and last, would be a society to promote the consolidation of all English-speaking peoples, and which, for a short title, might take the name of "The English Speaking Union." Such a society, accepting as an inevitable fact the certainty that there will soon be a family of English-speaking nations in different parts of the globe, could work now in many very practical ways towards maintaining close political, commercial, and social relations between the members of this great family for all time, and such a Society could last, with grand work to do, as long as the family itself lasted. Its great work now would be to endeavour to prepare for the birth of each new member of the family, by providing in every possible way that when the birth occurred in each case it should not be accompanied by strife, or ill will of any kind, but rather with the feeling of pride and joy that a son is born; and that the commercial relations existing at the time should be as close as possible, and should suffer no diminution by the change.

The fundamental idea upon which the two societies that I have mentioned appear to be based, is that if these three great countries become politically independent of England, then the sun of England has at least commenced to set, and must rapidly dwindle away from the political horizon. I would venture to suggest, first, that even if this were true, no amount of societies, or leagues, could prevent it, and secondly, that it is not true. As to the first point, I will add nothing here to what I have said, but as to the second, I would suggest the following considerations. Assuming that on a given date early in the twentieth century, the English-speaking family of nations will consist of the following, or, at any rate, that the principal members of the family will be: Great Britain; the United States of America; the Dominion of Canada; the South Africa Confederation; and the Australian Commonwealth, the question that interests Englishmen so much is, what will the position of Great Britain then be, and how will she be able to maintain her pride of place? The true answer to this question will only be found, I think, by placing entirely out of consideration all one's own wishes and predilections on the subject, and by treating the question in a judicial, and wholly impartial, and unprejudiced spirit. The first fact of importance to be borne in mind is this. With the exception of Great Britain, all the other members of the family will possess vast areas, and comparatively small populations, and for many generations to come their energies will be principally absorbed at home in filling up their territories. Great Britain, on the contrary, will no doubt continue to do as she is doing now, viz: export a young nation every year. Where will her sons go then, and what will they do? It is probable that they will to a certain extent go to join other members of the great family as they are doing now, but it is also probable that as the parts now marked on the map as British territory shrink in some directions, they will as rapidly increase in others, and provide occupation for generations of Englishmen yet unborn. It may be that England has almost exhausted the possibilities of her destiny in regard to the peopling of the temperate zones, but there is every probability that she has hardly begun her career as a civilizer of the dark places of the earth. Her spheres of influence in tropical Africa cover so vast an area, and so vast a population of human beings, that if she can bring these forward to take part in the real daily life of the world, their possession alone will maintain her in the very front rank of nations. But it is towards the possibilities of Empire in Asia, that I think, attention should be specially directed. India contains a population of nearly two hundred and ninety millions of British subjects. Burmah is a vast and rich country that only needs strong and just government to become an Empire in itself. A new Empire is rapidly growing up round the Straits Settlements, which may some day rival India itself, and there seems every probability that nearly the whole of the Eastern part of the Continent of Asia, together with the great adjacent islands, but with the exception of Japan, will be divided between the British, Russian, and Chinese Empires.

In connection with this subject there is one suggestion that might perhaps be usefully made. In Asia, we are but guests, in one sense at least. We have no abiding home there, because we have no possession there in which we can grow a white race. Russia and China, in Asia, are both at home, and can grow their own races there in perpetuity. What England needs just now more than any thing else is to acquire a tract of country in Asia, in which she can form a true colony, and grow a lasting white race. The only one that might answer this purpose is Thibet. A glance at a large map of Asia will show how invaluable to us would be the possession of Thibet, and how terribly dangerous to our Empire in Asia would be the actual possession of Thibet by either Russia or China. The question whether a white race can be grown in Thibet cannot be answered with certainty until the experiment has been fully tried, but if the country belonged to England and was opened up by roads and railways connected with India and Burmah, and Indian officers and others were encouraged to settle there with their families by liberal grants of waste lands, and other methods of assistance and encouragement, it would

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not be long before the question could be answered. The possession of Thibet would consolidate and protect our Empire in Asia far more than the possession of any other tropical tract of country, even though the latter was much larger and richer than Thibet. It may be remarked that I do not touch upon the questions as to whether we have any right to attempt to annex Thibet, or whether such annexation would benefit the Thibetans themselves. I do not now attempt to deal with the pros and cons of these two questions, but I would merely make two remarks more or less bearing upon these points. The first is, that the tendency of events now-a-days clearly is towards compelling all peoples, whether they wish it or not, to come into the community of nations, and take some share in the daily life of the world as a whole; and the second is, that Thibet will belong to, and be governed by either England, Russia, or China before very long, and that the only question is, which shall it be?

Attention in England just now seems to be so absorbed by anxiety with regard to the self-governing Colonies, and as to our work in Africa that observation as to the signs of the times, and as to the necessities of our policy in the far East seems to be wholly wanting.

The mission of England in the world's history seems clearly divisible into two great classes of work. One is, to found colonies of white people in temperate climates, to govern and guide them until they reach to adult age, and then to help them to take their place in the great family of independent nations, with her blessing, and affectionate motherly love. The other is to govern and guide black races in tropical countries until they too are fit and qualified to take their places in the great family of independent nations. It seems possible to predict the fulfilment of her mission in the first mentioned class of work within a not very distant period, but speculation now as to the probable or possible time of fulfilment of the other class of work would be utterly vain.

I should like to conclude by summing up what I have said, in three concise statements.

1. That we can never prevent the great self-governing colonies from starting in life as independent nations, whenever they see fit to do so, and that it is unwise to attempt either to prevent, or to retard their doing so.

2. That we can do a good deal even now to make the partings, when they come, accompanied by mutual good will and free from any disruption of business relations.

3. That we shall continue to be an Empire upon which the sun never sets, and second to none in the world, even after all the great self governing colonies have ceased to be parts of the British Empire; and that by careful attention now to our position and policy in Asia, we can do much to secure the maintenance of that Empire for a period as long as prediction, based upon facts and deductions, can reasonably deal. DEXTER.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, February 3rd.

Rev. William E. Griffis, D.D., of Ithaca, N.Y., is to deliver a series of eight lectures on "The Religions of Japan," at the Union Theological Seminary, New York City. The special subjects are as follow:—1. Primitive Faith in Dai Nippon; 2. Shinto, the Way of the Gods; 3. Confucianism in its Japanese Form; 5. The Introduction of Northern Buddhism; 6. Buddhism in its Missionary Development; 7. Buddhism in its Doctrinal Evolutions; 8. Christianity of the 17th and 19th Centuries in Japan. It is to be hoped that these valuable lectures will be published in permanent form.

A series of lectures (illustrated), in aid of the Home for Destitute Crippled Children, is now being given in the First M. E. Church in this city, by James Irving Crabbe. The following are the subjects:—1. Pictures and Stories of Old Japan; 2. The Land of the Mikado; 3. Footprints of Buddha; 4. Scenery Memories of Foreign Lands.

Mr. Nakada, of the *Jogaku Zasshi*, Tokyo, has requested permission to translate and publish in Japanese Miss Frances S. Willard's "Glimpses of Fifty Years."

At the annual reception of the Palette Club the other evening at the Art Institute, the Japanese room and German gallery were first thrown open to the public, and attracted much attention. Prof. S. Choyo and Mr. H. Satoh were present to explain the mysteries of Japanese Art.

The work of installation in the Columbian Museum has been considerably delayed by the slowness with which the World's Fair exhibitors have removed their works of art from the Fine Arts Building. It is, however, to the credit of Prof. Choyo, that, next to Germany, no country was more "prompt and business-like in this respect" than Japan.

Secretary Carlisle has sent to the House of Representatives an estimate of an additional appropriation of $50,000 as necessary for enforcing the Geary Law. But it is reported on good authority that the Six Companies have issued orders to comply with the requirements of the law.

The public interest in Hawaiian affairs has not died out, but the excitement has considerably subsided. The provisional government celebrated January 17th, the first anniversary of its establishment, as a national holiday, in the celebration of which U.S. Minister Willis refused to participate.

The National Board of Trade, in session recently at Washington, D.C., endorsed the Nicaragua Canal by memorializing Congress that Senator Morgan's bill for a guarantee of $70,000,000 of Canal Bonds be passed.

Brazilian affairs are just now rather exciting. The blockade of the port of Rio de Janeiro by the insurgents has been, of course, a great trouble to merchant vessels, some of which have been fired on by the insurgents. Our Admiral Benham, having protested in vain to Admiral da Gama, was finally compelled to make a violent demonstration to protect some American barks. In so doing shots were exchanged between the U.S. cruiser *Detroit* and an insurgent gunboat. Admiral Benham's endeavours to maintain neutrality, and also to protect American shipping, are upheld by our Government.

Thomas Moonlight, of Kansas, has been selected by President Cleveland to shine, as U.S. Minister, in the social circles of Bolivia; and Thos. B. Ferguson, of Maryland, has been named as U.S. Minister to Sweden and Norway.

While Gov. McKinley was one of the honoured guests and orators (the radical free-trader Frank Hard was another) at the annual gathering of the Ohio Society of Chicago, the Illinois Republican Editors' Association, in session at Peoria, were "booming" him as their next candidate for President.

At 6 o'clock in the evening of February 1st, the Wilson Tariff Bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 204 to 140. The day before, the internal revenue bill had been amended a little (so that the tax on whisky was raised from 90 cents to one dollar, and the bonded period was extended from three to eight years), and had then been placed as a rider on the Tariff Bill. The operation of the income tax was also extended to all moneys and personal property given or bequeathed by inheritance.

The closing speeches on February 1st were made by ex-Speaker Reed, Speaker Crisp, and Mr. Wilson, all of whom acquitted themselves with honour. A few comparatively unimportant amendments were adopted, and several were rejected. The internal revenue amendment, including the income tax measure, was carried by the decisive vote of 182 to 50 (all the Republicans except 10 refrained from voting). On the final passage of the bill the 202 affirmative votes included 95 Democrats and 9 Populists; and the negative vote of 140 included 123 Republicans, 16 Democrats, and 1 Populist (Newlands, of Nevada). The absentees numbered 13. The 16 Democrats of the negative were the following:—From New York—Bartlett, Amos Cummings, Campbell, Hendricks, Covert, Schermerhorn, Haines, and Sickles; from New Jersey—Cadmus; from Pennsylvania—Sibley; from California—Geary, the author of the infamous Geary Chinese restriction law; from Louisiana—Davy, Robertson, and Price; from Connecticut—Sperry and Page.

It is impossible to predict the fate of this bill in the Senate, which has only a slender Democratic majority. The present Senate is divided as follows:—Democrats, 43; Republicans, 37; Populists, 5; Vacancies, 3 (Montana, Washington, Wyoming, 1 each). The Populists will, of course, support the Wilson Bill, and *may* be numerous enough to offset any defection from the Democratic ranks; though one of them (Stewart, of Nevada) is not unlikely to vote with the Republicans on the tariff question. One would think, however, that no Democratic Senator would attempt to defeat the Wilson Bill in the face of the popular verdict given for tariff reform in the latest election in which that was a *real* issue.

Judge Cox, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, has denied the application of the Knights of Labour for an injunction to restrain Secretary Carlisle from issuing bonds. These bonds were placed on sale day before yesterday, and are being taken in a way encouraging to the Secretary.

On the 27th ult. the California Midwinter Fair was formally opened.

The *Inter Ocean* of this city is evidently growing in popular favour. It has reached an average daily circulation of almost 100,000; and on several days in January it ran above that figure. On last Monday it received over 16,000 letters, "the largest mail ever delivered in one day to any firm in Chicago." This big mail was, however, largely composed of answers to a prize picture in the Sunday issue.

In the recent pugilistic contest at Jacksonville, Florida, James J. Corbett, by defeating Charles Mitchell (in three rounds), became champion of England as well as of America.

Bungling work was made the other day of the hanging of George H. Painter for the murder of his mistress, Alice Martin. By the breaking of the rope, the body fell on the concrete pavement ten feet below, but it was quickly lifted and given a second drop.

On the 28th ult., Bath, Maine, was visited by a disastrous conflagration which destroyed twelve business blocks, and caused a loss of $700,000.

Rioting coal miners in the Mansfield Valley, Pennsylvania, have been destroying property. The leaders are thought to be anarchists; the miners, themselves, have been found to be in extreme destitution.

Since the former paragraph concerning the issue of bonds was written, a paper has come to hand which states that the subscriptions for the bonds amount to $58,000,000; and that Secretary Carlisle has not yet decided whether to issue bonds to that amount, or to limit the issue to the advertised figure, $50,000,000.

The report of R. G. Dun and Co. for the past week tells of a gradual industrial recovery, and of a fresh impulse to business by the success of the bond issue.

The Bell Telephone Company, for the sake of the extension of its business, has sent a petition to the Massachusetts Legislature for an increase of capital from 20,000,000 to 50,000,000.

On the 25th ult. the mills of the Niagara Falls Paper Company were first put in operation by means of the mightly forces of the great cataract. Three 1,100 horse power inverted turbines are turned by the water which comes through a big canal from Niagara Falls.

Geo. W. Childs, the distinguished Philadelphia editor and philanthropist, died this morning.

Miss Sophie McNeal, formerly a missionary in Japan, is the founder and manager of a "Home for Unemployed Young Women" in this city.

The Hawaiian matter is under discussion now in the House of Representatives, and will come to a vote next Monday (5th instant).

The foreign diplomats in Brazil are favourable to recognizing the insurgents as belligerents.

"The Story of Japan" by David Murray, Ph. D., LL.D., Late Adviser to the Japanese Minister of Education, is the thirty-ninth volume in that valuable series, "The Story of the Nations," published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City, and is the first book of the series to treat of an Eastern Asiatic nation. It is eminently fitting, that the pioneer of such countries in breaking with the convertism of the past should first have its story told in that series. Other volumes in preparation include "Vedic India," by Mme. Z. A. Ragozin; "Buddhist India," by Professor Rhys-Davids; "Mohammedan India," by Stanley Lane-Poole; "China," by Mme. Ragozin. The number of volumes issued, or in preparation, already exceeds fifty; and the series includes the most prominent nations of history.

"The Story of Japan" is printed in clean and clear text, and contains thirty-five appropriate illustrations. A few typographical errors, and even some slips in sentence-structure, may be found. The style is by no means dry or uninteresting, but is somewhat didactic rather than popular. A very clear idea of the development of the various features of Japanese civilization may be obtained. Inasmuch as the best native and foreign works have been consulted in the preparation, it should be accepted, in the main, as correct and authoritative. Is it, however, true that the word *gawa* (river) takes the form *kawa* when euphony so requires" (page 10); or is *kawa* the simple form, changed to *gawa* for euphony? The *daimyo* of Mito was first placed in confinement in 1844, not 1841 (page 318); and his name is more commonly pronounced Nariaki than Nariakira (page 415) at Mito. It is unfortunate, too, that Dr. Murray has made an historical fact out of a mere story, undoubtedly a slander, that Ii's head was carried to Mito and publicly exposed (page 333). But the faults of the work are few, insignificant, and superficial; the merits are many and deep. It can not, of course, take the place of larger works, like those of Adams, Griffis, Rein and others: but it does fill a long-felt want of an accurate and interesting history of Japan of moderate size and price. It deserves a wide circulation.

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NATURAL LAW.

An Address by M. G. Boissonade to the Graduates of the School of French and Japanese Law, on the Occasion of the Distribution of Diplomas.

Translated for the *Japan Mail* from the *Revue Francaise du Japon.*

Every year, at the time of the distribution of diplomas, the Director of the School does me the honour of asking me to address a few congratulatory words to the students that are leaving us, and of encouragement to those who are pursuing their course of study.

My congratulations, however, can add but little to the joy of those who have just received their diplomas, and it would be lapsing somewhat into platitudes for me to remind those that still remain that, independently of assiduity in following the lectures of their professors, they must also devote themselves to serious personal study, without which those lectures would be utterly insufficient to ensure success for them in final ordeals.

It would be no less hackneied for me to say to the new licentiates that once they have entered upon the practice of law, either as judges or as procurators, as lawyers, notaries or as clerks of court, they are shouldering a heavy responsibility upon themselves, one that they cannot sustain honourably without study infinitely more intense and continuous than that of a school.

Besides, of these truths you have probably been reminded already, by one or the other of the addresses in Japanese that I have not had the advantage of understanding.

I think it more useful to speak to you about the difficulties that your masters have met with and that you, yourselves, are soon going to meet with as magistrates and lawyers, consequent upon the recent vote in Parliament which has committed the Civil Code to revision upon the very eve of the day on which it was to come into operation.

Since its promulgation in 1890 (23rd year of *Meiji*) and during the two following years, the new Civil Code has been the most important object of instruction in all the law schools, public or private, or semi-official as is this one.

The postponement to which this Code was subjected last year has created, as regards instruction, a delicate, I might say a singular situation, assuredly more embarassing than was the one prior to 1890.

Ere the Civil Code had been promulgated, it had been known for a long time in its condition of Draft; had been printed in Japanese and in French; and had already been commented upon in the two languages. To-day, not only is there no longer any official text, but no longer does even the draft exist: both have been denounced to the country as defective, as contrary to national customs, and especially as exotics.

One must consequently ask oneself the question, what can be the basis of instruction in civil law? For this kind of instruction has not been suppressed. In the same way, what shall henceforth be taken by Courts of law for the basis of their decisions? For it has not been possible to suspend the course of civil justice until the appearance of the new draft of the Civil Code. These two questions were asked 16 or 18 years ago at the time when the preparation of the Civil Code had hardly been begun. You know how they were answered.

In 1874 (7th year of *Meiji*) when I had the honour of being invited, with M. du Bousquet, to inaugurate in Japan the initial instruction in law in the only law school then existing and located in the Department of Justice itself, I proposed and obtained permission to deliver lectures upon natural law. I can attest that my proposition suprised no one.* There is no doubt that the *Shizen-ho* had not yet been doctrinally or scientifically studied, still it was well known that it was the necessary basis of written legislation. It was foreseen that it would be the foundation of the one that was soon to make up for the notorious insufficiency of ancient customs and for modifications thereof in whatsoever was no longer in keeping with the the new social, political, and economical régime of the country.

But very soon it came to be understood that the teaching of law greatly gains by being grounded upon texts, and the teaching of natural law was developed by giving it, as a basis, the French code which Mr. Mitsukuri's excellent translation had revealed to Japan. Now, it was already known that the French Civil Code is nothing else than natural Law applied, and that the nation for which it had been drafted was not thenceforth very different from Japan, since feudalism and class privileges had been abolished in that country.

It was in the same way that, by the application of the French Civil Code, the reorganized Courts could solve the difficulties that ancient customs had left without solution. The French Code completed your ancient customs just as Roman law had a long time ago completed ours. The Code was like it, *ratio script* a "written reason."

I do not propose to here examine whether this large share of influence given to the French Civil Code has not been for something in the hostility the New Code has been the object of, whether the national *amour propre* has not suffered from it, nor whether any foreign rivalry has not been wounded by the preponderating influence in this country of French legislation.

Nor shall I examine whether it was expedient and prudent to teach in Japan, in the University, and in private schools patronized by the State, another system of foreign law, parallel with French law. The latter, beyond a doubt, had no fear of any comparison, but it could not fail to happen that a day would come when a rivalry would arise in the land between Japanese students of the two Schools, and it was to be feared that it would become a source of difficulties between the bench and the bar. What is certain is that it commenced by manifesting itself in the press, and that it spread to the arena of Parliament. But those are questions not to be treated of here.

I come back, then, to the difficulty in which Instruction finds itself consequent upon the postponement of the Civil Code and upon the disfavour with which endeavours made in Parliament to bring in natural law itself were looked upon. Happily, the professors of this school have had the perspicacity and the courage to defend their faith, and the teaching of natural law has been continued, not assuredly under this abstract and dogmatical title, neither under the practical shape that it has assumed in the French Code, but such as expressed in the original official text of the Japanese Civil Code.

Whilst waiting for the promulgation of the new Code, it is also in the original official texts that the Courts and Tribunals find solutions for the Civil litigation daily submitted to them: they apply it, not as positive law and by citing articles in it, but in adducing as reasons the principles of natural law that are inscribed therein for each foreseen case.

Later on, to what extent the new Code has confirmed itself to natural law or has strayed from it, will be studied.

I would like to now point out to you, in as few words as the time at my disposal will allow, that natural law is and remains the only equitable, rational and durable basis of all civil and commercial legislation, and even, I do not hesitate to say it at the risk of astonishing you, of administrative legislation.

The adversaries of natural law have taken it into their heads to denounce its partisans as assailing the Imperial Prerogatives, averring that "all law in Japan emanates from the Emperor and could not exist prior to his decree."

If it were a question of political rights, this assertion would have to be admitted without hesitation. Before the Constitution granted by the Emperor in 1889, the subjects of the Empire had no political rights to lay claim to. Therefore they have to-day only those conferred upon them by the Imperial Constitution. But nothing similar can be sustained when it comes to the question of private right.

In the first place local customs, from whence flowed all family and testamentary law, in no way emanated either directly or indirectly from the Imperial Authority; they did not proceed of his initiative and they did not receive his sanction. It must, then, be admitted that those usages had established themselves under the influence of what your fathers had found to be just, reasonable, and useful for the preservation and for the prosperity of families.

Even admitting that they made mistakes upon some points, it would be none the less true that they thought they were observing rules of justice, of reason, and of social usefulness, which are none other than the rules of natural law. I would say as much of the rare customs that governed contracts and obligations, ownership, its transfer and publicity assured to conveyances by means of landed property registers.

Assuredly there have never been any Imperial Decrees to enforce upon individuals respect for their obligations, to consider as legitimate the ownership of the fruits of one's labour, its free transmission by exchange, sale or gift, and the publicity of the alienation of immovable property, that existed among you, through wisdom of custom, long before it had been laboriously established among us by our laws of the years VII. (1798) and 1855.

But your customs have remained silent or uncertain upon a multitude of points where private interests may find themselves in conflict. Since the era of *Meiji*, civil and commercial transactions have become greatly developed and questions absolutely new for this country are constantly being submitted to the courts. Can they refuse to solve them? To do so would be to make themselves guilty of a denial of justice. To ask for an Imperial Decree is no longer possible: there is a Parliament. And even should a law be voted by Parliament upon one or upon several difficult points, it would have no retro-active effect upon situations that had previously arisen, although they had not yet reached the litigation stage: for a stronger reason, the new law would have no effect upon litigation already entered into before the Courts.

It is then of the utmost necessity that, in such cases, in the absence of settled customs and of positive laws, and while waiting for the future Civil Code, the Courts shall apply to particular cases natural law, that is to say, the common rules of justice, reason and of general utility; now, their consciences inspire them with what is just, their intelligence points *out* what is true, and their experience teaches them what is useful. Justice and truth are universal and unchangeable, utility alone varies according to times and places.

May you, Gentlemen, when the heavy task of meting out justice to your fellow-men, or as lawyers, of upholding their rights, may you remember the instruction of this school.

I was just speaking of the principle that new laws should have no retro-active effect upon previously acquired rights. Is there not therein a principle of natural law that is binding upon the legislator himself? And if, in passing a law a legislator should ordain its retro-activity, would there not be a revolt of public opinion, of the public conscience? Would it not be said that it was an unjust law? Why? Apparently because there is a natural law of justice and of reason "anterior and superior to positive laws." And this is but one example among them all and before all the others.

In every imperative or prohibitive measure, legislators must seek for what is just, reasonable, and useful; they may fail to discover it or to submit to it themselves; they will none the less be obeyed, most assuredly (besides, they have at their call means of constraint); but it will be said that they have made an unjust, an unreasonable law or one contrary to the interest of the country; it is almost certain even, that having one of those three taints, it could hardly fail to have the two others.

Is that as much as to say that if law exists naturally, independently of legislators, the rôle of the latter has no longer any *raison d'être?* In no wise. Natural law is an abstract, a metaphysical theory; when the question arises of applying it to the thousand difficulties that conflict between private interests may produce, the greatest minds may be and often are in disagreement; it has therefore been recognized necessary, in order that individuals may know with precision their rights and their duties, the legal effects too of their acts, and also in order to obtain uniformity in the judicial decisions to which these acts may give rise, that natural Law should be in some way determined, formulated, written, in its principal applications.

It is no longer, therefore, in the Courts that it is discussed and touching each lawsuit, it is in the Councils of the Sovereign or in Parliamentary Assemblies that it is done according to the legislative régime of the time, and discussion proceeds from particulars to generalities, in such a way as to embrace all similar cases provided for by one and the same provision.

Legislators may make errors, but they can always correct themselves; new laws do nothing more than correct old ones, and it is opinion, the press, science, that point out the defects of a law and obtain sooner or later their rectification.

I said in passing that natural law is also the basis of administrative law; I will give only one proof of it among a hundred. When, to-day, a party in Parliament demands a new assessment of the land tax, what is its principal argument, its only one indeed? It is not because it is unjust, unreasonable and contrary to public utility that all lands should not pay taxes in proportion to their extent, to their topographical condition and to their fertility, in a word, to their selling value? There is, then, also a law unwritten, anterior and superior even to fiscal law, and nothing is asked for here other than the rectification of the latter in conformity with the first.

A last example will strike you more and with it I shall conclude.

When the whole country is clamouring for the revision of the foreign treaties, under certain conditions of course, in the sense of the abolition of foreign jurisdiction and of Japan's liberty to regulate her customs tariff according to her interest,

* The Minister of Justice at that time was Count Oki Takato who, later on, defended natural law most freely in Parliament.

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does it not appeal to natural international law, which is still nothing more than justice, reason, and utility proclaiming the autonomy of every independent nation?

Do not conclude from these words that I am turning you from submission to the Treaties and to the positive laws of your country: on the contrary, you must respect them as long they exist; but you may discuss them and submit them to the control of natural justice and reason. When that Roman jurisconsult said:—*non omne quod licet honestum est*, "all that is lawful is licit, but may not be honest," he put moral law higher than positive law.

When Bossuet, with more hardihood, cries out: There is now law against law!—he puts natural law before and above positive law, in order that it may enlighten legislators themselves.

Montesquieu, with the triple authority of magistrate, historian and philosopher, opens his monumental work "*L'Espril des Lois*," with an homage to law in general, which "is human reason in so far as it governs all the peoples of the earth, and the laws of each nation should be only the application of this human reason to particular cases."

But what will certainly touch you more than will do our Latin and French authors, is that the phisopher Kong-Fu-Tseu (whom we call Confucius and you Ko-Shi), himself says that "Government (the Law) is that which is just and right."

THE U.S.S. "MARION" PUTS BACK.

BOILERS LOOSE AND LEAKING BADLY.

The return of the U.S.S. *Marion* on Friday morning caused some little stir among the community, as the vessel had left harbour on the 19th ult. with the intention of proceeding direct to San Francisco, her period of commission on the Asiatic station having expired. It soon leaked out that the *Marion* had put back in consequence of some accident to her boilers sustained during exceptionally bad weather. Our representative upon proceeding aboard was courteously furnished with the details of the disaster by Lieut. E. B. Barry, Executive Officer. It appears that on the afternoon of the 21st ult., while the vessel was proceeding under sail, a squall suddenly sprung up, and it was found desirable to make all snug and reef the sails. She was then in lat. 34·30 N., long 149·41 E., about 500 miles distant from the coast of Japan. It continued blowing hard all night and about a quarter past seven o'clock on the morning of 22nd increased in violence, the gusts coming from the N W. and W. Within fifteen minutes it was blowing a terrific gale, which continued for over an hour and a half. The sails were furled, and all were saved with the exception of the jib. Furling-sail was a matter of great difficulty, but the men worked admirably. The wind continued and soon attained hurricane force; the tops of the waves being blown off with great fury, and the heavy sheets of spray which surrounded the ship made it difficult to perceive objects a hundred feet away. For about a dozen hours the gale swept around the vessel, and for a time she was hove-to; then steam was got up, and she was put under an easy speed, with the least amount of canvas possible. As the wind moderated the sea rose, and the ship rolled and pitched heavily. Towards afternoon it was discovered that two out of the eight boilers had broken loose from their fixings, and the ship began to leak badly. Commander Gridley thereupon determined upon putting back to Yokohama, the nearest port. Heavy seas broke over the vessel during the 23rd, from both sides, and sometimes there was over two and three feet of water on the deck. The hatches were battened down, however, and very little got below, the water only coming in through the leaks. On the 23rd ult. a heavy sea broke on board and carried away the 2nd cutter, and the launches carried in the waist met with nearly the same fate. They were secured, however, just in time. Towards evening the wind moderated, and the voyage to Yokohama was completed without further incident. But for the trouble with the boilers, Commander Gridley would not have considered it necessary to seek shelter; as it is, the *Marion* had only about 4 or 5 tons of coals in her bunkers when she entered Yokohama on Friday morning. If bad weather had continued it seems problematical whether she would have reached here at all, for the boilers were practically beyond control, though shored up with timbers. The accidents on deck were surprisingly few, though in one particular very serious. The metal tiller broke off short, and two or three times the men were thrown completely over the wheel, sustaining slight injuries. Relieving tackles were then lashed on, but these broke off four times, and finally the wheel on the poop deck was rigged. The stanchion supporting one side of this erection fell before the fury of the blast, and the steersmen were in a very precarious condition for a while. Two of the aft ports were also carried away. The lowest barometrical reading during the gale was 29.10, the force of the wind 9 to 11 for 36 hours, and at one time increased to 10-11. In all Lieut. Barry's twenty years of service the storm of the 22nd and 23rd ult. was the most severe. The *Marion* will probably lay up for some month or six weeks effecting her repairs, and perhaps will require docking at Yokosuka. The survey will be held to-day.

MR. UCHIYAMA ROSSETSU'S APPEAL.

The appeal of Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu from a judgment of the Kobe Ku Saibansho sentencing him to fine and imprisonment for a libel on Mr. Asahina, interpreter at the German Consulate, Kobe, came up for adjourned hearing on Thursday the 22nd inst., at the Osaka Court of Appeal before Mr. Chiba, the presiding judge and a full Court.

Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu was examined by the presiding Judge, and in response to questions said he was aware that the report of his arguments in the case of the arbitration in the Ichinokawa Mine before the British Consul was inserted in the *Hyogo News*, but he did not ask the editor to put it in. He (defendant) went to the office of the *Hyogo News* with Mr. Münch simply for the purpose of explaining some parts of the manuscript which were indistinct.

Mr. Münch was then called as a witness for Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu, and deposed that he had supplied the editor of the *Hyogo News* with a copy of Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu's arguments in the case which had been re-copied in his office. This copy was not made specially for the *Hyogo News*, but for other purposes, and was only given to Mr. Tennant, then editor of that journal, at his request. He afterwards went with the appellant to the office of the *Hyogo News* for the purpose of explaining those passages which had become illegible in the copying. The reason that he gave the editor permission to print the arguments was because he was desirous that certain misconceptions which had got abroad regarding the Ichinokawa Mine case should be corrected by a full report of the arguments before the arbitrator and his judgment.

The Public Procurator opposed the appeal, remarking that according to the evidence of the last witness and Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu, the latter had no part in the publication of the libel on Mr. Asahina, but this was not in accordance with the facts disclosed in the examination of the defendant before the Public Procurator in the Kobe Ku Saibansho. He urged that the decision rendered by the Kobe Court was a just decision on the evidence given, and asked that the appeal should be dismissed.

Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu and his advocate Mr. Ogura followed on the other side, the latter remarking in the course of his argument that even supposing the defendant was reponsible for the publication of the arguments in the arbitration case, the act was committed in the Foreign Settlement of Kobe, which was beyond the jurisdiction of a Japanese Court.

Mr. Kitamura Sakichi summed up on the side of the prosecutor, Mr. Asahina, asking that the judgment of the Kobe Court should be upheld and the defendant, who had seriously injured the reputation of the prosecutor, be ordered to pay $144 for the expenses of advertising the judgment in Japanese and foreign journals.

The presiding Judge said decision would be reserved, judgment to be given on Monday, the 26th inst., at 10 a.m.

OSAKA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH.

On the Judges of the Osaka Court of Appeal taking their seats this morning, the presiding Judge stated that the appeal of Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu must be successful, on the ground of insufficient proof as to the defendant's connection with the publication of the libel on Mr. Asahina in the *Hyogo News*. The proofs which had been offered did not establish the allegation that the defendant had been instrumental in the publication in the *Hyogo News* of the proceedings in the Ichinokawa arbitration case. The charge of libel was dismissed, and the civil suit associated therewith therefore failed. Costs must be paid by plaintiff.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 110.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—K to Kt sq.	1—K × Kt
2—Q to K 4	2—K or P moves
3—Q mates at B 2, or K 3, accordingly.	
	1—K × B P
2—Q to R 7 (ch.)	2—K to B 3 or Kt 5
3—B mates at Q 5, or Kt at R 2, accordingly.	
	1—K × K P
2—Q to K 7 (ch.)	2—K to B 4 or Q 5
3—B mates at R 7, or Q at K 3, accordingly.	
	1—P moves
2—Q to R 6	2—K × K P or B P
3—Q mates at B 4 or Q 6, accordingly;	
	if 2—Anything else
3—Q mates at K 3.	

Correct solutions received from Digamma (who observes that there are many "tries" in this problem, K to Kt 2 coming nearer a solution than any other), W.H.S., and Aling. Omega was too late.

O.B.'s solution of No. 109 was received too late. "The five mates" (he remarks) "by the Queen, each time on a different square, are very elegant."

A. Tozer (Cleveland, O.) has sent correct solutions of Nos. 102 and 103.

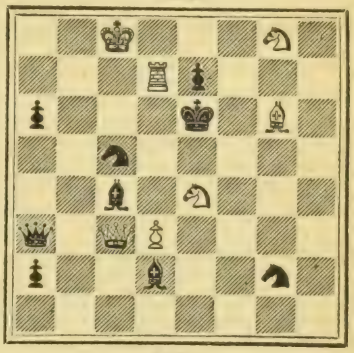
A. L. JORDAN, Nagasaki.—Many thanks for the problem, which will appear in due course.

Composers will please take note that their problems should in all cases be accompanied with complete solutions.

PROBLEM No. 112.

By J. JORDAN.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

The invitation of the Yokohama Chess Club issued to the Tokyo Chess Club for a return match, has been accepted and the time is fixed for Friday, 30th instant. This will be held in Yokohama at the Yokohama Chess Club rooms in Main Street, and there will probably be ten or more players a side.

The contest for the Championship in the local club is completed up to the final round. Messrs. Balk and Schiff being the two survivors who have to enter the final lists. The Tournament, which should have been finished on 28th ult., still hangs fire; we trust the players will wake up and not allow this tourney to collapse as it did last spring.

Chess does not always flourish even in large cities. A note reaches us from a big place in the States, said to contain over a quarter of a million inhabitants, to the following effect:—

"On October 23rd (1893) we, actually after much struggling and hunting around, started a Chess Club here. But I am afraid it is no go. We cannot get the members to attend nor to pay their dues: and it is impossible to run a Club under such circumstances."

We should think so indeed! Why we manage better than that in our little village. Surely the financial panic or trouble of last year must have been the exceptional cause of such a state of things: and we hope that long ere this the new born Club has improved all round.

We reprint a fine game in which the old Chess Wizard had to strike his flag for once.

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(EVANS GAMBIT.)

WHITE. Kölisch.	BLACK. Anderssen.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to B 4	3—B to B 4
4—P to Q Kt 4	4—B × Kt P
5—P to B 3	5—B to R 4
6—P to Q 4	6—P × P
7—Castles	7—P × P
8—Q to Kt 3	8—Q to B 3
9—P to K 5	9—Q to Kt 3
10—Kt × P	10—P to Kt 4
11—Kt × P	11—R to Kt sq.
12—Q to K 3	12—K Kt to K 2
13—Q to K 2	13—Q to R 4
14—B to R 3	14—B to Kt 2
15—Q R to Q sq	15—Kt to B 4
16—R × P!	

A most brilliant combination, involving further sacrifices against the greatest player of the time.

	16—K × R
17—P to K 6! ch	17—K to B sq.

.....If 17—P x P: 18—Q x P ch, K to Q sq.: 19—R to Q sq. ch., Kt to Q 3; 20—Kt x Kt winning.

18—P × P	18—B to R sq.
19—Kt × P ch.	19—Kt × Kt
20—Q to K 6 ch.	20—K to Q sq.

.....If K to Kt 2: 21—B or Q mates.

21—R to Q sq. ch.	21—Kt to Q 3
22—R × Kt ch.	22—P × R
23—Q × P ch.	23—K to B sq.
24—B to K 6 ch.	24—K to Kt 2
25—B to Q 5 ch.	25—Q × B

If.....25 K to B sq.; 26—Q to B 5 ch., etc. Or if.....25—Kt to B 3: 26—Q x Kt ch., K to R 2: 27—P to B5 ch. R to Kt 3; (if 27 B to Kt 3: 28—Q to R 4 mate) 28—Q to B 7 ch., K to R 3: 29—B to B 4 ch., R to Kt 4: 30—Q to R 7 mate.

26—Q × Q ch.	26—K to R 3

..... Any other move would have had no better result.

27—Q to B 4 ch.	27—K to Kt 2
28—Q to K 4 ch.	28—Kt to B 3
29—Kt to K 5	29—K to R 3
30—Q to B 4 ch	30—K to R 2
31—B to B 5 ch.	31—R to Kt 3
32—B × R ch	32—B × B
33—Kt × Kt ch.	33—B × Kt
34—Q × B	34—Resigns.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 22.

It is stated that Lord Landsdowne, the ex-Viceroy of India, will probably be appointed Ambassador to St. Petersburg, in succession to the late Sir Robert Morier.

The German Government, perceiving the effects of the depreciation of silver upon German trade, has appointed a Commission in order to ascertain whether or how the value of silver can be raised and maintained.

London, February 26.

A naval expedition sent from H.M.S. *Raleigh* against the slave trading chiefs near Bathurst—[bordering the Gambia river, West coast of Africa]—suffered a reverse. Three officers were killed, and ten men; six subaltern officers and fifty-four men were wounded. A field piece and six thousand rounds of ammunition were lost. Reinforcements are being sent.

[SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, February 17.

The colonial party in the House of Commons has received a deputation from the Straits Settlements protesting against the military contribution, and promised to raise a debate upon the subject at the first opportunity.

February 19.

The House of Commons continues to reject by large majorities the amendments made by the House of Lords in the Parish Councils' Bill, the Liberal Unionists supporting the Government.

Sir Edward Grey, speaking in the House of Commons, stated that the delimitation of the Upper Meikong was postponed till the autumn owing to climatic reasons.

A steam pipe exploded during the speed-trial at Kiel of the German ironclad *Brandenburg*, and forty-one men were killed and seven injured.

Yellow fever is raging upon the foreign men-of-war in Rio harbour.

February 20.

Three thousand persons assembled yesterday in Trafalgar Square to protest against the action of the House of Lords in regard to the Parish Councils Bill. Many Liberal members of Parliament spoke, and it was resolved that the Government be advised to insist upon the restoration of the deleted clauses. The meeting urged the abolition of the House of Lords.

February 21.

The German Emperor has visited Prince Bismarck at Friedricksruhe, where he dined. The meeting was most cordial.

Mr. Asquith, the Home Secretary, has stated that the Government is ready to cōoperate with foreign Powers to ensure the effective watching of the Anarchists. He deprecated the amendment of the law in the direction of empowering the expulsion of suspects.

February 22.

Another bomb outrage has been perpetrated in Paris resulting in many persons being injured.

Mr. Gladstone has announced in the House of Commons that the Employers Liability Bill has been dropped, the amendments made by the House of Lords having poisoned the bill.

The House of Commons has finished the discussion of the amendments made by the House of Lords in the Parish Councils' Bill.

February 23.

The majority of the amendments made by the Lords, in the Parish Councils Bill, have been rejected.

Great Britain, France, Italy, and Austria strongly advise Morocco to comply with the demands of Spain.

The French Chamber of Deputies have adopted a duty upon corn at the rate of seven francs per hectolitre. It is stated that Russia has sent a diplomatic note to France intimating that if through the increase of the French corn-duties the export of Russian cereals be disturbed, Russia will terminate the commercial treaty with France.

The financial statement of the Italian Government shows a deficit of a hundred and twenty-seven million *lire*. It is proposed to raise fresh taxes to the amount of one hundred million *lire*. The new tariff bill is still before the finance committee of the Senate.

[FROM MANILA PAPERS.]

Madrid, February 10.

The amount demanded by Martinez Campos as war indemnity is now said with a certainty to be twenty million pesetas. The amount has been discussed at the interviews, also the period and form in which it shall be effected.

February 15.

General Martinez Campos is still in friendly interview with the Sultan of Morocco.

The extremes in the diplomatic note are being settled; the indemnity question being the only one to be decided according to the reply to Campos' consulation with the Government.

The circulation of Philippine coins is probibited at Morocco by a decree of the Sultan.

February 16.

The Council of Ministers has been convoked on account of serious difficulty created by the refusal of the Navarra deputies to deal with the Government on the alteration of the economic arrangement as provided for by law.

(FROM TONKIN PAPERS.)

Paris, February 10.

Mr. Carnot has recovered.

A telegram from the Governor of Senegal gives a rumour that a light column has been surprised by Touaregs at some distance from Timbuctoo. Details are not to hand.

Later.

Colonel Bonnier, with a portion of the column, left Timbuctoo on the 12th January to make a reconnaissance. The Touaregs succeeded in effecting a night surprise whilst the column was sleeping when three days' march from Timbuctoo. A portion of the column regained Timbuctoo, but Colonel Bonnier, eight officers, two European sergeants, and seventy native troops are missing. The town of Timbuctoo is put in a state of defence.

February 11.

M. Casimir-Perier has announced to the Chamber that he had ordered immediate reinforcements to Timbuctoo. He would send some Algerian reinforcements if necessary. France, he added, will retain Timbuctoo, after such an incident.

The Chamber of Deputies has voted, by 362 votes against 166, the Order of the Day pure and simple accepted by the Cabinet in response to the Socialist interpellation on the closure of the Labourer's Club.

A cyclone at Diego Suarez has caused serious destruction.

A fourth battalion of Soudanese tirailleurs has been levied.

Three hundred men of the Foreign Legion are ready to start for the Soudan should it be necessary.

Saigon, February 12.

The following is the result of the elections for three French members to the Colonial Council:—MM. Cuniac, 533 votes; Lamouroux, 449; Paris, 393; Guasco, 260; and Monceaux, 199. In consequence, MM. Cuniac, Lamouroux, and Paris are elected.

Paris, February 13.

An Anarchist named Lebreton last night threw a bomb into the cafe "Terminus," near the Western Railway Station. Twenty persons were injured. Lebreton ran off, firing a revolver amongst the crowd. He shot two of the passers-by, but was ultimately arrested.

February 14.

The identity of Lebreton has been established. His name is Henry, and he was born in Barcelona of French parents, and he came last from London. He had been under observation as an Anarchist since his return to Paris in January.

February 15.

It is said that Henry left London in company with several other Anarchists to avenge Vaillant.

Three hundred men of the Foreign Legion leave on the 21st February for the Soudan.—*Daily Press.*

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Utsunomiya, Feb. 27, 3.26 p.m.

A supporter of Mr. Yokobori fired a pistol at a Radical at Yokogawa-mura in Kawachi District, but without any serious result. A Yokobori partisan has been severely wounded at Tsuruda.

Okayama, Feb. 27.

Mr. Yamadani Torazo, a candidate in the Seventh Election District, has been arrested on suspicion of having instigated his supporters to behave in a riotous manner.

Akita, Feb. 27, 8.48 p.m.

Mr. Okubo, a candidate in the 1st district, has brought a case against Mr. Meguro Teijiro and others for bribery.

Nagoya, Feb. 27, 8.15 p.m.

Mr. Suzuki Rinzo, ex-M.P. for the 11th district, has been assaulted by a Radical *soshi*, who is now under arrest.

Uwajima, Feb. 28, 9.10 a.m.

The villagers of Tada-mura discharged firearms and wounded a constable and four residents. A large number of *soshi*, who are assembling at Nagagawa, are armed with pistols and swords. A party of miners who arrived from Nishiura-gun are provided with weapons.

Mito, Feb. 28, 10.46 a.m.

Nakamura, chief compositor at the *Ibaraki Jiyu* Office, has decamped with important pieces of the machinery. He is supposed to have been instigated by opponents to interrupt the publication of the paper. The *Jiyu* Office has brought an action against Mr. Imura and four others.

Utsunomiya, Feb. 28, 2.40 p.m.

Soshi belonging to the parties of Mr. Hoshi and Mr. Yokobori engaged in a fight at Sugatagawa-mura, Kawachi-gun, this morning, and three Yokobori men and one Hoshi adherent were injured.

Gifu, Feb. 28, 9.06 a.m.

A telegraphic message has reached here to the effect that a supporter of Mr. Sugishita, committed suicide at Kibugawa-mura upon being detected in bribery.

Nagano, Feb. 28, 4.28 p.m.

Mr. Orita Shoshi, a candidate, has been arrested on a charge of bribery.

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Utsunomiya, Feb. 28, 5.40 p.m.

Legal proceedings have been instituted by the Chief Public Procurator and the Superintendent of Police against the *Kanto*, the organ of Mr. Hoshi. Ten Hoshi *soshi* and five Yokobori youths have been arrested in connection with the disturbance at Makuta-mura.

Urawa, March 1, 11 a.m.

A Radical *soshi* named Kanazawa Yoshitsugu, accompanied by some thirty five others armed with weapons, were prevented by the police from passing into Yokomi-gun. The leader of the party was on horse-back. The police confiscated all the weapons and scattered the *soshi*.

Takata, March 2, 1.07 p.m.

A serious fight took place in the 8th district of this Prefecture between *Kaishin-to* and the *Jiyu-to* adherents. A large number of *soshi* took part in the fight, and many persons were injured on both sides.

Nagano, March 1, 5.56 p.m

A number of *soshi* of the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to* created a disturbance in the 2nd district and four were more or less severely wounded.

Fukuoka, March 1, 6.59 p.m.

Over three hundred Unionists assembled in the 5th district, and were dispersed by the police. One hundred and fifty Unionists assaulted Radical supporters at Nishi-muta in Mio-gun. Other Unionist throngs have been despersed and their weapons confiscated.

Morioka, March 1, 8.40 p.m.

Some thirty *soshi* met at Mashiro-mura, but were dispersed by the police. At Akazawa in the 1st district votes were stolen by the Uyeda wing. The police are endeavouring to recover them.

Niigata, March 1, 10.40 p.m.

Thirteen *Kaishin-to soshi* have been arrested for having intimidated opponents, and thirteen others are detained on a charge of bribery.

Nagano, March 2, 6.05 a.m.

A village headman and forty-three residents of the 4th district are being prosecuted for having received bribes.

Shizuoka, March 2, 4.05 p.m.

A vehicle, carrying the Tamaho-mura, Sunto-gun, ballot-box to the main voting-station, was accidently overturned into the Sakai river, and the Headman in charge killed. The police constables and election committee were more or less severely wounded.

Gifu, March 2, 3.55 p.m.

Thirty supporters of Mr. Kishi Kosaburo, of the 2nd district, are being proceeded against in the law Courts.

Takata, March 2, 1 p.m.

During a fight in the 8th district sixteen Progressionists and seven Radicals were injured, some very seriously.

Kobe, March 2,

H.I.H. Prince Arisugawa left for Tokyo to-day.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Mar. 9th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 8th.*
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 4th.†
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 18th.‡
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 10th.
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Mar. 19th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, Mar. 21st
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 29th.

* *Peru* left San Francisco on February 17th. † *Calédonien* left Shanghai on February 27th. ‡ *Oceanic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on February 27th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 4th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Mar. 6th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 10th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 10th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 17th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 20th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Sunday, Mar. 23rd.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 24th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, Mar. 30th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 24th February,—Otaru viâ ports, 20th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 24th February,—Yokkaichi 23rd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Umbrina, British schooner, 98, C. Campbell, 24th February,—Victoria, B.C., 31 Seal Skins.—Captain.

Louis Olsen, American schooner, 56, R. F. Guilliams, 24th February,—Astoria, Oregon 1st January, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Mermaid, British schooner, 73, W. H. Whiteley, 24th February,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 24th February,—Kobe 23rd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 25th February,—Hongkong 16th, Nagasaki 20th, and Kobe 23rd February, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Allie J. Algar, American schooner, 80, Geo. Wester, 25th February,—Seattle, Wash., Sealing Gear.—Captain.

City of San Diego, British schooner, 46, M. Pike, 25th February,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Oscar and Hattie, British schooner, 82, Theo. Magnasen, 25th February,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 25th February,—Yokkaichi 24th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Teucer, British steamer, 1,802, 26th February,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 26th February,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Oka.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, Shimadzu, 26th February,—Hakodate 24th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 26th February,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., 7th February, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 26th February,—Kobe 25th February, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 27th February,—Yokkaichi 26th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, Wm. H. Walker, 27th February,—San Francisco 8th February, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Baltimore (14), U.S. flagship, Captain W. R. Bridgmann, 27th February,—Yokosuka 27th February.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 27th February,—Bonin Islands, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompson, 27th February,—Otaru viâ ports 23rd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 27th February,—Kobe 26th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 28th February,—Yokkaichi 27th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Beatrice, British schooner, 48, A. J. Bjerre, 28th February,—Put Back, 24 Seals.—Captain.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 28th February,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 1st March,—Hongkong viâ ports, 21st February, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

E. B. Marvin, British schooner, J. C. Harris, 1st March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 1st March,—Yokkaichi 28th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 1st March,—Kobe 28th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Spondilus, British steamer, 2,050, Hocken, 2nd March,—Batoum via Kobe, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Marion (7), U.S. corvette, Captain C. V. Gridley, 2nd March,—Put Back.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 2nd March,—Shanghai and ports 24th February, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, W. B. Seabury, 2nd March,—Hongkong viâ ports 23rd February, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Bow Head, American schooner, 103, Noyes, 2nd March,—San Francisco, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Libby, British schooner, 96, Haggert, 2nd March,—Victoria, B.C., 24 Seals.—Captain.

Otto, British schooner, 86, J. McLeod, 2nd March,—Victoria, B.C., 8th January, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Vera, British schooner, 62, B. Shields, 2nd March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Viva, British schooner, 99, R. Anderson, 2nd March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Frazar & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Sydney, French steamer, 3,450, Augé, 24th February,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, Matsumoto, 24th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 704, Yoshizawa, 24th February,—Oginohama, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, Hugo Walter, 25th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Dora Seiwerd, British schooner, 93, F. Cole, 25th February,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 25th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 26th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 26th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 26th February,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saint Oswald, British steamer, 1,781, Alltreete, 26th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Charles E. Moody, American ship, 1,915, R. L. Leonard, 27th February,—New York viâ Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 27th February,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 27th February,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 27th February,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, Shimadzu, 27th February,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 27th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 27th February,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Oka.

Lawang, German steamer, 1,578, Von Binger, 27th February,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Agnes MacDonald, British schooner, 107, M. Cutler, 28th February,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Oscar and Hattie, British schooner, 82, Theo. Magnesen, 28th February,—Tokyo to Dock, Ballast.—Captain.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 28th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Formosa, British steamer, 2,616, E. P. Bishop, 28th February,—Marseilles viâ ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, Wm. H. Walker, 1st March,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Teucer, British steamer, 1,802, J. Riley, 1st March,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 1st March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 1st March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 1st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mattie T. Dyer, American schooner, 103, C. E. Mockler, 2nd March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 2nd March,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 2nd March,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 2nd March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 2nd March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 3rd March,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Miss M. Shimizu, Mr. K. Shimizu, and Mr. K. Chiuya in cabin, and 49 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Kobe:—1 passenger in second class, and 29 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—His Excellency Hugh Fraser, H.B.M. Minister to Japan, Mrs. Fraser and maid, Miss Von Rabe, Mr. and Mrs. Borton, Miss Alice Gadsby, Miss Bernstingle, Messrs. P. B. Pol, E. Hunt, J. C. Hartland, C. H. Lightfoot, F. E. Wilkinson, and A. R. Collins in cabin.

Per British steamer *Mogul*, from Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—Messrs. W. G. Norris, R. Van Bergen, E. Van Bergen, and S. Sawatari in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from San Francisco:—Mrs. J. H. Denig, Master Robert Denig, Miss Grazia Denig, Mr. Maurice Harris, Miss Elsie Harris, Miss Eva Harris, Mr. Raymond Pollak, Mr. A. J. McDonell, and Mr. A. O. Becker in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. G. A. Forsaith and Mr. E. V. Kellett in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. C. J. Kenahow, Mr. H. Archer, Surgeon-Major Nicholson, Mr. Brooke, Miss E. M. Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Buchanan, Miss Hyslop, Miss Graves, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hewett, Mr. W. T. Payne, and Mr. W. W. Brown in cabin; 3 passengers in second class, and 277 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Petersen, Mrs. Pender, Miss Donald, Miss Howarth, Miss Palmer, Rev. Lettort, Messrs. W. B. Walter, S. Oki, Fukui, Lang Pug Chun, C. N. Crosse, and Captain and Mrs. H. duBuisson in cabin; Mrs. Ah Ling and child, and Mr. T. Tashiro in second class, and 24 passengers in steerage. For America: Mr. Petersen in cabin, and Mr. C. H. Newman in second class.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Bunting in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Messrs. L. Salabelle, F. Lyon, W. Arndt, Frank G. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Ah Sing and infant, Mr. C. Zemmer, General Oku, Colonel Y. Odera, Colonel H. Inouye, Messrs. Dubuffet, Tsuneyoshi Tadamichi, Hayashi Taro, Okushi, Hashime Oda, T. Yoshikawa, J. T. Hamilton and servant, and Mr. and Mrs. Turner Stoddart in cabin.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Dr. and Mrs. Dudley and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Bull, Mrs. Gielen, Mr. P. de Groote, and Mr. K. Arito in cabin; 25 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco:—Messrs. Geo. Ashley, C. E. Chapman, E. C. Fearon, T. G. Gowland, M. H. R. Harris, John Laird, William Laird, Le Se Chang, E. Marshall, B. Schake, C. A. Spigel, and Henry St. Clair in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss Richards, Miss Hennessy, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Nakamigawa, Rev. J. Williams, Messrs. C. Holm, W. B. Walter, V. Kostileff, Chun Kai Ping, Y. Fukuzawa, J. Fukuzawa, S. Fukuzawa, and Oguri in cabin; Mrs. Goto, Messrs. T. Tao, Takano, and Nishikata in second class, and 43 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. L. Brooke, Mr. J. R. Freme, Miss Graves, Mrs. Hewitt, Miss E. Hulbert, Mr. H. Hulbert, Miss Hyslop, Mr. C. S. G. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Matthews, Major Nicolson, Mr. W. T. Payne, Mr. S. W. Radcliffe, Dr. Turnbull, R.N., Mrs. Turnbull, Miss Turnbull, Miss E. L. Turnbull, Mr. H. S. Waldo, and Mr. E. J. Whitfield in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Charles Freeman, Mr. J. C. Medd, Mr. and Mrs. J. Davis, Mr. R. Wolcott, Mr. C. G. L. Kipling, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. H. Grove, Mr. T. H. Wilson, and Mr. E. Braess in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France, 95 bales; Waste Silk for France, 109 bales. Treasure for London: $4,414; for Shanghai, $6,000.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 159 bales.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	—	—	—	115	—	115
Colombo	—	—	—	95	—	93
Amoy	—	—	9,679	—	—	9,679
Calcutta	—	—	—	47	—	47
Foochow	91	—	—	175	—	266
Shanghai	—	—	66	—	—	66
Nagasaki	923	—	—	—	—	923
Hyogo	50	—	347	—	—	397
Yokohama	331	—	—	—	—	331
Total	1,395	—	10,092	430	—	11,917

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	45	—	45
Yokohama	442	—	442
Total	487	—	487

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 513 bales; Waste Silk, 152 bales.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Belgic*, Captain Walker, reports:—Left San Francisco the 8th February at 3.33 p.m.; had variable winds and weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 27th February at 3.42 p.m. Time, 18 days, 6 hours, and 41 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, Captain Sommer, reports:—Left Kobe the 26th February at noon; had light north-north-easterly winds and fine, clear weather to Oshima; thence moderate north-westerly winds to Rock Island; thence to port moderate N.E. winds and fine, clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 27th February at 3.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain R. Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 24th February at 1.30 p.m.; had light easterly and N.E. winds and fine, clear weather up to approaching Goto Islands; thence fresh N.W. gale and continued clear weather up to arrival at Nagasaki the 26th at 5.20 a.m. Left Nagasaki the same day at 5 p.m.; had fresh northerly and N.E. gale and moderate sea up to arrival at Shimonoseki the 27th at 7.40 a.m. Left Shimonoseki the same day at 12.30 p.m.; had moderate north easterly winds and fine, clear weather through whole of Inland Sea, arriving at Kobe the 28th at 9.20 a.m. Left Kobe the 1st March at noon; had moderate easterly and S.E. winds and clear weather up to passing Oshima at 9 p.m.; thence light variable winds and dull, cloudy weather with occasional light showers up to arrival at Yokohama the 2nd March at 5 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

A blank week in Yarns and Piece Goods. The further drop in exchange has frightened both sellers and buyers out of the market, and there has not been a sale for days past. We leave quotations unchanged: but they are quite nominal, and must remain so until exchange shows a tendency to settle itself at some figure or other.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.30 to 2.80
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.40 to 3.15
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.60 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.40 to 8.75
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 12 3 inches	0.65 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.47½ to 1.57½
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.62½ to 1.95
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.27½ to 2.67½
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.85 to 3.10

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.25 to 0.30
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.20 to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.14 to 0.19½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 4½ lb. per lb.	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	$36.50 to —
Nos. 16/24, Medium	37.00 to 37.50
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	38.00 to 38.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	39.50 to —
Nos. 28/32, Medium	38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	39.00 to 40.50
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	45.00 to 46.50
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 43.50
No. 42s, Two-fold	48.75 to 51.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

The decline in exchange has paralysed this market also: and for the time being there is nothing doing. Prices irregular, and it is impossible to give reliable quotations.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$4.50 to 4.60
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	4.60 to 4.70
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.45 to 3.55
Iron Plates, assorted	3.55 to 3.65
Sheet Iron	4.60 to 4.80
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	5.60 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.65

KEROSENE.

Holders have given way slightly in price and thus induced a few transactions. The market has since hardened a bit and the outlook is less mournful than it was a short time ago.

Chester	$1.82½ to 1.85
Comet	1.80 to 1.82½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.80 to 1.82½
Russian Moon	1.77½ to 1.80

SUGAR.

Browns.—Recent arrivals from Hongkong have nearly all been sold, leaving on hand (unsold) about 2,500 piculs only. Prices unchanged from last rate.

White.—A fair business at recent quotations.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.55 to 4.60
Brown Manila	5.25 to 5.30
Brown Daitong	4.20 to 4.30
Brown Canton	4.40 to 4.60
White Java and Penang	7.00 to 7.10
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 23rd ultimo, since which date settlements on this market are 1,320 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 835 piculs; *Reereels*, 284 piculs; *Kakeda*, 201 piculs. Besides these purchases, direct shipments have been 102 bales, making the total business of the week 1,420 piculs.

There seems to have been a sudden accession of enquiry from some quarters, and shippers have been tempted (apparently by the low rate of exchange ruling) to transfer some more of the stock to the other side. General accounts from consuming markets still remain very dull and gloomy, with very low prices there. It would seem as though manufacturers expected to buy cheaper still, and the outlook is not reassuring. Meantime, holders have succeeded in getting higher prices for some kinds of silk, especially *Filatures*, *Reereels* and *Kakeda* suitable for the United States trade.

Arrivals from the interior have been very small and the stock list is down to 12,000 piculs. It seems undoubted that there is a large quantity of silk, reeled and unreeled, in the interior yet to come forward; but holders appear to take little account of this, and certainly the low exchange rates now ruling do permit buyers to pay high prices in Mexican dollars, so that holders, while they complain strongly, are not really so badly off.

Exchange has dropped yet further from the very low rates of last week, but closes a trifle above the lowest point touched.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the French, American, and German mails all taking cargo. The S.S. *Sydney*, 24th ultimo, had 95 bales for France; the *Gaelic*, same date, carried 823 bales for New York, and the *Nuernberg*, 25th ultimo, had 159 bales for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 32,154 piculs against 43,250 piculs last year, and 39,623 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—No supplies; no stock; no business; no quotations.

Filatures.—More than half of the trade of the week has been done in this class and prices have been more or less irregular. Silks suitable for New York have had the most patronage and prices have varied considerably; the same chop—*Tokosha*—bringing $790 for summer reelings, while winter reelings have been done at $50 less. One small parcel of *Rokkosha* brought $815 and other chops at proportionate prices. In European sorts, not very much has been done, although several parcels have been taken into godown with a view of making ends meet between holders and consumers. Good quality *Goshu* have been done at $770, with various other grades from $750 to $700.

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Re-reels.—These have been advanced for the better grades, and $780 has been freely paid for Good *Joshu*; Fair *Joshu*, $740; Medium, $700; Common, $670; *Bushu* sorts, $670 and $660.

Kakeda.—Considerable business herein, both for New York and for Europe, prices being worked up as exchange declined. The last sales entered were *Daruma*, $735, *Horsehead I*, $710; *Horsehead II*, $680, with equal chops at equal prices.

In other sorts, nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers ..... Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers ..... Nom.	$850 to 860
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	810 to 820
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	820 to 830
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	730 to 740
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	730 to 740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1 ..... Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	780 to 790
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	740 to 750
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	710 to 720
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	670 to 680
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	650 to 660
Kakedas—Extra ..... Nom.	770 to 780
Kakedas—No. 1	735 to 745
Kakedas—No. 1½	710 to 715
Kakedas—No. 2	680 to 690
Kakedas—No. 2½	660 to 670
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2 ..... Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4 ..... Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 2nd March 1894.—

		Season 1893-1894. Bales.	1893-93. Bales.	1891-92. Bales.
Europe		17,189	16,501	14,054
America		13,986	25,983	24,662
Total	Bales	31,175	42,484	38,716
	Piculs	32,154	43,250	39,623
		Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July		33,400	43,600	40,590
Stock, 2nd March		12,000	2,300	9,460
Available supplies to date		45,400	45,900	50,050

WASTE SILK.

Business in this branch has been small, total settlements for the week being 300 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 45 piculs; *Kibiso*, 230 piculs; *Neri*, 25 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

There is very little enquiry and buyers offer low prices. These are not accepted by holders who seem to think that with a low exchange shippers can afford to pay fabulous prices in *yen* for anything they may require. The consequence is, the trade is much curtailed, and, above all, we do not get encouraging news from consuming markets. Probably before the month is out, buyers and sellers will meet and some business be done.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The S.S. *Sydney*, 24th Feb., took 109 bales for Europe and the *Nuernberg*, 25th ultimo, had 225 bales for the same destination. These departures make the present export figures 21,217 piculs against 32,058 piculs last year and 25,339 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—A very small business, principally in *Oshu* rejections, costing $65 per picul. One or two sample bales of *Sanshu* at $115.

Kibiso.—A fair trade in *Filatures*, prices ranging from $90 to $105, according to quality. *Sendai*, $70; *Zaguri*, $50 down to $40, according to grade.

Sundries.—After a very long interval, there has been a settlement in *Neri*, price reported, $15.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to 110
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 2nd March, 1894.—

	Season 1893-94. Piculs.	1892-93. Piculs.	1891-92. Piculs.
Waste Silk	17,986	29,366	23,244
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,095
	21,217	32,058	25,339
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	22,300	36,900	26,750
Stock, 2nd March	17,600	5,600	11,000
Available supplies to date	39,900	42,500	37,750

Exchange has fallen again but closes a fraction above the lowest point reached. LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/0¾; Documents, 2/0¾; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $50¼; 4m/s. U.S. $51. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.61; 6m/s. fcs. 2.63.

Estimated Silk Stock, 2nd March, 1894.—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	10	Cocoons	250
Filatures	6,750	Noshi-ito	8,810
Re-reels	3,960	Kibiso	8,070
Kakeda	1,230	Mawata	150
Oshu	10	Sundries	320
Taysaam Kinds	40		
Total piculs	12,000	Total piculs	17,600

TEA.

Small business as before. Tasters will soon be looking for garden musters of New Crop as the mild winter should bring on an early spring. Settlements for the season to date are just about on a par with last year; the exact figures being 227,150 piculs against 227,000 piculs at same date in 1893.

	Per picul.
Common	$12 to 13
Good Common	14 to 15
Medium	17 to 18
Good Medium	19 to 20
Fine	22 to 23
Finest, Choice, Choicest	Nominal.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange is still falling and shows no signs of near recovery.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	1/11⅝
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	1/11¾
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/0⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2.48
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2 56
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	½ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73½
On India—Bank sight	177
On India—Private 30 days' sight	180
On America—Bank Bills on demand	47⅝
On America—Private 30 days' sight	49¼
On America—Private 4 months' sight	50¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.00
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.08
Bar Silver (London)	27¼

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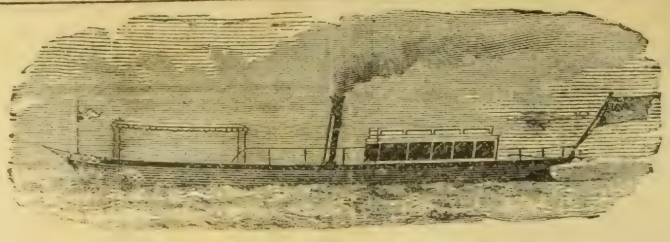
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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH, 1894.

BIRTH.

At No. 17, Hikawa-cho, Akasaka, Tokyo, on the 8th inst., the wife of JOHN R. BIRKELUND of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

ON the 3rd. March, at Christ Church, Yokohama, Japan, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., HENRY CHARLES LITCHFIELD, of Yokohama, Barrister-at-law, to ALICE MARY, eldest daughter of the late John Gadsby, Esq., of Derby.

DEATH.

On March 9th, 1894, at Sanko-zaka, Tokyo, FUMI ALEXANDER, eldest son of K. Sonoda, Esq., Manager of the Specie Bank, Yokohama, aged 11 years. The funeral will leave the house for S. Andrew's Church at 1 p.m. on Monday.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE *Yoshino-kan* has arrived at Kure, all well.

THE next session of the Diet is expected to last for about twenty-five or thirty days.

THE sealing schooner *Worlock* is to be sold to satisfy the claims of local creditors.

MR. HOSHI TORU is the probable *Jiyu-to* candidate for the Presidency of the new Lower House.

Two fires occurred in Tokyo on the 3rd inst., and each resulted in the loss of human life—in both cases men.

Mr. H. C. LITCHFIELD, Crown Prosecutor in H.B.M.'s Court for Japan, was married on Saturday to Miss Gadsby, of Derby.

A SMALL fire, supposed to be of incendiary origin, occurred at No. 118, Settlement, on Thursday morning.

A NEW road is contemplated by the Tokyo City Improvements Committee. It will be cut through the district lying between Miyake-zaka and the Akasaka Palace.

OVER one thousand electors abstained from exercising the franchise in the Second District of Okayama. The total number of electors is about 1,600, of whom only 478 voted for Mr. Higasa Tsunetaro, the successful candidate, and 110 for Mr. Nakayama Hiroshi.

THERE has been a decided fall in the temperature this week; the weather has been tempestuous, with heavy snow on Thursday.

THE finances of the Yokohama General Cemetery are in a flourishing condition, over $4,000 being now on deposit in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

THE *Kagawa Shimpo*, the *Jiyu Shimpo*, the *Fukuryo Shimpo*, the *Doyo Shimpo*, the *Hokkai Minsei* and the *Chiugoku* were suspended on the 5th instant.

SPECIAL commemorative medals have been struck for presentation to guests invited to the Palace for the celebration banquet and entertainment on the 9th inst.

MR. OGOSHI SEITOKU, Japanese Consul at Shanghai, has been commissioned to take charge of Consular business at Foochow, Hankow, Taiwan, Tamsui, and Kiukiang.

TOKYO was crowded on Friday by folk anxious to take part in, or witness, the Silver Wedding celebration festivities. The weather was wet and miserable to a degree.

A VENERABLE couple residing at Matsuye, celebrate their 73rd wedding-day this year. Occasion has therefore been taken by the neighbours to give an entertainment in their honour on the 9th.

Two Buddhist temples, the Tesshu-ji, and the Ryogen-ji, in Shitaya, Tokyo, were destroyed by fire on the 2nd inst. The former was built by the late Yamaoka Tetsutaro, and contained many valuable articles, which are all lost.

SUPERINTENDENT Kipling, late of the Yokohama Fire Brigade, died on Sunday afternoon during the voyage between Kobe and Yokohama. Death was due to syncope, the result of alcoholism. Deceased was on his way home to England.

ONE of the most exciting contests in the general election took place in the Eleventh Election District of Aichi Prefecture, the rendezvous of an exceptionally large number of *soshi*. About one thousand were employed by the *Jiyu-to* and a little over three hundred by the *Kaishin-to*. During the night of the 28th ult. three fires were caused by incendiaries at Tomioka, but were almost immediately put out. One school building was, unfortunately, burnt. The Radical *soshi* are charged with having set fire to the premises. Parties of about one hundred *Jiyu-to soshi* were sent to every important centre, and prevented Opposition electors from going to the polls. At one o'clock in the morning the Radical *soshi* attacked the quarters of their opponents at Tamagawa, Yatsuna-gun, using drawn swords, and a fight naturally ensued. The electors of the latter village were guarded by *soshi* when they proceeded to the voting-station.

NEARLY all political parties experienced losses through the non-return of influential members to the Lower House. The *Jiyu-to* lost Messrs. Suzuki Shoji, Matsuda Masahisa, and Okada Koroku, while Messrs. Hadano Denzaburo, Maruyama Meisei, and Tachiiri Kiichi, of the *Kaishin-to*, were defeated, and Messrs. Nishikawa Giyen, Osuga Gosuke, Hayashida Takuro and Tsuno Risuke, of the *Domei* Club, were equally unsuccessful. The *O-gumi* failed to have their representatives, Messrs. Iimura Gozaburo, Mori, and Morimoto, re-elected, but these losses are in a measure compensated by the return of Mr. Oi Kentaro. The National Union met with exceedingly bad fortune in the defeat of Messrs. Igarashi Rikisuke, Hayakawa Ryusuke, Ota Minoru, Ono Ryusuke, Katsuki Jokyo, Maki Bokushin, Kuroda Tsunahiko, Aoyama Hogara, and Tsubota Shigeru. The defeat of Mr. Abei Iwane is a great blow to the *Isekan-gumi*. Of the Independents Messrs. Watanabe Koki, Ugai Ikujiro, Konishi Jinnosuke, and Yoshioka Ibumaro failed in their attempts to be returned.

THE most important news from Europe is the resignation of Mr. Gladstone of the Premiership of the British Cabinet. H.M. the Queen immediately sent for Lord Rosebery, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the latter has formed a Cabinet, merely redistributing the most important posts among members of the old Cabinet. Signor Crispi has startled the world generally by declaring, in the Italian Chamber, that the recent revolution in Sicily was the result of a conspiracy hatched in France. The conspirators relied upon the outbreak of a continental war initiated by Russia, which country intended to cede the Sicilian ports to the other. The rising was fixed for the middle of February, but the Government got wind of the affair and frustrated the step. According to an Admiralty despatch with regard to the repulsed Bathurst Expedition, it appears that the enemy attacked the sailors from the thick cover while the latter were waiting for their boats. All hands behaved with greatest gallantry and coolness, the officers setting a splendid example to their men. A private telegram received in Shanghai from Calcutta, states that the Indian Government has introduced a Bill imposing a five per cent. import duty upon all imports except gold and cotton goods.

A SOMEWHAT large trade has been done this week in Yarns and Mousselines, buyers finding that they must have some and consequently agreeing to pay the advanced prices prevailing of late. All else is quiet, with quotations showing an upward tendency. Very little is doing in Metals, buyers being strong in their asseverations that they cannot pay the prices Importers now demand. The Kerosene market is steady, holders having lightened stocks by some sales which took place last month "to arrive," and which have only just been reported. In Sugars, Browns show some decline, arrivals having exceeded sales, and up-country merchants being less keen to buy. The Tea season is practically finished now, and nothing is likely to be done until the fresh musters come to hand. Business has still further fallen off in Raw Silk, due to several causes, principal among which is the strengthening exchange, dubious news from consuming centres, and the firmness of Japanese holders. Recent business, it would seem, was largely speculative, shippers transfering to the other side at the ruling low export prices in expectation of the spring demand. The outlook is generally reported to be far from promising, Italy being a very strong competitor just at present. It is interesting to compare present quotations with those of a year ago, when prices for silk here were about $200 more than now; exchange also showing a depreciation to-day of quite 35% when compared with this day last year. These facts will speak for themselves. The low price of Raw is said to be interfering with the consumption of Waste, trade in which very dull, and the impression prevails among exporters that native holders must submit to a very great reduction in prices if they wish to see any sensible reduction in their heavy stocks; holders, however, do not see it in that light, and are holding out in sympathy with the Raw market.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Discussion of the results of the elections has been the principal feature in the columns of the vernacular press during the week, but the comments on this subject having been already reproduced separately, we need not refer to them in the present summary. Suffice it to state that, though victory is claimed by both sides, it really seems to belong to the side opposed to the illiberal and reactionary movement expressed by the famous Representation on Strict Treaty enforcement. It may also be stated that the most violent of the Opposition papers are unable to accuse the Government of any impartiality or negligence in the maintenance of order at the time of the elections. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, writing on this subject, justly commends the zeal and discretion manifested by the Local Authorities in carrying out the various laws and regulations relating to elections.

* * *

There being still elements of uncertainty in the composition of the new House of Representatives, it may be too early to attempt any forecasts of the situation in the coming session. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, however, makes such an attempt. It enunciates the opinion that in all probability the next session will not witness any serious collision between the Government and the Diet. Without counting Mr. Hoshi and several others who will vote with it, the Radical Party—observes the *Nichi Nichi*—commands 120 members, while the six allied parties aggregate 132. There may be some among the so-called Independents who will support the allied Opposition; and even supposing, which is very doubtful, that the forces are evenly divided, the opponents of the Radical Party labour under the disadvantage of being obliged to preserve harmony between several small groups of politicians, while the Radical Party can adapt its movements to the requirements of the moment with ease and promptitude. Thus, in the *Nichi Nichi's* opinion, there is every chance that the measures on which the six allied parties of the Opposition set their hearts in the late session of the Diet will be rejected by the new House of Representatives. With regard to the Supplementary Budget, there may be a difference of opinion between the Cabinet and the Radical Party. But, as the latter is not opposed to the completion of the country's defences, it will not hesitate to give its approval to official measures introduced with that aim. From these considerations, the *Nichi Nichi* is persuaded that no serious collision is likely to take place. Should the allied Opposition parties be able, however, to secure a majority in the new House, another dissolution—says the *Nichi Nichi*—will be inevitable. But at present there is no indication that the Opposition will have power to bring about such a critical state of things. Thus so far as the next session is concerned, the outlook is considered comparatively promising. But it does not in any way follow that the seventh session will be equally peaceful. There will then be a possibility of a serious conflict between the Government and the Radical Party on the subject of ordinary Administrative expenses. The Radical Party, which feels the taunt that it has surrendered to the clan Government, may be tempted to give a practical proof of its independence by leading a strong attack against the Cabinet. The *Nichi Nichi* warns those in power not to take too hopeful a view.

* * *

The *Nippon* has an interesting article on the situation. If the results of the elections be at all a faithful indication of the sentiments of the people, it must be confessed—says our contemporary—that the *Gen-kun* Cabinet has not entirely forfeited the confidence of the nation. According to the *Nippon's* calculation, the Ministerial party (by which our contemporary means the Radicals) is less than the Opposion by a little over ten in member. By skilful management, this difference may, in the *Nippon's* opinion, be remedied by the Government. Our contemporary then goes on to point out some of the devices that will be resorted to by the Government. First, the tacticians of the Cabinet will lose no time in making as many converts as possible among the Independents. Secondly, efforts will be inaugurated to unseat some of the Opposition members by legal process. Thirdly, the operation of conversion will be extended even to the motley camp of the Opposition, and the *Nippon* seems to think that such operations will not be wholly fruitless. Fourthly, essays will be made to shake the very foundation of the Opposition parties by raising the standard of progress and enlightenment. The *Nippon* seems to think that should the Radical Party propose the amalgamation of all progressive politicians under such a broad banner, great confusion would be created in the camp of the allied Opposition, for some of the parties composing it might be tempted to join the attractive standard. Fifthy, having by these means augmented their own forces, the Ministerialists will seek to surprise their enemies by bringing in, immediately after the opening of the session, a motion for calling the attention of the Cabinet to the speedy Revision of the Treaties. The Progressionists and others will find it very difficult to oppose such a motion, in view of the fact that they gave their approval to the Address on Treaty Revision passed in the fourth session. Sixthly and lastly, the Cabinet will follow up the success of the above mentioned manœuvre by introducing a measure concerning the completion of the defences of the country. To such a measure, the National Unionists and others would be at a loss to find any pretext for offering resistanee. Should these plans succeed, the present Cabinet, says the *Nippon*, would be able, nay it would be compelled, to remain in office for several years to come. The success of the Government means the creation of a subservient Diet, but such a state of things would, in the *Nippon's* opinion, necessarily open a way for the introduction of Government by Party.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* defends its Party against the charge of alliance with the Clan Government. It ascribes such rumour to the malicious envy of the Progressionists at the steadily increasing influence of the Radical party. "Cats and dogs," says the Radical organ, "may be reconciled to each other, but such a reconciliation is impossible between nationalism and individualism, between the upholders of aristocracy and the devoted advocates of the common people." It is the *Kaishin-to*—continues the Radical organ—and not the *Jiyu-to*, that is ever ready to ally itself with the Government, as is plainly shown by the history of the past ten years. When the Radicals were the object of merciless persecution by the Government, did not the *Kaishin-to* servilely flatter those in power and ridicule the oppressed party? The taunt of alliance thus comes with particularly bad grace from the *Kaishin-to*. The Radical organ then denies in the strongest language every imputation of its Party's close relationship with the Cabinet. In truth the situation is perplexing. The Radical Party, while in truth agreeing with the Government on almost all the questions that led to the late dissolution of the House of Representatives, is always compelled to deny the existence of any understanding with those in power. It is doubtless sincere in making such denials, but what increases the uncertainty of the situation is that, in its eagerness to prove its independence, the Party may be betrayed into some extravagant line of action against the Government.

* * *

Whatever may be the policy of the other side, there is no manner of doubt as to the tactics which will be followed by the allied six parties. Indeed, their organs have openly announced that policy. It consists in precipitating a collision on the question of the propriety of the last dissolution of the Diet. This question is discussed with remarkable pertinacity by the organs of the *Kaishin-to*. We shall notice only one, and the latest of the numerous articles, written on the subject. That the Radical Party, observes the *Hochi Shimbun*, has surrendered to the Clan Government; admits of no doubt. Its organ, however, repudiates the charge of alliance with the Cabinet, and declares that the Party is as strongly devoted to the demolition of Clan Government as ever The *Hochi* does not believe in the sincerity of such professions, but, as the Radical organ has repeatedly and in the strongest terms denied any coalition with the Government, our contemporary is curious to see what attitude that Party will adopt about the question of dissolution which the Opposition will introduce for discussion in the new House of Representatives immediately upon its assembly. On this subject, too, the Radical organ has more than once expressed itself unfavourably about the action of the Government in dissolving the late House of Representatives. It has even declared its entire approval of the points raised in the communication which some members of the Upper House addressed on the subject to the Ministers of State. Under such circumstances, the *Hochi* is delighted to think that the Radical Party will be placed in an awkward dilemma when the question is brought up for discussion. Not to join the Opposition in attacking the Cabinet on this question, would be to act contrary to its repeated and open declarations; while to join in the attack would be even more painful. But if the Radical Party knows how shameful it would be to give the lie to its own public declarations, the *Hochi* doubts not but that it will stand by the allied parties of the Opposition.

* * *

The question of Strict Enforcement of the Treaties continues to be discussed, though with lessening enthusiasm. The Opposition journals are vigorously attacking the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, that journal having ruthlessly exposed the inconsistency of the *Kaishin-to* and other parties on this subject. As the matter was recently dwelt on at some length in our editorial columns, it is not necessary in this place to make any extended reference to the *Nichi Nichi's* writings on the question. The gist of its articles is to prove that the principal supporters of the Abei Representation on Strict Treaty Enforcement, like Mr. Shimada Saburo, Mr. Ooka Ikuzo, and others, declared themselves at the time of the recent election virtually opposed to that measure in all its essential points. To mention a few of the arguments produced by the *Nichi Nichi*; it points out that, whereas Mr. Abei's idea was to subject foreigners to inconveniences in order to make them wish for revision of Treaties, Mr. Shimada clearly explained that he had no wish to put foreigners to any inconvenience. Mr. Abei stated that strict enforcement of the Treaties was desirable as a preparatory step to their revision; but Mr. Shimada explained that the treaties are to be strictly enforced only when their revision is refused by the foreign Powers. Mr. Ooka also declared to his constituency that the views of the supporters of the Abei Representation were the same as those of the Premier, when the latter states in his reply to the thirty-eight Peers as follows:—"It is of course necessary to strictly enforce such provisions of the existing treaties as are essential to the assertion of the national rights; and when required, efforts must be put forth for the abolition and amendment of such provisions as may interfere with the exercise of the sovereign rights of the country." These and countless other utterances of the Opposition politicians amply justify the inference drawn by the *Nichi Nichi* and ourselves, that those politicians no longer endorse the Abei Representation in its original form. At all events they presented the matter to their electors in a manner clearly pointing to a radical change of sentiment on their part.

* * *

Papers belonging to the Opposition parties naturally are unwilling to acknowledge such a change of opinion. They explain that the supporters of the movement for Strict Enforcement have never been actuated by any anti-foreign spirit, and that their sole object has always been to urge the Government to pursue

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an independent and resolute foreign policy. It is a noteworthy circumstance that papers of the most conservative tendency take pains to remove the impression that the movement in question is more or less actuated by anti-foreign sentiment.

* * *

Their Imperial Majesties' Silver Wedding has been fittingly commemorated by the metropolitan papers by the issue of extra sheets, containing lithographic pictures of the Emperor and the Empress, or poems and pictures expressing happy thoughts suitable to the great occasion. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* picture seems far the best. Editorial columns overflow with expressions of congratulation, felicitation, gratitude, and loyalty to their Majesties, and literary columns are filled with Chinese verses and national poems commemorating the happy occasion.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

INCIDENTS OF THE ELECTION.

GENERALLY speaking, the elections of the 1st instant came off very peacefully, but as might have been expected, instances of violence were not wholly wanting. Of these the most disastrous is reported from Takata in the 8th Election District of Niigata, where the partisans of the Radical and Progressionist candidates came to blows. The Progressionists suffered most severely. Sixteen were wounded, six of them dangerously, it is said. The Radicals came off with only seven wounded, of whom only one seems to have been badly hurt. In the 11th District of Aichi, considerable excitement is said to have prevailed on account of the presence of extraordinary numbers of *soshi*. Those belonging to the Radical Party are said to have been a thousand; while the opposite side, the Progressionistst, could boast of about three hundred. The Radical *soshi* were posted at several important places in groups of about a hundred each, to intercept the electors of the opposite side. Hence the latter had to go to the poll accompanied by strong escorts of their fellow-villagers. Happily, owing to the vigilance of the police, the partisans of the two sides did not come to blows while voting was in progress. But in the evening, a few of the Radical *soshi* are said to have attacked those of the Progressionist Party, and fire was set to several houses. No serious results attended acts of lawlessness. Disturbances are also reported from Kanagawa Prefecture and a few other localities, but details are not yet known.

* * *

Of the returns thus far reported, the most remarkable and honourable was that of Dr. Hatoyama, who stood for the 9th Election District of Tokyo. Not a single vote was cast against him. Out of 187 electors, 138 voted, and they all declared themselves in his favour. The number of votes actually recorded for him was 137, because one of the voters failed to comply with certain forms and his vote had to be declared void.

* * *

Mr. Kusumoto Masataka, ex-President of the Lower House, has been returned almost as unanimously as Dr. Hatoyama. Only two votes were recorded for his opponent. He seems to be a great favourite with the Edo'ko of Nihonbashi. Another fortunate person is Mr. Tsunoda Shimpei. He has been returned from Kanda District almost unopposed.

* * *

Mr. Hiyama Tetsusaburo, who has been elected to represent Shiba District in the capital, is a young man, a year or two past thirty, with an exuberant fancy and a strong tendency to be theatrical. When the results of the voting were known, he was so excessively delighted with his hard earned victory, that he got into a *jinrikisha* drawn by five men and rode through the streets shouting "Long live, Mr. Hiyama."

* * *

The contest between Mr. Shimada Saburo and Mr. Kimura Riyemon in the city of Yokohama was so keen, that both sides used every possible contrivance to increase the number of their respective votes. The faction supporting Mr. Shimada has to answer indirectly for the death of a worthy citizen, Mr. Takagi Shichigoro of Motohamacho. He rose from his sick bed, in response to the importunate solicitations of the Shimada supporters, went to the voting place, and on returning dropped dead at the threshold of his house from congestion of the brain. Mr. Kimura's partisans were scarcely less zealous. They brought in a carriage an aged man apparently in the last stage of decay. He could neither take up a pen nor intelligibly answer the question whom he meant to vote for. Of course he was declared not qualified to vote. Another interesting episode connected with the election in that district was the competition of both sides made to obtain the vote of Captain Matsumoto of the *Toyoshima Maru*. The ship arrived here from Yokkaichi at about 3 p.m., and thereupon the entrance to the Yusen Kaisha's office was besieged by the partisans of the two candidates, eager to take hold of the captain when he should make his appearance on his way home. He, however, hearing of what was going on ashore, remained quietly on board his ship.

CURRICULUM OF COMMON MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

THERE has been much talk during the past two years of a change in the curriculum of Common Middle Schools. It has now been accomplished, an announcement to that effect appearing in the *Official Gazette* of the 1st instant. The principal alterations are that lessons in languages of the second class, namely German and French, are abolished, that agriculture is expunged from the ordinary course, and that the total time of study for the higher classes is increased by two hours per week. As a matter of fact these changes are already in operation; they were settled some time ago at conferences of the Directors of Higher Middle Schools: the Notification now published merely gives to them the official *imprimatur*. The only foreign language now remaining in the curriculum is English. Courses in French and German were originally included for the convenience of youths who contemplated the pursuit of medical or legal studies after graduation in the Middle Schools, but experience has apparently convinced the Authorities of the inexpediency of the system. The *Official Gazette*, explaining the reason for abolishing the courses in these languages, says that students in Common Middle Schools find it impossible to study two foreign languages at the same time, the one—English—remaining on the course being quite a sufficient task. As for the lessons in agriculture, they were originally optional, being the alternative for students who did not wish to take up German or French. It is to be observed, however, in connection with this, that provisions have now been made for special courses in Agriculture, Commerce, and other technical subjects according to the requirements of each locality. The most striking alteration in the curriculum is that the time allotted for the study of Japanese and Chinese has been increased by no less than fifteen hours weekly. The reasons assigned for this alteration are partly practical and partly patriotic, but we refrain from comment until fuller information is obtained. There are some minor changes also, but those noted above are the principal. The new curriculum is to go into official operation from the 1st of April next.

TWO CRIMES.

THE last days of February saw two most regrettable occurrences. On the morning of the 22nd ult., a young man and woman, the former only twenty-three years of age, committed suicide by taking morphine. They were both residents of Tokyo and were induced to take their own lives in consequence of their parents' persistent refusal to permit them to wed. On the 20th they clandestinely left the metropolis for Yokohama, and took a room at the well-known Fukuiya, at the corner of Benten-dori and Bashamichi. The following day they spent in sight-seeing, and after a final farewell supper in the evening, retired for the night, apparently in good spirits. One of the maids, after frequently trying to arouse them, finally entered their room at about 10 o'clock the next morning. Both were then dead, although the physician speedily summoned announced that, in the case of the girl, life had not been extinct above an hour. The parents of the deceased were hastily notified of the sad event by telegraph, and a heart-rending scene is said to have occurred on their arrival. In the second instance, a young farmer of Chiba Prefecture fatally stabbed one of the inmates of a house of ill-fame at Susaki (Nezu), in Tokyo. It appears that the man had for a long time been infatuated by one of the prostitutes named Kono-ito, and had, for her sake, lost not only the confidence of his employer but incurred the severe displeasure of his parents, whom he had repeatedly deceived in order to obtain sufficient funds to keep his mistress in good humour. The girl's time was up in June of the present year. She had written to him, after he had apparently broken off all relations with her in November of last year, begging him to visit her once more, as she loved none but him and desired to become his wife as soon as her term of service expired. Completely deceived by this artful letter, he ran once more away from home and came to Tokyo, but soon found that he was being made a mere cat's paw of. On the 22nd of last month, after a final carouse, he made a murderons attack on Kono-ito, stabbing her with a short knife in a dozen places, then turning the blade against himself. The wounds of neither were immediately fatal; the girl died, however, three days later, and, to quote the words of the *Miyako Shimbun*, the murderer and suicide "followed her ensanguined footsteps" a day later.

RESPONSIBILITY OF AN AGENT.

A SUM of 1,200 *yen* in obsolete copper coins, such as *tempo*, *bunkiu-sen* and so forth, was shipped last year from Nagoya to Osaka by the Bank of Japan, acting as Agent for the Treasury. The vessel was burned *en route* and the money lost. The Treasury made a claim for the amount against the Bank of Japan, but the latter appealed to the Board of Audit, and the Board has now decided that the Bank is not liable, since its failure to insure the coins for the voyage was in strict accord with the practice always pursued by the Treasury itself.

FANCY NAMES FOR DRUGS.

JAPANESE druggists have from ancient days been prone to give high-sounding titles to their stores, in imitation of the custom that still prevails throughout China. Many of the nostrums offered for sale make a bid for public approval by receiving names of a more or less startling nature; for the childish trait of wonder is still a national characteristic, and *omne ignotum pro magnifico* is true of the Japanese people to the present day. Of late years it has been all the vogue to give foreign appellations to medicaments, witness that excellent invalid-food 'Health" and the widely-advertised "Aleuronat," said to be originally imported from Germany. The latest aspirant for popular honours is "Happiness," a fluid said to stimulate digestion and positively cure all forms of dyspepsia. "Salutary" is the style of a well-known tonic, of which the basis is a preparation of iron in an easily assimilated form. This received a gold medal at the Third National Industrial Exhibition. "Pretty-water' is the quaint name of a fluid cosmetic; while a face-powder rejoicing in the name of *byuchifuru*, otherwise "Beautiful," is manufactured in, and has a large sale among the professional beauties of, Yokohama. "Diamond" tooth-powder, a really excellent preparation, perhaps deserves its name. But Japanese druggists are always prompt to claim the most marvellous powers for the patent medicines they proffer to a confiding public. A recently advertised drug was stated, in pretty nearly all the journals of note, to be a specific for no less than forty-eight different diseases, ranging all the way from an aching tooth to gangrene of the lungs: and the proprietors

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stated that it might be used as a prophylactic for,—well, all the ills that human flesh is heir to, as well as several others that have not yet made their appearance.

* * *

This mania for giving foreign names to cheap articles has long since claimed the tobacconist fraternity as its own. We have "Bismarck" cigarettes, with a very scowling and ferocious looking Iron Chancellor on the cover of the box, the contents being indeed well-calculated to bring a scowl to the face of even the least fastidious smoker. Then there are Murai's "Sunrise" cigarettes, a sweetish, perfumed tobacco that sells largely; next to these rank the "Triumph" and "Victory" manufactures. "Peony" (Botan) cigarettes are light and not at all bad. Among the poorest and cheapest are "Champion" and "Two Castles,"—a humble rival of Wills' well-known brand. But the unsuspicious foreigner is to be warned against indulging in any of these. The only first-class tobaccos of native growth are those manufactured by Fuchigami & Co., and Matsubayashi Chiba, both of Ginza, Tokyo.

SILVER.

From 1881 to 1887 numerous articles were published in these columns urging the vital importance of the silver question, not only to the commerce of the Far East directly, but also to the international trade of the whole world, and to the prosperity of civilized peoples. In those days bimetallism was a discredited creed. The gold men were the Solomons of the situation. They had merely to shake their heads and talk pityingly of the "fools that wanted to meddle with the currency," or the "poor silly bodies that sought to substitute artificial legislation for natural laws." Sententiousness is a valuable refuge for ignorance. The sententious man always makes an imposing impression on less courageous hearers, and thus it fell out that the monometallists were able for a long time to stifle inquiry and to silence timid opposition by the very intensity of their contempt for "silver faddists." But truth is horribly pertinacious. The attitude of the world towards bimetallism is now very different from what it was fourteen years ago when the subject first began to receive editorial attention in these columns. Of course we do not for an instant pretend to think that our contribution to the change is worth mention, but we do find that all the arguments used by us between 1881 and 1887 are now appearing once more upon the *tapis*, having gained only strength by maturity, and we do perceive that bimetallism, instead of being tabooed and poohpoohed, as it was then, is the burning problem of the day.

* * *

The most recent resurrection of these arguments is in a circular letter issued by the Shanghai Branch of the China Association. The letter disposes of the fallacious notion too commonly entertained that the trade of India is of more importance to Great Britain than the trade of the Farther East. The total India trade for 1891 was 110 millions sterling, and the total Far-East trade 130 millions sterling. As to the effect produced upon the latter by gold appreciation, the letter says:—

> The medium of exchange in these countries is silver employed in the shape of coin, as rupees and dollars, or as bullion; its purchasing power in these countries having throughout the period of gold appreciation remained practically unchanged.
>
> When by means referred to silver was maintained at a reasonable ratio with the gold currency of the West foreign commerce flourished and gave promise of enormous extension. When the tie between the metals was dissolved that commerce became disorganised; each year has seen greater difficulties; and at the present time the position has become intolerable.
>
> The appreciation of gold means that every article of commerce produced in England must fall in gold and rise in silver price: it is manifest that to this there must be a limit; and it is not unreasonable to conclude that the limit is now reached. The manufactures and products of West and East continue in themselves practically unchanged: the cause of the trouble which now threatens this commerce with virtual extinction is not in the nature of the commerce itself, but in the medium in which it is conducted.
>
> If the money of the East continues to be discredited, and the ounce weight of silver which formerly was the equivalent of one fourth of a pound sterling has now fallen to be one-eighth of a pound sterling, and may decline still further, the export trade from gold to silver-using countries becomes a practical impossibility: and the hundreds of millions people who have hitherto been consumers of English manufactures and products will find it distinctly to their interest and benefit to manufacture or produce for themselves to enable them to dispense with the use of commodities they have heretofore found advantage in importing from the manufacturing nations of the West.
>
> When once Eastern nations begin to invest in manufactures, English industries will be confronted with powerful, and it may well be invincible, competitors. Not only will the mills, workshops and mines of England suffer, but the decline of exportation to the East will deprive millions of tons of shipping of occupation: and the capital value represented by these great interests must inevitably suffer enormous depreciation.

* * *

The letter concludes with the following appeal, which we print as a duty, not because we count on any result in apathetic Yokohama:—

> That the evils complained of are capable of amelioration does not admit of dispute: the great difficulty lies in the ignorance of the people of England of the true gravity of the situation, and not in the application of a remedy.
>
> Such representations as bodies like the China Association and Chambers of Commerce are able to make are of little real service; they seldom reach the persons most intimately concerned. If the cause is to prevail more active and energetic measures must be adopted; and the first and most important is the nomination of a delegate or delegates to England, to interview members of Parliament, and address public meetings, educate the people to a fair understanding of the situation, and endeavour with the aid of prominent men and persistent agitation to make the currency question the leading question of the day.
>
> This Branch of the China Association is prepared, if required, to send a delegate; and the object of this proposition is to invite co-operation, either by associating a delegate from your Branch, or by empowering the Shanghai delegate, after conferring with your Branch, to represent you.
>
> If this proposition meets with the approval of the Associations and members to which it is addressed, consideration must be given to the creation of a fund to defray the expenses of the delegates, and the attendant charges.
>
> Members willing to contribute to the fund are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary.

THE METROPOLITAN THEATRES.

There is not much of interest in the threatrical way just now. A treat is, nevertheless, promised—according to the vernacular press,—by Kawakami Otojiro and his *soshi* troupe at the Asakusa za early in March. A detective play adapted or translated from the French is to be put on the stage and given all that effect of scenery and rapid change which Kawakami first learned during his sojourn in the French Republic. The Kabuki-za will re-open on or about the 10th instant, with three short plays on the bill: *Sakura-mochi*, a four-act tale of loyalty, *Komochi-yama Uba*, "The Wet-nurse of Mr. Komochi," and *Imose-yama*, a melodrama of the good old style. The Shintomi-za adds two attractions to its programme, the well-known *Nunobiki*, a "tragic-comic" extravaganza, and the famous *Ume no Yoshibei*, one of the deathless tales of loyalty and fidelity to a losing cause. The Haruki-za will continue the representation of *Benisara* to *Kakezara*, one of the few genuine Japanese semi-historic fairy-tales, the heroine, "Plate of Carthamine," being very much like that erst maltreated princess whose mouth dropped pearls and diamonds. As an interlude the two-act drama of *Miyagi no Shinobu's* vendetta is now being rehearsed and will shortly be produced.

THE LAST OF THE "ELMBANK."

The San Francisco *Shipping List* writes:—The British ship *Elmbank*, which caused considerable stir in this port in June last, has been lost on the coast of Scotland. The *Elmbank*, Captain Greig, arrived here on May 27th from Hakodate with a cargo of coal and sulphur. On June 10th, when she was lying at Union-street wharf discharging, her cargo of sulphur was discovered to be on fire. The local fire department was called on to subdue the fire and filled the vessel nearly full of water. That was not the way to fight a sulphur fire, though, and the firemen's efforts were fruitless. The services of Thomas Price, a well known assayer, were then called in requisition, and by means of chemicals he succeeded after a few days in putting out the fire and saving the larger portion of the cargo. A suit for salvage that he brought in connection with the matter is now pending before Judge Morrow in the United States Court. After obtaining needed repairs the *Elmbank* left on August 14th with a cargo of wheat for Cork for orders, shipped by G. W. McNear. She arrived at Falmouth November 25th and was ordered to Havre to discharge, arriving there December 3rd. After discharging she was ordered to go to Glasgow in tow, and it was while proceeding there that she stranded. From advices received it is learned that while in tow on the night of January 9th the vessel struck several times off the Mull of Galloway, and Captain Greig finding that she got off and was making no water, sent his wife and family on board the tug *Hercules* which was towing. The hawsers were slipped during the night, owing to the storm rising. The master saw no lights until just before the vessel stranded, when he made out Pladda Light and gave orders to set sail and try and weather Pladda. A strong S.S.E. gale was blowing and the vessel drifted on shore. The anchors were let go, but did not hold the ship. Orders were then given to launch the lifeboat, which was done and the crew were all landed safely. Next day the crew went on board and saved part of their effects. The latest advices received states that the *Elmbank* rests on rocks and boulders, with the sea breaking over her, and, although the Salvages Association was at work, it was feared she would become a total wreck. The *Elmbank* was a four-masted steel barque, of 2,188 tons net, built by Russell & Co. at Port Glasgow in 1890 and owned by A. Weir & Co., of Glasgow.

"THE SORROWS OF WERTER."

One of the best translations published during the last twelvemonth, is Prof. Mori's version of Goethe's "Sorrows of Werter." It appeared in the *Shigarami Zoshi*, one of the better class of belletristic periodicals, and has met with universal favour, for if any foreign romance could touch the hearts of the Japanese, Goethe's pathetic, if over-sentimental, tale is calculated to do so. The title given to the Japanese version is a literal rendering of the German:—*Werther's Leiden*, *Werther no Kanashimi*. It is stated that the numbers of the magazine in which Prof. Mori's translation appeared, met with an enormous sale—all the more so, as the proprietors astutely refused to publish the version separately in book-form. We shall have occasion to refer to this work again later on, as it is one of the finest specimens of translation from a European tongue into Japanese that have appeared.

THE CATKINS OF THE WILLOW.

Miquel enumerates no less than twenty species of Willow indigenous to Japan; Franchet and Savatier give seventeen, of which five species are never found beyond the borders of Hondo, or the main island. This beautiful tree is a prime favourite, not only for its quick growth and qualifications as a shade-tree, but because it is one of the first harbingers of spring, and even in January is covered with those silky, greyish-brown catkins which have given it the name of "pussy-willow" in Europe and America. In these "catkins," however, the Japanese (except those of Kyoto and the southern provinces) see no resemblance to the 'harmless necessary cat;' in the neighbourhood of Tokyo they are known as *nezumi-yanagi*, "willow-mice;" in Iwashiro (Fukushima) they are called *inu-yanagi*, "willow-dogs," while in Akita the popular idea is that they resemble apes, and they are therefore named *saru-yanagi*. Willows have, moreover, ever been considered the favourite haunt of ghosts, and there is a kind of weeping willow, common somewhat north of Tokyo, that bears the ill-omened name of *yurei-yanagi*, the "spectre willow." The reason given for this popular superstition is that the branches droop very much in the style in which all well-bred Japanese ghosts hold their hands.

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The native spectre does not stretch forth a ghostly hand and arm towards the terrified beholder, but floats half-hidden in the branches of the willow, with pleading hands held down before the breast.

RADICAL GOSSIP.

PROBABLY the most ill-natured and unfounded report ever spread by the Ultra-Radicals and their organs, is that the celebration of the Imperial Silver Wedding is nothing but an astute scheme to draw the attention of the public from the result of the ballotting and to keep the loyalty of the people at fever-heat in order that they may be less prone to condemn the measures advocated by the Ministers appointed by His Imperial Majesty. Surely this is double-distilled malice. Ever since the Emperor's reply to the Address to the Throne and the Imperial and munificent appropriation of three million *yen* out of the Privy Purse towards the increase in the Navy, the hearts of the nation have been more than usually loyally inclined. The Emperor's prompt action in the Otsu affair has never and can never be forgotten. Irrespective of factional differences and hostile politics, all know that His Majesty has the welfare of his people ever at heart, and are eager to show their gratitude. The Celebration of the Imperial Silver Wedding has given all classes an opportunity such as they have long desired, and the gifts that have come from every part of the Empire as well as the odes penned by thousands of patriotic and loyal hands, show that the Japanese know full well that the present period deserves its name and that they have perfect faith in and all love for their Ruler.

SHARES IN TOKYO.

IN sympathy with the depressed state of the market, stocks of any description are not much in demand in Tokyo at present, yet it is noteworthy that the shares of companies which have their head-quarters in the metropolis or which are confined to its limits, keep well above the low-water mark. Some of them stand at an apparently abnormally high figure, but in these instances the price is justified by the great success of the company in question and is not by any means due to stock-brokering manœuvres. Witness in particular the Tokyo Tramway Co,, which is one of the most flourishing concerns in Japan. The present time is a crucial period for stocks, so that even a slight advance upon the original value means the possession of a substantial foundation. The following are the selling prices of the best known shares:—

Name.	Original Value. Yen.	Present Quotation. Yen.
Tokyo Bay Steam Navigation Co.	25.00	25.10
Tokyo Tramway Co.	50.00	125.40
Japan Seaweed Co. (old)	35.00	35.30
Japan Seaweed Co. (new)	25.00	16.00
Tokyo Gas Co.	45.00	69.50
Tokyo Electric Light Co.	45.00	60.30
Tokyo Stock Exchange	80.00	275.00
Japan Brewing Co.	30.00	31.20
Domestic Transportation Co.	40.00	30.80
Kanegafuchi Spinning Co.	50.00	63.40

It will be seen from the above that, with two exceptions, the shares of all these concerns are quoted at a premium. This is particularly gratifying in the case of the Electric Light Co., the shares of which, three years ago, when the House of Parliament was burned, fell suddenly 25 per cent. below their original value. It then required all the skill of Mr. Okura Kihachiro to keep disaster from the Company's door, while many of the shareholders were practically ruined. The electric light has never since met with the great favour it enjoyed before the fire took place. In the case of the Domestic Transportation Co., it is claimed that in spite of the great amount of business done, the number of employés is far in excess of the actual need, and the concern for this reason is not so profitable as it should be.

THE ROLLING "RESOLUTION."

IN reference to the reported excessive rolling of the armour-clad *Resolution*, it may be pointed out that the behaviour of these vessels at sea has an important bearing on the controversy in which Mr. W. H. White and Sir E. J. Reed hold directly opposite views. With the system of a heavily-armoured citadel and light ends, likely to be greatly damaged in action, it is necessary to make the vessel of such a breadth that the armoured part is sufficient in itself to provide stability, and consequently when the vessel is intact she has excessive stability and rolls heavily. With the system advocated by Sir E. J. Reed, the buoyancy at the water-line is protected fore and aft, and a much less breadth can be adopted. This plan is exhibited in the *Sultan*, *Hercules*, and *Alexandra*, known to be amongst the most comfortable vessels in the Navy. Who is to decide as to the relative disadvantages of these two systems when such professors disagree?

MARRIAGE OF MR. H. C. LITCHFIELD.

MR. H. C. LITCHFIELD, Crown Prosecutor in H.B.M.'s Court for Japan, was quietly married at Christ Church, Yokohama, on Saturday, to Miss Gadsby of Derby. The Rev. E. C. Irwine officiated, and the Bride was given away by Mr. Hugh Fraser, H.B.M.'s Minister to the Court of Japan. Mr. W. J. Kenney was best-man, Miss Van Rabe, a niece of Mrs. Fraser's, being bridesmaid. The wedding breakfast was served at Mr. Dinsdale's residence on the Bluff. During the day, the Boat-house was dressed with bunting in honour of the occasion, Mr. Litchfield having been Captain of the Club for many years, and still taking an active part in the regattas. His popularity among local cricket, rowing, and athletic circles is very great, and we believe the Y.A.R.C. intend presenting a souvenir of their regard in the near future.

THE ELECTIONS.

THE following list contains the further returns received from the election districts up to Tuesday evening:—

Name.	Political Party.	Political Party of former Representative.
NAGASAKI PREFECTURE.		
*Kusakari Buhachiro.	Radical.	Radical.
NIIGATA PREFECTURE.		
*Okamura Mitsugi.	*Kaishin-to.*	*Kaishin-to.*
*Kubota Usaku.	do.	do.
Muro Kojiro.	do.	Re-elected.
*Ota Magozayemon.	do.	Radical.
SAITAMA PREFECTURE.		
Noguchi Ku.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Arai Keiichiro.	do.	do.
Hara Zenzaburo.	Independent.	do.
MIYE PREFECTURE.		
Ozaki Yukio.	*Kaishin-to.*	do.
*Morimoto Kakuya.	do.	*Domei* Club.
SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE.		
Maruo Bunroku.	*Kaishin to.*	Re-elected.
Adachi Magoro.	Radical.	do.
Kageyama Hideki.	do.	do.
YAMANASHI PREFECTURE.		
Kagami Kahei.	*Domei* Club.	do.
GIFU PREFECTURE.		
*Matsubara Yoshikuro.	*Kaishin-to.*	National Unionist.
*Nagare Kichiyemon.	do.	do.
NAGANO PREFECTURE.		
*Kawakami Bunichi.	*Kaishin-to.*	do.
*Morimoto Shoichiro.	Radical.	Independent.
WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE.		
*Senda Gunnosuke.	Radical.	Independent.
KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE.		
Gamo Sen.	*Doshi* Club.	Re-elected.
NIIGATA PREFECTURE.		
Tango Naohei.	Radical.	Re-elected.
*Sato Rikisaku.	do.	Radical.

We are thus in possession of the results of the voting in 296 Districts out of the total of 300. Noting that two or three errors have to be corrected in previous lists, we have now the following analysis of the 296 seats.

Radicals	126
Independents	29
Kaishin-to	57
Domei Club	19
Doshi Club	23
National Unionists	35
Seimu Chosa-jo	4
Oriental Radicals	3

Assuming that the Radicals and Independents vote together, they aggregate 155, or five more than half of the whole House, against a total of 141 for the remaining six parties. Even supposing that the four constituencies from which returns have still to come, fall altogether to the Opposition, the forces would stand thus:—Radicals and Independents, 155, remaining six parties, 145. The *Jiyu-to* have certainly scored a remarkable victory. The increase of their number from 77 to 126 is a very emphatic intimation of the nation's views with regard to Treaty Revision and the opening of the country, doctrines of which the Radicals are now the most prominent advocates. Among the eight groups of politicians mentioned above, the Radicals, the Independents, and the *Kaishin-to* are all avowedly favourable to the speedy Revision of the Treaties and to the opening of the whole country to foreign trade, travel, and residence. That is to say, out of 296 constituencies, 212 have distinctly voted for Revision and Mixed Residence. This fact ought to dispose finally of the wholly untenable contention that the nation is either opposed or indifferent to Treaty Revision.

MR. HOSHI TORU.

WHY do Englishmen in Japan sympathise with Mr. Hoshi Toru? Why is it that men who have never even laid eyes on him, are rejoiced to hear of his re-election, and would rejoice still more heartily to see him restored to the President's chair which he filled so admirably? The reason, we imagine, is because a general idea prevails that he has been the victim of a gross injustice. The treatment he received at the hands of a majority in the House of Representatives was essentially bad, and every lover of right must desire to see such crookedness put straight. It is now stated that the Radicals will exert all their strength to secure Mr. Hoshi's re-appointment to the post of President, whereas the *Kaishin-to*, the National Unionists, the *Domei* and *Doshi* Clubs and so forth are determined to work for Mr. Kusumoto Masataka, and will endeavour to secure the Vice-Presidency—to which they would no doubt have sought to prefer Mr. Abei Hankon again, had he not been rejected by his constituency—for Mr. Taketomi Tokitoshi, a new member from Saga Prefecture, returned in the interests of the *Doshi* Club. We sincerely hope that the *Jiyu-to* will carry both their candidates to the top of the poll. One thing is certain, that if the *Jiyu-to* in a body array themselves against any candidate, he can not obtain the necessary plurality of votes.

THE SILVER WEDDING.

WE trust that some effort will be made by the municipal authorities and police of Tokyo to exercise efficient control over the carriage traffic in the approaches to the palace on the occasion of the reception by Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, on the night of the 9th instant. The recklessness of Japanese coachmen in Tokyo is, even on ordinary occasions and in the daily traffic of the streets, almost beyond belief except by those who have practical experience of it. Little attempt is made by them to pay observance to rules of the road, the horses are too often lashed to their utmost speed, and the drivers evidently think that they need pay but small regard to the safety, still less the comfort, of foot-passengers. On the occasions of great gatherings, the ordinary dangers are intensified three and fourfold. Drivers seem then to consider it a point of honour, when drawing near their destination, to race at fullest speed through narrow gateways and round sharp corners, so as to deposit their masters one or two minutes earlier than the time consistent with a slower but safer pace, and they almost invariably return by the same road regardless of the incoming string of later arrivals. It is certain that the number of vehicles proceeding to the Palace on Friday night will be unusually great. Not only will there be all the privately owned carriages, but we are informed that the demand for vehicles from the several livery stables in Tokyo is so great that every available trap was already bespoken ten days ago at double or treble the usual rates. Moreover, on several occasions, during the last few

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days, we have noticed in the streets horses, evidently entirely unbroken to harness, being exercised in vehicles of various descriptions, which, we strongly suspect, are destined to meet the exceptional demand on Friday night. If, in addition to the dangers ordinarily incidental to such occasions, there are to be added those of untried horses and inexperienced *betto*, promoted for the nonce to the dignity of coachmen, we look forward with no small apprehension to the consequences. It would be a terribly sad incident in the festivities by which this uniquely auspicious day is to be celebrated if a serious accident occurred to any of the distinguished subjects of His Majesty, who will assist at the evening function, or to His Majesty's foreign guests. While there is yet time we trust the Tokyo authorities will shake off their usual apathy on this subject and take steps to secure the safety of His Majesty's guests. We can hardly hope that a line should be formed such as is rigidly enforced by the London police at Her Majesty's Drawing Rooms, and indeed on all occasions in London where large numbers of carriages are proceeding to any particular place, but at least a sufficient force of police or gendarmerie might be stationed at the Sakurada Gate of the Castle and continued thence to the entrance of the Palace with strict orders to insist that carriages entering there shall proceed at a moderate pace for the rest of their way, and to forbid any carriages whatsoever returning by that gate until the final return of the guests on the termination of the function. The Governor of Tokyo and the police will, in the event of accident, incur a heavy responsibility should they entirly fail to take some precaution of this kind, for which there is still ample time.

THE SEIMU CHOSA-JO.

THE *Seimu Chosa-jo* never possessed any importance numerically speaking. It was always a petty coterie, measured arithmetically. But in that very fact lay an element of curious strength. Having no status to imperil, it might be made the stalking-horse of measures that parties with more at stake shrank from shouldering, however anxious to promote their passage. The leaders of the *Kaishin-to*, for example, could not possibly have stood forth as fathers of the Strict-Enforcement phantasy, willing as they were to use it as a stick for beating the Government. And neither the *Kaishin-to* nor the National Unionists found it convenient to figure as the chief impeachers of Mr. Hoshi Toru. Each of these invidious tasks could be much more agreeably delegated to the *Seimu Chosa-jo*, which had no hope of earning consideration, except by making itself serviceable, and which as yet had no reputation to lose. Besides, the *Seimu Chosa-jo* offered another advantage. Its head was the most venerable man in the House of Representatives, and one of the most venerated. Any proposal emanating from Mr. Abei Hankon was sure to command respectful attention. But an ungrateful country has now shown that it does not appreciate the peculiar titles of the *Seimu Chosa-jo*. Not a single constituency has come forward to signify its approval of the tiny party's pliant serviceableness. The *Chosa-jo* remains countable on the fingers of one hand. What is worse, it has lost its venerable leader, Mr. Abei Hankon. There is nothing left to redeem it from utter insignificance. So it is to be dissolved—absorbed into some one of the larger associations whose dirty work it has hitherto been doing. If a beneficent Providence would similarly eliminate a few other of the puppet parties that play upon the stage of Japanese politics, it might become possible for folks of ordinary capacity to observe with intelligent appreciation the main-springs that move the machinery.

A SILVER WEDDING ORDER.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR has issued an Ordinance directing that gold and silver medals shall be struck for presentation to all persons invited to the ceremonial in connection with the Silver Wedding, on the 9th instant. The medal is to be circular, its diameter nine-tenths of an inch. On the face two sprays of wistaria, their stalks bound together below, form a border within which a pair of soaring herons carry sprays of pine in their bills, the upper ends of the sprays embracing a sixteen petalled chrysanthemum. On the reverse, disposed in four horizontal lines, are the ideographs *Dai-kon Niju-go-nen Shukuten-no-sho Dai-Nippon Teikoku Meiji Nijushichi-nen San-gwatsu* (Medal of the Celebration of the 25th Year of the Great Wedding, Empire of Great Japan, Meiji, 27th year, 3rd month). The ribbon is red with a line of yellow. The medal is to be worn this year only, by recipients of both sexes, but will of course remain their property in perpetuity.

WHAT IS THE TONGUE OF ENGLAND?

THE following verses appear in an Australian journal in reference to the discussion in the colonies upon the subject, "What is really the proper pronunciation of the English tongue?"

What is the tongue of England?
Ye who teach it in school all day.
What fashion in England's English
Is grammatical wear to-day?
Shall we bark like the Cousin Jacky,
Or speak with a Yorkshire burr?
Shall our twang be the twang of Wessex,
Or the East-End Londoner?
Would the gift of tongues once given
The preachers of Holy Writ
Cover all of England's English?—
That's my question, *do* answer it,

An Irishman said "Shoore Galway
In the proide o' the wurruld fer spache;
'Tis discinded frum pure bog Latin,
An' bechoone a yill an' a schrache.
Oh! 'tis we hov the loovely accint
Thot no Sarsenach toong can bate:
'Tis the click o' the brogue thot's in 'ud
Makes the Inglish langwich swate.
The mewses med 'ud for pothrey,
An' for luv an' for blarney's sake,
Viz 'ud nivvor o' taut *Oi* wos Inglish
If yiz hod'nt o' hurd me sphake."

By a scion of "puawest culchaw"
This verse of the song was sung—
"Bai Jove, you know, you Austwalians
Just mawdaw the mothaw tongue.
Ai mey say that A'im from Awxfawd
Whaiw a dwawl is lingwist's pwide,
And I hoope you don't meind my remawking
That you've neemed a speed a spyde.
It's a hawwid baw to a Bwiton,
This teaching you how to speak.
You'aw English is just abbowigine,
Aws classic and lawgely Gweek."

With a skird like a Highland pibroch
Sang a body in strange array,
His pants didn't need any braces,
For they were not built that way.
"Her name, hech! wes Dugalt MacPhairson,
Frae Lochaber's snaws she's away,
Na' fash'd her heed wi' speerin'
Whet ta Melpurn pairnies say.
Gin yer wantin' ta pairfit Inklish,
She's sayin,—na chibe or choke—
Ye maun seek in ta bonnie Hee'lands,
Whaur ta Gaelic's barely broke."

So the legion that speaks pure English
A weird, wild chorus sang,
For this song was the song of Babel
And they sang it in diverse tongue.
No one understood the other,
But each, whether north or west,
Had the firmest of firm convictions
That his dialect was the best.
And "confusion worse confounded"
Was the answer slowly wrung,
To the question asked of the English:
"Pray, what is the English tongue?"

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ON THE ELECTIONS.

OUR readers will be curious to hear the comments of the vernacular press on the recent elections. As might have been expected, the allied Opposition organs claim that the victory has been on their side, while the Radical organs and other papers opposed to the allied parties are equally confident that the advocates of the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement are in a minority.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* (Progressionist) observes that the results of the elections have been decidedly favourable to the parties opposed to Clan Government. According to our contemporary, the Opposition in the new House of Representatives is 178 strong, while the Ministerialists number only 122. It is no wonder, then, that the Progressionist organ predicts disaster for the Government in the coming session. As to the extraordinary increase of the Radicals, the *Hochi* ascribes it in part to secret assistance given to that Party by the Government; in part to unscrupulous use of money and *soshi*; but chiefly to the hypocritical assumption by Radical candidates of the character of opponents of Clan Government. Not a few constituencies, writes the *Hochi*, must have been deceived by the mask that the fraudulent Radicals wore. Whatever high principles they may profess, there is no longer any gainsaying the fact that the Radicals are supporters of Clan Government. Among them, however, the *Hochi* seems to anticipate that many will not be so servile as to vote for the Cabinet. It hopes that a split will take place in the Radical Party before the opening of the sixth session.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* (Progressionist) is not so confident as the *Hochi* about the victory of the Opposition in the elections. On the contrary, it writes as though it unwillingly believed the reverse to be the case. "If cannot be asserted," is our contemporary's conclusion, "that the results of the recent general elections have been such as to clearly define the attitude of the nation towards the questions for which the Lower House was dissolved. It seems, however, as though the parties opposed to the Government have obtained a majority. Even supposing that the two sides be equally divided, there is a possibility that the Radical Party may split up; and apart from such a contingency, there is no denying that the general current of opinion is against the Government. Look at the Matsukata Cabinet. In virtue of active interference in elections, it obtained a majority in the third session of the Diet, but that majority was only temporary, and the Cabinet had to resign. Courage gentlemen; courage, politicians of the Opposition!" That is certainly not a confidence-breathing tone.

* * *

The *Chu-o Shimbun* (National Unionist) has not much to say on the results of the elections. Its Party having dwindled to about one-half of its former size, our contemporary is not in a mood to exaggerate the success of the sections opposed to the Government. Its only consolation is that a situation of difficulties and hardships is the best school for the education of great men. "The less numerous their associates, the more devoted will the National Unionists be to the promotion of the national interests.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* (Radical) justly congratulates itself on the extraordinary success of its Party at the polls. The success, great as it undoubtedly is, does not entirely satisfy our contemporary, for it had expected that its Party would be able to secure an absolute majority in the new House of Representatives. The *Jiyu* confidently asserts that the results of the elections clearly show which way the wind blows.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* (Independent supporter of the Cabinet) remarks that the most noteworthy fact about the recent elections was a conspicuous decrease of the members in favour of the Abei Representation on Strict Treaty Enforcement and a corresponding increase of those opposed to that measure. Supposing that the six allied Opposition parties again introduce the Representation, they will not be able, according to the *Nichi Nichi's* calculation, to obtain more than 130 supporters in all. Combining this fact with the circumstance that several prominent politicians of the Opposition had to explain away their opinions about the question of Strict Enforcement so much as to virtually declare themselves opposed to it, the *Nichi Nichi* deems it perfectly clear that the people at large are opposed to the absurd doctrine of Strict Enforcement. That doctrine, however, is not the only, or even the most important question to be discussed in the coming session of the Diet. The vital measure to be considered by the new House will be the completion of the country's defences. On this question, our contemporary hopes that there will be no difference of opinion between the various parties, however much they may be divided on the subject of Strict Treaty Enforcement. In conclusion, the *Nichi Nichi* ridicules men who seem satisfied with

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the strict enforcement of Treaties which were concluded nearly half a century ago, and whose provisions the country has long since entirely outlived.

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE amalgamation of the two factions, the *Domei Seisha* and the *Doshi Seisha*, seems to be a foregone conclusion. A proposal for their union came upon the tapis some time before the dissolution of the late House of Representatives, but it was considered desirable to postpone the consummation of the project till after the elections. These two parties combined have been able to return about 40 members to the new House of Representatives. It is reported that among the so-called Independents, two or three have promised to join the amalgamated party. The question that will most probably arise after the amalgamation, will be union with the *Kaishin-to*.

* * *

The Chitani question is still undecided. The Minister of Justice has not yet taken steps to hand the Judge over to a disciplinary tribunal. Meanwhile the barristers of Tokyo, at least some of them, are taking much interest in the affair. They are said to be drawing up a memorial for presentation to the Ministers of State. It is also reported that much sympathy is felt with Judge Chitani by the inhabitants of Mayebashi and its vicinity. Should the Judge be arraigned before a disciplinary tribunal, these folks intend to collect a fund to retain counsel for him. Judge Chitani was formerly of the Local Court of Mayebashi, and while there he is said to have earned the esteem and respect of the inhabitants by his impartiality and integrity. Such at least is the story told by certain metropolitan papers.

* * *

Mr. Abei Iwane's defeat in the recent election has been a severe blow to the allied Opposition parties. His friends maintain that his defeat is attributable to illegal interference on the part of local authorities. Great efforts are being made by some members of the *Domeī Seisha* to investigate the matter and to obtain conclusive proofs of interference. We take this report from the *Mainichi Shimbun*. There is little likelihood of proofs being forthcoming, for no official interference took place in that or any other district.

* * *

It is stated by a Progressionist paper that Mr. Oda Junichiro, formerly editor of the defunct *Suntetsu*, has been invited by the *Jiyu Shimbun* to superintend its editorial department. The *Suntetsu* was generally believed to be the organ of Mr. Mutsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and consequently Mr. Oda's connection with the *Jiyu* is referred to by the Progressionist organ as an additional proof of the Radical Party's alliance with the Cabinet.

* * *

The Radical Party has announced that it will hold a grand conference in Tokyo on the 15th of April. It will be a great affair since the Party obtained such remarkable success at the recent elections. Summonses have been issued to the newly-elected Radicals to arrive in the Capital by the 5th of next month.

* * *

Now that the National Unionist Party has dwindled down to less than one-half its former strength, it feels all the greater necessity for a close alliance with the Progressionists. The *Chu-o Shimbun*, the organ of the National Unionists, displays marked friendship towards the *Kaishin-to*, and the latter's organs manifest a similar attitude towards the *Kokumin Kyokai*. The *Chu-o* extols the ability of Count Okuma to such an extent as to credit him with almost superhuman capacity. Alluding to a rumour that the Cabinet has made, or is going to make, him an offer of a portfolio, the National Unionist organ states that the Count of Waseda, who looks upon the present Ministry as a collection of so many children, will never accept such an offer. The Progressionist leader, continues our contemporary, will not return to office unless he be allowed a free hand to shape the policy of the Government. We (*Japan Mail*) strongly suspect that the rumour thus set up by the *Chu-o Shimbun* for the purpose of being knocked down, never had any existence outside the imagination of that journal.

* * *

The *Chu-o* publishes several other rumours of a similar description. One of them is that, before the opening of the sixth session of the Diet, some changes will be effected in the *personnel* of the Cabinet. Mr. Yoshikawa, Minister of Justice, Mr. Watanabe, Minister of Finance, and another member of the Cabinet will resign; Count Goto will probably receive a Ministerial portfolio, and Mr. Nakamigawa Hikojiro will become Minister of Finance. Mr. Fukuzawa, the *Chu-ō* adds, is now on intimate terms with Count Ito, Count Inouye, and Count Goto, who have found in him a useful medium through which to secure the support of the business class, and hence the proposal to appoint Mr. Nakamigawa, a near relative of the sage of Mita, to a Ministerial position. Another rumour ventilated by the *Chu-ō* is to the effect that, simultaneously with the Cabinet, Count Itagaki will publicly declare his adhesion to the Government.

* * *

It being extremely doubtful whether the new House of Representatives would support a Representation on Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, the allied parties of the Opposition are contemplating a change of tactics. Instead of running the risk of an ignominous defeat on the question of foreign policy, they now propose to precipitate a collision on the subject of the late dissolution of the Diet. With reference to that question, they can count on the hearty cōoperation of a section of the House of Peers, though it is problematical whether they could command a majority in the new House of Representatives.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* recently stated that Count Yamagata is one of those opposed to the immediate opening of the country for Mixed Residence. This is emphatically denied by the *Nichi Nichi*, which observes that, though the present President of the Privy Council opposed Count Okuma's Revision programme, it was not on account of Mixed Residence but on entirely other grounds. That the Count is not opposed to Mixed Residence is proved, says the *Nichi Nichi*, by the fact that the so-called Aoki programme was elaborated under his guidance and with his full approval.

* * *

The election of the President of the House of Representatives will be the first occasion to test the relative strength of the two sides. It is doubtful whether the Progressionists, now that they have become by far the most numerous party of the Opposition, will be content to play a self-effacing part in this matter: they may wish to have either Mr. Shimada or Mr. Ozaki elected President. There is an impression, however, that in their anxiety to secure the unity of the allied parties, they may be once more willing to sacrifice their own interests.

* * *

According to the *Niroku Shimpo*, Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, is engaged in forming a new political party devoted to the consummation of financial reforms such as the abolition of export duties and of the tax on confectionaries, the reduction of postal duties and railway fares, and the transfer of prison expenditures to the charge of the Treasury. The new association will also be in favour of immediate opening of the country for Mixed Residence. The primary object of the party being economical, rather than political, it will be free from the tendency so prevalent at present among the Opposition politicians to indiscriminately attack whatever measure is proposed by the Government. Mr. Taguchi's apparent purpose, says the *Niroku*, is to work his party somewhat along the lines pursued by the Anti-Corn Law League in England. Thinking that a man of high social standing is necessary as leader of the contemplated association, he is said to have asked Prince Konoye to undertake the charge. But Prince Konoye is reported to have declined emphatically. It is alleged that the new party has the support of about 40,000 substantial merchants and manufacturers.

* * *

We cannot vouch for the truth of the above report. Indeed we are disposed to believe that it is as yet a little premature. But there seems to be strong probability of the formation of such a party one of these days, and little doubt can be entertained that Mr. Taguchi will be among the principal projectors. For the past few years his journal, the *Keizai Zasshi*, has been incessantly calling upon the sober section of the community to rise and rescue the country from the hands of professional politicians, whose sole business is to pander to the prejudices of the land-owners and to wantonly attack the Government. In a recent issue of the *Keizai*, Mr. Taguchi returns to the discussion of the same subject, and openly charges the Opposition politicians with sacrificing the country's interests to the gratification of their passion for embarrassing the Government. "Bent solely," says the writer, "upon pleasing their constituencies, they say much about the reduction of the land-tax and the re-assessment of the taxable value of land, but nothing is more indifferent than their attitude towards other important financial questions, such as the abolition of export duties and of the tax on confectionaries, the reduction of the tax on vehicles, and the transfer of prison expenditures to the charge of the Treasury. Their principal business is to attack the Government. It may be both pleasant and important to assail those in power, but it must not be supposed that such assaults constitute the politics of the country. It is childish to concentrate attention on mere attacks, when there are various grievances to be remedied and impediments to be removed from the path of private enterprise and foreign trade." The writer then calls upon men of substance and experience to wrest politics from the hands of the rash and inexperienced politicians who now monopolize the stage. It is certainly a sign of the times that men of independent and enlightened views like Mr. Fukuzawa and Mr. Taguchi have begun to raise their powerful voices in condemnation of the professional politicians who form the bulk of the Opposition at present.

* * *

While, on the one hand, the Progressionists and the National Unionists, are drawing closer and closer together, there is, on the other, says rumour, a tendency among the members of the *Doshi* Club or, as it is now called the *Doshi Seisha*, to reunite with the Radicals. Such a contingency is not at all improbable but it may be doubted whether all the members of the faction would return to their original party. There being now on the tapis a project to unite the *Doshi Seisha* with the *Domei Seisha*, the completion of that design will probably involve the return of some members of the former coterie to the Radical Party.

* * *

The balance of power in the new House of Representatives being in the hands of about 40 members grouped under the names of Independents, the Opposition papers are diligently endeavouring to pursuade them to throw in their weight against the Clan Government. These journals wrote as though Clan Government were the incarnation of everything bad and blameworthy, and circulate various absurd rumours about attempts which the Cabinet is alleged to be making to corrupt the Independents. The *Chu-o Shimbun*, for instance, reports that the Government has decided to spend a sum of 100,000 *yen* for the purchase of 15 Independents. These rumours are obviously a device to excite the suspicion of constituencies that have returned Independents, and to cause them to bring pressure to bear upon their representatives, so that the latter, in order to clear themselves from injurious imputations, may be forced to cast in their lot with the Opposition.

* * *

The rumour of changes in the Cabinet is still making the round of the Opposition papers. It

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s stated that Count Ito will formally unite with the Radical Party, and that Count Itagaki will be appointed President of the Privy Council. These changes, say the papers, will be simultaneous with the resignation of the Satsuma Statesmen. Dissension between the Choshu and the Satsuma statesmen is evidently an aim kept constantly in view by the Opposition journal.

* * *

Concerning the election of the President of the new Lower House, it is now reported that the opponents of Mixed Residence desire to elect Mr. Oi Kentaro to that post. We cannot believe for moment that Mr. Oi will be accepted by the Progressionists and other factions committed to the opening of the country. Consequently there is little chance for his nomination. It is a curious sight to see Mr. Hoshi and Mr. Oi, once fellow-members of the Radical Party, now confronting each other as leaders of the opposite extremes of progress and conservatism respectively.

THE LATE MR. KIPLING.

An inquiry was held at the British Consulate, Kobe, on Monday morning, before Mr. J. J. Enslie into the death of Mr. G. C. L. Kipling, which took place on the P. & O. steamer *Ancona* while the vessel was on a voyage from Yokohama to Kobe. Dr. Lucy, the doctor of the steamer, was called, and stated that on Saturday, shortly after leaving Yokohama he was called to the deceased, who appeared to be suffering from alcoholism. He prescribed for him, and in the evening found him a little better. On Sunday morning he again examined him, when he did not appear to be any worse, but in the afternoon he was called to the deceased and found him almost lifeless. He applied remedies, but these were of no avail, the deceased expiring about 3.15 p.m., after everything that was possible had been done for him. Asked by the Consul as to the cause of death, Dr. Lucy replied that it was syncope, or heart failure through alcoholism. The funeral took place in the Foreign Cemetery in the afternoon. Representatives were present from the local Masonic Lodges and from the Fire Brigade, and they formed a small body of mourners to follow the body from the ship to the grave. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and was borne by sailors to the hearse and from the hearse to its final resting-place. The flags on the *Ancona* were at half-mast; Captain Mudie, the ship's doctor, Messrs. Woolley, Sim, Bardens Beauchamp, Ince, W. Whymark, Thomson, Abraham, Penney, and Wentworth were among those present. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Weston who closed it with a short but very earnest address.

THE LAND TROUBLE IN YOKOHAMA.

We are glad to be able to record that the land trouble, so long a cause of friction between the Japanese merchants engaged in the foreign trade of Yokohama, has been settled. Our readers doubtless remember that the origin of the trouble was the disposal of land held as common property. An agreement as to the treatment of land could not be arrived at, and squabbles, apparently endless, ensued until finally both parties, tired of fighting, agreed to invite the arbitration of Mr. Kawada, President of the Bank of Japan. The fact that Mr. Kawada's good offices had been enlisted was announced some time ago, but apparently the intricacies of the question necessitated long reflection, for Mr. Kawada has only just given his decision. It is that the contending parties should choose between one of the two alternatives, namely, to transfer the ownership of the land to the Municipality of Yokohama, or to sell the property and devote the proceeds to erecting a grand monument in commemoration of the opening of the harbour to foreign trade. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* approves the latter course, on the ground that it is better finally to eliminate the source of dispute lest it should again create friction. Of course the patent objection suggests itself that such valuable property ought not to be devoted to such a purpose from a purely economical point of view. But the *Nichi Nichi* regards the matter very radically. It says that it would be better to throw the land into the sea, if that were possible, than to suffer it to remain a bone of contention. There is no question, however, of sacrificing anything. Arithmetically speaking the foreigners in Yokohama are an insignificant community compared with the Japanese, yet the former have a beautiful and spacious Public Garden on the Bluff and another in the Settlement, whereas Japanese have only a miniature garden at Noge. This state of affairs reflects little credit on a town that claims the distinction of being the principal Treaty Port in the Empire. The value of the property in question does not amount to half a million *yen*, and that sum, a mere bagatelle to the wealthy merchants of Yokohama, might be devoted without any extravagance to laying out a public park. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* enthusiastically endorses this idea and for our own part we are entirely at one with it.

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The new House of Representatives consists of 94 *Shizoku* (former military class) and 206 *Heimin* (commoners). Considering that in former times the *Shizoku* were supposed to have a monopoly of education and political intelligence, it is interesting to observe how completely the so-called "plebeian" classes have now turned the tables on their sometime masters. Of course the element of finance enters into the calculation. It is no more possible in Japan than it is in England for a man without means to enter Parliament, and in that respect the *Heimin* have the advantage.

* * *

Analysing the House according to professsions and occupations, we have the following results:—

Members of City, Prefectural and Town Assemblies	37
Members of Commercial and Industrial Companies	45
Barristers	27
Newspaper Editors	13
Educationalists and Authors	4
Notary Public	1
Doctors	3
Officials	3
Local Officials	4
Farmers	115
Merchants	34
Men without a Profession	14

It will be seen from the above that the agricultural interest preponderates immensely in the House. Even the large figure of 115 members does not comprise the full agricultural representation, for doubtless amongst the 82 members of Assemblies and Companies included in the first two categories of the above list there are a good many who belong to the farming class. Under these circumstances we may expect to see the question of the Land Tax again brought into prominence, although never did legislators disturb themselves about a less tangible reform. The plain fact, paradoxical as it may seem, is that the Japanese farmer may be said to pay no Land Tax at all at present. The price at which he sells his rice is so far in excess of the price taken as the basis for assessing the taxable value of land that the difference covers the tax many times over. It results that the farmer is altogether relieved from the impost orginally contemplated when the new fiscal system was introduced. This is a matter of cold arithmetic, but cold arithmetic is always objectionable to political agitators.

CRITICISMS.

The *Japan Gazette's* criticisms of the election returns seem to be on a level with its recent writing about Japanese laws. It charges us with publishing as accomplished facts the results of the elections in 139 Districts, a day before the ballot-boxes were opened! Even the *Japan Gazette* might have appreciated the extreme improbability of any newspaper's guessing the names of 139 candidates, and publishing a prophetic list of them as actually elected. We admit that such a feat of recklessness does not lie beyond the field of our contemporary's journalistic potentialities, but for ourselves we can not honestly claim any courage of the kind. The very common-place fact is that the ballot-boxes in these 139 Districts were opened on the 2nd instant, and the results, telegraphed to Tokyo the same night, were inserted in these columns on the morning of the 3rd. The *Gazette's* elaborate accusation of "previousness" on our part has no sounder basis then its own misconception—that the first lawful day for opening the ballot-boxes was the 3rd instant. Why does not our contemporary take the trouble to ascertain the simplest facts before making its ignorance of them the ground of wild charges against another journal's integrity. So, too, the *Gazette* now pretends that we have classed Mr. Oi Kentaro as an "Independent," and that his inclusion in the ranks of the Independents reduces to an absurdity our hypothesis that the Independents may vote against Strict Treaty Enforcement. Once more the very common-place fact is that Mr. Oi Kentaro's name does not appear in our list as an "Independent" but as a member of the *Seimu Chosa-jo*; that is to say, a member of the very faction by which the Representation for Strict Enforcement was introduced in the House of Representatives. We are disposed to think that the *Japan Gazette* aspires to earn the novel distinction of being at once the most careless and the rashest journal ever published in Yokohama. The superlative standard is not easy to reach, but our contemporary is fairly *en route*.

THE PACIFIC MAIL.

A Washington, telegram dated Feb. 26th, says:—The question of inflicting a penalty on the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for a violation of the terms of the contract for carrying the mails between New York, Colon, San Francisco and Hongkong is under consideration by the Postmaster-General. The contract went into operation February 1st, 1892, and provided for ten years' service. The schedule required three trips a month between New York and Colon for the first two years, and once a week for the remaining period. Between San Francisco and Hongkong the contract provided for thirteen trips a year, the first two years, and twenty-six the remaining eight years. As the required change has not been made by the company, the Superintendent of foreign mails has brought the matter to the attention of the Postmaster-General. The penalty is discretionary with the Postmaster-General. It is possible the contract will be cancelled, resulting in the payment to the company according to the weight of the mails carried instead of on a mileage basis. The company is now paid $1 per mile for outward trips, no compensation being paid for mails carried on return voyages.

A PROMISING SOSHI.

About a week ago the honest tradespeople of Ogawa-machi, in Kanda District, Tokyo, were surprised at the sight of a well-dressed gentleman, evidently under the influence of potent fusil-oil, running for dear life with an infuriated *kuruma-ya* racing behind him and vociferating *Dorobō! dorobō!* The exciting chase was put an end to by the police-constables stationed at Manaita-bashi, and both pursuer and pursued taken to he Kanda Police Station. On arriving there, the *tinrikisha* puller accused his panting prey of having tried to abscond without paying for a long drive. The well-dressed unknown was about to be questioned when it appeared that the excitement together with his deep potations had evidently proved too much for him. He was taken to a convenient cell and there allowed to sleep off his debauch. On the following morning the case was brought up before the police magistrate, when the gentleman deponed that he was a well-to-do trader from the interior, plentifully supplied with funds for sight-seeing in Tokyo. He had already seen somewhat of "the tiger," but had still 400 *yen* in his possession, which he withdrew from an inner receptacle and showed the magistrate. Somewhere in the vicinity of Nishiki-cho, while in the *kuruma*, he had received a heavy blow from the blud-

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geon of a ruffianly young fellow, and imagining himself to have been mistaken for some prominent Radical, leapt from the vehicle and ran to escape further molestation. The matter was thus cleared up and the *kurumaya* given his due, when a most muscular and ill-dressed lad made his appearance at the door of the Court-room and begged to be allowed to make a statement touching the case just amicably arranged. He declared that he was the one who had given the blow; that he had not mistaken the jovial sightseer for any one, but had simply attacked him in order "to keep his hand in," as he was training for a *soshi* and had not yet any befitting opportunity to use his cudgel. The astonished magistrate at once subjected the young ruffian to a closer examination, when it appeared that he was deranged, his replies being wild and incoherent in the extreme. The gentleman and the *kurumaya* were dismissed, the former with a well-meant caution against too faithful an observance of the Bacchus-cult; and, strange to say, the would-be *soshi* was also permitted to retire, as the gentleman failed to recognize him and the Court could not indict him on the strength of his self-accusation. It seems a pity, however, that he was not sent to an asylum, as it is a decided case of *chian-bogai* to allow such a person to be at large.

MR. TAGUCHI ON MARRIAGE.

MR. TAGUCHI, editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, is fond of making excursions now and then into domains lying beyond the limits of economical science. He now discusses the question of marriage in his usual outspoken manner. Why has marriage become a fixed institution in human society while there is nothing of the kind in the community of other animate beings in the universe? "Some men and women are not contented with union for life; they even long to sit side by side on the same lotus-leaf for all eternity." Mr. Taguchi ascribes the origin of this "singular phenomenon"—the married state—to the power of memory possessed by man in so conspicuous a degree. All other animals, such as dogs, horses, and so forth, have no memory of their carnal connections. That is why the married state is impossible among them. But among men, it is different, they retain a vivid recollection of the relationships, family, social, and so forth, they bear to one another; and union by marriage thus becomes both possible and desirable. As to the marriageable limits of consanguinity, however, there can be no fundamental principle. In point of fact, in the early ages of human history marriage between brothers and sisters was a common thing, but with the increase of population and the consequent extension of the field for the choice of a husband or a wife, marriage between persons of close consanguinity became rarer and rarer, until it was denounced as a sin and punished as a crime. But Mr. Taguchi finds nothing intrinsically wrong in such marriages. He even goes so far as to think it open to doubt whether the state of marriage, as now regulated, is destined to be a permanent institution. "Whether it is advantageous to retain the system of man and wife and condemn and punish acts subversive of that system or to abolish the marriage state altogether, is a question worthy of serious consideration."

THE IMPERIAL SILVER WEDDING.

ROADS rendered villainous by the snow of the preceding day and rain that threatened all day and began to pour towards evening, unfortunately checked the flow of festivity in the streets of the Capital on the day of Their Majesties' Silver Wedding. Judging from the scale of the preparations that had been in progress for several days previous to the 9th, it seems certain that, had the weather been fine, the fête would have been the most magnificent witnessed in recent years. What did take place under exceedingly adverse circumstances amply bore witness to the enthusiasm aroused among the loyal citizens of the Capital by the occasion. It having been given out that a Grand Review would take place, however muddy the ground might be, provided that rain was not actually falling, the Aoyama Parade Ground became the objective point of great crowds shortly before 1 p.m. Pressing through the Yotsuya Gate unfortunate evidence of the preceding day's snow and storm was furnished by the dilapidated condition of the huge artificial cranes and tortoise, set up in the moat immediately outside the Gate, an arrangement about which there had been much talk. On the embankment to the left of the Gate, emerging from it, an immense rising sun, with a diameter of probably 60 ft., had been erected between pine trees. Below it on the face of the embankment, where the turf had been smoothly removed,—railway works being at present in progress in the moat,—large ideographs were traced with hay or straw, signifying "Respectful Congratulation on the Great Ceremony." In the moat, where foundations for a station are being raised, stood the half demolished cranes and tortoise already alluded to. The loss of these, however, was compensated by two very picturesque objects in the shape of schooners constructed with clusters of red and white paper-lanterns. These, when lit at night, looked really beautiful. Approaching nearer to the Parade Ground, the number of people, young and aged of both sexes, struggling through the mud in the same direction increased at every step, until it soon became impossible, or at any rate dangerous, to continue the journey in *jinrikisha*. Arrived at the Ground, where only those provided with tickets were admitted, the enclosure was seen to be already full of troops, while all the avenues debouching on it were filled with closely packed crowds of eager spectators, a large proportion of whom had evidently come from the country districts. High dignitaries of State, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and other privileged persons arrived constantly, among the latter being a few British Naval officers. Several foreigners, evidently globe-trotters, were observed among the crowd of Japanese who, though not privileged to go near the Imperial Pavilion, had been admitted by special tickets. The Emperor and the Empress, who left the Palace at 2.15 p.m., and who were waited for and cheered by great crowds along their route, reached the ground about three-quarters of an hour past two, and after giving audience to the principal guests and officers, Their Majesties, riding in the same carriage and followed by a brilliant train of officers, began a round of inspection along the lines of troops. There were on the Ground 10,700 troops in all, several regiments having been summoned to the Capital for the purpose from some garrisons in the vicinity. After the inspection, the troops began to march past the Imperial carriage. From the number of troops it may be imagined that this process took a long time. Not until a quarter after 4 did the Review came to an end. It had been altogether successful, the only untoward incident being that an infantry officer was thrown in the mud, his horse having been frightened at the sound of the music. Their Majesties left for the Palace immediately on the conclusion of the Review, attended by a large train of high officials. With the exception of the evening fête at the Palace, this Review was the most noteworthy incident of the occasion. Apart from it, there was not much deserving special attention. It goes without saying that the streets in all parts of the City were gaily decked with national flags, and paper lanterns of various shape and colour made specially for the occasion. Here and there, despite the rain, *dashi* and *yatai* were drawn along the streets, drums beating and flutes playing, occasionally with a party of *samisen* performers also. At various places along the principal thoroughfares, the citizens hung out across the street large oblong paper lanterns with pictures and inscriptions wishing long lives to Their Majesties. From about dark fireworks began to be displayed in the extensive space before the Imperial Palace, and the discharge continued until midnight, evoking the usual expressions of delight from crowds whose ardour raw rain and ubiquitous mud could not damp. With regard to the day and night receptions at the Palace, we shall speak in our next issue. On the whole the sight presented by the capital was not imposing, but for whatever it lacked of enthusiasm, the weather alone was answerable. The sightseers had hoped that Their Majesties would ride in the principal State Coach drawn by six horses, but a comparatively simple equipage was employed with only a pair of bays. The horses, however, were sufficiently handsome to give salience to the scrubby diminutiveness of the ponies ridden by the escort.

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The loyal folk of Yokohama did not allow the inclement weather to interfere with their programme of festivities. The heavy snow-fall of the previous day had greatly retarded preparations, but almost before day broke on the 9th, householders were busy in putting the finishing touches to their various schemes of decoration, the principal designs being Imperial flags, and red and white lanterns. As the day wore on cold wisps of rain blew over the town, occasionally developing into a serious downpour, but it required more than this to damp the ardour of the innumerable processions of Guilds and schools, which were continually being formed. The whole town, native and foreign settlements alike, held holiday, and from the European business houses hung flags of all nations, while the vessels in the anchorage dressed ship. At ten o'clock the eight war vessels in harbour, H.M.S. *Caroline*, H.I.R.M.S. *Admiral Korniloff*, *Zabiaka*, and *Razboyni*, the U.S.S. *Baltimore*, and *Marion*, the French cruiser *Forfait* and H.I.J.M.S. *Itsukushima* fired a full Imperial salute. About the same time the Kanagawa local officials met at the *Kencho* to exchange congratulations, and the Mayor and members of the Town Assembly gathered at their office for a similar purpose. The members of the Guild of Tea Merchants and Fancy Goods Dealers held a meeting at the Machigai-sho, and having given three rousing cheers for the Imperial couple, sat down to an enjoyable entertainment. The students of the Yokohama Commercial School marched in procession through the town, each boy wearing some distinctive badge commemorative of the day. Over one hundred members of the *Kosei-kai*, held an open-air social gathering in the Public Garden. The town band attended, and fireworks were displayed during the day and far into the night. They afterwards formed into procession and marched to the Noge Shrine. Native Christians assembled at their various Churches and offered thanks for the preservation of the Imperial pair, and prayed for their future well being and happiness. The poor were not forgotten on the 9th, some eighteen hundred being relieved with gifts of rice from charitably disposed neighbours.

FIRE IN THE SETTLEMENT.

ABOUT three o'clock on Thursday morning the patrol raised an alarm of fire. Mr. N. Morgin, in charge of the Yokohama Fire Brigade, quickly responded to the call, and proceeded to the scene of the outbreak, No. 118, with twenty men and one hose-reel. He discovered that the verandah of Mr. Pequignot's house was on fire, and the flames were spreading towards a cupboard containing horse medicines. The fire had burnt through the partition of the verandah into the house; the ceiling then catching alight and communicating the fire to the roof. By four o'clock all danger was at an end and the Brigade returned to the Station. The damage done is compartively slight, but there can be no doubt that had the alarm been given a few minutes later, the conflagration would have been very serious. The origin of the outbreak is unknown, but strong suspicion is entertained that it was the malicious work of an incendiary.

THE SILVER WEDDING STAMP.

WE learn from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that the numbers of 2 *sen* and 5 *sen* special stamps to be issued in connection with the ceremony of the Imperial Silver Wedding are to be 14,300,000 and 700,000 respectively; that no more will be struck, and that when the period of their employment ceases, their efficacy will come to an end. The two-*sen* stamp is for domestic use, and the five-*sen* for foreign letters.

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Our contemporary adds that the idea having been suddenly conceived and rapidly carried out, no little trouble was involved. Had there been more time available, some design of an elaborate and characteristic nature would have been adopted, but the Printing Bureau was finally obliged to follow comparatively simple lines.

STATE AID TO EXHIBITORS AT CHICAGO.

THE solicitations for State aid preferred by Japanese who sent exhibits to the Columbian Exhibition, have been partially successful. In the *Official Gazette* we find a Notification directing that a sum of 100,000 *yen* shall be paid out of the Second-Class Reserve to defray the carriage of exhibits returned to Japan. The ordinary expenses incidental to shipping articles back to Japan were defrayed out of the original appropriation on account of Exhibition purposes, but it appears that no provision was made for the transit of goods from the port of arrival to their final destinations. The exhibitors, deeming it a great hardship that they should be obliged to incur that expense, petitioned the Government to grant an additional sum of 200,000 *yen* for the purpose, and after some delay half of that amount has been appropriated. The disbursement of the money is surrounded by various precautions, one being that no exhibitor shall receive more than 20 per cent. of the original value of his exhibit.

THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY AND THE IMPERIAL SILVER WEDDING.

THE failure of the foreign community of Yokohama to take any congratulatory action in connection with the Imperial Silver Wedding, is likely, if left unexplained, to create such a bad impression among the Japanese that we desire to strongly deprecate any suspicion of lack of goodwill. Want of time was the real stumbling block. It was at first hoped that some object suitable for presentation to Their Majesties, would be procured immediately. But the field of choice being limited, because of a very natural desire to offer an article of Western manufacture, Yokohama's stores did not prove equal to the occasion, and the delay entailed by an unsuccessful search so seriously shortened the time available that all idea of accomplishing anything worthy of the occasion or of Yokohama ceased to be entertained, and under these circumstances it seemed better to refrain from doing anything at all. We do not pretend to claim that this is a full explanation, or that no perfunctoriness was shown, but we do ask the Japanese to be assured that if an ampler interval had separated the official announcement from the day of the celebration, the foreign community would not have stood aloof from the nation's rejoicing.

FOREIGNERS AND THE SILVER WEDDING.

A MEETING of foreigners in the employ of the Japanese Government was held in the Imperial Hotel, on Tuesday, M. Boisonnade in the Chair, for the purpose of deciding the form in which their present to the Emperor and Empress, on the occasion of their Silver Wedding, should take. It was decided that a silver terrestrial globe, embellished with ornamentation of gold and *shakudo*, would constitute the most appropriate *souvenir*, and Messrs. Chiossone and Conder were elected to the Committee for the special purpose of superintending the carrying-out of the design.

AN EXTRAVAGANT FIGURE.

BRIBERY and corruption are unpleasant things, and the fact that in spite of high-sounding phrases and eloquent promises, unscrupulous men do make use of such instruments at balloting-time, is no valid excuse for their existence. Japan may find consolation in the fact that, in this instance, she sins in company with the greatest of Western lands, be the procedure kept never so secret. Still it is a mild surprise to learn—as we are informed by a correspondent—that in the recent contest for the parliamentary representation of Yokohama, between Messrs. Shimada and Kimura, the price of a vote was, on the day before balloting, just one hundred *yen*. In the Shitaya District of Tokyo, the figure of corruption is said to have been lower, yet still high in consideration of the class of people forming the main body of voters—thirty *yen*. We do not, of course, vouch for the correctness of these assertions.

THE WADA CANAL.

EVER since the time of the Tokugawa dynasty there has been talk of cutting a canal at the neck of the Wada promontory so as to enable small vessels to avoid the dangers of rounding that unpleasant cape. But when the cost of the undertaking and the probable profits came to be reckoned, it appeared that there was nothing to tempt ordinary speculators. But of late some enterprising men of the locality, notably Mr. Takei Morimasa, an ex-Governor of Tottori, interested themselves actively in the undertaking. They proceeded on the assumption that they had to deal with a work of national utility, not a mere business enterprise. A company was finally started with a capital of 300,000 *yen*, and a charter has been obtained from the Government. The canal is not of very great dimension, being only 2,000 yards long and 42 yards wide. It is to start from Hayashida and debouch at Shinagawa in Hyogo, and at intervals of 600 yards there will be an anchorage of considerable size. A branch cutting, 30 yards wide, will be carried to the Hyogo terminus of the Sanyo Railway. Ships using the canal will, of course, be required to pay dues, but there is no expectation that any profit will be obtained on the capital invested until several years shall have elapsed.

REGISTRATION OF BRITISH SUBJECTS.

THE clause in the Order in Council regulating the registration of British subjects, has been strictly applied this year, and, as a result, several summonses were issued. Taking the list alphabetically, the cases were dealt with in batches of a few letters a time, and the persons cited all duly paid as far as S. George Savory, who came under the last heading, appeared before the Court on Monday, however, and in answer to Mr. R. de B. Layard, who prosecuted on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, pleaded sickness and lack of employment as the reason for not obeying the summons. His Honour, Judge Mowat, accepted defendant's promise to pay before the afternoon, and adjourned the case pending settlement.

ORDERS OF MERIT.

THE Emperor has conferred Orders on three members of the Tokyo City Assembly, Messrs. Yoshino Seikei, Suto Tokiichiro, and Matsuda Hideo. The documents announcing the distinction say that these gentlemen have distinguished themselves by efforts in the cause of education, by admirable discharge of their public duties, and by assistance rendered in promoting harmonious cöoperation among the citizens. This is the first example of such a distinction being accorded to men in such a position and for such reasons, and the circumstance has evoked much interest. It is observable that the documents are dated "3rd of 3rd month," which, as every one knows, is the Girls' Festival (*O-sekku*). Perhaps that is only a coincidence, but we are inclined to think differently.

THE HOLDERS OF THE FRANCHISE.

THE question is commonly asked, "How many persons in Japan enjoy the franchise?" The *Official Gazette* answers. It says that the necessary qualifications for voting—the principal of which is the annual payment of 15 *yen* in the form of direct taxes—are possessed by 400 nobles, 24,540 *Shizoku* (former military class), and 480,198 *Heimin* (commoners), a grand total of 505,138. Those who are actually registered as voters are 8 nobles, 21,222 *Shizoku*, and 436,719 *Heimin*, a total of 457,309.

THE HONGKONG RACES.

HONGKONG races passed off successfully on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th February. Mr. John Peel secured 5 wins, Messrs. Buxey and Trebau 3 each, Messrs. Taylor, David and August 2 each, while eight owners had one win placed to their credit. The most successful jockey was Mr. Hough, who secured 5 wins, but unfortunately in the Champions he was badly thrown by Vagrant and sustained a compound fracture of the thigh and serious internal injuries. Messrs. Sassoon, Taylor and Reynell notched 4 each, Mr. Master securing 3, while the remainder was divided between Messrs. Sampson, Hart-Buck, Maclean, May and Captain Thomas, who won one each. The Champions resulted in a dead heat between Mr. Boyd's Dunoon, ridden by Mr. Hart-Buck, and Mr. Taylor's Dare Devil, Owner up.

THE FIRST DISTRICT OF KANAGAWA.

SLENDER as was the majority by which Mr. Shimada Saburo secured his seat in the election just concluded, there appears to have been some talk of an attempt to prove his return null and void. It is alleged that on four of the ballots cast for him, an erroneous ideograph was employed in writing the last syllable (*ro*) of his second name, and, of course, if these 9allots were declared invalid, his votes would dave been reduced to 95 against his opponent's h7. But happily the idea of making an election bepend on the method of writing an ideograph has been abandoned.

BANK OF ENGLAND ASSETS.

APROPOS of the sensational attacks on the Bank of England, says the *Mexican Financier*, it is worth remembering that the land on which the Bank stands, in the very heart of the City of London, is not considered as an asset on the books of the institution. The land is worth an immense sum, but so conservative is the policy of the Bank's management that it has never allowed its real estate to be taken as an asset. And besides the resources of the Bank, as shown in its weekly statements to the public, it has vast assets which are left out of the account.

A NEW DIORAMA.

SINCE the burning of the fine panorama of Mt. Fuji, in the great fire of April, 1892, Japanese exhibitors have not done anything in the way of producing these once so popular monster pictures. The latest venture is a diorama (the first of its kind in this country, by the way) consisting of ten consecutive views of Nikko-san. The paintings are reported to be of more than average skill, the perspective being particularly well managed. The diorama has been set up in the Public Park (*Ko-en*) of Shiba District, Tokyo, and will be open to the public from the second day of March.

"SILVER WEDDING" MEDALS.

A WELL-KNOWN Tokyo manufacturing firm announces for sale a medal specially struck off in honour of the Imperial Silver Wedding. The medals are very prettily made in antimony, aluminium, silver and gold, the price ranging from 10 *sen* to 10 *yen*. The medal is octagonal with a wavy border, bearing the Imperial Insignia on the reverse, and the paulownia crest, two phœnixes and a blazing sun on the obverse, with a suitable inscription. The cheaper kinds are said to be selling very largely.

THE WRECK OF THE "VITIAZ."

A REUTER telegram from St. Petersburg to a London paper says:—"Capt. Zarine, who was in charge of the Russian cruiser *Vitias* when that vessel was wrecked off the Korean coast last April, has been found guilty by a Naval Court-matial of having caused the disaster by his order, and has been sentenced to be deprived of his rank of commander."

THE "WAKANOURA MARU."

THE *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* says that the N.Y.K. steamer *Wakanoura Maru* struck a shoal lying about three hundred feet from the southern point of the second fort in Tokyo Bay, while entering on the 5th inst., at about 6.50 p.m. The ship was afloat by 6 o'clock the following morning, the high tide lifting her off. She sustained no damage.

INTERNET ARCHIVE

THE ELECTIONS.

I.

IN our issue of the 3rd instant, we gave the returns of the elections for 139 constituencies. Our readers may have found it strange that whereas the polling took place on the 1st instant, not even one half of the results were known on the evening of the 3rd. The explanation is that the ballot boxes are not opened on the day of the polling. They are not even opened in every case on the following day, some districts postponing the operation until the 3rd and some until the 4th. A considerable number, however, are opened on the day after the polling, and with regard to these only was it possible to publish the results on the morning of the 3rd. Up to Tuesday evening returns had reached Tokyo from 274 constituencies out of the whole 300, and we therefore continue our list of Saturday, so as to show the results in the 135 additional districts now declared :—

(N.B.—In the following list the asterisks denote new members.)

Name of Candidate elected.	Political Party.	Political Party of previous Representative.
TOCHIGI PREFECTURE.		
Arai Shogo.	Oriental Radical.	Re-elected.
*Tamura Junnosuke.	Radical.	*Doshi* Club.
Tanaka Shozo.	*Kaishin-to.*	Re-elected.
Shiota Okuzo.	Radical.	do.
AOMORI PREFECTURE.		
Kudo Kokan.	*Doshi* Club.	do.
*Minamoto Akira.	Radical.	*Kaishin-to.*
Sakaki Kyome.	*Doshi* Club.	Radical.
Kikuchi Kuro.	do.	do.
OKAYAMA PREFECTURE.		
Kobayashi Kusuo.	do.	do.
*Higashi Ryosaburo.	*Kaishin-to.*	National Unionist.
KANAGAWA PREFECTURE.		
Yamada Taizo.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Yamada Toji.	do.	do.
*Fukui Naokichi.	do.	Radical.
Yamada Kakoku.	do.	Re-elected.
MIYE PREFECTURE.		
Kurihara Ryoichi.	do.	do.
YEHIME PREFECTURE.		
*Shigeoka Kenjiro.	do.	*Kaishin-to.*
*Tamai Yasuzo.	do.	Radical.
OSAKA CITY.		
Awaya Shinazo.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
*Doi Michio.	Independent.	*Chuo Koseikai.*
*Mayekawa Makizo.	*Kaishin-to.*	National Unionist.
Murayama Ryohei.	Independent.	Re-elected.
*Akiyama Giichi.	Independent.	*Seimu Chosa-jo.*
Takai Kozo.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
*Yokota Jutaro.	Radical.	National Unionist.
Higashi Heitaro.	*Doshi* Club.	Re-elected.
*Oi Kentaro.	Oriental Radical.	*Seimu Chosa-jo.*
Sasaki Seisha.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
HYOGO PREFECTURE.		
Murano Yamato.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
Den Teikichi.	Radical.	do.
Ishida Kwannosuke.	do.	do.
Iwozumi Itsuji.	*Kaishin-to.*	do.
*Nishimura Shintaro.	Independent.	Radical.
*Nagura Tsugu.	*Kaishin-to.*	*Kaishin-to.*
*Koizuka Ryu.	do.	National Unionist.
Kaino Kozo.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Oka Seiitsu.	Radical.	do.
Sato Bumbei.	*Kaishin to.*	do.
Sano Sukesaku.	Radical.	do.
KYOTO CITY.		
*Tamiya Isami.	Radical.	do.
Tanaka Gentaro.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
*Kawarabayashi Yoshino.	Radical.	National Unionist.
Komuchi Tomotsune.	*Seimu Chosa jo.*	Re-elected.
*Yasuda Masutaro.	Radical.	Radical.
NAGASAKI PREFECTURE.		
*Miyazaki Yeiji.	Radical.	National Unionist.
*Tomenaga Hayato.	*Doshi* Club.	do.
*Iyenaga Yoshihiko.	Radical.	do.
*Yamaguchi Shin.	National Unionist.	*Doshi* Club.
*Fujisaki Kasan.	do.	National Unionst.
*Kusakari Buhachiro.	Radical.	Radical.
NIIGATA PREFECTURE.		
*Ogino Samon.	National Unionist.	Radical.
*Sato Sadashi.	Radical.	*Kaishin-to.*
*Otake Kwanichi.	National Unionist.	Radical.
Hasegawa Tai.	*Doshi* Club.	Re-elected.
*Takashi Kuro.	Radical.	*Kaishin-to.*
*Matsumoto Yasohachi.	*Kaishin to.*	Independent.
*Naito Hisahiro.	*Kaishin-to.*	Radical.
IBARAKI PREFECTURE.		
Noguchi Katsuichi.	Radical.	Re-elected.
*Otsu Junichiro.	*Kaishin-to.*	Radical.
NARA PREFECTURE.		
*Nakayama Heihachiro.	Independent.	*Kaishin-to.*
Uyeda Ritaro.	*Kaishin-to.*	Re-elected.
*Sakurai Tomonori.	Radical.	*Kaishin-to.*
MIYE PREFECTURE.		
*Suzuki Jubi.	Radical.	Domei Club.
*Kimura Seitaro.	*Kaishin-to.*	Radical.
*Doi Kokwa.	Radical.	Radical.
*Fukayama Takatsura.	Radical.	*Kaishin-to.*
NAGANO PREFECTURE.		
*Kojima Shoyo.	Independent.	Independent.
*Shimazu Tadasada.	Radical.	*Kaishin-to.*
Sato Hachiroyemon.	do.	Re-elected.
*Kiuchi Shin.	*Doshi.*	Radical.
Nakamura Yaroku.	*Domei* Club.	Re-elected.
Ito Daihachi.	Radical.	do.
MIYAGI PREFECTURE.		
Musha Denjiro.	Radical.	Re-elected.
*Goto Toshiyasu.	do.	*Seimu Chosa jo.*
*Oba Chokuro.	do.	National Unionist.
Shuto Rikuzo.	*Kaishin to.*	Re-elected.
*Kusakari Chikaaki.	Radical.	*Semu Chosa-jo.*
SHIGA PREFECTURE.		
*Nakata Nagayoshi.	*Domei* Club.	*Domei* Club.
*Okada Itsujiro.	Radical.	*Domei* Club.
Ohigashi Gitetsu.	*Domei* Club.	Re-elected.
Nakanokoji Yoheiji.	do.	do.
*Wakizaka Gyozo.	Radical.	*Domei* Club.
GIFU PREFECTURE.		
Ono Kamesaburo.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
*Kishi Kosaburo.	Independent.	National Unionist.
*Tanaka Sadamasa.	Radical.	Independent.
Suda Manyemon.	National Unionist.	National Unionist.
Asami Yoichiyemon.	Radical.	do.
FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE.		
*Yoshida Masao.	Radical.	*Doshi* Club.
ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE.		
*Matsuda Kichisaburo.	Radical.	National Unionist.
*Yoshimoto Yeikichi.	do.	do.
*Umeda Satsuki.	do.	Radical.
*Asano Jumbei.	*Kaishin to.*	Radical.
*Nadate Sadazo.	do.	National Unionist.
*Koma Shuku.	Radical.	Radical.
TOYAMA PREFECRURE.		
Sekino Zenjiro.	*Kaishin to.*	Re-elected.
Hara Kozo.	National Unionist.	do.
*Nomura Shuzo.	*Kaishin-to.*	National Unionist.
Inagaki Shimesu.	Oriental Radical.	Re-elected.
Shimada Tadayuki.	*Kaishin-to.*	do.
OKAYAMA PREFECTURE.		
*Higasa Tsunetaro.	*Kaishin-to.*	National Unionist.
HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE.		
*Nohira Jo.	Radical.	*Inokaku-ha.*
Wada Hikojiro.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
*Cho Toshihiko.	Independent.	Radical.
YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE.		
Ooka Ikuzo.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE.		
*Kamada Yeikichi.	Independent.	*Kishu gumi.*
*Mochizuki Unai.	do.	do.
*Senda Gunnosuke.	Radical.	do.
SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE.		
Inouye Hikozayemon.	*Kaishin to.*	Re-elected.
Hirozumi Hisamichi.	do.	do.
*Adachi Magoroku.	Radical.	*Kaishin-to.*
Yebara Soroku.	do.	Re-elected.
*Omura Waiichiro.	do.	Radical.
YAMANASHI PREFECTURE.		
*Saito Uhachi.	Radical.	*Domei* Club.
*Yoda Michinaka.	do.	National Unionist.
KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE.		
Atchi Masatoshi.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
Kashiwada Moribumi.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
YEHIME PREFECTURE.		
Suzuki Masataka.	Radical.	Re-elected.
Suzuki Shigeto.	*Domei* Club.	do.
*Yanagisawa Harujiro.	Radical.	*Kaishin-to.*
*Kudo Kanjo.	*Domei* Club.	*Domei* Club.
*Shimizu Rintoku.	*Kaishin to.*	Radical.
KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE.		
*Toda Kumahiko.	National Unionist.	National Unionist.
Furusho Yoshikado.	do.	Re-elected.
Shito Kwanji.	do.	do.
*Watanabe Keisei.	do.	National Unionist.
*Shibuya Rei.	Radical.	Radical.
Kozaki Shigeaki.	National Unionist.	Re-elected.
TOKYO CITY.		
Asaka Katsutaka.	*Kaishin to.*	Re-elected.
*Hayashi Waichi.	do.	National Unionist.
*Takagi Masatoshi.	do.	do.
Ishizuka Masataka.	Radical.	Re elected.
*Nakamura Katsumasa.	do.	Radical.

Before proceeding to analyse the above in conjunction with the previous list, it may be well to give a brief explanation of the various parties mentioned, for it is more than probable that among the eight names some will be unfamiliar to our readers. The Radicals (*Jiyu-to*), then, are the party under the leadership of Count ITAGAKI, Mr. HOSHI TORU, and Mr. KONO HIRONAKA. They are supposed to be inclined to lend a measure of support to the Government—not by any means indiscriminate support, but support sufficient to render useful legislation possible and to put a stop to the fruitless contest waged in former sessions of the Diet. Independents, as their name indicates, are not pledged to any party. It is supposed that they will support the Government, but of course that forecast can not be considered certain. It is, however, safe to say that the balance of probability sways strongly in favour of such support. The *Kaishin-to* (Progressionists), are the followers of Count OKUMA, Mr. SHIMADA SABURO, and Mr. OZAKI YUKIO. They are the Government's most bitter opponents and may always be expected to vote against the Radicals. The *Domei* Club consists of men whose original object in combining was to act as a cohesive element between the Radicals and the *Kaishin-to*, but after the disruption between the two last year, the *Domei* associates threw in their lot finally with the *Kaishin-to* towards which party their sympathies had always pointed. The *Doshi* Club consists of Radicals who seceded from their party in connection with the HOSHI TORU affair. They

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formed the extreme wing of the *Jiyu-to*, and the separation from it was a fortunate event for the party, though entailing at the moment a considerable numerical loss. The National Unionists are the men returned in 1892 as Government supporters. They voted for the Cabinet in the first session after their election, but so soon as Count MATSUKATA went out of office, they became the Government's opponents. Last session, under the guidance of Viscount SHINAGAWA outside the House, and Messrs. OOKA IKUZO, MOTODA HAJIME and others inside, they joined the *Kaishin-to* in offering indiscriminate resistance to every Government measure, and supporting every anti-official motion or agitation. The *Seimu Chosa-jo* are a little knot of nominally independent politicians. From them emanated the Strict-Treaty-Enforcement Representation, and their leader, Mr. ABEI IWANE, introduced not only that Representation, but also the motion for the expulsion of Mr. HOSHI TORU. The Oriental Radicals are the coterie of agitators under the leadership of Mr. OI KENTARO. They avow Anti-Mixed-Residence principles and are altogether the most violent and extreme politicians in Japan. The six parties, *Kaishin-to*, *Domei* Club, *Doshi* Club, National Unionists, *Seimu Chosa-jo* and Oriental Radicals, may be regarded as the components of the Opposition.

Thus much premised we proceed to analyse the returns for 274 constituencies which have declared their representatives. The results are as follow.

Radicals	115
Independents	26
Kaishin-to	47
Domei Club	19
Doshi Club	22
National Unionists	37
Seimu Chosa-jo	4
Oriental Radicals	3
Total	274

It will be seen that the Radicals and Independents total 141 against the remaining six parties' aggregate of 133. Assuming that the Radicals and Independents unite to support the Government, they will command just a bare majority. Of course the returns from the remaining 26 constituencies may greatly alter the complexion of things.

For purposes of comparison we set down here the numerical strengths of the above eight sections of the last House of Representatives :—

Radicals	77

(Originally 98, but reduced to 77 by the secession of 21 members who combined to form the *Doshi* Club).

Independents	44

(Including the *Kishu* group, the Inouye Kakugoro group, or *Inokaku-ha*, the *Jitsugyo-gumi*, or Practical Men's Association, and the Shiba Club, which last, however, almost always voted against the Government).

Kaishin-to	43
Domei Club	25
Doshi Club	21
National Unionists	76
Seimu Chosa-jo	5
Oriental Radicals (or *Kokumin Kyokai*)	9

The Radicals, it will be seen, have already sprung from 77 to 115, a gain of 38. In point of fact, the actual gain of the Radicals thus far is 47, at which figure we arrive thus :—In 143 constituencies new men have been returned, and of these 75 are Radicals. Out of the 75, however, 18 merely replace men of the same Party.

Hence in 57 districts hitherto represented by other parties, Radical candidates have now been returned. But in 10 constituencins former Radical representatives have lost their seats. Thus, finally, the net Radical gain is 47. It may interest our readers to see exactly in what degree each of the other parties has suffered at the hands of the Radicals :—

The Radicals have gained (net) 7 seats from the *Kaishin-to*.
The Radicals have gained (net) 22 seats from the National Unionists.
The Radicals have gained (net) 5 seats from the *Domei* Club.
The Radicals have gained (net) 2 seats from the *Doshi* Club.
The Radicals have gained (net) 5 seats from the Independents.
The Radicals have gained (net) 5 seats from the *Seimu-Chosa-Jo*.
The Radicals have gained (net) 1 seat from the Oriental Radicals.

Pending the publication of the returns for the remaining 26 districts, it would be premature to comment on the significance of any of the above figures. We may note, however, the remarkable fact that more than half of the men thus far returned did not sit in the last House—143 new members out of 274. We may also note the remarkable success that has been attained by the Radicals, in connection with which fact our readers will remember that the Radicals are opposed to the Strict-Enforcement doctrine, and are in favour of opening the whole country at once.

II.

THE various newspapers of the capital differ considerably in their analyses of the results of the general elections, each, as a rule, adding more or less to the parties that it favours and subtracting from those that it opposes. As the matter is of the keenest interest at this critical stage of Japan's political history, we append the estimates given by the leading journals :—

Mainichi Shimbun (*Kaishin-to* organ).

Radicals	119
Independents	40
Kaishin-to	64
Domei Club	16
Doshi Club	22
National Unionists	31
Seimu Chosa-jo	4
Oriental Radicals	3

Kokumin Shimbun (*Pro-Kaishin-to*).

Radicals	103
Independents (including *Shiba* Club)	55
Kaishin-to	57
Domei Club	19
Doshi Club	24
National Unionists	33
Seimu Chosa-jo	6

Yomiuri Shimbun (*Kaishin-to*).

Radicals	121
Independents	24
Kaishin-to	62
Domei Club	19
Doshi Club	31
National Unionists	31
Oriental Radicals	7
Seimu Chosa-jo	4

Hochi Shimbun (*Kaishin-to* organ.)

Radicals	97
Independents	63
Kaishin-to	61
Domei Club	17
Doshi Club	21
National Unionists	34
Seimu Chosa-jo	3
Oriental Radicals	4

Niroku Shimpo (Independent).

Radicals	114
Independents	51
Kaishin-to	54
Domei Club	17
Doshi Club	30
National Unionists	34

Jiyu (*Jiyu-to* organ).

Radicals	122
Independents	49
Kaishin-to	49
Domei Club	16
Doshi Club	22
National Unionists	26
Oriental Radicals	3

Nichi Nichi Shimbun (Pro-Government).

Radicals	120
Independents (including "Uncertain")	45
Kaishin-to	54
Domei Club	14
Doshi Club	24
National Unionists (including 2 Conservatives)	35
Seimu Chosa-jo	5
Oriental Radicals	3

Chuo Shimbun (National Unionist Organ).

Radicals	119
Independents	41
Kaishin-to	60
Domei Club	16
Doshi Club	20
National Unionists	31
Seimu Chosa-jo	3
Oriental Radicals	10

Jiji Shimpo (Independent.)

Radicals	116
Independents	47
Kaishin-to	55
Domei Club	17
Doshi Club	29
National Unionists	31
Seimu Chosa-jo	5

Asahi Shimbun (Independent, but strongly in favour of Strict Treaty Enforcement.)

Radicals	117
Independents	45
Kaishin-to	51
Domei Club	18
Doshi Club	25
National Unionists	34
Seimu Chosa-jo	5

Some of these figures differ sufficiently to perplex any calculator. We are disposed, for our own part, to attach most credit to the returns of the *Nichi Nichi* and the *Jiji*. But without accepting any one verdict as final, we proceed to strike an average over the whole ten, with the following results :—

Radicals	115
Independents	46
Kaishin-to	57
Domei Club	17
Doshi Club	26
National Unionists	32
Seimu Chosa-jo	4
Oriental Radicals	3
Total	300

This gives a strength of 161 to the united Radicals and Independents. But it does not follow that all the Independents will vote with the Radicals, or that

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either will extend any regular support to the Government. According to present indications there is reason to fear that the opposing factions in the next Diet will be pretty evenly balanced. At the head of each side will stand the Radicals and the Progressionists, now committed to implacable hostility, though in the first four sessions they worked together for the Government's overthrow. The Radicals are by no means in full sympathy with the Cabinet, but it may safely be said that they have abandoned, temporarily at all events, their sometime attitude of destructive opposition to everything official, and that they will judge each measure on its merits not simply according to its *provenance*. It may also be said with no less certainty that they are strongly inimical to the *Kaishin-to*. We have been foretelling the final disruption of these two parties for years, but of course we claim no credit for a prediction that merely reflected the opinion of intelligent Japanese. From the time when the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to* came into existence, a decade before the opening of the Diet, their mutual attitudes were strongly antipathetic, and the passage of time served only to develop their innate elements of antagonism. A common desire to oust the so-called "Clan Statesmen" brought these incongruous parties into half-hearted alliance at the beginning of the Parliamentary campaign. But though they might combine for destructive purposes, their union could never survive the strain of constructive statesmanship. In other words, they were incapable of coalescing for administrative ends. Nevertheless, whichever of the two sought to be seriously regarded by the country as a party offering potential successors to the "Clan Statesmen," must re-model its programme on constructive lines, for the nation could not be expected to endure patiently the perpetual substitution of political polemics for administrative and material progress, or to repose any confidence in agitators who perverted the Legislature into an arena for such polemics. It was, therefore, a true instinct that induced the leaders of the *Jiyu-to* to replace construction for destruction in their platform, and it was an equally true instinct that prompted them at the same time to break away finally from the *Kaishin-to*. They are not supporters of the Government, but they are opponents of the *Kaishin-to*, and they have been clever enough to abandon to the latter the rôle of destructive opposition. Hence the one thing that may be foretold with certainty about the coming session is that the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to* will stand opposed to each other, and that whereas the former commands a solid phalanx of 115 to 120 members, the latter's 50 or 60 can exercise effective strength only by attaching to itself and holding a congeries of petty factions with little that is common in their platforms and less that is congruous in their principles. *Divide et impera*. The Government should be able to stand its ground under the circumstances.

THE KANAGAWA ELECTION.

THE result of the recent election in the First District of Kanagawa Prefecture deserves special comment. The District has hitherto been represented by Mr. SHIMADA SABURO who, after Count OKUMA, is the most important figure in the *Kaishin-to*. Indeed, in some respects, he is a more important figure, because although Count OKUMA founded the party and shapes its general procedure from his retreat at Waseda, he does not appear in the actual arena or take any visible part in the political contest. Mr. SHIMADA, on the contrary, is the duly elected leader in the House of Representatives; his figure is constantly *en evidence*, he is one of the most eloquent men in Japan to-day, and he has shown himself a master of Parliamentary tactics. With all these qualifications to recommend him to an electorate, Mr. SHIMADA'S return from the First District of Kanagawa has hitherto been regarded as a foregone conclusion. The electors were proud to be represented by such a man, as well they might be, and moreover Mr. SHIMADA'S business interests and journalistic connections gave him great influence in the Prefecture. Thus in the election of 1892 he obtained 164 votes against his opponent's 28, and these figures were considered at the time a fair index of the preponderance of Mr. SHIMADA'S chances over those of any other possible candidate. Doubtless they were then a fair index. But in the last session of the Diet the party of which Mr. SHIMADA is the active head associated itself with a policy as unbecoming as it was incongruous—the policy of Strict Treaty Enforcement. Of all political parties in Japan the *Kaishin-to* has least reason for espousing such a programme. Its members and leaders know perfectly well that no vexatious and illiberal measures are needed to goad Foreign Powers into doing justice to Japan, and since the policy of Strict Enforcement is wholly inexcusable except as a lever to prize Treaty Revision out of the rut of abortive negotiations, politicians who endorse Strict Enforcement, knowing its needlessness in that sense, must be regarded as the worst kind of opportunists. In truth, with all our admiration for the abilities of the *Kaishin-to* leaders, for their unflinching resolution and for the extraordinary tact they have displayed in manufacturing majorities hostile to the Government, we cannot but regard this particular incident of their career as a permanent blot upon their escutcheon. No Japanese statesman takes broader or more liberal views of Japan's foreign relations than Count OKUMA. He believes in absolute freedom of commercial intercourse; he advocates large recourse to foreign capital for the development of the country's embryonic resources, and he does not even share the prejudice against foreign ownership of real estate in Japan. With such views he found no great difficulty in bringing the problem of Treaty Revision within range of speedy solution in 1889, and his efforts received the staunchest endorsement and support from his Party. Yet this same Count OKUMA, and this same Party, now stand forth as champions of a policy radically illiberal in conception, useless and even mischievous for purposes of Treaty Revision, and emanating from a group of Conservative agitators who have declared themselves hostile to the opening of the country, hostile to the ownership of real estate by foreigners and hostile to the introduction of foreign capital. Of course the enigma is easily explained. Its solution is to be sought in the disruption between the *Kaishin-to* and the Radicals. So long as these two were in alliance they could always command a majority hostile to the Government. But when they fell apart, the *Kaishin-to*, numerically weak, could no longer lead a formidable Opposition except by allying itself with the extremists who had seceded from the Radicals, and, with the other petty political coteries then awaiting organization and principles. The heat needed to fuse these heterogeneous elements into a phalanx capable of effective action was supplied by the Strict Enforcement question, and the *Kaishin-to* did not shrink from adopting that means, although the step involved conspicuous violence to all the principles previously directing the Party's foreign policy. Hence when Mr. SHIMADA presented himself again before his constituents this spring, he no longer appeared as the leader of a Party hitherto consistent in everything, above all in its opposition to the Government. His electors had to ask themselves a new question, namely, whether in voting for Mr. SHIMADA, they were prepared to vote for restriction of the privileges hitherto enjoyed by foreigners and for the inauguration of a *régime* of illiberality and unfriendliness in Japan's international relations. It never could have been reasonably hoped that Mr. SHIMADA would lose his seat. His prestige, his gifts and his influence seemed to guarantee him effectually against any such catastrophe. Yet, instead of carrying the constituency by 164 votes to 28, as he did in 1892, he has now carried it by only 99 to 97, a bare majority of 2. We are certainly justified in regarding this result as significant.

THE ELECTION AND THE ANTI-FOREIGN MOVEMENT.

WITHOUT attempting as yet any final analysis of the results of the general elections with reference to the question of Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, we may note indications which make it safe to aver that the nation's voice has been upon the whole unfavourable to the essential feature of the movement originat-

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ed by the *Seimu Chosa-jo* last session, namely, its anti-foreign tendency. It was the acrimonious anti-foreign sentiment running through the proposed Representation on Strict Treaty Enforcement that made the measure so objectionable and in a large measure led to the dissolution of the House of Representatives. This aspect of the question apart, there was little or nothing worth attention in the Representation. Numerous letters, however, received from all parts of the country and the personal observations of competent judges in the capital and its vicinity, show clearly that the candidates of the allied Opposition parties —namely, the parties committed to the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement —took great pains to explain to the constituencies that the object of the Representation was not in any way either to embarrass the Government or to show antipathy to foreigners. In some remote conservative corners of the Empire whither the influence of modern civilization has not fully penetrated, preference may have been displayed for candidates professing anti-foreign sentiments. But such cases, so far as our information extends, seem to have been extremely rare. Knowing that the cause to which, in an evil hour, they had committed themselves, was far from being popular, the Opposition candidates evidently took care to make as little reference as possible to that subject. They sought assiduously to divert attention by criticisms of the Government's action in dissolving the House of Representatives. Certainly these were the tactics followed by the *Kaishin-to* and other parties of progressive principles. Take, for instance, the case of Mr. SHIMADA SABURO, one of the leaders of the *Kaishin-to*. In the first two elections, he was returned by the town of Yokohama almost unopposed. But even his popularity seemed, at the recent election, to avail him little as against his adherence to the anti-foreign motion introduced by Mr. ABEI HANKON. At one time his friends seriously feared that he would be ignominously beaten by an adversary who, although a respectable merchant, has not a moiety of the qualifications which Mr. SHIMADA possesses as a candidate for the Legislature. Mr. SHIMADA, in great alarm, thereupon issued a manifesto endeavouring to explain away the objectionable points in the ABEI Representation, but virtually avowing opposition to all the essential features of that measure. Yet, despite this skilful management, he had a narrow escape of defeat, his majority being only two. Mr. KAJIMA HIDEMARO, another Progressionist of note, who has been returned from Kobe, had a similar experience. It would have been in all probability impossible for him to secure a majority had he not, like his Yokohama colleague, proved himself virtually an opponent of the cause of Strict Treaty Enforcement.

As to what Mr. OZAKI YUKIO did in Ise, we have not been able to obtain any information, but it may be surmised that there, too, the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement was kept in the background. A fact of equal, if not greater, significance is the return by a considerable majority (1,904 to 1,452) of Mr. HOSHI TORU. Mr. HOSHI is the object of keen hatred to the leading promoters of the anti-foreign movement, for, rightly or wrongly, he is believed to be in league with the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the speedy opening of the country. This circumstance, coupled with his expulsion from the Lower House under peculiar conditions, induced his enemies to marshal all their forces in support of his antagonist, Mr. YOKOBORI SANSHI, who had sat in the first Diet as a Radical member, but subsequently joined a conservative faction. Yet the combined efforts of the conservatives failed signally to throw out the greatest opponent of the anti-foreign movement. Still more significant, perhaps, is the defeat of Mr. ABE-HANKON, the introducer of the famous Representation already alluded to as well as of the motion for Mr. HOSHI'S expulsion. His successful adversary, Mr. HIRASHIMA MATSUO, is a Radical who, though of some local note, has hitherto been an unknown factor in the field of general politics. That such a competitor gained a victory, however close (875 to 846), over a man of considerable renown in the Empire and of almost unequalled influence in local affairs, must be regarded as an unmistakable proof how little sympathy is felt by the people in general with the anti-foreign movement, which was originally started by a gang of political adventurers, and which has since been joined by certain parties for purposes entirely distinct from the merits of the question. It appears to us very improbable that, in view of these circumstances, the Strict-Enforcement Representation will command any solid support in the new House of Representatives. Doubtless the allied Opposition parties will again try to introduce a similar measure, but we may reasonably expect that it will be essentially different from the Representation submitted last session ; in other words, that it will be free from the anti-foreign spirit actuating the latter. Should the Opposition, on the contrary, take no hint from the clearly expressed sense of the country, and should the House be so unmindful of its duty to the people as to favour any anti-foreign measure, there ought to be little hesitation about sending back the members once more to their constituencies.

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE, Limited, Yokohama.

CHINESE REPRODUCTIONS OF OLD PORCELAINS.

IT might have been predicted with tolerable certainty that the proverbial ingenuity of the Chinese would not fail them when the expediency of re-producing celebrated porcelains of bygone eras be-came really pressing. Until some seven or eight years ago there flowed into the market a sufficient supply of genuine old specimens to satisfy the collectors of that time and to furnish the stores of dealers in *bric-à-brac*. But America's requirements became yearly more pressing, and as the means of meeting them grew necessarily less extensive, prices rose to such a height that the temptation to supplement with modern imitations the fitful and constantly dwindling supply of early *chefs-d'œuvre*, could not be resisted. No one expected, indeed, that it would be resisted, but every one was tolerably confident that collectors possessing ordinary knowledge would be guaranteed against deception owing to the incapacity of the Chinese of the present era to produce anything really comparable with justly famous examples dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. But no such confidence can be felt any longer. The imitators have developed a degree of skill that brings their work within measurable distance of the fine old standards. Even the hypothetically incomparable blue-and-white porcelains of the *Kang-hsi* kilns now have modern rivals so good that many an amateur has been deceived by them and many more are destined to be deceived. The great difficulty used to lie in the quality and tone of the blue. Using the smalt of these cheap times, the potter could not produce anything better than a weak, insipid, and bodiless colour. But things have changed in this respect. Whether a different cobalt is employed or whether some improved process has been elaborated, a fine strong blue is now obtained, showing much of the brilliancy and depth that distinguish genuine specimens of the great era. No one deserves to be greatly blamed who mistakes these modern imitations for their originals, so far as the blue is concerned. But a well educated eye easily detects in the new colour elements of garishness and hardness, the absence of which constitutes one of the chief charms of the old. In the matter of technique, too, there are always points of manifest inferiority in modern porcelains of this class. The glaze lacks lustre, being vitreous rather than velvety, and the surface is figured by blistering or pitting more or less prominent. Of course the connoisseur turns at once to the *pâte*, but for that the crafty Chinaman makes full preparation by grinding and polishing the lower rim of the specimen until the exposed *pâte* acquires artifically much of the natural smoothness and closeness of grain that constitute distinctive marks of good old

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ware. In this process, however, he betrays himself, for even though the colouring matter that he employs to impart a spurious appearance of age to the freshly ground rim be not apparent to uninstructed eyes, the marks of the grinding may always be found by close examination in the glaze on the bottom or even on the body near the rim. The amateur may therefore fortify his faltering convictions by looking carefully for such marks, and though his sight be keen, he will do well to use a magnifying glass. Already many brand new blue-and-white "Hawthorns" have passed into the possession of foreign residents in China, and many others have doubtless crossed the water to America. Every one of these imitations is a factor of false education, tending to create a vitiated standard of quality and a deceptive scale of value. Besides, it is in the nature of such things that their owners remain victims of delusion. Friends are not frank enough, even supposing them sufficiently skilled, to ungild a man's treasures to his face, and collectors are so infatuated that they gladly accept as genuine praise the perfunctory approval of conventionalism. Thus the Chinese find their account in carrying on the fraud, and we may expect to see "blue-and-white," after its kind, becoming daily a commoner article of furniture. Even the genuine connoisseur is startled by these new specimens. Too essentially selfish—every enthusiastic collector is incapable of altruism—to be glad that the general public is gaining access to a species, however spurious, of the porcelains he loves, he trembles before the terrible contingency that all the ancient skill may be recovered one of these days, and that his much valued gems may be vulgarized by a crowd of cheap and universally accessible rivals. Probably the fear is somewhat chimerical, yet to say so with confidence is difficult, seeing that even the celebrated "soft-paste" porcelain also is represented in modern imitations. It is a singular fact that until quite recently this beautiful variety of ware was almost completely neglected by foreign collectors. The Chinese themselves have never accorded a place of honour to any other kind of blue-and-white porcelain. In their eyes fine blue-and-white porcelain meant, and could only mean, *Kaipien-yao*, or *Wei-tsu* as it sometimes called. Perhaps it was because of the value thus attaching to the ware in the Chinese market, and not alone because of its comparative scarcity, that very little of it found its way into the possession of foreigners. Of late years, however, there has been an awakening, especially on the part of American connoisseurs, and the resulting demand has not only drawn a number of fine specimens from Chinese private collections, but has also induced modern potters to apply all their care and skill to the work of reproduction. They have not succeeded quite so well as in the case of the ordinary hard paste, for in the modern *Kaipien-yao* it will be found almost invariably that the crackle has an accidental appearance, that the *pâte* is rough, that the decoration is weak and scratchy, and that the glaze is discoloured rather than mellow. Still the imitations are quite good enough to deceive ordinary eyes, and it is certain that quite a number of new specimens have gone to America, doubtless to find ready purchasers. It is a curious and unaccountable fact—that is to say, unaccountable so far as our present knowledge goes—that after the *Chien-lung* era (1736-1795) no really choice soft-paste blue-and-white porcelain was produced. Pieces dating from the *Tao-kwang* and *Chia-ching* periods are generally little superior to the modern imitations of which we have been speaking. As for other varieties of porcelain, the process of reproduction is equally active. The so-called "apple green" *craquelé* ware is turned out in quite considerable quantities. Many spurious specimens figure in Western collections. Here, too, the amateur ought to find sufficient guidance in the comparatively coarse, though carefully ground and polished, *pâte* of the modern porcelain, in the weak tone of the colour, and above all in the absence of the "mossy" edge peculiar to the genuine ware. Corresponding attempts to simulate are seen in the so-called "black hawthorns" of our time. The fine close-grained *pâte* of the old kilns is not producible, and the black glaze forming the ground colour is so vitreous and garish that it has to be subjected to an all-over process of grinding, the marks of which can be detected without much trouble. "Mustard crackle" offers another favourite field for imitation, but here the amateur should never fall a victim if he remembers, first, that the slightest muddiness of colour is fatal, and secondly, that a fine velvety lustre invariably appears on the glaze of *Chien-lung* and earlier specimens. We need scarcely speak of imitation "peach blow" and "*sang-de-bœuf*," since a very slight experience ought to protect the amateur against blunders in respect of these inimitable wares. But note should be taken of the fact that Japan also is in the field as an imitator, and that specimens of ambitious "liquid-dawn" glazes by MAKUZU, and of *céladons*, "*famille verte*," and other varieties by SEIFU have been acquired by Chinese dealers and are confidently offered for sale as Chinese porcelains. The Japanese potters are not necessarily parties to this fraud, nor does it follow that the Chinese themselves attempt any witting deception, for in shops in Shanghai and even Tientsin specimens frankly stamped with the ideographic names or marks of their Japanese makers are confidently paraded as genuine Chinese porcelains. Such pieces must plainly have an honest origin, nor is it conceivable that if the Chinese identified the marks, they would have courage to attempt so patent a deception. But these considerations do not smoothe the path for unfortunate amateurs. They are bound to be victimized more than ever. We can only hope that our warning may save them some disappointment.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RETIREMENT.

A TELEGRAM of such absorbing interest to Englishmen as that just sent us by Baron Reuter might surely have been accompanied by some statement of Mr. GLADSTONE'S motives for resigning. We may conclude, however, with tolerable certainty, that ill health is the cause. Recent news from home said that the venerable old man was suffering from cataract of one eye and that the other was in danger of being involved. It seems very probable that his medical advisers ordered complete abstention from Parliamentary and Administrave duties, and that, in deference to their counsel, Mr. GLADSTONE has deemed it wise to retire from his onerous position. If this means, as it well may, his final withdrawal from the political stage, many Englishmen will doubtless rejoice; many others will grieve; but all must agree that a colossal figure has been removed from the stage of contemporary history. We have never agreed with Mr. GLADSTONE'S Irish policy, but assuredly we have never sympathised with the monstrous abuse heaped by red-hot political partisans like the *Saturday Review* and the *St. James's Budget* upon the head of a statesman that does honour and credit to England. Seldom has there been a greater man in any country than Mr. GLADSTONE. The democratic principle which he represents is, in our opinion, one of the curses of the age, an illogical and irrational tendency. But that is only our view. Not to be able to respect the exponent of a different creed from one's own, or to appreciate his wonderful gifts, is to write oneself down a silly bigot. Mr. GLADSTONE is an Englishman of whom all Englishmen may be proud whatever their political bias. Probably to retire from the active leadership of his Party will not distress him seriously. His opponents may rejoice, holding that with his political demise Home Rule, into whose nostrils he breathed the breath of life, will die. But it will not. Mr. GLADSTONE knows better. Every student of English history knows better. If there is one thing certain it is that any measure which has obtained the suffrages of a majority of the House of Commons, is guaranteed against death. Some day or other it must come into practical existence. Home Rule will be an accomplished fact sooner or later—not Home Rule as GLADSTONE would have had it, but Home Rule all the same. The last work of Mr. GLADSTONE'S career will be carried to completion even in his absence.

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MR. OKAKURA ON THE FINE ARTS OF CHINA AND JAPAN.

MR. OKAKURA, principal of the Fine Arts School in Tokyo, returned recently from an extended tour in China where he devoted his time almost exclusively to investigating questions connected with the Fine Arts of that country. Since his return he has delivered one or two lectures, the gist of which is reported in the vernacular press. Doubtless as Mr. OKAKURA elaborates the results of his researches, many interesting points will be brought out. Thus far he seems to have addressed himself chiefly to discussing the relations between China and Europe, and between China and Japan, in the field of art. With regard to the former, history shows, he says, that intercourse existed between China and Europe from very ancient times, and students of art in the West have been in the habit of asserting that China derived much inspiration from that intercourse. Mr. OKAKURA, however, takes a very different view. He thinks that the debt is the other way, and that Europe borrowed from China a great deal more than China borrowed from Europe. That is very interesting. The affinity existing between the arts of China and those of Egypt and Greece are patent to every student, but which is the progenitor and which the progeny no one has yet been able to say authoritatively. If Mr. OKAKURA can really elucidate this point his dicta will attract much attention. As to China and Japan he is emphatic in his repudiation of the long-received doctrine that Japan owes the greater part of her art to China. Mr. OKAKURA will not have that at any price. He declares that the fine arts of Japan possess characteristics which not only are idiosyncratic but also transcend the features of any other country's art. We find some difficulty in accepting that as an accurate exposé of the opinion likely to have been expressed by Mr. OKAKURA, though within limits we are ourselves disposed to agree with the protest ascribed to him. But when limits are spoken of an extensively modifying factor is introduced, and room is made for immense divergence of view. Ever since the days of that most earnest, but we venture to think, too enthusiastic student of Japanese art, Mr. FENOLLOSA, there has circulated about the Arts School in Tokyo, and in the minds of the men to whom it owes its origin, a kind of *ne-plus-ultra* atmosphere viewed through which the art of Japan becomes a sort of empyrean creation to whose building all the gods of ideality, refinement, grace, harmony and technique have contributed their best efforts. Well, after all, enthusiasm is a delightful thing and so is emotionalism within limits. But here again those prosy limits obtrude themselves, and perhaps Mr. OKAKURA may have less in common with the *ne-plus-ultra* school than the epitomizers of his recent lectures lead us to believe. At all events he does not deny that Japan imbibed large draughts from the Celestical fount of art in ancient times, but he claims that her own genius so greatly diluted what she took that ere long it lost all visible traces of its origin and assumed an almost pure Japanese character. Had the intercourse between the two neighbouring empires been less interrupted by the nine-pin-like vicissitudes of dynasties in the one and the restless self-assertion of the other, the arts of both might have coalesced so as to appear today like twins rather than as cousins a thousand times removed. But the dames at the distaff ordered things differently, and, on the whole, humanity has reason to be grateful to them, for have we not now two arts instead one, and are not distinctive beanties as attractive as beautiful affinities? Japan's eclectic genius has never been denied, but Mr. OKAKURA now claims that her adaptive faculty is not less highly developed, and that upon everything borrowed by her from China she has impressed her own individuality to the extent of almost complete metamorphosis. On these general texts many a sermon of particulars may be preached, and since Mr. OKAKURA, so far as we know, is the first Japanese who has carried to the study of Chinese art *in loco* a full equipment of Japanese and Occidental art lore, we anticipate with the greatest interest the further results of his researches.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

SILVER AND DRIFT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—It is fortunate that in their complete indifference to the future of silver the foreign merchants of Japan stand alone in the East. There is no mistaking the attitude of India, China, and the Straits, and the last appeal of the China Association is in all respects to be commended.

The English Bimetallic League are making great strides every year, but they have one chief difficulty to contend with, and it will be very greatly lessened if the proposal of the China Association is taken up and carried through. It is impossible to find more than a few men in England who can devote the necessary time to this question, and who are also capable of addressing public meetings and raising the ideas of the people to the level of the discussion. Such men are badly wanted, and if from Japan we can send a capable delegate and put him at the disposal of the Bimetallic League, he will be eagerly welcomed and need have no fear that his talents will be allowed to rust.

Such a burst of activity is perhaps more than can reasonably be expected. But why is no memorial sent from the Chamber of Commerce? Nowhere is the prospective decline of British Commerce more clearly seen than here by us who are witnessing the birth of industries which must rapidly grow with favouring exchange, and at maturity will stand quite beyond the reach of British competition. It is only an instance of an undoubted general principle, but the moral will not be lost upon those who have seen our Cotton industries driven by an appreciating standard from Lancashire to Bombay and now hounded by the same force from Bombay to Japan. Not in Cotton alone but in every kind of manufacture Japan has under existing conditions the means of becoming a most formidable, if not indeed an invincible, competitor.

No steps are taken, and I believe the reason to be that only one remedy is proposed, and our merchants are not satisfied that the remedy is practicable. If we are to wait until they have made up their minds upon the bimetallic theory which has already been fourteen years before them, it is clear that nothing will be done. It ought to be sufficient that Bimetallism has the sanction of the best expert economic opinion in every country of the world. Beyond that, the objections commonly appearing in the Yokohama Press were long ago submitted to the careful consideration of the English Royal Commission, probably the most powerful ever constituted, and were by unanimous consent pronounced untenable. The majority of the Commissioners are in favour of the speedy adoption of Bimetallism by Great Britain, in concert with other Powers, and objections founded on a supposed over-production of silver or an alleged conspiracy of "filibustering" American mine-owners are somewhat out of date in the presence of authority such as I have named. But upon that issue no opinion is required from Yokohama. If the facts are clearly and boldly stated it can be left to others to find and apply the remedy.

In conclusion I have three suggestions to offer,

(1.) That a strenuous effort be made to furnish a delegate as requested by the China Association.

(2.) That the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce prepare a memorial to be forwarded to England.

(3.) That a professor of the Imperial University be requested as a favour to deliver a lecture or a series of lectures in Yokohama, illustrating the theory and the practical working of Bimetallism.

I am, Sir, yours truly, "Y."

March 6th, 1894.

THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY.

The annual general meeting of those interested in the Cemetery was held in Keil's Building on Wednesday afternoon to receive the report and statement of accounts of the committee. There were present Messrs. James Troup, (in the chair), Jas. Dodds, H. Grauert, F. Lowder, A. O. Gay, Geo. H. Allcock, Rev. E. C. Irwine, J. A. Fraser, N. F. Smith, and B. Gillett, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The CHAIRMAN said he would not trouble those present with the minutes of the last meeting. He proposed that they take the minutes as published in the local newspapers, which Mr. Gillett had entered in his minutes.

The report of the Committee and the statement of account was then read as follows—

REPORT.

The Committee of the Yokohama General Cemetery beg to lay before the community the Annual Report, and Treasurer's statement of account, for the year which ended on 31st December, 1893. The latter shows a credit balance of $4,401.32. Of this amount $4,200 is on fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, bearing interest at five per cent.

The Treasurer's statement of account, calls for no special observation on the part of the Committee.

The number of Interments during the past year has been 36, including 13 interments of seamen, engaged on board vessels lying temporarily in the harbour; 5 of visitors; and 2 unclassifiable; deducting these items, amounting in all to 20 from the total number, there remain 16 (including 2 children under a year old) as representing the number of interments of *bona fide* resident members of the community during 1893 as against 22 in 1892.

The foreign population of Yokohama (exclusive of Chinese) on the 31st December, 1893, according to returns kindly supplied from the various Consulates, was 1,611. Taking these figures as a basis of calculation, and 16 as representing the number of deaths, we arrive at a death-rate for Yokohama of 9.932 per mille in the year 1893, as against in

1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.
13.854	21.628	16.920	18.970; or say 16.261

as average for the past five years.

The present Committee consisting of Messrs. Jas. Dodds; J. A. Fraser, H. Grauert, Rev. E. C. Irwine, N. F. Smith, and B. Gillett beg to tender their resignations.

INTERMENTS IN THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

British	16 as against	23 in 1892.
American	7 as against	6 in 1892.
French	3 as against	3 in 1892.
German	4 as against	0 in 1892.
Austrian	1 as against	1 in 1892.
Russian	0 as against	2 in 1892.
Portuguese	0 as against	2 in 1892.
Spanish	2 as against	2 in 1892.
Norwegian	1 as against	0 in 1892.
Dutch	2 as against	0 in 1892.
Total	36 as against	39 in 1892.

1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	1886.
54.....	45.....	49 .....49.....	41.....	52	

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THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY

IN ACCOUNT WITH B. GILLETT, HON. TREASURER FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

DR.		
To M. Jarmain for Salary 12 months	$ 120.00	
To Labour account, 12 months	278.80	398.80
TO REPAIRS.		
To New Post and Tarring fence	21.28	
To Superintendent's Lodge	9.50	
To Painting Lodges and Gates	27.00	
To Sundries	13.65	
	71.43	
To New Steps in Cemetery	41.00	112.43
To Laying out New Ground, Making-up Banks, Turfing Graves, &c.		13.38
To Tools		5.20
To Books, Stationery, Advertisements, &c.		5.25
To Postages and Sundries		2 49
To Fire Insurance on Buildings		6.00
		$ 542.45
To amount on fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at 5 per cent.	4,200.00	
To balance in the hands of Treasurer on 31st December, 1893	$ 201.32	$ 4,401.32
		$ 4,943.77
CR.		
By Balance brought down from previous account 31st December, 1892		$ 3,669.57
By Interment fees 12 months	$ 480.00	
By Fees for erecting Stones and enclosing Graves	515.00	
By Fees received for Reserved lots	64.70	
By Exhuming fees	27.50	
By Fees received for Certificates	4.00	
By Sale of Old Tree	3.00	1,094.20
		$ 4,763.77
By 12 months' interest received from Hongkong and Shanghai Bank 25th March, 1893, on $3,000 fixed deposit at 5 per cent.		180.00
		$ 4,943.77
Jan. 1st, 1894.		
By Balance brought down		$ 4,401.32
Dependencies 31st December, 1893.		
Interment Fee outstanding, since received.		$ 15.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Interest on $3,800 due 25th March, 5 per cent.	$ 190.00	
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Interest on $400 due 17th October, 5 per cent.	20.00	210.00
		$ 225.00

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, January 1st, 1894.

B. GILLETT, Hon. Treasurer.

I have examined this account, with the vouchers relating thereto, and find the same correct. H. W. BELL.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the most conspicuous matter was the large increase of the balance in hand and decrease of the death-rate as compared with last year. If any of those present had any questions to ask, the Committee would be glad to answer them.

There being no questions, Mr. ALLCOCK proposed, and Mr. LOWDER seconded, the passing of the Report and Statement of Account, which was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN then announced that the next business was the election of a Committee for the coming year. The present Committee had tendered their resignations, but they were eligible for re-election. As all were present he would suggest that they be asked to serve again.

Mr. GAY proposed, and Mr. ALLCOCK seconded, that the present Committee be asked to serve another year.

The CHAIRMAN was sure all must be greatly satisfied with the way the Cemetery had been kept, for which their thanks were due to the Committee, but more particularly to Mr. Gillett, who practically had carried out everything. They owed much to him for keeping the Cemetery in such good order for which the thanks of the community were due to him, and he would propose a vote of thanks to the retiring Committee and to Mr. Gillett in particular.

Mr. GAY, in seconding the proposition, remarked that a great deal was due to Mr. Gillett for his labours on behalf of a very important institution. They were very much indebted to him for the pains he took.

The motion was carried *nem con.*

Mr. GILLETT, in returning thanks for the Committee and himself, remarked that he took considerable interest in the affairs of the cemetery. When called upon for assistance the Committee had always been ready to give their advice and help, for which he thanked them.

Mr. ALLCOCK raised the question as to the removal of the Cemetery. He understood the Japanese Government had undertaken to provide ground, and wished to know whether they had made any movement in the matter.

The CHAIRMAN said this question had been discussed at the last meeting, when it was decided that there was room for another eight or ten years.

The usual vote of thanks to the Chair, was carried on the proposition of Mr. GILLETT, seconded by Mr. FRASER.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

Chicago, February 12th.

Mr. Percival Lowell is to deliver a course of six lectures on "Japanese Occultism" before the Lowell Institute. His subjects are "Esoteric Shinto," "Miracles," "Incarnations," "Pilgrimages and Pilgrim Clubs," "The *Gohei*," and "Personality and Possession."

Seven young Japanese were baptized the other Sunday evening at the Howson Place Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The *Inter-Ocean* the other morning contained a long interview, on the subject of missionary work in Japan, with the Misses Bruckhart and Pratt, from Yokohama.

The Biological Club of the University of Chicago is to listen on Wednesday evening to a paper on "Protoplasmic Movement," by Dr. S. Watase.

On the 6th inst. Judge Anderson, of the Common Pleas Court at Kansas City, Mo., granted final naturalization papers to Quon Loy, who thus becomes a full-fledged American citizen.

The Federal House of Representatives, by a vote of 179 to 57, passed the McCreary resolution condemning ex-Minister Stevens and indorsing the policy of the President in Hawaiian affairs. On the other hand the Iowa Legislature has passed a resolution of greeting to the new Republic of Hawaii. Last evening Hawaiian Minister Thurston addressed a large audience in a Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. on "Hawaii and its Future."

The latest news from Hawaii is rather interesting. Some of the supporters of the ex Queen are said to have been shocked when they heard that she wished to behead the leaders of the uprising, and to have rigorously condemned her desire for blood. One "intelligent royalist" said that these utterances of the Queen had put her restoration entirely out of the question," and that "he believed that a compromise might be hoped for with Kaiulani." Theophilus Davis, of course, is working and hoping for that denouement. On the 31st ult. H. N. Castle, editor of the *Advertiser*, having refused to apologize to Paul Neumann for editorial utterances concerning "trouble in the royalist camp "between Wilson and Neumann, was assaulted by the latter and slightly injured.

Day before yesterday all documents and arguments *in re* the boundary dispute between Brazil and Argentina were submitted to President Cleveland for arbitration.

On the 8th instant President Peixoto, of Brazil, issued a decree ordering an election for President and Members of Congress to be held on March 1st. The constitutional party will put Senor Prudente Moraes in nomination for the Presidency, for which Peixoto refuses to be a candidate. A sensational report from Buenos Ayres says that this proclamation was issued only after Peixoto had discovered a wide-spread plot to assassinate him. On the 10th, there was an engagement between the insurgents and the government troops at Nichtheroy; this resulted in a repulse of the former. Four citizens of Rio were killed during the bombardment.

The old warship *Kearsarge*, famous for its glorious victory over the Confederate privateer *Alabama*, was wrecked on February 2nd on Roncador reef, off the coast of Central America. She was the flag-ship of Admiral Stanton, and was on her way to Nicaragua. The steamer *City of Para* has left Colon for the relief of the officers and crew.

The House of Representatives first, and then the Senate, passed, and the President has signed, the bill repealing all Federal laws regulating the control of Congressional elections. Thus another heavy relic of the "reconstruction period" has disappeared.

Secretary Carlisle has sent to the Senate the names of the successful bidders for the new bonds, which are to be paid for only in gold or gold certificates.

A. J. McLaurin, of Rankin County, Miss., has been elected to the U.S. Senate in place of Walthall, resigned.

Two special Congressional elections were recently held in New York City, and resulted disastrously to the Democrats. The vacancies were caused by the resignations of Fitch and Fellows, lately elected to municipal offices. In one district, Isador Strauss, the Democratic candidate, was elected by a largely reduced majority; in the other district, the Republican candidate, Gen. Lemuel E. Quigg, an editorial writer for the *Tribune*, changed a former Democratic majority of 8,825 to a Republican majority of 984. An off-year election may, or may not, have any significance.

Congressman Wilson, author of the tariff bill now before the Senate, has been compelled to take a trip to Mexico for recuperation after the campaign in the House of Representatives.

The renowned evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, has been forced on account of heart trouble, to retire temporarily from active work.

Ex Congressman A. H. Buckner, of Missouri, and Congressman George W. Houk, of Ohio, are the most prominent names in the recent obituary records.

The Supreme Court of Kansas has decided that Governor Lewelling did not have the power to remove Mr. Lease from the State Board of Charities.

President Cleveland has appointed Gen. Joseph O. Shelly ("Old Joe"), the famous Confederate officer, as U. S. Marshal for the Western District of Missouri.

The Civic Federation of this city has received a charter from the State, and will at once begin its work. The objects are stated as follows:—

"The formation of a non-political, non-sectarian association embracing all the elements now labouring to advance the municipal, philanthropic, industrial, moral interests of Chicago; to serve as a medium to bring the people of the different divisions of the city together, people of different vocations, nationalities, creeds, and those having no creeds, who are desirous of bettering municipal conditions and promoting the welfare of the city and to augment agencies and their efficiency, to discover and correct municipal abuses, and to separate municipal issues from State and national politics."

A novel departure in the labour movement will be watched with the deepest interest by all. It takes the shape of a "Modern Church," organized and managed by the "labouring classes alone." It had its first meeting yesterday afternoon in Bricklayer's Hall, where 600 men and women were assembled to hear Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones. This church is non-sectarian, and will enjoy the ministrations, in turn, of the best preachers of all denominations.

The Russian Prince Galatzin, who, on his journey around the world, came from Japan to this country last October, has joined the ranks of the Salvation Army; and, giving up wealth and honour, will labour in Siberia.

The veteran General O. O. Howard, the "Christian of the Yankee Army," "Havelock of America," having reached the age limit of 64, will soon be retired from service.

It is reported that Professor Frank P. Barnard, "the wizard of Lick Observatory," is to become professor of astronomy in the University of Chicago, and will thus have the honour of "commanding" the great Yerkes telescope at Lake Geneva.

Last week's report of R. G. Dun and Co. told of only a small actual gain in business, though improvement appeared "in many directions."

After another short respite, winter is upon us again with unusual violence. As I write, it is snowing and blowing hard; and from all over the Northwest the paper brings reports of heavy storms, cyclones, and blizzards, with bitterly cold weather. This change will prove disastrous to the poor, and will render all the more necessary active charitable work.

There have recently been six attempts to destroy by fire buildings of the World's Fair; but only one was at all successful. This caused quite a little damage in the Agricultural Building. It is difficult to fathom the motive which leads to the attempted destruction of these beautiful palaces. As no profit or advantage can accrue to any one by burning them, while, in the future, demolition would give work to many, the cause seems to be sheer deviltry.

It is quite probable that the stock-holders in the World's Columbian Exposition will receive a dividend of ten (10) *per centum*.

The date for closing the Midwinter Fair at San Francisco has been postponed till July 31st. This will make a "Mid-summer Fair of it!"

The defence in the Coughlin case have finished their direct testimony; and the prosecution have begun their rebuttal.

This is Lincoln's Birthday, and is, by vote of the City Council, a holiday which we are enjoying, "snowed in" at home.

The coupon business is being overworked by the newspapers of this country, but is quite convenient for the patrons. Until yesterday the *Inter-Ocean* of this city was running eight different coupons, a certain number of which, together with 10 or 15 cents in stamps or coins would secure some valuable article. The newspaper has contained every morning a "coupon directory," giving the page on which each coupon could be found.

The following letter, which I received the other day, illustrates the ingenuity of the advertising schemes of merchants:—

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My own Darling—Your very welcome letter to hand, and I will be delighted to have you call to-morrow at the time specified. After your departure Saturday evening, I found you had dropped a Haberdasher Bill; curiosity suggested looking over the same, when I noticed among other items, a charge of $2.25, for a pair of men's gloves.

In as much as you have been preaching "Economy" and complaining of "hard times," I am going to give you a little pointer on this same subject.

My brother Arthur has been wearing what I consider as fine gloves as any ever made; he informs me that the price is $1.50 per pair, and they can be had at almost any reliable dealers.

The fasteners bear the inscription "Adlers N. Y. Make." Now, dear, do not take offence at my reminding you of this opportunity to "practise" what you "preach" and remember that the interest I take in your welfare, prompts me to write as I do, and should be an excuse for what may seem an impertinence.

Hoping this finds you enjoying the best of health, and that you will not disappoint me to-morrow evening.

I am as ever with love yours devotedly, JENNIE.

One gentleman, who got into trouble with his wife over such a letter as this, has filed a complaint with the Post-office Department.

MR. GLADSTONE'S CAREER.

The Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone, M.P. for Midothian, says *Men of the Time*, is the fourth son of the late Sir John Gladstone, Bart., of Fasque, County Kincardine, N.B., a once well-known merchant of Liverpool. He was born at Liverpool on Dec. 29, 1809, and educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, of which he was nominated a student in 1829, and graduated, taking a double first class, in Michaelmas term, 1831. Having spent some time in a continental tour, he was returned at the general election in Dec. 1832, in the Conservative interest for Newark, and entered Parliament just as the struggle of parties was at its height. On Jan. 25, 1833, he entered Lincoln's Inn, and when he had been a member for six years and three months, petitioned to have his name removed from the books of the Society, on the ground of his having given up his intention of being called to the bar. In the House of Commons, his mercantile origin, the success of his university career, his habits of business, and his high character, recommended him to the notice of Sir Robert Peel, who, in Dec. 1834, appointed him to a junior Lordship of the Treasury, and in Feb., 1835, Under-Secretary for Colonial affairs. Mr. Gladstone retired from office, with his ministerial leader, in April, and remained in Opposition until Sir Robert Peel's return to power in Sept., 1841. On accepting office under Sir Robert Peel, in 1841, as Vice-President of the Board of Trade and Master of the Mint, Mr. Gladstone was sworn a member of the Privy Council. In his new position he had to explain and defend in the Lower House of Parliament the commercial policy of the Government; and in the discharge of this duty he had whatever advantage his mercantile origin and connection could give him. The revision of the tariff in 1842 was almost entirely the result of his energy and industry. When this labourious work was brought before the House of Commons, it was found to be as admirably excuted in its details at it was complete in its mastery of general principles, and it received the sanction of both Houses with scarcely an alteration. In 1843, Mr. Gladstone succeeded the Earl of Ripon as President of the Board of Trade, but resigned that office early in 1845. In Jan., 1846, Sir Robert Peel announced his intention of proposing a modification of the Corn Laws. Mr. Gladstone, who had succeeded Lord Stanley (the late Earl of Derby) in the post of Secretary of State for the Colonies, adhered to the leader under whom he had entered upon ministerial life; but, possibly, unwilling to remain under obligations to the late Duke of Newcastle, who sympathised strongly with the Opposition party, resigned his seat for Newark, and remained for some time out of Parliament. At the general election in Aug., 1847, he was, with the late Sir Robert Harry Inglis, elected for the University of Oxford. In the Parliament of 1847-52, the questions of University Reform and the removal of Jewish disabilities were frequently and earnestly agitated in the Lower House. Though Mr. Gladstone's early sympathies no doubt bound him strongly to the High Church and Tory Party, yet he felt that on both these points the exigencies of the times required that some concessions should be made. He consequently found himself frequently opposed to his former friends, and eventually separated himself from the great body of the Conservative party, in Feb., 1851. At the general election in July following, Mr. Gladstone was re-elected for the University of Oxford, but not without a severe contest. On the formation of what is generally known as the "Coalition" ministry, under the Earl of Aberdeen, in Dec., 1852, Mr. Gladstone was appointed to the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, in which office, the thorough knowledge of finance which he had acquired in former life, and had tested by practical experience at the Board of Trade, proved of the greatest assistance to the ministry. After the breaking up of the Aberdeen administration, or rather, on its reconstruction under Lord Palmerston at the beginning of 1855, Mr. Gladstone at first continued to occupy the same post, but he resigned in the course of a few weeks, on finding that it was not the intention of the ministry collectively to oppose the vote of censure implied in the resolution of Mr. Roebuck, in favour of the appointment of a committee of inquiry into the state of the British army before Sebastopol, and the causes of its sufferings. For some time Mr. Gladstone, who held no public office, gave Lord Palmerston's ministry an independent support. In the winter of 1858-9 he accepted, under Lord Derby's second cabinet, a special mission to the Ionian Islands, to arrange certain difficulties which had arisen in the administration of that dependency; and in June, 1859, resumed office under Lord Palmerston as Chancellor of the Exchequer. In this capacity he was mainly instrumental in repealing the paper duty, and in promoting the negotiations conducted by Mr. Cobden, which resulted in the commercial treaty between this country and France. Mr. Gladstone, though originally very jealous of any intervention on the part of the State in the matter of University Reform, lent the Government from time to time very valuable assistance, by supporting the suggestions of the Oxford University Commissioners, through his extensive personal and official influence with the authorities of Oxford as one of the representatives of that university in Parliament. Besides being eminent as a statesman, Mr. Gladstone had acquired celebrity as an author. His first work, a treatise entitled "The State in its Relations with the Church," published in 1838 (4th edition enlarged, 2 vols., 1841), and followed, in 1841, by his "Church Principles considered in their Results," stamped him, while still a young man, as a deep and original thinker. His views on these subjects, as they are unfolded in these treatises, had, we need scarcely say, been formed and moulded by the education and associations of Oxford, to which university they are dedicated as the first-fruits of her teaching and training. Soon after their appearance, they were thought worthy of a long and elaborate criticism by the late Lord Macaulay in the pages of the *Edinburgh Review*. Mr. Gladstone's "Remarks on Recent Commercial Legislation," published in 1845, while the country was on the eve of an important change in her commercial system, were intended to pave the way for the extensive modification in the restrictions on commerce imposed by the corn laws, and contain an able and comprehensive summary of the beneficial results of the tariff of 1842. In 1851 he published a work of a different kind, which created considerable interest both at home and abroad. During a visit to Naples in the previous year, he learned that a large number of citizens of that place, who had formed the "Opposition" in the Neapolitan Chamber of Deputies, were exiled or imprisoned by King Ferdinand, and that (it is said) above 20,000 of his subjects had been thrown into prison on a charge of political disaffection. Having ascertained the truth of these statements, Mr. Gladstone wrote to the Earl of Aberdeen, urging his interposition on their behalf; and that noble lord's remonstrances proving ineffectual, he published an indignant letter on the subject of the state prosecutions at Naples, which was translated into several foreign languages, and was sent by Lord Palmerston to our ambassadors and ministers on the Continent, with orders to forward copies of it to their respective courts. In 1858 he published an elaborate work on Homer ("Studies on Homer and the Homeric Age," 3 vols.), and in July, 1861, he was solicited to become a candidate, in the Liberal interest, for South Lancashire, but refused to forsake his former constituents. Having been rejected by the University of Oxford at the general election in July, 1865, Mr. Gladstone was returned, being third on the poll, for South Lancashire. After the death of Lord Palmerston, he became leader of the House of Commons, retaining the Chancellorship of the Exchequer in Lord Russell's second administration. Early in the session of 1866 he brought in a Reform Bill, and a motion in committee having been carried, June 18, against the Government by eleven votes, Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues resigned. The divisions in the Liberal ranks prevented him from defeating Mr. Disraeli's Reform Bill, which he strenuously opposed. In the early part of the session of 1868, Mr. Gladstone brought forward and passed through the House of Commons a series of resolutions, having for their object the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church. These resolutions were the basis of the Irish Church Suspensory Bill, which, on May 22, was read a second time in the Lower House by 312 votes to 258, but was soon afterwards rejected in the House of Peers by a majority of 95. At the general election of 1868 Mr. Gladstone stood as one of the candidates for South-west Lancashire. After a fierce contest, the result of which excited the most intense interest throughout the country, he was defeated; but this defeat did not exclude him from the House of Commons, as in anticipation of such an event, the electors of Greenwich had, a few days previously, returned him by a large majority, as one of the members for that borough. On the resignation of Mr. Disraeli's Ministry in Dec., 1868, Mr. Gladstone succeeded that statesman as First Lord of the Treasury. The principal events of his administration were the passing of the Irish Church Disestablishment Act (1869), of the Irish Land Act (1870), and of the Elementary Education Act (1870); the abolition of Purchase in the Army by the exercise of the Royal Prerogative, in consequence of an adverse vote by the House of Lords on the Army Regulation Bill (1871); the negotiation of the treaty of Washington respecting the *Alabama* Claims (1871); the passing of the Ballot Act (1872); and the Judicature Act (1873). The principal measure proposed by the Government in the session of 1873, was the University Education (Ireland) Bill, which was opposed by the Roman Catholic members, who, voting on this occasion with the Conservatives, caused the rejection of the Bill by 287 votes against 284 (March 11). Upon this Mr. Gladstone tendered his resignation to Her Majesty, and Mr. Disraeli was sent for; but as he declined to take office, Mr. Gladstone, though with reluctance, undertook (March 16) to reconstruct the cabinet. In August, 1873, immediately after the close of the session, the cabinet was considerably remodelled, Mr. Gladstone assuming the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, in addition to his office of First Lord of the Treasury. On Jan. 24, 1874, a fortnight before both Houses were to have met for the despatch of public business, Mr. Gladstone took everybody by surprise by announcing the immediate dissolution of Parliament, and issuing his address to his constituents at Greenwich, in which he promised to abolish the Income Tax. At the general election which ensued, the votes were, for the first time, taken by secret ballot. The result proved most disastrous to the Liberal party. The returns, completed on Feb. 27, showed that 351 Conservatives had been elected and 302 Liberals inclusive of the Home Rulers, who in point of fact, declined to identify themselves with either of the old political parties. Mr. Gladstone at once resigned, and Mr. Disraeli became Prime Minister. In the session of 1874, Mr. Gladstone, who had been re-elected for Greenwich, was rarely to be seen in his place in the House of Commons; but at its close he offered a persistent opposition to the Public Worship Regulation Bill. Even amid the turmoil of political life, Mr. Gladstone had devoted a portion of his time to literature. His "Ecce Homo," reprinted from *Good Words*, appeared in 1868; a pamphlet on the Irish Church question, entitled "A Chapter of Autobiography," was published Nov. 23, 1868; and "Juventus Mundi: the Gods and Men of the Heroic Age," in 1869. After his unsuccessful attempt to prevent the passing of the Public Worship Regulation Act, he contributed to the *Contemporary Review* for Oct. 1875, an article on "Ritualism," which gave rise to an animated controversy. In it he asserted that "Rome had substituted for the proud boast of *semper eadem* a policy of violence and change in faith," that she "had refurbished and paraded anew every trusty tool she was fondly thought to have disused," that "no one could become her convert without renouncing his moral and mental freedom, and placing his civil loyalty and duty at the mercy of another," and that "she had equally repudiated modern thought and anciety history." Challenged by his Roman Catholic friends to substantiate these grave charges, Mr. Gladstone published (Nov. 7, 1874) a bulky pamphlet entitled "The Vatican Decrees in their bearing on Civil Allegiance: a Political Expostulation," which elicited numerous elaborate replies from Mgr. Capel, Dr. Newman, Archbishop Manning, and other late distinguished members of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Gladstone's reply to his opponents, published Feb. 24, 1875, is entitled "Vaticanism; an Answer to Replies and Reproofs." Mr. Gladstone followed up his attacks on the Roman Catholic Church in an article on "The Speeches of Pius IX." in the *Quarterly Review* for Jan., 1875. On Jan. 13, 1875, three weeks before the assembling of Parliament, Mr. Gladstone announced in a letter to Earl Granville, his determination to retire from the leadership of the Liberal party. "At the age of sixty-five," he remarked, "and after forty-two years of a labourious public life, I think myself entitled to seize on the present opportunity. This retirement is dictated to me by my personal views as to

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the best method of spending the closing years of my life." Soon afterwards the Marquis of Hartington was chosen by the Liberal party to be their leader in the House of Commons. Subsequently, however, Mr. Gladstone constantly took part in the discussions of that assembly. In 1876 he published "Homeric Synchronism: an Inquiry into the Time and Place of Homer," and on Sept. 6 in the same year appeared his famous pamphlet on "Bulgarian Horrors and the Question of the East." It was followed (March 13, 1877) by another pamphlet, entitled "Lessons in Massacre: an Exposition of the Conduct of the Porte in and about Bulgaria since May, 1876." Mr. Gladstone took an active part in the agitation respecting the massacres in Bulgaria, and strenuously opposed, both in and out of Parliament, the policy of the Conservative Government, which resulted in the Treaty of Berlin and the signing of the Anglo-Turkish Convention. In the autumn of 1877 (Oct. 17—Nov. 12) he paid a visit to Ireland, and was presented with the freedom of the city of Dublin. On Nov. 15 in that year he was elected Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow, succeeding Lord Beaconsfield. Mr. Gladstone sent a letter to the president of the Greenwich Liberal "Five Hundred," on March 9, 1878, stating that he should only represent the borough until the next general election. In the course of the year 1879 he contributed to the *British Quarterly Review* an article on "The Evangelical Movement; its Parentage, Progress, and Issue;" and published a collection of his fugitive writings under the title of "Gleanings of Past Years." Early in the same year (1879) he had been invited to become the Liberal candidate for Midlothian, and the crowning incident of the electoral campaign in the ensuing Parliamentary recess was his visit to Scotland in connection with his purpose of contesting that county at the general election. He set out from Liverpool for Edinburgh on Nov. 24, and from that date, with the exception of two days' rest at Taymouth Castle, his life, till his return to Hawarden on Dec. 9, was a long succession of enthusiastic receptions and unwearied speech-making in condemnation of the policy of the Conservative Government. In the course of this tour he delivered the Rectorial Address before the University of Glasgow (Dec. 5). On the dissolution of Parliament at Easter, 1880, Mr. Gladstone renewed in Midlothian the oratorical *tours de force* of the preceding winter, and he was successful in his candidature, polling 1,597 votes against 1,368 recorded in favour of the Earl of Dalkeith, his Conservative opponent. When the composition of the new House of Commons was made known, it appeared that it consisted of 349 Liberals, 243 Conservatives, and 60 Home Rulers. The Earl of Beaconsfield tendered his resignation to the Queen as soon as it was manifest that the Liberal Party had obtained an unquestionable majority. The Marquis of Hartington, who had been leader of the Opposition in the Lower House, and Earl Granville, the Opposition leader in the House of Peers, were sent for by Her Majesty in the first instance, but, in accordance with consultations among the chiefs of the party, they recommended the Queen to entrust the task of forming a Cabinet to Mr. Gladstone. He consented to accept the duty (April 23), and his Cabinet was constructed with a view to conciliate and to represent the different sections of the Liberal majority. Mr. Gladstone himself superadded to his duties as First Lord of the Treasury the functions of Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he resigned the latter office in 1883 into the hands of Mr. Childers. The history of Mr. Gladstone's second Ministry may be summed up in three words—Ireland, Egypt, Franchise—though of course a large number of other matters (such as Mr. Chamberlain's Bankruptcy Bill and Merchant Shipping Bill) were long under consideration. Ireland was the great question during the session of 1880 (May—August), 1881, 1882, and the debates on the Compensation for Disturbance Bill, on Mr. Forster's Coercion Bill, and (after the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke, May 6, 1882) on the Crimes Bill occupied the greater part of the time and attention of the country. What prolonged and exasperated the discussions was the method of obstruction invented and practised not only by the followers of Mr. Parnell, but also by some members of the Tory party. After the passing of the Crimes Act, which closed a period of almost unexampled Parliamentary and administrative difficulty, Egypt began to occupy the mind of Parliament. The struggle with Arabi came to a head in July, when Sir B. Seymour bombarded the forts of Alexandria; and was ended on Sept. 13, when Sir Garnet Wolseley won the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. But Mr. Gladstone's difficulties were only just beginning. The revolt of the Arab tribes of the Soudan, the destruction of Hicks Pasha's Egyptian army, the two Suakim expeditions, the despatch of General Gordon to Khartoum, and long afterwards of Lord Wolseley's relieving force, the advance of this latter, its difficulties and its hard-won victories, its failure to reach Khartoum in time to save Gordon—these things are still fresh in the public memory to need a detailed repetition. The session of 1884 was occupied, as far as home politics were concerned, with the Franchise Bill—a Bill for extending household suffrage to the counties, and thus completing the democratising of our constitution. Passed in the Commons, it was thrown out by the Lords, who, under the guidance of Lord Salisbury, declined to pass it until the Redistribution scheme was before them. But after an autumn of popular "demonstrations" a series of conferences between the Liberal and Tory leaders were held, in which the lines of a Redistribution Bill were settled. After this both Bills passed in due course (1885), but soon afterwards, on June 9, Mr. Gladstone was overthrown by a vote on the Budget, and Lord Salisbury came into power. At the general election of Nov. 1885 the Liberals were returned with numbers almost exactly equal to those of Tories and Parnellites combined. Soon afterwards Mr. Gladstone returned to office, and at the same time caused it to be known that he was prepared to introduce a Home Rule measure. This broke up the Liberal party. Lord Hartington and others refused office, and Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Trevelyan only accepted on grounds which were soon afterwards shown to be untenable. Mr. Gladstone introduced his Home Rule Bill in a long and powerful speech on April 8 (the scene in the House before, during, and after the speech being one that will not be forgotten), and on June 9 the second reading was rejected by a majority of 30. He appealed to the country, and as a result an overwhelming majority of Conservatives and Unionist Liberals was returned. He resigned without meeting Parliament, and Lord Salisbury became for the second time Prime Minister, Aug. 3, 1886.

Upon the defeat of Lord Salisbury's second Ministry in 1892, Mr. Gladstone again took office, and led the House of Commons as Premier and First Lord of the Treasury. The general election had been ostensibly fought out on the Home Rule question, and as soon as possible Mr. Gladstone introduced his famous measure. The Bill dragged its weary way along for many months, and was at last sent up to the Lords, where it met with the most signal defeat of any British legislative measure of recent times. Undaunted, the Ministry introduced other contentious legislation, the principal being the Employers Liability Bill and the Parish Councils Bill. These measures met with much opposition from both Houses of Parliament, and one has dropped, while there is every possibility of the other following suit.

Mr. Gladstone, following the advice of his medical advisers went south to Biarritz to spend the present winter and it was during his stay there that the *Pall Mall Gazette* published the rumour of his impending resignation. The rumour was of course denied, but few folk believed the statement, owing to its redundancy of indefinite expression; so the news of the retirement did not come quite as a surprise to the English-speaking world.

Mr. Gladstone is married to Catherine, sister of the late Sir Stephen Glynne, M.P., and of the late Lady Lyttelton. Of his sons, the eldest sat in Parliament for some time as member for East Worcestershire, and died a few years ago; the second, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, is Rector of Hawarden; and the third, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, has sat, since 1880, for West Leeds.

IN H.B.M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

(In Admiralty.)

Before R. A. Mowat, Esq., Judge—Tuesday, March 6th, 1894.

THE SCHOONER "WORLOCK."

This was a claim by Thomas Melvin Laffin against the Owner of the British schooner *Worlock*, Adolph Ridderbjelke, Master.

The petition was to the effect that the plaintiff, at the request of the Captain, made advances of money to pay for necessary expenses of, and supplies to, the schooner *Worlock* from the 17th November, 1893, to the 7th February, 1894, and that the value of such advances and supplies amount to *yen* 890, the payment of which and costs plaintiff prays may be made him out of the proceeds of the sale of the schooner *Worlock*.

Mr. Scidmore represented the plaintiff, no appearance being made on behalf of the defendant.

Mr. Scidmore, in addressing the Court, said the suit was one in Admiralty under the rules of H.B.M.'s Court. Counsel then read the introductory rules of par. 10 having relation to claims for necessaries supplied to vessels. Continuing, he said that on the 9th February this year plaintiff applied to the Court for a warrant for the arrest of the schooner *Worlock*, and that an order of attachment be made. In compliance with this application, a warrant was issued on the 12th February, since which date the vessel had been in the custody of the Marshal of the Court. On the 14th February plaintiff filed his petition. Counsel then proceeded to read it, and afterwards called—

George Kircher, the marshal of the Court sworn, said:—I made service of a warrant in this case and arrested the schooner on the 12th February. I affixed the warrant to the main beam of the after cabin and left the certified copy on board. I found three of the crew on board. I also served a copy personally on the Captain. The vessel is still in my custody. A public notice of the seizure was given—(a copy of the *Japan Herald* and *Japan Mail* was here put in). I served a copy of the petition of the plaintiff on the vessel on the 15th February and affixed it in the same way as the warrant. I also served a copy of notice of hearing in the same way on the 23rd February.

Thomas Melvin Laffin, sworn, said:—I am a ship-chandler residing and doing business at No. 42, Yokohama. I am the plaintiff in this action. When the ship arrived I went on board, where I made arrangements with Captain Ridderbjelke to supply him with provisions and ship chandlery, such as stores, ropes, etc., and acted as his agent and advanced him money for disbursements on account of the ship, telegrams, etc. The schedule attached to the petition contains a statement of the goods supplied and the moneys advanced. These advances were made on the credit of the vessel, at the Captain's request, and not on the credit of the Captain. I first went on board on the vessel's arrival, and then he came to my place, where the necessary arrangements were made. Previous to the beginning of the action, I applied to the Captain for payment of this bill, when he told me he had no money and could not get any. To my knowledge there was no owner of the vessel in Yokohama or Japan when I supplied the goods, nor since. I have been informed that Mr. Kelly, of Victoria, is the owner—his son and the Captain so informed me. Previous to the bringing of the action I heard of efforts to sell. Mr. Andrew Kelly, who held a Power of Attorney from his father, attempted to sell the engines out of the vessel. He was unsuccessful,—no sale took place. The total amount of my bill was $980, but I was paid $90 on account by the Captain on December 13th. The balance $890 is still due. The charges for the stores are reasonable.

Adolph Ridderbjelke, sworn, said:—I am Captain of the *Worlock*. I have seen the account of the plaintiff in the case. I, as master of the vessel, ordered the goods from Mr. Laffin, and obtained the advances set forth in the schedule shown me. They were for the use of the ship and necessary. I signed the bill as correct; $890 is the amount of the bill. Since the arrival of the vessel no owner has been domiciled in Japan, but I understand that the owner's son received a Power of Attorney, but this I have not seen. The owner is Samuel Leon Kelly of Victoria. This Andrew Kelly after receiving the Power of Attorney from his father tried to sell the boiler and engines by auction. When Mr. Laffin heard this he thought it was not altogether safe and refused to supply further provisions.

To the Court—The cash $100 supplied on November 20th was for the use of the schooner, for the outlay of which I can show a clear account. It was necessary. I have no funds. The vessel left Victoria, B.C., on June 10th of last year. I was stopped 50 or 60 times through difficulties with the engines. I arrived on the 17th November and have been here ever since. I first touched at Nanaimo for repairs to engines, then at Departure Bay for coal and subsquently at Sitka for coals and repairs. I have no funds—never had any of the vessel's funds, as the owner never supplied me with any. I have received none since my arrival. The ship had no agent here appointed by the owner, so I appointed Mr. Laffin. I informed the owner of my arrival here and told him of the circumstances in which I was placed; that I was in need of provisions and funds for payment of the crew. I also telegraphed a little later, but have received no reply to either. There has been plenty of time for a reply. I again wrote some time in the end of December or beginning of January, and also wired, but again received no reply. I also telegraphed to Mr. Worlock, after whom the vessel is named, on the supposition he might be a part owner, but received no reply.

His Honour—Your position practically is that you are stranded here since the 17th November?

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—Yes. To fit the vessel and provision her for a continuation of her voyage would require about $3,000. If I had the means I would not return until the end of the season, that is till next October, a shorter cruise might not be profitable. I have sealers on board. The wages of the men have been unpaid, except of course the advance. The articles expire on 27th May. To fit out for the rest of the voyage would cost, roughly, more than $1,200. The wages due the men amount to about $4,200, gold, including myself,—there would be due the men alone about $3,600 or $3,700, gold. I have been provisioning the ship myself, on my own credit, since plaintiff stopped supplies. She costs between $15 and $20, gold, daily, including wages. I did not inform the owner of these proceedings, but I believe he knows of them. He must have known that I could not feed the crew on wind. Mr. Cox gave the creditors notice, as I believe the owner is bankrupt. I did not write to him of the arrest as I knew it was of no use. Another reason why I did not write was because he had appointed his son his attorney, which relieved me of all responsibility. I estimate the vessel to be worth $12,000, gold, but the depreciation in value would bring it down to $9,000 gold. If sold here she might realize about $12,000, silver.

His Honour remarked to witness that from his account the best thing that could be done would be to sell the ship. He understood from the Consul that Kelly was bankrupt. He would give judgment for the plaintiff with costs, and might as well state that if the judgment was not satisfied the ship would be sold, and the proceeds paid into the Registry. If any one held preferred claims to the plaintiff, such should be put in for payment.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail."]

London, March 3.

At a Cabinet Council held to-day at Windsor Castle, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone resigned the leadership of the Cabinet and his offices as First Lord of the Treasury and Lord Privy Seal, and explained his motives for resigning. The Queen has accepted his resignation and Lord Rosebery, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has been summoned.

London, March 6.

Lord Rosebery has reconstructed the Cabinet, so far, as follows:—His Lordship—[late Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs]—takes the position of First Lord of the Treasury and President of the Council; Earl Kimberley—[late Lord President of the Council and Secretary of State for India]—takes over the portfolio of Foreign Affairs; Mr. John Morley—[Chief Secretary for Ireland]—declining the portfolio of Secretary of State for India, that position has been offered to Mr. H. H. Fowler—[President of the Local Government Board].

[Specially Telegraphed to the "Japan Mail."]

February 28.

The House of Commons has agreed to the amendment of the House of Lords in the Parish Councils Bill relative to the acquiring of lands, and has adopted a compromise regarding the restriction of the number of elective trustees for parish charities.

The new session begins on the 12th March.

March 1.

According to an Admiralty despatch with regard to the repulsed Bathurst Expedition, it appears that the enemy attacked the sailors from the thick cover while the latter were waiting for their boats. All hands behaved with greatest gallantry and coolness, the officers setting a splendid example to their men.

A statement has been issued on authority that Mr. Gladstone neither resigned nor had taken the steps necessary for doing so.

The French Senate has adopted the duty on corn of seven francs per hectolitre.

March 2.

Mr. Gladstone had audience with the Queen to-day, it is generally reported for the purpose of resigning, but this is denied by the Radicals. The press is discussing who will be his probable successor, and is divided upon the point, some favouring Lord Rosebery, others objecting because he is a peer.

The House of Lords has adopted the amendments of the Commons to the Parish Councils Bill, and has made some new amendments requiring its return to the House of Commons.

Great sensation has been caused in the Italian Chamber, Signor Crispi having declared that the revolution in Sicily was a conspiracy hatched in France. The conspirators relied upon the outbreak of a continental war initiated by Russia, which country intended to cede the Sicilian ports to the other. The rising was fixed for the middle of February, but the Government got wind of the affair and frustrated the step.

["Special" Telegram to "Japan Mail."]

Nagasaki, March 5.

A private telegram received in Shanghai from Calcutta, states that the Indian Government has introduced a Bill imposing a five per cent. import duty upon all imports except gold and cotton goods.

London, February 26.

A British naval expedition, consisting of two hundred officers and men, against a slave-trading Chief near Bathurst, Sierra Leone, has sustained a serious reverse.

Lieut. of Marines F. W. A. Hervey, Lieut. W. H. Arnold (H.M.S. *Raleigh*), Sub-Lieut. F. W. T. Meister (H.M.S. *Magpie*) and ten men were killed, and Captain Edward H. Gamble, Fleet-Surgeon Wm. R. White, Lieut. the Hon. R. F. Boyle, Lieut. H. J. Savill, Midshipman A. S. Chambers, Gunner Thos. Berridge (H.M.S. *Raleigh*), and fifty-four men were wounded.

The expedition took two villages, but were attacked on all sides; and while returning to their boats they lost a field-piece, and six thousand rounds of ammunition.

H.M.S. *Alecto* afterwards attempted to land a party at the sea-board town of Gorjor, but they were met with such a heavy fire, that they were prevented from landing.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

(From Japanese Papers.)

Kofu, March 7th, 11.37 a.m.

The residence of Governor Tanuma was destroyed by fire at six o'clock this morning.

Osaka, March 7th, 3.45 p.m.

The Directors of the Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning Co., Tokyo, who have been selecting the site of the new factory, have finally decided upon Hyogo. Forty thousand spindles will be erected at this establishment.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 111.

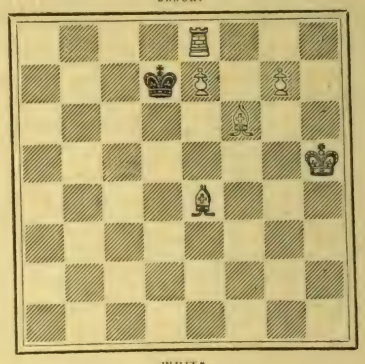
White.	Black.
1—Q to Kt 8	1—K to B 4
2—Kt to Kt 3 (ch.)	2—K moves
3—P to Q 6 (dis. ch. and mate).	
	1—K to K 6
2—Q to Kt 4	2—P to K 5
3—Q × P (mate);	
	if anything else
3—Kt mates at B sq. (In reply to either P to B 4 or P to Q 3, there are two other mates—viz. Kt at B 4 or Q at K 4),	
	1—P to K 5
2—Kt to Kt 3 (ch.)	2—K to K 4 or K 6 or K 5
3—Q mates at Kt 5, or Kt 3, or P to Q 6 (dis. checkmate), accordingly.	
	1—P to B 4
2—Q to Kt 4 (ch.)	2—K × P
3—Q × P (mate);	
	if 2—P to K 5
3—Q × P (mate);	
	if 2—K to K 6
3—Kt mates at B sq. or B 4, or Q at K 4.	
	1—P to Q 3
2—Q to Kt sq. (ch.)	2—K × P
3—Kt mates at B 7	
	1—P × P
2—Q mates at Kt sq.	

This problem, which (it was stated in the chess-column of the *Japan Gazette*) appeared originally in the *British Chess Magazine* and had been highly commended in the Chess Press, is sadly marred by the triple mates in two of the sub-variations. Correct solutions were received from W.H.S., Omega, and J.D.

Digamma's solution failed in the variation 1—P to Q 3: if in reply to White's 2—Q to Kt 4 (ch.), Black interposes the Pawn, there is no mate. In Dr. Hispano's solution (which omits that important variation altogether) there is a slight slip in the main play (1—K to B 4): if White plays on the 3rd move P × B P, discovering check, Black covers by advancing his Q P two squares.

Problem No. 113.

By Moritz Ehrenstein.



White to play and mate in three moves.

The Tournament in the local Club, which should have closed on the 28th ult., is far from being finished, and the Committee have extended the time up to and including the 29th instant. The Secretary has accordingly notified the players concerned that the score will be taken on that date finished or unfinished, and that the winner of most games will be awarded the prize.

The Yokohama Chess Club is to have quite a gala day on Friday, 30th inst. First the Tokyo-Yokohama Match—then the Club dinner, at which the Tokyo team will be the Club's guests; the proclaiming and acclaiming of the Club Champion for 1894; the presentation of prizes in the Tournament mentioned above; the farewell to the Club President (R. A. Mowat, Esq.) who leaves for Europe, and the presentation of the *Japan Mail* solving prize for 1893. All these combined attractions should indeed make the 30th March, 1894, a red letter day in the annals of Chess in Japan.

We reprint from the *Illustrated London News* two fine games in which the young Boston player, Pillsbury, gives strong promise of what is in store for us in future years. With such renowned players as Steinitz and Lasker settled among them, and with such enthusiastic amateurs as Hodges, Pillsbury, and others too numerous for mention, we look for great things from our American friends. It is fitting that they should endeavour to hold the place so nobly won for them by the illustrious Paul Morphy.

Game played in the Masters' Tournament between Messrs. Albin and Pillsbury.

(Zukertort's Opening.)

White. Mr. A.	Black. Mr. P.
1—Kt to K B 3	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q 4	2—P to K 3
3—P to Q B 4	3—P to Q B 3
4—Kt to Q B 3	4—P to K B 4
Acting on Lasker's theory that a new move may be ventured once in any opening—	
5—P to K 3	5—Kt to B 3
6—Kt to K 5	6—B to Q 3
7—P to B 4	7—Castles
8—B to K 2	8—Q Kt to Q 2
9—Castles	9—Kt to K 5
The position of Black at this point in this game is in striking contrast to the position of Black in the accompanying game.	
10—Q Kt takes Kt	
This exchange is not good, although it is difficult to suggest the right move. Perhaps Kt to B 3 is as useful as anything.	
	10—B P takes Kt
11—P to Q B 6	11—B takes Kt
12—B P takes B	12—R takes R ch.
13—B takes R	13—P to Q Kt 3
The attack now passes to Black, who seizes the opportunity afforded by the weakness of the adverse Q B P.	
14—P to Q Kt 4	14—P to Q R 4
15—Q to K Kt 4	15—Kt to B sq.
16—B to Q 2	16—P takes Kt P
17—B takes P	17—P to Q Kt 4
18—P to Q R 3	18—Kt to Kt 3

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19—B to K sq.	19—B to Q 2
20—P to K R 4	20—Q to K B sq.
21—R to R 2	21—Kt to K 2

This Kt is handled with admirable judgment, and, with both the opposing Bishops shut in, it virtually represents a piece to the good.

22—R to K B 2	

Attempting to bring his Q R into play, but with disastrous effect. His only chance lies in a strictly defensive game, for both his Rook's Pawns are sources of embarrassment. Q to K 2 seems more to the purpose.

	22—Kt to B 4
23—B to Q Kt 4	23—Q to K 2
24—Q to B 4	24—Q takes R P
25—P to Kt 4	25—P to Kt 4

Black's play is wonderfully telling and accurate in a very interesting position.

26—Q to R 2	26—Q takes Q ch.
27—R takes Q	27—Kt takes K P
28—R to R 5	28—B to K sq.

A charming reply. If now R takes P it is obviously lost in exchange for the Bishop.

29—R to R 6	29—B to Kt 3
30—B to Q 2	30—R takes P.
31—R to R 3	31—Kt to B 5

The game is now excellently won; and, although Black has here a choice of method, the course he follows is as safe and neat as any.

32—R takes R	32—Kt takes R
33—B to K 2	33—Kt to B 7
34—B takes P	34—Kt takes P
35—B to Q sq.	35—P to Kt 5
36—B to Q 2	36—P to Kt 6
37—B to B 3	37—Kt to B 7
38—K to B 2	38—P to Q 5
39—B takes Kt	39—Q Kt P takes B
40—B to Kt 2	40—P to K 6 ch.
41—K to K 2	41—K to B 2

Black wins.

GAME PLAYED BETWEEN MR. PILLSBURY AND MAJOR HANHAM IN THE SAME TOURNEY.

(Queen's Pawn Opening).

WHITE. Mr. P.	BLACK. Major H.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to Q 4
2—P to K 3	2—P to K 3
3—B to Q 3	3—Kt to K B 3
4—P to K B 4	

White is certainly putting some life and freshness into this usually cautious opening, but we doubt whether the policy is altogether safe.

	4—B to Q 3
5—Kt to K B 3	5—P to Q Kt 3
6—Castles	6—Castles.
7—P to Q B 3	7—P to Q B 4
8—Kt to K 5	8—Q to B 2

Black does not seem fully to realize the threatening position White has now secured. It is imperative that the adverse K B should be shut out with all dispatch.

9—Kt to Q 2	9—Kt to Q B 3
10—R to K B 3	10—B to Kt 2
11—R to R 3	11—P takes Q P

It is difficult to understand Black's play at this point; but he is rendering his opponent valuable assistance.

12—B takes P ch.	12—Kt takes B
13—Q to R 5	13—K R to K sq.
14—Q takes Kt ch.	14—K to B sq.
15—K P takes P	15—P to K B 3
16—Kt to Kt 6 ch.	16—K to B 2
17—R to Kt 3	

A forcible and elegant rejoinder. White conducts this part of the game in beautiful style.

	17—R to K Kt sq.
18—Q Kt to B 3	18—Kt to K 2
19—Q Kt to R 4	19—Kt takes Kt

This is bad exchange, but he has nothing else to do.

20—Kt takes Kt	20—B to R 3
21—B to Q 2	21—Q to B 5
22—R to K sq.	22—Q takes R P
23—Kt to R 8 ch.	

White now forces a masterly win.

	23—K to B sq.
24—Q to Kt 6	24—R takes Kt
25—Q takes Kt P ch.	25—K to K sq.
26—R takes P ch.	26—K to Q sq.
27—R takes B ch	27—K to B sq.
28—R to B 6 ch	28—K to Q sq.
29—Q to B 7 ch.	29—K to K sq.
30—R to K 6 ch.	30—K to B sq.
31—Q to Kt 7 mate.	

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 3rd March,—Handa 2nd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 3rd March,—Yokkaichi 2nd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 3rd March,—Otaru viâ ports 26th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 3rd March,—Kobe 2nd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Caledonien, French steamer, 2,500, Flandin, 4th March,—Marseilles viâ ports, 20th January, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Carlotta G. Cox, British schooner, 82, W. D. Byers, 4th March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Oanfa, British steamer, 1,970, Shaw, 4th March, —London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 4th March,—Kobe 3rd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 5th March,—Yokkaichi 4th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Admiral Korniloff (18), Russian flagship, Captain Elchaninoff, 5th March,—Hongkong.

Glenesk, British steamer, 2,275, Webster, 5th March,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 5th March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 6th March,—Kobe 4th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Itsukushima Kan (12), Japanese cruiser, Captain K. Ijichi, 6th March,—Yokosuka 6th March.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 6th March,—Yokkaichi 5th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 7th March,—San Francisco 17th February, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 7th March,—Kobe 6th March, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 7th March,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 7th March,—Yokkaichi 6th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

May Belle, British schooner, 57, E. Shields, 8th March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Frazar & Co.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 8th March,—Handa 7th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 8th March,—Otaru viâ ports 3rd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Zabiaka (1), Russian gunboat, Captain Domojiroff, 8th March,—Hongkong.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, 9th March,—Otaru, Coal.—Tanaka Shoten.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 9th March,—Shanghai and ports, 3rd March, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kanazawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 895, Nakai, 9th March,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 9th March,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 10th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 10th March,—Yokkaichi 9th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, J. R. Hill, 10th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

DEPARTURES.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, W. B. Seabury, 4th March,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

City of San Diego, British schooner, 46, M. Pike, 4th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Frazar & Co.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 4th March,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, Crichton, 4th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 4th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peterborough, British ship, 1,680, A. Murchie, 5th March,—Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—Order.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 5th March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 5th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 5th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mermaid, British schooner, 73, W. H. Whiteley, 5th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Browne & Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 6th March,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Allie F. Algar, American schooner, 80, Geo. Wester, 7th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Bow Head, American schooner, 103, W. P. Noyes, 7th March,—Tokyo to Dock, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Louis Olsen, American schooner, 59, R. F. Guilliams, 7th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Umbrina, British schooner, 98, C. Campbell, 7th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Capt.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 7th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 7th March,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 7th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompson, 7th March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Beatrice, British schooner, 48, A. J. Bjerre, 8th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Otto, British schooner, 86, J. McLeod, 8th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Frazar & Co.

Vera, British schooner, 62, W. Shields, 8th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 8th March,—Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 8th March,—Oginohama, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 8th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 8th March,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Oanfa, British steamer, 1,970, Shaw, 9th March, —London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Libbie, British schooner, 96, F. Hackett, 9th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Viva, British schooner, 99, R. Anderson, 9th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Frazar & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—5 passengers in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 40 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Kobe:—Miss E. Hooper in cabin, and 42 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Caledonien*, from Marseilles viâ ports:—Messrs. Crawford, Osborne, Ralph Paget, L. H. G. Smith, Fim, Jock San, Jubert and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Taga, Mr. W. H. Stewart, and Mr. Praudenburg in cabin; 5 Seamen and 1 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Kobe:—6 Japanese in cabin, and 36 Japanese in steerage.

Per American steamer *Peru*, from San Francisco:—Messrs. C. A. Carlisle, J. G. Siegfried, and C. E. Silber in cabin, and 32 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Nebo in cabin; 4 passengers in second class, and 68 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Batchelor, Mr. A. M. Delf, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Bull, Mr. C. Halm, Rev. S. L. Gulick, and Mr. H. Telge in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Torikoshi, Master Torikoshi, Messrs. T. Tooyama, Y. Tanaka, Y. Higuchi, and T. Fukui in second class, and 32 passengers in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. J. Kendare in cabin.

Per British steamer *Tacoma*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Maxwell in cabin. For Victoria, B.C., viâ Tacoma, Wash.:—67 Chinese and 34 Japanese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—Major and Lady Gore Browne and Mrs. Warren Moore in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. G. A. Scott, C. Gibbens, T. A. Singleton, J. A. Trafford, T. Y. Lo, E. Kataoka, and G. Horiuchi in cabin; Mrs. Ah Yu in second class, and 29 passengers in steerage.

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CARGOES.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	ST. PAUL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	375	—	—	—	375
Yokohama	74	—	—	—	—	74
Hongkong	137	20	—	—	—	157
Colombo	164	—	—	—	—	164
Total	375	395	—	—	—	770

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	33	—	33
Hongkong	—	80	—	80
Yokohama	—	297	—	297
Total	—	410	—	410

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Sagami Maru*, Captain Crichton, reports:—Left Otaru the 26th February at 0.15 p.m.; at midnight had gentle breeze and fine, cloudy weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 27th at 7.50 a.m. and left the 1st March at 8 a.m.; at midnight had light airs and fine, clear weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 2nd at 7.40 a.m. and left the same day at 1.36 p.m.; had fresh southerly breeze and cloudy, overcast weather up to approach of Inuboye; thence variable winds with overcast weather up to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 3rd March at 6.15 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, Captain T. Sakai, reports:—Left Kobe the 2nd March at noon; had light variable breeze and cloudy weather; after passed Hino-misaki, moderate south-easterly breeze and cloudy weather; after passing round Oshima at 10.50 p.m., moderate north-easterly breeze and overcast weather with heavy southerly swell and ship rolling heavily; commenced light north-easterly breeze and rainy weather on 3rd, passed Omai-saki Lighthouse at 11.55 a.m.; thence light variable breeze and rainy weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 3rd March at 10.10 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain W. Thompsen, reports:—Left Kobe the 4th March at 4.10 p.m.; had gentle northerly winds and cloudy weather; passed Oshima at 0.20 a.m. on the 5th, and Rock Island at 1.48 p.m. the same day, gentle to moderate northerly and north-east winds with cloudy weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 6th March at 6.15 a.m.

The American steamer *Peru*, Captain Friele, reports:—Left San Francisco the 17th February at 3 p.m.; had moderate winds and weather to meridian; then to port strong S.W. and W. breezes with squally weather.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Otaru the 3rd March at 2 p.m.; had moderate northerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 4th at 8 a.m. and left the 6th at 8 a.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 7th at 5.45 a.m. and left the same day at 11.53 a.m.; had moderate northerly winds; thence strong N.E. winds with rain to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 8th March at 11.33 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain E. W. Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 3rd March at 7.45 a.m.; had fresh winds and rain. Arrived at Nagasaki the 5th at 1.24 a.m. and left the same day; had light N.E. to E. winds to Moji, arrived the 6th at 6.10 a.m. and left the same day; anchored for the night on account of heavy rain and very thick weather. Proceeded the 7th at 4 a.m., arrived at Kobe the same day at 4.30 p.m. and left the 8th at noon; had encountered heavy north-easterly sea and strong winds from E. to N. Arrived at Yokohama the 9th March at 4.10 p.m.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Calédonien, French steamer, 2,500, Flandin, 4th March,—Marseilles viâ ports, 20th January, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Glenesk, British steamer, 2,275, Webster, 5th March,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Spondilus, British steamer, 2,050, Hocken, 2nd March,—Batoum via Kobe, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

SAILING VESSELS.

Arctic, British schooner, 40, Gillem, 7th October,—Hakodate 30th September, 55 Seals.—J. H. Pyne.

Aurora, British schooner, 41, E. Toussant, 7th October,—Hakodate, Stores.—Captain.

Carlotta G. Cox, British schooner, 82, W. D. Byers, 4th March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Corolla, British ship, 1,265, Fraser, 20th February,—New York 20th August, Petroleum.—China & Japan Trading Co.

E. B. Marvin, British schooner, J. C. Harris, 1st March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Grace Hanvar, British ship, 1,750, Hunt, 6th February,—New York 16th May, Petroleum.—China and Japan Trading Co.

May Belle, British schooner, 57, E. Shields, 8th March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Frazar & Co.

Retriever, American schooner, 75, H. J. Snow, 29th January,—Put Back, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Worlock, British steam-schooner, 31, A. Rieddijelthe, 17th November,—Petropaulovsky, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

MEN-OF-WAR.

Admiral Korniloff (18), Russian flagship, Captain Elchaninoff, 5th March,—Hongkong.

Baltimore (14), U.S. flagship, Captain W. R. Bridgmann, 27th February,—Yokosuka 27th February.

Caroline (14), cruiser, Captain C. J. Norcock, 12th February,—Kobe 11th February.

Forfait (4), French cruiser, Captain Ricaloux, 31st January,—Kobe.

Itsukushima Kan (12), Japanese cruiser, Captain K. Ijichi, 6th March,—Yokosuka 6th March.

Zabiaka (1), Russian gunboat, Captain Domojiroff, 8th March,—Hongkong.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Mar. 16th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 18th.*
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 10th.†
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Wed'day, Mar. 14th.‡
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Mar. 19th.§
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 18th.‖
From America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 27th.¶
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, Mar. 21st.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 29th.

* *Oceanic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on February 27th. † *Verona* left Hongkong on March 2nd. ‡ *China* left Hongkong on March 7th. § *Empress of China* left Vancouver on March 5th. ‖ *Oxus* (with French mail) left Hongkong on March 9th. ¶ *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on March 8th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 11th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Mar. 13th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Friday, Mar. 16th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 17th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 20th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Sunday, Mar. 23rd.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 24th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, Mar. 30th

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

A spurt in Yarns. Buyers finding that they must have some, agreed to pay up, and quotations are advanced to those given below: the tendency being still upward. Nothing done in Cotton Piece Goods although of course the low exchange raises the ideas of holders. In Woollens a large trade in Mousselines, but all else quiet.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 2.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	PER PIECE. 1.55 to 1.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.80
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb. per lb.	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	40.00 to 40.50
Nos. 28/32, Medium	41.00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Quotations are as below; but at these figures there is very little doing, buyers asserting that they cannot pay what Importers now demand for their holdings.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.70 to 1.75

KEROSENE.

No fresh arrivals. Market steady at quotations, holders having lightened their load by some sales last month: which are only now divulged.

Chester	$1.72½ to 1.75
Comet	1.70 to 1.72½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.67½ to 1.70
Russian Moon	1.65 to 1.67½

SUGAR.

Market rather easier and quotations for Browns show some decline. Arrivals of late have exceeded sales and buyers are not so keen as they were. White demand good, and prices well maintained.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.45 to 4.50
Brown Manila	5.30 to 5.35
Brown Daitong	4.10 to 4.15
Brown Canton	4.40 to 4.60
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.00
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 2nd instant, since which date settlements on this market are 1,417 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 995 piculs; *Reeels*, 192 piculs; *Kakeda*, 220 piculs; *Hamatsuki*, 10 piculs. Besides these purchases, Japanese direct shipments have been 266 bales, making the total export business of the week 1,700 piculs.

The business mentioned in our last continued for some three or four days, but since then the demand has fallen off owing to a number of causes; first, exchange has strengthened; next, advices from consuming markets are not so good, and lastly, Japanese are firm and will not listen to any reduction in price. It would seem that the recent business done has not been altogether on manufacturer's orders, but is mostly a shifting of the stock from this market to foreign markets by shippers and importers who think it well to have some of the stock on the other side to meet the daily demand which may there arise.

The outlook is not very promising and Italy is a strong competitor with Japan at the present time. The *agio* on gold in Milan is reported to be twenty per cent., with sellers eager to realize their silk at best prices obtainable. This will naturally militate against any rise in prices here.

It is interesting to compare present quotation with those of a year ago when prices for silk here were about $200 more than now; exchange also showing a depreciation to-day of quite 35 % when compared with this day last year. These facts will speak for themselves.

Arrivals from the interior are very small, although some of the factories will start on spring reelings 15th instant, and the recent sales here have reduced the stock to 10,500 piculs. This will probably be further reduced to some extent before the spring reelings commence to arrive on this market.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the Canadian mail, 2nd instant, taking 442 bales for the New York trade; the English mail steamer *Ancona*, 3rd instant, 513 bales for Europe, and American mail steamer *City of Peking*, 4th instant, 297 bales for New York. These departures make the present export figures 33,451 piculs, against 43,547 piculs last year and 40,486 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Filatures.—These have had the chief share of patronage, and considerable parcels have passed the scales. Holders make strong efforts to work prices up and have succeeded in getting $820 for fine-size *Sumitomo*, with $800 for good *Shinshu*,

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all sizes. Many other miscellaneous lots have been settled, prices ranging from $780 down to $700, according to grade.

Re-reels.—There has not been a large business in this class, but prices are held very firm at quotations and holders succeed in realizing what they ask for such parcels as they sell. Nothing done in well known chops, but ordinary and common Re-reels have been done at prices ranging from $730 to $660.

Kakeda.—Here there is a decided rise and the last purchase of *Daruma* was made at $750. Buyers now ask the following: *Horsehead I*, $720; *Horsehead II*, $700; *Horsehead III*, $680, which for the moment holders do not seem inclined to pay.

Oshu.—The only purchase recorded has been a few bales *Hamatsuki* at $680.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1¼	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2¼ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2¾ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$820 to 830
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	820 to 830
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 1¼, 13/16, 14/17 den	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	730 to 740
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	730 to 740
Filatures—No. 3, 11/20 deniers	700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom. —
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	780 to 790
Re-reels—No. 1¼, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	740 to 750
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	710 to 720
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	670 to 680
Re-reels—No. 3, 11/20 deniers	650 to 660
Kakedas—Extra	Nom. —
Kakedas—No. 1	740 to 750
Kakedas—No. 1¼	710 to 720
Kakedas—No. 2	680 to 690
Kakedas—No. 2½	660 to 670
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom. —
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom. —
Sodai—No. 2¼	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 9th March 1894.—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	17,702	16,671	14,228
America	14,725	26,104	25,329
Total { Bales	32,427	42,775	39,557
Total { Piculs	33,451	43,547	40,486
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	35,100	43,800	41,500
Stock, 9th March	10,500	2,000	8,400
Available supplies to date	45,600	45,800	49,900

WASTE SILK.

Settlements on this market are 489 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 231 piculs; *Kibiso*, 258 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

The market is dull but quotations are unchanged. It seems as though the very low price of Raw Silk is now interfering with the consumption of Waste; and we think that holders here must make up their minds to a big reduction in price if they want to clear off the present heavy stock. For the time being, dealers do not see the matter in this light; and are holding strong in sympathy with the Raw market.

There has only been one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the English mail steamer *Ancona*, 3rd instant, taking 148 bales various Wastes for Europe. This departure makes the present export figures 21,681 piculs, against 32,233 piculs last year and 25,779 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—The chief business has been done in *Oshu*, prices ranging from $130 to $145. One small entry in *Filature* at $150, with ordinary *Shinshu* at $70; *Mino*, $85, and fair *Joshu*, $72.

Kibiso.—A fair demand for *Filatures*, prices ranging from $95 to $110. *Zaguri* has been done at $50, other sorts not sharing in the trade.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to 110
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 9th March, 1894.

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	18,450	29,541	23,682
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,095
	21,681	32,233	25,779
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	22,800	39,000	27,000
Stock, 9th March	17,200	4,000	10,900
Available supplies to date	40,000	43,000	37,900

Exchange:—This declined yet further but again closes a fraction above the lowest quotation of the week:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/0⅝; Documents, 2/0¾; 6m/s. Credits, 2/0⅞. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $49¾; 4m/s. U.S. $50½. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.59; 6m/s. fcs. 2.61.

Estimated Silk Stock, March, 9th 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	40	Cocoons	130
Filatures	5,820	Noshi-ito	8,590
Re-reels	3,530	Kibiso	7,950
Kakeda	1,045	Mawata	195
Oshu	50	Sundries	335
Taysaam Kinds	15		
Total piculs	10,500	Total piculs	17,200

TEA.

Very small doings and the season practically finished. We withdraw all quotations until new leaf appears.

EXCHANGE.

A tendency to strengthen was manifest towards the end of the week, and quotations rose a point all round.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	1/11⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2 0
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/0¼
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/0⅝
On Paris—Bank sight	2.50
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.59
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	169
On India—Private 30 days' sight	173
On America—Bank Bills on demand	48
On America—Private 30 days' sight	49⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	50¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.02
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.10
Bar Silver (London)	27 5/16

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September 30, 1893.

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The BATHS are filled with a constant and never failing supply from the HOT MINERAL SPRINGS just above the Hotel, the medicinal virtues of which are too well-known to need recapitulation. It is sufficient to say that whereas Visitors find many of the hot springs enervating, those at Kowaki-dani are distinctly invigorating.

One of the features of the Kaikatei is the detached Suites of Apartments, where perfect quiet and privacy can be secured. This arrangement for invalids and convalescents from the Tropics is a great desideratum, as being entirely removed from the Dining Room, Billiard Room, Bar, and Baths, while all are connected by covered passages.

To a Liberal Table are added an excellent *Cuisine* and good attendance, supplemented by a large variety of Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors of the very best kinds.

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Visitors to Kowaki-dani who bring a rod with them will be shown the haunts of the speckled Trout, a nice stream of several miles in length being within easy walking distance of the Hotel; Hakone Lake is also well stocked with a variety of fish, including salmon, and the Fishing is FREE; while Entomologists will find rare and valuable specimens in the surrounding hills, and the Flora of the district is extremely interesting to the Botanist.

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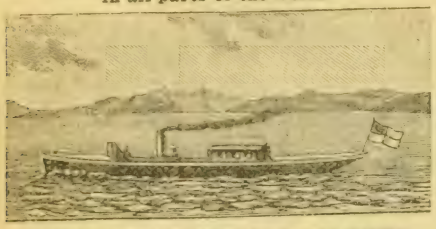
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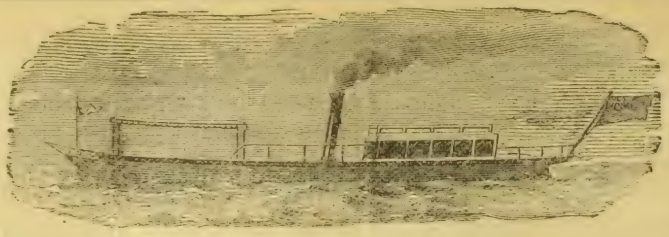
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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH, 1894.

DEATH.

On the 14th instant, at his residence, CELESTIN PEQUIGNOT, in his 55th year.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

COUNT INOUYE is reported to be suffering from influenza.

TYPHOID fever has been very prevalent in Tochigi of late, but small-pox is gradually dispearing, both there and in the capital.

AFTER two days of fine weather, rain set in again on Wednesday evening; but the temperature has not fallen so much this time.

THE Tokyo City Assembly has decided to cancel its contract with the Tokyo Iron Foundry and to order 10,000 tons of pipes from abroad.

THE Yokohama Specie Bank has declared a dividend of 14 per cent. per annum, and carries forward *yen* 34,548.411 to the new account.

CELESTIN PEQUIGNOT, one of the oldest foreign residents in Japan, died on the 14th inst. He was formerly coachman at the French Legation.

THE death is announced of Mr. Mitsui Koki, father of Mr. Mitsui Saburosuke, President of the Mitsui Co., which took place in Tokyo on the 11th inst.

AN interesting personal record of the great American Civil War, was related by Dr. Clay MacCaulay at the last ordinary meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society.

THE *Sakata Maru*, of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, which went ashore near the entrance to Fushiki harbour, some month or so ago, has been successfully floated off. The work of salvage was exceptionally difficult, and some fifteen lives were lost during the operations.

THE marriage arranged between Mr. Yasui, a wealthy Radical partisan of Nara Prefecture, and Miss Yen-ko, daughter of Count Itagaki, leader of the *Jiyu-to*, took place on the 12th instant.

THE Ball given by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in honour of the Imperial Silver Wedding, was very enjoyable, dancing being kept up with remarkable *verve* till the small hours.

MILTON A. HOWE, a surgeon-dentist practising in Yokohama, was ordered to pay $348, balance due for rent, in a county-court case instituted against him in the United States Consulate-General Court.

THE soirée musicale announced for Wednesday, promises to be exceptionally good. The instrumental items in the published programme will be given by an amateur string orchestra of some strength.

THE Emperor of Germany has intimated his intention of presenting the Emperor and Empress of Japan with a pair of porcelain vases made at the Royal Potteries at Berlin, as a memento of the Imperial Silver Wedding.

THE number of articles presented to their Imperial Majesties in commemoration of the Imperial Silver Wedding, and acknowledged by the Imperial Household up to noon of the 8th inst. exceeded seven hundred and twenty.

THE Yokohama Chess Club announce a "gala night" for the 30th March, when the presentation of various prizes will take place. The President also takes leave of the Club that evening, preparatory to his holiday in Europe.

Two new political parties are on the eve of being brought into existence in Japan. One is a fiscal association, for developing the resources of the country on economic bases; the other an agrarian league, pledged to further the interests of the farming class.

THE Blue-Funnel liner *Tantalus*, one of the new boats, while on her homeward voyage from Japan and China, struck the Nine-pins shoal, on the China Coast, and had to be assisted to port. No lives were lost, but the damage sustained by the vessel will necessitate extensive repairs and a delay of several weeks.

THE following is a return of the number of special postage stamps issued in connection with the Imperial Silver Wedding, and sold at the Tokyo and the Yokohama Post and Telegraph Offices on the 9th inst.:—Tokyo: 5-*sen* stamps, 6,344, and 2-*sen* 16,632; Yokohama, 5-*sen* 19,310, and 2-*sen* 30,026.

THE work of cutting eight tunnels in connection with the improvements of the Yokohama Waterworks is making rapid progress, and is expected to be completed before the close of this month; the laying of iron pipes will occupy the following month. These improvements will prevent the leakage of water and increase the amount sent down to Yokohama by 1,600,000 gallons.

THE import and export trade of Gensan, Korea, during December last amounted to *yen* 210,333 in value, of which *yen* 99,084 were imports, and *yen* 111,249 exports. The values of commodities over *yen* 2,000 exported and imported during the month were as follow:—Exports, *yen* 33,459 large beans, *yen* 55,718 gold bullion, *yen* 5,803 dried sardines, *yen* 4,851 cow-hides, *yen* 4,803 *meitaigyo* (fish), and one Exchange has again declined. *yen* 3,211 hemp goods; Imports, *yen* 24,955 muslin, *yen* 25,247 while cotton goods, *yen* 2,106 thread, *yen* 16,403 raw cotton, *yen* 2,556 cleaned rice, *yen* 4,118 kerosene oil, *yen* 4,308 salt, and *yen* 2,030 silk fabrics.

THE Committee appointed to investigate the causes of the cracks in the cement blocks used in the breakwaters of the Yokohama Harbour Works, have presented their report. They find that the cement was not at fault, but that the ramming of the materials was defective, while insufficient time was allowed for the setting of the cement. Only about 5 per cent. of the blocks were damaged.

KITCHELL, a Malay quarter-master on board the P. & O. steamer *Verona*, has been sentenced to six months hard labour for accidentally shooting a Japanese with a revolver, while quarrelling with a shipmate in a grog-shop in Kobe. Mr. Enslie, H.B.M.'s Consul, in delivering sentence strongly deprecated the carrying of loaded revolvers by seamen when ashore.

THE English Cabinet has been re-arranged, the chief positions being redistributed. Lord Tweedmouth is the only fresh admission to the ranks; he takes the post of Lord Privy Seal. Mr. Gladstone has been confined to his bed through a chill. The reason for his resignation is stated to be the cataract which has been forming over his eyes. Lord Rosebery's appointment as Premier is hailed with satisfaction generally, but Mr. Labouchere's following and the Parnellites are greatly dissatisfied, and have either taken steps toprotest against the appointment or issued adverse manifestoes. The Duke of Devonshire has promised the new Government the support of the Liberal Unionists if it will shelve Home Rule and consider financial and other necessary measures imperatively calling for attention on behalf of the country's welfare. The strengthening of the English Navy is also demanded. The Queen's Speech closing the Parliamentary session made no allusion to Foreign Affairs. The Parish Councils Bill has become law, Mr. Gladstone proposing under protest, the adoption of the Bill with all the Lord's amendments. The Bland Seigniorage Bill has passed the U.S. Senate.

THERE is not much to be said about the Import trade. Yarns and Grey Shirtings have been taken to meet requirements, but little beyond, on account of the high prices ruling, consumers in the interior putting off their purchases on the same account. Fancy Cottons and Woollens remain quiet. There is no moving Metals, and holders are strong enough apparently to wait till buyers are by their necessities forced into the market. Though quotations for Kerosene are unchanged, the market is very firm and prospects are good for the continuation of a large trade. Sugar is in active demand at late rates, all sorts more or less participating, and business seems to be on a very sound footing. The principal Export has engaged the attention of buyers daily to a small extent, but the total for the week only amounts to about 900 piculs of Raw Silk. There is still a heavy stock for March, with a likelihood of a further increase when, in a few weeks, the spring reelings commence to arrive, by which time the new crop will begin to be talked about. There has been rather more done in Waste, though not enough to make any great impression on the very large stock still on the market—nearly 17,000 piculs. There is nothing to report in Tea transactions, but the new crop is said to be forward, and, given some fine warm weather at once, the season would probably be an early

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The columns of the vernacular press during the week have been full of political rumours of various kinds. Stories about alleged discontent on the part of the Satsuma elements in the Cabinet at the growing intimacy between the Ito-Mutsu section and the Radical Party, are still making the rounds of the metropolitan papers. Count Inouye's absence from the Capital on account of sickness has furnished a fruitful subject of gossip and speculation. It happens that his illness coincided with the annual conference of the Local Governors at the Home Office to consider various questions bearing on local administration. From this circumstance, it is inferred that Count Inouye is not satisfied with the part taken in the recent elections by the Premier and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who, it is alleged, managed the elections without paying much attention to the views of the Minister of Home Affairs. Count Inouye is also represented to be among the clan statesmen who are alarmed at the Premier's increasing tendency to rely upon the support of the Radical Party. It is, consequently, stated by certain papers that the apprehended changes in the Cabinet will probably include the resignation of Count Inouye. The talk about the alleged refusal of Count Itagaki to see Count Ito at Oiso has not yet ceased. The Radical leader's refusal, say some papers, was not absolute, but had something either in its tone or language which plainly indicated willingness to meet the Premier at some future time and some other place. That Count Ito sought an interview with Count Itagaki and Count Inouye's present stay at Kamakura has any political significance, are positively denied by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. But the Opposition papers pay no regard to the *Nichi Nichi's* denial, however strong and well founded it may be. They continue their congenial pastime of circulating disquieting rumours. They further state that the so-called Military section of the clan statesmen is labouring to bring about the speedy fall of the present Cabinet. Viscounts Takashima and Kabayama —so the story runs—recently held a conference at Osaka with Messrs. Sassa Tomofusa, Furusho Kamon, Yasuba Yasukazu, and Takahashi Kenzo. As the result of the conference, Viscount Takashima came up to Tokyo, for the double purpose of prevailing upon Count Saigo and Count Oyama to resign and join the Military Party, and requesting Count Matsukata to repair to Osaka and take the chair at a meeting of the malcontents to be shortly held in that city. Count Matsukata, it is said, has reluctantly consented to go to Osaka, but he is not believed to be in hearty sympathy with the malcontents. As to Counts Saigo and Oyama, they are reported to have positively rejected the advice of Viscount Takashima. The latter's mission having thus failed, he is supposed to have shut himself up in his house at Kioicho, Tokyo, where, declining to see any visitor, he meditates means of precipitating a split in the Government. Turning to political parties, it is reported that Count Okuma is elaborating a scheme for amalgamating under one banner three out of the six allied parties, namely the *Kaishin-to*, the *Doshi Seisha*, and the *Domei Seisha*. The leaders of the latter two factions have issued circulars to their followers to come up to Tokyo at once, to consider, it is supposed, a proposition about amalgamation. The National Unionists are for the present left out of consideration, but whatever may be the result of the proposed amalgamation, there is no doubt that they will continue to be staunch allies of the *Kaishin-to*. Should the project of amalgation succeed, the new party is to be called the *Dai Nippon Min-to* (Popular Partyof Great Japan).

* * *

The growing political importance of the mercantile *vis-à-vis* the landed class is beginning to attract the attention of metropolitan journals. The new factor in the political world is represented by an association just formed, the Imperial Fiscal Reform League. The mercantile classes are naturally indignant at the exclusive devotion of politicians to the interests of landed proprietors. The Manifesto of the new League, as already noticed in these columns, is decidedly unfavourable to these politicians. Moreover, the mercantile classes are positively opposed to the movement for Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, and, consequently, their growing importance as a political factor causes no small alarm to the Opposition. The *Niroku Shimpo* points out the danger to the Opposition politicians of continuing to alienate the hearts of the business section of the people by confining their attention to questions of abstract politics to the exclusion of those of practical interest. The *Hochi Shimbun*, on the contrary, advises the promoters of the new League to give their hearty support to the parties devoted to the demolition of Clan Government, because reforms, especially financial such as those demanded by the League, are beyond the ability of that Government.

* * *

The report that there is a tendency on the part of not a few members of the *Doshi Seisha* to favourably entertain a proposal for their return to the Radical Party, seems to have caused much anxiety among the allied Opposition factions. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Shin Choya Shimbun*, and a few others belonging to the Opposition, pretend to put no faith in the report; but that they are ill at ease is evident to the least observant reader of their articles. They dwell at great length upon the courage, judgment, and dignity displayed by the members of the *Doshi Seisha* when they severed their connection with their corrupt and enslaved comrades of the Radical Party. Having left that Party on account of its secret alliance with the clan Government, the members of the *Doshi Seisha* are declared to be too honorable to think of rejoining it now that its discreditable connection with the Cabinet is closer than ever. Consequently, the Opposition papers simulate inability to place the slightest confidence in any report that calls in question the honour of these virtuous seceders from the Radical camp.

* * *

Whatever may be the truth of the rumour that Count Okuma is stirring heaven and earth to separate the Satsuma and Choshu elements of the present Cabinet, and by combining with the former, to form a coalition Ministry, it is a fact that the Progressionist papers are now inclined to say good things about the Matsukata Cabinet. The *Hochi Shimbun*, for instance, observes that the Matsukata Cabinet, with all its errors and blunders, was more constitutional than its successor. Our contemporary severely censures the present Cabinet's conduct in dissolving the late House of Representatives —a subject so repeatedly noticed in these columns that it is not necessary to follow the *Hochi* into the details of its specious arguments. Suffice it to say that the Progressionist organ's object in introducing this hacknied topic is to contrast the conduct of the Ito Cabinet with that of the Matsukata Cabinet under similar circumstances. The *Hochi* calls upon the allied parties to hold together in the coming struggle, and never rest till their long cherished object of establishing a responsible Cabinet shall have been attained. Only when that goal has been reached will all the wrongs in the external and internal administration of the Government right themselves of their own accord.

* * *

Similar advice is offered to the allied Opposition parties by all the papers friendly to them. The very zeal with which these journals emphasize the necessity of union in the motley camp of the Opposition suggests a suspicion that the bonds which temporarily bound the heterogenous elements are not over strong. Deservedly or undeservedly, the Progressionists enjoy the reputation of craftiness and even crookedness in their dealings and policy. This popular prejudice no doubt exists among the members of the parties at present allied with the Progressionists, and is not softened but rather intensified by the fact that the *Kaishin-to* won more seats in the recent elections than they ever possessed before. The Progressionists, it is true, are bearing themselves with great moderation, and seem to be as ready as ever to leave to their allies the lion's share of places of honour in the new House of Representatives. But being now decidedly the most numerous and influential party in the Opposition camp, it will not be so easy for them as it has hitherto been to act with moderation; and, at the same time, there will be a stronger tendency among their allies to regard them with doubt and suspicion. Hence the zeal with which the Progressionist papers urge upon the allied factions the vital importance of combination and constancy.

* * *

The employment of part of the surplus for depraying expenditures in excess of the amounts provided for in the current Budget, or not provided for at all, has been severely criticised by the great majority of the Tokyo papers. Their arguments are briefly as follow:—The first provision in the Constitution bearing upon this point is contained in the 64th Article, where it is stated that "any and all expenditures overpassing the appropriations set forth in the Titles and Paragraphs of the Budget, or that are not provided for in the Budget, shall subsequently require the approbation of the Imperial Diet." The source from which these expenditures are to be met is specified in the 69th Article, which provides that "in order to supply deficiencies, which are unavoidable, in the Budget, and to meet requirements unprovided for in the same, a Reserve Fund shall be provided in the Budget." When this source of supply is inadequate or has been already exhausted, recourse must be had to the 70th Article, which provides that "when the Imperial Diet cannot be convoked, owing to the external or internal condition of the country, in case of urgent need for the maintenance of public safety, the Government may take all necessary financial measures by means of an Imperial Ordiance." The article further provides that the matter shall be afterwards submitted to the Imperial Diet for its approbation. Now it is argued that the Reserve Fund in the current Budget having been all spent, the Cabinet ought to have availitself of the 70th Article and announced the appropriations by an Imperial Ordinance. No such step has been taken by the Cabinet: it has met the requirements out of the surplus by the same process as though the surplus were a Reserve Fund. The Cabinet is, therefore, accused of having acted contrary to the Constitution.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, however, points out that precedents are in favour of the course pursued by the Government. Moreover, the Diet once gave its approval to a similar measure adopted by the Matsukata Cabinet in respect of aid to engineering works in the Prefectures of Aichi, Gifu, and elsewhere. True, the step was in that instance announced by Imperial Ordinance, but that it was taken in virtue of, not the 70th, but the 64th Article, is clear from a statement made in the Diet by the Minister of State for Finance, and the 64th Article does not provide that the measure must be promulgated by Imperial Ordinance.

* * *

The *Kokkai* thinks it idle to discuss this question from a constitutional point of view. When there is pressing necessary, it is but proper for the Government to make use of the surplus. Whether its conduct will be approved or disapproved by the Diet, depends upon the amount of credit it enjoys. This view is shared by the *Nippon*.

* * *

The Progressionist papers continue to complain of the injustice of branding the movement for strict Treaty Enforcement as anti-foreign. They profess to regret that the Government and its friends are doing great national mischief by giving an ugly name to such a measure. The promoters of the movement, they allege, are not actuated by any sentiment prejudicial to foreigners. Their only motive is to force the Government to adopt a more manly course of policy in foreign affairs.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

A TYPICAL INSTANCE.

ELECTIONEERING is an expensive and oft-times exciting business all the world over. At a rough estimate, the active participants in the recent elections, those who coveted one of the rather unstable seats in the Lower House, spent on an average 1,000 *yen*, at least to judge by what the vernacular press has to say on the subject. As a case in point, we give a few facts, said to be trustworthy, concerning the recent lively contest between Mr. Hayashi Waichi and Mr. Magi, for the representation of the twelfth metropolitan ward. This region includes three *kori*: Kita Toshima, Minami Toshima, and Higashi Tama, all lying in the outskirts of Tokyo. The three *kori* possess thirty-two villages, with 200,000 inhabitants and 850 holders of the franchise. The roads between the villages are of the worst possible description, making travel by night anything rather than an agreeable undertaking. To visit these 150 voters, Mr. Hayashi employed no less than thirty barristers and their underlings, whose duty it was to solicit votes; but in no case was any gift made of any description whatever, Mr. Hayashi being even unwilling to give a dinner to his constituents, according to the usual custom, preferring rather to let his chances stand or fall on his own merits. These thirty middle-men travelled no less than three thousand *ri* hither and thither, going from village to village, the amount of their *kuruma*-hire alone reaching the high figure of 600 *yen*. On no occasion did Mr. Hayashi personally visit a constituent or even make a public speech, his only act in the latter direction being to distribute a printed circular letter, setting forth his political views. He enjoyed besides the powerful support of Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo who, despite having his own election to look after, took the liveliest interest in the affairs of his old friend and colleague. All was plain sailing until the 14th of last month, when an energetic opponent made his appearance in the person of Mr. Magi, a Radical. Not much time being at his disposal, he collected a small army of over three hundred assistants, said to have been mostly of the *soshi* persuasion or belonging to the lowest ranks of society. Nearly all of these, the other side allege, carried *shikomi*, or sword-sticks, and although they never proceeded to violence, they were apt to flourish their weapons or ostentatiously unsheath them upon entering the domicile of a timid voter. Mr. Magi's case appeared hopeless from the outset, in spite of his decidedly energetic measures; it was declared by his opponents that all he hoped was to force Mr. Hayashi to retire from the contest, out of consideration for the personal safety of his constituents, but this is a little too incredible. As the 1st of this month drew near, the excitement grew tremendous. On the night before election-day, Mr. Hayashi's *aides* saw that four hundred of their constituents were safely lodged in other places than their own homes: in various inns and the houses of local wealthy merchants. The following day the balloting commenced, each of the thirty-two villages having its own polling-booth, where the ballot-box was watched by the headman and three elders, besides two police-constables and two *gensdarmes*. Mr. Hayashi had his "headquarters" in the three largest villages, and several swift runners in his employ,—there being no telegraphic nor telephonic connection with the city—and these men kept his *aides* constantly informed of the progress of the voting, the news then being sent on to Tokyo by other speedy messengers. At the close of the day, the ballot-boxes were borne under police-guard to the *gun-yakusho*, or District Chief Office, where the votes were counted. As early as three o'clock on Saturday morning friends came to congratulate the winner of the contest, and at ten a.m. Mr. Hayashi was officially informed that he headed the poll with 531 votes, against 239 in favour of his opponent. This was a signal victory and one which not only Mr. Hayashi but the electors are to be congratulated; for it represented the triumph of honest, straightforward efforts over disorderly measures and the reckless expenditure of money, though be it said in Mr. Magi's favour that he is not believed to have lent his countenance to the ruffianly conduct of his *aides*. In conclusion, Mr. Hayashi's total expenditure is estimated at fifteen hundred *yen*: an exceedingly moderate figure; while Mr. Magi is estimated to be fully twice that sum out of pocket.

FOREIGN POWERS AND THE SILVER WEDDING.

THE *Official Gazette* publishes a becoming account of the ceremonial connected with the Silver Wedding—becoming in the sense that it is quite as dry and sketchy as the most orthodox official statement could well be. It contains, however, one item of interest, namely, an account of the congratulatory messages received from Foreign Sovereigns. The messages are given as follow:—

From His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Austria-Hungary:—"Informed of the great ceremony which Your Majesty and Your Imperial Consort are to conduct on to-morrow, the 9th instant, We and our Empress desire to convey expressions of our great gratification and sincerest congratulation."

From His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Germany:—"We are much gratified to learn that Your Majesty and Your Imperial Consort are about to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Your Imperial Marriage. We tender our heartiest congratulations and pray for the welfare of Your Imperial Majesties and of Your Imperial family."

From the Grand-Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Weimar:—"We offer our sincere congratulations to Your Imperial Majesties in connection with the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Your Imperial Marriage."

"From the President of the Swiss Republic:—The Members of the National Assembly of Switzerland desire to tender their profoundest and sincerest congratulations to Your Imperial Majesty and Your Imperial Consort."

From the King of the Belgians a letter was sent which the Representative of that Power transmitted to His Majesty. As for the other Powers, France, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, the United States of America, Korea, and Mexico, their messages were conveyed through their several Representatives but what were the exact terms employed the *Official Gazette* does not say.

A NEW POLITICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE political association whose proposed formation has been a topic of public talk during the past few days, has at last been publicly announced under the name of the Imperial Fiscal Reform League (*Teikoku Zaiset Kaku-shin Kai*). The principal promoters are Mr. Taguchi, editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, and Mr. Ozaki Saburo, a member of the House of Peers. The report that Prince Konoye had been asked to become leader of the League has proved inaccurate. He was invited to join, not in the capacity of leader, but as principal promoter, and though expressing himself pleased, upon the whole, with the aims of the Association, he asked for time to consider well before coming to a decision as to identifying himself with it. On the 5th instant, through the good offices of Prince Konoye, Mr. Taguchi was enabled to address, at the Nobles' Club a large number of the members of the Upper House. He explained the purposes for which the Association was to be called into existence, and solicited the support of his distinguished audience. Out of the numerous company assembled there, Mr. Ozaki Saburo at once expressed his entire approbation of the plan, and enthusiastically seconded Mr. Taguchi's request. The rest of the audience, however, though not unfavourably disposed toward the scheme, could not come to an immediate decision. They promised to consider and reply subsequently. Thus at present the ultimate attitude of the members of the Upper House remains uncertain, but it is reported that Mr. Taguchi counts upon the devoted support of a large number of influential merchants and manufacturers. He and some other promoters of the League being personally more intimately connected with the Progressionists than with the members of any other Party, some people seem to have rashly concluded that the new political body would ally itself with the *Kaishin-to*. But we are assured that such is not the case. The following is a translation of the Manifesto issued by the originators of the League:—

Four years have already elapsed since the establishment of the Diet, and during that interval of time five sessions have been opened and closed; but the new institution has not yet conferred the slightest benefits upon the people in general. On the contrary, an increase has been made in the taxes upon alcoholic spirits and exchanges. It is claimed that the Treasury has an annual surplus of six millions. But as this sum is consumed by Supplementary Budgets, the result is precisely as though there were no surplus. Such an unsatisfactory state of things is attributable to the incessant political contest between the Government and the Diet, neither side paying any attention to the broad question of national finance. A more deplorable state of affairs can not be imagined. Political strife may, under certain conditions, serve to prevent abuse and corruption, but in our opinion there are other matters of far more urgent importance, and foremost among them stands reform of the national finances with a view to the development of the country's resources. The States of Europe and America are extending the spheres of their influence with almost marvellous rapidity and success. Reference need only be made to the condition of things in Luzon, India, Burmah, Annam, and Siam. In order to firmly establish the foundation of our national independence, it is essential above all to enrich the country. England obtains annually from her import trade duties aggregating 159,200,000 *yen* (the *yen* is taken as ⅓ of £1), the trade itself amounting to 3,400,000,000 *yen*; France gets 107,200,000 *yen* from a total import trade of 1,450,000,000 *yen*; and the United States get 357,000,000 *yen* from imports aggregating 1,230,000,000 *yen*. These figures explain the reason why the above countries have more than sufficient means to maintain large military and naval establishments. What are the figures for Japan? Her total imports amount only to 88,000,000 *yen*, from which, at the average rate of 3½ per cent., she obtains a revenue barely reaching 3,000,000 *yen*. In the present undeveloped state of her trade, it would be impossible for her to procure any large income from this source, even though the rates were considerably increased. In order to be strong, a country must first become wealthy. Is Japan incapable of becoming rich? Far from it. Her favourable geographical position, her temperate climate, her fertile soil, her deft-handed inhabitants—these things combined ought to assure to her a splendid future. It is only necessary that her commercial administration be reformed and that her harbours be improved. Her wealth would then increase so as to place her on a level with the countries of Europe and America. A glance at the history of the powerful countries of the West, shows that the wonderful development of their trade is only a phenomenon of the present century, and that, previous to this century, their wealth was even less than that of Japan. Even in the present day, some of the secondary Powers of Europe are inferior to Japan. As already stated, we entertain high hopes for the future prosperity of this Empire. But at present, unfortunately, the foundation of our national wealth has scarcely been laid, while the existence of various administrative evils hinders the development of the national resources and impedes the progress of trade. What is still more regrettable, attention is not paid to this state of affairs either by the Government or by the Diet. There are not, indeed, wanting men in the Diet who occasionally call attention to the question. But their voices are always drowned by sounds of political strife between the Executive and the Legislature. That is the reason why the present League has been organized. Judging from its actions, the Government seems to possess no fixed opinion on financial matters and to be only bent upon studying the varying whims of public opinion. It is the intention of our League, with the support and coöperation of intelligent persons in every election district throughout the country, to move public opinion towards effecting the required reforms in the financial administration of the Empire.

* * *

From the Rules published simultaneously with the above Manifesto, we learn that the affairs of the League are to be managed by five *Kanji*, with the advice of a standing council consisting of thirty persons. The condition of admission to the League is that the applicant should be in the enjoyment of public rights;

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in other words, he must possess a certain amount of property or income. The aims of the League are tabulated as follow :—

1.—To transfer the prison expenditures, hitherto defrayed out of local taxes, to the charge of the Treasury.

2.—To amend the proportions in which police expenditures are borne, so that they shall be in Tokyo *Fu* 60 per cent. from the Treasury and 40 per cent. from local taxes, and in other *Fu* and *Ken* 50 per cent. from the Treasury and 50 from local taxes.

3.—To abolish the Tax on Trades (*eigyojii*) and Miscellaneous Tax (*zasshu-jii*), which are based on the House Tax.

4.—To abolish, if so desired by particular localities, the Tax on Houses.

5.—To abolish the Export Duties.

6.—To abolish the Tax on Confectionaries and cakes of all kinds.

7.—To abolish Taxes on Vehicles.

8.—To reduce the Stamp Duties to one-half of the present amount.

9.—To reduce the passenger fares on all Government railways to ½ *sen* per mile for the third-class, the rates for the second and first classes increasing by 50 per cent. and 100 per cent. respectively, of that for the lowest class.

THEN AND NOW.

It was in the early part of 1865 that the *Kaiyo Maru*, sometimes spoken of as the *Kanrin Maru*, returned from a long cruise around the world. She was originally a Dutch side-wheel steamer of 800 tons burthen and aged at the time of her purchase by the Bakufu. The admiral in charge was Enomoto Kamajiro, and next to him ranked Kimura Settsu-no-Kami. One of the chiefs of the ambassadorial suite was Ono Tomogoro, and in the train of Kimura Settsu-no-Kami was a bright-witted youth who already gave promise of future greatness. On board of this little man-of-war, then the largest vessel in the Shogun's fleet, were a number of Japanese youths who had been sent to study Western civilization in England and Holland. One of these youths is now the Prime Minister of Japan, Count Ito Hirobumi; Admiral Enomoto is Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce; Lord Kimura is living peacefully in retirement in Tokyo, his son being one of the foremost physicists in Japan and a professor in the First Higher Middle School; Ono Tomogoro, at the advanced age of eighty, recently completed a series of text-bbok on the use of the abacus (*soroban*), which the Meiho-do, a well-known legal publishing-house in Tokyo, is endeavouring to have adopted in all primary schools; while the quick-witted lad who waited on Lord Kimura—now Mr. Kimura—is better known as the Sage of Mita, Mr. Fukuzawa Yukichi. Then and now! Could anything better illustrate the world-wide difference between Old and New Japan?

A little more, and how much it is;
A little less, and what worlds away!

AN INTERESTING CONTROVERSY.

An anonymous writer in the *Kokumin Shimbun* has for some time past been making a most determined attack on Japanese poetry, history, grammar, and the Shinto Theology. He is evidently rarely skilled in all these subjects and would appear to be equally well versed in foreign tongues, for in his diatribes against the grammar of the Japanese Language, he makes frequent use of illustrations from English, French, German, Latin, and Greek. He speaks first disparagingly of Japanese poetry, as being without any idea of sublimity, hedged in by arbitrary and irrational rules, and utterly incapable of loftiness of sentiment. All this is perfectly true, and yet it is surprising to hear a Japanese venturing to speak so freely. On the score of history, he complains that Japanese history is devoid of any chronological system; that it is often misleading; that the older canons are not, or may not, be critically examined as they deserve, and that there is a mass of matter which should be thoroughly purged of error and misconception before being taken as literal fact. With regard to the grammatical structure of the language, the writer advances some novel, yet perfectly reasonable and well-founded views. He holds that the Japanese tongue is not one of those that will live for ever; that it is incapable of rendering the refinements of expression and delicate shades of thought so conspicuous in European and American literature. He finds fault with the verb, because of its incapability of inflection; with the position of the adverb, which is not kept within the boundaries of any recognized rules; with Japanese adjectives, which he characterizes as insufficient in number and void of force in many instances; and finally with the general awkwardness of the language itself, which cannot turn a verb into a noun nor form new expressions or compounds unless it borrows wholesale from the Chinese. With regard to the national religion, accepting Shinto as such, he speaks more guardedly and yet with an evidently deep appreciation of its irreconcilability with scientific facts. All this, of course, has aroused the ire of those who are patriotic before being accessible to reason. The *Waseda Bungaku* has taken up the gauntlet and characterizes the strictures of the essayist in the *Kokumin Shimbun* as "cruel." Prof. Tsubouchi defends the poety of Japan with all his accustomed fluent vigour; yet it does not appear that his refutation in any way shakes the arguments adduced by his opponent. The *Ni-roku Shimbun* condemns the whole controversy as "childish" and "uncalled-for." Other papers speak of the writer as unpatriotic and hypercritical.

* * *

The pen of the same essayist is noticeable in another forcible attack, this time directed against Buddhism. He states in so many words that the Buddhist creed is opposed to the onward march of civilization and hence injurious to Japan. To this a writer in the *Bukkyo*, the leading Buddhist magazine, replies vehemently and vituperatively. Mr. Koga Isamu argues well, and it is evident that his heart is in his subject. But we venture to endorse the language of the *Kokumin Shimbun's* essayist. Rank superstition, such as is the Buddhism of Japan (with few exceptions), is incompatible with either reason or science.

JAPAN AND SIAM.

Of late the possibility of planting Japanese colonies in Siam has been attracting increasing attention in this country. A number of enterprising Japanese now in Siam are sending patriotic correspondence to home journals. The memory of Yamada Nagamasa and his heroic followers haunts the imagination of these travellers, and they never weary of describing the thrilling sensations they felt at the sight of the ancient Japanese village in Siam. One of them, Mr. Ishibashi Usaburo, who lately returned to Japan, is reported to have succeeded in securing the hearty cöoperation of Mr. Omiwa and another merchant of Osaka on behalf of a scheme of colonization. It is said that the lease of a tract of land measuring about 5,000 *cho* (12,500 acres) has been obtained from the Siamese Government, and that the intention of the projectors is to invest about 500,000 *yen* in the enterprise. Mr. Omiwa, we may observe, is a well-known personage in this country since his ill-fated connection with the coinage business in Korea.

* * *

Mr. Kumagai Naosuke, formerly a Kumamoto politician of some local note, but now a fortune-hunter in Siam, has also a plan of colonization. In a letter to one of the metropolitan papers, he states that he has made a special contract with the Department of Agriculture for the lease of a very fertile district about 200 miles square. In his recent visit to the site of the ancient Japanese village, he says he erected a wooden post with suitable inscriptions on it. He advises his young countrymen at home to turn their back on the fruitless political contests of the time and cross the seas to Siam, where there are vast fields waiting to be exploited by men of enterprise.

SEALING FACTS AND FABLES.

Reference has already been made in the *Mail* to the singular announcements of American newspapers respecting the protection of seal fisheries during the approaching season. Most of these announcements are made on the alleged authority of the State Department at Washington, yet in many cases they contain statements which cannot possibly be supposed to have the sanction of the United States Government. A telegram dated January 28th, and published in the New York *Herald*, gives the extraordinary information that the patrolling forces of Japan and Russia are to be augmented by a fleet of Korean war-ships, which will cruise in that part of the Northern Pacific which lies west of longitude 180 and north of latitude 35. This area, we are gravely told, covers the seal regions in which the Korean fishers have hitherto made heavy raids. It is needless to say that the existence of Korean poachers is as purely imaginary as that of a Korean fleet. It really seems as if the correspondents at Washington had united in a conspiracy to turn the State Department into ridicule—at least on this particular question.

* * *

Other notifications, professing to be derived from the same source, may perhaps have a better foundation. Secretary Gresham, it is declared, has been endeavouring to persuade Sir J. Pauncefote that the closed season should be considerably prolonged. The interests of American fishermen are said to require an extension of at least a month, and an amendment to the Regulations is expected, by which the period of prohibition shall last from the beginning of April till the end of June. The Navy Department is understood to have promised a larger number of vessels than Mr. Gresham first asked for, and in spite of the extremely marine flavour that attaches to many of the reports on the subject, it appears evident that the United States will conduct their operations this year with unusual energy and thoroughness.

HAPPILY PREVENTED.

About two o'clock on the morning of the 8th instant, the attention of certain constables on the Asakusa beat was attracted by a child's subdued wails seeming to come from somewhere near the centre of the Azuma-bashi. Hastening to the spot they found a woman tying the hands and feet of two children, the one a little girl of four, and the other a boy of hardly two years of age. Hearing the sound of approaching footsteps, the woman seized the children and attempted to spring into the river, but was fortunately held back in time. The woman was, it appears, the mother of the two little ones. Her husband, a *kurumaya*, had for weeks past failed to supply his family with sufficient food, spending all his earnings in drink. The poor wife had borne her sufferings as long as she could, but finally lost courage and determined upon committing suicide with her two youngest children, the little girl pleading to be let die with "mother." An elder boy was left at home, but the other little ones were to share her fate, "for," said the woman, "in this world they cannot live without my care; so in the next, perhaps, I may still be able to protect them." It is pleasant to read that they have since found friends and will be better taken care of in future; while the drunken husband will be under police surveillance for some time to come. But what heart-breaking misery there is in this world of ours!

MISSIONARY TROUBLE IN AKITA.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* reproduces the following from the *Akita Nichi Nichi Shimbun*:—"Trouble has arisen in connection with the sale of the church at Honjo, and many Christians have come to Akita in connection with it. The origin of the affair was a lecture delivered by an American missionary in Honjo last October. The subject was the Chicago Exhibition, but in the course of the lecture expressions were used which the audience considered disrespectful towards the Imperial Court. Christians and non-Christians alike loudly signified dissent, and the lecturer was finally obliged to leave his speech unfinished. The Christians of Akita, considering it a duty to obtain some explanation, proceeded to the hotel where the mis-

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sionary was staying, but they there obtained so little satisfaction that they went away much discontented, and after subsequent consultation decided to sever their connection with the American Board Mission. This resolution, when conveyed to the Board, elicited a reply in the sense that, as the church in Honjo and the grounds on which it stood were the property of the Board, they must be handed over to the latter in the event of the Christians of Honjo separating themselves from the Board. This reply is said to have greatly incensed those to whom it was addressed, inasmuch as it embodied a principle contrary to the law of the land. We do not know what may have been the nature of their title to the church or whether it was erected entirely with funds supplied by the American Board, but at all events the Christians decided to sell the church and its subsidiary buildings. To this step, however, objection was raised by one of the Christians who is suspected of having been prompted, if not actually bribed, by the American missionaries. He applied more than once to the local Police Court to have the sale stopped, and the Court not entertaining his application, he finally had recourse to the Local Court, where the case was opened on the 3rd instant." We (*Japan Mail*) reproduce this item, but at the same time declare our complete disbelief in the details given. It is incredible that any Christian missionary, above all a member of the American Board, should have used language of the alleged nature, and it is equally incredible that the American Board Mission would have subsequently taken the step attributed to them.

AN INSANE MOTHER.

On the morning of the 3rd instant, the wife of a maker of bamboo-articles in Koishikawa District, Tokyo, made a desperate but happily unsuccessful attempt to strangle her only child, a boy of some ten years. The father had gone out on business, leaving only his wife and son at home, the former of whom had for some days exhibited signs of mental aberration. Attracted by loud shrieks, the neighbours rushed to see what had befallen, and found the insane mother strangling her child with a coarse towel. The boy was already unconscious and would have been dead in another minute. Despite desperate struggles on the part of the madwoman, she was handcuffed and taken away by the police. Owing to prompt restorative measures, the boy was finally brought back to life, but it is feared that the shock and fright may result in complete idiocy, as he still continues in a semi-unconscious state.

MURDEROUS "SOSHI."

Shortly before eight o'clock on the morning of the 9th instant, a man of some fifty years of age ran into the Saiwai-cho Police Station in Shiba District, Tokyo, exclaiming that he had just been attacked by some three or four *soshi*, who had drawn knives and severely wounded him. The man was covered with blood and in a fainting condition. Upon examination a deep and possibly fatal gash was found in his breast, the fingers of the left hand also being severely injured. He was promptly removed to the Shiba Hospital. No reason can be discovered for the assault of which he was the victim; he declares he has no political enemies and is utterly ignorant why he should have been so cruelly maltreated. The police believe it to be a case of mistaken identity, but things have really reached a most deplorable state if innocent and inoffensive citizens can be waylaid in broad daylight by murderous *soshi*.

IN THE WELL.

On the 24th of last month, a prosperous merchant of Kyobashi District, Tokyo, suddenly disappeared, and although every attempt was made to ascertain his whereabouts, nothing was discovered until the 6th instant. Upon drawing some water from a well in the neighbourhood of the merchant's house on that day, one of his domestics was surprised to find the bucket unusually heavy. Raising it to the brink, he was horrified to see that the hook attached to the bucket had got fastened in the clothes of a corpse. Although in an advanced state of decomposition, the body was recognised as that of the missing merchant, who, it is said, must have taken his life on account of the irregularities of his eldest son. The horrible thing about it is that many people had been using the water from this well for drinking purposes several days before the discovery. But ignorance is bliss.

KYOTO LITERATI.

Kyoto papers declare that literature is at a very low ebb in that city. They attempt to ascribe this to the natural law that "things never stay in the same condition," *i.e.* there must be either progress or retrogression. The latter is true of Kyoto literature at the present moment, though this would not appear to be the fault of the local *literati*, who are making strenuous efforts to keep abreast with the Tokyo standard. Yet it is very evident that there is an absolute lack of interest in the productions of even the best of the Kyoto school, which prides itself on purity of diction and elegance of language. Perhaps the humiliating alternative of consulting the tastes of the reading public might prove a remedial measure. It is only the chosen few who can fill profitably ream after ream irrespective of their audience and its tastes.

WHAT IS THE TONGUE OF ENGLAND.

We hear from a correspondent in the country as follows:—I happened to be present when the conversation first reported poetically in the Australian journal, and reproduced in your issue of the 6th instant, took place. The reporter must have left early, for there were several other speakers. One of the funniest was a Chinaman. Unfortunately, not being very familiar with pidgin-English, I am unable to remember much of what he said, but the closing lines were something of this kind:—

"Nummer-won English-speakee
We speakee Pekin-side."

It is possible that some other of your readers may have been present, and may be able to supply the rest of this speech. I myself, however, wrote down two other speeches immediately after the meeting. I may say that the order given in your columns is incorrect, and that the representative of "culchaw" spoke after the Scotchman, not before. I subjoin the two speeches that followed:—

Then up and spoke a Yankee
"Spak English at *Oxford*? That's tall!
That's cummin' it stronger then Paddy!
Say, sir, was ye bawn with thet drawl?
Naow le' me tell yeou stränger,
Wen the Pilgrim Fathers came
They brot the pew-rest English,
An we still spek the same—
Rich idjum, with nasal twangin'
An' a beyootiful lingerin' stress—
In *England* the English lang-widge
Ez about used up I guess."

Said a little shrimp of a Cockney,
"Hoim glad yer hast me 'n toime;
Hif yer want ter year first-rait Hinglish,
The wai Hoi speaks 't 'z proime.
So'z th' roïght wai ter speak Hinglish
Mai niyer be mistook,
There's a West End bloke naïmed Guthrie
As 'z writt'n 't daan 'n a book.
Hin 'Ackney 'nd Bow 'nd Loimus
They speaks tip-top, no mistaïke—
But me 'nd moi maites 'n Ratcliffe,
Gawdstrewth, we tʼikes the caïke."

I asked the Cockney afterwards what was the book to which he referred. He said it was called "Vo sees Popple-eye." Your readers will doubtless recognize a phonetic rendering of the title of some clever sketches by the author of "Vice Versa," which appeared not long ago in *Punch*, and have recently been republished in book-form.

A SAD STORY.

A few days ago, a young and well-dressed woman was noticed in the neighbourhood of Suido-bashi, Kanda District, who kept calling every now and then, "*Ume-san, Ume-san*, where are you?" She was followed by a crowd of noisy street urchins shouting "Look at the crazy girl!" and soon attracted the attention of the passers-by by her heart-broken gesticulations and mournful cries. The police stationed on one side of the bridge finally accosted her and asked what was the matter, but to their inquiries she made no reply, appearing indeed quite unconscious of her surroundings. Suddenly a servant in livery broke through the crowd and claimed the girl as the daughter of his master —a wealthy Tokyo merchant. She had, he stated, disappeared from her home under very painful circumstances two days before, and her parents had since then been most anxiously seeking her. Subsequent inquiries elicited a very sad story. It seems that the girl, O-Tane by name, had become enamoured of a young man who was objectionable to her parents. Repeated reproaches and vehement scoldings having no effect, she had been closely confined to the house for some time. Discovering, one day, that the young lovers still kept up a clandestine correspondence, the father had waxed furious and overwhelmed her with the bitterest denunciations. This had unsettled her reason. Quite harmless, though hopelessly insane, she was very obedient to her parents, but never spoke a word beyond now and then breaking out into wild cries for her lover. Hoping to restore her to her senses, the father had in his grief gone even so far as to consent to her marriage, but when confronted by "Ume-san" she had failed to recognize him. The physicians, it is stated, pronounce her no longer curable.

SILVER WEDDINGS.

Historians have been making researches connected with the Imperial Silver Wedding, and their conclusion is that the present Sovereign is the sixth of the Japanese Dynasty to find himself in the happy position of celebrating the 25th year of his married life. The monarchs to whom the gods were good enough to grant a similar privilege in the past were Jimmu, Ojin, Nintoku, Kimmei, and Daigo. The first three of these carry us back to very nebulous times. As to His Majesty Jimmu, foreign commentators have already spoken pretty plainly, and with regard to Nintoku, history asks us to believe that he reigned for eighty-seven years, coming to the throne in 313 of the Christian era and occupying it until the year 400. In point of fact Kimmei is the first of the five who belongs to the historic period. He reigned from 540 A.D. to 572. It may probably be claimed that among the Sovereigns of Japan whom practical historians will hereafter recognize, the present Emperor is the third to whom a Silver Wedding has been a possibility, and what is more remarkable, His Majesty is the first to whom this fortunate lot has fallen for nearly a thousand years. The last of the above five Emperors, Daigo, reigned from 898 to 931 A.D.

BALL AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

A brilliant ball was given by Their Excellencies the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Madame Mutsu on the 12th instant, in connection with the commemoration of Their Imperial Majesties Silver Wedding. The building chosen for the purpose was the official residence of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and as the ball-room there is not spacious, a limit had to be placed on the number of invitations issued. The exterior and interior of the building were beautifully illuminated, and all the arrangements were most complete. Not often has dancing been sustained with greater *verve* at a ball in Tokyo, a fact attributable in a great measure to the presence of a number of American and Russian Naval officers. Two genuine Russian Mazurkas figured on the programme, and it need scarcely be said that they were danced with the greatest spirit. But, as is now the invariable rule on such occasions, the Japanese themselves took absolutely no part in the dancing. Except in the first quadrille they were conspicuous throughout by their abstention.

THE NAVAL SQUADRON ON THE CHINA STATION.

The addition of the *Undaunted* to the British Naval Squadron on this station will be a great access of strength. The *Undaunted* is a first-class armoured cruiser of 5,600 tons. She carries twelve guns, and is said to be slightly superior to the Russian armoured cruiser *Admiral Korniloff*. Then too the *Centurion* is to replace the *Imperieuse*, the former being a first-class battleship of greater tonnage, heavier armament, and higher speed than the latter. Finally, we learn from the *Hongkong Daily Press*, that the old wooden hulk *Victor Emanuel* will soon be replaced by the powerful battleship

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Agincourt, which will not only act as a receiving ship but also be available for harbour protection or for cruising purposes. When these changes are effected there will be no comparison between the strength of the British Squadron and that of any other Power on the China and Japan station.

GOTO SHIMPEI AND THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

THE Nishigori case, with comments upon the progress of which the columns of the metropolitan press are well filled daily, is growing more and more interesting as it approaches a close. The principal figure, Nishigori himself, is now in the full enjoyment of an unpopularity nearly, if not as great, as his former popularity. Almost every witness that appears on his side is handled without gloves by the vernacular dailies, the sole exception being Mr. Goto Shimpei, whose manly and straightforward speeches have met with universal approval. Even the staid and reserved *Nippon* has something to say in his favour, while all the other papers wax enthusiastic over his replies to the Bench, extremists going so far as to hope that he will rehabilitate the lost cause. That is, of course, out of the question, but it is not the less gratifying to find one man of approved honesty and moral courage in the midst of so much that is evil and corrupt.

EX MEMBERS OF THE DIET AS SPECIAL COMMITTEE-MEN.

WHILE the last House of Representatives was in existence, some of its members were appointed to sit on Special Committees connected with the Civil and Commercial Codes, the Currency, Fisheries, the Iron Foundry question, Public Works, and Railways. Some of these gentlemen lost their seats in the late elections, namely, Messrs. Seki Naohiko, Maki Bokushin, and Watanabe Koki. A question has now arisen as to whether these gentlemen, having ceased to be members of the Diet, have become *de facto* disqualified to retain their places as Committee-men. The *Jiji Shimpo* thinks not, and we are disposed to agree with it. The Committees are not parliamentary. They consist simply of a number of men whose special qualifications fit them for investigating the subjects entrusted to each Committee, and though, for obvious reasons, it may be desirable that the Committees should include some members of the Diet, it does not seem to follow necessarily that because a Committee-man who is also a member of the Diet loses the latter qualification, he should therefore be deprived of the former office.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE SPECIE BANK.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of the Yokohama Specie Bank was held on the 10th instant at 2.30 p.m. in the Bank buildings. More than a hundred shareholders attended, but the President, Mr. Sonoda, was unable to attend owing to the death of his son. The accounts were read and passed, a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. being declared, and the Directors and Auditors were re-elected without change. The following are the principal items of the accounts :—

	yen.
Gross Profits	1,336,422.236
Losses	809 903.557
Net Profits	526,518.679
Brought forward from previous account	22,680.732
Total Net Profits	549,199.411
To Reserve for outstanding debts...	80,000.000
Balance, Profits	469,199.411
To Reserve	45,000.000
Rewards and Allowances to officers.	44,651.000
Dividend, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum	315,000.000
To Fund for building purposes...	30,000.000
Carried forward to next account..	34,548.411

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A speech which the President had intended to deliver was then read by a clerk. It set out by referring to the fact that whereas, during the first half of last year, the import and export trade had shown increased activity, compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, a change had occurred in the second half, imports continuing to augment while exports had fallen off. In fact, things had happened precisely the opposite of what might have been anticipated in view of the marked appreciation of gold. With regard to imports, Mr. Sonoda was of opinion that there had been actually a keener demand for goods of foreign manufacture owing to the improved financial condition of the interior, but that something must also be set down to the larger silver values at which goods were entered owing to the appreciation of gold. As for the reduced volume of exports the chief cause was doubtless to be sought in the tradal depression existing in the United States of America. Mr. Sonoda then referred to the serious monetary disturbances resulting from the action of America and India, and said that the Bank would doubtless have felt the ill effects more severely had not its methods of conducting exchange business been modified a few years ago. The establishment of a branch of the Bank in Shanghai had proved a most beneficial measure in this connection. Turning, then, to the question of silver, Mr. Sonoda said that no forecast could yet be made with any assurance, but that public opinion in the Occident did certainly seem to be awaking to a sense of the necessity of some change. With respect to the domestic money market, it had shown manifest signs of increased activity, doubtless because, first of the prosperous condition of the agricultural classes and their consequent demand for imported goods, and, secondly, because of an exodus of specie in connection with the country's foreign trade, by which means some of the capital seeking investment had been removed. At the same time, the temporary paralysis of the silk trade had prevented the usual influx of money from abroad. The Bank had consequently been able to raise its rates of interest. The speech closed with some comments on the Shanghai branch, and the useful part it might play in promoting commerce with China and Korea.

A LAST HOPE.

SOME of the Opposition organs are anything but jubilant over the result of the elections, for one can see that they anticipate a Government majority in the next session. The general sentiment, they claim, is one of profound disappointment. But there is still a hope that they indulge namely, that many of those who got themselves elected on the score of sympathizing with the Government, will drop their disguise as soon as Parliament opens and appear then as full-fledged and lusty opponents. That is a rather curious prognostication and one not at all consistant with facts. The members of the *Jiyu-to* are always subjected to rigid examination of their political views and status before being permitted to enrol themselves in the lists of that powerful Party. The defeat of Mr. Abei Hankon has cast a still deeper gloom over the opponents of the Government. Yet even here they find some solace in the thought that Mr. Oi Kentaro—the most ridiculous politician probably now within the borders of the Empire—will take the place of the defeated hero. So long as there is plenty of posing to be done, joined with vehement execrations of everything and everybody, there is no doubt that Mr. Abei's *geta* will fit Mr. Oi's willing feet.

DEPOSITS IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

IT has always been considered a feminine privilege to object to any question about age. There appears to be a difficulty also among the ladies in Tokyo about declaring their profession. The officials at the Post Office Savings Bank require that any woman seeking to lodge money, shall fill in a document stating, among other things, her profession. Some of the applicants write "no profession," but that evasion is not suffered to pass: they are pressed to be explicit—pressed so that cases have been known of women going away without lodging their money rather than endure such a scrutiny. It is hard to believe in such impertinence on the part of officials, but the *Jiyu* alleges that the account is true, and adds that Count Kuroda, Minister of State for Communications, hastaken the Savings Bank folks severely to task for their vexatious inquisitiveness. Probably the alleged origin of the Minister's interference andthe alleged interference also are greatly exaggerated.

OPENING THE BALLOT-BOXES.

A POINT of some interest has been raised in connection with the recent general elections. The 1st instant was the day of polling. On the morning of the 3rd instant we published the names of 139 candidates whose success at the polls had been telegraphed to the News Agencies in Tokyo up to mid-night of the 2nd. Thereupon the *Japan Gazette* accused us of "tabulating events before they occur," thus "going ahead of Mr. Stead who gets communications through his supernatural mediums." This charge was based on the hypothesis that, according to the Law of Elections, the ballot-boxes are sent, on the day after the polling, to the local office concerned, and are opened by the Chairman of Election on the day after their transmission. Hence the *Japan Gazette* contended that since the boxes must have been transmitted on the 2nd instant, and could not have been opened before the 3rd, "the impossibility of the *Japan Mail's* being able to quote the returns on the morning of the 3rd was obvious." We ventured to deny the justice of this denunciation, and claimed that, in certain districts, the boxes had actually been opened on the 2nd, and that the results, telegraphed to Tokyo, had been published by us on the morning of the 3rd. This drew down upon us fresh criticism of a polished character. Our courteous contemporary declared that "the *Mail* first lied and then inferentially condemned the whole of the Japanese officials" by alleging that they had opened some of the ballot-boxes on the 2nd, whereas the law forbade the opening of any before the 3rd. Of course we have long ceased to imagine that the *Japan Gazette* troubles itself about what is actually written in the columns it undertakes to criticise, or what is actually done by the persons it essays to judge. But, previous to this last exhibition, we still entertained a lingering suspicion that our contemporary took some slight cognisance of the things penned by itself. That fancy also we are now compelled to abandon. For we find that, on the evening of the 2nd instant, the *Gazette* published returns from 16 election districts, giving not only the names of the successful candidates but also the numbers of votes obtained by them. Apparently it had forgotten this by the evening of the 3rd, for it then declared that no ballot-boxes were opened on the 2nd, and had become so completely oblivious of it by the 8th, that it called the *Mail* a "liar" for alleging that any ballot-boxes were opened on the 2nd. Would it be too embarrassing a question to ask our clear-headed contemporary where and how it obtained the returns published in its own columns on the evening of the 2nd, if no ballot-boxes were opened until the 3rd? May we be allowed to supplement the query by inquiring what epithet should be applied to returns appearing in the columns of the *Japan Gazette* on the evening of the 2nd, if results appearing in the *Japan Mail* on the morning of the 3rd were mere "guesses"? And finally, we may perhaps be permitted to ask by what occult process the *Japan Gazette* was able to quote returns on the evening of the 2nd, if the quotation of results by the *Japan Mail* on the morning of the 3rd was an "obvious impossibility."

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It is quite true that the Law of Election provides for the transmission of the ballot-boxes to the local office on the day after the balloting, and for the opening of the boxes on the day after their transmission. But that does not mean that no boxes may be opened until the second day after the polling. It simply means that where boxes have to be transmitted, the transmission shall take place on the day after the election, and the opening on the day after the transmission. Where the boxes are already transmitted, that is to say, in cases where the polling takes place actually in the local office,

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then, as a matter of course, the opening takes place on the day after the polling. The voting booth for a district may be either in the local office or in some other place chosen by the local officials (*vide* Art. XXXI. of the Law of Election). When it is in the local office, there is no question of transmitting the ballot-boxes since they are already on the spot: hence they are opened on the next day. When the place is elsewhere, then the boxes are transmitted on the next day and opened on the day after. Hence it is that of 300 elections held on the 1st instant, we were able to give the results of a considerable number on the 3rd without being either "liars" or "Laboucheres."

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There is another point worthy of mention. The vernacular journals of the capital go to press at about 7 or 8 p.m. Hence intelligence reaching Tokyo after 7 o'clock is seldom published in their columns until the day but one following its receipt. Thus, in the case of the results of elections known in the capital on the night of the 2nd, the majority of them did not appear in the vernacular newspapers until the morning of the 4th. But they of course appeared in the *Japan Mail* on the morning of the 3rd, and it would seem that our enterprise in collecting and analysing them—a task that occupied until 4.30 a.m. on the 3rd—has greatly purturbed less energetic journalists. One correction, however, we make in the interests of strict accuracy. It is not right to say that *all* the results telegraphed to the News Agencies during the night of the 2nd had been ascertained by actually opening the ballot-boxes. In many cases the boxes had been opened—and legitimately opened—but in some the results were known and could be telegraphed without opening the boxes. We make the *Japan Gazette* a present of this terrible admission.

THE YOKOHAMA HARBOUR WORKS.

THE Special Committee appointed to investigate the cause or causes of the injury suffered by the works for Yokohama Harbour have completed their labours and presented their report. The investiigation necessarily involved long delay, experiments of a tedious character being indispensable. The report has not been published, but we are in a position to give a general idea of its contents. The Committee have found that no fault can be urged against the general plan of the works or the manner of carrying them out. They have also decided —and this is of special interest—that the failure of some of the concrete blocks is not attributable in any degree to inferior cement, but is due to two causes: first, that the method of making the blocks was not perfect, the ramming of the materials having been insufficient; and secondly, that the blocks should have been given more time to "set" before being placed *in situ*. After all the talk about dishonest contractors and corrupt officials, and after all the outcry against Japanese cement and the impossibility of placing any trust in it, this decision of the Committee's is calculated to cause much surprise. With regard to the extent of the damage, the number of blocks injured is 500 out of a total of 13,000, or less than 5 per cent. We stated originally that it was 4 per cent. approximately, and that the excitement fomented about the whole affair deserved ridicule. But of course no such moderate view found favour with sensational journalists. It is further to be noted that in the case of many of the blocks the cracks are so small as to be scarcely visible. Of course the damaged blocks must be taken up, but the Committee have recommended that the majority of them be painted with a certain chemical coating which will render them quite fit for use in the upper courses of the breakwaters. Work will be resumed on the 1st of April, and it is expected that everything will be finished by March, 1895. Had not the last House of Representatives been dissolved, a supplementary budget for three hundred thousand *yen* would have been submitted to it to provide funds for finishing the works. The present intention, we understand, is to grant from the Reserves, by means of an Urgency Ordinance, money sufficient for three months' operations—April, May, and June—by the end of which the new House of Representatives will have had an opportunity to sanction past expenditures and vote an appropriation for future.

PIPES FOR THE TOKYO WATERWORKS.

THE Tokyo City Assembly has finally decided that pipes for the construction of the Waterworks, to the extent of ten thousand tons, shall be ordered from abroad. It will be remembered that this question caused much excitement in the fall of the year before last. An iron foundry was started in Tokyo expressly for the purpose of manufacturing pipes for the Waterworks, and pressure of a nominally patriotic and certainly illegal character was employed to obtain the contract for the new foundry. But the foundry, as all persons of experience predicted at the time, has proved unable to implement its contract. Finding itself in difficulties, it petitioned the City Assembly to cancel the original contract, return a sum of 100,000-*yen* lodged as security for the contract's fulfillment; accept *in lieu* a mortgage on the foundry's buildings; extend the period of the contract, and so forth. All this the Council has refused, being convinced of the foundry's inability to execute its agreement. The final proposal for placing the order abroad was introduced by the Governor of the City, in his capacity of Chairman of the Council, and was deliberated by the City Assembly, on the 13th instant. The Bill embodying the proposal contained also clauses providing that the security money lodged by the foundry should be confiscated, and further that a penalty for breach of contract should be imposed, as laid down in the articles of agreement. It certainly involved a very remarkable *volte-face* on the Assembly's part to pass such a measure, but facts seem to have been too strong for the some-time advocates of domestic manufacture, and the Bill was carried by a majority of 35. There is an idea that the members of the Council will be held responsible for the miscarriage. Whether things will be pushed to such an extreme, we do not know, but we do know that if the most advantageous and disinterested offer made by Messrs. Shibusawa, Okura, Masuda, and others had been accepted, Tokyo would now be in possession of an ample supply of pure water, instead of being perplexed how to find materials for the works.

KYOTO.

A GREAT deal of speculation in land and houses is going on in the erst so quiet city of Saikyo. This is, it is said, wholly attributable to the National Industrial Exhibition to be held there next year. Real estate has reached a hitherto unknown figure, and desirable sites, even on the outskirts of the city, are bringing as much as the best lots in the centre of the town used to command two years ago. The funeral ceremony of the late Lord Abbot of the Nishi Hongwanji attracted tens of thousands of people, and it appears that a large percentage of these persons found the old capital so attractive that they desire to permanently take up their quarters in it. A decided impetus has simultaneously been given to local trade and manufactures, so, while elsewhere dullness reigns supreme, Kyoto alone is progressive and well-to-do. One can only hope that the prosperity of the moment may not prove a mere passing instance.

CURRENT TOPICS.

EFFORTS are being made by the Opposition papers to inspire the Satsuma statesmen with suspicion against their colleagues of the Choshu clan. One of the most favourite devices resorted to for that purpose is to allude sarcastically to the powerlessness of the Satsuma elements in the present Ministry, and to insinuate that they are the dupes of crafty Choshu Ministers, like Counts Ito and Inouye. Since the recent elections, these journals take pleasure in dilating upon an alleged alliance between the statesmen of Choshu and Toshu, and in foretelling the inevitable retirement of the Satsuma members of the Cabinet. It was reported in some papers that immediately after the recent elections, Count Ito had a secret conference with Count Goto and Count Itagaki at Oiso, where the two Toshu statesmen are at present staying. This report having been flatly contradicted, some of the same papers now maintain that, although the Premier went down to Oiso for the purpose of seeing the Radical leader, the latter declined the proposed conference. The *Kokumin Shimbun*, one of the journals circulating this rumour, pretends to feel confident that despite the above mentioned incident at Oiso, there is no doubt as to the existence of a perfect understanding between the Cabinet and the Radical Party. For the present the Radical Party—continues our contemporary—tries to keep up a semblance of independence by opposing the Government on some questions of secondary importance.

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The proposed retirement of Mr. Morioka from the Presidency of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is represented by certain newspapers as possessing political significance, because he happens to be a Satsuma man. That it has become necessary for him to give up his influential post is, in the opinion of these journals, one of the consequences of the growing ascendency of the Choshu statesmen. Again, the fact, real or alleged, that the shareholders of the Kyushu Railway Company are gradually becoming discontented with the continued occupation of the post of President by Mr. Takahashi Shinkichi, a Satsuma man, is also attributed to secret machinations on the part of capitalists closely connected with the Choshu statesmen. Even the interest which Mr. Nakajima Eiichi and Mr. Fujima Denzaburo took in the return of moderate members of the recent elections is interpreted in a sinister manner, it being hinted that these well known men of business acted under the direction of some powerful Choshu Statesmen.

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Mr. Morioka, it seems, is stoutly resolved upon retirement, though his friends are understood to be endeavouring to pursuade him to withdraw his resignation. As to his probable successor, opinion is much divided. Some papers are inclined to believe that it will be Mr. Shoda Heigoro, of the Mitsu Bishi Firm; others think that Mr. Nakamigawa of the Mitsui Bank will obtain the post, while yet others suppose that the vacancy will be filled up by Mr. Yoshikawa, now Vice-President of the Company.

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The formation of the Imperial Fiscal Reform League has given great alarm to the landed class. The new League, as already noticed, is diametrically opposed to all the agrarian reforms that have hitherto constituted a principal feature of the Opposition's programme. A Farmers' Association, organized by men desiring reassessment of the taxable value of land, will be publicly proclaimed at Osaka in the early part of next month. The occasion will be utilized to make a big demonstration of agriculturists against the new League. It is stated that about 30,000 farmers from Kanagawa, Aichi, Osaka, Hiroshima, Tokushima, and so forth, will take part in the proceedings. The promoters of the Farmers' Association are said to be engaged in interviewing the Independent members of the new House of Representatives in order to obtain their help for consummating the reassessment of the taxable value of land. Apart from the relative merits of the reforms proposed by these two associations, it is more than probable that for the present the cause of agrarian reform will prove the more popular in the political world. Among political parties, the *Jiyu-to* and the *Kaishin-to* are irrevocably committed to a reduction of the land tax and reassessment of the taxable value of land. The National Unionists, however, not only are not pledged to such a policy, but also advocate the transfer of prison expenditures to the charge of the Treasury, which is one of the principal measures demanded by the Imperial Fiscal Reform League. But the National Unionists are com-

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paratively powerless in the new House of Representatives. Hence the League will not be able to achieve much in the coming session of the Diet. That it is destined, however, to gain influence by degrees, admits of no doubt, for its objects are upon the whole approved by the sober section of the nation.

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The leaders of the *Kokken-ha* of Kyushu, such as Mr. Sassa Tomofusa, Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu, and Mr. Toyama Mitsuru, are now assembled in Osaka to hold a conference about some important matter. No doubt they are meditating the course to be followed in the coming session of the Diet.

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Mr. Inagaki Manjiro, author of "Japan and the Pacific," has just commenced a long journey on the Continent of Asia. We understand that he intends to visit principally the countries of Southern Asia.

KOREAN NEWS.

THE *Kokumin Shimbun's* Sôul correspondent states that Mr. Bin Eishun, who now has direction of Korean State affairs, is in an awkward dilemma. He is generally understood to be particularly friendly to Russia, and the public at Sôul watch with suspicion his intercourse with the newly returned Russian Minister, Mr. Waeber. According to rumours current in the Korean capital, Mr. Bin has given assurance of his Government's favourable attitude towards the Russian diplomat's proposal for laying submarine cables between Vladivostock and Gensan. He seems to have counted upon the ready acquiescence of the King, but in this expectation he has been disappointed, for the King is said to have positively commanded him to refuse the Russian proposition.

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The recent alleged attempt at a revolution has turned out a paltry affair. From the accounts by correspondents of Japanese papers, it appears that the whole trouble had its origin in the desire of a certain greedy adventurer to despoil a disappointed office-seeker. The latter's name is Ti Chukaku, a young man of good provincial family. He successfully passed the civil service examination, but not obtaining any official appointment, he resorted to the usual practice of offering large bribes to influential men, until his family hoard became nearly exhausted. Everything proving fruitless, he grew desperate and suffered himself to indulge in revolutionary language against the reigning dynasty. This was overheard by an unscrupulous adventurer, Haku Kun, who skilfully working on the credulity of the disappointed young man, easily induced him to invest the remnant of his hereditary wealth in a bold venture against the Government. But the reported resources of the youth do not seem to have been very large, and the artful adventurer, having succeeded in collecting all the available cash in the house, amounting to a few thousand *ryo*, departed with it on a pretended visit to one of the open ports to negotiate for the purchase of a war-vessel. To give plausibility to his schemes, he assumed from the beginning a Japanese name, Kumono Tentaro, and his dupe no doubt believed him to be a real Japanese. This circumstance led to a rumour, current in Korea at the time, that the much dreaded revolutionary movement had the ative support of several Japanese. The unfortunate youth and his unscrupulous deceiver, as well as other persons concerned in the matter, have long since been placed under arrest, and the above story seems to have been constructed out of the results of their examination by the authorities at Sôul.

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The withdrawal of the prohibitory edict against the exportation of rice is said to have in some measure revived the trade at open ports. Japanese merchants at the ports, acting under instructions from their consuls, had been making investigations into the losses caused to them by the prohibitory edict, so that, in case of the Korean Government's refusal to revoke it, demands might at once be made for indemnity. These investigations, it is stated, have been suspended in view of the early withdrawal of the objectionable edict.

* * *

Japanese newspaper correspondents agree in calling attention to the steadily growing influence of Chinese merchants in Korea. In Sôul, for instance, nearly the whole trade, wholesale as well as retail, is said to be in the hands of Chinese who are suspected of being soldiers in disguise,—soldiers, too, who took part in the disturbance of 1884.

* * *

The seaward extension of the Japanese settlement at Ninsen is said to be a subject of negotiation between the Japanese Minister and the Korean Government. Although the Korean authorities are not against the proposal, it is supposed that Mr. Otori will find it difficult to get their consent, because the French and German Consuls are said to be using efforts to prevent the carrying out of the scheme.

* * *

The Korean Government is reported to be levying special taxes for the purpose of creating a Navy. Some local officials, in their zeal to carry out instructions or perhaps to enrich themselves, are stated to have demanded payment of these taxes by Japanese travellers. Much discontent seems to have been excited throughout the country by this latest species of exaction.

TELEGRAPHIC CONGRATULATIONS.

CONGRATULATORY messages telegraphed by certain foreign Sovereigns to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan in connection with the Silver Wedding, were published in the *Official Gazette* on the 10th instant, and translated in these columns. Some others, received on the day after the ceremony, are now made public by the same authority. They are as follow:—

From the Emperor of Russia:—"We and Our Consort learn with sincere pleasure that Your Imperial Majesties are engaged in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Your Imperial Union. We offer Our heartiest congratulations, and pray for the felicity of Your Imperial Majesties."

From the President of the French Republic:—"I tender my profoundest congratulations on this auspicious occasion of the 25th anniversary of Your Imperial Majesty's Marriage, and pray for the welfare of Your Majesty and Your Imperial Consort."

From Their Majesties the King and Queen of Italy:—"We have already by letter offered Our congratulations on the twenty-fifth anniversary of Your Imperial Majesties' Marriage, and we now convey further felicitations by telegraph."

FIRES IN TOKYO.

QUITE an unusual number of small fires have recently occurred in the metropolis and, strange to say, in nearly each instance they were attended by loss of life. A conflagration that threatened at one time to assume serious dimensions, broke out in Sarugaku-cho, Kanda, on the morning of the 3rd instant, at almost the same spot whence started the great fire of April, 1892, in which over five thousand houses were burned. People were on the alert this time, however, and less than a dozen dwellings were destroyed. A wealthy merchant who had come to Tokyo for the special purpose of seeing the festivities connected with the celebration of the Imperial Silver Wedding, was the only victim of the flames. The vernacular press unite in calling this a "particularly unfortunate case."

THE TOKIWA HOTEL IN KYOTO.

WE learn with regret, from a Japanese newspaper that the Tokiwa Hotel, in Kyoto, is in financial difficulties. The hotel started with good prospects. It was chosen by the Government as the place for lodging the Czarevitch, on the occasion of His Imperial Highness' visit two years ago, and it has acquired an excellent reputation for good accommodation, a good table, and good attendance. But somehow it has not paid its way, and a mortgage—several times renewed—of fifty-eight thousand dollars to the Mitsui Bank threatens to drag it down altogether. If the *Yomiuri Shimbun's* information be correct, the proprietor of the hotel behaved with great indiscretion: he attempted by legal process to compel the Bank to extend the mortgage for a period of two years. But truly we can scarcely credit that. At all events, present appearances, according to the vernacular press, seem to indicate that the hotel will become the property of the Yaami proprietor, and that the two inns will be worked under a common management. But our own private information is to the effect that some further respite will be granted by the Bank, and that there is a fair prospect of the hotel's remaining in the hands of its present owner.

TOKYO INN-KEEPERS AND SOLDIERS.

IT seems that some inn-keepers of Tokyo showed much unwillingness to accommodate the soldiers who came to the capital to take part in the Review on the 9th instant. The action of these inn-keepers is severely criticized by a General Officer writing in the columns of the vernacular press. He thinks that they showed a lamentable lack of patriotism, and that a war is much needed to rouse the Japanese in general to a due sense of their public duties. But the criticism is surely a little too severe. Inn-keepers who show no reluctance to entertain soldiers are everywhere *rari aves*. It is to be noted, also, that the inn-keepers of the Kanda district in Tokyo, learning the embarrassment in which the soldiers found themselves, lost no time in volunteering to provide the accommodation that had been refused elsewhere.

IMPERIAL BANQUET ON THE 9TH INSTANT.

THOSE who had the honour to be present at the Imperial Banquet on the 9th instant, speak in the highest terms of the perfection of the arrangements. A hundred and twenty covers were laid at the table were Their Majesties presided, yet so excellent was the cuisine that a dinner for half a dozen under the most advantageous circumstances could not have been better served. The decorations were beautiful, the service was of the handsomest and most sparkling description, the wines were capital, the waiting left nothing to be desired, and, on the whole, a more skilfully organized affair could scarcely be imagined.

SIGNOR CRISPI'S STATEMENT.

IT appears that by the change of one little preposition Signor Crispi's recent statement in the Italian Chamber was transformed from a comparatively harmless declaration into an announcement that threatened the peace of Europe. The Italian Prime Minister was made to say that the conspiracy in Sicily had been hatched *by* France, whereas what he really said was that it had been hatched *in* France. The difference is radical. If Crispi had made use of the former words, which we altogether doubted at the time, he would have been inviting a rejoinder of a most serious character from France.

COLLISION WITH THE "KOBE MARU."

ON Saturday morning, March 3rd, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, while the *Kobe Maru* was outward bound, she collided with a Shanghai cargo boat, coming in. The accident happened in the Feima Channel, and the bow of the cargo boat was stove in and her iron deck-house torn to pieces. The *Kobe* was not injured, but she anchored for a few minutes to ascertain what damage had been done. As the cargo boat was only half loaded and most of the damage was done forward of her collision bulkhead, she did not sink, otherwise there would have been another obstruction in the Feima Channel.

PRESENT FROM THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY TO THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

IN connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Germany has signified his desire to present to Their Majesties two large porcelain vases. His Excellency Baron von Gutschmid, the German Representative, when received in private audience on the 9th

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instant, had the honour of conveying this intelligence to the Emperor of Japan. The vases are to be made in the Royal Porcelain Manufactory in Berlin, and will bear the portraits of the Emperor and Empress of Germany. It is expected that they will arrive in about two months.

INVESTIGATIONS BY THE NOSHOMUSHO.

THE Department of Agriculture and Commerce is engaged in conducting some very interesting investigations. The first relates to the producing and consuming capacities of the country; the second to the question of employers and employed. It is the fashion now-a-days to speak of the great strides Japan has made in the matter of productive power since the Restoration, but when hard facts are required for elaborating some trustworthy measure of what those strides have actually been, nothing is forthcoming. Statistics are in many cases wanting to show not only what has actually been done, but also what there is a possibility of doing. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce has therefore prepared skeleton tables to be filled, and a series of questions to be answered, by local officials throughout the empire, and when the information thus elicited has been digested, it will be printed for the benefit of the public at large. A similar method is being pursued with regard to the labour problem. In order to prepare suitable queries on that topic, officials from the Department were sent round the various factories in the chief cities last fall. We have already referred to this mater, and explained that in consequence of the receipt of questions from the Department, the various companies of manufacturers in Tokyo had decided to hold a meeting for the purpose of replying to the questions, and concerting, if necessary, any further programme of investigation. The companies are, of course, very intimately concerned, inasmuch as the intelligence collected by the Department will form the basis for compiling official regulations. Their meeting was recently held in the Koseikwan. It was attended by over 250 persons, representing about 80 companies, and some 700 shareholders of the companies were also present. Mr. Niire, Chief of the 3rd Section of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry, invited the representatives of the companies to make statements relating to the past, present and future of their enterprises, the statements being, as far as possible, directed towards supplying the information set forth in the questions tabulated by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. We presume that written replies have also been called for, but as to that no statement is published. It will be most interesting to learn what estimate is formed as to the productive capacities of the country in respect of articles constituting staples of foreign export, and as to the consuming capacity in respect of articles imported from abroad.

ZENIYA GOHEI.

SOME time ago we had occasion to refer to Zeniya Gohei, one of the greatest pioneers of foreign commerce in modern Japan. A recent number of the *Shigaku Zasshi* (Journal of History) has an interesting account of researches conducted *in loco* with reference to Zeniya by Mr. Shigeno Antaku, one of the best authorities on Japanese history. In the course of a tour of investigation in the Hokuriku-do some time last year, Mr. Shigeno passed through a place called Fukumitsu in the Tonami District of the Province of Etchu. The locality is noted for the superb silk produced there. It was the produce of this village that the famous Zeniya Gohei sold to foreign merchants, contrary to the strict prohibition then in force against private trade with foreigners. There lives in the district a dealer in silk called Mayeda-ya, from whose store the silk destined for clandestine export was bought by the enterprising merchant of Kanazawa. Mayeda-ya is reputed still to possess large packages of letters which his father or grandfather received from Zeniya. But, unfortunately, Mr. Shigeno was unable to obtain access to these interesting papers, it being given out that they had been lost some years since. Independent inquiries revealed the fact that the man who really carried on the contraband trade was not Gohei, but his younger brother Yuzo. Gohei seems, from all accounts, to have been a well-meaning sort of person, little prone, however, to any enterprising career. But his brother Yuzo was a man of indomitable courage and commanding intellect. Gohei being the head of the family, the transactions were no doubt conducted in his name, and thus posterity knows him as "the great merchant of Kanazawa." That Yuzo, not Gohei, was the principal party concerned in foreign trade, is proved by the fact, now brought to light for the first time, that whereas Gohei escaped with the comparatively light sentence of banishment, his brother Yuzo was hung. As to the manner of carrying on the business, interesting details are given. Yuzo was in the habit of coming to Fukumitsu in the silk season and buying, through the above mentioned Mayeda-ya, as much silk as he could get. The silk was left in charge of the broker, with instructions to sell whenever the price reached a profitable point, any portion that could not be thus disposed of being sent over to Zeniya at Kanazawa, and sold by Yuzo to foreign ships in the open sea. The tradition that the transfer of the silk was effected at sea, is disputed by Mr. Shigeno, who thinks it more probable that the transaction was completed in some out-of-the-way port. That Zeniya was immensely rich, is evident from the fact that the land confiscated after his arrest was calculated to yield 85,000 *koku* (an annual income of 425,000 *yen* at 5 *yen* per *koku*), while the number of his large vessels seized was thirty-three. As to the question whether the Clan Government of Kaga had any knowledge of the secret trade carried on by Zeniya under its very nose, various opinions are held, but Mr. Shigeno is inclined to believe that the trade was managed with the secret connivance of the feudal Lord and his Ministers. This much is known as a fact that one of these Ministers, Cho, and his secretaries were, all the while aware of what were going on, and that when Zeniya's family were punished, these officials were removed on one pretext or another. It may be asked, why punish the merchants if the trade had been carried on with the tacit connivance of the officials? The answer is that had it been possible to keep matters from the knowledge of the Shogun's Government, no penalty would have been imposed. Instances of systematic connivance at secret foreign trade are common, says Mr. Shigeno, in the history of several clans. In his own clan of Satsuma, for example, the authorities even encouraged such trade. The thing could be managed very easily in the case of that clan, for, as it had under its jurisdiction the islands of Okinawa, foreign imported goods were passed off as products of those islands. Clothes, medicines, and other articles from abroad were thus transported to various parts of the country, especially to Niigata. When the matter became known to the authorities at Yedo, the Satsuma Government had no choice but to sentence the merchants concerned to nominal banishment. The trade, however, was suffered to be conducted as before by new agents. From these analogies, Mr. Shigeno is inclined to believe that the transactions of Zeniya must have been known to the authorities of the Kaga clan, if not actually encouraged by them. Zeniya flourished in the early part of the present century. He is reputed to have made extensive voyages in the South Pacific, it being claimed that he went as far as the island of Tasmania.

RELIGIOUS IDEAS OF THE ANCIENT JAPANESE.

IT is generally contended by foreign critics of this country that the Japanese are, as a nation, without any naturally deep religious feeling; that the idea of sublimity never came within the conceptions of their earlier poets and that their highest moral sentiment has always been embodied in the principle of loyalty and fidelity. Mr. Sugimura Kotaro, a young writer whose thoughtful essays we have already had occasion to notice, tries to explain this phenomenon. We quote his own words:—"It is a generally accepted theory that religious ideas originate in the wonder and fear felt by primitive man in the face of phenomena whose nature and cause he fails to comprehend; that the more reason there is for such wonder and fear, the quicker the growth of religious thought. This is particularly the case in India and Arabia, and was also formerly in Judea. Now, compare these lands with our country, and the distinction becomes at once apparent. We live in the temperate zone; we have neither whirlwind nor simoon; we have never undergone the despotism of caste as it exists in India. There are no impenetrable jungles, no tumultuous ocean, no lofty and forbidding Himalaya. The soil is fertile, the climate equable, the supply of water unfailing. We have had no Nebuchadnezzar to contend with: no Antiochus or Titus. No Exodus! No period of exile! And so, whether fortunately or unfortunately, the absence of all fearful phenomena caused our ancestors to enjoy the land, leaving them very little to view with dread or awe. They were thus more apt to think of this side of the grave than of the beyond. They would stay in the land of the living and not go elsewhere. In a word, their very condition and surroundings taught them worldliness rather than inculcated spirituality. And so the religious idea, if aught indeed there was, grew so slowly and imperceptibly as not to be perceived. . . . . The notions of our ancestors were thus of the crudest and simplest description. Of the soul they had the vaguest of ideas. They knew that human beings had something in them separate from and yet connected with the body. That 'something' could survive the body. Heaven and Hell were still more vaguely defined. Our remote ancestors thought the other world a material place, the residence of the gods from whom they believed themselves descended. Izanami went to Yomi-no-kuni, Susano-o to Ne-no-kuni, and Sukuna Hiko to Tokyo-no-kuni. But whether these represent Heaven or Hell, or whether any distinction was made between the two, or even whether these regions were in the world or out of the world, is uncertain and indeterminable."—Mr. Sugimura is evidently a disciple of Herbert Spencer. He perhaps has overlooked the phenomenon of great earthquakes, of which the earliest Japanese records have much to say: and it is a question whether an adult earthquake would not suffice to inspire primitive man with quite as much wonder and awe as would a violent thunderstorm. Typhoons have always formed one of the standing properties of Japanese coast-scenery, and we would back a typhoon against any simoon that ever blew. Volcanoes are frequent in Japan, and such an eruption as that of Bandai-san would have been calculated to send the coolest primitive-man in hot haste inside his dolmen or cave-dwelling, and cause his unkempt poll to assume the general appearance of the fretful porcupine with wonder, awe, reverence and a good, wholesome scare. And then how about inundations, landslips and fires? Mr. Sugimura's theory is acute and there is undoubtedly something in it; but we nevertheless hold that the Primitive Japanese had as ample opportunity to be frightened into religious speculations as had ever the oppressed Jews, the Pariahs of India, or the nomadic hordes of Arabia.

TROUBLE AT MIIDERA.

A TROUBLE not easy to sympathise with is disturbing the tranquillity of the priests under the jurisdiction of the temple of Miidera, celebrated in history for Benkei's fabled exploit with its big bell. It appears that the Lord Abbot caused sentence of dismissal from his post to be sent to Mr. Tomikoji Kwanson, Chief Priest of the Gyokusen temple in Kyoto, the ground of the punishment being that he lived openly with a wife. Mr. Tomikoji declined to bow to the sentence. He declared that the laws of the Sect did not forbid the marriage of its priests, and he completely turned the tables on the celibate prelate by enlisting the sympathies of the other priests and sending to the Lord Abbot a round robin advising his resignation. The matter being submitted to the Minister of State for Home Affairs, a Councillor of the Shiga

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Local Office was instructed to mediate privately. The Lord Abbot, however, declined to be persuaded, and proceeded, on the contrary, to pronounce disciplinary sentences on the recalcitrant priest and several of his coadjutors. But they, too, refused to abide by the right reverend gentleman's rulings, and his mandates thereupon commenced a series of most undignified journeyings to and fro between their source and their destinations. The Home Department has finally sent an official to arrange the trouble.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN FOR 1893.

THE returns now published by the Department of Finance with reference to the foreign trade of Japan for 1893, confirm the figures that appeared in these columns in February. The total bulk of the trade was 177,970,036 *yen*, against 162,428,833 *yen* for 1892, an increase of 15,541,203 *yen*. This difference is not so great as was the increment (19,974,293 *yen*) in 1892 compared with 1891, but it is the second best record during the past six years. We speak of six years because it is only since 1888 that the Customs, in converting the sterling value of imports into silver, have taken the rates of exchange actually ruling in the market. With regard to the division of the trade into exports and imports, the figures are, exports 89,712,864 *yen*, a decrease of 1,389,889 *yen* as compared with 1892; and imports 88,257,171 *yen*, an increase of 16,931,092 *yen* over 1892.

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It is somewhat remarkable that despite the appreciation of gold last year, the import trade should have shown such a development. What effect exchange exercised upon the prices of goods imported from gold-using countries is shown very plainly by the tables. Thus, British cotton velvets imported in 1892 cost 169 *yen* per 1,000 yards, whereas they cost 181 *yen* in 1893; the corresponding figures for cotton satins were 123 *yen* and 136 *yen*, those for gray shirtings, 52 *yen* and 59 *yen*; and those for cotton yarns, 331 *yen* per 1,000 catties against 415 *yen* in 1893. Such an increase of prices ought to have checked the trade, but the effect was evidently of little moment compared with the increased purchasing power of the consuming classes in Japan.

* * *

Germany's sales of flannel to Japan illustrate the fact that a falling exchange does not seriously check a trade adapted to the requirements of the country. The cost of German flannel for the Japanese market—not including freight, insurance, &c.—was 299 *yen* per 1,000 yards in 1891, 320 *yen* in 1892, and 328 *yen* in 1893. Yet the sales in these three years were 1,108,144 yards, 2,851,754 yards, and 3,796,182 yards, respectively. There is comfort in this fact for those who fear that an increased tariff might cripple the import trade.

A LEAF FROM THE LATE COUNT TERAJIMA'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

THE most recent journal of the Japan Educational Society contains an autobiographical sketch of the late Count Terajima Munenori. A passage relating to his stay in London in 1865 is of special interest, as it has reference to the origin of England's sympathy with the clans that conspired to overthrow the Shogunate Government. In that year the Count, or Mr. Matsukata Tozo, as he was then called, received orders from his clan Government of Satsuma to proceed to England, with a number of young students, among whom were the late Viscounts Mori, and Yoshida, Admiral Matsumura, Mr. Machida Hisanari and others. He was then in his thirty-fourth year. In London, he met with Mr. Oliphant, then a member of Parliament, whose acquaintance he seems to have made while Mr. Oliphant was serving in Yedo as Secretary to Sir Rutherford Alcock. Through the introduction of Mr. Oliphant, the future Count Terajima had interviews with the British Secretary of Foreign Affairs, to whom he submitted minute information about political affairs in his country, that is to say, the relative situation of the Bakufu and the clans devoted to the cause of the Imperial Government. In making these representations he was effectually assisted by Mr. Oliphant, who accompanied him in his visits to the Foreign Office. In consequence of the information thus offered by Count Terajima, the British Foreign Minister sent instructions to the British Representative in Japan, Sir Harry S. Parkes, to aid the restoration of political power to the Imperial house. The following year—we still quote from the article before us—Sir Harry S. Parkes paid a visit to Kagoshima and had talks with Komatsu Tateaki and Saigo Takamori on the subject of the Restoration. Such is the story left by the Count as to the origin of England's friendly attitude towards the cause of the Imperial family.

BUSINESS FAILURES IN 1893.

THE following table shows the business failures in 1893, in the United States and Canada, as compared with immediately preceding years:—

PROPORTIONS OF FAILURES TO THOSE IN BUSINESS DURING FOUR YEARS.

	1893.		1892.	
	No. in Business.	No. Failing.	No. in Business.	No. Failing.
Middle States	276,771	3,402	280,528	2,515
Eastern States	104,679	2,143	104,939	1,659
Southern States	162,363	2,399	161,690	1,915
Western States	328,951	4,284	322,736	2,015
North-western States	122,375	1,712	119,138	983
Pacific States	54,296	1,198	53,737	991
Territories	10,375	370	8,796	172
Totals, United States	1,059,806	15,508	1,051,564	10,270
Canada	76,856	1,781	75,860	1,682
Totals, United States and Canada	1,136,662	17,289	1,127,424	11,952

	1891.		1890.	
	No in. Business.	No. Failing.	No. in Business.	No. Failing
Middle States	277,724	3,002	273,956	2,803
Eastern States	101,182	1,789	98,245	1,480
Southern States	157,586	2,412	151,091	1,655
Western States	310,290	2,602	299,842	2,500
North-western States	113,568	1,264	110,226	1,132
Pacific States	48,646	1,182	48,238	1,032
Territories	8,025	143	7,822	71
Totals, United States	1,018,021	12,394	989,420	10,673
Canada	75,589	1,846	73,918	1,626
Totals, United States and Canada	1,093,610	14,240	1,063,338	12,299

This table is taken from a mass of valuable and interesting statistics on the same subject compiled and published by *Bradstreet's*. In commenting on them that journal says:—"Among failures due to the eight primary causes of failure for which individuals, firms, or corporations failing are themselves responsible there was actually a smaller proportion due directly to four of them in 1893 than in 1892, viz., incompetence (irrespective of other causes), speculation (outside of regular business), personal extravagance, and fraudulent disposition of property, leaving increases in proportions of failures (due to causes for which those failing were responsible) to inexperience (without other incompetence), lack of capital (or trying to do too much business for capital available), to the granting of unwise credits, and to neglect of business. With these governing influences in mind, then, it becomes clear that the business community must in years of panic and severe stringency of money recognize the impracticability of forecasting relative solvency with the same approximation to accuracy as in normal years. The degree of variation appears in this instance to have been the foreshadowing of seven out of ten failures instead of about nine and a fraction out of ten, as in other years. The proportion of those failing last year reported in good credit was fully 27 per cent.; more than four times that in preceding years, which ranged from 6 to 7 per cent. of the whole number. The share of those who went down while rated in very good credit or higher, though only 3.2 per cent. in 1893, 565 in number, was three times that in 1892, when only 131 such failed. In this is found an illustration of the effect of monetary crises on firms and corporations of large capital and high credit. The heavy augmentation of liabilities last year, therefore, is seen to have taken place in connection with failures due first and directly to the financial crisis; second, to lack of capital, and third, to failures of others; fourth, to speculation; fifth, to incompetence, and, sixth, to fraudulent failures."

THE SURPLUS REVENUE AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE surplus revenue lying in the Treasury at the beginning of the present year amounted, according to the *Shogyo Shimpo*, to 14,797,425 *yen*. But out of it the following appropriations have been made:—61,045 *yen*, military provisions and horses; 358,619 *yen*, relief to the sufferers by the Wakayama floods; 5,247 *yen*, expenses of Hokkaido Jail; and 61,293 *yen*, local pensions and reliefs, the total being 511,204 *yen*. In addition to this the Government contemplates defraying from the same source the additional sum required, in consequence of the appreciation of gold, for the purchase of war-vessels from abroad, and also large amounts for the relief of distress caused by last year's floods. These items aggregate 7,111,751 *yen*, so that, on the whole, the surplus will be reduced to 7,174,470 *yen*.

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Of course the procedure adopted by the Government in this matter is bound to provoke hostile criticism from Opposition politicians. Whether moneys be paid out or hoarded up, whether an urgency ordinance be employed or not, the line taken by the Government is sure to be condemned by these gentlemen. The *Kaishin-to* organs are already beginning to make the matter a topic of severe strictures, and there is talk of its being brought before the Diet immediately on its re-assembly in May next.

SUGAR REFINING IN JAPAN.

THE Japanese press seems to have been premature in announcing the formation of a Company for purposes of sugar refining in Japan. Later information goes to show that the enterprise is by no means in such an advanced state. Investigations are indeed in progress, and the indications go to show that the project will be carried to completion, but the statements that capital has been subscribed, rules drawn up, and the site for the factory fixed are distinctly in advance of the fact. The question has great interest for British merchants. Something like sixty per cent. of the sugar refined at the flourishing factories in Hongkong comes to Japan, and the demand is constantly increasing. Evidently if this country's markets were closed to the Hongkong produce, a very serious blow would be dealt to the refining industry in that colony. The Customs Returns show that Japan took, in 1892, no less than 6,384 tons of refined sugar from Hongkong at a cost of 6,650,409 dollars. That is a large business. Its cessation would have most unwelcome consequences both for the refiners in the southern colony and for their foreign agents in Japan.

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The growth of a demand for refined sugar is a feature of modern Japan. In former days the people of this country were content with brown sugar, but they have now grown more fastidious, and already their consumption of white sugar amounts to 6½ millions of dollars annually. Considering that they do not use sugar in their tea, this large and growing consumption is striking and not at once explicable.

JAPANESE EMIGRATION.

MR. H. W. S. EDMONDS, a Japanese colonization agent, says the *Mexican Financier*, has sent out a circular letter to the landowners of Sinaloa setting forth the terms on which he is prepared to introduce field hands from Japan. He suggests that persons having land suited for colonization should settle Japanese immigrants thereon at the rate of one family per fifty hectares. At the end of five years the head of each family is to be placed in absolute possession of two-fifths of the land which he has cultivated. The owners of the land are to pay the fares of the colonists from Japan to Sinaloa, but, if they object to doing so, Mr. Edmonds suggests the formation of a colonization company comprising the land-owners and himself, the former contributing land, implements, seed, building materials, provisions for colonists on their first arrival, etc., and he paying their travelling expenses, both parties to this agreement being remunerated in fully paid stock of the proposed company. An agent, whose expenses are to be paid by the landowners, would have to go to Japan to contract suitable

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immigrants from the agricultural districts. The first batch of colonists would arrive in Sinaloa in about four months from the starting of the agent for Japan. Mr. Edmonds warns landowners not to make application for immigrants unless the regions which they desire to colonize are supplied with water or the means of procuring it artificially. This, he says, is an indispensable condition for success. It is to be hoped that Sinaloa will not miss this golden opportunity of developing its backward agricultural industries.

NEITHER TRUE NOR WELL FOUND.

An English newspaper presents an alleged specimen of Japanese matrimonial advertising, to which it calls attention as "an incontestable proof of rapid advance in the civilization of the West." It is vouched for as a literal translation from a Tokyo journal, and it runs thus:—"A young lady wishes to get married. She is very beautiful, has a rosy face, which is surrounded by dark, curly hair. Her eyebrows show the form of the half moon and the mouth is small and pretty. She is also very rich, well read enough to admire the flowers in the daytime at the side of a life companion, or at night to sing to the stars in heaven. The man whom she will choose must also be young, handsome and well educated, and be ready to share the same grave with her." The ingenious manufacturer of this "incontestable proof of civilization" might be surprised to learn that "curly hair," instead of being considered a charm, is regarded as a disfigurement by Japanese ladies. But as his paragraph was concocted for domestic consumption, accuracy in details was a matter of no consequence. For readers who know nothing about the East, anything will serve as Japanese local colour, and fictitious illustrations of manners and customs are just as satisfactory as plain unvarnished truths.

GRANTS IN AID OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE.

The *Keizai Zasshi* has a characteristic note with reference to official grants in aid of local industries. It gives statistics from the 12th to the 25th fiscal year of *Meiji*. From these it appears that whereas the sums granted by the Treasury for this purpose aggregated 228,654 *yen* in 1879, this total gradually diminished thenceforth, until, in 1886, it was about 65 per cent. smaller. After that, however, it began to grow again, so that in 1892 it was approximately the same as in 1879. The Tokyo economical periodical, a staunch advocate of commercial independence, regards the statistics as an indication that the spirit of State protection has revived. With reference to the purposes to which these grants are applied, our contemporary has nothing good to say. It alleges that the money is usually spent in remunerating the services and paying the expenses of agricultural experts, who go from place to place on inspection, or lecture, tours. The *Keizai* sees no equivalent advantage in these undertakings and considers that, under any circumstances, they ought not to be at the charge of the State.

NAVAL MATTERS.

Japan, we read in the *Kokkai*, is about to build two ships-of-war of huge dimensions—fifteen thousand tons each. Whence the money is to be obtained, our contemporary is silent, though a matter of 18 or 20 million *yen* seems worthy of consideration. The *Kokkai* is at some pains to dissipate the prejudice entertained against immense battle-ships by old-fashioned folks, who don't like putting all their eggs into one basket. But inasmuch as we are totally sceptical about the *Kokkai's* fundamental fact—namely, the building of such vessels for Japan—we need not follow it into these comparative arguments. What interests us more is to learn, on our contemporary's unimpeachable authority, that England's new spurt of naval ship-building activity was inspired by Japanese example. We do not remember to have observed that Japan's fighting capacity was included in the estimate of relative national strengths which set English journals writing and English statesmen projecting. But the *Kokkai* says that a sense of shame at being outstripped by Japan moved British naval officers to agitate for big additions to their country's maritime forces, and of course the *Kokkai* knows what it is talking about. We earnestly trust that Japan will continue to play the part of a useful spur in the "tight little island's" side.

A NEW BOOK ON CHINA.

Here is a note which has been sent to us about a new book on China:—

When we examine the total number of books that have for their subject an Oriental country we are surprised to find how large a proportion of them have been written by travellers who were there for a comparatively short period, who did not even understand the language of the people they described, and whose knowledge must, consequently, have been acquired mainly at second hand. It is a pleasure, therefore, to find in Miss Adele M. Fielde's forthcoming volume—*A Corner of Cathay*—a graphic record of original research concerning the life of the Chinese, by one who lived among them for twenty years, and whose familiarity with their language enabled her to enter into their modes of thought, and to ascertain from themselves the reasons for their peculiar and amazing customs. As an inmate of native households she possessed peculiar facilities for a study of their life, domestic, social, and intellectual, from the question of the legal status of the women to the curious games played by the children. In her illustrations she was aided by a native artist of wide local fame, and his pictures, as winsomely guiltless of perspective as were those of the early Italian artists and as charming in tint as Pekinese enamels, are skilfully reproduced in colours and present a new feature in American illustration. The name of the book is taken from the populous and picturesque region about Swatow, in the south-eastern corner of China. It will be published in September by Macmillan & Co.

A NEW JOURNAL FOR TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, which formerly boasted one of the best journals in the East, the *Chinese Times*, is to have a new journal. In the *North China Daily News'* correspondence from that port we read:—

The prospectus of the *Peking and Tientsin Times* has been issued, and if journalistic success could be assured by modesty and good sense, the new venture would certainly command it. We understand that the scheme is under auspices totally different both as regards proprietorship, editorship, and object, from those of the defunct and lamented *Chinese Times*; it is a creation and not a mere resurrection we are about to witness. The new organ is primarily to be a chronicle of the news of Peking and Tientsin, the former "as the seat of government and the residence of the representatives of foreign Powers is a centre of much information interesting to Western peoples," and the latter as "the point of distribution of a very large growing trade, and one of the most thriving of the Treaty Ports." It will consist of four pages about the size of *Times' Weekly*: its price is to be a modest ten cents per copy, or three dollars per annum in advance. The founder and editor is an accomplished gentleman who has had large experience as a journalist in England and America, and whose name when published will be a guarantee of the literary sufficiency of the enterprise. The issue of the prospectus has awakened a very keen interest in the port, the paper will add some variety to the tedium of a vegetative existence; there is an abundance of literary ability in the port and doubtless this will be enlisted; 'communications from any part of China will be welcomed.' It is understood that the paper is not committed to any particular policy or platform in politics or trade; its editorial table is at present *tabula rasa* in this respect.

THE CURRENCY INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE.

The Currency Investigation Committee is now busily engaged. It held its eleventh meeting on the 1st instant at the Treasury Department, those present being Messrs. Sonoda Kokichi, Sakatani Yoshi, Taguchi Ukichi, Soyeda Juichi, Kanai Noburu, Masuda Ko and Obata Tokujiro. The Vice-Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Tajiri, also attended. The chair was taken by Mr. Sonoda Kokichi, and the subject of discussion for the day was the influence which the fall in the gold price of silver exercises upon the agricultural and industrial classes in silver-using countries. The results arrived at are not published.

IMPROVEMENT OF SEEDS IN JAPAN.

Skilled as Japanese gardeners are in the training and propagation of flowering plants and dwarfed trees, they cannot be said to have come within measurable distance of Western horticulturists in the matter of improving seeds and developing new varieties of plants. For example, Japan may be called the parent country of the camellia and the chrysanthemum, yet finer and more varied specimens of these flowers may be seen now in England, whither they were imported only a few years ago, than in Japan. Cognizant of this fact some Japanese experts have now combined to effect an improvement. They have formed an Agricultural Society, under the chief management of Mr. Watase Torajiro, a graduate of the Sapporo Agricultural College, with whom are associated, as assistants, Messrs. Ogawa and Akakabe, graduates of the same institution. A central site has been selected at No. 5, Tameike, Akasaka, Tokyo. It is called the Noko-yen. With it are connected experimental grounds at other places in Tokyo and Hokkaido. Supplies of seed are to be obtained from the Agricultural Colleges at Komaba and Sapporo, as well as from abroad, and these, together with improved varieties of them, will be offered for sale. Further, in order to encourage this kind of enterprise, prizes will be given by the Noko-yen from time to time at flower-shows inaugurated by it.

THE WINDOW-OPENING AT ATAMI.

We have been shown a letter from one of the only two persons—besides Mr. and Mr. Freese—who were in the room at the Atami hotel at the time of the incident described by "Justice" in our correspondence columns on the 14th instant. The writer of the letter says that on opening the window referred to by "Justice," Mr. Freese asked whether it inconvenienced him (the writer), and received a reply in the negative. The other person, however—a friend of the writer—found the draught unpleasant and changed his seat. It is emphatically denied that there was any semblance of discourtesy or want of consideration on the part of Mr. Freese. We should think that these paltry charges are not worthy to be either formulated or refuted. As for the dog-poisoning imputation, its silliness seems on a par with its irrelevance.

CANADIAN-ATLANTIC EXPRESS SERVICE.

The oft-talked-of express-service between England and Canada is now likely to be proceeded with, the Government being prepared to offer a subsidy of £150,000 as an encouragement. With a subsidy like that, and the growing requirements of the trade, such a service would no doubt be successful from a commercial point of view. Probably the matter will be taken up by some of the foremost shipping Companies who have had experience in the trade. With the present price of materials contracts could be made at very reasonable prices.

PROTECTION.

The following facts will show to what a pitiful plight the French shipping trade is being reduced by the present Protectionist *régime*:—Of the 81 vessels belonging to the principal shipping Companies of Marseills, 30 (or more than a third of the whole) are laid up, viz., Compagnie des Transports Maritimes, 7 out of 16 steamers; Compagnie Cyprien Fabre, 7 out of 15; Compagnie Fraissinet, 7 out of 25; Compagnie Touache, 5 out of 11; Compagnie Caillol and St. Pierre, 2 out of 6.

BRAINS.

A correspondent of a London paper writes:—"It is simply amazing how any newspaper editor blessed with the slightest modicum of brains could insert the ridiculous yarn which, strange to say, is going the round of the press, about the arrival at Galveston of the Norwegian barque *Elsa Andersen*, having in tow the hull of an English-built brig which had been resurrected at the Faroe Islands by a submarine disturbance."

FUNERAL OF MASTER FUMI SONODA.

A great number of sorrowing friends attended the funeral of Master Fumi Alexander Sonoda on the 12th instant. The bright, affectionate little lad, who was cut off on the very threshold of a life full of promise, had been a universal favourite, and the keenest sympathy was felt with his parents in their heart-breaking bereavement. A part of the service was performed at St. Andrews Church in Tokyo, and the rest at the side of the grave in Aoyama Cemetery. The coffin and hearse were covered with a mass of

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floral wreathes, and the saddened demeanour of the large concourse of people who followed the bier bore unmistakable testimony to the pain caused by this mournful event.

DEATH OF MR. MARCUS FLOWERS.

We much regret, says the *L. and C. Express* of February 2nd, to report the death of Mr. Marcus Octavius Flowers, who will be remembered by all the older foreign residents in Japan. The death took place on 28th ult. at Eastbourne, at the good age of seventy-five. He was connected actively with Japan for twenty years from early in the sixties to early in the eighties. He had seen considerable Consular service before going to Japan, however, as he served in the British Consulate at Amsterdam from 1844, and had charge of the Consulate on several occasions. He was appointed Unpaid Vice-Consul there in November, 1856, and was Acting Consul on several occasion between that year and 1860. It was in February, 1861, that his connection commenced with Japan, when he was appointed Interpreter at Kanagawa, as it was then known, and passed an examination the following month. The rest of his career in Japan was as follows:—Promoted to be Vice-Consul at Yokohama, April 1, 1864; was Acting Consul from Dec. 24, 1864, till January 4, 1866; when he was transferred to the Nagasaki Consulate as Officiating Consul, and took charge Feb. 10, 1866; was promoted to be Consul at Hakodate, Japan, May 3, 1867; was transferred to Niigata, Jan. 1, 1868; to Nagasaki, July 9, 1868; and to Hiogo and Osaka, April 1, 1877; retired on a pension March 24, 1882. After his retirement he took up his residence on the Continent for some time, and settled definitely at Eastbourne a few years ago, where about two years since he had the misfortunate to lose his wife. He leaves one son. Of late years his name had not come much before the Far Eastern world. He was of a most kindly and courteous disposition, and though he went through the troublous times of early foreign intercourse with Japan he was ever respected alike both by foreigner and native.

DESERTION.

James Fox, a sealer on board the schooner *Grace Harwar*, was charged on Friday morning before James Troup, Esq., Assistant-Judge of H.B.M.'s Court, with desertion from his vessel. The complaint was laid by the Consulate Shipping Clerk, Mr. Geo. Hodges, who stated that the vessel had cleared at the Shipping Office the previous day, and that the accused had been written off the articles as a deserter and another man shipped in his place. Defendant said he left the ship on the previous Saturday night, but did not intend to desert. He had left $120, gold, on board her, and therefore was not owing the ship anything. He would give the Court no trouble if His Honour would let him go, as he had got a berth on another ship. Evidence was led as to the arrest of defendant that morning, the date of the warrant, etc., and then defendant was asked if he had any statement to make. The man acknowledged having been sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment for desertion in that Court some time before. He could only ask for mercy now. His Honour said it would be ruinous as an example to allow defendant to get off as he had requested, for discipline on board ship must be maintained. Defendant would go to prison for 30 days and pay the costs.

SEISMIC PHENOMENON.

Whether or not connnected with the long and severe shock of earthquake of Monday morning, which was unusually sharply felt in many places in the capital, a number of people noticed an almost immediate fall in the temperature—12° to be precise—apparently an abrupt change from genial spring-weather to the chills of winter. The Japanese are inclined to think that the sudden change was owing to the earthquake.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

Information has been received in Hongkong by private letter to the effect that Rajah Brooke of Sarawak has accepted an invitation from the British North Borneo Company to become Governor-General of that portion of Borneo coming under their sphere of jurisdiction. The outcome of this arrangement, the *China Mail* understands from the same source, is that the present Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Mr. C. V. Creagh, C.M.G., has sent in his resignation, with a request that it be immediately accepted and the balance of his term of office cancelled.

EXTENSION OF THE SHOOTING SEASON.

In consequence of a requisition to Governor Nakano by a number of foreign and Japanese sportsmen at this port for an extension of the shooting season in regard to certain birds, the following notification has been issued:—

Kanagawa Ken, Ordinance No. 14.

By permission of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce the protection period of the kinds of birds hereafter mentioned, from amongst the birds and animals enumerated in Art. 25 of the Game Law, is hereby shortened for 30 days, viz., up to the 13th day of April of each year.

Nakano Takeakira,
Governor of Kanagawa.

15th March, 1894.

(1.) Quails. (2.) Wild geese. (3.) Wild ducks of various kinds. (4.) Snipe of various kinds.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The following telegram has been forwarded by German firms of Hongkong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Berlin, in reference to the depreciation of Silver:—

(Translation.)

"Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Berlin.

"The undersigned would very gladly welcome any steps that could be undertaken to improve the position of Silver, as the present state of affairs involves a heavy decrease of German Exports to the whole East and great losses to German capital employed in the East."

"German Firms of Hongkong."

STEAMER AGROUND.

The M. M. steamer *Saigon*, which is engaged on the Tonkin branch line, while on a voyage to Quinhon went ashore on the rocks near Ponlo-Cambir on the night of the 20th ult. during a fog. A boat was sent to Quinhon for assistance, and the passengers and mails were safely landed. Telegrams were sent to Hongkong and Saigon, and the steamer *Haiphong*, from Hongkong, and the *Arethuse*, from Saigon, received orders to go to the scene of the accident to render assistance in extricating the *Saigon* from her dangerous position.

KOBE AND COAL.

It appears that there is a chance of coal being found within an hour's drive of Kobe. We learn from the *Hyogo News* that a speculator, whose name is not given, has been vigorously engaged for some time seeking for the mineral, apparently in the vicinity of Taketori-zan, and that he has already sunk a shaft 372 feet long, its extreme point being at a depth of 192 feet below the surface. This plucky projector is quite convinced of ultimate success, and, of course, if his conviction be confirmed by facts, Kobe will benefit immensely.

DESPATCH.

The following instance of despatch at Nagasaki, says a home paper, is deserving of record:—The China Mutual Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Oolong*, 3,583 tons, arrived at the port at 10.30 a.m. on the 23rd November last, docked, cleaned, received three coats of paint, loaded 3,800 tons of coal and a small quantity of cargo for Europe, and sailed at 2 a.m. on the 25th November—time in port, say, 49½ hours.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE.

A serious disaster is reported from the Changshan coal mines, Shantung. According to one report the mines were suddenly flooded, while according to another an explosion took place, but whatever the cause of the disaster, it is stated that 450 people lost their lives. The mines in question are worked on the antiquated Chinese style, and produce over thirty tons a day, giving employment to over a thousand men and boys.

HONGKONG GARRISON.

It has been arranged, according to an Indian paper, that the 1st Battalion of the Shropshire Regiment, now at Hongkong, shall be brought on the Indian establishment, the move taking place next relief season. The Battalion of the Rifle Brigade at Calcutta, which has been nineteen years in India, will proceed to Hongkong, remaining there about a year before going home. The Shropshire Regiment will presumably be stationed at Fort William on their arrival in India.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

There was a large assemblage at the meeting of this Society last evening to hear a lecture by Dr. Clay McCauley on his personal experiences of the American Civil War at the battle of Chancellorsville and the woful tribulations which befel the Northern prisoners on their road to Libby prison. The overture was played by Miss Vincent and Mr. Griffin, "Son and Stranger," Mendelssohn. The second half was taken up by a pianoforte solo, "The Song of the Sirens," Wollenhaupt, Miss Laura Smith; a song "Si tu savais," Balfe, Mrs. Brouwer, followed by a violing solo by Mr. Ramseger, the programme concluding with two piano-forte duets:—1. Intermezzo et valse lente, from "Sylvia;" 2. "The Dragon-fighter" polonaise, Hoffmann, by Miss Von Hemert and Mrs. Brouwer.

A CONVENIENT MEMORY.

The *Japan Gazette*, we observe, indulges in a very jubilant recollection of having taught the *Mail* a sharp lesson in connection with telegrams which it was accused of "stealing" from our columns. But our contemporary conveniently forgets that it was actually convicted of copying our telegrams verbatim, even to an error of date, and claiming them as its own. We should have thought that the subject had no particularly agreeable flavour for the *Gazette*. But tastes differ.

THE DEADLY PARALLEL.

"Japan Gazette." 8th March.	"Japan Gazette." 14th March.
As most of our readers know, voting is not by strict ballot. The agents know pretty well how the men will vote, and as the electors have to sign their names to the voting-paper there is not much use in attempting secrecy. In consequence it is easy to ascertain within a few votes what the result of any election has been. This was done on the 2nd inst.	But, says the *Japan Mail*, "in some constituencies the results were known and could be telegraphed without opening the boxes." Then what a miserable farce is the so-called "ballot!" Really there is no need for the ballot-boxes at all.

THE PEIHO.

There appears to have been an agreement among the various companies running steamers on the North China coast, not to start any boats for Tientsin from Shanghai before March 4th. On that day no less than fifteen steamers crossed the Woosung Bar, bound for the Peiho, within a space of four hours. The awaking of Tientsin from its hibernation must have been quite an imposing affair this year.

MR. GLADSTONE IN CHINESE EYES.

According to the *N.-C. Daily News*, the Chinese version of the retirement of Mr. Gladstone from the Premiership is that "the English Emperor compradore, too muchy olo man, have finish do pidgin." Another story is that the rise in "shilling bills" is due to the English Emperor changing his compradore.

MR. MICHIE.

We notice (says a contemporary) that Mr. A. Michie and Miss Michie are passengers from Port Said to Rangoon. Mr. Michie, so well known at Tientsin and Shanghai as a journalist, has been recently acting for *The Times* in Egypt, and he is doubtless going to Rangoon to succeed the late Mr. A. K. Moylan as special correspondent for that newspaper.

MEETING OF LOCAL GOVERNORS.

It has been decided that a meeting of Local Governors shall be held at the Department of Home Affairs, commencing on the 13th instant. Notice to that effect has been issued by Mr. Matsuoka, Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs.

MADAME DE MARTINO'S RECEPTION.

We are asked to state that next Sunday being the anniversary of a sad event in the family of Madame de Martino, she can not have the pleasure of receiving her friends as usual on that day.

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THE SILVER WEDDING RECEPTIONS AT THE PALACE.

THE auspicious day on which the EMPEROR and EMPRESS celebrated, amidst universal rejoicings on the part of all their subjects throughout the whole capital, the anniversary of their Silver Wedding, was from an early hour in the morning till late at night, one of well nigh continuous ceremonial for THEIR MAJESTIES. At nine in the morning, a religious service was performed in the Chapel of the Palace, at which THEIR MAJESTIES, in the presence of all the members of the Imperial Family and High Dignitaries of the Empire, in turn offered prayers and burned incense at the cenotaphs of their ancestors. At eleven, the formal receptions began. All the Princes, Nobles, Privy Councillors, Ministers, and Vice-Ministers of State, officers of the highest ranks in both the army and navy, accompanied in every instance by their wives, presented their personal congratulations. From shortly after this hour, the Foreign Ministers, accompanied in each case by their entire staffs, all in full uniform with decorations, and by the ladies of their several Legations, commenced to arrive at the Palace and assembled in the Nishi Damari chamber. The Ministers of countries of which the Sovereigns or Presidents had specially instructed their Representatives to convey congratulations to THEIR MAJESTIES, were first received in separate audience, after which the entire *personnel* and ladies of each Legation were separately received by THEIR MAJESTIES in order of seniority of the chiefs of each, commencing with that of France, the French Minister being the Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique. It was nearly one o'clock before the last of these receptions terminated. Very shortly afterwards, THEIR MAJESTIES left for the Review, and it was almost five o'clock before they arrived at the Palace on their return. At half-past six, a grand banquet, over which THEIR MAJESTIES graciously presided in person, was served in the Banqueting Hall, and what may be called "overflow parties" were also simultaneously entertained in other chambers in the Palace, a prince of the Imperial Family presiding in each separate instance. The only foreigners assisting at the banquet were the Foreign Ministers, their wives, the Russian Admiral, and the wife of the American Admiral. The Banqueting Hall is the largest room in the Palace, and is of the most noble and imposing proportions, being over five hundred square yards in area, and of corresponding height. The decorations of the room are fully worthy of its size. The ceiling is divided into numerous panels by deep brown lacquer ribs, each panel containing a beautifully executed painting in gold and colours. The wall, which is only on one side, is hung with the richest and most costly silk, while the remaining three sides consist of heavy plate glass *shoji* in lacquer frames. The dining table was set in the form of a square and the decorative plate was entirely of silver, conspicuous among it being several large and massive centrepieces; that immediately in front of the places occupied by THEIR MAJESTIES being especially striking, on which storks and tortoises figured prominently. On the termination of the banquet THEIR MAJESTIES received all their guests in another chamber, and conversed in turn with those of highest rank, including all the Foreign Representatives and their wives.

In the meantime, the other guests invited to the evening reception, though not to the banquet, had commenced to arrive, and continued to do so in constant succession till half-past nine o'clock. Included among them were all field-officers of the army stationed in Tokyo and officers of corresponding rank in the navy. Governors of Prefectures, Presidents of the Courts of Justice, high officials in Tokyo not of ministerial rank, holders of decorations of the third and higher classes, the entire staffs and all the ladies of the several Foreign Legations, the commanding officers of all the foreign vessels of war now in Yokohama, and foreign employés of the Japanese Government who either hold their appointments direct from HIS MAJESTY or have received decorations of the third or higher classes. The staffs of the Legations, the foreign naval officers, and the higher Japanese officials assembled in the Nishi Damari Chamber, the others in the adjoining apartments. After the lapse of about an hour, all were in turn summoned to the Throne Room, which is of somewhat less extensive dimensions than the Banqueting Hall, but surpasses it in the almost indescribable beauty of its decorations. Its usual arrangements had been slightly altered for this occasion. The Throne had been removed and a temporary dais erected, on which chairs were placed for THEIR MAJESTIES. Directly opposite to THEIR MAJRSTIES' seats, a stage, covered with dark green cloth, had been raised very slightly above the floor, but to a lower elevation than that of the Dais on which THEIR MAJESTIES were to take their places. On both sides of the room, at right angles to dais and stage, were three rows of chairs, and on each side of and behind the dais were two rows. Those on the right hand side of the room were allotted to the Japanese Dignitaries and their wives, those in the front row to THEIR MAJESTIES right hand being occupied by Countesses ITO, KURODA, SAIGO, and OYAMA, and Viscountess HIJIKATA, in the order named. Facing these ladies, in the corresponding position on the left hand side of the room and to the left hand of THEIR MAJESTIES, were the wives of the Foreign Ministers, Mme. SIENKIEWICZ, Mme. DE MARTINO, Mrs. FRASER, and Baronness D'ANETHAN; immediately behind whom again were seated the other ladies from the several Legations. All other ladies present were provided with seats, but, of the Japanese present, only the very highest Dignataries and, of the foreigners, only the *Chefs de Mission* were similarly accommodated, the capacity of the Throne Room being taxed to the utmost to afford even comfortable standing space for the remainder. All the guests having assembled, THEIR MAJESTIES soon entered the room, the EMPRESS leaning on HIS MAJESTY'S arm, immediately followed by the Princes and Princesses of the Imperial family, and by a long train of Court officials and ladies, the entire assemblage of course rising and bowing. Having graciously returned the salutations, the Imperial couple took their places on the dais. The several Princes now seated themselves on the immediate right hand in a line with the dais, and the Princesses in the same way on the left, the court ladies and officials behind. A performance of ancient Japanese music and dancing was then given, consisting of four pieces:—

1.—*Banzairaku.*—Music describing the happy flight in the golden age of a Bird of Paradise; composed 1,300 years ago by the Emperor YOMEI.

2.—*Enguiraku.*—Music composed 987 years ago by General FUJIWARA TADAFUSA, with accompanying contemporaneous dance, arranged by Prince OTSUMI.

3.—*Taiheiraku.*—Music, reset about 1037 years ago, from Chinese originals, representing the tranquillization of the Empire and the reformation of all abuses.

4.—*Bairo.*—Music introduced from India to Japan during the reign of the Emperor SHIOMU, 1160 years ago, with dance representing the idea of submission of enemies.

All the performers were men; the music was of the usual indescribably weird type, but the dances though grave and solemn, were picturesque and artistic in the highest degree, the last accompanied, as it was, by graceful sword sweepings and lance movements, being especially striking. The performance lasted about an hour and a half, and on its conclusion the EMPEROR and EMPRESS at once rose and retired amidst the same reverential salutations as those with which they had been greeted on entering. HIS MAJESTY, before leaving, conveyed to the Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique, through Mr. SANNOMIYA, the expression of his desire that though fatigue, after the long day, compelled himself and the EMPRESS to withdraw, his guests should remain. Supper was subsequently served in the Grand Banqueting Hall, the Court Band playing at the same time, and it was not until long after twelve o'clock that the guests commenced to take their departure. Each guest who had dined in the palace, received, we should add, as a memento of the occasion, a silver statuette of a stork

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and tortoise, and the remainder silver bonbonnierès, with a stork and tortoise engraved on the lid.

The scene in the Throne Room, during the performance, was of a degree of brilliance that will not speedily fade from the memories of those who were privileged to witness it. The room, though lighted entirely with candles, was most vividly illuminated, the light being no doubt greatly intensified by the plate glass *shoji* by which the room is enclosed on three sides. Above the *shoji*, and on the whole of the fourth side, the lofty walls were hung with handsome bright crimson and gold curtains in festoons, the whole crowned by the richly decorated ceiling in amber and gold and other soft and harmonious colours. On the dais, sat THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES in whose honour all had assembled, HIS MAJESTY in a general's uniform, and the EMPRESS in an exquisitely made robe of white satin, sparkling with diamonds, and wearing a large diamond coronet. On either side were THEIR MAJESTIES' near relatives, and opposite the dancers, all men of unusual stature, dressed in rich ancient costumes and helmets, going through their silent performance with the most impressive solemnity, on the two sides of the room were gathered all that were fairest, noblest, and highest in the land. The diplomatic officials of the United States wear, as is well known, no distinctive uniform. They and some of of the foreign employés of the Government were in ordinary evening dress, but with these exceptions every one present was in full Court uniform, and the toilettes of the ladies were, in every instance, well worthy of the unique beauty of the general scene.

DIVORCE IN JAPAN.

FEW topics have elicited more various opinions from foreign critics of Japan than divorce. The public has been told by some that a man in Japan can divorce his wife whenever he pleases, and by others that he experiences almost as much difficulty in divorcing her as though an English Court stood in the way. This diversity of view is doubtless attributable to the absence of any authoritative utterance on the subject. There is no written law of divorce in Japan. The nation has hitherto been guided in the matter by natural law, the operation of which has gradually developed certain customs that take the place of canons. In order to formulate the law it becomes necessary, therefore, to obtain a clear idea of the customs, and naturally very few foreign observers are in a position to acquire that knowledge. To dismiss the question with a flippant phrase such as that "a man may send his wife away whenever he gets tired of her," or that "married women are mere chattels," betrays carelessness amounting to dishonesty. Even the most cursory examination shows that Japanese civilization has always been far too refined to tolerate a system of promiscuous intercourse between the sexes such as is implied in these trivial dicta. At the outset we are confronted by the fact that for many centuries monogamy has been strictly practised in Japan. Society, until modern times, tolerated concubinage, and men availed themselves pretty freely of the license thus afforded. But the law knew only one wife and extended no kind of recognition to the concubine. *Vis-à-vis* the law the concubine was a mere servant. Even the title "concubine" was not legally acknowledged. It is evident that the spirit underlying such a system could never have been reconcilable with a husband's possession of autocratic power of divorce. A law based on the principle of one wife for one man is fundamentally antagonistic to the idea of a husband's changing his wife out of mere caprice. Against this, however, we have to set the statistical fact that divorces have always been exceptionally common in Japan. Does it follow, then, that practice and principle are at variance? Not more so, we imagine, than is always the case where human relations are concerned. Side by side with the morally recognised custom of divorce there have existed the two facts, first, that in the event of mutual consent, separation of husband from wife is always permitted; and secondly, that in all the relations of life a woman is supposed to subserve her will to that of the man. The former custom seems to have been based upon the theory that since marriage is originally a contract concluded by mutual agreement, its termination at any moment by the same process ought to be permissible. If two people, having agreed to live together, find the experiment a practical failure entailing only unhappiness for each, Japanese ethics and Japanese jurisprudence alike acquit them of any obligation to perpetuate the irksome relation. We are simply stating facts as they are without discussing their morality. There are no substantial grounds for concluding that married life in Japan is more unhappy than married life anywhere else. Probably, if the truth were known, many a couple who in the West preserve the marital tie free from any apparently serious strain would nevertheless snap it completely did the law permit. In Japan the law does permit, and as a natural consequence divorces by mutual consent are numerous. But even when we speak of mutual consent, the case is not fully stated. The principals are by no means the only persons concerned at the outset or end of a marriage compact. A direct proposal of marriage from man to woman is altogether exceptional. Agents called *nakôdo*, or go-betweens, are almost invariably employed to arrange the nuptial preliminaries and upon them devolves an equally considerable duty in the event of divorce. These agents represent the relatives on either side, and it thus results that the question of divorce depends not merely upon the agreement of the principals, but is also submitted for the consideration of a family council. Even though the woman consent, her relatives may object, in which case the husband has to purchase his freedom at no little outlay of trouble and possibly money, while if both the woman and her relatives object, the husband has to abandon the idea of divorce altogether, or to carry the matter into the Courts of Laws. The same rule applies when the desire for divorce emanates from the wife's side. In short, mutual consent on the part, not only of principals, but also of accessories alone renders divorce easy in Japan. It may of course happen that either husband or wife declines to be bound by the decision of the family council and insists upon the necessity of separation. In that case an appeal to the Law Courts is the sole recourse. Such appeals are not infrequent. Lying before us as we write are some of the records of the Tokyo Appeal Court. We quote from them a few illustrative cases:—

In October, 1886, a merchant carrying on business in Kakigara-cho married with all the recognized formalities and became the father of two children. Three years later he fell into dissolute habits, redeemed a woman from a life of shame, brought her to live as his mistress in his house in Kakigara-cho and sent his wife to a separate residence in Hama-cho. He appears also to have treated his wife with cruelty, though the particulars are not mentioned in the records of the Court. Negotiations for a divorce were opened by the wife's family, but though the husband seemed disposed at first to consent, he subsequently changed his mind, and not only sought a reconciliation, but brought considerable pressure to bear on the woman's parents in order to bend them to his will. The wife, however, appears to have been thoroughly disgusted with his conduct, as well she might. She applied to the District Court for a divorce and her petition being granted, the husband carried the case to the Appeal Court. He denied the charges of immorality and cruelty preferred against him; alleged that he had moved his wife to Hama-cho merely because his house of business had ceased to be suitable for a private residence, and avowed that he never had any desire to separate from his wife. The Court, however, upheld the finding of the inferior tribunal, and the woman obtained her divorce.

The second case which we shall quote is also an application made from the woman's side. The parties were in the lower middle class and the marriage was arranged as usual by the intervention of middlemen. The woman's parents, relying on representations which they after-

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wards alleged to have been false, consented to give their daughter in marriage believing her future husband to be a man of respectable antecedents and good morals. After marriage, however, it was discovered that his father had been convicted and condemned to penal servitude for gambling, and further, that the man himself was a drunkard. The woman lost no time in applying for a divorce, first to the District Court, and then to the Appeal Court, but by both her petition was rejected, the Courts holding that a criminal offence on the part of a father-in-law should not be suffered to come between man and wife, and that a husband's drunkenness alone does not constitute a sufficient reason for his wife's refusal to live with him.

The third case is that of a woman who applied to the Courts last year for a divorce on the grounds that her husband had struck her three times with a tobacco-pipe during the preceding three months and had kicked her once; also that he had carried away thirty-four articles of clothing belonging to her, and had pawned them. This application was rejected by the Local Court and the Appeal Court, the allegations as to personal violence not having been sufficiently proved, and the appropriation of a wife's property by her husband not being considered a culpable act.

Another case on the record is that of a husband who, having shown unmistakable signs of insanity and gone to Hakone in company with an abandoned woman, was placed by his wife and her family in the lunatic asylum at Hongo. Recovering after some time, he came out of the hospital and then applied for a divorce, claiming, first, that his wife had been guilty of adultery, and secondly, that he had never been really insane, but had been placed under restraint from interested motives. The woman disputed his application, pleading that, were they separated, her husband would inevitably ruin himself; declaring that he had been unquestionably *non compos mentis*, and denying the accusation of adultery. The Courts, Local and Appeal, gave judgment in favour of the wife (January 14th, 1886), and rejected the petition for divorce.

One more case is worth citing. It was heard originally in the Mayebashi Local Court. A couple were married in 1883 and lived together until 1885, when the wife, against her husband's will, went to her parents' house for her confinement. She suffered so much as to become temporarily, if not permanently, incapacitated for child-bearing, and her husband applied for a divorce, on the ground that she had deserted him and had become incapable of bearing him an heir. The Courts rejected the petition, the Judges in the Mayebashi tribunal as well as the Tokyo Appeal Court ruling that there had not been any desertion, and that a physical deformity occuring after marriage and in consequence of it could not constitute a ground of separation.

We have quoted these cases at some length for the purpose of clearly establishing the proposition that a Japanese husband is not at liberty to divorce his wife without her consent, any more than she is free to claim divorce contrary to his will. In the absence of mutual agreement recourse to a judicial process is unavoidable, and the Courts do not grant divorces unless the judges are satisfied that due and sufficient cause exists. On the other hand, we have the undoubted fact that women in Japan have always been taught to subserve their volition to that of the strong sex. It may therefore be fairly assumed that, in numerous instances, when a husband desires to separate from his wife, she does not set up her own wishes in opposition to his. But it may also be assumed that the stage where a husband desires separation is not reached without such a straining of the conjugal bond that no very strong anxiety to remain with him survives in the wife's bosom. These conjectures, however, lead us into another field of inquiry. Divorces in the West are beyond the reach of any but the wealthy. The class of persons whose opulent circumstances and luxurious lives ought to exclude a large quota of ordinary trials and consequent causes of ill-temper and quarrel, are precisely the persons who can procure divorces since their means enable them to support the enormous cost of the process; whereas the class of persons who have to struggle with all the incidents that try human patience and endurance, and who are far more dependent than the rich upon the solace of domestic peace, these are precisely the persons to whom divorce is denied, and who are condemned to drink to the bitter dregs whatever cup of conjugal incompatibility and dissension accident or judgment momentarily blinded by passion may have prepared for them. In Japan, whatever may be said as to excessive facilities of divorce, it is certain that those facilities lie chiefly within reach of the lower orders since among them fewest reasons exist for the interference of the family council. But whether the rich or the poor be in question, divorce is not possible at the option of one side only without a judicial process and in the absence of reasons such as will satisfy a Law Court.

There remains to be noticed a point to which very erroneous prominence has been given in connection with the bearing of this subject upon Japanese Jurisdiction. Some years ago the then President of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce, cataloguing the disadvantages incidental to placing foreigners under Japanese Jurisdiction, said that wives would become mere chattels, liable to be sent to the right about at their husbands' option, and his mistake was recently repeated, in almost identical terms and with much insistence, by a local English journal. It is strange that neither the President of the Chamber of Commerce nor the editor of the newspaper took any pains to inform himself of the truth before making such a declaration in public. From the judicial records quoted above it will be seen that no wife can be divorced against her will, except by judgment of a Court of Law. Japanese women may sometimes be too docile to push resistance to the extent of a judicial appeal, but it is not likely that their Western sisters would show any such compunction, and if they did, the injustice of an arbitrary divorce would be referable not to the defects of the law, but to their own complaisance. Thus, even as things now stand, it is quite erroneous to allege that, under Japanese Jurisdiction, foreign women would become mere chattels, to be divorced at will by their husbands. There is, however, another consideration that should have occurred both to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and the newspaper editor. It is that there never has been any question of placing foreigners under Japanese Jurisdiction prior to the enforcement of the new Civil Code, and that the new Civil Code contains very explicit provisions on the subject of marriage and divorce. On account of the interest of the matter, we quote the provisions relating to divorce:—

SECTION I.

DIVORCE BY MUTUAL CONSENT.

78.

The husband and wife can effect the divorce by their mutual consent in conformity with the conditions and formalities hereinafter provided for.

79.

The husband and wife intending to effect the divorce must, in accordance with the rules laid down in respect to the permission for marriage in Section I of Chapter IV., receive the permission of their respective father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, or guardian.

80.

The husband and wife shall declare the divorce to the civil status official by handing over the writing of the divorce by mutual consent accompanied by the following:—

i. The document of marriage;
ii. The permission for divorce in writing of those who are to give such permission, or the document of death if they are dead, or if they cannot express their intent, then the writing proving the reason therefor.

SECTION II.

DIVORCE FOR DETERMINED CAUSES.

SUB-SECTION I.—CAUSES OF DIVORCE AND FOR NOT ENTERTAINING DEMAND FOR DIVORCE.

81.

The divorce cannot be demanded unless it be for the following causes:—

i. Adultery; the husband's adultery is, however, limited to the case where he has been punished therefor;
ii. Outrages, threats and grave insults which render co habitation insupportable;
iii. Punishment for crimes;
iv. Punishment of major imprisonment for one year or more for the offence of theft, swindling, or indecency;
v. Malicious desertion;
iv. Declaration of absence;
vii. Outrages, threats and grave insults made by the wife or *niufu* to wards the ascendants in the house or by the ascendants towards the wife or *niufu*.

82.

Where there exists a cause for divorce against one of the parties who demands the divorce, the other can also demand it by way of a cross-action.

Nevertheless, one of the parties who has been punished for the crimes or delicts in the preceding [illegible] Articles III and IV. mentioned, cannot demand the

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divorce for the cause of the punishment of the other.

SUB SECTION 3. ACTION FOR DIVORCE.

87.

The right of action demanding a divorce belongs only to the husband and wife.

88.

The cause of divorce shall be proved by the ordinary means of proof. It cannot, however, be proved only by admission. The provisions for refusal relating to the relatives by consanguinity or affinity or to servants are not applied with the exception of the descendants.

These provisions may evoke hostile criticism according to the social creed of the critic, but it will scarcely be claimed that they constitute a system which can be justly quoted as a bar to placing foreigners under Japanese Jurisdiction.

RECENT LEGISLATION IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

NEARLY ten years ago a spirited cartoon appeared in *Punch* representing the House of Lords as a flock of sheep blindly following two venerable old rams, who led them, in the persons of Lords SALISBURY and CAIRNS, to destruction over the edge of a high precipice. The occasion was the hesitation shown by the House of Lords in passing the extension of the Franchise Bill promulgated and passed through the Commons by the then existing Government of Mr. GLADSTONE. Popular will was, however, too strongly manifested to admit of this hesitation being of very long continuance. The Bill in due course became law, and a threatened conflict between the Peers and the people was, in consequence, averted. But history repeats itself, and it seems as though the time had come when *Punch's* cartoon might well be republished with far more reason than existed on the occasion of its first appearance. All our latest telegrams show that the House of Lords is continuing its policy of either rejecting *in toto* the measures carried through the House of Commons by the present Government or only passing them after they have been subjected to amendments sufficiently drastic to alter their entire character. The unbroken continuance of this policy is evidently rousing the strong indignation of the Glandstonian party, who see the results of their labour reduced to nullity by an irresponsible tribunal, lacking in representative authority. An agitation against the Lords is already being organized by them throughout the country. The crisis is also viewed with no small anxiety by a not insignificant section of the so-called Unionist party, who regard with just apprehension the possible loss of moral weight given to their cause by the Lords' rejection of the Home Rule Bill if the conviction should gain strength in the electorate that the reasons of that rejection lay almost as much in a desire to thwart any legislation emanating from a Liberal or Radical Government, as in an honest belief that the proposed scheme of Irish Home Rule would be fraught with disaster to the best interests of the Empire. With their action in rejecting the Home Rule Bill the Lords had, even among the most ardent advocates of that measure, many sympathisers, who were ready and willing to give them every credit for their motives. It was true that the general principle of Home Rule had been discuss incessantly throughout the country for over six years; that it was made the foremost plank of the Gladstonian party at the General Election of 1892, and that every single member of that party, with the exception perhaps of Mr. KIER HARDIE, was returned to the House of Commons pledged up to the very hilt to make it the first object of his labours. It was also true that the Gladstonian party, having at the General Election obtained a substantial majority, popular will—though not English will—might fairly be assumed to have constitutionally given its sanction to the principle of Home Rule. But it was also true that none of the details of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Bill had yet been submitted to the people, and though these details had been elaborately and painfully discussed in the House of Commons throughout debates of a length absolutely unprecedented in Parliamentary history, the Lords were still strictly acting not only within their acknowledged constitutional rights, but according to numerous precedents in doing what in them lay to obtain for the people the fullest opportunity of declaring the manner in which a great constitutional reform was to be carried out. The extreme Radical wing of the Gladstonian party, in which for the moment we do not include the Irish members, were naturally loud in their expressions of indignation. They had consented to the entire postponement of reforms in England, Scotland, and Wales, on which their hearts were fixed, in order that justice, as they imagined, might in the first instance be done to Ireland: for that latter end they had worked late and early; had for years stood in the cold shades of Opposition, and when with the General Election brighter days dawned for them, they had given an unswerving support to the present Government. Was all their labour to be hastily and wantonly nullified by a body of men who had no more claim to speak for the nation than five hundred members of the Carlton Club; by a Chamber constituted before even the idea of a freely elected representative body had entered into the minds of the most daring speculators, a a Chamber which, except as regards "finance, had remained unchanged and uncurtailed from the days of SIMON DE MONTFORT down"? But these cries excited little sympathy in the country in general, and received no expression of approval from the more moderate members of their own party in the House of Commons, still less from the responsible members of the Government, while the great majority of the Irish members appeared to be, for the time, perfectly contented with the sanction that had been given by the elected representatives of the nation to the principle of House Rule, and ready to wait patiently until the arrival of the day when its enforcement could be constitutionally completed.

Very different, however, seems to be the general view taken of the action of the House of Lords since the temporary closing of the Home Rule chapter in current Parliamentary history. Three measures, each and all of paramount importance, have since then been passed through the House of Commons. The London Improvements Bill, the Employers' Liability Bill, and the Parish Councils Bill. Each contained provisions that, in the famous Newcastle programme, promulgated prior to the last General Election, had been made planks of primary importance in Radical policy, and each must therefore be assumed to have received the endorsement of the majority of the electorate. Each of them was sent up to the House of Lords, but each in its turn was shorn in that assembly of some of its most cardinal features, and returned to the Commons so emasculated as no longer to embody the reforms primarily contemplated. The London Improvements Bill was passed and repassed in the present House of Commons by a majority of no less than 133, and as the ordinary Government working majority only very slightly exceeds 40, fully forty-five Opposition members must have voted for it. Its principal clause was known as the Betterment Clause, providing that owners of landed property, the value of which is increased by public improvements, should contribute specially to the cost of those improvement. Instances are known and have been quoted in which land in London has increased in value by fully two thousand per cent., solely in consequence of street improvements effected out of public funds levied equally over the whole county and city of London. No additional charge has, or can, yet be imposed in consequence of the improvements on these lands: the owners contribute *pro rata* not a cent more to the metropolitan revenue than the ordinary ratepayer does. The reasonableness of such a charge is beyond argument. Even in the House of Lords it was grudgingly admitted, but the Bill to authorise it was at the same time rejected on the alleged ground of faultiness in the proposed method of imposition, and a new lease was thereby given for an indefinite period to the immunity at present enjoyed by the great London landholders, the greatest among whom are, unfortunately, distinguished members of the House of Peers. The Employers' Liability Bill, dealing with a much vexed question which, in the interests of the working classes, has long called for legislation, passed the House of Commons by a much less, though still by a strong,

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majority. Its main object was to abolish what is known as the doctrine of common employment, and thereby to ensure that all persons shall be held civilly responsible for injuries the latter's employés, without any act or default on the latter's part, incurred in the course of their employment. This Bill was the reopening of an old chapter in legislation, for previous Acts on the subject had been to a large extent rendered nugatory by option left, both to employers and workmen to contract themselves out of their provisions, option that had been very extensively availed of by certain large employers of labour, who made assent to it one of the first conditions of service. The present Bill declared all prospective agreements to that end invalid, although, at the same time, it protected the interests of the employer by providing that whereas, in certain great companies, mutual insurance funds existed, the employer should have the right to draw from those funds any sum to which the injured workman would be entitled. It also provided more simple means of obtaining legal redress, and included in its scope certain classes of workmen, such as seamen, to whom the previous acts had not been applicable. The contracting-out clause in the Bill was amended in such a way in the House of Lords as practically to destroy the whole effect intended to be given to it by the Commons. This decision was rigidly adhered to on the Bill being sent up a second time from the Commons, with the result that it is now believed that the Government, despairing of reconciling the Lords, has determined to drop the Bill. British workmen will therefore continue to be without that absolute security of compensation for injury which the Government had proposed to give them, and several classes of them will continue as heretofore entirely debarred from such security. Commenting on this action of the Lords the *New York World* says:—

"Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad." The quotation was trite 2,000 years ago, but it comes afresh to the mind in view of the extraordinary performance of the English House of Lords. By their contemptuous treatment of the Employers' Liability Bill the Lords offensively twiddle their fingers at what is undoubtedly the prevailing public sentiment in England. They invite Mr. Gladstone to a new issue, which is nothing less than the proposal to "mend or end" their order. And as ending in such a case is much simpler and easier than mending, they are in fact inviting doom. The tradition of hereditary class privilege is so utterly at variance with modern thought that those who profit by it are under bonds of self preservation to keep the matter out of issue as much and as long as possible. The conduct of the Lords in forcing the issue at a time when British patience with their obstructive existence is already strained, is perverseness that borders close upon fatuity.

These words seem to be a reflection of opinion in England, where the rejection of this Bill is looked upon as another sign of the antagonism alleged to exist between the House of Lords and the British people.

Last, but very far from least, in our list of measures comes the Parish Councils Bill, introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. FOWLER so far back as March last. This Bill was avowedly a strongly democratic measure, designed as it was to transfer to the villages the power which in the small community had been so long wielded without question solely by the Squire and the Parson. It provided for the establishment, in every Parish throughout the Kingdom containing a population of over 300, of a miniature Town Council, to be elected by all the men and women in the Parish on the register either of the Parliamentary or County Council Electorate, and it also stipulated for the radical principles of one man one vote, the ballot, no distinction of sex either for elected or electors, and the entire exclusion of ex-officio members. Strong opposition might naturally have been expected to such proposals on the part of all Tories of the old, rigidly unbending type, but whatever may have been the inner sentiments of this class, no expression was given to them and the Bill was from the first received by the country with a cry of cordial approval. To the debates on it in the House of Commons we have already referred in these columns. While always professing to regard the general principle of the Bill with unqualified approval, and while admitting that the spirit of the age required and the time had come for such a measure, a considerable section of the Opposition exhausted every possible method of Parliamentary obstruction to thwart its passage through the House. At the adjournment of the House of Commons for the Christmas recess, six weeks had already been thus spent, and yet only 19 out of the 71 clauses of which the Bill consisted, had then been passed, and its future looked very black indeed. But a change soon came over the spirit of the dream. The Opposition leaders, not desirous that their party should continue to pose as the irreconcilable foes of all popular measures, came to a compromise with the Government, the more fractious members were brought under discipline, and all the remaining clauses having been quickly passed through Committee, the Bill was read for the third time and finally passed through the Commons on, we think, the 20th of January. A second adjournment for three weeks then took place, during which it was hoped that the Bill would, in view of its going to the Lords with the approval of the whole Conservative party, be also passed by them without prolonged discussion or vital alteration, and then become part and parcel of the Law of the Land. Recent telegrams have shown us how fallacious these hopes were. The Bill, it it true, has been read a third time in the Lords, but amended to such an extent as to necessitate its reconsideration by the Commons, and the amendments the Government has determined to reject. All the labour given to it is therefore wasted, once more the Lords figure in the public eye as opponents of the popular will, and once more substantial reason is given for making the mending or ending of their Chamber a telling battle-cry at the next General Election. That it will be readily and eagerly grasped at by the extreme section of the Radical party and countenaced by the whole Liberal Party, there can be no doubt. When speaking at Newcastle, nearly three years ago, Mr. GLADSTONE said:—"The Lords, by opposing the popular will, would raise up a question which would take precedence of every other question, because upon that alone would depend whether this country is or is not a self-governing country, or whether, on the contrary, there is a power, not upon the Throne or behind the Throne, but between the Throne and the people, that will stop altogether the action of a constitutional machine." These powerful words veiled no vain or empty threat. The issue referred to in them has now been raised, not alone in the instance of Home Rule, in which it was anticipated when the words were spoken, but in other democratic measures designed for the benefit of the people of the whole United Kingdom, and it will not be lightly dropped. A conflict will thus be provoked that may only terminate in a change in the Constitution, the magnitude of which may far surpass that of Home Rule, and which must, whatever its end, be viewed by every one to whom our present Constitution is all that it should be, with feelings not only of anxiety but of undisguised dismay.

FOREIGN LITERATURE IN JAPANESE GARB.

THE Japanese are not slow to confess that in all appertaining to light or amusing literature, their countrymen, with perhaps the sole exception of BAKIN, have not hitherto produced anything worthy of comparison with the works of Occidental writers. And so, simultaneously with a better general knowledge of Western tongues, foreign works of fiction have become very popular, and some of the best writers of the day have put forth all their skill in adapting European novels to the taste of the Japanese reading public—a necessarily restricted class which has only of recent years become numerous. Ten or twelve years ago, English novelists were the first favourites; now translations of Russian and German books have become more frequent and meet with a larger sale. This is in no small measure due to the progress made in the accquirement of the English tongue, which is now a necessary adjunct of education and is well taught from the lowest form of the Ordinary Middle School up to the Elective Course of the Imperial University. Where,

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a dozen years ago, there were one or two who could appreciate the humour or sentiment of an English novel, there are hundreds now who can study the original without often having to open a dictionary. Translations are thus more liable to critical and acute criticism; they must be very good indeed if they are to make a bid for popular favour. Moreover, until quite recently the translations of English works of fiction were, for the most part, mere *gomakashi* or catchpennies,—hastily and carelessly put together, as well as wonderfully and fearfully translated. We call to mind a former version of the "Merchant of Venice" (a play known in Japan as *Nin-niku saiban*, or the human-flesh trial at law), that was calculated to make the Bard of Avon turn in his grave. The illustrations were in keeping with the text. *Shylock* was a palpable Aino, tricked out in a cross between the Japanese *hifu* and a Jewish gaberdine; *Portia*, a smirking *geisha*; *Antonio*, a middle-aged merchant of the Nihombashi type; *Jessica*, a Miyanoshita tea-house girl to the life.

All this has changed for the better. Prof. TSUBOUCHI'S excellent version of "Julius Cæsar" leaves little to be desired, although, strange to say, it has not proved popular. The same writer is now translating "Macbeth," in the *Waseda Bungaku*. KAWASHIMA KEIZO has done even better with "Romeo and Juliet," while Mr. MURATA'S "Hamlet" is a most careful and critical performance. The last-named is now appearing in the *Nihon Eigaku Shinshi*. LAMB'S "Tales from Shakespeare" have been partly rendered into Japanese, yet not much can be said in behalf of this piece of work: it is far too free, and in many places quite different from the original. But as a general rule, it is impossible even for the best translator to popularize a liberal rendering of any foreign work of fiction. Obviously the book must be adapted to the understanding of its readers. And so the heroine of *Isa-Ko* (Mrs. HENRY WOOD'S "East Lynne") is to all intents and purposes a Japanese maiden; as is also that very delectable Oriental representative of "Dora Thorne." Both of these books have been most skilfully handled, for without losing any of the charm of the originals they have been completely denationalized.

The first of BULWER LYTTON'S novels to be translated was "Rienzi." This was several years ago, and a rather poor piece of work it was. Far better and immensely popular was Mr. MASUDA'S excellent rendering of "Night and Morning"—*Yoru to Asa*—which appeared in twelve monthly parts and must have brought the publishers a small fortune. D'ISRAELI'S "Coningsby" has been translated by a master-hand, yet without achieving the popularity it deserves. This is the work of Mr. SEKI NAOHIKO, for some time the editor-in-chief of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. "Endymion," under the style of *San-nin no Yuska* ("Three Heroes"), has been ably translated by Mr. WATANABE OSAMU. SCOTT has met with unmerited misfortune at the hands of Mr. USHIDA KWAKUDO, his version of "Ivanhoe" being almost painfully feeble; much better, however, is the same translator's rendering of "Robinson Crusoe," which has been very favourably received. Mr. AIBA KWASON'S remodelling of DICKENS' "Christmas Carol" is carefully done. Of course Christmas yields to New Year in the Japanese version, and this robs it, from a foreign standpoint, of half its charm. Mr. AIBA made another bold attempt in clothing DOUGLAS JERROLD'S inimitable "Curtain Lectures" in Japanese phraseology; that *Mrs. Caudle* has her counterpart in this country is very apparent, albeit contrary to the general belief of foreigners. The "Curtain Lectures" appeared in the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* and met with instant and universal approval. A very similar style of writing had once before appeared in the *Yamato Shimbun* from the pen of Mr. FUKUCHI GENICHIRO, under the style of "The Woman's World," which was eagerly and widely read; for the Japanese are fond of a quiet smile at feminine weakness—if such there be—and could thoroughly appreciate the French misogynist's book on *Le Mal qu'on a dit des Femmes*.

Among the most recent translations from English are Mr. MORITA SHIKEN'S version of Miss EDGEWORTH'S "Popular Tales;" Mr. YABE GOSHU'S free rendering of STANLEY'S "Darkest Africa"—an excellent piece of work—and Mr. MATSUI'S "Don Quixote." The "Arabian Nights," by Mr. INOUYE TSUTOMU, would also appear to come from an English original. Enormously and deservedly successful was the charming version of Mrs. BURNETT'S "Little Lord Fauntleroy," which has been most skilfully handled by WAKAMATSU SHIZU-KO, otherwise Mrs. IWAMOTO, the wife of the Principal of the Meiji Jo-gakko. The same lady, who must be confessed one of the foremost writers of the day, has produced an excellent prose rendering of TENNYSON'S "Enoch Arden," which is just the kind of tale to find favour with Japanese sentimentalists. Both of these books are still in the enjoyment of the full tide of popularity.

Turning to German works of fiction, we find a good translation of GOETHE'S "Reinecke Fucho" (Reynard the Fox) among the popular works of the day. Strange to say, however, the Japanese lose much of the exquisite humour of this satire in their sympathy with the woes of the maltreated wolf. "The Sorrows of Werther," translated by RYOKUDO YASHI, a younger brother of the well-known Prof. MORI, is also a great favourite. This is a literal translation, the diary-form of the original being retained. HAUFF'S *Marchen* ("Fairy Tales," have also been rendered into Japanese, as well as two of LESSING'S most famous tragedies "Emilia Golotti" and "The Captive." Both of these come from the pen of Prof. MORI OGWAI. SCHILLER'S "Räuber." (The Robbers) has not proved popular in Japanese garb.

Among French novels and plays, MOLIÈRE'S *L'Avare* (The Miser), has given the most universal pleasure, as indeed it should, having been translated with masterly skill by Japan's favourite novelist, Mr. OZAKI KOYO. Next to this in popularity ranks MORITA SHIKEN'S version of one of VICTOR HUGO'S works, which, as we have not yet read it, we fail to recognize under the style of "The Spy." Still another of the great Frenchman's novels has become a favourite: this also bears a name different from that of the original, "Recalling the Past." ZOLA'S "L'Assomoir" is the only one of his works that has yet been given to the Japanese public,—and the last, we venture to hope. Mr. MATSUI SHOZO is the translator, and the book is but slightly known.

Of all Western writers of fiction, TOLSTOI is undoubtedly the most admired in Japan. Mr. UCHIDA FUCHIAN has published a version of "The Penalty of Crime" which is perhaps, with one exception, the most successful translation ever made in this country. The same author's "Sebastopol" recently appeared in the *Kokkai*, the editor being Mr. KODA ROHAN, while "Anna Karenina," under the style of "Sad Tears," was highly applauded by the readers of the *Kokumin no Tomo*, Mr. UCHIDA FUCHIAN again translating.

American Detective Tales, particularly those of the "Old Sleuth Library," have for some time met with favour. But the public is now growing tired of this style of fiction. BRET HARTE'S "Mliss" has been done full justice to by Mr. AIBA KWASON, as have one or two others of his Western sketches, particularly "The Luck of Roaring Camp."

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

BI-METALLIC AGITATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In the *Japan Herald* of the 10th inst. there appeared a leading article under this heading, in which was criticized, somewhat severely, if not contemptuously, a letter on the Silver Question that appeared in the *Mail* of the 8th inst., from a correspondent who signed himself "Y."

The object of that letter was to urge the Yokohama commercial community to lend energetic and substantial support to the China Association in its endeavours to bring clearly and authoritatively before the British public, I might say before the European public, (*a*) the disastrous consequences to foreign trade with the Far East of the absence of a stable ratio between gold and silver; and (*b*) the actual effects already produced on that trade by the demonetisation of silver, consequent on the action of England, in the first place, then on that of Germany, and finally on the closing of their mints to silver by France and the Latin Union. In condemning the views of your correspondent, the *Herald* condemns the object for which the China Association is now agitating. Does the *Herald* represent Yokohama public

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opinion on this question? I, for one, venture to say very decidedly that it does not.

My time, as well as your space, to say nothing of the patience of your readers, do not permit of my meeting point by point the extraordinary theories that the *Herald* advances; but I venture to refer to some recent opinions of well known authorities on this question, which dispose summarily of the sweeping and exploded conclusions the *Herald* would induce its readers to arrive at.

1. Mr. Balfour, in his famous speech at the Mansion House on 3rd August, 1893, said:—"I doubt whether there is a single economist of reputation, under sixty years of age, who will commit himself to the view that it is impossible to maintain the double standard. No economist of repute will lend his name to the idiotic objections—if I may use the expression without offence—to bimetallism which you will see in some of the daily papers—objections which appear to be founded on the view that to hold that a stable ratio can be maintained between silver and gold is something like holding that value is not determined by the laws of supply and demand on the cost of production, but that it can be settled by the mere fiat of a Government." (It is an open secret, amongst those who interest themselves in this question and in politics, that with Mr. Balfour's views coincide those of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Goschen, and that those two statesmen, so soon as they believe the country to be with them, will not hesitate to express themselves. The return of the Unionists to power, a by no means improbable contingency at no distant date, forms, therefore, an important factor in considering the future of silver as affected by legislation or international arrangement.)

2. Mr. Courtney, a very influential member of Lord Herschell's Commission, and one of those who signed what may be called the monometallic report, has since changed his views. The minority are now the majority. I commend to your readers attention an article by Mr. Courtney in the *Nineteenth Century* for April, 1893, in which he explains his conversion.

3. All the Commissioners on that Commission were, with the exception of Mr. Courtney and Mr. Birch, unanimous that a stable ratio might be maintained if the leading commercial nations agreed. Since then Mr. Courtney has been convinced his opinion was erroneous. Whether Mr. Birch remains firm I am not aware.

In conclusion, and to meet more particularly the argument I have so often heard advanced, that London bankers as a body ridicule bimetallism and that they should be in a position to judge, I cannot do better than quote the words of a very well known London merchant and M.P.:—"Now, alas! since the demonetisation and discrediting of silver, a merchant is practically precluded from making any contract over a long period with a silver-using country(1) because he cannot form any idea whether the amount agreed upon will recoup him. It is the resulting hindrance to English commerce which I deplore, and which leads me to desire a recurrence to our ancient monetary system. The merchant plays the game and risks his money; the banker keeps the table and gets his profit on the amount staked: which of the two is likely to be the *first* to find out and the *first* to care whether the game is profitable?"

Yours faithfully,
A STABLE RATIO.

March, 11th 1894.

(1) Mr. Norman in his "Ready Reckoner of the World's Exchanges," gives the population with a gold standard at about 350,000,000 and with a silver standard at 800,000,000.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The excellent letter in which "Y.," among other suggestions, urges that the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce should prepare a memorial to be forwarded to England, ought to meet with some practical result. He pertinently remarks:—"If we are to wait until they (the merchants) have made up their minds upon the bimetallic theory, which has already been fourteen years before them, it is clear that nothing will be done." It is indeed impossible to convince people who will not read the evidence presented in favour of bimetallism and are resolved to stick to the phrase that "value is determined by demand and supply," and other catchwords that serve to give to densest ignorance an air of economic authority.

For the benefit of those who have faith that Government Commissions are able to reach more correct conclusions than the so-called economic theorists, I would like to give the following information.

In September, 1886, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the recent changes in the relative value of the precious metals. The Commission was composed of twelve men especially selected for the purpose of getting a careful and impartial opinion. They continued their investigations for over a year and a half, and went as fully into the question as twelve men during this space of time could be expected to go. The conclusion of their inquiry was:—

1.—That there had been a considerable increase in the use of gold for currency.

2.—That the evils of fluctuation are undoubted.

3.—That the want of a fixed ratio constitutes a very serious evil.

4.—That the bimetallic system of France previous to 1874 exerted a considerable influence on the relative value of the two metals.

5.—That notwithstanding changes in the production and use of the metals, the bimetallic system of France kept the market price of silver approximately steady at the ratio of 1 to 15½.

6.—That it is reasonble to suppose that the bimetallic system of France should be capable of so maintaining that ratio.

7.—That the Latin Union in 1873 broke the link between gold and silver, and when the link was broken the silver market was open to all the factors that affect the price of commodities.

8.—That, as far as they could forcast, if international bimetallism were accepted by the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States and France, a stable ratio might by maintained.

9.—That there is no danger of a disappearance of gold under a bimetallic system.

10.—That it might be difficult to suggest any motive to induce a contracting Power to secede from international bimetallism.

11.—That they were alive to the advantage of the adoption of a uniform bimetallic standard, as a step toward the adoption of a common international monetary standard.

12.—That no measure has been suggested that claims to be anything like so complete and thorough a remedy as the adoption of the system known as "bimetallism."

I do not write this in the hope of converting any bred-in-the-bone monometallist. His convictions are not based on any reasonble grounds but are matters of faith. *Credo quia est impossible.* There are plenty of examples of this state of their minds; as for instance, when the Sherman Act was still in force and the Government of the United States was coining four and a half millions of silver per month, our monometallic friends ascribed all the fluctuations of exchange to that law. "Let only," said they, "the Sherman Act be repealed and governments stop tampering with silver and we shall soon see the metal reach its natural level and exchanges once more will be on a firm basis." But since exchanges have fluctuated more than ever since the repeal of the Sherman Act, these same monometallists are now discreetly silent—nor have they anything to say about the action of the Indian Government, and the dire confusion in which recent monometallic efforts to separate India from the rest of the East have thrown the exchanges of the world. Anything that tends to establish a gold standard is, in the opinion of these wiseacres, a far-seeing policy. Would it not be pleasant to see, once for all, the whole world adopt the gold standard and thus have the ingrained monometallist hoist with his own petard?

G. D.

DR. MABIE'S RECENT REMARKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Knowing Dr. H. C. Mabie and his ideas on mission matters well, I was greatly surprised by the item in the *Mail* of Saturday last. I have just received, in a paper from Chicago, the enclosed item, which I am sure you will be glad to see and notice in order that justice to him may be done.

Very truly yours,
C. H. D. FISHER.

Dr. H C. Mabie in a private note says:—"As to the wholesale and vicious use made of my discussion on self-support at the late New York meeting, I have this to say: It is the most outrageous perversion, having for its basis a single incident which I mentioned, indicating a tendency that we were to avoid. I did not use the word 'extravagant' at all. We were of course discussing principles; sometimes supposing cases. These supposititious cases were seized upon by the reporter of the *Herald*; and so it has gone broadcast. My comfort is this, 'Fret not thyself because of evil-doers.'"

Tokyo, March 7th, 1894.

SOSHI IN RAILWAY TRAINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I should like to call the attention of your readers to the advisibility of being armed when travelling in Japan even in the neighbourhood of treaty ports, as long as *soshi* armed with swords are likely to be their companions. The notorious Oi Kentaro, the leader of the Oriental Radicals, who has lately become an M.P., being in the same saloon carriage with myself in the 12.35 train from Yokohama last Monday, he seized the opportunity of making an anti-foreign demonstration by suddenly banging up the window beside my wife and defying me to open it again.

Having ascertained that he was not ill and had simply arranged this mode of offence, I re-opened the window and changed places with my wife. This was the signal for Oi Kentaro to attack me, which he did by shouting and stamping and trying to push me away from the open window. As the train now stopped at Hodogaya Station I called the guard, who however was paralyzed by Oi Kentaro shouting out his name, which brought a *soshi* armed with a sword to the door of our carriage, from a neighbouring compartment of the train. A policeman was said to be on the spot, but if so he discreetly remained invisible.

The terrified guard had seized our baggage imploring us to come quietly away, and pulling at my coat, while Oi Kentaro was stamping and raving, calling us "*kedamono*" and other insulting names.

There was nothing for it but to change into another carriage, our exit being enforced by a *soshi* at the door with his sword half drawn.

The guard afterwards assured me that he could not possibly assist us, as Oi Kentaro is supported by a sufficient number of *soshi* to defy all authority.

This being the case, the moral seems clear, that foreigners have to trust to their own resources, and that swords have to be provided against.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. FREESE.

Atami, March 7th, 1894.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

(TRANSLATION.)

SIR,—As I was a passenger in the train at the time of the occurrence of the incident described by your correspondent, Rev. F. S. Freese, in your issue of the 10th instant, I beg permission to say a few words which may perhaps help your readers to understand what happened. There were seven persons in the carriage (second-class) a foreign gentleman and lady, and five Japanese, of whom I was one. The weather was very inclement, heavy rain and a strong wind. The two foreigners sat at the end of the carriage facing the engine, and therefore with their backs to the wind, which was blowing after the train. Without consulting any of the Japanese passengers, the foreigner opened two windows. No objection was offered at first to his doing so, because, as long as the train was in rapid motion, the wind and rain did not enter the carriage sufficiently to inconvenience the Japanese passengers. But as the train slowed up, on nearing Hodogaya Station, the rain began to be blown in, and a Japanese passenger who found himself exposed to it, rose and closed one of the windows. He did not ask the permission of the foreigner, but the latter had not asked any one's permission before opening the windows, although from the portion occupied by him and the lady they were in no wise exposed to the wind and rain, whereas their Japanese fellow-passengers were obviously exposed. The foreigner thereupon, having addressed to the Japanese some remark which I did not clearly understand, opened the window again, and the Japanese closed it. The foreigner attempted to open it once more, but the Japanese opposed his doing so, and while this altercation was in progress, the train reached Hodogaya Station. The foreigner then called a railway official and asked him to remove the Japanese passenger, but the latter, who now announced himself as Oi Kentaro, excitedly declined to leave the carriage and said that if any one were to be removed, it should be the foreigner. The railway official finally persuaded the foreigner to enter another carriage. As for your correspondent's statement that his "exit was enforced by a *soshi* at the door with his sword half drawn," I venture to think that he must have been misled by the excitement of the moment. It is true that a man, apparently attracted by the sounds of the altercation, hastened to the carriage. It is also true that he carried a sword-cane, and that, on approaching the carriage, he loosened the blade, after the Japanese fashion, so as to be ready to draw it quickly if necessary. But, on being turned back by a railway official, he made no further demonstration. I do not pretend, Mr. Editor, to judge which side was chiefly to blame, but I ask your readers to contrast the above facts—which I am sure your correspondent will endorse after careful reflection—with the account given in Mr. Freese's letter. Mr. Freese says that the Japanese passenger "seized the opportunity of making an anti-foreign demonstration by suddenly banging up the window * * * and defying me to open it again." Was it, then, an anti-Japanese demonstration on the part of Mr. Freese to open the window originally without any consideration for

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the comfort of his Japanese fellow-passengers, whom he thus exposed to the wind and rain from which he was himself thoroughly protected by his position? Mr. Freese says that the Japanese passenger "suddenly banged up the window and defied me to open it." Any one reading this statement must conclude that the Japanese passenger wantonly attempted to insult or inconvenience the foreigner. But, Sir, that is very misleading. It was Mr. Freese who opened the window originally so that the rain and wind inconvenienced the Japanese passenger, and as to the latter's "defying" the former, I can assure you that not until Mr. Freese opened the window a second time did the demeanour of the Japanese suggest anything beyond a simple desire to protect himself against a wetting. I am sorry, Mr. Editor, that I can not write in English, but I hope you will be so good as to translate and publish my letter, in order that your readers may understand the impression which the incident produced on those present but not directly concerned. I am sure that there is every desire on the part of my countrymen to extend the utmost courtesy to people from Western lands who come here on business or pleasure, but I doubt whether disagreeable incidents can always be avoided under circumstance such as I have described above, and I hope that Mr. Freese, on calmer reflection, will perceive that although the affair presented some reprehensible features, it scarcely merits the account which his excitement has led him to give of it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A JAPANESE FELLOW PASSENGER.

Tokyo, March 11th, 1894.

[We have ourselves made inquiries of the railway officials, and are in a position to say that their account confirms the above in every respect. So far as concerns the altercation between Mr. Freese and Mr. Oi Kentaro with regard to the opening or closing of a window in a railway carriage, the matter is altogether trivial and does not in any way merit journalistic notice. But we must frankly say that to apply the epithet "anti-foreign demonstration" to the legitimate objection of a Japanese passenger to have a window open in his vicinity on a wet, blustery day, seems unjustifiable. Of course there is often more significance in the fashion of doing a thing than in the fact. Mr. Oi Kentaro's manner may have suggested defiance and even insult. But Mr. Freese should not have opened the windows without consulting his fellow-passengers. That is a common canon of traveller's courtesy. Had it been complied with on the occasion in question, there could not conceivably have been any subsequent trouble. The only incidents of the affair deserving attention are the alleged interference of an armed *Soshi*, and the action of the guard in asking Mr. Freese to change carriages. As to the former point, the railway officials are positive that the so-called *Soshi*, though he did hasten up from a third class compartment when he heard his master's voice raised in altercation, and did loosen in its scabbard the blade of a sword-cane carried by him, made no attempt to interfere when the guard turned him back, and, in fact, showed himself perfectly amenable to authority throughout. As to the latter point, the guard says that, in the first instance, Mr. Freese asked him to remove the Japanese passenger, and that he thereupon invited one or other of them to change carriages, but that neither paid any attention. Perceiving, however, that to leave them quarrelling after the train had started again would be unwise, he continued his solicitations, and finally Mr. Freese consented to enter another compartment. The train was delayed several minutes by the incident, and no precipitate action of any kind was taken by the railway officials. Such, at any rate, are the facts as we gather them. Under any circumstances it is to be sincerely wished that men with sword canes could be eliminated from modern Japan. Why should not the carrying of sword-canes be altogether interdicted as the carrying of swords has been for the last twenty years?—ED. *J.M.*]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The letter from "A Japanese Fellow-passenger," regarding the incident at Hodogaya Station, puts a very different aspect on the affair from that given by Mr. Freese, as might have been expected by any one who read that gentleman's version of the occurrence. If the writer mistakes not, Mr. Freese is the same individual who, some months ago, was alluded to in a letter published in the *Japan Gazette* as having wantonly threatened to chastise, with a thick stick, a Japanese servant on the Bluff who had given him no provocation whatever, as was proved by several eye-witnesses. The conduct described on that occasion would infallibly have landed the person inquestion at the Bluff Police Station, had he not, fortunately for himself, restricted his exhibition of temper to words, not deeds; therefore it would be well to take any report coming from him on the subject of anti-foreign feeling *cum grano salis*, as there is also such a thing as anti-Japanese feeling in which some foreigners are apt to indulge at times.

Enclosing my card, I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

X.Y.Z.

March 12th, 1894.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—With reference to my letter of yesterday, an explanation has been received from Mr. Freese, which in justice to him he requests to be made as public as the accusation, to the effect that he considered he was acting under quite sufficient provocation to justify the attitude he assumed on the occasion referred to.

Had this explanation been made earlier the matter would have been placed in quite a different light, and yesterday's letter would probably never have appeared, and it is therefore unfortunate that Mr. Freese, by deferring the explanation so long, laid himself under the imputation—taking his conduct in connection with the later occurrence at Hodogaya station—of having an anti-Japanese feeling, whereas in point of fact, Mr. Freese's proclivities are, on his own admission, more pro-Japanese than otherwise.

Possibly the later incident may therefore also be placed in a different aspect, when more fully explained.

I am, Sir, yours, etc., X.Y.Z.

March 13th, 1894.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In addressing you on the subject of Mr. Oi Kentaro's recent escapade in a train, I desire to say at the outset that I am no apologist for that person, as there is no class of man in this country or elsewhere that I detest so much as the political agitator, and as for *soshi*, they are, in my opinion—I am an old resident—the curse of Japan. But in the interests of truth, I desire to point out that Mr. Freese's account of the unseemly squabble that took place at Hodogawa is likely to be very far from strict veracity. I say nothing about the letter from "A Fellow Passenger," but will relate an incident that occurred in the dining-room of Higuchi's Hotel at Atami, *after* the Oi affair, which will plainly show that Mr. Freese is given to indulging in high-handed and overbearing acts. Several guests were seated at tables in the dining-room above mentioned, when Mr. Freese entered the room, and without any remark whatever opened one of the windows. At the table, in a line with the opened window and the door through which the servants were constantly passing, sat a gentleman from a southern port who was suffering acutely from rheumatism, and to whom a draught was injurious. The invalid at once felt the dreaded draught—it was a raw, cold day—and though he made no remark upon the rudeness of Mr. Freese, was compelled quickly to remove to a corner of the room, and order a servant to carry his food to another table. I think this is sufficient, following close upon the Oi affair, to show what sort of a person is Mr. Freese, and is calculated to throw a good deal of light upon the train incident. From Mr. Freese's profession he is presumed to be a follower of Jesus Christ; but the Nazarene, though of lowly origin, was a gentleman, whose precepts Mr. Freese does not appear to practise, whatever he may preach. I should like to ask Bishop Bickersteth what good such a person as Mr. Freese can do in this country, where the natives, with a few exceptions that only go to prove the rule, treat each other with so much kindly consideration. Mr. Freese, by writing the letter that appeared in your columns, has only exposed himself, and set people relating stories about him—true or false I know not, but there is seldom smoke without fire—such for instance as threatening other people's servants with a licking, vowing that he would poison any dog that strayed into his compound, &c., &c.

I had no intention at first of writing about the Atami affair, but have been persuaded to do so in the interests of truth, and in order that you may give the public an opportunity of judging the value of the statements which Mr. Freese made of your columns a vehicle to ventilate.

Yours, &c., JUSTICE.

March 12th, 1894.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have read the letter published by you from "A fellow-passenger," who describes the occurrences in the train on the 5th instant, about which I wrote to your originally. While fully acknowledging the courteous and moderate tone of his statement, I observe that his letter contains some inaccuracies. He assigns to my wife and myself, for example, a place at the end of the carriage farthest from the engine and thus protected against wind blowing "after the train," whereas in truth we sat at the other end and should therefore have been the first to feel the inconvenience of an open window under the circumstances described by your correspondent. But I am very unwilling to embitter by controversy an affair that has already assumed a most unpleasant character. Japanese courtesy has always been appreciated by me, and it would be entirely contrary to my inclination to figure as its assailant. It will be admitted, however, that where a lady is in question the custom in the West is to consult her wishes before everything, and if in obeying that custom I unwillingly caused inconvenience to a male fellow-passenger, I should be the first to crave his indulgence. May I be permitted to let the matter rest there, asking your readers to judge how far I am likely to have exaggerated or misconstrued the incident, and begging them also to consider the feelings of a man who found himself obliged, with his wife, to leave, under such circumstances, the railway carriage in which they had seated themselves, and in which they had an unquestionable right to travel to their journey's end. You will note, Mr. Editor, that the intervention of a *Soshi* armed with a sword-cane is admitted. That appears to me to be the really serious feature of the occurrence; serious, above all, for the reputation of the Japanese themselves, a consideration that I claim to have at heart. For the rest, I am sure that those whose good opinion I value will not expect me to defend myself against the irrelevant charges preferred in your columns by anonymous correspondents.

I am, Sir, yours obedient servant,

F. E. FREESE.

Yokohama, March 13th, 1894.

[The moderation shown by Mr. Freese in the above letter is the most convincing and dignified answer he could make to his assailants. We agree with him as to the kindliness of letting the matter rest where it is, but our own duty requires that we should publish the statement furnished by Mr. Oi Kentaro to the vernacular press:—

On the 7th (5th?) instant I started for Osaka by train from Shinbashi. When we arrived at Yokohama, two foreigners, apparently a married couple and missionaries, entered the second-class carriage in which we were riding, and soon afterwards the train started. It was very cold and a strong wind was beating against the windows of the carriage. Moreover, I was suffering from an incipient cold. On leaving Shinbashi, therefore, I had closed the windows and was using the feet-warmer. For some reason the foreigner, indifferent to the cold air and the violent wind, opened not only one but two of the windows, so that the bitter wind blew into the carriage. Unable to bear the cold, I closed the window nearest to the lady whom I judged to be the foreigner's wife. Thereupon, for some reason or other, the foreigner opened it again, and as the wind was still blowing in, I again rose and shut the window. The foreigner now changed places with his wife and opened the window for the third time. I considered that his behaviour was very impolite, and I should have liked to remonstrate with him, but being unable to speak a foreign language, I could only rise again and close the window. He, however, persisted in opening it again, and so we went on opening and closing it up to four or five times. Meanwhile, the train arrived at some station, the name of which I have forgotten, and the foreigner, addressing me in broken Japanese, bade me leave the carriage. I answered, "Leave the carriage yourself, rather," and at that he called a railway official and began to make some complaint to him. The official asked me my name, and I replied that I was Oi Kentaro, adding:—"The feet-warmers are put in here for the comfort of travellers and to enable them to avoid the cold. What cause, then, can there be to open the windows on a bitter day like this with such a wind blowing? If this foreigner is so fond of the cold, put him in another carriage, please." The official then removed the foreigner and his wife to another carriage, and nothing more passed between them and me. But I observe that the foreigner has addressed to the *Japan Mail* a letter in which he says that I "stamped," and that a *soshi* of mine, with a fierce mien and a half-drawn sword-cane, exercised intimidation. I did not stamp my feet: there was no reason for me to do so. Neither did any *soshi* of mine come up with a half-drawn sword. What happened was simply that while I was conversing with the railway official at the station, a student of mine who was riding in the next carriage, hearing the noise, came to the outside of the carriage window and asked what was the matter. I replied, "Nothing, go back to your carriage," whereupon he went back.

Our duty, we say, obliges us to publish the above, because, having criticized Mr. Freese's action in opening two windows in a railway carriage on a wet windy day, without previously consulting his fellow-passengers, we have now in justice to note that Mr. Oi Kentaro, according to his own story, closed a window which he had seen Mr. Freese open, and did not, before closing it, make any reference whatever to Mr. Freese. That was a marked act of rudeness. We have also to note that Mr. Oi Kentaro, according to his own story, said to Mr. Freese:—"*Kisama koso hoka ye ike.*" Every Japanese knows the extreme rudeness of such a form of speech. When men become involved in a hot altercation one does not expect them to employ graces of diction, but if Mr. Oi Kentaro addressed a fellow-passenger as *Kisama*, a fellow-passenger whom, according to his own story, he believed to be a missionary, he must choose between the imputations of either having lost his temper or being an exceedingly discourteous person. All this, however, is a matter of small consequence. It matters little to the public what were the exact incidents of such a dispute. The important element, as Mr. Freese justly notes, is the *Soshi* with a sword-cane. In the interests of the nation we sincerely trust that the Government will take steps to interdict the carrying of sword-canes altogether.—ED. *J.M.*]

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GOUIN'S TREATISE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly publish the contents of the enclosed post-card as a good many in Japan are looking for the work to which it refers, Gouin's full treatise.

You will oblige others and yours truly,

WILLIAM N. NOYES.

Maebashi, March 7th, 1894.

Central School of Foreign Tongues, 4 Arundel Street, Strand, W.C. January 25th, 1894.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your communication re the Seriey Method, I regret to have to inform you that the Series are copia right and are not yet published, the only method of obtainhtt them will be to take a Course of Training Lessons, or, if tr o is not practicable, your better plan will be to send a teachengus to be trained.

I am, Dear Sir, yours faithfully, L. GVE, Secretar y.

"MISSIONARIES AT HOME AND ABROAD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Will you kindly grant a little space for a clipping from *The Standard* of Chicago,—issue of February 8th, 1894,—which will serve to set Dr. Mabie right in the eyes of those who wish well to missionary effort? The clipping is found in "Items Personal," and is as follows:—

Dr. H. C. Mabie, in a private note says:—"As to the wholesale and vicious use made of my discussion on self-support at the late New York meeting, I have this to say: It is the most outrageous perversion, having for its basis a single incident which I mentioned, as indicating a tendency that we were to avoid. I did not use the word 'extravagant' at all, we were of course discussing principles; sometimes supposing cases. These suppositions cases were seized upon by the reporter of the *Herald;* and so it has gone broadcast. My comfort is this, 'Fret not thy self because of evil-doers.'"

From these words I think it can be said safely that Dr. Mabie does not contend for any such living "down to the absence of civilization in the countries where they work" on the part of missionaries, as the telegram quoted in the *Mail* of March 3rd wishes us to believe.

Very respectfully yours,

A LOVER OF THE TRUTH.

March 13th, 1894.

"FALSE RELIGIONS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The article in the *Japan Weekly Mail*, Feb. 17, signed, "J. H. De F." and dated Jan. 30th, attracted my attention and interested me greatly, and although this writing has been delayed beyond the time when I had hoped to send it, I cannot refrain from expressing my dissent from the views of the article, which seems to give an erroneous impression of the position of Christianity in relation to the other religions of the world.

The writer of the article thinks that this relation is not that of the only true religion toward all others as false, but that of the perfect religion towards all others as far inferior.

I should make no objections to the writer's holding such a view or publicly stating it on his own authority; but when he calls the special attention of non-Christian readers, and appeals to the high authority of Christ and his apostles, it seems to me that the arguments adduced should not be allowed to pass without a closer examination.

The first part of the article sets forth the fact that many Christian thinkers hold liberal views towards other faiths. This statement I have no wish to dispute. It is true. I fancy that the number of those who hold the old views is still somewhat greater than the writer affirms, but this must always be largely a matter of private estimate.

The point of prime importance, however, is not whether some or all modern thinkers adopt this standpoint, but whether in so doing they are in harmony with the Word of God.

"J. H. De F." recognizes this truth, and accordingly represents his position as that of the Bible. This appeal to Scripture is divided (although not formally) into two parts, the first of which is the statement, on page 221, that Christ and his apostles never used such terms as *false, heathen,* or *pagan* in regard to other religions. This statement I shall examine presently. Laying it aside for the moment, let us hasten on to the extraordinary argument, on p. 222, that the Greak word for true (ἀληθινός) as applied to God in the New Testament, and specifically in Jno. 17.8, I Thess. 1.9, and I Jno. 5.20, is not to be understood as opposed to *false*, but to *imperfect* or *inferior.**

Of the texts quoted, I Thess. 1.9 is the most important, for in it alone is the God of the Bible directly contrasted with other gods. This text reads†: "Ye turned unto God from idols to serve a living and true (ἀληθινός) God." Now, since J. H. De F. says that it was with "remarkable carefulness" that Paul used this word ἀληθινός, which designates that opposed to it as *imperfect*, instead of ἀληθής, which would stamp is as *false*, we may in all fairness substitute these expressions in the text, and we find that what Paul meant to say was:—"Ye have turned unto God from inferior (vague or imperfect) Gods, to serve a living and perfect God.

The writer thus asserts that Paul purposely chose the word ἀληθινός in order thereby to leave room for the actual existence of other gods. So monstrous an interpretation might perhaps be left to refute itself, did not the writer's treatment of the word ἀληθινός call for criticism too loudly to be passed over in silence.

It is quite correct that the English word *true* is the translation of two Greek words, ἀληθινός, and ἀληθής, and that the latter is somewhat the stronger word of the two. Undoubtedly, also, ἀληθινός is sometimes used in a sense in which it cannot be opposed to *false* or *deceptive*, but is rather to be contrasted with *vague* or *imperfect*. It is so used in Heb. 8.2, where Christ is called a minister of the true (ἀληθινός) tabernacle as distinguished from the typical one of the Old Dispensation. So also in Heb. 9.24, although the meaning of the word in Jno. 1.9 is not so clear, it certainly seems best to contrast it here with *vague* or *imperfect* rather then *false*, as brought out by the commentators quoted. It would have been more to the purpose, if the writer had quoted scholarly opinions on the use of the word ἀληθινός as applied to God in Jno. 17.3, I Thess. 1.9, and I Jno. 5.20, for it cannot be taken for granted that a word is always used in the same sense.

And, in fact, J. H. De F. is entirely mistaken in asserting that the word ἀληθινός "is never contrasted with false." It is so used in Jno. 19.35, where after the incident of the water and the blood issuing from the side of Jesus has been related, the veracity of the narrative is thus solemnly affirmed:—And he that hath seen hath borne witness, and his witness is true (ἀληθινός) and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye may believe." It is used unmistakably in the same sense in Jno. 4.37, Rev. 3.14, 21.5, 22.61 and less clearly in Rev. 19.9.

So characteristic is it for this word ἀληθινός to be applied to witness or testimony, that Cremer's Biblico.—Theological Lexicon (3rd Ed. p. 84) says:—"When not unfrequently the witness itself is designated ἀληθής it is due to a weakened use of ἀληθής in the sense of ἀληθινός, as is clear from Classic Greek and the LXX." From this it appears that ἀληθινός is the ordinary and natural word to use when speaking of testimony. But the antithesis to *true testimony* is not *vague* or *imperfect*, but *false, lying* testimony.

The same word is (according to Cremer) used in Classic Greek to distinguish genuine silver from the counterfeit. Accordingly, this authority defines ἀληθινός (p. 86) as "that which does not deceive."

Robinson's New Testament Lexicon defines ἀληθινός as "true, as conformed to the nature and reality of things, not false."

Liddell and Scott's Greek Lexicon gives as the first meaning of this word, "agreeable to truth, truthful, honest," and quotes Demosthenes as so using it, although it does not cite the passage.

Since, then, the word ἀληθινός has two meanings, one opposing it to *vague, imperfect*, or *typical;* and the other to *false, deceptive* and *counterfeit*, can there be any doubt as to which meaning it bears when applied to God? The question answers itself. To assert that God is to be called ἀληθινός as distinguished from idols, not in the sense of *true* as opposed to *false*, but of the perfect God as against all others of an inferior order, is to assert by implication the actual existence of other gods.

Surely this is a strange statement to come from a Christian scholar. Of course, the writer does not, cannot mean it, but it is plainly what he says and that whereon he builds his plea. If his monotheism is to be saved it must be at the expense of the intelligibility and force of the entire argument.

I am not surprised that Christian men should hesitate to apply the adjective false to other systems of faith and worship, for in them there may be much that is good, but certainly it is going too far to feel the same hesitation in reference to the idolatrous abominations which are condemned from the beginning of the Bible to the end in the bitterest and most unsparing terms.

Let us now examine the statement that Christ and his apostles never used the terms pagan, heathen, etc. It is true that these words are not to be found in the Revised Version of the New Testament. We can avoid the use of these offensive words in English, for we have the synonyms *gentile* and *ethnic*. But will any one affirm that this distinction exists in the New Testament Greek? What is the difference, pray, between *heathen pagan, gentile*, and *ethnic* when we go back to the original? By how many Greek words can these four English terms be rendered? Is there more than one root, viz., ἔθνος, ἐθνικός, οι ἐθνικῶς as a noun, adjective, or adverb may happen to be required? In view of the fact that this word and no other is constantly used in the Bible to designate those who are not worshippers of the true God, I should like to known by what authority any one can say that Christ and his apostles never used such words as *heathen* and *pagan*. Especially does this question arise when we notice that this term is coupled by our Lord in Math. 6.7, and 18.17; by Paul in I Cor. 5.1 (R.V.), 10.20, Eph 4.17; and by Peter in I Peter 4.3 with just such circumstances of folly and wickedness as belong to our English conception of *heathen* in its most offensive form.

One statement made by "J. H. De F." is quite correct. The words "false religion" cannot be found in the Bible. But the same thought is expressed in other words more than once.

Before presenting Scripture proof of this assertion, it may be well to define what I mean by a false religion, lest we should be found disputing about words. When I say that a religion is false, I do not mean that there is no truth in it, or that it never has done any good. Nor, on the other hand, do I assert that a system is free from error when I acknowledge is to be a true religion. As a Protestant, I believe that there is much error in the teaching of the Roman Catholic church, but I should not venture to call it a false religion. When I say that a religion is false, I mean that it fails *in the essential elements of religion*. This requires a definition of religion, which is not easy, but I think we should all agree that, from the Christian stand-point, at least, a true religion is one that leads us to a knowledge of God, teaches us how we may acceptably worship him, and shows us how we may obtain everlasting life. The last two clauses are really specifications already contained in the first. The doctrine of God is the essential element in religion.

Accordingly, all religions may be classed as polytheistic or monotheistic. The polytheistic faiths have almost invariably an exoteric development as gross idolatry, and an esoteric one as pantheistic philosophy. Historically they appear in the worship of Greece and Rome, and, among a host of others, in modern Brahminism and Buddhism.

The Apostle Paul has forever pronounced the verdict of Christianity upon all polytheistic faiths in the first chapter of Romans, where he says (vs. 21-25):—Knowing God, they glorified him not as God neither gave thanks; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things.

"Wherefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts unto uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonoured among themselves; for that they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the creator, who is blessed for ever, Amen."

However high a pantheistic faith may rise, it can never go higher than its essential principle, the worship of the creature rather than the creator, which Paul calls exchanging the truth of God for a lie. The same apostle says (1 Cor. 10.20):—"But this I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils and not to God."

A monotheistic non-Christian faith existed at the time when the New Testament was written in the anti-Christian Judaism, and another has since appeared in Mohammedanism. Surely if we might expect that the apostles should have been considerate towards any religion, it would be Judaism, which had in it so much genuine Divine truth. Yet this is what the apostle John has to say about the Jewish teacher of his day, and it must apply equally to the rabbi of the present:—"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?" This denial that Jesus is the Christ is the essential

* It would require too much space to reproduce the argument here, but if the reader will turn to his file of *Japan Weekly Mail* he can convince himself that I am not misrepresenting the writer's position.

† All the texts quoted in this article are from the Revised Version.

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principle of Judaism, and also of Mohammedanism, as opposed to Christianity.

To all this may finally be added the solemn words of the apostle Paul. "But though we or an angel from heaven should preach any other gospel unto you than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema." Such words from the man who was willing to become all things to all men that by any means he might save some, may perhaps be called "rude," or the terrible peal from the apostle of love may be denounced as "unloving," but certainly nothing from such a source can be "un-Christian." And neither are we un-Christian when we follow their example and, in upholding the honour of the one true God and the only true religion, denounce all others as false.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ALBERTUS PIETERS.

Nagasaki, March 10, 1894.

ER.

Er, laid on the pyre, revived on the twelfth day and told what he had seen; for the judges sent him as a messenger to men concerning those things.—Plato.

Muffled the words of the last Goodbye, read o'er the lowered shell,
Came down through a mile of granite vault to where by the gates of Hell
The deathless wraith of the lifeless Er confronted the awful Twain,
Who sit in the nave of Gehenna's cave, judging the sons of Cain.

He stood with a jaunty pose and a free,—for they of the Soulless East
Reck little of man or devil, and of God Almighty least,—
Nor marked he how sinners' sweating feet had furrowed the rock like clay,
As he lounged at the Bar where no bottles are, but a lifetime's chits to pay.

Then fearless he gazed in his judges' eyes and he read all his past therein,
A record as clean as most, and naught that he knew for a deadly sin;
But Minos took of that angels' ink that once blazed in Belshazzar's hall,
And traced a name in letters of flame that hissed on the cozy wall.

Loud laughed the man, and "'Twas but a girl, a native wench," quoth he,
"With never a sense above dollars and pence. An ye hold that a sin, pardie,
You'll swamp Hell's coals with a flood of souls, damned for that self-same jest,—
A jest the wide world over, barring the Bunkum West."

The Devil heard and chortling clawed at his prey through the glowing grille,
But Minos rebuked his indecent haste, and spoke to the man his will:
"If no thought of mother or wedded wife hath taught thee such ways be sin,
Not œons of forced draught furnace flames would brand thee that knowledge in.

Go back, blind spirit, to earth again, and lodge in that woman's breast,
And read in the scroll of her innermost soul, and view with *her* eyes thy jest.
Swing, wheel of Metempsychosis, swing! speed, soul, thy appointed course,
Reborn for a spell in a living hell till thou win to the goal, Remorse."

Then sojourned his soul in hers through the last tragic act of her frail career,
Till the curtain dropped on her graveyard scene, and she stood in the Caves of Fear,
And Minos marked the pair where they crouched, communing soul with soul:
"Thou hast seen the weeds she reaped of thy deeds," said he, "hast thou found the goal?"

But the girl broke in: "By Confucius' law I was doomed, foredoomed to the yoke.
Wages of death? Nay, wages of life for my starving folk.
He deserves no curse. I lived to fare worse; and but that he heard my cry,
I had fallen straight from heaven's gate down to the brimstone Y."

But the man's soul paused in wavering doubt, and his head was still bowed on his breast,
As he said: "I ween, 'twas no deadly sin, but, God wot, 'twas no lively jest."
And Minos spake: Again go back; thou winnest the goal in time.
Reborn to the name of the son of thy shame, go view with *his* eyes thy crime."

Er groaned, but the woman prayed: "Me too, let me go to my bairn, good sirs."
And they went, the twain, and they came again' and the third soul came with theirs.
And the lad stood up and cursed the two who had made him the victim of shame,
And sent him a half-caste, bastard thing to be mocked with the pariah's name.

Then the man, bowed down with remorse new found, said slowly in fear: I have sinned,
"And now I must go to a double woe,—the gargoyle demons grinned,—
To the fire unquenched that shall wrap me round through all the eternities,
And the worm Remorse that shall riddle my corse in a death where nothing dies."

But Rhadamanthus raised him up and answered: Nay, my son,
"Thou art given remorse to nerve thy soul for the work that must yet be done.
Go back once more, be the Er of yore, and preach of the Nether Cave,
And He that hath power to raise thee up hath also the power to save."

Then, even as when at the organ bent the deaf Beethoven laid.
His clenched left hand on the shuddering bass while his right hand sweetly played,
There came from the upper choirs a song that rose with triumphant swell,
But the Devil sang to his anvil's clang in curses that jarred through Hell.

REVIEW.

Die Psychologie der Japanischen Sprache. Von CARL MUNZINGER.

THIS monograph, the fifty-third issue, in the *Mittheilungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Natur-und Völkerkunde Ostasiens*, deserves especial notice, not only for the excellent treatment its author has given his subject, but also for the comparatively novel and very important point of view assumed in the subject itself. The well-known difficulty Europeans find in attempting an acquisition of the Japanese language, Mr. Munzinger believes, lies not so much in the language itself, either in its script or its grammar, as in the mistaken methods by which it has generally hitherto been studied. The Japanese grammar is rather very simple, he claims; grammatically the language so far has been very little developed. The difficulty lies much more in the thought, in the psychical character, in the wholly unique kind and mode of intellectual expression of an Antipodean people, of an alien race. Not appreciating this fact at its full worth, the authors of the various text books on the Japanese language for foreigners, though furnishing much helpful material for their students have failed to reach the chief source of help. Prof. Chamberlain in his short chapter on Syntax at the close of his masterly "Handbook," seems, among all teachers hitherto, to have approached nearest the desired goal. To Mr. Munzinger the problem of commanding the Japanese language is one of psychology. "We must not make our point of departure that of the grammar of any European language but the science of the Japanese mind." The *Mittheilung* before us is a discussion of this proposition, and an attempt to indicate the starting point for the new study.

Japanese forms of speech are most intimately connected with Japanese forms of thought, says our author. History and etymology would doubtless aid much in making clear the way to our object were they easily at command. Psychology, however, will serve the same need: and this instrument we may use in the consciousness of the Japanese people now around us. If it is possible for us to discover the stage in the general evolution of human thought, which Japanese thought occupies, and if we are able to put ourselves in connection there with the Japanese mind, we shall have solved theoretically and practically the problem of the Japanese language and, thereby, that of the Japanese mind in general. The question therefore is essentially one of psychology. For the answer we need only a critical comparison of the specifically Japanese form of thought with thought as such. This, of course, must be done independently of the special modes of thought which affect us in our own languages, if we would secure value for the results of our work.

The discussion which follows this proposition can not be reviewed here. Mr. Munzinger deals with the Japanese language, its external character and inner texture, in many relations, illustrating his statements with numerous striking quotations from every-day speech which make, to say the least, exceedingly interesting and suggestive reading. His exposition of the use of the particles *ga* and *wa*, the former the sign of the dominance of feeling in thought and thus a mark of rather primitive psychical activity, the latter the sign of intellection or judgment and, thereby, of the ascent of thought to a more developed state, is well worth consideration. The habitual use of the two particles also shows, in our author's judgment, how little in the Western sense of the word the Japanese speech is grammatical. It is a language of particulars, the words dependent upon special external or internal conditions or circumstance. The verb is the part of speech of highest importance in the language. He who masters that masters the language. But, our author adds, the verb should be studied first of all in sentences which express simple perception of the things of daily life. This method really will most closely connect a learner with the spirit of the Japanese language as a whole. The Japanese mode of expression is in fact akin to that of the child mind. The child's manner of preception, far more corresponds to that of the Japanese mind than to the more fully developed languages of the West.

There is danger, however, in such brief statements as these just made, of so presenting the positions taken in an essay of the novel quality of this of Mr. Munzinger, that they will misrepresent the author. Let us therefore from here pass over the numerous chapters which make up the body of the book and, for the rest, summarize the results of the arguments in them, much as the author himself writes.

In intention, he says in a closing chapter:—In the Japanese language the effect of a simple, uniform (*einheitlich*) view of the world, different from that of the peoples of the West, but intelligible to them, appears. Japanese speech is, *e.g.* diffuse, prolix, for the sake of clearness of sense-perception; it abounds in onomatopoetic sounds; abstract words are seldom used in it, and in their stead, as the result of a mechanical, unimaginative view of the world, concrete forms of expression are habitual; the verb, and, with it, action and perception, are of so great importance that the so-called subject disappears before impersonal forms of speech; grammatical construction harmonizes with a natural mode of perception; the forms of expression depend upon situation or circumstance; a question is definite; our generalizing pronouns are separated into their component parts; the numeral is made concrete; in consequence of a quick sensitiveness for what is particular, special forms for that which is general exist; the verb is distinguished by unsurpassed fullness; mobility and distinctness are sought by avoiding passive forms as much as possible; the future tense and, with it, expressions of "hope," "doubt," &c., are wanting, while at the same time "should" and "must" are expressed in periphrasis; subjective speech gives way decidedly to that which is objective; there is no abstract negation; the distinction between substance and accident has not yet entered consciousness, a fact made evident by the absence of the adjective; the distinction between passive and active reality conditions the chief differences of the parts of a sentence; all these peculiarities and many more show clearly that the spirit which animates the Japanese language is childlike, undeveloped, nevertheless sound and normal, that it is marked by keen, active sense-perception and still remains on the level of concrete observation and naïve feeling, having given only timid glances towards the domain of abstract thought. The strength and weakness of the Japanese language are the strength and weakness special to the stage of development it has reached.

In its present form, Mr. Munzinger thinks that this language cannot be the bearer of modern culture. Those make a mistake who suppose that it can be used in its present form, as well as a foreign language, to be a medium for developed science or philosophy. The Japanese language must be advanced to a higher stage than it now occupies. The possibility of the needful improvement of the colloquial speech our essayist does not doubt. If the language of Japan were weak from age, one might be hopeless concerning its development, but it is really a child in all the naturalness and originality of childhood, easily developed and as yet but little harmed. The facility for assimilation characteristic of the Japanese people not only leads than to appropriate Western culture, but already it has helped them to animate lifeless objects and abstract notions in their language. The day of full development in this direction may be long, but it has dawned and may at last be perfected.

This monograph deserves interested study on the part of all who would became familiar with the Japanese people and their language. The problem of the mastery of this language may not be solved by Mr. Munzinger's contribution, but he has in it, I think, entered the right path to the desired solution. Krause, a philosopher whose works are of growing importance in fundamental psychology,

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once said :—"The language of a people always corresponds to its life. Both reflect themselves reciprocally in each other; they illuminate and illustrate themselves each in the other." If then, teachers of Japanese speech were accomplished psychologists of the Japanese people, unquestionably they could prepare text books which would shed a guiding light into the present comparative darkness. And yet, even with this work well done, it still would remain a question, whether a man born of, and reared under, the life of the West could ever master the speech of this people. It is by no means certain that linguistic evolution in general, has followed a continuous line of advance, so that a European would have before him only the task of returning to a lower stage in the elaboration of his own speech to be at home in the psychological mood of the Japanese. Language, for all men, may have begun in the same manner, but in all likelihood, the point of separation of the thought and speech forms of the Aryan and of the mother tribes of the Japanese, lies now so far in a prehistoric and aboriginal past, and the width of differentiation through long ages, has become so great between the descendants of these primitive tribes, that the scholars of to-day can neither return to the former nor fully or actually bridge the chasm made by the latter. The difference now between the Aryan and Japanese languages is hardly so much one of degree as of kind. Mr. Munzinger probably points out the best way yet divisable for conquering the difficulty, but when all were done as he recommends, there would probably remain a separation of domains so wide that no inhabitant of one could be fully at home in the other. The variant and often contrary modes of preception, the upside-down sequences of expression in sentence constructions, the different usages of fundamental ideas to state thesame mode of being and action, necessitate mental habits requiring opposite psychical gymnastics of such a character that one mind, could in all probability, not master both. Evolution for the Japanese language does not promise that this language will ever reach the stage occupied by the languages of Europe. Transformation, rather than evolution, seems to be the method by which the Japanese language is to be brought into vital harmony with the tongues of the West, or under command of the Western student. In a large degree, it may be said, the Japanese language of to day must die, if it is to have a life expressive of the thought and culture of the civilization now spreading over the world. Psychology may explain the Japanese language as it is, but when the explanation shall have been fully made, the language will still remain, in its present form, a domain which the foreigner from the West can not make his own, while yet he continues to be a loyal subject of the soul and speech of his native race and tongue. In this relation as in others, a man cannot serve two alien masters. Whether or not the Japanese people and their language will undergo the transformation necessary to make both harmonize with the people and language of the West, cannot be foretold, but the probability is that such a change will come in the course of the ages. Much already in "the soul of the Far East" and in its expression, *riecht nach Europa;* much more probably in the future will the transformation go on. In the probable civilization of the world under one dominent form of civilization, all peoples hither to separated by particular psychical moods and speech will slowly shape themselves under one power, reciprocally modifying one another in mood and language, yet all taking form chiefly under the master power which has initiated and will guide the movement. However, Mr. Munzinger's monograph is to be welcomed and praised as a masterly approach to a long recognized problem of great difficulty, and also as carrying forward with definite and useful purpose, another, among the many praiseworthy ventures which have been made by Westerners to understand the yet uninterpreted "Character of the Japanese people," and to show by what means their unique language may be best brought within the intellectual possessions of students from the Occident.—CLAY MACCAULEY.

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE, Limited, Yokohama.

The *Publishers' Circular* announces that a volume on "Japan," by Dr. David Murray, is about to be added to Mr. Unwin's series of "The Story of the Nations." Dr. Murray, who has held an official appointment in the Education Department of the Japanese Ministry, gives, in addition to the usual features, a supplementary list of the emperors, the "year-periods," the Shoguns, and the laws of Shotoku Taishi. The volume will be illustrated.

INDIVIDUALISM AND MODERN SOCIETY.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. GARRETT DROPPERS, TO THE GRADUATES OF THE KEIOGIJUKU DAIGAKKU, JANUARY 25.

The present state of the social organization of Europe and America is, in its most distinctive aspects, a product of that mighty explosion, the French Revolution. Not that this great upheaval gave birth to the causes that resulted in the many changes of the nineteenth century; for these causes were long in developing, certainly extending back a half century before the unforgetable year 1789. But the great Revolution was the practical expression of what had been before only a generous hope. Had the Revolution been staved off in any way or had its coming been more clearly foreseen by its enemies, our present life would be very different from what it is. Nearly every person in Europe and America has been affected by the new social order. Some are richer because of it and some poorer. The average individual intelligence has increased. Education has been at work upon larger numbers, and above all social ideals and practices have fundamentally changed. Indeed, I do not believe there is a palace so magnificent or a hut so humble in the western world but the life and work and thought of its inmates have been transformed to a greater or less degree by this historic event.

I wish now to consider for a moment what was the essential purpose of this revolution. What ideals and feelings inspired its leaders to sacrifice willingly and sometimes gladly their time, their energies, and even their lives. I need not tell you that it was a new hope of the possibilities of liberty It was a faith that if only the ideals of the great thinkers of that age were realized, if the old order were overthrown and the new introduced, man's whole being would be elevated and ennobled. And this faith was not an isolated faith possessed of a few writers and scholars, it was an enthusiasm that possessed all classes and all individuals who had sufficient intelligence to appreciate a new ideal. Indeed, it may be said that every one was influenced by it in proportion to his capacity for thought and self respect. There is no greater mistake than to suppose that the nobility and clergy of France were entirely indifferent to these liberal tendencies. Set in motion by an ardent set of reformers, the Cyclopedists, Physiocrats, and the literary reformers of the ancient régime, these ideas permeated all classes. The ideal was an inspiring one, and its adherents did not consider the obstacles, the exceptions, the inevitable friction to be encountered. It was their belief that liberty would rejuvenate the world.

We, who stand with the crowded experience of a hundred years and more behind us, can scarcely comprehend what a hold this belief in liberty had upon the pre-revolutionary minds. "I think no epoch of history," says De Tocqueville, "has seen on any spot of the globe so large a number of men so passionately devoted to the public good, so honestly forgetful of themselves, so absorbed in the contemplation of the common interest, so resolved to risk all they cherished in life to secure it. This it is which gave to the opening of the year 1789 an incomparable grandeur. This was the general source of passion, courage, and patriotism, from which all the great deeds of the Revolution took their rise. The scene was a short one; but it will never depart from the memory of mankind. The distance from which we look back to it is not the only cause of its apparent greatness; it seemed as great to all those who lived in it. All foreign nations saw it, hailed it, were moved by it. There is no corner of Europe so secluded that the glow of admiration and of hope did not reach it." Everywhere people saw absurd restraints, and their minds naturally turned to a state of society where restrictions did not exist. The state of nature where each individual followed his untutored instincts was supposed by many to be the golden age. Right and wrong as then explained were considered mere arbitrary distinctions that had no relation to the character of man. The conclusion was inevitable that the evil state of man was not a result of his own weakness but of the foolish organization of society Let but man have free development unrammelled by restraints and he would practise the virtues as easily as the bird flies or the deer runs. This is why the word *liberty* had such an entrancing sound for the men of a hundred years ago. It appealed to all their noblest sentiments, it drew out their best efforts. Not a corner of Europe but was effected by the new hope that a millenium was at hand.

Over a hundred years have fled since the enthusiastic men of 1789 faced the great problem of human liberty, a hundred years filled with prodigious transformations in the civilized world. And the question I now wish to ask is, what has been the result of the liberty idea so confidently proclaimed in 1789? Were the men that stood at the threshold of the Revolution to come back to life and to see our present civilization, with all its lights and shadows, with all its wonderful inventions, annihilating time and space, would they be satisfied with the results of the movement they started? No doubt the nineteenth century has accomplished much it might show them with pride. It might point to the great economic development to which I have already called attention. It might point to the abolition of slavery, and to the comparative absence of extreme poverty, or at least of famines. It could point to the better care of the weak and helpless, to the wonderful growth of science with its manifold applications to the arts of healing and of industry, to the spread of popular education, the newspaper, and popular literature. All these and more might be shown with pride that our century had not been barren of great work.

Remembering all these elements of progress, and emphasizing them to the full, I yet feel sure that the fathers of the French Revolution would to-day regard our civilization with a sense of keen and profound disappointment. For they expected that liberty would not only develope individual enterprise and stimulate the motives of self-interest, but that it would also set in motion a natural benevolence and disinterestedness that would establish a human brotherhood. They looked for a realization of peace and goodwill to men. Hear what the great Turgot says, speaking of universal education in a report to the king :—"I venture to assure your majesty that in ten years your people will have changed out of knowledge, and that by their attainments, by their morality, and by their enlightened zeal for your service and for that of the country, France will be raised far above all other nations; children who are now ten years of age will then have grown up as men prepared for the public service, attached to their country, submissive, not through fear but through reason, to authority, humane to their fellow-citizens, accustomed to recognise and to respect the administration of justice." The leaders of that time had an undying faith in the power of liberty to transform the human race. Says De Tocqueville :—"Neither privation nor suffering extinguished their ardour. All these private calamities disappeared in the eyes even of those who suffered by them, in the splendour of the common enterprise."

It is evident that those men could not help feeling something like disgust for the present discontents that worry our Society. For in the most civilized countries of the world we see classes arraigned against each other. We hear the doctrine openly proclaimed that might makes right, and that it is only the conflicts of selfish interests that secures justice; we see men in high public places accused of peculation and of using their high positions for private gain; we see most necessary and useful reforms waiting in vain to be carried out—

> "For man or race is on the downward path
> Whose fibre grows too soft for honest wrath,".

There is, I believe, a growing conviction that the principle of individual liberty, as understood in the past, has accomplished its best work. The present state of society is infinitely more complex than that which existed a hundred years ago, and if one can interpret the signs of the times rightly, there can be no question but that we must meet the new problems in an entirely different way from that suggested by our forefathers. For after all liberty is only a preliminary condition of growth; it must exist, it is indispensable but it is barren unless accompanied by the other forces, intellectual, moral, and religious, that make for a true civilization. Or, shall I put it this way? That liberty to be fruitful must be accompanied by certain obligations and duties not less significant than liberty itself. Unless it have these accompaniments planted deep in the heart of man and in the very constitution of society, it is like one of those fabled rivers of Africa that begin magnificently but end in a desert sand-bed. There is a new consciousness of this truth coming to the world. There is a sense of a new era dawning upon mankind animating with fresh purposes all those who are capable of feeling the better impulses of society.

"The history of mankind," says Emerson, "interests us only as it exhibits a steady gain of truth and right in the incessant conflict which it records between the material and moral nature." This gain, however, seems rather to go by stages; a new principle, a new emotion acts upon men and stirs them up to fresh endeavour. With infinite labour and self-denial they are brought one step higher in the difficult ascent from which to view with clearer vision the old landmarks.

How shall we describe this new consciousness?

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Is there any name that will give its essence in the thoughts of those who feel it? Some assert that it is a movement from individualism to socialism, others, with still narrower vision, call it a movement from private property to collectivism, but the core of the matter is perhaps best described as a movement from *liberty* to *humanity*. I mean we are working out of the stage where each man had to defend his rights from despotic interference, to a stage where these being unquestioned, we all labour for the common good of all. It was natural when men were constantly suffering from an arbitrary government, that they should fly for refuge to the doctrine of individual rights, but is it not clear that these rights being secure man must push on to a higher goal? Is there any benefit, any progress, any righteousness that more individual liberty could give to the world? Looking at man as he is with all his weakness of aim and of purpose, does he to-day need wider limits for his activity; rather does he not need more insight, more direction, more knowledge. Speaking for the most civilized countries of Europe and America, I am convinced that we have fully worked the good out of this principle of liberty and that we now need to take a new direction.

Compare the principle of liberty with that of humanity and see how much more potential is the latter. We see, for instance, in every country of Europe and America, without exception, a state of hostility between capital and labour. We see strikes and lock-outs following in quick succession; each side using such means as are legally, and not in frequently illegally, within its power to coerce the other side. Scarcely a year passes but the military is called out to preserve order, or rather to keep the semblance of order. Fierce passions that lead to boycotting, to incendiarism, even to murder, have become commonplaces of the most progressive countries of the world. Now let me ask, is there anyone so sanguine as to hope for a better régime, for a more just relation between capitalist and labourers, from a more exact definition of the rights of each class or each individual? Is it not hopeless on the face of it that the more lawyers and legislators define and restrict these rights the more certainly will the passions of men overthrow these barriers and rush into conflict? On the contrary, the principle of humanity suggests a hundred means of union. Industrial partnership, distributive, productive, and credit coöperation, old age insurance, relief measures, all of these and many more, spring directly from this new principle of humanity. Our hopes, our efforts, are to-day directed to a new channel. The State is losing its old political character and is becoming a means of carrying out its share of the new social aims.

I believe there are necessary conditions that must accompany this movement of humanity, if it is to be successful. In the first place it must be scientific, because the present social conditions are far more intricate and multiplex than those of a former age. We must use the resources of knowledge to a far greater extent than ever before. For notice that the problem of liberty was a relatively simple one, it was to define the limits of individuals and of classes; the problem of humanity is to discover the laws of growth. One, to use a technical expression, has to do rather with a static state, the other with a dynamic state. And to treat the questions of to-day by the methods of a hundred years ago would be in the highest degree disastrous. Take any of the practical issues of to-day and what is the ordinary untrained judgment of them worth? The present issues do not call for the wild excitement and extravagant declamation of the movement for liberty, but rather for the conscientious labour of the student. All the resources of science applied to these problems will not be sufficient to entirely escape pitfalls; any neglect of science will lead us into a worse state than before. We often hear it said to-day, even by the most cautious that a social revolution is surely coming before a settled state can be established, but I venture to prophesy that the next revolution of society will be an utterly barren one, so far as useful results are concerned, unless it be accompanied by all the science that the most devoted study can afford. A revolution headed by men who are incited merely by a sense of wrong is almost certain to end in a violent reaction, against which the progressive forces will strike in vain.

In the second place the new movement must be moral. By this I mean that we must apply our principles in the belief that the foundations of society are ethical and the ends of sociey are ideal. The old movement for liberty and the new movement for humanity are at first blush identical in this respect. The men of a hundred years ago invoked justice with as much sincerity as their posterity, but after all their conceptions of justice had been warped by the old injustice. They were too deeply stirred by the sense of wrong to dispassionately consider the claims of justice, and the consequence was that they established individual rights, as against the danger of political interference. But the moral purpose of the present movement is much wider. It aims to establish as far as possible just social relations between men; rather to stimulate the obligations and duties of each to all than to define the legal limits within which one may pass a selfish existence. For justice is not satisfied when it merely puts a boundary to reckless and wilful acts, but its aim is to draw closer the bonds that unite all things human and to spread to all men the useful and loveable things of life. Our age is still in the infancy of civilization. How we still laud the virtues of audacious and unscrupulous success, and admire the energy of those who gain riches at any cost. How much time is spent in reading the accounts of savage and silly amusements, malicious scandals, and idle gossip. One is almost surprised to-day to find the faithful, the honourable, the charitable in high places. Now the new movement is stirred by a deeper impulse. It wishes to emphasise the best qualities in man, to establish real and not pretended good, have as leaders not men skilled in intellectual fence, but full of the conviction that moral goods are the only ones worth having.

Some of you are doubtless wondering what is the purpose of these remarks. All that I have said would be sadly out of place if it had no reference to the present moment, no application to your future life. I need hardly tell you that you have, in popular language, finished your education. In a certain very narrow sense this is true; but in the best and truest sense of the word your education has but begun. In America, we call this occasion Commencement, and this is not a bad term if it were intended to express the fact that you are on the threshold of your careers—when what you know and what you are will be tried by even severer tests than the hardest examination. Hitherto you have walked upon a well known road, with a well defined destination. Henceforward the path is uncertain, and you will be fortunate if sometimes it is not altogether lost.

Will these tendencies which I have been describing have any interest for you, as you travel over the path of life, or will you let them go by unheeded, mindful only of yourself and your own interest? Is there anything that you can contribute in any way to help on the work of ameliorating the life of those about you? Can you assist in working out the transition state that we are now living in, as smoothly and peacefully as possible? For the forces which I have described will as surely reach Japan as all other world-wide forces are reaching her. Unless this country once more adopts the policy of seclusion, it is wholly impossible for her to escape those difficulties, those pit-falls and dangers that seem to be an accompaniment of our present civilization. If you do not take an unselfish view of your relations to your fellow-men, then upon whom, I should like to ask, will the burden fall in Japan? May I take the liberty of quoting to you a familiar paragraph from one of the works of John Stuart Mill. "If the bulk of the human race," he says, "are always to remain as at present, slaves to toil in which they have no interest—and therefore feel no interest—drudging from early morning till late at night for bare necessaries, with all the intellectual and moral deficiencies which that implies—without resources either in mind or feelings; selfish, for all their thoughts are required for themselves; without interests or sentiments as citizens or members of society, and with perhaps a keen sense of injustice rankling in their minds, equally for what they have not and for what others have; I know not what there is which should make a person, with any capacity of reason, concern himself about the destinies of the human race. There would be no wisdom for any one but in extracting from life, with epicurean indifference, as much personal satisfaction to himself and those with whom he sympathises, as it can yield without injury to anyone; and letting the unmeaning bustle of so-called civilized existence roll by unheeded." But he finally adds:—"There is no ground for such a view of human affairs." It depends upon those who have the advantages of science, of insight, of courageous convictions to help those who cannot well help themselves. Still you are saying:—"How does all this apply to me at the present time, when I am much in the dark about myself." Undoubtedly, I answer, you have a duty to yourself. You wish to provide a place for yourself in the world. You wish to have a foot firmly placed on a round of the ladder of useful work. This is natural and right. In all your efforts to establish yourself usefully in the world, what can I do more than most heartily wish you success—room for your highest activity and the acquisition of all that you deserve. I shall not be unmindful of your careers, but rejoice in your attainments and regret your failures. I can do no less than urge you on with every expression of courage and confidence.

But how much success do you wish to obtain for yourselves? Surely not more than is consistent with self-respect and honour. Would you not rather be respected than rich, and beloved than powerful? How much that is called success is merely vain ambition. How many men spend their days in endeavouring to pass by a rival, without worthy aims or real results. And right here is the value of the new movement that I have attempted to describe. It calls upon all who have a sense of right and a knowledge of things to devote themselves unselfishly to the great cause of civilization, to give a helping hand to purposes outside themselves, to coöperate with all men who are endeavouring in little and great things to organize better conditions for those who cannot help themselves. To work with energy and honesty to promote merely your own interests is not the end of your work. This may at bottom be little more than "Epicurean indifference," "to extract," as Mill says, "as much personal satisfaction out of life for yourself as possible." But to work for the cause of your fellow-men, this is,—is it not?—the most satisfactory aim that the human soul can attain to, whatever your course of life, this will comfort you in your adversity and stimulate you in your prosperity. Fate cannot harm you, nor misfortune take you unawares.

THREE TALES FROM THE "KONJAKU MONOGATARI."

I.

All Oriental peoples are singularly fond of tales of the supernatural. Herbert Giles, in his delightful "Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio," has compiled a number of weird narratives that are none the less interesting because of their totally impossible nature. And yet, though the literature relating to Japan grows yearly more and more voluminous, no one has made a special study of this field. Dr. Braun's "Japanische Märchen" is mainly a translation of the popular folk-lore of the Japanese, compiled from many sources and largely historical, *i.e.* dealing with the narrations of such works as the *Kojiki* and its congeners. No one has, so far, made a thorough study of the bugaboo or hobgoblin stories of this land, and it is a most fascinating province. For of all people the Japanese appear to have been in olden time most given to credit the wildest tales of supernatural creatures and their doings. This is what one might expect of a land in which some of the trained scientists of the present day still believe in the miraculous powers of the fox and *tanuki*—which latter is a racoon-dog, by-the-bye, and not a true badger.

The attributing of supernatural characteristics to brute creation is at bottom only the outcome of that animal-worship once so widely spread in Asia, which still flourishes in many countries. Hand-in-hand with this we find such theories as result in the conception of satyrs, sphinxes, dragons, unicorns, and the great host of fabulous monsters that have awed the simple-minded from time immemorial.

In the following tale, narrated in the *Konjaku Monogatari* with all the pomp and credibility of circumstantial detail, we hear of that rare monster, half-human, half-bird, the *ubume*. This was said to haunt the fords of rivers in particular and never did special harm, beyond affrighting those who ventured near its lair at nightfall. There was another of these creatures that flourished about the same time, known as the *nue*. There was fortunately but one extant when that "Jack the Giant-Killer" of Japanese fabledom, Minamoto-no-Yorimasa, made an end of it, as Yorimitsu did of the cannibal demon *Shutendoji*. The *nue* had the head of a dog, the body of an ape, and a long tail, so that it must have been a parlous brute to meet after nightfall on a lonely road. It was of an irritable nature, as might have been expected from its composition, and no one but a hero of the days of romance and chivalry would have been able to cope with it successfully. But the *ubume* was of a milder turn, and some authors says that this "bird" was the spirit of a woman who had drowned her infant, and who was thenceforth condemned to haunt the neighbourhood of streams, in unceasing remorse for her crime. And now for the story itself.

It was in the days of Minamoto-no-Yorimitsu that a brilliant company of warriors once followed their chief from Miino to the capital. An unusual number of vassals and fighting men were in the train, and many were the deeds of prowess

done and castles subjugated. One evening, while several of the most famous captains were enjoying around the camp-fire a well-earned rest after the labours of a long day, the conversation turned on supernatural creatures, spectres, hobgoblins, and the like. One of those present, who happened to be a native of the place in which they were encamped, said that at a ford, not far from where they then were, an *ubume* nightly made its appearance. It was always heralded by the crying as of a very young infant. Though unseen, those who crossed the ford at night heard a cold wind rustling in the trees and a plaintive voice begging them to "hold the baby" for a moment. But no one had ever made reply to the mournful spectre, nor had any one ever offered to clasp the infant in his arms. Indeed, even the bravest ran away upon hearing the melancholy request. "Have we, then," cried one of the captains, "now no warriors brave enough to face a spectre?" At these words Tairano Suyetake (Urabe-no-Rokurō Suyetake) sprang to his feet and demanded to know where the haunted ford was. This Suyetake, one of the *Shi-ten-no*, or four chief heroes of the adventurous Yorimitsu, was already celebrated in song and story for his doughty feats. Fear he knew not. In reply to his question, the first speaker said that he would willingly direct Suyetake to the ford, but he deemed it advisable to take at least a hundred armed warriors along, for battling with supernatural beings was very different from meeting with a foe of flesh and blood. Suyetake scornfully rejected this advice. "My sword," said he, "is all the protection I heed. Come, let us start at once!" The other captains, brave though they were, tried to dissuade him from undertaking the perilous adventure. There were others, too, who, envious of Suyetake's fame, offered to bet that he neither would nor could cross the haunted stream. Suyetake took the bet and wagered his armour, weapons, quiver, the appanage of his steed as well as the noble animal itself, that he would not only ford the stream but return alive. "In witness of my having done so," said he, "I shall plant on arrow on the further side. Go thither so soon as the day dawns and you will find the arrow with my crest."

With these words he mounted his horse and rode off in the direction pointed out to him.

Among those who had laid the wager with the dauntless Suyetake were three warriors of unusual strength and fearlessness, who said that they would follow the knight to see what happened to him. Taking another road, they reached the ford simultaneously with the stout-hearted Suyetake.

It was near the end of September (old style), and the night was very dark. Suyetake could not see through the inky gloom, but the murmuring sound of the water told him when he had reached the ford. Without an instant's hesitation he rode his plunging steed into the water, which was quite deep in many places, and reached the opposite bank without mishap. Dismounting he planted a feathered shaft in the muddy ooze, and then turned his horse's head again streamwards. Just as he reached the middle of the ford, his horse swimming bravely beneath him, there came a chill and carrion-like wind which was not of this earth. At the same moment he heard the low, sweet voice of a woman and the cry of a very young child. "Please, won't you hold my baby?" asked the plaintive voice. "Certainly," answered the hero, "give me the child," stretching out his arms as he spoke. Something was then deposited in his hands,—what, he could not tell, though he fancied it was the clammy body of a dead infant. But now all his attention was given to his horse, which appeared about to sink under this fresh burden. Terrified and snorting, the animal finally reached the bank whence they had started. Here again the cold breeze came, and once more than sad voice addressed the *samurai*:—"Give back the child, 'tis mine!" "No, no," replied the intrepid Suyetake, "you gave it me and now I keep it." With these words he turned his horse's head in the direction of the distant camp-fire and rode on fearlessly through the black night.

The three witnesses of this deed had been concealed in the bushes on the hither side of the river. Though seeing nothing they had heard the splashing of the horse through the waves, the words of the spectral *ubume* and Suyetake's undaunted replies. Half-dead with fear they too rushed back to the camp and arrived there at the same moment as the *samurai* reined up his worn and dripping steed.

The story was soon told, substantiated by the three witnesses. Opening his arms, Suyetake proceeded to show the astounded group the spectral infant he still held tightly clasped. But there was no child there, only a few branches of the plum, filled with odorous blossoms, despite the late season of the year. Speechless with surprise, the assembled chieftains gazed upon this strange reward of the spectral *ubume*, and then the air rang with plaudits for the brave Taira-no-Suyetake.

II.

The following narrative has its counter-part in the one-time Keltic belief—still prevalent in Wales and Ireland—that children were sometimes whisked away by elves or fairies; or in the Scandinavian superstition of human beings being carried off (and generally devoured at the end of the chapter) by monsters of the land and sea. It was a happy thought of our fore-fathers to account for the sudden (and often suspicious) disappearance of a peccant fellow-country-man by laying the blame on supernatural agencies. The origin of the following story may have been due to very natural causes; but the *Konjuku Monogatari*, with its centuries of accumulated and unquestioned credence, does not permit, at this late date, any close investigation into the why and wherefore of the strange incidents so gravely set forth therein.

In the fifth year of the reign of the Emperor Sakuramachi, the *Shaka-do*, or Hall of Sakya, on Mount Hie, in Kyoto, had to undergo certain repairs. Workmen of approved skill had been assembled from various parts of the Empire, and all through the winter months the great building had resounded with the knocking of hammers and the musical chorus of the labourers as they raised each great beam to its place. The foreman-builder was one Tatara Shirozaemon, of Omi; his chief assistant was an Otsu man named Ishiwara Seizaemon. So rapid and skilful had been their work that they received the honorary title of *odaikan*.

On the seventh day of March, at the hour of the ape (4 p.m.), a servant of the above-mentioned Ishiwara, Kinouchi Heizaemon by name, was suddenly missed. This was a stout and willing fellow and his disappearance was unaccountable. His age was a little above thirty, and he had never given his employer the slightest annoyance during many years of faithful service.

Ishiwara had all the workmen summoned to the temple court-yard, and soon scores of eager searchers were looking for traces of the missing man. In a little while his *geta* were discovered close to the Gyō-ei-in, an adjacent temple; but, strange to say, one of the clogs was just outside the gate while the other was found in the inner court-yard. In one corner of a garden near this temple lay his sword, bent quite out of shape. A little farther on they came across the scabbard, or rather what remained of it, broken in a thousand pieces. His dirk (*ko-gatana*) was there also, split into three. Heizaemon's girdle was next discovered, also torn into three pieces, as if by a giant's hand.

At the sight of these evidences of some terrific struggle with a superior force, the workmen, as well as Ishiwara himself, at once concluded that some demon or evil spirit had carried off the unfortunate Heizaemon, and the priesthood were called together to offer up prayers in his behalf. The search was, however, by no means given over; though the most painstaking investigations remained fruitless. The news of the strange incident soon spread over the whole city, so that before long every priest in Kyoto was beseeching the Heavenly Powers to restore the lost man. Another search was organized and fresh parties sent out to look in particular in such places as bore a bad reputation or were believed to be the haunt of evil spirits. The graves of certain ill-omened cemeteries were closely watched, especially the tomb of the priest Jikei Daishi, which is even to this day known to be a rallying place of wicked sprites and demons.

For two whole days nothing further was discovered, but at two o'clock in the morning of the third day, a fearful blast of wind came rushing over the holy mount and a tremendous rain began to pour down in torrents at the same time. In the midst of the storm a sonorous voice began calling loudly "*Tanomo, tanomo*"! Everybody on Mount Hie heard the gruesome voice distinctly, but there was hardly any one that would have ventured out; besides the whole hill was covered with a deep layer of snow, and this, together with the furious rain, made the night so dark that one could see nothing at all out of doors. The loud cries for admittance continued, so that finally a stout-hearted workman, hight Suzuki-no-Shichiro, went out to see who it was. As soon as he reached the outer court-yard of the Shakado, he became aware of the dim outline of something that looked like a huge winged monster, perched on the ridge of the roof. "It is fearful up here," cried the strange apparition; "for the love of pity, help me down!" "Why, is that, you, Heizaemon?" asked Shichiro. An immediate reply in the affirmative emboldened the questioner to draw nearer, when he saw that that which he had taken for wings was but an old broken umbrella, under which some apparently human being was trying to shield himself from the driving rain.

Shichiro rushed back to his waiting comrades and told them what he had seen. They ran out into the storm and above the roar of the wind and the hits of the pelting rain, could distinctly hear Heizaemon's piteous appeals for aid. One of them, a strong young fellow named Shirobei, clambered up to the roof, despite its being a most dangerous feat, and then crept cautiously along the ridge to the expectant Heizaemon. When he reached him, the latter had fallen into a dead faint, and it was only with the greatest difficulty and at the imminent risk of his own life that he was able to bring back the inanimate body of the long-missing man. Every effort was made to restore Heizaemon to his senses, but for three days he hung between life and death, all unconscious of the solicitude of his friends, and babbling of priests and demons. On the morning of the fourth day he began to regain his former strength, and shortly after gave the following remarkable account of his adventures:—"About one o'clock in the afternoon of the day I disappeared, I heard a rough voice calling me from my work. I stepped out and saw a short, squat priest, clad in a black stole and short *kanama*. Beside him stood a muscular, evil-visaged fellow with a red face and long straggling locks of coarse black hair. This unpleasant personage addressed me and rudely ordered me to ascend the roof of the Ahakado. I replied that I was a servant of Mr. Ishiwara and might not go anywhere without my master's permission, and then, seeing their dark and threatening looks, grasped the hilt of my sword and was about to draw it from the scabbard. In an instant they seized my sword, tore it from my grasp, broke the scabbard in three pieces, and to my unbounded surprise, bent the blade nearly double, as though it had been a willow-twig. The little priest then bade me give him my girdle. I begged him to excuse me, but he told me angrily that I must take it off. So soon as I had done so, the priest gave it just one touch with his staff, which had the effect of tearing it into three pieces. He then grasped me by the nape of my neck and in another second all three of us stood on the roof of the Shakado, just above the main porch. 'You must be punished for not having obeyed us at once,' said the little priest and with these words he began beating me in a most merciless fashion. While still savagely hitting me, he was joined by a third person, about ten feet high, dessed in red cap and clothes, who chided him for having so maltreated me. Then all three began a whispered conversation, while I lay groaning with pain. I couldn't see very distinctly but I noticed that some six or seven other beings were hovering in the air just above the ridge of the roof. The three then turned to me and said I must accompany them, to which I promptly consented, being half-crazed with fear. Some other beings thereupon flew down to us with a round, tray-like object in their hands, and I was commanded to take a seat on this. Though scarcely able to crawl, I managed to obey this behest. The two priests took place beside me, gave my shoulders a fierce push, and in a second the tray was flying through the air. They paid no heed to my fears, but said that we were going to Mount Akiba (near Hamamatsu in Totomi). We went like an arrow through the still cold air, far above the city, across Lake Biwa and the mountains beyond. At one time we skimmed along the surface of the ocean and I was paralysed with fright. Seeing this they called out, "*Mizu tadayowasu atawasu*:" Water cannot drown thee! I closed my eyes, and soon after the magic tray halted above Mount Akiba. I saw a fearful precipice below me, whence smoke and flame came belching forth. Though trembling with horror at the sight, my fearful masters bade me jump down into the flaming depth, and, as I hesitated, cried "*Hi-yaku atawasu*," the fire cannot burn thee. Shutting my eyes I made a desperate leap into what seemed instant death. I landed uninjured on a rock that jutted from one side of the hideous cavern, and found myself still in the company of those demon-priests. Once more we took our places on the tray and recommenced our aërial voyage. We sailed over scores of towns and hundreds of villages without even a pause. Ten days seemed to pass in this dread journey, and I began to plead humbly for permission to return. The priest in red paid no heed to my petitions but only muttered surlily, every now and then, 'They're watching my grave; I can't get him in there with me.' Then I knew that my friends in Kyoto were looking and praying for me, and supposed that the grim enchanter beside me must be the ill-omened priest Jikei Daishi. Cheered by the thought of the prayers being offered up on my

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behalf, I suddenly grasped the staff of the crimson-clad demon and called loudly on the name of Buddha,—when, in an instant, I felt myself falling through the air, heard the rush as of a mighty tempest, and found myself astride the roof-ridge of the Shakadō, with a broken umbrella instead of a staff in my clenched hand. It was I that called *Tanomō!* and had it not been for Shichirō and Shirobei, I had soon died."

This was all the story. It was soon told to the priests on Mount Hie, who offered up prayers and burned incense before the grim tomb of Jikei Daishi. Heizaemon was tenderly cared for, but ere the cherry-blossoms had ceased to fall he was dead.

III.

The Brothers Grimm were the first to give, in their famous fairy-tales, life and speech to inanimate objects. Hans Christian Anderson went even further and wove delicious bits of romance about dolls and tin soldiers. But it has been reserved for Japan to depict the most fanciful picture of all, and treat this subject in a manner peculiar to the land and its people. Where else can one find so amusing a legend as that of *Bumpuku Chagama*, the "Enchanted Tea-kettle," that grew all over fur and put out the head, limbs, and tail of a real badger? Mitford has given a fine translation of the story as told to Japanese children, but even he omits to relate the important fact that the tea-kettle afterwards entered the Japanese pantheon and was worshipped under the pleasing style of *Bumbuku Jinja*. "Of course there is no *real* god of this name," says the somewhat scandalized Japanese critic of this 27th year of *Meiji*. No, of course not! And yet people used to give this legend implicit belief; and tiny tea-pots of porcelain, modelled after the shape of a badger, were—not so very long ago—occasionally placed among the other miscellaneous Lares and Penates in that sacred household shrine, the *Kami-dana*.

Whether or not the following tale actually gave origin to the belief that inanimate objects frequently assume human or spectral shape or characteristic, is no longer determinable. The superstition is probably very old indeed. Only a few years ago, a striking instance occurred in Tokyo. For some months after a great fire in one of the outlying urban districts, a poor family had taken up their quarters in a deserted and dismantled *Kura*, or godown. Several nights in succession they heard a sort of groan or sob, which seemed to come from the ground just beneath the lintel of the door. They dug there, and found the sum of 300 gold pieces, of ancient Japanese coinage, which had evidently lain buried for centuries. "Heaven permitted," says the pious narrator, "this gold to emit a sound, in order to attract the attention of the poor but worthy people who stood so greatly in need of it."

Many years ago, there lived in Higashi Sanjo, one of the principal thoroughfares of Saikyo, a prince known as Hikibukyo-no-Miya. It happened that he saw on several occasions, while taking his ease in one of the cool matted chambers opening on the princely garden, a small, singularly misshapen being, about three feet in height. This strange little dwarf appeared to start somewhere out of the ground near one of the hedges, and thence waddled slowly towards a hill lying in a southerly direction from the garden. Reaching the foot of the hill, the dwarf invariably disappeared, "went out with a puff," it seemed, like a candle. The prince was very much astonished with this occurrence and questioned his domestics closely as to whether they knew anything of the curious little man. All protested, however, that they had never seen anything of him. His Highness continued his inquiries in other quarters, but only succeeded in exciting ridicule, and finally it got noised abroad that Hikibukyo-no-Miya was no wiser than he should be. Annoyed at this, the prince sent for a celebrated soothsayer and narrated to him what he had seen.

"*Denka*," replied the fortune-teller, "you have enjoyed a very rare sight. That was no real dwarf, nor yet was it a spectre, strictly speaking. I believe that it is the spirit of a large copper jar that, according to what your Highness tells me, must lie buried in the earth in a south-easterly direction from the garden-hedge, and between this and the foot of the opposite hill. Have the jar dug up and removed and the apparition will no longer make its appearance."

The prince was pleased with this advice and had his servants dig up the ground from the hedge outward in the prescribed direction. Not far from the base of the hill they discovered a huge copper vase, buried exactly three feet beneath the surface of the ground—which was just the height of the ungainly dwarf. The vase was removed, cleansed, and finally deposited in a neighbouring temple. Nothing was ever afterwards seen of the dwarf, so that the soothsayer had evidently been correct in his surmise. Ever since this time people have believed that even inanimate objects may assume human shape and become in this guise visible to beings of real flesh and blood.

P.S.—I learn that the original *Bumbuku Chamaga* is still in existence. It was exhibited in the Satake no Yashiki, at Mukojima, Tokyo, in April, 1890. From the description of one who saw and examined it at that time, it is an unusually large kettle, of some metallic alloy (perhaps bronze), bearing every mark of old age. A printed description of this remarkable utensil was distributed at the time of its exhibition, with a detailed account of its miraculous virtues and adventures. There can be no doubt that the majority of those who looked upon the *chagama* with reverent awe, were firmly convinced of the truth of the whole story; though my informant, himself a Japanese, is a bit of an iconoclast, he inclined to sneer at those who would credit the tale. Foreigners are now permitted to see it upon application to the proper authorities.

THE CHEMISTRY OF ANARCHY.

It has been said in the London papers that the dissolution of the Soho Anarchist League was caused by want of funds. This is very far from being the case. An Anarchist League has no need for funds, and, so long as there is money enough to buy beer, the League is sure of continued existence. The truth about the scattering of the Soho organisation was told me by a young newspaper-man who was chairman at the last meeting.

The young man was not an Anarchist, though he had to pretend to be one in the interests of his paper, and so joined the Soho League, where he made some fiery speeches that were much applauded. At last Anarchist news became a drug in the market, and the editor of the paper young Marshall Simkins belonged to, told him that he would now have to turn his attention to Parliamentary work, as he would print no more Anarchist news in the sheet.

One might think that young Simkins would have been glad to get rid of his Anarchist work, as he had no love for the cause. He was glad to get rid of it, but he found some difficulty in sending in his resignation. The moment he spoke of resigning the members became suspicious of him. He had always been rather better dressed than the others, and, besides, he drank less beer. If a man wishes to be in good standing in the League he must not be fastidious as to dress, and he must be constructed to hold at least a gallon of beer at a sitting. Simkins was merely a "quart" man, and this would have told against him all along if it had not been for the extra gunpowder he put in his speeches. On several occasions seasoned Anarchists had gathered about him and begged him to give up his designs on the Parliament buildings. The older heads claimed that, desirable as was the obliteration of the Houses off Parliament, the time was not yet ripe for it. England, they pointed out, was the only place where Anarchists could live and talk unmolested, so, while they were quite anxious that Simkins should go and blow up Vienna, Berlin, or Paris, they were not willing for him to begin on London. Simkins was usually calmed down with much difficulty, and finally, after hissing, "Cowards!" two or three times under his breath, he concluded with, "Oh, very well, then, you know better than I do—I am only a young recruit; but allow me at least to blow up Waterloo Bridge, or spring a bomb in Fleet Street just to show that we are up and doing."

But this the Anarchists would not sanction. If he wanted to blow up bridges, he could try his hand on those across the Seine. They had given their word that there would be no explosions in London so long as England afforded them an asylum.

"But look at Trafalgar Square," cried Simkins angrily; we are not allowed to meet there."

"Who wants to meet there?" said the chairman. "It is ever so much more comfortable in these rooms, and there is no beer in Trafalgar Square." "Yes, yes," put in several others; "the time is not yet ripe for it." Thus was Simkins calmed down, and beer allowed to flow again in tranquillity, while some foreign Anarchist, who was not allowed to set foot in his native country, would get up and harangue the crowd in broken English and tell them what great things would yet be done by dynamite.

But when Simkins sent in his resignation a change came over their feelings towards him, and he saw at once that he was a marked man. The chairman, in a whisper, advised him to withdraw his resignation. So Simkins, who was a shrewd young fellow, understanding the temper of the assembly, arose and said:—

"I have no desire to resign, but you do nothing except talk, and I want to belong to an Anarchist Society that acts." He stayed away from the next meeting, and tried to drop them in that way, but a committee from the League called upon him at his lodgings, and his landlady thought that young Simkins had got into bad ways when he had such evil-looking men visiting him.

Simkins was in a dilemma, and could not think what to do. The Anarchists apparently were not to be shaken off. He applied to his editor for advice on the situation, but that good man could think of no way out of the trouble.

"You ought to have known better," he said, "than to mix up with such people."

"But how was I to get the news?" asked Simkins, with some indignation. The editor shrugged his shoulders. That was not his part of the business; and if the Anarchists chose to make things uncomfortable for the young man, he could not help it.

Simkins' fellow-lodger, a student who was studying chemistry in London, noticed that the reporter was becoming gaunt with anxiety.

"Simkins," said Sedlitz to him one morning, "you are haggard and careworn: what is the matter with you? Are you in love, or is it merely debt that is bothering you?"

"Neither," replied Simkins.

"Then cheer up," said Sedlitz. "If one or the other is not bothering you, then anything else is easily remedied."

"I am not so sure of that," rejoined Simkins; and then he sat down and told his friend just what was troubling him.

"Ah," said Sedlitz, "that accounts for it. There has been a ruffianly-looking man marching up and down watching this house. They are on your track, Simkins, my boy, and when they discover that you are a reporter, and therefore necessarily a traitor, you will be nabbed some dark night."

"Well that's encouraging," said Simkins, with his head in his hands.

"Are these Anarchists brave men, and would they risk their lives in any undertaking?" asked Sedlitz.

"Oh, I don't know. They talk enough, but I don't know what they would do. They are quite capable, though, of tripping me up in a dark alley."

"Look here," said Sedlitz, "suppose you let me try a plan. Let me give them a lecture on the Chemistry of Anarchy. It's a fascinating subject."

"What good would that do?"

"Oh, wait till you have heard the lecture. If I don't make the hair of some of them stand on end, they are braver men than I except them to be. We have a large room in Clement's Inn, where we students meet to try experiments and smoke tobacco. It is half club, and half a lecture-room. Now, I propose to get those Anarchists in there, lock the doors, and tell them something about dynamite and other explosives. You give out that I am an Anarchist from America. Tell them that the doors will be locked to prevent police interference, and that there will be a barrel of beer. You can introduce me as a man from America, where they know as much about Anarchism in ten minutes as they do here in ten years. Tell them that I have spent my life in the study of explosives. I will have to make up a little, but you know that I am a very good amateur actor, and I don't think there will be any trouble about that. At the last you must tell them that you have an appointment and will leave me to amuse them for a couple of hours."

"But I don't see what good it is all going to do, though I am desperate" said Simkins, "and willing to try anything. I have thought some of firing a bomb off myself at an Anarchist meeting."

When the Friday night of meeting arrived the large hall in Clement's Inn was filled to the doors. Those assembled there saw a platform at one end of the apartment, and a door that led from it to a room at the back of the hall. A table was on the platform, and boxes, chemical apparatus, and other scientific-looking paraphernalia were on it. At the hour of eight young Simkins appeared before the table alone.

"Fellow Amarchists," he said, "you are all well aware that I am tired of the great amount of talk we do and the little action which follows it. I have been fortunate enough to secure the cō-operation of an Anarchist from America, who will tell you something of the cause there. We have had the doors locked, and those who keep the keys are now down at the entrance of the Inn, so that if a fire should occur they can quickly come and let us out. There is no great danger of fire, however, but the interruption of the police must be guarded against very carefully. The windows, as you see, are shuttered and barred, and no ray of light can penetrate from this room outside. Until the lecture is over no one can leave the room, and by the same

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token no one can enter it, which is more to the purpose.

"My friend, Professor Josiah P. Slivers, has devoted his life to the chemestry of Anarchy, which is the title of this lecture. He will tell you of some important discoveries, which are now to be made known for the first time. I regret to say that the Professor is not in a very good state of health, because the line of life which he has adopted has its drawbacks. His left eye has been blown away by a premature explosion during his experiments. His right leg is also permanently disabled. His left arm, as you will notice, is in a sling, having been injured by a little disaster in his workshop since he came to London. He is a man, as you will see, devoted body and soul to the cause, so I hope you will listen to him attentively. I regret that I am unable to remain with you to-night having other duties to perform which are imperative. I will therefore, if you will permit me, leave by the back entrance after I have introduced the Professor to you."

At this moment the stumping of a wooden leg was heard, and those in the audience saw appear a man on crutches, with one arm in a sling and a bandage over an eye, although he beamed upon them benevolently with the other.

"Fellow Anarchists," said, Simkins, "allow me to introduce to you Professor Josiah P. Slivers, of the United States."

The Professor bowed and the audience applauded. As soon as the applause began the Professor held up his unmaimed arm and said, "Gentlemen, I beg that you will not applaud."

It seems the fashion in America to address all sorts and conditions of men as "Gentlemen." The Professor continued, "I have here some explosives so sensitive that the slightest vibration will cause them to go off, and I therefore ask you to listen in silence to what I have to say. I must particularly ask you also not to stamp on the floor."

Before these remarks were concluded Simkins had slid out by the back entrance, and somehow his desertion seemed to have a depressing effect upon the company who looked upon the broken up Professor with eyes of wonder and apprehension.

The Professor drew towards him one of the boxes and opened the lid. He dipped his one useful hand into the box and, holding it aloft, he allowed something which looked like wet sawdust to drip through his fingers. "That, gentlemen," he said, with an air of the utmost contempt, "is what is known to the world as dynamite. I have nothing at all to say against dynamite. It has, in its day, been a very powerful medium through which our opinions have been imparted to a listening world, but its day is past. It is what the lumbering stage-coach is to the locomotive, what the letter is to the telegram, what the sailing vessel is to the steamship. It will be my pleasant duty to-night to exhibit to you an explosive so powerful and deadly that hereafter, having seen what it can accomplish, you will have nothing but derision for such simple and harmless compounds as dynamite and nitro-glycerine."

The Professor looked with kindly sympathy over his audience as he allowed the yellow mixture to percolate slowly through his fingers back into the box again. Ever and anon he took up a fresh handful and repeated the action.

The Anarchists in the audience exchanged uneasy glances one with the other.

"Yet," continued the Professor, "it will be useful for us to consider this substance for a few moments, if but for the purpose of comparison. Here," he said, diving his hand into another box and bringing up before their gaze a yellow brick, "is dynamite in a compressed form. There is enough here to wreck all this part of London, were it exploded. This simple brick would lay St. Paul's Cathedral in ruins, so, however antiquated dynamite may become, we must always look upon it with respect, just as we look upon reformers of centuries ago who perished for their opinions, even though their opinions were far behind what ours are now. I shall take the liberty of performing some experiments with this block of dynamite." Saying which the Professor, with his free arm, flung the block of dynamite far down the aisle, where it fell on the floor with a sickening thud. The audience sprang from their seats and tumbled back one over the other. A wild shriek went up into the air, but the Professor gazed placidly on the troubled mob below him with a superior smile on his face. "I beg you to seat yourselves," he said, "and for reasons which I have already explained, I trust that you will not applaud any of my remarks. You have just now portrayed one of the popular superstitions about dynamite, and you show by your actions how necessary a lecture of this sort is in order that you may comprehend thoroughly the substance with which you have to deal. That brick is perfectly harmless, because it is frozen. Dynamite in its frozen state will not explode—a fact well understood by miners and all those who have to work with it, and who, as a rule, generally prefer to blow themselves to pieces trying to thaw the substance before the fire. Will you kindly bring that brick back to me, before it thaws out in the heated atmosphere of this room?"

One of the men stepped gingerly forward and picked up the brick, holding it far from his body, as he tip-toed up to the platform, where he laid it down carefully on the desk before the Professor.

"Thank you," said the Professor, blandly.

The man drew a long breath of relief as he went back to his seat.

"That is frozen dynamite," continued the Professor, "and is, as I have said, practically harmless. Now, it will be my pleasure to perform two startling experiments with the unfrozen substance," and with that he picked up a handful of the wet sawdust and flung it on a small iron anvil that stood on the table. "You will enjoy these experiments," he said, "because it will show you with what ease dynamite may be handled. It is a popular error that concussion will cause dynamite to explode. There is enough dynamite here to blow up this hall and to send into oblivion every person in it, yet you will see whether or not concussion will explode it." The Professor seized a hammer struck the substance on the anvil two or three sharp blows, while those in front of him scrambled wildly back over their comrades, with hair standing on end. The Professor ceased his pounding and gazed reproachfully at them; then something on the anvil appeared to catch his eye. He bent over it and looked critically on the surface of the iron. Drawing himself up to his full height again, he said, "I was about to reproach you for what might have appeared to any other man as evidence of fear, but I see my mistake. I came very near making a disastrous error. I have myself suffered from time to time from similar errors. I notice now upon the anvil a small spot of grease; if my hammer had happened to strike there you would all now be writhing in your death agonies under the ruins of this building. Nevertheless, the lesson is not without its value. That spot of grease is free nitro-glycerine that has oozed out from the dynamite. Therein rests, perhaps, the only danger in handling dynamite. As I have shown you, you can smash up dynamite on an anvil without danger, but if a hammer happened to strike a spot of free nitro-glycerine it would explode in a moment. I beg to apologise to you for my momentary neglect."

A man rose up in the middle of the hall, and it was some little time before he could command voice enough to speak, for he was shaking as if from palsy. At last he said, after he had moistened his lips several times:—

"Professor, we are quite willing to take your word about the explosive. I think I speak for all my comrades here. We have no doubt at all about your learning, and would much prefer to hear from your own lips what you have to say on the subject, and not have you waste any more valuable time with experiments. I have not consulted with my comrades before speaking, but I think I voice the sense of the meeting." Cries of "You do, you do," came from all parts of the hall. The Professor once more beamed upon them benevolently.

"Your confidence in me is indeed touching," he said, "but a chemical lecture without experiments is like a body without a soul. Experiment is the soul of research. In chemistry we must take nothing for granted. I have shown you how many popular errors have arisen regarding the substance with which we are dealing. It would have been impossible for these errors to have arisen if every man had experimented for himself; and although I thank you for the mark of confidence you have bestowed upon me, I cannot bring myself to deprive you of the pleasure which my experiments will afford you. There is another very common error to the effect that fire will explode dynamite. Such, gentlemen, is not the case."

The Professor struck a match on his trousers-leg and lighted the substance on the anvil. It burnt with a pale blush flame, and the Professor gazed around triumphantly at his fellow Anarchists.

While the shuddering audience watched with intense fascination the pale blue flame the Professor suddenly stooped over and blew it out. Straightening himself once more, he said, "Again I must apologise to you, for again I have forgotton the small spot of grease. If the flame had reached the spot of nitro-glycerine it would have exploded, as you all know. When a man has his thought concentrated on one subject he is apt to forget something else. I shall make no more experiments with dynamite. Here John," he said to the trembling attendant, "take this box away and move it carefully, for I see that the nitro-glycerine is oozing out. Put it as tenderly down in the next room as if it were a box of eggs."

As the box disappeared there was a simultaneous long-drawn sigh of relief from the audience.

"Now gentlemen," said the Professor, "we come to the subject that ought to occupy the minds of all thoughtful men." He smoothed his hair complacently with the palm of his practicable hand, and smiled genially around him.

"The substance that I am about to tell you of is my own invention, and compares, with dynamite as prussic acid does with new milk as a beverage." The Professor dipped his fingers in his vest pocket and drew out what looked like a box of pills. Taking one pill out he placed it upon the anvil and as he tip-toed back he smiled on it with a smile of infinite tenderness. "Before I begin on the subject I want to warn you once more that if any man as much as stamps upon the floor, or moves about except on tip-toe this substance will explode and will lay London from here to Charing Cross, in one mass of indistinguishable ruins. I have spent ten years of my life in completing this invention. And these pills, worth a million a box, will cure all ills to which the flesh in heir."

"John," he said, turning to his attendant, "bring me a basin of water!" The basin of water was gingerly placed upon the table, and the Professor emptied all the pills into it, picking up also the one that was on the anvil and putting it with the others.

"Now," he said, with a deep sigh, "we can breathe easier. A man can put one of these pills in a little vial of water, put the vial in his vest-pocket, go to Trafalgar Square, take the pill from the vial, throw it in the middle of the Square, and it will shatter everything within the four-mile radius, he himself having the glorious privilege of suffering instant martyrdom for the cause. People have told me that this a drawback to my invention, but I am inclined to differ with them. The one who uses this must make up his mind to share the fate of those around him. I claim that this is the crowning glory of my invention. It puts to instant test our interest in the grear cause. John, bring in very carefully that machine with the electric-wire attachment from the next room."

The machine was placed upon the table. "This," said the Professor, holding up some invisible object between his thumb and forefinger, "is the finest cambric needle. I will take upon the point of it an invisible portion of the substance I speak of." Here he carefully picked out a pill from the basin, and as carefully placed it upon the table, where he detached an infinitesimal atom of it and held it up on the point of the needle. "This particle," he said, "is so small that it cannot be seen except with the aid of a microscope. I will now place needle and all on the machine and touch it off with electric current"; and as his hand hovered over the push-button there were cries of "Stop! stop!" but the finger descended, and instantly there was a terrific explosion. The very foundations seemed shaken, and a dense cloud of smoke rolled over the heads of the audience. As the Professor, became visible through the thinning smoke, he looked around for his audience. Every man was under the benches, and groans came from all parts of the hall. "I hope," said the Professor, in anxious tones, "that no one has been hurt. I am afraid that I took up too much of the substance on the point of the needle, but it will enable you to imagine the effect of a large quantity. Pray seat yourselves again. This is my last experiment."

As the audience again seated itself, another mutual sigh ascended to the roof. The Professor drew the chairman's chair towards him and sat down wiping his grimy brow.

A man instantly arose and said, "I move a vote of thanks to Professor Slivers for the interesting———"

The Professor raised his hand. "One moment," he said, "I have not quite finished. I have a proposal to make to you. You see that cloud of smoke hovering over our heads? In twenty minutes that smoke will percolate down through the atmosphere. I have told you but half of the benefits of this terrific explosive. When that smoke mixes with the atmosphere of the room it becomes a deadly poison. We all can live here for the next nineteen minutes in perfect safety, then at the first breath we draw we expire instantly. It is a lovely death. There is no pain, no contortion of the countenance, but we will be found here in the morning stark and stiff in our seats. I propose, gentlemen, that we teach London the great lesson it so much needs. No cause is without its martyrs. Let us be the martyrs of the great religion of Anarchy. I have left in my room papers telling just how and why we died. At midnight these sheets will be distributed to all the newspapers of London, and to-morrow the world will ring with our heroic names. I will now put the motion. All in favour of this signify it by the usual upraising of the right hand."

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The Professor's own right hand was the only one that was raised.

"Now all of a contrary opinion," said the Professor, and at once every hand in the audience went up.

"The noes have it" said the Professor, but he did not seem to feel badly about it. "Gentlemen," he continued, "I see that you have guessed my second proposal, as I imagined you would, and though there will be no newspapers in London to-morrow to chronicle the fact, yet the newspapers of the rest of the world will tell of the destruction of this wicked city. I see by your looks that you are with me in this, my second proposal, which is the most striking thing ever planned, and is that we explode the whole of these pills in the basin. To make sure of this, I have sent to an agent in Manchester the full account of how it was done, and the resolutions brought forward at this meeting, and which doubtless you will accept.

"Gentlemen, all in favour of the instant destruction of London signify it in the usual manner."

"Mr. Professor," said the man who had spoken previously, "before you put that resolution I would like to move an amendment. This is a very serious proposal, and should not be lightly undertaken. I move as an amendment, therefore, that we adjourn this meeting to our rooms at Soho, and do the exploding there. I have some little business that must be settled before this grand project is put in motion."

The Professor then said:—"Gentlemen, the amendment takes precedence. It is moved that this meeting be adjourned, so that you may consider the project at your club-rooms in Soho."

"I second that amendment," said fifteen of the audience rising together to their feet.

"In the absence of the regular chairman," said the Professor, "it my duty to put the amendment. All in favour of the amendment signify it by raising the right hand."

Every hand was raised. "The amendment, gentlemen, is carried. I shall be only too pleased to meet you to-morrow night at your club, and I will bring with me a larger quantity of my explosive.

"John, kindly go round and tell the man to unlock the doors."

When Simkins and Slivers called round the next day at the regular meeting-place of the Anarchists, they found no signs of a gathering, and never since the lecture has the Soho Anarchist League been known to hold a meeting. The Club has mysteriously dissolved.—ROBERT BARR in *The Chemist and Druggist*.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, March 14.

An amendment has been introduced in the House of Commons, by Mr. Labouchere, to the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, to deprive the House of Lords of the power to reject bills carried through the House of Commons. *The Times* says that this means the breaking up of the alliance whereby the Government retains office, and renders an early dissolution of Parliament inevitable.

(SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN DAIL MAIL.")
[FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, March 3.

The Indian Budget provides for an import duty on silver of five per cent.

Mr. Gladstone moved the adoption of the amendments, made by the House of Lords in the Parish Councils Bill, under protest. He strongly condemned the amendments made by the Peers in the Bill. The Bill was then adopted.

The Bland Seignorage Bill has passed the U.S. House of Representatives.

March 5.

Mr. Labouchere and twenty Radical members of Parliament have had an interview with the Liberal Whip, their object being to protest against a Peer being appointed Premier.

March 6.

Mr. Gladstone is suffering from a cataract, and an ultimate operation upon his eye is inevitable.

A large majority of the House of Commons is in favour of Lord Rosebery as Premier. The Anti-Parnellites will support him, but the Parnellites are bitterly opposed to his Lordship. Mr. Labouchere's followers favour Sir William Vernon Harcourt.

March 7.

The Speech from the Throne closing the session was of the briefest description. It merely referred to the advantages derivable from the Parish Councils Bill, and the limitation of the hours of labour. No allusion was made to the foreign policy of the Government.

March 8.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, leader of the House of Commons, remains Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. H. H. Fowler has accepted the post of Secretary for India, and Mr. Shaw Lefevre succeeds the last named gentleman as President of the Local Government Board. Mr. Thomas Edward Ellis, Junior Lord of the Treasury, has been appointed Liberal Whip.

The Duke of Devonshire, speaking at Yeovil, on behalf of the Liberal Unionists promised no factious opposition to the Government. He stated that they were bitterly opposed to Home Rule, but would be in no hurry to displace the Government if it shelved Home Rule, considered measures in the financial interests of the country, and took steps to strengthen the Navy.

March 9.

Newspapers of all shades of opinion welcome the appointment of Lord Rosebery as Premier.

Mr. Gladstone has been feverish, the result of a chill, and is confined to his bed.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone takes the place of Mr. Shaw Lefevre as First Commissioner of Works.

March 10.

Lord Tweedmouth has been appointed Lord Privy Seal, with a seat in the Cabinet.

A Parnellite Manifesto has been issued, which states that Mr. Gladstone's resignation was the outcome of a scheme to shelve Home Rule, and the party has no confidence in Lord Rosebery.

Hongkong, March 8.

The *Tantalus* went ashore on the Ninepins in a dense fog, and is badly damaged. No lives have been lost. Steamers have gone to her assistance.

Hongkong, March 9.

The *Tantalus* has been brought safely into harbour, and docked.

[Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Hearnden, of Nanking, were passengers from Shanghai by the *Tantatus*.]

London, March 10.

Lord Reay (late Governor of Bombay) has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for India, and Mr. George W. E. Russell (Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the India Office) has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Sir Frank C. Lascelles, G.C.M.G. (late Envoy to Persia), has received the appointment of British Ambassador at St. Petersburg.

Mr. Gladstone is progressing favourably.

London, March 12.

Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, K.C.I.E,. late Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, succeeds Sir Frank C. Lascelles as British Minister to Persia.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Fukuoka, March 14, 5 p.m.

Fire suddenly broke out last night in the Shinniu Coal-mine in the Kurate District of this Prefecture, and a number of miners were killed or wounded.

Fukuoka Prefectural Office, March 15, 7 a.m.

To the Department of Home Affairs.

The number of men in the Shinniu Coal-mine, Kurate District, at the time of the fire, was 755, of whom 18 were killed. The mouth of the pit was stopped, but as the fire continues to burn fiercely, the mine is being flooded. The cause of the fire is not known.

Kagoshima, March 15, 5.55 p.m.

The parliamentary election in the 7th district of this Prefecture resulted in the return of Mr. Oshima Shin, who obtained 52 votes.

Miyazaki, March 14, 3.58 p.m.

A mob of over one thousand *Min-to* partisans, in consequence of the late election excitement, have been behaving in a most disorderly manner at Takaoka, and thirty, police have been sent there to restore order.

Sapporo, March 14, 9.15 p.m.

A violent gale visited this to-day, and several weak shocks of earthquake were felt.

Hokkaido, March 14, 3.05 p.m.

About seven o'clock on the night of the 4th inst. a fatal snow-slip occurred at Oshidomarimura, Rijiri District, Kitami Province. One hotel was destroyed, and six inmates were crushed to death.

Kumamoto, March, 15, 10.40 a.m.

The election of members of the Prefectural Assembly is an entire victory for the *Kokken-ha* condidates.

Niigata, March 16th, 1.15 p.m.

A number of *Kaishin-to* partisans in the Third District of this Prefecture have been arrested on suspicion of having infringed the Election Law.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.)

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 112.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to Q 4 (threatening both Q to K R 3 and Q × B)	1—Anything
2—Q, R, Kt or P mates accordingly.	

Correct solutions received from Omega (who points out that there is a dual mate if Black's B goes to K Kt 4), W.H.S., J.D., Dr. Hispanus, Aling, Shogi, and Digamma.

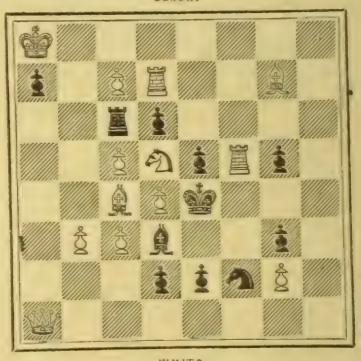
Correct solutions of No. 111 from J.W.E. and Aling.

Solvers are requested to send their solutions to the Chess Problem Editor, *Japan Mail* Office, No. 51, and not to members of the Committee of the Chess Club.

PROBLEM No. 114.

By A. L. JORDAN, Nagasaki.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

In connection with the above problem, Mr. Jordan writes:—"In composing it for your valuable column, I wished to try the skill of your solvers in a somewhat new way, but in working out that idea, the problem may have become rather easy and weak"—an opinion in which our solvers, we are sure, will not agree with the talented composer—"but I thought that, with the additional condition annexed, it might as a whole be nevertheless of interest." The condition referred to is as follows:—To show that the problem would be defective in respect of one of the most important laws which a problem should fulfil, if the position of the Black Pawn at R 2 and of the White Pawn at B 7 were interchanged.

Nothing fresh in local chess matters. The end of the Championship contest is in sight, Mr. Balk having won two games in the final round. The energetic action of the Secretary also promises to bear fruit in the handicap tourney; and there is no doubt that these prizes will be duly presented on the 30th instant. The preparations for that great day are being pushed on a-main, and an addition to the attractions will consist in having flash-light photographs taken of the assembled chessists. Both Clubs are eagerly practising for the match, and Yokohama will have to substitute two men for Messrs. Pollak and Squier, both of whom will be absent from Yokohama at the end of this month.

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The teams are not definitely fixed as yet, but the following are probable :—

Tokyo.	Yokohama.
Cox.	Balk.
King.	Batavus.
Madeley.	Davieson.
Mason.	Ekstrand.
McGee.	Fardel.
Mosthaf.	Griffin.
Munzinger.	Kuhn.
Pownall.	Mendelson.
Walz.	Schiff.
White.	Tennant.

Captain Brinkley has consented to act as Umpire and Adjudicator of any unfinished games.

We clip the following from a San Francisco exchange. It seems that our beloved game does not flourish there so well as it ought. Let us hope that a wave of prosperity will soon visit our friends there, and that we shall presently see the metropolis of the Pacific coast take a foremost place in the Chess world.

"The San Francisco Chess Club has not yet been revived, and many persons go so far as to express the opinion that it will not be for some time to come. The reason for this, they state, is that many of the members of the old club were dissatisfied, owing to the lack of interest displayed by some of the officers in its welfare, and these members are therefore disinclined to essay another trial, fearing that if the project were carried to a successful issue it might eventually die of inanition.

"There is not the least doubt that if one or two of the influential players in the city, gentlemen with some little time at their disposal, were to put their shoulders to the wheel and give the project the attention it deserves, a first-class club would be speedily organized, and if suitable officers were elected, would become a popular and growing institution.

"It is well known that many players do not care to spend their evenings in the chessroom attached to the Mechanics' Institute, which is really the headquarters of the game, and this is not to be wondered at. It is true that a visitor to the library rarely has occasion to wait for an opponent: there is always some one ready and willing to try conclusions with him, which is, perhaps, more than could be said of the Chess Club, now disbanded, yet the want of comfort everywhere apparent tends to render the place unattractive to many. The secret of the popularity of the Mechanics' chessroom is no doubt its location, which renders it easily accessible from any part of the city, and also the nominal subscription which is paid by its members."

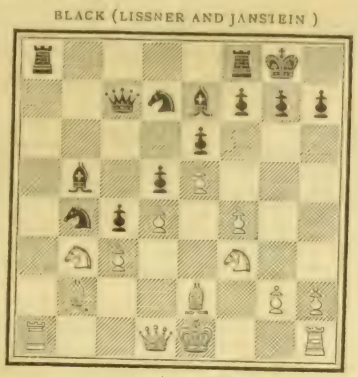
The perambulation of Canada and the Eastern States by the great master Steinitz seems to have given an impetus to Chess in America. We give some further extracts which are interesting, one of them showing that the coming Pillsbury is rapidly developing into a *sans-voir* player of no mean ability.

An "off-hand skirmish" that occurred recently in Montreal is given below :—

White. Mr. Fleming.	Black. Mr. Steinitz.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to Q B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—P to K B 4	3—P × P
4—Kt to K B 3	4—P to K Kt 4
5—P to K R 4	5—P to K Kt 5
6—Kt to K Kt 5	6—P to Q 3
7—P to Q 4	7—P to B 6
8—P × P	8—P to R 3
9—Kt × B P	9—K × Kt
10—B to B 4, ch.	10—K to K sq.
11—B to K 3	11—Kt to B 3
12—P to B 4	12—P to Kt 6
13—Q to B 3	13—Kt to Q R 4
14—B to Q 3	14—P to Kt 7
15—Q × P	15—R to K Kt sq.
16—Q to Q 2	16—B to K Kt 5
17—Kt to K 2	17—P to B 4
18—B to Kt 5, ch.	18—K to B 2
19—P to K 5	19—P to Q R 3
20—P × Kt	20—P × B
21—Q to Q 3	21—Q × P
22—Q × P	22—Q to K 3
23—B to Q 2	23—Kt to B 5
24—Q × P ch.	24—B to K 2
25—R to R 2	25—P to Q 4
26—P to Kt 3	26—B × Kt
27—R × B	27—R to Kt 8, ch.
28—K to B 2	28—R to Kt 7, ch.
29—K × R	29—Q × R, ch.
30—K to R 3	30—Q to B 6, ch.
31—K to R 2	31—R to K Kt sq.
32—Resigns.	

A large concourse of people attended to witness the games played by Steinitz at the rooms of the New York Chess Club a few days ago. The champion conducted simultaneously four games against the strongest players of the club in consultation. The performance lasted over five hours, and at the close Steinitz had scored two wins and lost one, while the last game was abandoned owing to the lateness of the hour. In the game lost by Steinitz the allies played a French defence. It will be seen by reference to the diagram given below that Steinitz made a slip by capturing a pawn with his pawn instead of taking it with his knight on the fourteenth move.

BLACK (LISSNER AND JANSTEIN)



WHITE (STEINITZ.)

Black played here B—Q R 5, whereupon White had nothing better than to give up the exchange. The allies, playing with consummate skill, won finally a piece, whereupon Steinitz resigned on the thirty-second move.

H. N. Pillsbury gave another of his blindfold exhibitions at the Manhattan Chess Club of New York recently, and from the team of eight players pitted against him, he succeeded in winning six and drawing two games without suffering a single defeat.

The tournament committee recently appointed by the board of directors of the New York State Chess Association held a meeting a few weeks ago at the rooms of the Manhattan Chess Club in New York, in order to prepare for the annual tournament which always take place on Washington's birthday. The association will this year strive hard to have this meeting surpass all former ones as to surroundings, prizes, etc.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Mar. 23rd.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 18th.*
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, Mar. 19th.†
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 18th.‡
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, Mar. 23rd.§
From America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 27th.‖
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, Mar. 21st.
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 24th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 29th.

* *Oceanic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on February 27th.
† *Empress of China* left Vancouver on March 5th. ‡ *Oxus* left Kobe on March 17th. § *Belgic* left Hongkong on March 16th.
‖ *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on March 8th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Niobe*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 18th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 20th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Mar. 20th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, Mar. 23rd.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 24th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 24th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, Mar. 30th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 31st.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, April 3rd.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Pathan, British steamer, 1,763, Wright, 10th March,—New York viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tritos, German steamer, 1,085, Dessler, 10th March,—Takao, 32,500 bags Sugar.—Flint, Kilby & Co.

Feronia, British steamer, 1,930, Butterwick, 10th March,—Batoum, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Isis, British steamer, 1,588, Ferrent, 10th March,—Falmouth viâ ports, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Myrmidon, British steamer, 1,815, 10th March,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Mary Ellen, British schooner, 63 W. D. Hughes, 11th March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Mary Taylor, British schooner, 47, Robbins, 11th March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Capt.

Oscar II, Norwegian steamer, 1,999, Arnsan, 11th March,—New York viâ Shanghai, Oil and General.—Frazar & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 11th March,—Kobe 10th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, F. L. Sommer, 11th March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Willard Ainsworth, American schooner, 40, Crockett, 11th March,—Seattle, Wash., 6th January, Sealing Gear.—O. O Decker.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 12th March,—Hongkong 2nd, Nagasaki 8th, and Kobe 11th March, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Oscar and Hattie, British schooner, 82, Magnasen, 13th March,—Tokyo 13th March, Ballast.—Captain.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 13th March,—Takao, Sugar.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ocean Belle, British schooner, 84, T. O'Leary, 13th March,—Victoria, B.C., 18th January, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Bellona, German steamer, 2,032, 14th March,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Ixion, British steamer, 2,299, Nish, 14th March,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 14th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, 7th March, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 14th March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Annie Paint, British schooner, 82, Bissett, 14th March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Jane Gray, American schooner, 107, 14th March,—San Francisco, Sealing Gear,—Captain.

Arietis, British schooner, 86, W. Douglas, 15th March,—Victoria, B.C., viâ San Francisco, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,240, Olsen, 15th March,—Hakodate 13th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 16th March,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

W. P. Hall, British schooner, 98, J. B. Brown, 16th March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 130, J. T. Harrison, 16th March,—Guam, Copra.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 16th March,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

H. M. Pollock, British steamer, 1,623, Wm. McDowell, 17th March,—Middlesboro', General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, J. R. Hill, 10th March,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Calédonien, French steamer, 2,500, Flandin, 11th March,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 11th March,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Glenesk, British steamer, 2,275, Webster, 11th March,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 11th March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pathan, British steamer, 1,763, Wright, 12th March,—New York viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Spondilus, British steamer, 2,350, Hocken, 12th March,—London viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 13th March,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

May Belle, British schooner, 57, E. Shields, 13th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Frazar & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 13th March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tritos, German steamer, 1,085, Dessler, 13th March,—Takao, Ballast.—Flint, Kilby & Co.

Carlotta G Cox, British schooner, 82, W D. Byers, 14th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

E. A. Wilson, British schooner, 98, J. C. Harris, 15th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

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Myrmidon, British steamer, 1,815, R. Nelson, 14th March,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Itsukushima Kan (12), Japanese cruiser, Captain K. Ijichi, 15th March,—Yokosuka.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 15th March,—Yokosuka, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,580, H. Walter, 16th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 16th March,—San Francisco, viâ Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,240, Olsen, 17th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Donohue, Miss Beck, Miss Wallace, Mr. C. B. Forman, Miss H. Alway, Mr. Attwood, Mr. Tyler, Rev. A. Webb, Mrs. and Mr. Wilson, Mr. Jack Young, Mr. G. Gilligan, and Colonel M. Peck in cabin.

Per British steamer *China*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Quin, H.B.M. Consul, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Buxton and child, Mr. Rosenfeld, Mr. K. Okamoto, Miss C. Loxton, Mr. H. Nakamura, and Mr. C. Gibbens in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. Tomes, 2 children, and European servant, Mr. and Mrs. Fagg, Mr. E. Sackerman, Mr. Reid, Mrs. Glover, Lieutenant Houston, U.S.N., Mrs. Aulin and child, Dr. H. M. Brown, and Mr. A. J. Nichols in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Howard, Miss Richard, Miss Hennesey, Miss G. Stewart, Mr. J. W. Lee, Mr. Geo. H. Wheeler, Mr. K. Miyagawa, His Excellency Mr. E. Dun, Mr. H.W. Denison, Mr. Ishibashi, Mr. N. Macondray, and Dr. J. H. Tripler in cabin; Messrs. F. C. Tunnell, R. Nagashima, Ikuta, and A. Harada in second class, and 30 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Calédonien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Miss Sale, Miss Lilian Slane, Mr. Robert S. Sale, Mr. F. Hardy, Mrs. T. Monteggia, Messrs. W. Murray, M. Erahimjee, H. Delmas, G. Couzineau, H. Osborne, Asakura Yeijiro, Mrs. Shiraishi Mune, Mr. Metivier, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Scott, Messrs. Odon Vinals, E. Kitakoga, A. J. McDonell, J. A. Brandenburg, Nakajima, J. M. Rosenthal, and Mitsuaki Kasahara in cabin; 4 seamen and one Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Kenderdine and child, Admiral Aiura, General Nozu, Captain Curnow, Master E. Steele and amah, Messrs. P. B. Pol, Y. Shimazaki, N. Shiba, S. Kishi, Matsumoto, Takashima, and S. Mikami in cabin; Miss Funaki, Misses T. and M. Inagaki, Messrs. S. Yoshiwara, Ohinouye, Wong Kai Wing, W. H. Young, Y. Kamamoto, and Y. Inagaki in second class, and 59 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—Miss H. Alway, Mrs. Aulin, child, and infant, Mr. J. T. Boag, Dr. H. M. Brown, Miss K. S. Birnstingl, Mr. and Mrs. Barclay J. Buxton and two children, Captain and Mrs. du Buisson, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Bull, Rev. and Mrs. James Craighead, Mr. J. W. Crown, Mr. N. Depuis, Mrs. M. Donohue and maid, Mr. J. R. Davison, Consul Johs Fuhr, Mr. Charles Fine, Mr. R. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Fagg, Mrs. Glover, Mr. R. B. Grinnan and two daughters, Lieut. N. T. Houston, U.S.N., Mr. A. J. Kendall, Mr. F. C. G. Menzies, Miss Mary Mailes, Dr. Millot, Mr. A. G. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. A. Peterson, Mr. J. J. Quin, H.B.M.'s Consul at Nagasaki, Mr. Reid, Mr. E. Sackermann, Mrs. A. J. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. B. O. Squier, Mr. and Mrs. Tomes, two children, and maid, Mr. Wasserfall, Miss Wallace, Miss E. White and maid, Mr. S. F. Wombwell, and Mr. G. H. Wheeler in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	HONOLULU.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	257	—	—	—	257
Hongkong	151	31	—	167	—	349
Amoy	—	4,097	—	—	—	4,079
Calcutta	20	—	—	—	—	20
Total	171	4,385	—	167	—	4,723

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	310	—	310
Hongkong	—	216	—	216
Yokohama	—	407	100	507
Total	—	933	100	1,033

Per French steamer *Calédonien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for Europe, 1,061 bales. Treasure for Kobe, $302,000.

Per British steamer *Tacoma*, for Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—

TEA.

	PACIFIC COAST.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	CANADA.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	305	—	—	—	305
Yokohama	35	—	—	—	—	35
Hongkong	102	—	1,233	—	—	1,335
Total	137	305	1,233	—	—	1,675

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama	74	—	74
Total	74	—	74

REPORTS.

The British steamer *China*, Captain Wm. Ward, reports:—Left Hongkong the 7th March; had foggy weather through Formosa Channel; rain and cloudy weather across Eastern Sea to Nagasaki; thence to port fine weather.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Imported goods generally are not in a good position, as the country folk express their intention of restricting consumption at the threatened high prices. In Grey Yarn and Shirtings there has been some symptoms of excitement. These things must be had to some extent and dealers find that they have to pay up accordingly. Consequently our quotations are more or less nominal until we see exactly where the market is. Woollens quiet pending developments.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 2.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1 75 to 3.57
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0 16 to 0 21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.55 to 1 70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1 80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.80
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3 00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0 30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0 22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.45 to 0 57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39 00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39·50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	40.00 to 40.50
Nos. 28/32, Medium	41 00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	42.00 to 43 00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Nothing fresh in this market. Holders are strong and will probably secure their asking prices when dealers are compelled to operate.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3 70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	6 00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.70 to 1.75

KEROSENE.

The market sales very firm, but quotations are unchanged. Distributors seem in fairly good shape and the outlook is by no means bad if supplies are not excessive. Deliveries are fair both of American and Russian oil.

Chester	$1.72½ to 1.75
Comet	1.70 to 1.72½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.67½ to 1.70
Russian Moon	1.65 to 1.67½

SUGAR.

Market seems fairly buoyant and holders are sanguine as to the prospect. Nothing of immediate interest to note, but the trade seems to be running on a fairly even keel.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.45 to 4.50
Brown Manila	5.30 to 5.35
Brown Daitong	4.10 to 4.15
Brown Canton	4.40 to 4.60
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.00
White Refined	7.50 to 9.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 9th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 794 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 613 piculs; *Re-reels*, 161 piculs; *Kakeda*, 20 piculs. Direct shipments have been 121 bales, making the total export business of the week about 900 piculs.

There has been much less doing this week and the spurt seems to have pretty well died away. In some classes Japanese are inclined to be current, because they realize the fact that the stock at present is 10,000 piculs; that spring reelings will soon be coming in and add to that stock; and that the season is well advanced. It is not likely that they will have many more such opportunities to push off any considerable portion of their stock before the coming new crop tends further to complicate matters. Their position is not nearly so good as it was a year ago, although the abnormally low exchange has assisted them by giving them more dollars for their silk just now than they even dreamed of a few months back.

Italy still remains a strong competitor and consumption is disappointing; in fact, there seems more than enough silk to go round and unless some disaster happens to the crops during the next three months, we must look for a continued period of low prices through the present year.

Exchange seems to be weakening again and no one knows what is in store for us in this direction.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The N. P. steamer *Tacoma*, 10th instant, carried 74 bales for the New York trade; the French mail steamer *Caledonien*, 11th instant, took 1,061 bales for Europe and the P.M.S.S. *China*, which left port to-day, carries 507 bales for the United States markets. These departures bring the present export figures up to 35,150 piculs, against 43,800 piculs last year and 40,825 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Filatures.—By far the greatest trade has been in these, fine sizes for Europe having the preference. Sellers do their best to push up prices and one or two small parcels of Extra are reported done at a very high figure—somewhere near $900—but this requires confirmation. As a rule, prices have not advanced much on these sorts since last week, and probably with a little effort last week's rates would be practicable. With regard to full-sized *Filatures*, holders are strong because of the paucity of the stock. *Tokosha* has again been done at $790, and this may be considered as a basis for quotations at the present time.

Rereels.—There has been some business doing, chiefly in medium kinds, at prices ranging from $700 to $760, with inferior at $680 down to $650. Nothing done in well known chops just recently.

Kakeda.—A small business in these, holders asking too much money. For *Horsehead* I they demand $725, while *Musume* I can be done, and has been done, in small quantity at $715. Other sorts at proportionate prices.

Oshu kinds have given rise to no business this week.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1½	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$820 to 830
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	820 to 830
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	730 to 740
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	730 to 740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom. —
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	780 to 790
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	740 to 750
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	710 to 720
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	670 to 680
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	650 to 660
Kakedas—Extra	Nom. —
Kakedas—No. 1	740 to 750
Kakedas—No. 1½	710 to 720
Kakedas—No. 2	680 to 690
Kakedas—No. 2½	660 to 670
Kakedas—No. 3	—

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Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2 Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4 Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 16th March, 1894.

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93	1891-90.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	18,763	16,930	14,569
America	15,306	26,104	25,329
Total { Bales	34,069	43,034	39,898
Total { Piculs	35,150	43,800	40,825
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	36,000	43,950	42,150
Stock, 16th March	10,000	1,900	7,850
Available supplies to date	46,000	45,850	50,000

WASTE SILK.

There has been rather more business doing the last two or three days and settlements for the week amount to 696 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 289 piculs; *Kibiso*, 357 piculs; *Mawata*, 50 piculs. No direct shipment this week.

Again the principal demand has run upon *Noshi* and *Kibiso*, with one small transaction in *Mawata*. Dealers are perhaps more disposed to be current at quotations, but they will not reduce their prices sufficiently to induce a large business. They seem to think that with the low exchange now ruling they ought to be able to obtain some increase rather than decrease in prices. We think, however, that if they want to move any considerable quantity of their stock they must make concessions.

There has been no export during the week, none of the steamers leaving port taking any cargo. The export figures therefore remain 21,681 piculs for the present season, against 33,012 piculs last year and 25,984 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Pierced Cocoons.—Nothing done for export, and the remaining stock will probably be absorbed by the internal trade.

Noshi.—The principal transactions have been in *Oshu*, prices ranging from $135, while fair *Joshu* has been done at $79, with common at $65. Retail transactions in *Filature* at $130 and $140.

Kibiso.—Some little revival in demand and a good many *Filatures* have been placed at prices ranging from $100 to $110. *Zaguri* has brought $60, while in other kinds nothing has been done.

Mawata.—One purchase has been made, probably for the United States trade, at $175.

Sundries.—No movement at all; everything quite neglected.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to 110
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	170 to 180

Export Table Waste Silk to 16th March, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	18,450	30,320	23,889
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,095
	21,681	33,012	25,984
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	23,500	40,700	27,375
Stock, 16th March	16,600	2,700	10,625
Available supplies to date	40,100	43,400	38,000

Exchange has dropped in sympathy with the declining price of Silver. We quote:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/0½; Documents, 2/0⅝; 6m/s. Credits, 2/0¾. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $49½; 4m/s. U.S. $50½. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.57; 6m/s. fcs. 2.59.

Estimated Silk Stock, 16th March, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	40	Cocoons	150
Filatures	5,350	Noshi-ito	8,370
Re-reels	3,440	Kibiso	7,610
Kakeda	1,120	Mawata	140
Oshu	35	Sundries	330
Tavsaam Kinds	15		
Total piculs	10,000	Total piculs	16,600

TEA.

Between seasons, and although a small quantity of old leaf continues to move there is nothing of interest in this market. New crop is said to be forward and, unless unexpected frost nips the leaf buds, the season will open early.

EXCHANGE.

In sympathy with silver, rates of exchange have again declined.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	1/11⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	1/11¾
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/0⅝
On Paris—Bank sight	2.47
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.56
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛% dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72⅛
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73⅛
On India—Bank sight	171
On India—Private 30 days' sight	175
On America—Bank Bills on demand	47⅞
On America—Private 30 days' sight	49⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	50⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.01
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.09
Bar Silver (London)	27⅛

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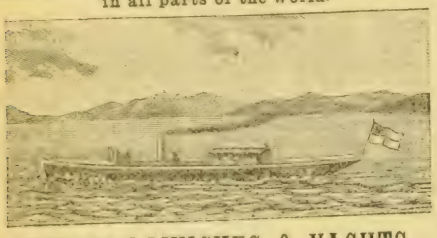
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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 12.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, MARCH 24TH, 1894. 明治二十七年三月二十四日 第三種郵便物認可 [VOL. XXI.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH, 1894.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced of Baron Nitta Toshizumi, which took place on the 15th inst.

THE Governor of Hongkong and Lady Robinson are coming to Japan for a two months' holiday.

RUMOUR says that Count Goto will leave in June next for a trip through various countries of Asia.

A LITTLE Japanese child was run over by a cart in Yokohama on Sunday, and died within a few hours.

THE *Soirée Musicale* at the Public Hall on Wednesday, though sparsely attended, passed off very delightfully.

MR. YAMAMOTO KENTARO, a probationer in the Finance Department, has been appointed Secretary of the House of Peers.

SEVERAL imitation five-*yen* notes, originally intended for toys, have been tendered as paper money within the last few days in Yokohama.

THE Emperor has made a very handsome gift of several million *yen* to the *Kuge* Nobles, in commemoration of the Imperial Silver Wedding.

THE Yokohama Gas Committee report a balance in hand of $869.79. One hundred and thirty-two lamps were lighted during the year at a cost of $3,284.82.

A GUEST staying at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, complained of having been robbed of $100 during the night of the 21st. An attendant is now under arrest.

COUNT ITO delivered an address upon the importance of technical education at a banquet given by the Minister of Education last week to the local governors now staying in the capital.

THE death is announced of Madame Patey, the celebrated contralto singer. She sang in Yokohama at a concert given at the Public Hall, a few years ago.

TUESDAY was the national celebration of the Spring Festival of the Imperial Ancestors, and was observed as a holiday in all government departments and offices.

THE death is reported of Dr. Asada Sohaku, one of the most prominent physicians of the Chinese school, which took place in the capital on the 16th inst.

RINDERPEST is still prevalent in Korea, and great vigilance will have to be exercised by officials at the receiving ports to prevent another outbreak in Japan.

THE report and accounts of Messrs. Brett & Co., Limited, were passed at the semi-annual general meeting held on Thursday. The company declare a dividend of 5 per cent.

IT is stated that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has decided to present *yen* 50,000 to Mr. Morioka, in recognition of services rendered while President of the Company.

BY the fire which broke out in the Shin-uyu Coal mine in Kurate District, Fukuoka, involving the loss of over twenty miners. Mr. Iwasaki Kyuya, is reported to have lost *yen* 110,000.

THE portraits of Messrs. Kusumoto Masataka, ex-President, and Abei Iwane, ex-Vice President of the Lower House during the last session, will shortly be painted in oils, to hang upon the walls of the House.

A WOMAN, who stole *yen* 700 from Mayebara Hisaakia, a pawn-broker to whom she gave a cigarette containing narcotics while travelling in a train between Kobe and Osaka, was arrested in the latter city on the 18th inst.

PAYMASTER OGAWA MOTO-O of the *Manju Kan*, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a short dagger on the morning of the 13th inst. at Saseho. A rumour in current that he had devoted some official monies to his own use.

THE number of persons owning velocipedes in the urban divisions of Tokyo at present is 175, and that of cyclists residing in the rural divisions 15. The Tokyo Authorities are said to have decided to impose an annual tax of one *yen* on each vehicle, commencing from the 1st prox.

A JAPANESE houseboy, left in charge of a house in Yokohama, proving unfaithful to his trust, attempted suicide upon being found out. He imbibed a mixture of iodine, muriatic acid, and brandy in the tunnel at Sugita, and then wandered about the hills. The dose, however, failed to take effect, and hunger finally drove him back to Yokohama, where he confessed to the police.

MR. DE BUNSEN, First Secretary of H.B.M.'s Legation in Tokyo, was entertained at a farewell dinner by the British members of the Tokyo Club on Tuesday evening. H.B.M.'s Representative was in the chair, and the affair was much enjoyed. The previous evening Mr. de Bunsen was present at a farewell dinner given in his honour by Count Ito at his private residence at Isarago-cho.

THE Government has sanctioned the establishment of the following seventeen Exchanges:—Rice at Sakai, Himeji, Akashi, Kurume, Miyatsu, Nanao, and Kofu; Rice and Tea at Kakegawa; Rice, Cotton Fabrics, and Cotton Yarn at Takata; Rice and Cotton at Fukuyama; Rice and Salt at Sakaide; Artificial manure, Salt and Kerosene Oil at Fushiki; Oil in Kyoto; Woven Goods and Cereals at Isezaki; Cereals, Copper, and Iron in Osaka, and Raw Cotton and Cotton Yarn at Yokohama.

THE sealers who are making Yokohama their head-quarters this spring have been commendably quiet, considering the class of men from whom they are drawn, but one of them, an Austrian, stabbed another in a drunken brawl on Friday. No charge has been brought against him, as the injured man preferred to go to sea at once instead of wasting time on shore in prosecuting the case. The assailant, however, happened to be absent from his vessel without leave at the time, and the Assistant-Judge of H.B.M.'s Court sentenced him to five weeks' hard labour on the latter count.

BRITISH politics are greatly troubled, Mr. Henry Labouchere leading a revolt against the Government. He is supported by the extreme Radicals and both sections of the Irish Party. The Address in reply to the Queen's Speech has been passed in both houses, however. Earl Rosebery has affirmed his intention not to abandon Home Rule, and also his determination to keep a watchful eye on Egypt. In reply to a question, he said the acute phase in regard to affairs in Siam was over. *The Times* says that it is regarded as certain, in the best informed Radical circles, that a dissolution of Parliament will soon take place. Mr. Gladstone has now a cataract in both eyes. Louis Kossuth is dead.

IN the Import trade the condition of exchange still bars the way to business and prevents the purchase of goods that are evidently wanted for interior markets. Yarns are firm at late rates, but there are only small actual transactions, though enquiries are made for future contracts. Shirtings, T.-Cloths, Fancy Cottons, and Woollens are all quiet, dealers seeming disinclined to advance their offers to something near laid-down cost. There is rather more enquiry in the Metal market, though it does not appear to lead to much business, through lack of which quotations remain unaltered. The Kerosene market is quiet at late rates, and the amount of sold and unsold Oil in stock here is said to be about 400,000 cases, while information from Kobe points to a great scarcity in certain places in the interior usually supplied from that quarter. The brisk condition of the Sugar market has continued, and again stocks of Brown have been entirely cleared at advance figures, White sorts are also in good demand at better prices, and offers are made for "futures" at present rates. The Silk business has somewhat improved, and a fair daily business was done during the week—mainly for Europe—the stock being reduced by about 1,600 piculs. A few spring reelings have come in, but these do not show the quality that might be expected—perhaps an improvement may be shown when the bulk is in hand. Prices, on the whole, are much the same. Waste Silk has seen a rather better demand at about late rates, but there are indications of an attempt to push up prices, which if successful will choke off buyers at present rates. There is nothing to report in Tea, though the prospects of the new crop are pronounced favourable at present, but nothing positive in regard to it can at present be said. The course of Exchange has been downward though the actual position of rates is but very little lower than that of a week ago.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Political rumours continue to occupy a large space in the columns of the vernacular press. Of these reports, that which has caused the greatest noise refers to negotiations said to be going on between the Ito-Mutsu section of the Cabinet and the Radical Party about the formation of a Coalition Ministry. This report was first published by the *Kokkai*, which professes to have obtained its information from a trustworthy source. According to that journal's story, the Premier having expressed his approval of the propositions made by the Radical leaders, everything turns upon the ultimate decision of the Minister of State for Home Affairs, who, it is said, seems to be unfavourably disposed toward the proposed arrangement. Other papers, however, seem to think that the Minister President has given up all hope of cōoperating with the Radical Party, and that he is taking active steps to conciliate the statesmen of the Military section. Another report is that he has proposed a meeting with Count Okuma; another, that he caused Count Yamagata to visit Count Matsukata on the 21st instant and ask for the latter's cōoperation; yet another, that Count Inouye has announced his intention to leave the Government. If these rumours be carefully sifted and analysed, it is found that they rest for the most part on no foundation except that some change in the political world is keenly desired by those that circulate them.

* * *

The Radical organ, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, strongly denies the rumour about the proposal for the formation of a coalition Cabinet. It challenges the detractors of its Party to wait till the sixth session of the Diet. In a series of articles not yet concluded, it discusses the questions on which the Radicals will attack the Cabinet in the coming session. These questions are four, namely, (1) the Dissolution of the Late House of Representatives, (2) the Unconstitutional Use of the Surplus, (3) Treaty Revision, and (4) Judicial Reforms. We shall review these articles when they have been brought to a conclusion. Here it is sufficient to notice that the *Jiyu's* tone toward the Cabinet has slightly changed. The perusal of its articles creates an impression that its attitude is more defiant than formerly. It would be probably an error, however, to attach as much importance to this circumstance as some of our contemporaries in the Capital seem disposal to attach to it. The change of tone on the part of the Radical organ may have some meaning, but it may just as well have no special significance. At present no trustworthy inference can be deduced from the *Jiyu's* writings.

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The *Jiji Shimpo*, discussing the situation, recommends the Cabinet to bring about a combination of the elder statesmen of all parties. Although there is a rumour—says our contemporary—of the Cabinet's counting upon the support of the Radicals, it is doubtful whether that Party's steady support can be relied upon. Possibly by skilful management, the Cabinet may succeed in maintaining its ground against the six factions in the coming session of the Diet, but it is not to be expected that a majority thus secured will endure till the seventh session. Instead of resorting to such temporizing methods, the Cabinet is urged to continue its policy of holding aloof from all parties and effecting a combination of the eminent statesmen of the elder generation. The *Jiji* does not mention the names of the persons thus designated, but it is evident from the context that among them are to be included Count Okuma, Count Itagaki, and other politicians now opposed to the Government. The present, says the *Jiji*, is a unique opportunity to bring about such a combination. The question of Treaty Revision is approaching solution, but the apparent ease with which this knotty problem is now reported to be handled is, in a large measure, due to the exertions put forth in 1886 and 1889. Consequently, it is but just that the credit of the final solution should be shared equally by all the statesmen hitherto connected with the question. Obedience to that dictate of justice is essential to the success of the negotiations, for otherwise the efforts now made may be wrecked on the same fatal rock—personal jealousy—that proved destructive to all past undertakings. The question is, how to bring about such a combination. The *Jiji* seems to think the task quite feasible, but does not make any suggestion as to process.

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The project of combining the *Kaishin-to*, the *Doshi Seisha*, and the *Domei Seisha*, into one party under the name of "Popular Party of Great Japan," seems to have been abandoned by the originators. The Progressionist papers have taken much pains to contradict this rumour, but there seems to be little doubt that a step of the kind was at one time under the consideration of the Progressionist leaders. It is believed that they induced some friends outside their party to sound the views of the various sections. The result of the attempt have been extremely unfavourable, as it has disclosed the fact that, however willing they may be to cōoperate with the Progressionists for certain special purposes, the majority of the members of the allied sections harbour too many prejudices against that Party to become permanently united with it. Such is the belief of a large section of the public, and that it is not far from the truth, seems evident from the manner in which the *Kaishin-to* organs are endeavouring to soothe their allies, whose feelings have been more or less wounded by the abortive project of amalgamation. It will be sufficient to refer to one only of the numerous articles written on the subject by the Progressionist journals. It appeared in the *Hochi Shimbun*. Our contemporary does not hesitate to ascribe the rumour of an amalgamation project to the machination of the Official Party (meaning the *Jiyu-to*), which thus hopes to excite jealousy and suspicion against the *Kaishin-to*. The *Hochi* goes on to observe that an amalgamation would be difficult to carry out at present, because the allied parties differ so much in origin, in personal characteristics, and in history. But these differences, great as they are, have not prevented them from uniting closely against the Cabinet, because they are agreed on two vital questions, namely, the destruction of clan Government, and the pursuance of a more resolute foreign policy. Since they hold identical views with regard to these fundamental questions, the *Hochi* does not think it necessary to bring them under one banner. But our contemporary, all the while, displays a strong desire to include them under one appellation, for it repeatedly designates them the Great National League" (*Kokumin-teki Dai-Domei*). All the parties included in this League stand, we are told, on the same level; there is no question of relative importance among them, for each equally represents the wishes of the nation. Hence they are urged by the Progressionist organ to pay no attention to idle rumours circulated by their enemies, but to fight to the end the noble battle which they have commenced under such auspicious circumstances.

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The question of Strict Treaty Enforcement has ceased to occupy the foremost place in the vernacular press; but it has not yet been entirely dropped. Occasional articles still appear on the subject, as though to prevent its entire effacement from public memory. The *Hochi* discusses the relations which this question bears to Treaty Revision. As noticed in these columns at the time, Mr. Shimada explained to his electors in Yokohama that the object of the present agitation for Strict Enforcement of the Treaties is to urge the Government to have recourse to that policy in the event of the Treaty Powers' refusal to grant Japan's just demands for Revision. But the *Hochi* thinks otherwise, for it distinctly states that strict enforcement of the Treaties is one of the preparatory steps to their ultimate revision. That the negotiations for Treaty Revision came nearly to a satisfactory conclusion in 1889, is attributed by the *Hochi* to the fact that the then Minister of Foreign Affairs resolutely adhered to the policy of strict enforcement. That foreign nations have so strongly opposed Revision is because, in the *Hochi's* opinion, owing to the helplessly weak and conciliatory policy of the Government, foreign residents have been enabled by degrees to wrest from Japan all the privileges and facilities that ought to follow revision of the Treaties on a footing of equality. Consequently, in order to make foreigners feel the necessity of revising the present iniquitous treaties, they must be subjected to the full inconvenience of the existing covenants.

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On the same day the *Nichi Nichi* discussed the same topics, and its arguments may be taken as a reply to the *Hochi's* article above noticed, for the two papers traverse exactly the same ground from opposite points of view. The *Nichi Nichi* repeats what it has pointed out again and again, namely, that the existing treaties being one-sided, the effect of wounding the sensibilities of the Foreign Powers by insisting on the rigid enforcement of such covenants would be to induce them to deny to Japanese subjects residing in their territories all the privileges and facilities which they are now allowed to enjoy there, not in virtue of treaty stipulations, but out of courtesy on the part of the respective Powers. Moreover, it ill becomes a great nation like the Japanese to resort to the childish policy of subjecting foreigners to petty annoyances which can never lead to any good result. To adopt such a narrow-minded line of policy would be to confess that the Japanese were still unfit to be admitted to the society of nations on an equal footing. Instead of insisting on such a suicidal course of action, the Japanese are advised to concentrate their attention upon the question of Treaty Revision, and be ready to take some decisive course in case Japan's reasonable demands are rejected by the Treaty Powers.

* * *

The *Nippon* strongly censures the foreign policy of the Government as weak and irresolute. Reviewing the history of the Empire, our contemporary states that, with the exception of the latter days of the Tokugawa Government, Japan always pursued a strong foreign policy. The history of China and Korea presents a different spectacle: with those two countries, a weak foreign policy has been the rule. The subjection of the successive dynasties in China by foreign tribes, is owing, in the *Nippon's* opinion, to that empire's foreign policy. In proportion as the Cabinet is weak and conciliatory to foreign Powers, it is, says the *Nippon*, severe and unrelenting in its dealings with the people at home.

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The *Chu-o Shimbun* writes in a similar strain. The National Unionist organ charges the Cabinet with having no definite foreign policy and being too conciliatory and pliant to Western Powers.

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The question of the alleged unconstitutional use of the surplus, still continues to be discussed, but as the subject was touched in our last Weekly Summary, it is not necessary to repeat here the arguments of the Opposition papers. It may be noticed, however, that some papers ascribe to the Government an ulterior motive in thus using the surplus, namely, to divert attention from the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* has interesting articles on the subject of the competition between the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Peninsular and Oriental Company. Our contemporary strongly urges the people and the Diet to give all possible support to the Japanese Company, for on the success of its competition depends the future growth of the country's mercantile marine.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE TOKYO CITY ASSEMBLY AND THE WATER WORKS.

When the programme for the construction of the Tokyo Waterworks became known some two years ago, we ventured to express grave doubts as to the wisdom of entrusting the functions of Chief Engineer to Mr. Furuichi. Of course these doubts were not based on any scepticism as to Mr. Furuichi's abilities. We believe him to be a man of high capacity. But the engineering control of an enterprise of such magnitude as the Tokyo Waterworks seemed to demand much more careful and constant attention than Mr. Furuichi's multifarious duties permitted him to devote to it. This consideration was to some extent modified by the Municipality's subsequent decision to entrust the manufacture of the iron pipes to a foundry in Japan, for by that step the Engineer-in-Chief was relieved from the extensive and difficult foreign correspondence that would have been entailed had the material been obtained abroad. It has now been decided, however, to place the order for the iron pipes in Europe, and perhaps that fact may have influenced Mr. Furuichi, for he has now asked permission to resign his position as Chief Engineer and be entrusted instead with the functions of Superintendent. His application was submitted to the City Council at its meeting on the 14th instant and a debate ensued not altogether complimentary to Mr. Furuichi. One of the members, Mr. Yamanaka, said that he had yet to learn of any successful engineering work carried out by Mr. Furuichi, and that if, as Chief Engineer with a salary of three thousand *yen per annum* he had not been able to show better results, the policy of transferring him to the post of superintendent seemed more than doubtful. Mr. Suyeyoshi, the successful parliamentary candidate for the 1st District of Tokyo in the last elections, expressed the opinion that Mr. Furuichi thought to slip out of his position as Chief Engineer in order to avoid responsibility connected with the iron pipe question. Another member observed that two great works were still to be undertaken for the capital, namely, harbour construction and a system of sewerage. Any failure in connection with the Waterworks would imperil the popularity of these other undertakings. Mr. Furuichi was Superintendent of the Yokohama Waterworks which had not been a success by any means, and now he sought to evade the responsibility of the Tokyo Waterworks. Other criticisms of Mr. Furuichi's conduct were pronounced, but the meeting finally was persuaded to defer further consideration of the question until Mr. Furuichi himself could be present to offer explanations. We hope that this matter will end in the Tokyo Municipality being obliged to pay something like an adequate sum for the services of its experts. The extraordinary parsimony hitherto displayed by it deserves to entail failure.

IMPORT OF MACHINERY INTO CHINA.

The question of the import of machinery into China has been temporarily settled by the issue of instructions as to the conditions under which the import may be made. The instructions emanate directly from the Inspector-General of Customs, but are, of course, dictated by the Chinese Government. Three conditions are prescribed. The first is that a special certificate must be procured by the importer from the Chinese Authorities; the second, that the machinery must be of such a character as not to endanger either the lives or the means of livelihood of the Chinese; the third, that it must not be a tariff article. Evidently such conditions may be converted into absolute prohibitions according to the construction put on them. Every machine is intended to save labour, and from that point of view may be regarded as calculated to interfere with the means of livelihood of the Chinese. It appears to be believed in Shanghai that the regulations are framed simply with the object of preserving for certain officials the monopoly of cotton-spinning and weaving. The Chinese officials interested in that industry dread foreign competition and are resolved to avert it by any and every means. We have already explained our reasons for thinking that British interests are not likely to be seriously injured by the prohibition against the import of machinery into China, but the prohibition itself—for such the new regulations undoubtedly are—is certainly a most irksome and illiberal step from the point of view of treaty privileges.

FISH MANURE.

Shrewd men have often said that immense fortunes are to be realized by really enterprising and active manipulation of the fish-manure industry in Japan. We are reminded of the fact by a paragraph in the *Asahi Shimbun*, which states that the demand for fish-manure now greatly exceeds the supply, the result being a marked appreciation of price. It appears that several factors operate to produce this result. One is improved communications. Districts where the farmers never thought of using fish-manure in former years, owing to the deterrent cost of obtaining it, have now to be reckoned as large consumers, since railways have brought them within comparatively easy reach of sources of supply. Then, again, the development of producing enterprise has also to be taken into large account. The cultivation of tea in Suruga and Totomi, the growth of rice in the Kwanto and north-eastern provinces; the extension of mulberry plantations in Koshiu, Shinshiu, Joshu, and so forth; the growing of indigo in Awa and of sugar in Sanuki, are all so many fields for the employment of fish-manure. Korean beans are used to supplement the more favourite and efficient fertilizer, but they are a poor substitute at best. Doubtless we shall see this matter taken hold of with really resolute enterprise one day or another. Meanwhile, we note that the *Asahi* predicts loss for Tokyo, in connection with railways and the trade in fish-manure. Tokyo has hitherto been the centre of distribution, but the railways with the north will serve to carry supplies direct to the districts of demand, and the Capital will be left out in the cold.

A WORTHY OBJECT.

Three years ago, on the twenty-eight of February, there was organized in Tokyo an Orphan Asylum called Ikuji Gyosei-en, or the Morning Star Orphan Asylum. It was afterwards removed to Aoki, and still later to its present location in Meoshima, at Nasunohara in Tochigi Prefecture. The design from the beginning has been to make it self-supporting so far as possible, and to this end the children work hard at farming, silk-weaving, hair-combing, &c. Their mornings are spent in school, their afternoons in work. Mr. and Mrs. Hongo, who have charge of the Orphange, are people of great faith, hard work, and persistent self-sacrifice. There are now forty-six children in the institution, and the running expenses are about ninety dollars per month. Often they have been unable to see where the next day's food was to come from, but they have betaken themselves to prayer, and in some way provision has been made for them. For instance, on the first day of this year their treasury was reduced to two *sen* and one *rin*, but food for the day came. On the next day, the showing was even worse, amounting to only two *rin*. Again their immediate wants were met. On that day, a child died, and they did not know where the funeral expenses were to come from, but just at that time about five *yen* was sent in, which quite relieved them of embarrassment. Still later, Mr. Hongo was at Yokohama during the week of prayer, and was recognized in the Japanese prayer-meeting. He was asked to speak, and at the close of the meeting, the Japanese Christians raised about forty *yen* for the Orphanage. Mr. Hongo hopes to be able, by the work done in the orphanage, supplemented by the contributions of native Christians generally, to meet running expenses. He and all who love the institution would, however, be grateful if foreigners would contribute towards discharging a debt of one hundred and fifty *yen* remaining from the purchase of the present buildings and grounds,—about two acres of mulberry trees. This debt is a heavy load upon Mr. and Mrs. Hongo, who are daily praying that it may be discharged. Contributions for the purpose may be sent to this office, or to the Rev. Teiichi Hori, Nogezaka, Yokohama, where they will be duly acknowledged and forwarded.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Oiso affair has not yet been suffered to rest. A curious circumstance about it is that, while the *Nichi Nichi* flatly denies the rumour in all its essential points, the *Jiyu Shimbun* states that the Radical leader was asked by the Premier, through Mr. Mutsu and Mr. Nakajima, to appoint a meeting, but that he declined to see Count Ito. This singular discrepancy in the statements of two journals supposed to possess means of ascertaining the true facts of the case, has not been left unnoticed by other journals of the capital. Under the circumstances, they think themselves justified in receiving with doubt the evidence of either the *Nichi Nichi* or the *Jiyu*. That the two differ, is held up as a proof that the rumour of a secret meeting between the Premier and the Radical leader is not altogether without foundation. Some papers state that, although the two statesmen met, nothing particularly worthy of attention passed between them, Count Itagaki having positively declined to speak on political subjects.

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The idle rumour that has been circulated in the capital about the supposed discontent of Count Inouye, is dying out. One journal after another has admitted that his stay at Kamakura is really owing to impaired health, and that there is no foundation for the report of a difference having arisen between him and his life-long friend and associate Count Ito.

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The constitutional question connected with the employment of part of the surplus to defray expenditures not provided in the Budget or in excess of the specified items, still exercises the attention of the press. Moreover, the Opposition papers are busily advancing opinions about the Government's motives in thus courting the attack of the Diet. One of their theories is that the Cabinet hopes in this way to divert public attention from the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement; while another maintains that the Government's object is to detach the National Unionists from the Opposition, for they cannot with any regard for consistency oppose a measure which they so stoutly defended under the Matsukata Cabinet. At all events the resolution shown by the Cabinet in disbursing about six million out of the surplus, without paying the slightest regard to the unfavourable comments of the press seems to have alarmed the Opposition politicians who persist in thinking that there is a deep laid plan in the step.

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Mr. Morioka's resignation of the Presidentship of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha still remains undecided, and affords a convenient theme for newspaper comments. People seem to think, or at least they pretend to think, that Mr. Morioka's resignation is not voluntary but that strong pressure has been brought to bear upon him by the unscrupulous agents of some Choshu statesmen. It is now reported that Mr. Morioka is being urged by his fellow clansmen of Satsuma to withdraw his resignation and occupy the influential post against all possible rivals. Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi is also said to be one of those labouring for the continued occupation of the post by Mr. Morioka. It is, however, believed that, his resolution being firmly fixed, he will not easily change his mind. In the event of his proving immovable, his successor will in all probability be Mr. Yoshikawa Taijiro, Vice-President of the Company.

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According to the *Jiyu Shimbun* the *Osaka Asahi Shimbun* has become virtually an organ of the military section of the clan statesmen. The chief editor, Mr. Takahashi Kenzo, formerly Director of the *Official Gazette* Bureau, is reported to be on intimate terms with Count Matsukata, Mr. Yasuba, Mr. Sassa, and so forth.

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It is customary for these persons, whenever they are at Osaka, to meet in the rooms of the *Asahi* newspaper office. We (*Japan Mail*) do not think that Mr. Murayama Ryuhei, the proprietor of the *Asahi*, will ever allow his paper to be identified with any party or any set of politicians. The enormous success which his journalistic venture has met with both in Osaka and Tokyo is chiefly owing to the reputation that his papers are strictly independent and neutral in politics. But of late, they have gradually become advocates of the neo-anti-foreign movement. What that means may be judged from the fact that the *Osaka Asahi* is reputed to possess a daily circulation of over 80,000 copies, while the *Tokyo Asahi* lays claim to about one half that number. It is a pity that such papers should have thrown their weight into the scale on the wrong side, but we cannot believe that they have become organs of any political body.

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The rumour about the project for the amalgamation of the allied parties of the Opposition, seems to have been unfounded. At least it is denied by the Progressionist organs. Some busy persons assert that such a project was entertained, but that, there being little likelihood of its success, it has been dropped. As to the combination of the *Doshi Seisha* and the *Domei Seisha*, the matter is now under the serious consideration of the members of both factions. It is even reported that negotiations have been opened between the two political bodies.

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Mr. Kono, the Radical leader in the House of Representatives, has been interviewed by a writer on the staff of the *Shin Choya Shimbun*. Concerning the controversy about the alleged meeting between Count Ito and Count Itagaki at Oiso, Mr. Kono is said to have made the following statements:—"On his way to Oiso, when the train stopped at Kanagawa, Count Itagaki found that the compartment next to that occupied by him contained Count Ito, Mr. Mutsu, and Mr. Nakajima. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister to Italy came in to exchange a few words of salutation. At Oiso the same evening he was visited by Mr. Mutsu and Mr. Nakajima, who, in the course of conversation, asked him to appoint a meeting with the Premier, but Count Itagaki declined. In asking Count Itagaki, to meet Count Ito, Mr. Mutsu and Mr. Nakajima do not seem to have acted on the direct authority of the Premier they apparently made the proposal on their own authority and on the spur of the moment." As to the report about the Radical Party's alleged endeavours to win back the *Doshi Seisha*, Mr. Kono denies it altogether. Personally he himself is on the best of terms with the members of the *Doshi Seisha*, but his Party has made no approaches to them in the sense of seeking their return to its ranks. Lastly, referring to the alleged understanding between the Government and the Radical Party, Mr. Kono of course emphatically denied it, ascribing the story to alarm created by the remarkable success of the Radicals at the recent elections. The reason for their success, in his opinion, is to be sought in the increasing strength of the Party's local organization.

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As to the attitude of the Radicals on the subject of alleged unconstitutional use of the surplus, that Party's bulletin remarks that, after the discussions that have already taken place on similar questions since the first session of the Diet, it would be unwise to dwell on the constitutional aspect of the question. A more rational course is to confine attention to the propriety of the amounts just defrayed out of the surplus. The Radical Party will, it is said appoint a Committee to investigate the matter. The Progressionist papers infer from these statements that the Radical Pariy is not inclined to attack the Government on this topic. At all events, that Party is not likely to take any rash step in the premises.

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Concerning the election of the President of the new House of Representatives, it is now reported that the Radical Party will support Mr. Kono Hironaka. A section of that Party is said to be in favour of Mr. Hoshi Toru, but not a few Radicals being more or less ill-affected towards him, it is believed that his claims would not be unanimously upheld. On the other hand, Mr. Kusumoto has hitherto been considered the most acceptable candidate, but it is reported by the *Kokkai* that he is now less popular than Mr. Suzuki Shigeto. Consequently it is believed that the contest will be between Mr. Kono and Mr. Suzuki.

THE LAND TAX.

The editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, takes the wind pretty effectually out of the sails of the folks who agitate for a reduction of the Land Tax. In assessing the value of land for purposes of taxation, the price of rice was taken at 3.88 *yen* per *koku*. Now the average assessed value of rice-fields throughout the empire at the close of 1892 was 39.74 *yen* per *tan* (a quarter of an acre) and the average yield per *tan* was 1.47 *koku*. But Land Tax is 2.5 per cent. of the assessed value of land. Hence the Tax levied per *tan* is 0.9935 *yen*. The advocates of reduction urge that the rate be cut down from 2.5 to 2 per cent., which means that the amount paid on each tan would be lowered by 0.1987 *yen*. Turning, now, to the price of rice, it will be seen that if the price per *koku* rises from 3.88 *yen*—the figure assumed for purposes of assessement—to 4.015 *yen*, an increase of 0.135, *yen*, the burden of taxation is actually lightened for the farmer in the same degree as if the rate of the tax was altered from 2.5 per cent. to 2 per cent. Further, when the price rises to 4.555 *yen*, the result to the farmer will be as though he paid no tax at all. At present the market price of rice is 8 *yen* per *koku*, so that the farmer is obtaining returns that pay his tax over and over again. Nor has he, at any time since the assessment took place, received less than 4.185 *yen* per *koku*, so that instead of paying at the rate of 2.5 per cent., he has never paid more than 1.37 per cent., and has, as a rule, paid far less. In fact, the cry for a reduction in the rate of the Land Tax is based solely on an uncalculating interpretation of the Notification issued 20 years ago, by which it was promised that so soon as the taxes on tea and tobacco came to yield an income of 2 million *yen* per annum the tax on land should be reduced to one per cent. The tax has long ago been reduced far below one per cent. by the increased value of rice, and there is no fear that it will ever become a burdensome impost unless Japan follows the evil example of other nations and adopts a gold standard.

THE CHATAUQUAN ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN.

Vast as is the progress made by education in this country during the last dozen years, it is claimed that there are still many points left unnoticed, many needs still to be made good. In particular, the Ordinary Middle Schools are said to be too few in number, and the standard aimed at not sufficiently high, or rather the curriculum is not adapted to the immediate requirements of the pupils—too much is done in one direction, too little in another. Not only for this reason, perhaps, but because the majority of Japanese youths are called upon, long before attaining the age of manhood, to act as the aid, if not support, of their parents, the number of those who matriculate in the Middle Schools is surprisingly small, being, it is stated, not quite 20 per cent. of the *alumni* of the Primary Schools. Of the latter class of educational establishments there are two, the one the Ordinary, and the other the Higher Primary Course (*Sho-gakko* and *Koto Sho-gakko*). Moreover, while illiteracy is growing less and less frequent, a large proportion of parents are unable to defray the very modest expenses attendant upon sending their children to any more advanced institution than the Higher Primary Schools; the presence of the boys is demanded in the field or store, while two or three years of schooling in the Ordinary Primary Schools is as much as the girls can expect, or is indeed thought necessary for them to enjoy. And thus it comes that each year, at just about the age of fourteen or fifteen, thousands upon thousands of would-be studious youths and maidens are withdrawn from the schools, without any hope of further mental development or stimulus in future. It was to remedy this evil and bring, as far as possible, the higher education of the Middle Schools within the reach of these young people, that the Chatauquan Association of Japan (*Dai Nippon Chugaku-kwai*) was founded, in November, 1893, by Mr. Y. Higuma, a graduate of the Hogaku-in. The Association publishes thrice a month a large, neatly-printed magazine, containing gradated instruction in all the subjects taught by the Middle Schools. No other text-books are necessary. The best instructors obtainable have been engaged to write for the Association: professors of the Imperial University and the First Higher Middle School, as well as a number of specialists whose names are well known throughout Japan. Before being permitted to become a member of the Association, each applicant must send in his or her diploma received upon being graduated from some First Primary School; or else otherwise satisfy the managers that he or she is qualified to take intelligent part in the instruction provided. Upon being admitted to membership, each student has the right to request and receive a written explanation of whatever he or she fails to understand in the magazine; to send in answers to the problems set and questions asked; and to receive the three monthly issues of the magazine itself. For all these privileges, the charge *per mensem* is only fifty *sen*. Three years will complete the course, upon the expiration of which time those who desire to do so will be subjected to a written and *vivâ voce* examination, receiving a diploma after graduation. It will be seen that this is a most praiseworthy and patriotic Institution, and we are glad to hear that it is meeting with deserved success. There are now three thousand five hundred students enrolled, and the greatest interest is manifested in the tuition. We understand that the Educational Department has given its official sanction to the Association, besides a number of valuable hints calculated to increase its usefulness.

THE MITSUI BANK AND THE CHIEF ACCOUNTANT OF THE OSAKA GARRISON.

Some interest is aroused in connection with a case now pending before an Osaka Law Court. A tradesman, Mr. Saisho Motogoro, sold a quantity of blankets, valued at 7,950 *yen*, to Mr. Hoshiyama, Accountant of the Artillery Section of the Osaka Garrison Corps, who paid for the goods with two promissory notes. The notes were discounted by the Mitsui Bank, but when the time of their maturity arrived, Mr. Hoshiyama, who had meanwhile been placed on the Retired List, declined to pay, probably because he did not recognise any personal responsibility in the matter. The Bank then, as directed by a War Office Notification, sought to transfer the obligation to the chief accountant of the Osaka Garrison, who, however, declined to acknowledge it on the ground that the blankets had not been required for the troops, and that Mr. Hoshiyama had not been qualified to sign for them. It is a curious affair, and what adds to its curiosity is that nothing at all is said about the blankets themselves, or what became of them.

THE SADO FISHERIES.

Apart from its mineral wealth, the island of Sado has long been known for its marine products, specially dried cuttle-fish (*surume*) which is exported yearly to the amount of about half a million *yen*. Nearly half as much more is obtained from other marine products, and it may be briefly stated that some 200,000 people inhabiting the islands derive from the sea a revenue of three-quarter of a million *yen*, or nearly four *yen* a head. Sado, indeed, has a very ancient reputation for its fisheries. Two or three centuries ago its *awabi* and *bêche-de-mer* used to be sent down to Nagasaki for sale to the Chinese, while the *surume* and dried cod-fish were sold to adjacent districts on the mainland and also in Osaka. In those days of paternal government there were fishery regula-

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tions. No excessive capture was permitted and as a consequence the source of supply showed no exhaustion. But during the *Meiji* era these restrictions ceased to be operative, with the result that the fisheries became much less productive while at the same time the manner of disposing of the products called urgently for reform. A fishery guild was accordingly formed and its exertions are said to have produced salutary effects. It would appear, however, that like many other Japanese producers, the people of Sado are ignorant of the destination of their products: they do not know whether they are catering for the home or the foreign markets. That is precisely one of the points to which the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is now directing attention, and we presume that the disastrous ignorance of the Sado folks will be remedied before long.

FAREWELL DINNER TO MR. DE BUNSEN.

On Tuesday evening the British members of the Tokyo Club entertained Mr. de Bunsen, Secretary of Her Britannic Majesty's Legation, at a farewell dinner. Thirty-four sat down, and the chair was taken by His Excellency Mr. Hugh Fraser, Her Britannic Majesty's Representative. After Her Majesty's health had been drunk, Captain Brinkley, who occupied the vice-chair, proposed the toast of the evening as follows:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen—I have much pleasure in proposing the toast of the evening, the health of Mr. de Bunsen. I wish that the duty had fallen to abler hands, but happily the task is comparatively easy in this case because the eloquence of the subject itself dispenses with all need of oratorical effort, even supposing I were competent to make it. Mr. de Bunsen has been three years among us. In one sense they have been remarkably short years and in another exceptionally long. They have been remarkably short because all moments of enjoyment pass quickly, and I know that you will all endorse me when I say that Mr. de Bunsen's presence has added materially to our enjoyment of life in Tokyo.—(Applause.) On the other hand, they have been exceptionally long because they have sufficed to make us all feel as though we had known Mr. de Bunsen for a lifetime. I need not attempt to analyze that feeling or to explain in detail the reasons that have endeared Mr. de Bunsen to us. It has been well said that the eminent characteristic of a true gentleman is an inborn gift of fine tact which brings him into harmony with every mood of his associates and saves him from ever striking a discordant note in his intercourse with them. I think it would be difficult to find anybody of whom that could be said with more truth than it can be said of Mr. de Bunsen.—(Applause.) We all feel as though he were our own particular friend. We all have our own pet portrait of him engraved upon our hearts, and not one of us would be willing to exchange that portrait for a picture, however elaborate, painted by somebody else. You will allow me therefore to avoid the blunder of attempting to paint such a picture and to confine myself briefly to saying that Mr. de Bunsen has been to us a dear friend and an ideal comrade.—(Applause.) Perhaps, too, as this is an informal occasion, I ought to avoid any reference to his official career. But it is difficult for Englishmen to draw a hard-and-fast line between their feelings of private friendship towards a public man and their estimate of the qualities he displays in the discharge of his official duties. I may be allowed therefore to say that as the guardian of British interests in Japan, Mr. de Bunsen has earned the thorough confidence of every subject of Her Majesty in this country.—(Applause.) It would be a sad occasion, Gentlemen, if we were called upon to say a final farewell to our friend this evening. The chief obstacle to complete happiness of life in Japan is the number of partings it includes. We are perpetually called upon to say goodbye to some friend who, during his sojourn among us, has come so close to our hearts that separation from him leaves a painful void in our existence. Happily, however, no catastrophe of that sort has to be endured on the present occasion. Mr. de Bunsen promises to come back to us in a few months, and therefore what we have to say to him to-night is not goodbye, but *au revoir*.—(Applause.) Let us hope, however, that the hosts of friends who will surely be waiting to welcome Mr. de Bunsen in the old country may not divert him from his good intention of returning to us, and that we may see him among us again before Christmas when he may count on a right hearty greeting.—(Applause.) Gentlemen, I call upon you to drink the health of Mr. de Bunsen, and to wish him a prosperous voyage, a happy time at home, and the speediest possible return to Japan.—(Applause.)

Mr. de Bunsen in reply said:—

Gentlemen—I am afraid I can not plead want of preparation on this occasion, because I had notice of your kind intentions and was aware that something in the way of a speech would be expected of me. But truly when I see this numerous gathering and consider what it means, I am afraid that any words I can command must be inadequate to convey the gratitude I feel. Let me say in the first place how much honoured I am by the presence here of my Chief, under whom I have had the pleasure to serve, and under whom I look forward to serving again. And then let me assure my Tokyo fellow-countrymen that I am deeply sensible of the representative and hearty character of their farewell to me this evening. I have spent many delightful days in Tokyo. Indeed, I do not know that I have ever been happier anywhere, and no prospect pleases me more than that of returning. Of course I am glad to go home, but any satisfaction at the thought of revisiting the old country would be greatly impaired if I supposed that it involved a final parting from you all. It is my intention to come back.—(Applause.) If there had been any wavering about my purpose in that respect, it would have been removed by the delightful evidence of your friendship which you have given me this evening.—(Applause.) I wish to say also how particularly pleased I am by the presence of so many of our Yokohama members.—(Applause.) I have had the happiness to make many kind friends in Yokohama, and to receive most hearty hospitality there, and nothing could more have enhanced my satisfaction this evening than to find Yokohama assisting so prominently.—(Applause.) I cannot pretend to have discharged my duty well as a member of this Club. At least, I have not discharged it half so well as I should have wished had I been able to choose always what was most agreeable. Besides, I have some excuse in the fact that my life in the Legation has been made particularly pleasant by my comrades there, Mr. Spring-Rice and Mr. Paget, whom you also have had the privilege of knowing.—(Applause.) I found so much attraction in their society that it was not always easy to join you at the cosy dinners and friendly rubbers of which I carry away a most vivid recollection. But I hope to do better in that respect when I come back, for it would indeed be a culpable neglect of fortunate opportunities not to frequent a club where such good fellowship prevails that I doubt whether I have ever had experience of a more enjoyable place. Gentlemen, I again thank you most heartily.—(Applause.)

COUNT OKUMA ON CURRENT TOPICS.

A writer on the staff of the *Shin Choya Shimbun* recently waited upon Count Okuma to learn his views on current topics. Asked about the scheme for the amalgamation of some of the parties of the Opposition, the Progressionist leader is reported to have declared that there is no such scheme on foot. Now that the tide of hostility to the Clan Government is becoming irresistibly strong, there is no necessity to unite the forces of the Opposition in one party. In his opinion, the parties now allied against the Government will continue to hold together until their common object of introducing a system of Party Government shall have been attained. After that, a general re-distribution of parties is inevitable. With respect to the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement, Count Okuma is said to have given his opinion that the movement is still as strong as ever. The doctrine, he says, is no doubt preached in different persons, but the promoters of the movement are agreed on all essential points. (This statement of the Progressionist leader is doubtless meant as a sort of defence for the inconsistent opinions which his followers had to avow on the subject at the time of the recent election.) The Cabinet—continued Count Okuma—at first erroneously supposed that the movement for Strict Treaty Enforcement was merely a party scheme devised by a group of old-fashioned Conservatives. The Government has, however, found out its mistake, and perceiving the strength of the movement, is afraid of meeting it squarely. He points to the answer given by the Premier to the thirty-eight members of the Upper House, in which Count Ito is alleged to have endeavoured to confuse the real issue by bringing in various topics, such as the Hoshi affair, the Budget question, and so forth. Alluding to the Radical Party, Count Okuma states that it is a great mistake to suppose that the Party maintains any close connection with the Cabinet. The Tosa section and those under the control of Mr. Hoshi may support the Cabinet, but the great majority of the Radicals are, in his opinion, opposed to clan Government. Then turning to the question of Treaty Revision, the Progressionist leader ascribes the rumour of its speedy solution to speculative merchants and political adventurers. It requires a great deal of resolution to take up this task, and resolution being exactly what the Cabinet is most deficient in, he does not believe in any report that negotiations have been resumed in real earnest. If the question be approached with sufficient resolution, there ought to be little difficulty in bringing it to a successful issue. The rumour about Count Inouye being displeased with his colleagues, especially Count Ito, is not credited by Count Okuma. The Minister of Home Affairs is a man of boundless industry, and must have overworked himself at the time of the recent election. Hence the necessity to recruit his strength. However, there is no reason to suppose, as some people seem inclined to, that his unique mental powers show signs of enfeeblement. If he appears less enterprising than formerly it is owing to the fact that his actions are fettered by a mass of laws and regulations which did not formerly exist. In short, he is not fitted to shine under a constitutional form of Government. Lastly, with reference to measures relating to national defence said to be under the government's contemplation, Count Okuma believes that they will not be approved by the Radical Party, which is averse to delaying the reduction of the land tax and the re-assessment of the taxable value of land.

SPEECH BY COUNT ITO.

At a dinner given by the Minister of State for Education in the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, a few days ago, to the Local Governors now assembled in the capital, Count Ito, being among the guests, made a speech that occupied some forty minutes in the delivery, and is said to have been excellently conceived and full of interest. Only the very briefest *resumé* of it is given, however, in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, from which we learn that the Premier addressed himself chiefly to the necessity of fostering technical education. He said that although at first sight it might seem that the place of a country in the family of nations depended upon the strength of its military armaments, the true basis of hegemony was wealth. Doubtless a full demonstration of this proposition was given, but the *Nichi Nichi* tells us nothing about it. The Minister President went on to say that, acting upon that belief, the Cabinet had submitted to the Diet in its fifth session a Bill providing State aid for technical education, and that as there was no intention of abandoning the policy represented by the Bill, it was desirable that Local Governors should spare no pains to promote it.

AN INFLUENTIAL MOVEMENT FOR BI-METALLISM.

It is significant of the more favourable opinion regarding silver that a committee to promote international bimetallism has been formed in Boston (U.S.), the committee comprising United States Senators, Representatives in Congress, ex-Governors, college professors, prominent lawyers, railways presidents, shipping, importing and wholesale merchants, trustees of large estates, bank presidents, and treasurers of some of the largest manufacturing corporations of New England, and active business men of large fortunes who are deeply and materially interested in the permanent prosperity of the country. This committee purposes to further the cause of International bimetallism, by means of lectures, pamphlets, public addresses, discussions, etc. The chairman of the committee is President Andrews, of Brown University, who was a delegate to the Brussels Conference last year, and includes General A. F. Walker, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who was a member of the Paris Conference in 1878. Those concerned in the movement, while earn-

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estly opposed to free coinage of silver by the United States, independent of international action and agreement, believe that the repeal of the purchase clause of the Sherman Act affords a fitting and fortunate opportunity for advancing the cause of international bimetallism. They believe that the day is not far distant when the necessities of commerce will compel an international use of silver as well as of gold in the currencies throughout the world.

EDUCATION FOR GEISHA.

THE recent visit of the proprietor of one of the largest tea-houses in the vicinity of Shimbashi to Kyoto, has resulted in the setting on foot of a movement that will unquestionably meet with the approval of the admirers of the *geisha* fraternity and *chirimena vestis*. He proposes establishing a school in which singing-girls may be taught something else than posturing and the twanging of the samisen. For, despite Miss Helen Gregory's glowing description of the "Professional Beauties of Japan"—which appeared in a recent number of the *Californian Illustrated Magazine*—there are very few *geisha* whose literary accomplishments go further than a mastery of the simpler *hira-gana* forms, their knowledge of Chinese ideographs being even still more fragmentary. They stand, none the less, higher than Pierre Loti, the sensualist and cynic, would rank them; for it is well-known that they often contract marriages in high quarters and are, as wives, generally models of decorum and propriety. Yet it is unquestioned that the *geisha* of to-day rank far lower than their sisters of three or four decades ago, so the establishment of a proper school to endow them with the mental qualifications which they most lack, is an undertaking that should prosper. To raise sufficient funds for the establishment and maintenance of the institution, the celebrated "Miyako" dances will be given, either in the Shintomi-za or Haruki-za, in which all the chief singers and terpsichoreans of the metropolis are to take part.

THE LATE MR. MITSUI TAKAYOSHI.

MR. MITSUI TAKAYOSHI, who died on the 11th instant at his residence in the Koishikawa suburb of Tokyo at the age of 72, is spoken of with much admiration and respect by the vernacular press. The eighth son of Mr. Mitsui Takahide, he was adopted, when 17 years old, by Mr. Mitsui Takamasu, head of the Demizu branch of the Great Mitsui firm. The following year he came to Tokyo and was engaged in the "Yechigo-ya." Subsequently he succeeded to the Demizu branch, and among other functions performed, for a long time, those of banker to the Shogun and supplier of goods to the Court in Kyoto. At the Restoration he gained much credit by contributing liberally to the expenses of the Government, and after the centralization of the Administration he acted as the Government's agent for rice paid as taxes. He also took a leading part in starting the First National Bank, and to him are due the inception and organization of the Mitsui Bank. In January of last year he was honoured by receiving the First Rank of the Fifth Grade, in consideration of his meritorious services at the time of the Restoration. Of his three sons the eldest and youngest survive, the former now holding the position of President of the Mitsui Mining Company, the latter that of President of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

A POETICAL FISHMONGER.

Shijime is a tiny shell-fish known to students of the Japanese language because it takes the Place of Mrs. Partington's mop in a vernacular proverb embodying the idea of that good lady's attempt to "clean up" the ocean (*daikai wo shijime-kai de sūku*). It is a succulent little morsel, and the humble citizens of Tokyo obtain their supplies of it from hawkers who carry two baskets of the shells on a shoulder-pole. No needier or harder-worked folks are to be found than these meanest of fishmongers. Among them at present is a man who formerly possessed the official rank of First Class, Seventh Grade, and who still possesses a decoration for signal service rendered during the Satsuma rebellion. His career has probably many parallels among Japanese *shizoku* whom the Restoration threw upon the world, ignorant wholly of trade yet compelled to resort to it in order to keep body and soul together. He first engaged in an ice-making enterprise at Shinjuku, and afterwards started the Shinagawa Gravel Company, but the only issue of these efforts was a load of debt so heavy that he had to fly from Tokyo. Last fall he returned to the capital and applied himself to the business of hawking *shijime*. But then came the Imperial Silver Wedding, and with it permission for all holders of official rank to compose and present a congratulatory ode. The *shijime*-seller has availed himself of the occasion, and displayed quite a neat trick of versification. Yet hawking shell-fish ought to drive most of the poetry out of a man.

A PERMANENT MEMORIAL OF THE SILVER WEDDING.

SOME time ago there appeared in the vernacular press a statement that the Presidents of the Mitsu Bishi Bank, the 100th National Bank, and the Mitsui Bank contemplated raising a subscription for the purpose of endowing a scholarship in the Higher Commercial School in commemoration of the Imperial Silver Wedding. We now learn from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that the project has made great progress. Subscriptions were so easily obtained at the outset that the projectors confidently introduced the scheme at a meeting of bankers in the Clearing House some days ago. On that occasion the Presidents of the Bank of Japan and of the 1st National Bank were so enthusiastic that they proposed to increase the original amount of 30,000 *yen* to 300,000, and to employ the money not merely for endowing a scholarship, but also for establishing a Commercial Club with a well-stocked library. The further elaboration of the project was entrusted to Messrs. Kawata and Shibusawa. There appears to be some scepticism about the consummation of the scheme, but our contemporary is justly confident that the names of the men now in charge of it constitute an ample guarantee of its success.

CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH THE NORTHERN ISLANDS.

AT the north-western extremity of the mainland of Hokkaido lie two little islands called Rijiri and Ribun. Neither of them has a circumference exceeding twenty-five English miles, but so rich are they in marine products that each of them yields more than a million *yen* annually to its population of fishers, whose numbers are steadily augmenting. There is, however no telegraphic communication between the islands and the mainland. Ships that make Otaru their place of anchorage and ply northward to the coast of Kitami, generally call at the islands, entering the harbour of Oshidomari in Rijiu, where excellent shelter is found. But owing to the absence of telegraphic communication, ships whose destination is Rijiri are unable to send any intimation of their coming until they reach Soya, a town at the north-eastern extremity of Kitami, and owing to the same cause, ships at anchor in the waters of Rijiri or Ribun can not have the advantage of the meteorological information available to vessels at all points of the chief islands of the Empire. Fifty thousand *yen* would remedy the deficiency, and as the people of the islands and of Hokkaido would furnish about one half of that amount, it is hoped that the Government will be induced to furnish the remainder.

SILVER THE MONETARY STANDARD OF THE FUTURE.

A REMARKABLE speech was recently made in Vienna on the occasion of the assembling of the Society of Austrian Economists, says an American contemporary, by Dr. Otto Arendt, leader of the German Bimetallic Party. Professor Suess, of whose great work "The Future of Silver," we have frequently written in these columns, was present and created a profound impression by predicting the abandonment of the gold standard throughout the world. He said that it is true that the technique of gold production has improved during the last few years. Particularly by chlorinisation have we succeeded in working refractory pyrites, and in this way have made poor quartz pay. This is particularly the case in Africa. There is no doubt that for years to come Africa will produce gold, but we must not over-estimate this factor. The maximum production of Witwatersrand will probably be reached within this century. In Mashonaland there are goldfields, but they have been entirely exhausted. It is presumed this was the Land of Ophir of the Bible. The future gold production depends upon extended geographical knowledge. In the old countries there is no more gold to be had. And he added:—"With all our improved machinery and knowledge the production of gold to-day has not yet reached the total of forty years ago. But with this you have pronounced sentence of death on the gold standard. The requirements of industry are getting greater every year: the production remains, at best, stable. This fact cannot be denied by all the economists in the world. From it I conclude, with the certainty of a scientific deduction, that the gold standard cannot last, and that we must revert to silver. There may be great difficulties in doing so, and it is impossible to say to-day how those difficulties can be overcome—of this I am confident." These are the significant words of the greatest of living geologists who has given the most profound study to the subject of gold production, and has, besides, compiled with minute care the statistics of the employment of gold in the arts. He believes that gold, as money, will be substituted by silver, and that the future money of the world is the white metal.

CONVICT WORK IN THE PORONAI COAL MINE.

A SCARCELY credible account of the state of affairs at the Poronai coal mine is given by the *Kokumin Shimbun*. Statistics show, we read, that from 1883 to 1891 the number of deaths in the mine was 82 and the number of persons injured 55,000. It will doubtless seem to our readers that this latter figure is quite incredible, and indeed so it seems to us. Fifty-five thousand injured miners in eight years is indeed a record of records. But we merely quote from the vernacular press. Accidents so numerous are said to have demoralized the convicts working in the mine. The jailers are powerless to control them effectually. A state of anarchy prevails. The more unprincipled combine to compel their honester comrades to dig out a double portion of coal so that the total fixed for each squad may be reached. The daily pay of a convict is fixed at 11 *sen*, out of which 8 *sen* goes to pay the prison for his food, leaving only 3 *sen* for clothing and sundries, so that the amount received by the prison for a man's labour does not fully pay for his keep. Considering that a hired miner who is not a convict earns from 30 to 40 *sen* a day, the prison authorities have come to the conclusion that the convicts are let too cheaply to the mine, and negotiations have accordingly been opened with the object of raising the pay to 12 *sen* a day. A difference of 1 *sen* per man seems very trifling, but it has to be remembered that there are 1,300 convicts employed in the mine so that the proposed increase aggregates 4,680 *yen* a year. The mine-owners, therefore, are not likely to agree readily, but inasmuch as the prison authorities have ascertained that convicts can be employed for agricultural purposes at a daily wage of 20 *sen*, their position *vis-à-vis* the mine-owners is strong. Indeed, if these figures be correct we do not see what right the prison authorities have to hire the men's services to the mine at all, for underground labour is proverbially so demoralizing that a proportionately higher rate of remuneration ought to be obtained for it.

JAPANESE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IN 1892 there were only 472 Japanese labourers in British Columbia, but according to the News Agency the number rose to 875 last June, at the commencement of the salmon season, and

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diminished to 710 when the season was over. Evidently many of the Japanese who visit British Columbia are mere nomadic labourers. It is said that fully 500 found employment last year in the salmon-fisheries. The fixed occupations offering are sawing and coal-mining, but these absorb only very small numbers of Japanese, namely, some 50 and 12 respectively. The demand for Japanese labour used to be greater at the saw-mills before the recent depression of trade, and greater also at the coal-mines before the trouble about the emigrants sent by the Kobe Emigrant Company. In short, out of some 710 Japanese immigrants now in British Columbia, not more than a third have fixed employment. The remainder lead a very hand-to-mouth existence.

METALS.

MESSRS. S. W. ROYSE & Co. in their report, dated January, 27th, say:—Until about the middle of this month business in Pig Iron was unsatisfactory, prices falling slowly but steadily, but since then a change has taken place, and values of both Scotch and Cleveland Iron have improved to the extent of about 9d. per ton. During the last few days, at Middlesbrough especially, a brisk business has been done and some good contracts made for forward delivery. Better reports are also to hand from other markets, and there is reason to hope for a continuance of the improvement. The Manufactured Iron trade in the Midlands is responsive to this altered state of affairs, and prices are firmer there. In the higher priced Metals, however, business has been quite disappointing. Copper has fallen steadily, about 30s. per ton since the beginning of the month. The consumptive demand has been small, and of a hand-to-mouth description, but just now the market has a firmer tone. Tin is even worse, having lost nearly £3 per ton during the month but is now tending upwards. Spelter has fallen, and is just steady at present. Lead is quite dull.

RECEIVERS OF STOLEN GOODS.

IT has often been noted that the Chinese in the open ports are one of the chief difficulties with which the police have to contend in tracing lost property. These astute settlers are always ready to purchase articles offered at remarkably cheap rates without making any inconvenient scrutiny into their *provenance*. The police of course have no access to the premises of Chinese residents without permission from the Chinese Consul, and Chinese dealers in second-hand goods naturally pay no attention to Japanese regulations. Any property coming into the hands of a Chinaman can be easily disposed of in such a manner as to defy police detection. Still the wily Chinaman does not always get off with the "swag." Recently, for example, a watch deposited with a Chinese pawnbroker for 35 *yen* was identified as one picked from the pocket of an American naval officer. Availing themselves of this occasion, the police opened negotiations with the Chinese Consul and have persuaded him to amend the rules relating to pawnbrokers, in the sense of requiring that they shall not receive any article unless the person offering it is provided with a surety and that other provisions shall be made to facilitate the recovery of stolen goods.

RAILROAD EARNINGS IN THE UNITED STATES.

STATISTICS have been published showing the results of railway operations in the United States during 1893. The figures refer to 479 roads with an aggregate mileage of 145,896 miles. The total gross earnings for the year were $1,085,685,281, the operating expenses $735,427,532, and the net income, $350,237,749. These returns do not embrace as large a number of lines as usual, and it is anticipated that, when completed, they may not make so good a showing. Comparing the results with those for 1892, it appears that the roads reporting exhibit aggregate net earnings to the amount of $350,257,749 in 1893 against $340,482,792 in 1892, an increase of $9,774,957, or about 3½ per cent. The net deductions, exclusive of dividends, in 1893, were $267,556,944, while the dividends paid were $66,652,400 against $64,688,687 in 1892, an increase of $1,963,713. The surplus of the dividends for the year covered by the report is $16,048,405, which, though not a large amount on a basis of gross earnings of nearly $1,100,000,000, shows, in the language of the Commission, "that the railways as a rule maintained profitable activity." *Bradstreet's*, from which we quote, adds the following interesting table:—

FINANCIAL RESULTS OF RAILWAYS IN YEARS NAMED.

	Per mile of line.					Inc. 1893 over 1892.
	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	
Passenger service	$2,213	$2,014	$1,962	$1,978	$1,956	$109
Freight service	5,068	4,946	4,689	4,589	4,204	122
Other earnings from operations	162	162	150	155	157	—
Unclassified	*—	1	—	3	3	†1
Total gross earnings	7,443	7,123	6,801	6,725	6,320	230
Less operating expenses	5,042	4,809	4,538	4,425	4,203	233
Income from operation	2,401	2,404	2,263	2,300	2,087	†3

* Less than $1. † Decrease.

AMOUNT OF SERVICE RENDERED BY RAILWAYS IN YEARS NAMED.

Year.	Passengers carried on mile.	Passengers carried one mile per mile of line.	Tons carried one mile.	Tons carried one mile per mile of line.
1893	12,825,975,314	87,928	84,997,043,814	582,692
1892	13,362,898,299	82,285	88,241,050,225	543,305
1891	12,844,243,981	70,642	81,073,784,121	502,705
1890	11,847,785,617	75,751	76,207,047,298	487,245
1889	11,553,820,445	75,325	68,727,323,146	448,069

THE MISSIONARIES IN CHINA AND THE SUN-PU MASSACRE.

A PREGNANT protest has been addressed by the foreign Protestant Missionaries in China to the Corps Diplomatique in Peking. The Missionaries believe that the action taken by Chinese officialdom in the sequel of the Sung-pu massacre amounts virtually to the proscription of Christian propagandism, and they say so in plain terms. We quote two strong paragraphs from their memorial:—

1st.—Many Chinese subjects, most of whom had no other interest in the Sung-pu affair than a friendly disposition to aid the murdered missionaries in their dire extremity, have been made to suffer, as rank criminals, in imprisonments, beatings, hardships and loss of property, without in the settlement of the case, obtaining any redress whatever. And some of these, guilty of no crime, are still exiles from their homes and native province, because they believe that by returning they would subject themselves to further punishment by the local officials. In view not only of the justice and protection which all Governments should secure to their subjects, but especially because of her treaty engagements with Christian Powers, China should hasten to put herself in a proper attitude before the civilised world, which demands religious toleration as the first of human rights. Moreover, if it be once taken for granted by the common people, whether rightly or wrongly, that it is hereafter to be the settled policy of their Government to punish not only Christian converts, but all, who by selling or leasing property, by personal service, by friendly relations with missionaries and Christians, or even by acquiescing in their neighbourhood, may make themselves suspected of sympathy with Christianity, and in case of their molestation, to withdraw from them protection and deny them a hearing in the local and higher courts, it must be patent to all that the right to teach our faith, clearly conferred by treaty, will in fact have been taken away, in the manner most disastrous to its propogation and acceptance in China.

2nd.—A large body of missionaries of various societies and countries, now resident in the province of Hupeh, are, we are credibly informed, debarred by the action of certain officials, not only from resuming their work in the region of which Sung-pu is the centre, but from beginning new work in other districts where the people, so far as left to themselves, have shown a marked friendiness and readiness to receive them. Even in long occupied stations, where harmonious relations with the people have hitherto prevailed, new and irksome restrictions are being imposed, which, while they embarrass the missionary, also serve to more and more outlaw the Christian communities, and thus prepare the way for persecution and outrage by evil-disposed persons, and when, as a consequence, troubles or dangers arise, the official protection which should be given alike to all good citizens of whatever faith is either wholly withheld from Christian subjects, or, at best, given grudgingly and tardily, as the result of the missionary's appeal. Sometimes, when the treaty obligations are well understood and an appearance is made of conforming to them, conditions of which the treaties know nothing are exacted which render their concessions nugatory.

TAXES ON TRADE.

STATISTICS show that the number of persons who come into conflict with the law in consequence of failure to pay their national taxes is very much smaller than the number of defaulters in respect of local taxes. It is inferred from this fact that the system of local taxation is seriously defective, but evidently such an inference cannot be confidently drawn until the different classes of persons by whom the taxes are paid have been carefully considered. Persons liable to national taxes belong generally to the better classes, whereas everybody, almost without distinction, is brought within the net of the local tax collector. That is only our opinion, however. The projectors of the new political association of business men think differently. They believe that the system of local taxes calls urgently for reform. The Business Tax, especially, evokes their criticism. It is imposed on a sliding scale according to the amount of the sales annually effected by a merchant. Evidently that amount cannot be determined exactly by any official scrutiny of the merchant's books; reports furnished by the merchants themselves are chiefly relied on, and it goes without saying that, human nature being what it is, the honest tradesman has to pay a much larger impost than the unscrupulous. The Tax on Miscellaneous Trades is less objectionable since it is fixed, not according to the volume of a particular business, but according to its nature. No inspection of books is required in this case nor any furnishing of returns, and consequently the duty of paying the tax has a less demoralizing effect. On the other hand, the persons liable to the tax are the poorest classes of tradesmen and defaulters are correspondingly more numerous. Moreover, the incidence of the above two taxes is not uniform: they are rated differently in different localities, and the consequence is that commerce and industry in one locality may be handicapped in competition with another locality. For these reasons the new Association advocates the repeal of such taxes altogether.

* * *

The House Tax also provokes the disapproval of the Association. They say that it partakes of the nature of a poll-tax, and consequently falls more heavily upon the poor, than upon the rich, classes. They advocate its abolition simultaneously with that of the Business Tax and the Tax on Miscellaneous Trades. The loss to local treasuries throughout the empire would aggregate 6,939,963 *yen*, according to the returns of the 25th fiscal year of *Meiji*. To meet this deficiency the reformers propose that, in the first place, the Prison Expenditures, now defrayed out of the local taxes, should be transferred to the charge of the Treasury; and in the second, that the Central Government's contribution to the cost of the Local Police should be increased. Each of these measures represents a saving of 2½ million *yen* to the localities. As for the remaining deficit of nearly three millions, the plan is to make it good by augmenting the Land Rates. Exception is proposed to be made, however, in the case of cities like Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto, where the Land Rates can not be easily levied: there the House Tax might remain in operation. Briefly speaking, the Association seeks to increase the burdens on land by some seven million *yen*. No programme could be more diametrically opposed to the change hitherto advocated by parliamentary politicians, whose one idea has been to lighten the burden on the agricultural classes.

A YOUTHFUL SCULPTOR.

AN instructor in the Tokyo Fine Arts School, Mr. Goto Sadayuki, who enjoys a high reputation as a sculptor, is stated by the *Hochi Shimbun* to have come across a promising young artist in quite a romantic manner. Two years ago Mr. Goto, while travelling in Awa, rested at midday in an inn where the noise of a chisel reached him from a humble-looking cottage close at hand. He walked over to the place and found a young man, some twenty-five years of age, cutting a stone Dog of Fo, such as is usually placed before a Shinto shrine. The man was so intent upon his work that he paid no attention to the presence of a stranger, nor was the latter disposed to interfere, being lost in surprise at the exceptional skill with which the

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workman chiselled the head of the fabulous animal. Presently the chisel rested, and then a conversation took place, the upshot of which was that the young man, whose name is Harada, was brought to Tokyo and placed in the Art School under the care of the famous sculptor Takamura Koun. He gives promise of the highest proficiency, and has already chiselled a pair of Chin dogs, said to be admirably done, which have been placed in the garden of Mr. Yasuda Zenjiro's beautiful place in the Fukagawa suburb of Tokyo. As a rule the art of carving in stone has never been carried beyond the most mediocre standard in Japan, and it may be that this Mr. Harada is destined to earn a new reputation for his country's sculptors.

PRESERVATION OF SCENIC GEMS.

A well-known Tokyo barrister, Mr. Yamada Kinosuke, recently delivered an interesting lecture with reference to the conservation of places noted for scenic beauties or celebrated for historical associations in Japan. The lecture was given at a meeting of the *Kokkagaku Kai* (State Science Society). What Mr. Yamada advocated was that the prohibition at present existing against lotteries should be relaxed for the purpose of raising funds to preserve such places. He declared the method of raising subscriptions to be quite inadequate even in the case of a place so famous and favourite as Nikko. Discussing lotteries, he assigned three reasons that had led to their prohibition. The first was that they fostered a spirit of gambling; the second, that they encouraged the employment of illegal methods, and the third that their organizers usually reaped excessive profit. The second and third of these reasons Mr. Yamada did not consider worthy of attention in the case of lotteries held for the purpose indicated by him, and with regard to the first, he argued about it much as the advocates of licensed prostitution argue about the social evil, namely, that the spirit of speculation and gambling being ineradicable from the human breast, it was better to recognise and seek to control its workings, rather than to enact ineffective prohibitions against it. We do not imagine, however, that the lecturer's theory is likely to be put into practice.

* * *

A curious point was made by Mr. Yamada in his lecture. One of the most favourite amusements of literary folks at present is the composition of little poems called *haikai*, which are sent in to some recognised master of poetry by whom their relative merits are judged. Nothing, apparently, could be more harmless or desirable than the growth of such a taste. But Mr. Yamada alleges that it is not inspired by literary or poetic proclivities nearly so much as by vulgar speculation. Each composer of a *haikai* has to accompany his composition with two or three *sen*, and from the amount thus obtained a money prize is awarded to the best, or it may be the best and second best, compositions. In short, he alleges that the *haikai* competitions are lotteries in disguise.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

About one o'clock on Sunday afternoon, the 11th, two girls, sisters, while proceeding up Glenealy between Caine Road and Robinson Road, Hongkong, were accosted by a Chinese, who seized one of them by the throat and threw her to the ground. The other at once screamed and tackled the assailant, who made off along the road leading to the Public Gardens on seeing one of his own countrymen coming to the assistance of the distracted girls. The object of the attack was doubtless a gold brooch which was worn at the neck. The ruffian was pockmarked, and the girls say they will be able to identify him again.

SHANGHAI AND NAGASAKI.

The following letter, published by the *North China Daily News*, deserves to be brought to the notice of the Directors of the *Nippon Yusen Kaisha*:—

Sir,—A few years ago, one of the steamship companies carrying on a weekly service with Japan, augurated a series of trips to Nagasaki and back, the steamers leaving here on Friday, arriving at Nagasaki on Sunday at daylight, the return steamer leaving Nagasaki on Sunday or occasionally Monday, and reaching Shanghai on Tuesday or Wednesday forenoon. By this means the Company acquired a not undeserved popularity, for they offered to residents in Shangai an opportunity of an agreeable trip, in well found ships commanded by men who are looked upon in Shanghai as belonging to our own set, valuable change of air and scene; in short, a great pleasure at a moderate expense and without any material trespass upon time, which, as you know, is fully occupied here. These trips were beginning to be thoroughly appreciated; and undoubtedly the popularity of the line would have advanced, for any move in the direction is ably seconded by the Company's officers ashore and afloat; when, without any reason assigned, they were discontinued, and, with a refinement of torture quite inexplicable, departures hence were and have since been set down for Saturday and from Nagasaki on Sunday, so that the much coveted trip must now be abandoned unless nine to eleven days can be devoted to the purpose.

Another large Company so time the departures of their steamers from the two terminal ports, the vessels running with the regularity of clock work, as to preclude Shanghai people from enjoying by the facilities an occasional run to Nagasaki.

If steamship companies desire support they should sometimes consider how best to earn public favour; and as it would be improper for an individual to make the suggestion, I venture to ask you to put it forward in the names of a large number of people who know of no escape from Shanghai between the months of June—September, when a four day trip to Nagasaki, enlivened by an occasional verbal intimation from a polite attendant that the "Captain wishes to see you in the chart room, Sir," is regarded by a number of hard-working men as a boon to be remembered.

I am, etc.,
March 12th, One of Many.

CURIOUS MISTAKE.

A curious mistake is revealed by home papers recently received in connection with the handicap for the Grand National, Cloister who won that race last year by forty lengths carrying 12st. 7lb., receiving the same impost for the event this year, and in the betting lists was at once installed first favourite at the exceedingly short odds—short for a cross-country race—of 5 to 1. On seeking for some explanation of this extraordinary specimen of handicapping, we find it stated that Mr. Wainwaring, the handicapper, says be put Cloister in at 12st. 12lb., and that the mistake must have been made by the copyist. This is a poor consolation for those who have already backed Cloister, and exhibits exceedingly loose methods of procedure, for supposing that the handicapper does not take the trouble to verify his figures, one would imagine that the weight would have attracted attention as a probable error and have been queried accordingly.

THE NEW JUDGE IN H.B.M.'S COURT.

The *Shanghai Mercury* of the 16th inst. learns that Chief Justice Hannen to-day handed Mr. W. V. Drummond his letter of appointment as Acting-Crown Advocate in succession to Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, the able and very much respected occupant of the permanent post, who leaves for Yokohama to-morrow to take up there the position of H.B.M.'s Judge. The new judge takes with him the best wishes of the Shanghai community, where he leaves many friends, and the only regret coupled with his promotion is that it removes him for a time at least from Shanghai where his high integrity and ability as a lawyer, not to mention his many estimable qualities in his private capacity, have made the task of his successor doubly difficult to discharge with like results.

THE SECOND RAILWAY LOAN.

The second railway loan issued under the Railway Law of 1892, for a million *yen*, has produced subscriptions aggregating 4,670,950 *yen*, the highest offers being 109.50 *yen* for the 100 *yen* bonds, and the lowest, 100 *yen*. In accordance with the provision of the Consolidated Loan Law, which is now always applied to such cases, 973,200 *yen* worth, of bonds are allotted at 109.50 *yen*, and the remaining 26,800 *yen* worth at 107.62 *yen*. Contrary to precedent the applications from commercial centres like Osaka, Kyoto, and so forth have been exceeded in this case by those from remote districts like Tokushima, Tottori, Niigata, and Aichi. In fact the applications from Osaka and Kyoto are said to have totalled only 100,000 *yen*, and as for Tokyo, had not the Imperial Treasury and the Savings Bank Bureau of the Finance Department applied for 1½ million *yen* worth of bonds, the capital would have cut a very sorry figure.

THEFT AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

A Japanese house-boy named Koga Hankuro, in the employ of Mrs. Maxwell, No. 124, Settlement, attempted to commit suicide on the 9th inst. It appears that when Mrs. Maxwell left for America some time ago she placed her furniture, linen, etc., in charge of the boy for safe keeping until her return. The boy, however, abused her confidence by either selling or pawning some of the things left in his hands. Hearing of the return of his mistress, and having no money, he on the 9th inst. decided upon suicide. Providing himself with a little brandy, he added some iodine and muriatic acid, and went to the tunnel at Sugita, where he drank the mixture. The poison, however, did not take effect and he lingered on the hills, suffering greatly, till the 11th, when he was able to drag himself over to Hodogawa to a friend's house. He subsequently went to Tokyo, whence he returned to Yokohama on the 18th and confessed, the pangs of hunger having forced him to give himself up. He is said to be not very much the worse for the nauseous mixture.

OIL VERSUS COAL.

An English steamer, the *Baku Standard*, has been fitted at Newcastle-on-Tyne with a new apparatus specially constructed for the consumption of oil instead of coal. On a trip from Sunderland to Dartmouth the arrangement answered admirably; four superintending engineers came around in her, and the results were beyond their expectations. Whilst her consumption of coal averaged 30 to 32 tons daily, only 15 tons of oil did the same work, while her staff of firemen is reduced from ten to six. No difficulty is experienced in getting steam, and there is an absence of dirt or smoke. The oil is non-explosive, the benzine having been previously extracted. The *Baku Standard* is about 3,000 tons register.

THE STABBING AFFRAY.

There will be no legal charge brought against the man Martin Robitz, who stabbed a sealer, serving on board the *Mary Ellen*, in Maganecho, on Friday, the injured man having refused to prosecute on the ground of want of time. Both the *Mary Ellen* and the *Annie E. Paint*—to which latter vessel Robitz belonged—sailed for the North Pacific on Tuesday morning, and Robitz was accordingly brought up for sentence in the British Court in regard to the charge of being absent without leave, of which he was found guilty on Monday. His Honour the the Assistant Judge sentenced Robitz to five weeks' hard labour.

DEPARTURE OF MR. QUIN.

The many friends of Mrs. Quin, the amiable wife of Mr. J. J. Quin, H.B.M.'s Consul at this Port, will, we feel confident, deeply regret to hear that news has been received from California, announcing a serious relapse, after her recent apparent recovery. Mrs. Quin, it will be remembered, left here several months ago, for California, under medical advice, for the benefit of her health, which had for some time been failing, and up to recently very favourable reports of her progress towards convalescence had been received. In consequence of the sad news Mr. Quin took passage in the steamer *China* on Sunday last, to visit her.—*Rising Sun.*

ANTI-CHRISTIAN PLACARDS IN CHINA.

The posting of anti-christian placards continues in China. The latest instance occurred in north-west Shantung where nothing of the kind had ever been heard of before. The usual formula were employed. The missionaries were accused generally of digging out children's eyes and using their gall to make medicine, and specifically of murdering three children and

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throwing their corpses into a river. It is very plainly hinted that the author of the placard was an ex-teacher in the missionary school, who had been discharged. But that does not make the event less dangerous or disagreeable.

DELIBERATE SUICIDE.

It is a common belief that people who announce their intention of committing suicide are seldom in any real danger of taking their own lives. There have indeed been many cases where all preliminaries of self-destruction were arranged and every preparation made that could lend dramatic effect to the catastrophe. But secrecy has almost invariably characterized the mood of the suicide, and the mere suspicion that his intention is known or suspected has generally been enough to arrest his hand. We who write recall a case where three open threats of suicide led to nothing, whereas the same man ultimately took his own life under circumstances of the greatest secrecy. But the story of Chief-Paymaster Ogawa of the Sasebo Naval Station is an exception to this rule. He seems to have talked habitually of committing suicide and inasmuch as the low state of his spirits lent some colour of real purpose to his words, one of his fellow officers, Mr. Kono, thinking to cheer him up took him to a tea-house on the 12th instant for a carouse. After dinner Mr. Ogawa again announced his intention of committing suicide, whereupon the master of the tea-house, thinking that he was in jest, said that if a suicide was to be committed, he trusted it would not be within the tea-house. The *convives* parted outside the inn and the next morning a blood-stained glove and a short sword lying on the road attracted the attention of a passer-by. He summoned the police and Mr. Ogawa's body was found close by. Life was not extinct, but the wound which he had given himself is likely to be fatal. As for the orign of the event, it is very old-fashioned—love and excessive expenditure.

"SOSHI" IN KIUSHU.

The *soshi* have been distinguishing themselves in Kiushu, on the occasion of a bye-election for the Local Assembly of Miyazaki Prefecture. Competing candidates, one from the northern, the other from the southern, part of the district had been canvassing vigorously, forces of *soshi* being among their weapons. On the day of polling, each side was represented by bodies of *soshi*, some two hundred strong. These gentry seem to have observed each other quietly until the result of the polling made it quite plain that victory would rest with the northern candidate when the *soshi* of that side began to withdraw, cheering as they went. This exasperated the other *soshi*. They followed, showing such a threatening aspect that the northern *soshi*, who were evidently anxious to avoid a conflict, thought it prudent to procure an escort of five constables. The precaution did not avert a collision, however, and while the struggle was in progress a postman happened to pass, who made all speed to convey to the nearest town information of what was in progress. There ensued a veritable *stridor que virum clangor que tubarum*. The people seizing anything available in the shape of arms, hastened to the scene of combat, and a serious commotion might have occurred had not a band of 30 constables together with other officials reached the place in good time. The casualties were all on the side of the northern *soshi*, though none seem to have been fatally injured.

A COSTLY ERROR.

A singular story is related by the *Shogyo Shimpo*. A contract, we read, was made by the Kawagoye Railway Company with Messrs. Illies and Company, for the supply of rails and other railway material. The goods were to be delivered in installments at fixed dates, with a provision that every day's delay after the appointed time should involve a penalty on the importing firm of $\frac{1}{1000}$th of the value of the particular installments in question. The last installment, valued at 12,000 *yen*, was 15 days late in arriving, and Messrs. Illies and Company were prepared to pay the penalty of 180 *yen*. But to their surprise they received from the Railway Company a demand for 18,000 *yen*, and on careful inquiry it transpired that, owing to a mistake in writing out the agreement, the fraction "$\frac{1}{1000}$" had been changed into "$\frac{1}{10}$." The Railway Company, strange to say, are represented as having endeavoured to hold the firm to the consequences of the mistake, and the *Shogyo Shimpo*, stranger still, seems to consider that such a course would have been quite justifiable. But a compromise is said to have been effected.

GRANTS IN AID.

The *Official Gazette* announces that the payment of the following sums out of the surplus revenue has been sanctioned :—

To Ehime Prefecture, to repair damage wrought by the floods of last year ...	463,137
To Okayama Prefecture, for the same purpose	2,017,841
To Tottori Prefecture, for the same purpose.....	1,644,794
To Shimane Prefecture, for the same purpose	718,187
To Oita Prefecture, for the same purpose.....	573,816
Total	5,417,775

A CHINESE MERCHANT AND THE NIPPON KOMBU KAISHA.

When the *Nippon Kombu Kaisha* inaugurated the sending of *kombu* (edible seaweed) to China it gave the sole agency to a Chinese merchant in Shanghai, who put up a sum of 25,000 Tls. as security. He seems, however, to have failed in the task, and a telegram from Shanghai, published by the *Shogyo Shimpo*, says that his 25,000 Tls. have been confiscated and that the sale of *kombu* will henceforth be effected in the open market, one result of which will probably be to cheapen its price for consumers.

THE LOSS OF THE M.M. "SAIGON."

The M.M. steamer *Saigon* left Saigon for Tongking on the 9th ult., and was wrecked on the 21st off Pulo Gambier, her passengers and mails, and much of her cargo, being saved. She has become a total loss, though she was under the command of one of the best masters in the fleet, Capt. Zoccola. She struck on a rock not marked on the chart, as has been officially verified by the French flagship *Triomphante*, which has visited the scene of the wreck.

A HAMLET OF TOURISTS.

Tsuboyama Shindkn, in the Nishikambara district of Niigata Prefecture, is a little hamlet of twenty houses. Its inhabitants appear to have led a wholly secluded life until quite recently when the idea occurred to them that they ought to go and see the world. In order to obtain means for doing so they mortgaged their farms for 500 *yen* to a capitalist in the neighbourhood, and they are now on the eve of setting out for Kyoto, Osaka, Nara, Shikoku, Tokyo, and Nikko. It is a delightful idea.

THE "OCEANIC'S" PASSENGERS.

Among the passengers just arrived per the *Oceanic* are several World's Fair Commissioners. Dr. Matsudaira, Imperial Japanese Commissioner, was among the number. He was received at the pier by his family, and at once went on to Tokyo. Dr. Kallen, German Commissioner, is on a trip around the world. M. Emil S. Fischer, Austrian Commissioner, is bound for Shanghai, but intends to make a short stay in Japan.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND SILVER.

The Parliament of British Columbia has recommended that action be taken by the Great Powers, as follows:—First—That gold and silver be legal tender to any amount. Second—That the value of silver in terms of gold be fixed. Third—That gold and silver bullion in any amounts be freely turned into coin at the State mints.

THE PRESENT MUDDLE.

The *Financial News* of London asks:—"Is it too late to again urge upon Her Majesty's Government the importance of reconvening the Conference of the Brussels Conference? It is quite clear that the experiments that have been tried fall disastrously short of the necessities of the case, and, if confusion is not to be still worse confounded, some way must be found out of the present muddle."

FIRE IN TOKYO.

This morning, at 1.30 o'clock, some alarm was caused in the most fashionable quarter of Tokyo —Nagata-cho—by a fire which broke out in the house occupied by Mr. Muraki, a Secretary of the War Department. The place is immediately behind the residences of H.E. the Minister of State for Justice and Dr. Ito, and beside that of Mr. Ito Miyoji, and is separated from the westerly boundary of the German Legation by a very short interval. Being entirely of wood, the building was quickly destroyed, though four fire-engines were playing on it a few minutes after the flames made their appearance. Happily the conflagration was confined to the compound where it originated, though a very different result might have been expected a few years ago, before the Tokyo Brigades were supplied with their present engines.

THE "MIOWERA."

This steamer, after being in dock at San Francisco, has left for England, where she is to be lengthened. It is reported that a compromise has been effected between the insurance company and the owners in view of the alterations to be made in vessel at home. The extent of the damage to be made good, on account of the *Miowera's* getting on the reef in Honolulu harbour, is estimated at £20,000.

THE "WORLOCK."

Mr. John W. Hall, who acted under instructions from H.B.M.'s Court for Japan, offered for sale by public auction on Tuesday, the auxiliary sealing schooner *Worlock*. There was a large attendance of the public, and the bidding started at $2,000; it reached $6,400, and no further offers being forthcoming, the vessel was withdrawn, the reserve price not having being reached.

A RACE TO THE FAR EAST.

A good race to Shanghai from New York will probably be that between the British ship *Ben Lee*, 2,204 tons, Captain Donaldson, and the British four-masted barque *Silberhorn*, 1,853 tons, Captain Gibbs, which left that port together with cargoes of case-oil on 6th January. The *Ben Lee* is a new ship and a fast sailer, and has the odds in her favour.

THE SILVER WEDDING CONGRATULALIONS.

The following was the reply sent by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan to the Governor of Hongkong in reply to a telegram of congratulation sent by the Colony on the 9th inst.:—"The Emperor desires to convey to your Excellency his thanks for the congratulations of yourself and Government and to express the pleasure with which he has received them."

A NEW COMBINATION.

The directors of the Austrian Lloyd have had under consideration a working agreement with the P. & O. Company and the Navigazione Generale Italiana for a radical reduction in the rates of freight in the East, in order to effectually compete with the newly-formed Japanese line of steamers between Bombay, China, and Japan.

THE MANCHESTER EXCHANGE.

A recent issue of the Manchester *Guardian*, treating of the recent tumble in silver says:—"It is probably no exaggeration to say that the present week has been a period of bewilderment, and even of consternation, on the Manchester Exchange without parallel in the history of that institution."

TOY MONEY.

Another attempt was made yesterday by two foreign seamen to pass a 5-*yen* toy note in Japanese town. The question arises whether the men had not been swindled into taking the note as money in one of the innumerable grog-shops that abound in the Japanese portion of the Settlement.

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JAPAN'S COTTON TRADE.

IN view of the probability that Japan may become a great cotton-manufacturing country one of these days, it is interesting to trace the history of her cotton trade with foreign countries, especially as we can incidentally note the effect produced by the appreciation of gold upon the prices she has had to pay for her cotton manufactures imported, virtually altogether, from gold-using countries.

Let us first set down the figures showing her total imports of raw cotton during the past five years :—

I.—IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON (GINNED AND UNGINNED).

	$	Catties.
1889	5,668,838	64,463,365
1890	5,365,152	52,141,752
1891	8,199,250	80,084,113
1892	12,324,644	113,348,220
1893	16,151,569	115,831,776

The countries from which almost the whole of this cotton is imported are British India, China, and the United States of America, and the proportions in which the trade was divided between them were as follow :—

II.—IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON FROM BRITISH INDIA.

	$	Catties.
1889	47,884	320,340
1890	1,114,264	7,500,966
1891	3,381,972	26,561,950
1892	4,691,770	36,213,191
1893	6,052,047	36,592,406

III.—IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON FROM CHINA.

		$	Catties.
1889	Ginned	3,398,790	22,753,852
	Unginned	2,034,131	37,834,458
		5,432,921	60,588,310
1890	Ginned	2,665,465	16,786,253
	Unginned	1,099,092	23,084,705
		3,764,557	39,870,958
1891	Ginned	2,571,666	18,055,152
	Unginned	1,125,375	27,940,864
		3,697,041	45,996,016
1892	Ginned	4,820,071	32,721,498
	Unginned	1,243,846	33,461,080
		6,063,917	66,182,578
1893	Ginned	7,805,999	50,183,891
	Unginned	816,335	21,152,494
		8,622,334	71,336,385

IV.—IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON FROM THE UNITED STATES.

	$	Catties.
1889	13,439	71,583
1890	351,875	1,779,022
1891	1,011,518	5,304,422
1892	1,435,862	9,185,290
1893	1,273,421	6,160,340

It will be observed from the second of the above tables that the import of raw cotton from British India has shown the greatest development, the quantity having grown from less than one-third of a million catties in 1889 to 36½ millions in 1893. The trade with China also shows a steady growth during the past four years, but that with the United States shows a tendency to decline. The tables further indicate that Japan paid a higher price for her cotton in 1893 than she paid in previous years. It would appear, indeed, from the first table, that whereas the quantity of cotton imported by her increased by less than 100 per cent. in five years, its value increased by nearly 200 per cent. But before accepting that conclusion, it is necessary to remark that the tables indicate a gradual disposition to abandon the import of the cheapest kind of cotton—the unginned from China—in favour of the more expensive. To elucidate this question of cost we have prepared the following table :—

V.—TABLE SHOWING COST OF 1,000 CATTIES OF RAW COTTON FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN FIVE YEARS.

	British India.	China.	United States.
1889	$149	$149 (Ginned) 54 (Unginned)	$187
1890	$148	$158 (Ginned) 47 (Unginned)	$197
1891	$127	$143 (Ginned) 43 (Unginned)	$190
1892	$129	$147 (Ginned) 37 (Unginned)	$156
1893	$165	$155 (Ginned) 38 (Unginned)	$206

These figures show that 1893 was an exceptionally expensive year for Indian and American cotton, and that Chinese also ruled higher than at any time since 1890.

Turning now to the imports of cotton manufactures during the past five years, we have the following figures :—

VI.—IMPORTS OF CHINTZES AND THEIR PRICES.

		Yards.	Price per 1,000 yards.
1889	$ 398,559	5,769,180	$ 69
1890	478,462	6,900,018	69
1891	140,904	1,938,606	72
1892	436,544	5,832,175	74
1893	635,902	7,773,182	82

VII.—COTTON DRILLS.

		Yards.	Price per 1,000 yards.
1889	$ 127,742	1,329,090	$ 96
1890	44,647	483,816	92
1891	40,922	462,228	88
1892	127,491	1,162,572	109
1893	64,803	528,225	122

VIII.—COTTON HANDKERCHIEFS.

		Dozen.	Price per 100 dozen.
1889	$ 162,399	432,710	$ 37
1890	138,657	299,408	46
1891	123,470	292,912	42
1892	198,930	398,073	49
1893	164,619	305,868	53

IX.—COTTON SATINS.

		Yards.	Price per 1,000 yards.
1889	$ 186,147	1,753,843	$106
1890	230,343	2,155,453	107
1891	134,866	1,160,825	116
1892	523,459	4,243,944	123
1893	842,452	6,176,483	136

X.—COTTON VELVETS.

		Yards.	Price per 1,000 yards.
1889	$ 361,811	2,331,326	$155
1890	382,851	2,500,821	153
1891	274,930	1,671,850	164
1892	578,374	3,336,698	173
1893	489,664	2,639,634	185

XI.—COTTON YARNS.

		Catties.	Price per 1,000 catties.
1889	$12,522,039	42,810,910	$292
1890	9,928,061	31,908,302	311
1891	5,589,289	17,337,600	322
1892	7,131,979	24,308,491	293
1893	7,284,242	19,405,152	375

XII.—SHIRTINGS, DYED, GRAY AND WHITE.

		Yards.	Price per 1,000 yards.
1889	$ 2,407,740	41,353,642	$ 58
1890	2,209,559	36,342,447	60
1891	1,982,770	34,313,925	57
1892	2,183,855	38,898,940	56
1893	2,664,376	42,044,582	63

XIII.—T. CLOTHS.

		Yards.	Price per 1,000 yards.
1889	$ 333,039	5,592,968	$ 59
1890	144,483	2,587,485	55
1891	141,062	2,526,842	55
1892	126,911	2,337,198	54
1893	208,672	3,406,419	61

It is certainly a very remarkable fact that in the face of the above steady increases of price in every case, the import trade in cottons still retains vitality. We see that the price of chintzes increased 19 per cent. between 1889 and 1893; that of Cotton Drills, 29 per cent.; that of Cotton Handkerchiefs, 43 per cent.; that of Cotton Satins, 28 per cent.; that of Cotton Velvets, 19 per cent.; that of Cotton Yarns, 28 per cent.; and that of Cotton Shirtings, nearly 9 per cent.; or an average increase of 25 per cent. over the seven staples. It is too soon, of course, for prices to have yet experienced the full effect of the *debâcle* in silver that commenced last fall, but the figures we have quoted are eloquent enough. The import trade lives because many of its staples do not come into competition with Japanese manufactures, and are necessary to Japanese consumers. But an impost of twenty-five per cent. in five years, and, indeed, with all silver-using countries, must exercise a disastrous influence. Great Britain's policy towards silver will ultimately kill her trade with Japan.

THE POLICY OF THE RADICAL PARTY.

OUR readers have doubtless perceived that ever since the Radicals ceased to cöoperate with the *Kaishinto's* assault upon the Government, they have been the object of much abuse at the hands of their former confederates. Truly, one would suppose from the writings of the *Kaishinto* organs that no form of moral degradation could be more profound than that of the man who ventures to support the present holders of administrative power. We do not know whether the Japanese public look behind this hyperbole. Presumably they are shrewd enough to do so. We do know, however, that such silly exaggeration would defeat its own object in any Western community. The present occupants of office are the men who have moulded modern Japan. To them chiefly she owes the progress she has made during the past twenty years, and the place she has won for herself among the nations of the world. If they have retained their grasp of power by clan combination, that is only another way of saying that amid a state of affairs so kaleidoscopic as to be apparently full of danger, elements of essentially necessary administrative stability have been furnished by the continued preponderance of the great clans that planned and carried out the centralization of the Government. It is absurd to hold up to public opprobrium a Cabinet in which the leading spirits are men like Counts ITO and INOUYE, merely because it retains a semblance of the clan connections that have been so useful to Japan in her time of universal change. Especially absurd is it when the politicians prominently clamorous on the subject are under the leadership of a statesman who four years ago worked hand-in-glove with the very Ministers now controlling the Cabinet, and who separated from them,

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not because of any difference of opinion in matters of domestic policy, but because the country rebelled against his solution of the Treaty Revision enigma. However, though agitation conducted on such lines is lamentably deficient in reason, it has the advantage of being agitation. Even "blind and naked ignorance delivering brawling judgments all day long on all things, unabashed," carries weight with the masses by the mere pertinacity of her bluster, and the *Kaishin-to* organs, by perpetually crying "shame" upon every supporter of those in office, have actually succeeded in making men ashamed to figure openly in the *rôle* of official supporters. Count OKUMA and his followers, it must be confessed, have shown themselves political strategists of a very high order. They thoroughly appreciate the prestige that attaches to unwearying assault. Men's sympathies may ultimately be roused for the object of perpetual attack, but their natural impulse is to cheer the party of onset. That the *Kaishin-to* fully understand. Further, they perceive that the natural antipathies existing between politicians of their type and red-hot Radicals like the *Doshi* Club, can never be fused into temporary cöoperation except by the fierce heat of a war to the knife. Therefore they never for one instant lower their arms, but continue their anti-Government assault mercilessly and unwearingly. It is nevertheless evident that the country is with the *Jiyu-to*. Their success at the polls was beyond the most sanguine expectation. From 77 the number of their representatives rose to 120, an increase of nearly 56 per cent. The constituencies declared most emphatically in their favour, and they now enjoy the distinction of being the first political party in Japan that has ever come within measurable distance of competence to assume the reins of administrative power. It has been predicted in many quarters that by virtue of their unique strength the *Jiyu-to* would have the courage to announce themselves definitely in favour of the present Cabinet. But we have never expected anything of the kind. There will not, there cannot, be an alliance between the *Meiji* statesmen and any political party until the ranks of the former are disrupted by forces still in an embryonic condition. The most that can be expected is an attitude of greater moderation on the part of the *Jiyu-to*, and that, perhaps, it is now possible to count on. They will not abandon their old policy of general opposition, but it will no longer be a policy of pure antagonism, neither will it be pushed to violent extremes. We shall not see addresses to the Throne or votes of want of confidence introduced or supported by the *Jiyu-to* next session, but we may, and probably will, see questions propounded to the Government, and representations and resolutions adopted that will leave no doubt as to the continued existence of a chasm between the *Meiji* statesmen and the Radical Party. Japanese politics, in our opinion, are still far removed from the time of Party Cabinets and the rule of a parliamentary majority.

GRANTS TO THE KUGE *NOBLES.*

WE have already noticed that the EMPEROR, on the occasion of the Silver Wedding, announced his intention to grant sums of money to the *Kuge* Nobles (former Court Nobles). In pursuance of this declaration, HIS MAJESTY appointed, on that 17th inst., a Committee for elaborating the plan on which the grant should be made. The Committee consists of Mr. HANABUSA YOSHIKATA, Vice-Minister of the Imperial Household (Chairman); Prince IWAKURA GUTEI, Director of the Bureau of Peerage Titles; Mr. SHIRANE SENICHI, Court Councillor and Director of the Imperial Treasury; Viscount TANAKA KOKEN, Court Councillor and Presiding Auditor of the Household Finance; Mr. YANAZAKI NAOTANE, Director of the Bureau of Supplies; Prince KONOYE ATSUMARO; Marquis SAIONJI NIMIMOCHI, President of the Board of Decorations; Marquis KUGA MICHIHISA, Court Councillor; Count HIGASHIKUZE MICHIYOSHI, Vice-President of the Privy Council; Count HIROHASHI KATAMITSU; Viscount FUJINAMI KOTOTADA, Director of the Imperial Mews; and Viscount HORIKAWA YASUTAKA, Chamberlain. Of the *Kuge* Nobles, Princes SANJO and IWAKURA will not be included among the recipients of the Imperial bounty, since their houses are in flourishing circumstances. A few others also will be excluded on account of their notoriously discreditable manner of living. In what precise way the grant will be made remains to be decided by the newly-appointed Committee. But it is believed that the money will not be given at once to the respective noblemen, but will be converted into public bonds or shares and held in custody in the Imperial Household Department for a period of fifteen years, during which time seven-tenths of the interest on the shares or bonds will be annually handed to the nobles, the remaining three-tenths being added to the principal. At the end of fifteen years, the principal thus augmented will be finally transferred to the respective recipients as hereditary property. The amounts of the original donation will be about 30,000 *yen* to Princes and Marquises, 20,000 to Counts, and 10,000 *yen* to Viscounts and Barons. These sum aggregate in all 1,990,000 *yen*.

The poverty of the Court Nobles has been proverbial during many centuries since the ascendency of the military classes became an accomplished fact. It is true that as the Court at Kyoto always remained, even in the least puissant days of Imperialism, the ultimate source of honours and titles, hereditary nobles of the *Kuge* class were looked up to with reverence by the powerful and wealthy territorial nobles. But in point of income the Court Nobles were generally in a pitiable state, their lot being often worse than that of the meanest retainers in the household of the territorial magnates. To make up for the deficiency of their paltry incomes, they had recourse to various devices. Among the higher orders of the Court Nobles, it was a common custom to give their daughters in marriage to some powerful *Daimyo* as a means of improving their condition; while the *Daimyo*, on their part, were glad to add lustre to their family names by union with houses of the first historical renown. There is also reason to believe that some of the *Daimyo* sought marriage with the *Kuge* for the purpose of making interest at Court in view of the overthrow of the feudal Government. Among the lower ranks of the Court Nobles, many were so poverty-stricken that they had to rely for subsistence on menial labour. One of the commonest kinds of such labour was the manufacture of *kana-garuta* and *uta-garuta*. Some of the *Kuge* even levied black-mail upon the small *Daimyo*, whose territories happened to be contiguous with the domains of the former. Unless these *Daimyo* occasionally made presents of money to their haughty but needy neigbours, the latter did not fail to fasten quarrels upon them, the issue of which was almost always disastrous to the teritorial nobles, for the central feudal Government continually took care to avoid giving offence to the Court Nobles. With the Restoration, better days dawned for the impoverished *Kuge*, but the principal part in restoring power to the Imperial Family having been taken by the *Daimyo* and their vassals, the *Kuge* had to be contented with comparatively small pensions. Thus the majority of them are quite unable to live in a manner befitting their exalted stations in society. The late Prince IWAKURA was the first to take active steps for bettering the condition of the *Kuge*, but he did not live to see his object attained. Prince IWAKURA was an astute statesman. He fully understood the importance of preserving the closest possible relations between the Throne and the nobility, and doubtless he would have given his heartiest support to such a method of aiding the *Kuge* as that now adopted. But it was reserved for Count ITO to tender the advice upon which HIS MAJESTY has so graciously acted, and history will reckon it among the wisest measures of that far-seeing Minister's official career.

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THE JAPANESE JUDICIARY.

SOME three or four years ago, at a time when the apparent imminence of Treaty Revision invested the subject with special interest, the London *Times* inserted a letter written for the purpose of controverting the idea that Japan had qualified to be entrusted with jurisdiction over the persons and property of foreigners residing within her territory. The letter, though anonymous, was well known to have emanated from an old resident of Japan, who for many years had served the Japanese Government, and who ought to have been competent to express an intelligent opinion on the subject he undertook to discuss. Running through his criticisms, however, there made itself easily discernible a vein of prejudice engendered by personal considerations, and the letter consequently carried much less weight than its writer's qualifications would otherwise have secured for it. Among the statements advanced in proof of Japan's incompetence it was alleged that her Judiciary entirely lacked legal qualifications, and that no attempt had been made to provide proper training for its members. We should not now recur to the subject had not recent inquiry convinced us that the state of ignorance illustrated by this assertion of the writer in *The Times* is not at all limited, and that many persons entertain in its integrity the belief conveyed in his harsh and unfounded verdict. What, then, is the truth about the law officers of Japan? What qualifications are they required to possess, and is it true that no attempt has been made to equip them properly for their office? In order to answer these questions, let us briefly trace the history of the Judiciary during the *Meiji* era.

Our readers are doubtless aware that one of the earliest tasks to which the Government of the Restoration applied itself was the revision and codification of the laws of the country, and that the first steps taken in that direction were necessarily somewhat hurried and superficial. So, too, in the case of the Judiciary, no thoroughly satisfactory system of selection and appointment existed at the outset. During the first five years of the *Meiji* era, any person who enjoyed the reputation of being well versed in law might be nominated to serve as a probationer in one of the Courts, and so soon as he was believed to have acquired the necessary practical knowledge, he received the appointment of Judge. Evidently this method could be of only temporary application, since by it the duty of choosing judicial officers was entrusted to men not themselves specially qualified for the task, and since no conclusive tests of competence were applied nor was any programme of training followed. If the writer in *The Times* had referred to the state of affairs existing prior to 1873, his criticism would have been in the main correct and just, but writing in 1890 and speaking of 1890, he displayed ignorance. For in 1873 a definite system of training was adopted, a Law College being established in the Department of Justice, with a faculty of Japanese and foreign legal experts, for the purpose of educating men to serve on the bench. In this college there were two schools, the curriculum of the one being of a merely qualificatory character, while that of the other was special and optional. The course of training in the latter extended over nine years, and students graduating successfully were at once appointed probationers in the Law Courts, where, after the acquisition of sufficient practical knowledge, they were placed upon the Bench. Graduates of the qualificatory school became eligible for the position of probationer or clerk, but were appointed only to such vacancies as might remain after the graduates of the special school had been provided for. It will be seen that this system, though greatly better than the practice previously followed, still left much to be desired. It continued in force until 1884, when important changes were introduced by a Government Notification which prescribed Regulations for the Appointment of Judges. According to these Regulations, three classes of persons were eligible for appointments as Judges; namely, graduates in law of the Imperial University, barristers, and men who had passed an examination specially held for the purpose in the Department of Justice. Such persons could be appointed *go-yogakari* (supernumeraries) in the Courts of Law, and after at least a year's service in that capacity, they became eligible for judgeships. It was further provided that graduates in law of the Imperial University who had practised as barristers for two years or upwards, as well as barristers who, though not graduates in law, had practised for at least five years and shown themselves well versed in legal knowledge, might be appointed to the Bench at once without any probationary period as *go-yogakari*; and finally, that the special examination might be dispensed with in the case of men who had acted as Assistant Judges for five years or upwards, administrative officials who had served as Judges for five years or longer, and graduates in law of the Imperial University who already held posts as administrative officials. By these Regulations the Bench was weeded of all persons except those who had either served so long in the capacity of Judge as to have given practical proof of competence, or those who were fitted to pass a test examination.

The next progressive step was taken in 1887 when the Regulations for Civil Service Examinations were promulgated. By these it became imperative that every candidate for the post of Judge or Public Procurator should pass an examination, qualifications for candidates being, at the same time, accurately defined. We need not, however, dwell upon this page of Japanese judicial history, but may proceed at once to describe the system inaugurated in 1891 and now in force. According to that system every candidate for the post of Judge or Public Procurator—with certain exceptions afterwards noted—has to pass two competitive examinations, the qualifications required in a candidate being that he shall be a graduate in law of the First or the Third Upper Middle Schools, or of a private law school established by permission of the Minister of State for Education and conducted in accordance with a standard fixed by him, or of a foreign university or college or school of corresponding status, and that he shall have attained his majority. Having successfully passed the first examination, the candidate is appointed a probationer and is attached to a local court to study judicial procedure. He remains a probationer for three years under ordinary circumstances, but should he give evidence of special aptitude, he may, by recommendation of the Judge superintending his work, be appointed to provisionally discharge judicial functions, though a probationer not thus distinguished is incompetent to deliver a judgment, or to collect evidence, or to perform the duties of registration. After the second competitive examination has been successfully passed, the candidate receives the first vacant post of Judge or Public Procurator, and is qualified to sit on the bench in a Local or District Court. The two examinations may be dispensed with in the case of men who have been engaged as professors of, or lecturers in, jurisprudence in the Imperial University for at least three years, or who have practised as barristers for a similar time, and the first examination is not considered necessary in the case of graduates in law of the Imperial University.

It can not be claimed, of course, that Judges and Public Procurators appointed under the above system rank with the judicial officials of some Western nations where at least twelve or fifteen years' distinguished pursuit of the legal profession are required to qualify for the ermine. But such nations are exceptional, and circumstances demand that they should be. Of Japan we have no right to ask more than that she should subject her Judges and Public Procurators to tests not inferior to the average standard adopted in civilized European States. That she does so will be seen from what we have written.

Since, however, object lessons are more convincing than abstract statements, we publish elsewhere a list of the principal Japanese Judges and Public Procurators, appending to the name of each a brief account of his qualifications. Our readers will thus be enabled to form a tolerably clear idea of the men now constituting the Japanese Judiciary, and can estimate for themselves the justice of the allegation that these men are entirely without legal training.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

SILVER AND DRIFT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—If my previous letter has done nothing else, it has brought to light not a few extraordinary opinions, and the brave merchants of Yokohama must be in some perplexity where to find the truth, when twelve Royal Commissioners are on one side and the Editor of the *Japan Herald* on the other. It is at least satisfactory to see that the danger to British trade is recognised, and the significance of the great increase last year in the imports of raw cotton and trade machinery will not be overlooked.

To read what is written for the enlightenment of Yokohama one would suppose that until the last few years there had been no disturbance in the relative production of the precious metals. Let us then to facts. Taking Dr. Soetbeer's estimates, it is an easy calculation that the average annual production from 1801 to 1840 was 39½ silver to 1 gold, and from 1840 to 1870 it was only 7⅛ silver to 1 gold. The difference between the ratio of production in the first period and the second is thus seen to have been enormous, and yet the change in the gold price of silver was only fractional around the pivot of 15½ to 1. During the whole of those 73 years the bimetallism of France was in active operation and it was an era of monetary peace.

And what is the position now? Since 1873 we have had no bimetallism to help us. We have been floundering helplessly about, and although the average annual ratio of production has been under 18 to 1 (as against the previous 39½ to 1) the gold price of silver has fallen 55 per cent., and the ratio of value has changed from 15½ to 1 until it now stands at 34 to 1. Is it very unreasonable to say that what bimetallism has done before it can do again when opportunity is given?

The China Association has made an earnest appeal, and it requires a prompt reply. I have stated my opinion and I now say that all British residents should be asked to respond to that appeal. The delegate from Japan is not expected to conquer Great Britain single-handed any more than Mr. Balfour was expected to convert the country by one speech at the Mansion House. But success in any movement depends upon united action. Shanghai invites us to co-operate, and I conceive that our duty is plain.

I am, yours truly, "Y."

March 17th, 1894.

IMPROVEMENT OF SEEDS IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your issue of yesterday you have a note on the formation of a society for carrying out the above object in connection with flowers, natives of Japan, but which are all grown to greater perfection and beauty in foreign countries. There are many, native of other countries which can, by good, cultivation be much improved in Japan. Hyacinths, gladiolii, freezia, and other liliacea not only grow more robustly but increase more rapidly than in Europe, and could be grown here for export as easily as ordinary lilies. These are all ornamental. I should like to draw attention to the useful. The producers of vegetables for both native and foreign consumption keep on raising them from home-grown seed and that not from the finest plants, but generally from the poorest and weakest, until the produce is, in quality, far below what it originally was. Potatoes are a marked instance of this. I have taken particular notice this spring of the planting, and also made inquiry from the planters, finding that no selection is made, but the small potatoes which are unsaleable are used as sets, and no notice is taken about early or late varieties, or varieties suitable for light or heavy land. All are planted haphazard, and in time the whole stock has lost its original character and become almost unfit for food, as many now on the market are. Cabbage, too, is grown without any selection of kinds. Spring varieties in autumn, and winter varieties in spring. I saw, a few day ago, a patch of about three hundred head, and could have picked out seven or eight kinds, and some crosses too, evidently grown from seed raised from several kinds grown in close proximity, which had hybridized one on the other. Again, there is that most delicious fruit, the melon, the same old *makuwauri* or *suika* as twenty years ago, while one grower in England has produced twenty new and improved kinds in that time.

If the Society can extend its aims and effect an improvement in this direction, it would be conferring a lasting benefit on both the producers and consumers.

Many of the upland cereals and other produce are much run down from the same cause, and should be given special attention by the Department of Agriculture.

Yours, etc., ASH LEAF.

March 17th, 1899.

"MISSIONARY TROUBLES IN AKITA."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your issue of the 14th is an item under the above head. As I happen to know something about the case I write these few lines. A few years ago a Chapel was built in Honjo, with foreign money, and a Mr. Nakada (Chokuho) was fellowshipped in working there. Last year a member of the Akita Church was disfellowshipped for immoral conduct, and for having divorced his wife without a reason. He applied to the said Nakada for his daughter and married her. This was the cause of his disconnection with mission work, the Church at Akita being the mover in the matter.

The property there is Japanese Evangelistic property, but Nakada first sued for some Akita property and the case was decided against him, and he has transferred that property to the trustees in Akita, but the Honjo property he has claimed, and though he has one decision in his favour, it is doubtful whether he can hold the property *privately* when he never put a *sen* into it.

Though I have been the best friend he ever had, he now seeks to revenge himself on me. No claim has been made for the property as belonging to foreigners. A Mr. Tashiro, a faithful man, wants to hold the property for the preaching of the Gospel.

In a lecture on the World's Fair, from the Christian standpoint, I mentioned, incidentally, His Majesty, the Emperor, in the most respectful terms, and the audience never dreamed of there being anything wrong. The whole story is a "four-cornered lie."

Nakada in thus making his Majesty's name useful in a nasty little quarrel, shows that he is not a *Dai Nihon Danshi*. The *Yomiuri*, is, I am informed, a scurvy sheet.

Yours respectfully, CHAS. E. GARST.

March 20th, 1894.

"SOSHI" IN RAILWAY TRAINS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I observe a paragraph in your issue of this date in reference to my letter, in which it is stated that "It is emphatically denied that there was any semblance of discourtesy or want of consideration on the part of Mr. Freese." I am very glad to hear this, and to admit that I was not present when the occurrence took place, but wrote on the strength of what had been related to me. I have also since heard it stated that Mr. Freese asked if the opening of the window caused any inconvenience, and that he was answered in the negative, and that he did not desire to show any want of consideration for the comfort of the other guests in the room. Kindly find space for this short note in the interests of JUSTICE.

March 16th, 1894.

ON THE RECENT COLD WAVE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I desire to convey my views to the public through the medium of your valuable paper in connection with the recent cold wave experienced in Tokyo. I learned in your issue on the 13th day, under the heading of "Seismic Phenomenon," that the Japanese are inclined to think that the sudden fall of temperature since Monday morning was owing to the earthquake, but my opinion is entirely different. I have found from my own scientific experience, that earthquake occurrences have no appreciable influence upon weather changes, but the chief elements of transitions or temperature fluctuations are the appearance or disappearance of high and low areas of atmospheric pressure. It is an irresistible law, commonly spoken of among meteorologists, that when any region is covered by a high pressure system, the air loses a great amount of heat, especially at night, by its characteristic highly radiating power, and thus produces cold weather, while when a low area happens to appear the case is just reversed. Now taking this into consideration, the last cold spell is easily explained by the appearance of a very unusually high pressure area over Japan, the barometrical readings attaining as much as 779 mm.—12 mm. above the normal height—immediately following the de-

pression, on last Sunday the 11th, of a long-stayed depression which brought the inclement weather of about a week. On Saturday the 10th, atmospheric pressure along the China Coast rose much and showed 770-776 mm. This high area seems to have advanced northeastward and its centre ultimately reached Central Japan on the 14th, accompanying a cold wave, and causing bitter cold northerly winds both in front and rear of it. In conclusion, I should say no Japanese believes the recent cold wave owed its origin to the seismic disturbance of Monday morning. But I have been taught myself by the experience of over ten years, that most earthquakes, except those owing to remarkable geological phenomena, occur at periods of atmospheric inequilibrium, or in other words, when pressure increases or declines very suddenly. Anyhow, the shock of Monday morning was nothing but a new evidence of this fact and had no value in respect the weather change.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

N. BABA,

Central Meteorological Observatory.

Tokyo, March 15th, 1894.

SOIRÉE MUSICALE IN THE PUBLIC HALL.

Anywhere but in the Yokohama, we venture to think, it would be considered a bold venture to snap asunder the bonds of old custom to give a concert during Holy Week. Certainly within the last few years many of the traditionary observances appertaining to this particular section of the ecclesiastical year have undergone many changes, mostly tending to a putting aside of the stricter canons of the *ancien régime*, but seldom have the innovators gone further than a performance of Spohr's "Last Judgment," or works of a similiar sombre character. The difference is but one of degree, yet force of habit is very strong even in the average concert-goer, and to this cause can in large measure be attributed the inconsiderable attendance at the *soirée musicale* given in the Public Hall on Wednesday evening. It was to be deplored, for a glance at the programme and especially at the names of those responsible for the various items assured success from the outset. In no case were the expectations of the audience misplaced. The string quartett were Messrs. Ramseger and Kaufmann, violins; Mr. Danneberg, a new and very welcome arrival in musical circles here, viola; and Mr. Crame, violoncello. Three quartetts they gave, and it is difficult to decide which pleased the most. The *adagio* movement in the first Quartett, No. 15, Mozart, was very finely given, and the Finale, in *allegro assai*, left little to be desired from the stand-point of finished execution. Nothing could have been more appropriately chosen for a concert given at this particular season than the second Quartett—No. 4 on the programme—it being a Largo Grave by Hadyn, comprising two selections taken from "The Last Seven Words of Jesus Christ." The devotional fervour which the composer has thrown into these rythmic movements requires more than an ordinary sympathetic touch and responsive feeling to properly interpret. Despite the magnitude of the undertaking the four musicians acquitted themselves well of the task, as might only be expected, and the theme was developed to its fullest significance. Two songs had been given between the quartetts just mentioned, the first by Mrs. Campbell, "Tell me, my heart," Bishop, and the second by Mr. Saal, Mendelssohn's "Da lieg ich unter den Baeumen." Mrs. Campbell is undoubtedly improving in her mastery of technique, but in neither this song nor in the duet which she sang later in the evening with Mr. Saal, "Still wie die Nacht," Goetze, was her voice heard at its sweetest. A persistent encore was demanded at the close of the duet, and the singers kindy acceded to the request. Mr. Saal, has a baritone of great volume, but it is not so attractive in *timbre* as one of less power often is. A pretty pianoforte duet, "Maurer u. Schlosser," Auber, was given as an interlude by the Misses Meier and Grobrügge, and deserved the applause which it received. The seventh and last item was a quartett of Hadyn's, No. 13. The third movement, *andante grazioso*, was the most pleasing of the four, but all were faultlessly executed. Mrs. Poole kindly acted as accompanist to the songs in her usual good manner. The Bluethner grand piano, we might mention, was supplied by Mr. J. G. Doering.

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THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

An ordinary meeting of the above mentioned Society was held at the rooms of the Geographical Society (Chigaku-Kiokai), Nishikonya-cho, Kiobashi-ku, Tokyo, at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 16th, Mr. H. G. Parlett in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and approved, were passed; Mr. T. Konishi and Mr. R. Hamilton were unanimously elected members of the Society.

Mr. I. Tanaka showed a collotype from a group taken with the new Goerz double anastigmatic lens. This was of particular interest as being the first specimen of work done by this, the latest outcome of the new Jena optical glass, and said to be superior even to the Zeiss anastigmatic lenses, specimens of the work of which had been shown at previous meetings of the Society. The double anastigmatic was shown. It is a symmetrical lens, working at f: 7.7, and having the combinations close together, so that it will include a wide angle. The focus of the particular lens shown was about 12 inches. The subject was a group, the members of which had been arranged in a straight line. The size was 12 × 10, and the lens had been used full aperture, the exposure having been made with a shutter. There was absolutely no perceptible difference in definition between the central and the marginal figures. The instrument is, in fact, a rapid wide-angle lens, with a perfectly flat field, and is devoid of astigmatism.

Mr. W. K. Burton then showed Dallmeyer's newest form of tele-photographic lens. If he had known that Mr. Kajima was going to disappoint them in the matter of his promised views of Fuji, he (the speaker) would have brought samples of the work of the new lens, and have given a full explanation of its working. This he would do at the next meeting. In the meantime, he would only say that the new lens seemed to reduce tele-photography to the greatest simplicity it could be reduced to. Mr. Burton also showed some work with Edwards's orthochromatic plates, and showed the yellow screen that he used. The screen was made simply by coating "patent plate" with a solution of gelatine and picrate of ammonia. The screen was placed in actual contact with the plate, and this, he stated, was the right, *and the only right place*, for a screen when using *dry* orthochromatic plates. The results were much better than with a screen of optically ground glass near the lens. Picrate of ammonia was of the exact colour wanted for orthochromatic work, the curve of absorption nearly corresponding with the curve of sensitiveness of bromide of silver. Then there was the ease with which screens of the kind he showed could be made. Mr. K. Arito had coated half a dozen of them, of different depths of tint, in half an hour.

Messrs. W. K. Burton and M. Kondo then gave a demonstration of the "Carbon," or pigment process, of which the following is a brief description:—The name "carbon process" had been given, because all the earlier efforts to work out a permanent process were directed towards the use of lamp-black, which is nearly pure carbon—one of the most permanent bodies in nature—and in the first successful pictures made by the process, lamp-black only was used. The "Pigment Process" was, however, a better term to use, for one of the beauties of the process was that any pigment that did not react with gelatine or chromic acid salts could be used, and if the pigment were permanent, so would be the resulting pictures. The process depended on the fact that, if gelatine were treated with any of certain salts of chromic acid, it became sensitive to light, in the sense that the action of light rendered it insoluble even in hot water, whereas, not acted on by light, it retained its solubility. The material principally used was what is technically known as "carbon tissue." This is merely paper coated thickly with gelatine and some pigment. The tissue used was by the Autotype Company, of London, which firm had the reputation of issuing no tissue with pigments other than permanent. Five different colours were shown, namely "engraving black," "photographic brown," "photographic purple," "sea green," and "red chalk" or "Bartolozzi red." The tissue is sensitized by dipping it for a minute or two in a chromate solution. A simple solution of bichromate of potassium, of a strength of 2 to 3 per cent. is commonly used, but the demonstrators preferred to add ammonia to this solution, till the bright orange colour changed to a pale yellow. This change of colour indicated the conversion of the bichromate of potassium into a double chromate of potassium and ammonium. This procedure had first been recommended by Dr. Eder, and it was the opinion of many carbon workers, amongst others the demonstrators, that tissue sensitized with this double salt, kept better than that sensitized with bichromate of potassium. The tissue is dried without artificial heat. A great deal depends on the time taken for drying. The best results were obtained when this time was from 4 to 8 hours. The printing is done in the usual way, the tissue being of about the same sensitiveness as sensitized albuminized paper. There is no visible image, and an actinometer is commonly used for timing the exposure. The demonstrators were not possessed of an actinometer, and merely placed one or more small selected negatives, with a strip of sensitized albuminized paper under each, in printing frames alongside of those in which the carbon tissue was being printed. That this simple process was efficient was shown by the fact that, of the couple of dozen or so of prints developed during the evening, only one was incorrectly exposed, and this although many of them were from negatives from which carbon prints were made for the first time and in spite of the extremely trying weather they had had during the past few days—at one time brilliant sunshine with a dry atmosphere, then shortly rain, an atmosphere saturated with moisture and variable light. These conditions made the judging of the exposure of carbon extremely difficult, especially so on account of the "continuating action of light." Development is the next process, but procedure varies according to whether the subject is one that will permit of reversal—as many portraits, for example will—or a reversed negative is used, or whether a negative not reversed is used, whilst the print also must not be reversed. In the first instance the "single transfer" process is used, in the second the "double transfer" process. In the single transfer process, the print is immediately attached to its permanent support, in the double transfer process, it is fixed to a "temporary support," on which it is developed, and from which it can be stripped to the permanent support. In either case development proceeds in the same way. The support and the insolated tissue are placed in cold water together. The tissue first curls inwards, and then begins to curl outwards. Just at this moment the two are taken from the water, in contact, face to face, and a squeegee is passed rapidly over the back of the tissue. The tissue and support are now placed together under a light pressure for ten minutes or more, when it is found that adhesion is perfect, on account of atmospheric pressure brought to bear by the swelling of the gelatine of tissue. In practice a number of sheets of support and tissue are piled one upon another, and, when all the day's work is so piled up, the pile is turned over, and developement begins with what was the bottom print. Development is done with warm water only. The print, together with its support, is placed in a dish of warm water. Presently it will be seen that the pigmented gelatine begins to ooze out from the edges of the tissue. The paper of the tissue is now removed, and the dirty black, brown, purple, red, or green mass that is seen on the support is laved with warm water. Presently the picture begins to appear, merely by the washing away of the pigmented gelatine, and in a minute or two it is complete. If the single transfer process is being worked the print is now complete, but for a dip in an alum bath which is generally given to harden the remaining gelatine, but is not an essential part of the process. If the double transfer process is used, procedure is different. Sheet zinc is often used as a temporary support, but the demonstrators preferred to use Sawyer's "flexible support," as it is easier to work with it than with a ridged support. The flexible support is paper treated with certain lacs to render it water-proof, and treated before use with a weak solution of beeswax in benzine. The picture is developed on this flexible support, when a sheet of "permanent support" paper is brought into contact with the image. They are allowed to dry together, when they will separate, the image adhering to the permanent support, whilst the temporary support is ready for use again. If a long exposure is given to tissue—about three times that needed for a print—and it is developed on plane glass, a very beautiful "transparency" or "dis-positive" is the result.

After Messrs. Burton and Kondo had finished their demonstration, members of the Society who had never worked the carbon process, were invited to try their hands in developing a number of exposed prints that remained over. This several members did, with perfect success, demonstrating the ease with which the process may be learned.

The proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE, Limited, Yokohama.

PERSONAL RECORDS OF JAPANESE JUDGES.

Mr. KURIZUKA SEIGO is a graduate of the French Academy of Law (1876). In 1888 he was appointed an examiner of Judges; then Director of Bureaux for the trial of Civil and Criminal cases, and in 1891 he became a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. TAKAKI TSUTOMU, who studied in Germany, was appointed Assistant Judge in 1875, and held that position in various courts—Tokyo, Niigata, Kobe,—till 1887 when he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court. The Tokyo University has conferred on him the degree of *Hogakushi*.

Dr. INOUYE SHOICHI graduated at the French Academy of Law about 1877, and the degree of LL.D. was conferred on him by the Academy. He is also a graduate of the Tokyo University, which has honoured him with the degree of *Horitsu Hakushi*. In 1886 he was commissioned to examine Judges. Subsequently he became a Public Procurator, and in 1891 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. KAMEYAMA is a graduate of the Tokyo University. In 1886 he was appointed examiner of Judges. He held positions as Judge and Public Procurator in various Courts, and in 1891 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court. He is also a *Hogakushi*.

Mr. TAKAGI TOYOZO is a graduate of the Tokyo University, and in 1884 he was appointed Judge. He went abroad for study in 1885, and after his return sat in the Fukushima Court as Judge. In 1891 he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Cassation. He is a *Hogakushi* of the Tokyo University.

Mr. NAKAMURA MOTOYOSHI, Chief of the Second Division of the Tokyo Appeal Court, for the trial of Civil cases, was appointed an Assistant Judge in 1873; and sat in the Yamanashi, Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, and other Law Courts as Judge till 1891, when he was appointed to his present position.

Mr. HARADA TANENARI, Chief of the Third Division for the trial of Civil Cases, was appointed Assistant Judge in 1874. He discharged the duties of Judge in Osaka and Oita; and became a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1886.

Mr. NAMBU KAMEO, Chief Public Procurator of the Tokyo Appeal Court, was appointant Judge in 1872. He sat as Judge in the Osaka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kobe, and other Courts. In 1884 he was made Director of the Civil Cases Bureau, and in 1887 Judge of the Court of Cassation, where he remained till 1891, when he was appointed to his present position.

Mr. HASEGAWA TAKASHI, one of the Chief Judges, received his education in Europe. In 1880 he was appointed Judge. He held office in the Kobe, Yokohama, and Tokyo Law Courts. He is now in the Court of Cassation.

Mr. IMAMURA NOBUYUKI was appointed Judge in 1877. He served in the Nagoya, Okayama, and Tokyo Courts as Judge, and was promoted to be a Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal in Tokyo.

Mr. YOKOTA KUNIOMI, Councillor of the Department of Justice, studied law in Germany. In 1875 he was appointed Public Procurator, soon afterwards he became Director of the Criminal Bureau. He was then appointed a commissioner for the compilation of the Civil Code, and an examiner for Barristers.

Dr. KUMANO BINZO, Councillor, LL.D. of the French Law Academy, and *Hogaku-Hakushi* of the Imperial University, went to France for study in 1875. Soon after his return, having graduated at the French Academy of Law, he was appointed an examiner for Barristers. In 1890 he became a Judge, and discharged judicial functions for a year, when he entered the Department of Justice as a Councillor.

Mr. KITABATAKE HARUFUSA, President of the Court of Appeal in Osaka, was appointed Judge in 1873, and served in the Kyoto and Kanagawa Local Courts, after which he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court, subsequently becoming President of the Tokyo Appeal Court till he went to Osaka.

Mr. INOUYE MISAO, *Hogakushi* (LL.M.) of the Imperial University, sometime Professor of Law at the University, was appointed Judge, and now occupies that position in the Osaka Court of Appeal.

Mr. HAYASHI SEIICHI, Chief Public Procurator in the Osaka Court of Appeal, is a graduate of the Law College. He was made Public Procurator in 1884, and was attached to the Supreme Court, subsequently proceeding to Nagasaki, and then to Osaka.

Mr. NISHIOKA YUMEI, President of the Hakodate Court of Appeal, was despatched to America and Europe in 1892 to inspect the working of legal

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tribunals in the West. In 1875 he was appointed Judge, and served in the Miyagi, Niigata, Nagasaki, and other Local and Appeal Courts till promoted to his present position in 1890.

Mr. OSHIMA SADATOSHI, Chief Judge of the Nagasaki Local Court, was appointed assistant Judge in 1872. He occupied the position of a Judge in the Kochi, Nagasaki, Osaka, Tokyo, and other Local Courts. He received his present appointment in 1890.

Mr. NOZAKI KEIZO, Chief Public Procurator, in Hiroshima, was made Public Procurator in 1881, and attached to the Supreme Court. In 1889 he was sent to Europe to study the working of legal tribunals, and on his return he was appointed Public Procurator in the Yokohama Law Court. In 1891 he became a Chief Public Procurator.

Mr. HATAKEYAMA SHIGEAKI, Chief Public Procurator in the Kobe Local Court, is a graduate of the Tokyo University. Originally employed in the Police Bureau, he was then appointed Public Procurator; and became Chief Public Procurator in 1892.

Mr. AKIYAMA GENZO, Chief Judge of the Nagasaki Local Court, was appointed Judge in 1881. He had served previously in the Kagoshima Local Court.

Mr. ICHINOSE YUZABURO, Chief Public Procurator in the Nagasaki Local Court, is a graduate of the University. He was appointed Judge in 1883. In 1886 he went abroad to complete his studies. After his return he was made Public Procurator.

Mr. KAKEHI MOTOTADA was appointed Judge in 1876; sat in the Yamaguchi, Iwakuni, Hiroshima, and Kagoshima Local Courts, the Tokyo Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court. In 1890 he was appointed Public Procurator attached to the Supreme Court.

Mr. ARAKI HIROOMI was appointed a Prefectural Secretary in 1869, and a Judge in 1875. Sat in the Osaka, Fukushima, Nagoya, and other Local Courts. In 1886 became Judge in the Tokyo Court of Appeal, and in 1890 a Judge in the Supreme Court.

Mr. MOTOO KEIZABURO, attaché in Berlin in 1873; Secretary in the Foreign Office in 1880 Councillor in the Legislative Bureau in 1885; Councillor in the Department of Justice in 1889; and in 1890 became a Judge in the Supreme Court.

Mr. YASUI SHUZO, Secretary in the Senate in 1875. Public Procurator in 1880. In 1881 became Judge in the Supreme Court, and is now a Public Procurator in the same Court.

Mr. MASUDA BUHEI became a Judge in 1875. Sat in the Nagasaki and Kyoto Local Courts. In 1881 became Judge in the Supreme Court.

Mr. KOMATSU HIROTAKA, appointed Judge in 1875. Sat in the Fukushima, Miyagi, Nagoya, and Tokyo Local Courts. Became Judge in the Court of Appeal in 1886, and Judge in the Supreme Court in 1891.

Mr. OKAMURA TAMEZO, appointed Judge in 1878. Sat in the Osaka, and Chiba Local Courts, and the Nagoya Appeal Court. Became Judge in the Supreme Court in 1891.

Mr. KODAMA JUNICHIRO, went to America to study in 1869. Appointed Judge in 1877. Sat in the Nagasaki, Osaka, and Tokyo Local Courts. Became a Secretary in the Judicial Department in 1886; Judge of the Appeal Court in 1886; and Judge in the Supreme Court in 1890.

Mr. MASAYA CHISATO, appointed Judge in 1877. Sat in the Supreme Court and in the Matsuyama Local Court. Judge in the Supreme Court in 1890.

Mr. TAKANO SHINSON, appointed Acting Judge in Niigata in 1868. Judge in 1881. Sat in the Miyagi and Fukushima Local Courts. Secretary of the Judicial Department in 1884. Councillor of the same in 1886. Director of the Bureau for the trial of Civil cases in 1889. Public Procurator in 1890. In 1890 became Judge in the Supreme Court.

Mr. SERIZAWA SEION, appointed Judge in 1876. Sat in the Aichi, Nagoya and Akita Local Courts, and the Tokyo Court of Appeal. Became Chief Judge in the Fukui Local Court and in 1890, Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. KINOSHITA TETSUSABURO, graduate of the Law College in 1876. Held various administrative offices till 1890, when he became Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. NISHIKAWA TETSUJIRO (now in the Tokyo Appeal Court), graduate of the Tokyo University in 1878. Appointed attaché to the Japanese Legation in London. Appointed Judge in 1885. Sat in the Tokyo Local Court and the Hiroshima Appeal Court, and as Chief Judge of the Mito Local Court. In 1890 was appointed Judge in the Supreme Court.

Mr. NAKAO SHINKO, appointed Judge in 1876. Sat in the Nagoya and Tsuchiura Local Courts, and in the Osaka Court of Appeal. In 1891 appointed Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. KAWAME KYOICHI, graduate of the Law College in 1879. In 1881 was appointed Judge. In 1883 became Public Procurator in the Tokyo Court of Appeal, and subsequently in the Supreme Court.

Mr. ORO TORU, graduate of the Law College in 1879. Appointed Judge in 1881 in the Tokyo Local Court. In 1886 went to Europe to study the working of judicial institutions. Appointed Judge in the Tokyo Court of Appeal in 1890. In 1891 became Public Procurator in the Supreme Court.

Mr. KITAMURA TAIICHI, appointed Assistant Judge in 1873. Appointed Judge in 1879. Sat in the Osaka Local Court, and the Hiroshima Court of Appeal. Chief Justice in the Fukushima Local Court, Judge in the Supreme Court. In 1886 Judge of the Tokyo Appeal Court. In 1890 Chief of a Section in that Court.

Mr. NAGAI IWANOJO, appointed Judge in 1880. Sat in the Osaka and Mito Local Courts, and in the Tokyo Court of Appeal in 1890.

Mr. ITO TEIJI, graduate of Tokyo University. In 1883 appointed Judge, and sat in the Tokyo and Sendai Local Courts; promoted to be a Judge in the Supreme Court in 1890.

Mr. YANAGIDA NAOHEI, graduate of the Law College. In 1882 appointed Judge, and sat in Miyagi and Tokyo Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Tokyo Appeal Court, and subsequently became a Judge in the Supreme Court.

Mr. IBARA MOROYOSHI, graduate of the Tokyo University. In 1886 appointed Public Procurator in the Hiroshima Court of Appeal. In 1889 appointed Judge of the Tokyo Local Court, and in the following year Judge of the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. KAWAMURA OSHIN, appointed Judge in 1875. Sat in the Osaka, Matsuye, Tokyo, and Miyagi Local Courts. In 1890 promoted to be Judge of the Tokyo Appeal Court.

Mr. HIRATA KOSABURO, graduate of the Tokyo University. In 1883 appointed Judge, and sat in the Fukushima and Yokohama Local Courts. In 1891 promoted to be Judge in the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. KOBAYASHI YOSHIO, appointed Public Procurator in 1881. In 1883 appointed Judge in the Urawa, Chiba, and Tokyo Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. SUGEYA MASAKI, appointed Judge in 1884. Sat in the Yokohama and Hiroshima Local Courts. In 1890 Judge in the Nagoya Court of Appeal, and in the following year removed to the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. KASUGA SHUKU, graduate of the Law College. In 1885 appointed Judge, and sat in the Kobe, and Niigata Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. MAWATARI SHUNYU, appointed Judge in 1883, and sat in the Yokohama, Hiroshima, and Tokyo Local Courts. In 1891 appointed Judge of the Tokyo Appeal Court.

Mr. SAKAZAKI SHUN, appointed Judge in 1889; and sat in the Utsunomiya and Anotsu Local Courts. In 1891 appointed Judge of the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. TOMITANI SEITARO, graduate of the Law College. In 1886 went to Europe for study. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Nagoya Court of Appeal, and then of the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. DEURA RIKIO, Instructor in Law in the University in 1870. In 1876 went to America. In 1884 Secretary of the Judicial Department. In 1886 Private Secretary of the same Department. In 1891 Public Procurator attached to the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Viscount KANO HISAYOSHI, appointed Local Governor in 1869. Appointed Judge in 1881; and sat in the Kumagaya and Urawa Local Courts. In 1882 appointed Public Procurator attached to the Supreme Court. In 1887 removed to the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. ISHIWATARI BINICHI, graduate of the Law College. In 1886 went to Europe for study. In 1890 appointed Public Procurator. In the same year, appointed Private Secretary of the Judicial Department. In 1891 appointed Public Procurator of the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. TOTOKI SABURO, appointed Judge in 1881, and sat in the Osaka and Okayama Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. CHIBA TEIKAN, appointed Public Procurator in 1881. Attached to the Osaka, Wakayama, and Otsu Local Courts. In 1887 appointed councillor of the Judicial Department. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Tokyo, and in 1891 removed to Osaka.

Mr. ZAKOJI TADASU, appointed Judge in 1877, and sat in the Matsumoto and Nagano Local Courts. Promoted to Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. UMINO ISAO, appointed Judge in 1880, and sat in the Nagoya and Oita Local Courts. Promoted Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. SAYEKI HANJI, appointed Judge in 1879, and sat in the Kyoto, Oita, Nagasaki, Osaka, and Hakodate Local Courts, then promoted Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. KONDO KYOMA, appointed Public Procurator in 1881. Attached to the Osaka, Nagoya, and Tokyo Local Courts. Appointed Judge, and sat in the Mayebashi and Niigata Local Courts, and promoted to Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. ICHIGA MICHIFUMI, appointed Judge in 1877; and sat in the Yokohama, Fukushima, and Yamagata Local Courts. Appointed Public Procurator in 1881, and attached to the Miyagi, Fukui, and Hiroshima Local Courts. Appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in 1884.

Mr. AKABORI GIMIN, appointed Judge in 1881, and sat in the Kobe and Tottori Local Courts. Promoted Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. KUBO SHINZO, appointed Public Procurator in 1881; and attached to the Amakusa and Osaka Local Courts. Appointed Judge in 1882, and sat in the Hamada, Matsuye, and Matsuyama Local Courts. Promoted Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka in 1890.

Mr. KIKUCHI JUI, appointed Public Procurator in 1881, and attached to the Tokushima and Matsuyama Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. SAKAWA HIDEZANE, appointed Public Procurator in 1881, and attached to the Nagoya and Matsuyama Local Courts. In 1883 appointed Judge, and sat in the Nagoya, Tokushima, Akita, and Nagasaki Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. SAIMAMURA SAHEI, appointed Judge in 1882, and sat in the Osaka, Fukui, and Kanazawa Local Courts. Promoted Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka, and subsequently became a Judge in the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. KUZUHA MASAMICHI, appointed Judge in 1885; and sat in the Tokyo and Osaka Local Courts. In 1891 promoted to be Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. SAWAZAKI RAINOSUKE, graduate of the Tokyo University. In 1886 appointed Judge, and sat in the Kobe Local Court. In 1891 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. HABU AKICHIKA, graduate of the Tokyo University. In 1886 appointed Judge, and sat in the Mayebashi Local Court. In 1891 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka, and subsequently Judge in the Tokyo Appeal Court.

Mr. MOTOYAMA TATSUJIRO, graduate of the Law College. In 1888 appointed Judge, and sat in the Niigata Local Court. In 1891 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. YAMAMOTO HATSUO, graduate of the Law College. In 1887 appointed Judge, and sat in the Hiroshima, Tottori, Otahara, and Utsunomiya Local Courts. In 1891 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. NOMURA ICHO, appointed Public Procurator in 1880 and attached to the Supreme Court, Miyagi, and to the Osaka, Hakodate and Tokyo Appeal Courts. Appointed Chief Public Procurator to the Osaka Court of Appeal and subsequently to the Tokyo Appeal Court.

Mr. TOYOHARA MOTOOMI, appointed Secretary of the Senate in 1881. Appointed Public Procurator in 1887, and attached to the Miyagi Local Court. Then promoted to be Public Procurator in the Court of Appeal in Osaka, and subsequently in the Tokyo Appeal Court.

Mr. KAKIHARA YOSHINORI, appointed Public Procurator in 1881, and attached to the Utsunomiya, Tochigi, and Osaka Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Public Procurator to the Court of Appeal in Osaka.

Mr. HITOMI TSUNETAMI, appointed Assistant Public Procurator in 1869, and attached to the Gumma and Kyoto Local Courts. In 1877 appointed Judge. In 1881 appointed Public Procurator to the Osaka Local Court, and the Nagoya Court of Appeal. In 1882 appointed Judge, and sat in the Osaka Local Court. In 1884 appointed Secretary of the Department of Justice. In 1886 appointed Public Procurator to the Tokyo Appeal Court. In 1887 appointed President of the Court of Appeal in Nagasaki.

Mr. MOROOKA TARO, appointed Judge in 1883. Sat in the Hiroshima, Oita, and Kagoshima Local Courts. Appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagasaki.

Mr. UTSUNOMIYA HIDENOBU, appointed Judge in 1880. Sat in the Mito and Osaka Local Courts. Appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagasaki.

Mr. ISHIDA ATSUMARO, appointed Judge in 1881. Sat in the Hirado Nagasaki, and Fukuoka

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Local Courts. Appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagasaki.

Mr. KODAMA TAKEHIRO, appointed Judge in 1881. Sat in the Osaka, Tokyo, and Sendai Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagasaki.

Mr. TAKENAKA CHIKEI, appointed Judge in 1881. Sat in the Kanazawa, Niigata, and Osaka Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagasaki.

Mr. KOMATSU TSUNE, graduate of the Law College. In 1887 appointed Judge. Sat in the Mito, Urawa, and Tokyo Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagasaki.

Mr. IKEGAMI SABURO, appointed Public Procurator in 1881 and attached to the Miyazaki Local Court; then to the Supreme Court; then to the Nagasaki Appeal Court, and finally to the Osaka Appeal Court.

Mr. KONDO KOZO, appointed Public Procurator in 1883. Attached to the Miyasaki, Nagasaki, Oita, and Fukuoka Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Public Procurator of the Nagasaki Appeal Court.

Mr. ISHII KIHEI, graduate of the Law College. Appointed Judge in 1887. Sat in the Hakodate Local Court, then in the Court of Appeal in the same place.

Mr. OKUYAMA SEIKEI, appointed Judge in 1876. Sat in the Tokyo, Matsuyama, Nagoya, and Osaka Local Courts. In 1891 appointed Chief Public Procurator to the Court of Appeal in Hakodate, and afterwards Judge in the Hiroshima Appeal Court.

Mr. NEGISHI KEI, appointed Judge in 1879. Sat in the Hakodate Local Court. In 1881 appointed Public Procurator attached to the Court of Appeal in Hakodate.

Mr. HAJI KEITEN, appointed Judge in 1875. Sat in the Fukushima and Sendai Local Courts; and the Supreme Court. In 1891 appointed President of the Court of Appeal in Nagoya.

Mr. OTOWA YASUNARI, appointed Judge in 1879. Sat in the Sendai, Morioka, Miyagi, Osaka, and Fukushima Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Miyagi, then of that in Nagoya.

Mr. MURACHI MASAHARU, appointed Judge in 1884. Sat in the Fukushima Local Court. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagoya.

Mr. NARAZAKI KATSUZO, appointed Judge in 1881. Sat in the Otsu, Hiroshima, Kobe, and Kyoto Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagoya.

Mr. SANUI ITSUZO, appointed Judge in 1882. Sat in the Fukuye, Nagasaki, and Osaka Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagoya.

Mr. FUKANO TATSU, appointed Judge in 1887. Sat in the Chiba Local Court. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagoya, and afterwards of the Tokyo Appeal Court.

Mr. OGAWA TETSUKICHI, graduate of the Law College. Appointed Judge in 1885. Sat in the Urawa and Mayebashi Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagoya.

Mr. ONO KINZABURO, graduate of the Tokyo University. Appointed Public Procurator in 1887, attached to the Anotsu Local Court. Appointed Judge in 1889. Sat in the Gifu Local Court. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagoya.

Mr. ISOBE JUN, graduate of the Tokyo University. In 1886 appointed Public Procurator. Attached to the Kumamoto Local Court. In 1888 appointed Judge. Sat in the Nagasaki, and Kobe Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagoya in 1890.

Mr. INUI FUSHI, graduate of the Tokyo University. In 1886 appointed Judge Probationer. In 1887 appointed Judge. Sat in the Niigata, and Urawa Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Nagasaki in 1891.

Mr. KANO KEN, appointed Public Procurator in 1886. Attached to the Nagasaki, Kyoto, and Hiroshima, Local Courts; then to the Tokyo Court of Appeal. In 1890 appointed Chief Public Procurator in the Court of Appeal in Nagoya.

Mr. ITO SHIGEYOBHI, appointed Public Procurator in 1879. Attached to the Osaka, Fukuoka, Tokyo, and Wakayama Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Judge. Sat in the Osaka Court of Appeal. In 1891 appointed Public Procurator of the Court of Appeal in Nagoya.

Mr. OTSUKA MASAO, appointed Judge in 1872. Sat in the Imba, Tokyo, and Kagoshima Local Courts. Then in the Supreme Court. Then appointed President of the Nagoya Court of Appeal, and then removed to be President of the Miyagi Court of Appeal.

Mr. NISHIKATA TOTSU, appointed Judge in 1875. Sat in the Tokyo Local Court and the Nagasaki Appeal Court, and then in the Miyagi Appeal Court.

Mr. TANAKA SHUMPU, Colonel in the Army in 1870. Appointed Judge in 1881. Sat in the Osaka, Nagasaki, Nagoya, and Anotsu Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Appeal Court in Miyagi.

Mr. IDA SHOJIRO, graduate of the Law College. Appointed Public Procurator in 1886. Attached to the Nagoya Local Court. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Miyagi.

Mr. MACHIDA SHINSHU, appointed Judge in 1878. Sat in the Fukushima, Hirozaki, and Hakodate Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Miyagi Court of Appeal.

Mr. MASUDA SAN, appointed Judge in 1880. Sat in the Tokyo, Tochigi, Shizuoka, Tokyo, and Hiroshima Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Miyagi.

Mr. SUZUKI SHIZUO, appointed Judge in 1881. Sat in the Wakayama and Tokyo Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Miyagi.

Mr. YONĒMURA SOSEN, graduate of the Law College. Appointed Judge in 1885. Sat in the Tokyo and Kochi Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Miyagi.

Mr. NOSE MAN, graduate of the Law College. Appointed Judge in 1887. Sat in the Okayama, Matsuyama, and Oita Local Courts, and then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Miyagi.

Mr. INUTSUKA MORITAKA, appointed Public Procurator in 1873. Attached to the Kyoto, and Tokyo Local Courts. In 1882 appointed Judge, and sat in the Tokyo Local Court. In 1883 appointed Secretary of the Department of Justice. In 1886 Councillor of the same Department. In 1890 appointed Chief Public Procurator attached to the Miyagi Court of Appeal.

Mr. MUDAGUCHI MICHIAKI, appointed Judge in 1876. Sat in the Tokyo Local Court. In 1877 appointed Secretary of the Judicial Department. In 1880 appointed Judge of the Supreme Court. Then appointed President of the Hiroshima Court of Appeal.

Mr. SEKIYA SEIZO, appointed Judge in 1877. Sat in the Matsumoto, Nagano, and Miyagi Local Courts, and then appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Hiroshima.

Mr. ARAI ZENKYO, appointed Judge in 1880. Sat in the Matsumoto, Nagano, Nagaoka, Matsuye Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Hiroshima Court of Appeal, and finally to the Tokyo Court of Appeal.

Mr. SHIMIZU ICHIRO, graduate of the Law College. Appointed Judge in 1885. Sat in the Kyoto Local Court. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Hiroshima Court of Appeal.

Mr. NISHIKIORI YOSHIHIRO, appointed Judge in 1883. Sat in the Nagoya, Hirosaki and Utsunomiya Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Hiroshima Court of Appeal.

Mr. HASEGAWA YASUTOSHI, appointed Judge in 1883. Sat in the Toyama, Akita, Tochigi, and Utsunomiya Local Courts. Then appointed Judge of the Hiroshima Court of Appeal in 1890.

Mr. YAMAGUCHI TAKEHIRO, appointed Judge Probationer in 1887, in the Hiroshima Local Court. In 1889 appointed Judge, of the Iwakumi Local Court. In 1890 appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal in Hiroshima.

Mr. HARUKI YOSHIAKI, appointed Judge in 1875; sat in the Tochigi, Mito and Tokyo Local Courts. In 1881 appointed Public Procurator to the Nagasaki Local Court; then to the Supreme Court and the Hakodate Court of Appeal. In 1890 appointed Chief Public Procurator of the Hiroshima Court of Appeal, and subsequently of the Supreme Court.

Mr. KIMURA RYOICHIRO, appointed Judge in 1887. Sat in the Fukushima, Tsurugaoka, Tokyo, and Hiroshima Local Court. In 1890 appointed Public Procurator to the Hiroshima Court of Appeal.

Mr. OTAKE CHOJI, appointed Public Procurator in 1893. Attached to the Osaka, Sapporo, Kobe and Miyagi Local Courts. In 1890 appointed Public Procurator to the Hiroshima Court of Appeal.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, February 22nd.

Prof. S. Choyo, late Director of the Japanese Section in the Fine Arts Building, is in great demand as a lecturer on subjects relating to the art of Japan. He has recently spoken before the Decorative Art Society of Chicago, the Art Society of La Grange (a suburb of this city), the Chicago Keramic Club, and the Chicago Academy of Sciences. He has opened the "Gallery Fuji-san" down town, and has there a fine collection of Japanese and Chinese art objects. He has also been elected by the South Park Commissioners to the position of custodian of the Hoōden.

Mr. Otis A. Poole has been lecturing (with stereopticon) on "One Day in Yokohama."

Rev. F. E. Clark, D.D., Secretary of the Christian Endeavour Organization, also has an illustrated lecture entitled "A Trip Around the World." Half the proceeds is to be devoted to Special missionary purposes, one of which is an orphan asylum in Japan.

A rumour comes from Samoa that there is a great deal of disatisfaction with the present government under the tripartite treaty. This dissatisfaction prevails among all parties concerned, and especially among the natives who are "governed to death." It is thought that the responsibility of the government of the Samoan islands ought not to be divided, but should be united in the authority of one of the treaty powers (Great Britain, Germany, and the United States).

Everything continues quiet, even to stagnation of business, in Hawaii. The full-text of President Dole's letter to U.S. Minister Willis with reference to the "attitude" of the U.S. Government has been made public, and is a caustic arraignment. The reply of Willis has also been printed, and contains strong declarations that he has acted only "in the interest of peace and order," and has had no intention of making use of force." Both make reference to requests by the British Minister and the Japanese Consul-General for permission to land troops as "precautionary measures against possible mob violence," and to Mr. Fujii's offer of the Japanese Consulate as a place of refuge.

All the officers and men, except Fireman Robbins, of the lost *Kearsarge* were rescued, and have arrived in New York City.

Admiral da Gama, the insurgent commander, who was wounded in a battle off Rio Janeiro, is in a critical condition, and may not live. The yellow-fever is spreading in and around the Brazilian capital, and has already found a number of victims. Minor conflicts in various ports of Brazil are reported. Reinforcements were brought to Rio Janeiro Bay for the insurgents; but yesterday two of their warships left to search for the *Nichtheroy*, a government dynamite cruiser, supposed to be not far distant. A naval battle is thus expected.

Among recent nominations by President Cleveland are the following:—John Barrett, of Oregon, to be U.S. Minister to Siam; Thos. R. Jernigan, of N.C., to be U.S Consul-General at Shanghai; Delaware Kemper, of Virginia, as U.S. Consul at Amoy; and E. G. Mitchell, of Arkansas, as U.S. Consul at Newcastle, New South Wales.

Senator Hill scored a second victory over the President in the matter of the U.S. Supreme Court vacancy, when the U.S. Senate, by a vote of 32 to 41, rejected the nomination of Mr. Peckham. A few days later, the President sent in the name of Senator Edward D. White, Louisiana; and he was at once confirmed by his colleagues. He is only 48 years old, and will be the youngest of the Justices. After practising for several years the profession of law, he became a State Senator, then Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana; and in 1891 took his seat in the U.S. Senate. His great ability and fitness for the position are everywhere acknowledged; and his "practical knowledge of the Code Napoleon of Louisiana" is mentioned as a special qualification.

The election in Pennsylvinia for Congressman-at-large resulted in favour of Hon. Galusha A. Grow (Republican) by more than 150,000 majority. There seems to be no hope for tariff reform in the Keystone State!

Gov. McKinley, of Ohio, has been rescued from his financial troubles by the wise management of three trustees, who secured private subscriptions without solicitation, enough to liquidate all claims against his property, which has been given back unimpaired.

The obituary list this time includes the names of ex-Congressman A. Kerr Smith, of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Myra, the first female lawyer of this city, and editor of the *Legal News*; and Joseph Keppler, the great caricaturist and editor of *Fuck*.

If my preceding letter failed to make connections with the *Peru* at San Francisco, the blame must be attached to a fearful snow and wind storm which was raging the very day on which I mailed the letter. If I were a weather prophet, and had known beforehand that such a storm would come up, I should have sent my letter a day earlier. But even our weather-sergeant in the Auditorium Tower was taken by surprise; and the sudden blizzard proved the worst in more than

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a decade. Snow alone might not have been so difficult; but raging winds piled it up in immense drifts; so that the next morning we literally dug our way out into the street. The following day I happened to meet Commissioner Matsudaira, who expressed a hearty wish that he were back in Japan. Since then we have had real winter.

There is still a great deal of suffering, not only here, but all over the country; so that the relief organizations keep actively at work. On the 17th inst., miners in Bessemer, Michigan, fell into a riot over the matter of the distribution of relief supplies. There are every day brought to light many undeserving cases; but there is undoubtedly a large amount of genuine poverty.

A little after midnight, on the 16th inst., occurred near Los Angeles, Cal., "the most daring and successful train robbery ever committed" in that State. The engineer of the train was wounded; the fireman and a tramp were killed; the express car was blown open with dynamite; and Wells, Fargo and Company lost a large amount. Chris. Evans, the bandit, who escaped from Fresno jail a month ago, has been recaptured, and is suspected of having been concerned in this exploit.

There have been two more fires at Jackson Park lately. One destroyed the colonnade between the Agricultural Building and Machinery Hall; the other was in the Illinois Building, and dangerously close to the Art Palace with its treasures of the Columbian Museum.

The annual meeting of the Associated Press was held the other day in this city, and brought together a large number of the notable newspaper men of the country.

President Eliot, of Harvard University, has aroused the students by an attack on college athletics as managed at present. He proposes three radical changes, as follows:—

1. That no freshman shall be allowed to participate in any intercollegiate event.

2. That no one be allowed to compete more than one year in any line of intercollegiate athletics.

3. That intercollegiate contests take place only once in two years.

It is undeniable that some kind of reform is absolutely necessary.

On the 15th inst. Knox College, Galesbury, Ill., celebrated its fifty-seventh birthday; and the next day the University of Nebraska celebrated its quarter century: both with elaborate festivities. The latter institution conferred the honorary degree of LL.D. on President W. R. Harper and Prof. C. D. Whitman (once of Tokyo), of the University of Chicago.

The Northwestern University Law School, with which Prof. John H. Wigmore is connected, is soon to move into more commodious quarters in the Masonic Temple, of this city.

Professor Shailer Matthews, of Colby University, Waterville, Maine, has been elected Associate Professor of New Testament Literature and Exegesis; Professor John W. Moncrief, of Franklin (Indiana) College, has been elected Associate Professor of Church History, both in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. It is significent, that these two appointees are taken from secular institutions.

I had the pleasure this morning at the University of hearing Gov. McKinley, and of being one in a long line to shake hands with him. He was received with enthusiasm by an audience of 800 in Kent Hall; and the students greeted him with the college yell, plus "McKinley" and "'96." He made a short but pleasant speech. He is speaking again this afternoon at the Auditorium, where he undoubtedly has an immense audience; and this evening he is one of the guests at a banquet of the Union League Club of this city. All this and much more is in celebration of Washington's Birthday.

To a Portrait of a Japanese Princess.

Fragile, waxen dream of woman,
Cold, inscrutable, unhuman!
Ivory skin too dense for veining,
Half as deepest shade remaining,
Tiny lips gold-tipped with silence,
Sealed to girlhood's gay beguilance.

I can dream that men may love thee;
But will all their loving move thee?
Can a heart sincere and tender
Beat beneath that garment's splendour?
Rich with gold the gorgeous sheathing
Cold above thy quiet breathing.

Thou are made of dew and shimmer
Of the moon where snow-crests glimmer,
Wrought of pure and scentless flowers,
Stilled with hush of starlit hours.
Deep the natal mystery gleaming
Neath thine eyelids' heavy dreaming.

—*Lippincott's Magazine.*

BRETT AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

The third semi-annual general meeting of shareholders in the above company was held in Kiel's Building, Main Street, on Thursday afternoon. There were present Messrs. J. F. Lowder, C. W. Ure, M. Russell, G. C. Charlesworth, and A. T. Watson, manager. Mr. Donald Fraser, the managing-director of the Company, being absent in Hongkong, the chair was taken by Mr. Lowder, on the motion of Mr. Watson seconded by Mr Ure.

The Chairman said he need not trouble their Secretary to read the report and accounts, which had been printed and circulated several days. They were extremely satisfactory and he was sure that shareholders would be pleased to observe the development of the business. After a careful examination of the figures they would find that the statement in the report as to the increase of the business was fully borne out. There was one point which their managing-director had asked him to bring before their attention that day, and that was to decide the best means for raising further capital now rendered necessary by the increase in the business. He need not remind them that when the company was formed the question arose as to the best means to follow in raising the additional capital in the event of an increase in the business, which was even then foreseen, and it was decided to confer upon their managing director as well as upon the company certain borrowing powers. The managing director's powers ran to the extent of raising $15,000 by the issue of debentures. The company could also raise $15,000 more. The managing director had asked him to lay this matter before the meeting, as it was considered advisable to close their account with the bank; with those few remarks he would present the following report and accounts.

REPORT.

I beg to lay before you a statement of the Company's business for the half-year ending 31st December, 1892.

The net profit for the period under review, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, amounts to $2,367.84; out of this I propose to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year, which will absorb $1,400, leaving a balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account of $967.84.

The business has developed and increased very much since the company started, more so than we could possibly have expected, and the shareholders will have to decide upon the best means of raising additional capital to meet this increase.

The fall in exchange has affected us of course, as well as our neighbours, but on account of our increased business, we have not felt it so much. Had exchange remained fairly steady, as at the beginning of the year, we should have shown an exceptionally good account.

D. FRASER,
Managing Director.

Yokohama, 14th March, 1894.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

Dr.

Interim Dividend of 5 per cent. paid for half-year ending 30th June, 1893	$ 1,400,00
Rent and Insurance	1,804.01
Wages and Salaries	7,824.50
General Expenses	2,143.97
Interest on Bank Overdraft	582.69
Advertising	387.90
Duties and Landing Charges	456.96
Lighting and Water	374.57
Balance of Profits	2,367.84
	$16,342.44

Cr.

Balance from 1892 account	$ 608.63
Profit on Sales	15,733 81
	$16,342.44

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES AND ASSETS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

Liabilities.

Capital, 2,800 shares at $10 each	$28,000.00
National Bank of China, Limited	10,010.32
Debentures issued at $100 each	1,500.00
Sundry Creditors	1,690.48
Balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account	2,367.84
	$ 43,568.64

Assets.

Stock of Drugs and Chemicals as per Inventory	$ 30,784.37
Furniture and Store Fixings	2,599.61
Godown Fixtures	125.00
Goodwill Account	4,500.00
Sundry Debtors	3,316.07
Cash on Hand	259.47
Aërated Water Plant and Stock	1,837.98
Value of unexpired Fire Ins. Policies	145.55
	$43,568.60

D. Fraser, Managing Director.

I have compared the above statement with the Books and Vouchers of the Company and find the same in accordance therewith.

Chas. W. Ure, Auditor.

Yokohama, March 14th, 1894.

Mr. M. Russell moved and Mr. Charlesworth seconded the adoption of the accounts.—Carried.

This concluded the business, and the usual votes of thanks to the Chair and to Mr. Kiel for the use of the room were passed.

REPORT ON JAPANESE CURRENCY.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Earl of Rosebery.

Tokyo, October 1, 1893.

My Lord,—I have the honour to enclose herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Spring-Rice relative to the Currency of Japan and the production and movement of the Precious Metals.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) M. de Bunsen.

I.—Coinage Regulations.

The Imperial mints at Osaka and Tokyo are open for the receipt of bullion from the public—both Japanese and foreign—from 9 a.m. to noon every day in the year, except Sunday and holidays. If the mints stop on account of any extraordinary occurrence the receipt of bullion will be declined, but due notice will be given. Foreign gold or silver coins of known fineness will be received at such fineness, but will be assayed to check its value. Gold and silver bullion or coins of unknown fineness are remelted and assayed. After assay an "acceptance letter," together with the assay report, is sent to the importer, who, after signing and returning the acceptance letter, receives a credit note for the value of the importation. Payment of coins for bullion imported is made at the Bank of Japan within a period of from 5 to 40 days after the date of "assay report," the period varying according to the amount.

The cost of coining gold coins is 7 per mil, and that of silver *yen* is 10 per mil.

Bullion under 750 finesnes is not received. Fees at specified rates are charged for refining. Subject to these charges bullion can be returned to the importer if he desires it without being coined.

Five-yen Gold Pieces.—The highest weight permitted is 129·1 grains; the lowest, 128·1 grains.

One-yen Silver Pieces.—The highest weight permitted is 417·5 grains, the lowest, 414·5 grains.

Five yen gold pieces and one yen pieces.—The lowest legal limit of fineness is 898; and the highest, 902.

The standard weight and fineness of the coins are as follows:—

Description.		Value.	Weight. Grains.	Fineness.
Gold	Yen	5	1,286	900
Silver	"	1	416	900
Silver	Sen	50	208	800
	"	20	83·2	800
	"	10	41·6	800
	"	5	20·8	800

II.—Operations of the Mint.

Operations of mint for last year (ending March 31, 1893):—

The importation of foreign silver bullion was exceptionally large, and the coinage of 1-*yen* silver pieces exceptionally heavy.

In 1890-91 the weight of the foreign silver ingots imported was 6,000 troy ounces; in 1891-92 it increased six hundred-fold, and reached the amount of 3,518,000 ounces; in 1892-93, 9,683,000 ounces.

The total amount of bullion imported or purchased during the financial year was as follows:—

Description.	Standard.	Ounces.
Gold	900	124,436
Silver	900	12,697,493
Silver	800	851,912
Nickel	...	1,883,460

Note.—At 25 per cent. of nickel.

On the figures for 1892 this shows an increase of:—

Description.	Ounces.
Gold	60,803
Silver	6,438,464
Nickel	661,190

No 50-*sen* silver and no copper coins were coined.

The returns of coinage are as follows:—

Description.	Value.	Number.
Gold Yen	5	273,981
Silver Yen	1	11,653,878
Silver Sen	20	2,001,107
Silver Sen	10	6,003,312
Nickel Sen	5	10,002,506

As compared with 1892 this shows an increase of—

Description.		Value.	Number.
Gold	Yen	5	49,014
Silver	"	1	3,838,648
Silver	Sen	10	1,000,556

And a decrease in 20-*sen* silver coins of 500,271.

The average weight and fineness of the coins struck from April to December, 1893, were:—

Description.		Value.	Weight of 1,000 pieces. Grains.	Fineness.
Gold	Yen	5	128,604	899·99
Silver	"	1	416,004	900·01
Silver	Sen	20	83,197	800·33

The deviation from the standard weight for

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gold was 4 grains heavy per 1,000; for silver, 1 *yen* the same; for silver 20 *sen*, 3 grains light. 32 per cent. of the gold coins and 10 per cent. of the silver coins assayed were of exact 900 standard fineness.

The annual trial of pyx coins had not taken place at the date of the report, and the above results were obtained from the number of pieces delivered and their average weights, and the results of assays on 554 gold pieces, and 5,917 1-*yen* silver coins.

Besides the coinage, ingots of refined gold were manufactured to the value of 1,196,319 *yen* (at present equal to 149,540*l.*), and of silver to the value of 146,967 *yen* (equal to 18,370*l.*).

Since the commencement of the work of the mint in 1871, to March, 1893, the amount of coins struck is as follows:—

Description.	Nominal Value.
Gold	64,945,143
Silver	126,315,142
Nickel	4,768,437
Copper	12,418,056

The coinage of copper ceased in 1882 when the coinage of nickel coins commenced.

The weight of the 1-*yen* gold coin is ·4444 *momme*=25·72 grains (.900 fine); and of the 1-*yen* silver coin 7.18848 *momme*=416 grains (.900 fine); *i.e.*, at the ratio of 16.17408 to 1.

The silver *yen* is the commercial measure of value; the gold *yen* is purchasable as a commodity at the following rate:—

Table showing Purchasable Rate of the Gold *Yen* during the months of February-August, 1893.

Date.	Amount. Gold Yen.	Silver Yen.
February	68·873 =	100
March	67·974	100
April	67·953	100
May	68·461	100
June	67·795	100
July	62·50	100
August	61·25	100

III.—Currency of Japan.—(A.) Paper.

Before the restoration the ratio of gold to silver was 11 to 1. Coins varied in weight and purity according to place of origin and the province in which they circulated. In the latter days of the Shogunate the coinage was much debased, and the good coins had been exported or were hoarded and had disappeared from circulation.

The distrust of coinage thus created enabled the Government to make large issues of paper money (under a pledge of repayment in 13 years) which took the place of the former specie and notes. The measure was inevitable, as the Government had no other means of meeting its liabilities. The deficit in 1868 was 15,000,000 *yen*; in 1869, 10,000,000 *yen*, in 1872, 25,000,000 *yen*. At first it was found necessary to resort to severe measures to secure the circulation of the Government paper; but after two years, when the country had settled down and when confidence was restored, the paper money circulated at par with coin, and even above par. Steps were taken with a view to withdraw the paper and currency of the former Governments. The paper issued by the Feudal Governments was valued at 38,000,000 *yen* and represented coins of a great variety of names and values, measures of rice, domestic utensils, and even umbrellas. Government paper money to the value of 23,000,000 *yen* was issued in its place (1873). In 1871 the new mint was established and coinage commenced. By the end of 1873 gold coins to the value of 26,000,000 *yen* had been struck and silver coins to the value of 7,000,000 *yen*.

In the next 5 years (1873-1877) there was a gradual increase in the circulation of Government paper without, however, affecting its value. The denominations were at first of "10 rio," "5 rio," "1 rio," "½ rio," and "⅛ rio." There was no exact measure of the value of the rio, but in 1871 the coinage regulations were instituted and the rio was made to correspond to 1-*yen* of gold coin.

New denominations of notes were issued. In December 1873 the total amount of paper money issued amounted to 120,000,000 *yen* besides Treasury bills to meet current expenses. All this paper was inconvertible.

Up to 1878 the Government paper had kept its value. In 1876 a great demand for Japanese silk resulted in an appreciation of the paper currency. Coin did not circulate in the country districts and the paper was insufficient.

With a view to supply this want the regulations of the National Banks were altered. These banks were established in 1872, but the former regulations obliged them to redeem their own notes in specie and the result was a failure. By the new regulations the notes were made convertible into Government currency. Eight-tenths of the capital was to be in Government bonds and two-tenths held in Government currency (*i.e.* paper) as a reserve. Notes to an equal amount could be issued, which notes were made legal tender. The recent issue of the Pension bonds made the scheme easily feasible. The former military class could thus find employment for their capital.

In 1879 the number of banks was 153 and their note issue 34,000,000 *yen*, the maximum allowed under the Act.

In 1880 the amounts of paper currency circulating was estimated at about 150,000,000 *yen*. As a result of this large increase of inconvertible paper money and bank notes specie became appreciated. In 1880 the premium on coin was 50 per cent.; and to prevent a continued rise, a large amount of silver coin was issued. The movement of trade was, however, unfavourable, and in spite of various expedients resorted to by the Government, the rise in the value of silver money continued. In April, 1881, the premium on coin was 79 per cent.

Under these circumstances the Government was strongly urged to contract a foreign loan with a view of obtaining specie for the redemption of paper; but the project was not adopted.

In October, 1881, Count Matsukata became Finance Minister, and under his administration the following measures were adopted:—

I.—The National Bank of Japan was established (1882). The main points of its charter were the following:—(1). It was to last 30 years; (2) the capital was to be 10,000,000 *yen*, one-fifth to be paid up at once; (3) the Government to take one-half of the capital and to entrust the bank with the administration of its financial business; (4) the bank to have the privilege of issuing convertible notes.

II.—The reform of the National Banks. Their aggregate reserve was about 10,000,000 *yen*, and their note issue 32,000,000 *yen*. The reserves were to be deposited with the Bank of Japan as a fund for the redemption of the notes, together with 2½ per cent. of the bank's note issues. As a result of the scheme the whole of the note issue of the banks was to be redeemed in Government currency by 1898.

III.—The purchase of bullion out of the reserve fund. From the year 1867 the Government had attempted to form a reserve fund for the redemption of notes. By 1872 it had reached the sum of 16,000,000 *yen*, and in 1883 53,000,000 *yen*. The Government by the issue of exchangeable notes, specie bonds, and direct purchase was enabled by 1885 to accumulate bullion and specie to the value of 40,000,000 *yen*, of which 13,000,000 *yen* were in gold.

IV.—The withdrawal of notes. Funds for the purpose of withdrawing 21,000,000 *yen* were obtained by annual appropriations. The sale of "Kinsatsu Exchange Bonds" supplied means for withdrawing 10,000,000 *yen* more. By the spring of 1885 the total amount of paper in circulation had been reduced to about 90,000,000 yen, and accordingly a notification was issued (June, 1885), that after January 1, 1886, the paper currency would be redeemed in silver "by degrees," and that the paper thus redeemed would be destroyed.

In order to substitute convertible notes for the inconvertible paper the Bank of Japan was empowered to issue notes under the following conditions:—

1. Against an equal amount of gold or silver coin or bullion.

2. Against Government bonds, Treasury bills, deeds, and commercial bills.

The amount not to exceed 700,000,000 *yen*, subject to a reduction in proportion to the redemption of National Bank paper.

3. If considered advisable, the bank was empowered to issue notes in addition to this sum, paying a tax of 5 per cent. per annum on the amount issued.

The bank was to lend 22,000,000 *yen* to the Government at first at 2 per cent., and afterwards without interest, to be employed for the redemption of paper currency.

The result of these operations† since 1883 has been that the Government paper money in circulation has been reduced from 98,000,000 *yen* to the present amount of 23,000,000 *yen*. The convertible notes of the Bank of Japan have increased from 4,000,000 *yen* in 1885 to 110,000,000 *yen*.

The amount of the National Bank notes has been reduced from 34,000,000 *yen* to 23,000,000 *yen*.

The reserve and securities of the Bank of Japan amount to 136,000,000 *yen*, of which 22,000,000 *yen* is in gold coin and bullion, 64,000,000 *yen* in silver, and the rest in bonds, bills, &c.

This shows a considerable increase on last year, when the reserve and securities amounted to 116,000,000 *yen*, and the notes in circulation to 94,000,000 *yen*. The silver reserve has increased from 43,664,000,000 *yen*, and the gold decreased from 22,700,000 *yen* to 21,806,000 *yen*.

B.—Metallic.

In 1871 the mint was opened for the reception of bullion. Gold coins of 20 *yen*, 10 *yen*, 5 *yen*, 2 *yen*, and 1 *yen* are struck, as well as silver of 1 *yen*, 50 *sen*, 20 *sen*, 5 *sen*. During the first year the nominal value of the coins struck was—gold, 14,488,980 *yen*; and silver, 5,689,685 *yen*.

The standard weight of the gold *yen* was 25·72 grains; and the silver *yen* 416 grains, both 90 fine.

The gold *yen* was the unit and was legal tender to any amount.

For convenience of commerce at the open ports a silver trade dollar of 420 grains was coined for Japanese or foreigners on application. It was to be used solely in the payment of import and export duties and all other taxes at the open ports, and in operation between Japanese and foreign merchants. It was unavailable for the payment of internal taxes, and was not to be generally current, though any persons could use it by mutual agreement in making or receiving payments. The relative value of the silver trade dollar and the standard gold coin was declared in 1875 to be at the rate of 100 silver yen for 101 gold yen.

It was found, however, that the new silver coins were melted down while the old Mexican dollars, though inferior in weight, were alone current, and in 1878 the coinage of the trade dollar was abolished, and the coinage of the dollar of 416 grains resumed.

In 1878 it was finally resolved to abandon the simple gold standard. By a notification, dated May 27, the *yen* of 416 grains and 900 fineness was made universally current in all public and private transactions and without limit. In 1879 it was declared on the part of the Government that the silver *yen* would be received at par with the Mexican dollar by every Department. European banks followed suit. In 1883 the payment of interest in the Kinsatsu Exchange Bonds,* originally to be made in gold or silver, was made payable in silver alone.

From the commencement in 1871 to March 31, 1873, the gold coins struck were of the nominal value of 65,000,000 *yen*, and the silver coins of the value of 130,000,000 *yen*.

From 1872 to 1892 the value of the export of gold from Japan amounted to about 70,000,000 silver *yen*, and of silver to 106,000,000 *yen*.

In the same period the import of gold amounted to the value of 10,000,000 *yen*, and of silver to 124,000,000 *yen*. The import of gold was almost entirely bullion, principally from Korea, and the export Japanese coin old and new.

Out of the 70,000,000 yen exported 55,000,000 *yen* worth was in "Japanese gold coin," and 9,000,000 yen in "Nibu" and "Nishu" (old coin). Thus about nine-thirteenths of the gold coins struck in the mint have been exported. In 1892 about 1,000,000 *yen* (gold) was struck, and more than 6,000,000 *yen* exported. From 1888 to 1892 the amount struck was 6,000,000 *yen* (nominal value), and the amount exported was 8,000,000 *yen* (nominal value).

The product of the mines from 1885 to 1891 was gold about 108,000 ozs. and silver about 7,460,000 ozs. This product if correct would have been upwards of 2,000,000 gold yen and 8,000,000 silver *yen*, or an average of 333,000 gold *yen* and 1,333,000 silver *yen* per annum. The table annexed (Note B) will show that the production of silver is relatively increasing.

It is plain that if the present rate of depletion continues there will be soon very little gold left in the country. Since last year the value of the gold coin and bullion held in the Bank of Japan has diminished from 22,700,000 *yen* to 21,806,000 *yen*, while the value of the silver coin and bullion has largely increased.

Note A.

In the three months ending July 31 last the exports of gold coin amounted to 520,000 *yen* in value, and the imports of gold bullion to 135,000 *yen*. In the same three months the export of silver exceeded the import: the export amounting to 4,500,000 *yen* and the import to something over 1,000,000 *yen*.

Note B.

Product of Japanese Mines.†

Year.	Gold. Ounces.	Silver. Ounces.
1885-86	8,827	767,656
1886-87	14,963	1,084,852
1887-88	16,768	1,147,113
1888-89	19,057	1,376,436
1889-90	24,709	1,382,611
1890-91	23,632	1,703,878

* See "Report on National Debt of Japan," M. de Bunsen's Miscellaneous Series No. 399, 1893.

† "Resumé Statistique," p. 26.

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NOTE C.

The amount of gold and silver coinage actually in circulation at the end of August, 1893, was officially estimated as follows :—

Description.	Value. Yen.
Gold	5,837,892
Silver	26,481,307

This total is arrived at by subtracting the amount of reserve in the Bank of Japan and the amount exported from the total coinage.

The amount of old gold and silver coinage in Japan at the end of March, 1892, was estimated at follows :—

Description.	Value. Yen.
Gold	68,350,683
Silver	20,106,617

Since March, 1892, the net import of silver was about 21,000,000 *yen* and the net export of gold about 8,000,000 *yen* in value. At that date the gold and silver coinage, old and new, was estimated at (gold) about 83,500,000 *yen* in value and (silver) about 81,500,000 *yen*.

This estimate leaves out of account the coins melted down, lost, or exported without record being kept. It is probably largely beyond the mark. All the gold which appears in the market is bought up for export, and the 22,000,000 *yen's* worth of gold in the Treasury is all which can be said with certainty to exist in Japan.

STREET LIGHTING.

REPORT.

The following statement of receipts and expenditures for the past year is published by the Gas Committee for the information of Subscribers :—

The Committee.—A. O. GAY (Chairman), A. DUMRLIN (Hon. Treasurer), J. H. BROOKE, J. Ph. VON HEMERT, W. B. WALTER, HENRY BAEHR,

Balance from account March 23rd, 1894		$ 914.06
Receipts from subscribers for the past year		3,584.55
Interest on Bank deposit $800 at 5 per cent.		40.00
		4,538.61
Expenditures :		
Payments to the Gas Works for lighting 132 lamps	$3,284.82	
Secretary's services at $30 per month	360.00	
Stationery, &c.	24.00	
		3,668.82
Balance		$ 869.79

A. DUMELIN, Hon. Treasurer.

Yokohama, March 16th, 1894.

	Yen.
Total Amount collected last year	3,645.75
Total Amount collected this year	3,584.55
Decrease	61.20
Expenditure last year	3,710.40
Expenditure this year	3,668.82
Decrease	41.58
Arrears due and collectable	—
Arrears due and doubtful	—
The present Income per month is about	299.00
Less Secretary's Commission and Stationery	32.00
	267 00
Less Subscribers who refuse to pay, and left	5.30
	261.70

The present Expenditure per month is on 124 lamps in the Settlement; 2 lamps on Yatobashi; 6 lamps on Yatosaka; 132 lamps at *Yen* 1.29 a lamp per month ... 249.48

SUPREME COURT, HONGKONG.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Before His Honour Sir FIELDING CLARKE, Chief Justice, and a Special Jury.—MONDAY, 5th March.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO. *v.* MESSRS. DODWELL, CARLLIL & CO.

This was a claim by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company against George Benjamin Dodwell and another to recover from them a sum of £1,000 retained by them after they had ceased to be the agents of the plaintiffs.

The following were on the jury :—Messrs R. M. Moses, W. R. Loxley, H. H. Joseph, W. H. Ray, M. C. J. Grote, R. M. Gray, and B. Layton.

Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Wright, of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), represented the plaintiffs; and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Leach said the claim was for a sum of £1,000, which was the balance retained by the defendants out of monies in their hands at the termination of their agency for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. from May 24, 1892, to the date of the issue of the writ. The defendants in their answer to the petition admitted the retention of the money, but claimed that they were justly entitled to it as remuneration for work done. Up to May, 1891, the steamship service between Hongkong and Vancouver was not the property of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company but the enterprise of Mr. William Pearce. The agency for both Mr. Pearce and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was in the hands of Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co., of which firm Mr. Geo. B. Dodwell, one of the defendants, was a salaried assistant. Mr. Dodwell was appointed the general agent in China and Japan for all matters pertaining to the Company. He was to be paid at the rate of £1,000 per annum for his services through Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co. In May, 1891, the firm of Adamson, Bell & Co. became bankrupt, and the new firm of Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co. was immediately started, taking over the business of the Canadian Pacific Company. Mr. Geo. B. Dodwell continued to be agent for the Company in the East. In March, 1891, the agreement existing between Mr. William Pearce and the plaintiff Company was terminated and the Company then commenced to run their own line of steamers—the *Empress* line being established, with the head office at Hongkong. The principal work of the agency in Hongkong was done by Mr. G. B. Dodwell, but a large portion was in the hands of the firm of Dodwell, Carlill & Co. A great deal of work outside that usually undertaken by a shipping agent was performed. Having read the petition and answer, Mr. Leach submitted that the burden of proof rested with his friend, who had to show that his clients were justified in the retention of the money.

His Lordship said that if counsel had agreed on this course he had no objection to offer.

Mr. Francis said that he was prepared to open the case. In the first place he pointed out that the defendant was not Mr. G. B. Dodwell but the firm of Dodwell, Carlill & Co. When Mr., now Sir William, Pearce, of Glasgow, was running the line of steamers between Hongkong and Vancouver the profits of the traffic were divided between Sir William Pearce and the Railway Company. During the existence of that agreement the old firm of Adamson, Bell & Co. acted as Agents for both parties, and the superintendence of the steamers was in the hands of Capt. Hopkins, who was responsible to Sir William Pearce. Adamson, Bell & Co. were simply agents to collect cargo and passengers and look after the freights and to represent the C.P.R. They received a commission of 5 per cent. under two separate contracts with both employers. Towards the end of 1890 the C.P.R. Co. determined to have steamers of their own, and Mr. Dodwell, who had been 18 or 19 years in the firm of Adamson, Bell & Co., and was a gentleman of great experience in shipping, was authorised to go to Montreal and London and make any arrangements he liked with the C.P.R. Company. The result of numerous interviews was that Adamson, Bell & Co. were to continue as agents and were to receive a commission of 4 per cent. on the net outturn of passengers and cargo. Mr. Dodwell was appointed at the general agent for the whole of the East, and was to look after their business and manage the new line in every possible way—in fact he was empowered to do everything that he liked short of selling the steamers. The arrangement made was that he was to remain in the service of Adamson, Bell & Co., and that Adamson, Bell & Co. were to receive an annual sum of £1,000 a year towards paying Mr. Dodwell's salary and expenses. He remained in their service, and was paid by them, but independently he was the general agent of the C. P. R. Co. Under the new arrangement, Adamson, Bell & Co. were to do for the C. P. R. Co. what they previously had done for Sir William Pearce. On May 7th, 1891, Adamson, Bell & Co. failed, while Mr. Dodwell was in Japan. The failure, however, had been foreseen and provided for, and immediately on its announcement the new firm of Dodwell, Carlill & Co. was established. Communications were addressed to the C.P.R. Co. requesting that the agency held by Adamson, Bell & Co. should be transferred to Dodwell, Carlill & Co., and this was done. From the memoranda and letters it would be clear that the C.P.R. Company fully understood and agreed that the agency of Dodwell, Carlill & Co. should be held on precisely the same terms and conditions as Adamson, Bell & Co. had held it. It was decided that the head office should be in Hongkong, and when the *Empress* steamers first started running Mr. Dodwell and the firm of Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co. had an enormous amount of work to do, not only in attending to passengers and cargo—which was really the business of the agency—but in a large number of incidental details connected with the boats. The work thus agreed to be done by Adamson, Bell & Co., was being performed by Dodwell, Carlill & Co. The great amount of extra work entailed in arranging the initial steps of this enterprise was mainly performed by Mr. Dodwell himself, and for this extra labour a sum of £1,000 was set down as being a fair remuneration, and this they claimed they were entitled to retain.

Mr. G. R. Dodwell was then examined at great length on the history of the agency, and the details of the extra work, over and above the passenger and cargo traffic business which had been entailed. A mass of correspondence was read.

Mr. Wheeller also gave evidence, and the Court adjourned at 5.30, until the 7th inst., his Lordship suggesting that perhaps in the meantime some arrangement might be arrived at.

WEDNESDAY, 7th March.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co., Limited, sued Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill and Co. for the recovery of £1,000 retained by defendants out of the plaintiff Company's moneys on giving up the agency. Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., instructed by Mr. V. H. Deacon, appeared on behalf of the plaintiffs, and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master, for the defendants.

The following were the special jury :—Messrs. R. M. Moses, W. H. Loxley, H. H. Joseph, W. H. Ray, Max. Grote, R. M. Gray, and B. Layton.

The pleadings stated that the plaintiffs demanded payment of £1,000 not accounted for on the closing of accounts between defendants and plaintiffs. The defendants on the other hand alleged that the amount of $6,500 (which then amounted to £1,000) was due as commission from plaintiffs to defendants for services rendered outside of the contract originally made by plaintiffs with Adamson, Bell & Co., and taken over by the plaintiffs.

Mr. Francis said—I am glad to be able to announce to your Lordship that my friend and myself have come to an arrangement to settle this case, and we neednot trouble your Lordship any further. The memorandum stating particulars of the settlement will be filed by the solicitors in the case.

His Lordship—I am very glad, I am sure, that you have come to an amicable settlement, and I am quite sure you are not sorry either.

We understand that the terms of settlement are that the defendants refund the plaintiffs a sum of $5,000, out of the $6,500 said to be due, each party paying its own costs.—*China Mail.*

March 12th.

IN THE MATTER OF THE HYOGO HOTEL, LIMITED.

This was the adjourned hearing of an application, on a judge's summons, by the liquidator of the Hyogo Hotel, Limited, to enforce the payment of calls for $48,000 made on the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, who accepted liability for Mr. R. H. Cook, their manager at Kobe. The Bank, on the other hand, moved the Court to strike their name off the list of contributories.

Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. E. C. Ellis, of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), appeared for the liquidator of the Hotel, and Mr. J. J. Francis Q.C. (instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, & Master), for the Bank.

The case, it will be remembered, came before the Court in January last and was adjourned in order that a number of papers, books, and affidavits might be obtained. In the meantime the matter has been brought before his lordship in Chambers.

Mr. Francis said that, as his lordship was aware the defendants found themselves on the list of contributories and were *prima facie* liable for the amount claimed. There was an onus resting on them to prove that the calls had been paid. In the first place they relied on the fact that a receipt had been given—though the original could not be found—for the payment. He thought that he would be able to satisfy the Court that such a receipt had been in their possession, although now it was not in evidence. In the second place he submitted that they were the *bona fide* owners without notice of any irregularity, and therefore it rested with the other side to show that they had been guilty of some gross negligence. There was evidence that this had been a cash transaction, and that there had all along been a deliberate intention that it should be a cash transaction, and the onus of proving the reverse was on the other side.

Counsel then proceeded to read a number of interrogatories affidavits, and letters relative to the case, quoting frequently from authorities bearing on the points raised.

The hearing of the arguments occupied the whole of the day.—*Daily Press.*

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, March 20.

The Times says that it is regarded as certain, in the best informed Radical circles, that a dissolution of Parliament will take place.

Louis Kossuth is dead.

London, March 22.

Mr. Gladstone has now a cataract in both eyes. In a letter to his electors he says the question whether he will retain his seat and continue his attendance in the House of Commons will depend upon the state of his health.

The Committee of Foreign Affairs of the U.S. Senate are discussing a new Chinese Treaty superseding the Exclusion Acts and permitting restricted admission.

[KOSSUTH, Louis, ex-Governor of Hungary, was born April 21, 1802, at Monok, in the county of Zemplin, where his father was a small owner, of the noble class. Louis was educated at the Protestant College of Scharasehpatack, where he qualified himself for the profession of an advocate, obtained his diploma in 1826, and in 1830 became agent to the Countess Szapary, and as such sat in the Comital Assembly. At the age of twenty-seven he took his seat in the National Diet of Presburg, as representative of a magnate. He published reports of the proceedings of this assembly on lithographed sheets, until they were suppressed by the Government, and afterwards in MS. circulars. The Government, which determined not to allow reports of parliamentary debates to become current in Hungary, prosecuted him for high treason; and in 1839 he was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. After about a year and a half of confinement, he was liberated under an act of amnesty. In January, 1841, he became chief editor of the *Hirlap*, a newspaper published at Pesth. His influence with his countrymen steadily increased until, in March, 1848, he entered Vienna with a deputation to urge the claims of his country upon the Government, and returned to Presburg as Minister of Finance. Under his influence the internal reforms which he had advocated were carried out; the last remains of the oppressive feudal system were swept away, and the peasants were declared free from all signorial claims, the country undertaking to indemnify the landlords. The Diet was dissolved, and a new Diet summoned for July 2, by which Kossuth was created Governor of Hungary, and he held that post during the civil war of 1848-9. After the efforts of the Hungarians had been crushed, mainly by the aid of Russian armed intervention, Kossuth was compelled to retire to Turkey. He reached Schumla with Ben, Dembinski, Perczel, Guyon, and 5,000 men, and was appointed a residence in Widdin. Austria and Russia wished the refugees to be given up, in which case they which probably have been executed. Through the intervention of England and France, the demand was refused. The late Sultan behaved with great humanity and disinterestedness on the occasion. The refugees were removed to Kutahia, in Asia Minor, where they remained prisoners until Aug. 22, 1851. Kossuth left Kutahia Sept. 1, and after touching at Spezzia, called at Marseilles, but was refused permission to travel through France. Having been hospitably received at Gibraltar and at Lisbon, he reached Southampton Oct. 28, sailed for the United States Nov. 21, and made a tour, agitating in favour of Hungary. He soon returned to England, where he resided for some years, occupying himself chiefly in writing for newspapers, and delivering lectures against the house of Hapsburg. One of the occasions on which his name was brought prominently before the public was in 1860, when the Austrian Government instituted a successful process against Messrs. Day & Sons for lithographing several millions of bank-notes for circulation in Hungary, signed by Kossuth, as governor of that country. In Nov., 1861, he published in the *Perseveranza*, an Italian journal, a long letter, setting forth the situation of Hungary, and urging the Italians to commence war against Austria, with the view of enabling the Hungarians to develop their strength against that Power; issued an inflammatory address to the Hungarians, June 6, 1866, and after the close of the war of that year advised the Hungarians to reject the concessions offered by Francis Joseph. He was elected deputy for Waitzen, Aug. 1, 1867, but he declined to accept the office. In April, 1875, M. Kossuth was living in an unpretending dwelling in Turin, where he had resided for thirteen years, in the strictest privacy. Latterly he has devoted much of his time to science, and he published a paper on the "Farbenveränderung der Sterne" in 1871. In Nov. 1879, he lost his rights as a Hungarian citizen, as the Chamber of Deputies adopted a Bill declaring that any native of the country who voluntarily resided abroad for an uninterrupted period of ten years should lose his civil status. The Extreme Left violently opposed the measure, accusing the Government of levelling it directly against Kossuth, but it was finally carried by 141 votes to 52. Kossuth was engaged for several years in writing his "Memoirs," the last volume of which appeared in 1882.—*Men of the Time.*]

(SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN DAIL MAIL.")
[FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, March 14.

At a meeting of the Liberal Party, the Earl of Rosebery declared that he adhered absolutely to Home Rule, and in reference to Mr. Gladstone's last speech in the House of Commons against the House of Lords, said that the present constitution of the House of Lords was an anomaly and a danger to the country, inasmuch as it merely obeyed the dictates of the leader of a single party. His Lordship further stated that the Government would not lose sight of any means of constitutionally presenting to the country that anomaly and danger.

The Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament states that the negotiations with Russia in regard to Central Asian questions were progressing satisfactorily. The Home Rule Question was not referred to. The Speech also states that full and adequate provision would be made for the defence of the Empire, and that an Anglo-Chinese Convention had been signed fixing the frontier between Burmah and China.

The House of Lords voted the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The Earl of Rosebery said that the Lords had stated that affairs in Egypt were peaceful, but in view of recent events Great Britain's vigilant supervision in that country would be necessary for some time to come.

A memorial from the London Chamber of Commerce urges the Government to arrange for the resumption of the Brussels Conference.

Mr. Gladstone is still at Brighton.

March 15.

In the House of Lords yesterday, the Marquis of Salisbury urged upon the Government the necessity of taking the verdict of the people upon the question of Home Rule forthwith, and said that any delay in that matter would be disastrous both to England and Ireland. The Earl of Rosebery, in reply, said that the Government was quite prepared to appeal to the country on the question of Home Rule, and that the time was ripe, but he would not concede the right of the House of Lords to force a dissolution of Parliament.

In reply to a question, the Earl of Rosebery stated that the acute phase in regard to affairs in Siam was over, and that Her Majesty's Government was fully alive to the fact that the commerce of Siam was almost wholly British.

March 16.

On the motion of Sir William Harcourt, the House of Commons rejected the Address in reply to the Queen's Speech with Mr. Labouchere's amendment, and adopted a substitute, merely thanking Her Majesty for her gracious speech.

[FROM TONKIN PAPERS.]

Paris, February 28.

The Emperor and Empress of Austria are spending a week near Nice incognito.

Paris, February 28.

The treaty with Russia has been discussed in the Reichstag. The Chancellor, von Caprivi, stated that he hoped to prepare the union of the European Powers for common economic action.

Paris, March 1.

The *Gaulois* affirms the existence of a Franco-Russian defensive military convention. —*Daily Press.*

(FROM MANILA PAPERS.)

Madrid, March 8.

The Ministers met at two o'clock this afternoon under the presidency of Senor Sagasta. The meeting terminated at eight o'clock. The whole of the cabinet has resigned. H.M. the Queen has accepted the resignations and has commissioned Senor Sagasta to form a new Ministry.

Madrid, March 12.

The cabinet has been constituted as follow :—President of the Council, Sagasta; Minister of the Interior, Aquilera; Foreign Minister, Moret; Minister of Commerce, Groizard; Minister of Finance, Amos Salvador; Minister of Justice, Capdepon; Minister of the Colonies, Becerra; Minister of War, Lopez Dominguez; Minister of Marine, Pasquin.

Madrid, March 9.

At Rome last night, at the entrance to the House of Parliament, at the close of the sitting, a dynamite bomb was exploded, seriously injuring eight persons, while many more received slight contusions. The thrower of the bomb was amongst those injured, and he was arrested by the police.—*Daily Press.*

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Osaka, Mar. 23, 4.23 p.m.

A despatch from Jinsen, Korea, dated the 18th, states that Mr. Otori, Japanese Representative, is expected to leave for China at the beginning of next month. A rumour is current there to the effect that an unfavourable harvest was experienced with a decrease of 50 per cent. on an ordinary year, and an edict prohibiting the export of rice will probably be announced.

Kushirogaki Light House March 22.

An exceptionlly long earthquake was felt here at 7.10 p.m. to-day.

Hokkaido Administrative Board, March 23.

A strong earthquake was felt at Atsugishi, at 8 o'clock last night, and 25 houses were overthrown. No lives were lost.

Later.

An earthquake was experienced at Atsugishi, Kushiro, between 7.23 and 8 last night. Such a severe shock is rarely experienced here. Articles were thrown down from shelves, and many cracks made in walls and ceilings. The duration was 3m. 20s.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.)

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

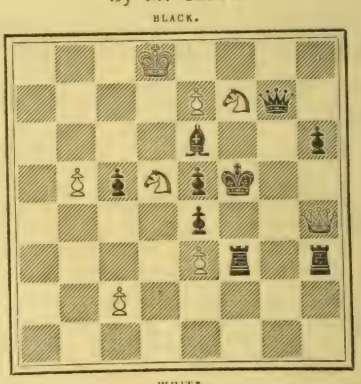
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 113.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to Q B 8	1—K × R
2—P (K 7) "Queens" (ch.)	2—K moves
3—Q mates at Q 8	
	1—K to K 3
2—P to K 8, becoming a Kt	2—K to Q 2 or B 2
3—B mates at B 5 or Q 5, accordingly.	
	1—K to Q 3
2—P to K 8, becoming a B	2—K moves
3—R mates at B 6.	

Correct solutions received from Omega, Shogi, Digamma, J.D., W.H S., and Dr. Hispanus.
Correct solution of No. 112 from P.E.F.S.

PROBLEM No. 115.
By M. CALVI.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

(This, as our solvers will see at once, is more of an end-game than a problem, as usually understood—White having obviously no time to spare.)

The local world is in anticipation of the great day at the Yokohama Chess Club on 30th instant, when the present season will be practically wound up, with the list of events noted in our last. We understand that the teams have been paired as under for the Tokyo-Yokohama return-match (subject of course to alteration if found necessary at the last moment).

Tokyo		Yokohama.
Mason.	*v.*	Balk.
McGee.		Tennant.
Mosthaf.		Batavus.
Munzinger.		Griffin.
White.		Ekstrand.
Pownall.		Schiff.
Cox.		Davieson.
Walz.		Fardel.
Krug.		Kuhn.
Madeley.		Mendelson.

As we go to press we learn that the meeting and match on the 30th will be held in Mr. Keil's building No. 61, Main Street, that gentleman having placed his fine suite of rooms at the disposal of the Yokohama Chess Club for that day.

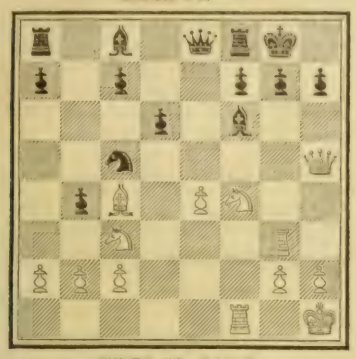
We give two diagrams of end-games recently played in the Tokyo Club which will give some idea of the way in which the President educates his players. The sacrifice and forced mate in the first game are fine, while in the second Mr. Mason

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shows himself a true disciple of Blackburne in working out of a difficulty.

END-GAME (TOKYO).

BLACK MR. —



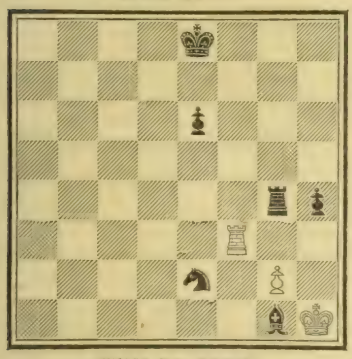
WHITE MR. MASON.

White won as follows in six moves:—

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R (B sq.) to B 3	1—P takes Kt
2—R to K R 3	2—B takes R
3—Q takes P (ch.)	3—K takes Q
4—R to R 3 (ch.)	4—K to Kt sq.
5—Kt to Kt 6 and mate next move.	

END-GAME (TOKYO).

BLACK MR. —



WHITE MR. MASON.

In this position White drew as under:—

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to Kt 3	1—R takes P
2—R to B 8 ch! etc.	

We clip the following from a home paper lately received:—

The following game was played in a recent master tournament at New York. Mr. Pillsbury, the winner of the first prize, is only twenty-one years of age, but he displays great accuracy and power of combination.

RUY LOPEZ.

WHITE. Showalter.	BLACK. Pillsbury.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to K Kt 3
4—P to B 3	4—P to Q 3
5—P to Q 4	5—B to Q 2
6—Castles	6—B to Kt 2
7—B to K 3	7—K Kt to K 2
8—Kt to K sq.	8—Castles
9—P to K B 4	9—P takes Q P
10—P takes P	10—P to Q 4
11—B takes Kt	11—B takes B
12—P to B 5	12—P to B 3 (*a*)
13—P takes Kt P	13—Kt takes P
14—Q to Kt 3	14—K to R sq.
15—Q Kt to B 3	15—Kt to K 2
16—R to Q sq.	16—Q to Q 2
17—Kt to Q 3	17—P to Kt 3
18—Kt to B 4	18—Q R to Q sq.
19—R to Q 2	19—R to K Kt sq.
20—Kt to R 5 (*b*)	20—P takes P
21—P to Q 5	21—B takes P
22—Kt takes Q B	22—Kt takes Kt
23—Kt takes P	23—B takes Kt
24—R takes B	24—P to B 4
25—K R to B 2 (*c*)	25—Q to K 3
26—R takes Kt	26—R takes R
27—Q to B 3 ch.	27—Q to K 4
28—B to Q 2	28—P to K 6
29—R to B 5	29—P takes B
30—R takes Q	30—P queens ch.
31—R to K sq. ch.	31—Q to Q 5 ch.
32—Resigns.	

NOTES.

(*a*)—A tempting, but unsafe line of play is 12 ... P takes KP, 13 P to B 6, B takes P, 14 R takes B, Kt to K 4, 15 R takes B, Kt takes B.

(*b*)—P takes P followed by an exchange of pieces appears to be necessary at this point.

(*c*)—26 R takes Kt, Q takes R, 26 Q to B 3 would end as Black takes the sting out of the dis ch. by 26 ... Q to Q 6.

STEINIZ V. LIVERPOOL.

The following moves have been made in the cable match between Mr. Steinitz and the Liverpool Chess Club:—

NO. 1 GAME.

WHITE. Steinitz.	BLACK. Liverpool.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to B 4	3—B to B 4
4—Castles	4—Kt to B 3
5—P to Q 4	5—B takes P
6—Kt takes B	6—Kt takes Kt
7—P to B 4	7—P to Q 3
8—P takes P	8—P takes P
9—B to K Kt 5	9—Q to K 2
10—K to R sq.	10—B to K 3
11—B to Q 3	

NO. 2 GAME.

WHITE. Liverpool.	BLACK. Steinitz.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to Q 3
4—P to Q 4	4—B to Q 2
5—Kt to B 3	5—K Kt to K 2
6—P takes P	6—P takes P
7—B to Kt 5	7—P to B 3
8—B to K 3	8—Kt to B sq.

Liverpool appears to have slightly the best of it in each game, especially No. 1, in which the champion revives the almost obsolete Max Lange attack.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, Mar. 30th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, Mar. 27th.†
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 25th.§
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 8th.‖
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, Mar. 29th.¶
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 1st.
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Sunday, April 15th.

† *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on March 8th. § *Ancona* left Hongkong on March 17th. ‖ *Gaelic* left San Francisco on March 20th. ¶ *Empress of Japan* left Hongkong on March 21st.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 24th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, Mar. 25th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Sunday, Mar. 25th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, Mar. 27th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, Mar. 30th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 31st.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 1st.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Josephine, American schooner, 16, Gale, 17th March,—Tacoma, Wash., Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 17th March,—Kobe 16th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 17th March,—Otaru viâ ports 13th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Anaconda, American schooner, 40, A. Lawson, 18th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Carlotta G. Cox, British schooner, 82, W. D. Byers, 18th March,—Put Back, Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 18th March,—San Francisco 27th February, viâ Honolulu 6th March, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Oxus, French steamer, 2,500, Dupont, 18th March,—Marseilles 4th February, Hongkong 9th March, Shanghai 13th, and Kobe 17th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 19th March,—Vancouver, B.C., 6th March, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Luisa D., American schooner, 90, S. H. Burtis, 19th March,—San Francisco 12th December, 288 Seal Skins.—Captain.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,294, C. K. McIntosh, 19th March,—London viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, V. Perkes, 20th March,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., 28th February, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 20th March,—Otaru viâ ports 16th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 21st March,—Kobe 20th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

H. C. Wahlberg, American schooner, 26, J. W. Crew, 21st March,—San Francisco 17th January, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Rosie Olsen, British schooner, A. Whidden, 21st March,—Victoria, B.C., 9th January, 13 Seal.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Teresa, British schooner, 68, F. Gilbert, 21st March,—Victoria, B.C., Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Caroline (14), cruiser, Captain C. J. Norcock, 21st March,—A cruise.

Niobe, German steamer, 1,666, E. J. Pfaff, 22nd March,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Ardgay, British steamer, 1,080, Thom, 22nd March,—Takao, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Bowhead, American schooner, 103, W. P. Noyes, 22nd March,—Tokyo 22nd March, Ballast.—Captain.

Sadie Turpel, British schooner, 64, Chas. Le Blanc, 22nd March,—Victoria, B.C., 19th January, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, Wm. H. Walker, 23rd March,—Hongkong viâ ports 16th March, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Fawn, British schooner, 58, M. Keefe, 23rd March,—Victoria, B.C., 1st January, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Glengyle, British steamer, 2,244, Gasson, 23rd March,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, H. Walter, 23rd March,—Hongkong 17th March, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Windsor, British steamer, 1,890, Veron, 23rd March,—Batoum, Kerosene.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 23rd March,—Shanghai and ports 17th March, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Grace Harwar, British ship, 1,750, V. D. Hunt, 17th March,—Vancouver, B.C., Ballast.—Order.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 17th March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ixion, British steamer, 2,299, Nish, 17th March,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Oscar II., Norwegian steamer, 1,999, Arnsan, 18th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Frazar & Co.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 18th March,—Fushiki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 18th March,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 18th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bellona, German steamer, 2,032, Jaeger, 19th March,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 19th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Isis, British steamer, 1,588, Ferrent, 19th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 19th March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 20th March,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Annie E. Faint, British schooner, 82, Bissett, 20th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Mary Ellen, British schooner, 63, W. O. Hughes, 20th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Browne & Co.

Mary Taylor, British schooner, 47, E. F. Robbins, 20th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Oscar and Hattie, British schooner, 82, Magnasen, 20th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Willard Ainsworth, American schooner, 40, E. Crockett, 20th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Admiral Korniloff (18), Russian flagship, Captain Elchaninoff, 20th March,—Nagasaki.

Caroline (14), cruiser, Captain C. J. Norcock, 20th March,—Target Practice.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 20th March,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, V. Perkes, 21st March,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Carlotta G. Cox, British schooner, 82, W. D. Byers,

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22nd March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain J. G. Cox.

Ocean Belle, British schooner, 84, T. O'Leary, 23rd March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Bowhead, American schooner, 103, W. P. Noyes, 24th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Sadie Turpel, British schooner, 47, C. Le Blanc, 24th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, from Kobe:—Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Lang and Mr. Silva in cabin, and 7 Japanese in steerage. For Hakodate:—Mr. H. Kita in second class, and 10 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—2 Japanese in cabin, and 27 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—Mr. Timothy Hogan, Mrs. T. Hogan, Mr. F. S. James, Miss E. Settlemeyer, Miss Sarah Gardner, Mrs. Jane H. Loomis, Mr. F. H. Loring, Miss Louis Rothweiller, Mr. J. W. Thompson, Miss Ida M. Thompson, Mrs. W. D. Learned, Mr. Geo. M. Ferguson, Mr. F. C. Green, Mr. R. C. Morris, Mrs. R. C. Morris, Mr. S. H. Kauffmann, Mrs. S. H. Kauffmann, Miss Louise Kauffmann, Mr. Crosby S. Noyes, Mrs. C. S. Noyes, Miss Myra Noyes, Miss Mary G. de Motte, Rev. A. B. Brown, Mr. P. C. Clark, Mr. F. Terada, Mr. S. E. Barrett, Mrs. S. E. Barrett, Mr. Geo. Flood, Mr. F. E. Samules, Mr. Albert Miller, Mr. James R. Morse, Mr. J. H. McMichael, Mrs. J. H. McMichael, Master McMichael, Mrs. Mary P. E. Nitobe, Miss M. E. Kelly, Mrs. F. May, Mr. Albert Bayer, Miss E. Vignet, Mrs. Julia Beck, Mr. C. Matsudaira, Mr. Jas. Smith and servant, Mr. E. W. Morley, Mrs. E. W. Morley, Mr. A. H. Morley, Mr. S. Saba, Mr. Julian Morales, Mrs. J. Morales, and Mr. K. Goda in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Liao Nyan Tow, Mrs. Tow, Mrs. Liao and infant, Mr. George H. Macy, Mrs. G. H. Macy and son, and Mr. E. J. Cowan in cabin. For Shanghai:—Chevalier Tello d'Apperi, Mrs. Chas. P. Cassilly, Miss Margaret Copley, Mr. Wm. C. Riley, Mr. Emil S. Fischer, Miss Mary Rogers, and Miss Emma Larson in cabin. From Honolulu to Yokohama:—Dr. S. Kallen, Mr. R. W. Irwin, and Mr. F. S. Sugiyama in cabin. From Honolulu to Hongkong:—Mr. Chas. Trepplin in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Baldwin and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, Mr. G. Campbell, Miss Clayton, Mr. Irving J. Cohen, Mr. G. P. Denhigh, Mr. Th. Eysel, Mr. J. E. Farnum, Mr. G. L. Farnum, Dr. and Mrs. Grinnell, Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson, Miss Jenkins, Mrs. Herman Keller, Mr. M. Kirkpatrick, Miss Kirkpatrick, Miss Florence Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Levy, Mr. J. C. Loveland, Mr. John R. Myers, Mr. J. H. Pierce, Mr. T. Reed, Jun., Mr. Daniel C. Ripley, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Rogers, Mrs. E. C. Scidmore, Mr. E. H. Sharpe, Miss L. Watson, Mr. Houton, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Christopherson, Mr. L. Quick, and Mr. J. Fee in cabin; 1 passenger in second class, and 75 passengers in Asiatic steerage.

Per British steamer *Victoria*, from Tacoma Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—Mr. and Mrs. F. Dodwell and family in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. Nishida in cabin; 3 passengers in second class, and 32 passengers in steerege.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Chas. Grant, Lieut. S. C. Meerdink, Mr. O. Haynemann, Mr. J. Saenger, Mr. E. Becker, Miss Scholfield, Mr. C. B. Steadman, and Miss G. Scholfield in cabin. For San Francisco:—Rev. J. S. S. Newton, Mrs. J. Ward, Mr. Maha, Mr. Kohler, and Mr. Hans. Beckman in cabin.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, from Hongkong:—Mrs. Lloyd and 2 children, Miss Gun, Dr. Toyosaku Nishimura, Lieutenant Kumaroka Massada, Mrs. Osada, Mrs. Osaksan, Mr and Mrs. Ching and family, Mr. Lee Fon Wan, Mr. Chang, Mr. Shin Hin, and Mrs. Seik and son in second class; Messrs. Tos. Shannon, Ths. Stauton, and A. Ullmann in third class, and 70 Chinese on deck.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Sekido, Messrs. H. S. Wilkinson, Julius Plate, Frank Leyburn, T. Suda, Rusky, Y. Murota, Captain Ijuin, and Lieut. Iida in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. James Frame, Messrs. J. B. Stephenson, J. O'Niel, Shoji, and M. Imanishi in second class, and 49 passengers in steerage. For America:—Mr. Eal Davis in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Brent and Miss Brent, Mr. and Mrs. Dunlop, Messrs. P. B. Pol, J. G. T. Buckle, Yardley, H. Marcus, Lightfoot, C. B. Stedman, W. Jones, Onzo Fukuba, F. Lane, A. S. Manx, W. G. Friday, H. Foster, W. G. Pollendine, and J. Donovan in cabin, and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss Rothweiler, Miss Mary Rodger, Miss Emma Larson, Miss Daisy Fitzgerald, Miss Killerby, Mrs. Learned, Master H. Roux and Master Julius Dare, General Kuroki, General Hasegawa, Messrs. A. Rogers, K. Rischow, L. Rischow, and M. Matsunaga in cabin; Mrs. Yamaga, Messrs. Sato Nobu, Aoki, Emil S. Fischer, Nishiwara, Tamura, and Kizawa in second class, and 40 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 729 bales; Waste Silk, 80 bales.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $189,400.00.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain Smith, reports:—Left San Francisco the 27th February and Honolulu the 6th March. Arrived at Yokohama the 17th March at 1.29 p.m. Passage from Honolulu, 10 days, 23 hours, 39 minutes. Had fine weather throughout the passage.

The British steamer *Victoria*, Captain V. Perkes, reports:—Left Tacoma, Wash., the 28th February at 2 a.m. and Victoria, B.C., the same day at 3 p.m.; after leaving Victoria, B.C. a succession of westerly gales with heavy head seas were experienced to the meridian, which was crossed on the 11th March, on 50° N. lat.; thence to port moderate winds and fine weather prevailed. Arrived at Yokohama the 20th March at 6.30 a.m.

The British steamer *Belgic*, Captain Walker, reports:—Left Hongkong the 16th March, Nagasaki the 20th, and Kobe the 22nd at 1.35 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 23rd March at 3.10 p.m. Time, 7 days, 7 hours, 13 minutes. Had fine weather throughout the passage. Time from Kobe, 25 hours, 31 minutes.

The German steamer *Nürnberg*, Captain H. Walter, reports:—Left Hongkong the 17th March at 5 p.m.; through the Formosa Channel and up to Van Diemen Strait experienced fresh and strong N.E. monsoon, rough sea, and fine weather; thence to port light easterly winds and light sea. Arrived at Yokohama the 23rd March at 10 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Otaru the 18th March at 2 p.m.; had from light to moderate westerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 19th at 7.50 a.m. Left the 21st at 8 a.m.; had fresh westerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 22nd at 4.50 a.m. and left the same day at 4.30 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 23rd March at 4 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain R. Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 17th March at 6.20 a.m.; had light easterly and N.E. winds and fine, clear weather up to arrival at Nagasaki the 18th at midnight. Left Nagasaki the 19th at 5 p.m.; had light increasing to moderate N.E. winds and fine, clear weather, arriving at Shimonoseki the 20th at 6.50 a.m. Left Shimonoseki the same day at 12.30 p.m.; had light variable winds and calms and clear weather through whole of Inland Sea, arriving at Kobe 21st at 9.40 a.m. Left Kobe the 22nd at noon; had light northerly and N.E. winds and clear weather; passed Oshima at 8.30 p.m. with light variable winds, cloudy but fine, mild weather up to passing Rock Island at 10.30 a.m. on the 23rd; thence light N.E. winds and fine, clear weather up to arrival at Yokohama the 23rd March at 4.30 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Yarns:—Very firm at quotations without much trade. Shirtings and T.-Cloths:—Nothing done. Dealers will not at present advance their bids to the neighbourhood of lay-down cost. Fancies and Woollens quiet, with quotations unaltered.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 2.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	PER PIECE. 1.55 to 1.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.80
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	41.00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	43.00 to 44.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Rather more enquiry, but without leading to any large business. Quotations unchanged from last week.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.70 to 1.75

KEROSENE.

Market quiet, at late rates. Stock (sold and unsold) over 400,000 cases, which is about equally divided between American and Russian.

Chester	$1.72½ to 1.75
Comet	1.70 to 1.72½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.67½ to 1.70
Russian Moon	1.65 to 1.67½

SUGAR.

General good trade all round. Browns have been freely taken at an advance: and there is practically no unsold stock remaining. White Refined has also been in strong demand, both "spot" and "future," so that prices are higher in this class also.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.60 to 4.65
Brown Manila	5.40 to 5.45
Brown Daitong	4.10 to 4.15
Brown Canton	4.40 to 4.60
White Java and Penang	7.00 to 7.10
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 16th instant, since which date settlements on this market amount to 1,444 piculs, divided thus:—*Hanks* 27 piculs; *Filatures*, 976 piculs; *Re-reels*, 240 piculs; *Kakeda*, 201 piculs. Direct shipments have been 124 bales, making the total export business 1,600 piculs.

This week has seen renewed activity in some quarters, and a good daily business has been done, principally for Europe. The stock is reduced to 8,700 piculs and holders feel inclined to be strong. Prices for some grades have advanced slightly, and exchange is somewhat lower that it was last week.

It is hard to predict the course of our market at the present time; if shippers continue operations, probably holders will try to raise prices as the stock decreases.

Spring reelings of full-sized *Filatures* have begun to arrive, and one or two parcels have been sold; but so far as we have seen, these silks do not come up to the reputation of the chops placed upon them.

There has only been one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the English mail steamer *Verona*, 18th instant, taking 729 bales for Europe. (The out-going French and American mail steamers should have a fair quantity.) The export figures to date are 35,903 piculs, against 43,848 piculs last year and 42,350 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—There has been a little business, one

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or two parcels of good *Shinshu* being taken at $680, with medium grades at $650.

Firatures.—The chief business has been in this class, fine sizes for Europe again having the preference, and true No. 1 silks must be quoted a little higher. In full sizes, some spring reelings, *Choshinsha* and *Inasha*, have been booked at $800. In other grades, nothing of consequence, but prices generally are firm.

Rereels.—Not a very large trade, but prices are well maintained and tending upwards. Recent sales comprise *Tengensha* at $780, with *Tortoise* at $775, and sellers are apparently not eager to go on at these quotations. Other grades must also be quoted strong with a hardening tendency.

Kakeda.—These have also been in favour at gradually advancing prices, extra grade being settled at $775, with *Daruma* $750, and *Horsehead* 1 at $730.

Oshu and *Taysaam* sorts, no business.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$830 to	840
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den...	Nom. 820 to	830
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	760 to	770
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den...	760 to	770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	730 to	740
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	730 to	740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	700 to	710
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers...	780 to	790
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers...	750 to	760
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers...	720 to	730
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	700 to	710
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	670 to	680
Kakedas—Extra	775	
Kakedas—No. 1	750 to	760
Kakedas—No. 1½	720 to	730
Kakedas—No. 2	690 to	700
Kakedas—No. 2½	670 to	680
Kakedas—No. 3		—
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 23rd March, 1894:—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	19,492	16,975	14,987
America	15,306	26,104	26,389
Total ..... Bales	34,798	43,079	41,376
Total ..... Piculs	35,903	43,848	42,350
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	37,600	44,050	42,750
Stock, 23rd March	8,700	1,900	7,300
Available supplies to date	46,300	45,950	50,050

WASTE SILK.

Rather more demand this week and settlements amount to 1,030 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 300 piculs; *Kibiso*, 730 piculs. No direct shipments.

Again the principal demand has run upon *Noshi* and *Kibiso*, but consumers are trying to get prices down while holders think they ought to go up. Any raising of quotations will, we fear, stop the trade, and if sellers wish to unload their heavy stock they must at least be current.

There has only been one shipping opportunity, the *Verona*, 18th instant, taking 79 bales various Waste for Europe. This departure makes the present export figures 21,929 piculs, against 34,405 piculs last year and 26,140 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—Considerable business in *Bushu* at $130; "Fair" *Joshu*, $75; "Good" *Oshu*, $135 to $140; *Filatures*, $140. The best grades and assortments of *Joshu* seem no longer to exist.

Kibiso.—A fair amount of business has been done, *Filatures* realizing from $95, to $115, in quantity. Several purchases of *Sendai* at $85, with *Zagouri* ranging from $80 to $60, and even lower for common quality.

Mawata and *Sundries* have given rise to no business this week.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to 115
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	170 to 180

Export Table Waste Silk to 23rd March, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	18,698	31,713	24,045
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,095
	21,929	34,405	26,140
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	24,500	41,700	28,100
Stock, 23rd March	16,100	3,100	10,050
Available supplies to date	40,600	44,800	38,150

Exchange has declined a little and present quotations are as under:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/0⅝; Documents, 2/0½; 6m/s. Credits, 2/0⅝. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $49½; 4m/s. U.S. $50¼. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.56; 6m/s. fcs. 2.57½.

Estimated Silk Stock, 23rd March, 1894.—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	10	Cocoons	160
Filatures	4,480	Noshi-ito	8,340
Re-reels	3,200	Kibiso	7,130
Kakeda	980	Mawata	140
Oshu	20	Sundries	330
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	8,700	Total piculs	16,100

TEA.

Nothing fresh in this department. Prospects of New Crop are favourable so far; but it is too early to say anything definite as yet.

EXCHANGE.

The tendency of Exchange is downward, but the difference between rates now and a week ago is but a shade.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	1/11⅝
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	1/11¾
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/0⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2.47
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.56
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛% dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73½
On India—Bank sight	171
On India—Private 30 days' sight	175
On America—Bank Bills on demand	47¾
On America—Private 30 days' sight	49¼
On America—Private 4 months' sight	50¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.01
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.09
Bar Silver (London)	27⅛

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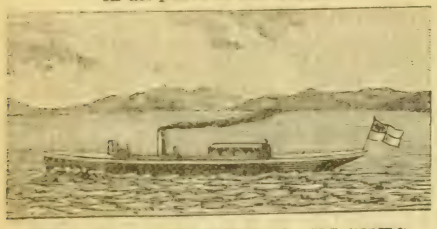
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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST, 1894.

BIRTH.

On 19th instant, at Bedford, the wife of H. J. HUNT, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On March 27th, at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., CHARLES GRANT, of Hongkong, to MARTHA CATHERINE, widow of the late B. J. S. Brinkworth, of Yokohama, and third daughter of the late Richard Limbrick, of Gloucestershire

On Thursday, March 29th, 1894, at the Swiss Consulate, Yokohama, by Dr. Paul Ritter, Swiss Vice-Consul, and afterwards at the British Consulate, by James Troup, Esq., H.B.M.'s Consul, HENRI POLLAK, of Yokohama, to EVELINE BESSIE HARRIS, of Christchurch, N.Z.; and RAYMOND ANSELMO POLLAK, of Yokohama, to ELSIE JULIETTE HARRIS, of Christchurch, N.Z.

DEATH.

On March 25th, 1894, at No. 26, Settlement, Yokohama, MARIE LOUISE, the beloved wife of F. BIELFELD, Esq., Yokohama, aged 38 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

OVER five hundred Japanese emigrants will shortly be sent by the Kissa Imin Kaisha to Australia.

A VIOLENT earthquake has visited Hokkaido, causing the destruction of much property, but fortunately no lives.

A MARRIED woman lately committed *hara-kiri* in Tokyo in consequence of her husband's increasing irregularities.

THE fire at Nagatacho last Saturday occasioned the death by incineration of an old lady of about eighty years of age.

THE 6.30 p.m. up-train from Nara was derailed near Koriyama on the 23rd inst, but no injury was sustained by passengers.

THE season of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club commenced on Saturday with a procession of boats and several scratch races. Dancing was also indulged in at the Boat House until past seven o'clock.

MR. KIM-YOK-KIUN, the famous Korean refugee, was assassinated by a fellow-countryman in a hotel in Shanghai on the 27th inst.

THE sealing schooner *Worlock*, under instructions from H.B.M.'s Court, has been sold by public auction to Captain Martin of Yokohama for $5,200.

MR. HIRAM SHAW WILKINSON, late Crown Advocate in H.B.M.'s Supreme Court in Shanghai, will assume charge of H.B.M.'s Court for Japan as Deputy Judge, on the 1st instant.

DESPITE the opposition of some members of the Yokohama Exchange, Mr. Saito, ex-Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, has been appointed Councillor of the establishment.

IT is stated that telegraphic news has been received by the Imperial Household that the Duke of Abruzzi, who was expected to visit Japan, has abandoned the idea, and left for home from Singapore.

MR. CLAY MACCAULEY, of Tokyo, has been the recipient of some unwelcome attentions from *soshi*, and the matter having been reported to the Foreign Office by Mr. Edwin Dun, the U.S. Representative, has been placed in the hands of the police.

THE Victoria Public School has amalgamated with the scholastic institution superintended by Miss Aebersold. Miss Aebersold and her assistant, Miss Gertrude Vincent, are both retained on the staff, Mr. Fardell remaining as Head Master.

MR. INOUYE, Minister of Education, has been confined to his residence through indisposition. Mr. Mutsu, Foreign Minister, has also been far from well. Count Inouye, Minister for Home Affairs, is improving. Mr. Watanabe Minister of Finance, is somewhat indisposed.

THE annual meeting of the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce was held on Tuesday. The Chamber carried a resolution supporting the London Chamber in its representations to the British Government to re-open the Brussels Conference and rehabilitate silver.

MR. J. LINDSLEY, of Messrs. Frazar and Co., has been re-elected Chairman of the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce, Mr. J. Dodds, of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, declining the honour. Mr. J. P. Mollison, of Messrs. Mollison & Co., has been elected Vice-Chairman, in sucession to Mr. Arthur Brent, of Messrs. Flint Kilby, & Co., who has gone to England.

A MARINE Court of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the stranding of the *Nagato Maru* (Captain Pender), of the N.Y.K., on Saratoga Spit, at the entrance to Tokyo Bay, on the 18th inst., was held in Tokyo on Monday. From the evidence it appeared that the ship was steered the usual course but an exceptional set of the ebb-tide cause her to sag on to the extreme western end of the Spit. Judgment has been reserved.

INTENSE excitement was created on the Tokyo Rice Exchange shortly before 11 a.m. on the 26th inst., Mr. Hamano Shigeru, a well-known rice merchant, being suddenly attacked with a *deba-bocho*, his assailant aiming at his abdomen. Fortunately the man missed his mark, and ere he could give his second blow was captured by Haizaki Ichimatsu, an employé of Mr. Hamano, who sustained a cut on his foot. Nothing definite is known regarding the motive of the attempted murder, but it is believed the man, who is named Hagiwara Kisaburo was insane. Rumour says, however, that the murder was planned to lower the price of rice, Mr. Hamano, who holds large stocks, having endeavoured to corner the market.

THE British Court at Shanghai has accepted the appeal of Mrs. Kijima Tsune and one hundred and sixteen other families of the seamen drowned in the *Chishima Kan*, against the decision of the British Court at Yokohama dismissing their petition in the case they are bringing against the P. & O. S. N. Co. for compensation. Mr. Lowder, counsel for the P. & O., and Mr. Walford, counsel for appellants, will leave for Shanghai early next month.

A LARGE increase in the British Navy is announced, the Naval Estimates showing an increase of three millions sterling. It is intended to provide seven battle-ships, six cruisers, and two sloops, which will form only a part of the complete but undisclosed programme that has been decided upon to extend over the next five years. The *personnel* of the Fleet will be increased by seven thousand officers and men. Both Lord Rosebery and Sir Wm. Harcourt declare that this increase is not an agressive movement, but the greatest element of peace for the country. The French Budget, it is said, shows a deficit of nearly six millions sterling. An anarchist, who was carrying a bomb in the Madeleine, in Paris, was struck by a swinging door, when the bomb immediately exploded and the man was blown to pieces. At a recent meeting of the Directors of the Bank of England, the Governor stated that the late cashier (Mr. May) had committed grave irregularities in connection with advances to customers, had allowed overdrafts without authority, and had speculated on the Stock Exchange, the loss the Bank has sustained amounting to a quarter of a million sterling. Oxford has again won the University boat-race, this year by four lengths. There has been some fighting in South Africa between Portuguese and British forces; and a riot has in occurred Budapesth.

THERE is not much to be said about the Import trade, but the tone of the market for Manchester goods is decidedly firm and the sales satisfactory in all classes of fabrics, while the present outlook is that this condition of affairs appears likely to continue. The Metal market remains unchanged as to values, while there is considerable enquiry both about "spot" and "future" business, and generally there is confidence all round. The value of Kerosene is unchanged, holders being very firm, and expect soon to reduce the present stock at full and possibly higher rates. The Sugar market continues sound, and a fair amount of business in all grades of the various kinds has been done, with prospects of a continuance. The Silk trade has been fairly good, though not so heavy as in the previous week, the total settlements amounting to 1,400 piculs. Though this has reduced the stock, a larger business could have been done had holders been current. In Waste Silk settlements have considerably fallen off, though there has been a fair enquiry for certain kinds for which rather better prices have been paid. The stock is still heavy, and much of it is of low grade. Nothing to report in the Tea market, but, with a continuance of the present weather, a few hand-musters will very shortly be shown here. Exchange has been firm, with a hardening tendency, though most of the actual business has been done at late rates.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The project of amalgamating the sections of the Opposition under one banner having failed, the Progressionists have devised another plan with better success. They have brought about the formation of a Journalists' League, which embraces the *Hochi Shimbun*, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the *Nippon*, the *Chu-o Shimbun*, the *Niroku Shimpo*, and the *Shin Choya Shimbun*, among daily papers, and the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* among periodicals. The leading papers not included in the League, are the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, and the *Kokkai*. Of the last named journal, however, it must be noticed that, although it denies any connection with the affair, its chief editor, Mr. Suyehiro, has openly put his name to the League's manifesto, and consequently so long as he remains on the *Kokkai's* staff, that paper must be practically regarded as sympathising with movement started by the Opposition journals. It is claimed that in addition to the journals above mentioned, several others daily and periodical publications have expressed willingness to join the League.

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Whether such an alliance can endure for many months may be doubted, but for the present the Opposition papers are elated beyond expression with the unexpected success of their scheme. In announcing the formation of the League, they write as though the realization of its object were already within sight. The *Hochi Shimbun*, for instance, declares that the fate of the clan Government will be decided in the coming session of the Diet, and invites its fellow-journalists of the capital to rise and bravely play their part in the great drama of reform which is about to be enacted. It then goes on to compare the newly formed League with a similar one organized by Parisian journalists in 1830 against the Government of Charles X. "In three days the Bourbon dynasty was overthrown, and the revolution thus accomplished shook the whole continent of Europe." The *Hochi* even goes so far as to reproduce the manifesto issued by the French journalists. It then writes as follows:—"Now reader, compare this document with the manifesto just issued by the anti-clan Government League of Tokyo journalists. So far as mere language is concerned, the French document is distinguished by directness and energy, while the Japanese is circumlocutory and mild. But this difference of phraseology is caused by a corresponding difference in the condition of things in the respective countries and by the fact that the objects aimed at and the means employed are not the same in the two cases. Nevertheless, our object being to demolish clan Government, to maintain the purity of constitutional institutions, and to assert the national rights of the country, we are confident that we yield nothing to the French journalists in loftiness of aim and comprehensiveness of idea."

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Of the papers outside the League, the *Jiyu Shimbun* alone has written on the subject. It thinks that, whatever may be the pretended object of the new combination its true purpose is to counteract the rapidly growing influence of the Radical Party. It does not believe that a league composed of such incongruous elements can hold together for any lengthy period of time; nor is it afraid of the combined attack; on the contrary, nothing gives it more pleasure than to be thus enabled to concentrate its forces on a compact line of enemies instead of being forced to repel the separate and irregular attacks of individual papers. If the journals belonging the the League are open to the charge of expressing themselves in grandiose style, the Radical organ is not entirely free from the same short-coming. Its bombastic and, we are compelled to add, insolent, language is surely discreditable to the great party it represents.

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Concerning the alleged alliance between the Government and the Radicals, the metropolitan papers are still engaged in circulating various contradictory reports. That they have little confidence in the truth of their statements is evident from the fact that, while, on the one hand, they taunt the Radicals with being obsequious tools of the Cabinet, on the other, they laugh at the helplessness of the Government and assert that its irresolution has alienated the hearts of even the Radicals. One day they allege that the Government has abandoned all hope of cöoperation with the Radicals; the next, they do not hesitate to state that negotiations are still going on between the two, It is now the fashion with many of the Opposition papers to advise the Choshu statesmen to combine with the Radical Party and thus organize a Coalition cabinet. Curiously enough, the papers that recommend such a course are precisely those most bitterly opposed to the Radical Party. The explanation is not difficult: these journals are alarmed to find the Radical organ is using bold and even defiant language against the Clan Government, since such an attitude on the part of that paper cannot fail to increase the popularity of the *Jiyu-to*. The Progressionists and others are fully aware of the fact that their only chance of obtaining a majority at the next general election, lies in an open and definite coalition between the Cabinet and the Radical Party. They would then know how to rouse the prejudices of the people against the Radicals by denouncing them as betrayers of the cause of popular rights. Hence they desire nothing so earnestly as the formation of a Coalition Cabinet such as that they recommend. On the other hand, the fact that they openly urge Count Ito and his colleagues to combine with the Radicals, proves clearly how baseless are the rumours they so assiduously circulate, for did an alliance already exist as they pretend, they would offer no such advice, but would remain content with the congenial task of making insidious reflections upon their hated enemies the Radicals.

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The *Jiji Shimpo* remarks that the turn of events points more and more clearly to ultimate cleavage of the Japanese political world into two opposing parties, as is the case in England. Our contemporary discusses at some length the psychological reasons for the existence of the two great parties in England, and then turning to the condition of things in Japan, observes that the germs of the future rival parties are to be found in the so-called Military and Civil sections of the clan statesmen. The military section, now out of office, is more bent on the extension of the country's rights and influence *vis-à-vis* foreign Powers and in the centralization of administrative power, than on extension of popular rights and accomplishment of domestic reforms. It may thus be likened to the English Conservative Party. The Civil section, on the other hand, is inclined to pursue a peaceful foreign policy and to direct its energies to internal improvement and development. Its counterpart consequently is the Liberal Party of England. The difference between these two sections is at present vaguely defined, but the *Jiji* has little doubt that they are destined to become the nuclei around which the various parties will gradually arrange themselves.

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It is reported that the Progressionists and their allies will once mere introduce the question of Official Discipline in the coming session of the Diet. Rumour vaguely asserts that some flagrant irregularities have been found in a department of State, and that a certain officer has sold military secrets to a foreign Government. The *Mainichi Shimbun* has commenced a series of articles on the subject of Official Discipline. Thus far it has treated of alleged irregularities in the Departments of Home and of Foreign Affairs. The complaints against the Home Office are two; first, that the settlement of the Yokohama Harbour Works affair is unnecessarily delayed, and secondly, that the Minister of Home Affairs has not punished the Director of the Bureau of Temples and Shrines, who is alleged to have taken unlawful steps in settling the disputes in the *Sodo* sect. The charges preferred against the Minister of Foreign Affairs are so childish that it is scarcely necessary to reproduce them here. Briefly, he is criticised for delay in the Revision of the treaties, for the absence of Mr. Nakajima from his post in Rome, and for alleged incapacity of the Japanese Representatives abroad. The Progressionist organ promises to give more startling instances of irregularities in other Departments of State.

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The question of Strict Treaty Enforcement is still discussed by the vernacular press. As already noticed in these columns, the tone of the papers advocating strict enforcement has considerably changed for the better. They take special care to explain that their object is not to put foreigners to unnecessary inconvenience, and they all strongly resent the accusation that they are actuated by anti-foreign spirit. The *Shin Choya Shimbun*, one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the movement for Strict Treaty Enforcement, writes as follows:—"Everybody knows very well that the advocates of the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement are not actuated by any anti-foreign sentiment. There may, however, be some ruffians who delight in wantonly persecuting foreigners. The actions of such persons being antagonistic to the true spirit of the movement in question, it becomes a national duty for the advocates of Strict Enforcement to check them."

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The Opposition papers claim that the Government was not entirely free from partiality in the management of the recent elections. In locatities where the contending candidates belonged to the Opposition, the authorities are acknowledged to have been fairly impartial. But when competition occurred between a Radical and an Opposition candidate, special facilities and protection, it is alleged, were given to the former. The *Mainichi Shimbun* urges the Opposition parties to collect all facts bearing on the subject, so that the question may be introduced in the coming session of the Diet.

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The *Jiji Shimpo*, writing with reference to the employment of the surplus grants in-aid-of the engineering works in inundated districts, observes that, apart from the constitutional points involved in the question, the Government's conduct in granting such aid is open to serious cricism on account of the want of care shown in examining the propriety of the amounts asked by the respective local authorities. Our contemporary speaking from personal experience, asserts that in many cases aid has been given where the applicants had no right to expect anything of the kind. Local Governors know, says the *Jiji*, that there are overcharges in the estimates of damages forwarded to them by inferior local officials, but they rarely venture to scrutinize the estimates, for fear of offending the local politicians. We (*Japan Mail*) can not say how far the *Jiji* is right in its sweeping criticisms, but our contemporary is apparently confident of the trustworthiness of its information, and it apprehends that, should the Diet press for an explanation of special items, the Cabinet may find great difficulty in giving a satisfactory answer.

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The alleged prevalence of corrupt practices in educational circles attracts a large share of journalistic attention. The evils complained of are connected with the choice of text-books for schools. Publishing firms and text-writers engage in keen competition to have their own publications adopted by the Text-Book Selection Committee in each locality. Stories of bribery are very common. In many cases these rumours are fabricated by the disappointed applicants. But some of the reports are acknowledged to be well-founded. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* deplores that such injurious rumours should be circulated about men connected with education. It recommends the Minister of Education to exercise particular care in the appointment of teachers and educational

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officials. Moreover, it appeals to educators to remove the ignominous reputation in which they are now held by the public.

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The assassination of the Korean refugee Kim Yo-kin at Shanghai, and the discovery of a similar attempt on the life of his friend, Boku Yeiko, in Tokyo, have roused widespread feelings of indignation and sympathy in the capital. Some features of Kim's private life during his long sojourn in Japan provoke the disapproval of the metropolitan papers, but they unanimously express deep sympathy with the unfortunate victim of assassination, and are strongly inclined to suspect that Kim's murderer, and the attempt made by his unsuccessful confederates in Tokyo must have been under the direction of some powerful Korean officials. Indeed, it is alleged that one of the would-be assassins of Boku was in possession of a special commission from the Korean King himself.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

AIMS OF THE IMPERIAL FISCAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

On the 21st instant, Messrs. Taguchi Ukichi, Sudo Tokichiro, Yamaki Kuma, Asao Chokei, and Kazamatsuri Jinzaburo addressed, over their joint signatures, a communication to the leaders of the *Jiyu-to*, the *Kaishin-to*, and the *Kokumin Kyokai*, respectively. As this document throws further light upon the aims and scope of the new Association, we shall briefly refer to its contents. The writers having, in the first place, solicited cō-operation and assistance in carrying out the object of their union, proceed to explain the reasons why the Diet has thus far been unable to effect any reduction of the people's burdens. In the forefront of those reasons they place the difference of opinion between the House of Peers and the House of Representatives. The latter insists on reduction of the Land Tax and re-assessment of the taxable value of land; whereas the former, rejecting these reforms, advocates the transfer of prison expenses to the charge of the Treasury. The second reason assigned is that the people's representatives have been too much taken up with political contests to bestow much attention on practical questions of fiscal reform. The organizers of the Imperial Fiscal Reform Association do not lay claim to any special proficiency in statecraft. But from their personal experience as local legislators, and their observations of the actual state of things in the provinces, they do not hesitate to assert that there is no necessity for reduction of the Land tax. They hold emphatically that the benefits of that reform would be enjoyed not by tenants but by landowners. Are the land-owners in a condition calling for State interference? By no means. On the contrary, they are very prosperous. At the time of the original assessment of the taxable value of land, an average price of 4.185 *yen* per *koku* of rice was taken as the basis of calculation. Several special re-assessments having since been made, the present basis of calculation is about 3.88 *yen*. But the actual price of rice is over 8 *yen* per *koku*, and so long as silver does not begin to appreciate, the cereal will not become cheaper. The result is that landowners are now actually paying only one-half of what they formerly used to pay by way of Land Tax. What necessity then is there to give further relief to them? As to re-assessment of the taxable value of land, the writers acknowledge that the case is slightly different. But while admitting that the present valuation of land for purposes of taxation is not free from inequalities, they believe it unnecessary to remedy the defect, for even in localities where the taxable value have been assessed relatively high, the extraordinary rise in the price of grain leaves to the farmer a large margin of profit. With the Upper House's demand for the transfer of prison expenses to the Treasury, the writers of the communication are at one. But at the same time they regret to observe that the Peers do not indicate in what directions the consequent reductions of local taxes are to be effected. The good results expected of the proposed measure would be completely marred unless care were taken in selecting the particular local taxes to be lessened. Long connection with local affairs has demonstrated to the writers the injurious nature of the local rates called *Kosu-wari* (rates equally divided between different communes according to the number of families, irrespective of the relative degree of wealth), *Eigyo Zei* (trade taxes), and *Zasshu-zei* (miscellaneous taxes). Consequently they hope that, simultaneously with the transfer of the prison expenses to the charge of the Treasury, the amount thus saved to localities will be employed for the abolition of the above mentioned imports. These taxes fall most heavily upon the poorest portions of the community. Further, the organizers of the Imperial Fiscal Reform Association advocate the abolition of export duties, of the tax on confectionaries and cakes of all sorts, and of the tax on vehicles, and they also demand a reduction of postal rates as well as of fares on the Government railways, to the extent of one-half the present charges. These reforms would involve a diminution of about 11,000,000 *yen* in the revenue of the State. But the temporary loss to the Treasury would be more than compensated in the course of ten years by the increase of income indirectly resulting from these reforms. For while the reduced fares would lead to a great increase in the number of passengers on railways, the abolition of export duties could not fail to bring about an increase of revenue from imports. If the policy recommended be adopted, the writers do not doubt that, in the course of a few years, Japan will be in a position to spend plenty of money for industrial, educational, and war-like purposes. They earnestly hope that the parties to whom they address themselves will show their patriotism by working for the carrying out of these reforms.

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The signatories of the above document will, it is reported, personally wait upon Count Okuma, Count Itagaki, and Viscount Shinagawa, to try their powers of pursuasion upon these statesmen.

THE NEW JAPANESE IRONCLADS.

Referring to the two ironclads to construct which the Japanese Government obtained authority from the Diet in its 4th session, the *Jiji Shimpo* has a note commenting on the fact that it has been almost decided to entrust the building of the two ships to Messrs. Armstrong and Company. The *Jiji* says that the Government has hitherto given all its orders to this Company, which is no doubt very good for the Company and in some respects advantageous for the Japanese Government also. But our contemporary thinks that a wiser plan would be to employ rival companies, since Japan would then reap the benefit of their competition, not necessarily in respect of price, but at all events in the matter of superior construction. This opinion is not unnatural from a superficial point of view, but we find it almost comical that the *Jiji Shimpo* should suspect the Naval Department of such *naïveté* as to require advice of this kind, and above all that it should commiserate the Department on its failure to conceive such simple ideas. The Department must know perfectly well what is to be gained or lost by entrusting an order of such magnitude to one or to two firms. The plain fact, as we imagine, is that in all the work hitherto performed by Messrs. Armstrong and Company for the Japanese Government, they have given more satisfaction than any other firm in any country and have established a title to be regarded with complete confidence. Newspapers always know everyone's business better than he does himself. The Naval Department ought to summon a conclave of editors before finally embarking in any undertaking.

THE NAGATACHO FIRE.

The fire of last Saturday in Nagatacho by which the house of Major Muraki was consumed, involved a very sad accident closely resembling that which occurred two days previously at the Azabu fire. The Major and his family had recently left for Osaka, and the house was temporarily occupied by Mr. Tsubaki Ai, who removed thither only the day before the fire broke out. Among Mr. Tsubaki's family was an old woman of 80, and the fire had its origin in her room. An attempt to rescue her was immediately made by Mr. Tsubaki, himself over 60 years of age, but before he could reach the old lady's side, his clothes took fire. He ran out, and overcome by the heat and smoke fell down in the porch calling for help. By that time the flames had become visible from without and a *betto* in the service of the Minister of State for Education who lives in the next compound, rushed to the place and breaking into the porch found the old man in a pitiable condition. He carried him out to the well, extinguished his burning clothes and replacing them by his own garments carried the old man to the house of Dr. Ito, whose compound adjoins on the other side, whence the sufferer was afterwards taken to the Red Cross Hospital. As for the old lady, nothing was known or heard about her until, on clearing away the *débris*, her incinerated remains were found.

HAWAII.

The Senate and the House of Representatives are at issue about the Hawaiian question. On February 7th the House of Representatives, by a vote of 177 to 75, passed a Resolution censuring ex-Minister Stevens for "illegally aiding in overthrowing the Hawaiian Government," apc proving the principle announced by President Cleveland "that interference with the domestit affairs of an independent nation is contrary to the American doctrine," and declaring against the annexation of Hawaii or the assumption of a Protectorate over it by the United States. But the Senate, three weeks later, took a very different view. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations consists of nine members, five of whom always belong to the party in office. Hence it was to be expected that the majority of the Committee would, on this occasion, endorse the Resolution of the House of Representatives and support the President. The event, however, did not justify that expectation. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Morgan of Alabama, a Democrat, drew up a Report which received the support of the four Republican members, and there was thus, through Mr. Morgan's disaffection, a majority hostile to the President. The Report "exhaustively reviews the facts, the laws, and the precedents, justifies Mr. Stevens' actions, excepting in proclaiming a protectorate, and finds nothing irregular in the appointment of Mr. Blount, but in effect says that the evidence taken by the committee under more favourable circumstances leads the committee to different conclusions than those which he formed."

THE "SOSHI" AGAIN.

These pests of the time, the *soshi*, have been again endeavouring to bring their country into discredit. The object of their lawless conduct on this occasion was Mr. Clay MacCauley, head of the Unitarian Mission in Japan, a gentleman of the highest culture and benevolence, who for years has been conferring inestimable benefits on the youth of Tokyo by providing for them moral and scientific instruction. Since the spring of 1893 there has been in process of construction for the use of Unitarian students a spacious building in Shikokumachi, Mita, Tokyo, called the "Yuiitsu-kwan." The opening ceremony of this building took place on the 25th instant. For some days previously, the *soshi* had been busying themselves about Mr. MacCauley and his concerns. Their attention seems to have been originally attracted to him by the complaint of a janitor who had been dismissed from his service, and who, happening to belong to the *Sonen-kai*, a *soshi* society, laid his grievance before his comrades. There was also, we believe, some talk—wholly erroneous of course—about Mr. MacCauley's having taken part in the journalistic discussion of the recent Oi Kentaro incident. The *soshi*, according to

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the *Jiji Shimbun*, took their first step on the 21st instant, when two of them visited the residence of Mr. Kanda, Manager of the Yuiitsu-kwan, and after ventilating a great many grievances against Mr. MacCauley, declared that Mr. Kanda must contrive for them a meeting with that gentleman. Mr. Kanda explained the groundlessness of their accusations, and declined to assist them in any way. Subsequently they wrote to him once and visited him twice with the same object, and on the morning of the 24th two *soshi* went to the Yuiitsu-kwan, asked to see Mr. MacCauley, and in spite of the denials of the servants pushed their way into the audience room, where they are said to have made use of very opprobrious language. The people of the place were at first disposed to seize these obstreperous youths, but reflecting that as the opening ceremony was to take place the next day all disturbance ought to be avoided if possible, they treated the intruders patiently and finally induced them to leave without further trouble. Shortly afterwards, however, another letter arrived saying that although two days' grace would be allowed, they should certainly come again at the expiration of that time, and that Mr. MacCauley should take care not to be absent when they arrived. That afternoon—we still quote from the *Jiji Shimpo* which we believe to be correct in the main—as Mr. MacCauley was on his way to the Rokumeikwan he met the American Minister, to whom he described what had occurred. The Minister desired him to commit the facts to writing at once and communicate them officially. This was done, and Mr. Dun immediately proceeded to the Foreign Office where he placed the matter in the hands of the Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of State himself being ill. In consequence of this representation exceptional police precautions were adopted, so that, although the *soshi* were present in some numbers at the opening ceremony, no disturbance of any sort occurred. The American Representative further took the marked step of himself proceeding to Mr. MacCauley's house and driving that gentleman in his carriage to the place of the opening ceremony. We do not learn that any arrests have been effected in connection with this affair. Indeed, the great difficulty is that the *soshi* generally manage to steer clear of such violations of the law as would justify their severe punishment. In the case we are now considering they have been importunate in seeking an interview, and they have sent letters which, although peremptory, do not appear to bear a threatening construction, but in all that there is nothing that seriously compromises them *vis-à-vis* the law. On the other hand, it is plain that they carry their interference with other people's affairs altogether beyond permissible limits, and unless some effectual means of checking them can be devised, they will greatly impair their country's good name. Considering how thoroughly peaceful and courteous to foreigners the great mass of the Japanese people are, it is really lamentable that these silly youths, whose only title to be knights errant is their apparent inability to follow any serious or profitable profession, should be suffered to injure the fair fame Japan has earned by years of patient kindliness and graceful good-will.

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In another column the *Jiji Shimpo* has the following note:—"Four years have passed since Mr. MacCauley came to Japan. During that time he has acquired an exceptional knowledge of the Japanese character and has learned to like the Japanese more and more. If anybody can be said to be partial to them, it is he. Whenever any question occurs between foreigners and Japanese, he is always inclined to take the latter's part, whether behind their backs or to their faces. He regards every Japanese as a friend, and looks forward to spending the whole of his life in Japan. That such a man should be annoyed by *soshi*, as has now been the case, is beyond all reason. He must be pained to think how fruitless all his labour has been."

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If anything could undo the mischief wrought by the *soshi* it would be a remonstrance such as the above. The leading Japanese journals have it in their power to stifle the morbid anxiety entertained by some of their nationals to assert themselves *vis-à-vis* the foreigner. Of genuine anti-foreign feeling we believe that there is as little in Japan as there is in any country in the world. But there is a notion that the foreigner lords it over the Japanese; that he looks down on them, considers them an inferior race, and does not deem them worthy of the consideration which he claims for himself. This fancy prevails especially among the rising generation, and impels them to seek some means of convincing the foreigner that they are as good men as he any day in the year. We do not say that the feeling is not comprehensible, or that its existence is altogether to be wondered at, but it is certainly open to misconstruction that may work great injury to Japan's reputation and destroy the friendship with which she is regarded by the West. No Japanese journal could play a more patriotic and useful part than that chosen by the *Jiji Shimpo* in this instance.

TRADE AND FINANCE IN ENGLAND.

Mr. Harold Frederic telegraphs to an American paper:—"It is not easy to get at any marked or tangible basis for feeling that business is improving in England, though expressions of that feeling are becoming common and an opinion really exists and figures are quoted showing largely increased imports of raw materials for manufactures, which are $15,000,000 in excess during the last month over the previous January. They at least argue an augmented confidence among manufacturers in the outlook; but the improvement in railway traffic returns is not so convincing because these are largely the result of congested business after a long strike. The truth seems to be that, although everybody is hopeful and the Stock Exchange exceptionally cheerful, despite the crash in silver, we are still too much affected by the backwash from that tremendous coal war to be able to tell how much of the improvement is of a permanent nature."

THE KUGE NOBLES.

A vernacular newspaper, alluding to the poverty of the *Kuge* nobles, says that the most wealthy was the house of Kujo, which nevertheless had only 3,043 *koku* of rice annually. A few others had revenues of 2,000 *koku*, but the majority did not possess more than 30 *koku*, an amount obviously insufficient to support a family, however economically it lived. The total number of *Kuge* houses was 137 and their incomes aggregated only 42,937 *koku*: in other words, the total incomes of the 137 nobles in this class were less than the revenue of one petty *daimyo*. These 137 houses were distinguished as "old" and "new" according to whether they had existed before or after the reign of the Emperor Gomizuo. It must be confessed that these terms "old" and "new" would hardly be accepted by any analyst of the European nobility, for the dividing epoch, namely, the reign of the Emperor Gomizuo, was from the year 1612 to 1630, so that the most juvenile of the so-called new houses must be at least 260 years old. Of course they are all descended from Imperial ancestors, but they are usually classified under the names of ten founders as follow:—

	Old.	New.	Total.
Fujiwara	48	47	95
Minamoto	11	9	20
Sugawara	4	2	6
Taira	1	4	5
Seiwa-Genji	1	2	3
Abe	1	1	2
Onakatomi	1	0	1
Urabe	1	3	4
Tan	1	0	1
Ye	0	1	1
Total	69	68	137

A JINRIKISHA DOG.

It appears that a clever Japanese has successfully employed the expedient of harnessing a dog to act as leader in a *jinrikisha*. The idea was suggested by the capacity which the dog showed when yoked to the *jinrikisha* in jest one day, when the animal exhibited such power that its master, himself a *jinrikisha*-drawer, resolved to employ it as a permanent assistant. The dog, it is said, can draw a *jinrikisha* loaded with nearly half a *koku* of rice up a tolerably steep incline, and when attached to the shafts in front of its master it does excellent work. It may well be supposed that the novelty of riding in a conveyance thus drawn attracts much custom, and the man is doing a roaring trade. Vernacular newspapers never relate these incidents without due touches of local colouring. Hence we are accurately informed by the *Shin-Choya* that the master of this docile dog lives at Ryogasaki in the Kawachi District of Ibaraki Prefecture, where anybody can see it who likes to take the journey thither.

A NEW JOURNAL.

We do not find any confirmation of the rumour that Mr. Nakajima Nobuyuki is about to start a new political journal, but neither do we hear any contradiction of it. Mr. Nakajima was President of the first House of Representatives and subsequently received the appointment of Minister to Italy. The accession of such a man to the ranks of Japanese journalism would be decidedly welcome, but why on earth Mr. Nakajima should abandon his official career, now full of promise, in order to enrol himself amongst the "boys" who now play with the pen in Japan we really do not see. If he is the means of giving us a journal such as may be ranked with the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and one or two others, the sacrifice he contemplates will deserve public gratitude. But we wonder greatly whether he appreciates the sort of gallery into which he is about to thrust himself.

THE ROBBERS OF THE SHIBA MAUSOLEA.

The thieves who on two consecutive nights, the 9th and 10th instant, robbed the Mausolea in Shiba Park have been arrested by the Tokyo police. There are six of them, and their chief is Tajiri Gengo, an ironmonger, whose easy circumstances ought to have deterred him from the commission of such a crime. It appears that on the 6th instant Tajiri, accompanied by an *employé*, Matsui Sakuzo, carried a bronze lantern to the residence of Mr. Okura Kihachiro in Reinan-zaka by whom it had been purchased. This done the two men went to Shiba Park and visited the Mausolea. Tajiri's expert eyes were captivated by the beautiful metal-work employed in the decoration of the shrines and on his return home he summoned four artizans of his own profession and suggested the feasibility of robbing the Mausolea. The men were easily seduced, and on the night of the 9th they proceeded to the Mausoleum of the Sixth Shogun—Tajiri himself does not appear to have accompanied them—and stripped from the gates, pillars and lanterns over 40lbs. weight of ornamental metal-work, which, together with a quantity of copper from the roof, they carried off successfully. One would have supposed that, whatever the temerity of these thieves, the scene of their theft was the last place they were likely to visit immediately afterwards for the same purpose. But probably they relied on that very inference, for on the next night they returned to the same Mausoleum and carried away a part of the door of a cenotaph, the heads of several bronze lanterns, together with some more copper from the roof. Their operations on this night required so much time that they were unable to carry away all the stolen articles and had to hide the lantern heads in a neighbouring grove with the intention of removing them subsequently. The whole of the spoil was sold to the instigator of the theft, Tajiri Gengo, who of course obtained the fine old objects at a very small cost. Meanwhile, the guardians of the Mausolea had brought the matter to the notice of the police and steps for minute but quiet investigation were immediately organized. On the morning of the 11th instant a man carrying some plates of copper was arrested in the Nihonbashi District a long way from the scene of the robbery, but not far enough to

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be beyond the keen scrutiny of the police. Examined at a neighbouring police office, he confessed that he had stolen the copper from one of the Shiba Mausolea, but tried to screen his accomplices declaring that he alone had committed the robbery during the night of the 10th instant. This man was Matsui Sakuzo, and of course the police now found little difficulty in following up the clue thus obtained. Tajiri, though in an extensive way of trade had long been suspected of procuring materials dishonestly, and was soon connected by a clear chain of evidence with the Shiba burglary. He and the other thieves were carried before the magistrates on the 1st instant, and after some questioning admitted their guilt. One of them had a broken head caused by falling from a roof while he was stripping it of its copper.

THE YOKOHAMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SILVER.

THE great majority of the foreign community will be unfeignedly glad that the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce has decided to prepare and forward a memorial urging some international arrangement for the rehabilitation of silver. We ourselves feel special satisfaction at this resolve, because, for nearly fourteen years, we have urged the vital necessity of the step now to be advocated by the Chamber, and through all that time we seemed to stand alone in our contention, other public utterances on the subject being either indifferent or contemptuous. Recently, however, correspondence in the columns of the local press has distinctly proved that a very strong feeling sways the majority of the foreign residents in favour of bi-metallism, the only really uncompromising opponent of it being a man who is not himself a merchant, and who, writing over various anonyms to the local press during the past five or six years, has been an unfailing promoter of mischief and malice in this community. It would, of course, be over-sanguine to suppose that a memorial from Yokohave is likely to produce much effect. But if such a reflection were suffered to exercise a deterrent influence, how many memorials would be forwarded? Very few, we imagine. No question should be raised about the relative importance of any one representation. The combined effect of a great many representations is what has to be considered, and there can be no doubt that if Yokohama stood aloof while Shanghai, Hongkong, and other commercial centres in the East are moving energetically and ably, the one abstention might suggest a very mischievous inference. Trade has suffered immensely from the appreciation of gold. Nothing could be truer than what Mr. Mollison said at the Annual General Meeting of the Yokohama Chamber on Tuesday:—"Unless a marked change comes over the silver question and something is done to rehabilitate silver, Lancashire cannot much longer compete with Japan, and the days of English and foreign yarns in Japan, may, I fear, be already numbered."

A ONE-SIDED LOTTERY.

ONE of the strong points of the laws promulgated in the present period, is that they are totally opposed to the importation of opium—except for medical purposes—and visit gambling with heavy fines and prolonged terms of imprisonment. Under the circumstances it is not a little strange that the *mujin* system is permitted to exist. *Mujin* are to all intents and purposes nothing better than lotteries, of a distinctly bad order. There are a few of good fame, and it is stated that a regular monthly contribution of fifty *sen* or one *yen* will at least bring back the ticket-holder his money in the long run, that he thus stands no risk of losing his investments, relinquishing the interest only. If fortunate, he may win one hundred times his venture within two or three months; and if he only keep at it, is sure to get his money back sooner or later. But it is well-known that most of these lotteries are simply speculative attempts to get his hard earnings from the labouring man, for by far the larger portion of the ticket-holders are poor people, to whom the faint prospect of a sudden turn of the wheel of fortune in their favour, is always alluring. In truth, the *mujin* are an infraction of the spirit, if not the letter, of one of the Empire's wisest laws. A case in point occurred quite recently which amply demonstrates the general untrustworthiness and moral unsoundness of these specious investments. The Kanda *mujin* of Tokyo has been for over ten years in existence, and has hitherto been supposed to be one of the exceptions to the general rule: investors being at all events satisfied with the management of the concern. But within the last year it was noticed that the blind goddess appeared to be suspiciously partial in the distribution of her favours. The directors of the company and principal shareholders invariably held trumps; the few outside investors that did reap a small margin of profit had no great reason to feel elated, whereas the big prizes went always into the capacious *gamaguchi* of the directional body. Some malcontents resolved to sift this matter,—to discover, if possible, whether this was not a sort of moral strabismus on the part of fickle Fortune, instead of total obscurity of vision. The police took the matter in hand and found that the whole concern had for years been in a bankrupt condition and that the investors' money had long since been misappropriated; that, knowing ruin was at hand, the members of the company had finally resorted to a system of marked tickets, with the help of which they were enabled to pocket each prize as it turned up. The system was a pretty one and wholly satisfactory, so far as the directors were concerned, but the authorities were not disposed to take a lenient view of affairs. The head-quarters of the company have now become *mujin* in every sense, and the erst opulent speculators have been awarded government contracts that will keep their hands out of other people's pockets for some time to come.

A DESPERATE ACT.

SELF-DISEMBOWELMENT or *hara-kiri* is no longer the favourite method of suicide in this country, and though there still are those who speak in behalf of the deed as one befitting men actuated by the old *samurai-gi* (knightly spirit) when put to shame or without hope, it is nevertheless in the nature of a shock to read of its actual occurrence, and we may take it for granted that ninety-nine out of every hundred of those who see, under certain circumstances, no wrong in this kind of self-immolation, would never themselves dream of committing the deed. In the case of women, *hara-kiri*, or *seppuku*, has always been rarer than among men; those who thus choose voluntarily to follow their lords to another world preferring rather the speedier release of cutting the throat and thus dividing one of the great arteries of the neck. A wife in Nishi-take Cho, Hongo District, Tokyo, however did commit *hara-kiri* on the 18th instant, with all due observance of the rules handed down from antiquity. Her husband was in the employ of the Koishikawa Arsenal, and for nearly ten years they had lived a peaceful life, undisturbed by connubial differences and apparently wholly absorbed in each other and the rearing of their little six-year-old daughter Umeji. Since December of last year the father had grown irregular in his habits; he would come home long after midnight, or sometimes stay away for twenty-four hours without offering any explanation of his absence beyond saying that he had been invited out by a friend or compelled to work at the Arsenal longer than the usual time. The wife, O Tsune, did not believe him, but it was not her prerogative to inquire too closely into the manner in which her spouse spent his days. Yet as he grew noticeably less affectionate towards her, she became persuaded that his heart had become alienated, and, besides, she had reason to believe that he frequently visited the Yoshiwara. This so preyed upon her mind that she determined to free her husband altogether. "If it be true," she wrote to a friend a week or so before her death, "that he loves some one better than me, my continued existence will only prove an obstacle; I had far better join the world of spirits and there await his coming: for surely his heart will come back to me when he learns that I have died for his dear sake." On the night of the 17th instant, the peccant husband again failed to return to his home; so, early in the morning of the following day, the wife made her preparations to die. Spreading several rugs over the matting of the guest-chamber, she sat on them, and deliberately inflicted two deep and almost immediately fatal wounds in her abdomen, using for this purpose one of the family heirlooms, a famous Bizen blade some three centuries old. The frantic screams of little Umeji soon brought a number of people to the rescue, but the poor woman expired within a few minutes. There is something very touching in the story after all, and a spark of true nobility in the act itself, opposed though it be to our vaunted canons of right and wrong.

A FALSE ALARM.

IT is not often that the fire-bells in Tokyo ring out their wild message without sufficient cause, but the good people of Shiba District were, a few days ago, agreeably surprised to find their worst fears for once unrealized. About half-past two on the morning of the 19th instant, the furious clanging of a fire-bell sent several hundreds of insufficiently clad people into the streets; for the persistent and rapid ringing of a fire-bell means that the conflagration is within a short distance of the watch-tower, less than three *cho* in fact. Everybody was anxiously asking for the whereabouts of the fire, and others began to take up the alarm, when the ringing suddenly ceased and the excited crowd learned that it had been made the victim of a lunatic's escapade. It appears that an insane man in the vicinity had broken out of his quarters, and being chilly and possesseed therefore with the idea that there ought to be a fire somewhere, he had done his best to arouse the neighbourhood, with wholly gratifying results. He mildly explained his reason for giving the alarm to a sleepy yet indignant police-inspector, but met with very little sympathy. The awakened people took the matter in very good part, it is said, being only too grateful to find their homes out of danger.

THE POISONOUS "FUGU."

DR. TAKAHASHI, of Tokyo, has for some years past been making a systematic examination of the poisonous *fugu*-fish, with the intent of discovering what parts conceal the so-called *chu-doku*, or poisonous deposits, and at what time of the year the meat of the fish is particularly injurious. He has so far only followed in the steps of a number of German scientists who have similarly made the *fugu* the subject of investigation. From all that has hitherto been published, it would appear that there are several species of this ugly plectognathous gymnodont inhabiting the coast-waters of Japan. All the members of the sub-order of *Gymnodontes* are capable of globular inflation, and the majority are poisonous, in particular the species *Tetrodon*, and of this species especially *T. rubripes, Schleg.*, and *T. xanthopterus*, the former being easily recognized by the reddish tinge of the pectoral fins and the latter by the yellow rim around its eyes. From February to the end of May the flesh of these *Tetrodons* is to be avoided. This is the breeding-season, and the parts around the ovaries and stomach of the female as well as the digestive and procreative organs of the male, have been shown to be highly poisonous. In some instances the whole fish seem to be more or less affected by its lethal secretion, the one part generally left untainted being the meat on the highest portion of the back, around the dorsal fin. This, it would appear, may at all times be eaten with impunity, and is said to make a very delicious dish, though most sensible people would do well to avoid any closer intimacy with so ill-famed a fish. Despite stringent regulations against the sale of *fugu*, they are nevertheless in the market, the average price of a good specimen being, in Yokohama, from 10 to 15 *sen*. On the 7th instant, no less than four deaths occurred in

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Tokyo from *Tetrodon* poison. A *jinrikisha*-puller invited three of his friends to a little "blow-out" in Karasu-mori-cho, the principal dish being a stew of *fugu* flanked by flagons of *nakagumi*. After eating heartily, the four went to ply their avocation near Shimbashi Station, and while waiting for the next train to come in were seized with severe cramps and nausea. They were speedily removed to the nearest police-station, but in spite of powerful emetics, died within the hour. Dr. Görtz, in his careful essay *Ueber in Japan vorkommende Fisch und Lackvergiftungen*, states that the symptoms of this poison are headache and nausea, paleness, profuse perspiration, and strikingly diminished activity of the heart. The immediate cause of death is heart-failure.

* * *

It is remarkable that on the same day another fatal case—a girl of 24—was reported in Nihombashi District, death in this instance resulting from over-indulgence in prawns. The District physician declares that the prawns had themselves eaten some poisonous substance, probably a dead *Tetrodon*, and that the fatal *fugu* was thus in this case also the cause of all the trouble.

A STORMY VOYAGE.

THE British ship *Thermopyhe*, which recently arrived at Victoria, B.C., from Hongkong, had a very rough passage across, says the *Colonist*:—Speaking of his trip, Captain Winchester says it seemed as though he ran into a heavy snowstorm about every other day occupied on the voyage. After leaving Hongkong the vessel was eight days getting out of the China Sea, ten hours of which she was in a terrific gale. The worst storm experienced, however, was off Cape Flattery and in sight of land, which she had lost view of in the Orient forty-eight days before. In this gale the vessel lost a whole suit of sails. Giving an idea of the severity of the gales passed through, Captain Winchester says that on some occasions the ice formed so thickly on the vessel's masts that when it thawed the crew were in danger of being struck and injured by the big icicles loosened. The ship had to heave-to four times, and was unable to carry her top-gallant sails but four days during the passage.

THE EDITORSHIP OF THE "JAPAN GAZETTE."

IT is generally supposed that the editor of the *Japan Gazette* is an Englishman, but the Hakubunkwan of Tokyo, a large and well-known publishing house, is evidently of a different opinion. Two books dealing with the rules of English grammar and composition have, it appears, been lately published by this enterprising firm and the author of the volumes is Mr. Inoue Jukichi, whilom instructor in English at the First Higher Middle School. In the advertisements of these books, Mr. Inoue is invariably referred to as the "editor of the *Japan Gazette*." In a recent case, the Hakubunkwan gave a short sketch of Mr. Inoue's life, showing how he had gradually become so skilful in the use of the Anglo-Saxon idiom as to rise to the editorial chair of the paper in question.

EARTHQUAKE AT NEMURO.

A TELEGRAM despatched from Nemuro at 5.35 p.m. on the afternoon of the 23rd instant, says that at 7 a.m. on the preceding day the place was visited by a violent shock of earthquake. The seisimometers at the Observatory having been overthrown by the shock, no exact record of its direction or intensity was obtained, but the message tells that fissures occurred in the soil, that brick warehouses were cracked in several instances, that windows were broken, and that there were some casualties among men and animals. The quaking had not ceased at the time of the telegram's despatch, and much alarm was felt.

* * *

Another account, published by the *Choya Shimbun* and said to have been wired from the Hokkaido Administration Offices at 4.35 p.m. on the 23rd, says that the earthquake occurred at 7.23 a.m. that morning, and that the area of disturbance included Sapporo, Kushiro, and Atsukishi. Utensils were thrown from shelves, the ice in ponds cracked, and the severity of the shock was exceptional, especially at Kushiro and Atsukishi, where 25 houses were overthrown. No casualties occurred, however, to life or limb, according to this account, so we may reasonably hope that the news published by the *Asahi Shimbun* is an exaggeration. The shock is said to have lasted 3m. 20s., which is a remarkably long time.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for February showing the foreign trade of the empire for the month :—

	1893. SILVER YEN.	1894. SILVER YEN.
Exports	7,077,748.520	6,513,746 710
Imports	6,198,731.690	7,825,479.090
Total exports and imports		14,339,225.800
Excess of imports		1,311,732 380

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Exports	116,272 373
Imports	260,608 594
Miscellaneous	10,511.677
Total	387,392.644

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
Hongkong	1,425,426.710	666,642,180	2,092,068.890
China	573,180.040	1,265,837.600	1,839,017.640
British India	249,920.620	453,141.720	703,062.340
Anam & other French India	2,028.500	465,798.650	467,827.150
Korea	57,971.980	133,115.370	191,087.350
Russian Asia	245.460	100,618 380	100,863.840
Siam	—	93,912.650	93,912.650
Philippine Islands	19,641.750	46,880 480	66,522.230
Great Britain	360,411.890	2,682,034.220	3,042,446.110
France	930,515 220	289,911,220	1,220,426.440
Germany	78,375.820	698,831.330	777,207.150
Italy	178,725.420	4,246.670	182,972.090
Belgium	2,140.000	148,730.950	150,870.950
Switzerland	59,903.310	42,698.720	102,602 030
Austria	12,047 610	2,774.560	14,822.170
Spain	4,550.000	5,468.710	10,018 710
Holland	3,118.390	439.660	3,558.050
Russia	1,342.000	242.540	1,584 540
Portugal	—	867.260	867 160
Denmark	80.400	160.000	240.400
Turkey	230.000	—	230.000
United States of America	2,223,364.060	668,139.610	2,891,503.670
Canada & other British America	28,824.100	3,587.230	32,411.330
Australia	67,332.800	24,181.710	91,514.510
Hawaii	18,839.570	—	18,839.570
Other Countries	87,671 060	27,217.670	114,888.730
Total	6,385,895.710	7,825,479.090	14,211,374.800

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

Yokohama	4,017,662.240	3,275,773 210	7,293,425.440
Kobe	1,708,654.710	3,731,466.840	5,440,121.550
Osaka	89,130 210	369,513.350	458,643.580
Nagasaki	193,935.340	404,481 890	598,417,230
Hakodate	31,680 420	—	31,680.420
Shimonoseki	176,500.800	40,117.600	216,618.400
Moji	132,957.200	—	132,657.200
Hakata	7.800	213.990	221.790
Karatsu	16,640.000	—	16,640 000
Kuchinotsu	109,026 000	—	109,026.000
Idzugahara	117.250	2,594.460	2,711.710
Shishimi	232.630	1,002.850	8,235.480
Sasuna	112.120	314.880	427.000
Otaru	37,390.000	—	37,390.000
Specie and Bullion — Exports			2,662,963 780
Specie and Bullion — Imports			473,491.540
Total			3,136,455.320
Excess of exports			2,189,472.240

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants — Exports	1,181,242,100
By Japanese Merchants — Imports	1,750,331.160
Imported by Government	13,322.820

MR. SAITO SHUICHIRO AND THE YOKOHAMA EXCHANGE.

MR. SAITO, formerly Vice-Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, seems to have been subjected to much pressure by Messrs. Hara Zenzaburo, Wakao Ikuzo, and other leading members of the Yokohama Silk Exchange before he consented to accept the post of Councillor to the Exchange. When first approached upon the subject he did not give any definite answer and it was not until some time had elapsed and further solicitations had been addressed to him that he consented to accept the position with the proviso that it should be purely honorary. The Exchange is to be heartily congratulated on securing the advice of Mr. Saito, who is certainly one of the most practical, sensible, and far-seeing men of his day in Japan.

THE SCHOOL TROUBLE IN TOTTORI PREFECTURE.

RECENTLY a female student in the Tottori Normal School having been expelled by the Faculty was re-admitted in accordance with an instruction from the Prefectural Authorities. Thereupon the teachers in a body tendered their resignations and the result of their action has been a virtual surrender on the part of the Authorities. The latter have agreed, in deference to the teachers' demand, that a student once expelled shall never be re-admitted without consultation with the Director of the School, that such consultation shall always precede reference to the Minister of State for Education, and that the period of graduation of the student, about whom the difficulty arose in this case, shall be decided solely by the Director of the School.

A FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

THE successful candidate for the suffrages of the Seventh District of Kagoshima in the recent general elections—that is to say, the Island of Oshima—was Mr. Oshima Makoto, of the *Kokken-to*, or National Rights Party. He defeated Mr. Ito, who stood in the interests of the *Doshi* Club, by a majority of twenty votes. A quaint reason is assigned for his success by the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. It is that he knew a "foreign language." That will naturally suggest to our readers the idea of a man proficient in French, English, or German, and also the idea of a very enlightened and broad-minded electorate. But the "foreign language" in question was nothing more than Tokyo Japanese. It appears that the people of Oshima can speak only their local dialect and are quite unable to converse with polished folks using the tongue of the capital. Hence their admiration for Mr. Oshima's rare accomplishment induced them to give him their suffrages. Why on earth a man's knowledge of a language which the electors cannot understand should prove a recommendation in their eyes, we do not clearly see, neither is it apparent why Mr. Oshima should have had any advantage in such a matter over Mr. Ito, who presumably speaks the Tokyo dialect also. But the *Yomiuri Shimbun's* stories are not always consequential.

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

LATELY most of the metropolitan papers seemed to have concluded that the ties between the Cabinet and the Radical Party had been severed. Some even went so far as to assert that, in consequence of the new turn of events, Mr. Mutsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, had lost all influence in the Cabinet and was in danger of forfeiting his position altogether. This is in substance what the vernacular press stated on Sunday and Monday last. But such is the uncertainty and fickleness of these papers that, the next morning, namely, Tuesday, they published reports tending directly to contradict those they had circulated with such an air of certainty during the preceding two days. What they now say is that although apparently the relations between the Cabinet and the Radical Party seem to have been severed, in reality negotiations are still in progress between the two. According to the *Hochi Shimbun*, which, in common with the *Kokumin Shimbun*, is now diligently ventilating current rumours, a Cabinet council held at the Premier's official residence on Monday last was convened to consider, among other things, the question of Count Itagaki's appointment to a Ministerial post. On a former occasion, when there was talk of a Coalition Cabinet, it was stated that the Radical leader would be appointed President of the Privy Council, while portfolios would be given to Messrs. Nakajima, Hayashi, Kono, and Matsuda. But, according to the present plan, Count Itagaki alone is to join the Government. Whether or not this scheme received the approval of the Cabinet at the council on Monday, the *Hochi* can not tell. Neither does it seem sure that the plan will be accepted by the Radicals themselves. It alleges that these things are planned principally by Mr. Mutsu. Count Ito, who is said to be of the same way of thinking with Mr. Mutsu, is reported to have sought the opinion of Counts Yamagata and Matsukata and Viscounts Takashima and Kabayama about the advisability of cooperating with the Radical Party. What answer the Premier received from these statesmen, is not known to the *Hochi*, but it states that the pro-

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posed plan is stoutly opposed by an influential group of young politicians in the Government, who threaten to leave office in case Count Itagaki is appointed a Minister of State.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun*, which, too, believes that negotiations are still going on between the Cabinet and the Radical Party, states that the latter's demands include the dismissal of a few local Governors, though the reason why their removal is required is not given. Concerning Count Inouye, our contemporary believes that, whatever the *Nichi Nichi* may say to the contrary, he is immovably determined to resign his official post. As to Mr. Fukuzawa, the *Kokumin* states that, although at the time of the recent election he was very friendly to the Cabinet, he has since changed his mind, and is inclined to desire its down-fall in order to make room for a more resolute and active Government. The *Nippon* tells a similar story about Mr. Fukuzawa. According to that paper, he recently called on a certain Count residing in his neighbourhood—Count Matsukata—to urge him to organise a Ministry and displace the present Cabinet. The *Nippon*, however, thinks it rather premature to regard Mr. Fukuzawa as a foe of the present Cabinet, for who knows, it says, that his true object in visiting Count Matsukata may not have been to play the part of a spy in the interests of Count Ito and Count Inouye.

* * *

The National Unionist organ, the *Chu-o Shimbun*, agrees with the *Hochi* in believing that the proposed appointment of Count Itagaki to a ministerial post formed a subject of discussion at the Cabinet Council on Monday last. One of the conditions on which the Radical Party has proposed to support the Cabinet is said to be that the latter should introduce Bills for reduction of the Land Tax, re-assessment of the taxable value of land, and extension of the steamship service to foreign ports.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* further states in its issue of Wednesday that the Cabinet Council of Monday ended without leading to any definite conclusion. Our contemporary, however, remarks that in the present state of things this project is not likely to succeed. But even if it did not succeed, the Radical Party would, in the Progressionist organ's opinion, continue to give secret support to the Government. The *Hochi* further states that several local Governors will be shortly placed on the Retired List, their places being taken by Radical and other members of the House of Representatives.

* * *

The *Niroku Shimpo*, in a long series of articles on the situation, deprecates the idea—apparently entertained by some persons—that the Sat-Cho Combination is in imminent danger of disruption. That erroneous notion is at the bottom of the various rumours about the formation of a Coalition Cabinet, which are creating so much noise in political circles. There are—continues the *Niroku*—various groups and factions in the Sat-Cho combination, and at times they clash with each other. But so soon as their common interests are in danger of encroachment from without, they are ready to unite and stand shoulder to shoulder. Thus, our contemporary believes that there is as yet little hope of the formation of a Coalition Cabinet. No doubt the formation of such a Cabinet is eagerly desired by Count Goto, Mr. Mutsu, and some politicians connected with the Radical Party; but it is a mistake to suppose that Count Ito is the originator of the project.

* * *

Concerning the alleged Cabinet Council of Monday, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* states that no Cabinet meeting took place on that day either at the Premier's official residence or anywhere else. As to the pretended disruption of the Sat-Cho combination, our contemporary positively declares that there is no such danger. Neither is there any danger of antagonism between the so-called Military and Civil sections. Men like Count Matsukata, Count Yamagata, Viscount Kabayama, and so forth, are not likely, in the *Nichi Nichi's* opinion, to take any hostile step against either Count Ito individually or the present Cabinet collectively. As to Viscount Takashima, our contemporary has hitherto regarded him as possessing some grounds of dissatisfaction against the present Cabinet; but he, too, has been found not so antagonistic to Count Ito as was imagined. Recently he called on the Premier and had with him a conversation lasting four hours. The ex-Minister of War is said to have assured Count Ito of his willingness to render service to the present Cabinet whenever such service was required of him.

KOREAN NEWS.

According to the *Jiji Shimpo's* Söul correspondence dated 16th March, Their Imperial Majesties Silver Wedding was enthusiastically celebrated by the Japanese residents in the Korean capital. The two gates of the settlement were adorned with arches, and within these the house fronts were gaily decked out in the usual Japanese fashion with national flags and paper lanterns. In the morning, the residents assembled at the Consulate and paid homage to the pictures of the Emperor the Empress and the Crown Prince. At the Municipal Hall, tables loaded with comestibles were spread for Japanese subjects of every grade. In the evening, the Japanese Minister invited to dinner the members of the Diplomatic Corps, the higher Korean diginitaries, and the principal Japanese residents.

* * *

At Fusan, the Japanese residents availed themselves of the happy occasion to propitiate the goodwill of their Korean neighbours, by giving alms of rice and money on a large scale to all Koreans applying for such aid, and they took care to regale their Korean friends with liquor. As a result of these acts of liberality, it is stated that the feelings of the Koreans of the locality towards the Japanese have undergone a complete change for the better. One of the Japanese merchants is said to have committed to the flames all the promissory notes he held with Korean signatures.

* * *

On the 14th instant, the Korean capital was *au fête* celebrating the birth-day of the Heir Apparent. Amnesty was granted to various classes of convicts.

* * *

Recently civil service examinations were held in Söul. These examinations formerly took place only once in three years, and corrupt practices were very rare. But of late, bribery has come to be practised openly and on such a large scale that it is now customary to hold examinations whenever money is badly wanted by the Government. It is, therefore, rumoured in Söul that the true object of the recent examinations was to obtain funds for defraying the expenses of the Court on the occasion of the Crown Prince's birthday. Whatever may have been the true object, the examinations are said to have been very profitable to the merchants of the Korean capital, especially the Japanese. Aspiring youths of ample means flocked to the city in large numbers from all parts of the country. Whether successful or not in the immediate object that occasioned their journey to the capital, they did not fail to buy some articles of foreign make as presents to their relatives and friends at home.

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Ryuzan-shin, a port on the Han river in the vicinity of Söul, which was opened some years ago for foreign commerce in lieu of Yokachin, is said to be rapidly increasing in prosperity. Japanese steamers plying on the Han between Söul and Ninsen are five, while Japanese junks of 200 to 300 *koku* capacity, now aggregate over sixty in all. The Chinese merchants are said to contemplate putting on three steamers in competition with the Japanese.

* * *

Since the abolition of the prohibitory edict against the export of rice, trade, it is said, has revived at Ninsen and Söul. By the *Higo Maru* and the *Tokyo Maru*, which left Ninsen on the 7th and 10th instant, more than ten thousand *koku* of the cereal were shipped to Osaka.

* * *

A feud between Bin Eishun and Bin Eikan is said to be causing much scandal at the Korean Court. On the occasion of the recent birthday of the Heir Apparent, Bin Eikan made presents to the Prince of 500,000 *ryo* (100,000 *yen* in Japanese money) and 50 *to* of cotton goods, thinking that no other could possibly approach him in liberality and loyalty. What, then, was his chagrin when he learned that his rival had been far ahead of him in this respect, having presented 1,000,000 *ryo* (200,000 *yen*) and 100 *to* of cotton goods! Smarting under this signal defeat, Bin Eikan is said to have insulted Bin Eishun, when next they met at Court, by observing that the latter's wealth had been obtained by the sale of official titles. The altercation that ensued was stopped only by the interference of the King himself.

JAPANESE EMIGRANTS IN GUATEMALA.

Our readers doubtless remember the sensational accounts recently published by the vernacular press and reproduced with sceptical comments in these columns with reference to alleged hardships and cruel treatment suffered by Japanese immigrants in Guatemala. In consequence of these stories, Mr. Chinda, Japanese Consul in San Francisco, was sent to examine and report, and his account, an epitome of which now appears in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, not only dispels the illusion that Japanese labourers have been subjected to any ill-treatment, but also shows that their employers have been kind and even liberal towards them. There are at present 140 Japanese labourers in Guatemala, and their work contrasts so favourably with that of the indolent natives of the place that no disposition exists to treat them harshly. It is true that the lazy habits of the natives have induced employers to resort to methods of punishment of a more or less questionable character, among which are included imprisonment in cells constructed on the plantations and reductions of the daily ration of food. It seems very probable that the Japanese objected to a form of employment which included such contingencies, but certainly no special harshness was resorted to in their case. Moreover, the great majority of them have become free labourers, so that only 30 now remain under contract. One result of this is that the Japanese labourers have acquired exceptional influence. They know how to use their strength too, and instances are not wanting of their combination for purposes of intimidation. So far, therefore, from being in a state of semi-slavery, they really control the situation and command conciliatory treatment. The true origin of the complaints that have reached this side of the water seems to be financial. A labourer's pay is ten American dollars a month, of which about one half is required for food and clothing, so that no very large sum can be laid by in the course of a year. There is also some trouble apparently with respect to food. The universal custom of the country is two meals a day, and employers of Japanese labour conform, of course, to this custom. But the Japanese like three, and sometimes four, meals a day, and though arrangements have now been made which permit them to indulge this propensity, their frequent recourse to food seems to have discredited them in the eyes of the natives. Coffee-planting is the work upon which the Japanese are employed. The locale is a plateau from three to five thousand feet above sea-level, so that the climate offers no cause for complaint. The Japanese come from Hawaii with a good reputation which their conduct in Guatemala has hitherto sustained. But there are evidently some abuses connected with their transfer from the former place to the latter. Thus, agents through whose intervention they are brought over receive, it is said, in some cases a commission of as much as eighty dollars a head, and moreover make twenty dollars out of the sixty which they charge for passage money. These large gains have so excited their cupidity

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that they search far and wide for Japanese, going even as far as San Francisco to find them. Mr. Chinda, in his report, warns his countrymen against being deceived by these agents, for it is not to their interest to engage themselves as contract labourers in Guatemala. He thinks that there is a good prospect for free labour, above all if it be accompanied by capital, for although coffee-planting as carried on there is profitable, no returns can be expected from a plantation until five years after it has been laid down. Moreover, the coffee-planters appear to maintain severe competition among themselves, and any man settling in Guatemala must be provided with means to word quite independently of his neighbours. In a word, the conditions existing in Guatemala do not differ materially from those in Mexico. Capital is nine-tenths of the battle.

THE JAPAN FARMERS' LEAGUE.

THE Committee of the Japan Farmers' League held a conference at Osaka on the 25th instant. Mr. Amakaru, ex-member of the House of Representatives, was in the chair. There were present about thirty persons, of whom one-half were members of the Lower House. It was resolved among other things that immediate steps should be taken for having the League registered as a political association, that the formal organization of the League should be celebrated on the 20th of April; and that the members of the House of Representatives who are in favour of re-assessment of the taxable value of land should be asked to form a club for facilitating the realization of that reform. Evidently the farmers have awakened to the necessity of taking active steps for the attainment of their object. They are doubtless roused by the appearance of a strong enemy in the shape of the Imperial Fiscal Reform Association. A keen contest may be looked forward to between these two parties during several years to come. At present the Fiscal Reform Association is decidedly weaker than the Farmers' League, but the former will steadily increase in influence, and will probably become strong enough at last to achieve its purpose. Already the educated and independent section of the nation is in sympathy with the aims of the Fiscal Reform Association, though the franchise being at present principally in the hands of the landed class, the members of the Diet are, from electoral considerations, committed to favour agrarian measures.

MR. KIM-YOK-KIUN ASSASSINATED.

TELEGRAPHIC intelligence has been received from Mr. Ogoshi, Japanese Consul at Shanghai, at the Foreign Office, to the effect that Mr. Kim-Yok-Kiun, the noted Korean refugee, was assassinated at the Japan Hotel, Shanghai, on the 27th inst., where he had put up with a Korean named Kyo Sho-u, the latter having accompanied him from Kobe. The murderer made good his escape. Mr. Kim-Yok-Kiun was one of the best known of the Korean refugees who escaped to Japan some years ago after the failure of a political plot whereby the murder of the members of the Korean Ministry was encompassed. Various rumours were afloat during his stay in Japan that assassins had been employed to take his life. They, apparently failed to meet with a suitable opportunity to carry out their designs, and it is therefore suggested now that Kyo-Sho-u was instigated by a certain Korean statesman of high rank to follow Mr. Kim-Yok-Kiun until he had brought about the latter's death. Further intelligence sent by Mr. Ogoshi on the 29th at 6 a.m. announces that the murderer was arrested by the police on the night of the 28th in the foreign settlement, legal proceedings being at once instituted in the Mixed Court.

* * *

The Tokyo News Agency states that Mr. Bok-Ei-Ko, another refugee, principal of the Shinriu Gaijiku recently established by the Oriental Society, narrowly escaped the fate that befel Kim-Yok-Kim, three of his countrymen named Ken To-jin, Ken Taijin, and Ri Itsu-Shoku, having planned to assassinate him. It is stated that these men were in communication with Kyo, the arrangement between them being to set about their murderous task as soon as they heard from their accomplice in Shanghai. Mr. Boku-Ei-Kio and three Korean students in the Shinorin Gaijiku and Ri Itsu-Shoku were examined at the Koji-machi police station yesterday. It is stated that Ri Itsu-Shoku was in possession of a letter from the King of Korea ordering the assassination of Mr. Kim and Mr. Bok-Ei-Ko; but this is incredible.

"ASAHI-YAKI."

AMATEURS of Japanese keramic wares are familiar with two varieties known as *Asahi-yaki*, the one a production of former times, the other a hybrid kind of ware combining the decorative methods of Japan with the technical processes of Europe. With regard to the former, we read in the vernacular press that it is supposed to have had its origin 1,250 years ago, and that its first manufacturer was Kano Masanori, a servant of the celebrated Buddhist priest Gyogi Bosatsu. The kiln was in Uji, and its product was known as *Jimmaku-yaki* or *Daikichi-yaki*, names derived from the locality. After Kano's death the ware ceased to be manufactured for six centuries, when it was revived by Koto Shinobei. This expert, who lived about 670 years ago, is said to have travelled to China in the suite of Dogen-jenshi, a celebrated Buddhist priest of the time. Koto, having studied the keramic art in China, journied to Annam and Cochin-China to pursue his researches, and on his return to Japan he decided, after various trials in different places, to set up his kiln at Asahi-yama in Uji, because he considered that the clay found there closely resembled that of Annam and Cochin-China. If this story be true, Koto Shinobei must have been learning keramics in China at the same time as the celebrated Kato Shirozayemon, and it is very singular that nothing has hitherto been said about him by writers on Japanese keramics. It will be observed also that the clay found at Asahi is said to have resembled that of Annam and Cochin-China. But we should like to know what acquaintance the Japanese have with the wares of Annam and Cochin-China, and what any student of keramics could have learned in those countries when the *Sung* dynasty reigned in China. The strong probability is that this story is tainted with that old delusion still entertained by Japanese *delettanti* that the faience to which they have given the name *Kochi-yaki* was manufactured in Cochin-China. It may have come to Japan *vid* Cochin-China, but it was no more produced there than was the porcelain of Hizen at the port of Imari, from whence nevertheless it derived its name. Be that as it may, however, the annals from which we quote go on to say that in the days of Hideyoshi the *Asahi-yaki* was in the hands of Okumura Tosaku; that the Taiko personally visited the kiln, and that to Okumura was entrusted the duty of manufacturing all the utensils used by the great general at his *cha-no-yu* ceremonials. At a later era the ware was under the special patronage of the celebrated connoisseur, Kobori Masakazu, who regarded it with such favour that he bestowed on the potters a seal carrying his own autograph, with which choice pieces were stamped. After this the kiln again fell into ruin and was not rebuilt until the days of the grandfather of the present potter, Matsubayashi, a direct descendant of Okumura Tosaku. The *Asahi-yaki*, like many another ware of Japan, has a history distinctly out of proportion to its decorative or artistic merits.

SUGAR CULTIVATION IN JAPAN.

IN connection with the project of a sugar-refining factory in Japan, it was recently stated that even the cane grown in the Riukiu and Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands could not compare with that imported from Formosa and the Philippines, but whether this verdict be true or not the cultivation is continued. This industry was commenced in the Bonin Islands only fourteen years ago, when a small trial planting was made. Since then the enterprise has increased considerably. Last year the total produce was 10,000 casks containing 20 *kwamme* each (165 lbs.), but it is believed that this year the production will aggregate 25,000 casks. The price obtained is about 7½ *yen* per hundred catties. At one time the rate locally obtainable did not exceed 2.90 *yen*, but that was owing to exceptional circumstances, the chief of which was that means of transport to the districts of demand in the main island being almost non-existent, the producers were obliged to take any price offered by merchants who came to buy. This state of affairs was corrected by a capitalist who advanced money for the formation of a guild for the protection of the industry. The sugar of Ogasawara is said to be equal to that of Sanuki, the most celebrated producing district in Japan.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND A FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVE.

THE *Nippon* is a newspaper to which we always look for novelties. As a rule they are not novelties calculated to enhance the reputation of the press or to increase public confidence in its writings. Yet they are sometimes entertaining. In its latest effort our versatile contemporary is laconic. It quotes a fragment of a conversation said to have taken place between a nameless Foreign Representative and the Minister of State for Justice at dinner. The subject was the affair of Judge Chitani. Referring to the agitation made by the press about this matter, the Foreign Representative asked whether it was true that the celebrated jurisconsult, Stein, of Vienna, had expressed regret that the Law of Organization of the Law Courts had been put into operation without more mature reflection. The Minister of Justice is reported to have replied in one word, "*Komarimashita.*" We think this story wants a sequel. If any thoughtful person were asked whether the articles and items in a majority of the vernacular journals are not given to the public without due reflection, he too might aptly reply *Komarimashita.*

BUDDHIST PRIESTS AT THE KOREAN COURT.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Kokumin Shimbun* residing in Korea sends to that journal some very scandalous stories about the relations between Buddhist priests and Court Ladies in Korea. Buddhism has long been under a royal ban in the little kingdom, and its priests are consequently a despised class recruited from a low stratum of society. But, according to this correspondent, they are said to have the *entrée* to the female apartments at the Court, where they administer comfort not always of a spiritual character. Such tales are so easy to manufacture and so quick to obtain credence that sensible persons naturally regard them with the greatest suspicion. We do not suppose that it costs either the *Kokumin's* correspondent or the *Kokumin* itself any special qualm to blacken the fair fame of the Korean Court Ladies, and who is to re-establish it?

A ROLAND FOR AN OLIVER.

A POLICE constable in Chiba recently met a superior officer on the road and failed to salute him. The officer, displeased by such a want of discipline, subsequently summoned the man to his presence, and after reprimanding him severely, bade him state in writing his reasons for neglecting to comply with the prescribed form of respect. The constable obeyed. His explanation was that he had been lost in a reverie previous to the encounter on the road, and that suddenly meeting the Inspector, he had mistaken him for a spectre. It is not stated whether this amateur of repartee continues to wear a policeman's uniform.

DROWNED IN A GLOBE OF GOLD-FISH.

THREE or four days ago the two-year-old son of a dealer in gold-fish, resident in Tokyo, met with a strange death. The little one was playing near the opening of a large globe of fish, the globe being sunk into the ground and the aperature almost on a level with the floor. Although his somewhat older sister repeatedly warned him to keep away from the spot, the

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little fellow persisted in what he was doing and suddenly fell into the receptacle. No one being near at hand and the little sister not having strength enough to raise or drag the child out of the water, he was drowned before others could come to the rescue. The vernacular press is probably quite correct in calling this the first instance of the kind on record.

A NEW SHOAL.

THE following Notice to Mariners, No. 283, of the Shanghai District of the China Sea, has been issued by Mr. A. M. Bisbee, Coast Inspector of the China Imperial Maritime Customs:—Notice is hereby given that Captain R. Morgan, of the British steamer *Feilung*, reports that on the 19th instant he crossed, from north to south, a shoal patch, having from 6½ to 7 fathoms, fine sand, for about 3 miles and then deepening to 13 fathoms, blue mud, the position of the middle of the shoal in the line where the *Feilung* crossed it being—latitude 32° 18′ 30″ N., longitude 122° 27′ E., in which locality the Admiralty Chart No. 1,262 shows from 18 to 20 fathoms.

SUICIDE OF AN OFFICAL.

NEWS has been received in Tokyo of the suicide of Mr. Inaba Juzaburo, an official of the Audit Bureau, who proceeded some time ago to Kiushu for the purpose of inspecting the banks there. He had reached Miyagi Prefecture and commenced the inspection of the bank there, when, on the 25th instant, he pierced himself to the heart with a short sword which he carried for purposes of self-protection. The act was committed in the inn where he lodged. The unfortunate man was a graduate in law of the Imperial University and enjoyed a most excellent reputation. His untimely death is attributed to insanity produced by melancholia.

SALE OF THE "WORLOCK."

THE sealing schooner *Worlock* was again submitted for sale by public auction on Wednesday by Mr. John W. Hall, the former highest bid of $6,400 not being accepted owing to the reserve price not being reached. Bidding on Wednesday started at $3,000 and slowly worked up to $6,000. This bid, given by the engineer of the vessel on behalf of the crew, could not be accepted owing to one-third of the purchase-money not being forthcoming at the fall of the hammer. Bidding was therefore recommenced, and at $5,200 Captain Martin was declared the purchaser.

A PICTORIAL COMPETITION.

THE Kwaigwa Kenkiu-kai, a society for the promotion of pictorial art, which is in fact a branch of the Japan Fine Art Society, held a meeting on the 24th instant for the purpose of determining the merits of a number of pictures sent in by over fifty artists. The prizes were not intrinsically magnificent, the two best being only one *yen* and a certificate, and the third a certificate without a *yen*. But these are matters of honour, not of profit. The result was as follows:—

Mr. Shima Kansen, for a landscape in mist, 45 votes.
Mr. Inosei Tonei, for a land-scape, 43 votes.
Mr. Mori Unkei, for a floral subject, 42 votes.

THE PRESS AND THE LAW.

A LOCAL newspaper, the *Shimpu Nippo*, published at Matsumoto, in Shinano, is engaged ventilating a serious grievance against the Law Courts. The gist of the trouble is that the paper's machines were sealed in connection with a charge of violating the press laws, and after a verdict of acquittal had been rendered by a tribunal of first instance, the machines were kept sealed pending the result of an appeal to a higher Court. That certainly seems a harsh method of procedure, but as we have only one side of the case before us, it is difficult to arrive at a final judgment.

OFFICIAL EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ELECTIONS.

THE *Kokkai* publishes a comparative statement of the expenses incurred by the Matsukata and Ito Cabinets in preserving law and order at the elections. The total for the Matsukata Cabinet is put at 97,545.531 *yen* and that for the Ito Cabinet at 118,245.55 *yen*. The idea of carrying these figures to three places of decimals is delightful, but Japanese accountants are nothing if not minute. It will be seen that the expenditure of the Ito Cabinet exceeded that of the Matsukata by about 20,000 *yen*, but certainly the admirable peace and good order that distinguished the last elections would have been cheaply purchased at ten times the difference.

THE IMPERIAL FISCAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

THE recently-formed Imperial Fiscal Reform Association, about which the public has heard so much, is now to become a political party. Application in that sense was duly made to the Authorities on the 23rd instant. The office of the Association is to be at No. 7 Yazayemoncho, in the Kyobashi District of Tokyo, and the names of the managers are Messrs. Sudo Tokiicho and Taguchi Ukichi. It is plain that although the Association interests itself chiefly with economic objects, its method of working is political and its sphere is equally so. Hence there can be no doubt about the propriety of the step it has now taken.

A RADICAL MEMBER OF THE DIET FINED.

TELEGRAPHIC news from Iwate Prefecture says that Mr. Hirata, who was returned for the Fifth District in that Prefecture in the recent general elections, and who stood in the Radical interest, has been arraigned with several of his partizans, on a charge of employing illegal methods to coerce voters, and has been found guilty. The sentence pronounced by the Court was a fine in the case of Mr. Hirata, and minor confinement in the case of his coadjutors. Notice of appeal was give by the Public Procurator, though on what grounds the telegram does not say.

AWARDS FOR SCULPTURE AT THE CHICAGO EXHIBITION.

WE take this from an American exchange:—"There have been awarded for excellence in the sculptures exhibited at the World's Fair 76 medals and diplomas, nine countries being represented in the competition for prizes. Germany received the highest number of medals, 19, and the United States came next with 14, Italy, receiving 12, stood third; Japan and Great Britain, with 7 apiece, fourth; Spain, with 6, fifth; Austria sixth, with 5, and Denmark and Sweden each received 3 and closed the list. So high a degree of success on the part of Japan was unexpected."

TERMINATION OF THE BRAZILIAN REVOLT.

THE Consul for Brazil at Hongkong wrote to the local press as follows, under date the 20th inst.:—

SIR,—Being authorized to give publicity to the following telegram, just received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the United States of Brazil, I will feel greatly obliged if you will kindly insert it in your to-night's issue:—

"Rio de Janeiro, March 19th.—The naval revolt is finished. The Government is in possession of all forts and vessels."

I have the hononr to be, Sir, your obedient servant, Agostinho G. Romano, Consul for Brazil.

KEROSENE.

ON doubtful authority—that of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*—we learn that a Russian engineer has reported to his Government the discovery of kerosene springs in the Kuriles from several of which twenty or thirty gallons of oil may be obtained daily. It is expected that steps will soon be taken to turn this discovery to account in which case we may look for a further fall in the price of the illuminant.

CHANGES IN THE PORTUGUESE MINISTRY.

A TELEGRAPHIC message despatched by the Japanese Minister, Mr. Sone, and received by the Foreign Office on the 25th inst., states that the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs is released from his post, and the Premier takes charge of the portfolio temporarily.

EMIGRANTS TO HOKKAIDO.

IT is announced that large reductions on lines of railway and steamer will be made from the 1st of next month in favour of persons emigrating to Hokkaido. On Government lines of railway the reduction will be 25 per cent.; on the Nippon Tetsudo Kaisha's lines, 20 per cent.; by the steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha 30 per cent., while on the Tanko Tetsudo lines they will be carried free. Negotiations are now in progress with other carrying companies throughout the Empire to procure similar reductions.

THE CHICAGO FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

THIS Society held a meeting at the house of Mr. Ernest W. Clement, 5,461, Washington Av., Friday, March 2, at 8 o'clock, for "A Japanese Evening." The programme included "Folk-Lore in Japanese Art" (illustrated with art objects) by Madame Jesse Clement; Flute Solo by Mr. Morimoto; "Japanese Children's Festivals" (with exhibition of articles belonging to the Feast of Dolls), by Mrs. Nellie Hall Clement; and Japanese refreshments.

"THE CENTURION."

IT is now understood, says the *Free Press*, that H.M.S. *Centurion* will in all probability not reach Singapore before the 10th of April, as she will likely stop at one or two places *en route*, with a stay of four days or so at Malta. There will, however, be no undue delay in her arrival at Singapore as the Admiralty are desirous of having the *Imperieuse* home in time for an overhaul before the naval manœuvres of this summer.

REDEMPTION OF PUBLIC LOAN BONDS.

THE Department of State for Finance announces that the following amounts of Public Loan Bonds will be redeemed by lot during the month of April:—

Five per cent. Pension Bonds ..... 332,900 *yen*
Five per cent. Naval Loan Bonds ... 10,000 *yen*

It is also announced that two million *yen* worth of Railway Bonds will be redeemed during the same month.

DISSOLUTION OF THE LOWER HOUSE IN HOLLAND.

THE *Official Gazette* says that a telegram received by the Foreign Office on the 22nd inst., states that the Lower House in Holland has been dissolved, having refused to pass the new Election Law Bill. The Foreign Minister, M. G. van Tienhoven, who was opposed to the policy of dissolving the House, has resigned, and M. J. C. Jansen, Minister of Marine, is temporarily appointed to the post.

THE JAPAN IRON FOUNDRY.

ACCORING to telegraphic news from Osaka, the Japan Iron Foundry of Sakai, with which Count Matsukata's name has been connected since the year before last, is now finally to be converted into a Joint Stock Company with a capital of 300,000 *yen*. Its principal object is the construction of steel rails.

THE ENGINEERING BUREAU.

THE statement published by the News Agency to the effect that an Engineer-in-Chief was about to be appointed in the Home Department, is contradicted by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which journal says that a project in that sense was on foot some time ago, but has been abandoned.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

AT a Committee Meeting held subsequent to the General Meeting, a ballot was taken for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, which resulted in the election of J. Lindsley, Esq., as Chairman, and J. P. Mollison, Esq., as Vice-Chairman.

THE MEETING OF THE DIET.

IT is now confidently stated that the Diet will be convened for May 15th, and that the Rescript ordering its assembly will be issued on the 1st of April. The session is expected to be for thirty days.

JAPAN AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

"JAPAN," says an American journal, "has one of the best engineering schools in the world is beginning to manufacture creditable electrical machinery."

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SILVER AND THE TRADE OF THE EAST.

ONE of the most pregnant contributions yet made to the discussion of the Silver Question is the Report on the Foreign Trade of China for 1893, issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs. The volume of the trade, stated in silver, shows a marked increase, as indicated by the following table :—

ANNUAL VALUE OF FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA, 1881 TO 1893.

Year.	Net Imports. Hk. Tls.	Exports. Hk. Tls.	Total. Hk. Tls.
1881	91,910,877	71,452,974	163,363,851
1882	77,715,228	67,336,846	145,052,074
1883	73,567,702	70,197,693	143,765,395
1884	72,760,758	67,147,680	139,908,438
1885	88,200,018	65,005,711	153,205,729
1886	87,479,323	77,206,568	164,685,891
1887	102,263,669	85,860,208	188,123,877
1888	124,782,893	92,401,067	217,183,960
1889	110,884,355	96,947,832	207,832,187
1890	127,093,481	87,144,480	214,237,961
1891	134,003,863	100,947,849	234,951,712
1892	135,101,198	102,583,525	237,684,723
1893	151,362,819	116,632,311	267,995,130

But the apparently satisfactory evidence of this table has to be largely discounted. Nineteen million Tls. of the recorded increase appears in the trade with Hongkong alone, and is due, not to an actual increase in that trade, but rather to a new method of tabulating and recording it, and to the enhanced silver value of goods from gold-using countries. So far, indeed, from the trade's being in a healthy condition, the Customs' revenue, which, as the Report truly says, is "the surest indication of decline or development in China's international commerce," show a serious diminution in the receipts derived from imports, with no commensurate increase on the export side. It is impossible to state more clearly and succintly than the Report states the effects produced on the trade by the appreciation of gold, and we therefore submit to our readers the following extracts :—

FOREIGN TRADE.—The division of the Import trade in which Foreign gold capital is embarked —which should be kept distinct from the equally large Asiatic portion paid for in silver—has been characterised by an unprecedented retrograde movement, which can only be ascribed to the appreciation in the gold value of silver causing an immense curtailment, at their greatly enhanced prices, in the demand for textiles, Opium, etc. Indeed, if this decline continues, it will completely nullify the advantages expected to accrue from the opening of new ports and great markets, such as Chungking, where the value of Foreign merchandise imported has fallen off by over *Hk.Tls.* 1,250,000 as compared with the figures of 1892. Nor has the depreciation in the gold value of silver stimulated the Export trade abroad to the extent anticipated. It would thus appear that, to the trade of China, the great appreciation of gold has proved ruinous to the Import business, and the instability of silver utterly disorganising to the Export trade.

IMPORTS.—The dislocation in exchange brought about by according a fictitious value to the rupee and closing the Indian mints to the coinage of silver has resulted, as predicted, in a very serious falling off in the entire trade from India to China. The net importation of Opium for the year (although largely augmented by including, for the first time, in the Customs Returns the Opium brought in junks from Singapore to Hainan, amounting to 1,102 piculs), has declined to the extent of 2,674 piculs, or from 70,782 piculs in 1892 to 68,108 piculs during the year under review. The protection of the rupee enhanced the price of Opium so greatly that it placed the Indian drug beyond the means of a vast number of consumers, and this use taking place concurrently with adequate supplies of Native Opium—which has so improved in quality that, it is averred, smokers prefer it to Malwa—renders it almost hopeless for theimported drug to continue to compete successfully with the excellent and ever improving home-grown product. The trade in Indian Yarn has likewise undergone a sudden and severe check, the quantity having receded from 1,254,400 piculs in 1892 to 937,800 piculs, or a decrease of 316,600 piculs. Raw Cotton from India has been similarly affected, the year's supply being only 52,400 piculs, or just about half the quantity imported during the previous 12 months. The deficiency in these two Indian staples alone represents a decrease in the value of the Indo-China Import trade of over *Hk. Tls.* 4,745,000. Reference to the list of Imports from European gold currency countries discloses an unparalleled falling off in all kinds of textile fabrics. In such staples as Grey Shirtings, which appreciated in price during 1893 as much as 36 per cent. per piece, the supply falls short of that of the previous year by 2,158,000. pieces; White Shirtings receded to the extent of 465,000 pieces, while the price advanced 35¾ per cent.; and T-Cloths, by 552,000 pieces—the total importation for the year, 1,537,000 pieces, being less than in any period during the decade,—the price of 7-lb. and 8-lb. goods increasing 12 per cent. and 17 per cent. respectively as compared with quotations in 1892. The statistics of English and American Sheetings, in the aggregate, compare very unfa t vourably with those of the preceding 12 months, the figures for 1893 exhibiting a shortage of 311,000 pieces. Indeed, the only conspicuous gain in the list of woven Cotton Goods is in Drills of all kinds, which exceed the total importation of the previous year by 111,800 pieces—a supply probably not more than sufficient to make good the stock lost, or to fulfil orders in hand, when the Shanghai Cotton Mill was destroyed by fire on the 19th October last. It is satisfactory to note that Unclassed Cotton Goods, which include the tastefully-designed fabrics of Japanese looms, continue to advance by immense strides, the importation of 1893 showing a rise in value of *Hk.Tls.* 660,4000 or, more than double the figures of the previous year. The quantity of Japanese Cotton Goods landed at Shanghai during the year was 142,5000 pieces, or 40,000 pieces over the importation of 1892; in 1890 only 8,200 pieces appear in the Returns of that port. Under the heading of Woollens the aggregate value shows a contraction of *Hk.Tls.* 207,000, and the only items for which the demand was greater than in the preceding years are long Ells and Blankets. Of Metals it will be seen that most descriptions of Iron have been in less demand, and, excepting the noteworthy increase in Steel and Spelter, the average importation of Metals is maintained. In both kinds of Kerosene Oil (American and Russian) the consumption has increased prodigiously, the aggregate increase over 1892 amounting to 9,473,000 gollons, the share contributed by the Amrican Oil being 4,836,000 gallons, and Russian 4,637,000 gallons. In this connection it should be noted that in 1894 Russian Oil will probably be brought to China in bulk by the steamers of the "Shell" line, and stored in tanks erected at Shanghai and other ports. Owing to a short crop in South China, due to floods in the province of Kwangtung, the importation of Duty-free Rice, chiefly Siamese, surpasses all previous demands, the consignments of the year aggregating the enormous total of 9,474,500 piculs, or 5,526,300 piculs over the importation of the previous year. The increase in Sugar is explained by all qualities shipped from Hongkong—unrefined, as well as the products of the refineries—being accounted Foreign in the Import table. Reference to the numerous commodities brought from silver-standard countries south of China indicates a general increase in quantity and value, the so-called depreciated silver in no way affecting the Asiatic division of China's Import Trade. In connexion with the decline in the value of China's Foreign Import trade, it may not be out of place to remark that to the observer in the East it seems inexplicable that the gold-currency countries, while striving to extend their trade, should resolutely ignore the fact, so clearly demonstrated by the decline in the demand for Piece Goods, that to the millions in China the tael or ounce of silver is still a tael of undiminished purchasing power, whether the sterling value be 6s. or 3s., and that so soon as the discredited tael fails to buy the same quantity of Foreign goods as heretofore, the consumer ceases to be a customer, and will supply his own wants by manufacturing textiles from home-grown materials. Indications are not wanting that the erection of Cotton mills at ports extending from the Gulf of Tonkin to Chungking is contemplated, and there is abundant evidence of great local activity in that direction. A nation whose inexhaustible supply of labourers excites such alarm among Western peoples and governments is not likely to prove less formidable when it brings similar forces of cheap silver-paid skilled operatives into competition with textile industries of the gold-wage earning classes of Europe and America, and the effect will be felt more acutely and cause greater consternation than the presence of Chinese labour abroad whenever it comes into rivalry with the handicrafts of Occidental races.

Those who defend the action of Europe in demonetizing one of the two metals that must always—so far as human eyes can see—constitute the media of exchange of the civilized world, take their stand chiefly on one contention, namely, that the production of silver varies so largely and, above all, has became so copious of recent years, as to deprive it of the first essential of good money, namely, a stable intrinsic value. They aver that if gold has become 50 per cent. more valuable in terms of silver than it was twenty-five years ago, the phenomenon must be referred to the superabundance of silver; superabundance which, they say, must have depreciated the white metal under any circumstances, according to the ordinary laws of supply and demand, though the depreciation would have been much more uniform had not its course been factitiously interfered with by legislation such as that of the Sherman Act and the Indian Government. But these economists are always careful to avoid every direct analysis of the fact that a metal which, according to their view, has become almost a drug in the market owing to excessive supply, nevertheless exchanges for as large a quantity as it ever did of every commodity except gold, or articles in the production of which gold has been expended. They naturally shrink from any attempt to account for the circumstance that this so-called superabundant and naturally depreciated metal possesses just as great purchasing power as it ever did in the countries continuing to use it. They take much trouble, as the London *Economist* recently did, to show that the gold-price of commodities in gold-using countries has not fallen in the same degree as the silver-price of gold has increased, the fall in the former having been only 21 per cent. in the past 23 years against a rise in the latter of 47 per cent. But in the uses to which they apply this calculation they quietly ignore the fact that unless all the factors of production in a gold-using country are equally affected by the appreciation of gold, the gold-price of the product can not be taken as a measure of that appreciation. Labour, for example, has not become cheaper, but rather dearer, in gold-using countries during the past twenty-five years, and labour being the chief element in determining the price of manufactured commodities, such commodities can not exactly follow the variations which the purchasing power of gold shows in other directions. Even the statistics of the monometallists themselves exhibit a general fall of over 21 per cent. in the gold-price of commodities since 1870. What is

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the cause of that fall? Over-production, they answer. Has over-production been confined, then, to gold-using countries? If not, how does it happen that silver-prices have not fallen in silver-using countries? And how does it happen that because of over-production in the countries from which silver-using nations have hitherto obtained their supplies of commodities, those nations are now beginning to produce the same commodities for themselves? Surely it is a strange array of anomalies! First, silver has been produced in such quantities that the supply exceeds the demand; yet its purchasing power has diminished only in the countries where it has been demonetized; elsewhere it remains as valuable as ever *quoad* other commodities. Secondly, general over-production has so glutted the markets of the world with commodities that prices have declined 21 per cent. on the average in gold-using countries; yet, under the stimulus of that state of affairs, silver-using countries are commencing to be producers on their own account. Thirdly, as for gold, there is abundance for all the purposes of currency: the pretence that too great a strain is put upon it by its exclusive monetary use is a mere phantasm. Nevertheless, every discovery of a new gold-mine or increased out-put of an old one makes the monometallists throw their caps into the air with delight. Truly a delightful array of anomalies!

LORD ROSEBERY.

WHEN the original telegram informing us of Mr. GLADSTONE'S resignation of the Premiership was published in our columns, the simultaneous announcement of the fact that he had recommended Lord ROSEBERY to the QUEEN as his successor must have been received with some surprise by those of our readers who carefully follow the course of politics in England, and who have studied the careers of the leading members of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Government. Lord ROSEBERY is undoubtedly one of the most brilliant statesmen not only of the Liberal Party but of all parties in England. He has, throughout his career, shown a thorough capacity both for grasping great subjects and also for mastering small details. Having succeeded to the peerage before he attained his majority, he never had the advantage of a training in the House of Commons or an opportunity of displaying, in the most inspiriting arena, the eloquence, enthusiasm, and wit which mark all his public speeches. But the platform has given him the chance denied by the accident of birth. Few statesmen, and those only of the very foremost rank, have ever drawn larger audiences, or succeeded better both in amusing and at the same time convincing them. As a literary man he has made some mark, and shown in his life of PITT that he possesses the ability to write as well as to speak; while, in his position as first President of the First London County Council, presiding over an entirely new body, with neither rule nor precedent to guide or support him, he displayed a capacity for business which was only surpassed by his tact and firmness in managing the heterogenous and, at first, somewhat disorderly assembly. His success in that position won golden opinions from the general public and the press, and constituted one of the principal elements in securing for the Council the respect and admiration in which it is now held. Of his career as Foreign Secretary we need scarcely speak. The most bigoted Tory has never had the hardihood to deny that he was the right man in the right place, or that the dignity, power, and interests of the British Empire, *vis-à-vis* Foreign nations, were always perfectly safe in his trust. Speaking at Manchester in 1886, shortly before the general election, Mr. GLADSTONE introduced Lord ROSEBERY to the Liberal Party of England as the Man of the Future, and even then no one could ever have doubted that he would in time attain to the highest honour in the State. But few could anticipate that the time when he should do so would have so quickly arrived. Three obstacles seemed to stand in his way. These were, firstly, the conflicting claims of other members of his party, some of whom were distinguished by no less brilliant abilities; all of whom had, through ill report and good report, adhered to their party and its grand old leader with unswerving loyalty, who were certainly no less and perhaps even more definitely committed to the policy of Home Rule and sympathetic with the strong Democratic spirit of the times, and who had the advantage of Lord ROSEBERY in age and in the experience given by longer tenure of office and of Parliamentary life. Secondly, there was the fact that he was a Peer, and it seemed probable that no member of the House of Peers would ever be acceptable as Premier to the extreme Radicals, who form such a substantial portion of the Liberal Party. Even if acceptable, would it be right or dignified to see the Premier a member of the House in which his party was in a most hopeless minority, and the continued unreformed existence of which was considered by that party as an anachronism? And, last of all, there was the fact that his services were required as Foreign Secretary. No other member of the party seemed qualified for that most important post, and though Lord SALISBURY had united it in himself with that of Premier, undertaking a task from which PALMERSTON shrank and which CANNING gave up in despair, it was scarcely to be expected that his example would find a follower in the same generation.

The telegrams brought to us by the latest American papers show that none of these obstacles were of serious moment in interfering with Lord ROSEBERY'S selection by the Liberal party as the immediate successor of GLADSTONE, and that, when the first feelings of consternation and sorrow caused by the announcement of Mr. GLADSTONE'S intended resignation had subsided, the eyes of the great bulk of the Party were at once turned to Lord ROSEBERY. True it is that Mr. LABOUCHERE, who must now be recognised as one of the principal and most influential leaders of the worst section of English political feeling, angrily protested and threatened that the appointment of a Peer as Premier would mean the disruption of the Liberal Party as it now exists. But that disruption would have meant the installment in office of a Conservative Government, and however objectionable to Extreme Radicals a Peer may be as leader, it is better to submit to and follow him than to destroy every possible prospect of of any speedy realisation of the great legislative measures which all Radicals have at heart. And whatever doubt the party may have felt in the first instance as to Lord ROSEBERY'S policy, when no longer controlled by his old chief, must have been dissipated by his public utterances since assuming the Premiership. Deeply pledged as he already was to Home Rule, his course on that point was always sure, but he has now, in addition, declared in the most unqualified terms his concurrence with the views recently enunciated by Mr. GLADSTONE about the Lord's recent wholesale destruction of the legislative work of the Commons. The question of dealing with the House of Lords, as now constituted, is rapidly taking a front position in democratic politics; it may be linked with that of Home Rule, so as to form the two vital points upon which the opinion of the nation will be sought at the next general election, which may not now be far off, and it appears as if on both questions Lord ROSEBERY may be able to command the fullest confidence of all sections of his party. Since coming into power, that party has held together with firmness and acted with commendable unanimity. There is no apparent reason why it should now be disrupted. No statesman has ever yet succeeded to power at a time when greater constitutional changes or more important legislation were in immediate view, and if Lord ROSEBERY, faithfully following his predecessor's path, leads his party to victory at the next election, a career may lie before him of exceptional brilliancy.

The troopship *Tamar* left Portsmouth yesterday afternoon for Hongkong with a few military drafts and new crews and supernumeraries for the *Scout*, *Swift*, *Porpoise*, *Firebrand*, and *Rattler*, on the China Station. The *Tamar* will call at Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, Suez, Aden, Colombo, and Singapore, returning to Portsmouth on June 1 with the paid-off crews of the *Porpoise*, *Rattler*, and *Firebrand*.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

KOREAN NOTES.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The usual vernal troubles with which Korea has been chronically affected have not yet appeared. The *Fong Haks* are still in winter-quarters. The edict prohibiting the exportation of rice after a rigid enforcement of three months has been revoked. The Crown Prince attained his majority on the 14th inst. and His Majesty, in honour of the event, gave a banquet to over four thousand of the nobility and officers of the government, while the common people will have the privilege of being taxed to pay the bills as their part in the celebration. Rice has gone up a little since the revocation of the Edict, for which the producer will be glad and at which the consumer will often grumble. The Royal College remains closed, and drilling of the native troops, originally entrusted to four foreign gentlemen, and for the past several years to two, is now in the hands of but one. It is due these gentlemen to say that it is not because of the great advancement the soldiers made, but lack of interest on the part of the government, that the services have gradually been dispensed with.

Mrs. Bird-Bishop is with us, and is contemplating a trip into Manchuria over "unbeaten tracks." Foreigners have travelled more or less in the country, but with only a few notable exceptions, the paths made are all "unbeaten."

I remain, sincerely yours, NESTOR.

Sōul, Korea, March 16th, 1894.

ENGLAND AND SILVER.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I desire to direct the attention of your readers who are interested in silver to recent important events in England.

1.—A Memorial has been addressed by the London Chamber of Commerce to the British Government for a resumption of the Brussels Conference.

Now the attitude of the City of London towards this question has been until lately "one of apathy and even of hostility," and even sanguine bimetallists hardly expect to see their hopes realized until London opinion can be induced to move with them. Lord Salisbury and Lord Herschell, in their speeches in the House of Lords on the India Loan Bill, very clearly intimated the necessity of a conversion in that quarter.

The memorial of the London Chamber of Commerce is therefore a step that may be pregnant with results, even should it fail in the object to which it is directed; it must influence to no inconsiderable extent the opinions of men in London, whether engaged in trade or not.

2.—The Annual Meeting of the Bimetallic League was held at Manchester on the 6th February.

The report of that meeting shows very clearly that the members are highly satisfied not only with the sure, but even with the rapid, progress of the cause they advocate. Whilst the number of bimetallists who were once monometallists can be counted by the thousand, a bimetallist who has become monometallist is as rare as a Unionist who has been perverted to Home Rule.

Speakers at the Meeting of the League were Sir David Balfour (late Financial Member of Council in India), Mr. Grenfell (of Bank of England reputation), Professor Foxwell, and many others.

Sir W. H. Houldsworth, M.P., moved a resolution, which was carried unanimously, and which sets forth so clearly the objects that bimetallists have in view that I venture to quote it in full:—

"That the finances, agriculture, industries, and trade of the British Empire—Home, Colonial, and Indian—are harassed and embarrassed by the constant appreciation of gold and the great instability and uncertainty of exchange between gold and silver standard countries; that there is no sound remedy for the grave and growing evils resulting therefrom except bimetallism on a broad international basis at a common ratio, to be mutually agreed upon; that, as experience has proved that the remedy would be sound, practical, and effective, and as it has been approved by a majority of the members of the Royal Commission on Gold and Silver, it is the duty of Her Majesty's Government to negotiate without delay with other leading nations for a monetary union on these lines."

It is a satisfaction to me to see that Yokohama is at last beginning to take a serious interest in a question that is not only vital to the prosperity of British trade with the whole of the East, but that is assuming a daily increasing political importance in Europe.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A Twenty Years' Resident.

March 26th, 1894.

"FALSE RELIGIONS."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Mr. Pieters' article in reply to mine contains much to which I give a cordial assent, and I am glad he has given the public his side of the question. Since there are some who conscientiously call all religions save Christianity *false*, and others who as conscientiously cannot so regard them, and since the two sides have already been presented, I hesitate to ask for more room in the *Mail*. Yet since Mr. Pieters intimates that scholarly opinions do not bear out my assertion, I venture to send this communication on one point only, regretting that it must be largely a matter of exegesis, so that it will doubtless be left unread by the majority of your readers.

My statement was that ἀληθινός, *true*, as used in the New Testament, is never contrasted with *false*, but with vague, imperfect, incomplete, transitory, shadowy, inferior. Mr. Pieters frankly allows that this is the usage of the New Testament in a number of places, but he adds:

"It would have been more to the purpose if the writer had quoted scholarly opinions on the use of this word as applied to God in Jno. 17:3, 1 Thess. 1:9, and 1 Jno. 5:20." Here, then, are such quotations as I have been able to gather:—

Those on John 17:3.—*This is life eternal, that they should know thee the only true God.*"

"The only essential, real God, in antithesis to unreal, symbolical, and mythical gods of the world, and to all false and obscured belief in God."—*Lange.*

"As Him to whom alone belongs the reality of the idea of God."—*Meyer.*

"This term declares that this God is the only one who answers perfectly to the idea expressed by the word God. How is it possible not to find here with Meyer the contrast to manifold divinities unworthy of this name?"—*Godet.*

"Here the Father is described as the only true God,—as the only being in whom the idea of God is perfectly realized."—*Hovey.*

"There are many to whom the name of God has been applied, but one only fulfils the conception which man can dimly form of the absolute majesty of God." And in Jno. 4:23,—*true worshippers,*—"This word *true* describes that which is not only truly but also completely what it professes to be. Thus it is used in connection with those material objects under which Christ represents Himself. (See John 1:9, 17:3, 19:35.) The popular sense of the word "ideal,"—fulfilling the complete conception—comes near to this usage."—*Westcott.*

"Not as one deity among many, but as the only true God,—*i.e.*, as the only God corresponding to the idea of a divine being."—*Whitelaw.*

"God only is true,—*i.e.* He in whose case the idea contained in God is an actual fact."—*Luthardt.*

"Jesus designates the father as Him who alone is in reality God."—*Weiss.*

Next, 1 Thess. 1:9,—"*Ye turned unto God from idols, to serve a living and true God.*"

The living God in contrast to dead idols; the true, real god in contrast to idols which are vain, unreal.—*Meyer.*

"In contrast to the lifeless and false idols."—*Ellicott.*

"This word *true* here expresses, in contrast to the vanity of the idols, God's *Wesenhaftigkeit*—absolute, divine nature."—*Loeckler.*

The third verse under discussion is 1 Jno. 5:20, "*This is the true God and eternal life.*"

"It is what is true as opposed to false."—*Lias.*

"God is here termed true, as in Jno. 17:3, as the antithesis to fictitious or false (Calvin, Luther, and others).—*Evrard.*

"God is true, in contrast with all imaginary and imperfect objects of worship. He completely satisfies the idea of God-head in the mind of man."—*Westcott.*

"God is described,—in distinction from all idols, especially from the idol which the false teachers made of God, as the true God."—*Godet.*

What this commentator says in John 1:9 will explain the above:—John uses this word twenty-three times. It contrasts, not the true with the false, but the normal appearance with the imperfect realization." Also under Jno. 19:35,—"The adjective ἀληθινός does not here any more than elsewhere, mean ἀληθής. The meaning is, a real testimony which truly deserves the name, as announcing a fact truly seen."

"The true God is described not as *verax*, but as He who is in truth God in contrast to every fictitious god. For this word here designates the reality of the idea."—*Luthardt.*

Now, in these quotations there are a few that support Mr. Pieters' view, that ἀληθινός is a direct contrast to *false*, but modern scholars, however, are fairly well agreed that *false* is not the proper contrast. It is true as Mr. Pieters says that, "Robinson defines ἀληθινός as 'true, conformed to the nature and reality of things, not false.'" But did not my brother notice that Robinson gives the same definition under ἀληθής? Yet Cremer, sixth edition,* says:—"As close as these two words sometimes touch each other, the *distinction is always perceptible.*" And inasmuch as ἀληθής is the word that is used when a flat contrast with false is wanted (1 Jno. 2:27, "*True and no lie;*" Rom. 3:4, "*Let God be found true, but every man a liar;*" II. Cor. 6:8, "*as deceivers and yet true;* &c.) we may confidently affirm that in "the true God" passages something else than *false* is in the mind of the writers. What is it? Cremer tells us;—"the ending ινός denotes that the quantity, *as a fundamental idea, exists in abundance.*" Reading again the critical commentaries I have grouped above, it is fully apparent, at least to me, that the fundamental thought in this Greek word is, *the superabundant fulness of every quantity that goes to make God.* Even when *idols* are in the same verse the meaning is not "the true God as compared with false idols," as some commentators are disposed to think, but rather, *let the idol be something or nothing, no matter what it is, the true God is the only one who fully and absolutely contains the idea expressed by the word God.*

Mr. Pieters' affirms that this Greek adjective is contrasted with false in Jno. 12:34. Even his 3rd edition of Cremer (German 4th edition) would tell him the contrast is *unreliable* rather than false. But the 6th edition simply says: "This Greek word characterises the testimony, *no matter with what it deals, whatever it may express, as full of truth*; ἀληθής corresponds to fact, ἀληθινός being full of truth. The former characterizes the contents, the latter the value of the testimony." This reasoning applies with the same force to the other passages cited by Mr. Pieters.

With this testimony I feel justified in repeating the statement Mr. Pieters challenged—that in the New Testament ἀληθινός is never contrasted with false. And Christians may legitimately find, in the carefulness with which Christ and his apostles used adjectives, encouragement to avoid calling other religions false. We can, without abating one iota of earnestness, "uphold the honour of the one true God and the only true religion" without "denouncing all others as false." We can exult in the fact that this superabounding fullness of all that goes to make God is the very richest of constructive truths. No matter what virtues or vices, excellencies or defects, may inhere in other religions, our hope and joy and strength are not in proving them false, but in setting forth in our speech and in our lives this absolute fullness of truth, before which nothing else can permanently stand. "Night brings out the stars," and the star-light of other religions is a light. Nevertheless when the sun rises the star-light disappears. The other religions, as such, will fade away, and the sure victory will be to Him before whom all knees shall bend.

Perhaps one remark may be added. I could wish Mr. Pieters had not tried so hard to 'save my monotheism at the expense of my intelligence;' and that, in defining the general term *religion*, he had not taken the unusual liberty, first, of putting it on "the Christian standpoint," and later, of adding the adjective "true." ("A definition of religion is not easy, but I think we should all agree that, from the Christian standpoint, at least, a true religion is, &c.) But these are minor defects in an argument, the spirit and ability of which no one can find fault with.

I am, Sir, &c., J. H. De F.

Kyoto, March 24th, 1894.

RELIGION AND FINANCE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Philosophers tell us "the reign of law" extends to all things, material and immaterial. The progress of man consists in the discovery and application of these laws. If law reigns in all (law I take it, is the will of God), then nothing can be arbitrary. Things arbitrarily done are liable to transgress the law and to meet proper punish-

* I do not read German, but a friend kindly translated for me

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ment. The law of punishment is that the punishment is of the same kind as the sin. Through ignorance and from other causes, most of us do not get the full benefits of our mental faculties; memories are weakened, perceptions are dulled, the violation of the laws of the mind punishes us in the mind. Violation of the law of the physicial man is punished in the body and in the mind, as the two are connected. For instance, we ascribe a bad temper to a bad liver, and justly so.

Solomon gives us the law of tendency of the financial status of riches and poverty. Make me neither rich nor poor. . . . lest I be rich and say, who is the Lord? . . . and lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God? The rich are liable to ignore God and the poor to profane his name.

The economists tell us the rich and poor are becoming more widly separated and the tendency is to permanency in these classes.

In all old countries from generation to generation, certain families are rich and certain families are poor. About the only way of equalization is through moral decay, through which the rich frequently lose their all!!

Is it not apparent to every thoughtful man that God's financial laws are broken all the time. Many nations are rich in natural resources but how poor in their homes! This comes from non-conformity to God's fiscal laws. Obedience to law is the way to victory. One of God's fiscal laws of the first importance, is, "If a man has a God-given right to life he has the same right to land as the only support of that life." The right to the use of land is one of the inalienable rights of every living human being. The violation of this law has wrought and is working the direst results.

The only road to peace is through reformation. When the land is appropriated by a class of the people and the remainder cannot have access to it, except by permission of the landed class, what results? The law of wages is "Wages are graded from what can be produced on the poorest land in use without the payment of rent."

"Rent (of land) is determined by the excess of productive power over the poorest land in use." When the rent is high wages are low. In order to honour labour it should be well paid, it should have as nearly as possible all that it produces, then there would be no rent! That is impossible, but the next best thing can be done, the rent can be reduced to the lowest possible limit by putting all land that is capable of use, into use. This can infallably be done by taxing it to its rental value, as it is in nature, whether it is used or not. The only possible reason that a man holds land that he does not use is to get the "unearned increment," which he knows an increasing population will give it. The "unearned increment" that the landlords get means an "earned increment" that some do not get; it is taken away from one class, by means of low wages and high rents, and given to the other class in high rents and cheap labour. Here is a violation of the divine law that must cease in order to achieve fiscal justice and peace. But says one, the landlords have "vested rights."

No artificial rights can stand against the rights God has given. Can the authority of the Almighty be nullified by Act of Congress? Were there no pain in reformation that would prove it was not necessary. The very fact that the application of this just law is painful to the violators of it and is a rejoicing to those who have been wronged, is one of the indications that it is just. The man who gets drunk is the one to have the headache.

Periodical panics, like the chills and fever, show there is malaria in the blood. A man's right to labour and to freely exchange the product of his labour ought to be acknowledged by this time. I myself, have no doubt that there is in economics a law of money that will one day be applied.

Every man who inscribes on his banner the high ideals—"Do to others as you would have them do to you"—"Love thy neighbor as thyself"—"Love is the fulfilling the Law"—should grasp these great principles of justice, and ought to strive with all his might and by every honourable means to have them put into practice.

CHARLES E. GARST.

Hongo-Ku, Tokyo, March 21st, 1894.

The Missionary Bishopric of North Japan has been offered to, and accepted by, the Rev. H. J. E. Barlow, senior curate-in-charge of St. Michael's Church, Workington. Mr. Barlow only went to Workington last summer, but he has already made himself very popular. The new bishop will be consecrated on 24th inst., at the same time as his brother bishop, the Rev. Mr. Evington, who returned from Japan by the last mail for the consecration ceremony.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce was held on Tuesday afternoon, the Chairman, Mr. J. Lindsley, presiding. There were also present Messrs. R. D. Robison, J. T. Griffin, A. O. Gay, in T. B. Macpherson, James Walter, J. D. Hutchinson, J. A. Fraser, M. Kaufmann, A. S. Garfit, J. Dodds, J. P. Mollison, H. Holm, and O. Kiel, Secretary.

A quorum being present, the SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said that he would take the minutes of the last meeting as read. The accounts for the year 1893 showed a slight reduction, the figures being $761·91 against $1,002 for last year. This was entirely owing to the decrease in the sale of circulars. There had been no resignations, while three new members had joined the Chamber during the year. He would now read the annual report.

REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE YEAR 1893.

Although the total foreign trade of the port shows a falling off of about a million and a half *yen* during the past year, this is by no means an indication that trade is on the wane, for had not the financial panic in the United States interfered to prevent a normal export of raw silk, an increase of fully ten per cent. in the total value of business transacted would have been shown.

EXPORTS.

SILK.—When it is considered that the value of the shipments of this article exceeded in 1892 by nearly twenty per cent. the value of all imports in that year, it will readily be seen that a reduction of nearly one-third in shipments during 1893 has so great an effect upon the figures showing the entire trade as easily to give a wrong impression.

The decrease in the export of raw silk to the United States is very marked, being no less than 17,383 bales, while exports to Europe have been practically on a par with those of 1892, (21,541 bales against 21,415 bales).

At the beginning of January No. 1 Filatures, fine sizes, were quoted at $880 per picul, and full sized Filatures at $860, with exchange at 2/9¼ on London and fcs. 3.50, for 4 months' drafts. On the 1st May similar silks were quoted at $1,130 and $1,030, respectively, with same exchange.

Then commenced the financial trouble in the United States, and the new season opened on the 1st July with unexpectedly low prices and a sharp decline in exchange. Prices and exchange continued their downward course until, on 1st October, No. 1 Filatures, fine sizes, were quoted at $830, and full sizes were done for the United States $770, with exchange at 2/5⅜.

Fine sizes remained on about the same basis until the end of the year, while full sizes had advanced to $810, exchange being at 2/4 and fcs. 2.93. Throughout the season the market was burdened with a heavy stock, but the Japanese holders seemed to find little difficulty in carrying it; on the 31st December this amounted to 14,000 piculs, against 7,000 piculs at the close of 1892.

In WASTE SILK prices were well maintained for the first half of the year, but during the latter half the general course of the trade was unsatisfactory, even more so than in the sister market of Raw Silk; and it would appear that low prices for silk interfere with the consumption of waste, and that manufacturers are less inclined to turn their attention to substitutes for reeled silk when the latter is cheap.

SILK PIECE GOODS (HABUTAI).—Exports show a decrease of nearly one-fourth in quantity and about one-fifth in value.

SILK HANDKERCHIEFS, on the other hand, show an increased export of 248,009 dozen and *yen* 401,520 in value.

TEA.—Notwithstanding business in this staple received a severe check during the height of the panic in the United States, the quantity exported was very little less than last year, whereas the value exceeded that of shipments in 1892 by $298,050. A cold and backward spring retarded the opening of the market until April 27th which, though later than usual, was about one week earlier than the previous very exceptional season. Opening prices were $6 to $8 higher than those of last season, this advance being, however, in part offset by considerably lower exchange. Buying was pushed with great activity throughout the month of May, the volume of business showing a marked increase over the figures of the previous year, at corresponding dates, and prices ruling very strong. During June a more conservative tone was noticeable on the part of buyers, and stocks began to accumulate, but prices did not decline. The heavy and unprecedented fall in exchange at the end of June was quickly followed by active buying and an advance of $1 to $2 per picul in prices.

This activity, however, was not of long duration owing to unfavourable conditions in the United States. The market gradually settled down to a steady business with easier prices in July and August. The remainder of the year was characterised by a quiet tone and slight fluctuations in value.

COPPER.—Export of this has decreased by 23,050 piculs—1,372 tons; values, however, have been higher, and this decrease represents but $206,040. A similar decrease has taken place in the quantity exported from Kobe.

FISH-OIL shows an increase in export of nearly 80 per cent. and in value 109 per cent. over last year.

IMPORTS.

Notwithstanding a continued fall in exchange throughout the year from 2/8¾ in January to 2/3¼ in December, or nearly 18 per cent., the trade in imports shows a large increase in volume and values, the latter amounting to 36,305,069 *yen* against 31,328,904 *yen* in 1892 or approximately 5,000,000 *yen* additional trade. And it is worthy of note that this gain has been more than doubled at Kobe and Osaka. This would imply a very prosperous condition of affairs throughout the country.

WHITE REFINED SUGAR shows the greatest development, with an increase of *yen* 588,599 in imports for Yokohama and *yen* 1,228,022 for all Japan. The increase in the quantity imported was only 3,565 piculs for Yokohama and 8,673 piculs for all Japan. Brown Sugar, however, shows an increased import of 77,458 piculs for Yokohama and 143,002 piculs for all Japan with an increase in values of only 387,938 *yen* and 704,389 *yen* respectively. This is another evidence of general prosperity.

METALS.—Iron is next on the list with a gain of *yen* 397,628. Prices of metals generally have been considerably advanced, but have not been brought up as fast as exchange has declined, and importers who failed to fix their exchange before the arrival of their goods generally suffered a loss unless they had sold for sterling, a practice which was fairly general not only in this, but in other imports.

The greatest increase in deliveries has been in Pig Iron, there being a special demand for this for making water pipes for the city of Tokyo.

Bar, flat, plate, and sheet iron also show a large increase in deliveries. Stocks of metals generally, at the close of the year, were the smallest on record.

COTTON YARN.—The trade in foreign yarn has probably been fairly satisfactory to those engaged in it, notwithstanding that greatly reduced imports and deliveries bear witness to the increased competition of the Japanese mills. But whatever profits have been made have been dependent upon what can only be called good luck in the matter of exchange. Thus a transaction entered upon with exchange fixed at its inception almost invariably turned out well, through the enhanced value consequent upon the fall in silver; whereas transactions in which exchange was left open until the goods arrived, usually resulted in a loss.

16/24's spinnings appear to have suffered most at the hands of native mills, the decrease in deliveries being no less than 5,000 bales; 2/42's come next, being 2,200 bales less than in 1892, a fact difficult to account for as they are not made in Japan, and have shown more vitality than any other description,

Gassed and Fine Plain descriptions have been very largely dealt in and probably, in point of value, more than compensate for the decrease in sales of other kinds. Bombays have virtually disappeared from this market.

GREY SHIRTINGS of all weights show a handsome gain of 90,000 pieces and 337,019 *yen* in value, though not wholly free from native competition. This is mainly due to the increased demand for 9lb. Shirtings.

Deliveries of T. Cloths compare favourably with those of 1892, indicating an increase of 25 per cent. in the consumption.

In Italian Cloth there has been a serious falling off in deliveries of over 27 per cent, although importations have increased in a far greater ratio. There has been about the same falling off in deliveries of Mousselines de laine, but there has also been a corresponding diminution in imports. There has been a marked increase in deliveries and importations of Blankets.

RAW COTTON.—While this does not play a great part in Yokohama and imports fell off 6,300 piculs in 1893, during the past decade the value of imports at this, Kobe and Osaka has increased from half a million to 16 millions of *yen*.

The Spinners' Union have made an arrangement with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha to give exclusive support to their Bombay line, and have guaranteed to provide a large amount of freight. The relatively high cost of Indian Cotton, owing to the advance in exchange on India, is likely to render this an onerous burden.

KEROSENE.—Whilst the quantitative increase of import and consumption in Yokohama is but slight, it is worthy of notice that the import of Russian oil has exceeded that from America. In 1892 the former was but 29 per cent. of the entire import, and in 1893 had risen to 53 per cent. A new feature of the trade has been the importation of Russian oil in tank steamers and the erection of storage tanks on shore for its accommodation.

EXCHANGE.—In view of its controlling influence in all foreign trade, this subject should have perhaps been the first to be mentioned.

Rates remained fairly steady until the end of June, but thenceforward fell continuously to the close of the year.

The rejection of silver as a legal tender by Europe and the United States has opened a chasm between silver and gold-using countries which it is each year

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more difficult to bridge. That countries on a gold basis are suffering and will suffer more in the loss of some of their best markets, can hardly be doubted, as there must be a limit beyond which reductions in prices and wages in gold cannot be made.

In the meantime, we see a great impetus given to industrial enterprises in China and Japan, fostered by a protection which even the tariff in the United States does not afford.

With India upon the horns of a dilemma between the gold and silver standards, China has invaded her raw cotton markets in England and on the Continent, and Japan is eager to displace her yarns in China, as her mills have already done here.

TREATY REVISION.—Treaty Revision is still in the air—now seeming to be close at hand, and again, as remote as ever.

RAILWAYS.—Latest official returns give 1,877 miles of road in working order and new lines projected aggregating 611 miles.

HARBOUR WORKS.—The Landing Pier is practically finished; it is 1,900 feet long, 63 feet wide in the outer (berthing) portion, and has accommodation for berthing three steamers on each side. The breakwaters have been left untouched for many months, and when they will be completed is still uncertain.

The space for mooring and the necessary fairway are at times felt to be quite inadequate, particularly when many men-of-war are in port.

CUSTOM HOUSE.—Considerable changes have been made at the hatoba and in the jetties for landing imports, including a railway from the new pier. All these are in the line of improvement, and are a credit to the Customs authorities.

The Annual Accounts are submitted herewith, showing a credit balance of $761.91. This is $240.88 less than the balance at credit last year, and is mainly due to the diminished sale of circulars.

The thanks of the Chamber are due to Messrs. D. Fraser and J. C. Budd for auditing the accounts.

The number of members at present is 63, against 59 at the same time last year.

JOHN LINDSLEY, Chairman.

YOKOHAMA GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year 1893.

Receipts.

To Balance from 1892		$1,002.79
Members' Subscriptions	59 at $25 = $1,475.00	
	3 at $15 = 45.00	
		1,520.00
Circulars sold :—		
To Members	15,493 for	$2,448.36
To Non-members	1,730 for	370.38
		2,818.74
Half-yearly Statistics sold	375 for	74.45
Sundry Publications sold		18.80
Sale of Furniture and old Papers		204.00
Fire Insurance Bonus, Sun Insurance Office		1.20
Interest allowed by Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on Current Account		11.16
		$5,651.10
Balance. Cash in hand		$ 761.91

Expenditure.

Salary of Secretary and Staff	$3,000.00
Rent	480.00
Printing Circulars, Statistics, Reports, etc.	837.10
Advertising, and subscriptions to local newspapers	72.10
Returns of imports and exports	125.00
Furniture and stationery	54.45
Books of reference	61.75
Petty disbursements, fuel, lighting, collector's fees, postages and sundries	244.58
Fire insurance, $1,500	14.25
	$4,889.23
Balance, carried to new account	761.91
	$5,651.14

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, 6th March, 1894.

O. KIEL, Secretary.

Examined and found correct, 6th March, 1894.

D. FRASER, JOHN C. BUDD, } Auditors.

Mr. A. O. GAY—I have pleasure in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts of the Chamber for the past year.

Mr. MOLLISON seconded, and in so doing said—I have much pleasure in seconding Mr. Gay's resolution. The report is an unusually interesting one, and, thanks to Mr. Kiel, we have again an imposing array of valuable tables before us, bristling with information of a most interesting nature to all engaged in trade. I should here like to ask that a cordial vote of thanks be recorded to Mr. Kiel for these figures—the labour involved in compiling which, no one can understand in any degree unless he has tried it. I therefore ask that a special vote of thanks be accorded Mr. Kiel for the labour he has taken in laying before us these most interesting figures.—(Hear, hear.)

The motion on being put to the meeting was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Mollison in seconding the report just carried proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Kiel for his services in compiling the tables accompanying the report, and I, myself, think that it is well merited indeed—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. MOLLISON—In regard to the import of yarn, Mr. Chairman, I am glad to notice that thanks to gassed and fine plain descriptions, and despite the increasing competition of Japanese mills and the difficulties to contend against in regard to the matter of exchange, it is gratifying to find that the volume of trade in English spinnings has fallen off so little, as compared with 1892, and is less than might have been expected. At the same time, that it is dwindling there can be no doubt, and with the introduction of machinery into Japan the spinning of gassed and the other fine yarns just mentioned, we shall see the beginning of the end. One mill of this kind, I understand, is in course of erection, and no doubt others will follow. Unless a marked change comes over the silver question and something is done to rehabilitate silver, Lancashire cannot much longer compete with Japan, and the days of English and foreign yarns in Japan, may, I fear, be already numbered.

The CHAIRMAN, in thanking Mr. Mollison for his remarks, said he took a more hopeful view of the case. It had generally been found that when one foreign product had been forced off the field by the native production then another product was found to take its place. He thought in the present case that other products would be produced at home which would find a market in the East, and that it would be a very long time before the trade between the home countries and Japan could be considered as about closed. In regard to silver, he understood that an important motion was to be submitted to that Chamber that afternoon, and he hoped that the resolution would find support in the Chamber, for the time had arrived for the Chamber to take some action in the matter.

Mr. MOLLISON said he had thought a great deal about the matter and intended to bring forward a motion upon the subject. He thought that they would be economizing time if they brought their other business to a close first of all. He was, however, in the hands of the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN—There is a motion as to an alteration in the Rules to be brought forward which was proposed by Mr. W. B. Walter and seconded by myself at our last general meeting, and which requires to be submitted to you for confirmation at this meeting. The resolution is: "That the general meeting of this Chamber of Commerce be held in the month of March in each year, instead of in January or February," as formerly. The resolution is now before you. If any gentlemen present desires to make some remarks upon it, I shall be happy to hear him.

Mr. J. A. FRASER—The principal reason for the alteration of date of the holding our annual meeting is that the tables attached to the report may be compiled and presented to us at this time. They are not out before March, the Customs Department, who issues them, sending them out during this month. For that reason alone then, the change in the Rule is very desirable and should induce the meeting to adopt the motion. I therefore propose that the alteration of the Rule, having been recommended to us as being a desirable change, be adopted.

The CHAIRMAN—I may say that Mr. Fraser is quite right in ascribing the reasons for this alteration in the Rule, as being due to the desire to secure the tables of figures appended to the report.

The resolution being put to the meeting, was then carried.

Mr. MOLLISON then said—I think it is high time that this community made its voice publicly heard, and that in no uncertain tone, on a question that is of vital interest and importance to all of us who have found our lot in Yokohama, of whatever class or occupation. We are all alike suffering from a depreciated and depreciating dollar; and if the process is allowed to continue until bottom has been reached, which many think will not be before we get to 1/6 and others even to 1/-, we cannot attempt to picture to ourselves what the results will be, though nothing that I can say is needed to prove how and where the shoe already pinches. The pressure is general and almost too acute for words. But a panacea for this state of things is claimed to be obtainable by the adoption of what is called Bi-metallism, and without attempting to go into this admittedly abstruse subject, I may say I have read enough about it to feel and believe that in it lies our only hope of relief from a state of things that is rapidly becoming unbearable. Having faith in what Bi-metallism can do for us, I have no hesitation in recommending its adoption to the Chamber and through the Chamber to the community at large. If I am in order, I would like to propose a resolution to the effect that the incoming Committee be instructed to have a memorial addressed to the London Chamber of Commerce drawn up at once and thrown open for signature to the entire community by way of strengthening the hands of the London Chamber in any representation they have made, or may yet make, to the British Government having for its object the re-opening of the Monetary Conference at Brussels. If that Conference is re-opened it will assuredly not separate a second time without something being done for silver, so that the great thing is to help to bring pressure on the British Government by any means in our power to get the Conference re-opened. We are a small community, it is true; but a community that can show a turn over in the way of trade such as is shown by the report just laid before us has every right to be heard; and I therefore call on the members of the Chamber, and not only on them but on the whole community to make themselves heard on a question that is of such vital importance to all of us. With your permission, I would now submit the following resolution:—

"That the incoming Committee be instructed to at once draw up a memorial for transmission to the London Chamber of Commerce, open for signature not only to members of the Chamber but to the entire foreign community of Yokohama (and if thought advisable to those of Tokyo) assuring the London Chamber of sympathy and, as far as possible, co-operation in any representation they have made or may yet make to the British Government having for its object the re-opening of the Brussels Monetary Conference, and, it is to be hoped, consequent rehabilitation of silver."

The CHAIRMAN—While agreeing with the views just expressed by Mr. Mollison, I think that it would be desirable to alter the wording of his resolution a little to enable us to present the memorial not only to the London Chamber of Commerce but also to Chambers of Commerce in places of importance in Europe and the United States.

Mr. MOLLISON—I shall be very glad to add that to my resolution. I find that this question is now engaging the attention of people in all parts of the world, in the United States, Germany, Holland, and elsewhere.

Mr. J. A. FRASER rose to second the resolution. He had not come to the meeting with a prepared speech, but even if he had he could have added but little to what Mr. Mollison had so plainly and forcibly put before them. He had brought home to every one present the extent of the evils from which they were now suffering. He said that in Bi-metallism a panacea is to be found for the ills at present attending silver trading. By that he means, I presume, international Bi-metallism. Bi-metallism if it is to be successful must not be attempted by one nation alone. Under those conditions it would be most undesirable, and might make matters worse than they were. We have seen examples of that already in the silver legislation of the Indian Government and elsewhere. Bi-metallism must therefore be the result of an international compact to be of practical use; and, therefore, feeling that it is international Bi-metallism which the resolution refers to, I beg leave to second the proposal now before us.

Mr. MOLLISON—Mr. Fraser is quite right when he thinks that it is international Bi-metallism which the resolution advocates. Bi-metallism taken up by one country single-handed would be utterly useless. It was an omission on my part not to have mentioned that fact when introducing the proposition now before you. With your permission I will read the resolution which Sir W. H. Houldsworth proposed at Manchester recently, and which appeared in this morning's paper. It runs:—"That the finances, agriculture, industries, and trade of the British Empire—Home, Colonial, and Indian—are harassed and embarrassed by the constant appreciation of gold and the great instability and uncertainty of exchange between gold and silver standard countries; that there is no sound remedy for the grave and growing evils resulting therefrom except Bi-metallism on a broad international basis at a common ratio, to be mutually agreed upon; that, as experience has proved that the remedy would be sound, practical, and effective, and as it has been approved by a majority of the members of the Royal Commission on Gold and Silver, it is the duty of Her Majesty's Government to negotiate without delay with other leading nations for a monetary union on these lines." Any words of ours in Yokohama cannot increase the weight of such words, coming as they do from such an able exponent of Bi-metallism as Sir W. H. Houldsworth.

The CHAIRMAN—If there are no further remarks to be made, gentlemen, I will read the motion which has been submitted by Mr. Mollison and seconded by Mr. Fraser. It is, as follows:—

"That the in-coming Committee be instructed to at once draw up a Memorial for transmission to the London Chamber of Commerce, and other prominent Chambers of Europe and America, open for signature not only to members of the Chamber, but to the entire foreign community of Yokohama (if thought advisable to those of Tokyo), assuring the London Chamber of sympathy and, as far as possible, co-operation in any representation they have made or may yet make to the British Government, having for its object the reopening of

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the Brussels Monetary Conference and, it is to be hoped, consequent rehabilitation of silver."

The show of hands was unanimously in favour of the resolution, and the Chairman declared it carried amid applause.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business before us is the election of a Chairman for the coming year. I may as well state here, that I am not a candidate for re-election. Mr. Macpherson and Mr. Hutchison will kindly act as scrutineers of the ballot.

The voting then took place, and, after the votes were duly counted and certified,

The CHAIRMAN said—I have great pleasure in announcing that Mr. Dodds has been elected Chairman of the Chamber by a large majority.—(Loud applause.)

Mr. DODDS—I am compelled to say, as I said last year, that I cannot accept the honour you wish to confer upon me.

The CHAIRMAN—Is it your pleasure, gentlemen, that we take another ballot, or shall the election of a Chairman be left to the Committee?

Mr. GAY proposed, and Mr. HUTCHINSON seconded, that the election of a Chairman be left to the Committee.

The motion was declared carried.

Mr. MOLLISON—I propose that the election of a Vice-Chairman be also left to the Committee.

Mr. DODDS—I second that, for I suppose it is a matter of necessity.

Mr. GAY—Yes, it would follow as a matter of course.

This motion was also carried.

Mr. FRASER—It would not be out of place, Mr. Chairman, while the election of the Committee is proceeding, to mention that the Shanghai Branch of the China Association addressed a communication to the Yokohama Branch of the same Association, about the despatching of a delegate to London who should interview members of the Houses of Parliament, Chambers of Commerce, and other important bodies to impress upon the British Government the extent of the damage inflicted upon trade in the Far East consequent upon the present unsatisfactory state of silver and also to point out the damage which the special legislation of the Indian Government has inflicted upon its trade. The letter asked us if we preferred to co operate in defraying a portion of the expenses of such delegate, etc. The Yokohama Branch of the China Association is a very young body and is without funds, and therefore we were obliged to return an answer to the effect that although we were in hearty accord with it and fully sympathized in and agreed with the step which the Shanghai Branch was taking in the matter, yet we were unable to render aid of a financial character towards the project. I think that as the community has such a large interest in this question that this is a most favourable opportunity for letting it know that communications of this kind have been passing between the branches of the Association. I bring the matter also before the Chamber for the purpose of seeing whether something cannot be done in the matter, or whether the Chamber can see its way towards doing that or something like that which the Yokohama Branch of the China Association were compelled to decline.

The CHAIRMAN—It is quite true that this is a question which is of absorbing interest to every person of the entire community. If it is felt that something should be done in the manner outlined by Mr. Fraser, I shall be glad to receive a resolution from any gentleman present.

Mr. MOLLISON—I agree with what the Chairman has said, that the matter is one which does not concern this Chamber alone, but is one in which the whole community is interested. I shall be pleased to support any resolution on the outlines given by Mr. Fraser, for the matter is one which should be placed before the whole community of Yokohama. I should be glad to hear what our German members have to say on this subject, for it is the trade of the world, and not that of British merchants alone, which is in question.

Mr. HOLM said that a meeting of German merchants had been held in Yokohama at the invitation of German firms in Hongkong and the outcome of the meeting was that the Foreign Office in Berlin was urged to take some steps to bring about a stable exchange.

The matter then dropped.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the following gentlemen had been elected on the Committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs. M. Brown, J. Dodds, J. A. Fraser, H. J. Holm, J. D. Hutchison, J. Lindsley, M. T. B. Macpherson, J. P. Mollison, and W. W. Till.

Mr. MOLLISON proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Mr. GAY seconded, and the motion was carried *nem. con.*

This concluded the business and the meeting dispersed.

The tables given below were attached to the report as an Appendix.

Value of Exports and Imports for all Japan during the years 1893 and 1892.

Total Value of Exports.	1893.	1892.	Increase and Decrease of Exports.
Yokohama	$55,209,586	$61,552,203	†$ 6,342,617
Kobe and Osaka	26,181,866	22,554,271	* 3,627,595
Nagasaki, Hakodate, and other Ports	8,321,413	6,996,276	* 1,325,137
	$89,712,805	$91,102,750	†$ 1,389,885

Total Value of Imports.	1893.	1892.	Increase and Decrease of Imports.
Yokohama	$36,305,069	$31,328,904	*$ 4,976,165
Kobe and Osaka	47,799,274	36,245,546	* 11,553,728
Nagasaki, Hakodate, and other Ports	4,152,829	3,750,326	* 402,503
	$88,257,172	$71,324,796	*$16,932,396

Total Exports and Imports 1893 ... ... $177,970,037
Total Exports and Imports 1892 ... ... $162,427,526
Total increase of the trade of 1893 ... ... $ 15,542,511

Comparative table of Deliveries and Stocks of the Principal Imports at Yokohama during the years 1893 and 1892.

	Deliveries.		Increase or Decrease of Deliveries	Stocks.		Increase or Decrease of Stocks
	1893.	1892.	in 1893.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Raw Cotton pls.	131,503	137,825 †	6,322	—	—	—
Cotton Yarns—						
English ...pls.	69,504	95,610 †	26,016	11,370	14,883 †	3,513
Bombays ..pls.	3,918	9,438 †	5,520	90	720 †	630
Grey Shirtings... ...pcs.	456,280	400,200 *	56,080	69,500	37,000 *	32,500
T. Cloths ...pcs.	75,100	60,082 *	15,018	7,000	11,100 †	4,100
Indigo Shirtings, etc...pcs.	90,200	127,170 †	36,970	33,000	14,000 *	19,000
Prints .. ...pcs.	202,296	174,568 *	28,401	44,000	10,000 *	34,000
Cotton Italians .. pcs.	46,250	43,738 *	2,512	10,000	3,000 *	7,000
Turkey Reds ...pcs.	114,400	184,770 †	70,370	70,800	54,000 *	16,800
Velvets ...pcs.	33,190	54,328 †	21,138	9,080	6,600 *	3,080
Victoria Lawns ...pcs.	76,730	71,890 *	4,840	20,000	15,000 *	5,000
Silk-faced Satins ...pcs.	6,900	17,072 †	10,082	900	3,800 †	2,900
Flannel ...pcs.	53,120	57,872 †	4,752	14,900	7,500 *	7,400
Italian Cloth pcs.	112,650	154,860 †	42,210	31,000	10,000 *	21,000
Mousselines pcs.	299,980	415,320 †	115,340	50,000	78,000 †	28,000
Cloth ... ...pcs.	9,250	7,970 *	1,280	3,150	1,450 *	1,700
Blankets ...prs.	192,220	176,927 *	15,293	83,800	24,000 *	59,800
Iron, all denominations pls.	500,139	313,517 *	186,622	4,455	22,960 †	18,505
Wire Nails. pls	113,790	140,847 †	27,057	3,700	10,000 †	6,300
Kerosene ...cs.	2,041,110	2,000,728 *	34,391	297,911	235,438 *	62,473
Sugar... pls.	1,224,485	1,182,763 *	41,722	29,942	45,070 †	15,129
Window Glass ...bxs.	56,865	38,114 *	18,751	4,000	1,000 *	3,000

* = Increase, † = Decrease of Deliveries and Stocks.

Table showing Increase and Decrease in the principal articles of Export from the port of Yokohama in 1893, as compared with 1892.

EXPORTS.

	1893. Quantity.	1893. Estimated Value.	1892. Quantity.	1892. Estimated Value.
Silk ... ...pls.	37,212	$28,215,800	54,593	$36,269,000
Waste Silk and Cocoons ... ...pls.	33,746	3,005,600	42,350	3,239,300
Tea ... ...lbs.	28,801,377	4,825,750	29,235,633	4,527,700
Tobacco ... .. pls.	4,156	55,050	5,458	66,800
Rice ... ...pls.	2,056	7,330	4,354	15,700
Fish Oil ... ...pls.	127,028	457,550	63,211	219,000
Copper... ... ...pls.	123,799	2,126,160	146,849	2,322,200
Silk Handkerchiefs ... ...doz.	1,766,079	3,861,720	1,458,078	3,460,200
Silk Pce goods...pcs.	200,579	3,551,140	265,979	4,369,900

	Increase. Quantity.	Increase. Value.	Decrease. Quantity.	Decrease. Value.
Silk ... ...pls.	—	—	17,381	$ 8,053,200
Waste Silk and Cocoons ... ...pls.	—	—	8,604	233,700
Tea ... ...lbs.	—	$ 298,050	434,256	—
Tobacco ... ...pls.	—	—	1,302	11,750
Rice ... ...pls.	—	—	2,298	8,370
Fish Oil ... ...pls.	51,817	238,550	—	—
Copper... ... ...pls.	—	—	23,050	206,040
Silk Handkerchiefs ... ...doz.	248,001	401,520	—	—
Silk Pce goods...pcs.	—	—	65,400	818,760
		Total $ 938,120		Total $ 9,321,820

Table showing Increase and Decrease in the Principal Articles of Import at the Port of Yokohama in 1893, as compared with 1892.

IMPORTS.

	1893. Quantity.	1893. Customs Value.	1892. Quantity.	1892. Customs Value.
Raw Cotton ... ...pls.	131,503	$2,047,162	137,825	$1,694,443
Cotton Yarn, including Fine Yarns not quoted in the Chamber's Circular ...pls.	90,403	3,714,769	109,436	3,591,274
Grey Shirtings, all weights ... ...pcs.	518,700	1,252,740	428,418	915,721
T. Cloths ... ...pcs.	71,000	101,896	60,930	76,281
Indigo Shirtings, Silesias & Twills...pcs.	109,200	233,840	107,770	172,720
Prints... ... ...pcs.	236,969	468,690	158,400	282,357
Cotton Italians and Sateens ... ...pcs.	53,250	215,955	41,140	156,351
Turkey Reds ... ...pcs.	131,200	287,023	151,000	204,154
Velvets, all colours...pcs.	40,123	266,331	54,240	337,767
Victoria Lawns ...pcs.	81,730	51,292	74,000	47,014
Silk-faced Satins ...pcs.	4,090	68,766	22,170	311,795
Flannel ... ...pcs.	60,520	642,098	46,780	494,323
Italian Cloth ... ...pcs.	133,650	980,937	82,550	588,049
Mousselines de Laine (at 24 yards per piece)..pcs.	271,980	1,021,081	383,320	1,291,501
Cloth ... ...pcs.	10,950	242,335	6,970	141,343
Blankets ... ...pairs	252,020	444,044	182,400	285,860
Iron, all denominations quoted ... ...pls.	481,734	1,099,346	297,625	701,618
Iron Wire Nails ...pls.	107,490	483,086	125,847	521,980
Tin Plate ... ...bxs.	5,744	25,817	5,932	26,578
Kerosene ... ... cases	2,103,762	1,998,228	1,693,125	1,715,598
Sugar Brown ... ...pls.	710,801	2,458,336	633,343	2,070,308
Sugar White Refined..pls.	498,555	3,617,155	494,900	3,[illegible]
Window Glass ...bxs.	59,865	16,340	19,514	49,303

	Increase. Quantity.	Increase. Value.	Decrease. Quantity.	Decrease. Value.
Raw Cotton ... ...pls.	—	$ 352,719	6,322	—
Cotton Yarn, including Fine Yarns not quoted in the Chamber's Circular ...pls.	—	123,495	19,033	—
Grey Shirtings, all weights ... ...pcs.	90,282	337,019	—	—
T. Cloths ... ...pcs.	10,070	25,615	—	—
Indigo Shirtings, Silesias & Twills...pcs.	1,430	67,120	—	—
Prints ... ...pcs.	78,569	186,333	—	—
Cotton Italians and Sateens ... ...pcs.	12,110	59,604	—	—
Turkey Reds ... ...pcs.	—	—	19,800	$ 17,131
Velvets, all colours...pcs.	—	—	13,927	71,436
Victoria Lawns ...pcs.	7,730	4,278	—	—
Silk-faced Satins ...pcs.	—	—	8,080	143,029
Flannel ... ...pcs.	13,740	147,776	—	—
Italian Cloth ... ...pcs.	51,100	192,288	—	—
Mousselines de Laine (at 24 yards per piece)..pcs.	—	—	111,340	270,420
Cloth ... ...pcs.	3,980	97,893	—	—
Blankets ... ...pairs	69,620	158,178	—	—
Iron, all denominations quoted ...pls.	184,109	397,628	—	—
Iron Wire Nails ...pls.	—	—	18,357	37,894
Tin Plates... ... ...bxs.	—	—	188	761
Kerosene ... ...cases	410,637	282,630	—	—
Sugar Brown ... ...pls.	77,458	387,938	—	—
Sugar White Refined..pls.	3,565	588,599	—	—
Window Glass... ...bxs.	40,351	122,835	—	—
	Total. $3,715,947		Total. $ 540,671	

Table showing Increase and Decrease in the Principal Articles of Export from Japan in 1893, as compared with 1892.

EXPORTS.

	1893. Quantity.	1893. Customs Value.	1892. Quantity.	1892. Customs Value.
Raw Silk ... ...pls.	37,122	$18,107,411	54,069	$36,269,744
Waste Silk and Cocoons ... ...pls.	39,931	3,480,180	47,641	3,641,425
Tea ... ...lbs.	48,591,427	7,702,088	50,021,271	7,525,316
Copper ... ...pls.	255,665	4,574,709	300,712	4,870,444
Antimony ... ...pls.	21,846	183,854	20,479	163,309
Camphor ... ... pls.	24,875	1,368,611	30,640	1,274,753
Rice ... ...pls.	1,589,073	5,002,708	1,210,746	4,162,732
Fish-Oil ... ...pls.	136,587	530,304	73,590	248,621
Vegetable Wax...pls.	31,510	383,766	24,497	285,567
Tobacco ... ... pls.	5,446	65,768	9,335	95,820
Silk Handkerchiefs ... ...doz.	1,723,075	3,899,646	1,470,783	3,494,427
Silk Piece Goods.pcs.	255,199	4,074,933	293,224	4,434,178
Coal ... ...tons	1,595,413	4,817,912	1,299,352	4,571,984

	Increase. Quantity.	Increase. Value.	Decrease. Quantity.	Decrease. Value.
Raw Silk ... ...pls.	—	—	16,947	$8,102,333
Waste Silk and Cocoons ... ...pls.	—	—	7,710	221,249
Tea ... ...lbs.	—	$ 176,772	1,432,864	—
Copper ... ...pls.	—	—	45,047	394,735
Antimony ... ...pls.	1,417	20,545	—	—
Camphor ... ... pls.	—	33,858	5,765	—
Rice ... ...pls.	372,327	840,036	—	—
Fish-Oil ... ...pls.	62,997	281,683	—	—
Vegetable Wax ...pls.	7,023	98,199	—	—
Tobacco ... ... pls.	—	—	3,889	30,052
Silk Handkerchiefs ... ...doz.	252,292	405,229	—	—
Silk Piece Goods.pcs.	—	—	38,025	359,185
Coal ... ...tons	206,061	245,928	—	—
	Total. $ 2,102,250		Total. $ 9,017,550	

Table showing Increase and Decrease in the principal articles of Import into Japan in 1893, as compared with 1892.

	1893. Quantity.	1893. Customs Value.	1892. Quantity.	1892. Customs Value.
Raw Cotton ...pls.	1,158,318	$16,151,570	1,133,482	$12,324,654
Cotton Yarn, including Fine Yarns not quoted in the Chamber's Circular...pls.	194,052	7,284,243	243,085	7,131,980
Grey Shirtings, all weights ... ...pcs.	1,012,230	2,315,124	856,265	1,727,186
T. Cloths ... ...pcs.	141,934	208,673	97,380	126,911
Indigo Shirtings, Silesias & Twills.pcs.	179,110	324,364	188,430	239,897
Prints ... ...pcs.	323,880	635,903	243,000	436,545
Cotton Italians and Sateens ...pcs.	208,230	855,398	141,860	525,658
Turkey Reds ...pcs.	250,240	363,587	275,098	378,336
Velvets... ... ...pcs.	75,428	489,665	95,338	578,374
Victoria Lawns...pcs.	183,320	114,662	147,580	94,052
Silk-faced Satins.pcs.	6,930	111,687	18,920	316,562
Flannel... ... ...pcs.	121,949	1,389,714	96,577	1,073,743
Italian Cloth ...pcs.	206,930	1,489,305	150,890	1,062,572
Mousselines de Laine (at 24 yards per piece) ... ...pcs.	642,670	2,305,506	750,400	2,448,900
Cloth ... ...pcs.	14,200	318,793	9,180	196,618
Blankets ... ...pairs.	451,250	811,023	327,080	528,973
Iron, all denominations quoted.pls.	919,740	1,964,902	663,087	1,496,201
Iron Wire Nails..pls.	201,300	887,790	221,576	906,422
Tin Plates ... ...bxs.	8,422	38,833	8,963	41,124
Kerosene ... ...cases.	4,976,339	4,401,041	3,268,027	3,328,398
Sugar Brown ...pls.	959,072	3,514,720	816,670	2,810,331
Sugar White Refined ... ...pls.	1,091,928	7,937,305	1,083,245	6,709,283
Window Glass ...bxs.	130,202	359,315	59,486	160,564

	Increase. Quantity.	Increase. Value.	Decrease. Quantity.	Decrease. Value.
Raw Cotton ...pls.	24,836	$ 3,826,916	—	—
Cotton Yarn, including Fine Yarns not quoted in the Chamber's Circular...pls.	—	152,263	49,033	—
Grey Shirtings, all weights ...pcs.	155,965	587,938	—	—
T. Cloths ... ...pcs.	44,544	81,762	—	—
Indigo Shirtings, Silesias & Twills.pcs.	—	84,467	9,320	—
Prints ... ...pcs.	80,880	199,358	—	—
Cotton Italians and Sateens ...pcs.	66,370	329,740	—	—
Turkey Reds .. pcs.	—	—	24,858	$ 14,749
Velvets ... ...pcs.	—	—	19,920	88,709
Victoria Lawns...pcs.	35,740	20,610	—	—
Silk-faced Satins.pcs.	—	—	11,900	204,875
Flannel... ... ...pcs.	25,363	315,371	—	—
Italian Cloth ...pcs.	56,040	426,733	—	—
Mousselines de Laine (at 24 yards per piece) ... ...pcs.	—	—	107,730	143,394
Cloth ... ...pcs.	4,920	122,181	—	—
Blankets ... ...pairs.	124,170	282,050	—	—

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Iron, all denominations quoted..pls.	256,653	468,801	—	—
Iron Wire Nails..pls.	—	—	20,276	18,632
Tin Plates ... ...bxs.	—	—	541	2,291
Kerosene ... ...cases.	1,707,412	1,072,643	—	—
Sugar Brown ...pls.	143,002	704,389	—	—
Sugar White Refined ... ...pls.	8,673	1,228,022	—	—
Window Glass ...bxs.	70,776	198,751	—	—
Total ...		$10,102,595	Total ...	$ 472,650

Table showing Value of Exports from the port of Yokohama during the Years 1893 and 1892.

	1893.		1892.	
Books and Paper	$	266,965	$	243,279
Drugs, Medicines, Dyes and Paints.		441,192		311,497
Grain, Beverages and Provisions.		2,143,002		1,689,286
Metals :—				
Copper ...$	2,117,312	$ 2,323,814		
Other	42	2,153		
		2,117,354		2,325,967
Oil and Wax :—				
Fish-Oil ...	457,596	219,031		
Other	9,085	3,307		
		466,681		222,338
Silk, Waste, etc.				
Raw...	28,147,411	36,269,744		
Waste and Cocoons ...	3,019,045	3,229,318		
Silk Worm Eggs	4,245	3,790		
		31,170,701		39,502,852
Skins, Hair, Shells, Horns, etc.		141,707		118,540
Tea		4,820,707		4,527,704
Textile Fabrics and Clothing :—				
Silk Handkerchiefs..	3,861,673	3,460,168		
Silk Piece Goods	4,017,211	4,369,965		
Sundries ...	1,280,939	766,420		
		9,159,823		8,596,553
Tobacco		55,050		66,800
Sundries (Porcelain, Curios, etc.)...		4,426,404		3,967,387
Total...		$55,209,586		$61,552,203

Table showing Value of Imports into the port of Yokohama during the years 1893 and 1892.

	1893.		1892.	
Arms, Clocks, Watches, Machinery, Instruments, Vessels, etc.	$	2,390,571		$2,536,157
Beverages and Provisions ..		688,317		629,223
Books and Stationery		469,859		486,673
Clothing and Apparel.....		398,424		384,226
Drugs, Medicines, and Chemicals ...		1,475,452		1,261,788
Dyes and Paint		1,097,249		998,849
Glass and Glass Ware		205,428		85,158
Grain and Seeds		874,884		350,997
Hair, Horn, Ivory, Skins, etc. ...		571,984		662,811
Metals and Metal Manufactures		3,652,404		2,627,751
Oil and Wax :—				
Kerosene.....$	1,998,228	$1,715,598		
Others	108,710	176,810		
		2,106,938		1,892,408
Sugar		6,197,792		5,215,418
Raw Cotton ...		2,047,162		1,694,443
Raw Wool		298,838		241,936
Textile Fabrics :—				
1 Cotton .....$	6,746,084	6,215,318		
2 Woollen ...	4,442,235	3,785,897		
3 Silk	156,112	258,608		
4 Hemp	235,804	154,900		
5 Sundries mixed	342,297	271,130		
		11,922,532		10,685,853
Tobacco, Cigars, etc.		375,650		274,671
Wines and Liquors		340,916		283,295
Sundries		1,190,599		1,014,267
Total		$36,305,069		$31,328,904

Table showing the Value of Exports from Japan during the years 1893 and 1892.

	1893.		1892.	
Books and Paper	$	362,267	$	326,641
Drugs, Medicines, Dyes and Paints :—				
Camphor...$	1,308,611	$ 1,274,753		
Others	1,037,867	912,754		
		2,346,478		2,187,507
Grain, Beverages and Provisions :—				
Rice	5,002,768	4,162,732		
Others	5,584,122	4,991,624		
		10,586,890		9,154,356
Metals :—				
Copper.....	4,574,709	4,879,444		
Others	437,293	357,224		
		5,012,002		5,236,668
Oil and Wax :—				
Fish Oil ...	530,304	248,621		
Vegetable Wax.....	383,766	285,567		
Others	136,523	120,006		
		1,050,593		654,194
Silk, Waste, etc. :—				
Raw	28,167,411	36,269,744		
Waste and Cocoons..	3,420,180	3,641,428		
Silk Worm Eggs.....	4,245	3,790		
		31,591,836		39,914,959
Skins, Hair, Shells, Horns, etc..		333,603		294,063
Tea		7,702,088		7,525,316
Textile Fabrics and Clothing :—				
Silk Handkerchiefs ..	3,899,646		3,494,417	
Silk Piece Goods...	4,074,993		4,434,178	
Others	2,613,948		1,404,878	
		10,588,587		9,333,473
Tobacco		65,768		95,820
Coal		4,817,912		4,571,984
Porcelain, Curios and Sundries ...		15,254,841		11,807,769
Total ...		$89,712,865		$91,102,750

Table showing the Value of Imports into Japan during the Years 1893 and 1892.

	1883.		1882.	
Arms, Clocks, Watches, Machinery, Instruments, Vessels, etc....	$	6,035,994		$ 4,113,101
Beverages and Provisions		995,214		913,199
Books and Stationery		735,059		757,685
Clothing and Apparel ...		710,914		644,621
Drugs, Medicines and Chemicals.		3,109,451		2,433,557
Dyes and Paints		1,817,949		1,595,670
Glass and Glass Ware		467,524		264,430
Grain and Seeds		7,015,959		4,887,191
Hair, Horn, Ivory, Skins, etc.,		1,426,896		1,457,610
Metal and Metal Manufacture.,		6,792,024		4,990,580
Oil and Wax :—				
Kerosene .$	4,401,041	$ 3,328,398		
Others...	327,650	466,552		
		4,728,691		3,794,950
Sugar		11,564 419		9,604,350
Raw Cotton		16,151,570		12,324,655
Raw Wool...		425,120		302,502
Textile Fabrics :—				
1 Cotton	$13,079,258	$11,921,220		
2 Woollen	7,879,120	6,685,663		
3 Silk ...	301,920	445,266		
4 Hemp ..	558,435	447,695		
5 Sundries mixed	558,549	442,534		
		22,377,282		19,942,378
Tobacco, Cigars, etc.		473,639		313,391
Wines and Liquors ...		461,061		402,803
Sundries.....		2,768 376		2,582 103
Total ...		$88,257,170		$71,324,776

Table showing the value of Silk Handkerchiefs and Silk Piece-goods exported during the years 1887 to 1893.

	Silk Handkerchiefs.		Silk Piece-goods.	
	All Japan.	Yokohama.	All Japan.	Yokohama.
1887...	$1,146,280	$1,127,005	$ 135,224	$ 52,305
1888...	1,233,927	1,214,942	258,033	186,705
1889...	2,104,459	2,061,450	623,456	557,385
1890...	2,516,946	2,482,219	1,167,868	1,040,780
1891...	2,811,820	2,788,995	1,763,716	1,646,270
1892...	3,494,417	3,460,168	4,434,078	4,369,965
1893...	3,899,646	3,861,673	4,074,993	4,017,211

Import of Alcohol during the years 1893 and 1892:

	1893.		1892.	
	Lbs.	$	Lbs.	$
All Japan.....6,217,112		379,476	5,654,041	392,541
Of which to Yokohama...4,957,802		308,047	4,565,838	316,209

Table showing the Import of Kerosene both from America and Russia during the years 1893 and 1892.

	Cases. 1893.	Cases. 1892.
YOKOHAMA.		
From America	988,497	1,203,141
From Russia.....	1,115,265	489,984
Total	2,103,762	1,693,125
ALL JAPAN.		
From America	2,723,867	2,487,902
From Russia.....	2,252,472	781,025
Total	4,976,339	3,268,927
Less Re-export, origin not designated	71,640	41,677
Net total	4,904,699	3,227,250

Import of Raw Cotton into Japan during the five years 1889 to 1893.

	1889.		1890.	
	Quantity. Piculs.	Value. Yen.	Quantity. Piculs.	Value. Yen.
India	5,549	59,477	74,063	1,114,580
China	605,885	5,432,958	398,710	3,764,559
America ...	716	13,439	17,941	354,576
Korea	1,692	8,181	7,310	29,987
Great Britain ..	—	—	—	—
Other Countries..	30,792	145,783	22,394	102,351
Total ...	644,634	5,668,838	521,418	5,305,153

	1891.		1892.	
India	265,641	3,382,061	362,257	4,692,245
China	459,960	3,697,042	661,826	6,063,918
America ...	53,944	1,011,518	91,853	1,435,862
Korea.....	4,718	18,297	915	4,333
Great Britain	—	—	381	5,636
Other Countries..	17,478	90,333	16,250	122,660
Total ...	800,841	8,199,251	1,133,482	12,324,654

	Quantity Piculs. 1893.	Value. Yen.
India	365,924	6,052,048
China	713,364	8,622,335
America	61,603	1,273,421
Korea	1,101	5,199
Great Britain.....	—	—
Other Countries.....	16,326	198,567
Total	1,158,318	16,151,570

Table of Total value of Exports to various countries during the years 1893 and 1892.

	Yokohama. 1893.	Yokohama. 1892.	All Japan. 1893.	All Japan. 1892.
To United States...	$21,394,095	$32,535,720	$27,739,458	$38,674,971
To France	18,582,623	17,297,899	19,531,975	18,093,694
To Hongkong ...	3,883,575	3,384,003	15,688,875	13,288,540
To China	1,879,886	1,317,489	7,714,420	6,358,860
To Great Britain ...	3,857,487	2,219,935	4,995,974	3,921,753
To India	1,089,705	696,576	2,471,079	1,422,289
To Canada	1,184,554	715,626	1,720,559	1,088,407
To Italy	1,554,784	1,216,869	1,631,908	1,254,331
To Germany	752,690	375,550	1,380,040	940,783
To Korea	10,903	8,790	1,301,243	1,410,699
To Australia	77,162	50,811	890,637	731,659
To Russia	47,058	43,031	621,838	585,695
To Austria	292,156	333,388	322,120	342,932
To Switzerland ...	227,141	159,424	227,141	159,584
To Belgium	14,100	12,577	226,284	50,125
To other Countries.	1,161,607	1,184,509	3,249,314	2,779,428
Total... ...	$55,209,586	$61,552,203	$89,712,865	$91,102,750

Table of Total value of Imports from various countries during the years 1893 and 1892.

	Yokohama. 1893.	Yokohama. 1892.	All Japan. 1893.	All Japan. 1892.
From Great Britain	$14,164,806	$11,648,980	$27,929,628	$20,789,332
From China	3,822,515	3,206,078	17,095,975	12,509,410
From India	2,152,026	1,882,014	8,679,029	7,662,004
From Hongkong ...	3,810,383	3,200,283	8,268,071	6,985,723
From Germany ...	3,972,840	3,412,711	7,318,134	6,375,048
From United States	2,521,238	2,889,064	6,090,408	5,988,054
From France... ...	1,805,689	2,210,627	3,305,877	5,020,500
From Korea	6,969	1,062	1,999,439	3,046,340
From Russia ...	1,056,856	484,780	1,872,113	835,395
From Belgium ...	721,952	726,587	935,001	951,530
From Switzerland ..	613,898	683,226	669,301	713,657
From Philippine Islands...	504,138	348,976	567,133	475,123
From Australia ...	212,142	132,316	319,034	272,787
From other Countries	949,617	453,200	3,209,629	1,099,873
Total... ...	$36,305,069	$31,328,904	$88,257,172	$71,324,776

Table showing Total value of the Trade of Japan with various Countries during 1893 and 1892.

	Yokohama. 1893.	Yokohama. 1892.	All Japan. 1893.	All Japan. 1892.
With United States... ...	$23,915,333	$35,424,784	$33,820,866	$44,663,025
With Great Britain	17,222,293	13,868,915	32,925,602	24,711,085
With China... ...	5,702,401	4,523,567	24,810,395	18,868,270
With Hongkong...	7,693,958	6,584,286	23,956,946	20,274,263
With France ...	20,388,312	19,517,526	22,837,252	21,714,194
With India	3,241,731	2,578,590	11,150,108	9,084,293
With Germany ...	4,725,530	3,788,267	8,698,174	7,315,831
With Korea... ...	17,872	9,852	3,300,682	4,457,039
With Russia ...	1,103,014	527,811	2,492,951	1,421,090
With Canada ...	1,194,469	744,209	1,737,188	1,119,161
With Italy	1,619,972	1,271,469	1,718,486	1,322,011
With Australia ...	289,304	183,127	1,209,671	1,004,446
With Belgium ...	736,112	739,164	1,161,285	1,001,602
With Switzerland	841,039	843,050	896,442	873,234
With Philippine Islands	525,741	397,730	687,550	571,654
With Austria ...	308,059	349,715	340,329	352,197
With other Countries	1,988,615	1,538,445	6,211,110	3,674,071
Total	$91,514,655	$92,881,107	$177,970,037	$162,427,526

Table showing the fluctuations in the rates for Sterling Bills on London during the years 1891 to 1893.

	Bank Sight. 1893. Highest.	1893. Lowest.	1892. Highest.	1892. Lowest.	1891. Highest.	1891. Lowest.
January	2/8 7/8	2/8 5/8	3/1 1/4	2/11 3/4	3/5 7/8	3/4 5/8
February	2/8 7/8	2 8 5/8	2/11 7/8	2/11 1/4	3/4 3/8	3/1 1/8
March	2/8 7/8	2/8 1/8	2/11 3/4	2/9 1/2	3/2 1/2	3/1 1/4
April	2/8 1/4	2/8 1/4	2/10 1/2	2/9 5/8	3/2 3/8	3/1 1/4
May	2/9	2/8 1/2	2/11	2/10	3/3	3/1 7/8
June	2/8 3/4	2/6 1/4	2/11 5/8	2/10 1/2	3/3 3/4	3/1 5/8
July	2/6 3/4	2/4	2/10 7/8	2/10 1/2	3/3 5/8	3/2 1/4
August	2/5 7/8	2/5 1/8	2/10 3/8	2/9 7/8	3/3 1/4	3/2 1/4
September	2/5 3/8	2/5	2/10 1/8	2/10 1/4	3/3 1/8	3/2 5/8
October	2/5 3/8	2/4 1/8	2/11 1/4	2/10 1/8	3/2 5/8	3/1 3/4
November	2/4 5/8	2/3 1/2	2/10 1/2	2/9 1/4	3/1 5/8	3/1 1/4
December	2/4 1/8	2/3 1/8	2/9 1/2	2/8 3/8	3/1 3/4	3/1 1/4
	Credits 4 m/s. 1893.		1892.		1891.	
January	2/9 5/8	2/9 3/8	3/1 7/8	3/0 1/2	3/6 3/4	3/5 1/2
February	2/9 5/8	2/9 3/8	3/0 7/8	3/0	3/5 5/8	3/2 1/2
March	2/9 1/2	2/8 7/8	3/0 5/8	2/10 1/2	3/3 3/4	3/2 5/8
April.....	2/9 5/8	2/9	2/11 1/4	2/10 5/8	3/3 1/4	3/2 1/4
May	2/9 1/2	2/8 7/8	2/11 1/2	2/10 1/2	3/3 3/8	3/2 3/4
June	2/9 1/2	2/7 5/8	3/0 1/8	2/11 1/4	3/4 1/2	3/2 7/8
July	2/7 5/8	2/5 1/4	2/11 5/8	2/10 5/8	3/4 3/8	3/3 1/4
August	2/6 7/8	2/6 1/8	2/11 1/8	2/10 5/8	3/4	3/3 3/8
September	2/6 1/4	2/5 3/4	2/11 1/8	2/10 7/8	3/3 1/2	3/3 3/8
October	2/6	2/4 3/4	3/0	2/10 1/2	3/3 3/8	3/2 1/2
November	2/5 5/8	2/4 1/4	2/11 1/4	2/9 3/8	3/2 5/8	3/2 7/8
December	2/5	2/3 7/8	2/10 1/2	2/9 3/8	3/2 1/2	3/1

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DEDICATION OF UNITY HALL.

On Sunday 25th inst., Unity Hall, in Shikoku-machi, Shiba, was formally opened and dedicated. The assembly hall and passage-ways of the beautiful building were crowded with more than four hundred invited guests, among whom were Mr. Dun, the American Minister, and many Japanese of prominence and reputation. The building and grounds were handsomely and elaborately decorated with flags, lanterns, flowers, plants, &c., for the occasion. Unity Hall, a gift to Japan from friends of liberal and rational religious thought, especially the Unitarians of America and of England, and other liberals in Europe, India and Japan, has been in process of erection for nearly a year past. Its novelty and attractiveness of architecture make it rather noticeable. The building is about 75 feet by 50 feet in area, and two stories in height. The style of architecture devised is an agreeable combination of Japanese and Western modes of construction. The building is simply but strongly constructed of unpainted native woods, and contains a fire-proof and well-lighted library and reading-room as one of its special excellencies. On the lower floor, to the left of the entrance, is a good-sized reception-room, an office for the Association's secretary, a retiring room for the students of the Senshin Gakuin, the janitor's residence, and with store rooms for publications and other material. On the right of the entrance are offices for the magazine, and the "Post Office Mission," a room for the professors of the Senshin Gakuin, and the large fire-proof library and reading room spoken of.

Upstairs, reached by a wide, well lighted stairway, are five lecture rooms for the use of the school classes, and an assembly hall which seats nearly four hundred auditors for church services, commencement exercises, lectures, and other entertainments. The assembly hall is a pleasant room 50 feet by 30 feet in size, open to the roof, with generous exits, and capable of enlargement by the opening of large doors into a room adjoining. Altogether the new hall is admirably suited to its uses and is a good object lesson in tasteful, attractive, but simple architecture and good construction.

The programme for the dedication exercises was so arranged as to give a distinct expression to the special character of the work to be done at Unity Hall. Mr. J. T. Griffin, of Yokohama, relieved the strain of listening to the addresses of the various speakers by several organ voluntaries. The meeting was presided over by Mr. R. Masujima, of Tokyo. The exercises, with one exception, in the Japanese language, consisted of a devotional reading by Prof. J. Saji, a historical sketch of Unity Hall by M. S. Kanda, addresses by Rev. T. Yokoi, Prof. K. Kume, Mr. Y. Fukuzawa, Mr. G. Nakanishi, and Prof. Clay MacCauley, President of the Senshin Gakuin, whose speech, which we give below, was the Address of Dedication. After the formal dedication, the guests were invited to a generous luncheon. Altogether, the occasion was most auspicious, and it adds one more to the many contributions which have been made from the people of America and Europe to assist the higher development of Japan, in the new era upon which the country has entered.

Dedication Address.

We have gathered here to dedicate this hall. If, in beginning what I have to say, I should assert that in the modern history of Japan no event of more importance than this has taken place, most of those who hear me would think my words the extreme of absurdity and pretension. But, in a deep sense, this assertion is neither absurd nor pretentious. Let me say why. The purpose with which Unity Hall is to be made a gift to the Japanese people is this. Here, we intend to give a home to a school of learning in which the highest human relations, those which are manifested in religion, morals, and social order, may not only be studied, but be also understood clearly and unquestionably; and further that from here the result of such study may be made practical in life. Here, religion, morals, and social order are to be subjected to the same methods of investigation as those which characterize all objects of the science and philosophy of the present age. Here, no tradition as such will control our work. Here, as far as possible, our high studies have been freed from prejudice. Here, with wholly unbound minds we desire to discover the truth and the right,—the truth and the right only,—concerning the impulses and the life upon which human welfare most depends.

Our school, the Senshin Gakuin, for these reasons is, so far as I know, unique among the institutions of this land, and, for these reasons also, is of radical importance to the people. Agriculture and mechanical industry are of great value to a nation. Commerce is of far-reaching importance. Physical science, invention, and art go far toward giving power and dignity to a people. No people may safely neglect their physical aggrandizement. But the true grandeur of nations does not lie in material wealth or power. Also, I admit that the propagandism of traditional religions, ethical and social faiths and institutions, which have in past ages done great service to humanity, is not to be regarded as useless and as no longer to be cared for. But time has come when the errors which have been transmitted along with helpful truths from past ages, shall be clearly seen, and be distinctly separated from these truths, and these truths be added to by new discovery, so that mankind may be steadily carried forward to higher and more effective fullness of growth. Here then, with free minds, we have risen above mere material and utilitarian aims, and, for the sake of the dominance of the soul, by which only a nation becomes truly great, we have set ourselves to the task of finding the unquestionable knowledge, through which the true life of man shall be secured and made more and more beautiful and grand. The Senshin Gakuin is thus a child of the spirit which leads the present age. It is yet at the beginning of its growth, but it is one among the prophetic bearers of the light which is now beginning to spread over the world. In harmony with the free aspiring, prophetic purpose and endeavour of the Senshin Gakuin we now wish to dedicate its home, this hall.

To Truth in Religion, to Righteousness in Morality, to Peace in Social Order we would dedicate this building.

So long as man is conscious of a mysterious and superior Being, as Source, Life, and Lord of all that exists, so long each man will think, and feel and act under whatever form such consciousness may take for him. Here, therefore, we would learn as clearly as man may learn, in what direction faith in an infinite and eternal Being should go, in order that faith may more closely approach the perfect truth. So long, too, as men are bound by conscience in regulating their lives within and relations to their fellow men, so long will they be bound by moral law. Here, therefore, we would so understand human nature and man's duties to those around him that we shall more and more clearly see the way of perfect Righteousness. So long, too, as mankind are set together as families, as nations, and as a world-kindred, so long will they be compelled to try to solve the problem of how the desires and acts of each shall be harmoniously adjusted with the desires and acts of all men. Here, therefore, we would so learn the reciprocal rights and duties of men towards men that all social wrongs such as poverty, oppression, crime, misery, and war, may speedily become only memories, and the long dreamed-of, long laboured-for, long hoped-for millennial age of humanity, will be more nearly approached,—a Brotherhood of Man dwelling together in blessed Peace.

There is not time now, nor, indeed, is this the place to show definitely the specific work we are doing, in order that we may realize these ideal aims. The faculty of the School consists of men of free and cultured minds, each having clear, definite convictions which he places before his students. Our students enter our classes unembarrassed by any prescribed conditions, except maturity of mind, earnestness of purpose, and dignity of character. Our courses of study have been prepared to meet symmetrically the three great objects of which I have been speaking. The only bond we have in all our work is the natural bond of sympathy in a common pursuit, and fellowship in the common faiths and knowledge gained through our free research into the great problems of thought and life, which we have set before us.

With this high purpose, then, of search for ideal truth and its application to life, the purpose which has brought the Senshin Gakuin into being, and with the prayer and hope that the Senshin Gakuin may thereby become the source of inspiring faith and life, as far as its influence may reach, I now, in the name of the many generous men and women who have enabled us to erect this beautiful building, dedicate Unity Hall to "Truth, Righteousness, and Peace," and consecrate it henceforward to the service of the people of Japan.

Eczema.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. North & Rae, Limited, Yokohama.

Viscount Aoki, the new Japanese Minister to Great Britain, is expected in London in the course of a few days, and will be received by Her Majesty the Queen at the end of the month.

MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY.

Mercantile Marine Bureau, Tokyo, March 26th, 1894.

The Stranding of the "Nagato Maru."

A Marine Court of Inquiry was held at the Mercantile Marine Bureau of the Department of Communications (Teishinsho), Tokyo, to-day, to ascertain the circumstances attending the stranding of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Nagato Maru* on the 8th March, on Saratoga Spit, Tokyo Bay.

The Court was composed as follows:—

Mr. J. Ito, President, and Mr. T. Oshima, with Mr. J. M. James and Mr. A. F. Macnab, sitting as advisers.

Richard Pender, master, deposed—I was commander of the steamer *Nagato Maru* at the time of her stranding. I hold a Japanese certificate of the first class, No. 96. I have been on steamers plying on the coasts of Japan for nine years and seven months. I joined the *Nagato Maru* on the 23rd June, 1893. I was on a voyage from Kobe bound to Yokohama, at the time the accident occurred. I left Kobe at noon on the 7th March. I passed Kannon-saki at 7.6 p.m. on the 8th March, at a distance of one mile. There was a fresh N.N.E. wind, and the weather was thick with rain and hail. The weather was thick and squally after we passed Kannon-saki. I verified my position then by time and beam-bearings, and the third officer by the four-point bearing. I took the bearings by time, the third officer by log. The third officer was officer of the watch. I shaped a course, N. by W. from Kannon-saki, compass bearing the deviation was 3.30′ westerly. After shaping course at Kannonsaki, another alteration was made. The second alteration was made at 7.20. The course was then N. by W. ½ W. by compass. I was steering this course when the ship touched the ground. I attribute the cause of the stranding to the exceptional set of the ebb tide. The tide was setting S.E., and I was allowing for it to be setting S.W. across the spit. The ebb tide set the vessel in to the eastward on the port bow. I always allow for the tide to strike me on my starboard bow, but this time it was on my port bow, and carried me to the eastward. My previous experience has been that at that time of tide the ebb struck me on the starboard side. I was allowing for the strong N.E. to N.N.E. wind and expected to be quite clear of the fort, to the westward. I was getting the first of the ebb-tide. I did not see the red light of the fort. The vessel stranded at 7.30., grounding nearly at the west of the extreme end of the spit. The vessel was proceeding at a speed of about six and a half knots. Four minutes elapsed between the time of striking and the reversing of the engines. I saw no lights or land after passing Kannon-saki, until I made the fort right ahead. I expected to be abeam of Saratoga Spit about 7.30, just about the time when I sighted the Head. I did not see the lighted red buoy in Uraga Channel. I did not make use of the lead after passing Kannon-saki. Directly after we struck I lowered all the boats to the water's edge, ready for use if required. By lightening the ship forward she slid off herself a little before high water, at a quarter past six a.m. on the 10th. The engines were not working at the time, being only at "stand-by." She came up to Yokohama by her own engines. Before the vessel came off the divers went down, and Capt. Carst reported at Yokohama that there was a hole on the port bow about three feet long, and plates broken on both bows under water. I do not know the exact length of the damage.

To the President—I was quite sure of my bearings when I took them off Kannon-saki. I have no note of the four-point bearing, which the third officer took, but the interval of time between it and the beam bearing which I took, was five minutes. The vessel was then steaming twelve knots. We were steering N. then and the beam bearing was W. by compass, the deviation was 3.30 West. I was watching the white light on Kannon-saki when I took the bearings, and as I looked at it, a heavy squall came down and hid it altogether. I never saw the red buoy light in the Channel as it was hidden by the rain. This was the reason why I took bearings by the white light which I saw on Kannon-saki, because at that time I ought to have caught sight of the red buoy light. When I altered my course after passing Kannon-saki, I expected the course I set to take me to the west, clear of Futtsu (Saratoga) Spit. I was not quite sure of my position when I struck, and at first I did not know what was the nature of the obstacle, but looking over the side I found it was the spit of the fort. I have often come up that channel at night, both with the ebb

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and the flood tide, and I have always cleared the fort well on those occasions, sometimes by half a mile, or three-quarters of a mile, and at times by a mile. I have sometimes seen the red light on these occasions, but not always. I have generally passed the light at a distance of half a mile, sometimes it has been at three-quarters; I would passed it on the port bow. I have always used the Eastern Channel, the one I was using on this occasion. I have come up in thick weather before. After passing Kannon-saki I slowed down engines. This was at 7.20, just when the squall came on and the light became obscured; at the same time I altered my course to N. by W. ½ W. At that time I thought I had passed the new fort and was a little to the North of it, abaft the beam. The vessel stuck hard and fast forward on both bilges, and there was no fear of the possibility of her slipping off. The after part was not secured by hawsers or an anchor; I let her remain just as she was.

What was the depth of water round the ship after she went on?—Three fathoms abreast of foremast; abreast bridge, five and a half; under the stern, seven fathoms; there was no difference of depth on either side; this was at low water.

What water was there in the ship?—Eight feet in the forward peak, before the collision bulk-head.

Was the double bottom intact?—Yes, perfect. When the vessel struck I gave orders for the water-tight valves in the bulkhead to be closed. The order was given at the time of stranding. I did not let go any anchors at any time.

Were you on the bridge all the time?—Yes, all the time.

How far could you see that night?—I could not see more than half-a-mile. It was during the squall that we struck.

Just as you were coming up and striking the fort did you hear anything, waves striking the fort, tide ripples, or anything like that?—No, nothing at all, nothing whatever.

How many men were there on the look-out that night?—One seaman forward, myself, chief and third officers on the bridge.

Who sighted the fort first?—I did, myself.

After the adjournment for tiffin,

John Walker, second engineer, sworn, deposed—I was engineer of the watch at the time of the stranding. I hold a Japanese certificate, No. 128. I received the order to slow the engines at 7 p.m. on the evening of March 8th. I was next ordered to "stand-by;" at 7.17 the order "half-speed" was given. These were the times by the engine-room clock. The deck-clock and the engine-room clock do not always agree. I do not know the difference between them at that time. When the vessel was reduced to half-speed she was making 65 revolutions. The engines were not making that number of revolutions at the time she struck. She was making about 50 revolutions when she struck. After she struck I received the orders "stop," then "full-speed astern," almost together. I did not notice any water coming into the engine-room after she struck. The water-tight bulkhead valves were then closed. I did not receive any orders from the bridge relative to slowing, the engines after the order "half-speed," until she stranded. At full speed the engines were making about 67 or 68 revolutions. We had been going at full speed up till 7 p.m.; when the order "stand-by" was give we reduced the steam pressure and the revolutions went down to 65 per minute.

To Mr. Macnab—At 68 revolutions I consider we would be going at the rate of 11½ to 12 knots. I did not take a private note of the times of alteration of speed at the moment, but I afterwards verified them by information supplied by the chief engineer.

To the Court—My watch in the engine-room commenced at 4 p.m., it finished at 8 p.m. Orders were communicated to me from the bridge before 7 o'clock. We went "half-speed," and I think "slow," about half past five o'clock. After that the order was "full speed ahead." The orders were given within six or seven minutes of each other.

To Mr. James—At 50 revolutions the speed of the engines would give about 7 or 7½ knots, but I could not say for certain.

Yosesaki Takeo, third officer, deposed to being on watch at the time of the stranding. I was third officer of the *Nagato Maru* and hold a Japanese certificate of the second class, No. 341. I went on watch at 4 p.m. that day. It was hailing at times, with a N.E. wind. Nearly the same weather prevailed up to the time of the stranding. The land was often invisible by reason of the rain and hail. We took observation when Oshima was about abeam. I saw Sagami Head, I think, because I caught sight of a light, but I did not see any land. This was about 6 p.m. The course was set N. by E. ¾ E. Kannon-saki light was seen before and after Sagami light was abeam. I was with the Captain and the helmsman on the bridge. After passing Kannon-saki the helmsman went to the wheel-house below. The night was dark, but I could see a light about a mile distant; there was no land visible. I then took the bearings fore and aft. We were steering about N. by W. at a speed of about 11½ knots. When Kannon-saki light was abeam I read the patent log. It registered 23½ and then 24 knots. We continued to steer N. by W. ½ W. I saw Kannon-saki light after stranding. It was a white light. The engines were slowed to "half-speed" when the course was altered for the last time. This was about 7.20. At 7.28 the look-out called out "Light ahead on the port bow." Then the captain ordered the engines to be stopped, and we struck. I had no time to look at the clock just then, but I believe it was about 7.30. Almost immediately the order was given to "go astern." There was no light seen after passing Kannon-saki, but a white light was visible after the ship struck. We were going half-speed when we struck. I did not know what we had struck until I looked over the taff rail. No order was given to look out for the red light at the foot of the fort, but I tried to find it. The ship struck before the order "full speed astern" could be carried out. The captain was on the bridge continually from the time Kannon-saki was passed. No lead was used after passing Kannon-saki. The wind was blowing with some strength, but the waves were not high enough to cause any rolling of the ship. I did not hear any sound indicative of the proximity of danger before we struck. I only knew we were on the spit at the fort when I looked over the bows after we had struck.

Kanamaru Riichiro, the helmsman on board the *Nagato Maru* at the time, standing of the deposed to steering a course N. by E. which was altered after passing Kannon-saki to N. by W. ½ W. After this no order was given up to the time of stranding. Kannon-saki light was only faintly seen as the vessel passed up the channel; no land was to be seen. I do not know if any light was seen after Kannonsaki was passed, nor do I know if a light was sighted as we struck, as I was wholly absorbed in keeping the ship on her course. The weather was thick, snowy and rainy at the time.

Tomaga Wasaburo, the look-out man on the night the *Nagato Maru* stranded, deposed to being on watch from 7 to 8 o'clock on the 8th inst. The night was thick and so dark that I could not see very far ahead. I saw Kannon-saki light. It was abeam on our port bow. From then on till the time of stranding I saw nothing. I saw a light just then and called out to the Captain who was on the bridge. The ship stranded at the same moment, so no answer was made to me. I had seen no dark object the whole way up after passing Kannon-saki, nor had I heard any sound. I only caught sight of the light on the fort when I called out to the Captain. I saw no other light. What I took for a light may only have been a lamp inside a hut or shed erected on the fort, as it was very dim. The shock of stranding was not severe.

Captain Pender re-called, said, in answer to the President.—The weather was thick, rain and sleet, when the ship struck. The ship was kept steady on the last course set from the time of setting it till the time she struck. After we struck, the *Fuyo Maru*, of the Mitsu Bishi Sha, came to our assistance and attempted to pull us off; after her came the *Yamashiro Maru*. Both vessels failed in their attempts to tow us off. Then we lightered her fore cargo into lighters. When I altered the course at 7 p.m. I put the ship's position down on the chart, calculating the distance by the time she had run.

This closed the evidence, and the Court then adjourned.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Chicago, March 3rd,

The American edition of Mr. Josiah Conder's "Landscape Gardening in Japan" in two volumes sells here for $25.00, and bears the imprint of the Scribners, of New York.

A recent meeting of the Society of Decorative Art was held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Nickerson, Prof. S. Chōyō and H. Sato were present to explain Mr. Nickerson's choice collection of Japanese art objects, including vases, masks, old bowls, ivory carvings, porcelains, etc.

The Chicago Folk-Lore Society met last evening with your correspondent for "A Japanese Evening."

Mr. Gustavus Goward's fine Japanese collection is attracting a great deal of attention at the Art Institute in this city. Mr. Goward will soon go to New York City.

Rev. D. A. Murray, once of Kyoto, is now pastor of the Ridgeway Avenue Presbyterian Church of this city.

At a recent missionary gathering of Congregationalists in this city, a letter was read from Rev. Mr. Haworth concerning an "order forbidding the use of the Bible in the schools." This would seem to indicate the mission schools; for the report goes on to state, that "the missionaries trust they will be allowed the Bible as a text-book, otherwise the schools must be abandoned." I hope that, if such an order has been issued, the *Mail* will publish an explanation of its extent and intent.

This morning's paper contains the following item of news from Detroit, Mich:—

Detroit, Mich., March 2nd.

Chikanora Momohira, a young Japanese chemist employed in the laboratory of Frederick Stearns, committed suicide this morning by taking poison. He was 22 years old, rich, handsome, and apparently happy. No cause for the deed is known. His father is a General in the Japanese army, is rich, and treated the boy handsomely. Chikanora was fond of America and Americans, and often said he would never return to Japan. He came to America with Mr. Stearns three years ago. He spoke English well, having taken an English course in his native country. He was at Ann Arbor six months taking a course in pharmacy. Mr. Stearns says it is considered an honour in Japan to take one's own life, and he thought the boy may have brooded over some fancied wrong to supply the motive. He will be buried here.

A clipping, given below, presents a startling fact (?) concerning the loquacity of Japanese women:—

Henniker Heaton has been gathering some very interesting marriage statistics concerning the customs in vogue in different countries, from which one reads with amusement, and perhaps a certain degree of amazement, that throughout Japan a man may get a divorce if his wife talks too much. Ordinary people may suppose that this harsh law will have the effect of curbing loquacity, but it has not. Japanese ladies are the most talkative of their sex, and divorces are common among them. In Thibet a woman is entitled to three husbands In Melbourne a man may secure a divorce if his wife gets drunk three times, or if she habitually neglects her household duties.

The large model of the Hindoo temple which was presented to Dr. John H. Barrows, and was on exhibition at the Parliament of Religions, has been unfortunately destroyed by fire.

Miss Adele M. Field, who lived twenty years in China, is soon to publish a book entitled "A Corner of Cathay," in which she will depict her life among the Chinese.

In Hawaiian affairs there is nothing very exciting in the way of news. The fact that the Hawaiian consul at Vancouver has received his *exequatūr* indicates that Great Britain regards the Provisional Government as the legal Government. Prof. W. F. Alexander, of Honolulu, says that the ex Queen will be retired on a pension, provided that "she behaves herself;" and that the idea of annexation has been only temporarily abandoned.

The U.S. cruiser *Chicago* has started for Syria to protect American citizens from violence. In the mean time the Turkish Government is trying to redeem its promise to punish the persons who committed an assault last autumn on Mrs. Mellin, an American missionary.

The Presidential election in Brazil resulted in favour of the Governmental candidate, Senhor Prudente de Moraes. The Vice-President elect is Senhor Victorino. In a recent engagement the insurgents were defeated with a loss of 400 men.

Señor Ellauri, who was President of Uruguay in 1873, has just been elected again to fill that office in place of Dr. Obes, whose term expired March 1st.

Gen. Hilarion Daza, who was President of Bolivia from 1876 to 1879, has been assassinated.

Congressman W. L. Wilson has been very seriously ill with typhoid fever at Guadalajara in Mexico. He is being attended by an American physician from the City of Mexico, and is now slowly improving. As he has passed the crisis, it is hoped that, with rest and good nursing, he will be soon restored to health.

The Wilson Bill may be modified somewhat by the Senate Committee. It is believed that the Sub-Committee will report in favour of a duty on sugar and coal, and that the full Committee will accept this amendment. It is also rumoured that Senator Hill may be found among the opponents of the bill.

After a long dead-lock in the House of Representatives, Bland succeeded in securing a quorum, and getting a vote on his Seigniorage Bill. Amendments were voted down, and finally a substitute was carried by a vote of 167 to 130. This substitute is practically the same as the original bill, which provided for the coinage of the silver seigniorage in the treasury, the issue of silver certificates thereon if need be in the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury in advance of the coinage, and thereafter the coinage of the re-

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mainder of the bullion as fast as practicable, and the issue of silver certificates thereon, to take the place of the treasury notes issued under the Sherman Act, which are to be retired and cancelled as rapidly as the coinage takes place.

The substitute, however, provides that the coinage take place as fast as "possible" instead of "practicable." The affirmative vote of 167 consisted of 141 Democrats, 18 Republicans, and 8 Populists; the negative vote of 130 included 79 Republicans and 51 Democrats.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has presented two reports on Hawaiian affairs. The majority report is signed by Senators Morgan (Democrat), Sherman, Frye, Dolphin and Davis (all Republicans), and condemns the policy of the Administration. The Republican members also make a supplementary report, "taking more positive grounds than the Morgan report." The minority report, signed by Senators Butler, Turpie, Daniel, and Gray (all Democrats) upholds the policy of Cleveland and Gresham.

The National Central Committee of the Populist Party has been in session in St. Louis, and adopted the following resolutions:—

Whereas, The so-called Wilson bill fails to provide sufficient revenue to defray the legitimate expenses of the government, and thereby creates a deficiency, of which the administration will take advantage to issue interest-bearing bonds to saddle the overburdens upon future generations, and further perpetuate the national banking monopoly of the country, and

Whereas, It discriminates against the producers of raw materials in the South and West and protects the monopolies of the West; therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the national committee of the People's party that the people shall, by Senators and Representatives, vote against the passage of said bill, unless it provides for said deficieney by an income tax; and further,

Resolved, That they be requested to vote against said bill if said deficiency is to be supplied by the issuance of interest-bearing bonds.

The Republican members of the Temperance Committee of the Town Senate have decided to report the Carpenter Local Option Bill. The prohibitionists of the country are waiting with anxiety to see whether the Hawkeye State will abandon the policy of Prohibition.

The following order, issued a few days ago to every division superintendent of the Erie Railway lines, will bring joy to many employés:—

Beginning next Sunday, please arrange not to start common freight trains from division terminals from 12 o'clock Saturday night, until 12 o'clock Sunday night, running only fast freight, freight, perishable freight and stock trains, laying off as many switching crews and men in the round-houses as possible for the day.

Governor McCorkle, of West Virginia, had to call out three companies of the National Guard to quell a riot among miners, who have already burned one railroad bridge, and are assembled in large numbers.

One more fire in Jackson Park must go on record: it destroyed the dome over the entrance of the Agricultural Building.

Of how much trouble the World's Fair has been the cause may be seen also from the following item:—

Carrollton, Ohio, February 28th.

The divorce case of Minnie J. Iden against James R. Iden, in Common Pleas Court in this city, introduces new claims for divorce. The plaintiff avers that the defendant objected to building the morning fire and did refuse, without just cause, to take her to the World's Fair. Her petition was refused.

John Y. McKane, the "boss" of Gravesend, Long Island, has been convicted of corruption of the ballot, and sentenced to Sing Sing for six years. A few more such striking "examples" will go a long way toward purity in politics. Tammany next!

Erastus Wiman, well-known in connection with Canadian affairs, is accused of forgery on a charge made by R. G. Dun and Co., and involving a large amount of money.

Dun's report for this week again notes a gradual improvement of business, and speaks of "the slowly growing demand for goods, caused by gradual exhaustion of stocks held by dealers," which "has further enlarged the working force in manufactures."

Prendergast, who assassinated Carter Harrison, has been refused a new trial, and sentenced to be hung on March 23rd.

Steele Mackaye, the actor and playwright; Gen. Jubal A. Early, the dashing cavalry leader of the Confederates; Dr. William F. Poole, librarian of the Newberry Library, and the greatest bibliographer of the country; and Hon. James W. McDill, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and ex-Senator from Iowa, have all passed away since my last letter.

President Cleveland and Secretary Gresham have gone on a vacation trip, a hunting excursion in Virginia and the Carolinas. The reports that the President is seriously ill were unfounded.

The New York Senate and Assembly have passed, and Governor Flower has signed, the bill which presents to the suffrages of the people concerned the question of the consolidation of New York and Brooklyn.

The American Univerity, to be located at Washington, D.C., has received a donation of $100,000, which will probably be used for the endowment of the chair of history, and an equal amount undesignated. The Western Reserve University has received over $300,000 for various specified purposes, the principal of which is the erection and equipment of a physical laboratory.

The graduating exercises of the Indian Training School at Carlisle, Penn., have just been held. The class this year consists of nineteen boys and girls from ten different tribes. This School is doing excellent work toward solving the Indian problem.

The Negro problem is another vexing matter. Last month a conferance of 600 prominent negroes, male and female, was held at Tuskegee, Alabama. They realized fully their condition, and the necessity for greater advancement in the lines of education, the acquisition of property and practical religion.

The convention of the International Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Fields is in session at Detroit, Mich., Mr. L. D. Wishard, who visited Japan a few years ago in the interests of the Y.M.C.A. is active also in this work. Among the speakers have been Rev. G. W. Knox, D.D., on "The Preparation of a Missionary;" Mr. Leonard (Learned?), of Japan, on "Best Methods of Training Native Help; and Rev. Gilbert Reid, of China, on "Methods of the Shantung Missions." Dr. Knox gave admirable advice to the students "not to offer themselves indiscriminately to be sent to some country to which they are not adapted. It is necessary to take a special course of preparation for whatever country the missionary expects to visit." He also settled a much disputed question by stating that "it takes three years to learn thoroughly the Japanese language." The total number of missionaries recruited from this movement is 686, of whom Japan has received 88.

The March *Century* has an interesting article by Professor E. S. Holden on "Earthquakes and how to Measure Them," in which due credit is given to Prof. Milne and the other investigators in Japan.

Judge Grosscup, in the United District Court of this city, has rendered a decision which has an important bearing on the Inter State Commerce Law. Not long ago that law was amended so as to make it obligatory for witnesses to answer questions, though they should incriminate themselves. But now Judge Grosscup decides that the amendment to that law is unconstitutional, because it is contrary to the Fifth Amendment of our National Constitution.

On the 14th of this month Mr. Walter Wellman, of the Chicago *Herald*, is to start from New York City to attempt to solve the great Actic problem by a new plan. He believes that over the ice pack is the true route to the north pole. We are wondering whether Peary or Wellmen will get there first!

March has come in "like a lamb."

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Ithaca, March 8th, 1894.

One who has lived for five years or more on Manhattan Island cannot but feel a personal as well as general interest in the great city. Four recent visits, of several days each, to Gotham, have impressed upon my mind the changes which the flow of time invariably brings. Externally, the growth of the business edifices skyward is most noticeable. Approaching the city from the opposite side of either the North or East River or from the Bay below, one falls under an optical illusion. The city which he knows to be, below Central Park at least, almost perfectly flat, seems to be hilly, reminding one even of imposing Edinburgh, when viewed from "the new city." On the contrary, all New York below Murray Hill is still as flat as of yore, but it is the heaps of brick, stone, and steel that have risen skyward. We remember our first impressions when returning from Japan, and from Tokyo which had, as a rule, only one or two two-storey buildings, that a distinct nervousness crept over us as we walked down Broadway under the towering eaves of the lofty structures. There was a temptation to walk in the middle of the street for apparently greater safety. Only after some weeks residence in the Metropolis was this feeling entirely overcome.

Several causes have contributed to this tree-like tendency to lofty growth. The great value of land, the desire for plenty of light and air, a disposition to collect as much revenue as possible on every square foot of earth and sky, the invention and ease of working what our English friends call a "lift," and we an "elevator," and lastly, the elaboration of steel frames, are all factors in the new movement. Nowadays, beside the deeply-dug foundation, which in New York is pretty sure to be on the bed-rock underlying and often outcropping from the island, there is laid a massive platform of concrete, sometimes braced and welded together by steel rails, set diagonally like the "struts" in the side-wall of a building. The steel frame of the eight, twelve, sixteen or twenty-storied building is then bolted and riveted together, so that one often sees up against the sky line the skeleton of steel, long before the masons have overtaken the machinists. Evidently the builders have attempted, at least, to prepare for the earthquake; which even more than fire will determine each man's work, of what sort it is. Certainly the conveniences for doing business in the great edifices are almost all that could be desired.

Broadway is not quite the clogged and congested thoroughfare that it was in former years. There is indeed more traffic than ever, and the stream of human beings will no more cease now, than in the decade ago when the old lady from the country went into a shop on Broadway to "wait until the crowd went by." Until Jacob Sharp, the financier, who never kept any books, came along, the omnibuses which properly belonged to archaeological times, lumbered along and jammed the street from Canal Street to the Battery, making a hopeless block several times a day. Now, however, with the neat cable cars, running quietly and conveniently, there is an amazing difference on the street in favour of convenience, order, and the saving of time.

While Boston, Brooklyn, and some other cities leave the cable system to San Francisco, Philadelphia, and New York, and adopt the trolley, it is a question in whose favour or rather to whose discredit the highest death-rate belongs. Civilization must have its victims, and just as it is said that in London more people are killed and wounded by horses and carts than by railway accidents in the whole United Kingdom, so it is probable that a far higher percentage of deaths and wounds ensue from the use of horses and vehicles in the nation at large, than from all the steam and electric cars in all the States. Nevertheless, to be killed by a trolley car seems more worthy of public notice and certainly attracts more attention. The rate of speed, however, at which the cable and trolley cars move amounts really to the introduction of express trains into our cities, with their narrow and crowded streets. It is to be hoped that the coming, if not the present, generation will by use become accustomed to the dangers, and, being fore-warned, will be fore-armed. The average American will travel fast, despite the increased danger of being smashed.

That, however, it is possible to travel with more safety than at present attained in America, is shown by the records of transporation in England and on the Continent. It has been demonstrated, however, that the factor of personal safety in travel largely depends upon the amount of money which people are able and willing to pay for precautions. Well patronized roads, like the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, the Delaware, Lackwanna, and Western, the Boston & Albany, etc., are companies whose names are synonyms for safety, yet these are far from being infallible. Yet it is noticable that "the Empire State Express" which, for a distance of nearly five hundred miles maintains an average speed of very nearly sixty miles an hour, has thus far during a year's run had no accident worth speaking of. After the recent accident, caused almost wholly by an engineer's carelessness, on the D.L. & W. road, there is now in process of erection the blocking system, so favourably known in England.

The vastness of our national territory has heretofore been a barrier to securing the safety which is possible in the smaller European countries, but for the older and richer lines, running through densely populated portions of the country, there is no excuse. Public sentiment now demands that fulness of equipment and of *personnel* which will give reasonable assurance of safety of life and limb. The tendency of most railway companies is to wait until the patents on life-protecting inventions have run out, so that these will then be free from royalty and thus be much cheaper. But in the long run public sentiment cannot be outraged. For several years the number of able bodied men in the youth and prime of life killed on the railways of the country was equal in number to the slaughter of a great battle, in several years reaching the enormous total of twenty-five thousand. Apart from all that could be credited to personal carelessness or to unavoidable causes, the "link-and-pin" method of coupling cars was responsible for the loss of so much life and limb.

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Now, however, since the Act of Congress compelling the railways to adopt the air-brake and improved systems of coupling, it is good to notice signs of the coming times when the life of the staffs of freight trains will be as precious in the sight of corporations as those on the passenger trains. To the years of personal toil in influencing public opinion in and out of state legislatures, and in Congress, of the Hon. Lorenzo Giffin, of Iowa, much of this promising state of affairs is due.

From land to water is no startling change of subject, and perhaps in the recent application of electricity as a motor on the canal is seen the day-spring of a long bright day of revived transportation by water. It seems to have been demonstrated by the experiments on the Erie Canal that, with very little change in existing conditions of either the vehicle or the conduit, transportation by boat may be made so cheap that even the former supremacy of the artificial river that runs through New York State may be maintained even against the railways. Most of the canal transportation in the United States is somewhat paradoxical in point of physical geography. The rivers as a rule run from North to South, while the canals in general run from East to West, at right angles with the streams. While rail-roads are built as a rule on the old Indian trails, the canals have to go in the face of nature and be carried over the rivers. Nevertheless, there are undeniable advantages in water traffic. There in also a strong reluctance of the people of New York, at least, to give up the Erie Canal. Stigmatized as it was once as "Clinton's Big Ditch,"—though in reality first foreseen and proposed by a Dutchman named Van der Kemp,—it has been one of the greatest factors in building up the West, the North-west, and especially Chicago.

From the standpoint of kindness to animals the application of electricity is a great blessing. The tens of thousands of horses, maimed or killed annually upon the street cars or tramways of the United States occur no more. Electricity has not only saved our city streets from the filth of horse ordure, but has also saved the wear and tear of a vast amount of horse life. In this respect, the streets of Boston and those of London offer a vast contrast in favour of the former. As one thinks of the patient but heel-elevating canal mule, fed on east wind and rail fences during the winter, galled, jaded, thrashed and sworn at during the summer, one is thankful that the day for this relief and nirvana has come. Indeed, one is reminded of that favourite subject of Chinese and Japanese painters Chōkwarō, one of the eight Taoist Rishi. The sage sits on the ground with a gourd in his hand, out of which he conjures a mule which flies off in the air and disappears. So, blessed be the American Rishi, who, out of the gourd of his inventive brain, has sent the mule flying into oblivion and conjured up a new spirit that so willingly submits to harness and lifts the tow-path into the air on a tiny wire. Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes's poem which pictures the Salem witch come to life, and on the trolley wire propelling with her broom stick the electric cars of Boston, may have more wit but less humour in it than the remark of a bucolic gentleman made on the streets of Albany a short time ago. "By Hookey, if there ain't a chip-munk on top of a pole, pushing that car up the hill."

On the ocean, too, the competition in speed shows no sign of relaxation. It is a grand sight to stand on the shore in South Brooklyn, on Saturday and see the great fleets of Atlantic steamers move down the bay. The "three-funnelled" monsters, with their ten thousand tons capacity, speedily overtake their puny sisters with but one "smoke-stack," but in all of them one cannot but notice the great length and sharpness of line, as contrasted with the figure and dimensions of a generation ago. Whether in summer gaiety, or, in their winter armour of ice and fringes of icicles, they move in or out, they are always an impressive sight. This year, there being no Columbian World's Exposition, and all Europe being at peace, there are already signs of an enormous exodus from this side of the water. While Kyoto will celebrate her eleven hundredth anniversary one is tempted, in view of this summer's exhibition at Antwerp, to compare the beginning and influence on the world's history of the Belgian sea-port and the Nipponese interior city. That the United States will be one of the nations best represented at the City on the Scheldt seems very probable. Some of the great steamers are already booked to their full limit. For example, the steamer *Touraine*, which makes its first voyage of the season, June 21st, has every berth and state-room engaged. The state-room plans of many of the other big twin-screw steamers of the American and Cunard lines are completely crossed out during the entire month of May. Indeed, anyone going before August 1st, must now as a rule take what he can get.

All the travellers, however, will not travel eastward,—that is to Europe. It is more than probable that at least the full number of visitors westward, —that is to Japan and China—will set their faces toward the Setting Sun. Among the number of illustrious passengers already moving toward what to us Americans is the very far west—our territory extending to within about forty miles of Asia—is Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop, whose "Unbeaten Tracks of Japan" is still read with interest. One will generally find that her book on Japan has been worn out of its old covers in the public libraries and been clothed afresh by the book-binder. She has celebrated, it is said, her sixtieth birthday, and with both pencil and camera will visit both Japan and Korea. Very probably she will give us as interesting a book about the land of ginsing, big hats, white clothes, and long-stemmed tobacco pipes, as she has about the country between Heaven and Earth. Success to her. W. E. G.

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Healesville, Victoria, February 18th.

About a month ago telegraphic news of an alarming character relative to affairs in Japan reached us from London. It was stated that the Diet had been dissolved and that anti-foreign feeling was so strong as to render the lives of foreigners residing in the capital unsafe. The stormy sessions of the Diet recorded in the *Weekly Mail* of December 30th, received by me a week ago, have apparently been followed by some serious anti-foreign demonstrations, unless, as is possible, an exaggerated report has reached us.

Nothing of a very startling character has occurred here since I last wrote beyond one or two shooting affrays and some rather serious cases of robbery under arms. Owing, perhaps, to the bad times, burglary in Melbourne and Sydney is on the increase, and pitched battles between the police and the housebreakers are not uncommon. In Sydney two desperate men flew through the streets in the grey morning light "dropping" a policeman senseless every fifty yards or so, until five members of the force were distributed with broken heads at irregular intervals in their track. Among shooting tragedies that at Burwood, a suburb of Sydney, will long be remembered for its grim details. A certain Mr. William Paisley was elected to the office of Mayor on a Saturday. On the following Monday morning at 8 o'clock he began the duties of his office. Before 9 o'clock he had received no less than five bullets in his body from the revolver of the town clerk. When first attacked Paisley was sitting at his desk. He closed with his antagonist. A terrible struggle ensued, registered in crimson splashes all over the Council Chamber. Hacked with a stiletto and riddled with bullets the unfortunate Mayor rushed out into the street, where he encountered a friend who bore him fainting to the bed of death. The murderer, who was armed with three loaded revolvers, was found dead, sitting in one of the Councillor's chairs. It has since transpired that in revenge for a slight reduction in his salary this mad town clerk had resolved to murder the principal Aldermen as well as the Mayor, and that on the Saturday prior to the perpetration of the dread deed, he burnt the town records, extending over 20 years, and thus left it without a history. Australia has of late been acquiring an unenviable reputation for the development of crime. It will be long before the history of the man who believed in matrimony in the abstract but preferred a wife in the concrete is forgotten. The annals of the past twelve months are full of the record of bloody encounters between spoilers and the despoiled, wholesale murder of infants and general baby farming; and of business frauds and forgeries, which for elaborateness and depth have seldom been surpassed. It is the complaint of some that the law is too leniently administered in this colony. A signal instance of extreme leniency occurred last week, when two burglars stood convicted of housebreaking. They both carried firearms. One of the men when hard pressed by his assailants discharged his revolver and killed one of their number. The other man ran away without firing. There is a little doubt that had his flight been interfered with he would have used his deadly weapon. The law has sentenced the one man to death, and the other is "let off" with three year's imprisonment, the judge almost apologising for being obliged to pass such a sentence.

To turn to other subjects; the great libel case Speight *v.* Syne is still undetermined. The jury were unable to agree as to ten of the eleven alleged libels. On one point only they found a verdict for the plaintiff and awarded £100 damages. With this decision Mr. Speight is naturally dissatisfied. A new jury is to be empanelled and the case is to be tried again. The Court has made one important decision in the plaintiff's favour. It has ruled that he is entitled to his costs. The defendant has been required to give security for these costs. In the meantime, the public, weary of the slow progress of the law, has, through the medium of the press, shown its sympathy with Mr. Speight and has subscribed over a thousand pounds to enable him to continue his action against the *Age*. Mr. Speight was commisioner of railways when he became the object of the *Age's* attack. It is alleged by those who are in a position to know that the raid on the management of the railways published in the *Age* and the insinuations relative to Mr. Speight, had their source in personal spite and political party feeling. According to the opinion of numerous railway experts, Mr. Speight, who for some years held a high position in connection with the English Midland Railway, is by far the ablest manager that Victoria has ever employed, and furthermore that since Mr. Speight was removed from office Victorian lines have been badly mismanaged, resulting in heavy annual losses. These writers contend that it is the duty of the present Government to correct the mistake of their predecessors by reinstating Mr. Speight as Chairman of Commissioners. Both parties in this action are feeling the drain on their pecuniary resources to be almost past endurance, but the hope of recoupment is luring each on to the bitter end. The Mercantile Bank prosecution has made no further progress since I last wrote. The trial of Sir Matthew Davies will commence next week.

In addition to our usual summer pests and annoyances, we have this year been visited by an insect known as the Bot fly, or *ostrus egin*. This fly deposits small eggs on cattle and horses. The latter frequently rub these eggs off when feeding, and dropping into the fodder, they are swallowed by the animal. After they have passed into stomach, say some, while still in the mouth, say others, the eggs are hatched and a grub a little larger than a pin's head, with a barbed hook protruding from its head is produced. With this hook the insect clings to the cuticular part of the stomach, where it feeds on mucus for many months —during the whole of winter and well into the spring—and by this time is considerably grown. At the proper time it disengages itself from the membrane and is carried into another portion of the stomach with the food and is soon after evacuated from the horse. After reaching the ground it at once burrows into it and soon after changes into a chrysalis state, and from that to the Bot fly. It once more makes it appearance during November, December, and January when it dies, the male first, and the female soon after depositing its eggs. It has until very lately been the general opinion that these pests, when they have once entered the stomach of an animal, are bound to prove fatal. Hence great care has been taken to destroy the eggs by the application of kerosene while they still adhere to the horse's skin. It is now maintained by veterinary authorities that the bot grub does no harm to the animal whatever. In fact it does him good, in that its size produces a roughness in the lining of the stomach which breaks up the food as it passes from one part of the animal's interior to another. Acting on the old theory, many a farmer has killed his horse by the severity of his remedial measures. Great alarm has been caused among vine-growers by the appearance of the phylloxera in several vineyards at Bendigo. The Board of Viticulture, however, has made the most praiseworthy efforts to stamp out the disease and has hitherto been successful.

On the 5th instant a much needed institution, "The Melbourne Voluntary Tribunal of Arbitration," was declared open for the transaction of business. This tribunal was initiated by the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce. It is founded on the model of the London Chamber of Arbitration. Mr. Patterson, the Premier, speaking at the inauguration ceremony, remarked that the system of settling business disputes to be followed was not new, as it had been used in the old country more or less from the 15th century, and was in full vogue on the continent of Europe, the French going so far as compulsory arbitration. In London it was quite possible for an arbitration to cost no more than three guineas. The experiment might be called a bold one, as in one sense it was a protest against the existing system of litigation. The lawyers of Melbourne, who swarm like bees, and suck the honey from many a hard-working man's life, are doubtless somewhat disconcerted by the new departure. How much happier the civilised world would be were every community furnished with

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a Tribunal of Arbitration. The inauguration of such institutions is tantamount to declaring the English system of litigation to be incapable of reform. One often wonders how it is that the wide feeling of dissatisfaction with existing legal procedure does not lead to a thorough overhauling of the methods now in vogue. But in, this as in so many other matters, the intense Conservatism of the Englishman bars the way to progress.

An amusing controversy has been carried on in the local press respecting Victorian pronunciation of English. The pronunciation now in vogue among all the uneducated and semi-educated and a number of the well-educated classes may be described as half cockney and half west country pronunciation. The colony is strewn with dropped h's, and the native colonial drops the final g in words ending in ing and speaks of ridin, walkin, and ploughin. The vowels are all drawled in a most peculiar fashion, whereby land becomes leand, brown, bre-own, bad, be-ad, ground gre-ound. A young lady asks a gentleman friend the following question: "Will you have the kike first and the gripes after"! This being the recognised way of pronouncing cake and grapes. A spade is not called a spade here but a spyde. A lady described as intelligent, accomplished, and highly educated, always calls her daughter "Disy." In some instances a consonant is dropped as in words ending with ing, in others one is added; idea is pronounced ideer. The general opinion seems to be that the existing mispronunciation is learnt at State schools and is the result of slovenliness and carelessness of speech, which is seldom if ever reproved by the parents. The country bumpkin is a perfect slave to convention and custom. Every lad thinks it would be heinous to nod his head in any but the peculiar fashion in vogue all over the colony, and hardly deems the ordinary English nod to be worthy of being considered a salutation. So in the matter of pronunciation he follows the common usage and speaks of his neighbours ke-ows, and knows not how to say cow.

A somewhat peculiar affection of the eyes locally known as "sand blight" has been very prevalent during the past few months. It commences with great soreness and irritation. After a few days matter exudes from the eyes and one awakes in the morning to find them quite closed. The complaint lasts in some cases for several weeks. A lotion composed of sulphate of zinc is said to be the best remedy.

I have lived in no country where the longing for rain during the hot summer months is so intense as it is here. Everything is parched, the apples literally bake on the trees; one-half of many of them being quite discoloured. Few vegetables can be kept alive without constant watering, and in many cases the water has to be brought from a great distance. Oppressed by the extreme heat, the birds refuse to sing, and the cattle assemble in the forenoon under the tall Eucalyptus trees, where they rest till 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The only redeeming characteristic of the Australian climate is the coolness of the summer nights. The thermometer after rising to 94° in the shade during the day often falls to 60° in the night.

FROM THE BATTLE-FIELD AT CHANCELLORSVILLE INTO LIBBY PRISON.

READ BEFORE THE YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY, MARCH 16, 1894, BY CLAY MACCAULEY, LIEUTENANT IN THE 126TH REGIMENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY, U.S.A.

NOTE.—Chancellorsville, Virginia, U.S., a large brick hotel, once kept by a Mr. Chancellor, was the site of severe sanguinary conflicts between the American Federal Army of the Potomac under General Hooker, and the Confederates under General Lee. On the 29th April, 1863, the Federal army crossed the Rappahannock: on 2nd May, General "Stonewall" Jackson furiously attacked and routed the right wing, but was mortally wounded by his own party firing on him by mistake. General Stuart took his command, and after a severe conflict on 3rd and 4th May, with great loss to both parties, the Federals were compelled to recross the Rappahannock. The struggle was compared to that at Hougemont during the battle of Waterloo. Jackson died 10th May. Hooker's loss was 17,000 men, of whom 5,000 were made prisoners, Lee's loss was about 13,000, of whom 3,000 were prisoners. The result of this battle has always been an enigma to military critics. Hooker's army was composed of the best of material, was well equipped and full of spirit, and numbered 120,000, while Lee's force was 62,000. Hooker succeeded in turning Lee's position, and in forcing him out of his fortified camp into the open field, where a complete victory, for the national forces seemed so easy of attainment as to be well-nigh certain. That it was not won, was due simply to bad management.—Haydn's Dictionary of Dates, 17th Ed. 1886.

In answering the invitation of your honoured President to lecture before you this evening, I venture to offer some personal recollections of this great historic event, the battle of Chancellorsville, together with a recital of some of my experiences immediately following it. I am no military scientist. Competent critics long ago passed judgment upon the battle and laid the responsibility for the defeat of the Union army upon those who should bear it; of the conflict as a whole I have nothing to say. My purpose now is simply to recall for you some experiences in the battle, eventful for me, which, although of no great historical value, were somewhat unique, and may, moreover, claim to be of more than merely personal interest. I have learned that the culmination of the disastrous conflict came on the morning of May 3rd between eight and ten o'clock. General Doubleday, in his graphic history of the engagement, speaks of a part of those critical hours in these words:—"The struggle increased in violence. The rebels were determined to break through the lines and our men equally determined not to give way. Well might De Trobriand style it, 'a mad and desperate battle!' Again and again Rodes' and Hill's divisions renewed the attempt and were temporarily successful, and again was the bleeding remnant of their forces flung back in disorder." The momentous event for me occurred during that temporary success of Generals Rodes and Hill.

But let me say a few words of what happened previous to this occurence. I was a lieutenant in a Pennsylvania regiment, in General Humphrey's Division, Third of the Fifth Corps. This division had had hard marching and excessive work for its share ever since it had broken camp, Monday, April 27th. We had made a long rapid detour towards our objective point by way of Kelly's and Ely's fords in the Rappahannock and Rapidaw rivers. At Kelly's ford we were detailed as the rear guard of the 11th and 12th Corps. Our work was to take up pontoon bridges from streams swollen by heavy rains, and to move by night and by forced marches. A journal, kept at the time, has this record of April 30th:—"An awful, terrible march, my feet are very sore and are blistered. Had to cut open my boots." Looking back over the history of the campaign, it now appears that it was not the original intention of General Hooker, our commander, to use us for fighting. Our term of enlistment would expire in a short time, and he apparently had decided to make of our division a sort of factotum in his preparations for the conflict. In performing this duty, Friday became a day for our division which I shall never forget. Already we had been greatly fatigued by our night-marchings and our hard work. But on that day there came a grand climax. We made a "quick time" reconnoissance to Banks' Ford, nearly five miles away on the Confederate right. Reaching that point we were suddenly "'bout faced" and were sent back at a "double quick" pace to our starting place. It seemed at times in that movement that human endurance could last no longer. Upon our return fierce skirmishing on our centre at Slocum's Corps, of which we had had some leaden token, was not at all cheering under the circumstances. At last, however, our tribulations seemed to be over. Before nightfall we were in position on the extreme left, on a high bluff, in a beautiful wood, our own left resting on the river bank, covering our army's important line of retreat and supply, the U.S. Ford on the Rappahannock. Then we concluded that the army was finally in position and our division assigned to a place wholly free from peril of balls or assault. Nothing of the enemy could be seen or heard at our front. We threw up entrenchments and began to take time at our ease. We were delightfully comfortable that first of May evening, tired though we were. We could hear distant skirmishing. We were nearly three miles away from the point of Confederate resistance to Hooker's advance, and were on impregnable heights. Over our pipes we talked of the day's events. There was first to talk of, our Commander's boast in General Order No. 47, which had been read to us that morning, to the effect that we had "completely surrounded the rebels," and that they would "either have to fly ingloriously or come out from their breastworks where destruction was certain," and that "the operations of the 5th, 11th, and 12th Corps were a series of splendid achievements." This was very flattering and reassuring. Also we had considerable amusement over an incident which fell to us in our swift reconnoissance on the river road to Banks' Ford. We had passed through a Confederate camp apparently hastily deserted at our approach. Tents had been left standing, fires burning, clothing, food and utensils scattered about on the ground, two caissons broken down and left lying in the road, and ammunition upset to become our spoil, by men too much in a hurry to gather it up. I am saying only what we thought. I do not know that we had frightened anybody to this extent. But the supposition that our coming had set the southerners to going made us jubilant. In this good mood at length we fell into well-earned sleep on the soft leaves under great trees, that bright and perfect May Day night. Let me speak just one word here, in passing, of the kind of country in which the Chancellorsville fight took place. Very little of that region was open space. For the most part it was heavily wooded, the woods densely undergrown, and almost impassible. The two famous "plank roads" and a turnpike, were the only continuous clear stretches through the wilderness excepting two or three quite obscure and primitive woodways. Add to these characteristics a few houses with small open spaces about them, some low heights, several wide marshes and small streams, and you will have an idea of the topography in general of that district. These peculiarities made the disposition and movement of troops exceedingly difficult. And to these peculiarities, in large part, may be attributed the success of "Stonewall" Jackson's terrible anddecisive descent upon our extreme right, on Saturday evening.

But to continue my personal story. Friday night we passed in almost unbroken sleep. We awoke that fateful Saturday well rested, confident that before the day should close our centre and right would break the enemy's opposition to Hooker's advance, and give a clear road for our long desired movement towards the Confederate capital. Saturday was quiet on the left. We lay lazily about doing nothing. The distant fighting at the centre was continuous most of the day though. The sound of the musketry firing and cannonading rose and fell like that of a passing thunder storm. At times the sound seemed like the booming and dash of a wave-beaten shore carried to the ear on the gusts of a fitful wind. Nothing eventful took place with us except the mild excitement of seeing a small battery of our own forces drag into place at our left. We ate, slept, smoked pipes, and talked. Towards evening an accidental shot by one of our picquets rallied us "to arms," but we soon broke ranks. We did not know that the great genius of the southern armies "Stonewall" Jackson, was just then executing one of his boldest and most masterly movements, the movement so fraught with doom to Hooker's army. He had taken 26,000 men, cut himself free from General Lee, and by an obscure road was speeding towards the listless 11th Corps, on our farthest right. We heard a violent outburst of battle towards sundown, but we did not know then that Jackson's forces, like a mighty torrent had swept down on the right, which, almost like a sand heap, had been trailed out into the wilderness and left there unguarded and unprepared for such an onset. This decisive event of the battle it was that brought about the disaster which befel us of Humphrey's division, so comfortable then in our ease and safety on the left. It is said that so ill-guarded was the extreme right of our army that Jackson's attack upon it was almost a complete surprise; that the fierce rush of the southerners came in almost simultamously with our picquets. The result was, Jackson fairly put the 11th Corps to rout, and left it for the rest of the battle *hors de combat*. Though ignorant of its purport, I heard the crash of the far-off conflict. It was midnight before I fell asleep. The next morning, Sunday, we were awakened at daybreak by heavy irregular tramping at our rear. Rising and looking around I saw, moving along among the trees, a very broken and most demoralized trail of soldiers. I instantly felt what it meant. Our time had come. We must go into action. We soon learned that this was the remnant of the 11th Corps, and that it had been sent to occupy our safe place. Our division was all bustle and preparation then. Coffee and "hard tack," board-like biscuits, were soon swallowed. With the risen sun our division was off, going it a "double quick" pace towards the right, where desperate fighting had already been renewed. In a short time we were under cannon fire. At length near Chancellorville hotel we were halted. Our three miles run had been a severe beginning for the day. We remained where we had halted, under fire for nearly an hour. Then, in column, we moved on past the famous house, past the forty guns which had been massed in the open space beyond the house, and towards the woods where, at the right, a sharp crashing whirr of musketry rose above all the other dreadful sounds which filled the air. The horrors of battle began to appear. In our path many had met with wounds and death in the regiments which had preceded us. We made a short halt where these dead and wounded were

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lying. This was a most trying ordeal. Had the stop continued long it might have been demoralizing. With nothing to do, and with mutilation and death visible at our feet, and with peril to ourselves increasing, large drafts were made upon moral resources. Fortunately the halt was but for a few moments. Then, by the right flank we advanced in line of battle. And what an advance! Leaving the open field we entered the wilderness. Our progress was for the most part a mere scramble, over logs, through dense underbrush, briars, and in swamp mud. We were scratched and bruised, and our clothing was torn. But we pushed on for about a hundred yards into the thicket. In somewhat thinner woods we were halted, and when in line, lay down and began to load and fire at will. It was an ugly give and take. We could not see the enemy, but the whizz and ting of their bullets proved that they were not far away. How long this aimless firing continued I do not know. But, as the excitement grew, many of the men rose to their feet, fired, and remained standing to load and fire. By a little experience just then I realized how much support numbers may be to each in a common danger. One of my men in his haste had shot away his ramrod. He held up the musket to show me what he had done. Without thinking I started to the rear, where, a short distance away I knew lay a musket. No sooner had I left touching distance of my company when an irresistible sense of loneliness and dread seized me. Each step away made the sensation more acute. Soon I was practically panic-stricken. Somehow, however, I got the ramrod of the dead man's musket, and went back to the line on the run. With the return to my men came assurance and courage. I never felt more alone or helpless than in those few moments of separation from my comrades. The air seemed full of hissing, shrieking demons, and I was sure that each next moment would bring death. The fight went on. So continuous and full had been the firing that the underbrush at our front was literally cut down at about waist height. Gradually I noticed one after another of my men cease firing. Ammunition was becoming exhausted. We sent for supplies. None were to be had. Something had gone wrong. The men began to feel it. Then, as the firing slackened I saw a foreboding disorder on our right. A feeling of suspense and doubt seemed to thrill along the line. About that time I felt a blow on my right side as if I had been struck by a heavy hammer. A glancing ball had hit me. The disorder, changing into tumult, came nearer and nearer. At last, it swept in upon the company next to mine and then struck my own company's right. Rising in successive ranks from the ground, the men, with questioning looks at one another, started, at first slowly and then rapidly, backward. It was not a panic. It was a necessary retreat of almost helpless men from a coming danger which they felt themselves powerless to resist. They were good soldiers. They had led in the boldest and farthest charge made by the Union forces up Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg in the preceding December. I have read that that charge was characterized by the Confederate General Ransom as "a last desperate and maddened attack." The division in that assault had more than a thousand men killed and wounded in its two brigades. But what can men, without ammunition, and seeing the line of which they form part steadily breaking away from before some oncoming force, do? A wave rolling backward on a curving beach does not more steadily sweep broken on its way than did the retreat of our battle line from right to left that Sunday morning. The enemy discovering that our ammunition was exhausted had "charged" us, striking our extreme right, much as one line of the letter V meets the other. What then happened to me, a letter written not long afterwards tells in these words:—"Soon, I found myself alone. I saw that I must run or be killed. I started to run, but after a few steps my sword scabbard caught between my legs and threw me down on my face. Up again, I tried to break through the bushes; I fell again, and was so exhausted that I could go no farther. I crawled alongside one of our wounded, and in a moment the rebels were on me." I remember well now that poor fellow, at whose side I was, his body torn open by a shell. Seeing me he had begged for water. I was about to give him my canteen, when, looking up, I discovered the rebels rapidly coming through the brush. Those moments are now like the memory of some dreadful dream. Instinctively I started to rise. But as I rose I saw a skirmisher take a sudden and not very agreeable interest in me. With a jerk he raised his musket from charge to direct aim. I was his mark. Perhaps some of you understand just what it is to look into a loaded gun, its hammer up and the trigger under the finger of a man who would just as soon pull as not. Under the circumstances naturally I remained just where I was, half risen. For several seconds I looked into the muzzle of that advancing musket. I saw as in a mist many moving men, and heard the noise of their rush. But my brain was concentrated on that one advancing figure. He came upon me swifter then I speak of him now. When within a few paces distance down came his musket to a charge, and with the bayonet at my breast the man yelled, "You —— —— —— of a ——, give me that sword." While he was speaking the charging line came up and passed. Two regiments deep it was. I afterwards learned that the 6th and 5th Alabamas were at our immediate front. My captor, a big tawny-bearded fellow, seeing that I was but a boy changed his manner at once when I gave him my sword. As I did not rise he asked me if I was hurt. "I do'nt know," I replied, and added, "Get me out of this as quick as you can." I suddenly remembered that just beyond where our line had entered the tangle, in the open space were batteries consisting of about forty guns, planted in crescent and bearing on the woods. I thought that our men would fall back to these batteries and rally there. I was sure too that as soon as the rebels should appear at the edge of the woods, something would happen. I had no desire to be killed by the grape, canister, shell or anything else shot from our own guns. I consequently urged retreat into the southern works as quickly as possible, and in a direction I pointed out. My new acquaintance from Alabama agreed with me. He put a strong arm under my shoulders and, half carrying me, started for the rear. I cannot tell how far we had gone—perhaps it was a hundred yards—when the expected something happened. It seemed as though a hurricane out of a clear sky had all at once burst upon that forest. We had just reached a breast-work behind which there was quite a deep hole. With the first crash among the trees, into that we fell. For about ten minutes a roaring torrent of iron plunged through the air over us. At once we were almost covered up by fallen tree branches. The noise was horrible. Gradually the devastating stream ceased, but, as it slackened, back came the southern crowd, pell mell, all in disorder, really "a bleeding remnant" as General Doubleday wrote of it; and back with the retreating masses we two scrambled towards the further rear. Soon the companies halted under the commanding shouts of their officers, and I was hurried on farther to where I met at length General Rodes, to whom I surrendered and by whom I was sent still farther backwards. Our further way lay over one of the "Plank Roads," so much spoken of in connection with the Chancellorsville fight. On this road the struggle of the day and night before had been severest. Our own and the Confederate dead by the score there lay side by side. Twice batteries plunged past us, the hoofs of the horses, and the caissons' wheels, crushing and mutilating the dead bodies of friend and foe. Along the road side were gathered hundreds of the wounded of both armies. Their only shelter from the blazing sun being blankets stretched over them, held in place by the closed hammers of muskets, the muskets reversed and stuck upright into the ground by their bayonets. It was a sickening march. Confederate reserves passed us, hurrying to the front at "double quick time," and supplies of ammunition were being carried forward. Further on we reached what, I was told, had been the first front line of the "Yankee" breastworks. At that point was a house, filled with, and surrounded by wounded and dying of the hapless 11th Corps. Many evidences of a fearful struggle were visible there. Leaving these we soon entered the original Confederate position. I was there delivered over to an officer and became one more in a large crowd of our own men chiefly of the 11th Corps, already gathered there. At last the morning's horror was past. I threw myself down upon the ground physically exhausted, a discouraged, miserable prisoner of war. Let me take this place to acknowledge, however, that from the southern soldiers who had anything to do with us on the battle field we received nothing except kind treatment, and as far as I could see, much had been done for our wounded. A number of our own surgeons had been left within the Confederate lines with the wounded while Confederate, surgeons were giving their services to the injured of both armies.

After a short rest, I began to take observations of my new situation and surroundings. One of the things most to attract attention was the generally miserable appearance of the soldiers of Jackson's Corps. Dirt and tatters seemed to be the rule in their clothing, and a used-up, emaciated look in their physique. They were what one would call "a hard looking crowd." Nor could one style them "wearers of the gray." Dusty brown rather were they, from their rusty slouch hats, sandy beards, sallow skins, butter-nut coats and trousers down to their mud-stained shoes. I thought them emaciated, I said, but perhaps I would better say that they were lank and lean. Certainly they had shown remarkable endurance, and they were yet able to do exhausting and desperate work. I suppose the facts really were, that already the Confederacy was beginning to suffer from poverty in its commissariat, and that, accustomed to the round well-fed look of the soldiers of the north I could not judge correctly of men who had become chiefly sinew and bone by such work as "Stonewall" Jackson exacted of them. Nevertheless, as we soon found out, the Confederate commissariat was neither well filled nor luxurious. One of our guards gave me a small piece of his "hard tack" for luncheon, and told me that they were all on short rations. We officers, as it proved, were unfortunate in having put our haversacks on pack-mules that morning before going into action. Consequently, we had become, in every sense of the word, dependents on our captors' bounty. How generous that was the record of the next few days will show. Towards noon the prisoners were formed into a sort of column, the members of the numerous northern regiments ranging side by side as chance ordered, and were started off southward on a road towards Spottsylvania Court House; we were guarded by a South Carolina regiment. By the way we marched, it was about fifteen miles, to the Court House, which at nightfall we reached. We were driven into the Court House enclosure, where we spent the night on the grass under the shelter of overspreading trees. As I lay there, looking up at the quiet stars and sky, I realized for the first time what the events of the day meant. I was a prisoner, and doomed to,—I could not tell what. I dreaded the revelations of the unknown future, but worse than all I suffered from the thought of the suspense of the father and mother at home, who would not know what had become of the boy they had expected so soon to see. At last I went to sleep with a miserable depression of brain and heart.

We were on the road early the next morning. No coffee or food had we had to start the day with, and already some of us had begun to feel the effects of our unusual fast. Spottsylvania Court House was a beautiful place. It was not a town. It was composed of the county court building, a tavern, a residence house or two, and one or two country churches. But there were open and green fields there and beautiful trees. That Monday's march was silent and dreary. We saw but few people and passed but few houses. No signs of war were apparent. Our column must have seemed more like a doleful gang of condemned criminals than a body of honourably defeated soldiers. Most of us were in a sorry condition from bruises, and scratches received in that scramble in the wilderness. The clothing of some was so torn that arms, legs, and even backs and chests were laid bare. Only these incidents of that day are fresh in memory. During one of our halts, near a good-looking house, a woman gave to the Major commanding our guard, a small Confederacy flag, which, to please her, he flaunted over us as he rode by, with the declaration that now we would have to march under that flag for a while. This was the first real insult offered us. At another place, a little woman came running down a path from her house to the road side, fairly wild with revengeful rage. She clasped her little fists and shook them at us, her black eyes sparkling. With a sort of scream she cried out, "Kill 'em all, Colonel, right here for me!" Coloured people, slaves, at times came out from their cabins to look, but never a word said they. This gloomy march lasted for about thirteen miles, when, late in the afternoon, we crossed the Ny River, reached Guinea's Station on the Richmond and Fredericksburg railway and were halted in a low meadow, which as I have learned was but a continuation of what is called "Stannard's Marsh." We were nearly a mile northwest of the station. Guinea's was at that time the base of supply for Lee's army.

Monday night we slept miserably, those who slept at all. The ground was soft and wet, we had been without food all the day; we did not have even the comfort of fires. The strain had begun to tell. But we had reached a railroad. That fact had some consolation in it, and we were only about forty-five miles from Richmond. Tuesday morning dawned. A noticeable stir at the station aroused our wonderment. The rumour spread among us that the rebels had, after all, been whipped. Trains of baggage waggons came in from Freidricksburg, their horses at the gallop. We heard reports that the rebels were making preparations for a wholesale removal of their supplies towards Richmond. Hope of recapture by our own men sprang up. But the hope soon fell. We made a request for food. We were answered that there was none. We asked for

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wood. "None to be had," was the reply. The day dragged along. In the afternoon a waggon was driven into our camp with rations, we were told. It brought to us a half-barrel of salt beef and a barrel of flour. These rations were distributed. But this was the style of distribution The barrel of flour was tumbled from the waggon on to the ground. The barrel burst open where it fell. At the side of the flour was dropped the beef. That was our hosts, style of serving us. Now, hungry as we were what could we do with either flour or beef? We had neither kettles nor fire. There lay the two gifts of food. Gradually the flour absorbed moisture from the earth and became dirty brown paste, and the beef took on iron-cal red, white, and blue tints from exposure to air and water. Some tried to eat of the pasty flour but soon had to give over the effort. We began to long for transportation to Richmond. There, we felt sure, we should get both shelter and something to eat. But Tuesday night came, and again we lay down for a night in the marshy meadow. With Wednesday morning a chilling north-east wind arose and clouding skies. We did not seem to have anything to wake up for. That camp of Union soldiers was about as unhappy a looking set of men as you could bear to see. Our clothing was wet through and through, and our stomachs were still empty. But a few of us determined that if possible something should be done. What others did I do not know. This story, as you know, centres around myself. Therefore what three of those wretched men with me did to solve the problem I can recount. We begged permission to go to a house about a quarter of a mile away to try to find food. Our request was granted and, a kind-hearted fellow happened to be our guard. With some renewed hope we began our foraging expedition. At that house lay General "Stonewall" Jackson, dying. From our guard we learned that Jackson was is an extremely critical condition. We did not get quite to the house. At a cabin near-by, we found an old coloured woman. She had but little. We returned to the camp, however, with an old hen for which we paid $5.00 in United States money, together with about a quart of corn-meal which cost us $1.00. On the way back our soft-hearted guard led us by a tent near the railway, and allowed us to pick up an old castaway iron tea-kettle lying there. Then came the question of how to cook our dinner. The generous rebel helped us to gather some small sticks on the banks of the Ny and, in the little river there was water more than we needed. The fire problem, however, was difficult to solve. A pocket knife had cut off the hen's head and anatomized her body. Then, corn-meal and water were well mixed together in the rusty kettle. But the wood was damp and the river bank was wet. After all our efforts therefore we could not get quite as much fire as smoke, and I know it was hard work holding the kettle in the smoke. Not a stone on which to rest the kettle could be found. But suddenly in the midst of our proceedings came a crisis and catastrophe. The novel soup was not even quite luke-warm, when all at once all officers were ordered to fall into line. We obeyed the orders of course, and hastened into camp, but each of us our took place in the ranks carrying with him a handful of dripping chicken and warm corn meal. One of our number still held on to the precious kettle. "To Richmond," was the cry. With this prospect to stimulate us, we started for the station. On the way we disposed of our grabs of raw chicken. It was almost nightfall when we reached the rail-line. By that time the sky had become densely clouded. Already a thick mist was driving by on a chill wind. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," it is written. So as night closed in, it was with increasing heaviness of heart that in vain we strained our eyes to find the cars which were to take us away from that place of increasing torture. Everything was in confusion about the station. Trains and cars were shunting from place to place, waggons coming and going, men hurrying to and fro. The hours passed but nothing came for us. Eight, nine o'clock were gone. Rain began to fall and a fiercer, colder wind to blow. Still no cars for us. Instead, when it was nearly ten o'clock we were, to our dismay, dragged back to the marsh. Reaching that, we found it changing into a veritable swamp. Water seemed to ooze up out of the ground as well as to pour down from the clouds. No one bettered himself in trying to get out of the water. Water covered everything. However, we began to care but little for what happened. My brain was giving way to a sort of torpor. I now can remember only that, with a kind of animal instinct at self preservation, I groped about in the blackness of darkness and found a small hummock, on which I laid my canteen, put by elbow on the canteen, my head on my elbow, and that there with hundreds of comrades I lay down in water to pass tiredful hours.

I wish I had memory clear enough, or pen graphic enough to describe the appearance of the Union prisoners' camp at Guinea's station the next morning. How those Confederate officers ever allowed it to become a possibility, even under the stress of the events following the battle, which had been about as severe to them as it had been to their enemy, I have never been able to explain. To their everlasting dishonour they did permit it. Having practicaly had no food for four days, with no shelter in prospect, without even fires to protect us, lying in water inches deep, and exposed to a piercingly chill north-east storm, I saw Thursday morning had come. Possibly the officers in command could have bettered our condition but little, if at all. Possibly with prospect of removal to Richmond at any hour they felt no necessity for making a change of camp. Possibly they did not care. Yet, I must admit, our guards seemed almost as forlorn and famished as we were. How that Thursday went I do not remember. There was no pause in the storm, I know. Only as evening approached came renewal of hope. We were again ordered to go over to the railway. That walk was a cheerless struggle through deep, soft mud. I fell two or three times on the way from sheer exhaustion. At the station some of our men sank down at the halt and swore they would not move again. This time, however, we had not been brought to the station on a fool's errand. At about nine o'clock, with many other Union officers, I climbed into cars headed for Richmond. I do not remember just how many of us were in the cars. The car, I recollect, was a ricketty freight-box, seatless windowless. Its roof gave us no real protection from the beating rain. The floor was covered with filth nearly an inch deep, mud and corn mixed. To say that we were crowded is not to tell the whole truth; we could not all have sat down at once had we tried to sit down. We disposed of ourselves in many sorts of postures as best we could. Some of us would then have given up wholly had we not been supported by the confidence that before morning we should have the release of getting to shelter and food in Richmond. In truth, hardly as much consideration was given us as is given to a car load of cattle. Well, within an hour after we had been jammed into that freight car, the train was started and we nerved ourselves for the night. But a tired horse could have gone as fast as that train went. Of course much must be considered as accounting for this. The track was single, and I suppose many obstacles were in the way. We were stopped often and, to our great discomfort the loosely coupled cars were jerked backwards and forwards. But we were upheld by the feeling that the agony could not last much longer. At least, so felt those of us who were not too benumbed to feel. Yet so slow was our progress that towards midnight we had not gone farther on our way than about six miles. Again we began to move. I did not know what was being done. Doubled up in as small a space as I could fill in a corner of the car I knew only that we were moved and stopped. Finally we came to another stop. Then a long silence. Dawn lightened slowly through the continuing storm. Soon I heard some one say, "*Hell*, boys we are still at Guineas." And for a truth we were there. We were side tracked just at the place from which we had started at ten o'clock the night before. There is no use in my trying to give you any notion of how we felt. I can state merely the facts. Friday morning had come. As all things else that too at length passed. Not a mouthful of food was given us. Some of the men were allowed to get out of the car, and they lay beside it and under it in the mud for hours. The rest of us stretched our benumbed bodies where we were. Gradually the rain ceased and the skies slowly brightened. About noon for a second time we were packed into our box, and what proved to be the real start for Richmond was made. Of course I cannot tell what justification the Confederate authorities might offer for this brutal manner of transporting us southward. I know that everything inside General Lee's lines was badly demoralized by the battle of Chancellorsville. Probably, too, the Confederates had hardly enough food at command with which to supply their own troops. All their means of railway carriage at Guinea's were in bad shape. But I often think that authorities at Guinea's were as willing to see us as badly crippled through our misfortunes as prisoners in their hands, as by the damage inflicted upon us in battle.

At last, at about five o'clock, Friday evening, May 8th, 1863, we, three score and more, thoroughly used-up Union officers were emptied out of our pen into one of the streets of the Confederate capital. The once dreaded city, had, by force of events, become in imagination, a welcome place of refuge. Famished, filthy, many of us ragged, we limped painfully down a main street followed by crowds of men and women, and jeering, hooting boys. How is it in human possibility for us who endured that week ever to forget, or even to forgive, the men who had brought upon us that suffering and humiliation? Our experiences at Guinea's station, and the manner in which we had been taken to Richmond, had been as cruel as cruel could be under this nineteenth century civilization, had there been any possibility of preventing it I noticed but little in our walk. Only two things impressed themselves distinctly upon memory, excepting the tauntings of the crowd. We passed the Capitol. There stood the noble equestrian statue of Washington in the Capitol grounds, a lifeless and consequently impassive spectator of the degradation of children of men who had fought and died under his leadership that their country might become the home of a free and independent nation. And there too stood on the Capitol steps the leader of the rebellion against the Union, the rebel President,—not a statue but a living man, he also seemingly an impassive spectator of our degradation, the degradation of many of his fellow Americans, whose only crime had been that they had done what they could to save the Union which Washington and our patriot fathers had bequeathed to posterity as a sacred trust for the blessing of mankind.

Our forlorn band kept on its way, followed by a hooting crowd. Then came the last moment in this little story of the great war. We were halted in front of a large, three-storied brick building. Looking up I saw a white sign extended across the side walk. On it were painted these words: "Libby and Son, Ship-chandlers and Grocers." By file right we passed that and entered a broad, low-ceiled hall-way. Again we were halted. Our journey was at its end. We had come from the "Battlefield at Chancellorsville into Libby Prison."

BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED.

The following report was presented to the shareholders of this bank at the fourth annual meeting held on Monday, the 26th, February, 1894, at the Cannon Street Station Hotel, London.

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders a statement of the affairs of the Bank for the year ending 31st December, 1893. The net profit, after deducting all expenses at the head office, branches and agencies, including interest on fixed deposits and other charges amounts to £18,389 17s. 7d.

Unfortunately, however, not only has this profit on the working account of the year been absorbed by the untoward course of exchange, consequent on the continued serious fall in the price of silver, and by a decline in the value of investments and advances made when the concern was a Trust and Loan Company, and before it became a Bank, but an additional sum, which brings the total deficiency or loss to £116,752. 0s. 11d. In these figures a fully sufficient sum has been provided to cover depreciation in assets in this country and to meet ascertained loss by exchange on money which has been brought home during the year; but the assets still in the East continue subject to the vicissitudes of silver, and although, taken all round, the securities held earn, on the money advanced, a rate of interest in excess of the rate paid on deposits, and are all of sound character, it would not be possible at this time to realize the majority of them without submitting to a great sacrifice (which fortunately the liabilities of the Bank do not render necessary), and it is hoped that by continuing the treatment which has enabled the Bank to largely reduce its outstandings during the year, there will be an ultimate recovery in value which will greatly improve the position of its affairs.

As indicated at the last general meeting the directors have made a call of £1 per share, which has been paid satisfactorily so far as the London register is concerned; but difficulty has been experienced in procuring payment from certain shareholders in China, against whom it has been necessary to institute proceedings.

The Board have deemed it in the interests of the Bank to bring Mr. Thos. Payn from India, where he has been in charge of the branches in that country, and to appoint him chief manager in London; and his great experience, combined with that of the managers we have now in charge of business in India, Hongkong, and China, lead the Board to entertain hopeful feelings regarding the prospects of the Bank in its exchange operations with these countries.

The directors who retire by rotation are Mr. D. McLean and Mr. H. D. Stewart, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

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URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, Bishop & Clarke, retire and offer themselves for re-election.
February 16th, 1894.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, 30TH DECEMBER, 1893.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

	£	£ s. d.
To Capital Fully Subscribed—		
199,875 Ordinary Shares of £10 each	£1,998,750	
1,250 Founders' Shares of £1 each	1,250	
201,125	£2,000,000	
To Capital Called up—		
199,875 Ordinary Shares of £10 each, £2.5s. per Share called up	£449,718.15. 0	
Deduct, installments of Capital called but not yet due, amounting to 15s. per Share	149,906. 5. 0	
	£299,812.10. 0	
Deduct unpaid calls—		
London Register £1,764.2.6		
Eastern Registers 31,060.0.5	32,824. 2.11	
Note.—The Accounts at the Branches in the East are made up to the 31st October, on which date the call was not due.	£266,988. 7. 1	
1,250 Founders' Shares of £1 each fully paid	1,250. 0. 0	268,238. 7. 1
To Installments of Capital Called, paid in advance		10,132.19.11
To Fixed Deposits and Current Accounts in Gold and Silver		1,334,898. 6.
To Bills Payable		22,227.12. 6
To Loans and London Bankers' Acceptances covered by Indian Government Paper, and other Securities		171,671. 8. 0
To Other Liabilities, including current transactions in transit with Branches, unpaid Interest, &c.		1,463,214.14. 4
		£3,270,383. 7.11

ASSETS.

	£	s. d.
By Cash in Hand and Bankers (including cash at short call		65,243.11. 6
By Indian Government Rupee Paper held in India and in transit for Exchange purposes	£335,575.16. 0	
Indian Government Rupee Paper held in London	62,000. 0. 0	
Investments made in London	30,257. 5. 0	
Investments made in the East	117,781.18. 4	
		545,614.19. 4
By Advances against Securities	£965,704.17. 0	
Less Doubtful Debts Reserve	24,515.17. 1	
		941,188.19.11
By Bills Receivable and other Assets		1,596,585.15 7
By Deposit Expenses—proportion of Agents' commission on Fixed Deposits paid in advance		4,998. 0. 8
By Profit and Loss Account		116,752. 0.11
		£3,270,383. 7.11

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.

	£	s. d
To Expenses of Management at Head Office, Branches and Agencies		24,214.16. 6
To Deposit Expenses—proportion of Agents' commission for 1893		2,945. 6. 8
To Interest on Fixed Deposits		64,528. 4.11
To Taxes		773. 4. 6
To Balance, being net profit for the year, carried down		18,389.17. 7
	£110,851.10. 2	
To Loss in Exchange (leaving Assets in India at 1/4⅛d. per Rupee, and in China at 3/- per dollar, the rate on 30th December being 1/3 29/32 and 2/3 31/32 respectively)		80,610.10. 9
To Other losses, including depreciation in Investments held in London		56,534. 1. 7
	£137,144.12. 4	

CR.

	£	s. d
By Gross Profits at Head Office for the Year ending 30th December, 1893, and at Branches and Agencies for the Year ending 31st October, 1893, after writing down Office Furniture		110,851.10. 2
	£110,851.10. 2	
By Balance from last Account		2,002.13.10
By Balance (as above) brought down		18,389.17. 7
By Balance		116,752. 0.11
	£137,144.12. 4	

WM. KESWICK,
D. MCLEAN,
H. D. STEWART,
CHAS. H. CAMPBELL, Secretary. } Directors.

F. H. HOOD, Accountant.

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account with the Books and Vouchers in London and with the Certified Statements received from the several Branches and Agencies, and we are of opinion that they exhibit a true and correct view of the Company's affairs as shown by the Books, taking the Assets at the rates stated in the Accounts.

TURQUAND, YOUNGS, BISHOP & CLARKE, Auditors.

London, 16th February, 1894.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL.")
[FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, March 18.

The French Budget shows a deficit of nearly six millions sterling.

An anarchist, who was carrying a bomb in the Madeleine, in Paris, was struck by a swinging door, when the bomb immediately exploded and the man was blown to pieces.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Bank of England, the Governor stated that the late cashier had committed grave irregularities in connection with advances to customers, had allowed overdrafts without authority, and had speculated on the Stock Exchange, the loss the Bank having sustained amounting to a quarter of a million sterling.

March 19.

The Naval Estimates show an increase of three millions sterling, and it is intended to provide seven battle-ships, six cruisers, and two sloops, which will form only a part of the complete but undisclosed programme that has been decided upon to extend over the next five years. The *personnel* of the Fleet will be increased by seven thousand officers and men.

The United States Senate has passed the Seigniorage Bill.

March 20.

The University Boat-race, which was rowed on Saturday, was a victory for Oxford by four lengths.

The Earl of Rosebery, speaking at a meeting at Edinburgh, declared that the increase of the Navy was in no way an aggressive movement, but was the greatest guarantee for the peace of Europe.

A monster Labour Meeting was held in Hyde Park yesterday to protest against the rejection by the House of Lords of the Employers' Liability Bill. Mr. John Burns urged the necessity of re-submitting the bill to Parliament and overthrowing the irresponsible vote of the Lords. He said it was useless to attempt to reform the House of Lords, which should be abolished, and that the time had arrived when the people will no longer have a second Chamber.

March 21.

The deputies in the French Senate have voted the necessary credit for the creation of a Ministry of the Colonies.

Mr. Sydney Charles Buxton, Parliamentary Secretary to the Colonial Office, stated yesterday in the House of Commons that the question of the Straits Military Contribution was being considered, and he hoped shortly to be able to announce a decision in the matter.

M. Vilers, at an interview in Paris, declared that, under the treaty, the Siamese Court of Appeal would revise the judgment delivered at Bangkok, wherein Phra Yot was acquitted of the murder of M. Grosgurin; meanwhile, the French retain possession of Chantaboon.

March 22.

A Boulangist member of the Senate has been appointed Colonial Minister, and in the Ministry of the Colonies considerable dissension has arisen.

In the House of Commons, Sir William Harcourt, addressing the House on the Navy Estimates, said that the supremacy of the Navy was the greatest element of peace for the country, as it enabled Great Britain to hold herself aloof from European combinations.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Nagasaki, March 28.

Captain Brownell, of the ship *Kambird*, charged here to-day with shooting at his boatswain on board the ship at sea on the 5th of February, was found guilty and sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Utsunomiya, March 29, 10.23 a.m.

The British Minister, His Excellency Mr. Hugh Fraser, left here on the 27th for Nikko.

Osaka, March 29, 3.40 p.m.

Sir William Robinson, Governor of Hongkong, and Lady Robinson, arrived at Kobe yesterday, and went up to Osaka to-day. His Excellency visited the Osaka Castle, the Artillery Barracks, and the Mint.

Nemuro Meteorological Observatory,
March 29.

Three hundred and thirty-one after-shocks from the great earthquake were experienced here up till yesterday.

Osaka, March 30, 4.15 p.m.

Prior to his departure for Shanghai, Mr. Kim Yo-kin visited this city on the 21st, accompanied by Mr. Toyama Mitsuro. The party put up at the Isobe Hotel. Mr. Go Seiken, an attaché in the Korean Legation, also registered at the same house. During his stay, Mr. Kim visited Kyoto and paid a visit to Mr. Tsuchikura, a wealthy Japanese resident of Yamato. He received a large sum of money from a certain Korean living at Sonezaki-mura, and is said to have had in possession at that time about 3,000 *yen*. Upon taking his departure for Kobe, he stated that he intended going to Tokyo and revisiting Osaka a month later. On his arrival at Kobe, on the 22nd, a certain person, at the request of the Local Authorities, who is said to have been instructed by wire, by the Authorities in Tokyo, to inquire about the truth of the intended departure for Shanghai, visited the Korean refugee at his hotel, upon which the Japanese was informed by Kyo Sho-u that the object of Mr. Kim's departure was to meet Mr. Gen O-un. He exchanged paper money to the amount of *yen* 140 or *yen* 150 into British coin. The expenses at the hotel Nishimura-ya, were paid by Kyo. Mr. Kim obtained a return ticket allowing a stay-over of 90 days.

Osaka, March 30, 4.45 p.m.

Kyo Sho-u, the murderer of Mr. Kim, stayed at the Tomoyoshi, an hotel opposite Suma Railway Station, between December and January last. Bok Yei-ko, Ri Keikan, and Jo Ryo-jun also put up at the same hostelry. Ken Zai-ju visited them often at their hotel. Kyo was provided with a very excellent Japanese sword.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.)

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 114.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to R sq.	1—K × R
2—R checks	2—K to K 5
3—Q mates at R 7;	
	if 2—K to Kt 5 or Kt 3
3—Kt mates at K 3 or K 7, accordingly;	
	if 2—K to K 3
3—Kt to B 4 (double ch. and mate).	
	1—Kt × Q
2—R to B 3	2—K P × P
3—R to K 7 (mate);	
	if 2—Q P × P
3—B × B (mate);	
	if 2—Anything else.
3—Kt mates at B 6.	
	1—Kt to R 6
2—B × B (ch.)	2—K × K B or × Kt
3—Q to Q Kt sq., or R × K P, accordingly (mate).	
	1—B × B
2—Q to R 7	2—K × Kt
3—R × K P (mate);	
	if 2—B × Kt
3—R to B 3 (dis. ch. and mate);	
	if 2—K to Q 6
3—R to B 3 (double ch. and mate).	
	1—P to R 4 (threatening R to R 3, ch.)
2—R checks at B 4	2—Either P × R
3—Q mates at R 7.	

(Other variations similar.)

Correct solutions received from Dr. Hispanus, W.H.S., Shogi (who remarks that it is "an ungainly position, with a somewhat easy key-move, but rich in ingenious variations"), J.D., Omega, and Digamma. The last-named and W.H.S. alone give the pretty variation when Black plays Kt to R 6. J.W.E. unfortunately touched the ground (slightly) in the variation B × B: if 2—R × P (ch.), P × R, 3—Q to R 7 (ch.), the Rook interposes.

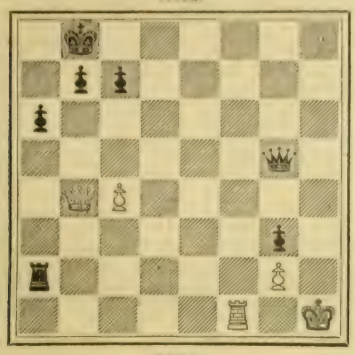
The author's proof that the problem would be defective (in the sense specified) if the position of the Black Pawn at R 2 and of the White P at B 7 were interchanged, is as follows:—The position of the Black Pawns would then show that Black must have taken at least four pieces, while as a fact White, having 13 left, has only lost 3. As the problem stands, a loss of three only of White's pieces is indicated.—W.H.S. is the only solver who has dealt with this feature of the problem.

Correct solution of No. 113 received from Aling.

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PROBLEM No. 116.
By SARATTI.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and draw.

The long-anticipated return match between the Tokyo and Yokohama Chess Clubs was brought off yesterday in Mr. Keil's fine building, 60-61, Main Street. The rooms of the Chess Club at No. 88 were found to be too small to accommodate the number of members expected, and Mr. Keil, with his accustomed generosity, placed a magnificent suite of rooms at the disposal of the Yokohama Chess Club for the occasion.

Play commenced at 3.30 p.m. and at the call of time the score stood as under :—

TOKYO.		YOKOHAMA.	
Mason	0.0	Balk	1.1
McGee	1.0	Tennant	0.1
Mosthaf	1.0	Batavus	0.1
Walz	0.1	Fardel	1.0
Munzinger	0.1	Griffin	1.0
Krug	0.0	Kuhn	1.1
Pownall	1.1	Schiff	0.0
White	1.1	Ekstrand	0.0
Cox	1.0	Davieson	0.1
Madeley	0.0	Mendelson	1.1

It will be seen that Yokohama repeated its victory of 3rd Feb. by a precisely similar total score—11 to 9. Play started about 3.30, and the combatants were soon hard at work. Captain Ekstrand was the first to succumb, and Rev. W. J. White soon put the first notch to the credit of the Tokyo team. The games proceeded with varying fortune until, long before 7 o'clock, everything was finished except the play at the two leading boards, where Balk v. Mason and McGee v. Tennant were still pounding away at hardly contested games. The excitement was great, for the score stood at 9 all. Time was called at 7.30, and Mr. Balk having won his game a short time previously, Captain Brinkley, the adjudicator, had only one case to come before him, the score standing at 10 to 9. All the players crowded round the battlefield, and the hopes of the Yokohama men rose high as the position seemed favourable for Black (Mr. Tennant). The decision was finally given in his favour by Captain Brinkley, and Yokohama declared winner by 11 to 9.

Hosts and guests then proceeded to dinner and many were the friendly yarns (Chessical and otherwise) which accompanied that function. About 9 o'clock a flash light photograph was taken of the dining-room and company, and shortly afterwards the Chairman rose to propose the first toast, "Our Guests," to which Mr. Mason responded, concluding his speech by calling on his Tokyo team to drink "Our Hosts." To this Mr. Griffin replied, proposing Capt. Brinkley. After Capt. Brinkley's response, the President proclaimed the Club Champion (Mr. Balk) and further announced the winners of the Handicap Tournament (Messrs. Balk and Tennant coming out equal with 9 points each) and also naming Captain Ekstrand as the successful competitor for the "*Japan Mail*, 1893, problem solving prize." After the applause consequent on these announcements had subsided, Mr. Keil, in a felicitous little speech, proposed the Prize-Winners, coupled with the name of Mr. Balk, the champion, who, to the great loss of the Yokohama Chess Club, is soon leaving Japan. Mr. Balk replied. The Secretary then called for a health to the Club President (Mr. Mowat) who leaves for Europe on Sunday, in the P. & O. steamer *Ancona*. Mr. Mowat made a most genial and humourous reply : and the speechifying wound up by the Secretary again rising to call for a bumper to Mr. Keil for his well-known kindness and generosity in lending the rooms, providing the Champion Cup, Handicap Tourney-prize, etc. Mr. Griffin stirred up a whirl of enthusiasm by announcing that Mr. Keil had been made President of the Club from now till the new election comes on at the commencement of next season. After Mr. Keil's very brief but emphatic reply, the company adjourned to the play-room and were again photographed : this time in battle array. Next followed the presentation of the prizes, with little speeches from givers and recipients, accompanied by hearty cheers for Mr. Balk the first Champion of the Club. Another photograph was then taken of the assembled players—this time grouped on the dais round the prizes.

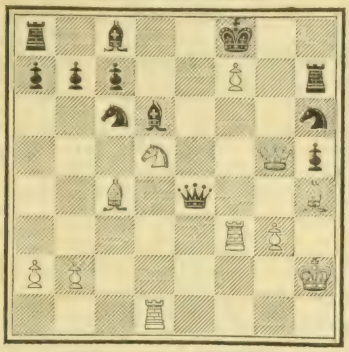
The enthusiatic ones then fell to combat once more, and several friendly games were played before the Tokyo team had to leave. After their departure, more games, until shortly after midnight the Chamber of Commerce building was once more left to the quiet and darkness of night.

Thus ended a bright day in the Chess annals of the Far East, a day to be long remembered by those present.

AN END GAME.

The New Orleans *Times-Democrat* copies the following very fine game-ending from a recent number of the *Frankfurter Schachzeitung*. The game is believed to have been played in Rome on March 16th, 1893 :—

BLACK—HERR WAGNER.



WHITE—HERR SOERENSEN.

White having to play, the game proceeded as follows :—

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q R to K sq. (*a*)	1—Q takes Q R (*b*)
2—Q to Kt 8 ch.	2—Kt takes Q
3—P takes Kt (Q) double ch.	3—K takes Q
4—Kt to K 7 double ch.	4—K to Kt 2
5—R to B 7 ch. (*c*)	5—K to R 3
6—R to B 6 ch.	6—K to Kt 2
7—R to Kt 6 ch.	7—K to B sq.
8—R to Kt 8 mate.	

NOTES.

(*a*) A beautiful sacrificial *coup de repos*, the object of which is, in the first place, to draw the Queen away from the scene of action; and in the second place to permit ultimately of the check of the Rook at K B 6 without interpositive reply.

(*b*) If instead 1..... Q takes K R, then 2—R to K 8 ch., K takes P ; 3—Kt to K B 6 dis. ch., Q to Q 4 ; 4—B takes Q ch., B to Q 3 ; 5—B takes B mate.

(*c*) The finessing involved in these Rook moves is finely conceived.

In the Baltimore *News* Mr. W. H. K. Pollock remarks that—"No amount of physical training, without hard practice over the board, will enable a player to keep his cerebral cogwheels in sufficiently rapid rotation to meet the exigencies of modern match play. Captain Kennedy's maxim, that a chess-player should train like a prizefighter, was well enough in the days of no time-limit. Then the cogs could be lubricated during the struggle, but now the machinery must undergo a trial trip. It is the difference between sailing and steaming."

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, April 6th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 8th.*
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 31st.†
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, Mar. 31st.‡
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 8th.§
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Sunday, April 15th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, April 15th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, April 18th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, April 19th.

* *Gaelic* left San Francisco on March 20th. † *Peru* left Hongkong on March 24th. ‡ *Salazie* left Kobe on March 30th. § *Verona* left Hongkong on March 30th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Gerda*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 1st.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, April 3rd.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, April 3rd.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, April 7th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, April 13th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, April 16th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, April 20th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, April 20th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 1,910, Long, 24th March,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 25th March,—San Francisco 8th March, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 26th March,—Hongkong 17th, Nagasaki 22nd, and Kobe 24th March, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Anna Mathilde, American schooner, 33, A. J. Anderson, 26th March,—San Francisco, 34 Seal Skins.—Captain.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 1,342, Williams, 26th March,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Vera, British schooner, 62, W. Shields, 26th March, —Put Back, Sealing Gear.—Captain G. Cox.

Elax, British steamer, 2,321, Daniel, 28th March, —Batoum, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Burma, Australian steamer, 2,004, F. Paschich, 28th March,—New York 17th January, 107,800 cases Oil.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 29th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, 21st March, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Takao Kan (6), Japanese cruiser, Captain M. Sawa, 29th March,—Yokosuka 29th March.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 30th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Aurora, British schooner, 42, T. Harold, 30th March,—Put Back, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Pallas (20), cruiser, Captain A. MacLeod, 30th March,—Hongkong.

Titan, British steamer, 1,525, R. J. Brown, 30th March,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 30th March,—Shanghai and ports, 23rd March, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Ardgay, British steamer, 1,080, Thom, 24th March, —Hongkong viâ ports, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,294, C. K. McIntosh, 24th March,—London viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Oxus, French steamer, 2,500, Dupont, 24th March, —Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, Wm. H. Walker, 25th March,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, Hugo Walter, 25th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Jane Gray, American schooner, 107, E. W. Funcke, 26th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

W. P. Hall, British schooner, 98, J. B. Brown, 26th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Arctic, British schooner, 40, J. H. Pyne, 26th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Capt.

Baltimore (14), U.S. flagship, Captain W. R. Bridgmann, 26th March,—Target Practice.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 27th March,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Arietis, British schooner, 86, A. Douglas, 27th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Browne & Co.

Teresa, British schooner, 68, F. Gilbert, 27th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Feronia, British steamer, 1,930, Butterwick, 27th March,—Kobe, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Luisa D., American schooner, 90, S. H. Burtis, 27th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Rosie Olsen, British schooner, 38, A. Whidden, 27th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Vera, British schooner, 52, W. Shields, 27th March, —North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain J. G. Cox.

Glengyle, British steamer, 2,244, Gasson, 28th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

H. C. Wahlberg, American schooner, 26, J. W. Crew, 28th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Niobe, German steamer, 1,666, E. J. Pfaff, 28th March,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Anaconda, American schooner, 40, A. Lawson, 28th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

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Corolla, British ship, 1,265, Fraser, 29th March,—Royal Roads, Ballast.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Anna Mathilde, American schooner, 35, A. J. Anderson, 29th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Aurora, British schooner, 42, T. Harold, 29th March,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

H. M. Pollock, British steamer, 1,623, Wm. McDowell, 30th March,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 30th March,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 1,910, Long, 30th March,—Hongkong viâ ports, General,—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 1,342, Williams, 31st March,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 31st March,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco:—Mrs. Fanny Cooper, Mrs. K. Southard, Miss Helen Beach, Miss Edith Lombard, Messrs. S. M. Arbuthnot, Chas. Rudolph, B. F. Schlessinger, J. R. Greaves, and M. J. Jeffries in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Jenkinson and Mr. C. W. Collyer in cabin. The following passengers booked to Yokohama disembarked at Kobe:—Misses Du Bois (2), Mr. E. A. Shedd, Mr. Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. Farmiloe, Mr. C. P. Whitcombe, Miss Whitcombe, and Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Little in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. C. E. Silber, R. Lane, and Ah Sing in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Todd, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Player, Mr. Lees, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, Captain Onslow, R.N., Miss J. M. Wilson and child, Mr. Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Scouloudi, Mr. and Mrs. Nocton, Lord and Lady Ashburton, maid, and valet, Hon. A. H. Baring and valet, Mr. Douglas Dick, Miss Kyle, Captain and Mrs. Simonson, Sir Wm. Young, Mr. Stanton, Miss Fuller, Miss Patterson, Mrs. R. M. Wilson's child, and nurse, Miss Richardson, Mrs. England and 3 children, Miss Kelly, Miss Galton, Miss Haygood, Rev. W. A. Wills, Right-Rev. Bishop and Mrs. Scott, Mr. J. Toche, Mr. J. D. Gavetsky, Mr. W. Paschenkoff, Mr. C. W. Dickson, Mr. W. Reiffinger, Miss F. Duffield, Mr. C. S. Arthur, Mr. L. Pardo, Rev. J. Dunlop, Mr. Rogers, Mr. C. Peel, Mr. and Mrs. Alloway, Professor Sharp, Mr. Geo. Dewar, Miss H. L. Corbin, and Mr. and Mrs. Magee in cabin; Mrs. Soo Hoo Doo, Mr. Low Chew, Mr. Low Yow, Mr. Low Wei Lock, Mr. and Mrs. Lum Ping, Mr. Lawson's guide, and Mr. G. T. Kimura in second class, and 740 Chinese and 43 Japanese in Asiatic steerage.

Per British steamer *Mogul*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Burr, R.N.R., in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Miss Roosen Runge, Captain Renny, Mr. F. Wakenam, Captain Hardy, Mr. Reid, Mr. O. W. Lindholm, Miss Lindholm, Miss Young, Miss Killerby, and Master Date in cabin; Mr. Yuen and staff, Mrs. Chung and 3 children, Mr. H. Oki, Mr. M. Mishima, and Miss S. Koyama in second class, and 65 passengers in steerage. For Hakodate:—Mrs. K. Sakimoto in cabin, and 3 passengers in steerage. For San Francisco:—Miss Ritchie and Mr. F. W. Newson in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Oxus*, for Shanghai viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Casenave, 2 infants, governess, and amah, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Levy, Mr. L. Pardo and boy, Mr. G. Reiffinger, Mr. Takagaki, Dr. Lafaye de Micheaux, Mr. Suetaro Kasaka, Mr. Toshiaki Iwata, Mr. Kunro Maeda, Mr. Koroku Maki, Mr. S. Iwasawa, Mr. Kanekichi Hamada, Miss Hooper, Mr. T. Salion, Mr. M. Saoven, and Mr. S. Guisse in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—Messrs. O. Haynemann, C. Mueller, M. Willett, J. Sanger, W. W. Law, Jun., H. H. Law, F. Tozer, H. Lindstrom, Rev. J. R. Birkelund, Messrs. H. J. Abraham, E. Becker, E. Davis, and Rev. J. C. C. Newton in cabin.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. F. Nabholz, Prince Dimitri Scharvoskoy, Mr. Christ. Spangenburg, and Mr. D. M. Kan in cabin; 9 Chinese in second class, and 16 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. de Bunsen, Miss Corbin, Captain Dayton, Mr. Dewar, Mr. Douglas Dick, Miss Fuller, Mr. Gavulsky, Mr. Gilligan, Miss Haygood, Mr. and Mrs. Hocton, Miss Kyle, Mr. Paschenkoff, Miss Pattern, Colonel Peck, Mr. Stanton, Right Rev. Bishop Scott, Mrs. Scott, Captain and Mrs. Simonson, Mr. Sirasu, Mr. Waglen, Rev. Mr. Wills, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Miss Wilson and maid, Mrs. Woodworth, Miss Woodworth, and Sir Wm. L. Young, Bart., in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Oxus*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for Europe, 459 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 754 bales.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	—	—	533	—	533
Yokohama	966	—	—	—	—	966
Hongkong	144	12	—	—	53	209
Total	1,110	12	—	533	53	1,708

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	183	—	183
Hongkong	5	228	—	233
Yokohama	—	252	—	252
Total	5	663	—	668

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 514 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 344 bales.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	—	—	10	82	30	122
Amoy	—	—	946	—	—	946
Foochow	595	—	—	—	—	595
Colombo	—	—	—	85	—	85
Hyogo	155	—	—	—	—	155
Yokohama	392	455	—	—	—	847
Total	1,142	455	956	167	30	2,750

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	37	—	37
Shanghai	95	—	95
Yokohama	90	—	90
Total	222	—	222

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Tone of the market continues good, and prices well maintained. Exchange has been fairly steady during the week: and prospects are satisfactory for most classes of goods.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 2.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.55 to 1.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.80
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	41.00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	43.00 to 44.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Position unchanged from last week. Considerable enquiry both for "spot" and "futures," with a fair look-out all round.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.70 to 1.75

KEROSENE.

Market unchanged. Holders are firm and expect to sell at or above present quotations.

Chester	$1.72½ to 1.75
Comet	1.70 to 1.72½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.67½ to 1.70
Russian Moon	1.65 to 1.67½

SUGAR.

Market continues buoyant, and a fair business doing both in White and Brown. Outlook good.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.60 to 4.65
Brown Manila	5.40 to 5.45
Brown Daitong	4.10 to 4.15
Brown Canton	4.40 to 4.60
White Java and Penang	7.00 to 7.10
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 23rd instant, since which date settlements on this market are 1,352 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures*, 1,010 piculs; *Re reels*, 161 piculs; *Kakeda*, 174 piculs; *Hamatsuki*, 74 piculs. Direct shipments have been 52 bales, making the total business of the week 1,400 piculs.

Although there has not been quite so much business as in the previous week, yet there has been a good daily trade resulting as above. The stock is further reduced to 7,600 piculs, and no doubt a still larger business would have been put through if sellers had shown themselves more current instead of raising prices too much. The consequence of the latter action is that many firm offers telegraphed home have not been taken up.

The demand has been chiefly for Europe, and from all we can learn it does not seem that consumers are buying very heavily, but that exporters and dealers are laying in stock at very low prices with a view to future requirements of the trade. The news from America continues dull and gloomy; and our export to that country is still nearly 11,000 piculs short of what it was to the same date last season.

Exchange has slightly hardened in sympathy with higher rates in Singapore, but business has practically been done all through the week at last quotations.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The French mail *Oxus*, 24th March, had 459 bales; the O. & O. steamer *Belgic*, 25th instant, 252 bales, and the German mail *Nuernberg*, 25th March, 514 bales. These departures make the present export figures 37,152 piculs, against 44,320 piculs last year, and 43,424 piculs at the same date in 1892. The *Empress of Japan*, leaving to-day, may probably take something which will be included in our next issue.

Hanks.—Nothing done. Stock small and insignificant.

Filatures.—A large business in these, over a thousand piculs having passed the scales, mostly for Europe. Market is strong, holders asking more money for good silks. As the stock decreases, they will probably get what they ask, unless buying stops.

Re-reels.—A small business in these. Prices are very strong, dealers looking for some advance.

Kakeda.—These have been in favour again, Extras being done at $785, with other grades in proportion.

Oshu.—One small purchase of *Hamatsuki* mentioned at $700, beyond which nothing has been done.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$840 to	850
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den...	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	770 to	780
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	770 to	780
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	740 to	750
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	740 to	750

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Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	710 to 720
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	780 to 790
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	750 to 760
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	720 to 730
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	700 to 710
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	670 to 680
Kakedas—Extra	785
Kakedas—No. 1	750 to 760
Kakedas—No. 1½	720 to 730
Kakedas—No. 2	690 to 700
Kakedas—No. 2½	670 to 680
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 30th March, 1894:

Season 1893-1894.		1892-93.	1891-92.
		Bales.	Bales.
Europe	20,465	17,141	15,512
America	15,558	26,403	26,930
Total { Bales	36,023	43,544	42,442
Total { Piculs	37,152	44,320	43,424
		Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	39,000	44,400	43,450
Stock, 30th March	7,600	1,700	6,450
Available supplies to date	46,600	46,100	49,900

WASTE SILK.

Buying has fallen off and the settlements for the week amount to 416 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 324 piculs; *Kibiso*, 85 piculs; *Sundries*, 7 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

There has been a moderate enquiry for good *Noshi*, and in some instances rather better prices have been paid; but there seems to be but little life in the trade. Stock is heavy, although not all of it is of best quality, and consumers on the other side still continue to send in low offers, which in the present temper of sellers do not lead to business.

There have been two shipping opportunities. The French mail *Oxus* took 204 bales and the German mail *Nuernberg*, 344 bales. The present export figures are 23,561 piculs, against 36,736 piculs last year and 27,061 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—Considerable purchases in *Bushu* ranging from $125 to $135; *Mino*, $120; *Tegara*, $150. Nothing done in *Joshu* this week.

Kibiso.—Small business; *Filatures*, $100; *Sendai*, $80 to $50; *Bushu*, $50 to $35.

Sundries.—A small parcel of *Boseki wata* was done at $230.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to 115
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	170 to 180

Export Table Waste Silk to 30th March, 1894:—

Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	20,330	34,044	24,966
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,095
	23,561	36,736	27,061
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	24,900	42,100	28,900
Stock, 30th March	16,100	3,100	9,400
Available supplies to date	41,000	45,200	38,300

Exchange has hardened in tone, but the principal business of the week has been done at last quotations:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/0⅜; Documents, 2/0½; 6m/s. Credits, 2/0⅝. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $49¼; 4m/s. U.S. $50¼. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.56; 6m/s. fcs. 2.57½.

Estimated Silk Stock, 30th March, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	15	Cocoons	160
Filatures	3,630	Noshi-ito	8,350
Re-reels	3,035	Kibiso	7,120
Kakeda	890	Mawata	140
Oshu	16	Sundries	330
Taysaam Kinds	14		
Total piculs	7,600	Total piculs	16,100

TEA.

Nothing new. With fine weather, garden musters of early crop should soon be here.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has been firm with a hardening tendency.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	1/11⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2 0
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/0¼
On Paris—Bank sight	2.51
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.58
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73½
On India—Bank sight	172
On India—Private 30 days' sight	175
On America—Bank Bills on demand	48½
On America—Private 30 days' sight	49⅜
On America—Private 4 months' sight	50⅜
On Germany—Bank sight	2.02
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.10
Bar Silver (London)	27½

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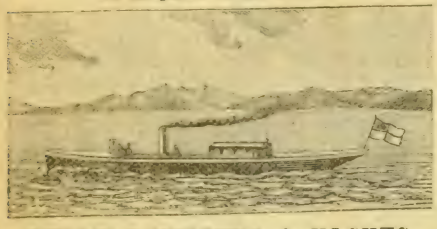
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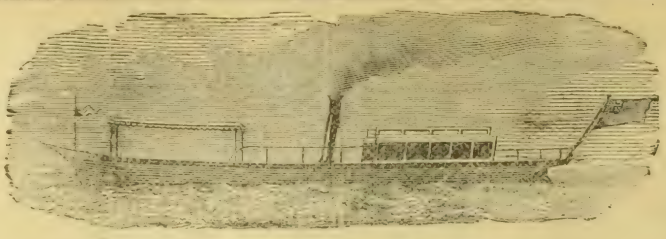
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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 14.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, APRIL 7TH, 1894. 明治二十七年四月七日郵便物認可 [VOL. XXI.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH, 1894.

DEATH.

At 219-C, Bluff, on the 6th inst., at 1.20 a.m., HORTENSIA LEONOR, the beloved wife of J. P. DA COSTA, aged 29. (Hongkong papers please copy).

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* has suddenly left Tokyo.

THE Imperial Spring Garden Party is to be held on the 12th instant.

A CHARITY ball is to be given on the 17th inst. at the Rokumeikan, Tokyo.

THE winter snow is melting in some parts of Hokkaido and floods have occurred.

A FIRE at Akasaka, Tokyo, on the night of the 5th instant, destroyed upwards of 300 houses.

MR. OGOSHI NARINORI, Japanese Consul in Shanghai, was promoted Consul-General on the 30th ult.

A PRECOCIOUS youngster of Yokohama, whose tastes ran towards burglary, has been arrested by the Japanese police.

A VERY destructive forest fire has occurred at Nanatsuya-mura, Naka-gun, Kagawa Ken, over 340,000 trees being destroyed.

MR. KIMURA RIYEMON has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Yokohama Cotton Yarn, Raw Cotton, and Metal Exchange.

A BOY, six years of age, was struck by the wheel of a passing vehicle at Shimmei, Shiba, Tokyo, on the 2nd inst., and died almost immediately.

MATTERS are progressing favourably in connection with the establishment of a colonization company promoted by Viscount Enomoto. Messrs. Sakuma Teiichi, Yoshikawa Taijiro and other distinguished gentlemen. The first Japanese settlers to Mexico will be despatched at no distant date. The company proposes sending one hundred thousand emigrants to that country within the next two or three years.

A BOXING competition took place in the Public Hall on Tuesday evening, the competitors belonging to various American and British men-of-war now in harbour.

THE rough gale of Thursday destroyed the glory of the cherry blossoms in the Public Gardens, on Noge, and various places of note in Yokohama, Tokyo, and their neighbourhood.

A VERY enjoyable concert was given by Pupils of the late Academy of Music, at Uyeno Park, on Sunday last. Mr. Dittrich gave a couple of violin solos in the course of the entertainment.

KIM-OK-KYUN, the Korean refugee, is said to have gone to China to visit Lord Li, the late Chinese Minister to this Court. The assassin fired three shots from a revolver at Kim as he lay in bed.

MR. SUGITA TEIICHI, a distinguished Radical M.P., has been placed under arrest for inflicting a wound upon a younger brother which is likely to prove fatal. A dispute about family property led to the assault.

THE porcelain decorators of Yokohama have organized an association for the improvement of designs and colourings. An exhibition will be opened in May next under the auspices of the association.

A FIRE which broke out in the early hours of Monday morning in a *jinrikisha* man's house at Eirakucho, Yokohama, involved the death of an American Marine, and the destruction of over fifty houses and brothels.

DR. MUNRO gave an interesting lecture on the "Nature of Atoms" at the meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society on Friday. He was assisted in his electrical experiments by Dr. Eldridge and Mr. Inouye.

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha are bringing out a new steamer from Glasgow of 4,000 tons burden, which will be placed on the Bombay line. A steamer of similar capacity, it is said, has also been chartered for the same line by this company.

SIX of the Tientsin griffins having arrived were drawn for on the race course on Monday morning. They are a promising lot. The other four will not arrive for several days, it may be weeks, and some grumbling has naturally been evoked.

A CHARGE of malingering preferred by the master of a British sealing schooner against the ship's cook, was dismissed in H.B.M.'s Court on Thursday, the Merchant Shipping Act not tabulating that as one of the misdemeanours within its purview.

ANOTHER political combination, the Central Provinces Progressive Party, was duly inaugurated at Okayama on the 4th inst. Mr. Inukai Ki, the well-known Progressionist, has left the *Kaishin-to* and joined his fortunes with the new association.

THREE Koreans inplicated in the attempt upon the life of Mr. Boku, in Tokyo, are now in gaol. Two of them fled to the Korean Legation, but after some delay the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* was induced to allow the police to arrest them outside the precincts of the Legation.

A STONE wall, over thirty feet in height, at Kashiwagi, Hakone, on the Tokaido Railway, fell down during the night of the 4th inst., the *débris* being scattered over the track. Two workman was crushed to death while another sustained severe injuries. Traffic was interrupted for some time.

THE *Takachiho Kan* reached Honolulu on the 21st ult. The *Naniwa Kan* was to leave there on the 29th. The *Tsukuba Kan* left Jinsen, Korea, on the 31st. The *Kongo Kan* will shortly leave for a trip to the South Sea Islands and Australia with a party of Naval Cadets on board.

THERE are rumours abroad in Europe that Austria, Russia, Germany, and Italy are favourably inclined towards a policy of retrenchment in the matter of military outlay. A meeting of the Emperors Francis Joseph and William has been arranged, and probably the later will meet the Czar next autumn. The conclusion of the Austro-Russian treaties of commerce is known to be due to the personal intervention of the Czar, and are regarded as important indications of progress towards an Austro-Russian *rapprochement*. It is stated that the commercial agreement between the three empires will probably be followed by a pacific understanding permitting the suspension of military preparations. The Afghan frontier is again causing alarm, Russia being reported as having increased her posts. In the Philippines a ferment of natives has caused the despatch of Spanish troops. The French Government having insisted on a re-trial by the Court of Appeal of Phra Yot, has selected three judges to constitute the Court. Mr. Verney Lovett Cameron, the African explorer, is dead. Sir Charles Russell, Attorney-General, has given notice in the House of Commons to introduce a bill to legalise the award of the Behring Sea Commissioners to regulate future sealing in those waters.

THAT disturbing factor, Exchange, has again upset the Import market, though not to a serious degree, for the majority of transactions made in these days are generally settled in Sterling. Under the circumstances many are clearing their purchases, the rates being very advantageous. But buyers hold off from breaking fresh ground, hoping that a further turn in their favour may soon occur. The element of uncertainty, however, is very great, as witness the rebound in Exchange at the close of the week. New business has accordingly been small and consists of a few bales of Double Yarn and some parcels of Victoria Lawns. They were disposed of at fair prices notwithstanding. There is a fair prospect of a good trade for Metals in the near future, and the tentative enquiries now being made for Bar and Sheet Iron will probably soon lead to business. Recent arrivals of Kerosene bring the stock up above 500,000 cases, and buyers are consequently hoping for lower prices coupled with a rising exchange. Although arrivals of Sugar continue large, the trade seems to be able to dispose of the stock comfortably, and prices are up all round for Browns; Whites remain unchanged. In Tea nothing is doing beyond some old leaf for the Pacific coast, shippers quietly making preparations for the new season, which promises fair. There has been much less doing in Raw Silk this week, and the demand has again been principally for Europe. Holders are not willing to allow the reductions demanded by the rise in Silver, but some would undoubtedly be current if half-way figures were mentioned. A fair amount of business in Waste Silk, but the call is by no means general, a few large buyers only appearing in the field. The principal transactions have been in *Kibiso*, other sorts being neglected. Exchange, as hinted above, has not maintained its improvement but is still closes a point or so higher than last week.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The Korean assassination affair has occupied the most prominent space in the vernacular press during the present week. Deep sympathy is shown with the unfortunate victim, and efforts are being made by the journals of the capital to raise a fund for the purposes of bringing Kim's corpse to Japan, of erecting a monument to his memory, and of offering aid to his surviving friends and fellow-exiles. Several persons have already started for Shanghai to get possession of his remains. The comments of the metropolitan press on this subject have already been reproduced separately. We then stated that, of the leading Japanese papers, the *Jiji Shimpo* alone had not yet written on the subject. That assertion was inaccurate, our contemporary having been, in truth, among the earliest to discuss the matter. Like the rest of the metropolitan journals, it manifested strong sympathy with the unfortunate refugee. Kim having been induced to undertake the journey to Shanghai by an alleged invitation from Lord Li, it might be inferred that his assassination was planned both by China and Korea. But the *Jiji* is confident that China was not a party to such a cruel and cowardly scheme. As to the assassin, it being known that he was under fear of punishment for a crime committed against his country, the *Jiji* believes that his motive in murdering him must have been to purchase his peace with his Sovereign. With regard to Lord Li, our contemporary is sure that popular report having connected him with this affair, he will not fail to vindicate his honour. The *Jiji*, however, has not yet discussed the international aspect of the question.

* * *

Rumours continue to be circulated about probable changes in the Cabinet. The *Yomiuri Shimbun's* article headed "The Future Cabinet" may be regarded as a fair statement of the speculations generally entertained by the Opposition papers. At the outset our contemporary refutes an assertion often made by enemies of Party Government, that under such a *régime* the country would be perpetually distracted by changes of Cabinet. That criticism says the Progressionist paper, applies more properly to the so-called policy of standing aloof from parties. At present the situation is undecided; for, while, on the one hand, the Radicals are irresolute whether or not to coöperate with the Cabinet, Count Ito, on the other, is equally undecided what course to follow. That is the reason why the Premier has fixed the duration of the coming session at only three weeks. The apprehended change of Cabinet will take place after the close of the sixth session and before the opening of the seventh. The new Cabinet will be either a *Sat-cho* one, with Count Inouye as Minister President of State, Viscount Takashima as Minister of War, Viscount Kabayama as Minister of the Navy, and Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi, as Minister of Finance; or a *Cho-Do* combination, with Count Ito at its head and several Tosa statesmen in important posts. In the former case, the Cabinet will be supported by the National Unionists, and in the latter by the Radicals. Our contemporary pretends to be supremely indifferent about the probable issue of the present situation. But whichever combination may ultimately be adopted, it hopes that the Government will try to give as many Ministerial posts as possible to party politicians, for it thinks that such a course would gradually pave the way for the introduction of Government by Party. It is moderate enough to acknowledge that things are not yet ripe for the immediate adoption of such a system.

* * *

The *Niroku Shimpo* also thinks that, in spite of its apparent helplessness, the Clan Government has still a formidable amount of vitality. The elder statesmen, commonly designated by the honourable appellation of *Koshin* or *Genkun*, have lost the great energy they certainly possessed in their younger days, and so far as they are concerned, Clan Government may be said to be already tottering in its decline; but as a whole it still manifests no despicable amount of vitality and capacity. That fact is due to the presence in the Clan Government of younger men of great ability and resource, who pride themselves on their chance of becoming immediate successors to their elders, the *Genkun*. Of these, two are named, Mr. Mutsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Ito Miyoji, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet. Our contemporary, consequently, advises the Opposition politicians not to fall into the fatal error of underrating the capacity of the Clan Government.

* * *

Journalistic comments on the convocation of the Imperial Diet have already been noticed. As to the probable situation in the coming session opinions seems to differ. Some are inclined to think that, the duration of the session being so short—three weeks—no desperate collision will take place between the Cabinet and the Diet. The *Jiji Shimpo* is one of these papers. The coming session, it observes, though not free from some troubles, will be over before the parties of the Opposition succeed in agreeing among themselves upon some definite plan of attack on the Government. The question of Strict Treaty Enforcement will of course be brought up for discussion, but the *Jiji* does not apprehend any serious fight on that subject. For, in its opinion, the political excitement out of which the movement originally arose has long since subsided, and few people now advocate the doctrine in its original exclusive form. Consequently, it is thought certain that the Representation on the subject will be presented in a less offensive shape than was the case last session. Hence, in the *Jiji's* opinion, the session will end without any serious fight between the Government and the Diet. This result will not be due either to the Cabinet's increased popularity or to the Diet's more moderate attitude, but solely to the shortness of the session. In fact, the state of things in the coming session must not be taken as a true indication of the relations between the Cabinet and the Legislature.

* * *

The allied sections of the Opposition, it is reported, will devote the short length of time at their disposal in the approaching session uniquely to delivering assaults against the Government. A series of articles on the subject from the columns of the *Hochi Shimbun* serves to put us in possession of the ideas entertained by the leading tacticians of the Opposition. The Progressionist organ commences by severely criticising the shortness of the session. The Cabinet, indeed, is free to fix the duration of the special session after a dissolution, but that it has been fixed for only three weeks, allowing little more than a fortnight for the transaction of real business, shows, in the *Hochi's* opinion, how selfishly anxious the Cabinet is to maintain itself in power, even at the expense of the national interests. In the face of such an unpatriotic policy, the Diet is advised to forestall the Government by forcing it to a close fight from the very outset. In other words, the Opposition members of the Lower House are exhorted to disregard all legislative business and concentrate their attention upon embarrassing the Cabinet. The weapons to be used for that purpose are questions relating to the late dissolution of the Diet, to Strice Enforcement of the Treaties, to the *Chishima* affair, to the disbursement of the Surplus, and to the independence of the Judiciary. Shaft after shaft is to be discharged against the Government in such rapid succession that those in power will hardly have time to breathe. In pursuing such a daring course of policy the Opposition must be fully prepared for another dissolution, since judging from past experience, the present Cabinet is not incapable of that unconstitutional procedure. Dissolution is not desirable, but it must be braved in order to demolish Clan Government and establish in its stead a truly responsible Cabinet. There being, thus, the possibility of another dissolution, the *Hochi* calls upon the parties of the Opposition to make preparations for a general election. The most important task to be undertaken as a measure of preparation, is to elevate the tone of political morality among the electors. The fact that the degenerate instruments of Clan Government, namely the Radicals, scored such a success at the recent elections, is ascribed by our virtuous contemporary partly to the circumstances that the electors in the remote country districts are not yet acquainted with the moral fall of the Radical party and partly to the low tone of political morality. The *Hochi* exhorts the politicians of the allied parties of the Opposition to undertake the task of instilling proper principles of political morality into the minds of the electors. This is, as the proverb says, to think about making a cord on discovering a thief.

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The question of Strict Treaty Enforcement is discussed with reviving vigour. But, as the *Jiji Shimpo* points out in an article above alluded to, there is no longer any doubt that the question will be introduced in the coming session in a new shape, stripped of all, or nearly all, the objectionable features of the original Representation. The papers committed to the advocacy of this doctrine are now taking much pains to refute the assertion made by the *Jiji*, the *Nichi Nichi*, and the *Jiyu*, that the movement has lost its essential characteristics. The organs of the allied parties maintain that the movement remains unaltered, but they all acknowledge that many of its advocates take exception to certain statements found in the Explanatory Document attached to Mr. Abei's Representation. Instead of pointing out the provisions of the Treaties requiring to be strictly carried out, they take their stand on the broad assertion that treaties ought to be rigidly enforced, which assertion practically does not mean anything. There are papers which plainly state that only those provisions should be strictly enforced which are essential to the assertion of the country's Sovereignty. That is not the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement as originally expounded, for it was at first maintained that all the provisions of the existing treaties should be enforced exactly as they stand.

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The Journalistic League continues to be a subject of talk in the Capital. The second meeting of the League took place yesterday (Friday) at the Kogetsuro, Shinbashi. Its real position will become plain when the proceedings of that meeting are known. But it is already evident that the League is not as strong as it was represented to be. We have noticed that the *Kokkai* has disavowed any formal connection with the League. The *Niroku Shimpo*, too, has since declared that its editor, Mr. Suzuki, did not attend the meeting in a representative capacity. Thus the papers which have thoroughly identified themselves with the movement are seven, namely, the *Hochi Shimbun*, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the *Chu-o Shimbun*, the *Shin Choya Shimbun*, and the *Nippon*. It may be safely predicted that, in proportion as the real motives of the principal projectors of the League become known, deserters will increase in number, so that ultimately organs of the *Kaishin-to* alone will be left in the field. The *Shin Choya* and *Nippon* take much pains to refute the charge that they have been betrayed into serving as unwitting tools of the Progressionist leader. They doubtless keenly feel the force of the criticism.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE MEETING OF THE DIET.

An Imperial Rescript issued on the 31st instant, as already announced in these columns, fixes May 12th as the day for the opening of the 6th session of the Diet, and limits the duration of the session to 21 days. The 12th of May will be Saturday, and as the session will end on Friday, June 1st, there will be only 18 working days. Two of these at least will be devoted to electing a President and Vice-President, a Chairman of Committee of the Whole and the Standing Committees. Thus there will be 16

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days for actual legislation. Sixteen days is quite long enough for a resolute Opposition to make itself extremely disagreeable. We cannot wonder that the Cabinet, convinced by experience of the Opposition's resolve to pursue purely obstructive tactics, should place at its disposal as little time as possible. But of course there will be considerable discontent among the Opposition members that a longer interval is not allowed them for fighting. Already the voices of the press are raised in criticism. The *Hochi Shimbun* (*Kaishin-to*) says that as the House of Representatives was dissolved and a general election held for the purpose of taking the sense of the country, and as there are many important questions to be discussed by the Diet, a lengthy session, instead of an exceptionally short one, ought to have been given. "The Government," says this inveterate opponent, "treats the Diet as though it were a troublesome appendage. It has hitherto been fashionable to say that the Satsuma statesmen placed obstacles in the way of the full operation of the Constitution, whereas the Choshu statesmen were disposed to give it real effect. But when we find the Ito Cabinet behaving in this manner, we must conclude that there is nothing to choose between Satsuma and Choshu. Both are equally hostile to constitutional institutions." The *Yomiuri Shimbun* (*Kaishin-to*) argues similarly. It recalls the fact that when the Matsukata Cabinet dissolved the House of Representatives in its second session, the new House's special session was fixed at 40 days; yet the brevity of the period gave rise to much discontent. The Constitution says that the Diet's annual session shall be three months, and that it may be lengthened by Imperial Rescript if necessary. Hence the *Yomiuri* infers that the Constitution intends the Diet to be in session during at least one-fourth of the year, and consequently a special session occurring in the sequel of dissolution ought to be at least as long as the interval that remained of the preceding session. That rule, if observed, would give 60 days for the approaching special session, since the former session lasted only one month out of three. Our contemporary further contends that when the Constitution orders re-assembly of the Diet within five months of a dissolution, its purpose is to provide that the public business left undischarged by the dissolved House of Representatives shall be completed by its successor; a feat obviously impossible if the latter has only 21 days at its disposal whereas the former had still sixty. The *Yomiuri* admits that the letter of the Constitution is not transgressed by the Cabinet's procedure, but asserts emphatically that its spirit is violated. However, the House of Representatives has the power to petition the Throne for a prolongation of the session, and the Progressionist organ urges that course as necessary from the point of view both of the House's dignity and of the due discharge of public business. The *Kokumin Shimbun* (*Kaishin-to*) regrets that the Ito Cabinet should have furnished to its enemies grounds for saying that it re-assembles the Diet in compulsory obedience to the letter of the law, but without any real concern for the operation of the Constitution. This journal also recalls the forty days' interval allowed by the Matsukata Cabinet for the Special Session of the second House of Representatives, and contends that as there is even more business to be discharged on the present occasion, a life of at least equal length should have been given to the Diet. Several Extraordinary Budgets have to be passed and various projects of law ought to be submitted, which things are not possible during a session of twenty-one days. The *Kokumin* thinks that the Ito Cabinet ought to set the example of giving the fullest possible force to the Constitution instead of thus curtailing its effect. The *Kokkai* (Independent), says that the date of meeting has been greatly postponed and the duration of the session remarkably curtailed. Still, the 12th of May will soon be here, and folks that love peace and quiet will find three weeks quite long enough for listening to the croaking of the combative frogs and the chirping of the agitated cicadæ on the Hibiya battlefield. Speaking seriously, however, the *Kokkai* is evidently opposed to the procedure of the Cabinet. It thinks that the House of Representatives may require a week for purposes of organizatation, and that there will thus remain only two weeks for legislation, a period evidently too brief for transacting the important business that awaits discussion. The *Kokkai* thinks that the Ito Cabinet exposes itself to the charge of playing with the Diet. The *Niroku Shimpo* (nominally independent) hopes that in fixing the duration of the session at three weeks only, the intention of the Cabinet is simply to invite discussion of the Strict-Enforcement question, and to stand or fall by the result.

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We need not continue the above analysis: it has been carried quite far enough to indicate the general tone of the Opposition press. These papers, as is natural, omit to notice that the House of Representatives has hitherto made a pastime of legislation and devoted its whole energies to frivolous attacks upon the Administration. The experience of past sessions has been uniform. The first month has been devoted to compiling the Budget Committee's Report; the greater part of the remaining two months to discussing it, the latter process being interrupted from time to time by urgency motions for attacking the Government or by the presentation of questions to embarrass it. There is no Budget to be passed or rejected this session. If the mood hitherto displayed by the House of Representatives is to be repeated next month, the briefer the session the better for the credit of the country. In effect three hundred weeks would be quite as insufficient as three to exhaust the captious pretexts which the Opposition finds for impeding the discharge of administrative business in any hands but its own. If the opening of the next session finds the House of Representatives in a really serious legislative humour, there will be no difficulty about prolonging the session, whereas there is always a difficulty about curtailing it.

A JOURNALISTIC LEAGUE.

A POWERFUL league has been organized by the Opposition newspapers together with several that have hitherto stood aloof from party contests. Its object is to bring about the formation of a Responsible Cabinet. According to trustworthy persons, it is stated that the project of combining these papers in a league against the Cabinet and the Radical Party originally emanated from Count Okuma, while the principal share in carrying it out has fallen to the lot of Mr. Tokutomi Ichiro, of the *Kokumin Shimbun*. It is well known that Mr. Tokutomi is an ardent admirer of Count Okuma, with whom he is on very intimate terms. The first person whom he succeeded in converting to enthusiastic support of the proposed league was Mr. Kuga Minoru of the *Nippon*. The Radical organ imputes sordid motives to Mr. Kuga, but in that our contemporary is doubtless misled, for he is well known to be a man of unimpeachable integrity. Whatever may have been his motives, he seems to have readily given his powerful assistance to the project. Through the exertions of two persons, a conference of journalists was held on the 28th instant at the *Kyoson Doshu* Club, Shimbashi, when the following manifesto was adopted:—

It is most urgently important that, by demolishing the baneful system of clan Government and clearly defining the responsibility of Ministers of State, a stable foundation should be laid for Constitutional Government. It is also a long cherished desire of the nation that the independent rights of the country should be recovered by Revision of the Treaties, and that the true object of the progressive policy of opening the country should thereby be accomplished.

The doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement, being opposed to weakness and vacillation in foreign policy, is one of the most important means of achieving the speedy accomplishment of Treaty Revision and of fostering a spirit of independence among the people. The step which the House of Representatives was about to take last December was not actuated by any anti-foreign spirit, but was solely a manifestation of the self-assertive spirit of the nation. Those who sympathize with a House of Representatives dissolved under such circumstances, ought to be hereafter unchangeably united in the pursuance of a common object.

While the Representation on Strict Treaty Enforcement had not yet been discussed, the Cabinet ordered the House to prorogue and afterwards to dissolve. The reason for dissolution was that the House had introduced that measure. Can such conduct be counted becoming in a Cabinet charged with the responsibility of upholding constitutional Government by paying due respect to the wishes of the people and to the powers of the Diet? It is the duty of all who respect the Constitution and set a high value upon political morality, to denounce such a step on the part of the Government as illegal and unconstitutional, and, having determined the quarter where the responsibility rests, to realise the object of introducing a system of Responsible Cabinet.

In short, our aim is, first, to condemn the recent dissolution of the House of Representatives as irrational; secondly, to urge the Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, thirdly, to demand speedy Revision of the Treaties; fourthly, to develop the independent spirit of the nation *vis-à-vis* foreign peoples; and fifthly, to bring about the formation of a Responsible Cabinet which shall be in sympathy with such a national spirit.

In entire approval of the above, the following journalists do hereby sign their names:—

Kuga Minoru and Miura Tokujiro (*Nippon*); Suzuki Tsutomu (*Niroku Shimpo*); Ozaki Yukio and Sakai Yuzaburo (*Hochi Shimbun*); Kawasaki Saburo (*Chu-o Shimbun*); Takata Sanaye, Ichijima Kankichi, and Kaku Masayuki (*Yomiuri Shimbun*); Koizuka Ryu (*Mainichi Shimbun*); Tokutomi Iichiro and Takekoshi Yosaburo, (*Kokumin Shimbun*); Kuribara Musoda (*Kokumin-no-Tomo*); Suyehiro Shigeyasu (*Kokkai*); and Kawamura Jun (*Shin Choya Shimbun*).

* * *

The above journalists are said to represent the papers with which their names are connected. But in the case of Mr. Suyehiro, of the *Kokkai*, there is more or less uncertainty. No doubt he attended the conference and put his name to the document; but it is claimed that he did so only in his individual capacity, and that consequently the *Kokkai* has nothing to do with the league.

THE PAPER OF THE NATIONAL BANKS.

IT is not likely that any of our readers are in posession of paper-money bearing the stamp of a National Bank, or at any rate that they hold so much of it as to make its exchange a matter of moment. Nevertheless, it may be well to follow the *Kokkai's* example in reminding the public that the paper of the National Banks ceases to circulate at the expiration of their respective charters, and that it should be exchanged in the interim at the Bank of Japan. Probably a period of grace will be granted and advertised, but for the moment we know only that the charters of the following Banks expire at the date appended, viz.:—The 24th National Bank (in Shinshu), 31st March, 1894; 126th National Bank (in Osaka), 30th June, 1894; 108th National Bank (in Sakagawa), 30th December, 1894; 26th National Bank (in Osaka), 30th June, 1895; 33rd National Bank (in Tokyo), 19th July, 1895.

CONSUMERS OF COAL IN TOKYO AND THE MITSU BISHI AND TANKO COMPANIES.

WE read in the vernacular press that there is an intention on the part of manufacturers who consume coal in Tokyo, to boycott the Mitsu Bishi and Tanko Companies, from which they have hitherto obtained supplies of that staple. The reason assigned for such a strange step is that recently, when the price of coal fell very low, the manufacturers acceded to the representations of the two Companies and paid a higher figure, whereas now that the price has gone up, the Companies show no disposition to treat the manufacturers with similar consideration. Sentimental business of that kind is apt to be checkered.

A NEW PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

NOT far from the celebrated Kameido, in one of the prettiest spots of Mukojima, there is an old temple known as the Mokubo-ji. Many find their way thither, although the building boasts of no architectural beauty; its charms are due rather to the loveliness of the surrounding scenery. In front of this temple some pious souls have re-

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cently erected a large stone monument, for the sake of the rest and peace of the spirits of the various animals subservient to man, from fish to horses. The believer is persuaded that this monument will, in some obscure and inexplicable way, contribute to the present and future happiness of those unhappy creatures who are made to devote their lives to man's service: and it is moreover a standing injunction to be kind to dumb animals. The erection of this monument has met with universal approval, even among the ranks of the heterodox, and quite recently a number of the leading *Ko Shimbun* of the metropolis, in company with certain well-known and influential merchants, made a gift of two hundred fine young cherry-trees, to be planted around the stone in question and thus form the nucleus for a future grove of the favourite tree of the Japanese. The largest contributors to the fund were the *Yamato*, *Tokyo Asahi*, and *Miyako Shimbun*. The idea is, at all events, a poetical one, and it is to be hoped that the monument will have the desired effect.

THE KOREAN ASSASSINATION AFFAIR.

All sorts of sensational rumours are circulated with reference to the supposed design upon the life of Boku Yeiko, the fellow exile of Kim Ok-kyun—that appears to be the most correct orthography of his name—and chief patron of the school for Koreans in Ichi-Bancho, Tokyo. The most striking allegation is that among the papers of the would-be assassin there was found a document written in gold characters and sealed with the seal of the King of Korea, authorizing its bearer to kill Boku. Of course such a story is to be received with extreme scepticism. As to Li Isshoku, the would-be assassin, we read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that he came to Japan in 1892, and after staying some time in Osaka, moved to Tokyo where he became very intimate with Boku Yeiko. His circumstances were affluent, and he usually gave an allowance of 100 *yen* a month to Boku, and 20 *yen* each to two Koreans who were in Boku's service. It further appears that, three years ago, Boku Yeiko and Kim Ok-kyun were on terms of close friendship, but that they subsequently became estranged owing to the representations of Boku's Korean friends, who pointed out to him that though in his own country he enjoyed much more consideration than Kim, the cases were reversed in Japan, where Kim, owing to his personal qualities, made more friends and attracted more attention than Boku. One result of their estrangement was that Kim ceased to trust Koreans coming to Japan because they were generally disposed to take Boku's part. Last year Kim made an attempt to have an interview with Li Isshoku, but the latter declined to meet him. Afterwards, however, Li came to see Kim and abused Boku to him in unmeasured terms. On a subsequent visit Li was accompanied by Hong Tjyong-on, who assassinated Kim a a few days ago in Shanghai. Li alleged that he had gained a considerable sum while in Hongkong, where he had managed the affairs of Bin Yeiyoku. He spent his money freely, and through him Kim became so intimate with Hong that he allowed the latter to accompany him to Shanghai. Kim appears, however, to have had some suspicion of Hong, for he tried to separate from him in Osaka, but owing to pecuniary reasons he was unable to do so. Li went to Kobe to bid farewell to Kim, and returned to Tokyo on the following day, where, as related in a previous issue, he endeavoured unsuccessfully to make arrangements for the assassination of Boku Yeiko. There is obviously much to be still explained.

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Li Issh-oku, Boku Yeiko, and five other Koreans, having undergone an examination before a magistrate, have been remanded for trial, Li on a charge of inciting to murder and attempting murder, and Boku and the other five on a charge of illegally binding and maltreating Li. From an account furnished by the News Agency, it appears that Li is accused of plotting against the lives of both Kim Ok-kyun and Boku Yeiko, and of having entertained murderous designs against them since 1887. It is added that among his possessions was a valise in which if successful, he intended to enclose his victims' heads for transport to Korea. We presume that at the public trial the truth will be elicited as to the alleged mandate from the King of Korea.

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The Shanghai police have refused to allow Mr. Kitahara, a Japanese friend and fellow-traveller of Mr. Kim Ok-kyun's, to carry back the body of the murdered man to Japan. We trust that this objection on the part of the police may prove permanently deterrent. Kim's body had better be buried at whatever spot is least adapted to preserve his notoriety. His tomb in Japan would be a species of Mecca for the pilgrimage of political agitators. His end has been very sad, and his aims may have been lofty. But there is nothing in his record to entitle him to the crown of martyrdom, nothing to warrant the Japanese in displaying special sympathy with him. The sooner his memory is consigned to oblivion the better. To bring his body to this country would savour of hysteria, and truly the Japanese had better be careful lest that weakness be included among their national defects.

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A telegram despatched from Osaka on the afternoon of the 4th instant says that an engraver, Oishi, living in Doanmachi in that city, recently made a number of seals to the order of Li Isshoku, the Korean responsible for the murder of Kim Ok-kyun and the attempt upon the life of Boku Yeiko. Among these seals was one the device on which seems to correspond exactly with the seals impressed on the two documents found in Li's valises, and purporting to be mandates from the King of Korea. If that be the case, the idea that Li was a "plenipotentiary assassin" will be exploded. We do not think, for our own part, that the matter has any very keen interest. The authenticity of the so-called "mandates" might be a matter of serious importance were Japan resolved to consider them authentic, or were Korea prepared to acknowledge them as such. But of course Japan will not bring the documents into the field of any needlessly powerful microscope, and equally of course Korea will exhaust all forms of asseveration to avert responsibility for them. There will be an interesting little diplomatic drama, but the world at large will not be invited to form an audience.

* * *

The mystery of the Kim affair seems destined to extend to his lifeless body. Two days ago we were informed, on the authority of Kitahara, a Japanese who accompanied the Korean refugee to Shanghai, that when there was question of carrying the murdered man's body to Japan, the Shanghai police interfered, as was not unnatural. Now, however, we read in the *Kokkai* that arrangements had actually been made to ship the body by the *Saikyo Maru*, but that when the coffin was *en route* for the steamer, a commotion arose, and the corpse was carried off by some unknown parties. It is supposed, the *Kokkai* adds, that this was effected by Korean orders, and that the body will be sent to Söul to undergo the mutilations practised in that country on criminals of the worst type. The story sounds most apocryphal. What the *Jiji* says as to the interference of the Shanghai police is much more credible.

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The assassin evidently lost no time in effecting his murderous purpose. Kim Ok-kyün lay down immediately after reaching the hotel in Shanghai, and having despatched his Japanese attendant, Wada, to invite the Purser of the *Saikyo Maru* to come to the hotel, set himself to read, Ko Sho-u being in the next room. As Wada was descending the stairs, he heard three sounds that might have been shots or might have been the noise of bamboo-splitting which was going on in the neighbourhood. Immediately afterwards he was thrust aside by Ko Sho-u, who came running down and fled into the street. Wada followed but lost sight of the fugitive almost immediately. Meanwhile Kim had struggled to the top of the stairs and there lay dead, with a bullet through his head and two in his body. Ko certainly did his work with resolution and despatch.

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The News Agency says that Kim Ok-kyun and Boku Yeiko are not the only Koreans whom the Government in Söul would like to have put out of the way. To Kohan and To Saihitsu belong to the same category. But the last is in America studying medicine, and To Kohan is also in the States, where he acted as interpreter at the Chicago World's Fair.

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Mr. Yu, the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* in Tokyo, has been telegraphically recalled. He set out on Thursday morning on his return journey.

THE JAPANESE PRESS ON THE ASSASSINATION AFFAIR.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, writing about the assassination of Kim Ok-kyun in Shanghai, and the attempt upon Boku in Tokyo, observes that, according to the facts thus far revealed, the Korean Court does not seem to be entirely free from suspicion of complicity in these ugly affairs. Our contemporary hopes, however, that such suspicions will prove groundless. As to the treatment of the persons implicated in the plot to assassinate Boku, the *Nichi Nichi* doubts not that proper measures will be taken to bring them to justice, whatever country may be at their back, whether Korea, China, or any other Power. Moreover, foreigners, who, though they have not actually committed any indictable crime, seem likely by their presence to prejudice the cause of public order and peace, will be promptly expelled from the country. As to the alleged illegal treatment of the would-be assassin, Li Isshoku, by his intended victim Boku Yeiko, that question, too, ought to be strictly enquired into, and if there be anything unjustifiable in the measures adopted by Boku on the ground of self-defence, proper punishment must be meted out to him. Proceeding to discuss the international aspect of the question, the *Nichi Nichi* remarks that, should it turn out that either Korea or China is responsible for the presence of these assassins in Tokyo, Japan will be entitled to full reparation from the offending State, first, for having sent to its territories individuals whose presence is prejudicial to public peace and tranquillity, and, secondly, for having attempted to violate the sovereignty of the empire. Our contemporary does not believe that China had anything to do with the heinous plot; neither is it inclined to give ready credence to the story of a Royal commission alleged to have been in the possession of one of the would-be assassins of Boku. But if any clear evidence of such things be forthcoming this Empire cannot choose but take decisive steps. In conclusion, our contemporary expresses sympathy with the unfortunate Korean so foully assassinated in Shanghai.

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The *Hochi Shimbun*, after lamenting the death of Kim, and dwelling on the enthusiasm with which he sought to regenerate his country, appeals to the Japanese nation to collect a fund and transport his remains to Japan, so that he may at least have the satisfaction of lying buried in a land where it was his avowed purpose to spend the rest of his life in peace, if opportunity were not found to fulfill his political mission in his native land.

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The *Kokkai* says that, according to the confession of Li Isshoku, and according to the alleged Royal mandate, the plot of assassination seems to have originated in the Korean Court. But that the Korean King himself was a party to it is, in the *Kokkai's* opinion, highly improbable. According to a certain authority, the emissaries were sent by the Ming family at the instigation of a certain foreign Power. The *Kokkai* concludes by noting that the present affair, though apparently of minor moment, has important bearings upon the Eastern Question, and is part illustrative of the Japanese Government's weak policy in the peninsular kingdom. In other articles, our contemporary heartily laments the unfortunate

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fate of kim, and urges the Government to take prompt measures for obtaining satisfaction from Korea.

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The *Niroku Shimpo* is of the same way of thinking as the *Kokkai*, but speaks more explicitly and boldly. To believe, it says, that the plot of assassination emanated from the Ming family, is to confess unpardonable ignorance of the real relations between the three countries, Japan, China, and Korea. The original inspiration of this miserable business is to be traced to the Chinese Resident, Mr. Yuen Shikai, who, since 1884,—we quote always from the *Niroku*—has exerted himself to destroy Japanese influence at the Korean Court. The article containing this accusation has not yet been concluded.

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The *Mainichi Shimbun* also is of opinion that the assassination of Kim and the plot against Boku are connected with each other, and that the persons engaged in the two crimes were under the direction of a powerful official in the Korean Government. It states that this is not the first instance of an attempt to violate the country's sovereignty on the part of the Government in Söul, and it expresses much indignation at the gross insults thus offered to Japan. It also complains of the police that, while they are over-vigilant in watching the movements of harmless politicians, they were not able to discover a heinous plot concocted in the heart of the Capital. Alluding to the fact that one of the principal emissaries has fled to the Korean Legation, the *Mainichi* urges the Government to demand his expulsion thence. Otherwise the Legation may become an asylum for political assassins.

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All the other papers, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, and so forth, write in a similar strain. The *Jiji Shimpo* alone has not yet expressed any opinion on the subject. All are united in the belief that the Korean King himself can have no share in the heinous plot, for not only is he considered too high-minded and humane to stoop to such a wicked scheme, but he is also known to be far from satisfied with the growing influence of the Ming family, which is generally believed to be the real employer of the assassins.

THE LATE MR. KIM-OK-KYUN.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following:—"Though the news of Mr. Kim's assassination gave a great shock to his many friends in the capital, it was what not a few of them had feared, and it is well known that the deceased was aware that he ran a serious risk in leaving the hospitable shores of the country that had so long protected him from harm. Yet he placed full confidence in his Korean companion, the man who treacherously slew him. Kim expected danger from another quarter. It is now just seven years ago, a few months after the Korean refugee had been permitted to leave his place of semi-exile in Hokkaido and settle in Tokyo, that a similar attempt was made to lure him away from Japan to Shanghai. That his life would not be worth a day's purchase outside the limits of the Model Settlement, Kim fully understood; yet though a courageous man, albeit of puny physique, his fears had been so traded upon in the spring of 1887 that he was on the point of taking the route for Shanghai, it being urged upon him that by so doing he would be safer than in Japan. The conspiracy against his life was, in this instance, very far-reaching, and emanated, it was alleged, from China. At all events the Chinese were interested in getting Kim out of the way; and it is very possible, or rather highly probable, that certain Chinese were implicated in this last successful attempt against the life of the refuge. In the first instance, however, Kim was warned in time and wholly disinterested efforts kept him from following the specious but fatal advice given him by his enemies. But this made him doubly careful. The facts in the case were made known to his sponsor and life-long friend, Mr. Fukuzawa Yukichi, who has ever seen in the murdered man a high-souled patriot rather that a schemer and a self-centred conspirator, going even so far as to keep him supplied with funds, defraying his hotel-bills and always evincing the warmest interest in his personal welfare. There is little doubt that Mr. Fukuzawa firmly believed in him and saw in him the coming man. Whether that belief was justified or not can no longer be decided. I do not think that Kim was really so fond of Japan as he gave himself out to be. Nothing could have been farther from his plans than an invasion or annexation of Korea on the part of this country. To the day of his death he was planning for absolute Korean independence, and believed that this could be achieved only by the overthrow of the reigning dynasty. I have again and again heard him make this statement. In November of last year he said:—"Wait less than two years longer and you will see one of the greatest revolutions of modern times in the Peninsula." That his schemes could be only accomplished by internecine war, he both appreciated and predicted with indescribable *sang froid*. Though most guarded in his speech, he yet divulged sufficient to show that he was in constant communication with Korean malcontents. I know as a fact he received letters and remittances from the Tai Wön-kun, the father of the present King; that he was trying to raise a loan in Japan on certain estates, particularly mines, owned by the Tai Wön-kun; that messengers were constantly coming and going between them, and that things had gone so far that the great outbreak might have been expected this autumn. Though every friend of the suave refugee must deeply regret his death, yet it is not too much to say that the very fact of his having ceased to live is a guarantee for the future stability of the reigning House and a probable final check to the designs of the Tai Wön-kun, who, despite his great age, is the most active and unconscionable schemer in the Hermit Kingdom. And this is all the more strange as he is known or rather believed to be strongly pro-Chinese, which is what Kim never was. Diametrically opposed though their policies were *au fond*, yet each was striving for a similar goal; Kim for reinstatement in office and the master-hand, the Tai Wön-kun for absolute authority, the exclusion of foreigners, and—very possibly—the renewed isolation of the Kingdom, a chimæra which no amount of political strategy could ever make probable. As already stated, Kim had many warm friends in Japan. When Mr. Inouye Kakugoro started, as Mr. Fukuzawa's protegé, a Korean semi-official gazette, some ten years ago, it was Kim who lent his then powerful support to the scheme. Mr. Inouye's correspondence to the *Jiji Shimpo* was mainly inspired by the same busy brain. So when Kim came an exile to these shores it was Inouye Kakugoro who most warmly befriended him; who, with Kim's connivance and on the strength of his advice, put most puzzling questions to the Cabinet Ministers, during the first session of the Imperial Diet concerning their Korean policy. During the months of General Legendre's sojourn in Japan, while he was moving heaven and earth to accomplish his ends, Kim was *au fait* with every particular of the proposed revised regulations and often knew what the Foreign Office's reply would be before the Korean Commissioner himself got wind of the matter, for Kim had ever a most strong political "pull" in this country. Besides all this, he had powerful friends in Korea. While I do not believe that he instigated, I know that he was in deep sympathy with, the recent disturbances. The time was, in his opinion, yet unripe for action, nor would he ever have set a half-way movement on foot. Living as a Japanese and publicly professing no connection with or interest in Korean politics, Kim was ever at work for the accomplishment of his plans and no one knew better the meaning of each petty revolt or hardly quelled riot. He was a fluent Japanese scholar, although the combination *sh* was a very shibboleth to him. He was given to speaking publicly of Korea as a *sikata no nai kuni*, accompanying the words with a deprecatory smile and indescribable shrug of the shoulders. He had left a wife and two children in Korea, the elder, a girl now some twenty years old, being spoken of as very pretty and highly accomplished—for a Korean. His marriage did not deter him from being fond of female society on this side of the water, and many are the *escalandres* told of him, generally however without much foundation. He was a most pleasant companion, full of anecdote, and had a hearty appreciation of a joke. Easily depressed in spirits, he nevertheless was buoyantly sanguine on occasion, and never for a moment lost sight of his life-long plans. Though often short of funds, he found not much difficulty in raising money on his note of hand, for there were many people who had profound faith in him and his future. A Japanese friend of his, who had often done him many important services, died last summer, leaving insufficient funds for his own funeral expenses. Kim at once took charge of the whole matter, though not morally bound to do so, and raised with the help of two compatriots the sum of one thousand *yen*, giving to his deceased friend a splendid funeral, and to the widow substantial *kōden*. For he was essentially open-handed and spent his money freely. Not slow to evince gratitude, he yet never forgave an injury. The real reason of his fatal visit to Shanghai was not, I firmly believe, owing to his hope of obtaining funds there, but because he looked forward to meeting other like-minded Koreans and thus speeding the time when the winter of his discontent was to become glorious summer. On the whole, Kim was a remarkable character, and despite the fearful tales told of his cold-blooded cruelty, profligacy, and wholesale treachery, he was probably more sinned against than sinning.

THE POLITICAL ASSASSINATION IN SHANGHAI.

The *N. C. Daily News* thus describes some of the incidents leading up to the assassination of Mr. Kim Ok-kyun in Shanghai on the 28th ult.:—Upon arriving in Shanghai, Kim Ok-kyun, his Japanese servant who had been with him for several years, Hong Tjyong-Ou,—the murderer—and Woo Po-jin,—who is described as a linguist to the Chinese Legation—went to stay at the Japanese Hotel—at the corner of North Soochow and North Honan Roads—where the murder occurred. The fact of their arrival seems to have been well-known at the Japanese Consulate, but the authorities there disclaimed any great interest in the parties. At the hotel, which is a large one, of respectable character, the murdered man occupied Room No. 1, upstairs, and Hong-Tjyong-Ou had Room No. 3, close by. On their arrival they wore foreign clothes, and appeared like travelled Japanese gentlemen. They all seemed on the best of terms and there was nothing to exite suspicion. Yesterday morning, according to Woo Po-jin, the murdered man gave Hong-Tjyong-Ou a draft for 5,000 *yen* on the Tien-fung Chinese bank, near the Small East Gate of the native city. Hong left for the ostensible reason of getting the draft cashed. In the course of some time he returned, saying he would have to go back later to get the money, as the bank manager was out, and he could not see him before five or six o'clock in the evening. Woo Po-jin says he knows nothing more of what happened, but he is able to throw some light on the apparent reasons which induced the murdered man to come to Shanghai. He says that they had an invitation from Li Hung-chang's son (recently Chinese Minister at Tokyo) to come to Shanghai, and then start on a tour in China. The murdered man yieded to the advice of his acquaintances and decided to take the trip, with what result will be seen from what has already been written. After hearing about the failure to cash the draft, Woo Po-jin seems to have left the hotel, at any rate he says he knows nothing of the subsequent events. For what occurred afterwards then we have to reply upon the murdered man's Japanese servant, and according to his story the murder must have been carefully planned. Just before the murder

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Hong-Tiyong-Ou sent him out of Kim Ok-kyun's room on some small errand. There were then in the room the murderer and his victim. So far as we can learn, Hong-Tiyong-Ou produced a revolver, and fired a shot at his victim, who was lying in bed, on his right side. The bullet entered at the top of the left cheek, and took an upward course. Another shot was then fired at the man's stomach as he turned over, the marks of which can be seen in the bed-clothing. Kim Ok-kyun then got off the bed and rushed out of the door along a corridor. He was pursued by his assailant who fired one more shot at him, which entered below the left shoulder blade, and then Kim Ok-kyun fell, at the top of a small flight of stairs, where his dead body was found by the persons who were attracted to the spot by the firing. Just before committing the murder, Hong had changed into Korean costume, and having executed the deed it was in this dress that he made his escape.

* * *

The murderer was arrested on the morning of the 29th ult., near Woosung. He readily asserted that he had shot Mr. Kim Ok-kyun in obedience to the express instructions from the King of Korea. This he reiterated when brought before the Mixed Court Magistrate.

KO SHO-U OR HONG TJYONG-OU.

It appears that the true pronounciation of the name of Kim Ok-kyun's assassin is Hong Tjyong-Ou. So, at any rate, his cards are printed. "Ko Sho-u" is the Japanese sound of the ideographs composing his name. The *North China Daily News* has the following with reference to him:—

Attention was next turned to the belongings of the murderer, and a cursory glance was enough to show that he was no ordinary criminal. He had a large quantity of foreign clothing, and the numerous letters and documents in his portmanteau indicated that he had left France in July last by the French mail steamer *Melbourne*, and trailed to Japan, where he fell in with his victim. There was nothing to thrown any direct light upon the murder, but it was evident that Hong-Tjyong-Ou had enjoyed considerable social popularity in Paris.

He appears to have stayed at the Hotel Serpentre, 11, Rue Serpentre, Paris, and to have had many correspondents. From the well-known Père Hyacinthe Loyson, and his family, there were several letters, breathing the sincerest friendship, and expressing the warmest wishes for the recipient's welfare on his return to his native country. The Rev. gentleman in one letter sent "Warmest wishes for dear Korea, and prayed God to preserve your old father, mother, and children," so apparently Hong is married. There was also a visiting card from Père Hyacinthe saying: "Paris, 22nd July, 1893. My dear friend, I wish you a very happy voyage, and pray God to bless you and yours." All these letter were in Fench, and there were besides some French books, inventories of a large quantity of goods sent from France at Hong's orders, cigarettes, etc. There were several letters of introduction, including one to the French Consul in Hongkong, and another to M. Frandin, *Commissaire* of the French Government to Korea, none of which had been presented.

It is stated that Hong knows Japanese and French, and perhaps English, but is ignorant of Chinese. Some of the letters amongst his correspondence had been sent to the care of the Korean Consulate at Tokyo, all apparently coming from France.

* * *

With the arrest of Hong-Tjyong-Ou, which was cleverly effected on the morning of the 29th ult. near Woosung, the surmise that the killing of Kim Ok-kyun was a political assassination was fully confirmed, and the prisoner readily asserted—indeed he seemed to regard his act as a patriotic one—that he had shot Kim Ok-kyun in obedience to express instructions from the King of Korea. The manner in which the arrest was made reflects great credit upon Captain McEuen and the members of the Municipal Police Force acting under his instructions. The information that the runaway had been seen in the neighbourhood of the Rifle Butts suggested the idea that he would make for Woosung. Accordingly, Captain McEuen deputed a native detective, who has a friend the keeper of a tea-house at Kongwan, on the old Woosung railway road, to make enquiries in the neighbourhood, and if he discovered the fugitive's whereabouts to return to Shanghai. The detective returned to says that the tea-house keeper had had seen the man wanted, and that he (the detective) had marked him down in a certain house beyond the Woosung Creek. Captain McEuen then despatched Detective-Sergeant Priest in a carriage and pair to the spot. With praiseworthy celerity that officer executed his instructions. Hong-Tjyong-Ou was found asleep in bed, and before he awakened the handcuffs had been slipped around his wrists. Without more ado he was brought back to Shanghai and lodged in the Central Police Station. There he was fairly communicative and appeared to regard his work as having been satisfactorily accomplished. He ran away, he said, after the murder because he feared that Kim Ok-kyun's Japanese boy would revenge his master's death—a fear which seems to be well grounded, for the boy who is a native of the Bonin Islands and has been the refugee's personal attendant during his exile, certainly feels his master's death, and evinces most determined animosity against the murderer. Hong-Tjyong-Ou then went on to say that the King of Korea had offered inducements to anyone who would remove Kim Ok-kyun. The latter had been intriguing with both the Russians and Japanese, and the prisoner hinted that the latter were a little tired of his machinations and were not loath to let him go his way. Asked why he waited until coming to Shanghai to execute the plot, he replied that he did not get all the information out of Kim Ok-kyun he needed until arriving here, but as soon as he had learned all he could he killed the man. The prisoner was naturally subjected to the usual search, and he was found to be in possession of ample means. He had fourteen English sovereigns on him, as well as the draft for 5,000 *yen* on the Tien-fung bank here, but the exact value of the latter document has not yet been ascertained. The most careful enquiries have as yet failed to result in the discovery of such a bank, and the belief was strengthened yesterday that it was a "dummy" document which had been given to the murdered man as an additional inducement to come to Shanghai. News of the arrest having been communicated to the Chinese authorities, in the forenoon the City Magistrate opened the inquest on the remains, the proceedings taking place at the Japanese Hotel, in the room where the crime was committed. The scene there was certainly a remarkable one. The room is of fair size, plainly but comfortably furnished, ornamented with a few European engravings, and one or two Japanese embellishments. The City Magistrate sat at the small square table in the centre of the room, surrounded by his numerous staff of clerks and runners. Captain McEuen, Inspector Reed, Detective-Sergeant Priest, and several interpreters versed in Japanese, Chinese, or English were also present. The room was full, and as a precautionary measure, perhaps, many of those present smoked cigarettes. The corpse was lying on a cane couch, covered with a sheet, and when this was removed an industrious amateur photographer obtained permission to take a number of photographs of the body. Around the spot where the bullet had entered the left cheek were signs of hemorrhage. The prisoner was brought into the room by the police, and stood behind the Magistrate's chair. He wore Korean costume, with foreign boots, and looked a typical Korean. The only person whom he appeared to dread was the murdered man's boy, but the police kept a sharp eye on the latter, who was edging his way to the prisoner until he was stopped. Hong-Tjyong-Ou visibly trembled when the boy was approaching him, and nervously clutched Captain McEuen's arm. It should be said that before the proceedings began a sword-stick and a Japanese sword were noticed to be lying in the room in a very "handy" manner, and these it was thought better to take away. The proceedings from a foreigner's point of view were decidedly informal. An interpreter from the Japanese Consulate translated the Magistrate's questions when addressed to a Japanese person, and the police interpreter acted as the intermediary between the police and the Magistrate. The prisoner, in reply to the Magistrate, said that he and another man had been commissioned by the King of Korea to assassinate Kim Ok-kyun, who was a traitor and enemy to his country. The prisoner did not hold the document directing him to do the deed; that was in the possession of his confederate, who was at present in Japan. After a good deal of general talking, the Magistrate adjourned the enquiry. He wanted the deceased's boy to undertake not to leave Shanghai for a week, but the latter said he could not promise, as he desired to take his master's body to Japan in a day or two. Upon this point no agreement could be come to, and it remains in abeyance. The Magistrate at one period of the enquiry said he would like to interrogate Woo-Po-jin, who accompanied the deceased and accused from Japan, but that individual could not be found. The proceedings then closed with the withdrawal of the Magistrate, the prisoner having been removed just before.

A CURIOUS COMPACT.

The power of combination for questionable purposes seems to be among the endowments of the Japanese nation. Nothing is easier here than to organise a guild, and though the original purposes of the organization are generally good, the strength of the combination is too often subsequently exercised in a manner open to criticism. An illustration is furnished by a case that has occurred in Ise. It is related in the columns of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. Mr. Moroto Seiroku of Kuwana is a merchant who has amassed a large fortune since the Restoration. His name is little known beyond the circle of the Tokyo and Osaka Exchanges, but his local influence is very strong. It appears that he speculated largely in land, believing that an extension of the Kwansei Railway would pass through the district where he had made his purchases, but being disappointed in that forecast, he conceived a strong grudge against the Company and set himself to injure it in every way possible. The chief device resorted to by him was to persuade the inhabitants of the district through which the railway was likely to pass that unless the line was carried overhead serious injury and inconvenience would result to the place. Hence the people were induced to enter into a compact that the Company should be compelled to base its plan of construction on that principle. The signatories of the compact pledged themselves that anyone violating its provisions should be excommunicated, that the same penalty should attach to anyone selling houses or lands to the Company, offering accommodation to the Company's officials or providing them with any necessaries. We can scarcely credit this singular story, but the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* evidently has faith in it.

THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IN JAPAN.

Questions addressed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to the Local Governors now in conclave have elicited replies indicating three directions that reform ought to take. Under the present system of local government there is a Local Council, one of the chief functions of which is to act as a buffer between the Governor and the Prefectural Assembly. But the Council has hitherto proved of little use for that purpose, and the problem is, how to make it useful. Then, again, it is found that Headmen of Divisions, who are at the same time members of Local Assemblies, show a disposition to employ their powers in the latter capacity for the purpose of embarrassing the Headmen of their Districts. The third point is that members of Urban or Divisional Assemblies frequently show themselves so indifferent to the interests of their communities as to absent themselves from the meetings and leave everything to the control of the Headmen. These defects are said to have had the result of discrediting the new system of Local Government. The experience of the seventeen localities where the system is already in operation does not inspire others with any anxiety to be brought under it. This unsatisfactory state of things naturally causes much solicitude to the present Minister of State for Home Affairs who took a prominent part in hastening the enforcement of the new system.

FRENCH ENTERPRISE IN JAPAN.

The Haiphong *Courrier* says:—French industry has completely lost its influence in Japan; two large ironclads, which must be worth about fifteen million dollars, have just been ordered in Europe for the Mikado's Navy, and French contractors were not even asked to tender, though probably their tenders would have run about a million dollars below the English. The fact is that French firms make no effort to push their interests there (nor indeed anywhere else, to any great extent); while the British firms have in Tokyo their own special technical agents, who enjoy the best of

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treatment, know how to keep themselves posted as to what is and will be doing, and manage to get their tenders accepted even in preference to those of the commission firms who act for French shipbuilders and engineers in Yokohama, but who never study Japanese requirements. As long as the great foundries of France, the Chantiers de la Mediterranée, the Creusot, the Chantiers de la Loire, do not make up their minds to maintain, right in Tokyo, their own special agents, of more reliability than the iniquitous Tientsin syndicates, they will see all the millions of Japan continue to go along the road so carefully paved by the more enterprising British. Moreover, the Japanese engineers form very unflattering opinions of what the French workshops can do; for we send in applications for contracts to build them vessels of the latest model, with quick-firing guns, hydraulic gear, electric appliances to set in motion every important mechanism of the ship by merely pressing a button—and then we show them specimens like the *Triomphante* and *Bayard*, which come out to the Far East *en glorieux invalides*. The French mail steamers strengthen the bad impression, by regularly taking a fifth or a sixth longer time than the P. & O. boats on the same voyage. The British squadron in the Far East comprises fine ships like the *Impérieuse* and *Leander*, while the *Centurion*, a first-class ironclad of latest pattern, is expected soon; the Russians have here the *Admiral Korniloff*, and they will shortly have out the *Admiral Nakhimoff*, while even the United States, hitherto contented with a China Squadron of ancient "opera comique" single-deckers, have now sent out two of the most modern and admirable warships, the *Baltimore* and *Concord*. The French Naval authorities are making a tremendous mistake. Their policy is to concentrate all their resources in the Mediterranean, and keep their eyes on Berlin; but they have been playing this game now for 24 years past, and it only means that we are keeping our cards in our hands while our rivals play as they like, and our influence abroad falls lower day by day.

THE GUMMA LOCAL ASSEMBLY.

THE Gumma Local Assembly has been the scene of a disgraceful tumult. A member having preferred a charge of corrupt practices in connection with the election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Standing Committee, the Assembly appointed a special Committee to investigate the matter. The special Committee's report had not yet been presented, when one of its members announced that evidence had been obtained of corrupt practices, and his announcement was the signal for an attack by some twenty *soshi*, who would have handled the Chairman very roughly had not the police interfered. As it was, he escaped with a slight injury to his right hand.

A DEXTEROUS THIEF.

FEMALE *banditti* were not uncommon in the good old times prior to Commodore Perry's intrusive visit; now-a-days they exist no longer, having disappeared with the *kago* and the two-sworded *samurai*. Even female thieves are quite out of the ordinary run, so that the recent arrest of a well-dressed and prettily domiciled young woman in Kanda District, Tokyo, was a decided surprise. It appears that Okatsu was a *manbiki*, or shoplifter, of the most accomplished description. Her antecedents would not, it is said, bear strict investigation, though she had never been in what Mr. Riderhood euphemistically termed "trouble." To all outward appearance a member of the better class of society, it was her passion to visit the leading silk-mercers and dry-good dealers of the metropolis. Throwing the flowing sleeves of her *haori* over the silks shown her, she would, like the New York belle, have the best of the store displayed, but retire after making one or two purchases of a petty description, much to the annoyance of the clerks, who had ransacked the shelves for her and reckoned on a good order. It was noticed that several valuable pieces of dress-material were invariably missing after such a domiciliary visit, and though Okatsu was too shrewd to go twice to the same establishment, suspicion was aroused. Her frequent connection with pawnbrokers of unwholeseme reputation, was her undoing. Upon investigation it was found that several scores of the leading *tammonoya* in the metropolis had been the unwilling vectims of her flowing sleeves, and that she had actually managed to make off with something like five thousand *yen* worth of other people's belongings in the course of a little over two years. The pretty house in Kanda is now "to let," but there is joy in the hearts of those who trade in silk piece-goods.

NEWSPAPERS.

THINGS did not look bright for the Japanese press fourteen or fifteen years ago. In 1881 there were 253 newspapers; in 1882, the number fell to 240, and in 1883 to 199. Thenceforth the accurate record stands thus, according to figures published by the *Statistian*:—

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
Ordinary Newspapers...	87	71	82	86	121
Military Publications ...	2	1	2	3	3
Educational Publications	68	111	116	150	179
Law, Political, and Economical, Journals.....	8	9	21	33	20
Religious Publications...	13	33	25	26	31
Magazines	7	6	5	8	—
Medical Journals	17	19	26	33	21
Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Publications	51	62	88	88	86
Official Publications ...	16	9	38	44	40
Total 269	321	403	471	511	

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Ordinary Newspapers.....	164	171	180	228
Military Publications	2	1	—	—
Educational Publications ...	215	233	251	251
Law, Political, and Economical	17	17	16	16
Religious Publications.....	62	66	66	68
Magazines	—	—	—	—
Medical Journals	47	42	45	45
Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Publications ...	97	141	167	167
Official Publications.....	44	45	39	26
Total	648	716	766	792

* * *

Perhaps the two most remarkable of the above figures are those relating to educational and religious publications, especially the latter. The religious journals of Japan grew from 13 in 1884 to 68 in 1892; in other words they increased more than five-fold in eight years.

CAPITAL EMBARKED IN BUSINESS IN JAPAN.

ACCORDING to statistics compiled in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the commercial and industrial undertakings—banks and railways excepted—to which charters had been given up to the 15th of February last, are as follow;—

				Number.	Total Capitals.
	yen.		*yen.*		*yen.*
Companies with less than..	50,000	capital		694	8,631,704
Companies with capitals of	50,000	up to	100,000	107	6,380,400
Companies with capitals of	100,000	to	150,000	60	6,282,550
Companies with capitals of	150,000	to	200,000	15	2,350,000
Companies with capitals of	200,000	to	300,000	49	18,080,200
Companies with capitals of	300,000	to	400,000	24	7,335,000
Companies with capitals of	400,000	to	500,000	10	4,352,495
Companies with capitals of	500,000	to	1,000,000	26	14,340,000
Companies with capitals of	over a million		*yen*	21	40,920,000
Total				1,006	102,762,349
Average capital per Company ...				102,155 *yen*	

With regard to Banks and Railway Companies we have the following:—

	Number.	Capitals.
Banks-National Banks.....	131	48,416,100 *yen*
Private Railway Companies	28	73,123,000 *yen*
Total	159	121,539,100

Thus the grand totals are 1,165 companies with a capital of 223,311,449 *yen*.

A PRECOCIOUS BURGLAR.

THE police have succeeded in breaking up a band of thieves who have made the cares of householders on Noge very onerous for some time past. The actual burglar is a youth about fourteen years of age, who generally effected an entrance into houses through the small opening at the rear of the waterclosets, and whenever any of the inmates awoke through some untoward noise made by him, he set up a caterwauling—at which he was an adept—to lull suspicion and then continued his nefarious operations. The youth rejoices in the name of Fujii Asataro, *alias neko-kozo*, while his accomplices are a man and woman named Yamamoto Kichizo and Suzuki Gin, who disposed of the stolen goods to Chinese receivers. The youthful burglar was generally satisfied with watches and articles of jewellery and other small-sized valuables belonging to the well-to-do folk who reside on Noge and Zeikan-zaka. He even visited the Hospital in the course of his career. It is to be hoped that his precociousness in this line will be stopped for some time to come.

GERMAN COMEDIETTAS FOR THE JAPANESE STAGE.

IF the attempt of Mr. Kawakami Otojiro, the *soshi* actor, to put adaptations of French plays on the Japanese stage prove successful, it is said that other playwrights are going to try what they can do with some of those inimitable one and two-act German comediettas that have been translated into so many languages and given amusement to the peoples of so many lands. One writer proposes to utilize some of the works of Kotzebue, and has already succeeded in making a very fair version of that author's amusing one-act comedy *Die Eifersuchtige Frau*, or "The Jealous Wife;" another has chosen the well-known *Damenkrieg*, or "The Ladies' War." The former, we should think, ought to meet with the approval of a Japanese audience, as in spite of all one reads about wifely submission and obedience to the man of the house, the tables are often turned and *okokoro-yoshi*, "hen-pecked" husbands, are by no means rare. The latter play would be a venture in every sense, for, so far as we can recall it, the whole action turns on ideas somewhat at variance with the Japanese domestic code. Nevertheless, it is gratifying to find that a step has been made in this direction. The Shakespearian drama is not easily adaptable and yet the one notion hitherto has been to put this on the local stage. It would be far better to begin with lighter work and accustom the audiences to slight differences of scene and action before attempting anything so ponderous as a version of "Hamlet" or "the Merchant of Venice."

ANARCHISTS IN JAPAN.

THE *Staatsburger Zeitung* of Berlin has some curious information to give about Japanese anarchists. "Anarchism," it writes, "has established itself in every European country, nor is it unknown in America. That Japan also has its Anarchists will be new to most readers. Yet, that country has its fair share of Anarchistic agitation. The first clubs of the party were formed by house-owners, who endeavoured to find relief from the very high taxes imposed upon all real-estate. Little by little, other dissatisfied people, of all trades, found entrance into the clubs. The members of the Catilina type gained the majority, and the house-owners resigned. To-day, these clubs follow the device "Labour against Capital." Armed attacks against the Japanese bourgeois have already been attempted by the "enemies of capitalism" in the "Land of the Midnight Sun" (*sic*). The police, however, got wind of these disturbances. The collected arms were confiscated, and the head of the Revolutionaries was arrested, which ended the matter." All this is very wonderful news; more wonderful to us in Japan them to anyone else. But even a grave journal like the *Staatsburger* has its moments of silliness, apparently.

CURRENT TOPICS.

AT present the Korean assassination affair engrosses public attention so much that the circulation of idle political gossip has fallen a little out of fashion. But rumour is not altogether idle. Political wiseacres persist in believing that the Minister of Home Affairs, now staying at Numazu, has fully made up his mind to leave the Government. When he recently returned to the capital, he is said to have called on the Premier at the latter's private residence in Isarago, and

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held with him a conference lasting several hours. At that meeting Count Inouye, it is stated, unreservedly unbosomed himself to Count Ito, and the Premier tried earnestly but unsuccessfully to pacify and accommodate his distinguished colleague. As the result of the conference, it was arranged, continues the story, that Count Inouye should stay away from the capital during the coming session of the Diet, and that his resignation should be announced subsequently. Another report is that Count Inouye's temporary abstinence from any active share in the conduct of the Administration must be regarded as a device—arranged in a friendly spirit between himself and the Premier—to pave the way for his undertaking, under certain circumstances, the formation of a purely Sat-Cho Cabinet. Yet another version runs that though Count Inouye thinks of following Count Ito as Minister President of State, he is not likely to succeed in organizing a strong Ministry, for he has more enemies than Count Ito. It is finally reported that the younger politicians of Satsuma extraction still persist in endeavouring to pursuade Counts Kuroda, Saigo, and Oyama to leave the Government, being indignat at the complete ascendency of the Choshu elements in the present Cabinet, and regarding the above three Counts as mere dupes of their cunning Choshu colleagues. These rumours seem to us almost entirely lacking in probability.

* * *

The National Unionists are in a dilemna with regard to the question of employing the surplus for granting appropriations in aid of engineering works in inundated districts. They have hitherto consistently approved such measures on the part of the Government, and it may be thought that no other course can be open to them in the present case. But then to be consistent they must face the disagreeable prospect of breaking up, or at least weakening, the confederacy existing between the six parties of the Opposition. The Progressionists have evinced strong anxiety about the matter, and are believed to have endeavoured energetically to demonstrate to the National Unionists the imperative necessity of a radical change of policy on this subject. Under that pressure the National Unionists have struck out a middle course. They are to say nothing about the constitutional aspects of the problem, but will stoutly attack the Cabinet on the grounds that the measure was not of pressing necessity, and that the disbursement of the surplus was not effected by means of an Imperial Ordinance, the method pursued by the Matsukata Cabinet. They forget that the Matsukata Cabinet, which they regard as a model of constitutional propriety, did not follow any uniform practice in such matters, having in some cases made outlays of the nature under dispute without recourse to an Imperial Ordinance.

* * *

There seems to be some foundation in the report that the members of the *Doshi Seisha*, or at least many of them, are inclined to renew their allegiance to the Radical Party. A writer in the latest number of the *Nippon-jin* severely criticises their inconstancy. When they left the Radical Party, they openly condemned it for giving support to the Government. How then can they with honour return to the fold of the *Jiyu-to*, just at the time when it is more than ever believed to be friendly to the Government? The writer thinks that most of the members of the *Doshi Seisha* are sincere admirers of Count Goto, having begun their political career under the comprehensive banner of the *Daido Danketsu*. That is especially true of Messrs. Kudo Kokan, Suzuki Manjiro, Takeishi Keiji, and Node Shozaburo. When they seceded from the *Jiyu-to*, their object was once more to array themselves under the leadership of their former captain. They also, it is stated, counted on being joined by Mr. Kono Hironaka. But Mr. Kono still remains in the Radical Party, and does not seem to be particularly desirous of leaving it. As for Count Goto, they had hoped that he would oppose the Government when he went out of office, but he continues on friendly terms with the Cabinet. Thus having been disappointed in these vital respects, resolution and courage have begun to fail them, and they are now weak enough to beat a retreat and return to their original camp. Such, in brief, is the substance of the article in the *Nippon-jin*.

* * *

Japan has surely enough political parties. Yet a new addition has been formed in the shape of the *Chu-goku Shimpo-to* just organized by politicians of progressive principles in the *Chugoku*, or Provinces of the San-yo-do and San-in-do. What is singular about the new association is that it contains several avowed members of other parties. For instance, unless our information be incorrect, it boasts among its promoters Messrs. Inukai Ki and Kobayashi Kusuo, prominent members of the *Kaishin-to* and the *Doshi Seisha* respectively. What is the meaning of that singular feature? The only rational explanation seems to be that the newly formed party is a local attempt to amalgamate the allied Opposition factions. The Progressionists of Okayama seem to be the principal promoters of this combination.

* * *

Mr. Fukuzawa has of late been the subject of much abusive comment in the columns of the Opposition papers. His outspoken criticism of the destructive and unreasonable policy pursued by the *Kaishin-to* and its allies must have been far from pleasant to them. Various absurd rumours have been circulated about him, but they are contemptuously rejected by the sober section of the public. Here is the latest stricture upon him from the columns of the *Kokumin-no-Tomo*:—"Mr. Fukuzawa pretends to be free from the infection of the political fever, but that is by no means the case. He always attacks the *Meiji* Government's aristocratic and bureaucratic policy, though in reality he is on intimate terms with the statesmen who happen to be in power. · · · While Count Okuma was in office, Mr. Fukuzawa was his enthusiastic supporter, but after the Count left the Government the Sage of Mita became gradually less and less favourably disposed toward him until the friendship originally existing between them was entirely dropped. When Count Inouye undertook negotiations for revision of the Treaties, Mr. Fukuzawa was at first a zealous supporter of the Foreign Minister, but so soon as public opposition began to manifest itself, he was the first to demand the suspension of the negotiations. The same is true of his conduct at the time of Count Okuma's attempted Revision. Again, when the Ito Cabinet was apparently strong, he advised it to dissolve the Diet as many times as might be judged desirable, and seemed to place unbounded confidence in its power and capacity. But no sooner did a dissension arise between the Satsuma and Choshu sections, than he turned his back on the Cabinet and attacked it about the disbursement of the surplus." The *Kokumin* concludes this curious tirade by asserting that, throughout such an inconsistent political career, Mr. Fukuzawa has always been unchangeably devoted to one cause, the increase of his own influence in the commercial class. Thus it is always. If credit may be earned in the pursuit of politics, discredit has also to be expected.

FOREIGN RESIDENTS AND THE SILVER WEDDING.

THE foreign residents of Tsukiji were, so far as we know, the only foreign community in Japan—the foreign *employés* of the Government of course excepted—that discharged the obvious duty of courtesy imposed by the recent Silver Wedding of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. An Address was presented in their names to the Imperial Couple. We have obtained a copy of the Address and of the answer conveyed through the Department of Foreign Affairs:—

TO THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES, THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN.

In the celebration of an event of such happy significance as that which now awakens the pride and devotion of this loyal Empire, all barriers of race or language cease to exist. The feeling which inspires the people of Japan to unite in tributes of affection and honour is shared by those who are not native to the soil, and in sympathy and fervent good-will there are this day no aliens in the land. Desiring to add their earnest congratulations to those which the subjects of Your Majesties proffer in boundless profusion, the foreign residents of the capital dwelling in Tsukiji, beg Your Majesties to graciously accept their assurance of profound respect, together with this imperfect testimony of gratification with which they join in the universal demonstrations of rejoicing.

It is our privilege, on this auspicious occasion, to express to Your Majesty, the Ruler of this realm, our admiration of the wisdom and prudence exhibited in maintaining the worthiest traditions of your illustrious lineage, and steadfastly upholding the Imperial dignity during a period when the nation was destined to encounter difficulties and trials unprecedented in its history. In a sense which is understood and appreciated by all, the Empire which was created in past centuries by the prowess of Your Majesty's first great ancestor, has been endowed with a new life by the courage and firmness with which Your Majesty has sanctioned and enforced the measures indispensable to its career of marvellous progress.

To Your Majesty, the gracious and beloved Consort of the Imperial Sovereign, we offer our profoundest felicitation, and the declaration of our faith in the augury conveyed by the blending of Your Majesty's august name with the spirit and purpose of this festival. The lofty attitude in which Your Majesty appears, attests a principle the growth of which we believe to be essential to the welfare and happiness of mankind. It is the conviction of the enlightened world that in no country could this attitude be more nobly sustained than in Japan, by the honoured lady who here adorns the Throne; for her title shines wherever virtue and beauty of character are revered, as a symbol of beneficence and magnanimity, and of the bounteous mercy and charity which are the brightest and purest jewels of an earthly crown.

That Your Majesties may long continue to reign over the people in whose hearts you are enshrined is the prayer of those who now address Your Majesties, not as strangers to the land, but as sincere participants in the joyous observances of this memorable day.

[TRANSLATION.]

Department of Foreign Affairs.
The 16th day, the 3rd Month, the 27th year of *Meiji*.

W. J. WHITE, Esq.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 8th instant, enclosing the Address from the foreign residents of Tsukiji to Their Imperial Majesties offering congratulations upon the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Their Majesties' Marriage.

It afforded me much pleasure to immediately present that congratulatory Address to Their Imperial Majesties, and I have now the honour to inform you that Their Majesties have expressed high satisfaction upon receiving the same. I beg to request that you will be good enough to acquaint the persons concerned with the above expression of Their Majesties' satisfaction.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) MUTSU MUNEMITSU,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

A JAPANESE TRAVELLER'S OPINION OF CHINA.

MR. NAKAJIMA SAISHI, just returned from China, delivered a lecture on that country at the Geographical Society of Tokyo on the 27th ultimo. In the course of his remarks, he stated that, although at the open ports Japanese are held in scorn by the Celestials, they are treated with kindness and respect in the interior. In his opinion the present dynasty in China is destined to be overturned by the Ko-lao-hwui. He gave an instance of the deep hatred borne by the Chinese against the Manchurians. At a certain village in the northern part of the Empire, he knocked at a cottage and asked for a night's lodging, which was readily granted by the master of the house, an aged man of strong build and evidently high spirits. He hospitably entertained the traveller, whom he doubtless took for one of his own race and nationality, but when he learned that his guest was a Manchurian, his rage rose to such a point that Mr. Nakajima with difficulty escaped from his presence. Such being the animosity generally entertained by the bulk of the nation against Manchurians, the fall of the present dynasty will, in Mr. Nakajima's opinion, become an accomplished fact in the course of the next ten years. As the result of the consequent convulsions, he thinks that the vast dominions at present under the sway of the Government at Peking will be divided into six or seven independent states. The lecturer excited wonder and curiosity among his audience by announcing that, in the course of his travels in the interior of China, he had made a discovery of an alarming nature. But as the matter was a mili-

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tary secret the public exposure of which might cause no small inconvenience and annexation to a friendly neighbour, he thought it prudent to preserve strict silence about it, This much, however, he believed himself constrained to state, namely, that all of the so-called foreign propagandists of religion in the interior of China are more than what they profess to be. There were more than 1,200 of these Missionaries in all parts of the interior. Among them, those sent from America were true propagandists of the Gospel, but of those belonging to the Russian and French nationalities, some were really of the military profession. "They take"—continued Mr. Nakajima—"no interest in the propagation of their religion, but are busily engaged in geographical studies with special reference to military operations."

* * *

It is evidently impossible to deny this singular assertion with any degree of thoroughness. The general terms in which it is couched secure it against effective refutation, and for ought we know to the contrary, there may be among professed teachers of the Christian religion men who think more of the interests of their country than of the cause of their faith. But such persons, if indeed they exist, must be so rare as to constitute exceptions serving to establish a rule in the opposite sense. Our own experience and observation, extending over a period of twenty-eight years impel us to say that the vast majority of the French and Russian missionaries in the East are devoted wholly and uniquely to Christian propagandism. They are men who have sacrificed on the altar of philanthropy everything but their hope of a future state; who deny themselves the smallest comfort or luxury in order to swell the resources available for their benevolent purpose; who seek neither reputation nor reward; who lead lives of quiet, unostentatious, unwearying self-denial and toil; who attain as nearly to the standard of true heroism as it is possible for human nature to attain. It would be a cruel injustice if the public estimate of such men were misled by vague accusations like those of Mr. Nakajima.

FATAL FIRE AT THE YOSHIWARA.

A GREAT clearance of brothels was effected early on Monday by a fire which broke out in the house of a *jinrikisha* drawer, Yamada Inosuke by name, residing at No. 14, Yeirakucho, Itchome, Yokohama. The origin of the outbreak is obscure, but it is hazarded that a spark froma tobacco-pipe set fire to the *futon* or *tatami*, and being undetected spread to the *shoji*, and thence to the roof. In a very little while the block of houses, of which Yamada's formed one, was ablaze, and then the fire spread with alarming rapidity, running from block to block, and right across the street. The alarm-bells soon gathered the fire brigades together, and the men went to work with hearty goodwill to stay the progress of the conflagration, but it was some time ere the fire was under control. Forty dwelling-houses were entirely wiped out, while inside the Yoshiwara itself great destruction was wrought. The eight brothels burnt-out in the course of this circular fire include the Kogetsu, Sonemachi, Shin-Kotobuki, Ichiyen, Jimpu (better known as the "Nectarine") and Daini-seshu. The losses sustained by the keepers of these establishments are very heavy in the matter of wardrobes, and only part are insured.

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About two o'clock in the afternoon, while some men were digging among the *débris* of the late fire at Eirakucho, they came upon the remains of a human being. At first they were supposed to be those of a seaman belonging to H.M.S. *Caroline*, but afterwards turned out to be those of a corporal of Marines belonging to the U.S.S. *Marion*, named Moore. An inquest was subsequently held at which it was proved that the deceased saved a girl's life and then went back into a burning house to fetch his clothes. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

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The mortal remains of the late J. Moore, a corporal of Marines on the U.S.S. *Marion*, were accorded a naval funeral on Wednesday morning. The procession to the Cemetery was headed by a party of Marines from the deceased's ship, who formed the firing party, while at the rear of the hearse marched a squad of blue-jackets; the whole being under command of Lieut. Eberle of U.S.S. *Marion*. Dr. Stephenson of the *Marion* was also present, and Lieut. Perkins of the U.S.M.C. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. T. W. Austen, of the Seamen's Mission, who conducted the ceremony according to the solemn rites of the Church of England. Deceased was laid among others who have died in the service of the United States on this station, in a peaceful spot on the hill-side over-looking the busy harbour. On the coffin were placed two beautiful wreaths and a cross of white flowers, all from his shipmates, quiet tributes of the high esteem in which he had been held by his comrades-in-arms.

FIRE IN TOKYO.

THE most destructive fire that has occurred for a long time happened on Thursday in the Akasaka district of Tokyo. The flames burst out at about 7.30 p.m. in the back premises of No. 1, Nicho-me, Shinmachi, and although several fire-engines were quickly on the spot, working with an abundant supply of water, a strong southerly gale fanned the conflagration to almost uncontrollable dimensions and no limits could be set to its progress until 10 o'clock, by which time some five hundred houses, approximately, must have been destroyed. The district is thickly populated but not wealthy. It is probable that the value of the property lost was not very great. The record would be much worse had not the Akasaka moat, which lay directly to leeward of the flames, checked their advance, and also furnished an ample supply of water. At one time it seemed as though the fire must cross the moat and ignite the trees on Sanno hill, in which case the most fashionable quarter of the city would have been reached. But the splendid exertions of the firemen averted that disaster. At the time of going to press, exact particulars as to the number of houses burned and the casualties—if any—to life and limb, had not reached us.

* * *

It appears that the total number of houses burned to the ground in the Akasaka fire on the night of the 5th instant was 301. The number partially destroyed was 36. Five godowns and six store-houses have to be added to the list. Unfortunately no less than twelve fire-men were injured.

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Another fire in the same neighbourhood—Kita-machi, Itcho-me, Aoyama—broke out at 1 o'clock the same night. It consumed 20 houses and partially burned 4. Two store-houses were reduced to ashes. Three insurance companies were concerned in the two fires, but the extent of their losses is not clear. The News Agency says that the Domestic Life and Sickness Insurance Company had insured 4 of the houses destroyed for 1,200 *yen*, the Tokyo Fire Insurance Company, 10 for 2,200, and the Meiji Fire Insurance a considerable number for a sum not ascertained.

THE BOSTON COMMITTEE ON BIMETALLISM.

MENTION has already been made in these columns of a committee formed in Boston for the purpose of promoting the cause of international bimetallism. The committee state that "while earnestly opposed to the free coinage or increased use of silver by the government of the United States independent of international action, they believe that the repeal of the Sherman act affords a fitting and fortunate opportunity for advancing the cause of international bimetallism." They maintain that "the day is not far distant when the necessities of commerce will compel an international use of silver as well as of gold in the currencies of the world." The committee among its members include some of the leading business men, barristers, and bankers of Boston, besides the economists Francis Walker, E. B. Andrews, and F. J. Stimson. Among political names in the committee we find Senators Henry Cabot Lodge, and George F. Hoar, and ex-Senator John D. Long. The New York *Evening Post*, the only newspaper of importance in the United States whose attitude is resolutely opposed to bimetallism of any kind, criticised the committee on the ground that it would only serve to renew the exertions of the silver party of the West and South. The veteran economist Francis Walker defends the position of the committee in a long letter to the *Evening Post*, and among other things says:—

"The gentlemen of the committee, for themselves, not only believe, in general, that honesty is the best policy, but they believe, in the situation at present existing, that there was never a time when the telling of the whole plain truth was more expedient. They believe more than any other cause the systematic misrepresentation of bi-metallism at the North-east has been influential in arousing the feelings of wrong and anger in the South and West, so unpleasantly manifest of late years. Certain persons in highly influential positions have devoted themselves very much to making it appear to other sections of the country that New England and New York strongly adhere to gold monometalism. The South and West have unfortunately believed this, and have even come to believe not only that the North-east favours gold momometallism, but that it does so for the selfish purpose of aggrandizing itself by increasing the burden of the mortgages which it holds upon other parts of the country. This mistaken conviction has already done untold evil."

Another letter from a member of the Committee, F. J. Stimson, appears in the Boston *Transcript*:—

To the Editor of the Transcript:—Your brief but pithy editorial of the 19th on bimetallism in suggestiveness reminds one only of that great text in Galatians, any slip on which entails "twenty-nine distinct damnations, one sure if another fails." And now Mr. Atkinson has an article in the *Forum* which, if figures and the premises can do it, clenches an already somewhat over-clenched nail in silver's coffin. But as the monometallists can so well speak for themselves (most of us have once been monometallists and know), let us, will you not, for very symmetry's sake, have a word upon the other side?

The bimetallist is met by arguments first that he is an iconoclast, a radical, seeking a change, overturning the commerce of the world. This amazing begging of the question does not commonly leave him breath to reply. But the impartial *Transcript* may gently reply for him, that here, at least, is some mistake; gold and silver have been money, universal money, since the dawn of economic history. His very case hangs largely on the danger of any change. By an accident, England has for a century or two played the Shylock in loans of over forty shillings; a course of action which, however profitable to her money mongers, has not hitherto had serious effect in that she atoned for it in so many other ways; using both metals in her chiefest dependencies, in her commerce, and promptly lending even her money-monger's profits to the world. It is since Germany's action in 1873 that the real change began; a change from bimetallism to monometallism (not the other way); a change not consummated, but only just begun, and whose effects upon the world at large first in 1893 began to be shown. Our local money-panic here was caused by the fear that our Government might pay only in silver; would that have caused a panic had civilized governments used silver throughout the world as in 1873?

In other words, the first great point of the international bimetallist is that for all time, silver and gold have been money; silver is money now in seven-eights of the populations of the world; and five-eighths of the world's stock of coin in silver. It is the monometallic theorists who would make a change; and a momentous one. This five-eights of coinage, and (what is far worse) this rooted conception of silver values in the minds of nearly all the world—they propose to expunge. At the behest of seven flustered gentlemen sitting in London, who knew not in the least what they did—or rather three out of that seven, for the other four now think differently—with the backing of the money changers, of Hebrews, of all that class that have no property, no vested interest but money debts—they have begun to tell, they propose to persuade, the rest of the world, that the money it has hoarded, as in the Arabian tale, has the monetary value but of autumn leaves. What value it may have "in the arts" is left, to break their fall.

But money is the one thing in which the value is not intrinsic, but arbitrary, statutory. Does anybody dare state the value of gold "for use in the arts" alone"?

This brings us to the second great injustice forced upon the bimetallist. He is always urged to compare the stability of gold monetized, and more monetized each year, with that of silver already demonetized in the higher civilized nations (Western Europe and the United States) and threatened with further discredit in the countries of second rank (India, Polynesia). This is putting the punishment for the sin. Does anyone assert that countries where silver received no statutory discredit its value was less stable than gold, or its production more irregular? The *Herald* to-day

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likens silver to a wild horse. But it only became wild when you hooted it out of the stable and set the nettle of outlawry at its tail.

Some practical bimetallists may not even be theoretical ones; that is they base their very opinion on the desire to make no change. Silver and gold have been always money; let them stay so. But the theoretical bimetallists are yet more numerous. Most economists are so to-day. These gentlemen may be trusted to continue meeting the third reiterated misrepresentation that even Mr. Atkinson's article contains. I mean the "two yardsticks" idea. No one wants two yardsticks. They want one; the one the world always has had; chiefly because the world always has had it but partly that the yardstick, being composite of two metals, shrinks or stretches less suddenly, less permanently, than either metal does alone.

Slight monetary changes bring huge consequences to the world. Money is as the blood of the social system; a slight excess or deficiency means the insanity or the collapse of the body politic. Your editorial sanctions the metaphor, and well points out that "there is no scarcity of money—it gluts the New York and Boston banks." True, it has left the members, the hands of labour, the heads of individual enterprise; they are cold and still; it gluts the heart. The medical knowledge which prompted your metaphor will tell us whether this is a healthy symptom.

F. J. STIMSON.

AN ARTIST IN MINIATURE.

SOMETIMES artists of no ordinary merit are found in the most out-of-the-way places. In Asakusu Park there is a caligrapher of really extraordinary skill, whose specimens of microscopic writing and painting are worth very much more than the modest prices charged. He styles himself Ichirinsai Jido, and now and then may be found exhibiting his tiny ware in the Shokonsha Garden or Shiba Park. With the smallest of brushes, this artist, using a powerful magnifying-glass, writes no less than one hundred and fifty prefectly legible ideograms on a grain of rice; or covers another grain with an exquisitely coloured and skilfully delineated picture of the seven gods of happiness sailing in their treasure-ship (*takara-bune*). At request he writes a congratulatory ode containing not more than sixty characters on one side of a grain, and then depicts a flower, a temple gateway, or a Buddhist idol on the other. His charge for this most dainty piece of work is only ten *sen*. On a small pea he writes five or six odes, the *hira-gana* characters being beautifully formed and legible with the naked eye; or else he gives an enlarged grouping of the *shichi fuku-jin*, in which every feature of each face is perfectly drawn. A pea painted in this delicate fashion he sells for half the above price. Altogether his work is remarkable and deserves encouragement.

AN ACTOR'S RUSE.

A PRETTY story is told by the vernacular press. Our readers know that of late several *Soshi* have abandoned the swash-buckling profession and taken to that of acting. Chief among them is Kawakami, who has earned quite a reputation, and who, could he only regulate his mode of life a little more carefully, would be now in comparatively opulent circumstances. But the spirit that drove Kawakami to be a *Soshi* has not yet been quite exorcised. His expenditure is never within his income, and pecuniary troubles constantly confront him. Recently one of his creditors lost patience, and sent a bailiff to distrain his theatrical properties. The man went to the Asakusa-za, where Kawakami is performing, and made his way into the green room. There he was courteously received by the actor, who avowed ability and willingness to discharge the debt, but explained that as he was on the point of going on the stage, it would be only courteous on the bailiff's part to give him time to act. The bailiff agreeing, took his seat in one of the boxes and waited. It happened that the piece represented a distrain in the house of a poor widow, the woman's part being taken by Kawakami. With a real baliff before him, Kawakami acted so splendidly, that the house entered fully into the widow's distress, and fierce cries arose of "beat the bailiff to death," "smash him down," and so forth. The unfortunate bailiff in the pit, to whom it seemed that the acting was perpetually directed towards himself, and who seemed to realize in his own person the indignation excited among the audience against the actor who personified the stage bailiff, fell into a state of continually increasing trepidation and sat with bowed head and hidden face. After the play, he repaired once more to Kawakami's presence, but only to say that he begged to take his leave, and that he should come to execute his duty some other day.

REDEMPTION OF BONDS.

A NOTIFICATION recently published in the *Official Gazette* and reproduced in these columns, announced the redemption during the present month of 4 per-cent. New Bonds, to the amount of 700,000 *yen*; 5 per-cent. Pension Bonds, aggregating 332,900 *yen*; 5 per-cent. Naval Bonds, amounting to 10,000 *yen*, and 5 per-cent. Supplementary Railway Bonds to the value of 2,000,000 *yen*. The *Nichi Nichi* explains the reason why these securities, carrying a comparatively low rate of interest, should be redeemed prior to Bonds carrying higher rates. It is purely a measure of financial convenience. The Treasury, in obedience to a principle which has become a kind of unwritten law, applies twenty million *yen* annually to the redemption of the public debt and the discharge of the interest on it. Now the period of complete redemption of the New Bonds—aggregating 8½ million *yen*—is 1896; and if the sum required for that purpose be paid out in one year, the portion remaining of the annual appropriation of 20 millions, could not conveniently be made to cover the purposes to which it is applied. Hence any opportunity offering is taken advantage of to redeem a portion of these Bonds, and similarly among other securities a choice is made of the kinds lending themselves most easily to redemption.

THE AMERICAN MAIL

THE American Mail brought by the O. & O. steamer *Gaelic* was delivered in Yokohama on Friday. The following summary of news is taken from our exchanges:—

The feeling against the imposition of an income tax is growing steadily in the United States. The New York Chamber of Commerce has unanimously adopted a memorial on the subject to Congress, and it is expected that other commercial bodies will follow suit.

Secretary Herbert's Navy Reform Bill has been published. It provides for steadier and more speedy promotions by a system of voluntary and compulsory retirements in the upper grades, and by its provisions command rank is reached at an earlier age than is possible under the present law. It fixes the active list at 20 Rear-Admirals, 60 Captains, 100 Commanders, 250 Lieutenants, 74 Lieutenants of the Junior Grade, and Ensigns sufficient to keep the total establishment at its present strength. It abolishes the rank of Commodore, making Rear-Admirals of those now entitled to that relative rank on the active list, and substituting Rear-Admiral for Commodore as a retiring rank. It provides that 16 promotions to the grade of Commander and 19 to the grade of Lieutenant-Commander must take place every fiscal year, vacancies being effected by voluntary or compulsory retirement.

It transpires that the Carnegie Steel Company had to pay a fine of $140,484 to the Naval Department in January, in consequence of portions of the armour plates supplied by the Company to the Department not being up to the highest possible mark of excellence, which, by their contract, the Company were bound to attain. The Secretary of the Navy declares that the fault must be laid at the door, not of the Company's officers, but of its employés.

Two members of Congress have been shaking their fists in each other's faces in the House. Mr. Meredith of Virginia, thinking that Mr. Funk of Illinois had reflected on his veracity, rushed over to Mr. Funk's seat and shook his fist in his face. Mr. Funk brandished his fist in reply, and was with difficulty prevented.

A terrible incident is reported from Harlan county, Kentucky. A negro named Len Tye, who had kidnapped the daughter of a Harlan farmer, is said to have been flayed alive by a party of hunters and then roasted to death. "The report is that a party of hunters came across the half dead girl tied to a tree in the woods. Hearing the awful story from her they lay in wait for the return of the fiend at night fall. When the negro arrived the men set upon him, and, after binding him securely, proceeded to skin him alive with their hunting knives. Before he was yet dead, the report goes, the girl who had been his latest victim kindled a fire beneath his head. This was added to by twigs and branches which the hunters gathered, and the negro was roasted alive while his skin was being pulled from his body."

It is expected that the Senate Finance Committee will put coal, iron and wool on the dutiable list when the Tariff Bill is reported. This is important news for Japan in view of her increasing shipments of coal to the States.

M. Patenôtre, French Ambassador in Washington, has become engaged to Miss S. L. Elverson of that city. M. Patenôtre represented France in Peking some years ago, and was the negotiator of the Tientsin Treaty that put an end to the Franco-Chinese war in 1885.

The gross earnings during 1893 of the Pennsylvania Railroad system—which has a mileage of 8,000 miles, an aggregate share and bond capital of $815,000,000, is controlled by 140 corporations, and built a thousand miles of new roads during 1893—were $135,059,787; the operating expenses $95,491,558 (over 70 per cent. of the gross earnings); and the net earnings $39,568,228 There were 135,514,388 tons of freight moved and 85,152,089 passengers carried.

Edison has perfected and successfully tried his Kinetescope, an instrument for taking a great number of impressions by a camera in a limited time, thus obtaining a continuous photograph of the entire motion of an object or person. Forty-six pictures are taken in one second and the exposure lasts 20 seconds, the length of time required to unroll the band.

An extraordinary instance of stock-jobbing occurred on the New York Exchange on March 6th. In consequence of the slow procedure of the Senate Finance Committee with reference to the Tariff Bill, an opportunity was afforded for manipulating the certificates of the American Sugar Refineries Company so that in an hour they advanced 12 points and then fell back 10. Rumours were circulated that the provisions of the Bill regarding sugar, as passed by the House of Representatives, would be radically altered, and the "bulls" were thus enabled to act successfully. The *New York Herald* thus describes what occurred when these fluctuations were in progress:—

"Two hundred screaming, perspiring, struggling, half frantic, gesticulating brokers participated in the wild turbulence. Hats were smashed, clothing was rent, but none heeded such trifles. The reason for this was plain to those who realized the money value of each advance of a point—each advance which enhanced the value of the capital stock by $375,000. So rapid were the fluctuations of the stock that the ordinary means of recording quotations were put to the most severe tests. Stocks usually move up and down in eighths of one point, but there was no time for eighths yesterday. After advancing from 88 to 92, the price began to jump in quarters. At 93 many stop orders were reached, and at 93½ the pace was even more rapid."

M. W. T. Stead has concluded his visit to America. He declares that "nothing like the phenomenon presented in the American cities has been seen since Moses saw the bush standing unconsumed amid flames;" and that "the survival of American character amid the fires of hell and iniquity and civic corruption that surround it, is a miracle as great."

The latest addition to the United States Navy, the battleship *Indiana*, has performed her trials successfully. She is a grand vessel, built of steel, her displacement 10,288 tons; her sustained sea speed, 15 knots; her hull protected by belts of heavy armour, 7½ feet wide, and her armament consisting of 13 inch guns.

A strong agitation is growing up in America in favour of a Bill (the Fithian Bill), now before Congress, for abolishing the protection system in respect of ships. This subject was discussed in the columns of the *Japan Mail* eleven years ago, and the conclusions then stated are identical with those now put forward in America, namely, that the laws designed to protect American shipbuilders had in reality transferred the maritime carrying trade to other Powers. "We must either give up ocean traffic," says the *New York Herald*, "or carry it on upon the same free trade principle on which it is so successfully prosecuted by our English, German and other European competitors."

Considerable anxiety is felt by the Provisional Government of Hawaii in consequence of the arrival, during January and February, of a number of steerage passengers from Victoria and San Francisco, who are evidently Canadians and Englishmen, corresponding with the class said to have been enlisted at Vancouver by Sansome. There are about 160 of these men, and several of them wear military badges of honour. They do not look for employment and are evidently supplied with means of subsistence. In view of the danger threatened by the presence of these men, an Act has been passed to enable the Government to deal

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with and deport or imprison strangers of suspicious character without employment, as well as to prevent such persons from landing.

Transactions in real estate in New York are considered most satisfactory. The record for the first week in March, the beginning of the Spring season, was better, with regard to both volume and prices, than that of the corresponding week in 1893, though a state of general prosperity prevailed at the latter time.

On March 4th Mrs. Zerelda Wright fell down a flight of steps at the corner of Lasalle and Madison Streets in Chicago and broke her neck. She was a remarkable wonder. Here is a portion of her record :—

She was the woman who held up so many men in the months of December and January, but whom the police could never trace. The first man she held up was tipsy. This was early in December.

She had been working hard all day and had made just fifty cents. As she passed the man he stopped and made an insulting remark, her handsome face having attracted his attention. She always carried a revolver, but at first did not think of using it.

The man followed and spoke to her again. Then she whipped out the revolver, put it in his face and demanded ismoney. He promptly gave her $218 and said nothing about it, as he was a wealthy man.

Near midnight of December 10 she induced the watchman in a wholesale military store to open the door, saying she was starving. She put a revolver to his head, shoved him into a closet and took $400 worth of goods and $200 d cash.

She held up an army officer, a captain, who was visiting his father, on January 16. He was crossing Paulina street on Monro street when the woman put her pistol into his face. She took from him $40, all he had. She also robbed several other men

Her home was handsomely furnished with plenty of books and pictures. What she had been doing in the Major block when she met her death no one knows.

DR. WILLIS.

Much sincere regret will be felt by Japanese and foreigners in this country at the news just received of the death of Dr. Willis, who spent so many years in Japan prior to 1882. He commenced his career in this country as Surgeon to H.B.M.'s Legation in 1861, and during the fighting connected with the fall of feudalism his services were given to the Noge Hospital, where for some months he attended assiduously on the wounded. He had previously rendered similar good offices to Japanese wounded in the Kagoshima action of 1863, so that his name came to be associated in Japan with the best conceptions of benevolence and helpful skill. From the close of 1869 he was employed by the Prince of Satsuma as Medical Instructor, and while residing in Kiushiu he made the acquaintance of Saigo Takamori for whom he conceived the strongest esteem and friendship. Indeed Saigo's fate, and the whole story of the Satsuma rebellion, made such a painful impression on him, that he resolved to leave Japan and go into practice in England. But at the instance of Sir Harry Parkes, who never forgot a friend or failed to watch over the interests of a deserving official, he was re-admitted into the British Service in 1880, and appointed Medical Adviser to the Legation in Tokyo, the emoluments of the post being specially augmented on his account. Finding, however, that Japan did not offer such opportunities as he had anticipated, he once more returned to England, and in 1884 became Medical Adviser to the Legation in Bangkok, where one of his oldest friends, Mr. E. M. Satow, was then serving as British Representative. Since that time Dr. Willis has never revisited Japan, but his memory is still fresh in the hearts of a multitude of friends who have now to mourn the loss of as genial, generous, and true-hearted a man as ever served in the East.

FUSAN AND THE SILVER WEDDING.

It seems that very graceful advantage was taken of the Imperial Silver Wedding by the Japanese residents of Fusan. Through all the years of the Japanese settlement's existence at that place, it has been carefully avoided by Korean women, and to overcome this prejudice special steps were taken on the 9th ultimo. The Japanese Consul-General approached the Governor on the subject, and by the latter's aid announcements were widely circulated that Koreans of the fair sex visiting the settlement on the 9th should be treated with the utmost courtesy. Moreover, the programme of festivities was made known everywhere, and the consequence was that among the multitudes of Koreans flocking to the settlement on the day of the celebration, some three thousand were women. The fair sex were not averse to gratifying their curiosity, and their Japanese hosts took care to give them an idea—probably as novel as it was pleasant—of the kind of reception accorded to ladies in Western Society. The Fusan Club distributed suitable gifts to each woman according to her rank, and rice, to the extent of 130 *koku* (644 bushels), was also given out. Further, a feast at which over 4,000 Koreans of both sexes were regaled, was spread in the Hogan temple. There is plenty of room for the Japanese in Korea to conciliate Korean good-will.

SHANGHAI JOURNALISTIC OPINION AND THE ASSASSINATION OF KIM.

The sentiments expressed by the *North China Daily News* with reference to the assassination of Kim Ok-kyun are at any rate striking. "He is a very dangerous man safely out of the way," says our contemporary; "but whether his assassin was doing well for his country or not in removing him, he has no business to make our Settlement the scene of his crime. We do not want our Settlement made an Alsatia for political refugees from Korea and Japan, and for this at any rate Mr. Hong should be punished. Assassins commissioned by royalty should be warned that the foreign Settlement of Shanghai must be respected when such difficulties have to be adjusted." That is one of the most charming bits of callous and supercilious egoism we have ever had the pleasure of perusing. If Kim had been killed anywhere outside Shanghai, his assassin would evidently have been an object of indifference, if not of eulogy in the eyes of the *North China Daily News*.

DARKEST TOKYO.

Mr. Hara Tomekichi, a native of the north-west of Japan, seems to be a man of great benevolence. For years he has spent his time and money relieving the poor in the vicinity of his place of residence. Last spring, desiring to extend the sphere of his charitable labours, he set out for Tokyo, travelling all the way on foot, carefully observing the condition of the people in the districts traversed, and seeking, at the same time, to enlist all the well-to-do folks along his route in the ranks of a big philanthropic society. He obtained six thousand members in the six Prefectures of Aomori, Iwate, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, and Chiba. The society, of which the head-quarters have been established at Umi-cho, Itcho-me, Hongo, Tokyo, is named *Teikoku Saimin-kai* (Imperial Relief Association). Mr. Hara, whose experiences are related in the *Jiyu*, says that the total number of pauper families found by him in the above six Prefectures was 700, the worst cases being in Iwate and Miyagi with 80 families each of destitute persons, after which came Ibaraki with 30 families. In the two first-named provinces indigence exists chiefly in the *Heimin* (plebeian) classes, but in the third the *Shizoku* (patricians) are the more needy. Fukushima and Tochigi are happily almost free from this kind of suffering, doubtless because of their extensive sericulture. In Chiba there is much distress, but Mr. Hara deprecates the idea of dispensing aid there, since the people are unthrifty. They live by fishing; will not turn their hand to anything else, and indulge in gambling when they make a good catch.

* * *

Mr. Hara's investigations in Tokyo are the most interesting. He found it necessary to roam about the streets, night after night, between the hours of 4 p.m. and 2 a.m., in order to discover the true state of affairs, for many persons who during the day simulate extreme poverty, are seen to be comparatively comfortable where they believe themselves not under observation. The really destitute in the capital are the most pitiably circumstanced of all the paupers encountered by Mr. Hara. They count themselves fortunate if they can scrape together a pittance of 1.3 *sen* (one third of a penny) to buy two meals. When rain falls for two or three days consecutively they are absolutely without food. As for clothing, their state is even more terrible. Out of 520 pauper families only 30 have a *futon* (wadded quilt), thin and made of rags patched together, to cover the whole family of four or five members. Presumably the rest have nothing. What they long for is a conflagration, or a war, or a pestilence or a famine. After a fire they find employment, and at any rate manage to pick up something among the *débris*. How a war benefits them, we do not clearly see; but a famine means large schemes of out-door relief in which they can get included, and in times of pestilence, as cholera, for example, if one inmate of the miserable buildings where they congregate is attacked, the rest have the good fortune to be segregated for a time and fed at public charge. Mr. Hara thinks that many misconceptions exist about the state of the poor, and that much harm is done by unwisely distributed aid. He disclaims the title of philanthropist, and says that his chief object is to avert the state of affairs out of which Socialists and Communists grow.

A RELIGIOUS FANATIC.

Yoshida Shuyen, a priest of the Hokke sect of Buddhism, has just proved that the fire of religious fervour is still strong enough to calcine human intelligence. In order to undergo a severe course of discipline, he proceeded last fall from Yawata, in Gifu, the scene of his ordinary duties, to Nakayama Temple in Chiba, where he commenced and completed a penance of 100 days in a building specially prepared for such zealots. Every hour by day and night he bathed his body in cold water, sitting or lying during the rest of the time on a plank floor covered with a strip of thin matting. He was without bedding, or any protection against the cold other than the clothes he wore. Several times his sufferings seemed likely to end his life, but he completed the ordeal and made his way back to Yawata. From the very day of his arrival there he commenced another course. Rising every morning at 4, he poured cold water over his head for hours together, intoning texts from the *Sutras* all the while. This proved too much for his already weakened constitution. On the 20th of last month fever set in. But no bodily ailment could deter him. The next morning at the usual hour he recommenced his cold ablutions, despite the earnest remonstrances of his physician, and in the afternoon he died, at the age of thirty-one. Two thousand poeple attended his funeral, a rare spectacle in such a remote region, and his memory is venerated as that of a saint. Well has Pope said, "The worst of madmen is a saint run mad."

IMPERIAL GIFTS TO "KUGE" NOBLES.

The Committee appointed to consider the method of distributing the Emperor's bounty to nobles of the *kuge* class, is naturally experiencing some difficulty. Originally there does not appear to have been any intention of discriminating between nobles in affluent and those in indigent circumstances, at least not to the complete exclusion of the former. Nevertheless the Houses of Iwakura and Sanjo were not entered in the list of beneficiaries, probably because they were supposed to have already been the objects of sufficient Imperial generosity. The Iwakura family's property is estimated at 600,000 *yen*, and the Sanjo family's at 150,000 *yen*. But these are merely nominal amounts, and rumour alleges that the two houses are decidedly straitened in means. Especially is this true of the Sanjo family. The handsome new mansion erected by the late Prince at Torizaka would probably have been sold before now had not the family shrunk from such a step immediately after the Prince's death, and had not a timely gift of 50,000 *yen* from the Court "eased" the situation. It is beginning to be thought that the two families should be added to the list of recipients, and probably that opinion will prevail. The cases of Viscounts Katano, Hachijo, and Asukuji and Count Washino belong to a different category. Viscounts Katano

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and Hichijo have been legally declared bankrupt, and as for Viscount Itsutsuji and Count Washino, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, from which we quote, says that they are virtually ostracized from the circle of peers, being regarded as patrons of *soshi*. But there are folks who contend that the personality of the recipient ought not to be considered in allotting such grants. The Sovereign's intention is to aid the nobles who have shared the fortunes of the Court in prosperity and adversity alike, ever since the days of the Fujiwara ascendency. It is the house that His Majesty considers, not its present representative. How these discussions will end, we do not gather any indications. The minimum allotment at present contemplated is said to be such a sum as shall give the beneficiary an income of 25 *yen* per month, interest being reckoned at 5 per cent. That means 6,000 *yen*, or, in actual practice, 6,600 *yen*, if Five Per-cent. Consolidated Bonds—now ruling at a premium of 10 per cent.—be the form of investment selected.

KIM OK-KYUN AND JAPAN.

It is stated by the *North China Daily News*, with the insistence of either doubt or confidence, that Kim Ok-kyun, while he lived in Japan, was "a pensioner of the Japanese Government." Whence, we wonder, did our contemporary derive that information? It is news to people in Japan. The Government of Japan declined to extradite Kim at the request of Korea, and the refusal was dictated by principles to which every civilized Power renders obedience. Afterwards, when it became clear that Kim's proceedings called for either his expulsion from this country or his subjection to official supervision, the latter alternative was chosen, since to expel him meant practically to hand him over to his executioners. But "a pensioner of the Japanese Government" is a false epithet, and the *North China Daily News* ought to have sufficient knowledge of contemporary history to avoid such misleading statements.

SERIOUS CONFLAGRATION IN KANDA DISTRICT.

Sarugaku Cho, in Kanda District, Tokyo, was last night the scene of another serious conflagration. Fire broke out shortly after half-past eight and before ten o'clock over 80 houses were completely destroyed. It is remarkable that the fire started exactly opposite the spot whence the great fire of April, 1892, broke out, and for this reason fears were at one time entertained that the conflagration would be a repetition of what had occurred two years ago, the fine weather of the last week having left the houses in the vicinity as dry as tinder. Fortunately no wind was stirring. No casualties are reported up to the time of our going to press, but three persons are said to be missing. This is the third time in two months that Sarugaku Cho has been visited by large fires.

THE CHINESE RESIDENT AT SÖUL.

According to a Chinese native paper, the Chinese Resident in Korea, Yuan, sent the names of four persons to the Viceroy Li the other day any one of whom was fitted to succeed him in the Söul Residency, viz., the expectant Taotais of Chihli, Lo Fêng-loh and P'an Chih-chün, chief and second Naval Secretaries to the Viceroyalty of Chihli; the late acting prefect of Tientsin, Li Siao-yün, and the expectant prefect, Tong Siao-yi, one of the American students, for the last ten years attached to the Chinese Consular and diplomatic services in Korea, Chinese Consul at Chemulpo and last year acting Resident, when Yuan paid a visit to Tientsin.

THE GUMMA LOCAL ASSEMBLY.

Matters do not seem to be mending in the Gumma Local Assembly. On the 2nd instant it met to receive the report of the Special Committee appointed to inquire into charges of corrupt practices preferred against the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and several members. Before the report was made, a motion for the previous withdrawal of the incriminated members was introduced but negatived. The report proved to be very vague. It set forth no conclusive proofs whatever, but merely stated that the Committee inferred the truth of the charges. Of course strong exception was taken to such an allegation by the men against whom it was made, whereas their enemies sustained it with equal vigour. Finally the confusion became so great that the Governor, who was present, had to suspend the sitting.

THE SURRENDER OF HE KOREAN REFUGEES.

Acting evidently on the principle of sensational journalism, the *Nippon* publishes what professes to be a verbatim account of the dialogue that took place between the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* and the two Police Inspectors who went to the Korean Legation on the morning of the 3rd instant to obtain the surrender of the two men implicated in the attempted murder of Boku Yeiko. The dialogue has no manner of interest and savours palpably of imagination. The only point worthy of notice in addition to what has already appeared in these columns is that the refugees were sent out of the Legation precincts before their arrest was effected.

MR. SUGITA TEIICHI.

Mr. Sugita Teiichi, now under arrest for inflicting on his step-brother a wound likely to prove mortal, is a distinguished Radical member of the House of Representatives for Fukui Prefecture. The unfortunate affair is said to have been the sequel of a long family feud. From the time of his father's second marriage Mr. Sugita's home life has been stormy. His quarrels with his step brother have been frequent, and a dispute about the division of the family estate exasperated him so much that he seized a sword and stabbed the young man. Details of the feud are given by the vernacular press, but could have no interest for our readers.

TABLES.

A most excellent set of tables has been compiled and published by Messrs. F. Nering Bögel, N.A., and K. Ogawa. There are four sheets printed in large clear type and of dimensions suitable for hanging in an office. They contain the equivalents calculated with great exactness and according to the latest standards of all the Japanese lineal, superficial, cubic, etc., measures so that one can find at a glance the English or French equivalent of any Japanese unit. Nothing could be better conceived or better executed from the point of view of practical utility. We imagine that these tables will prove a great boon to foreign men of business or science and that their compilers will be correspondingly rewarded.

THE KOREAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.

We stated in our issue of yesterday that the Korean Chargé d'Affaires had been recalled telegraphically, and had left Tokyo. It is a fact that he has gone, but whether because of a recall or for what reason does not appear to be definitely known. There can be very little doubt, we imagine, that his return is connected with the attempted assassination of Boku Yei-ko and the flight of Li's two accomplices to the Korean Legation, but as we can form only conjectures at present, there is nothing to be gained by discussing the matter.

A PROVINCIAL'S OPINION ABOUT THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A local magnate in the Island of Oki is quoted by the vernacular press as having indignantly refused to become a member of the Red Cross Society, because its programme contemplates aid to the wounded of friend and foe alike. This stalwart conservative considered that a wounded enemy should never, under any circumstances, become an object of commiseration. Evidently the new civilization has not reached the Island of Oki.

H.B.M. COURT.

A handsome carved wood canopy has just been erected over the Judge's Bench in H.B.M.'s Court for Japan, and forms a stately and appropriate ornament to the chamber. The Royal Arms, emblazoned in gold, are fixed above the cornice. The staining of the canopy is in happy harmony with the rest of the panelling and ceiling, while the carving is most ornate. Like other changes for the better in the appearance of the Court-room, the suggestion originated with His Honour Judge Mowat.

MR. DE BUNSEN'S DEPARTURE.

A large number of Japanese and Foreigners assembled at Shimbashi Station on Friday morning to say goodbye to Mr. M. de Bunsen, Secretary of the British Legation, who left Tokyo by the 9.35 train *en route* for England. Among those present were H.E. the Minister of State for War, the Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the German Representative, the Italian Representative, the British Representative, the Belgian Representative, Mr. Sannomiya, and several Japanese Heads of Bureaux. In Yokohama many of the foreign residents went to the steamer to see Mr. de Bunsen off, and the universal wish was that he might adhere to his purpose of returning again to Japan during the year.

YOKOHAMA HARBOUR-WORKS.

The *Jiji Shimpo* this morning says that the Cabinet has decided to defray a sum of over *yen* 100,000 from the surplus towards the cost of repairing the defective cement blocks. The total amount of money needed for repairs is *yen* 300,000, but the remaining 200,000 will not be defrayed until the outlay is sanctioned by the Diet. Work was resumed on the breakwaters on the 1st inst.

CHARITY BALL IN TOKYO.

There is to be a charity ball in Tokyo on the 17th instant. The place selected is the Rokumeikan. Probably this will be the last opportunity of the season for lovers of that kind of amusement. We trust the affair may have all the success that its zealous promoters hope and its admirable objects deserve.

FIRE IN NAGAOKA.

A telegram despatched from Nagaoka at 1.55 p.m. on the 4th instant says that a conflagration broke out in Nagaoka at 3 a.m. on that morning and burned until 10 o'clock. Upwards of 500 houses were destroyed. The loss to the Meiji Insurance Company will be thirty thousand *yen*.

CRIME IN JAPAN.

The latest statistics in Japan give the following figures for the number of crimes, as distinguished from misdemeanours, committed in Japan from 1888 to 1892:—

Number of criminals in 1888	3,670
Number of criminals in 1889	2,861
Number of criminals in 1890	3,733
Number of criminals in 1891	4,126
Number of criminals in 1892	3,704

NEW FRENCH MINISTER TO CHINA.

H.E. M. Gérard, the new French Minister to Peking, arrived at Shanghai on the 26th ult. by the *Salazie*, and was received at the M.M. Co.'s pontoon by the French Consul-General and other officials, and a guard of honour furnished by the French Municipal Police.

THE SPRING ART EXHIBITION.

The Spring Exhibition of objects of modern and ancient art was opened yesterday (April 1st) at the usual place in Uyeno Park. Only a fraction of the exhibits has been sent in as yet, so that it will be wise to defer for four or five days a visit to the gallery.

IMPERIAL CHERRY PARTY.

The Imperial Cherry Party (Kwan-o-Kai) is fixed for the 12th instant, according to the *Offical Gazette*, and will take place at the Shiba Detached Palace, whither the Emperor and Empress proceed at 2.30 p.m. on that day.

THE GOVERNOR OF HONGKONG.

His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong is staying at the Yaami Hotel, in Kyoto, which he intends to make his head-quarters for another week or ten days before coming to Tokyo.

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ASSASSINATION OF KIM OK-KYUN.

THERE appears to be no doubt as to the truth of a telegram received on the 29th ultimo in Tokyo announcing that the Korean exile, KIM OK-KYUN had been assassinated at the Japan Hotel in Shanghai by a fellow-countryman who followed him thither from Osaka. KIM had been in Japan since 1884. He fled hither in the sequel of the insurrection that occurred in Söul at that time; an insurrection in which he played a leading part. Repeated efforts were made by the Korean Government to procure his extradition, but the Japanese Foreign Office persistently refused to entertain any such demand, obviously opposed as it was to the practice of civilized nations. For a time the refugee was prudent enough to avoid any act that might shake the Japanese Government's decision, or endanger his own privilege of asylum. But as time went by, he acquired assurance, and began, or was supposed to have begun, fresh designs against the public peace of his country. The Japanese Authorities had then to choose between running the risk of troublesome complications with Korea, or ordering KIM to leave Japan, or removing him to some place where his machinations would be practically powerless. The first of these courses would have been plainly unstatesmanlike; the second would have involved KIM'S death, and the third was open to several objections. Nevertheless, the last course was chosen. KIM was sent to the Bonin Islands, where he lived a comfortable and uneventful life for some years. This act of the Japanese Government was criticized at the time as arbitrary and unwarrantable, but in truth it was wise and merciful. Evidence had been obtained that KIM was implicated in the plots hatched by Messrs. OI KENTARO, ARAI SHOGO, and other political agitators who, seeing no hope of acquiring notoriety in the arena of domestic politics, did not shrink from a step which would have exposed their country to the risks of a foreign war, and might have thrown the whole East into a tumult. The first impulse of a Government under such circumstances would be to expel from the Empire a refugee who hesitated so little to abuse the privilege of asylum granted to him. But there could be no manner of doubt as to the consequeuces of expulsion from Japan in KIM'S case. Already his whole family and all his near relatives had suffered the penalty of death on his account, and he himself would not have been suffered to linger long could the Koreans have laid hands on him, as they certainly would have done had Japan's protection been withdrawn. It was therefore an act of exceptional benevolence to stretch the privilege of asylum as far as to provide a special refuge for KIM under official auspices, though safety thus procured exposed him to some personal restraint. By and by, it was decided that the climate of the Bonins did not agree with KIM. He was removed to Hokkaido, and being subsequently left free to choose his own place of abode, he came to Tokyo. An impression constantly prevailed among the Japanese that KIM could never rest without making some final attempt to carry out the programme which failed so signally in 1884. There were, it is true, no tangible indications of any such purpose on his part. His resources were plainly limited, and his manner of life did not suggest any complicated plots or large projects. But he was a man of active mind and unquiet disposition. It is said that in his early days he three times dissipated the whole of his resources in gambling, and that this speculative tendency did not disappear, but only took a different direction, in later years. Unquestionably both in his own country and in China he was always regarded as a factor of potential magnitude in the Oriental Question. The anxiety of his Government about him was shown by repeated attempts to get possession of his person, and even, it was rumoured, by more than one commission to assassinate him. A man of considerable attainments and wide erudition (according to Eastern standards), he possessed also the gift of winning not only confidence but sympathy. During his residence in Japan—where he went by the name of IWATA SHUKAKU, wore Japanese costume and spoke the Japanese language fluently—he made the acquaintance of many foreigners, the great majority of whom thenceforth spoke of him with faith and friendship. His assassin, HONG TJYONG-OU, belongs to a family said to have held an official position for generations in the Peninsular Kingdom. He came to Japan in 1888, almost resourceless, and earned a difficult livelihood by various devices. Nevertheless, in 1890, he managed to procure money for a trip to Europe, where he spent three years, often encountering great hardship, but always finding means to live without recourse to charity. Returning last fall to Japan, he showed a keen interest in politics and was regarded as a man not unlikely to find a place in the pages of his country's history. Various conjectures are rife as to the motive of his attack upon KIM, but we need not allude to them as they are plainly pure hypotheses. He seems to have accompanied KIM to Shanghai, which place they reached on the 23rd instant, and the assassination was effected on the 25th. No details have yet been telegraphed, but it is known that the murderer HONG was arrested in the Foreign Settlement on the 29th instant, and his trial will doubtless reveal a good deal, though the prime instigators of the deed may remain hidden. It is certainly very remarkable—too remarkable to be a mere coincidence—that whereas KIM remained safely for nearly ten years in Japan, despite many supposed plots to make away with him, death overtook him two days after he had left the asylum afforded to him in this Empire. The fact is a tribute not less to the efficiency of the Japanese police than to the relentlessness of his enemies.

THE KOREAN ASSASSINATION AFFAIR.

AS fuller lightis thrown on the particulars of the assassination of KIM OKKYÜN in Shanghai and the attempted assassination of BOKU YEIKO, public interest in the events increases rather than diminishes. The directing hand in both cases was that of LI ISSHOKU. LI has been living in Japan for some time, spending money freely. It is alleged that his expenditures aggregate sixty thousand dollars, but nothing is known as to the source of his income. Acting under his immediate orders were HONG TJYONG-OU, KEN TOJU, and KEN ZAIJU, the two last being closely related—brothers,we believe. The four accompanied KIM OK-KYÜN to Kobe, LI and the two KENS taking leave of him there, while HONG went on with him to Shanghai. HONG was instructed by LI to kill KIM as soon as possible after his arrival at the Japanese Hotel in Shanghai. The hotel is a three-storied building, and HONG'S directions were to make use of a pistol if KIM'S room should be in the third storey, since that weapon is trustworthy when employed at close quarters, and since the report would be scarcely audible from the street. But if KIM lodged in the second storey, a dagger was to be used. It is known that the assassination was achieved with a pistol, but no news has yet been telegraphed as to the part of the hotel where it took place. HONG fled immediately, but was arrested the following day. As for LI and the two KENS, they hastened back to Tokyo after taking leave of KIM in Kobe, their intention being to assassinate BOKU YEIKO, the two murders being timed so that news of the one should not warn the intended victim of the other. BOKU, however, was absent from Tokyo when the trio reached that city: he had gone to Yamanashi Prefecture on business connected with the Korean School in Ichibancho (Tokyo) of which he is a principal supporter. LI telegraphed to effect his return, and the message brought him back at once. The programme was that BOKU should be induced to visit LI'S lodging, engaged in a quarrel, and killed. But BOKU, discovering his danger, excused himself from visiting LI, and the latter accordingly set out for the School, accompanied by the two KENS. BOKU had prepared for their coming. With the aid of five of the students, he seized

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LI, tied him up, and subjected him to very cruel treatment, sending at the same time to his lodging and seizing his valises, from which a considerable sum of money and two documents, purporting to be Royal mandates, were taken. The two KENS effected their escape, and took refuge in the Korean Legation. Ignorant at first of their complicity in the unsuccessful assassination, the police authorities applied for their attendance in the capacity of witnesses only. But the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* refused to give them up. By and by he was approached again, the demand for the rendition of the KENS being based, this time, on the fact that their connection with the intended crime had been established by the examination of LI. But Mr. YU continued reluctant. It does not appear that he asserted any rtigh to protect the men. Such a pretence would have been obviously untenable. He relied upon various trivial pretexts, as that the KENS had been under orders to return to Korea and had disobeyed the order; that one of them being a personal friend of his own, he could not enforce any mandate against them; that he required time to obtain instructions from Söul, and so forth. The plea for time—a day, or a day and a half, was named—to obtain instructions being reasonable, a delay of three days was conceded by the Japanese Foreign Office, but no reply having been received from the Legation at the expiration of that interval, the police were instructed to proceed to the Legation with a despatch declaring that unless the men were given up, steps must be taken to arrest them even within the Legation. The police presented themselves at the Legation at 8 a.m. on the 3rd instant. Attempts were of course made to defer the final act in the drama. The *Chargé d'Affaires* sought time for further reference to Söul, and that being denied, he ordered his carriage with the avowed intention of waiting upon the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. But the police officer explained that if the *Chargé* left the Legation under such circumstances, the police would have no choice but to enter and seize the fugitives. Finally the *Chargé* agreed to surrender them provided that the despatch announcing entry by the police in the event of persistent refusal were withdrawn, and to that the police officer made no difficulty in assenting. So the two men are now in custody. It is difficult to understand what object the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* contemplated in adopting such an attitude at the outset. There could never have been the smallest justification for offering the protection of the Legation to common malefactors of the KENS type, and we can only suppose that ignorance of international usage was responsible for Mr. YU'S procedure. Even if Korea desired to represent the attempted assassination as an act of State necessity, the circumstances put it wholly out of her power to do so. But of course she will not dream of accepting any such responsibility. Her whole anxiety, on the contrary, will be to disavow all connection with the affair. Whether she will succeed in clearing herself remains to be seen. LI pleads the King of KOREA'S mandate for everything that he did, and unquestionably two documents fully answering the description of a mandate were found among his effects. But it may turn out that their seals are not genuine, or, even if genuine, that they were wrongly applied. Events, now nine years old, are on record which indicate that the issue of such a mandate was once regarded by the Korean Court as a proper step, but the experience then gained should have averted a repetition of the proceeding. It would be obviously imprudent to express a definite opinion on this point at the present stage. But we see no reason to anticipate any troublesome complications.

SCHOOLS IN YOKOHAMA.

YOKOHAMA has its peculiarities. A business place before everything, it might naturally be expected to treat public questions in a business-like manner. But it often allows itself to indulge in most unbusiness-like vagaries. Its attitude toward the Victoria School is a case in point. When the Victoria School was established, everybody knew perfectly well that the fund subscribed by the community for the purpose could not suffice to support the institution, and that unless it succeeded in winning public favour, its doors must be closed in a few years. Everybody knew, in short, that the fate of the School depended absolutely on the nature of the educational advantages offered by it. Suppose, then, that a man of business found himself in a position analogous to that of the School at the time of its inception. Suppose, in other words, that a man of business found himself in possession of a fixed amount of capital to be devoted to an enterprise which could never be made a paying affair unless it were invested with certain attractions, and which, minus those attractions, must inevitably consume the capital fund and then die of inanition or be continued at a constant loss. What would he do? Would he not unhesitatingly employ the fund for the purpose of providing the necessary attractions, and if, having done so, the venture proved unsuccessful, would he not abandon it definitely? We venture to think that such would be his course, and that such ought to have been the course pursued in the case of the Victoria School. A period of two years would have been ample to determine whether the School could hope for permanent success, and since its only hope of permanent success lay in such provision of teachers and appliances as would make it popular and useful above all rival institutions, a programme ought to have been mapped out upon that basis. There was a capital fund of $7,000, and an attendance of at least 50 pupils paying $90 each might have been confidently anticipated. Hence the Committee could count on an income of $16,000 against the total expenditure of two years. That income should have been boldly applied to procure a staff of at least four good instructors; to provide ample appliances; to make arrangements for periodical lectures by men of science from Tokyo; in short, to lend to the School every possible attraction within reasonable limits. Then, if at the end of two years it was found that the institution had no prospect of becoming self-supporting, it should have been resolutely abandoned. The method pursued, however, was very different. From the outset a policy of economy was adopted. The governing idea seemed to be that the capital fund should be preserved as far as possible against inroads, and that the educational opportunities offered by the School should be regulated by the support that the public voluntarily tendered, instead of being independently adapted to attract that support. The result was that the School never at any time paid its way, and that it is now living on such meagre largess as the community's charity can be induced to dole out to it. Criticism, however, is easy. Very likely if the Committee had adopted the bold course here indicated, and if success had not justified their courage, they would have been severly condemned for want of prudence. At all events, it is a most ungracious task to find fault with men who have worked with such conspicuous zeal in the public interest, and we should not revert to the subject now did not the advertisement columns of the press show that the real situation still remains unappreciated. The Victoria School has been re-opened with a staff of three teachers, two of whom are ladies; at the same time a projected private school is advertised with a staff of four teachers, two of whom are ladies, the curricula at both institutions being almost identical; and a third school is in existence on the Bluff. Now there are only 70 school-going lads in Yokohama. If the whole 70 attended the same school, the fees paid by them would represent an income sufficient to provide good, sound instruction. But it is perfectly plain that with 70 lads divided among three schools, the schools must starve financially and the scholars educationally. That is a rudimentary business proposition. There are enough boys to secure a fair measure of prosperity for one school. There are not enough, not nearly enough for two schools, still less for three. Yokohama puts its hand into one pocket to find a charitable dole for the maintenance of the Victoria School, and puts the other hand into a second pocket

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to pay for the maintenance of other schools without the existence of which the Victoria School would not be an object of charity. Of course people are free to act as they please in such matters. We make no comment further than to point out that not Yokokama's capacities but its proclivities are to blame for the present state of affairs. There is a difficulty, indeed, about complete unanimity of action: some folks object to send their sons to a school where Eurasians are admitted. That is a miserable notion, based on ignorance and supported by race prejudice. But any attempt to convert its victims by theoretical arguments were mere waste of words. One practical consideration, however, they may be able to appreciate: it is that if they insist on having an exclusive school in Yokohama, they must be content with very defective education for their children, and that if the present system of divided forces be adhered to, Yokohama will end by having no school at all, when there will be no alternative but recourse to Tokyo, where excellent education is procurable, but no distinction of races is recognised. The school question deserves the careful consideration of Yokohama parents.

THE BLAND BILL.

"COINING the seigniorage" is a misleading expression to apply to the purpose of the Bland Bill, which, after creating a deadlock in the House of Representatives for several days at the end of February, has now been vetoed by the PRESIDENT. There is no question of "coining" at all. The statement that Mr. BLAND proposes to "coin the bullion now lying in the Treasury vaults" is as far from the truth as the curiously ignorant assertion made by another local writer that "a PRESIDENT has not often exercised the prerogative of the veto," and that "its use can only be understood as a direct challenge to the two Houses." The fact is that nothing is commoner in American politics than the exercise of the Presidential veto, for since the veto can always be set aside by a two-thirds' vote of Congress, it serves merely as an expedient for deferring the operation of any measure apparently demanding maturer consideration at the hands of the country's legislators. With regard to the Bland Bill, it contemplates, not the coining of any metal, but the further issue of fifty-five million dollars' worth of silver certificates. The basis of the Bill is this:—In 1890 a law, called the Sherman Act, was passed directing the Treasury to purchase silver bullion with notes representing the exact market value of the metal at the time of the transaction. Under the authority of this Act purchases of the white metal were gradually made, and it was stored away in the Treasury vaults as security for the redemption of the notes employed to buy it. If the silver thus stored were now coined into dollars, the metal in which has a nominal value of $1.29¾ per ounce, the number of dollars resulting would be fifty-five millions more than the dollar-notes issued at the actual market price of the silver. In other words, since the amount of the notes exactly corresponded with the market-value of the bullion when purchased, and since that market-value was much less than the nominal coinage value, each note represented a greater weight of silver than is contained in a dollar, and the total difference aggregated 55 millions of dollars. The Bland Bill proposes that additional notes, to the extent of fifty-five millions, should be issued, the bullion security in the Treasary remaining the same. It is a singular measure. Between the time that the Sherman Act ceased to be operative and the time of laying the Bland Act before Congress, the gold value of silver had undergone such a depreciation that to redeem with gold—as required by law—the silver certificates issued under the former Act would have cost the country fifty million dollars. That is to say, the bullion held in the Treasury vaults as security for the ultimate redemption of the notes, had fallen in gold-value to the extent of fifty million dollars, and if the notes had been presented for redemption in gold, the Treasury must have added fifty millions to the amount realizable by the sale of the bullion. Under such circumstances, the natural course of sound financial legislation would have been to recall fifty millions of the notes so as to restore equilibrium between the paper and the bullion held for its redemption. But Mr. BLAND, on the contrary, proposed a further issue of notes to the extent of fifty-five millions, the result of which operation would have been a difference of a hundred and five millions between the face-value of the notes and the gold-value of the bullion on the security of which they circulated. The notes, in short, would have been converted into *fiat* paper. They are already *fiat* paper, since the metal stored for their redemption is fifty millions short. But that is an accident of exchange, whereas the Bland Act would be a deliberate governmental declaration that every ounce of silver held by the Treasury is worth $1.29¼ for note-issuing purposes, though its gold-value in the market is only 65 cents. Silver is an unhappy metal. It seems destined to be the victim of either inadvertence or manœuvering. Its demonetization by Great Britain—the beginning of all the trouble—was a measure the consequences of which were not even considered still less appreciated. Other Powers followed suit with equal light-heartedness. In the United States, Congress fell a victim to a dodge, and since then legislators have been trying by all kinds of hole-and-corner methods to restore the white metal to its old place. The Bland Act is the latest of these schemes. It would virtually pledge the United States Legislature to the principle that the old parity between silver and gold has been re-established; that every ounce of gold, instead of being worth 31 ounces of silver, is worth only 16; and that silver held by the Government as security for its note issues may properly be valued at 129.25 cents. per ounce instead of 65 cents., its market value. That would be bimetallism for America beyond all question, but it would not bring the world one inch nearer to bimetallism. Probably it would have the contrary effect. America is a financial Colossus. It may not hurt her seriously to be made the *corpus vile* of all kinds of costly experiments in finance. But she has some responsibility towards the commerce of the two hemispheres, and it is much to be desired that her financiers would abandon their frivolous and disturbing tactics. President CLEVELAND'S interposition of the veto does new credit to his sound, straightforward principles.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

Looking over the Christian press for the month, we see numerous signs of a growing emphasis upon the differences which for some time have been separating the various denominations into liberal and conservative parties. The present reactionary mood of a large part of the Japanese people has brought about an exceptional tendency towards self assertion among the religious bodies. Nearly all of them are inclined to minimize as much as possible the apparent leadership of foreigners. They show this inclination in a continuous discussion of their creeds, and in one or another attempt at independence of the missions in church government. For example, the Church of Christ of Japan composed of the organizations brought into being under Presbyterian help and guidance, is now in danger of dissension, if not division, over the generous Confession of Faith which not long ago was agreed upon as its standard. That Confession is a trinitarian symbol reduced almost to the simplicity of the Apostles' Creed. On the 19th of last month at Nihonbashi Church, Tokyo, thirty-four representative members of the Church of Christ, among whom were such leaders as Messrs. Oshikawa, Uemura, Hashino, Iwamoto, Ibuka, and Santo, had a meeting at which it was unanimously decided that they would faithfully defend and maintain the present Confession under which the Church is organized and operated. The creed, say they, is historical and orthodox. This creed, however, some have determined to revise in the interests of greater exactness and rigidity. The opportunity for this seems to be found in the general conservative reaction that has been taking place. But the proposed revision must be resisted. At the same meeting the relation between the foreign missions and the Church of Christ also came under discussion. The speakers acknowledged that this relation has become one of great embarrassment and discomfort. There are many misunderstandings abroad about it, and many perplexing questions have arisen which demand settlement. The sentiment of the meeting was that, of course the ideal state of the Japanese Churches is one of independence and of self-sustentation. But, as the Churches in their origin and history have had most intimate and cordial relations with the foreign missions, they must not forget their obligation to nor the imperative need of harmony with them for the future. The meeting felt that there is a positive

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duty incumbent upon all the Churches to find some way out of this unpleasant state of affairs. A committee consisting of Messrs. Uemura, Ibuka, Ishihara, Kumano, and Yamamata, was appointed to take this question into consideration, and to devise some plan of improvement. In opposition to the action of the Nihonbashi Church meeting, a reactionary association, organized for the purpose of "investigating the Creed [of the Church of Christ," has been formed. It held its first meeting on March 3rd at the Yurakucho Church, that of Rev. Naomi Tamura, well known as the author of "The Japanese Bride." The declaration set forth at that meeting runs substantially as follows:—The creed of our Church, in view of the present tendency of religion and for the sake of the future of the Church needs some revision, so as to secure the highest welfare of religion. This a great question in which all true Christians should take an earnest interest and try to answer. We are not attempting to establish a new party or to bring about a schism. Any one is welcome among us. But we wish it to be understood that our association differs from the meeting of those persons which was held the preceding month in the Nihonbashi Church. Our sole aim is the consolidation and the development of the Church of Christ. The declaration was put forth by the President of the Association, Wada Shuho, and the Secretary, Sakurai Shotaku. The dangers confronting the Church of Christ from the differing actions of these two meetings are held by the denominational organ to be serious, in view of the fact that on the 3rd of April the presbytery of Tokyo is to hold its sessions, and soon thereafter there is to be the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the denomination.

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The Ninth General Convention of the Kumiai (Congregational) Churches will take place at Kobe, beginning on the third of April and continuing until the seventh of the month. Prominent and representative leaders of these Churches, such as Messrs. Miyagawa, Ebina, Yokoi, Osada, Yuasa, Homura, Murai, and Mashino, are expected to be present and to take part in the deliberations. Ten special topics for discussion have been proposed. By Mr. Osada it is suggested that Mr. Moody be invited to visit Japan to aid in a great evangelizing movement to take place throughout the empire. Mr. Homura is to offer a resolution that all Kumiai Churches shall be given the right to discuss and to take part in deciding upon all official affairs, in general conventions of the the churches. Mr. Homura also proposes that there shall be some plan adopted for a better and more effective cöoperation with missionaries from abroad. The same gentleman brings the difficult creed question to the front in a resolution looking towards a more exact and defined confession of faith. Mr. Ebina requests, if we understand his words, that the execution of the decisions of the present Convention be postponed until the next Convention shall have time to consider them. From Mr. Miyake come the two very important propositions, first that the Kumiai Church Mission shall be made a purely independent institution, wholly free from financial aid from abroad, and, second, that a concerted movement for the purpose of gaining recognition from the Government for Christianity shall be made. Mr. Ebina desires that the aid needed for Church extension shall be passed over to the evangelists of the Mission, in order to enable them to work more effectively. The Kumiai Mission sends in its estimates of expenses to be incurred and requests appropriation of the money needed. The Mission asks the Churches to feel themselves responsible for its acts in regard to the funds necessary for its work. And finally, Mr. Yuasa Jiro desires some decision as to their relation to the moneys devoted to their use by the American Board. Concerning the Convention before which these important matters are to be brought, the organ of the Churches, *Kirisutokyo Shimbun*, says:—Shall this year's Convocation be one of peace or of controversy? We cannot tell. We do not fear controversy if that be inevitable. But it is our wish and hope that this ninth Conference shall, as far as possible, be one of peace. A number of persons prominent in our affairs and intimately connected with our body are absent now. Moreover, the opinions of our Churches on the present great problems of theological definition and of church independence are as yet immature and uncertain. We hope that brotherly affection and peace will prevail. The introduction of new and disturbing questions is to be avoided. But in whatever may come, however earnest and serious the tone of the discussions may grow, we hope that none of us will ever forget to maintain our character as children of God. The conduct of political partisans must never appear among citizens of the religious world.

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Among special articles published in the Christian press, the one of most noticeable importance appears in the *Kirisutokyo Shimbun* under the heading, "On reading an article on Church Independence by a Missionary of A.B.C.F.M." The writer begins by saying that he must correct a great mistake into which the foreign author of the article has fallen. He labours under the impression that the leaders of the movement for Church Independence are aiming to get possession of the money appropriated for the uses of the mission, and at the same time to ignore the services of the missionaries through whom the aid comes. This, however, is a total misinterpretation of the motives of the would-be independents. So far as this writer understands them, the agitators for Church Independence have no wish whatever to monopolize this money. Their great aim is to abolish the present distinction of "Japanese" and "Foreign" among the Church workers. At present the foreigners bear to us very much the relation of guardians. The leaders of the movement for independence wish to do away with this attitude on the part of the missionaries. The foreigners should unite their work with that of the Japanese: they should become associated with the churches as pastors, or as Church members. For example, they might be elected as members of the directorate of the Japanese Mission, or as holders of other offices in the organization. In a word, the distinction now made between Japanese and foreigners should be altogether distroyed. In any event, however, the independence of the Churches must be secured and maintained. Unfortunately we are weak. We know too well our poverty. We can not help recognizing our inability to meet the duties laid upon us in view of the needed evangelization of the country. It will be a great and fortunate result for both Japan and the foreign missionaries therefore, if the money and men which are given to Japan can be so used as to develop, and more and more mature, the independence of the Japanese Churches. It would be just as it should be, we think, should the missionaries enter the membership of the Churches, respect their general judgment and cöoperate with them in their methods, that is if the missionaries trust the Churches. This being our opinion, surely it can not be said that thereby we are seeking the money and rejecting the men. On the contrary, in aiming at this end we are really giving true confidence to the men, and so using the money as best to accomplish the purposes for which both men and money are here. But, still further it must be said, that in recent years general opinion in this country has made most noteworthy progress. Many of our evangelists have failed to move on along with the advance, and consequently have become useless for the welfare of the Churches. There are by no means rare cases of this kind among us. Especially, therefore, must this be the fact with ministers who are foreign to us and to our ways of thought and life. It is not to be wondered at then, that in recent times the success of the work of the foreigners among us is poor compared with what it was years ago. We are sorry for their sakes to see this unfortunate state of affairs. There is one remedy for it, however. If they should seek a more and more intimate intercourse with our own people, and should share directly with them in the work of evangelization, they might be influenced by the general progress of our people. But, we see, to our misfortune, that the missionaries here are apparently becoming increasingly conservative. Besides, their direct work seems to be only that of the care and distribution of money. What a lamentable state of affairs! The author of the American Board article, moreover, insists that a transfer of the money from abroad into Japanese hands, will lessen the spirit of independence and injure the attempts making towards self-maintainance. If this be true, then we must acknowledge that the use of foreign money in any form is altogether poisonous. Far better that we should not receive it at all. Some will perhaps suggest, that the bad effects of our acceptance of foreign money may be avoided by making *pro rata* appropriations to our Churches, regulating the amounts in accordance with their own degrees of contribution. This may be the fact. But why do our "guardians" continue so long to regard our Churches as so childish? How long do the missionaries wish to be in charge of us? In the necessities accompanying our work of evangelization, we need certain amounts of money. Why do the missionaries try to limit and direct these amounts? As for us, we have to say that, we too fear that the reception of foreign money may be somewhat of an obstacle in the way of developing a spirit of independence in the Churches. But what shall we say of our independence of soul? Acceptance of the theology and creed of the foreigners may also have injured the right development of our Churches. Yet if we should ignore the foreigners for these reasons we should be very poor indeed. Our problem must be solved through some better way than this.

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As signs of the present tendency of Christian thought in this country the following brief references may be taken as good indications. "Why do we fail in Living Power?" asks a *Kirisutokyo Shimbun* writer. It is because we in ourselves do not have vitalizing force. Why are we deprived of such power? Because we have no self-born convictions; because we do not rise above common theological controversy. Belief does not depend upon the size of a creed but upon its truth. It need not be logical; far rather intuitive. We must rise above controversy and understand truth by communion with God; understand the way of man, by communion with Christ and with humanity. Our thought need not be coincident with either the Old or the New Theology of the West. Our vocation is to find a position for ourselves, self-sustained; self-originating the needed vital power. "National Conscience the Foundation of a Nation" is another theme treated with a good deal of earnestness in the same journal. The laws of the universe, says the writer, do not allow opportunist methods either for individuals or nations. A nation's fate is determined just as that of an individual. As an individual needs a conscience, so does a nation. The histories of Greece, Rome, India, Egypt, &c., prove this. The Japanese should study these records of the past. Their own fate comes under the same laws as those which decided the careers of these other peoples. The end of Christianity is to develop conscience in a people and to increase their grandeur. It tends to fill the land with true men, obedient to the known laws of the universe. Christ was the greatest of all the world's sages. He wept over the corruption of Jerusalem. Ah! who is there now who like him weeps over the corruption of Tokyo? Feeling such as this, we would call a conscience for the nation. The nations which have it will prosper; those which have it not will perish. May it rule our own empire. In the *Gokyo* it is held that, a "Turn in the Religious Tendency" will ere long take place. Society is now much under the influence of philosophy. When men become tired of philosophy they turn to religion. The Greeks sought knowledge, but were disappointed and went to Jesus of Nazareth. Let, then, philo-

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sophy grow to the full. Let man go to the farthest limits of the human reason. Baffled at last, in humility he will turn to God. Mr. Mashino, in his reviews in the *Kirisutokyo Shimbun*, says that the great need and want among Christian leaders in Japan is of mighty believers. There are eminent theologians, effective preachers, many such in the country, but no great believers. We long for the appearance of such a believer in the Tokyo forum. Unless such a man comes and takes leadership for us, it is in vain that we look for the advance of spiritual life in this land. Mr. Tsunajima, in the *Shukyo*, commenting upon the present sceptical tendency of the young Christians of Japan, thinks the mood fortunate for the people. Belief is primary in mental evolution. On that follows doubt leading to criticism. The young Christians of Japan have now outgrown their infant age of mere belief and have entered upon the second stage, that of questioning. This was inevitable. Without doubt, there could be no progress. It lies at the beginning of human development. Of course, not doubt for the sake of doubting, but for the sake of reaching at last faith and truth. Our young Christians are struggling with the hosts of scepticism, in order that at last they may have peace. Is not this a fact over which all should rejoice? Surely. Yet, see how they are dealt with by their leaders and teachers. They have lost the old, warm friendships. They are denounced for their absence from ordinary religious services. They receive no help in their struggle with the sceptical hosts by which they have been beset. Mr. Mashino comments upon this article, declaring it pathetic that the young Christian men of Japan are thus left to struggle with these great questions unaided. He fears that they will not continue to look for withheld help long. Is there no one who is called of heaven, to deliver them? Let the friend, the master of young men, appear. In the *Jiyu Kirisutokyo* are some timely articles. For example, "The Three Currents of Anti-Christian Thought in Japan," that of National Conservatism, which tends to make men forget their responsibilities to mankind, that of pessimistic withdrawal from social duties, and last, that of an indifferentism to all forms of religion, ethics, or social earnestness, most pitiful of all moods,—the article on these topics gives instructive reading. *Shinri*, as usual, makes generous contributions to Japanese thought in several historical and critical essays.

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The newly awakened zeal for missionary activity among the Buddhists does not yet seem to flag. In the *Bukkyo* three methods of evangelization are proposed, apparently small, yet important. A thoroughly good vocabulary of Buddhist terms, is considered to be a great need, a book that will instruct the common mind. Prize essays are called for, for use in evangelization. Every sect should publish them. They are as important as preaching. Also, the newspapers of Buddhist sympathies should be thoroughly popularized. What is needed is a common newspaper, pure in its tone, interesting, and Buddhistic. The *Bukkyo* deals also with the question of "Personality in Controversy." It is a good weapon, but must not be abused. If one deserves such attack he should receive it just as his opinions, if they differ from ours, should be assailed. Personal attack is necessary when one violates the position he occupies. Not wanton assault, of course. Not such assaults as are made in the new magazine, the *Enrao*. Nor such slander as that which recently appeared in "The Religious World," the *Shukyokai*, about the persons of two eminent Christians, Uemura and Kashinagi. This magazine declares it to be its purpose to go on with its attacks upon Christians. *Bukkyo* suspects that the *Shukyokai* has resolved to abuse a good weapon. We see that the Hawaiian Mission is active. Several evangelists are going, or have gone, to Honolulu.

* * *

Mr. Yabuchi Hanryo, in the *Kokkyo*, gives a striking presentations of the theme, "The Conflict between the Yellow and the White Races, and between Buddhism and Christianity." These two races do not differ as inferior and superior, but in their opposing tendencies and developments of thought. Western thought has developed objectively. The thought of the East has had subjective growth. Out of these facts have come the great difference of the two civilizations. The aim of the White Races has been to make the external world their own. Their whole character has developed towards this goal. As the result of this they have, earlier than we, matured the idea of law; they have emphasized the production of wealth; they have progressed in physical science; they show in high degree the egoistic, individualizing principle. Their wants being limitless, they often come into conflict with other races and subdue them. Remember the Black Race of Africa, the Red Race of America. The White Race has despoiled both these races of their lands, and both are rapidly approaching ruin. More than this, the Oriental nations are being conquered by the White Race. In the struggle for existence the White Race is a mighty conqueror. This is due to the fact that in it, egoism leads it to the conquest of the objective world. But, on the other hand, this very fact is the source of weakness to the White People. See the calamities among Occidental nations arising from the oppression and envy of rich and poor, from competition among trades and industries, the threatenings of labourers, the bad blood between governors and governed. Extreme individualism is gaining control of Western society. The evil which will probably lead the West to ruin lies within its body social. If there is a remedy for this, it lies in a religion which suppresses material desire and struggle over material aims, and brings in peace. What has Christianity done to meet this trouble? Christianity cannot suppress the egoism of the White Race and give peace, for the reason that Christianity is weak just as Western Civilization itself is weak. A subjective religion only, can help the objective people of the West. Christianity in its doctrinal essence is objective. Its God is objective; it regards man as the centre of the universe, and looks upon the universe as existing for the sake of man; it so sharply distinguishes between Christian and non-Christian that only the passions of love and hate in it are strong. In brief, Christianity is powerless to aid in man's subjective development. To try to save the White Race with Christianity, is like trying to destroy fire with fire or water with water. Only Buddhism can save the White Race. It is most powerful in developing the life within. It aims to open a vast world in the mind, to fill it with truth, happiness, peace, light. Buddhism tends to lead us not to gain possession of the external, but of the internal, world. As the inner world is non-material, formless, limitless, possession in it can not cause conflict with others. This is the source of the character of the peoples of the East; rich in moral emotion, poor in the perceptions of law; intellectually strong, but weak in physical progress; powerful in suppressing passion, but weak in the struggle for existence. If Europe could receive Buddhism, its evils would be healed, spiritual as well as physical progress would be gained, and the perfect civilization realized.

* * *

"Is Religion non-National or National?" asks the *Dento*. Its basis is love, its object is Humanity. It is non-national considered in its essence. But, as it exists among peoples and nations, it necessarily, in manifestation and use, takes on a national character. Now there is Shinto (if it is a religion), which is both national in essence and use. Christianity at present in Japan, is altogether non-national in its use. It can never exist permanently in this country, until it becomes national in its use. It may become this. Buddhism, however, being non-national in essence, and having become wholly national in its practice, is now and should remain the religion of Japan.

* * *

We close this summary with an all too brief reference to an article in the *Dogaku*, by Toki Horyo, sent from France, on "Japanese Buddhist Priests and the Faith." Faith and virtue are essential to the independence of religionists. Of all the religionists of the world, says the writer, none are more unbelieving and immoral than the priests of Buddha in Japan. Mr. Toki speaks of the high places in both State and Church of many religious leaders in Europe, and of the reverence shown them by society at large, exceeding that given to merchants, statesmen, and scholars. But in Japan, Buddhism is respected only as a philosophy; its priests lack both faith and morality; they are coolly treated by society. European priests are patient, pious, kind. The temples of the West are pure; they inspire reverence from the moment of entrance within them. "Return O! Buddhists, to your faith and conscience!"

THE FESTIVAL OF EYO, AT THE TEMPLE OF KWANNON, IN SAIDAIJI, BIZEN.

About seven miles east of Okayama, Bizen, is situated the little town of Saidaiji, having ordinarily a population of about two thousand, which at one season of the year is swollen until it reaches about fifty thousand.

The cause of this extraordinary increase of population, a thing of a night, is the yearly festival of the temple Kinryozan Kwannon. This festival is called Eyo, *e* being the character for Atsumaru or Kwai, and *yo* the same character as in Sanyōdō and equivalent to Yoki, the word thus meaning the assembling of bustle and gladness which takes place in the spring. The festival is therefore celebrated during Shogatsu, the first month both of the year and of Spring according to the old calendar. The Eyo is unique among festivals. It is said that there is nothing like it anywhere else in all Japan. People come to attend it from as far as Tokyo, in one direction, and Kyushu in the other, and all the region between.

The Sanyo Railway furnishes extra service to accommodate the great crowds attracted hither. Twenty or more steamers bring other crowds to Samban, the seaport of Okayama, at the mouth of the Asahi river, five miles below the city. The streets of Okayama are filled with the surging river of humanity which pours through the city and out into the country eastward. The seven miles of road between Okayama and Saidaiji is one continuous stream of pilgrims gorgeous with red blankets. The crowds are made up for the most part of men, though numbers of women are also to be seen.

The history of the origin of this festival and the rites connected with it is somewhat as follows:—Early in the history of the temple the custom was established of having prayer-meetings of its believers, continuing from the first to the thirteenth of Shogatsu. The object of these meetings was to offer supplications for all Japan and for good harvests during the coming year, and that the hearts of the *hotoke* or "departed" might be made perfect.

In the seventh year of Eisho, about 1510 A.D., when Chua Shonen was the rector of the temple, the custom was begun of making a small gift from the temple to a few of its adherents. This gift was made upon the fourteenth, the last day of the prayer-meetings. Year by year the number of those to whom it was desirable to make such a gift increased, until at length the temple authorities, feeling that they could not give to all, brought in the use of the lot to decide who should receive the gifts. But still the numbers grew and finally became so large that the use of the lot became impracticable and it was abandoned.

In place of the lot there was now a contest on the part of all to see who could obtain the prize, all having an equal chance to do so. In such a struggle as this the Japanese dress was naturally found to be a great obstacle to the perfect freedom of action necessary to ensure any hope of success, hence it was discarded, the loin cloth alone being retained. Thus what at first was a very simple and quiet affair has now become a great athletic contest, for which the contestants train and to which they come in great numbers from long distances and from many provinces.

Many *hokku* (a verse consisting of seventeen syllables) have been written on special features of the celebration. Two of these which refer to the last points mentioned, are as follows:—

"*Shogatsu no mochi ya eyo no Chikara Kobu.*" It is very difficult to put it as well in English. In fact it is impossible, but the thought may be expressed in the following words, "By eating rice-bread at Shogatsu one gains strength and at the time of the Eyo has become muscular." The other *hokku* is this.

"*Eyo-ya Kuni no namari wo atsumekeri*;"

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"At the festival of Eyo are brought together the dialects of very many different provinces."

The rites connected with this festival are as follows:—They begin on the twenty-fourth of the last month of the year (all reckoning is according to the old calendar) with the burnishing of the temple vessels and furnishings. On the twenty-seventh of the month, at midnight, the rector of the temple goes alone to Hirodani-yama, about one *ri* from Saidaiji, to a temple named Itokuin.

In its enclosure he cuts a *Shim-boku* a "sacred tree" in which the *Kami* are thought to take especial delight; with this tree he returns to the temple in Saidaiji.

On the twenty-eighth, the priest, in the presence of witnesses, employs carpenters to make the *Shingi*, "sacred wood," from a tree which he cut the preceding night. Two pieces are made, each about seven inches in length and one inch in diameter. The wood is white and is said to be willow. Certain characters are written on these sticks, and they are made to correspond with each other by a certain cut, so that there can be on mistake about their being the consecrated sticks.

The next step in the rites is the preparation of a great quantity of sacred paper. This paper is somewhat longer than the *Shingi* and ten or twelve inches the other way.

Upon it are written, in three rows, the following characters:—*Ushidama Saidaiji hoin.* The first two characters have no meaning in their present form and probably came by a slip in writing from a horizontal division of the character *shirushi* which is equivalent to *Oshide*, meaning a seal, or stamp. The last two characters are equivalent to *takara* and *shirushi* respectively. The meaning of the characters then being the seal or token of the wealth or blessing of the temple Saidaiju. When the custom was begun of making such a gift, it is supposed that it consisted of a sheet of this sacred paper which was called *go*, the characters which formed the middle step in the change from *shirushi* to *ushidama* spoken of above.

On the second of Shogatsu the two *shingi* are placed side by side and wrapped up in twelve thicknesses of this paper. The package, thus tied up, is about eight inches long, four inches wide, and two inches thick. Besides the *shingi* a hundred thousand or so of pieces of wood six inches in length and half an inch in diameter are made. One fold of the sacred paper is wrapped about one end of each stick, thus forming what are called *Kushigo*, *Kushi* being the word for an ordinary skewer, the compound word then meaning, the *go*, sacred paper, fastened upon a skewer. A charm is supposed to reside in the *Kushigo*, in virtue of which pests will be kept away from the fields in which it is set up.

Upon the eleventh of the month, four strong posts are erected in the temple grounds about twenty feet apart, forming a square and connected with each other by a rope. The posts stand seven or eight feet above the ground and the rope is put through them about two feet from the top. During the next three days this place forms the training ground for those who intend to enter the great contest. They meet here dressed in the clothing nature gave them, with the addition of a loin cloth, and engage in feats of strength and contests with each other to develop their muscles and prepare their bodies to stand the coming struggle. At times they form two companies and contend for the sole possession of the enclosed square. In this way they try to prepare themselves for the similar, but much more severe struggle for the coveted *shingi*.

The night of the fourteenth day of the month has at length arrived. This is the time when the great event is to take place. Towards this all the previous preparations and training have converged and with this night is reached the climax of the festival. Saidaiji is filled to overflowing with the crowds which have been pouring in all day long, and still they do not cease coming from all directions, by boat, by *jinrikisha*, and on foot.

At ten o'clock two men start out from the temple carrying a drum, which they beat about the streets as a warning of the approaching event. The available places for sightseers begin to fill up and in a short time are completely occupied. Companies of contestants, varying in number from twenty-five to as many as one hundred in a group, come running from the houses in the city where they have left their clothing, into the temple grounds, shouting *Wesa wesa*, waving their arms above their heads, pushing and pulling each other. The noise which they make is like the roar of an ocean beating against the shore, constant and deafening. It can be heard a very long distance away. There is one place over upon the island of Shikoku, even, twenty-five or thirty miles distant, in the province of Sanuki, where the sound can be heard. Some poet has clothed the following *hokku*:—"*Sanuki nadai Kose ta no Koe no haba*:" "To what distance does the voice of the Eyō not reach, it can be heard even across the sea in Sanuki."

The contestants run through the yard and out through another gate which leads down to the river, into which they plunge. The object of this bath in the river is purification. Without it they are considered unclean and cannot go up into the temple. One reason for their going into the river which the writer heard given was the fact that the temple bell was originally taken from the water, as stated in the history. As a result of this continuous procession from the river to the temple a great amount of sand is carried up and collects upon the floor, which it is said people afterwards carry off by the handful to throw on their fields for the purpose of keeping off pests.

From the time of the first bell there is one constant succession of groups of contestants, pouring into the yard, through it down to the river and back again through another part of the yard and up to the temple.

At twelve o'clock the same men go about a second time beating the drum, which results in bringing in more companies of contestants. The yard is now completely filled with a struggling mass of humanity. The contestants, whether up in the temple or down in the yard below, run about and struggle with each other in groups to keep warm and at intervals a crowd will come running and tumbling down the temple steps, pushed off by crowds behind them.

Two more weary (for the spectator at least) hours pass by in this way and at length the drum is beaten for the third and last time. The light in the temple is now extinguished and from a little window above the verandha the *shingi* is thrown down into the crowd and at the same time several thousand of the *Kushigo*. The crowd upon the the temple floor pours itself down into the yard, which seemed full before, but is now packed with a surging mass of humanity, rolling hither and thither, shouting and struggling and striving madly together to gain possession of the *shingi*. The appearance of the grounds at this time has been described in the following verse:—

"*Mi wataseba, atama bakari ya eyo no ba:*"
"If we look at the place where the Eyo is being held, we can see nothing but heads."

The moon sheds her pure silver beams down upon this scene of struggle and confusion, which is the only light save that here and there may be seen a red paper lantern held aloft above the sea of heads and carried now this way and now that, like a little boat on the ocean waves, as the crowd surges about. This lantern is in the hands of a policeman, of whom there are fifteen or twenty in the enclosure, and one does not envy them their position in the midst of this struggling crowd of contestants numbering about ten thousand, whose only thought is to get the *shingi* at any cost. The place where the hotest fight, the struggle for the *shingi* itself, is going on is indicated by the great volumes of vapour which go up the sky like columns of smoke from a fire.

These features of the contest have been expressed in a few words in the *hokku*.

"*Oshimomite ubu wo orawasu, shingi kana,*"
"In the pushing and struggling the *shingi* stands revealed."

"*Fuki-kakeru, Eyo no iki ya, yama warau,*"
"The breath of the contestant rises like a mist, so that the mountains round about thinking it the spring haze, laugh.

The man or group of men that takes the *shingi* is not the final possessor of it. Those in Saidaiji who would be glad to have it hang out a white lantern in front of their door. If persons who are not residents of Saidaiji desire it, they hire a house and do the same. Within the house is placed a medium sized *masu* or "wooden box," filled with sand, in which the *shingi* is to be placed. The contestants thus know where to take the *shingi* and the contest is not finished until it has been placed in one of these boxes, after which it cannot be taken by any rival contestant. The master of the house to which it is brought sends men to the temple with lanterns, upon which his name and street are written, to notify the priest of its whereabouts. The priest, then rides in a *Kago* to the house to identify it. When he finds that there is no mistake about it, the following ceremony is performed. The priest removes it from the box and places it in a *fukuro* or "bag." He then prays to it and for the prosperity of the family, after which he returns to the temple.

The name of the man who secured the *shingi* and that of the person to whose house he carried it are then exhibited on lanterns from a tower in the temple yard and the contest is ended. The contestants still struggling in the yard as well as the crowds of sightseers melt away into the town, the former to seek their hotels and multitudes of the latter to fill the roads leading away from the town to Okayama and elsewhere.

The following *hokku* gives in a word an idea of what not infrequently happens to contestants who, coming from other places, are strangers in Saidaiji, not familiar with its streets.

"*Mayoi yado, tokoi samuki Eyo Kana*"

"The Eyo is a time when is heard the mournful voice of the one who, having forgotten the situation of his hotel, is wandering around in the cold inquiring for it."

This is not the end of the festivities, however, for on the sixteenth, the houses which possess the *shingi* have celebrations for rejoicing at their good fortune. These vary according to the wealth of the house. The neighbours are assembled, forty or fifty bags of rice, five or six casks of *saké*, five or six *o kagami* large round cakes of rice-bread, are placed upon a cart and dragged to the temple as an offering. The bags of rice are piled up in the temple yard in the form of a pyramid, the *o kagami* placed on top of them and *gohei*, the customary "cut paper," hung about all. The two recipients of the *shingi* strive to out do each other in the size of the presents which they place in the temple grounds.

The priest invites the receivers of the *shingi* and the one who took it into the *matsu no ma*. The others go into the *take no ma* and *ume no ma*. The priest then gives his guests wine and after some refreshments they return home, whether they live in Saidaiji or elsewhere, and keep up a feast for several days calling in all their friends and neighbours. The owner of the *shingi* also makes a present to the one who brought it to his house, this may be either money, fifty to one hundred *yen*; or land, an acre or more; or fine clothing. The person who obtains the *shingi*, it is thus seen, does so at no inconsiderable expense. The writer saw one of these little sticks of wood which its possessor said his father, a quarter of a century or more ago, expended about five hundred *yen* in getting.

Occasionally an old *shingi* finds its way back to the temple, and enhanced in value thereby, is thrown out a second time, as was this case the present year.

Those of the contestants who were successful in competing for the possession of the *shingi* also give feasts in their turn.

These festivities are thus continued up to the twentieth of the month. The income of the temple from this festival reaches a large figure, especially when three *shingi* are thrown out and the receivers of each makes a generous present. Those who attend the festival also buy the *kushigo*, which all together yield about three hundred *yen*, the *ofuda*, three feet long, which yield four or five hundred *yen*, so that fifteen hundred *yen* is probably not too large an estimate of the temple income from all sources. The festival is a source of great income not alone to the temple, but to all the inhabitants of Saidaiji as well. Upon the great day every house, whatever the nature of its ordinary business, is turned into a hotel. It is said that during this festival the people of Saidaiji make enough money to support them for the remainder of the year, and it is not very difficult to believe the statement. The writer knows of one house where seventy guests were accomodated and the amount paid for lodging covered the rent bill for a year.

The interests of the townspeople are thus connected in the closest way with the temple, their prosperity largely depending upon the temple and its ability to draw a large crowd to its yearly festival.

This year it was attended by larger numbers than for several years past.

HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE.

The history of the temple which holds this unique festival each year, as it was related to the writer, is as follows:—The full name of the temple is Kinryozan Kwanonin; Kinryo being the Chinese pronunciation of the which early name of the town which was Kanaoka, and Zan (san) being a surviving sign of the time when all temples were built upon hills. About twelve hundred years ago there lived in the village of Kuga, province of Suwo, a man named Fujiwara Shoji Yasuaki and his wife Minatari. The latter was a most earnest believer in Buddhism. One day there came to their house a boy, apparently fifteen or sixteen years old, who asked for a night's lodging.

The woman felt sorry for his fortorn condition and took him in. She showed him to an unoccupied room and talked with him a little while. As she observed him more closely she discovered that the only things he had, besides the clothing he wore, were two tools, a mallet and a chisel. When she commented upon this fact, he said that they were the only tools necessary for a workman, an inferior workman needed a great many tools, but a skillful one could make anything with only these two. Being very desirous of an image of Sen-ju-Kwanbon (Goddess of mercy with many hands), she asked him to make her one. He said that he

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should be glad to do so and at once set to work. At the end of a week he presented her with an image of the Goddess, five feet tall, having forty-two arms. Immediately afterwards he informed her that he was an incarnation of Hase-Kwannon (Hase being the name of place in the province of Settsu) and at once disappeared. The woman was very much astonished at this disclosure as well as delighted at the possession of the image which had been made at her request.

In the spring of the second year of Tempei Shoho, about 749 A.D., Minatari determined to make a visit Kyoto, about four hundred miles north-east of her home and visit on the way the Shrine of Hase-Kwannon to make a thank-offering for his favour bestowed upon her in the gift of her image of the Goddess. So she set out from home one morning, taking with her the image of Kwannon, and embarked upon a boat for the province of Settsu. They proceeded up the Inland Sea and put into a bay, about two hundred miles from their starting point, to rest awhile. The name of this place was Matsunakajima in the village of Kataoka, now called Saidaiji. When the time came for them to proceed on their way they tried in vain to start the boat. In spite of all their efforts it could not be made to move. After conjecturing some time as to the cause of this strange thing, they finally concluded it was because of the image which Minatari had with her, that it was a sign that the goddess wished to stop in this place. They therefore landed and erected a small temple in which they placed the image and held appropriate services. After this they again proceeded on their voyage. When they arrived near Osaka a great storm arose and they were in imminent danger of going to the bottom, but they prayed earnestly for deliverance, and while they were praying they saw in the sky above them the forms of Senju Kwannon and Hase Kwannon, and immediately the storm ceased. As a thanksgiving offering for their deliverance they determined to give the bags of rice of which the cargo of the boat consisted.

While they were planning how they should carry out this purpose, the rice-bags all moved up into the air and passed out of their sight towards the land. It is said that before the temple of Hase-Kwannon may still be seen the impression made in the rock upon which they descended.

The next event in the history occurred about thirty-eight years later in the eighth year of the period called Hoki. In that year a vision came to a priest named Anryu Shonin, who lived in the village of Takaya, in the province of Kii (now Wakayama Ken). He was told to go to Kanaoka and restore the temple which had been built by Minatari. First he was to go to Kuga, the home of Minatari, to consult with her about it. So he set off upon his journey and arriving at her home, they made plans for repairing the temple, after which he started for Kanaoka to carry them out. When they had nearly reached their destination, they put into a bay and here, the tide receding, the boat was left high upon the sand. At this place the priest was met by an aged man who presented him with the horn of a rhinoceros, and told him to put it in the ground under the temple. Rejoicing in this gift and token of favour, the priest went on his way and arrived safely at Kanaoka.

He at once set to work to have the temple repaired and it was completed in the ninth month of the following year. It was made thirty-six feet square. It received the name Saidaiji at this time which means the temple that received the *sai* (rhinoceros' horn), The story goes that the Ashida (now Yoshii) river which flows by the town in times of flood, even though it entered all the houses in the town, did not go into the temple because of this horn buried beneath it.

Sometime during the Ashikaga dynasty the characters of the name were changed for others, which though they have the same pronunciation, mean the Great West temple.

Soon after the temple was finished the priest had a dream, in which it was revealed to him that there was a temple bell lying beneath the waters off the town of Tsuchinoto, a place on the coast not far away. In accordance with instructions given with the dream, the bell was raised and brought to the temple, and placed in a tower erected to receive it. The same bell still sends its reverberating tones through Saidaiji.

At out five hundred and fifty years later, in the first year of Shoan, 1299 A.D., the temple was burnt down, but the image of the Goddess was only slightly injured.

Eight months afterwards, a maker of Buddhist images, named Enkei, living in Nara, was ordered to repair the neck and arms of the Buddha at Saidaiji. Delighted at such a commission Enkei, hastened to Saidaiji to execute it. As he was beginning his work upon the sculpture, it neck moved and there came out an image about four inches in height, holding a little ball in the right hand and a little jar in the other.

Shortly after this Senkei Zenshi, Kwaijo Shonin, and Keishu Shonin built a new temple, more splendid than the former, though retaining the same form and size.

They caused another image, twenty eight inches in height to be made and placed beside the chief. They built also a gateway to the temple grounds, having two stories and on each side were placed the statues customary at the entrance to Buddhist temples.

In the second year of Ansei, 1855 A.D., about the eighteenth of the first month, the temple was again burned down and the present edifice was built by the predecessor of the present rector. Such is the history of the origin and growth of Kinryozan Kwannon-in and its yearly festival as it has been handed down to the present time and generally accepted.—SCHUYLER S. WHITE.

REVIEW.

Consular Reports. Trade, &c., of Hakodate, with Notes on the Sealing Industry.

MR. J. C. HALL'S report on the Trade and Shipping of Hakodate for the year 1892 has just reached us at the close of the first quarter of the year 1894. It was forwarded to London from Her Majesty's Legation in Japan only in November of last year, but this unusual delay, we gather from the report itself, was caused, partly at least, by the illness of the compiler. Neither the trade nor shipping of Hakodate appears to have been of very great magnitude, so far as least as foreigners are concerned, the whole value of the former having amounted to less than £115,000 sterling, while the foreign shipping cleared from the port barely exceeded 15,000 tons. Judging by the contents of the trade reports of Her Majesty's Consuls in Japan in recent years, we are led to the belief that instructions must have been issued that these reports are to be strictly confined to foreign as distinct from domestic trade, and if we are correct in this assumption, Mr. Hall, entirely debarred from dealing with the large domestic trade that Hakodate possesses—a trade presenting in many ways various points of undoubted interest to foreigners—may well have quailed before the prospect of furnishing a report on a foreign trade the whole extent of which is represented by the above figures. The same difficulty has, however, in previous years been overcome by some of Mr. Hall's predecessors in office in many and various ways. One consul, we remember, in the early eighties, filled his report with a long and pathetic description of a little boy eating apples in a Hospital, and a still longer description of the great fire of 1879 in which nearly the whole of Hakodate was reduced to ashes. Neither was perhaps particularly instructive, but we remember reading the whole report with hardly less entertainment than was afforded to us by—say our first perusal of the "Pickwick Papers." The report of another Consul was mainly composed of a valuable essay on British Merchant Seamen, which, on its publication, obtained much attention and equal commendation from a large section of the press in England, but which had no special bearing whatever on Hakodate in particular. Others, and these the majority, have been content with the merest padding, describing minute fluctuations in the prices of insignificant commodities not one of which could be said to possess a particle of interest for any merchant or trader throughout the whole length and breadth of the United Kingdom, or furnishing, without comment, statistics as to the rapidly increasing population and the extending colonization of the Hokkaido in the undigested state in which such statistics had evidently been received from the Japanese Authorities.

In the present report, Mr. Hall has not been content with any such perfunctory discharge of his duty, and disdaining comment on, or analysis of, figures too insignificant to be worthy of more than the slight passing reference he gives to them, he has produced an extremely able and interesting paper on Pelagic Sealing, a subject which at the present day is one of prominent importance. It is one also which very considerably affects Hakodate itself, as that port is becoming the rendezvous at one period of the year of the large fleet of Canadian and United States schooners now engaged in the prosecution of this industry, and also the place of shipment to the London market of its products. Mr. Hall deals with the subject exhaustively and at the same time concisely. He commences with a slight sketch of its history, telling how its pioneer, the master of a small United States schooner of only 73 tons, after having, in the first instance, made a fairly successful catch in the open sea, fell into difficulties with the Russian Authorities on the Commander Islands, as the result of which he lost the majority of his crew and was obliged to navigate his ship back to San Francisco, a voyage of 3,500 miles, with the assistance of only one sailor and the cook; and how, from this beginning, the business has extended until, in the present year, a fleet of probably sixty vessels is engaged in it.

The geographical limits and the seasons in which it is carried on are next described, the future prospects dealt with, and a succinct history is given of the fur trade of the entire Hokkaido from the earliest historical dates. Heretofore the Japanese have not benefited to any but the most trifling extent in the wealth which lies at their very doors, leaving it almost entirely to the poaching vessels that were fitted out in Shanghai and Yokohama. But the Marine Products Company, to which a monopoly of all sea otter and seal hunting in the territorial waters of Japan has been granted by the Government for a period of ten years, commencing from 1889, is now waking up to the possibilities that are within its reach; skilled hunters have, we understand, been engaged by it, and several schooners have this year been fitted out and already despatched from Hakodate to the usual cruising grounds of the pelagic fleet. As we publish Mr. Hall's report *in extenso*, we do not make any detailed extracts from it. We can, however, commend it to the attention of those of our readers who wish to make themselves acquainted with some of the most interesting particulars of a subject which obtained a very large share of the world's attention so late only as last year, and which is not likely to lose its importance for some years yet to come.

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR HAKODATE.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1892 ON THE TRADE, ETC., OF HAKODATE, WITH NOTES ON THE SEALING INDUSTRY.

MR. DE BUNSEN to the EARL OF ROSEBERY.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith enclosed the Annual Report of the Trade and Shipping of the Port of Hakodate for 1892.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

The trade and shipping of this port in 1892 was marked by a new feature of considerable interest; namely, the appearance, for the first time, of pelagic sealing craft with cargoes of skins taken from the open sea off the north-east coast of Japan. There were only four of them, all under the United States flag, and their average catch of skins was under 1,000 each; but the event was of more importance than these modest figures would indicate. For it was a proof that this line of maritime industry has been pushed across from the eastern or American side to the western or Asiatic side of the North Pacific Ocean.

The cause of the movement was, of course, the exclusion of pelagic sealing craft from the Behring Sea.

Shut out from their best hunting district, some of the American skippers and hunters determined to try their luck outside the forbidden limits; especially as it was known that there were plenty of seals in the ocean besides those resorting to the Pribyloff Islands. The pioneer of the new departure was Captain Hagman, of the American schooner *C. G. White*. Coming across from San Francisco in 1890, he succeeded in shooting some 680 seals off the coast of Yezo. He then pursued his voyage northwards, towards the vicinity of the Russian seal-rookeries on the Commander Islands. Here he met with misfortune. Some of his boats attempting to land for supplies were fired upon by the Russian Guard on Copper Island. One man was killed; and eleven others who escaped missed their schooner and were subsequently picked up by another well-known seal-hunter, and taken to San Francisco. Six other men and two boats were captured by the Russians. Having thus lost his boats and men, Captain Hagman, with one seaman and a cook, took his ship back to San Francisco, a voyage of 3,500 miles, the *C. G. White* being a craft of 73 tons.

Next year, 1891, he crossed the Pacific again in the same ship; and without going near any rookeries, obtained 1,686 skins off the north-east coast of Japan and Yezo.

In 1892, as I have stated, four sealing craft visited this harbour; and these were only about one-third of the number engaged in hunting in these waters. Ten or eleven were American, viz., the *Bophear*, *Kate and Anna*, *Allie F. Algar*,

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Sophie Sutherland, Mattie T. Dyer, Webster, San Diego, the *C. G. White*, and two or three more. There was also amongst them one Canadian schooner, the *Penelope*, whose catch was amongst the best.

It may perhaps be well for me to take advantage of the delay, due partly to illness, in the sending of this report, to here incorporate with the scanty information gleaned from the four visitants of last year, the fuller details gathered during the season now closing, as to the conditions and prospects of the pelagic sealing industry on this western side of the Pacific.

The conditions as regards space and time are very similar on both sides of the ocean. To begin with, the Russian rookeries of the Commander Islands are the exact counterpart (though smaller) of the American rookeries of the Pribyloff Islands; the two face each other, in about the same latitude, from the opposite sides of Behring Sea. From these centres the seals, after their 4 or 5 months' summer sojourn, start southwards for their immense swims in the Pacific, extending on the American side as far down as San Francisco, and on the Asiatic side as far down as Sendai Bay and even the entrance of Yedo Bay.

But there is at least one noteworthy point of difference between the two cases. Whereas, on the American side, owing to the long sweep and turns of the coast line, the range of the seal's swim is a good 3,200 miles, on the Asiatic side it is a nearly straight run of less than half that distance. Hence the seal herd, though larger, is more dispersed on the American side than on this; and it is probable that hunters choosing this side gain more through the concentration of the herd than they lose through its inferiority in numbers. Indeed, the effective hunting range on this side—at all events for the first stage of the hunting season—is not much more than 800 miles long, extending from Kinkasan (Sendai Bay) to Nemuro, the most easterly point of Yezo Island. On reaching Nemuro the seals suddenly disappear about the end of June; and no sealing craft as yet has followed them up, keeping them in sight, between this point and the rookeries on Behring and Copper Islands, or the still smaller rookery of Robben or Tulin Islands in Okhotsk Sea.

The explanation of this sudden acceleration of the seal's pace may be, as the hunters think, merely the quickening of the natural instincts, sexual and maternal, on the eve of the breeding time. But it may also be due to a falling-off in the food supply up along the line of the Kurile Archipelago. The deepest known depression of the Ocean bed—4,655 fathoms, rather more than 5¼ statute miles—occurs to the east, and just about the middle of that group, and extends along its eastern side; the very line necessarily taken by the seals in their short cut to the Commandorski rookeries. In such deep water, squid and salmon, the favourite food of the fur seal, are very scarce.

Be the cause what it may, the fact is undoubted that, beyond Nemuro, the schooners lose sight of the seals about the end of June, and this check of their pursuit serves as a mark to divide the hunting season into two distinct stages.

The schooners, as a rule, leave Victoria or San Francisco at the end of December or early in January, and, after a two months' voyage across the Pacific, strike the Japanese coast about the latitude of Yokohama, where some of them put in to victual or refit. They begin hunting about the middle or end of March, first meeting large clusters of seals in about latitude 38° N. off Sendai Bay, from about 30 miles to 250 miles miles off the shore. The seals are then proceeding northward at a leisurely pace, travelling during the night and feeding and sleeping in the day time, especially in bright, sunshiny weather. "Sleepers," as the hunters call them, are the easiest to shoot; "travellers" more difficult. With skilful hunters, the proportion of seals lost by sinking after being shot varies from about 5 to 10 per cent. A schooner with six or seven boats can take, on the average, close on 1,000 skins in the four months, March to June. That closes the first stage of the season, and they then either tranship their catches at sea into a collecting ship from Victoria and San Francisco, or else put into this port and land their skins for shipment to London, Victoria, or San Francisco. This done, after a short stay and revictualling in port, they then start northwards for the second stage of the hunting in the western side of Behring Sea and in the Okhotsk Sea.

I am inclined to believe that, the chances of approaching close to the rookeries apart, this second stage of the hunting season, lasting from the end of July till the end of October, yields a very much smaller catch than the first stage; and that, with a protective zone established round the rookeries, the sealers will find it hardly worth while to continue it.

At the rate at which the pelagic sealing schooners are increasing, and in the absence of more effective measures for the protection of the herd on the rookeries, no less than at sea, the industry cannot last long. In 1885 there were, I am informed, only about ten Canadian schooners engaged in it. In 1890 the number had increased to 25 or 26; and this year, 1893, there were over 60, to say nothing of the American schooners, which, I believe, are not quite so numerous. These figures include the whole of the Canadian sealing fleet. As regards the portion of it that is engaging in the hunting on this western side of the Pacific, the rate of increase is even more rapid, as the figures for this and the two previous year show. In 1891 only 1 schooner; in 1892, 11 or 12; and in 1893 at least 30 hunted in these waters; and the probability is that next year the number will be still larger. There are three grounds for anticipating this result. In the first place the advantage, as compared with the American side, of the shorter range, and greater concentration of the herd is now well known to the sealers. Secondly, the close season and the limits prescribed by the award of the Behring Sea Arbitrators, is sure to drive many over to this side. And, lastly, the fact that there is a considerable saving in freight and charges when the skins are packed here and shipped *via* the Suez Canal to London, as compared with the charges and freight from the Canadian or American side, will tell in the same direction. It costs about 1¼ dol. (gold) per skin to pack and ship to London from either Vancouver or San Francisco, whereas the packing charges and freight from Hakodate barely amount to 50 c. per skin.

Upon the Japanese people the sudden apparition of a band of foreign adventurers exploiting a hitherto neglected and indeed unsuspected source of wealth so near to the Japanese coast, has had a somewhat startling and stimulating effect. Many of the native newspapers affect to regard the pelagic sealers as poachers. But, in this island at least, the distinction between poaching and pelagic sealing is becoming clear to the people; and signs are not wanting that very soon some of them will try to take a hand in the game. At present the right to take seals or sea-otters in Japanese territorial waters is virtually a monopoly of a recently established joint stock company called Teikoku Suisan Kai Sha (Imperial Marine Products Company). An account of the steps that led up to the formation of this company will take the shape of a historial sketch of the fur trade of Yezo and the Kurile Islands.

Up till quite lately the fur seal was of very little importance in this part of the world. It was the sea-otter the hunters prized. The hunting of the sea-otter in Yezo and the Kuriles has been going on for a least three centuries. The earliest notice of it I can find is in Japanese records of about that date; when the feudal Baron of Matsumae, Kakizaki Yoshihito, presented three skins to the great Taiko Sama. Again in 1615, the Chief of the Ainu of Eastern Yezo came to the castle of Matsumae and presented three white otter skins to the Daimyo. In the following year this noble presented two otter skins 7 feet long to the reigning Shogan, Tokugawa Hidetada. After that, skins were often presented to the reigning Shogun by the lords of Matsumae.

From Yezo, operations were soon pushed on into the adjoining Kurile Islands. In 1633, four or five Ainu families from Akkeshi migrated to Shibe-toro, in Etorup, and engaged in the hunting of sea-otter, bears, and eagles, whose skins they brought each year to Akkeshi to barter for rice and rice-beer, &c.

Henceforward emigration of Ainus to the Kuriles continued to increase, small settlements being formed in the larger southern islands of the group, chiefly for the hunting of the otter and other marine animals. It was in 1765 that these Ainu people of Etorup, whilst hunting near Horomushiri, Niishiri, and Urup and elsewhere in the sea, first came into collision with the Russians. After the fight that then took place, the Russians came not again for about 10 years. In 1778 the Ainu of Etorup prevented the Russians from hunting, as they wished, at Urup and other places near. The Russians, however, used guns for fighting as well as for hunting, whilst the Ainus had only the bow and the spear. Later on the Russians came in greater numbers and hunted at their pleasure. Soon after, the Ainu had to leave Utorup altogether, and all the Kuriles became virtually Russian territory.

In 1796, thirty Russians, men and women, came and settled in Urup, and having brought nets with them, took large numbers of otters; which are more abundant round this island than any other of the Kuriles. Etorup is the next best hunting ground; and a determined effort was made, in 1800, by the Ainu, led by a Japanese merchant from Hiogo, to regain their former footing on it. The Ainus were offered higher prices (in rice) for the skins; and in a few years they re-established their hunting stations throughout the island, and were not again molested by the Russians; who, however, did not relax their hold of the neighbouring island of Urup, on which, as late as 1866, they settled some natives of Alaska as hunters.

During all this time the trade in the skins taken by the Ainu was a monopoly in the hands of the Daimyo of Matsumae. Death or exile was the punishment for selling to any one else. The skins were forwarded from Matsumae to Nagasaki, and there sold by the Daimyo's factor to Chinese merchants. The demand for high-class furs in Northern China is unfailing.

After 1868, when the feudal system collapsed, and the governing power reverted to the hands of Sovereign, the rights and privileges of the Barons of Matsumae passed to the new Government; the monopoly of the hunting and fur trade amongst them.

In 1869 a Special Colonisation Commission (Kaitakushi) was established for the purpose of settling and developing this outlying dependency; and a branch office thereof was established at Etorup for the regulation and management of the otter-hunting business, and for keeping guard against foreign poachers. At first no change was made in the old system, the skins being taken over from the Ainu hunters at the usual prices, viz., about 8 bushels of unhulled rice per skin of the first quality, 6 bushels for medium and 4 bushels for ordinary, being about equal, at the rates of value then ruling, to about 1*l.* 4*s.*, 16*s.*, and 12*s.* respectively.

In 1870 a change was made, the Ainu of Etorup being taken into the employment of the colonisation office, and the hunting operations being conducted under official supervision. But this experiment was not found to yield satisfactory results, and in 1874 the former system was reverted to. In that year, for the first time, two Japanese gunboats were sent to patrol the coast of the Southern Kuriles, and keep off foreign poachers, and the practice has been kept up every year since. At the same time two branch stations of the Kaitakushi were established in Etorup, viz., at Notsuka and Toshiruri, and whilst general permission was given to the Ainu for hunting, the sale of the skins to any one but the Government was strictly forbidden, the official price of skins being 5 *yen*, 4 *yen*, and 3 *yen* (about 1*l.*, 16*s.*, and 12*s.*), according to quality.

The Ainu methods of hunting the otter were, in summer, lying on the rocks and shooting with the bow and arrow; in winter, clubbing the quarry on the ice. The Kaitakushi officials soon copied and introduced the foreign method of hunting with boats and guns. In 1877 the hunting stations on Etorup were increased to four, and in the following years several more offices and hunting stations were set up in other islands, which had now become Japanese territory by the exchange with Russia of the Kuriles against Southern Saghalien. In 1880 the amount of Government expenditure allowed for the hunting business in the Kuriles amounted to about 2,000*l.*

In 1882 the Colonisation Commission was abolished, and the Hokkai Dō (or North Sea Circuit), as Yezo and the Kuriles were now called, passed under the control of the Department of State of Agriculture and Commerce; but this transfer occasioned hardly any change as regard the hunting and fur trade system. An idea of the extent of these official operations may be gained from the following figures, extracted from official statistical publications:—

Returns of the Sea-Otter Fur Trade during Nine Years of the Colonisation Commission's Administration.

Year.	Number of Skins taken.	Cost. Dollars.	Prices Sold for. Dollars.
1873	299	197	16,692
1874	78	254	4,521
1875	250	2,989	14,489
1876	285	4,708	16,518
1877	342	4,190	19,379
1878	270	6,840	15,648
1879	211	8,745	(?)
1880	137	11,464	11,423
1881	77	14,073	23,994

From this it would appear that in 1877, the best year, the Government's receipts from the fur trade amounted to about 4,000*l.* sterling; the cost of production being about one quarter.

The returns of the trade during the 5 years' administration of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce show a considerable falling off:—

Year.	Skins taken. Number.	Price sold for. Dollars.
1882	82	4,449
1883	3	189
1884	53	3,698
1885	31	991
1886	99	7,745

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During all this time little or no account had been taken of the fur seal. But the fact that some small seal-rookeries existed about the middle of the Kurile Group attracted the attention of otter-hunters and other sea-faring foreigners soon after the transfer of the Archipelago from Russia to Japan in 1875. As, however, no effective steps were taken by the Japanese Government for the protection of the seals, the rookeries were exposed, year after year, to the raids of poaching vessels fitted out for the purpose at Yokohama and Shanghai. In consequence mainly of the molestation and havoc thus wrought, the Kurile rookeries have for some years past been almost deserted by the seals. The Russian seal-rookeries at the Commander Islands and at Robben or Tuline Island also suffered in the same way, but not to anything like the same extent.

It was not till 1889 that the repression of these forays was taken up in earnest by the Japanese Government. In that year, the shooting of some Japanese forming part of the crew of a British poaching schooner at Copper Island led to the attention of the Government being effectually called to the question. Two results followed. Japanese seamen were prohibited from engaging in unlicensed hunting vessels; and the exclusive right of hunting sea-otters and seals in the territorial waters of Japan, *i.e.*, around the coasts of, and on the Kuriles, was granted to the aforementioned Company, then formed, the Imperial Marine Products Company (Teikoku Suisan Kai Sha).

It was established in November, 1889, at Tokyo, with a nominal capital of 750,000 *yen* (equal to about 100,000*l.*) in shares of 25 *yen* each. The head office is at this port; and its operations include whaling, but not fishing proper. Its monopoly of sea-otter and seal hunting in the Kuriles was for five years, dating from May, 1889; and it has now been renewed for another term of five years. It began operations in the summer of 1889, and its yearly returns of skins taken are as follows:—

Year.	Sea-otters. Number.	Seals. Dollars.
1889	53	33
1890	47	381
1891	57	40
1892	54	3

It is probable that this Company will be the first Japanese participants in pelagic sealing next year.

Beyond a slight falling-off in the small foreign trade of the port, due to the derangements of commerce caused by the appreciation of gold, there is nothing of interest to note. I append the usual tables.

Annex 1.—Comparative Return of the Foreign Import Trade of the Port of Hakodate during the Years 1892-91.

Articles.	Value. 1892. £	1891. £
Rail-iron	—	27,291
Miscellaneous	1,809	8,949
Total	1,809	36,247

Note—Exchange for 1892, 2*s.* 11⅛*d.* = 1 dol, (or yen); exchange for 1891, 3*s.* 4*d.* = 1 dol. (or yen).

Annex 2.—Return of the Foreign Export Trade of Hakodate during the Years 1892-91.

Articles.	1892. Quantity.	1892. Value. £	1891. Quantity.	1891. Value. £
Seaweed	Tons...10,334	55,290	8,022	50,540
Sulphur	Tons...11,552	35,100	15,825	36,535
Trepang and cuttle-fish	Tons... 236	10,420	248	12,746
Timber	—	6,520	—	—
Furs	Skins..20,867	2,570	8,315	1,080
Miscellaneous	—	3,043	—	1,891
Total	—	112,943	—	102,792

Exchange for 1892, 2*s.*, 10⅝*d.* = 1 dol. (or yen); for 1891, 3*s.* 2¾*d.* = 1 dol. (or yen).

Annex 3.—Return of the Values of the Exports from and Imports into Hakodate to and from Foreign Countries during the years 1892-91:—

Country.	Exports. 1892. £	Exports. 1891. £	Imports. 1892. £	Imports. 1891. £
Great Britain	—	—	445	27,298
United States of America	30,802	36,535	—	—
China	70,327	58,428	244	—
Other countries	11,814	7,829	1,120	8,949
Total	112,943	102,792	1,809	36,247

Annex 4.—Return of all Shipping at the Port of Hakodate during the Year 1892.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	Sailing. Number of Vessels.	Sailing. Tons.	Steam. Number of Vessels.	Steam. Tons.	Total. Number of Vessels.	Total. Tons.
British	3	2,505	4	4,142	6	6,737
American	5	803	—	—	5	803
German	—	—	2	774	2	774
Japanese, foreign build	252	19,836	2,824	991,780	3,076	1,011,616
Japanese junks	1,841	39,360	—	—	1,841	39,360
Total	2,100	62,594	2,830	996,696	4,930	1,059,290
Total for the year preceding	2,142	79,330	2,658	922,072	4,800	1,001,402

CLEARED.

Nationality.	Sailing. Number of Vessels.	Sailing. Tons.	Steam. Number of Vessels.	Steam. Tons.	Total. Number of Vessels.	Total. Tons.
British	4	6,093	3	4,125	7	10,218
American	5	803	—	—	5	803
German	—	—	4	2,286	4	2,286
Japanese, foreign rig	256	22,723	2,871	996,052	3,127	1,018,745
Japanese junks	1,349	28,163	—	—	1,349	28,163
Total	1,614	57,782	2,878	1,000,463	4,492	1,060,215
Total for the year preceding	1,978	69,713	2,640	903,389	4,618	973,102

Annex 5.—Return of all Foreign Residents at Hakodate on December 31. 1893.

Nationality.	Number of Residents.	Number of Firms.
British	26	2
French	10	—
American	4	—
Russian	1	—
Chinese	60	5
Total	101	7

ELSEWHERE IN THE HOKKAIDO.

	Number of Residents.
Sapporo—	
British	3
American	4
German	3
French	2
Nemuro—	
American	4
Kushiro—	
British	1

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR KOREA.

REPORT ON THE COMMERCIAL CONDITION OF THE PORTS OF FUSAN AND WONSAN IN THE YEAR 1892.

Mr. O'CONOR to the Earl of ROSEBERY.

Pekin, August 3, 1893.

MY LORD,—I ventured last May to authorise Mr. Hillier to visit the Ports of Fusan and Wönsan, on the east coast of Korea, with a view to his reporting on the commercial facilities and progress of trade in these Ports, and I have now the honour to enclose to your Lordship the very interesting Report which he has drawn up on the subject.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Mr. HILLIER to Mr. O'CONOR.

Söul, July 3, 1893.

SIR,—I have the honour to lay before you the result of my enquiries into the commercial condition of the two Treaty Ports of Fusan and Wönsan, and the prospects that appear to exist of the development of trade there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER C. HILLIER.

FUSAN.

Commencing with Fusan, I regret to have no marked improvement to record since the date of my last visit of inspection two years ago. Certain new branches of industry have been opened, but the volume of trade shows no material increase, and is still to a great extent controlled by the harvest, and the demand for rice and other cereals from Japan. During my stay at the port, which lasted 7 days, I made careful enquiries into the causes which contribute to this want of elasticity, and I found that they may be practically reduced to three.

First, want of native capital and the absence of substantial native merchants; second, the exactions of the officials and the burdens laid upon industry; and lastly, the lack of energy displayed by the producing and labouring classes, who feel that it is useless to produce more than is absolutely necessary for their daily wants, as any surplus they might acquire would be seized by the officials.

When it is remembered that every office in this country has to be bought, and that only members of the Niang-pan, or patrician class, can hold any but the lowest posts, it is evident that no member of the trading class has even the inducement to amass money for buying himself an official position, and so raising himself into the ranks of the aristocracy. Degrees of poverty of course exist, but it is doubtful whether any member of the trading class has a capital to his name which would meet the wants of the smallest shopkeeper at home, and it is a *sine quâ non* with a Korean that he must receive an advance of money before he will undertake the execution of the most insignificant contract.

In addition to the numberless "squeezes" which an official is enabled to put upon the people (and especially), I may mention that land in the under his jurisdiction there are tax-stations everywhere, at which goods in transit have to pay an impost. With the assistance of Mr. Hunt, the Commissioner of Customs, to whom I am indebted for much of the information contained in this report, I have been enabled to obtain an approximate list of the tax-stations in the Fusan province alone. There are said to be 17 recognised stations, at everyone of which all goods, native and foreign alike, have to pay a specified charge ranging from 1 per cent. *ad valorem*, in the case of foreign imports, to half that amount on commoner and less valuable commodities. On the Naktong River alone, which is the waterway to the capital of the province and chief feeder of the province itself, there are four tax-stations in a distance of 25 miles, and the port of Fusan itself is hedged round by a cordon of tax-stations within a 10 miles radius.

Manufactures are similarly taxed, and in the case of certain articles, notably cow-hides and seaweed, they are usually the monopoly of the officials, who, by payment of a sum of money to the Government, obtain, for a period, the right of purchasing at low prices all seaweed gathered in their locality and the hides of all animals slaughtered in their licensed slaughter-houses.

It may, in short, be stated that nothing is sold by a Korean without his first having to pay a tax, to which the name Ku-mun is given, to some Korean official, and that he can engage in no industry without paying ruinously for the privilege.

In addition to this, he is at all times liable to be called upon for a day's labour for so-called Government purposes, which he can only evade by payment of a stated fine.

It may well be a matter of wonder under these circumstances how any trade can exist at all, but the Koreans have a remedy which they resort to when matters become utterly desperate. There seems to be a fairly well defined line of exaction beyond which no official can pass, and when this limit is reached the people rise in mass and request the official to leave. If he refuses, or does not give pledges for better behaviour, they proceed to pull his house about his ears, and in extreme cases to murder him. These demonstrations are invariably regarded by the central Government as an evidence of inefficiency on the part of the official concerned, and he is at once removed and his post sold to another applicant, little or notice being taken of the action of the people.

It is curious that under such circumstances these demonstrations are not of more frequent occurrence, but apparently it is known that the recognised limit of concession must be reached if the agitators are to escape punishment. Under such restrictions it is remarkable that this port, or indeed any of the Korean ports, can maintain so large a number of Chinese and Japanese settlers; the Japanese at Fusan alone numbering about 5,000.

I have been at some pains to discover a solution of this problem, and I find that it is due in great measure to the fact that the Japanese, who are the chief exporters of rice and beans, upon the amount of which the import trade largely depends, are in the habit of advancing money on the growing crops and obtaining half the proceeds of the harvest. A foreign resident in this port who interests himself largely in trade questions informs me that, as a matter of experiment, he took up a mortgage on two fields, the interest on which was paid in kind, and that he found that the value of the crop, which was rice, with no pressure or supervision on his part, amounted to 50 per cent. annually on his outlay. This being the case, it is easy to see how such enterprising traders as the Japanese can make this class of business pay. They go up-country in the spring to bespeak their crops, and in the autumn to take them away, thereby evading the local taxes at the various barriers *en route*, and securing full payment of what is due to them. In good years their profits must be considerable, and even in bad ones their losses are trivial, as their advances are nothing approaching the actual value of the crops mortgaged to them. The yield on a Korean field in a good year is certainly 100 per cent. of the value of the land. Of this the farmer has to pay 20 per cent. in taxes and squeezes, leaving a substantial balance for personal consumption, but the cost of carriage, absence of roads, and taxes *en route*, combine to prevent him from exporting. It is only a fraction of land bordering on waterways, or in the vicinity of the ports, that supplies the export markets, and the vast tracts of uncultivated land that are everywhere to be seen testify to the capabilities of this country as a grain-producing area if the people were allowed a free hand and proper means of communication were established. To demonstrate

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vicinity of Fusan costs, for a barley field, about 5 dol. (13*s.* 6*d.*) for a plot 30 feet by 30 feet, and for a rice field (which will produce two crops, one of barley and one of rice, in the year) about 8 dol. (1*l.* 2*s.*), while 10 miles distant from the port the cost of similar land is respectively 2 dol. (5*s.* 6*d.*) and 4 dol. (11*s.*).

Waste ground can be cultivated by anyone who chooses to pay the local tax upon arable land. Under present conditions of administration any great expansion of trade appears hopeless, but if ever the time arrives when more enlightened ideas prevail, and this down-trodden people are given a fair chance, there should be a brilliant future before the country. It says much for the energy of the Japanese that they have managed to achieve so much, and they would achieve more if their treatment of the people were more generous and they were less grasping in the profits they expect to make on their enterprises. They have recently taken a step in the right direction by organising steamer communication on a small scale to non-treaty ports along the coast, but as they have to pay for the privilege of using the Korean flag, which their coasting steamers are obliged to display, and to make use, to a certain extent, of Korean agents, they are much hampered in their movements.

While the condition of the roads in the interior remains as bad as it is, the Korean Government could do no wiser thing than to encourage the inter-port trade, which is growing annually and might be developed enormously.

The import trade in Fusan is almost entirely in Japanese hands. There are a few Chinese firms established in the port, but their arrogant treatment of the Koreans has ruined their business, and they are practically boycotted.

The piece-goods imported are chiefly of British origin, but miscellaneous articles, such as knives, scissors, matches, needles; agricultural implements, such as hoes, grass knives; iron cooking-pans, nails; perfumes, soap, and so forth, are chiefly of Japanese manufacture. These are, of course, much inferior to the European article, but they can be sold at a much lower price, which goes for much with Korean purchasers. It is said that the low rate of silver accounts in great measure for the successful competition of Japanese manufactures with those of foreign origin, and the suggestion seems plausible; but whatever the cause may be, there is no doubt that foreign hardware and miscellaneous articles are being ousted by Japanese cheap labour. Even in the piece-goods market the Japanese are beginning to compete with a measure of success. They have carefully studied the wants of the people, and are introducing a fabric of coarse and strong texture which is specially popular amongst the women. Last year these goods represented one-fourth of the total import of foreign shirtings. The proportion of Japanese yarns, again, during the same period to British and Indian yarns was as two to five.

I have referred in my trade report for 1892 to the Japanese fishing industry in these waters, and I was astonished to find to what an extent it is growing at Fusan. There are at present more than 2,000 fishing boats registered in the Fusan customs, employing about 8,000 men, the average earnings of each man per year being about 200 dol. (27*l.* 10*s.*), while there are believed to be in addition some 300 boats engaged in the industry which have evaded the licensing fees, making the net earnings of the whole fleet about 1,840,000dol. (253,000*l.*) a year. Most of the fish taken by these boats are dried at various places along the coast and taken direct to Japan without payment of export duty, and the amount of goods that these vessels are enabled to carry back to the non-treaty ports would make a very substantial addition to the revenue returns could duty be collected upon them. It is next to impossible to obtain reliable information concerning the native shipping plying between Fusan and the non-treaty ports along the coast, but it is estimated that there are 300 boats engaged in the transport of beans, rice, cow hides, piece-goods, &c., from the treaty port to the Nak-tong River (under 10 miles from Fusan), by which access is gained to a point some 20 or 30 miles from T'Ai-ku, the capital of the province.

I am indebted to Mr. Hunt, the Commissioner of Customs, for the following description of a Korean junk which may be of interest to some readers. There is but one shape of Korean seagoing craft, which differ only in size and the number of masts they carry, being either vessels of one or two masts; a three-masted vessel is seldom seen. The average dimensions of the largest type of Korean vessel are 50 feet long by 18 feet beam and 9 feet draught. They cost about 400 dol. and carry a crew of 30 men. A boat 40 feet by 14 feet with a draught of 7 feet costs about 200 dol. (27*l.* to 30*l.*) and requires a crew of about 25 men to work her. The vessels are of the roughest description, being built of roughly hewn planks laid length ways, edge to edge, along which slots are cut at intervals of about 6 inches, and wooden pins driven in to keep the planks in place. Several bulk-heads divide the interior, and transverse beams run through and 1 foot beyond the vessel's sides, being fastened on the outside of the planking with wooden pegs. The sails are usually made of matting, and the boats being flat bottomed, beat very badly to windward, while they are so loosely put together that they are apt to go to pieces in a heavy sea-way. There is no kind of insurance. The charterer takes all risks, and usually accompanies his goods to their destination where he employs a broker to dispose of them. These brokers are called Koek Chu, and are not necessarily local men; their charge is usually 5 per cent. The carrying capacity of the largest junks is 1,600 bags of rice or beans, each bag weighing 2 piculs or 266 lbs., making a capacity of about 200 tons, but the ordinary junk has a capacity of about 40 tons. The freight for a voyage of 30 miles is about 100 cash or 20 c. a bag. The steamer freight for the same distance is less than half that rate. This fact alone will demonstrate the advantage of steamer communication between non-treaty ports.

For the reason earlier stated there is a deplorable paucity of native manufactures in the district of which Fusan is the port; indeed, the same may be said of the whole of Korea. The few manufactures that do exist are either official monopolies, or are too heavily taxed to admit of profitable extension. Amongst them may be enumerated paper, which enters so largely into the category of articles of Korean domestic use; pipe-stems, brass pipe bowls, and rough ware of various kinds; cotton piece-goods, &c. None of these articles, with the exception of paper, are suitable for the foreign market, but the last named article should meet with a ready sale as it is remarkably tough and durable. I have referred to Korean paper at some length in my trade report for 1892, so it is unnecessary to deal with the subject on this occasion.

I might call attention to an article, viz., human hair, that might possibly be in demand in foreign markets were its existence more generally known. The Koreans have remarkably fine heads of hair, and they put their "combings" to a use that I have never seen elsewhere. A very large number of the saddle cloths placed under the packs of their ponies are made of hair woven into coarse mats or bags, and the halters and head-ropes of their animals are largely composed of the same material. I believe that human hair is largely exported from China to Europe, and Korea could furnish a large and cheap supply did the people know there was a demand for it.

There are several gold mines within a radius of 50 miles from Fusan, but they are very imperfectly worked. Copper has been found close to the port and worked under Japanese auspices, the rough ore being smelted in the Settlement, but the results were not found to be sufficiently remunerative and the experient was abandoned.

Coal also exists in considerable quantities, but with the Japanese mines so near it is doubtful whether it would pay to extract.

WÖNSAN.

The majority of the remarks made above apply to the port of Wönsan, where I spent six days, but I am pleased to be able to report that the prosperity of the port appears better than in 1891 when I last visited it. With a good harvest, of which there is a fair promise, the trade for the present year should show an increase. Unlike Fusan, the import trade is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese, who have now five firms established there, all of which made money in 1892, though it was considered to be an unprofitable year. Gold forms an important item in the export list at Wönsan, and so large a quantity is carried away by passengers without being declared at the customs that the published returns do not afford at all an accurate indication of the volume of trade. The Chinese, who, unlike their fellow countrymen at Fusan, do all the silk and piece-goods trade, are paid in gold-dust which is said to be superior to that which is obtained in the southern provinces. It might here be mentioned in connection with the subject of silk and cotton piece-goods, that Japanese silk cannot compete with Chinese silk in the Korean market, and that the popular piece-goods Mark is FFF.

I do not know who are the manufacturers of the cotton piece-goods marked FFF, but I mention the fact to show that when a certain class of goods has obtained a good name in the native market it is apt to hold its own against all competitors, if manufacturers are careful to keep up the quality of their goods. A single bale, however, of a popular mark which is inferior in quality, may be the death warrant of the article in question. At Fusan, curiously enough, the FFF mark is almost unsaleable, KK being the popular mark.

In Wönsan and its vicinity the same system of vexatious and irregular taxation exists as at Fusan, a tax station being established even on the jetty at which goods are landed. The result of this taxation, as far as Wönsan is concerned, has been to divert the trade of the country north of that port to the Russian frontier, and though it is impossible to secure statistics as to the amount of this trade, the bulk of which is not taken cognisance of by the customs authorities at Kiang Hêng, Russian Treaty mart, I am assured on very good authority that it is considerable and that it is increasing. It is encouraged, I am told, by the Russian authorities, though it is by Chinese that the trade is conducted, and there are several large firms at Vladivostock who do a fair business with Koreans in piece-goods and sundries, that are paid for in gold dust or exchanged for cattle hides and sundries, some of which are brought by junk and others overland.

I was surprised to learn that the import of gold dust into Russian territory is prohibited in order to prevent stealing at the Russian mines. These mines are worked by prisoners, and in order to guard against theft it has been found necessary to make the possession of gold by any but authorised persons a penal offence. Gold dust does none the less find its way in large quantities into Vladivostock, and is exported by Chinese merchants.

An attempt and a very unsuccessful one, has been recently made by Japanese merchants to tap this Russian frontier trade by running two small steamers under the Korean flag from Wönsan to the coast ports between that place and the Tumen River. There are two places called Pok-chon and Kilchoo, besides other smaller ports, at which these steamers call periodically, doing the round trip in from 5 to 7 days. They take foreign piece-goods which are consigned by Japanese agents stationed at these places, and bring back hempen cloth, copper, hides, &c., the value of the cargo amounting to between 10,000 dol., and 12,000 dol. (about 1,500*l.*) a trip.

Here, as at Fusan, is an indication of the importance of opening up points of contact by developing inter-port trade.

It is to be regretted that the Chinese Government have not yet carried out their project of opening out the port of Gaskevitch close to the Tumen River. There seems to be little doubt that the opening of this port would be a commercial gain to Korea, and the political advantages to the Chinese Government are too obvious to require comment. In a few years at the outside, Kirin will be in direct railway communication with Peking. Gaskevitch is the nearest point on the Pacific side to Kirin; there is said to be a good harbour there free of ice in the winter, and if railway communication were established for the short distance between Kirin and Gaskevitch, not only would it be an effectual barrier against Russian advance, but would tap the rich markets of Chinese Manchuria that at present have no outlet but Newchwang, which is much further off and is closed by ice in the winter.

I should perhaps explain that I have quoted no statistics of trade in this despatch as these are tabulated in my returns of trade for the current year.

THE FATALITY AT EIRAKUCHO, YOKOHAMA.

INQUEST.

An inquest was held on Tuesday afternoon in the United States Consulate-General, Yokohama, into the circumstances attending the death of John Moore, a corporal of Marines, late serving on board the U.S.S. *Marion*, whose charred remains were found by the labourers engaged in clearing away the *débris* of the late fire at the Yoshiwara, on Monday afternoon, as already related. The U.S. Consul-General, N. W. McIvor, Esq., presided, and with him sat Messrs. E. W. Tilden and G. W. Bramhall, as Associates. Messrs. J. D. Hepburn and F. H. Olmstead were also summoned, but their presence was excused.

Mr. McIvor said that the inquiry was necessitated through the finding of a dead body at the scene of the fire which occurred on the morning of the 2nd April, in Yokohama, which was supposed to be that of a non-commissioned officer of Marines of the United States Navy.

Kawakata Haruki, Police Inspector, stated that the police inspector who had official knowledge of the fire was absent in Tokyo, as was also the Chief Inspector. The constables were also absent on duty. As an official, he knew generally about the fire on the 2nd April. It took place at Eirakucho, Yokohama. So far is as known about fifty houses were burnt down.

Oge Toyo, a middle-aged woman, sworn, de-

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posed to her house being destroyed by the fire. Continuing, she said—There was an American Marine in my house before the fire broke out. I do not know his name; but I know that he belonged to the U.S. man-of-war *Marion*. When he came up to the bar in my house, I asked him for the name of the ship to which he belonged. He answered, "The *Marion*." This was about one o'clock in the morning. The fire broke out about half past one. I saw him between these times. He was in bed at the time the fire occurred. I saw the deceased carry the girl, now in Court, out of the house. Then he returned and fetched the girl's bedding and clothes, and again went back to fetch some other articles. I told him that he must not go back again as the house was on fire and it was dangerous. He replied that he had forgotten his own clothes, and must go back to fetch them. I never saw him again. The conversation just reported took place in my own room downstairs. The room from which he brought the girl was on the same level, downstairs, as mine, but it was in the rear, while mine was in front. The distance between the rooms was about 16 yards. The rear portion of the house was burning at the time of the conversation. It was towards the burning end of the house that the deceased went. The room in which we stood was full of smoke, and I warned deceased that to return to the back room was dangerous. But he replied that it was not far away and he must get his clothes. The girl and I escaped from the house directly afterwards through the foreign entrance. There are two entrances to the house, one for Japanese the other for foreigners. The deceased might have escaped from the Japanese entrance easily. It was near the foreign entrance and on the same side. The entire house was destroyed by the fire. The roof fell in directly after the deceased left me to go back to the rear room. I went to the scene of the fire at daylight, but I did not see any human remains that time. The central beam of the house was then burning. I went again to the scene of the fire because I was told that three women had been burned, and I was asked to go and see the remains. I then saw the head of a dead body. The place was measured and it was found that the spot where the head was lying was formerly room No. 5. I then knew that it could not be the head of a woman. The police made the measurements, and they afterwards told me that the three women reported burned were rescued and placed in another house.

How do you know that it could not be the head of a woman which you saw?—Because it lay where room No. 5 used to be, and that was the room where the foreigner went to fetch away his clothes. Besides, the foreigner could not be found after the fire.

Were there no persons in the house, other than this foreigner, when the roof fell in?—There were three or four persons in the house when the conversation I have mentioned took place, but they all escaped I think.

Were there any other men in the place at the time, besides this foreigner?—The persons I have just mentioned were maid-servants; all the girls escaped.

Were there any other men in the house at that time?—There was no other man in the back of the house except the deceased at that time. The persons in front of the building all escaped.

Continuing, witness said she had been shown a photograph of the man Moore that day. It was shown her by Mr. McCance and the doctor of the man's vessel. She recognised the photograph as being that of the man with whom she held the conversation on the morning of the fire. It was the same man as that who left her to go back for his clothes in the rear room of the burning house. The girl in Court was present with her when the man held the before-mentioned conversation.

Ito Tsuru, 20 years of age, sworn, deposed to being in the Kogetsu on the morning of the 2nd April. It was owned by the last witness and I lived in the house. I saw a United States Marine there that morning. I was told by others that he was a Marine of the United States Navy. The man was in uniform—a dark coat with stripes on the sleeve, and blue trowsers. There were stripes near the cuffs and two triangular stripes above the elbow. I saw the man when he entered the house at one o'clock; within thirty minutes the house was on fire. The man carried me out of the room into the hall, and then went back and fetched my dresses and bedding. I was present when the conversation took place between the man and the last witness after the house had caught fire. After the conversation the man went back to the room from whence he had carried me. This room lay at the back of the house and was burning at that time.

Dr. F. B. Stephenson, of the U.S.S. *Marion*, sworn, deposed—I am a naval surgeon and also a regular practising physician. I have examined the remains of a human being found at the site of the fire on the 2nd inst. I was able to form the opinion that they were those of a man, but whether of a Japanese or a foreigner I cannot say. I have spoken to the first witness, and at that time had a photograph of the man J. Moore. It was a clear photograph and a good likeness. I presented it to the first witness for purposes of identification. She identified it positively as being the man with whom she had had a conversation during the time her house was burning. I have made some investigation into the matter, as an officer of the ship to which the man belonged. I believe the remains found in the ruins of the burnt building to be those of the man J. Moore. The deceased was a corporal of Marines on board the *Marion*. I think a corporal of Marines wears two stripes upon his sleeve to indicate his rank. Caps similar to those worn by members of his corps were shown to the women, but nothing was found. The remains were absolutely unidentifiable. There were no limbs left and only a few inches of the thigh remained upon the trunk. I saw the remains on the spot where they were found. There were no wounds, fractures, or marks upon them by which anyone could recognise them as being those of any particular person.

This concluded the evidence.

The Court found from the evidence produced before it that the remains found at the scene of the fire were those of J. Moore, a Marine in the United States service, and that he died in Yokohama on the 2nd April, the cause of death being suffocation and burning, and that death was accidental.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, March 15th.

The sixth edition of "The Mikado's Empire" will be issued next month by Harper Bros., and "Japan in 1894," in which is told with vigour the story of the part which "foreign employés" have played in the development of New Japan. The modesty of the author prevents the insertion of his own name among those of influential *yatoi to-jin*; but, undoubtedly, the name of Griffis should be added to the rôle of honour. The chapter on Japan in Appleton's Annual Cyclopedia, volume for 1893, was, as usual, written by Dr. Griffis. He is also the author of "Brave Little Holland," soon to be published by Houghton, Mifflin and Co.

The following item is taken from news of the University of Chicago:—"Monday and Saturday afternoons the public interested in the study of religions are admitted to Walker Museum, where a very large and complete collection of the religious objects of Shintoism, the native religion of Japan, is on exhibition. Professors Starr and Goodspeed and Mr. Edmund Buckley are present on these afternoons to explain the objects."

Mr. Fred Sale, from Yokohama, has just spent a few days in this city with Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Allen.

The following item comes from Peoria, Ill:—The Manhattan distillery will start up to-morrow morning on a final test of the Takamine process of distilling, on which the whisky trust has an option. Tests heretofore made, while showing good results, have not been entirely satisfactory. But Mr. Takamine, the Japanese chemist, claims that he has never had a fair chance. Now the Manhattan will be turned over to him, and will run on 1,400 bushels a day.

Mr. John H. Mulligan, of Kentucky, has been appointed U.S. Consul-General at Apia, Samoa.

The Postal and Cable Conference, recently in session at Wellington, New Zealand, unanimously adopted a resolution in favour of a Pacific cable from Australia (Brisbane) to New Zealand, Samoa, Fanning Island, Sandwich Islands and Vancouver. "It is stated that this route is likely to be supported by the Governments of the United States, Germany, France, Great Britain, and Canada."

Everything is reported quiet now on the Hawaiian Islands. "Business has taken the place of politics." The number of steerage passengers from Canada and the States to Honolulu has grown so large that the Provisional Government, fearing that these adventurers might be the hirelings of Liliuokalani's recruiters, have taken measures to prevent such undesirable immigration. The Annexation Club has been disbanded, and the Union Party organized in its place. Hon. F. M. Hatch, formerly Vice-President and also a member of the Advisory Council, has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs to relieve President Dole, who found one office sufficiently onerous.

The labour question is troublesome, and is stirring up the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Portuguese.

Secretary of the Navy Herbert, in reply to the Boutelle resolution asking the authority for placing the naval forces of the United States under the order of "Paramount Commissioner" Blount, has shown, by a long array of precedents, that the President, by virtue of his office as "Commander-in-Chief" of the Army and Navy, was warranted in preventing a clash of authority by giving the supreme command to Blount.

The Senate Sub-Committee has made a great many changes in the Wilson Bill, coal, iron, and sugar are taken off the free list, and are charged with a small duty (on sugar, for instance, one cent per pound). There is a new provision, "that twelve months' notice shall be given to the Hawaiian Government of the termination of the treaty of 1875. The income tax feature is retained, but will be bitterly assaulted by Hill and other Democratic Senators.

In Rio Janeiro and the bay the yellow fever spread so rapidly that all the foreign commanders, except the U.S. Admiral Benham, left the harbour for safer localities. After the election of a civilian to the office of President, the insurgents were weakened by several defections. On the 10th inst. it was confidently expected that a decisive engagement would take place: but on the 12th Admiral da Gama, seeking asylum on a Portuguese man-of-war, offered to surrender, provided that he and his followers were guaranteed protection against punishment. President Peixoto, however, with a most "vindictive attitude," refused to accept anything except "unconditional surrender," and opened fire on the rebel fleet, which at once struck colours. Admiral da Gama and his officers found refuge on various foreign men-of-war: Admiral de Mello, however, has not yet surrendered. But it is very likely that the "revolution" is now practically at an end.

When this news reached New York City, there was a collapse in the "coffee boom," and many speculators were caught.

The people of the United States, regardless of political opinion, are united in admiration of the remarkable career of William Ewart Gladstone.

Land Commissioner Lamoreaux has recently made a decision which involves enormous private interests. He claims that the Portage Lake Canal Company, which in 1851 purchased certain lands from the Government, has also seized property to which it was not entitled. These lands in dispute include some of the most valuable mining districts of the Gogebie range.

Associate Justice Jackson, of the U.S. Supreme Court, is in feeble health, and may not be able to resume his seat on the bench. He hails from Tennessee, and, though a Democrat, was appointed by ex-President Harrison.

Congressman Wilson is still sick in Mexico, but is improving gradually.

Hon. N. C. Blanchard, of Shreveport, has been appointed by the Governor of Louisiana to fill Justice White's place till the Legislature elects a successor. Mr. Blanchard is now serving his sixth term in the House of Representatives.

Congressman Edward F. Demphy, of New York City, has resigned from the Tammany General Committee, and makes serious accusations of political sins against that famous (infamous?) organization. If only the power of Tammany could be broken!

The Iowa Senate has passed the Carpenter Local Option Bill which allows any country or city having a population of 5,000 to take a vote on the question of licensing the sale of liquor. In South Dakota also "prohibition gets a back-set," as per the following clipping:—

Sioux Falls, S. D., March 5.—Another black eye has been given to the State prohibitory law by a decision of the Supreme Court. In October, 1891, the prohibitionists brought suit again the Sioux Falls Brewing Company under the State law for manufacturing liquors. The Lower Court granted the injunction which was asked for, declared the plant a nuisance, and ordered its abatement, necessitating the destruction of some $40,000 worth of property. The company gave bonds, carried the case to the Supreme Court, where the decision of the Lower Court has just been reversed. The brewing company now intends to enlarge its plant here, giving employment to probably 100 men.

Ex-President Harrison is now delivering at Leland Stanford University his course of lectures on constitutional law.

There is a report, but it is not yet verified, that Philip D. Armour, of this city, intends to give $500,000 to the San Francisco public schools for the establishment of a manual training school.

Rev. T. De Witt Talmage has withdrawn his resignation, and will continue as pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle.

After fifty years of seperation, the Northern and the Southern Methodists in St. Louis sat down to a joint love-feast and communion-service.

A large delegation from the Reformed Presby-

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terian Church has appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to advocate the recognition of God in the Constitution.

In and about Chicago there are five places where the spirit of religious unity has so far overcome the sectarian prejudice that people have been able to come together "for the worship of a common Father on the basis of a common brotherhood." One such "union church" (at Tracy) has prospered for 22 years.

The subject of the taxation of church property has been revived in a sermon by Rev. M. C. Peters, pastor of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church of New York City. He claims that, in this country at least, "the divorce between Church and State ought to be absolute."

The American Baptist Missionary Union is holding a "missionary conference" in this city with the object of enlightening the public concerning the work and thus obtaining larger subscriptions. The "hard times" have seriously disturbed mission finances. Among the speakers at this conference are Dr. H. C. Mabie, who visited Japan in 1890, and Rev. J. R. Goddard, of the Chinese mission.

The Central Relief Association of this city has published a report, which shows that, up to the 10th inst., it had expended over $100,000; it also issued an appeal for more funds. The pleasant weather thus far in March has, of course, decreased somewhat the amount of suffering: but, if as is likely, the month "goes out like a lion," there will be further call for public charity.

This morning's papers announce that the South Chicago plant of the Illinois Still Company will be re-opened next Monday (19th). At first the works will not be run at full capacity, but will give employment to more than 2,000 men.

All the unsold admission tickets (about 3,500,000 in number) to the World's Fair have been sold for $11,000; and a large number of abandoned exhibits have been sold at auction. The old tickets will make good souvenirs. Bids have also been received on the buildings which remain. The largest sum offered for the immense Manufactures Building was $10,000: the highest bid for twenty buildings was only $15,601; while one bid for the ten main buildings was $15,160. "How are the mighty fallen!"

The Kananha Valley coal region in West Virginia is quiet again after the trouble precipitated by rioting miners.

The Indian Creek reservoir in Idaho broke yesterday, and swept away thousands of dollars of property. The settlers, having been warned in time, managed to escape.

The jury in the Coughlin case, after a deliberation of five hours, brought in a verdict of "not guilty." They all thought the testimony so conflicting as to leave a "reasonable doubt" of guilt, and thus to force them to an acquittal. Popular opinion generally condemns the verdict, and occasionally accuses the jury: but most people believe the verdict, at least honest, if not just. There is also a query, whether, if Dan Coughlin is innocent, Bourke and O'Sullivan, who died in prison, suffered unjustly. And another question is:—"Who *did* kill Dr. Cronin?"

Application will be made to-day to the Illinois Supreme Court for a writ of *supersedeas* in the case of Prendergast.

At a recent dog show in this city a Japan spaniel "Fujiyama" was greatly admired, and gained a prize.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 115.

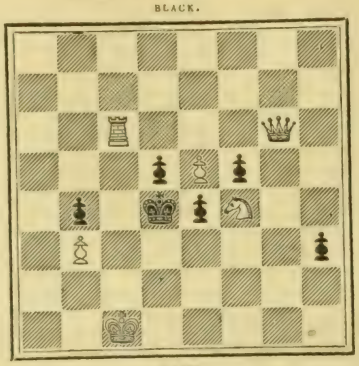
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q × P (ch.)	1—K × Q
2—Kt (K B 7) to Q 6 (ch.)	2—K × Kt
3—P to B 4 (ch.)	3—K × Kt
4—P to K 8, becoming a Kt (mate).	

Correct solutions received from Shogi (of whom it is an old acquaintance), W.H.S., Digamma, Omega ("an excellent study," "fine strategy"), J.D., and J.W.E.

A Blackburne Sympathiser.—The Black pawn unfortunately placed on K 3 instead of K 6. Please also note that conundrums are not published.

Problem No. 117.
By J. G. Chancellor.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

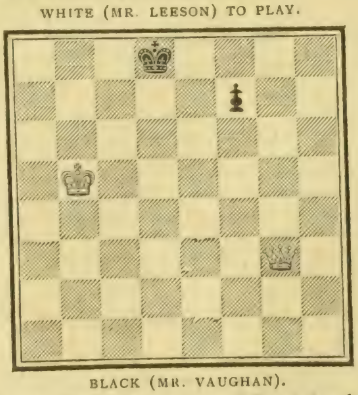
Local affairs appear to have subsided into calm after the excitement of last week, and nothing is doing in the Yokohama Chess Club beyond some friendly tussles on the usual Chess-nights between the old *habitués*.

Recurring for a moment to the Tokyo-Yokohama match of 30th ult. it is noteworthy that not a single draw was scored, both sides playing in deadly earnest to win—Yokohama standing firm to maintain its previous record and Tokyo doing its utmost to reverse the former decision. Another special feature upon which we congratulate all concerned is the fact that in both matches the whole forty games gave rise to no single appeal to the umpire; so correct and friendly was the play all round. May we see many such contests in future seasons.

END-GAME No. 4.

The following amusing ending to one of the handicap games at the Newcastle Chess Club occurred between two well-known local players, Messrs. W. S. Vaughan and R. J. Leeson. Mr. Vaughan, who had conceded the odds of pawn and move at starting, played the black pieces, and found himself in the unfortunate position diagrammed below, but with a bold little pawn within one step of queening:—

WHITE (MR. LEESON) TO PLAY.



BLACK (MR. VAUGHAN).

"Hope springs eternal," and Black heeded not White's apparently harmless move 1 K to B 3, nor the Machiavellian smile which accompanied it. "Things which are equal to the same 'should' be equal to one another," and Black proceeded to equalise the forces by P to B 8 (a Queen); whereupon White administered the *coup de grace* thusly—2 Q to B 2 ch, K. to K. sq., 3 Q to Q 2 mate! A burst of laughter arose from the onlookers, and the vanquished appeared to enjoy the joke as much as the victor.

Paulsen once, after an hour's deliberation, moved his King one square; whereupon a lady spectator observed "that it seemed a great time for such a little move." Kolisch against Medley in 1862 took two hours for three moves! Well might Harrwitz exclaim, "Dis is not de Chess play but de analysis." Clocks, and glasses with the sands of time, have now put an end to such excessive slow play.

NEW YORK TOURNEY.

The play in the New York "impromptu" tourney was brought to a conclusion on Saturday, December 23, the first prize being won by Mr. Pillsbury, with a score of 7 out of possible 9; the second by Mr. Hodges, with 6; the third by Mr. Showalter, with 5½; and the fourth by Mr. Albin, with 5. The scores of the other six players were as follow:—J. W. Baird and Halpern, each 4½; D. G. Baird, 4; Ettlinger and Hanham, each 3; and Delmar, 2½.

In the individual encounter between Mr. Hodges and Mr. Pillsbury, the former was the winner of a very finely-played game. Appended is the score, for which we are indebted to the *New Orleans Times Democrat*:—

Ruy Lopez.

WHITE. Mr. Hodges.	BLACK. Mr. Pillsbury.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to K Kt 3 *a*
4—B takes Kt *b*	4—Q P takes B
5—P to Q Kt 3	5—B to Kt 2
6—B to Kt 2	6—Q to K 2
7—P to Q 3	7—P to Q B 4
8—Q Kt to Q 2	8—P to Q B 3
9—Kt to B 4	9—P to B 3
10—Castles	10—B to K 3
11—K Kt to Q 2	11—P to K Kt 4 *c*
12—P to Q R 4	12—P to K R 4
13—P to R 5	13—B to K B sq
14—Q to K 2	14—P to R 5
15—P to K B 3	15—Kt to R 3
16—Kt to K 3	16—Kt to B 2
17—Kt (Q 2) to B 4	17—R to R 2
18—B to B 3	18—Kt to R sq.
19—Q R to Kt sq. *d*	19—Kt to Kt 3
20—P to Q Kt 4	20—Kt to B 5
21—Q to K sq	21—Q to Q 2
22—K to R sq	22—Castles (Q R) *e*
23—P takes P	23—B takes P
24—B to Q Kt 4	24—B takes B
25—Q takes B	25—P to Kt 5
26—P takes P	26—B takes P
27—Q to B 5	27—K to Kt sq.
28—P to R 6	28—Q to K 3 *f*
29—Kt to R 5 *g*	29—P to Kt 3
30—Kt takes P ch *h*	30—K to B 2
31—Kt takes R dis. ch.	31—K takes Kt
32—Q to K B 8 ch.	32—K to Q 2
33—Q to Q Kt 8	33—Kt to B 3
34—R takes P ch.	34—P takes R
35—P to R 7	35—R takes P
36—Q takes R	36—B to K 7
37—R to Q Kt sq.	37—K to B 4
38—Q to Q B 7 ch.	38—Q to B 3
39—Q to K 7 ch	39—K to Q 5
40—Kt to B 5 ch	40—K to B 6
41—Q to Kt 4 ch	41—K takes P
42—P to Kt 2 ch	

And Mr. Pillsbury resigns.

Notes.

a One of the tenative or counter-attacking moves, says the new edition of *Chess Openings*, which have the disadvantage of making the defence more difficult against strong play.

b More usual here is 4 P to Q 4, P takes P; 5 Kt takes P, B to Kt 2; 6 B to K 3, Kt to B 3; Kt to Q B 3, &c.

c To prevent 12 P to K B 4, and at the same time to pave the way for a dangerous King's side attack.

d An excellent and far-calculated move that, as it turns out has the effect of neutralising the adverse attack on the King's flank.

e Ill-judged. Both halting in the carrying out of his own assault, and bringing his King directly into the teeth of a menaced attack. Much better would have been 22. . . P to Q Kt 4; 23 P takes P *en passant*, R P takes P &c.

f If instead 28 . . . P to Q Kt 3, then 29 Kt takes P, P takes Kt; 30 R takes P ch, K to R sq; 31 R to Kt 7, and wins.

g Decisive. Black has no satisfactory reply.

h The text move is good enough, but, as Delmar pointed out, the best continuation is 30 R takes P, P. takes R; 31 Q takes P ch, K to B sq (best) 32 P to R. 7, and wins.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail."]

London, April 1.

The French Government has selected three judges of the Court of Appeal for the new trial of the Phra Yot case.

The Government of Spain is sending troops to the Philippines owing to a ferment there amongst the natives.

London, April 3.

The conclusion of the Austro-Russian treaties of commerce is due to the personal intervention of the Czar, which is regarded as an important indication of progress towards an Austro-Russian *rapprochement*. It is stated that the commercial agreement between the three empires will probably be followed by a pacific understanding permitting the suspension of military preparations.

London, April 4.

Another bomb outrage has occurred in Paris, opposite the Senate, and three persons are seriously injured.

At a Parnellite Convention in Dublin it was resolved that the duty of the Nationalist Party was to force a dissolution.

(Specially telegraphed to the "Japan Mail.")
[From the "N.-C. Daily News."

London, March 28.

The Emperor Francis Joseph will shortly

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visit the Emperor William, now staying at Abazzia, and persistent reports are current that a meeting will be arranged between the Czar and the Emperor William next autumn.

The Times' correspondent quotes statements from various sources, including private remarks by the King of Denmark, showing that Austria, Russia, Germany, and Italy, are favourable to a policy of retrenchment in the matter of military outlay. It is believed that France will not object to join in the common action of the Powers to effect this purpose.

March 29.

The death is announced of Verney Lovett Cameron, the African explorer.

Mr. R. C. Munro-Ferguson has been rëelected for Leith.

March 30.

Mr. Thomas Shaw has been rëelected for Hawick.

Sir Charles Russell, Attorney-General, has given notice in the House of Commons to introduce a bill to legalise the award of the Behring Sea Commissioners to regulate future sealing in those waters.

[CAMERON, Verney Lovett, C.B., D.C.L., son of the Rev. Jonathan Henry Lovett Cameron, now vicar of Shoreham, is a native of Radipole, Weymouth, Dorsetshire, and was educated at Bruton, Somersetshire. He was appointed Naval Cadet in Aug. 1857; Midshipman in Jan. 1860; Sub-Lieutenant in Aug. 1863; Lieutenant in Oct. 1865; and Commander in July, 1876. Between Nov. 1872, and April, 1876, Lieutenant Cameron was engaged in that exploration of Africa which has made his name so familiar to the British public. He is the first Englishman or European traveller who has crossed the whole breadth of the African continent in its central latitudes beyond the western shore of Lake Tanganyika to the Atlantic sea coast of Lower Guinea. He left England under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society, in charge of the East Coast Livingstone Search Expedition. After discovering that Dr. Livingstone's death had destroyed the original object of his journey, Lieutenant Cameron determined to cross, if possible, the African continent. In performing this feat he traversed a distance of nearly 3,000 miles on foot between the coast and the west ocean shores; but the most important part of his journeyings lay in the central interior west of the chain of lakes and rivers discovered by Dr. Livingstone, which Lieutenant Cameron found to be connected with the great river Congo issuing to the Atlantic between Loango and Angola. Since his return to England he has served in several of Her Majesty's vessels. In Sept. 1878, he started on a tour through Asia Minor and Persia to India, with the object of demonstrating the feasibility of constructing a railroad from the Mediterranean to India without following the course of the Euphrates. In 1880 he published a work in two volumes on the Euphrates Valley, entitled "Our Future Highway." In 1882 he and Captain R. F. Burton undertook a journey of exploration in the country lying at the back of the Gold Coast Colony, and the Council of the Geographical Society accorded them a loan of instruments to enable them to make scientific observations. The two travellers amassed large and valuable collections in all branches of natural history, and Commander Cameron also made extensive surveys. Commander Cameron was created a C.B. (civil division), and an hon. D.C.L. of Oxford, after his return from Africa. He has received the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, the Grande Médaille d'Or of the French Geographical Society the Gold Medal of the Portuguese Geographical Society, a Gold Medal from the King of Italy for his discoveries in Africa; and he is Officier d'Instruction (France), an officer of the Crown of Italy, and a Fellow of several foreign Geographical Societies. Commander Cameron is the author of "An Essay on Steam Tactics," 1865, and "Across Africa," 1876.—*Men of the Time.*]

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Kobe, April 5, 3.55 p.m.

A Shanghai official arrived here yesterday in the *Saikio Maru*, and left for the capital to-day. His visit is said to be connected with the Korean murder. Messrs. Saito Shiuichiro and Okamoto Ryunosuke leave here for Shanghai to-morrow to receive and bring back the remains of the late Mr. Kim to Japan.

Miyazaki, April 5, 9.55 a.m.

A serious fight broke out between the *Kaikuku-ha* and the *Yakuba-ha* at Isono-mura, and one of the latter section was killed.

Nagasaki, April 6, 2.20 p.m.

The Chief Public Procurator of the Nagasaki Court of Appeal has requested the President of the Court to open a disciplinary court in connection with the case of Judge Chitani.

Osaka, April 6, 10 a.m.

The Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* arrived here last night by the last train, and put up at the residence of Mr. Saito Jirosaku at Kitahoriye-cho, Rokuchome.

Osaka, April 6, 5.25 p.m.

Mr. Yu, the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires*, while conversing with a visitor, said that his journey is connected with private business. He told a newspaper reporter, however, that he was recalled by the Korean Government. He will leave here to-morrow in the *Shirakawa Maru*.

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE, Limited, Yokohama.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, April 6th.
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 8th.*
From America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, April 15th.†
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 15th.‡
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, April 19th.§
From Canada, &c. ..	per C. P. R. Co.	Sunday, April 15th.‖
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.¶
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, April 18th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, April 19th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 6th.

* *Verona* left Hongkong on March 30th. † *City of Peking* left San Francisco on March 29th. ‡ *Yarra* (with French mail) left Hongkong on April 5th. § *Oceanic* left Hongkong on April 4th. ‖ *Empress of India* left Vancouver on April 3rd. ¶ *City of Sydney* left San Francisco on April 4th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, April 10th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, April 13th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 15th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, April 16th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, April 20th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, April 20th
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Salazie, French steamer, 4,016, A. Paul, 31st March,—Marseilles 18th February, Hongkong 23rd March, Shanghai 27th, and Kobe 30th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 31st March,—Hongkong viâ ports 24th March, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Matsumaye Maru, Japanese steamer, 478, S. Higo, 1st April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, Ono, 1st April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Moyune, British steamer, 1,714, C. de la Perrelle, 1st April,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 1st April,—Yokkaichi 31st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 2nd April,—Kobe 31st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsukushi Maru, Japanese steamer, 636, J. Will, 2nd April,—Tai Yuen, Sugar.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Baltimore (14), U.S. flagship, Captain W. R. Bridgmann, 2nd April,—A cruise.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 2nd April,—Yokosuka 2nd April, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 2nd April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, S. Tsuji, 2nd April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 2nd April,—Yokkaichi 1st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saipan, British schooner, 75, J. T. Blanchfield, R.N.R., 2nd April,—Guam 27th March, 88 tons, Copra.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Viva, British schooner, 99, R. Anderson, 2nd April,—Put Back, 307 Seals.—Frazar & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 3rd April,—Yokkaichi 2nd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 4th April,—Otaru viâ ports 30th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 4th April,—Kobe 3rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 4th April,—Kobe 3rd April, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 4th April,—Yokkaichi 3rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gerda, German steamer, 1,243, 5th April,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 5th April,—Yokkaichi 4th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 5th April,—San Francisco 20th March, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Cyclops, British steamer, 1,403, Burr, 6th April,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Glenavon, British steamer, 1,911, A. J. Jacobs, 6th April,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 6th April,—Shanghai and ports, 31st March, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 31st March,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 31st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 1st April,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 1st April,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Asano & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 1st April,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Aurora, British schooner, 42, T. Harold, 2nd April,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, Ono, 2nd April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 2nd April,—Vladivostock viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 2nd April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Caroline (14), cruiser, Captain C. J. Norcock, 2nd April,—Hongkong.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 3rd April,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,580, H. Walter, 3rd April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 3rd April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 3rd April,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, Pender, 3rd April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Elax, British steamer, 2,321, Daniel, 3rd April,—London viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 386, S. Tsuji, 4th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Moyune, British steamer, 1,714, C. de la Perrelle, 4th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Titan, British steamer, 1,525, J. R. Brown, 4th April,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tsukushi Maru, Japanese steamer, 636, J. Will, 4th April,—Choysang, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 4th April,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Razboynik (12), Russian cruiser, Captain Ziloff, 5th April,—Nagasaki.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 5th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 6th April,—Bonin Islands, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 6th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 6th April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 6th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 7th April,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Fawn, British schooner, 58, M. Keefe, 7th April,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

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Viva, British schooner, 99, A. J. Andersen, 7th April,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Frazar & Co.

Windsor, British steamer, 1,890, Veron, 7th April, —Kobe, Oil.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Salazie*, from Marseilles viâ ports:—Mr. Staubli, Mr. J. T. Sone, Mr. Hirata, Mr. Skawarcow, Comte de Durfort, Mr. S. Orner, Mr. Nebelung, Mr. Kodikawa, Mr. and Mrs. Béné, Mr. Lameta, Mr. Rickett, Mr. and Mrs. Long, Mr. John C. Seigfreid, and Mr. Dithlefsen in cabin.

Per American steamer *Peru*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Captain Ziloff from Vladivostock to take command of the Russian cruiser *Pasboynik*, and 754 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—13 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Kobe via Shiotsu:—Messrs. M. Konaka and Mani in cabin, and 45 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco:—Mr. R. A. Wylie, Mr. Geo. W. Middleton, Mrs. Middleton and infant, Mr. W. A. Rathbone, Mrs. N. T. Messer, Miss Marie G. Messer, Mrs. Waka Yazawa, Mr. Richard Reiff, Mr. J. O. Averill, Mrs. Averill, infant, and Japanese nurse, Miss Dorothy Averill, Master Otis Averill, Mr. Francois Lutscher, Mr H. A. Spaulding, Mr. T. Takaki, Mr. Kwong Ying, Mr. C. S. Ling, Mr. C. E. Chapman, Mrs. H. McCarty, Miss Lizzie Mc Carty, Captain P. de Lemascheffsky, Mr. Kanji Tomeye, Mrs. Tomeye and infant, and Mr. S. Tomita in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Geo. B. Swayne, Mr. Alfred Scheele, Mrs. Scheele, Mr. Chas. H. Wilson, and Miss K. Earl in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. J. Samson, Mrs. W. H. Lovatt, Master Wm. Lovatt, Dr. J. Hudson Taylor, Mrs. Hudson Taylor, Miss Geraldine Guinness, and Miss N. M. Van Lear in cabin. For Jinsen:—Hon. Jno. M. B. Sill, Mrs. Sill, Mr. Joseph Sill, and Mrs. L. B. Graham in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Archbishop J. R. Wolfe, Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith and child, Mr. H. H. Hayes, Mr. Cown, Mr. F. S. Goodison, Mrs. C. Nickel and 3 children, Miss H. F. Purmelee, Miss M. B. Daniel, Mr. Lewis Flower, Captain Sterling, Mr. Wakabayashi, Miss Mair, Mr. K. Sugawa, Mr. J. M. Rumby, Mr. P. Bright, and Mr. R. Inglis in cabin; Mr. Geetuck, Mr. Wm. H. Young, Mr. Wm. Thompsou, Mr. and Mrs. Kalitzki, Mrs. Li Chan Shi, Mr. H. Yamaguchi, Mr. Y. Tojio, Mr. H. Tamaki, and Mr. Fujisawa in second class, and 75 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Mowat, Mrs. J. Dodds, child, and European nurse, Mr. J. Dodds, Rev. A. F. King, Mr. W. B. Walter, Mrs. W. B. Walter, Mr. W. H. Woods, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. C. Grant, Mr. Wm. Bate, R.N., Mr. Wm. Bray, R.N., Mr. T. E. Snook, R.N., Mr. Wong Chong Hing, Mr. and Mrs. Chan Chee Chun and child, Master Chan Chee Chun, Rev. F. E. and Mrs. Freese, two native servants, and infant, Mr. C. T. Kinahan, Mr. H. Archer, Mr. Schlesinger, Mr. T. C. Siegfried, and Rev. B. Chappell in cabin; and 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. J. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Read, Miss Procter, Miss Macy H. Shed, Miss M. Jenkins, Miss C. Clayton, Mrs. Shirakura, Mrs. Kitano and child, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. A. Noble, Miss Lindholm, Mr. G. R. Bermingham, Mr. F. C. Grum, Mr. Geo. M. Ferguson, Mr. O. W. Lindholm, Mr. A. S. Aldrich, Rev. H. Loomis, Mr. H. Silver, and Dr. Augustus Wood in cabin; Messrs. R. Kaito, Mori, Murata, and S. Oshima in second class, and 44 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *Peru*, for San Francisco:—Dr. Oppenheimer, Mr. H. L. Coleman, Miss Ritchie, Mr. A. P. Jenkinson, Dr. E. F. Neve, Prince P. Ouktomsky, Mr. R. M. Elstner, and Mr. H. T. Rippingille in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Mogul*, for Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—

TEA.

	PACIFIC COAST.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	CANADA.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	16	—	—	121	—	137
Yokohama	7	—	—	—	—	7
Hongkong	37	—	443	—	—	480
Total	60	—	443	121	—	624

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama	92	—	92
Total	92	—	92

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 1,000 bales; Waste Silk, 185 bales.

Per American steamer *Peru*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	254	—	—	—	—	254
Yokohama	76	—	—	—	—	76
Hongkong	28	—	—	—	—	28
Total	358	—	—	—	—	358

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	5	134	—	139
Hongkong	—	316	—	316
Yokohama	3	239	—	242
Total	8	689	—	697

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain W. Thompson, reports:—Left Otaru the 30th March at 2 p.m.; had fresh south-west and westerly winds and rainy weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 31st at 8.05 a.m. and left the 2nd April at 8 a.m.; had moderate westerly winds and fine weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 3rd at 5 a.m. and left the same day at 0.35 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 4th April at noon.

The Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, Captain T. Sakai, reports:—Left Kobe the 3rd April at 10 a.m.; had light variable airs and fine weather. Arrived at Shiotsu at 1.15 p.m. and left at 3.47 p.m.; had light variable airs and fine weather throughout the passage; after passing Rock Island the 4th at 12.47 p.m., gentle southerly breeze and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 4th April at 7.3 p.m.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Pearne, reports:—Left San Francisco the 20th March at 4.06 p.m.; to the meridian had strong to moderate southerly and easterly winds; thence to Cape King light to strong westerly and south-west winds and head sea; thence to port strong westerly winds and cloudy weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 5th April at 7.03 p.m. Passage, 15 days, 9 hours, 29 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 31st March at 5 a.m.; had light winds and fine weather to Nagasaki, which was reached the 1st April at 5 p.m., and left Nagasaki the 2nd at 5 p.m. Arrived at Moji the 3rd at 7 a.m., and left Moji the same day at 11.30 a.m. Arrived at Kobe the 4th at 7 a.m.; had weather very fine throughout the passage. Left Kobe the 5th at 12.15 p.m.; had strong southerly winds to Oshima; thence to port continuous rain.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The Import market is once more upset, this time by a strong rise in Exchange. Buyers now hold off, hoping that a further turn in their favour may come, while those who have made settlements in Sterling are clearing some of their purchases at the advantageous rates. All quotations more or less nominal until exchange steadies at some rate or other. The new business of the week has been small, a few bales of double Yarns and some parcels Victoria Lawns having been disposed of at fair prices.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 2.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1 75 to 3 75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0 16 to 0 21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0 85 to 1.00
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.55 to 1 70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1 80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.80
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3 00 to 3 20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0 30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0 22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0 50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	41 00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	43.00 to 44.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Fair prospect of good trade in the near future. Enquiries for Bar and Sheet Iron will probably soon lead to business.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3 70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ½ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	6 00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.70 to 1.75

KEROSENE.

No very large business done and quotations unaltered. Recent arrivals have brought the stock up above 500,000 cases once more, and buyers hope for some reduction in price with a rising exchange.

Chester	$1.72½ to 1.75
Comet	1.70 to 1.72½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.67½ to 1.70
Russian Moon	1.65 to 1.67½

SUGAR.

Large arrivals from the south, but apparently not more than the trade can comfortably stand. Browns—Market firm at quotations. White—Not so much doing, but prices unchanged.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.75 to 4.80
Brown Manila	5.50 to 5.55
Brown Daitong	4.00 to 4.10
Brown Canton	4.60 to 4.65
White Java and Penang	7.20 to 7.25
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 30th ultimo, since which date settlements on this market are 749 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures*, 626 piculs; *Re-reels*, 48 piculs; *Kakeda*, 75 piculs. Direct shipments have been 68 bales, making the total business of the week something over 800 piculs.

There has been much less doing this week, the principal cause being apparently the unexpected rise in exchange. Early yesterday morning, four months' credits were quoted at 2/2, with four months' gold 53½, and four months' fcs. 2.73. Before noon, however, rates were easier and closing quotations will be found at foot.

The demand has again been chiefly for Europe, but more restricted in its nature, and there has been very little doing for the United States, although there is a rumour of some large parcels *Re-reels* being taken for that direction by native exporters.

It is rather difficult to give quotations this week. The advance in exchange would require a reduction in silks of some $30 or $40 per picul; but this, of course, holders are not willing to grant. They would probably sell at a reduction of $10 to $15 on last week's rates; but some some of them are not willing to be current, as they believe that exchange will again recede in their favour.

There have been four shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The Canadian mail steamer, *Empress of Japan*, 30th ultimo, took 90 bales for the New York trade; the *Mogul*, following day, 92 bales; the English mail *Ancona*, first of April, 1,000 bales for Europe, and the Pacific Mail steamer *Peru*, 3rd April, 242 bales for New York. These departures bring the present export figures up to 38,628 piculs, against 44,406 piculs last year, and 43,819 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—Nothing doing and no change in the situation.

Filatures.—Nearly all the trade has been in this

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class, chiefly for Europe. The advance in prices has been checked by the rising exchange and our quotations are more or less nominal. $850 was paid for a good brand of fine size, while many other parcels have passed the scales at various figures ranging down to $770. In spring reelings for America, some *Kaimeisha* were booked at $825, with *Inasha* at $820.

Re-reels.—A small business by foreigners, although the Japanese exporters are said to be operating pretty freely. Prices more or less nominal at quotations until exchange settles down to some steady figure.

Kakeda.—A small business in these. Extras are said to have been done at $790, but this requires confirmation. *Lion* chop $735; *Musume*, $727½.

In other sorts, no business.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1¼		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2¼ (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2¼ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$830 to	840
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	820 to	830
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	760 to	770
Filatures—No. 1¼, 13/16, 14/17 den	760 to	770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	730 to	740
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	730 to	740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	700 to	710
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	770 to	780
Re-reels—No. 1¼, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	740 to	750
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	720 to	730
Re-reels—No. 2¼, 14/18 deniers	700 to	710
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	670 to	680
Kakedas—Extra	780 to	790
Kakedas—No. 1	750 to	760
Kakedas—No. 1¼	720 to	730
Kakedas—No. 2	690 to	700
Kakedas—No. 2¼	670 to	680
Kakedas—No. 3		—
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2¼		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 6th April, 1894.—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	21,465	17,225	15,908
America	15,982	26,403	26,930
Total { Bales	37,447	43,628	42,838
Total { Piculs	38,628	44,406	43,819
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	39,800	44,600	44,150
Stock, 6th April	7,400	1,600	5,850
Available supplies to date	47,200	46,200	50.000

WASTE SILK.

A fair amount of business has been done, settlements amounting to 800 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 125 piculs; *Kibiso*, 675 piculs. Direct shipments have been 25 bales of *Boseki-wata*.

The demand is by no means general, being confined to a few buyers, some of the customary large exporters being apparently out of the field. The principal business has been in *Kibiso*, other sorts not participating to any great extent. Prices appear to have been fairly well maintained notwithstanding the rising exchange.

There have only been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the *Empress of Japan*, 30th ultimo, taking a few bales *Mawata* for the United States, and the *Ancona*, first instant, having 184 bales for Europe. These departures bring the present export figures up to 24,127 piculs, against 36,966 piculs last year, and 27,061 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—A small business, *Filatures* being taken at from $128 to $142. *Tegara* $130; *Hosuri*, $120; *Mino*, $110, *Joshu*, $75.

Kibiso.—Large transactions in *Filatures*, prices ranging from $100 to $115 for good quality. A few small lots of *Zaguri* have been done at and about $50.

In other sorts nothing has been done by foreign shippers.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best		—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to	150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to	140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to	130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to	140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to	105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to	95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	120 to	130
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best		—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to	80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to	70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to	115
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to	100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to	80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best		—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds		—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to	35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to	30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to	20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common		—
Mawata—Good to Best	170 to	180

Export Table Waste Silk to 6th April, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	20,896	34,274	24,966
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,095
	24,127	36,966	27,061
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	25,700	42,500	29,800
Stock, 6th April	15,900	2,700	8,600
Available supplies to date	41,600	45,200	38,400

Exchange, after a strong rise and rebound closes as under:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1; Documents, 2/1⅛; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1¼. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $50½; 4m/s. U.S. $51½. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.64; 6m/s. fcs. 2.66.

Estimated Silk Stock, 6th April, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	15	Cocoons	165
Filatures	3,360	Noshi-ito	8,540
Re-reels	3,055	Kibiso	6,700
Kakeda	940	Mawata	150
Oshu	16	Sundries	345
Tavsaam Kinds	14		
Total piculs	7,400	Total piculs	15,900

TEA.

No change in the situation. A little done in old leaf for Pacific Coast, but the majority of shippers are calmly making their preparations for the new season.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange is rising, but for the moment there is little stability in rates.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2 0
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2 0⅛
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2 0⅜
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.54
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.63
On Hongkong—Bank sight	¼ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	¼ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72⅛
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	179
On India—Private 30 days' sight	183
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49
On America—Private 30 days' sight	50⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	51⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.14
Bar Silver (London)	28 3/16

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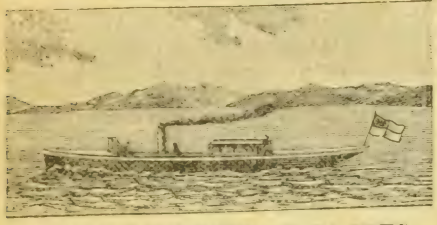
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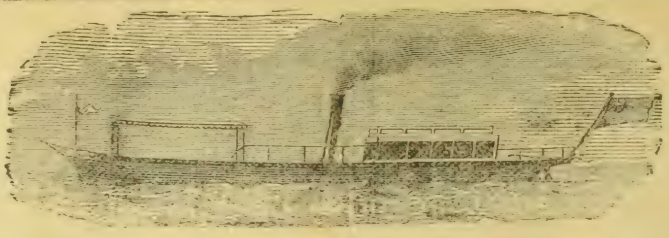
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April 23rd, 1893.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER. and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH, 1894.

BIRTH.

On 10th instant, at 113, Bluff, the wife of VALDEMAR BLAD, of a daughter.

DEATH.

On the 3rd April at the Hotel Metropole, Las Palmas, Canary Islands, BEATRICE FANNY, youngest daughter of Major James Walter, Stratford Lodge, St. Margaret's, Twickenham, England. Deeply Regretted.—[By telegram.] China Papers please copy.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

SIR WILLIAM and Lady Robinson, of Hongkong, are staying in Tokyo.

THE Fine Arts School in Uyeno Park is holding an exhibition of the work of its students.

THE Tokiwa Hotel, Kyoto, is to be run by a limited liability company organized by the citizens of the ancient capital.

AN agricultural exhibition, or show, as functions of this kind are called in England, is to be held at Sendai next month.

THE Juvenile Tonic Solfa Society Concert on Wednesday evening at the Public Hall was very much enjoyed by a large audience.

THE Spring Garden Party at the Imperial Palace at Hama was favoured with fine but overcast weather. There was a fair attendance.

MESSRS. KONO HIRONAKA, Kusumoto Masataka, and Hoshi Toru are all mentioned as probable candidates for the Presidency of the Lower House.

THE Iron Foundry Commission, though its labours are not completed, has been obliged to dissolve owing to financial causes. They examined the mines of Akagamma, Sennin, and Kamaishi, and report the existence of 7,400,000 tons of iron.

SENOR D. T. PINEYRO VILLAVICENCIO, a Secretary in the Spanish Legation, has been transferred from Japan to Stockholm. He leaves Japan shortly.

THE Yokohama Sailing Club reports a balance in hand of $31.82. At the late general meeting Mr. Geo. H. Scidmore was elected honorary secretary.

THE Fine Art Exhibition in Uyeno Park is now well worth a visit, though in many respects it does not compare favourably with those held in recent years.

C. G. MILLER, who is serving a term of four years imprisonment in the U. S. Gaol, Yokohama, for embezzlement, has been pardoned by President Cleveland.

A TREATY of mutual reciprocity has been concluded between Japan and Hawaii, and this country is now freely open for residence, trade, and travel to citizens of Hawaii.

THE Japanese Government acknowledged on the 5th inst. the official notification of the promotion of Prince Lobanow de Rostow, Russian Vice-Consul at Yokohama, to Consul.

A SEALING schooner, bottom uppermost, supposed to be the *Mascotte*, of San Francisco, has been sighted about 200 miles East of Kinkasan. The crew, it is feared, are all drowned.

MR. NOGUCHI CHOJIRO, Divisional Headman of Asahi, Ibaraki Prefecture, was shot at and mortally wounded on the 31st ultimo. Political jealously is supposed to have inspired the crime.

MR. A. VON FLENCH, LL.D., late of the Austro-Hungarian Consulate-General, Berlin, has been appointed Austro-Hungarian Consul at Yokohama. He left Trieste for his post on March 21st.

DR. HEINRICH MOSTHAF, a Foreign Adviser in the Cabinet Office, was admitted to an Imperial audience at the Palace on the 7th inst. prior to his departure for home, the term of his service in Japan having expired.

H.M.S. *Pallas* which lately arrived at Yokohama with the intention of becoming the station ship during the summer in these waters, was ordered home to Portsmonth by cable, and left on Monday.

MR. OTORI, Minister to China and Korea, who was about to leave the Peninsular Kingdom on a visit home, has received instructions to remain at Söul until the diplomatic questions raised in connection with the recent assassination have been settled satisfactorily.

NAGATA SHUSEN, the celebrated lacquer artist, has been engaged for a whole year upon a small lacquer desk for the use of the Emperor, and still requires another month to complete his work. The design is cherry blossoms seen through a spring haze.

THREE seamen of the sealing schooner *Ocean Belle*, have reached Yokohama. They were searching for seals one day last month when they lost sight of their vessel in a fog. For five days they drifted about, having no provisions save a cask of water, until they were thrown up on the coast of Nanagahama, near Shio-gawa, Japan.

THE Korean assassination affair is still occupying a great deal of attention in Japan. The corpse of Mr. Kim, and the murderer Hong, arrived in Korea together on a Chinese man-of-war during the week. Rumours of the assassin's promotion to high office are current both here and in China.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND, in a message to Congress explaining his reasons for applying the veto to the Bill authorizing the coinage of the seigniorage lying in the Treasury, says that the measure was ill-advised and dangerous and would cause a large addition to the silver currency with a corresponding reduction of the gold reserve. The House of Representatives a few days later failed to pass the Bill over the Presidential veto. The Austro-Russian treaties of commerce are regarded as a *rapprochement* of the two countries, and the first named Power conjointly with Germany is said to be seeking to encourage a better feeling between France and Italy. Another bomb explosion is reported from Paris, having taken place at the Foyot Restaurant, opposite the Senate. Three persons were seriously injured, and the windows of the Senate House were smashed, besides hundreds elsewhere in the same street. The notorious anarchist Menuier, who is believed to be implicated in the outrage, has been arrested in London after a most desperate resistance. Bismarck was fêted immensely on Monday throughout the Empire. The Emperor William sent him a present of a cuirass, accompanied by a letter, saying that a steel cuirass was a true symbol of the gratitude of the nation. Sir George Trevelyan has introduced in the House of Commons a Bill creating a Grand Committee to deal with Scotch affairs. Mr. A. J. Balfour opposed the Bill, objecting to accentuate national differences. The next day the Commons adopted, by 180 votes against 170, a motion introduced by Mr. James Henry Dalziel, Liberal member for Kircaldy, in favour of Home Rule legislation for Scotland. The Canadian tariff imposes a duty of ten cents a pound on tea, except that imported from the country of origin or sent *vid* England, for the purpose of obviating adulteration.

THE business of the week has been meagre, a general air of quietness pervading all markets. With the exception of the customary contracts for Italian Cloth of special makes for summer use, there have been no sales to record, and holders are biding their time until things take another start into life. There have been no fresh sales of moment in Metals, but the tone is very firm all round. In Kerosene, steady sales and unchanged prices are the order of the day, the principal transactions being in Russian, some 40,000 cases changing hands. Arrivals of Brown Sugar have exceeded sales, and prices are down for China and Manila brands, but quotations are well maintained for White sorts. In the Tea trade, the new leaf, which is expected to arrive during the latter half of the month, is begining to attract speculative attention, and a good crop is expected. The export for the closing season is only a quarter million pounds behind that of last year, reaching altogether 29 million pounds. With a falling off in the demand for Europe, apathetic markets in America, a fluctuating exchange, and holders demanding high prices, it is not to be wondered at that a lull, approaching stagnation, is noticeable in the Silk business. The present stock of Raw is over 7,000 piculs, against 1,500 last year at same date, and taking all things into consideration it seems improbable that there can be much life infused into the trade during the remainder of the season. Demand has fallen light for Waste, and holders must lower their prices considerably if they wish to move at all. Exchange is still fluctuating a few points above a two-shilling dollar.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The assassination affair remains the principal topic of gossip and discussion in the columns of the vernacular press. Things appear to be going from bad to worse, and the Japanese papers unite in urging the Government to take decisive measures against whatever country may have been involved in the plot of assassination. Some of the articles on the subject have already been reproduced separately. We give below the gist of the more noteworthy writings that have since appeared on this question.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* observes that, so far as the assassination of Kim is concerned, the Japanese Government has no direct ground for interference, but should it become plain that the plot of assassination, of which Kim's murder formed only a part, owed its origin to the instigation of the Korean Government, the latter must be caused to apologize to Japan for having attempted to disturb her public peace and order, as well as to violate her sovereignty. The disposition of the Korean Government may be gathered from the treatment it accords to Hong Tjyong-ou, the perpetrator of the assassination, and a fellow-accomplice of the Koreans now under arrest in Japan. The *Hochi* advises the Government to adopt such measures against Korea as may contribute to the maintenance of Japan's dignity without exposing her to the charge of taking unfair advantage of the peninsular Kingdom's weakness. As to China, the Japanese, says the *Hochi*, have from the beginning harboured some suspicions about her, and those suspicious have unfortunately been in some measure confirmed by the measures she has taken in delivering Kim's remains and his assassin to Korea. Consequently the present affair may perhaps lead to a complication between Japan, on the one hand, and China and Korea on the other. In dealing with the question, the Japanese Government is recommended neither to fear the strong nor to despise the weak. It is further called upon not to take any rash action, or to impair the dignity of the country by following a weak and temporizing policy.

* * *

The *Nippon* advises the Government to treat Korea in the present affair with magnanimity and forbearance, for Japan's dignity is not in danger of being lowered by any blundering conduct on the part of such a petty and ignorant State. Our contemporary does not mean that the assassination affair should be left unnoticed by the Japanese Government. On the contrary, Korea should be required to apologize for having attempted to execute a warrant of murder within the territories of Japan. But that reparation obtained, no further step is to be taken to humiliate the peninsular Kingdom. If, however, it should turn out that China had a hand in the plot, then towards her Japan ought to pursue a different course of policy. The *Nippon* thinks that the Japanese Government is ever prone to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards the Middle Kingdom, while conducting itself in an overbearing manner toward Korea. In our contemporary's opinion, the policy ought to be reversed. Some Japanese statesmen seem to hope to gain China's friendship by conciliation, so that the two empires may be united in a perpetual alliance, offensive and defensive. They make a grievous mistake in looking to effect such a purpose in such a manner. The only result of pursuing a conciliatory policy toward China, is to increase her self-conceit, for she will assuredly construe as fear any advances Japan may make to win her good-will. In short, China can not be treated as if she were an enlightened Occidental Power. The way to gain her friendship is to inspire in her feelings of fear and respect. This point is illustrated by reference to England's intercourse with China. The Japanese Government is, therefore, advised to adopt a strong and fearless attitude towards China.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* writes in a more excited manner. It even urges the Government under certain circumstances to take up arms against the offending country or countries. Its article is entitled "War." No direct reference is made to the question now engaging public attention, but there can be no doubt as to the connection in which the article must be read. War, says the *Jiyu*, is an evil, and ought to be avoided if it is possible to do so without staining the honour or sacrificing the interests of the country. But when the State's dignity is at stake and the nation clamours for war, it is the plain duty of the Government to bow to the necessity of the time and take up arms. Moreover, war is not an unalloyed evil; it is on the contrary, very often the means of conferring great benefits on the parties engaged. Among its benefits the *Jiyu* mentions nine; namely, first, it demonstrates that the country pursues a strong foreign policy; secondly, it prevents degeneration of military skill; thirdly, it conduces to reform of the Army and Navy; fourthly, it revives the drooping spirit of the Military Class; fifthly, it secures harmony among all classes of the nation; sixthly, it enhances the national glory and dignity; seventhly, it stimulates the growth of the nationalistic spirit; eighthly, it dissipates vulgar and temporizing ideas; and ninthly, it helps to raise the general spirit of the nation. Nothing, says our contemporary, could be more disastrous than to be immoderately afraid of war. In another article immediately following the above, the *Jiyu* says, with reference to the assassination affair, that it may possibly become necessary to negotiate with both Korea and China. Whatever complications may eventuate, the Japanese Government is urged to act in such a way as to convince the Koreans of Japan's power and willingness to afford them protection in time of need.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo*, speaking of China's treatment of Hong Tjyong-Ou and his victim's remains, does not hesitate to declare that in this matter she has shown herself very anxious to please the Korean Government. As to the Korean aspect of the question, our contemporary regrets to observe that the Korean Government is not unlikely to accentuate the already strained relations between its country and Japan by exhibiting heedless joy at Kim's death and heaping honours upon his murderer. Since the disturbance of 1884, the sentiments of the Koreans toward Japan have become more and more unfavourable. Their suspicions against Japan might perhaps be allayed, if Boku and the other surviving refugees were handed over to them for punishment. But such a course Japan can never take without greatly lowering her national dignity. Consequently there seems to be no remedy for the present unsatisfactory feeling between the two countries. Yet if things be left to take their course, the ultimate result must be an open rupture between the two countries. Our contemporary, therefore, seems to think it wiser to adopt decisive measures for placing affairs on a definite footing. Peaceful measures must at first be employed to remove the unjust suspicions of the Koreans, but should the desired end fail to be attained, the *Jiji* advises that force be employed to bring that perverted nation to a right frame of mind. Finally, alluding once more to China, the *Jiji* echoes the suspicion entertained against her by the general public in Japan. Our contemporary remarks that the members of the Chinese Legation in this country showed themselves particularly anxious in Kim's interests to induce him to undertake the trip to China. Their friendship, feigned or otherwise, is contrasted with the singular want of sympathy displayed towards him by their home authorities.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* joins the rest of the Metropolitan papers in urging the Government to take prompt and strong measures. After remarking that the question does not turn upon the genuineness or falseness of the alleged Royal Seals, our contemporary writes as follows: —"The Royal Seals apart, should it be proved that the prisoners received instructions from the Korean Government and were encouraged by it with supplies of money for the perpetration of the heinous deed, nothing should prevent Japan from demanding reparation from Korea for having attempted an encroachment upon the sovereignty of this Empire. Supposing that the seals are not genuine, it is not inconceivable that the use of false seals may have been part of the original plan devised by the instigators of the crime. But the whole question still remains unsettled, and meanwhile we do not like to pass any criticism upon the Korean Government. What, however, demands immediate consideration, is the conduct of Mr. Yu, the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires*. We are confident that the Government will not suffer that question to pass unnoticed. It must be first disposed of, and in the event of the establishment of the Korean Government's connection with the plot of assassination, further measures must at once be taken to obtain satisfaction from the Court in Söul. Should the Cabinet Ministers hesitate to adopt a decisive attitude at such a juncture, they would lay themselves open to the charge of neglecting their grave duties as Ministers of an independent State. Speaking frankly, we cannot choose but entertain suspicions about the Korean Government. As to the Chinese Government, we are inclined to believe that it is entirely innocent of any complicity in the barbarous scheme. But if its disposition were to be inferred from the tone in which the newspapers published in its dominions discuss Kim's assassination, the Chinese Government might be supposed to be delighted with the unfortunate Korean's death and far from disgusted with the wicked act of his assassin. According to the treaty between China and Korea, it seems proper that China should have handed over the murderer to be dealt with by the Korean Authorities. But the manner in which his delivery was effected by China and the reception given to him by the Korean Government, are matters requiring the keenest observation on our part, for they have important bearings upon the elucidation of the whole scheme of assassination. Should Korea accord a favourable reception to the assassin, and should China show him marks of sympathy, although such circumstance might not suffice alone to establish the connection of these Governments with the plot, Japan would certainly be justified in demanding a satisfactory explanation of such singular conduct. Hong's crime was, it is true, committed in Chinese territory, but the deed was planned on Japanese soil and formed part of the plot, in connection with which the other Koreans are now undergoing criminal examination in Tokyo. Consequently, Japan may not be justified in exercising any direct interference in Hong's case, but she will be entitled under certain circumstances to call for an explanation as to the manner or the spirit in which the case may have been dealt with. As the Chinese Government boasts of a large number of wise and enlightened officials, it is not likely to be betrayed into the silly blunder of showing sympathy with a miserable criminal who dared to insult the sovereignty of China herself. But should that Government, by unmistakable indications, show approval of the Koreans who visited these shores with criminal intentions of the foulest nature, Japan must not hesitate to demand an explanation. In adjudicating the crimes of the prisoners, the Japanese Government will not make any discrimination on account of their nationality. Neither will any distinction be made between China and Korea, should either or both be found implicated in the matter."

* * *

Perhaps in response to the strong challenge of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the Opposition papers protest with increasing vigour against what they term a misrepresentation of facts, namely, the assertion that the movement for Strict Enforcement of the Treaties has lost its essential characteristics. They promise that the question will be brought up for discussion in the approaching session of the Diet. But nobody ever doubted that. The only point about which doubt has been expressed is whether it will be

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presented in the same garb as before. Nothing written by the Opposition papers entitles us to conclude that the Representation to be introduced in the coming session will be accompanied by the Explanatory Document which caused so much stir last December.

* * *

All other papers, such as the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the *Chu-o Shimbun*, the *Niroku Shimpo*, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Kokkai* and so forth, write in nearly the same strain, implying doubts about China's good faith and urging upon the Government the necessity of adopting a stout attitude. The weakness of the Government's foreign policy, say these papers, is accountable for the indignities to which this Empire is constantly subjected by neighbouring States.

* * *

Concerning the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction in the case of Hawaiian citizens in Japan as just proclaimed by Imperial Ordinance, the Opposition papers have not yet delivered any opinion. The only papers belonging to the anti-Government League which has remarked on the subject is the *Nippon*. It "does not hesitate to congratulate the country on the progress thereby effected in its intercourse with Hawaii." The *Nippon*, however, cannot leave this subject without discharging some shafts of criticism against the Cabinet. The latter is censured for its want of courage in dealing with stronger countries like England, Russia, France, Germany, and so forth, reserving what stock of energy it possesses for such small States as Hawaii and Portugal. Our contemporary suspects that the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction in the case of Hawaii may perhaps be a device to counteract the influence of the movement for Strict Treaty Enforcement. If such be the Cabinet's object, the *Nippon* thinks that it only deserves ridicule.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* describes the original difference between the Treaty with Hawai and those with other countries of the West, and says that the present abolition of Consular Jurisdiction by means of an Imperial Ordinance being due to the High Contracting Parties' mutual consent, the result is the same as through the former Treaty had been revised under the signatures of the delegates of the two countries. In conclusion, our contemporary remarks that, in the event of the adoption of a new Constitution, the Provisional Government of Hawai has pledged itself to place Japanese residents upon the same footing as persons of any other nationality.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE question of candidates for the presidency of the new House of Representatives appears to have narrowed itself to three members, Messrs. Hoshi Toru, Kono Hironaka and Kusumoto Masataka. The difficulty about Mr. Hoshi is that he no longer belongs nominally to the *Jiyu-to*. One would imagine that independence of party ought to be a recommendation rather than an obstacle in such a matter, but the fact is that the Radicals want to have a candidate of their very own and from that point of view they would prefer Mr. Kono to Mr. Hoshi. On the other hand there is a natural desire to vindicate Mr. Hoshi. It would be a signal triumph for the *Jiyu-to* could they replace him in the presidential chair. Mr. Kono is understood to be abstaining from any attempt to canvass, so that it is difficult at present to foresee the event. Mr. Kusumoto is understood to have the support of the six sections of the Opposition and it is calculated that this would give him 141 votes, which is certainly a very liberal estimate. The Radical vote, if cast solid, represents 124. Hence neither candidate can obtain a plurality from his direct supporters, and the decision must ultimately rest with the 35 so-called Independents. Incredible as it may seem, Mr. Oi Kentaro has actually been spoken of as a possible candidate. That he would have the support of the *Dai Nippon Kyokai* goes without saying, but rumour alleges that the *Seimu Chosa-jo* would also vote for him. Perhaps so. There is no accounting for tastes.

* * *

Whether Mr. Hoshi Toru be elected or not, his supporters propose, it is said, to introduce at the commencement of the next session a motion to the effect that the House of Representatives is not empowered to pass a vote of want of confidence in its President. That will be an interesting discussion.

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE sixth session of the Diet drawing near, politicians are assembling in Tokyo from all parts of the country. The general plans of campaign to be pursued in the coming session by various parties are to be formally decided at conferences of the respective parties. These plans are of course elaborated at the headquarters of each party, but with regard to minor points—such as the nomination of candidates for the Presidentship of the Lower House, the election of Committees, and so forth, much depends upon the inclinations of the rank and file who are now fast pouring in from the provincial districts. Consequently the conferences which the different parties are about to hold before the opening of the session are looked forward to with considerable interest. The dates of these meetings are as follow —: The Radical Party, April 25th; the Progressionist Party, May 5th; the National Unionist Party, April 15th; and the Imperial Fiscal Reform Association, April 28th.

* * *

Of these conferences, that of the Radical Party is awaited with perhaps the greatest interest. The enemies of the *Jiyu-to* predict that the meeting of the 25th instant will probably witness a disruption of the Party. Two causes of dissension are enumerated—rivalry between Mr. Hoshi and Mr. Kono for nomination to the post of President of the Lower House, and the demand of a powerful section of the provincial Radicals that the Standing Council be largely increased by members not having seats in the Diet. The latter measure is claimed to be necessary in order to counterbalance the increased number of Parliamentary members of the Committee. The younger men in the Party are extremely jealous of the authority exercised by their elders, and are, therefore, seeking to increase their own representatives in the Council. Count Itagaki, however, is understood to be strongly opposed to such a measure. He has declared, it is said, that any demand for an alteration of the present constitution of the Council will be resisted by him even at the risk of causing the secession of some of his followers. This question is therefore expected to cause stormy debates at the meeting. As to the alleged rivalry between Mr. Hoshi and Mr. Kono, the struggle is more between their respective followers than between the men themselves. Indeed Mr. Kono is believed to be unwilling to set himself up as a rival candidate. But his followers are enthusiastic in his cause, and so are those of Mr. Hoshi. At present it is uncertain which will be favoured by the majority of the Council. At all events, the discussion of the subject will, it is feared, excite some unpleasant feeling between the followers of the rival leaders.

* * *

The organization of the *Chugoku Shimpo-to* (Central Provinces Progress Party), of which mention has been made in these columns more than once, was publicly celebrated at Okayama on the 3rd instant. The manifesto issued on that occassion contains the following items :—

1.—The dignity and glory of the Imperial House shall be maintained, and a system of Responsible Cabinets enforced.

2.—Superfluous expenses shall be curtailed and the system of taxation revised.

3.—The defence of the country shall be completed in conformity with the internal and external circumstances of the realm.

4.—The national rights of the country shall be asserted by revising the Treaties on a basis of equality.

5.—Laws incompatible with Constitutional Government shall be revised.

6.—The system of Local Government shall be revised so as to favour the growth of local autonomy.

7.—The work of riparian improvement shall be completed and forestry administration shall be placed on a sound basis.

As stated on a former occasion, this new political party is a device of the Progressionists to try locally the experiment of amalgamating the allied sections of the Opposition. Mr. Inukai Ki, the leading spirit of the new party, has ostensibly severed his connection with the Progressionists. But that is only a matter of form, due to the fact that the existing Law of Political Associations forbid one and the same person to be connected with two or more parties.

* * *

It is rumoured that Count Okuma thinks of dissolving the Progressionist Party, and organizing a new association under the name of *Shimpo-to*, combining in it all the sections of the Opposition. Some people state that this will take place before the opening of the coming session of the Diet.

* * *

Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi has of late been mentioned as a candidate for the portfolio of Finance. It is now stated that he would not accept the post, even if it were offered to him, unless under the presidency of Count Inouye. As to Count Inouye, he is not likely to return to the capital for some time. Rumour already points to him as the most probable successor of Count Ito in the Minister-Presidency.

SMOKING IN RAILWAY CARRIAGES.

THE *Yomiuri Shimbun* has a story of a wrangle said to have occurred between some foreigners, apparently French, and Mr. Ishikawa, a Judge of the Tokyo Local Court, in the train between Ofu and Okazaki, on the Tokaido line, last Friday (6th instant). There were ladies in the foreigners' party, and as Mr. Ishikawa began to smoke in the carriage, one of the foreigners, in a peremptory manner, ordered him to desist. Thereupon ensued an exchange of compliments not particularly creditable, so far as we can see, to either party. We do not defend rude injunctions given to a fellow-passenger in a railway carriage, but neither do we defend smoking in a railway carriage where follow-passengers object. A Japanese gentleman never, so far as we know, thinks of asking a Japanese lady with whom he may happen to be travelling whether she objects to tobacco. Women in Japan are not supposed to object to tobacco. But it is not so in Europe and America, and unless Japanese courtesy is only skin-deep—which we do not for a moment imagine—no Japanese ought to smoke in a carriage with a foreign lady-passenger until he has ascertained whether his act will discommode her. A foreigner, if he deserved to be called a gentlemen, would not wittingly do anything that might be disagreeable to a Japanese lady travelling in the same carriage. The canons of politeness are virtually the same all the world over.

THE KOREAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.

THE Korean *Chargé d'Affaires'* sudden departure from Tokyo seems to have caused universal surprise in the Capital. It now appears that he took that step, not in obedience to instructions from home, but on his own responsibility. As to the cause of his procedure, various rumours are afloat. There is evidently a strong suspicion in many quarters that he felt uneasy about the possible developments of the inquiry now being conducted into the plot of assassination. Surmise is that, apprehending his own incompetence to discharge the duties of his post under the present trying circumstances, he deemed it wiser to withdraw before a serious crisis occurred. Whatever may have been his

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motives, his mysterious conduct has not added to his own reputation and may perhaps prove very inconvenient at such a juncture.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* writes editorially in the following strain:—"The Korean assassination affair assumes a more and more mysterious character in proportion as the investigations progress. The latest addition to the train of strange circumstances is the sudden departure of the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires ad interim*. On quitting Tokyo, Mr. Yu is said to have left a card at the residences of the Minister and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, together with a letter addressed to the former. According to our information, his return to Korea does not seem to have been either on leave of absence or in obedience to a summons from his superiors. Nor is his departure to be understood as the hauling down of his flag. Whatever allowance be made for his ignorance of diplomatic matters, he can not escape the imputation of having acted very rashly. Before quitting his post, the Minister of a Foreign State must openly take leave of either the Sovereign or the Government to whom he is accredited. Failure to do so exposes him to the charge of neglecting proper courtesy. Lord Dufferin's departure from Paris without formally taking leave of the French Government, was generally acknowledged to have occurred under circumstances of a peculiar nature; yet nobody was bold enough to defend his conduct as right and proper. What, then, shall be said of a case where there was no such extenuating circumstance? In his letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yu is reported to have used language implying dissatisfaction with the measures taken by the Japanese Government in connection with the assassination affair. If that be true, his complaint must be pronounced altogether incomprehensible. That the privileges of a legation do not include the right of affording asylum to fugitive criminals, is a principle of International Law universally acknowledged in civilized countries. Whatever may be the status of Ken Toju, and Ken Zaiju in their native country, there is nothing to exclude them from the purview of Japanese jurisdiction while in Japan, since they are neither Princes of the Blood nor members of the Legation. Moreover, the Japanese Government did not take the measure complained of until the resources of friendly correspondence had been exhausted to effect the delivery of the two Kens. It must also be remembered that, after all, the expulsion of these culprits from the precincts of the Legation was a voluntary act on the part of the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires*. Is it not wholly unreasonable that, under those circumstances, he should feel justified in complaining of the Japanese Government's conduct? According to a current report, Mr. Yu's reluctance to deliver the Kens to the Japanese Authorities was owing to a well founded apprehension that their judicial examination would lead to the discovery of his own criminal connections with the heinous plot; and his precipitate retreat was to avoid the disgrace of being formally recalled at the request of the Japanese Government. That is not an unlikely explanation of his singular conduct. But then, how could he leave his post without the instruction or permission of his Government? In short, his conduct in beyond the comprehension of civilized common sense. As to the fate of Mr. Yu on his arrival in Söul, there can be no doubt. For, if his return was in obedience to instructions from superiors, he must have been recalled for no pleasant purpose. But if, as is more probable, he left his post without such instructions, his conduct evinced grave neglect of his important trust. In the face of such a prospect awaiting him at home, the circumstances that induced him to leave Tokyo must have been exceptionally complicated. It is the moral duty of a strong Power to instruct and guide the weaker. We therefore trust that trifling incidents caused by ignorance will be passed over by Japan with becoming magnanimity. But no insult to the Sovereignty of the Empire can be suffered to go unrepaired. We earnestly hope that, pending the conclusion of the judicial investigations now in progress, no precipitate action will be taken by our Government or our countrymen.

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The *Yomiuri Shimbun* regrets the singular conduct of the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires*, as it only tends to increase the suspicion that he was in some way connected with the plot of assassination. If the rumour of his implication be correct, his departure must be regarded in the light of a flight, and he is, in the *Yomiuri's* opinion, no longer entitled to the respect of the Japanese public.

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The *Kokkai* also strongly criticises Mr. Yu's conduct as contrary to the received practice of civilized nations. Our contemporary seems to attach some importance to a rumour that the plot of assassination owes its origin to the instigation of a certain powerful country. Altogether the *Kokkai* is disposed to take an alarmist view of the matter. It observes that, there being no longer any properly authorized Korean Representative in Japan, the Japanese Minister at Söul ought to be instructed to demand from the Korean Government an explanation of the extraordinary conduct of its Representative. The present affair may, in our contemporary's opinion, lead to serious complications, and nobody can foresee what event may not take place in the peninsular Kingdom. Consequently, the *Kokkai* thinks it of urgent necessity that a sufficient number of war-vessels should be at once despatched to Korea to protect Japanese subjects there in the event of a disturbance.

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According to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, Mr. Kim Sashun, Secretary of the Korean Legation in Tokyo, informed the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on the 10th instant that he had received instructions from his Government to act as *Chargé d'Affaires*. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, however, very naturally replied that pending the settlement of the questions addressed by him to the Government of Korea with reference to the withdrawal of Mr. Yu Kin-huan, it was obviously impossible to recognise a new *Chargé*.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN THE JAPANESE ARMY AND NAVY.

An essay by Mr. Yamane in a recent number of the Japanese Sanitary Association's Proceedings shows a disquieting state of affairs with regard to the prevalence of contagious diseases among the men of the Japanese Army and Navy. The Tokyo Garrison has the best record. Its percentage of diseased men during the 7 years 1886 to 1892 only once rose above 20 in every thousand. In Nagoya the average for the same period was 40 per 1,000. In Fushimi the figure rose to 157.81 in 1889, and never fell below 43.66 (in 1892), the average being 71; while in Otsu, which enjoys the discredit of heading the list, the average was 87. The Navy's case is even more alarming, for it seems to be on a downward grade. Its returns for the four years ending 1892 were 86.23, 97.45, 92.15, and 111.32 per 1,000, respectively.

SOME CURIOUS POEMS ON THE KOREAN AFFAIR.

The Japanese are very fond of playing upon words, especially in poetical metre. The *hokku*, a stanza of 5, 7, 5 syllables, lends itself readily to such rhyming puns, and is hence much in vogue. Still in face of the fact that Kim Ok-kyun was very popular among the people, it is somewhat of a surprise to find the *Miyako Shimbun* publishing half-a-dozen *hokku* of this kind on the death of the Korean refugee. Not that anything unpleasant is either said or intended, but it is surely making light of a serious matter. Every one of these verselets loses its point in an English translation. The best reads as follows:—

Shanghai no
Yado de Kingyo no
Sashimi kana!

The stanza contains two well-turned witticisms [illegible] Kim Ok-kyun's name means litually "Gold-Jewel-Peaceful," his patronymic being the first of these three. So in this *hokku* he is alluded to as *kingyo*, "gold-fish." Again, *sashimi* is, as every one who has attended a Japanese dinner must know, raw, sliced fish. In the above stanza, however, the characters have this sound only, the real meaning of the two ideographs chosen being "stabbed" or "killed" and "body." Taking the sound only, the sense is "Alas! In the Hotel at Shanghai they give one *sashimi* of gold-fish." A second *hokku* runs thus:—

Meiyo no tāma wo
Tsuri-gane ga
Oshi-tsubusni.

Tama, "jewel," of course stands for the unfortunate Korean. *Tsuri-gane* can either mean a "large bell" or a "pecuniary bribe." The sense is: "A large bell has pushed against and broken a famous jewel," *i.e.* the celebrated Kim has been lured to his death by the hope of pecuniary gain. A third stanza refers to Boku-Eiko:—

Boku wa buji
Desuga, kinodoku
Nawa Kin-shi.

The point turns on the two words *boku* and *buji*. The former, literally "slave" or "servant," is often used as an equivalent for the first personal pronoun; written as it is in *katakana*, it may here also stands for the Japanese transliteration of Boku's name. *Bu-ji* means "without-anything," hence "idle," "unemployed," and here having also the deeper signification of "unharmed," so we may construe either "I have nothing to do (with the matter) yet cannot help regretting (the death of) Mr. Kim," or "Boku is unharmed, yet how sorrowful (the fate of) Mr. Kim!"

VICARIOUS ATONEMENT.

Early in the morning of a recent day, the keeper of a boarding-house in Hongo, Tokyo, discovered one of his lodgers dead in his room, having committed suicide by taking morphine. Under the young man's pillow—he was only twenty-eight years old—were found several letters, addressed to his parents, relatives, and particularly to his elder brother. From these it appeared that the suicide's name was Ishiwara Kaoru, who had but recently returned from the United States, an ex-student of the Imperial University and one who bore in general an exemplary name. His elder brother's profligacy had long preyed on his mind, and it is said that he had frequently made the pregnant statement that only his own death would suffice to bring his spendthrift brother to his senses. Kaoru had repeatedly begged his brother to amend his ways and not bring shame on their parents. On Thursday, the day before his rash deed, their old mother had sent word that she was coming up to the capital and begged her elder son to meet her. Kaoru went in search of him, but found that he had left the capital in company with one of his mistresses. Returning to his lodgings, Kaoru wrote a letter to his parents, stating that he was resolved to die in the hope of bringing about his elder brother's reform; that he acted as he did out of filial piety and trusted that his death would reunite the family. Letters of the same tenor were addressed to other friends and relatives asking their pardon for what he was about to do; and finally one impassioned and pathetic message written to his brother. When found the next morning, life had been extinct for several hours.

"PRACTICAL BUSINESS CONVERSATION."

Mr. C. G. Coningham, Head Foreign Teacher in the Yokohama Eigo-Gakko, and Mr. M. T. Kondo, Principal of that School, have published a little work for the special use of Japanese merchants dealing with foreigners. They have adopted the plan of dividing the book into a number of dialogues, each destined to serve under particular circumstances, and each prefaced by a short vocabulary of words specially useful under those circumstances. Thus, we have in the first place two chapters of a general character—"Common Expressions," and "Shopping"—after which the subjects of the dialogues

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are "In a Book-store," "In a Curio-shop," "In a Draper's-shop," and so forth. There are 23 of such chapters, the last being miscellaneous. Apparently the compilers have not sought to assist the ordinary foreign student of Japanese, for all the vernacular equivalents of the English phrases are given in *Kana-majiri* ideographic script only, but of course the difficulty thus presented can be overcome by any student sufficiently resolute to Romanize the Japanese for himself, with the aid of a teacher. The sentences appear to be so well chosen that it seems a pity not to have brought the book more immediately into the field of foreign students by adding a Romanized version. However, the writers doubtless had their own views upon that point. Certainly they have conferred a great boon upon those for whom the work is avowedly compiled, namely, "Japanese merchants dealing with foreigners."

A NOVEL ASSOCIATION.

FOURTEEN or fifteen years ago there was organized in Japan, under the auspices of Mr. Yasuda Zenjiro and two or three others, an association based in effect on the principle of mutual insurance. The membership was limited to five hundred and the simple principle governing the Association's procedure was that n the event of the death of any one of its members the others should subscribe two *yen* each to be presented to his family. The project met with thorough success. No difficulty presented itself except that of keeping the number of members within the prescribed limit. A hundred and twenty-two deaths occurred between the date of the Association's formation and the present time, and a hundred and twenty-two thousand dollars were duly paid to the families of the deceased. It was in fact the first life insurance company in Japan. Since the promulgation of the Commercial Code, however, every association of the kind is obliged to comply with legal formalities and to be subject to due official inspection. Under these circumstances the company has found it necessary to re-organize itself on the basis of an ordinary insurance company. Its capital is fixed at 200,000 *yen*; 3/20 of the profits are to go to the reserve, 3/20 as rewards to officers, and 3/50 to the shareholders, the remainder being distributed among the policy-holders. It will thus be seen that the coöperative principle has been adopted.

THE HYOGO INSURANCE QUESTION.

WE have already spoken of the difficulty between the Hyogo Warehouse Company whose premises were recently destroyed by fire and the three offices in which they were insured. Of these three offices, the Meiji Office paid up at once with wise alacrity, but the two others whose liability amounted in all to 39,000 *yen* declined to pay on the ground that the policy had been vitiated by the storage of inflammable substances in the Warehouses. We now read that the Nippon Insurance Company has agreed to a compromise, namely, payment of the claim less one-third, the reduction being made in consideration of the presence of inflammable goods. But the Osaka Insurance Company is more logical if less practical. It maintains that it must be either wholly liable or not liable at all.

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Speaking of insurance, we may mention that the loss of the Meiji Insurance Company in connection with the recent disastous fire in Nagaoka is said to be 31,600 *yen*. Fortune is very kind to this company. A few more heavy losses promptly paid will secure to it a lion's share of insurance business in Japan.

KISSING.

THERE are such things as "Kissing Bees." Their locale is the far West of the United States. We don't exactly know how they are conducted. There is also an amusement called "husking." The players sit round a heap of corn from which they draw ears. When a red ear comes to the hands of a lucky swain, he is entitled to a kiss from every lass present. When a girl gets a red ear, she chooses the youth who shall kiss her. There are variations, but we have no encyclopedia that deseribes them. Some one should compile a history of kissing. The frontispiece should be a picture of Dominie Brown and his sweetheart Janet. They took their first kiss after a courtship of seven years. One evening, as they sat together in the customary solemn silence, Mr. Brown summoned courage, and said:—"We have been acquainted now for seven years, and I've ne'er gotten a kiss yet. D'ye think I might tak' wan, my bonnie girl?" "Just as you like, only be becoming wi' it." "Surely, Janet, we'll ask a blessing. For what we are about to receive, Lord, make us truly thankful." The kiss was taken, and the worthy divine, overpowered by the blissful sensation, rapturously exclaimed:—"Oh, Janet, it is gude. We'll return thanks." Six months afterward they were married.

THE SUGITA CASE.

THERE is intense feeling with regard to the Sugita case in Tokyo, and it seems that partisan spirit has much to do with the very forcible and outspoken paragraphs in the columns of the vernacular press. Mr. Sugita Teiichi, it will be remembered, made a murderous and possibly fatal attack on his younger half-brother Kobazashi Kenhin. The former is a member of parliament elect and Radical in politics, so that all the Radical organs are either eagerly espousing his cause or else painting the character of his victim in very black colours. We are told, for instance, that Kobayashi is the son of a second wife; that he has long refused to listen to his elder brother's counsel and exhortation; that he is given to excesses of all kinds and has hitherto led a most vagrant and disreputable life. It was for these reasons, it is alleged, that Mr. Sugita's patience was exhausted. The direct cause of the quarrel was the spendthrift's proposal that the elder brother should give him one-half of his patrimony. All this certainly reads strongly in Mr. Sugita's favour; but there is probably a reverse to the medal.

AN INTREPID TRAVELLER.

MR. NAKAJIMA SAICHI, a Japanese who recently returned from China, has a remarkable record as a traveller. In July, 1891, he crossed to the Middle Kingdom, and stayed a month and a half in Shanghai studying the vernacular. Then he set out on foot for Peking, with $2.30 in his purse and a packet of drugs, by selling which he hoped to eke out his resources. The distance is 1,000 miles, approximately, and he is said to have accomplished it in 40 days, a feat sufficiently remarkable. His knowledge of the language proved so defective that he could not sell any drugs, and was consequently obliged to subsist on his $2.30. He made that pittance suffice by eating only sweet potatoes, and by passing the night as much as possible in the fields. Wearing Chinese costume and a pigtail, but being unable to speak, he passed for a Chinese mute. There remained 3 *rin* in his pocket when he reached Peking. His next journey was from Peking to Canton, 4,000 miles. It took six months, which, being an average of over 20 miles per day, sounds very wonderful for a man on foot. Then he went from Canton to Shanghai, having first visited Formosa. How he managed to get along with such scanty means as he possessed is a mystery. He has related some of his experiences to the Geographical Society of Japan. Between Lok-yang and Dzang-on he found a number of pit-dwellers, of whose domiciles he made practical test. The Mongolians attracted much of his attention. The Chinese Government, he says, is making a steady effort to exterminate them by enforcing the Llama tenet against open marriage, and by bestowing rewards on widows who remain without a second husband. Apparently a Mongolian wife is decidedly the better half, for if she takes her own life, her husband is considered *de facto* in fault, and becomes liable to a fine, if not to decapitation. Hence to be a mediator in conjugal troubles is a lucrative occupation. It brought douceurs of $25 and $30 to a friend of Mr. Nakajima's. We learn with pleasant surprise from Mr. Nakajima's lecture that although the Chinese at the Open Ports hold the Japanese in contempt, the Chinese in the interior regard them with much respect, knowing them to this day as people from the anciently renowned land of Yeishu or Fuso. On the other hand, these same Chinese have a rooted aversion for Occidentals.

KOREAN NEWS.

THE latest correspondence received by Japanese journals from the peninsular kingdom contains nothing beyond meagre statements that the telegraphic message announcing Kim Ok-kyün's assassination caused a profound sensation in Söul, and that the Ming family is highly pleased at the incident.

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In connection with the plot of assassination, it is worthy of note that all Korean correspondents of the vernacular press agree in stating that the establishment of the *Shin-riu Gijiku* (a school for Koreans) in Tokyo, by Boku Eiko and other refugees, with the countenance and pecuniary assistance of a large number of Japanese in high stations, has proved an effectual barrier to any improvement of Korean sentiment toward Japan. Rightly or wrongly, the Koreans believe that the school is part of an aggressive scheme supposed to be incubating in Japan against the independence of the peninsula. Since the opening of the school, the Korean authorities are said to have adopted strict measures for preventing young men from crossing the sea to Japan. The suspicions thus awakened in the minds of Korean officials are reported to have seriously impeded the negotiations conducted by Mr. Otori for abolishing the prohibitory edict against the export of rice. Some correspondents seem to believe that the Korean Government's desire to remove Kim, Boku, and other principal exiles must have been increased by the establishment of the school in Tokyo.

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Ming Eishun, though only about thirty-eight years of age, is said to be the most powerful as well as the most wealthy of the Korean Ministers of State. Minister of Home Affairs, he is reported to have recently received in addition the portfolio of War. His only rival is Ming Eikan, Minister of Ceremony and Education, but the latter is stated to be now far less popular than he formerly was.

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The Japanese School in Söul, under the Korean Government, is reported to be making fair progress. The present number of students is twenty-four. Being all sons of men of quality, their prospects are bright. At present only the commonest branches of knowledge are taught, but with the progress of the students, the curriculum is to be gradually enlarged so as to embrace lectures on political economy and other higher subjects. The principal is Mr. Nagashima Ganjiro.

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The Korean officials of the Ming faction, according to the *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent, have under contemplation the publication of a newspaper. Its general style is to be modelled after Japanese journals, and the chief editor is to be engaged from Japan. The task of finding a suitable Japanese editor is said to have been entrusted to Mr. Ken Zankô, formerly a secretary to the Korean Legation in Tokyo.

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New coins corresponding to Japanese copper pieces of 1 *sen* have been issued by the Korean Government, which, however, has not taken the trouble to make any official announcement of the fact. No coins of other denominations have as yet been put into circulation.

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The Korean Government is said to have decided to span the Han river with an iron bridge. That river has to be crossed in going to Söul from Ninsen, and the passage is at present effected by means of ferry boats. A request,

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it is reported, has already been made to the Japanese Government, through Mr. Otori, for the services of an engineer to direct the work.

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A favourable decision has at length been arrived at with regard to the seaward extension of the Japanese settlement at Ninsen, which has been for some time a subject of frequent communications between the Japanese Representative and the Korean Government. The work will be commenced before long. The German Consul has always been opposed to this scheme, and it is feared that he may try to prevent its consummation, but there are hopes that his obstruction may prove ineffectual.

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The northern districts of the peninsular Kingdom are said to be at present greatly disturbed, owing to popular complaints against the tyranny and extortion of the local authorities. The Governors of the localities are said to be unable to suppress the disturbances.

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According to a report received by Japanese papers from the *Kohosha* (a Japanese news agency) in Söul, the news of Kim's assassination seems to have been received with unfeigned delight by the Korean Government. On the arrived of the intelligence, the King summoned to his presence Cho Giyen, Commissioner of Public Works, and expressed to the latter his satisfaction at the success of the assassination plot, which is said to have been chiefly elaborated by that official. Hong Tjyong-Ou, the murderer of Kim, is reported to be a close follower of Cho, whose bread he ate for more than three years. The Tai Wön-kun, however, is said to feel deeply the cruel death of Kim, and many private individuals are indignant at the indecent joy with which the whole of Korean officialdom has received the news. But these persons dare not publicly avow their sentiments through dread of exciting the suspicion of the ascendant faction. Among officials, the Ming section is reported to be especially pleased with the news. Its leader, Ming Eishun, Minister of Home Affairs and of War, spent the whole night of the 30th ultimo holding a revel with a large number of his followers to commemorate the fall of their most dreaded enemy. What is more singular is a report that the Viceroy Li Hung-chang sent a telegram to the Korean King congratulating him on the death of Kim. A similar message is said to have been received from Ming Yon-ik, now staying in Hongkong. According to rumours current at the time when this correspondence was written, the Korean Government had decided to appoint Hong, the assassin, to a high military post (commander of a corps) by way of reward for his signal service. As to Kim's corpse, immediately upon arrival in Söul, it was to be quartered and exposed at public thoroughfares in the Capital.

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Formerly there were in Korea several influential families of nearly equal power and patronage. But since the failure of the *emeute* of 1884, the Ming family has gradually increased in influence until, at the present moment, it may fairly be said to monopolize the official patronage of the Kingdom. The Kims, Bokus, Lis, Chos, Sais, and others are nowhere. The more high-spirited members of these once powerful families are said to have retired into private life. After the withdrawal of these rival families from the field, the members of the dominant faction are said to have began to quarrel among themselves. For the past few years keen competition existed between Ming Eikan and Ming Eishun, but the latter has at last gained a complete victory over the former. Ming Eishun, however, is reported to be very uneasy about the rumours of a speedy return from Hongkong of Ming Yon-ik, who fled to the British colony in consequence of a certain rash action that exposed him to the suspicion of having gone too far in his friendship with the Russian Government. According to a correspondent of the vernacular press, China is said to have recently inclined more in the direction of cooperation with Russia in watching over the interests of the peninsular Kingdom, and in consequence of this change, a certain Chinese statesman is believed to have advised Ming Yon-ik to return to his native country. Whatever may have been the true cause, there seems to be no doubt that his return to Söul is now desired by the King.

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All Japanese correspondents appear to think that there is a great potential force in the Korean people, which, if rightly developed, will inaugurate a new epoch in the history of their country. In the now almost constant risings against their local tyrants, the Koreans have shown themselves possessed of a spirit of independence and courage.

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In spite of these risings, extortion and oppression are said to continue as prevalent as ever. A recent instance that took place in Söul is mentioned. One of the most wealthy merchants, who under exceptional favour of the official class had been doing a thriving business, recently incurred the displeasure of some persons in high places. The nature of his offence is not known, but his property was confiscated, and he, with his family, were ordered to leave the capital never to return.

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The Japanese settlement at Fusan is to be shortly supplied with healthy drinking water. A sum of 20,000 *yen* was recently voted for the purpose by the Municipal Council, and an engineer, Mr. Sato Sekiyo, was invited from Osaka to undertake the laying of water pipes.

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The Kerosene Oil Company, about which there has of late been much talk, has finally been organized at Fusan, with a capital of 25,000 *yen*.

SUBSIDIES TO VESSELS ON FOREIGN LINES.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* of the 5th instant advises the Government to introduce in the approaching session of the Diet a Bill for giving aid to steamships employed on foreign routes. Such a measure was submitted in the fifth session, but our contemporary calls for the adoption of a more comprehensive scheme. According to the Bill introduced last session, the amount of money to be appropriated for the purpose was estimated at about half a million *yen per annum*. The *Jiji* recommends the expenditure of two or three million *yen*. The aid should be given, it says, in equitable proportions to all companies engaged in foreign navigation. Should such a scheme be established, it would not be necessary to render special assistance to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha on account of its Bombay line. Speaking of the last mentioned line, the *Jiji* observes that, for the coming two years, during which time the present contract with the Guild of the Japan Cotton Spinners will continue in force, the Yusen Kaisha will be able unassisted to maintain the service to India. But upon the expiration of that contract, it will probably become impossible for the Company to continue the contest with its great rival. Consequently it is of urgent necessity that some comprehensive system of giving subsidies to vessels employed on foreign lines should be submitted to the Diet. That such a measure would be readily consented to by the Diet, admits of no doubt, for in the fourth session the House of Representatives voted by a large majority a Representation to the Cabinet on the same subject, urging the importance of providing sufficient inducement for the development of the country's steamship navigation to foreign parts.

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In its issue of the next day, the *Jiji* calls the attention of the companies engaged in foreign navigation to the importance of employing first class vessels and experienced officers. For the coasting trade and on lines to Korean and Chinese ports, it is not so necessary to pay particular attention to these points. But in the case of other foreign service, where the customers are almost entirely foreign merchants, it is imperatively necessary for the success of the undertaking to win the confidence of the foreigners. The only way to secure that object is to provide vessels of the first class and employ experienced European navigators. There are Japanese captains of a high order of capacity, who compare not unfavourably with those of European nationalities. But the question of ability and experience is not the only one to be considered by the Japanese companies. Shippers in foreign ports, being ignorant of Japanese affairs and probably prejudiced against men of this race, are reluctant to entrust their goods to ships commanded by Japanese. However regrettable such a state of affairs may be, the fact must be accepted as such. Japanese shipowners are, therefore, advised to place their vessels plying to foreign ports under the command of experienced foreign Captains. The great success which the former Mitsu Bishi Steamship Company achieved under the late Mr. Iwasaki Yataro's management, is ascribed to the circumstance that he did not grudge money in order to obtain good vessels and capable foreign navigators. The construction of first-class vessels involves so much expenditure, that the present steamship companies in this country may think it beyond their power. But, seeing that ere long regular subsidies may be looked forward to from the Treasury, they are advised to take early measures for providing themselves with vessels of superior quality.

THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC SCHOOL.

ONE of the most flourishing educational institutions in the metropolis is the *Yubin Denshin Gakko*, or Postal and Telegraphic School. Established only some four years ago, it has won, under most able management, an enviable name for itself, the graduates being, it is said, certain of instant employment at a monthly salary of not less than thirty *yen*. Some of the very best teachers in Japan are on the list of instructors, at least two of them being conversant with four languages, while several others are well-known as the compilers of text-books now used the country over. The instruction is thus of a thorough and painstaking nature, so that the *alumni* are fully equipped for their future work. It speaks well for Japan that such a school has been established, earnest as it is of the future efficiency and thoroughness of her postal and telegraphic system.

A JAPANESE ELECTRICIAN.

MR. SAYA KANJU, of Akita Prefecture, is evidently a man of remarkable opinions. He has propounded some courageous views which are said to have obtained the endorsement of a Professor in the Imperial University. We gather from the *Kokkai* that Mr. Saya busies himself chiefly with terrestrial magnetism. Setting out with the hypothesis that the bodies composing the solar system are of similar structure, he lays down the proposition that disturbances of terrestrial magnetism are due to planetary influences; that is to say, to the influence of like currents in the sun and his dependent bodies. From these data Mr. Saya passes to the conclusion that artificially generated currents of electricity in the earth may be employed to change the temperature and even the relation of night to day, or at any rate to prevent earthquakes, which this scientist confidently attributes to magnetic influences. It is impossible to follow the chain of Mr. Saya's reasoning by means of the account given in vernacular newspapers, but we may observe that the general drift of his conceptions is not as novel as Japanese journalists seem to suppose. Experiments have been made in the West looking toward the utilization of atmospheric electricity for motive power and for chemical work, and earth-currents have been indicated as a similarly available agent. It is on record that telegraph-lines have been operated without the use of batteries. Thus, during the magnetic disturbances of 1892, the wires running between Providence and New York showed a difference of potential as high as 500 volts; lines between New York and Buffalo, a difference exceeding 600 volts, and on another occasion the difference on the same lines reached 768 volts. Mr. Shepardson, writing in the last number of the *Denison Quarterly*, treats of the possibility

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of applying electricity to agriculture, not merely to the work of the farm, but also to the soil, the seed and the growing plants. This is all in Mr. Saya's line, though he soars a great deal higher. It would, indeed, be pure impertinence to sneer at any potentialities that may be mapped out for scientific inquiry. Think, for example, what Nikola Tesla has been doing and compare it with anything previously supposed possible. "Nikola Tesla has been conducting further experiments, the most startling of which, as told by Mr. T. C. Martin in *The Century*, New York, February, is the transmission through his own person of currents at a potential of more than 200,000 volts, vibrating a million times a second. It has always been supposed that ordinary currents of one or two thousand volts potential would surely kill, but while the scientific world is prepared to accept Tesla's explanation that the high frequency, aided by his disruptive-discharge coil, affords perfect immunity, the disposition to test it *in corpore vile* is by no means general. After such a striking test, says the writer, Mr. Tesla's body and clothing have continued for some time to emit fine glimmers or halos of splintered light. In fact, an actual flame is produced by this agitation of electrostatically charged molecules, and the curious spectacle can be seen of puissant, white, ethereal flames, that do not consume anything, bursting from the ends of an induction coil as though it were the bush on holy ground. With such vibrations as can be maintained by a potential of 3,000,000 volts Mr. Tesla expects some day to envelop himself in a complete sheet of lambent fire that will leave him quite uninjured. Such currents as he now uses would, he says, keep a naked man warm at the North Pole, and their use in therapeutics is but one of the practical possibilities that has been taken up."

THE FINE ARTS EXHIBITION IN UYENO PARK.

A CONSIDERABLE increase in the number of specimens now on view in the galleries of the Fine Art Society's Spring Exhibition in Uyeno Park warrants us in recommending our readers to visit the place at any time from to-day. On the whole the display of objects is decidedly inferior to that of former years. But Kyoto is still unrepresented. We are not sure whether its artists intend to exhibit, but if they do, their contributions may reverse the comparison with previous shows. There is some very pretty work in gold, silver, *shibuichi*, *shakudo* and bronze, most of it being adapted to Japanese *komamono*, as belt-buckles, pocket-book clasps, hair-pins and so forth. Hirado sends a few fine examples of porcelain, especially in biscuit, and Kiyagawa Kozan (Makuzu) shows some of his remarkable monochromatic and polychromatic glazes. But in neither of these branches is any evidence discernible of distinct progress. Unquestionably the most beautiful object in the modern section of the Exhibition—according to our view—is a silver pheasant, the feathers inlaid with gold and *shakudo*. It is an admirable work, alike as to technique and modelling. Among specimens of old art, the most remarkable come from the Imperial Palace—a finely executed Gobelin and some examples of ancient *céladon*, one a curious piece, Persian in shape but apparently from the hands of a Korean potter. Mr. Iwasaki sends three good examples of faience and porcelain, and in the outermost room there is a tolerable collection of sword furniture, together with a few bronzes, lacquers and porcelains, and a very few pictures. We notice in this room a porcelain by Seifu of Kyoto shown in a case with Chinese pieces of the last century: evidently a misapprehension of the owner. On the whole there is not much in the way of eulogy to be written about the affair. The ivories scarcely rise to the level of mediocrity; the textile fabrics are conspicuous by their almost complete absence, and the enamels have apparently been forgotten.

THE TOKIWA HOTEL, KYOTO.

AFTER a period of temporary eclipse, the Tokiwa Hotel in Kyoto is now re-opened, which piece of intelligence will be welcome to every traveller appreciating "good fare for man and beast." The story of the Hotel's recent vicissitudes turns upon that old-fashioned pivot, financial difficulty. The late proprietor had gifts that fitted him specially for the task of hotel management, but his son does not appear to be similarly endowed, and the Hotel in the latter's hands failed to meet its engagements to the Mitsui Bank to which the property was mortgaged for 53,500 *yen*. The Bank, partly owing to want of tact in the Hotel proprietor's dealings with it, exercised its right of foreclosure and made arrangements for the sale of the buildings. The would-be purchaser was the proprietor of the Yaami Hotel who was anxious to obtain possession of the premises for two reasons; first, because he would then have a monopoly of the hotel business in Kyoto, and secondly, because he holds his own premises on uncertain tenure, being liable to receive notice to quit at any time from the Kyoto Municipality. But when the citizens of Kyoto learned what was in prospect they became uneasy, arguing that if the two Hotels fell under one management, and if that management were disfigured by abuses such as had been previously noticeable in the Yaami Hotel, tourists might be deterred from visiting Kyoto, to the serious loss of the city's manufacturers and tradesfolk in general. Under these circumstances application was made to Mr. Yokoyama of Tokyo, who appears to be a sort of *deus ex machinâ* in all commercial difficulties. He proceeded to Kyoto and succeeded in organizing a Joint Stock Company in which the principal citizens are shareholders. It has been decided to purchase the Hotel for 60,000 *yen*, of which 53,500 will be devoted to paying the debt to the Mitsui Bank, and the remainder will go to the present proprietor who, of course, loses a great deal, but not so much as he would have lost under the originally proposed arrangement. The Hotel has been placed under able management and now once more offers to the public the advantages for which it had earned a reputation before its recent embarrassments.

PASSPORTS.

IN our correspondence columns will be found a letter from Mr. S. Snodgrass complaining bitterly of inconvenience to which he has been subjected owing to some informality, apparent or real, about his passport. We sympathise with our correspondent. The passport is an abomination. Apart from the inconvenience of procuring it and the annoyance of not being able to move outside Treaty Limits without it, there is the intensely disagreeable feeling that any policeman one encounters may require one to stand and demonstrate one's right to be abroad. One is subjected, in short, to surveillance of a kind elsewhere limited to ticket-of-leave men. But what surprises us chiefly in the writing of Mr. Snodgrass is his singular notion that Japan is responsible for the existence of passports, and that she continues to insist on their use simply because she has not yet developed the "virtues that make noblemen." "No civilized nation," he says, "will treat with Japan till she cremates her passports. They are the incubus of this country—its besetting sin, absolutely useless except as they serve the purpose of keeping up national hatred between the Japanese and people of other nations." We trust Mr. Snodgrass will pardon us if we say that his comments indicate an astonishing want of perception of the situation in Japan. Passports, so far from being a reproach to Japan, are an honour to her. They represent a privilege that she has granted to foreigners of her own free will, over and above the privileges secured by Treaty. Were the letter of the Treaties strictly adhered to, foreigners would be unable to go beyond Treaty Limits, and Mr. Snodgrass would never have found himself in a position to bring unjust accusations against this country. The simple way to get-rid of passports is to revise the Treaties. Japan has long been willing to remove all the restrictions now imposed upon free travel and trade within her territories, but until some satisfactory arrangements are made with regard to jurisdiction, it is obviously impossible to throw the country open to the world. With whom does the ultimate responsibility for the continued existence of passports rest? We should like Mr. Snodgrass to answer that question. He writes emphatically about "the virtues that make noblemen" and charges Japan with lacking them because she does not throw open her territories to people who refuse to treat her as a civilized nation. What share of those virtues would Mr. Snodgrass accord to the men who insist on condemning Japan to international isolation because they find their own account in denying her title to exercise the rights of an independent State?

CASTAWAYS.

THE experiences of the three sealers from the British schooner *Ocean Belle*, who arrived here from Shiogama, Miyagi-ken, were very terrible. Their names are Anthony Scholander, a Swiss, aged 22; Herman Summ, a German, aged 22; and William Hannebery, a Britisher, aged 33. They were hunting for seals in an open boat on the 1st instant, when they lost sight of their vessel. They were then about 250 miles from Yokohama and 150 miles from land, with no provisions in the boat save a cask of water. They rowed until exhausted, and then drifted for five days, being at last blown up on the coast at Nanagahama, near Shio-gama. The police took care of them and then brought them down to Yokohama were they were handed over to the British Consul on Monday.

KIM OK-KYÜN'S REMAINS.

KIM'S friends in Japan took much trouble to recover his dead body. Messrs. Okamoto Ryunosuke and Saito Shiuichiro, who left Kobe for Shanghai on the 6th instant, were commissioned for this purpose by Count Soyejima, Mr. Oi Kentaro, Mr Toyama Mitsuru, and a few other persons. These last named friends of the murdered Korean assembled in the rooms of the *Kôjunsha* Club on the 8th instant, to consider what further measures were required to compass their object. As the result of deliberation, they elected Messrs. Oi Kentaro, Ishii Makoto, and Kobayashi Sentaro as a deputation to wait on the Minister President of State and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and to ask for the Government's assistance in the matter. Their desire was that instructions be sent to the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai to afford whatever assistance and facilities he could to the two Japanese despatched thither for the recovery of Kim's remains. Complaints were made by the press against Mr. Okoshi, the Japanese Consul-General, who was alleged not only to have refused assistance to Kim's Japanese servant, Wada Nobujiro, but to have connived at, if not actively facilitated, the mysterious removal of the corpse.

TOURISTS AND ANTI-FOREIGN AGITATORS.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* has a very suggestive note about the effects of anti-foreign agitation. The tourists visiting this country during the past three years numbered, it says, 6,424, 7,017 and 7,919, respectively. Assuming that each visitor spent a thousand *yen*—a somewhat liberal estimate we venture to think—the total sum left in the country last year must have been nearly eight millions. But this year the usual tide of tourists, so far from giving any indications of increase, has perceptibly diminished, a result which our contemporary attributes to the accounts circulated abroad of anti-foreign feeling in Japan. The *Jiji* asks the agitators to consider what their folly is costing the country.

H.M.S. "VICTORIA."

THERE seems to be a chance that the ironclad *Victoria* may yet rise from the bottom of the sea. "Two Russian engineers," we read in a home journal, "Nowitzki and Pokrschiewnikitz, are said to be in treaty with the English Admiralty for raising the armoured cruiser *Victoria* which was sunk off the coast of Asia Minor on June 22, 1893. The engineers tested their contrivance for the first time last August by raising a sunken barge in the Weichsel, near Warsaw.

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The boat lay at a depth of nine meters (30 feet), and the engineers sent down divers with two waterproof balloons, which were fastened to the sides of the boat, and then inflated with air. The success of the experiment prompted them to the more ambitious enterprise of raising the *Victoria*. Her displacement is 10,470 tons, and they propose to raise her by means of ten balloons, each with a cubic content of 1,700 cubic meters. The prime difficulty of the undertaking lies in the fact that the *Victoria* lies at a depth of 138 meters, which gives a calculated pressure of fourteen atmospheres. This difficulty it is proposed to overcome by means of a diving-chamber sufficiently strong to support the pressure, and so contrived that the divers will be able to attach the balloons to the wreck without leaving the chamber. There is nothing new in the proposal: the submarine engineer, Wilhelm Bauer, in 1863, by means of air-balloons, raised the steamship *Ludwig*, which had gone down in the Boden-See, in 1861."

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING.

FORMERLY the tendency of Japanese youths was to embrace legal, political, or medical careers above all others. The taste for such professions as those of civil and mechanical engineering was comparatively undeveloped. It is true that during the existence of that admirable institution, the *Kobu Daigakko* (Engineering College) at Tora-no-mon, there was always a large class of students in the branches taught there—civil and mechanical engineering, mining, electrical engineering, architecture, and ship-building. But when the *Kobu Daigakko* ceased to exist independently, and its functions were taken over by the Engineering College in the Imperial University, the attendance fell off, so that five years ago there were only 28 students. A more practical spirit, however, thenceforth began to prevail. Last year there were 81 students in the College, and this year it is expected that 130 graduates of the Upper Middle Schools will apply for admission. But the question of accommodation is beginning to be very serious. Originally designed for a small attendance, the capacity of the College proves quite inadequate under present circumstances. A sum of 70,000 *yen* was included in the last Budget for building purposes, but the Budget having failed to come into existence, things have of course remained in *statú quo*. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, from which we take these particulars, urges the Government to present a supplementary Budget in the approaching extraordinary session, and promises that even the party it represents (*Kaishin-to*) will support the appropriation.

THE IRON FOUNDRY COMMITTEE.

THE Committee appointed to investigate the feasibility of establishing an iron foundry in Japan, held its last meeting on the 30th ultimo. It had not completed its labours, but since the new Budget for 1884-5, containing an appropriation on account of the Committee, had not come into existence, there was no choice but to dissolve. Before breaking up, however, the Committee passed an almost unanimous vote to the effect that its work ought to be continued, and that an expert should be sent abroad in connection with the question. The most interesting incident of the final meeting was a declaration made by H.E. Viscount Enomoto, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, in his speech, that commissioners appointed to examine the mines at Akagama, Sennin, and Kamaishi had reported the existence of 7,400,000 tons of iron. Adding to this amount the sand-iron found abundantly in other localities, there would be material sufficient to last 100 years for a foundry using 100,000 tons of iron annually.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND THE MERCANTILE PARTIES.

SIGNS are already visible of the rivalry predicted between the Finance Reform League and the Agricultural Association. The former has been warmly welcomed by the mercantile classes and has the great advantage of a programme not only easily intelligible, but also based on sound economical principles. Its chief promoter, Mr. Taguchi, with a small band of his fellow-thinkers, lately set out for the Kei-Han and Sanin-do regions, really, we believe, for the purpose of investigating the operation of the house tax and business tax in those localties, but, according to the view of their opponents, with the object of delivering lectures and enlisting support for the league. The Agricultural Association has accordingly taken active measures to counteract the effects of this campaign.

THE AKASAKA FIRE.

NOTHING could be more praiseworthy than the conduct of the two companies of infantry called out to aid in extinguishing the recent great fire at Akasaka. Great individual freedom was granted and the soldiers rendered most efficient aid. A foreign eye-witness states that they were principally instrumental in effecting the saving of a large amount of property. Seizing whatever they could obtain in the way of heavy poles, they broke down inflammable houses, demolished fences, and carried sick persons to places of safety. One large dealer in foreign fancy goods had the whole of his stock rapidly and securely removed by the indefatigable men, his losses being very small. Even the big glass *shoji* were carefully lifted out and removed to a safe place at a distance from the fire. Another merchant, a wine-seller, had the satisfaction of seeing every tub of *saké* placed out of the way of harm. No attempt was made to taste even a drop of the liquor. At midnight the fire was under control and all immediate danger over. Several bugle-calls assembled the men in one of the neighbouring streets,—wet, muddy and many of them more than slightly singed, but all in good order and implicitly obedient to the signal. It is the habit of a certain class of people to look down on anything Japanese and to speak slightingly of the army in particular. But if these careless critics had seen the admirable discipline and unwearied labour of these sturdy soldiers that night, they would have learned a lesson not easily forgotten.

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All the neighbourhood of the burned district was filled with people guarding piles of furniture and merchandise saved from the fire. In most instances only one person was left in charge. Yet no attempt at forcible robbery was made. Decorum and quiet reigned, despite the mad bustle of the streets and the surging crowd of sight-seers.

TREATY REVISION.

AFTER the explosion of the false alarm raised by the vernacular press about Treaty Revision some time in February last, this subject was temporarily suffered to lie at rest. But our Tokyo contemporaries are again manifesting some uneasiness about it. The report that on Monday last the Privy Council held a conference in the presence of His Imperial Majesty, seems to have roused a suspicion that the matter under deliberation must have been a draft Treaty with Great Britain. At least the *Mainichi Shimbun* avows such a suspicion, and surmises that a new treaty with England has already received the consent of that country's Government. Though professing ignorance about the details of the treaty the *Mainichi* promises its readers that a surprise is in store for them. In our opinion, the surprise is in store for the *Mainichi* itself.

* * *

The *Nippon* writes at greater length. It states that, although the public seems to consider the Cabinet incapable of solving this problem, negotiations are secretly going on with the English Government. According to our contemporary's information, the present programme is only a little better than those of Count Okuma and Viscount Aoki. It writes as follows:—"As to the recovery of tariff autonomy, the question of land leases in the Settlements, the compilation of the Codes, and the immediate abolition of Consular Jurisdiction, we are unable to ascertain what attitude has been taken by the Japanese Government. But from the fact that much emphasis is laid by some persons on the impossibility of attaining our object except by degrees, it is not difficult to conceive the nature of the present Cabinet's programme for Revision." The *Nippon* goes on to declare that nothing short of an absolutely equal treaty can satisfy the nation. It is not, after all, confident of the truth of the rumour about the speedy conclusion of a new treaty with England, for it states in conclusion that, according to another report, the negotiations, which at first seemed likely to reach a speedy and favourable conclusion, have since been at a deadlock, owing to the troubled condition of internal politics in Great Britain.

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The *Jiji Shimpo*, too, seems to believe that there are hopes of a speedy conclusion of the negotiations for Revision. Instead of endeavouring, as most other papers do, to excite the prejudice of the people against the Cabinet, our contemporary raises its powerful voice in the interest of reason and moderation. As to the details of the new treaty, it is not in a position to make any statement. But judging from the present state of things, it thinks that a treaty, which can give satisfaction to all Japanese, is beyond the limits of possibility. Consequently it expects that, on the publication of the new treaty, whenever such an event takes place, the Opposition parties will vehemently attack the Cabinet merely to cause embarrassment to those in power. Such conduct, says the *Jiji*, would be highly injurious and unreasonable. Japan's position *vis-à-vis* the Treaty Powers is compared to that of a creditor towards bad debtors. The former has an undoubted right to demand the money due him by the latter. But the debtors, being unwilling to make payment, are trying to put off the necessity on various pretexts. In such a case, the most reasonable course which the capitalist can pursue is to accept some scheme of composition, such as the immediate payment of a part of the money with a surety for the payment of the rest in yearly installments. So in the case of Treaty Revision, it is impossible to recover everything at once and immediately. Unless some sort of compromise is accepted by Japan, it will be impossible for her to obtain her object for many years to come, and in the meanwhile she will have to submit to the iniquitous stipulations of the existing treaties. So no hope of concluding absolutely equal treaties must be entertained by the Japanese. To say that nothing but equal treaties should be accepted, is to confess an utter ignorance of practical affairs. The *Jiji*, consequently, advises its countrymen to be moderate and reasonable in discussing the question of Treaty Revision.

OBJECTS OF JAPANESE ART SENT TO THE CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR.

ONLY some ten per cent. of the 510,000 *yen* worth of goods sent by Japanese Art artizans to Chicago having been sold, the question has arisen, how to deal with the remainder. It is a question perpetually recurring after each foreign or domestic exhibition, but its repetition does not make it at all easier to solve. On this occasion a project has been started to establish a joint stock company which shall take over the goods and place them in some convenient locality in Tokyo for purposes of show and sale. The estimate is that five hundred visitors per diem at 3 *sen* a head can be counted on. That would mean an income of 5,400 *yen* yearly, which would be amply sufficient to pay expenses and leave a small profit. Of course the money earned in that way would not represent any appreciable per-centage on the capital invested, nor do we perceive that any provision is to be made on that account. What the projectors presumably hope is that they will be able eventually to dispose of the articles. But they must be very sanguine. Things that could not find a market among such a crowd of visitors as were present at the Chicago Exhibition are not likely to be more successful in Tokyo. Besides, it is distinctly to the disadvantage of an object of art that it has been exhibited unsuccessfully for sale abroad. The fact shuts out all speculative purchases in

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Japan, and exercises a deterrent effect even upon *dilettanti*. The Japanese must be remarkably philanthropic if they put up half a million of dollars to help the manufacturers out of the difficulty.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE.

By Imperial Ordinance No. 40, dated April 9th, 1894, it has been proclaimed that, in the case of Government offices abroad, contracts for work or for the sale, purchase, lending, or borrowing of articles may be entered into at discretion without resorting to open competition. "The Government offices abroad," though the term is not defined, of course refers to the Legations, Consulates, Post Offices (as in Chinese and Korean ports), and so forth. Hitherto transactions of these descriptions at offices abroad have had to be conducted in conformity with Art. XXIV. of the Law of Finance, wherein it is required that they "be put to competition by giving public notice." Exceptions to this rule may be made either by law or Imperial Ordinance. In the cases of Legations, Consulates, and other offices abroad, where neither works nor transactions of any magnitude are usually carried on, the application of the above mentioned regulation has been found to be productive of only waste of time and trouble, and consequently it has been deemed advisable to make an exception for such offices.

THE SHIPPING LAWS OF JAPAN.

The tendency at present in Japan is to build ships partly on foreign and partly on Japanese models. The Japanese are perfectly sensible of the superior advantages possessed by ships built on purely foreign lines, but they prefer the half-and-half vessel because it is not subjected to laws so strict as those that apply to vessels on foreign models. Ships plying between Tokyo and the Bonin Islands are frequently unable to procure licenses for extending their voyage to the South Sea Islands, although in point of fact the difficulties of navigation between the Bonins and the South Sea Islands are much less than those between the Bonins and Tokyo. Under these circumstances—we take these facts from the *Keizai Zasshi*—Japanese ship-owners resort to various artifices to elude the law, the most frequent being to register the ships in the names of foreigners, so that the statistics of Japanese shipping become more and more delusive. Then again, the legal distinctions betweeu inland waters and open seas are practically illogical. For example, the seas along the coasts of Korea and Siberia, tempestuous and dangerous waters, are included in the inland division, while those about Tientsin, Cheefoo, Shanghai and other places where navigation is easy, are classed as high seas and cannot be visited by ships below a certain size. Further, a vessel going abroad is required to have a captain with a certificate of the first class, and this of course applies to small vessels, usually less than 100 tons, employed on the South-Sea line. For such a vessel a highly salaried master cannot be engaged, and the consequence is that they are placed under the command of captains who, although holding the necessary certificate, are to be had cheap because their inferiority is recognized. These defects in the operation of the shipping laws of Japan are pointed out by the *Keizai Zasshi* which urges the need of reform.

THE KOREAN REFUGEE.

It appears from a telegram sent from Shanghai on the afternoon of the 11th by the two Japanese who went there to arrange for the transfer of Kim Ok-kyūn's body to Japan that the Korean officials to whom the corpse was delivered arrived from Tientsin on the 7th instant and were able immediately to complete arrangements for the shipping of the body as well as of the assassin in a Chinese man-of-war which proceeded at once to Chemulpho.

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The *Asahi Shimbun* publishes a *résumé* of opinions said to have been expressed by Count Okuma about the action of the Japanese officials with regard to Kim and his assassin. We need not reproduce the paragraph because it seems exceedingly apocryphal. Count Okuma is made to say, in a somewhat guarded manner, it is true, but none the less distinctly, that Japan was under some sort of obligation to look after Kim Ok-kyūn's remains and to continue towards him even after death the protection she had extended to him during the last nine years of his life. Count Okuma's interpreter gives an air of *vraisemblance* to the story by making the *Kaishin-to* leader carefully avoid any explicit statement of what the Japanese officials ought to have done. But we cannot for a moment believe that Count Okuma has been really lending the weight of his great authority to such groundless accusations. From the moment that Kim left the shores of Japan, this country ceased absolutely to have any responsibility for him. He became then a Korean subject, and a Korean subject only. It is the very acme of sentimentalism to pretend that because he found asylum in Japan according to the law of nations this empire incurred a permanent obligation to take care of him. A great many silly and hysterical charges have been preferred against the Government by the Opposition during the past three years, but it must be a very sorry dog indeed that one thinks of beating with such a poor stick as this Korean bramble.

THE BACK-DOOR AND THE "SOSHI."

It is really a pity that foreigners residing in Japan do not exercise little more care to avoid unintentional but none the less galling discourtesy to the people of the country. Fancy a Frenchman taking up his residence in an English town and posting over his door a notice "Englishmen must enter by the back-gate.' The notice would not survive many minutes, we imagine, and if the inconsiderate "foreigner" escaped some rough treatment, he might count himself fortunate. But it seems that in Yokohama a resident erected in his compound a board with the legend "Japanese must enter by the back-gate," whereupon he was visited by a policeman who suggested the advisability of taking down a notice so well calculated to cause offence to any Japanese youths that might peruse it. Doubtless the poster of the notice had no idea whatever of giving offence. His purpose was simply to preserve his front door from being entered by tradesmen or servants, who are the only classes of Japanese that visit his place. But the comprehensive phraseology of the notice, forbidding, as it did, ingress by the front gate to any one of Japanese nationality, was plainly insulting to the people of the country, and the fact that any one could be so thoughtless as to post up such an intimation is not less surprising than the fact that its invidious character should fail to be appreciated the moment attention is called to it.

EXPLOSION OF FIRE-DAMP IN THE TAKU MINE.

On the 29th of last month a heavy explosion of gas occurred in the Taku coal-mine, in Ogi *gun*, Soga Prefecture. Eleven miners were killed outright. A new seam was being worked when one of the miners drove his pick into a cavity filled with the explosive material, close to a former deserted gallery. The explosion was so great that the ground in the vicinity of the mine was shaken as if by a heavy earthquake. All work has been stopped for the present as this influx of fire-damp still continues and it is even possible that a large portion of the mine will have to be abandoned. Subscription lists were at once opened for the families of the unfortunate miners and the response was ready and generous.

GUARDS FOR THE FOREIGN LEGATIONS.

A baseless story was circulated at New Year's time to the effect that guards had been attached to the Foreign Representatives in Tokyo, and certain local journalists built upon this imaginary foundation a sensational superstructure as to anti-foreign feeling in Japan. It was shown that the tale had no grain of truth beyond the fact that two of the *Bettei* who constituted the French Legation Escort twenty-five years ago, have been retained as pensioners, and still ride after the Minister's carriage on special occasions. One imagines that the experience acquired by rash writers on that occasion should have taught them the advisability of caution. But we now find precisely the same *canard* revived, with precisely the same absence of truth and precisely the same superstructure of sensational inference. The Japanese Government has not furnished a guard for each of the Foreign Legations; there has not been the least shadow of a suggestion that anything of the kind is needed, nor is there any foundation for this falsehood beyond the fact that the Secretary of the Korean Legation has provided for himself the protection of a policeman for reasons that need not be detailed here.

A FEMALE ARTIST.

An interesting account is given by the *Shin Choya* of a lady who, according to that journal, now has a monopoly of the business of painting religious pictures for Roman Catholic chapels and Greek churches in Japan. Miss Yamashita Riu, the daughter of a *shizoku* of Hitachi, seems to have had a passion for painting from her childhood. Unable to obtain her widowed mother's consent to embrace an artist's career, she absconded from home at the age of 17, and took service in the house of a painter, where, after her daily work was done, she devoted herself to her favourite pursuit. Her master affected the style of picture called *bunjin-gwa*, in which nature is conventionalized almost to grotesqueness; but Miss Yamashita had the prescience to understand that decorative painting was more in accord with the tendency of the time. By the aid of her late father's feudal chief she entered the Fine Arts School attached to the Engineering College, but after a brief course there she obtained an introduction to Bishop Nicolai who, with his usual large-hearted benevolence, sent her to St. Petersburg to study. That was at the end of 1880, and after two years of unremitting work, she graduated as a painter of religious pictures, and returned to Japan in the suite of Count Yanagiwara, Japanese Representative in Russia. She now resides at Surugadai in Tokyo, and is said to be most successful as a painter in her special line.

CONTESTED PROPERTY.

A very curious and somewhat unusual case is shortly to be tried in the Yokohama District Court. It appears that Ogawa Riemon, a well-to-do paper-merchant living in Yoshida-machi, recently died, leaving his whole property to be equally divided between his wife and concubine. He had formerly been a poor farmer in Shiga Prefecture, but came to Yokohama in 1873 and by diligence amassed a competence. On coming to this port, he had left his legal wife in his native province, and lived since then with a woman of Kanagawa. At his death, his estate was found to be worth something like twenty thousand *yen*. He had died intestate and hence his relatives came up to Yokohama in order to decide upon the manner in which the property should be divided. They finally settled that one half should go to the legal wife and the other to the concubine. With this decision the wife declares herself dissatisfied and insists upon receiving the whole estate. Her claim has been filed and the result of her petition will shortly be known. Of course, in Western lands there would not be an instant's doubt as to the decision of the Court, nor is Japanese law deficient in provisions for the maintenance of a wife's legal rights. Still it is said to be the first case of the kind on record, and it is at all events unusual for a woman of the class to which the deceased belonged to run counter to the advice and decision of her relatives.

MORE PURCHASES OF STEAMERS.

We learn from a Hongkong contemporary, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, that the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Gwalior* is bound for Kobe, where it is stated she will be purchased by the Japanese

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steamer *Teheran*. The *Gwalior* is an iron screw steamer of 1,602 tons register, 500 horse-power nominal, and was built by Denny Bros. of Dumbarton in 1873. We also hear that negotiations are in progress with a view of disposing of the Blue-funnel steamer *Diomed*, now in port here at Kobe, certain offers having been made by Japanese with a view to acquiring the vessel for employment in the coasting trade.

CHINESE FUNERALS.

A WRITER in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, gives an account of a Chinese funeral which he says is very much the same in all parts of the Empire: "In China, when a person dies, his neighbours come in and help the women of the family to make the shroud. The body is put in its coffin. Then the funeral ceremonies begin, if there is money enough. If there is not, the coffin is put back in its place of honour until the family finances look up. The day of the death, or the day after, the relatives, not living in the house, and the friends come to pay the last duties of respect to the deceased. When the visitors arrive, they are shown into a room in which are all the women and children of the establishment. These latter set up a dismal howl, in which the visitors join, or to which they listen sympathetically. When the tympanum of even a Chinese ear begins to ache, the guests are ushered into another apartment where the men of the house give them tea and refreshment. The refreshment varies according to the means of the family. In the house of the rich it is a dinner. The Chinese hold that the seat of the human understanding is the stomach. A well-conducted Chinese feneral is the most gorgeous sight in Asia. It may seem a little tinselly, but that is a mere matter of taste. At the front of the funeral procession walk the noisy musicless musicians. Then come men (they may be friends, they may be coolies) bearing the insignia of the dignity of the dead, if he had any. Next walk more men carrying figures of animals, idols, umbrellas, and blue and white streamers. After them, come men carrying pans of perfume. Just before the coffin walk bonzes, Chinese priests. Over the coffin, a canopy is usually carried. The casket is borne by about a score of men. Immediately behind the coffin, walk the children of the deceased. The eldest son comes first. He is dressed iu canvas, and leans heavily upon a stout stick. He is supposed to be too exhausted by grief and fasting to walk without the aid of this staff. The other children and relatives follow this chief mourner. They are clothed in white linen garments. White in the mourning colour of the Danes, of the Burmese, and of the Chinese. The women are carried in chairs in the Chinese funeral procession. They sob and wail at intervals and in unison. When the burying-place is reached, the priest begins chanting a mass for the dead, and the coffin is put into the tomb. When the coffin is laid in its final position, a large oblong white marble table is placed before the tomb. On the middle of it is set a censer and two vases and two candlesticks, all of as exquisite workmanship as possible. Then they have a paper cremation! Paper figures of men, horses, garments, and score of other things are burned. They are supposed to undergo a material resurrection, and to be useful to the dead in the Chinese heaven. The tomb is sealed up or closed, and an entertainment concludes the ceremony at the grave."

ANACHRONISM IN ART.

IN the Paris Salon of 1891 there was exhibited a picture of the woman taken in adultery. She lay prostrate in a modern ball-dress at the feet of Christ, who stood among Pharisees represented by Parisian notabilities taking their coffee. People were terribly shocked at this anachronism, and the critics condemned it in unmeasured terms. Yet, in truth, there was nothing to wonder at. Anachronism has too often been a failing in art. At the beginning of the present century in England, when sculptors of such fame as Flaxman, Banks, and Chantrey flourished, history records that in the works of these masters the conventionalisms and machinery of bygone ages were carefully preserved. British soldiers and sailors, and even senators, philanthropists and philosophers were clad in scanty folds of classical drapery, in some instances almost without drapery at all, and, although the monuments were to be erected in the midst of a Christian cathedral, and in full view of a congregation engaged in Christian worship, the central figures were surrounded with heathen gods goddesses and attributes; or if, as was some times the case, the hero wore his full regimental uniform, he had yet his due attendance of undraped heathen deities. Examples of these extraordinary anachronisms survive in our greatest cathedrals. As for pictures, Robert de la Sizeraune says this of folks visiting the Louvre:—"They enter the Salon Carré, where are masterpieces of all schools, and approach those which depict scenes from the Gospels. They find there "The Holy Madonna," of Memling; The "Vierge au Donateur," of Van Eyck; "The Pilgrims of Emmaus," of Rembrandt; The Wedding at Cana," of Veronese. The first glance, however, at these paintings reveals the anachronism which the critics alluded to decry. The Madonna of Memling is dressed like the Flemish women of the Fifteenth Century; the Pilgrims of Emmaus are unmistakably Hollanders; the Virgin of Van Eyck undeniably lived in a town of the Middle Ages; and, finally, Christ is supping at Cana with men dressed exactly like Charles the Fifth and the Marquis of Pescara. How is it that the anachronism which charms us so much at the Louvre, displeases us so greatly in the Champde-Mars? Here is a question of art, and one not without importance."

WHAT EUROPE SUFFERS.

THE most striking analysis we have seen of Europe's military waste is made by a writer in the *New York Journal of Commerce*. He gives the following figures showing the national debts of the five countries upon which the military burden of the situation falls:—

National Debts.		
	1878.	1891.
Austria-Hungary	$1,710,000,000	$2,850,000,000
	1879.	1892.
German Empire	44,000,000	436,000,000
	1878.	1892.
Italy	1,950,000,000	2,395,000,000
The Dreibund States	$3,704,000,000	$5,681,000,000
Increase	1,977,000,000, or 53 5 per ct.	
	1879.	1893.
France	$3,750,000,000	6,105,000 009
	1878.	
Russia	1,750,000,000	4,386,000,000
France and Russia	$5,550,000,000	$10,491,000,000

So that, within the past fourteen years, the three Powers constituting the Dreibund have increased their debts in the aggregate, $1,977,000,000, or at the rate of 53.5 per cent., while France and Russia combined have increased theirs by $4,941,000,000, or at the rate of 90 per cent. Nor is this the full measure of the increase of their military burdens, for, in addition to their enormous borrowings, the Dreibund States have increased their taxations 43 per cent. and France and Russia at the average of 22 per cent. These nations have already mortgaged their resources for military purposes to the full extent of the great increase in wealth that would otherwise have accrued to them from the marvellous development of industrial forces within the same period so that, to them, the last half-generation has been virtually lost for all the great ends of human progress. In some of them, an actual retrogression has taken place. Since 1890, the revenue of Italy has fallen off $50,000,000, and she is carrying a floating debt of $125,000,000 against which she is unable to borrow a dollar, while her trade and finance are in a state of almost hopeless wreck, and there seems to be literally no remaining expedient for getting more revenue. What is to be the outcome of this most disastrous state of affairs? It would seem inevitable that there must be war, disarmament, or bankruptcy.

SPEEDILY CAPTURED.

TOWARD the end of last month, a couple of daring burglars forced their way, shortly after midnight, into the house of a wealthy farmer named Ohara Kanekichi, living in Okumura, one of the suburbs of the capital. One of the burglars carried a long sword, the other a knife. Threatening instant death if not obeyed, they tied Ohara's aged mother hand and foot, then the farmer's son-in-law, and finally forced the servant at the sword's point to show them the master's room. But before they got there, the farmer had been awakened by the unusual commotion, and as they entered the room he managed to slip out. Misdoubting his intention, the burglars at once started in pursuit, and as he sprang over the fence he received a very nasty cut from one of them. This did not prevent him from going to the nearest police-station and demanding aid. In the meantime, expecting the immediate arrival of the constabulary, the burglars had made good their escape, not only without taking anything but even forgetting the scabbard of their sword. This was a sufficient clue for the police, and on the following day the culprits were in custody. The sword was not of the old Japanese fashion, but such as is worn by soldiers of gensdarmes, and this at first gave rise to the idea that the malefactors might have been time expired soldiers. The police, however, inclined to the opinion that they belonged to the gambling fraternity. The first step was therefore to look for a gambler who owned such a weapon, and it was soon discovered that a certain Suzuki Jinzaemon, a sort of gamblers' chief, residing in the same village, possessed a similar article. He at once recognised the scabbard as belonging to a sword until recently in his possession and alleged that the blade had been lost on an occasion of the recent elections. That was sufficient. All those who took part in the last election were speedily arraigned in court, and in less than five hours after the original ownership of the sword had been ascertained, the two burglars of the preceding night were securely jailed. The vernacular press speaks in high terms of the sagacity and promptness displayed by the police on this occasion. The praise is deserved.

SUPERFLUOUS MUNIFICENCE.

EARLY in the morning of the 3rd instant, a *jinrikisha*-man living in the Second Ward of Kojimachi District, went to a well near his humble home to draw the day's water. Close beside the well he saw a small parcel wrapped in a piece of coloured silk. This he picked up and on opening it found inside a deposit certificate of the Mitsui Bank of the value of one hundred thousand *yen*, the depositor being a well-known nobleman living in the First Ward of the same district. With rare honesty, the man instantly went to the nobleman's house and told of his discovery. Here he found the greatest confusion, the inmates having been up all night in a fruitless search for the missing certificate. How it got to the well in question no one seemed able to explain, but there was great joy at the discovery, and, the nobleman being absent from home, his wife came to thank the man in person. As a befitting reward for his honesty, she offered him the munificent sum of—fifty *sen*. At first he indignantly refused to receive anything and considerable persuasion was necessay to make him take the noble reward. He had only done his duty, he declared, and thought nothing of having done so. So honest a man is rare, says the *Asahi Shimbun*, in these evil days, and such generous recognition of honesty is equally unparalleled!

RAILWAY FARES.

THE agitation in favour of reduced railway fares is continued in the columns of the *Keisai Zasshi*. The Railway Regulations fix the maximum fare at 1½ *sen* per mile for third-class passengers, and the rate actually charged on Government lines is 1 *sen*, while on private railways the rate varies from 1 to 1.4 *sen*. A correspondent of the *Keisai Zasshi* declares himself much perplexed to conjecture by what process the Government arrived at the above rate. He believes that foreign standards were taken without due regard to the immense difference in the value of money in Japan. Railways in Japan are built and worked at incomparably smaller cost than railways in the West, and the fares charged on them ought to be correspondingly low. Experiments in reducing fares have been tried by several companies in Japan, as for example the Sanyo, the Kansei, the Kyushu, and so forth, and in every case the results have been most satisfactory. A test applied on the Sanyo

Railway last year is particularly convincing, because the time chosen—July to September—is the most unfavourable season of the year for travelling, and because the experiment was continued for two months, a time amply sufficient to warrant definite inferences. Last year, too, long-continued drought had impoverished the districts through which the line passes. Nevertheless the reduction of the fares by 50 per cent. produced a 300-per-cent. increase of traffic. This correspondent thinks that if fares were suitably reduced, the doubling of all the lines in the country would soon follow. He then discusses actual figures. The Government has built 550 miles of railway with a capital of 35,000,000 *yen* raised at 5 per cent. interest. These lines yield a gross income of 5,000,000 *yen* annually, and as 2,000,000 are required for working expenses, the Government derives a profit of over 8 per cent. Even after paying the interest on the capital, there remains a surplus of 1½ million *yen*. The writer further contends that great room exists for improved management on Government lines: he alleges that their cost of working is fully double of that of private railways.

A GLOSSARY OF SLANG.

Ne sutor ultra crepidam is a good old saying that one could wish better appreciated by well-meaning Japanese who rashly stray into print on the basis of a profound belief in their own knowledge of English. A little book, published, we were surprised to learn, no less than seven years ago, has recently fallen into our hands. It is entitled "A Glossay of Slang," the compiler being one Muramatsu Moriyoshi. Binding and type are attractive, but the impression left on one's mind after glancing over a few pages, is that the compiler was out of his depth from the beginning to the end of the one hundred and sixty-six pages. We learn in the preface that "slang is a language of humour, of fast and high, and low life;" that it is a "recognized vehicle by which redomontade (*sic*) is avoided;" that "gentlemen who aspires (*sic*) to be men of fashion and to literary distinction, are not ashamed to avail themselves of its use;" that "in ancient days, the term 'Flush' embraced both Cant and Slang;" that "Slung (*sic*) is pungent and joculous." A good deal of this is news, especially the fact, upon which considerable stress is laid, that Dr. Johnson and Webster were both fond of slang. Turning to the body of the book, we find that an English explanation is given of each word. These definitions are taken, the author avers, particularly from such works as *The Lexicon of Vulgar Terms*, *The Fashionable Slangs*, and *Hell upon Earth*. We venture to conclude that Mr. Muramatsu has quoted too freely from the last named authority, for some of the definitions given show that the very deuce has played with his pen. Page 19 has "*conk*, a noise," and so translated into Japanese; "*cop*, beware, take care;" p. 24, "*derrick*, an apparatus for raising sunken ships;" p. 27, "*dog-latin*, Latin used by lawyers;" p. 29, "to *drop* an acquintance (*sic*), to knock down a man;" p. 31, "*Dutch courage*, false courage," and "*Dutch uncle*, anything but a desirable relation;" p. 34, *Fer*, the opposite; *just a few*, just the reverse;" p. 35, "*fig-leaf*, a small apron worn by ladies (!);" p. 36, "*flag of distress*, the end of a person's shiirt when it protrudes through its trousers;" p. 42, "*gimcrack*, a bijou (*sic*); a shrin (*sic*) piece of mechanism;" p. 51, *hempen cravat*, the hangman's nose (*sic*)," rendered into Japanese by *kubi wo kukuru hito no hana*. We need not quote any further. Small wonder that a second edition has not been called for in seven years.

JAPAN TEN YEARS HENCE.

In default, probably, of better matter, some of the metropolitan journalists have of late been moralizing on the present condition of Japan and predicting the state of the country ten years hence. While opinions vary a good deal, on the whole a gloomy prospect is foreseen. One writer says that in a decade from now the commercial and agricultural condition of the Empire will be vastly improved, but the lot of the people "even more unenviable" than it is at present—though he unfortunately neglects to say wherein the unenviability consists. It is hardly necessary to add that the journal airing this opinion is a *Kaishin-to* organ. Another paragraphist, having indubitable ear-marks of the penny-a-liner genus, launches out into an invective against certain features of Japanese commerce. He is bitter on the subject of the export of coals. The stock of coal, he claims, great though it be, must have some definite limit; if the exportation be kept up, the time must sooner or later arrive when Japan will find herself without even sufficient coal for her own needs. That is very true; but when it is remembered that Japan has some of the richest and most extensive coal-fields in the world, and specialists have computed that even with a vastly increased output, the stock will not be appreciably diminished for several centuries, one can only declare the writer's apprehensions groundless. A third opinion is that Japan will not be able to keep up her prestige in Eastern Asia, owing to internal troubles, and that ten years more will find her far behind in the race. Judging from the history of the past thirty years, not to speak of the marvellous annual progress of the present—the extension of the railway system, the better appreciation of commercial needs, the impetus given to manufactures of all kinds, the esteem in which Japanese fabrics are held the world over—this prognostication is quite out of place. *Experientia docebit*. The effect of the last elections is visible in all these Opposition opinions.

STEALING FOR LOVE.

"Mikawa Shintaro," says a metropolitan *Ko Shimbun*, "was born in the town of Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture. He studied medicine at the Saisei Gakusha and received a license to practise from the Home Department. For some time connected with a hospital in his native place, he was doing well and had a good record, when he happened to become enamoured of the daughter of a well-to-do farmer in the neighbourhood, named Matsuda. Miss Yukie reciprocated her admirer's sentiments and the young couple asked for the parental consent to their nuptials. This was not forthcoming, so, in February of last year, Yukie and Shintaro left their homes on some pretext or other and came up to the capital. Arrived here they very wisely resolved to defer their marriage until their position was an assured one, Yukie entering a well known hospital to train for a nurse while Shintaro went to Shinano on the promise of a steady and lucrative engagement. He could not, however, remain long separated from his betrothed and came back to Tokyo after the lapse of a few months. Fearing that he should incur Yukie's displeasure if he told her the whole truth, he gave her to understand that he had accepted a subordinate position in the Imperial University. For a little while all went well; then Shintaro's funds got low, and he foolishly resorted to theft in order to supply their mutual needs. Being a novice at the trade, he speedily attracted the attention of the police and was finally arrested on the 1st instant." Thus is the story of Gompachi and Ko-murasaki modernized.

USEFUL FOR ONCE.

In olden times the *Otoko-date*, as Mitford tells us in his "Tales of Old Japan," were really most helpful and philanthropic organisations. It was their self-imposed duty to redress, as far as possible, the wrongs of others, to succour the needy and aid the oppressed. Chobei, of the Bandzui-in, is by no means an ignoble figure, though among his followers there were many questionable characters. Such men were all very well in the days when the castle system reigned supreme and the distinction between high and low, rich and poor, was far more sharply marked than at present; when the laws were not properly codified and no efficient police system existed. It is the outspoken ambition of the *Soshi* of to-day to pass as the *Otoko-date* of old, quite forgetting that the times have changed and that there is now no longer any need, for such bodies. Instead of redressing they generally inflict wrongs; instead of rendering aid, they act as a drawback; instead of increasing the fame of their country, they make both it and themselves ridiculous in the eyes of society at large. On the morning after the great Akasaka fire, however, *Soshi* were for once useful and helpful, and that is so rare an instance that it deserves recording. The troupe of *Soshi* who work with and under the inspiration of the *Soshi*-actor Fukui, loaded up no less than four hundred small barrels (*taru*) with rolls of boiled rice and pickled vegetables (*koko*). Placing these barrels on hand-carts, they took them to the scene of the fire and distributed the food *gratis* among the crowds of hungry, dispirited, and houseless people. There was a good deal of theatrical display in the manner in which this was done, and they could not have better advertised themselves. But setting aside all inquiry into the prime motives, it was a timely and welcome act of kindness and has found great favour with the public. *O dass es doch ewig so bliebe!*

SONG-BIRDS IN THE MARKET.

Several of the vernacular dailies give the most recent quotations in the song-bird market, from which one can readily learn that in spite of tradal depression there are those who are willing to pay long prices for certain varieties of the "feathered songsters of the grove." The best-voiced nightingales—a misnomer, for the Japanese *uguisu* (*Cettia cantans*) is quite different from the object of Keats' rhapsody——fetch as much as one hundred *yen*, those of second-grade commanding twenty-five *yen* and upward. The White-eye (*Zosterops simplex*) is another great favourite. The bird has properly no song, its best effort in this direction being a musical and rapidly repeated chirp. Those who can keep up this tuneless chirping for the longest number of minutes, are rated highest,—as much as fifteen *yen* being given for a first-class performer. Those of a lower grade bring from one to three *yen*. When it is known that an ordinary specimen, with cage and food sufficient for one month, can be bought for twenty-five *sen*, it will be seen that these are very high figures. The best larks (*Alauda pratensis*) fetch about three *yen*; imported Chinese larks (*A. cœlivox*) are worth four or five *yen*. Korean robins find a sale at 70 *sen* to 4 *yen*; Chinese "nightingales" (*Turdus sinensis*), 2 to 2½ *yen*. The fashion in canaries this year runs in the direction of those with crests or top-knots; those marked about the head in faint likeness of a Japanese helmet; birds with black and yellow striped wings, in imitation of a *mino*, or straw rain-coat; finally birds marked with something like a saddle across the back and upper part of the wings. As much as ten *yen* a pair can be had for any of these. It is noteworthy that the song of the canary is not so much appreciated; the favourites are those who appeal to the visible rather than audible sense of beauty.

FREE TRADE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Chauncey M. Depew says that the prospects of Free Trade in the United States are hopeless. He admits that Mr. Cleveland was carried to the Presidency in 1892 on a wave of Free Trade principles, and that no Administration ever received a more direct mandate from a constituency than his did, nor did any Administration ever know more clearly what was expected of it or what it intended to accomplish. Nevertheless, these fine purposes have all fizzled out. The Democratic Party "took its stand on the position that a Tariff for Protection is robbery, but it now finds itself incapable of carrying out its pledges, and in a position where it is equally hazardous to advance or retreat." "Nothing short of a miracle would suffice to pass a measure materially altering the present Law, and nothing short of a miracle can prevent the return of the Protectionists to Power." As to the manner in which this state of affairs has come about, Mr. Depew says:—"When the Democrats came into power, the business of the country at once began to adjust itself to the proposed change. It was in an unusually con-

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servative and healthy condition. Credits had contracted within narrow limits. There were no great institutions or enterprises in danger to precipitate trouble by their fall. But a panic is as unreasoning in the commercial world as on the field of battle. When the cry rings out, "Save himself who can," all is lost. The fear of losses if the Tariff were removed from articles which were enjoying protection paralyzed the wheels of industry. The market and the mill alike stood still. The banks became alarmed, and refused to grant the ordinary accommodations to their purchasers, and depositors in affright withdrew their deposits and locked them, up in their own vaults. Mr. Depew here digresses to show that the immediate cause of last year's panic, the weakest link, responsible for the break-down, was the loss of confidence in silver, the wide-spread fear that the silver dollar no longer represented its nominal value, and that creditor and labourer were alike receiving payment in a coin worth only sixty-eight cents on the dollar. But the repeal of the Purchase Clause of the Sherman Bill was not followed by any general resumption of business activity, and this Mr. Depew attributes to a thorough change of heart on the part of the very men who had carried Mr. Cleveland to victory on a Free Trade policy. The November elections are cited as conclusive evidence in support of this view. "The educational campaign for Free Trade, which after thirty years of ceaseless labour, had finally triumphed, was in less than twelve months turned into a disastrous rout." The reaction is said to have compelled a change of front on the part of Mr. Cleveland, who, in his recent Message, hastened to assure the nation that his Tariff programme would be carried out with due regard to existing interests. The Government said in effect, 'We are opposed on principle to the worship of Diana, but out of regard for the business and employment of our people and the prosperity of our city, we will do nothing which can injure the trade of the silversmiths of Ephesus.'"

PROSTITUTED TALENT.

It is remarkable that the smaller dailies, in serving up the highly-seasoned storiettes, *chronique scandaleuse*, and social gossip of the capital, should take the pains they do to make this department of their publications as attractive as possible. It almost seems that they would intentionally lead their readers from the path of virtue, or else so familiarize them with vicious habits and customs that they lose their abhorrent characteristics and become mere exhibitions of exuberant spirits, venial faults that only precisians would condemn. Why else should the daily chronicles of the prostitute quarters be published, with an almost demoniac delight in recounting the number of visitors, the amount of money taken in, and the scenes and sounds of these blots on the fair fame of Japan's great capital? It is not that they only pander to the vicious tastes of a certain class of their readers; it would rather appear that they urge on to immoral courses and try to make vice as fair-featured as she was when Hercules made his noble choice. And to pen these stories, to add the zest of wittly-turned phrases and *jeux d'esprit* to immoral anecdotes and *double-entendres*, the best writers of the day are employed. The pay is good for such dirty work; still it is a surprise to find such a clever, well-reputed writer as Aiba Kwoson on the list of the scandal-mongers of the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*, and to learn that the most skilful novelists of the Empire do not hesitate to employ their idle hours in prostituting their talents and rendering a disservice to the public by recounting that which should be kept secret or else published in its true colour as a warning to the rising generation. It is here that the most vigorous and implacable press censorship is most urgently needed.

A LAST PRAYER.

When Mark Twain was on the reportorial staff of a newspaper in one of the mushroom Nevada cities, he introduced a entirely new feature into Western journalism. He would take some simple fact and by the use of an exurberant fancy and fluent pen, turn the every-day occurrence into an item of importance and striking interest. Thus he himself relates how he made the arrival of a waggon loaded with hay cause "such a sweat" about hay that the market went up several figures. All he did was to multiply the one waggon by forty, and then cause these forty loads to arrive (in print) simultaneously in various parts of the town. Japanese paragraphists often work on the same lines. When hard-up for material they produce some really marvelous stories out of the flimsiest foundations. The other day, for instance, an ox that was being led to the slaughter-house happened to go astray somewhere in Asakusa District, Tokyo. He was finally captured inside Asakusa Park, near the temple of Kwannon-sama, where he had been straying about in that placid and inquisitive frame of mind so characteristic of Japanese domestic animals. This simple incident is worked up by the *Ko-shimbun* with the following effective touches:—"The ox evidently knew that he was about to depart this life, and apparently made up his mind to have a final spree in the Yoshiwara, for he took first the road leading thither. Midway, however, the appalling fact that he had but a few hours more to live must have taken fresh hold of his imagination—the joke here is that there is a large slaughter-house on the Yoshiwara road—for he branched off to the temple-grounds and finally approached the shrine of the Goddess of Mercy, where he was still absorbed in prayer when his captors seized him. His last petition seems to have given him strength for the trying ordeal, for there was a smile (!) on his face when the butcher gave the fatal blow."

THE LATEST PHILOSOPHIC UTTERANCE ON PARTY GOVERNMENT.

That the world, even in its most civilized portions, has not yet reached such a standard of intelligence and education as justifies party government and democratic supremacy, is a doctrine we have long held, and frequently enunciated in these columns. A kind of spurious *kudos* can always be won by writers who advocate political liberty in every shape or form and under all circumstances. But the very blindness of their partizanship and the emotionalism of their theorizing show how little they themselves are fitted for the sober enjoyment of the institutions they would introduce everywhere. The latest philosophic utterance on the subject comes from Mr. Herbert Spencer, who, in his "Reminiscences of Professor Tyndall," says:—"Divergent as our beliefs and sentiments were in earlier days, there has been in recent days mutual approximation. A conversation with him, some years since, made it manifest that personal experience had greatly shaken the faith he previously had in public administrations, and made him look with more favour on the view of State-functions held by me. On the other hand, my faith in free institutions, originally strong (though always joined with the belief that the maintenance and success of them is a question of popular character), has in these later years been greatly decreased by the conviction that the fit character is not possessed by any people, nor is likely to be possessed for ages to come. A nation of which the legislators vote as they are bid, and of which the workers surrender their rights of selling their labour as they please, has neither the ideas nor the sentiments needed for the maintenance of liberty. Lacking them, we are on the way back to the rule of the strong hand in the shape of the bureaucratic despotism of a socialistic organization, and then of the military despotism which must follow it; if, indeed, some social crash does not bring this last upon us more quickly. Had we recently compared notes, I fancy that Tyndall and I should have found ourselves differing but little in our views concerning the proximate social state, if not of the ultimate social state."

A STRANGE CATCH.

There is a pond in Ryuzenji-machi, Shitaya District, which is said to contain large numbers of a small and rather tasteless fish much eaten by the poor people living in the vicinity. On Sunday, the 1st instant, three man of that district went to the pond, carrying a net with them and determined upon having a day's sport. After several well-nigh fruitless draughts, they found their net heavily weighted. Upon drawing it to the surface they were horrified to find it contain the partly decomposed corpse of a young woman about twenty years old. A crowd speedily collected on the spot, and several police constables immediately made their appearance. One of the early comers was a feeble-looking man of some fifty years of age. After examining the features of the corpse he broke out into bitter lamentations and struggled so violently to obtain possession of the remains that three constables had all they could do to keep him back. "My daughter, my daughter!" he shrieked, "come back to your father!" The scene was painful in the extreme, many of the bystanders being affected to tears. The man, it seems, was a *hatamoto* and the recipient of an annual income of some 200 *koku* under the Shogunate. For years he had gradually been losing ground; his wife had died, he himself being ill and unable to work. He had finally been compelled to take a house in one of the rather objectionable portions of Shitaya District. His daughter, O Tsuru, was his one comfort, a good, obedient, handsome girl of nineteen. Many had offered to get the daughter a lucrative post as the *aisho* of some nobleman, but the father had sternly refused to take such offers into consideration, stating that he had far rather die than be supported at the expense of his daughter's virtue. In January of the present year, however, O Tsuru appeared to have been captivated by the good looks of a young gardener living in the neighbourhood, and her frequent absences from home had given her father great cause for anxiety, although she did all that was required of her and never stayed out after nightfall. On the 27th of last month, after two or three hours of absence, she returned to find her father greatly enraged. All that night father and daughter sat and talked, and when the grey of the morning came a reconciliation had apparently taken place. O Tsuru had shortly afterward to go out to make sundry purchases; and she had never since been seen. It would appear that she drowned herself in the early morning immediately after leaving her father's house. The case has aroused the sympathy of a number of benevolent people, particularly of the class to which the bereaved parent once belonged, and his most pressing wants have been alleviated. This is by no means an isolated instance. The descendants of the *samurai* of pre-*Meiji* days, and even once well-to-do *samurai* themselves, are now eating the bread of poverty or charity in many parts of the quondam metropolis of the Shogunate.

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. INOUYE KI AND PRINCE IWAKURA.

The present Minister of State for Education, who enjoyed the confidence of the late Prince Iwakura in an exceptional degree, has published some interesting notes in the last issue of the *Kokubun*. The Prince, it appears, had always been a staunch advocate of rehabilitating the Court of Kyoto. Something of the kind had been effected during the reign of the Emperor Godaigo, but the reform had been neither effective nor lasting. Its authors made the mistake of leaving the military power in the hands of the feudal chiefs, and in a short time the authority of the Court gave place to the military autocracy of the Ashikaga. Prince Iwakura and his fellow-thinkers appreciated the causes of that failure and drafted their programme accordingly. They aimed at bringing about the complete state of Imperialism that had existed in the earliest times. When the Tokugawa Regents surrendered the administrative power, Prince Iwakura was living a retired life in a suburb of Kyoto, having been compelled by the Tokugawa power to desist from all public action. Immediately on the fall of the Tokugawa, he was summoned to the Imperial Court, and as his ideas with regard to the required reforms were already fixed, he was able to proceed to their practical enforcement without delay. It

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was by his advice that the office of Shogunate was abolished and the functions of government were completely resumed by the Emperor. One curious incident recorded by Mr. Inouye is that on the third day after the restoration a Court Notification was issued forbidding private interviews between Court ladies and the Emperor as this custom had been a cause of grave evils in the past. The Prince had a naval counsellor in Tamamatsu Misao who had aided him in elaborating all his plans, and to whom indeed the Prince was wont to attribute the chief credit of those plans. But this Tamamatsu was violently opposed to foreign intercourse, and when Prince Iwakura not only abandoned the *Jo-i* policy, but even advocated the opening of the country, Tamamatsu denounced him as a traitor and never spoke to him again. The part played by the Prince in the work of the Restoration is not discussed at any length by Mr. Inouye: he says that it is already a matter of history. But some incidents in the Prince's political career are specially mentioned. His attitude towards Treaty Revision is among them. People are wont to say that the suspension of Treaty Revision negotiations in 1887 and 1889 was due to a combination of political parties, but it has not yet been recorded that already in 1882 the Prince held views equally opposed to Revision on those bases. Something of this had indeed been suspected by the public, but Mr. Inouye's definite statement will surprise many. The Prince was a man of unflinching courage, a quality which he was called upon to display in a marked degree when his opposition to the Korean Campaign in 1873 made him an object of hatred to the whole military party headed by the elder Saigo and other distinguished personages. The assassination of Okubo, also, must have been a terrible blow to the Prince, for after the Satsuma Rebellion these two had formed many politicai plans, for the successful consummation of which their united action was essential. Untiring diligence and severe frugality were the Prince's guiding principles in public administration, and he obeyed them with equal consistency in the management of his household affairs. Five days before his death he dictated a Constitution to be observed thenceforth by his family, all the members of which were required to sign their names to it. In proof of the Prince's diligence, Mr. Inouye mentions that he invariably rose at five in the morning and did not go to bed until late at night. He parcelled out his time with methodical accuracy, kept his engagements with the strictest punctuality, and possessed the faculty common to all men who have achieved great things, that of never wasting a moment.

THE "HASHIDATE-KAN."

EXPERIENCE has taught us to receive with the utmost reserve any statements published by the *Nippon* on naval subjects. Intemperate in all things, that journal has earned special notoriety by its wild attacks upon the Navy. Its latest story is that the *Hashidate Kan*, a first-class cruiser constructed at Yokosuka, had only run a mile of her trial trip on the 20th of March when she had to put back, and since then she has been carefully preserved against public inspection of any kind, while consultations of high officers are daily held in her state-rooms. Something terrible is evidently on the tapis, but the *Nippon*, strange to say, is only oracular, not inventive.

TANK *versus* TINNED PETROLEUM.

PETROLEUM imported under the tank system is said to be rapidly taking the place of the tinned oil from America. In Osaka, says the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the tank oil is sold for 1.75 to to 1.72 *yen* per case, whereas the American oil costs 1.90 *yen*. This difference of from 15 to 18 *sen* per case is of course telling heavily in favour of the Russian product, though it is alleged that the qualities of the Batoum oil as an illuminant are slightly inferior to those of the American. However, the tank oil's vogue is limited to the cities. The country districts, even within a few miles of Kyoto, still prefer the American. The impossibility of distinguishing between the oils, so far as the ordinary consumer is concerned, and the superior cheapness of the Russian product, open the door to fraud, the Russian oil being put into old American tins and sold as American to conservative purchasers. Difference of price must of course tell in the long run, and unless importers of American petroleum can cheapen it for consumers, its days are numbered in Japan. The Customs Returns are sufficiently eloquent:—

Imports of Kerosene Oil.

	Gallons.		Value in *yen*.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Russia	7,810,251	22,524,717	797,657	1,801,459
America	24,879,021	27,238,675	2,530,740	2,599,581
Total	32,689,272	49,763,392	3,328,397	4,401,040

From these figures it is seen that while the total import of kerosene in 1893 showed an increase of 53 per cent. in quantity, Russia secured 88 per cent. of the increase. It is also seen that the Russian oil cost only 79 *sen* per gallon in 1893 against 95 *sen* for the American, and that despite the great depreciation of gold American oil was sold for six *sen* less in 1893 than in 1892.

THE BIMETALLIC LEAGUE.

THE Report of the Proceedings of the Bimetallic League's Annual Meeting, held in the Manchester Town Hall last February, contains some remarkable utterances. The Chairman, Mr. Robert Barclay, alluding to the negative attitude of the monometallists, who, while denouncing bimetallism, offer nothing in its place, said:—"We must have something. Things cannot go on as they are; and therefore it is that we are here to-day, resolute and more determined than ever, to push forward our cause and to ask our fellow-citizens to rally round our standard and help us on to complete success. * * * Every one here, every manufacturer in Manchester, and, indeed, throughout the United Kingdom, is affected by this disastrous state of things, and we want them brought to an end. * * * To all intents and purposes England has, by her action in resisting this reform, given a bonus to silver-standard countries to produce against her, and with the great fall in silver that has taken place, the extent of the bonus has practically become so great that she cannot compete against it. * * * You have seen, during the last three years, and especially since the closing of the Indian Mint, a most remarkable development of the cotton-spinning and other industries in Japan, and there is no doubt whatever that, if you believe, as I do, that the Bombay mills developed under the stimulus given by the silver question, the same thing is equally true of Japan, and that it is the silver question which has caused the remarkable development. * * * Japan has large coal fields, and being produced on a silver basis her coal can be bought far more cheaply than English coal throughout the East, and you are already losing the coal trade east of Suez because of your adherence to this gold standard. The same is true of silk. It is hardly likely that Japan and China, themselves raisers, will export their raw material for manufacture abroad when they are setting up machinery to manufacture a raw material which they are obliged largely to import."

* * *

Mr. H. R. Beeton said:—"It has been said that the history of opinion has three stages. The first stage is that in which men say it is not true; the second is that in which they say there may be something in it; and the third stage is that in which they say they have been of that opinion all along. We, in London, have entered on the second stage in the history of opinion. * * * It is a conspicuous fact, and characteristic of the situation, that those organs in the press which were formally neutral are now friendly, and those which were hostile are now either neutral or nothing."

* * *

Sir William Houldsworth, said:—"Some two years ago we had a great discussion in the Chamber of Commerce, and figures were then produced with regard to certain matters. One of these was the Index numbers which, as you know, indicate the variations in the general level of prices. In 1870, I pointed out that the *Economist* Index number for that year was 2,689. In 1892 it was 2,123. Now I find on January 1st, 1894—the present year—it is still descending, and is 2,082, showing that as yet there is no improvement whatever in the general level of prices, but that it is still declining. If I take the fall in silver, at the beginning of the year, the gold price of silver stood at 39 1/8, while at the end of the year it was 35 3/8. To-day it has reached 30d. and is still going down. * * * I find from the Board of Trade returns that, in January, 1890, the number of unemployed was 1.70 of the population, whereas in December, 1893, it had reached 7.20 per cent., showing that employment is also gradually declining. We shall be told, I presume, when these figures are discussed in the press, and by gentlemen of the monometallic persuasion, that this is all due to exceptional circumstances—that there have been strikes, over production, and so on—and that, if we will only be patient, things will soon be better. Well, we have been told this for the last 20 years, but I think you will bear witness to this, that the Bimetallic League has not misled you by any such false hopes. We have distinctly said, and we say still, that whatever variations there may be in the prosperity of trade, in employment, or in the development of our industries, there can be no good trade and no prosperity in this country, or any country, till the appreciation of gold is arrested, and until there is some stability in exchange." There is much more that is powerful and pertinent, but we may well close with this quotation.

KIM OK-KYÜN'S JAPANESE FRIENDS.

THE procedure of Kim Ok-kyün's Japanese friends becomes more and more remarkable. Perhaps if we recall the fact that they are under the leadership of Mr. Oi Kentaro, our readers will be prepared for what follows. One of their number, Mr. Kobayashi Katsumin, called on the Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and preferred three requests: first that the Japanese Representative in Söul be instructed to apply for the transfer of Kim's remains to Japan; secondly, that the surrender of Kim's murderer be demanded, and thirdly that Mr. Consul-General Okoshi be punished for neglect of duty in connection with the affair. The Vice-Minister replied that there was no intention of preferring demands to Korea with regard to Kim's body; that, pending the result of the judicial examination of Li Isshoku and his accomplices, it was out of the question to talk about asking for the surrender of Hong Tjyong-Ou, and that the Government saw nothing whatever to censure in the conduct of Consul-General Okoshi.

* * *

After this rebuff, the friends of the murdered man held an extraordinary meeting at which they passed several striking resolutions. The first was that as there seemed to be no longer any hope of getting possession of Kim's body, the clothes that he wore at the time of his assasination, some locks of his hair which his friends possess, and his photograph should be enclosed in a coffin, a grand funeral ceremony organized, and a large monument erected to his memory. The second, that a strong appeal should be made to public opinion with reference to the conduct of China and Korea as well as of the Japanese Government. A Committee, the ever-lasting panacea of Japanese political agitators, was chosen to carry out these remarkable intentions. It consists of thirteen members, having at their head Messrs. Oi Kentaro and Ozaki Yukyo. So we have all the materials for a new hysterical drama and another stick to beat the official dog.

THE FINE ART SCHOOL.

THE exhibition at the Fine Arts School is to continue until the 16th instant inclusive. Now that the exhibits are fully arranged, they tell a striking and interesting story. One can see at a glance the results of the teaching given at the School. The actual course in the particular branch chosen by a student is four years, but

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as a preliminary year has to be spent in general instruction before final selection is made of a special subject, the total period of instruction is five years. We pay no idle compliment to either the Professors or the students when we say that the results attained in that comparatively brief time are really remarkable. This does not apply to the pictorial branch. Here there is nothing to be added to, or taken from what we have already written. Five years in the Arts School does not make a painter or begin to make one, but we suspect that that is not the fault of the school: it is attributable rather to the transitional character of the time. In such acquirements, however, as the casting and chiselling of iron and bronze ornaments, *répoussé* work, engraving in the *ke-bori* and *kata-kiri* styles, inlaying and other methods of manipulating metal, *cloisonné* enamelling, wood-carving, lacquer manufacture, and other technical arts, the achievements of the students after four years' application bear the highest testimony to the excellence of the methods pursued. Indeed the specimens shown at the school as the work of fourth-year students exhibit a degree of progress hardly conceivable in so short a time, and certainly not attainable without special aptitude on the part of the students. Looking at these beautiful works, it is impossible to doubt that a wide field offers for the profitable application of Japan's ability. The whole question is how to reach that field: how to introduce Japan to the decorative markets of the world. At present we suspect that the students of the Arts School after graduation will find themselves in the unhappy position now so common in Japan, namely, possessed of education and ambition out of all proportion to practical opportunity.

JOURNALISTIC AMENITIES.

PROBABLY no one has ever believed that the writing attributed by Mark Twain to American journalists two or three decades ago, had any basis of fact. Yet we begin to doubt whether the immortal humorist was anything more than a grave historian in this respect. For Bret Harte's actual and recently recorded experiences are at least equally pungent. Bret Harte's first essay at book-making was undertaken in compliance with a commission given to him by a San Francisco bookseller who had collected a number of poems from Pacific-Coast Magazines and newspapers. From these he invited the then youthful literateur to make selections, procuring also some additions, if desirable, and appending his name as editor. Here is one of the reviews evoked from a weekly mining journal, the identity of which Bret Harte veils under the name of the *Jay Hawk*:—"The hogwash and 'purp'-stuff ladled out from the slop bucket of Messrs. —— & Co., of 'Frisco, by some lop-eared Eastern apprentice, and called 'A Compilation of Californian Verse,' might be passed over, so far as criticism goes. A club in the hands of any able-bodied citizen of Red Dog, and a steamboat ticket to the Bay, cheerfully contributed from this office, would be all-sufficient. But when an imported greenhorn dares to call his flapdoodle mixture 'Californian,' it is an insult to the state that has produced the gifted 'Yellow Hammer,' whose lofty flights have from time to time dazzled our readers in the columns of the *Jay Hawk*. That this complacent editorial jackass, browsing among the dock and thistles which he has sewed up in this volume, should make no allusion to California's greatest bard, is rather a confession of his idiocy than a slur upon the genius of our esteemed correspondent."

THE YOKOHAMA GAS-WORKS.

WE should imagine that respectable business firms, whether foreign or Japanese, will become very chary of sending in tenders should they be exposed to treatment such as that extended to the tenderers in the recent case of plant for the Yokohama Gas-Works. Out of six tenderers four acknowledged that they had not complied with the prescribed conditions, and consequently, according to a declaration previously made by the Mayor of Yokohama, these four tenders become *de facto* ineligible. This fact was established before opening the tenders, and of course only two methods of procedure were thus left: either the whole affair should have been declared null and void, in which case none of the tenders should have been opened; or the tenders that did not comply with the prescribed conditions should have been set aside, and the competition limited to the other two. But the plan adopted was to open and make public all the tenders, after which fresh tenders were invited. A more unfair and less business-like course could scarcely have been pursued. We suspect that the account given by the vernacular press is incorrect.

CHANGES IN THE CURRICULUM OF THE HIGHER NORMAL SCHOOL.

WE recently explained that certain changes had been effected by the Department of Education in the curriculum of Common Middle Schools, and we have now to note that similar changes have been introduced into the Higher Normal School. Briefly speaking, these changes are that the three courses of study hitherto pursued now become two, namely, that of science and that of literature; that prominence is given to the study of the German language which has not hitherto formed a part of the curriculum but may now be introduced as an optional branch, and may even supersede English when the exchange is deemed beneficial; that the term of study is prolonged from three years to four, and that the system of free students ceases from the 28th fiscal year (1895) after which time all students must pay their way.

ENGLISH AT SHE IS WROTE.

"A RESIDENT on the Bluff, the front of whose house is guarded by dogs, with the object of preventing messengers from being bitten, put up a notice inscribed," etc., etc. This paragraph, which we extract from the columns of a Yokohama journal, is too delightful to be committed to oblivion. Fancy setting dogs to guard the front of a house with the object of preventing messengers from being bitten! The only parallel with which we are acquainted is the celebrated judgment of a certain American Consul:—"So I sentenced him to imprisonment for six months, for an attempt to do bodily harm, to the United States Jail at Kanagawa, and now he comes back, prepared to commit any depredation, armed with a certificate for that purpose."

THE KANSEI RADICALS.

THE Radicals of the Kansei District held a general meeting at Nara on the 10th instant and passed a programme consisting chiefly of antique and stereotyped items. The Government is to be sternly held to the promises publicly made by it in the 4th session; is to be compelled to take resolute steps about Treaty Revision; is to be urged to reduce the land tax and re-assess the value of land; is to be pressed to explain its reasons for dissolving the last House of Representatives and so forth, and so on. Our readers can infer the rest if they take the trouble to think.

A LACQUER DESK.

WHAT is involved in the making of a small lacquer desk such as the Japanese use, may be gathered from the fact that a desk ordered last year in April for the use of the Emperor has occupied the whole time of the celebrated art artizan Nagata Shusin during twelve months. The original agreement was that the desk should be finished in a year, but Nagata, says the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, has been obliged to ask for a delay of one month and is now working night and day to finish the task by May. The decorative design is cherry blossoms seen through a spring haze, and the price is to be two thousand *yen*.

CHARGE OF CORRUPTION AT ELECTIONS.

IT is evident that the law of Japan ought to declare very accurately what is involved in the giving or taking of a bribe, for, if we may credit the *Jiji Shimpo*, Mr. Kishi, who was elected a member of the House of Representatives for Gifu Prefecture last month, has been found guilty of corrupt practices by a Gifu Law Court and fined 12 *yen*, though the sum of his offence was that he presented two little boxes of dried seaweed to one of his constituents. The idea of a man losing his seat on account of such an act is the acme of absurdity. Of course Mr. Kishi has appealed.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.

A VERY serious quarrel took place between two one-time friends, on the evening of the 3rd instant. From words they came to blows, and on the following day Suzuki Isaburo, the assailant, again went to seek his opponent, one Hara Kametaro, living in Koishikawa District, Tokyo. This time Suzuki was armed with a large, coarse file. He made a savage onslaught on Hara and wounded him severely in no less than eight places. Fortunately the wounds are not considered fatal and Hara is slowly recovering. Suzuki was arrested immediately after his murderous attack and is now awaiting trial.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

HER MAJESTY the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve of the Corinthian Sailing Club of Hongkong bearing in future the title of "The Royal Hongkong Yacht Club," and vessels belonging to the Club shall be permitted to wear the Blue Ensign of Her Majesty's fleet with the distinguishing marks of the Club on the fly thereof; namely, a Chinese Dragon surmounted by an Imperial Crown.—*Daily Press.*

DOCTORS.

ON the 31st of December, 1892, says a report just issued by the Department of Home Affairs, there were 42,899 doctors in Japan, which is at the rate of a doctor and a fraction for every thousand people. There were also of midwives licensed by the Home Office 1,486 and of those licensed by Local Offices 31,530. Apothecaries numbered 2,836; drug-stores, 13,225; druggists, 1,375, public hospitals, 198 and private hospitals, 378.

RECEIVER OF STOLEN GOODS ARRESTED.

A CHINAMAN residing at No. 189, suspected of being a receiver of stolen goods, was arrested at the Railway Station on Thursday at the instance of Inspector Kawada. At the time of capture the man was wearing Japanese clothes. He is known to have sold in Tokyo some flannel out of a lot of ten or twelve rolls and some foreign clothes, the result of robberies.

THE TONIC SOL FA CONCERT.

MRS. PATTON requests us to tender her best thanks to the ladies and gentlemen whose attendance contributed so materially to make her benefit concert a success, and also to acknowledge the able assistance of Mr. E. Beart in drilling the children, and the loan of many handsome potplants by Mrs. Jarmain for decorating the platform.

THE LONDON LYRIC COMPANY.

SINCE the visit of this Company to Yokohama last May an entirely new répertoire of plays has been acquired, chiefly the latest London successes such as "Charley's Aunt," "Liberty Hall," and "Walker, London." The Company has been augmented and the variety part of the programme considerably strengthened.

JAPAN AND HAWAII.

MR. WATANABE, Minister of Finance, has received Imperial sanction to appropriate *yen* 50,074.837 from the Second Reserve Fund towards the cost of sending a man-of-war to afford protection to Japanese subjects in Hawaii.

SEALING CATCHES.

THE British schooner *Ocean Belle*, Captain T. O. Leary, has returned to port with 82 seal pelts. She reports that the American schooner *Henry Dennis* has taken 742 seals, the *City of San Diego* 332, and the *Walter Earle* 420 seals.

EARTHQUAKES.

Two shocks of earthquake were felt in Yokohama early this morning. The first was weak, but the second was very severe and the oscillations continued for some time.

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THE KOREAN CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES.

READERS will have gathered from our translations or *resumés* of leading articles that have appeared in Japanese journals with reference to the exit of the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires per interim* from Tokyo, that he is supposed by some persons to have been dissatisfied with the action of the Japanese Authorities in demanding the surrender of the two criminals from justice who fled to his Legation after the attempt upon the life of BOKU EIKO, and that, regarding the part taken by himself in the affair as a dereliction of duty, he has voluntarily gone to Korea for the purpose of consulting his Government's pleasure. It is exceedingly difficult to conjecture the motives that may have swayed Mr. YU, for we have no precedent to guide us in interpreting his procedure. That he should feel uneasy about his own action, however, is very conceivable; for, having the choice of two paths either of which led to a logical bourne, he chose neither, and thus drifted into a position indefensible from any point of view. Of the two courses open to him, one was to surrender the fugitives at once, or at any rate to deny them asylum in the Legation; the other was to assert their right of sanctuary, and compel the Japanese Government, if it insisted on apprehending them, to do so in the teeth of his protests. The former course was the lawful and rational one; the latter must have involved his own recall, but nevertheless would have been intelligible and might have been supported by precedent. What he did, however, was to palter with the question as long as possible, not asserting any right, but merely pleading perplexity, personal or diplomatic, and then finally to yield, at the same time asking the Japanese Government to withdraw the official communication which was of all things essential to his own defence, supposing that he desired to establish any relation of consistency between his original attitude and his ultimate surrender. If he had declared his belief that the inviolability of a Legation has no limits, and had thrown the ægis of his protection over the fugitives until compelled to bow to *force majeure*, he would have found sympathisers. But to pretext official uncertainty, personal friendship with one of the fugitives, and so forth; to obstruct the course of justice for three days on the ground of such pretexts, and then finally to ask to be treated as though he had never raised any objections whatever, was a mere display of inconsequential vacillation. It is not impossible that a retrospect of these occurrences may have proved so disquieting to Mr. YU as to impel him to shake the dust of the Legation off his feet, and retire incontinently into private life. We can not choose but pity him sincerely. Probably without much knowledge of international law and even less experience of its operation, he was required suddenly to deal with a very difficult problem, knowing, doubtless, that whichever way he solved it the censure either of his own Government or of foreign public opinion awaited him. Besides, he had before his eyes a practical illustration of the curious subtleties of international law. KIM OK-KYÜN, the plotter and instigator of wholesale assassination, had fled to Japan and found secure sanctuary there during nine years, despite the utmost efforts of his own Government to obtain his extradition. The two KENS, supposed to have been implicated in an attempt to assassinate a comparatively insignificant Korean, had fled to their country's Legation and failed to find sanctuary there for more than three days, though a Legation is theoretically the territory of the State whose flag flies over it. Poor Mr. YU may well have been perplexed. There is no occasion to attach to his sudden and irregular exodus from Tokyo the sinister interpretation put upon it by some Japanese writers.

As to the problem that Mr. YU had to consider, it is true that there are two solutions, but only one of them can be reconciled with the acknowledged principles of international law as practised by civilized nations. Cases are on record where the Representative of a foreign Power has attempted to a assert the right of offering asylum within the precincts of his residence to persons not borne on his staff or included in his household. Such a case was that of the British Ambassador at Stockholm, when a merchant, Mr. GUIDEKENS, accused of a crime, escaped to his embassy. The Ambassador claimed absolute right of asylum; asserted that no force could be used against the house of a foreign Minister, and declared that the posting of a guard round the embassy, and the Swedish Authorities' demand to know within an hour what course he intended to take with regard to the fugitive, were violations of international law. Ultimately he surrendered the merchant, and the Government of Stockholm having demanded his recall, he was recalled. Nothing could be more explicit than WOOLSEY'S interpretation of the law in this matter. "The ambassador's privileges," he writes, "do not include the right of asylum for persons outside of his household. If the fiction of extraterritoriality explained the privileges of ambassadors, the right of asylum would be fairly deducible from it, and a criminal taking refuge in such a sanctuary would be given up, if at all, by a process of extradition. But it so happens that the house of an ambassador has ceased to be an asylum, since the notion of extraterritoriality has been most current. The right was attached in the Middle Ages to many religious places, and was conceded after this analogy, on account of their sacredness, to the hotels of ambassadors in some countries. But the usage, if we are not deceived, was never general throughout Europe, and even when it obtained, as in Rome and Madrid, was sometimes opposed and violated by the government. Similar to this right, if not an extension of it, was the freedom or privilege (*jus quarteriorum*) of the quarter of the city where the ambassador resided, and which was indicated by the arms of his sovereign. This right (or wrong, rather) prevailed in a number of places, as at Venice, Rome, Madrid, and during the meetings for the choice and coronation of an emperor, at Frankfort-on-the-Main. At Rome, in the 16th and 17th centuries, the harbouring of criminals, under plea of exercising this right, gave occasion to more than one dispute between the Papal and the French governments.

"It is now admitted that if a transgressor, not of the ambassador's train, takes refuge in his premises, he can be demanded by the local authorities, and, if not delivered up, can be searched for and seized within the hotel; for which purpose such force in breaking doors open and the like, may be used, as is necessary for his apprehension. For, as BYNKERSHOEK ("De For. Leg.," § 21) asks, '*legati, ut latrones recipiant, mittuntur? vel, sine receptione commode legationi vacare non possunt?*'"

KIM OK-KYÜN'S BODY AND HONG TJYONG-ON'S FATE.

WE are not surprised to learn that Mr. OI KENTARO was a leader of the movement to bring the body of KIM OK-KYÜN to Japan and inter it in the soil of this country, where, doubtless, it would have become an object of veneration to many sentimental and hysterical folks. KIM may have been a personal friend of Mr. OI, and his remains may therefore have merited all the offices of friendship at the latter's hands. But the matter can not be regarded in a purely private light, nor did Mr. OI and his fellow-workers seem to desire that it should be so regarded. They appointed a Committee to promote their aim, and the Committee, headed by Mr. OI, called upon the Minister President and other members of the Cabinet, to urge that the Japanese Consul in Shanghai be instructed to render every possible assistance toward the transfer of the body. We imagine that no heed was paid to Mr. OI'S solicitations. It was all very right and proper that, as a political refugee, KIM OK-KYÜN should have found a safe asylum in Japan, and that the Japanese Government should have refused to surrender him—all very right and proper, at any rate, so long as international usage remains sufficiently uncivilized to discriminate between political assassinations and common murders, and to class the former among acts entitling their performers to the protection of

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foreign States. But now that KIM is dead and gone, Japan's duty toward him ceases altogether. It ceased, in point of fact, from the moment he left her shores. If any official movement had been made in the sense desired by Mr. OI KENTARO and his associates, this empire would at once have fallen under the imputation of sympathizing with KIM'S bloody and barbarous deeds. It would have been concluded by the world that instead of having discharged her international obligation toward a political refugee at the dictates of an unprejudiced sense of duty, Japan had afforded refuge to KIM because she approved of his procedure. Happily, the course of events has put it out of the power of Messrs. OI and Company to betray their country's officials into any act of indiscretion—though we should hope that there never was any danger of the kind—for Mr. NOSE TATSUGORO, Japanese Consul at Inchon, telegraphs, under date of the 10th instant, that a Chinese man-of-war arrived on that day at Chemulpo, carrying the body of KIM, and his assassin HONG TJYONG-ON, for transfer to the Korean Authorities. It is believed that the murderer and the body of his victim were formally handed over to a Korean official in Shanghai, and that, at his request, the duty of carrying them to Korea was entrusted to a Chinese man-of-war. A more extraordinary and shocking drama could scarcely be imagined: the murderer and the corpse of his victim carried by the same ship to their native country after all these years of absence and exile. Only in the Orient do things fall out so strangely. The tragedy needs no elaboration at our hands. We can only hope that the dead body of the political agitator may not have potency to renew the disturbances fomented by him during life. There seems to be danger of something of the kind. Telegraphic intelligence from Söul, published by the *Kokkai*, says that, on receipt of the news of KIM'S death, the members of the BIN family offered congratulations openly to the Court, and that the KING immediately directed the elevation of the assassin HONG to high official rank, which step was intimated to him through the Korean Consul in Shanghai. Measures were also organized to procure the transfer of the murderer to his own country. The telegram adds that BIN YEISHUN, now said to be the most influential official in Korea, collected a number of his friends and partisans and organized a thirty-days revel over KIM'S death. On the other hand, the enemies of the BIN family are represented as being much disturbed over the event, and as having held secret meetings for the purpose of contriving some means of killing HONG TJYONG-ON immediately on his arrival in Korea, and thus giving rest to KIM'S troubled spirit. As for the TAI WÖN-KUN, he is said to have passed the whole of the night of the 30th in tears before the mortuary tablet of KIM, and he and his allies are reported to be under close espionage by the Government. It is very conceivable that if indignities are offered KIM'S corpse on its arrival in Korea and distinctions conferred on the murderer, political feeling may culminate in serious disturbance. Assuming that KIM really represented the party of progress in Söul, we can understand the propensity of many Japanese to espouse his cause. But certainly this is not the occasion for any national interference. Korea had better be left to wash such soiled linen in private. The irony of the whole affair is that Mr. OI KENTARO, the enemy of real progress in his own country, should figure as the friend of KIM in Korea. That alone is sufficient to throw doubts on the sincerity of KIM'S programme. Historians inclined to be critical may perhaps say that after all KIM OK-KYÜN was *par excellence* the leader of *Soshi* in Korea, and may add the inference that under such circumstances Mr. OI KENTARO'S sympathy with him finds a natural explanation. Be that as it may, one marvels how Japan's foreign policy would fare under the direction of Mr. OI KENTARO and his school. May her tutelary deities preserve her from that peril! She needs very careful hands at her helm of State just now, for if the King of KOREA shows approval of the accomplished murder in Shanghai and of the attempted one in Tokyo by conferring high rank on HONG TJYONG-ON and placing KIM'S corpse in the hands of the public executioner, the relations between Japan and the peninsular Kingdom must be subjected to considerable strain. Not that Japan has any obligations, moral or otherwise, to discharge toward the murdered man or his assassin, but because the attempt upon the life of BOKU YEIKO in Tokyo and the killing of KIM in Shanghai seem to have been parts of the same plot, devised and directed by LI ISSHOKU, who now lies in a Japanese jail and who pleads the authority of his Sovereign for all that he did. Korea must purge herself of official complicity with LI'S doings: otherwise she will be placed in a very awkward position *vis-à-vis* Japan. We observe that the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* now speaks openly of two commissions previously issued by the King of KOREA for the killing of KIM. It is to be trusted that HIS MAJESTY will not verify that evil record by imprudent action on the present occasion.

When *Truth* stated some time ago that the Princess of Wales, in consequence of ill-health, was about to retire from the world altogether, the report was promptly contradicted. But it is pleasant to have the denial so completely endorsed as it has been recently by her Royal Highness herself. Nearly every night during the past week or ten days she been to the theatre, thus proving her restoration to health.

THE VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

RECURRING again to the subject of the Victoria School, in answer to correspondents, we repeat our conviction that only one School is possible in Yokohama, if it is to be a School capable of satisfying the needs of the place. Despite eleven thousand dollars subscribed at different times for its maintenance, the Victoria School has certainly not been a success up to the present. It has done some good work, but that it falls far short of what was expected of it is proved by the number of Yokohama and Kobe boys attending the School of the Morning Star in Tokyo. Other causes beside want of confidence have doubtless helped to check the School's development, but want of confidence is principally responsible. The Tokyo School labours under one important disadvantage as compared with the Victoria School: being a French School, it does not and can not pretend to give boys an English education. It can not prepare them for business life in an English-speaking community. Nothing could attract to it English boys destined for a mercantile career except the fact that the great number of teachers guarantees a full and sufficient measure of attention to the pupils of every standard. There never have been more than two teachers actually attached to the Victoria Public School. We believe that the Committee were many times urged to engage the services of a third, but that they invariably declined to do so, being persuaded that the financial condition of the institution did not warrant such a step. The average number of pupils has been 36, spread over 6 standards. With the best and most industrious management in the world, it must obviously have been impossible for two teachers to attend fully to all these standards. Some had to be more or less neglected, and of course the lower standards suffered. The natural result was that young boys left for any other school where they could get what they failed to find at the Victoria School. At the same time, from the very outset, a portion of the community, influenced by a prejudice against Eurasian children, and unwilling that their sons should associate with them, refrained from sending their boys to the School. Had they sent them, the increased fees would have paid the salary of a third teacher, and the School would have been in a position to compete more successfully with the Tokyo institution. On the other hand, these exclusionists were too few to start and support a proper school on their own account. The fees paid by them were never more than enough to remunerate one teacher. They were satisfied with that, however, for they regarded it as only a temporary expedient, their ultimate purpose being to send their lads home. But the situation has been complicated by a new factor—exchange. When

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it costs ten dollars to buy a sovereign, people cannot afford to purchase many gold coins for defraying the educational expenses of their sons in England. A Yokohama resident who wants to send two boys to a good English public school must look forward to disbursing something like $3,000 annually. That is almost prohibitive. Men cannot send their lads home. It has become absolutely necessary that Yokohama should have a well equipped school. No school merits that epithet unless it has at least three teachers—perhaps we ought to say four. The expense of maintaining a school on such a basis can not be estimated at less than $6,000 per annum. Reckoning the fees at an average of $90 per head, that income requires an attendance of about 70 boys, and there are 70 boys over eight years of age in Yokohama, if we exclude those now going to Tokyo. Hence Yokohama is in a position to support a good school if it pleases. But what do we see happening? A new school is started from which Eurasians are excluded. It gets 12 pupils belonging to six different standards. Such an attendance can not support more than one teacher, which means that the lads can not possibly receive efficient instruction. At the same time, the loss to the Victoria School necessitates a reduction of the staff, and consequently another exodus of boys to Tokyo ensues. The exclusionist faction have gained nothing. They have merely further crippled the educational facilities of the place. It is easy to see whither such proceedings lead. The Victoria School must die of inanition, and the exclusionist school must perish also: the latter destroys the former, and in the end there survives only the Tokyo school where the prejudices of the exclusionists receive short shrift. These issues are perfectly plain. Yokohama can have a good school if it makes up its mind to be practical, and certainly if there is to be a school, let it be the Victoria School upon which so much money has already been spent, and which we have all such a loyal interest in maintaining.

THE TOKYO ART SCHOOL.

THE Faculty of the Tokyo Art School have taken a new departure by inviting public inspection of the works of the students. An exhibition of that character is now in progress in the School buildings in Uyeno Park. It presents many features of interest and some of disappointment. The students at the Art School are divided between two tendencies; one is to copy the works of the old Japanese masters, a task in which they occasionally succeed very fairly; the other is to engraft upon Japanese pictorial art some of the features of European, a task in which the defects of a transition stage are painfully apparent. The pictorial art of the Art School just at present is neither "fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red herring:" it has lost the vigour and directness of Japanese *chefs-d'œuvre*, and has only acquired a feeble atmosphere of Western *chiaroscuro*, perspective, and breadth. Among the Professors at the School there are undoubtedly men of great talent, but their works are incomparably most attractive when they adhere to the methods of their country's art. Some reproductions of the old masters by GAHO, KAWABATA, and others, hanging among the hybrid pictures that cover the walls of at least three rooms in the School, enable one to draw an occasional breath of satisfaction as one traverses this waste of mediocrity and failure. We do not for a moment mean to suggest that Japanese painters should cling to the groove trodden by their ancestors. Such a narrow doctrine would be exploded by one glance at the reproductions of European artists which have been collected at the School for the benefit of the students, and which are now hanging in the last of the suite of rooms devoted to the pictorial section of the Exhibition. There is here the usual wearisome iteration of Madonnas and Infant Christs, of Crucifixions, of Resurrections, and of classicial myths. But everywhere, even in these necessarily defective copies, one gets glimpses of the strong genius and noble poetry that immortalize the works of the great European masters, and one feels how slight and trivial by comparison is the inspiration of the pure Japanese school. Some day, we do not doubt, not only the technical excellence, but also the spirit of Western art will be wedded with the *forte* of Japanese, and assuredly the union will be happy. But at present the students at the Art School seem to have lost their hold on their own traditions and to be still groping helplessly after those of the Occident. Here and there we see evidence that the inimitable directness and strength of line for which the Japanese are unrivalled, still survive, but unfortunately these admirable traits disappear almost entirely whenever any incursion is made into the field of foreign style. No such criticism applies, however, when we pass to the glyptic sections of the Exhibition. Here we come upon work in wood and metal that is at once delightful and astonishing. What a vista of profit and renown would be opened for Japanese carvers in wood and chisellers in bronze and iron if only they could adapt their productions to the requirements of Western architectural decoration! It is impossible not to regret bitterly that the work of such grand masters as TAKAMURA, SHOMIN, NATSUO, and so forth, can not be applied to worthier objects than the ornamentation of trivial plaques, ignoble cigar-boxes, and statuettes of heroes and heroines that figure in history with which the vast majority of civilized peoples have neither acquaintance nor sympathy. The Art School, we imagine, ought to be able to widen the field for the workers it educates by opening closer communication with the West, and guiding its students' ideas into directions where they could hope to find substantial reward. The terrible impediment standing in the path of all art progress in Japan is that patrons able and willing to give substantial encouragement are not to be found at home. Artists, like their commoner fellow-mortals, must live, and if a livelihood is not to be procured in art, its devotees must of necessity become fewer and fewer. But a livelihood is to be found by catering for the markets of Europe and America, and to establish touch with them is the first need of the time. Unhappily the Occidental middle-man has not yet offered his services here. His intervention in the domain of ordinary trade has been the means of building up for Japan a foreign commerce of the most valuable character and of steadily growing dimensions. Is it not almost certain that had the Japanese been left to themselves to discover the commercial needs and tastes of the West, they would still be in the tentative stage, and their business with the outside world would be only a fraction of what it is? But foreign agents, thoroughly conversant with the beat of the tradal pulse of Europe and America, have stepped in, and have led Japan into the path of prosperity with a minimum of risk to herself and a maximum of celerity. Were the services of the same agents available in the field of applied art, we should see something very different from the insipid pictures and toy-like carvings now offered for sale at the Art School. But our remarks have fallen altogether into a strain of regret and disparagement, whereas there is much, very much, at the Art School that deserves different treatment. In bronze, in iron, in lacquer, in wood, there is much that deserves the heartiest applause and encouragement, from that wonderful poem in iron, SHOMIN'S Demon-slayer, to the curiously realistic wood statue of Count MATSUKATA in a black alpaca coat and seamless trousers. We strongly urge a visit to the School, for these general remarks of ours can convey but a meagre notion of the wealth of potential talent that its products display.

THE FIVE STAPLES ASSOCIATION.

MR. MAYEDA MASANA, Chairman of the Japan Trade Association, has been instrumental in forming a Society consisting of the principal Japanese dealers in, and manufacturers of, Woven Goods, Bronzes, Porcelains, Lacquer, and Paper Ware, the five principal minor staples of export. The Association has its head quarters in Kyoto. It appears to be an influential affair and to deserve the serious attention of foreign merchants. The motives of its projectors are based on com-

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plaints which we have often heard before. They say that foreign merchants at the Open Ports are in the habit of ordering goods from Japanese manufacturers on a more or less speculative basis. In the interval between the placing of the order and the delivery of the goods, the foreigner keeps close telegraphic contact with home markets, and if he finds that the demand for the goods has diminished, or that, for any other reason, they are not likely to find a ready market, he does not hesitate to rescind his order although the manufacturer may have already carried it far toward completion. In some instances, this arbitrary method of procedure places the manufacturer in a serious dilemma, for when he comes to deliver his goods, the foreigner finds all sorts of pretexts for rejecting them: they are not up to sample, or their quality is inferior, or they present some feature open to objection. On the other hand, being designed orginally for the foreign market, they cannot be disposed of at home, and the manufacturer, confronted by this difficulty, and at the same time fearing to alienate an important customer, ends by letting the goods go for a mere song. Further, the perpetual intervention of the foreign middleman operates to prevent the Japanese manufacturer from acquiring any useful or thorough knowledge of the tastes and needs of foreign consumers, and this ignorance acts as an effectual check upon his faculties of invention and design. He becomes, in fact, a species of machine, blindly following the direction of the foreign exporter and having no intimate perception of the tastes for which he is catering.

Such are the reasons assigned for the organization of the new Five Staples Association. It would be idle to pretend that the complaints preferred with reference to arbitrary conduct on the part of foreign exporters are entirely baseless. We have been listening to them too long and have heard them repeated too often to dismiss them as wholly imaginary. They used to be uttered most loudly in connection with the silk trade. It was said that foreign merchants, under the pretext of inspecting silk, kept it in their godowns long enough to feel the pulse of the Western market accurately, and then returned it without scruple to the Japanese owner if they did not see a profit in keeping it. The truth was that out of the proved impossibility of purchasing any parcel of silk from a Japanese holder without an exhaustive inspection, there had grown up a system of making purchases conditional on such inspection, and since the inspection could be effected only in foreign godowns, the silk necessarily lay in those godowns for a longer or shorter period pending the conclusion of the transaction. We do not doubt that, human nature being what it is, foreign merchants sometimes took unfair advantage of a situation so completely under their control. But the fault lay originally with the Japanese: until they could be trusted to sell honestly in conformity with sample, it was unavoidable that they should submit to exceptional conditions. The strong probability—supported, too, by all the evidence hitherto procurable—is that the undue advantage taken of their opportunities by foreign exporters has been comparatively small. At all events, however irksome the Japanese found the situation, it was of their own making and could be mended only by years of steady adherence to honest methods on their part. Fretful attempts made, now and again, to eliminate the foreign middleman, have invariably ended in loss to the Japanese. These reflections apply to the silk trade. But it would seem from the avowed motives of the new Association under consideration that similar complaints are formulated against foreign exporters of the five minor staples, and that an effort is now to be made to set them aside and carry on the trade direct. The business concerned in this scheme stood as follows in 1893:—

Woven Goods—		
Silk Handkerchiefs.....	$3,899,646	
Habutaye	3,553,604	$7,974,638
Silk Piece Goods.....	521,388	
Porcelain and Pottery.....		1,577,190
Paper Ware		201,369
Lacquer		708,992
Bronze		71,984
Total		$10,534,173

We are not in a position to say how much justice there may be in the Japanese complaint that the trade in these staples is conducted in an arbitrary and unfair manner by foreigners. But it is not open to question that many—we venture to affirm the great majority—of the foreign merchants would not stoop to practices such as they are accused of by the promoters of the Association. The natural outcome of such circumstances should be the trade's gradual gravitation into the hands of the upright and straightforward dealers and the elimination of the crooked and crafty. But the Japanese seem to want something more than that, and if they are willing to pay for experience, there is nothing to prevent their buying it. We entertain no doubt that they can acquire a great deal of practically useful knowledge by studying the tastes of foreign consumers *in loco*, and ascertaining the directions in which their own admirable skill can be profitably adapted to Western requirements. At present it is often pitiable to observe the want of guidance that cripples their capacities. But so far as concerns any wish to thrust out the foreign middeman, Japanese interests are emphatically opposed to such a step. Better agents than the foreign resident merchants could not be conceived. The keen competition that exists among them has the result of making them work on the lowest possible margin of profit, and since they purchase finally from the Japanese producer or his representative at this end, it follows that they accept all the risks of the Western markets. To get rid of such admirable aids for purely sentimental reasons would be a suicidal policy. As things are now arranged, it is to the Japanese that the major share of the gain falls. The Japanese grow rich; some of them even become millionaires. The foreigner earns a bare living; wealth never comes to him. If the Japanese really desire to change such conditions, they must be greatly lacking in common sense and business shrewdness.

THE BLAND BILL.

BY the American mail of Friday we are placed in possession of the text of the BLAND Bill, as actually passed by the Senate, and we thus learn that, in common with several American journals, we erred in supposing that there was question of an issue of silver certificates only. The coinage of the silver bullion now lying in the Treasury was certainly contemplated by the framer of the Bill, but no little confusion seems to have existed as to what the measure really meant. Thus, during the debate in the Senate, the following is reported:—

Mr. Manderson (Rep., Neb.) called the attention of Mr. Sherman and of the Senate to the fact that under the language of the Seigniorage Bill, not only might 55,000,000 of silver dollars be coined, but an additional 55,000,000 of Treasury notes might be issued.

Mr. Aldrich (Rep., R. I.) inquired, satirically, whether that was not the intention of the framers of the bill.

Mr. Masterson could not imagine that that was what was desired by those who framed the Bill, but he thought there was no question of that being the English of it.

"It cannot be interpreted in any other way," said Mr. Aldrich.

"I do not see how," Mr. Masterson assented, "and therefore I appeal to the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Harris) whether this ambiguity of expression, to treat it very mildly, should not be remedied before this Bill passes the Senate."

The text of the Bill, as passed, runs thus:—

SECTION 1.—That the Secretary of the Treasury shall immediately cause to be coined as fast as possible the silver bullion held in the Treasury purchased under the Act of July 14th, 1890, entitled: "An Act directing the purchase of silver bullion, and the issuing of Treasury notes thereon, and for other purposes," to the amount of the gain or seigniorage of such bullion, to wit:—The sum of fifty-five million one hundred and fifty-six thousand six hundred and eighty-one dollars, and such coin and silver certificates issued thereon shall be used in the payment of public expenditures; and the Secretary of the Treasury may, in his discretion, if the needs of the Treasury demand it, issue silver certificates in excess of such coinage, provided that said excess shall not exceed the amount of the seigniorage as herein authorized to be coined.

SECTION 2.—After the coinage provided for in the first section of this Act the remainder of the silver bullion purchased in pursuance of said Act of July 14th, 1890, shall be coined into legal tender standard silver dollars as fast as possible, and the coin shall be held in the Treasury for the redemption of the Treasury notes issued in the purchase of said bullion. That as fast as the bullion shall be coined for the redemption of said notes the notes shall not be reissued, but shall be cancelled and destroyed in amounts equal to the coin held at any time in the Treasury derived from the coinage herein provided for, and silver certificates shall be issued on such coin in the manner now provided by law, provided that this Act shall not be construed to change existing law relating to the legal tender character or mode of redemption of the Treasury notes issued under said Act of July 14th, 1890. That a sufficient sum

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of money is hereby appropriated to carry into effect the provisions of this Act.

Hence it will be seen that the ultimate effect of the Bill would be to impart a fictitious value to the security held by the Treasury against certain issues of paper made under the provisions of the SHERMAN Bill. The latter measure became law in 1890. It authorized the Treasury to purchase silver bullion, to the maximum amount of four million ounces monthly, the purchases being made at market rates with notes redeemable like all other obligations of the United States Government—that is to say, redeemable in gold. The face value of the notes being the gold-price actually paid for the silver bullion, the latter became theoretically good security for their redemption. Under this Bill notes to the aggregate amount of 125 million dollars were issued, the silver bullion being purchased at an average rate of 90 cents per ounce, approximately. Now the nominal gold-value of silver for purposes of coinage is 129.25 cents per ounce. Hence, if 125 million dollars worth of silver, at 90 cents per ounce, be coined into dollars at 129.25 cents per ounce, the result will be 180 million dollars, a difference of 55 millions. (It will be understood, of course, that we write in round numbers.) This difference of 55 millions the BLAND Bill proposes to coin "as fast as possible." But the coins are not necessarily to be put into circulation. There is reserved to the Secretary of the Treasury the option of using the coins themselves in payment of public expenditures, or of employing certificates (paper-money) in lieu of them. Nor does the Bill stop there. Its second clause authorizes the coinage of all the silver bullion acquired under the Sherman Act of 1890 and now lying in the Treasury, the object of coining it being to use the coins for redeeming the notes originally issued to purchase the bullion. Thus, to put the matter briefly, the intention of the Bill is to declare by law that a quantity of silver purchased by the Government of the United States at 90 cents an ounce, and now worth only 65 cents in the open market, shall be declared by law to be worth 129.25 cents, and that the notes originally issued for the purpose of purchasing the silver at 90 cents shall be secured by silver having a fictitious value of 129.25 cents. It is, as we have already said, a paltry manœuvre to rehabilitate silver by giving to a part of the silver bullion lying in the vaults of the Treasury a value which no other silver bullion possesses. As a matter of fact, the silver bullion in question is no longer worth the 125 millions of dollars paid for it. It is worth only 84 millions in the open market. For the purpose of redeeming the notes issued against it, it is already 41 millions short. The BLAND Bill would make it 96 millions short. We do not suppose that many of the dollars coined under the Bill would go into circulation. People would prefer silver certificates, and the Treasury would probably avail itself of its optional power to issue them. But the Government of the United States would be pledged to the doctrine that every ounce of silver in the Treasury vaults is worth 129.25 gold cents, and that is what Mr. BLAND and his followers seek to accomplish.

THE BRUNSWICK SUCCESSION.

AS a general rule, the fortunes of the smaller States of Europe have little claim upon the attention of foreigners in the Far East, but the fate of the now extinct Kingdom of HANOVER is not without a certain interest to Englishmen, owing to the ancient connection between that minor monarchy and their own country. The most remarkable continental re-adjustments, since the downfall of the first NAPOLEON, have been those decreed by Prince BISMARCK, in pursuance of the aggressive policy set in operation some thirty years ago; but the changes in the territory once ruled by the House of BRUNSWICK began at a considerably earlier period. A former distinguished resident of Tokyo, Dr. WAGENER—now no longer living—used to remark that he had owed allegiance, successively, to the Sovereigns of three distinct nations, having been born during the reign of WILLIAM THE FOURTH of England, grown to manhood under GEORGE of Hanover, and passed his mature years as a subject of the German Emperors. The transition of sixty years ago, when QUEEN VICTORIA succeeded to the throne of Great Britain, and Hanover became an independent State, was naturally a peaceful one, in which all parties readily acquiesced. Those of later date were enforced by arbitrary and violent methods, and for a long time were not recognized as final by the BRUNSWICK family. After the Prussians had overthrown the Hanoverian forces, in the unequal struggle which GEORGE THE FIFTH maintained in opposition to the counsels of his best friends, the vanquished King refused all terms of accommodation, and preferred to see his dominions united to those of the superior Power, rather than acknowledge in any manner the sway of his conqueror. To the end of his life he remained a defiant and irreconcilable *roi en exile*.

If the attitude he persisted in holding had affected only his personal interests he would probably have been left to enjoy his seclusion without remonstrance. But his property in the land where he once reigned was sequestrated by BISMARCK, and funded in Prussia until such times as the deposed monarch should submit to his destiny and renounce the title to which he constantly asserted his right. In the disposal of this great fortune his relatives were strongly interested, and petty princes of Europe as a ducal many of them lost no opportunity of endeavouring to move him from his obstinate humor. His wife, the ex-QUEEN, was, however, as unyielding as himself, and, supported by her influence he steadfastly adhered to his position. He had money enough for his needs, and the rank and dignity of a British Royal Duke to console him,—for, as a descendant of the Kings of England, he possessed the title of Duke of CUMBERLAND. Upon his death, in 1878, it was thought that the quarrel might come to an end, especially as the German Government made no secret of its desire to arrange the business amicably. The EMPEROR was prepared to restore the property known as the "Guelph Fund," and to concede the succession to the Duchy of BRUNSWICK on the condition that the Royal aspirations should be abandoned. But the heir to King GEORGE'S pretensions inherited likewise his father's stubborn and intractable nature. He would, he declared, be re-invested with sole authority over Hanover, or live and die as Duke of CUMBERLAND only.

As years went on the value of the "Guelph Fund" increased to such an extent that another affort, more strenuous than the first, was made by the family to bring about a pacification. In this movement the Queen of ENGLAND took an active part, representing to her contumacious cousin that his course would inevitably result in depriving his children, with whom he is numerously provided, of something like twenty millions of dollars. The fund, when seized by Germany, was reckoned at more than ten millions; and though it was believed that a part of it had been used by BISMARCK for "secret service," the total value in 1890 was estimated at nearly double the original amount, in consequence of the skillful manner in which the property had been invested. Overcome, finally, by the solicitations of his Royal and other monitors, and thinking, perhaps—as Henry of FRANCE thought Paris worth a mass—that a huge fortune was worth a sacrifice of prejudice, the Duke consented to break the spirit if not the letter of his vow. To his purpose of remaining Duke of CUMBERLAND in case the title he longed for were withheld from him, he clung as strictly as ever, but after prolonged consultations and discussions he gave the required pledge, for himself and his successors, to abstain from all attempts to regain the sovereignty of Hanover. The main question in dispute was thus settled, and by the last mail from Europe intelligence came that he had set aside his own claim to the Brunswick succession in favour of his eldest son, GEORGE LUDWIG, who, it is announced, will commence his career as a German subject by serving a term in the Prussian army, and, on coming of age, will take position among the

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of a burden of care and discomfort, and the Duke of CUMBERLAND relinquishes a visionary hope for the unattainable, receiving in exchange the certainty of colossal wealth for himself, and, for his son, a throne shorn of a good deal of its glory, but still a throne. Kings—above all, kings in exile—are not apt to look with philosophic eyes upon the practical affairs of the world, and it is by no means improbable that the personage who in every substantial sense has come out far ahead in this transaction is now the most discontented of the entire lot.

HAWAII AND JAPAN.

ON the 12th instant the *Official Gazette* contained the following :—

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE.

We hereby authorize and direct to be promulgated this Ordinance with regard to the privilege of Consular Jurisdiction provided for in Our Treaty with the Government of Hawaii.

(Imperial Sign Manual.)

(Great Seal.)

(Signed) The Minister President of State.
The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.
The Minister of State for Justice.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE NO. 41.

The provisions contained in the Treaty concluded with the Hawaiian Government on the 4th day of the 7th month of the 4th year of *Meiji*, relating to Consular Jurisdiction, shall cease to be operative from this time. Therefore, it shall be competent from this time for people of Hawaii, within the limits of Laws and Ordinances now in force, or that may hereafter be put in force, to travel and reside in any part of Our Empire, to rent dwelling-houses or ware-houses in the places where they reside, and to engage in all lawful occupations.

Hawaii having surrendered the extra-territorial jurisdiction acquired by her under her Treaty of 1871, the Japanese Government, by this Ordinance, declares that the provisions of the Treaty relating to Jurisdiction henceforth cease to be operative, and that Hawaiian citizens shall consequently receive in Japan the same treatment as Japanese subjects, the privilege of owning real estate being, however, withheld. The procedure pursued in this case is identical with that pursued in the case of Portugal, though the origin of the step differs in each instance. Portugal having failed to make due provision for the exercise of the jurisdiction she had acquired in Japan, forfeited the right to exercise it, and Japan thereupon, having formally denounced the jurisdictional provisions of the Portuguese Treaty, resumed the jurisdiction herself. Similarly Hawaii, having voluntarily surrendered her acquired jurisdiction, Japan abrogates the treaty provisions by which it was acquired, and resumes its exercise herself. Hawaiian citizens at present in Japan do not, we believe, number more than twenty-five, so that the facilities of trade, travel, and residence now granted to them will not count for much. But the theoretical significance of the incident is not affected by the insignificance of its direct practical results. What has to be noted is that this Imperial Ordinance confirms the principle already established by Japan's Treaty with Mexico, namely, that the only obstacle to the complete opening of the country is Consular Jurisdiction. It is now perfectly clear that any Foreign Power is competent to obtain for its subjects or citizens the privileges of unrestricted travel, unrestricted trade, and unrestricted residence in every part of Japan, provided that they are submitted to Japanese jurisdiction. The point must henceforth be finally excluded from the range of debate. Many years ago, indeed, it ceased to be debatable in view of the declared policy of the Japanese Government. But despite the public's full cognisance of that policy, and despite the practical proof of its sincerity furnished by the Mexican Treaty, some writers had still the temerity to deny that the continuance of Japan's semi-isolation was not of her own choosing. We may reasonably hope that the fate of that fallacy is now finally sealed. Another important effect of the step is that it should be the *nunc dimittis* of the anti-Mixed-Residence agitators. Even the Oriental Radicals must bow to the logic of accomplished facts carrying the high sanction of their Sovereign. Mixed Residence is now an accomplished fact. It became an irrevocably accomplished fact immediately on the ratification of the Mexican Treaty, and the continuance of the policy then inaugurated is established by this Hawaiian Ordinance. Foreigners and Japanese who, desiring for selfish or uncivilized reasons to condemn Japan to the continued disgrace of semi-isolation, represent her, on the one hand, as unwilling, and, on the other, as unfit to associate with strangers on equal terms, will now find a difficulty about taking up their parable again, and the cause of enlightenment will benefit considerably by their discomfiture.

HONGKONG.

An idea of the growth of Hongkong may be gathered from the fact that a school is about to be started on the Kowloon side for the children of Europeans residing there. We can well recall the time when there was not so much as one inhabited European house on the Kowloon Peninsula, and when the insanitary reputation of the place resulting from the terrible experience of the 11th Regiment when quartered there was such as to render it extremely improbable that the place would ever be largely utilized for foreign residence. But British colonists manage somehow or other to overcome all difficulties.

The *Hongkong Daily Press*, referring to our recent article on the subject of divorce in Japan, makes copious quotations from Professor Chamberlain's "Things Japanese." Our colonial contemporary does not appear to recognize that "Things Japanese" is not a very serious book and must not be taken *au pied de la lettre*. Professor Chamberlain has in some cases sacrificed strict accuracy to graces of diction, and when he speaks of "the boy and the cook bringing home a new wife almost as often as they bring home a new saucepan" he is clever rather than accurate. However, there is no doubt about the truth of what Professor Chamberlain and the *Hongkong Daily Press* assert, namely, that marriage among the lower classes in Japan is often nothing more than a species of tentative concubinage. If the object of marriage be not merely to increase the population, but also to establish between two people a relation of mutual helpfulness and happiness, then perhaps the Japanese system has its advantages. But that is a theoretical question and we in our recent article dealt simply with facts.

There are 7,900 houses in the city of Victoria and of these 705 have been treated under the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance which came into operation in 1890. The treatment in question consists of re-draining in a very thorough manner, and is naturally objected to by the inmates, especially when they are Chinese. In fact the annual report of the Sanitary Superintendent just published indicates that there remains a great deal to be done before the Chinese quarters of the city of Victoria can be said to be in a sanitary condition. But what a difference there is between these same quarters and those inhabited by Chinese in any other city of the broad empire. It is a difference best described by the Japanese proverbial epithet for opposites, "dirt and the empyrean."

The death rate in Hongkong rose from 20.7 in 1892 to 22.7 in 1893, and the number of deaths registered in the latter year was considerably greater than the number in the former, the principal increase being in Infantile Convulsive Diseases (270), Bowel Complaints (124) and Other Causes (169). On the other hand there is a considerable decrease in deaths caused by fever in 1892 and 1893, and this is a particularly interesting fact because of its connection with a theory hitherto generally believed, namely, that disturbance of soil is one of the principal factors in causing malarial fevers. During 1893 disturbance of soil took place on an exceptionally large scale, especially in Kowloon, yet the deaths recorded from fevers were less than usual. From this it is reasonably inferred that, unless some peculiarly powerful cause of malarial fevers was inoperative during 1892 and 1893, disturbance of soil must no longer be counted so potential as heretofore.

The Luzon Sugar Refining Company has held its twelfth Ordinary Annual Meeting in Hongkong. The record for the year 1893 is not good. During the opening month the favourable predictions uttered in the preceding year were justified, but subsequently the demand for Spain where the Company finds its principle market ceased almost entirely and the net profits for the year aggregated only $40,253, whereas the Company was indebted to the General Agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, to the extent of $50,000 on advance account and $136,786 on current account. Of course there was no dividend and the tone of the Chairman as to the prospects for the present year was markedly guarded.

It seems that the prospects of pearl fishing on the Borneo Coast are looking up. Experts prospecting in the interests of Messrs. McAlister and Company have struck a patch of promising shell in Maruda Bay. Specimens have been brought to Singapore and favourably pronounced upon.

The Singapore Chamber of Commerce has decided by a majority of 17 to 8 to cöoperate with the Hongkong Chamber in bringing before the Colonial Office the necessity of authorizing the coinage of a British dollar of the same weight and purity as the Mexican dollar, such coin to be legal tender in the Straits and Hongkong concurrently with the present legal tender. We cannot wonder at this step. If there is anything to wonder at it is that the two colonies have hitherto been content to use as a medium of exchange a coin not only technically contemptible as the Mexican dollar is, but also subject to fluctuations of supply such as augment the uncertainty of value already due to the variableness of the metal composing it. However, the operation of coining dollars is not profitable in any mint, and it remains to be seen how that difficulty will be overcome.

It appears that the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company has presented, or is about

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to present, a sum of Tls 50,000 to the Government as a subscription to the procession in honour of the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday which is to be celebrated in Peking next November. The Kaiping Mine Company is expected to give Tls. 30,000 for the same purpose. There are ways and ways of putting capital into circulation.

CHINA.

The visit of Messrs. Lund and Lindström to Peking for the purpose of obtaining fuller redress than had already been given in the Sung-pu affair, has not produced any noteworthy result. The main object of the two delegates was to procure protection and reparation for the native Christians and their friends in Sung-pu, who are alleged to have suffered cruelly in consequence of their sympathetic attitude. But the Ministers of the *Tsung-li Yamên*, when approached on the subject, simply said that they had no information of the injustice and outrages said to have been perpetrated, and that the all-powerful Viceroy Chang Chih-tung had memorialized the Throne to the effect that the Sung-pu affair was settled. Messrs. Lund and Lindström had, therefore, to be content with an assurance from the Foreign Representatives that in all probability, the strong representations addressed to the *Tsung-li Yamên*, and doubtless transmitted to the great Viceroy of Hukuang, would guarantee the friendly Chinese against further molestation. Thus China emerges from every collision unhurt because of her bulk. The distance from her extremities to her centre of sensation is so great that she cannot be made to suffer vitally.

Our readers doubtless remember the instructions issued to his nationals by the much abused Mr. Consul-General Bock, after the Sung-pu massacre. A violent outcry was raised against the instructions, which were said to mean simply that Swedish missionaries in China must endure anything rather than have recourse to the interference of their officials. These instructions have now been declared to be merely advisory, and have been supplemented by a circular directing that missionaries must obtain special passports from the Consul-General, who is to use his discretion about granting them, and to avoid issuing a passport to any region where he believes the anti-missionary feeling to be so strong that the Chinese Authorities can not afford efficient protection. At the same time the Consul-General, in issuing passports, is to follow, as far as possible, the principles applied to missionaries of the China Inland Mission, and a missionary who, being refused a passport, feels dissatisfied, may apply direct to Stockholm. This seems a wise measure. Perhaps it inaugurates a system for the better direction of missionary labour.

Baron von der Goltz, Interpreter to the German Legation at Peking, proceeds home on leave, and his place will be taken by Dr. Franke, at present Interpreter to the German Consulate-General at Shanghai. Dr. Franke's place will be filled by Dr. Forke, now Interpreter to the German Consulate, Amoy.

According to despatches from Taipeh, the capital of Formosa, the authorities have decided to construct a ship-building yard connected with the arsenal outside the city. The first attempt will be with two small-sized steamboats, intended to be used as *likin* cruisers between Formosa and the Pescadores.

On the 31st of March, Colonel Denby, United States Minister to Peking, and for a considerable time *Doyen* of the *Corps Diplomatique* in that capital, left Shanghai by the *Calédonien*, on leave of absence, and travelling with him was M. Lemaire, who was retiring from the post of French Minister "and bidding a final farewell to China, after forty years of service. M. Lemaire," says the *North China Daily News*. "came out to China at the age of 14, obtained the post of Interpreter in the French Consular service, being attached to General Montauban during the war waged with China by France and England and rose gradually to the highest position, that of Minister. He goes to France now on a special mission. Mrs. Denby and Mme. Lemaire accompany their husbands."

The Shanghai Amateur Dramatic Corps gave a very successful repetition of the farce *Mother-in-Law*, at the Lyceum Theatre on the 29th of March.

The U.S.S. *Monocacy* arrived at Nanking on the 25th of March, and signalized her presence by inviting the whole missionary community of the place to tiffin on the 27th.

Another outrage has been committed against Missionaries. The victims were two Norwegians, Messrs. Kristensen and Helgeson, and the place was Iling, a town 27 miles from Chiukiang. The Missionaries went there last fall, and found from the outset that local feeling was against them. Shortly after their arrival they felt compelled to ask the Yangchow officials for a proclamation. It was issued, and further, the owner of the house rented by them was summoned to Yangchow, and obliged to sign a document binding him to pay one-half of any loss of mission property caused at any time by a riotous mob. Matters did not mend at Iling, however, and early in March Mr. Helgeson had to proceed to Yangchow and apply for protection. The responsible official promised everything, but seems to have taken no efficient step. He did, however, try to persuade the Missionaries to leave Iling. On the 27th of March a large mob attacked the mission, laid waste the premises and destroyed the property. The Missionaries had to fly for their lives. This is a repetition of the familiar old story. Was it absolutely essential that Christian propagandism should be carried on in Iling, whatever the risk?

It is estimated that the Birthday celebrations in Peking will cost over 30 million Taels, of which 18 millions have thus far been collected.

A boat returning to Shanghai from a pleasure trip, organized by Germans, came into collision, on the 1st of April, with a small Chinese gunboat, in the Soochow Creek. Some soldiers from the gunboat jumped on board the boat and maltreated the *laodah*. One of the Germans went on shore to remonstrate, but was assailed with mud and stones by a mob, while four of the soldiers covered him with their rifles. A squeeze of a string of cash enabled the foreigners to proceed on their way.

The Stockholm Government has approved of Mr. Consul-General Bock's settlement of the Sung-pu affair and has thanked him officially. That is a hard nut for the local newspapers that have been abusing him so roundly.

Early in April there arrived at Chungking a globe-trotter, Dr. G. S. Morrison, an Australian M.D., who walked alone, carrying his "swag" from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Melbourne, 2,400 miles, in 123 days. He is a man of extraordinary experiences. A correspondent of the *North China Daily News* says:—

He is now walking to Rangoon, whence he steams back to his native place, Geelong. He seems about 30 years of age, and studied medicine in Paris and Edinburgh, and in the latter place a marvellous operation was performed on him—the extraction of two spear-heads that had been in his body 160 days. One entered the right eye and was extracted from the back of his throat; one the abdomen, and was cut out of his thigh; until which he had been unable to walk. He had been left for dead on the field. He has been some years in charge of the Ballarat Hospital, and is now enjoying a well-earned furlough. He walks, and rides hired ponies, having with him one Chinese cook and a man to carry his change of clothes. He has very little money and is dressed in native coolie clothes with *queue*. He knows scarcely a dozen words of Chinese, but is a man of quite exceptionat determination, and very humorous withal."

A destructive fire broke out, on the evening of the 3rd inst., between the wall of the Chinese city of Shanghai and the river, in Tungkadoo. Owing to a strong gale the flames defied control for some time, and 1,000 houses were destroyed over an area of half a mile long, and several hundred yards wide. At one time the flames seemed likely to spread to the French Concession. The French Fire Brigade turned out early, but did not at once commence operations, the scene of the conflagration being outside their limits. Ultimately, at the request of the Taotai, they went to work, and five streams of water were soon playing on the burning buildings, so that the progress of the fire was stopped. It seems a pity that any delay should occur in rendering such assistance.

The report of the Yangtsze Insurance Association for 1893 shows that, after putting $30,000 to the Reserve (thus raising it to $310,000), $16,000 to Exchange Investment Fluctuation Account, and carrying forward $157,753, against claims amounting to about $75,000, a dividend of 10 per cent. can be paid to the shareholders. On the other hand, the Straits Fire Insurance Company made a loss of $104,000 on the year's working.

The annual tribute from Korea to China has been carried to Peking, and the Emperor of the Middle Kingdom has presented to the ambassador a richly caparisoned pony, some gold and silver filagree cups, and a quantity of silk and satin brocades. That is what China calls an "interchange of neighbourly courtesies."

A River Conservancy Bureau has been established at Lukouchi'iao, near Peking, with special reference to the Yungting River and the Grand Canal. The Bureau's annual revenue is to be Tls. 60,000.

A cashiered Major in the Chinese Army has been sentenced to be strangled for throwing himself before the Imperial *cortége* as the Court was returning from sacrificial worship.

A fire occurred at the Chinese New Cotton Spinning Mills, next door to the Shanghai Waterworks, on the afternoon of the 4th instant. A quantity of skutched cotton was destroyed, but the buildings and machinery were saved.

Among the numerous lawsuits between Roman Catholic missions and the native Authorities in progress all over the empire of China, one lately instituted in Chouhsien, a district some 20 miles south-east of Chiningchou, has caused a kind of pitched battle between several thousands of the Christians and their non-Christian neighbours. Two Christians were killed, two died subsequently of their injuries, and several were seriously wounded. All the gentry in the district are said to be uniting their vast influence against the Roman Catholic suitors, and the Chouhsien magistrate is reported to be on the verge of suicide.

The last report of the Shantung Missionary Conference shows that there are 10 Protestant Missionary bodies, aggregating 169 foreign missionaries, men and women, in the province of Shantung, and that they have 8,350 native Church members. There are also 10 missionary hospitals, at which 88,537 Chinese patients were treated during the year.

The China Merchants Steam Navigation Company has published its report for the year ended 5th February, 1894. The dividend is 10 per cent. The following interesting paragraphs occur in the *North China Daily News*' translation of the Company's Report:—

The nineteenth annual report of this company, for the 18th year of the reign of H.I.M. Kuang Hsü (1892-3) having already been issued and published for the information of the public, the Director-General and his colleagues have now the honour to present to the shareholders and the general public the twentieth annual report of the general working of the company for the year that has just passed—1893-4. The shareholders of the company will see from the Profit and Loss Account now published, that the gross gains of the steamers of the company, after deducting the expenses incurred in working them, come up to over Tls. 803,000, and that the freight on the transport of tribute rice carried by the company's steamers, together with godown charges and incomes derived from landed properties, amounts to a further sum of Tls. 215,000, odd. From these two totals are to be deducted Tls. 429,000, odd, disbursed for ground rent, general repairs, salaries of employés and dividends to shareholders. Added to this there has also to be deducted the sum of Tls. 313,000, odd, written down to Depreciation Account in respect of the company's ships and godowns, thus giving a net profit of Tls. 275,000 odd for the year under review. In consequence of the very high rates charged on sterling exchange, the company has suffered up to the present time a loss of over Tls. 200,000 in repaying

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their loan to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. To make good this loss on exchange the Director-General and his colleagues have been compelled to write off Tls. 110,000 deposited in the said Bank, being accumulation of interest during the past years on premiums derivable from insurance risks made by the company on their own steamers, and Tls. 90,000 taken from the Reserve Fund, which therefore leaves a total of Tls. 876,000, odd, to the last named account or general Reserve Fund. The company now owes at the present moment the sum of Tls. 237,000, odd, to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, being balance still due to the Bank on foreign loans; owing to the continually falling rates of sterling exchange it is to be feared that the loss arising from this will be still greater when the time arrives for the repayment of the company's indebtedness in the above respect. Furthermore, the total amount of the account current of the Company during the year under review comes up to Tls. 345,000.

Since the last annual report, the company has increased its fleet by the addition of a new steamer, the *Kweliee*, while the old steamers *Yehsin* and *Kiangping* have been turned into hulks or receiving ships. This makes the number of steamers belonging to the company, in active service, twenty-six in all. After deducting the usual amount for depreciation, the estimated value of the twenty-six steamers, the wharves, godowns, and landed property of the company is Tls. 3,805,000.

The average annual net gain of the company's river and ocean-going steamers during the twenty years of its existence is Tls. 2,000,000: this brings the total net earnings up to Tls. 40,000,000 which vast sum has been kept in the country and prevented from going into foreign hands by the formation of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, without counting indeed the enormous benefits realised by Chinese shippers arising from competition on freights, etc. The great importance of properly developing the commercial resources of China and the vast advantages to the country at large accruing therefrom, should, therefore, go without saying.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

PASSPORTS AND HOW THEY TREAT US.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I doubt whether any foreigner who has not travelled a good deal in Japan, and who has endeavoured to walk by the strict meaning of the passports, knows how little these abominable documents make this fair and beautiful land appear in the eyes of all civilized people. I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I predict that no civilized nation will treat with Japan till she cremates her passports. They are the incubus of this country,—its besetting sin, absolutely useless except as they serve the purpose of keeping up national hatred between the Japanese and people of other nations. It is a great shame to this country that it should still hold on to this relic of a past age of envy and hatred and retaliation between fellowmen and nations.

I do not entertain the least spirit of national ill-will to Japan because I have had trouble with her passports. Though born an American, and hence, by birth, more closely related to that country, yet every man is my fellow citizen; and is such on his own merits, and not because of his birth or station.

But here I am, in Tsuruga, in *durance vile*,—was perfectly unconscious of travelling with an imperfect passport till a few minutes before the train was to start, when a policeman stepped up, asked for my passport, and then told me that it had expired, and would not do, and that the R.R. would sell me no ticket. Imagine the feelings which passed over me at this intelligence, being as I am on my way to Yokohama to meet the boat leaving for America on the 13th which is to take me over to my family from which I have been separated for a year; and beside, worn out, and hastening away, too, at the direction of a physician.

And what on earth is the matter with the passport? It is a pass secured for me by one of the Government schools in Kanazawa permitting me to return to Tokyo. It expired on the same day on which my engagement with the school expired, March 31st. I left Kanazawa on March 30th, waited two days for a boat, and landed in Tsuruga to-day the 3rd.

Several hours after the train had gone, a policeman called and informed me that he could fix up the matter so that I may go on; that the favourable point on my side was that I started from Kanazawa one day before my pass had expired; on that ground I could go on. Too shallow ground to walk on; for only by my work in the school closing one day earlier was it possible to leave when I did.

But I had already telegraphed to Mr. Tomita, President of the School, that I could go no further on his passport, and I could not now be so disrespectful as to go off without his answer; and in fact, in this matter, he is the only and proper man for me to appeal to. The police here have made no inquiry at Kanazawa *Keisatsusho*. They may, no doubt, be strictly following their orders. But surely the error should be corrected where it was made. I informed the policeman who interfered with me at the station already of the day on which I left Kanazawa,—the day before the expiration of my passport. And so far as that is concerned, if I had not departed till the day of expiration, it would have been the same passport. But I have been delayed now a day here, and will be longer, simply because the policeman at the station was either unacquainted with such cases, or wilfully refused to tell me that as I had started from Kanazawa before the expiration of my passport I could go on. I am inclined to think the former is the true reason. However, this is not the first case of this kind of trouble which has occurred here, as I am informed. And experience does not seem to have made any of us the wiser; for I myself ought to have seen to it that the date of the passport was all right. But, I forget just here that it *was* all right according to the final opinion of the policeman; for I started a day before it expired.

I have simply called attention to the interminable annoyance which will for ever arise over the passport. I hope I shall come out in this case in time to go on to my family. But the law, I suppose, knows no discretion. We all must come in with the cranes which the farmer caught stealing his corn. The innocent but unfortunate stork caught among them was made to suffer with the company he was found in. And I suppose the man who falls into this net here must expect no difference to be shown him. But it does seem passingly strange that a nation like the Japanese should bend down so low in this regard. But nations grow the slowest in those virtues which make noblemen.

Respectfully, E. SNODGRASS.

Tsuruga, April 3rd, 1894.

IN THE INTEREST OF SPORT AND LAW.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—It would appear as if the extended time for shooting licenses allowed to pursuers of snipe and woodcock in Kanagawa Ken, had been availed of by some folks for the purpose of either trapping or shooting pheasants—the pursuit of which birds should end on the 15th March—for in the Yokohama market there were hanging up this morning twenty (20) of these birds. Unless possessors of game come under the Game Laws as well as pursuers it is to be feared that these laws will never afford the protection intended by their enactment.

It is to be hoped that Japanese gentlemen who carry a gun for relaxation will see the incompleteness of the laws, and urge, in the right quarter, the prosecution of those who are in the possession of game after the period allowed for pursuit has expired. Enclosing my card,

I am, yours truly, SPORTSMAN.

Yokohama, 6th April, 1894.

SCHOOLS IN TOKYO.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your late two leaders on schools, I note you do not say anything about our school in Tsukiji, and trust you will allow me to say a few words in its favour.

We have four teachers, Miss McRae, B.A., of London; Miss Dawson, graduate of Maria Grey Training College; Miss Wallace, B.A., of St. Mary's Knoxville, U.S.A., and Miss Zitelmann, German teacher.

The school is subdivided into three separate divisions, one containing boys from eleven to fifteen years of age, the second, girls from seven to thirteen, and the third, boys from six to twelve years of age.

The big boys and girls are taught Latin, Mathematics, German, Drawing, and the ordinary English subjects. The elder boys also learn Greek. The small boys are taught such of these subjects as are suited to their age and ability.

I am sure that the big boys of this school will compare very favourably with any boys of their age taught outside of the home-lands.

Many may doubt whether lady teachers are suitable for big boys. Well, I am sure that the boys in this school will compare, in their behaviour and true manliness, very favourably with boys of their age in any part of the globe.

The terms in the big boys' school are nine *yen* for one boy and eight each for two or more from the same family. In the girls' and lower boys' school six *yen* for one, and five each for two or more, are charged.

Music can be got from outside teachers, and Mrs. Patton comes to Tokyo once a week to teach dancing to Tokyo children.

You will thus see that provided a boy is even slightly studious he has no reason to feel crippled for the battle of life, because he cannot be sent home to school.

The education aimed at is one which will prepare boys and girls to enter the colleges of the home-lands.

The schools are entirely under Miss McRae; the Rev. W. J. White kindly acts as honorary treasurer, and applications for admission ought to be sent to either one of them.

I remain, Sir, your truly, R. J. KIRBY.

Tokyo, April 9th, 1894.

[Reference to this school would have been almost irrelevant. We wrote of the Victoria School, and of educational institutions that compete with it. The school spoken of by Mr. Kirby can scarcely be included in the latter category, since it has only one Yokohama lad, we believe, among its students. —Ed. *J.M.*]

FALSE RELIGIONS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have been very much interested in the articles which have appeared recently in the *Japan Mail* under the caption of "False Religions." Now it seems to me that while the word "imperfect" may be applied to systems of morals, it cannot properly be applied to any religious *system*. To say that anything is imperfect, is to admit the possibility of it becoming perfect on receiving certain additions. Now what kind of additions could any ethnic religion receive to become perfect and true? I mean perfect from a Christian point of view. If there is one true and perfect religion then there cannot be another, which is either perfect or capable of becoming so. Hence the word "false" is perfectly proper when used to describe non-Christian religions.

Yours, &c., U. G. MURPHY,
99, Minami-Buhei-Cho, Nagoya.

April 7th, 1894.

REV. JOSEPH COOK.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In the *Japan Weekly Mail* of January 27th, your Baltimore correspondent, in speaking of the Rev. Joseph Cook's lecture in that city, said of him:—"He seems to be woefully petering out in reputation or sensation. His audience scarcely numbered two hundred, dead-heads and all."

A Methodist Bishop, himself a learned and eloquent speaker, recently went to hear Joseph Cook in Boston, and had this to say of him:—

"I sat on the platform, and had opportunity to see and feel the power of this strong man, who closed that day his eighteenth annual course of lectures. He has a massive frame and restless eye, the largest head I ever saw on human shoulders, a quick, jerky voice, and an intensity of expression and movement, that altogether make up a tremendous personality. Nearly two thousand persons listened and applauded through prelude and lecture. He said many brilliant and some profound things. He has a genius for terse sayings."

It would be difficult to reconcile these two conflicting opinions without more light on the subject. But since Joseph Cook has been lecturing for eighteen consecutive years in "The Hub of the Universe" and can still hold an applauding audience of two thousand learned Bostonians under the magic of his "tremendous personality" and "terse sayings," one is forced to the conclusion that your Baltimore correspondent either did not see and hear him or that the correspondent himself was one of those "dead-heads" who, of course, were not able to appreciate the "many brilliant and profound things" for which Joseph Cook's lectures are noted.

Yours truly, WILL PATTILLO.

April 11th, 1894.

Eczema.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. North & Rae, Limited, Yokohama.

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REVIEW.

"Chiushingura, or the Loyal Retainers of Akao."
Translated by JUKICHI INOUYE.

THAT stirring tale, the story of the Forty-seven *Ronin*, so heroic from first to last and so illustrative of Japanese feudal life, has been dramatized by several Japanese authors and translated, or rather epitomized, by several English. The foreign public is thoroughly familiar with the details of the strange incident, and that is all the foreign public wants, unless, indeed, some fine and faithful English or French version could be prepared of the drama as put upon the Japanese stage. Such a version would be valuable and interesting, not for the sake of the story woven into its plot, since with the story every one is already familiar, but for the sake of the insight it would give us into the genius of Japanese dramatists. The Japanese are great actors, very great indeed. Of that there can be no manner of doubt. But of the pieces performed upon their stage, the foreign public have only the most meagre conception. If some enthusiastic and capable author would remove that ignorance by preparing a really trustworthy translation—so far as such a thing is possible—of their favourite dramas and farces, he would deserve gratitude and might win renown. Need we say, however, that the task is as far beyond the strength of a Japanese as it would be beyond the strength of an Englishman to render Shakespeare or Beaumont and Fletcher into the language of Japan? But Mr. Inouye Jukichi has essayed the task with Takeda Izumo's drama of the "Chiushin-gura." He is, perhaps, as well qualified as any Japanese. Indeed we are surprised at the accuracy and correctness of his English. It is *his* English, we presume, for neither in preface nor on fly-leaf does he say anything of assistance received from a foreigner. Working without such assistance, he has proved himself a remarkably accurate student of the English tongue. But as a writer of English dramas, he must not be disappointed to learn that he has failed lamentably. For that task something else is wanted than correct syntax and idiomatic accuracy. Nothing can be more *jejeune* and unpalatable than a translation that perpetually reminds us of a translation. Mr. Inouye's work does so. It has not a particle of the verve, the sparkle, the neatness, the art of its original. More we need not say of the work in general. But it invites one or two references to particulars.

Mr. Inouye himself tells us that he "has perhaps taken too great liberties with the play in curtailing it." We agree with him. He has omitted no less than four out of the eleven Acts of which the original play is composed, those left out being Acts I., II., VIII., and IX. Of these, Act VIII. is, perhaps, incapable of being properly rendered into any foreign language, for it belongs to that peculiar species of poetical composition of which the principal charm consists in skilful word-plays defying all attempts at intelligible translation. To turn it into a foreign tongue, whatever the ability of the translator, would rob it of all the charm it possesses in the original. The only attempt at translating it into English, so far as we know, is that by Mr. Frederick V. Dickins, which, though excellent in its way, is no translation, as he himself admits. Fortunately, this Act is not essential to the development of the main plot, being a description of a journey undertaken by Tonase and Konami. Mr. Inouye, therefore, cannot be blamed for omitting it. But his rejection of the three other Acts can not be so easily dismissed. He pleads that "these Acts retard the action of the play and so lessen the interest in it." In our opinion these Acts, instead of retarding the action of the play, materially contribute to the development of the plot, and to strip the piece of them, as has been done by Mr. Inouye, is to do great injustice to the joint authors of this national play. Act IX. especially, is regarded as one of the most interesting sections of the work. It is in this Act that Oishi, the leader of the loyal band, by unexpected means obtains possession of the plan of Kira's mansion. Besides, the Act shows in an interesting and impressive manner to what extent the minds not only of Oishi but also of his wife and son were engrossed with the one idea of avenging the death of their unhappy lord. To understand this Act thoroughly, we cannot dispense with Act II.; while the last mentioned Act and the preceding are essential as preparatory ground for the whole story. We think Mr. Inouye has erred in omitting these important sections of the play. We are inclined to think that his true object is not merely "to give a readable rendering of one of the most celebrated plays in Japan," but to adapt the drama for production on a Western stage. Apart from this hypothesis, it is difficult to see why he should have cut down the drama to the conventional dimensions of five Acts. If that were his object, we fear that he must be prepared for disappointment. As to his manner of translation, the work is creditable within the limits noted above. But we venture to think that he has been unnecessarily free with the original. Verbatim translation is, of course, out of the question, but a translator has no right to deviate from the text where its strict rendering is not impossible. To cite a few examples illustrating this defect: if the reader turns to page 2, he will find the first sentence runs thus:—"O my lord, you stand high in the *Shogun's* favour." But that is not a correct rendering of the words "*Odanna, kyo no Gozen-omote mo jo-shubi, jo shubi.*" They mean:—"Surely my lord things will go well, full well with you in the *Shogun's* presence to-day." Again, the first line of Kira's answer:—"Softly, good Bannai; we may be overheard," ought to be: "Have a care! Have a care! Don't speak loud. Remember that she has a husband." (*Yai! yai! Koyedaka ni kuchi kikuna; nushi aru Kaoyo*). On the next page we find, "who has great duties to perform to-day:" whereas the original is "*Konnichi Goyo no aru.....*" ("who is on service with the *Shogun* to day"). A few lines further down, Kira is made to say, "He is afraid to come himself, but sends this Kajikawa to frighten me," whereas the text signifies:—"Instead of taking the matter into his own hands, he sends this fellow Kajikawa to humiliate me." (*Waga te wo dasazu, Honbo me ni iitsuke, kono Moronao ga iko no hanawo hishi gano tame.*) Such instances of careless translation may be multiplied *ad infinitum*, but we have not space for the task. It may, however, be added that Mr. Inouye shows a conspicuous lack of information about the former institutions of his own country. For instance, he renders *bozu* or *cha-bozu* (p. ix. Introduction) as "priest." Now a *bozu* in the household of the *Shogun* or a *Daimyo* was a sort of page, the only point of similarity between him and a regular priest being that both had their heads shaved. The principal duty of the *bozu* was to serve tea to the lord and officers of the household; hence they were called *cha-bozu*. Again, the term *Ji-sha Bugyo* (p. xvi. Introduction) is translated as "Superintendent of Ecclesiastical Buildings"; whereas the correct equivalent is "Commissioner of Temples and Shrines." Further, the *ashigaru*, according to Mr. Inouye, was a courier; but everybody acquainted with feudal Japan knows that the *ashigaru* constituted an inferior class of the two sworded community. Perhaps Mr. Inouye fell into this error from the circumstance that the particular representative of the class in the present play, Terasaka Kichiyemon (Teraoka Heiyemon) is spoken of by Oishi as having been sent on some errand as a courier (p. 48).

We may add that the volume is printed on Japanese paper, and charmingly illustrated by Eisen Tomioka, both in colours and Indian-ink. It is a praiseworthy effort in many ways, and we heartily wish that we could speak more highly of a work on the execution of which so much ability and enterprise have been expended.

TONIC SOL-FA CONCERT AT THE PUBLIC HALL.

The fourth annual concert of the Yokohama Juvenile Tonic Sol fa Choral Society, which took the form of a well-deserved benefit to the musical director and conductor, Mrs. E. S. Patton, came off at the Public Hall on Wednesday evening, and was a success in many ways. The large attendance must have been very gratifying to Mrs. Patton, and her accomplished assistant, Miss Bloxham, and the large measure of applause accorded the various numbers we hope rewarded them for their indefatigable labours in preparing and training the little performers. What these labours were Mrs. Patton gave some inkling when returning thanks for the grateful acknowledgment accorded her by Mr. James Troup, on behalf of the audience, during one of the intervals. One hour a week was all that her pupils could give to the whole of their musical studies. Many of the best voices of the previous years had left the Society just when some return for patient care bestowed upon their development might have been expected, so that the choir was continually suffering from the importation of large drafts of raw material, rendered necessary to keep the choruses up to their numerical strength. The excellence of the Tonic Sol-fa method, Mrs. Patton said, was amply illustrated in the performance given that evening, the pupils one and all playing and singing from memory.

In regard to the general effect of the concert we must say that the choruses all showed distinct improvement, both in time, precision, and accuracy; while the rendering of the instrumental pieces also marked an advance in musical perception. We have not space to criticise in detail, but some reference must be made to the most noticeable items on the programme. The pianoforte solo, "Music of the Woods," in Part I., by Master Lindsley was very beautifully given, the tender grace of expression thrown into the theme being remarkable for a lad of his years. Mr. Sargent's solo on the same instrument was also a nice piece of execution. In Part II. a Minuett by Paderewski, played by Miss Lindsley and the Masters Lindsley, was also striking, the piece being a veritable little gem. More to the popular taste was the "Brother's Lullaby," sung by Miss Sargent to her own accompaniment. The applause which this received was richly deserved and the little lady was recalled, for which she bowed her thanks. The last number in Part II. was a solo and chorus, "We'll gaily sing and play," Miss Bloxham being the soloist. In this arrangement of Pinsuti's "The last rose of summer" is effectively introduced, and Miss Bloxham in her own charming fashion did full justice to the plaintive melody. At the close the item was redemanded and the encore was graciously granted. A basket of flowers was also handed to the singer as some slight token of the hearty appreciation she had evoked. The character pieces in the concluding part were most decidedly good, and both "Caller Herrin," and "The Bold Gendarmes" had to be repeated before the delighted hearers would release the sweet-voiced lads and lassies. The little girls, as the Scotch fishwives, certainly carried away the vocal honours of the evening. The closing pieces "Funiculi, Funicula," with Master James in the title *rôle*, and the Market Chorus from "Masaniello," were remarkably pretty, the whole of the members being dressed in Gilbertian Neapolitan costume.

Miss Bloxham, to whom many thanks are due for her admirable training of the vocalists and chorus, accompanied throughout, Mrs. Patton conducting. The following was the full programme:—

PART I.

1.—Trio on 2 Pianos.—Tarentelle in A flat.—S. Heller.
Misses BATAVUS, EYTON, and JOHNSTONE.

2.—Choruses.—(*a.*) "Hark! Sweet voices."
(*b.*) Tonic Sol fa Patter Song.
Juvenile T.S.F. Choral Society.

3.—Pianoforte Solo.—"Music of the Woods."—Braungardt.
Master LINDSLEY.

4.—Vocal Trio.—"The oars are plashing lightly." A. Geibel.
Masters MOLLISON, C. and E. BENNETT.

5.—Pianoforte Solo.—(*a.*) "Loin de toi."
(*b.*) "Mignon."
Miss JOHNSTONE.

6.—Chorus in Unison.—"The Yeoman's Wedding Song."
Juvenile T.S.F. Choral Society.

7.—Pianoforte Solo.—Valse Brillante de Concert from "Le Juif Errant."—Burgmuller.
Mr. N. J. SARGENT.

PART II.

1.—Trio on two Pianos.—"Minuett." Paderewski.
Miss LINDSLEY and the Masters LINDSLEY.

2.—Vocal Duet.—"Cherry-time." A. Scott Gatty.
Miss and Master JAMES.

3.—Pianoforte Solo.—"La Truite."—S. Heller. Arranged by Lange.
Miss EYTON.

4.—Solo and Chorus.—Waltz Song.—"Violets, pretty Violets."
Misses M. WATT, M. MOSS, M. and N. SCHWABE, and Juvenile T.S.F. Choral Society.

5.—Pianoforte Solo and Song.—(*a.*) "Simplette."
(*b.*) "Brother's Lullaby."
Miss SARGENT.

6.—Pianoforte Solo.—"Pasquinade." Gottschalk.
Miss BATAVUS.

7.—Solo and Chorus.—"We'll gaily Sing and Play"—C. Pinsuti.
Miss BLOXHAM, and Juvenile T.S.F. Choral Society.

PART III.

1.—Duet on two Pianos—"L'Invitation a la Valse."—Weber.
Misses BATAVUS and EYTON.

2.—Vocal Duet (in character).—"Caller Herrin!"
Misses SARGENT and J. LOOMIS.

3.—Vocal Duet (in character)—"The Bold Gendarmes."—Offenbach.
Masters W. CARST and M. MOLLISON.

4.—Solo and Chorus (in character).—"Funiculi, Funicula."
Master JAMES and Juvenile T.S.F. Choral Society.

FINALE.

5.—Market Chorus (in character) from "Masaniello."—Auber.
Juvenile T.S.F. Choral Society.

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YOKOHAMA SAILING CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting of the Yokohama Sailing Club was held at the Club Hotel on Monday afternoon. Mr. N. P. Kingdon presided, and there were also present Messrs. T. Brewer, A. M. Forbes, J. B. Gibbs, A. Beart, W. Weston, A. Owston, A. Rogers, C. S. Averill, L. Salabelle, G. H. Scidmore, F. Tanner, W. W. Campbell, F. J. Marshall, F. Owston, and C. W. West.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the minutes of the last meeting be taken as read.

Mr. BEART seconded the motion and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN in presenting the report and accounts complimented the Club on its balance of $31.82, which was, he thought, due to the excellent work done by their honorary treasurer and secretary during the past season.

Mr. BEART proposed and Mr. C. S. AVERILL seconded the adoption of following report and accounts, which were carried unanimously.

REPORT.

GENTLEMEN—Your Committee have much pleasure in handing you their report for the year ending March 31st, 1894.

This, the seventh year of the Club's existence, was splendidly supported by the yacht owners and by the communities of Yokohama and Tokyo.

Twenty-five races were sailed, and one race was started but owing to lack of motive power was not completed.

The record prizes were won by the following boats:—*Maid Marion*, 39 Raters; *Mary*, 32 Raters; *Molly Bawn*, 26 Raters, and *Daisy*, 17 Raters, and the racing was very keen and close.

Those that entered were as follows: In the "B" Class, *Hokiboshi* for 11 races; *Petrel* 12; *Isabel* 14; *Vixen* 12; *White Wings* 2; *Sayonara* 13; *Jessica* 11; *Akambo* 9; *Ikimasho* 1; *Daisy* 11; *Violet* 2; *Queenie* 7; *Black Hawk* 7.

Isabel, though almost a winner many times during the season, was compelled to try for the Consolation Race, which goes to show that she was entered with a good sporting spirit for every race of the year.

For the "A" Division the following boats entered:—*Momotaro* for 9 races; *Daimyo* 12; *Wanderer* 2; *Box of Curios* 10; *Molly Bawn* 10; *Princess Maud* 10; *Sea Gull* 12; *Tomioka* 11; *Drifter* 11; *Maid Marion* 11; *Mary* 11; *Ronin* 3; *Aborigine* 10; *Idler* 1; *Nancy Hanks* 2 and *Madcap* 1.

For a thorough recapitulation of all the races, speed, direction of wind, etc., etc., your Committee take pleasure in drawing your attention to the *Japan Mail* of December 13th, where a lengthy and interesting account is given.

Interest in racing is greatly on the increase, and the prizes presented go far towards demonstrating this. Donations in cash to the extent of $170.00 were given, and also the following handsome list of cups and prizes:—

The Queen's Cup, presented by Mr. M. de Bunsen and won by the *Daimyo*.

The Fourth of July Cup., presented by Mr. E. Dun and won by the *Mary*.

The Consolation Prize, presented by Mr. J. F. Lowder and won by the *Isabel*.

The *Molly Bawn* Cup, presented by Messrs. McNeill and Morriss, and won by the *Drifter*.

The Abbey Cup, presented by Mr. T. Abbey and won by *Sayonara*.

A case of whiskey, presented by Mr. Andreis and won by *Sayonara*.

The *Sayonara* Champion Flags, won by the *Daisy*, *Mary*, *Jessica*, *Maid Marion* and *Molly Bawn*.

For the local newspapers *The Daily Advertiser* comes forward with a handsome cup which was won by the *Mary*. Then there were Messrs. Kelly & Walsh's Cup; the French Cup; the *Ronin* Cup; the *Daimyo* Cup; the *Petrel* Cup; the *Mary* Cup and the Committee Prize.

The value of these cups and presents amounts to about $450. This, added to $170.00 in cash presented, makes a very good showing, and the Club feels exceedingly grateful to the communities of Yokohama and Tokyo for their increased interest.

The total value of prizes sailed for was, therefore, roughly, a little over $900.00.

To the fleet were added 6 boats; 3 to the "B" class and 3 to the "A."

These were *Daisy*, a deep fin keel boat; *Hokiboshi*, an extreme skimming dish, and the *Black Hawk*, the old *Julia* rebuilt and re-rigged.

To the "A" class were added the *Nancy Hanks*, the *Idler*, and the *Sea Gull*.

The Hon. Treasurer's report is appended, which shows a credit of $31 82.

COMMITTEE.

C. D. West. T. M. Laffin.
T. Brewer. A. M. Forbes.
R. Lane, Hon. Sec. and Treas.

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from Mr. Alan Owston	$ 11.16
Entrance Fees for Races	424.00
Subscriptions for Prizes	170.00
Annual Dues, 86 Members	172.00
Total	$607.16

DISBURSEMENTS.

Cost of Prizes	$470.04	
Stationery	12.90	
Mark Boats	43.80	
Steam Launches	35.00	
Extras—Cartridges	$4.00	
Case of Gun	2.50	
Messengers	2.10	
Collectors	5.00	13.50
Balance on hand, deposited with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	31.82	
Total		$607.16

ASSETS.

Gun and Flags, Tape Line and Chart.

E. & O. E. W. W. CAMPBELL, Hon. Treas.

Examined and found correct, E. W. TILDEN.

Yokohama, 31st March, 1894.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of a committee to serve during the coming year.

Mr. CAMPBELL suggested Mr. Scidmore for the position of Hon. Sec. and Treasurer. He was a keen yatchsman and took the greatest interest in the Club.—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. SCIDMORE returned the compliment by suggesting Mr. Campbell for the position. He would be the right man in the right place.—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. CAMPBELL said that pressure of business would prevent him from serving on the committee; he would take part in the sailing, but he would have no time for arranging matches or handicaps.

Other names were then suggested and a ballot was taken. During the election,

Mr. CAMPBELL said that it was desirable that Rule 5, governing the time of their annual general meeting, be altered. At present they were obliged to hold it in March, a most unsuitable time. He thought that it would be of greater benefit to the Club if the meeting was held in December, at the end of the season, when they had their disputes, disappointments or dissatisfaction still keen upon them.—(Hear, hear.) Before they could alter their Rules, however, it was necessary to hold an extraordinary general meeting, which had to be called by request of 20 members and required 10 days' notice. He also held that before a boat be allowed to enter for a race her owner must secure a certificate of measurement obtained from the official measurer, which certificate should cost 50 cents. If an owner wanted at any time to place his boat in a different rating he would have to get another certificate of measurement, which would cost another 50 cents, and if he wanted to go back again into his former class another 50 cent certificate would be necessary. So, altogether it would cost $1.50 to go from one class to another and then back again. This $1.50 would go to the Club's funds. He thought such a proposal was only fair, and gave an instance which occurred last summer, in which the 17-raters put themselves up into the 22-raters for a race, as an argument in favour of the proposal. That proceeding last summer had caused some dissatisfaction, but no one would grumble if the certificates were obtained as he now suggested. Another alteration needed was a remeasurement of their fleet, and a further differentiation of classes. The present time allowance scale was not equally proportioned, but if the classes were extended from 39-raters down to 10 and 9-raters the proportion would work out more evenly.—(Hear, hear.)

The result of the election was then declared, the ballot falling upon Messrs. Scidmore, R. Hay, Beart, Salabelle, Weston and West.

At Mr. BEART'S request his name was struck off the list and the five remaining names were then declared as the Committee for the year, that body to chose its own Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. SCIDMORE, in returning thanks on behalf of himself and colleagues, expressed the pleasure it gave them to serve. He hoped that the Club would give them hearty co-operation, for he knew only too well that the position of a committee-man was one of anxiety, and certainly not free from criticism.—(Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN next observed that a good many people outside the sailing Club took a deep interest in its welfare and derived as great, if not a cheaper, pleasure than the members, in watching the races on Saturday afternoons from the Boat House verandah. He thought that these persons would only be too pleased to increase the balance in the Treasurer's hands if they were properly approached. He threw it out as a suggestion.

Mr. A. M. FORBES thought that it would be as well if the appeal for subscriptions went out before the season commenced instead of after it had closed, as was the case last year.

Mr. CAMPBELL observed that the Chairman's suggestion as to the starting of a list was most excellent. He thought, however, that it had not better start in the room—they were too close to one another and the modest diffidence which some might feel when they saw the big figures which other might place down opposite their names would not have quite fair play.—(Laughter.)

Mr. ROGERS—The subscriptions would only be for prizes, not for funds.

Mr. CAMPBELL—Yes, for prizes.

The CHAIRMAN said the incoming Committee would be pleased to receive suggestions for the Club's well being. For himself he was glad to see what a large number of skilled naval architects the Club could now boast of.

A good deal of desultory conversation and topical jocularity followed, but no remarks were addressed to the chair, and the meeting closed after a vote to thanks had been passed to Mr. Kingdon for presiding.

BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN AND THE STRAITS.

The fourth annual general meeting of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, was held on Monday, February 26th, at the Cannon-street Hotel, London, Mr. William Keswick (the chairman) presiding.

The SECRETARY (Mr. C. H. Campbell) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report which, with your permission, we will take as read the board has endeavoured to make full and clear as regards the bank's position, and you will readily understand how great is the directors' disappointment and unfeigned their regret to have to submit to you such unsatisfactory results of the year's business. Probably everyone present is aware how adversely everything has gone in the sphere of the bank's operations—how silver has fallen in value, and exchange fluctuated and declined under experimental and dangerous currency legislation in India, and how securities have consequently depreciated. To these causes, and, doubtless, to errors of judgment also, the results are to be attributed; but you will perceive that, with the whole course of Indian finance going the contrary to official direction and expectation, with erratic counsels and undecided action on the part of the Government, it has been next to impossible, in doing anything, or indeed, in doing nothing, not to make mistakes. In illustration of this I might mention that the bank, with a view to safeguarding its position in exchange when the closing of the Indian mints was apparently decided upon, took an interest in Rupee Paper equal to its funds regarded as Indian capital, and seemed likely by the operation to cover the loss in exchange which the alteration implied, when, again suddenly, the policy of the Government was shaken, and this led to a loss of about £2,900, instead of an almost realised handsome profit. In other ways, too, the unexpected has happened, losses have occurred through the lock-up of funds invested and advanced when the bank was a trust and loan company, and not being able to realise such funds or to release advances and mortgages, the exchange losses, even when foreseen, could not be provided against. To none of you, I think, can the full significance of these facts be otherwise than plain. But the board is steadily, persistently, and with satisfactory success, proceeding with the careful realization of all assets that can be dealt with, and I hope it will reassure shareholders and give full confidence to depositors to know that our present liquid assets, or securities that can immediately be made quite liquid, are nearly equal to paying off every penny of our deposits falling due up to the end of 1895, and that the board does not hesitate in regarding it as certain that deposits falling to be paid throughout 1896 and 1897 will be amply provided for by the repayment of advances and the favourable realisation of securities over so considerable an intervening period. I should not omit to mention that the bank's liabilities are only those to its depositors—its acceptances barely exceed £20,000, and are against undoubted security. Much prudence of management in the realisation of assets is certainly called for, and, indeed, in the liquidation of all outstandings; but there is not, necessarily, cause for anxiety in the situation, which, the board believes, will gradually improve. I will now refer to the balance-sheet and go through the statement, with a view to making clear everything that may appear obscure in the entries. Under the heading of capital you will see that the amount called up is £449,718 15s. Of that amount 10s. per share is not yet due. Of the instalments which are due there is at the present time outstanding £43,720 15s., and the greater portion of that is owing by the Chinese shareholders. Of course, there has not yet been time to hear how the second call is being met, but, considering the [illegible] way in which the first portion of the call was met, except by the Chinese shareholders

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I think when we do get our advices we shall find that the sum already collected is greater than the sum I haved named. With the Chinese in Shanghai we have had difficulties, and I should mention that we have taken proceedings to enforce the collection of the call. The Chinese shareholders are men of substance. We were careful when we made any transfers that they were not made to men who were not solvent, and we have every reason to believe that when they are convinced that the call is rightly made, and ought to be paid, it will be met. I should mention, too, that we took the precaution to have from the Chinese shareholders so that they could raise no question that they did not understand the liability attached to the shares, a paper signed in this form :—" I hereby request you to register me as the holder of —— ordinary shares of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, transferred to me; and, in consideration of your doing so, I agree to pay the calls in respect of all moneys unpaid on the said shares at the times and places appointed by the directors, pursuant to the articles of association; and I further agree that all questions between us and the bank shall be decided in accordance with the law of England." From our Chinese shareholders we have a document of that nature, which I think will be entirely convincing in any court, and we have no doubt about the result of our application to the Chinese court to enforce payment. The next item is fixed deposits and current accounts, £1,334,898 6s. 1d. Of these about £74,500 are in silver, and, as stated by me in my earlier remarks, they fall due over an extended period only ending in 1897, although during 1896 the amount to be repaid, as matters now stand, will be large. Bills payable are acceptances against security, and amount to only £22,227 12s. Loans and London bankers' acceptances stand at £171,671 8s. These were only temporary, and have practically ceased. Other liabilities, £1,463,214 14s. 4d., are, as I explained last year, in a great measure made up of cross entries required by the exigencies of book-keeping, and in some measure due to the closing of our books in the East on October 31st, while in London we close on December 31st. The entries, by such an arrangement, look large; but they have equivalents on the other side. Turning now to the credit side, there is the item cash in hand, £65,243 11s. 6d., but that does not call for comment. The entry Indian Government Rupee Paper explains itself. These were remittances on the way to and in India, not only on October 31, but in transit to December 31. The greater portion was sold in India before transfer thither, and not a rupee was unsold on that date; £62,000 in London was temporarily and also promptly closed. Investments in London, £30,257 5s., are all sound, and those in the East are equally so, and dividend-bearing. Advances against securities, £965,704 17s., show a reduction during the year of £305,541, and are being gradually and steadily liquidated. As mentioned in the report, were realisations forced there would be loss; but with the securities all of a sound and improving character—improvement in several cases having already taken place—we look for a not unfavourable ultimate result and, in the meantime, we are receiving all round interest upon the advances somewhat in excess of the rate we are paying on deposit. Bills receivable and other assets I have already referred to in connection with the counterpart entry, other liabilities. The entry of deposit expenses explains itself. As to the profit and loss account, on the debit side the expenses of management are £24,214 16s. 6d.—a slightly smaller sum than last year, the directors having taken less than half the former fees. Deposit expenses, interest on fixed deposits, &c., are self explanatory. On the credit side, the gross profits are £110,851 10s. 2d.—in itself not an unsatisfactory sum; but still, there is out of it only £18,389 17s. 7d. of net gain, and the necessity for meeting ascertained loss through exchange £80,610 10s. 9d., and other losses, provision for bad debts, and the depreciation in investments elsewhere than in the East £56,534 1s. 7d., culminates in a total loss of £116,752—a most disappointing result. There are statements, which will be found at the office for the perusal of shareholders who desire to inspect them, giving details of which the publication would be unusual, and I need not assure all who are interested in the bank of the desire of the board to give them every information in its power. We trust we are now seeing things in their worst aspect. Surely, this sagging will not continue much longer in silver, and certainly, as we realise investments, advances, and mortgage securities of the Trust and Loan Company period, and get our finances into the liquid and available shape of the Eastern banks generally, we shall, there is every reason to believe, share in their prosperity, for the trade will not be extinguished and banks rendered superfluous. With care we shall overcome, I believe, all our present misfortunes, and in time retrieve our position and, I hope, prosper. I now beg to propose: "That the annual statement of accounts and balance-sheet, and the report of the directors and auditors thereon, be, and are hereby, adopted."—(Applause.)

Mr. D. McLean seconded the resolution.

Mr. Adam inquired why the names of the Hongkong and Shanghai committee were omitted from the report.

The Chairman stated that he had intended to mention the matter. When the bank opened as an exchange bank in the East, and when they gave up all such business as was connected with the Trust and Loan Company, they deemed it advisable that they should not have local committees, as many of the gentlemen who were on the committee of this bank were also associated with other banks. It was therefore decided to have managers in the East, and at home the board of directors. He should have mentioned also that, with a view to having matters for the future under more rigid control, and he hoped profitable working, they proposed to bring Mr. Payne from India, where he had been in charge of the branches, and in whom the board had great confidence, and appoint him the chief manager in London.

The Hon. Captain Dawson asked the chairman if the report was true that he and Mr. McLean had resolved to leave the board of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and to stick to the China Bank. He thought some definite announcement should be made to the shareholders.

The Chairman—The position is simply this; that when the Bank of China undertook exchange operations and became a bank in the proper sense of the term, it was deemed advisable that Mr. McLean and myself should not act in the double capacity of representing both banks. We have not officially resigned, but we have not attended, and, for the present, do not intend to attend, the meetings of the board of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. That is our position, and we hope to make this bank the success we anticipated when it was initiated.—(Cheers.)

The resolution was then put and carried, with one dissentient.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. E. Iveson, Messrs. D. McLean and H. D. Stewart were re-elected directors.

Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, Bishop, and Clarke having been reappointed auditors, a vote of thanks was given to the chairman and board.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the proceedings terminated.—*Financial Times.*

THE BI-METALLIC LEAGUE.

Official Statement of the Bimetallic League and Extracts from the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Gold and Silver, 1888.

Until the year 1873 the ratio at which Gold and Silver were interchangeable was steady, because the Mints of France and other European countries were open to all the world for the unlimited coinage of both metals on the fixed basis of 15½ ozs. of Silver to 1 oz. of Gold.

*It may be stated generally that during the last century the national unit of coinage which constituted the Standard of Value in the principal countries practically rested on the both metals, silver being usually the nominal standard with gold rated to it, at the discretion of each Government.

In the United Kingdom, from 1717 to 1816, this system prevailed, the ratio of gold to silver having been fixed at 1 to 15·21.

In the United States of America the Joint Gold and Silver Standard was originally adopted in 1786 with a ratio of 15·25 to 1; changed in 1792 to 15 to 1, and in 1834 to 16 to 1.

In 1803 the Joint Standard, with a ratio of 15½ to 1, was definitively adopted by France, and in 1865 the formation of the Latin Union, ultimately consisting of France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, and Greece, extended and confirmed it.

Owing to this, the par of exchange between Gold and Silver Standard countries kept practically uniform, and Silver, as fully as Gold, performed the functions of Money throughout the world.

The action of England in 1816, in adopting the single Gold Standard, did not disturb the steadiness of the ratio between the two metals, so long as the Continental Mints remained open to the unrestricted coinage of Silver; but when Germany, which had previously had a Silver Standard, in 1873 introduced a single Gold Standard the old equilibrium was destroyed because France and the other Bimetallic countries, in view of the heavy sales of Silver made by Germany, suspended their Free Coinage.

This action caused the price of Silver, as quoted in Gold, to fall, and it (the gold price of silver) has since fluctuated violently, affecting all international Exchanges between Silver Standard and Gold Standard countries. In the case of India the Rupee, formerly worth about 2s., has gradually dropped to 1s. 3½d. in English money, with increasing uncertainty as to its prospective exchangeable value as against Gold.

The substitution of Gold for Silver, and the greater amount of Exchange work that is in consequence thrown upon Gold, has led to the "appreciation" of that metal, and to a fall in prices of commodities, as measured in Gold, which is everywhere visible, and everywhere baneful in its effects upon Commerce, upon Manufacturing and Agricultural industry, and upon the growth of Employment necessary to provide work for our rapidly increasing population.

Whenever the London Money Market is distressed and perplexed by the withdrawal of even small quantities of Gold, and by apprehensions as to further demands, coupled with serious doubts as to the sufficiency of future supplies of that metal, the necessity of fixing an international ratio between Gold and Silver so as to make both metals available for Bank reserves becomes strikingly apparent. This would provide an adequate supply of Money available for international purposes and for the internal transactions of the Kingdom. Grave dangers would thus be averted.

The aim of the Bimetallic League, as already mentioned, is to secure, by International agreement, the opening of the mints of the leading commercial nations to the unrestricted coinage of Silver and Gold at such fixed ratio as may be mutually agreed upon amongst those nations. By this means a Par of Exchange would be secured; the two metals would again acquire an International character as Money, and would move freely from nation to nation according to the monetary requirements of the various markets, whilst prices and wages in all countries would be adjusted by a uniform standard.

Convinced of the evils resulting from existing conditions of our Monetary System, and of the hindrance to Trade and Agriculture, which are largely due to the disturbed relation between Gold and Silver, we appeal to everyone for co-operation in carrying out the objects of the League.

There is every encouragement to press the matter, seeing that the United States of America, France (with the other States of the Latin Union), Germany, and Holland are willing to co-operate.

These Powers, it is known, will not move without England, and, under an erroneous conception of the advantages of a single Gold Standard, this country has hitherto stood aloof.

The Final Report of the Royal Commission on Gold and Silver was, however, of a character so favourable to the cause advocated by the League that the question is now thoroughly ripe for settlement, and the recent public declaration by Mr. Leonard Courtney (one of the Commissioners who had signed Part 2) that he is now of opinion that International Bimetallism is both desirable and practicable, strengthens the case for Monetary Reform.

It is advisable, therefore, that the facts of the case may be made widely known throughout the country, in order to bring the force of public opinion to bear upon Parliament and upon the Government, so that England, instead of being a barrier in the way of an International convention, may take her due share in the settlement of a question so vital to the well-being of the Empire, so essential to the interests of British and Irish Agriculture, and of Commerce everywhere, and to the financial stability of India.

Any further information concerning the League may be obtained from the Secretary, Henry McNiel, F.S.S., Haworth's Buildings, 5 Cross Street, Manchester, who will also acknowledge Subscriptions and Donations.

Information may also be obtained from the Westminister Offices of the League, 27, Great George's Street, S.W.; from the City of London Offices, 9, Lombard House, George Yard, Lombard Street, E.C.; or from any of the Local Hon. Secs.

The League comprises Ordinary Members and Associate Members, the Annual Subscription of the former being One Guinea, and the latter 2s. 6d. Cheques to be made payable to the Secretary.

All publications of the League are delivered free to Ordinary and Associate Members.

*This and the three following paragraphs are from the Note appended to the Royal Commission on Gold and Silver, by the Right Hon. Sir Louis Mallet, C.B., one of the Royal Commissioners.

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Extracts from the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Gold and Silver, 1888.

Part. I.—(Signed by all the members of the Commission.)

Sec. 115.—"The Remedy which has been put before us most prominently and as most likely to remedy the evils complained of to the fullest extent possible, is that known as Bimetallism."

Sec. 186.—"It must be borne in mind that in the case of other commodities (than Gold and Silver) the effect of changes in the supply and demand is both marked and more immediate. These commodities are generally produced for the purpose of consumption at an early date or within a comparatively short period. The supply at any time available for the market, or capable of being placed on it at short notice, is therefore a very important element in the process by which its value is fixed.

"The precious metals on the other hand are but to a slight extent consumed, and the available supply consists of the accumulations of previous years.

"It follows, therefore, that in their cases a diminution or an increase in the new supply is of less importance than in the case of consumable articles, and that an increase or diminution in demand has also a smaller effect. The important consideration with regard to them at any one moment is rather the relation between the total stock then in existence and the then existing demands upon it."

Sec. 189.—"Looking, then, to the vast changes which occurred prior to 1873 in the relative production of the two metals without any corresponding disturbance in their market value, it appears to us difficult to resist the conclusion that some influence was then at work tending to steady the price of silver, and to keep the ratio which it bore to gold approximately stable."

Sec. 190.—"Prior to 1873 the fluctuations in the price of silver were gradual in their character, and ranged within very narrow limits. The maximum variation in 1872 was $\frac{5}{8}$d., and the average not quite $\frac{5}{16}$d., while in 1886 the maximum was $2\frac{9}{16}$d., and the average nearly $1\frac{3}{8}$d. It has not been, and indeed hardly could be suggested that this difference can be accounted for by changes in the relative production or actual use of the two metals."

Sec. 191.—"The explanation commonly offered of those constant variations in the silver market is that the rise or depression of the price of silver depends upon briskness or slackness of the demand for the purpose of remittance to silver-using countries, and that the price is largely affected by the amount of the bills sold from time to time by the Secretary of State for India in Council.

"But these causes were, as far as can be seen, operating prior to 1873, as well as subsequent to that date, and yet the silver market did not display the sensitiveness to these influences from day to day and month to month which it now does."

Sec. 192.—"These considerations seem to suggest the existence of some steadying influence in former periods, which has now been removed, and which has left the silver market subject to the free influence of causes, the full effect of which was previously kept in check. The question, therefore, forces itself upon us:—Is there any other circumstance calculated to affect the relation of silver to gold which distinguishes the latter period from the earlier?

"Now, undoubtedly, the date which forms the dividing line between an epoch of approximate fixity in the relative value of gold and silver and one of marked instability, is the year when the bimetallic system which had previously been in force in the Latin Union ceased to be in full operation; and we are irresistibly led to the conclusion that the operation of that system, established as it was in countries the population and commerce of which were considerable, exerted a material influence upon the relative value of the two metals.

"So long as that system was in force we think that, notwithstanding the changes in the production and use of the precious metals, it kept the market price of silver approximately steady at the ratio fixed by law between them, namely $15\frac{1}{2}$ to 1."

Sec. 193.—"Nor does it appear to us *a priori* unreasonable to suppose that the existence in the Latin Union of a bimetallic system with a ratio of $15\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 fixed between the two metals should have been capable of keeping the market price of silver steady at approximately that ratio.

"The view that it could only affect the market price to the extent to which there was a demand for it for currency purpose in the Latin Union, or in which it was actually taken to the mints of those countries is, we think, fallacious.

"The fact that the owner of silver could, in the last resort, take it to those mints and have it converted into coin which would purchase [illegible] at the ratio of $15\frac{1}{2}$ of silver to one of gold, would, in our opinion, be likely to affect the price of silver in the market generally, whoever the purchaser and for whatever country it was destined. It would enable the seller to stand out for a price approximating to the legal coin and would tend to keep the market steady at about that point."

Part II.—Signed by six members of the Commission: Lord Herschell, Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., Mr. J. W. Birch, Hon. W. Freemantle, C.B. Sir T. H. Farrer, Bart., Rt. Hon. Leonard H. Courtney, M.P.*

Sec. 9.—"However much opinions may differ as to the extent of the evil arising from the increased difficulty which a fluctuating exchange interposes, we do not think its reality is open to question,"

Sec. 101.—"There cannot be two opinions as to the very serious effect which the continued fall in the gold price of silver has had on the finances of the Government of India."

Sec. 102.—"We are fully impressed with a sense of the difficulties which surround the Indian Government, and of the serious questions to which any proposed additional tax must give rise. It is not only the embarrassment which has already been caused to the Government of India that has to be borne in mind, but the impossibility of foreseeing to what extent those embarrassments may be increased, and their difficulty augmented, by a further depression in the value of silver."

Sec. 107.—"We think that in any conditions fairly to be contemplated in the future, so far as we can forecast them from the experience of the past, a stable ratio might be maintained if the nations we have alluded to† were to accept and strictly adhere to bimetallism, at the suggested ratio. We think that if in all these countries gold and silver could be freely coined, and thus become exchangeable against commodities at the fixed ratio, the market value of silver as measured by gold would conform to that ratio, and not vary to any material extent."

Sec. 119.—"Apprehensions have been expressed that if a Bimetallic system were adopted gold would gradually disappear from circulation. If, however, the arrangement included all the principal commercial nations, we do not think there would be any serious danger of such a result.

"Such a danger, if it existed at all, must be remote. It is said indeed, by some, that if it were to happen, and all nations were to be driven to a system of silver monometallism, the result might be regarded without dissatisfaction."

"We are not prepared to go this length, but at the same time we are fully sensible of the benefits which would accrue from the adoption of a common monetary standard by all the commercial nations of the world, and we are quite alive to the advantage of the adoption by these nations of an uniform Bimetallic Standard as a step in that direction."

Part III.—Signed by the other six members of the Commission:—Rt. Hon. Sir Louis Mallet, C.B., Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., Rt. Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P., Sir D. Barbour, K.C.S.I., Sir W. H. Houldsworth, Bart., M.P., Mr. Samuel Montagu, M.P.

Sec. 28.—"We think that the above remarks upon the evils affecting both the United Kingdom and India, if taken in connection with the more detailed statement in Part I. of the Report, will sufficiently indicate our view as to their nature and gravity; and that they are largely due to the currency changes which have taken place in the years immediately preceding and following 1873.

"We think that too much stress cannot be laid upon the novelty of the experiment which has been attempted as the result of the above changes. That experiment consists in the independent and unregulated use of both gold and silver as standards of value by the different nations of the world.

"We are strongly of opinion that both metals must continue to be used as standard money; the results of using them separately and independently since 1873 have been most unsatisfactory, and may be positively disastrous in the future.

"It cannot be questioned that until 1873 gold and silver were always effectively linked by a legal ratio in one or more countries.

"It is equally indisputable that the relative value of the two metals has been subject to greater divergence since 1874 than during the whole of the 200 years preceding that date, notwithstanding the occurrence of variations in their relative production more intense and more prolonged than those which have been experienced in recent years."

Sec. 29.—"In 1873-74 the connecting link disappeared, and for the first time the system of rating the two metals ceased to form a subject of legislation in any country in the world.

"The law of supply and demand was for the first time left to operate independently upon the value of each metal; and simultaneously the ratio which had been maintained, with scarcely any perceptible variation, for 200 years, gave place to a marked and rapid divergence in the relative value of gold and silver, which has culminated in a change from $15\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 to 22 to 1."

Proposed Remedy.

Sec. 30.—"It appears to us impossible to attribute the concurrence of these two events to a merely fortuitous coincidence. They must, in our opinion, be regarded as standing to each other in the relation of cause and effect.

"We cannot, therefore, doubt that if the system which prevailed before 1873 were replaced in its integrity, most of the evils which we have above described would be removed; and the remedy which we have to suggest is simply the reversion to a system which existed before the changes above referred to were brought about; a system, namely, under which both metals were freely coined into legal tender money at a fixed ratio over a sufficiently large area.

"The effects of that system, though it was nominally in force only within a limited area, were felt in all commercial countries, whatever their individual systems of currency might be; and the relative value of the two metals in all the markets of the world was practically identical with that fixed by the legislation of the countries forming the Latin Union.

"As regards the possibility of maintaining such a system in the future, we need only refer to the conclusion at which our colleagues have arrived in Sec. 107 Part II. (see above) and with which we entirely agree."

Sec. 34.—"No settlement of the difficulty is, however, in our opinion, possible without international action.

"The remedy which we suggest is essentially international in its character, and its details must be settled in concert with the other Powers concerned.

"It will be sufficient for us to indicate the essential features of the agreement to be arrived at, namely—

(1) Free coinage of both metals into legal tender money; and

(2) The fixing of a ratio at which the coins of either metal shall be available for the payment of all debts at the option of the debtor."

Sec. 35.—"The particular ratio to be adopted is not, in our opinion, a necessary preliminary to the opening of negociations for the establishment of such an agreement, and can, with other matters of detail, be left for further discussion and settlement between the parties interested.

"We, therefore, submit that the chief commercial nations of the world, such as the United States, Germany, and the States forming the Latin Union, should in the first place be consulted as to their readiness to join with the United Kingdom in a conference, at which India and any of the British Colonies which may desire to attend should be represented, with a view to arrive, if possible, at a common agreement on the basis above indicated."

Sec. 36.—"We have indicated what appears to us to be the only permanent solution of the difficulties arising from the recent changes in the relative value of the precious metals, and the only solution which will protect this and other countries against the future."

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* In an Article in the *Nineteenth Century* for April, 1893, Mr. Courtney says:—"Five years ago I joined with my friends in deprecating any attempt to establish an international agreement for the free coinage of both gold and silver as standard money. I have advanced with further experience and reflection to the belief that such agreement is to be desired, and that it could be accomplished with the minimum of change and with great advantage to the Empire and the world on the conditions I have suggested" (in the article).

† The United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, and the Latin Union.

Officers of the Bimetallic League.

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THE HIOGO HOTEL CASE.

SUMMARY OF THE JUDGMENT.

The general result of the case instituted by the liquidators of the Hiogo Hotel against the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to recover $48,600 is already known. Judgment was delivered by Chief Justice Fielding Clarke in the Supreme Court at Hongkong on the 2nd; the full text of this has just arrived and the *Hyogo News* gives the following carefully compiled summary of the three columns which it takes *in extenso*:—

The liquidators' claim was for the price of 486 ordinary shares of $100 each standing in the name of Mr. R. H. Cook, all of whose liability the Bank undertook. A cross summons by the Bank sought the removal of Mr. Cook's name from the list of contributories. The winding up of the Company was under the supervision of the Court, and the Hongkong Ordinance applied between the litigants. The material sections were Sec. 37 of Ord. I of 1865 and Sec. 24 of Ord. 1 of 1877, providing respectively for members' contributions in the event of winding-up, and for the ranking of shares as fully paid up in the absence of a formal contract to the contrary filed with the Registrar of Companies. The provisions were take verbatim from the English Companies Acts and English Courts' decisions on the corresponding sections were entirely applicable. It was admitted that the payment claimed was not wanted for creditors of the Company nor for the costs of winding-up, and that no contract was registered with reference to these shares.

The Chief Justice then reviewed the formation of the Hotel Company, the Directors' dealings with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Carroll, the settlement of the purchase money for the Hotel property, the advances made by the Bank in 1890 and 1891 to Mr. Johnson, and the execution of blank transfers by the latter in the Bank's favour for 160 and for 326 ordinary shares. A few days after Mr. Johnson's death on November 8th, 1891, these transfers were filled in with Mr. Cook's name as transferee and were forwarded with the scrip for registration. There ensued a correspondence between the Bank and the Company the latter first refusing to register the transfer on the ground that it had a claim against Johnson's estate for damages arising out of the contract of sale, and secondly giving notice to Mr. Cook that as the shares had not been paid for in cash they would be liable to calls for the payment of the creditors. This liability Mr. Cook repudiated, declining to recognise any reservation and demanding registration. Upon these facts the first question argued was whether these shares must not be deemed to have been actually paid for in cash. Mr. Johnson never took the shares with the idea of being indebted for them, and no presumption of payment or of agreement to pay arises from the Directors' receipt. It was quite certain to his (the Judge's) mind that the Directors agreed to give and Mr. Johnson agreed to take fully paid-up shares in satisfaction of this contract of sale. If so the shares were in no sense paid for in cash. The next point was whether, although the shares were not paid for in cash, the Company so conducted themselves that as against the Bank they were precluded from demanding payment. He was satisfied that at the time when advances were made on Mr. Johnson's shares the Bank did not know they were not fully paid up. He thought therefore that the Bank in making the advances must be presumed to have relied upon the representations made by the Company in their certificate that the shares were fully paid up; and, if so, had the Bank obtained registration before being undeceived it would have deen entitled, on the principle of estoppel, to have held the shares for all purposes as against the Company as shares fully paid up. But before registration the Bank had notice that there had been no payment in cash. The Bank was then merely the equitable mortgagee and could not be made liable as a contributory; but on completion of the transfer and registration it became a shareholder and members of the Company. It altered its position after notice, but the correspondence showed that it did not mean to abandon any right it had acquired by estoppel, and he therefore thought it was necessary to consider the Bank's position as equitable mortgagee.

From this consideration the Chief Justice deduced that raising money on shares by deposit of the certificate and execution of a blank transfer was a transaction of so ordinary a nature as to be fully within the contemplation of a Company when it issued them describing them as fully paid up, and therefore the Bank in this case had acquired a right to regard the shares as fully paid up, at least for the purpose of securing the advance made on them. Had the Directors refused registration of the transfer under Article 19 of the Memorandum of Association, it seemed to him they would have been immediately liable to the Bank to the extent of the advances made on the shares. By registering the transfer the Company made the Bank legal instead of equitable mortgagee, but it had no right by so doing to depreciate the security the Bank had taken in reliance on its representation. The Bank's estoppel was established when the money was lent. As a registered shareholder it was entitled as against the Company to regard the shares as fully paid up, and certainly it must be entitled so to regard them for the purpose of avoiding a liability which it had every reason to suppose would not attach to their security at the time they first took it.

His Lordship then dealt with two minor points and concluded as follows:—The liquidators' summons must be dismissed. The cross summons of the Bank is also dismissed. Admitting that the shares are to be deemed fully paid up, there is no reason why the Bank should not be on the list of contributors. As to costs I bear in mind that Mr. Butt was one of the signatories of the memorandum of Association and that all the applications for shares by the public were in fact made to the Bank. For these reasons I think there should be no order except that the liquidators can take their own costs out of the assets, if any. In this respect I follow the precedent in the cause of A. W. Hall & Co., where the facts in my opinion bear a very strong analogy to those under present consideration.

ARIMA CONFERENCE, 1894.

The following Programme is published, in accordance with the Constitution of the Conference, by order of the Board of Managers. The names of the readers of Papers and conductors of Bible studies will be announced later on:—

SUNDAY, 5TH AUGUST.

10 a.m.—Divine Service, with Sermon, by the Rev. G. H. Pole.

7.30 p.m.—Divine Service, with Sermon, by the Rev. H. T. Graham.

MONDAY, 6TH AUGUST.

6.30—7 am.—Prayer Meeting.

10—10.45 a.m.—Bible Study.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper (not exceeding 25 minutes) and Conference on the subject:—"Christ, our Pattern."

7.30—8.30 a.m.—Devotional Meeting.

TUESDAY, 7TH AUGUST.

6.30—7 a.m.—Prayer Meeting.

10—10.45 a.m.—Paper (not exceeding 20 minutes) and Conference on "General Mission Work in the Fuhkien Province."

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper (not exceeding 20 minutes) and Conference on "Women's Work in the Fuhkien Province."

7.30—8.30 p.m.—Devotional Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, 8TH AUGUST.

6.30—7 a.m.—Prayer Meeting.

10—10.45 a.m.—Bible Study.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper and Conference on the subject:—"Christ, our Sacrifice."

7.30—8.30 p.m.—Devotional Meeting.

THURSDAY, 9TH AUGUST.

6.30—7 a.m.—Prayer Meeting.

10—10.40 a.m.—Paper (not exceeding 20 minutes) and Conference on "The growth of the Christian Church in Japan and the development of its Spiritual Life."

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper (not exceeding 20 minutes) and Conference on "Women's work in the Evangelisation of Japan."

7.30—8.30 p.m.—Devotional Meeting.

FRIDAY, 10TH AUGUST.

6.30—7 a.m.—Prayer Meeting.

10—10.45 a.m.—Bible study.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper and Conference on the subject:—"Christ, our Leader."

7.30—8.30 p.m.—Devotional Meeting.

SATURDAY, 11TH AUGUST.

6.30—7 a.m.—Prayer Meeting.

10—10.45 a.m.—Bible Study.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper and Conference on the subject:—"Christ, our Life."

7.30—8.30 p.m.—Devotional Meeting.

SUNDAY, 12TH AUGUST.

10 a.m.—Divine Service, with Sermon, by a Missionary from China.

7.30 p.m.—Consecration Service, with Address by the President.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, April 11.

There have been five weeks of drought in Great Britain, France, and Germany and great uneasiness is felt.

Great Republican victories have resulted at the municipal elections of a number of American States.

(SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL.")
[FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."

London, March 31.

President Cleveland, in a message to Congress explaining his reasons for applying the veto to the Bill authorizing the coinage of the

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seignorage lying in the Treasury, says that the measure was ill-advised and dangerous and would cause a large addition to the silver currency with a corresponding reduction of the gold reserve.

April 2.

In the House of Commons Sir Richard Temple asked for the production of papers upon Siam and declared that the recent joint action of France and Russia was the most serious menace upon India that had been observed during the present generation. Sir Edward Grey, speaking on behalf of the Foreign Office, said the production of the papers was delayed because an immediate settlement of the questions now pending between France and Siam was expected.

April 3.

Sir William Harcourt stated in the House of Commons that the Government would take every occasion to promote a European disarmament.

Austria and Russia have concluded a provisional commercial agreement on a basis of mutual favoured nation treatment until July.

Bismarck was feted immensely on his birthday throughout the Empire. The Emperor William sent him a present of a cuirass accompanied by a letter, saying that a steel cuirass was a true symbol of the gratitude of the nation.

April 5.

Sir George Treveleyan has introduced a Bill creating a Grand Committee to deal with Scotch affairs. Mr. A. J. Balfour opposed the Bill, objecting to accentuate national differences.

The Canadian tariff imposes a duty of ten cents a pound on tea, except that imported from the country of origin or sent via England for the purpose of obviating adulteration.

Austria and Germany are seeking to encourage a bitter feeling between France and Italy.

April 6.

The U.S. House of Representatives have failed to pass the Seignorage Bill over President Cleveland's veto.

The Emperor of Germany and the King of Italy meet at Venice next Saturday.

The House of Commons have adopted by 180 votes against 170 a motion introduced by Mr. James Henry Dalziel, Liberal member for Kircaldy, in favour of Home Rule legislation for Scotland.

April 7.

The Behring Sea Award Bill has been read a second time in the House of Commons.

The recent bomb explosion at the restaurant Toyot, Paris, was terrific and the windows of the Senate House were smashed, besides hundreds elsewhere in the same street. The notorious anarchist Mennier, who is believed to be implicated in the outrage, has been arrested in London after a most desperate resistance.

(From Japanese Papers.)

Osaka, April 10, 12.12 p.m.

A Korean letter dated the 1st inst., concerning the assassination of Mr. Kim has reached here. It states that the Ming family were greatly delighted upon receiving the report of the untimely death of the unfortunate Korean refugee. The King at once ordered the promotion of Kyo Sho-u, the assassin, to a high position in the army, and Mr. Sai Ki-un, the newly appointed Korean Consul in Shanghai, who has been staying at home on leave, was commissioned to proceed to Shanghai with a Royal Message and to escort Kyo to Korea. During the night of the 31st ult. the Ming family inquired of Mr. Otori, the Japanese Minister, as to the best method for obtaining the release of Kyo from the custody of the Shanghai Mixed Court. The head of this powerful house gave a banquet the previous night to a number of friends to celebrate the death of Mr. Kim. The Mings, however, are falling into disfavour through their actions. The adherents of the late Mr. Kim are holding secret meetings in various parts of the capital, and it is said that certain persons have sworn to murder Kyo on his arrival in Korea. The death of Kim is greatly regretted by the Tai Wön-kun, who did obeisance before the tablet of the deceased throughout the night of the 30th. The Government is watching the movements and behaviour of the Tai Wön-kun and the adherents of the deceased

Nagano, April 12, 3.32 p.m.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt in Saku District at nine o'clock last night, the volcano Asama emitted rumblings at the same time.

Kobe, April 12, 3.30 p.m.

The Directors of the Sanyo Railway Co. have decided to distribute *yen* 156,000 among shareholders as a dividend at the rate of 45 per cent. per annum.

Osaka, April 12, 2.36 p.m.

Mr. Asano Tokuzo, an *attaché* in the Foreign Office, arrived here yesterday on his way to Korea.

Kobe, April 12, 1.05 p.m.

Mr. Inouye, Minister of Education, arrived here last night from Kyoto, and at once proceeded to Suma. He returned this morning, and after inspecting the Commercial School and the Middle School went to Suma again. He will visit Okayama to-morrow.

Shanghai, April 11, 12.17 p.m.

A Korean official from Tientsin reached here on the 7th, and it is said took the murderer, Kyo, and the remains of Kim Yo-Kyün to the Chinese man-of-war *Seiwa-go*, which left for Jinsen the same day.

Osaka, April 11, 11.40 p.m.

A Korean message dated the 7th has arrived stating that Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister, has been telegraphically instructed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to remain in Söul until the Kim assassination affair is settled. The message further reports that the head of the late Mr. Kim will be exposed to public view at various important towns in the Kingdom.

Osaka, April 11, 4.30 p.m.

A Shanghai despatch under date the 7th states that the murder of Kim was at once reported to the Viceroy Li, and the latter is said to have replied in terms of approbation of the action taken by the assassin, at the same time giving instructions that the trial should be conducted so as to end in favour of the murderer.

Shanghai, April 13.

The Consuls of various countries at this port have agreed to memorialise the Chinese Government, through the Foreign Representatives in Peking, to advise the Korean Government to properly punish Hong, the assassin, and not to subject the remains of the late Mr. Kim to ignominious treatment. Steps were taken to put this resolution into operation at once.

Jinsen, April 12.

The Chinese man-of-war *Isei* arrived here to-day from Shanghai with the murderer, Hong, and the remains of the late Mr. Kim. Both were immediately removed to a steam-launch, which is expected to journey up the Hang river to-morrow.

Söul, April 13.

Kim's remains and Hong arrived here this afternoon.

Osaka, April 13.

The latest Korean intelligence states that two Chinese war-ships put into Nanyo harbour on the 9th, and were accorded a hearty reception by the Korean soldiers. It is said that neither of the vessels carried the corpse of the unfortunate Korean refugee. Mr. Kim Shite-tsu will shortly arrive in Japan on business connected with the Korean assassination affair. Mr. Yu, the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* in Tokyo, is expected to arrived at Fusan on the 10th, and at the capital on the 15th. The object of his return, it is said, is to inform his Government of the judicial steps taken by the Japanese authorities in reference to the attempt upon the life of Mr. Boku.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 116.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to B 8 (ch.)	1—K moves (best)
2—R to Q R 8 (ch.)	2—K × R
3—Q to B 8 (ch.)	3—K moves (best)
4—Q to Q B 5 (ch.)	4—P interposes (Queen cannot take Q on account of the resulting stalemate)
5—Q × B P (ch.) and draws by perpetual check;	
	if 4—K moves
5—Q checks at B 8, as before (move 3).	

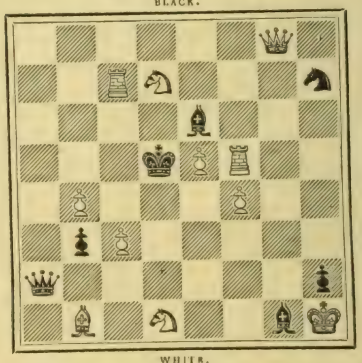
Correct solutions received from Omega, Digamma, Aling, and J.D. (the other solution won't do because K would *not* take R but escape to Kt 3 and win).

Aling, who is also credited with correct solution of No. 115, will find the position referred to quite sound if he places the Black P on K 6 instead of K 3. His ingenious supposition, however, is not far from the truth!

Problem No. 118.

By W. E. Perry.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

We hope to be able to let our readers have a review, by one of our local players, of Mr. James Mason's masterly work on the "Principles of Chess" next week.

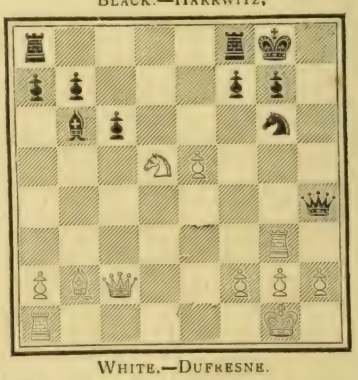
We regret to find some misprints in our last week's game (Hodges v. Pilsbury). Black's 33rd move should be K to B 3 and White's last move R to Kt 2.

End Game No. 5

La Stratégie publishes the following beautiful ending as a specimen of the play of the late Herr Jean Dufresne, by whom the game was won from Herr D. Harrwitz.

The diagram shows the position after Black's (Harrwitz's) 21st move:—

Black.—Harrwitz.



White.—Dufresne.

The play proceeded as follows:—

WHITE.	BLACK.
22—Kt to K B 6 ch	22—P takes Kt
23—R takes Kt ch	23—P takes R
24—Q takes P ch	24—K to R sq
25—P takes P	25—R to K B 2
26—Q takes R	26—R to K Kt sq
27—K to R sq	27—Q to K Kt 4
28—R to K Kt sq	28—B takes P
29—Q to K 8	29—K to R 2
30—P to B 7	

And Harrwitz resigned.

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GAME No. 123.

It will be remembered that in the third game of the Walbrodt Delmar match Walbrodt began with his King and Queen misplaced, and did not discover his mistake until he had made more than four moves. It was then decided that, as the match was being played in accordance with the rules in Staunton's *Companion*, the game must proceed. Thereupon Walbrodt raised the question of his right to castle. Delmar's umpire held that he could not castle, but his own umpire held that he could. The point was submitted to the referee, who ruled that, inasmuch as the White King was standing on a square from which he could not legally castle, Walbrodt had forfeited the privilege of castling. The following is the score of the game:—

Place the White K on Q sq. and the White Q on K square.

WHITE. Walbrodt.	BLACK. Delmar.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 3
2—P to Q 4	2—P to Q 4
3—Kt to Q B 3	3—Kt to K B 3
4—B to K Kt 5	4—B to K 2
5—B takes Kt	5—B takes B
6—P to K 5	6—B to K 2
7—P to K B 4	7—P to Q B 4
8—P takes P	8—B takes P
9—K Kt to K 2	9—B to Q 2
10—Q to Kt 3	10—P to K Kt 3
11—Kt to B sq.	11—Kt to B 3
12—Kt to Kt 3	12—B to K 2
13—B to Q 3	13—P to Q R 3
14—K R to B sq.	14—Q to B 2
15—Q to B 2	15—Castles Q R
16—P to Q R 3	16—K to Kt sq.
17—K to B sq.	17—Kt to R 4
18—Kt to Q 2	18—B to B 4
19—Q to Kt 3	19—B to Q 5
20—Kt to Q sq.	20—B to R 5
21—P to B 3	21—R to Q B sq.
22—B to B 2	22—B takes B
23—K takes B	23—P to K Kt 4
24—Q to Q 3	24—B to R 2
25—R to B sq.	25—P takes P
26—R takes P	26—Kt to B 5
27—Kt takes Kt	27—P takes Kt
28—Q to K 2	28—K R to Q sq.
29—Kt to B 2	29—R to Q 4
30—Kt to Kt 4	30—Q R to Q sq.
31—Q takes P	31—Q takes Q
32—R takes Q	32—P to K R 4
33—Kt to R 6	33—R takes P
34—Kt takes P	34—R to K 7 ch.
35—K to Kt 3	35—R (Q sq.) to Q 7
36—R to Q Kt sq.	36—P to K 4
37—R to K R 4	37—P to K 5
38—R takes R P	38—R takes P
39—R to K 5	39—P to K 6
40—P to K R 4	40—P to K 7
41—R to K sq.	41—B to Kt 3
42—P to R 5	42—K to R 2
43—P to R 6	43—B to B 2
44—R to K 7	44—B to Kt 6
45—P to R 7	45—B takes R
46—P Queens	46—B to Kt 6
47—Q to R sq	47—P Queens
48—R takes Q	48—R takes P ch
49—K to B 4	49—P to Kt 4 ch
50—K to Q 5	50—R (Q Kt 7) to Q 7 ch
51—K to B 6	51—B takes R
52—Q takes B	52—R (Q 7) to K 7
53—Q to R 4	53—R to Kt 3 ch.
54—Kt to Q 6	54—R (K 7) to K Kt 7
55—Q to K 7 ch	

And Delmar resigns.

Referring to the above game it is not often that we find a wrongly-set board in a match between master-players. It is an interesting study to see how Walbrodt overcame his difficulties when thus handicapped.

In the glorious days of the Divan, a not over-clean spectator seeing Boden and Bird playing without money passing, said:—"Mr. Boden, I am so glad to find that you do not care for filthy lucre." Glancing up at the speaker, Boden replied in a gentle tone:—"It is not to the filthy lucre I object, but to the filthy looker-on!"

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 7th April,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 7th April,—Otaru viâ ports 3rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 8th April,—Kobe 7th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 8th April,—Yokkaichi 7th April, General.—S. Oka.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 8th April,—Hongkong 30th March, Nagasaki 4th April, and Kobe 7th, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 10th April,—Otaru viâ ports 5th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Penelope, British schooner, 69, McGraw, 10th April,—Victoria, B.C., 382 Seals.—Captain.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 856, K. Kori, 10th April,—Sakata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 11th April,—Yokkaichi 10th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hideyoshi Maru, Japanese steamer, 465, S. Asai, 11th April,—Newchwang, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 11th April,—Kobe 10th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 11th April,—Kobe 10th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 12th April,—Hongkong viâ ports 4th April, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 12th April,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

Ocean Belle, British schooner, 84, T. O'Leary, 12th April,—Put Back, 82 Seals.—Captain.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 12th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 12th April,—Yokkaichi 11th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, C. Olsen, 13th April,—Otaru viâ ports 8th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yarra, French steamer, 2,126, de Maubeuge, 13th April,—Marseilles 4th March, Hongkong 5th April, Shanghai 9th, and Kobe 12th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 13th April,—Shanghai and ports 7th April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Baltimore (14), U.S. flagship, Captain W. R. Bridgmann, 7th April,—Shanghai viâ Kobe.

Salazie, French steamer, 4,016, A. Paul, 7th April,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 9th April,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Oka.

Pallas (20), cruiser, Captain A. MacLeod, 9th April,—Hongkong.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 9th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 10th April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Marion (7), U.S. corvette, Captain C. V. Gridley, 10th April,—San Francisco.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 10th April,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenavon, British steamer, 1,191, A. J. Jacobs, 11th April,—London and Bremen, viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 11th April,—Yokkaichi viâ Handa, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gerda, German steamer, 1,243, Ehlers, 11th April,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Josephine, American schooner, 16, Geo. W. Gale, 11th April,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Penelope, British schooner, 69, L. McGrath, 12th April,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 12th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompson, 25th April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cyclops, British steamer, 1,403, Burr, 12th April,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 13th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 13th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 13th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ocean Belle, British schooner, 84, T. O'Leary, 14th April,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 14th April,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 14th April,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—3 passengers in second class and 38 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Dalton, Mr. G. Austin, Mr. G. Harding, Mr. P. Nicosia, Mr. J. Tienes, Mr. and Mrs. Hewetson, Miss Castognet, Miss Barry, Dr. Henderson, Lieut. and Mrs. Williams, Colonel and Mrs. Spearman, Miss Sutherland, Miss Young, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. D. Fraser, Mr. A. J. Easton, Colonel Stock, Mr. Portusack, Mr. J. Ormiston, Mrs. Chum See, Miss Wong See and three children, Mr. Armand Jonet, Mr. P. A. Nicolle, and Mr. Ah Cho in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Messrs. Laffin, McKardy, Harada, and Yamasaki in cabin; 5 passengers in second class, and 29 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—For Nagasaki: Mrs. Fawkes and maid in cabin. For Kobe: Lieut. F. L. Wood, Mr. W. H. Ray, Mr. J. Orange, Mr. J. Ellerton, Mr. Watley, and Mr. C. C. Branch in cabin. For Yokohama: Mr. Murray, Mrs. Murray, Master Murray, Mr. H. G. Brookings, Mrs. Brookings, Miss Wallace, Miss Lamden, Mr. Barrett, Mrs. Barrett, Miss Hogg, Miss C. G. Hogg, Mr. Paine, Mrs. Paine, Miss A. Paine, Mrs. C. E. Crane, Miss L. Crane, Miss G. Crane, Mr. Berry, Mrs. Berry, Mr. H. Palmer, Mr. S. S. Schilizzi, Mr. Dickson, Mrs. Dickson, Miss Chamney, Mr. J. McWilliams, Mr. A. Puget, Mr. J. Guest, Mr. and Mrs. Noble, Mr. A. C. Read, and Rev. H. Loomis in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. A. Helgenberger, Rev. Mr. Graves, Mrs. Graves, Rev. J. M. Morton, and Mr. D. D. Grant in cabin.

Per French steamer *Yarra*, from Marseilles viâ ports:—Don Jose Caro, Mr. Eiki Hioki, Mr. Okanit, Mr. Nioto Ogata, Mrs. Yonai, Messrs. Cudenet, Delmas, Becker, Marguis, nurse, and 3 infants, Cren Derherin, Ovize, Le Roux, Mr. and Mrs. Earnshard, Mrs. San Pedro, and Mr. Wong in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Takabatake, Lieut. Aimoto, Dr. Harris, and Mr. W. P. Turner in cabin; Mrs. Usui, Miss Ah Tai, Mr. and Mrs. Takabatake, Messrs. M. Yamashita, Z. Wada, M. Yoshida, I. Sugihara, and T. Takase in second class, and 28 passengers in steerage. For America:—Mr. and Mrs. Mason and daughter, Mrs. Hancock, and Miss Eda C. Bond in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Salazie*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. E. H. Sharp, Mr. John Fox, Miss A. T. Rowe, Messrs. Culty, Holozet, de Villeneuve, Rapadzi, G. Adachi, Mrs. K. Adachi, Messrs. Iditti, Iso Eiragaki, S. Oki, Emile Chalas, S. Nishimura, Mr. and Mrs. S. Moralés et Hyosa, Mrs. Marguente Payen, Messrs. J. F. Lowder, J. Samson, and S. McGinity in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Skerrett, Miss Skerrett, Miss E. Skerrett, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Kwong Yuin, Mr. Shin Tong Lun, Mr. Ling Shin Shing, Mr. C. W. Baird, Mr. Kuzumi, Mrs. Lovatt and son, Miss Van Lear, Miss G. Guinness, Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Taylor, Mr. Todd, Rev. R. L. Halsey, Mr. R. J. Kirby, Mr. Stutchbury, and Rev. Ballagh in cabin; Messrs. N. Iwasaki, Toyoti, and Seki in second class, and 42 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—Mr. Chas. H. Atwood, Mr. H. P. Blanchard, Mr. Otto Beidek, Hon. L. Flower, Mr. T. Fukuhara, Mr. U. Saemiloe, Mr. and Mrs. Graves,

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Mr. D. D. Grant, Mr. Hermann Grieff, Mr. A. Helgenberger, Mr. N. Kobotake, Rev. J. M. Morton, Mr. M. R. Martineau, Mr. Y. Matsuo, Mr. S. C. Meerdink, Mr. N. Soma, Mr. H. B. Sawyer, Mr. E. A. Shedd, Miss Thorn, Mr. Chas. B. Tyler, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson in cabin.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. F. S. James, Miss E. James, Master F. James, Miss D. James and European nurse, Mr. C. P. Whitcombe, Miss Whitcombe, Mr. R. Tienes, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Mrs. Steele's three children, and European nurse, Staff-Surgeon Kidd, Miss McGlew, Messrs. F. S. Goodisen, F. S. James, J. M. Collum, Happer, J. Ormiston, and P. Nicosia in cabin; 4 Chinese and child in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Salazie*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for Europe, 829 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 92 bales. Treasure for Kobe, $102,000; for Shanghai, $2,500.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $181,700.00.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong ...	154	—	42	—	—	196
Total.....	154	—	42	—	—	196

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	639	—	639
Hongkong	—	367	—	367
Yokohama	—	370	—	370
Total	—	1,376	—	1,376

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 197 bales; Waste Silk, 139 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain C. Young, reports:—Left Otaru the 2nd April at noon; had moderate N.W. winds and fine weather to Hakodate, arriving the 3rd at 7.48 a.m. and left the 4th at 8 a.m.; had light variable airs and pleasant weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 6th at 5.42 a.m. and left the same day at 1.53 p.m.; had light, variable airs and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 7th April at 2.5 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain Ekstrand, reports:—Left Otaru the 5th April at 2 p.m.; had from moderate to strong S.W. and W. winds, and overcast weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 6th at 8.30 a.m., and left the 8th at 8 a.m.; had light southerly winds to midnight on the 9th; fresh N.N.E. winds and misty rain. Arrived at Oginohama the 9th at 6.30 a.m. and left the same day at 1.20 p.m.; had calm and fine weather; thence to midnight moderate east and westerly winds and misty rain. Arrived at Yokohama the 10th April at 1.25 p.m.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain W. M. Smith, reports:—Left Hongkong and Macao the 4th April, Nagasaki the 8th, and Kobe the 11th. Arrived at Yokohama the 12th April at 7.59 a.m. Passage from Kobe, 1 day, 3 hours, 17 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain C. Olsen, reports:—Left Otaru the 8th April at 2 p.m.; had light westerly winds and fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Hakodate the 9th at 8 a.m. and left the 11th at 8 a.m.; experienced light south-easterly winds and misty weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 12th at 5.40 a.m. and left the same day at 12.13 p.m.; had moderate southerly winds and clear weather to Inuboye; thence S.E. winds and drizzling rain and misty weather to port. Time of arrival the 13th April at 12.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain R. Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 7th April at noon; had moderate N.E. winds and dull, cloudy weather, increasing to fresh N.E. gale accompanied with strong sea, dull, gloomy weather and frequent heavy rain showers, moderating to light breeze, dull, cloudy weather and continued showers, to arrival at Nagasaki the 9th at 8.45 a.m. Left Nagasaki the same day at 9.30 p.m.; had continued N.E. winds and cloudy but fair weather, arriving at Shimonoseki the 10th at 10.20 a.m. Left Shimonoseki the same day at 2.20 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine, clear weather to approaching northern passage; thence moderate N.E. winds and continued fine, clear weather up to arrival at Kobe the 11th at 10 a.m. Left Kobe the 12th at 5.30 a.m.; had moderate N.E. winds and dull, cloudy weather; passed Oshima at 3.30 p.m. with strong easterly gale, high sea and continuous heavy rain, continuing up to Rock Island, which was passed at the 13th at 10.30 a.m.; thence moderate N.E. winds and continued thick, hazy weather and heavy rain up to arrival at Yokohama the 13th April at 5 p.m.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, April 20th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, April 15th.*
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Sunday, April 15th.†
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.‡
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, April 19th.§
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, April 19th.‖
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 28th.¶
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, April 18th **
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 22nd.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 29th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 6th.

* *City of Peking* left San Francisco on March 29th. † *Empress of India* left Vancouver on April 3rd. ‡ *City of Sydney* left San Francisco on April 4th. § *Empress of China* left Hongkong on April 11th. ‖ *City of Rio de Janeiro* left Hongkong on April 12th. ¶ *China* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on April 10th. ** *Nurnberg* left Hongkong on April 12th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Victoria*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, April 16th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, April 17th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, April 20th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, April 20th
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Friday, April 20th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, April 28th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, May 4th.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

A dead market for the time being with no sales at all during the week. Some enquiry for 9lb. Shirtings, which, however, has not led to business. Nothing whatever done in Yarns or Piece goods (either Cotton or Woollen) with the exception of the customary contracts for Italian Cloth of special makes for summer delivery. All quotations remain nominal until a fair start is once more made.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38¼ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 2 90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38¼ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3 35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches ..	1.70 to 2 35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	1 75 to 3 75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0 16 to 0 21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.85 to 1.00
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.55 to 1.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.80
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3 00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0 30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0 50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches ...	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0 57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39 00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	41.00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	43.00 to 44 00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Everything quiet and no fresh sales of moment. Holders are firm but dealers are trying for a reduction in prices.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Nail Iron, No. 3	1.70 to 1.75

KEROSENE.

Market steady and quotations unchanged. No very great sales to report, although it is said that about 40,000 cases Russian have been disposed of. No sales in American. The steamer *Windsor* has taken about 30,000 cases on to Kobe: thus reducing stock here to about 470,000 cases.

Chester	$1.72½ to 1.75
Comet	1.70 to 1.72½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor.....	1.67½ to 1.70
Russian Moon	1.65 to 1.67½

SUGAR.

Brown—Arrivals have exceeded sales and prices are down for China and Manila brands. Present stock over 16,000 piculs. White—Small business but quotations well maintained.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.75 to 4.80
Brown Manila	5.30 to 5.40
Brown Daitong	3.70 to 3.75
Brown Canton	4.50 to 4.55
White Java and Penang.....	7.10 to 7.20
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 6th instant, since which date settlements on this market amount to 533 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 392 piculs; *Re-reels*, 34 piculs; *Kakeda*, 107 piculs. Direct shipments have been 112 bales, making the total business of the week 650 piculs.

Again there has been less doing. Advices from consuming markets are not brilliant, and a fluctuating exchange has interfered with business. After a decided fall from the rates current at the beginning of the month, quotations have once more risen to those at foot, making silk lay down in the home markets at comparatively high prices.

The demand for Europe has fallen off considerably and there seems no enthusiasm in the American market. The prospect is that holders must reduce their quotations considerably if they wish to do any business in the near future.

It is interesting to compare the present state of affairs with those of a year ago. Then Filatures, *Shinshiu*, of the first grade, were done at $1,020, with exchange 2/9; now, they "hang fire" at $820, with exchange 2/1⅝. At that date also Extra Filatures, fine size, were done at $1,135, with exchange on Lyons fcs. 3.48; now, similar silks can be bought at $840, with exchange fcs. 2.69. Our present stock is over 7,000 piculs, against 1,500 piculs last year, and there is every prospect of a good crop. Taking all these things into consideration, it seems improbable that there can be much life infused into the trade during the remainder of the present season.

There has only been one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the French mail *Salazie*, 7th instant, taking 829 bales for Europe. This departure makes the present export figures 39,479 piculs, against 44,829 piculs last year and 44,805 piculs in the previous year.

Hanks.—No movement of any kind.

Filatures.—The bulk of the trade has again been in this class, good silks, fine size, fetching $810, with assorted parcels at various figures down to $730. In full sizes, spring reelings have been taken into godown on the following bases (but we understand that some of them have since been rejected): *Shinshu, Kaimeisha*, $820; *Rujokan*, $810; *Tokosha*, $790; *Koshu, Yajima*, $810.

Re-reels.—A very small business by foreigners amounting to 34 piculs. *Koriyama*, second quality, $740, with *Yechigo*, $710. Direct exporters have taken some few parcels *Joshu* at full rates.

Kakeda.—These have maintained their position fairly well, and while holders are inclined to be current for other kinds of silk, appear to be saleable at full rates: *Horsehead I* are said to have been done as high as $735; *Cowhead I*, $730; *Horsehead II*, $700.

In other sorts no business.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu).....		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers.....	Nom.	$850
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		$830 to 840
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.....		820 to 830
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers		760 to 770
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.....		760 to 770
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		730 to 740
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		730 to 740
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra		—

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Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	770 to	780
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	740 to	750
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	720 to	730
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	700 to	710
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	670 to	680
Kakedas—Extra	780 to	790
Kakedas—No. 1	750 to	760
Kakedas—No. 1½	720 to	730
Kakedas—No. 2	690 to	700
Kakedas—No. 2½	670 to	680
Kakedas—No. 3		—
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 13th April, 1894.

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	22,294	17,531	16,154
America	15,982	26,517	27,644
Total { Bales	38,276	44,048	43,798
Total { Piculs	39,479	44,829	44,805
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July {	Piculs. 40,200	Piculs. 44,950	Piculs. 44,650
Stock, 13th April	7,200	1,500	5,350
Available supplies to date	47,400	46,450	50,000

WASTE SILK.

A small trade amounting to 350 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 150 piculs; *Kibiso*, 199 piculs; *Tama-ito*, 1 picul. No direct shipments this week.

The demand has fallen very light and although there is a heavy stock here, dealers refuse to entertain the offers which shippers are able to make. The stock is up to 16,000 piculs, with plenty more in the country, and we think that holders must accept lower prices if they want to move at all.

There has been one shipping opportunity, the *Salazie* taking 92 bales various Waste for Europe. The present export figures are 24,403 piculs, against 37,697 piculs last year, and 27,628 piculs in the previous year.

Noshi.—Small purchases in *Filature*, medium grade, $127, with *Oshu*, fair quality, $137½; *Tegara*, $122½; *Mino*, $102½. Nothing done in *Joshu*, holders asking extravagant prices for very poor assortment.

Kibiso.—The principal business has been in *Filatures*, medium quality, at $95. A small parcel superior bringing $111.

In other kinds, nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to 115
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	95 to 100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	170 to 180

Export Table Waste Silk to 13th April, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	21,172	35,005	25,533
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,095
	24,403	37,697	27,628
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July {	Piculs. 26,250	Piculs. 42,950	Piculs. 30,250
Stock, 13th April	16,000	2,850	8,350
Available supplies to date	42,250	45,800	38,600

Exchange has fluctuated from day to day closing at the following rates:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1⅛; Documents, 2/1¼; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1⅞. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $52; 4m/s. U.S. $52¾. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.69; 6m/s. fcs. 2.70.

Estimated Silk Stock, 13th April, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	10	Cocoons	170
Filatures	3,190	Noshi-ito	8,560
Re-reels	3,080	Kibiso	6,760
Kakeda	890	Mawata	150
Oshu	17	Sundries	360
Yavsaam Kinds	13		
Total piculs	7,200	Total piculs	16,000

TEA.

Between seasons, and only a retail business doing. The export to 10th instant was 29 million pounds against 29¾ millions at same date last year. Tasters are now waiting for New Leaf, which will commence to arrive during the latter half of this month.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has fluctuated considerably and closes weak at the undermentioned rates:—

Sterling—Bank T. T.	2/0⅝
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/0⅝
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1¼
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2.60
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.69
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	181
On India—Private 30 days' sight	184
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50⅛
On America—Private 30 days' sight	51⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	52⅜
On Germany—Bank sight	2.12
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.20
Bar Silver (London)	28⅜

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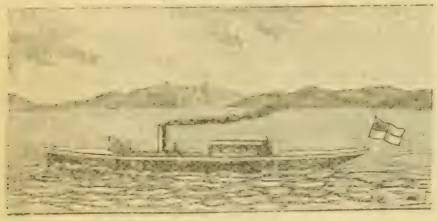
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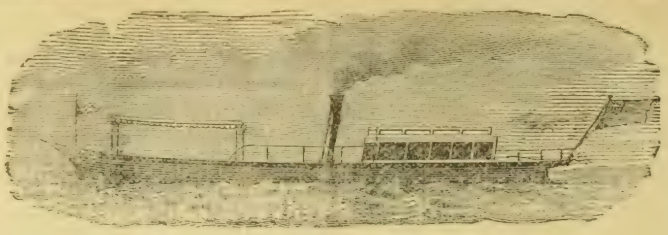
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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST, 1894.

BIRTH.

On the 18th inst., at No. 38, Bluff, the wife of DUNCAN MCNEILL, Barrister-at-Law, of a Son.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

VICOMTE DE BONDY, of the French Legation, is leaving Japan for good.

THE Charity Ball at the Rokumei-kan on Tuesday was highly successful.

SMALL-POX is very prevalent in Shizuoka, Nagasaki, and Kagoshima Prefectures.

ASAMA volcano has developed some activity during the week, throwing up pumice stone and ashes.

SOME strict regulations have been drawn up in order to prevent the spread of rinderpest in Japan this year.

AN American sealing schooner is reported to be aground on a shoal not far from the coast of Hokkaido.

M. SIENKIEWICZ, the French Minister, is leaving Tokyo to take the position of Commissioner of the Danube.

MR. INOUYE, Minister of Education, is still touring through Sanindo, inspecting various scholastic institutions.

MR. OMIGASHIRA TEIJIRO, Japanese Consul at Vancouver, now on leave, has been released from his post at his own request.

NUMEROUS fires have taken place in Tokyo of late, resulting in the destruction of much property and several lives. In one case it is suspected that a whole family was murdered and then their house set on fire in order to cover the miscreant's crime.

TWELVE of the eighteen men reported missing from the American sealing schooner *Retriever* have arrived safely in Yokohama.

IT is stated that the Emperor intends visiting Sanindo this year in response to the request of the Governors of those localities.

THE Doshin Kaisha of Yokohama is again in trouble, and as a result of the disputes the President, Mr. Kawase, is said to have resolved to resign.

THE remains of the late Kim Ok-kyün have been submitted to ignominous treatment in Korea and exhibited to the public veiw upon a traitor's gibbet.

THE rumoured changes in the organization of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, have been announced. They consist in a readjustment of offices and duties along with various transfers of officials.

H.I.M. THE EMPEROR inspected the men-of-war now in Yokosuka during the week, and witnessed some torpedo-boat manœuvres. H.I.M. the Empress visited the Naval Yard on the 19th inst.

THE Spring Regatta of the Imperial Uuniversity Boat Club took place on the Sumida-gawa on Saturday and provided some good sport. The Championship of the River was won by the Law College.

THE Marine Court of Inquiry into the circumstances attending the stranding of the *Nagato Maru* on Saratoga Spit, in March last, has reprimanded the master, Richard Pender, but returned his certificate.

THE troubles between Japanese Guilds and Messrs. Rosenthal and Co., and Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Co., have been amicably arranged, and some complimentary banquets to the foreign firms are announced.

A JAPANESE cook who lost his temper over his daily accounts suddenly left the service of his master, Mr. Chope, and then sued the latter for a week's wages. The Assistant-Judge of H.B.M.'s Court disallowed the claim.

KOREA has settled her diplomatic misunderstanding with Japan with reference to the withdrawal of her *Chargé d'Affaires*, and Japan has acknowledged the Secretary of the Korean Legation as *Chargé d'Affaires* in Tokyo until the arrival of the Minister from Söul.

THE leading residents of Omi and Wakasa Provinces propose constructing a railway to run between Otsu, in Shiga Prefecture, and Obama, in Fukui Prefecture, a distance of forty-two miles. Stations are to be built at Katada, Sakamoto, Imatsu, Kumagawa, and Miyake.

A CHINESE passenger on board the *City of Peking* murdered a fellow-countryman when the vessel was two days out from San Francisco, after wounding the Chief Engineer and a saloon boy. While the depositions were being taken by the U.S. Consul in Yokohama on Tuesday, the man made a desperate attack on the Chief Officer of the *Peking*. The murderer will be taken back to San Francisco for trial.

IT has been officially announced that the British Navy is to be strengthened so that it shall be equal to the combined fleets of any two other Powers. Several Royal and Imperial visits have taken place in Italy and on the shores of the Adriatic during the past ten days. The British Government intends to retain possession of Uganda by means of a local administration. Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt has announced in the House of Commons that it is not the Government's intention to introduce a Home Rule measure for Scotland. The Canadian tea-duties are causing some dissatisfaction both in London and Canada. The Riaz Ministry has resigned in Egypt, and Nubar Pasha takes the Premiership—both of which steps are acrimoniously discussed by the French Press. The House of Commons has read a second time a bill introduced by Colonel Nolan, and supported by the Government, for the repeal of the Coercion Act of 1887. The House of Lords has passed the Behring Sea Award Bill.

THERE is not much to be said in favour of the Import trade, scarcely anything having been done in Yarns or Shirtings during the past week. The spurt in heavy descriptions of the latter during the previous interval was entirely for bargains to "arrive," "spot" transactions having been wholly eliminated from recent business. Fancy Cottons and other lines, including Woollens, are mostly neglected, the exception being that Woollen Italians and Mousselines have met with a small spasmodic demand. For many articles quotations are nominal through lack of business to decide values. In the Metal market there is no change in the position whatever, and holders have little inclination for contracts at fixed rates of exchange. The Kerosene trade is not brisk, there being little enquiry, but prices show no change. A cargo of Batoum Oil arrived per steamer *Volute* during the week. The arrival of Brown Sugar having more than kept pace with sales has had the effect of increasing the stock and keeping down values, there now being a very large supply; and Whites are in moderate demand at late rates. The Silk trade has about dwindled to its lowest span since the opening of the present season, the business of the week put through by foreign shippers being less than one hundred piculs, though this amount has to be increased by 226 piculs direct export to make up the total shipments. The stock still stands at 7,500 piculs, while there is certainly a good deal of Silk still up country, and the new crop is advancing apace; and if the China and Italian crops turn out plentiful and good, there will be but a poor outlook for holders of the present stock in Japan. A glance at the position of the Silk market last year at this date is interesting. With a stock then of little over a thousand piculs and most of the best down from the interior, fine size Filatures were held for $1,200 with exchange on Lyons at francs 3.49, while to-day the same quality Silk finds no buyer at $800 with exchange on Lyons at francs at 2.70. Evidently buyers in Europe and America are waiting for reports in regard to new production, and speculation is dead. Notwithstanding a good enquiry for Waste, holders are hard to deal with and much less has been done than would have been the case had small concessions to would-be buyers been granted. The enormous stock remains at nearly 16,000 piculs=six times the quantity at same date last year. Holders cheerfully carry the heavy stock, but it is predicted that quotations must fall before anything like large transactions can take place. The weather has been most favourable to the new Tea crop, the last week especially having been favoured with fine growing weather, and by the end of this month pickings will be probably heavy. The American mail steamer, which leaves to-day, takes a few sample shipments of new Tea for various quarters aggregating probably thirty piculs. Exchange rallied a point or two early in the week, but has again declined to about last week's rates.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The question of Treaty Revision has again come to the front. People seem to believe that the negotiations with England have been nearly completed, and even that ratification of the revised Treaty will take place before the opening of the Diet's session. But it is evident that this idea is not founded on any definite information. The rumours circulated are of the vaguest imaginable description. In truth, public suspicion seems to have been awakened principally, if not entirely, by the unexpected proclamation of the abandonment of Consular Jurisdiction in the case of Hawaii. Nothing had been known of these negotiations until the appearance of the Imperial Ordinance announcing their completion. It was at once supposed that the measure was probably a device to sound the sentiments of the people on the subject of Treaty Revision, and that the next surprise would come in the shape of a revised treaty with England. "Suspicion breeds demons," as the Japanese proverb says, and in this case the rumours circulated by the vernacular press on the strength of mere suspicions verify the saying. The excitement thus caused is already beginning to subside, but the journalistic discussions evoked by the incident deserve brief notice, as they serve to show the attitude of a part of the nation towards this important question. Some of the articles have already been reproduced separately, together with our own observations on the general attitude of the metropolitan papers. We there stated that the principal ground of the Opposition journals' complaints against the imaginary treaty with England, was that the Japanese Government seemed disposed to grant the privilege of Mixed Residence in return for the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction alone, leaving the question of tariff autonomy very much in the same state as at present. At the time we made these observations the Opposition journals seemed to be united in demanding the recovery of tariff autonomy, so that Japan might enjoy freedom to fix her customs duties by her own legislative act. But according to articles subsequently published, the organs of the Progressionist Party appear not disinclined to approve the system of conventional tariffs, provided that reciprocity be secured. Such is the opinion expressed by the *Mainichi Shimbun* and the *Kokumin Shimbun*. An absolutely mistaken view on the subject has been expressed, however, by a certain class of papers, which write as though the existing treaties entirely deprived Japan of her inherent right to fix her customs rates. This erroneous notion has been promptly combatted by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which points out that Japan's right to alter her customs duties remains unimpaired even under the existing treaties, the only restraint imposed on the exercise of her right being the necessity of proceeding by means of convention. The same is true of most Western Powers. With them also it is customary to fix tariff rates by means of treaties, except in the case of states engaged in a war of retaliatory tariffs. These rare cases apart, the principle of international amity requires that no distinction be made between different treaty Powers in respect of tariff schedules. The *Nichi Nichi* in conclusion reminds its contemporaries of the folly of representing Japan's case in blacker colours than really belong to it.

* * *

Of all the Opposition papers, the *Hochi Shimbun* alone has preserved toward this subject an attitude of calm indifference. It chides its contemporaries for the excitement they have manifested in discussing the question. Their extravagant zeal is not indeed inexcusable, in view of their well-founded apprehension lest the country's cherished rights and interests be betrayed by a weak and temporizing Cabinet like the present one. But the *Hochi* is at a loss to understand the reason why the allied parties should devote their whole energy to this question on the basis of vague and incredible rumour, when practical problems of vital importance demand immediate attention. It does not itself pretend to have any definite information on the subject, but it is convinced that no foundation exists for the rumour that negotiations with England have made such progress that the ratification of the new treaty may possibly be effected before the opening of the approaching session of the Diet. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. Instead of wasting precious time and energy for the sake of what is remote and uncertain, the allied sections of the Opposition and their organs are advised to direct their attention to the consideration of problems that press for immediate solution; as for example, the questions to be discussed in the coming session of the Diet with a view to the demolition of clan Government and the establishment of Party Cabinets.

* * *

Concerning the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction in the case of Hawaiian citizens in Japan, the Opposition journals as well as the majority of the independent papers comment unfavourably. They are united in blaming the Government for having granted the privilege of Mixed Residence without regaining in exchange the right of fixing the rates of customs duties by legislation. Having thus established a precedent for exchanging Mixed Residence against the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction, Japan—say these journals—would have to agree to a similar arrangement, should it be demanded of her by any other Treaty Power. So far as Hawaii is concerned, it does not matter much for, besides being a small state, its people are not likely to come here in any numbers. But the question deserves serious attention on account of its important bearings upon Japan's relations with other Treaty Powers. The Opposition papers threaten that the matter will be brought up in the coming session of the Diet, in the form of either a Representation to the Government or an Address to the Throne. One of these papers, the *Hochi Shimbun*, acknowledges that the question is only of secondary importance, since it is not likely either that any other Power will apply for the opening of the interior on the same condition, or that, even if such demand be made, the Japanese Government would easily agree to it. It may be supposed, then, that the *Hochi* blames its contemporaries for making much ado about nothing. Far from it. The Progressionist organ's conclusion is that the noise made on so insignificant a topic proves how little sense of security the people feel in the foreign policy of the Government!

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The Radical organ, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, is inclined to welcome the revision of the Hawaiian treaty as a step in the right direction. It hopes, however, that the Government will not be satisfied with any such easy achievement, but will take prompt measures to accomplish Revision with the Powers of Europe and America.

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In consequence of having written in this rather favourable manner, the *Jiyu-to* was ridiculed by some of the Progressionist papers, and it apparently felt the edge of their sarcasm very keenly, for, in its usual inconsistent and flippant manner, it hastened to explain away its former approbation of the Government's measure, and avowed that in speaking of the Hawaiian treaty as being practically a treaty on equal terms, it did not mean to say that it was really such. The *Jiyu* states in a later article that it will be opposed to any treaty in which tariff autonomy is not restored to Japan.

* * *

The Korean assassination affair still continues to engage the attention of the vernacular press. The preliminary examination of the prisoners in the case has been concluded, and Li and his accomplices will, it is said, be prosecuted on the charge of attempted murder. It is reported that the Korean Government denies the genuineness of the Royal Seals stamped on the commissions in the possession of Li Isshoku. But whatever may be the nature of the seals, the Japanese papers refuse to acknowledge that the Korean Government is not connected with the plot of assassination. Some go so far as to urge the Government at once to open negotiations with Korea to obtain ample satisfaction from her on account of the attempt made to violate the sovereignty of this country. In order to open such communications it is not necessary—says the *Niroku* for instance—that Korea's connection with the criminal scheme be established, the fact that the Japanese public believes in such connection is sufficient. For this article, the *Niroku* has been suspended. Most of the other papers write in a calmer and more moderate manner. But there does not seem to be so much as one journal prepared to deny that the Korean Government should not be held responsible for the plot of assassination. The mutilation of Kim's corpse, in the face of the united advice of the foreign diplomatists at Sŏul as well as of the Consuls in Shanghai, and the favourable reception of Hong Tjyong-ou, the murderer, have not lessened the suspicion originally entertained by the Japanese against the Korean Government. These circumstances, taken in conjunction with the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* conduct, and the fact that Li Isshoku spent for the prosecution of his object a sum of money totally beyond his own means, are considered by the vernacular press sufficient grounds for demanding reparation from the Korean Government. Such at least seems to be the opinion of the *Jiji Shimpo* and other papers of the better sort.

* * *

The promulgation of Emigration Regulations has been welcomed with unfeigned approval by the vernacular press. All the papers are united in recognizing the importance of these Regulations for the protection and proper control of labour emigration to foreign countries. The *Nippon* alludes at some length to similar enactments in European countries, especially Germany, England, and Switzerland. It believes that the Regulations just issued are modelled on the Swiss Law of 1888. Pending the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction, these Regulations will have no binding force upon foreign residents secretly engaged in sending Japanese labourers abroad. The Authorities are advised to pay special attention to the prevention of the evils arising from this state of things.

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The *Jiyu Shimbun* approved the opportune promulgation of these Regulations. But it hopes that the Authorities will so enforce them that an unnecessary check may not be given to the growth of an enterprising spirit in the country.

* * *

Among the organs of the allied sections of the Opposition, there are some which, while recognizing the importance of the Regulations, are inclined to think that the matter ought to have been embodied in the form of a law and submitted to the Diet. For they believe that some of the provisions restrain "the liberty of abode, and of changing the same," guaranteed by the Constitution (Art. XXII.).

* * *

It being the fashion with the allied sections of the Opposition and their organs to declare that the present Ministers of State are unfit to be entrusted with the direction of the Administration, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* challenges the leaders of these parties to go into the presence of the Emperor and recommend to His Majesty such persons as they may think suitable for the Ministerial posts. What is the use, indignantly asks the *Nichi Nichi*, of perpetually obstructing the smooth conduct of the administration with vague charges of want of confidence? If either Count Okuma and Count Itagaki or Viscount Shinagawa really think that those now in power are unworthy of high trust, he ought to offer advice to His Majesty, for his rank entitles him to approach the Throne. Perhaps the leaders of the Opposition sections will say that the Ministers ought to resign of their own accord. But the *Nichi Nichi* points out that the Ministers can not and will not take such a step, as they believe themselves capable of carrying on the Government of the country. Consequently, the only way in which the Opposition leaders can bring about a change of Cabinet is by recommending suitable successors for the consideration of the Emperor.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

CURRENT TOPICS.

MR. ABEI IWANE, the introducer of the celebrated Representation on Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, has been interviewed by a writer on the staff of the *Niroku Shimpo*. He explains that he does not regard Strict Enforcement of the Treaties as the sole method of effecting Treaty Revision. He counts it as one only of the three most powerful means, the two others being development of the country's strength and invigoration of the people's spirit. Last year, he observes, the Great Japan Union devoted itself to opposing the immediate opening of the interior for Mixed Residence. But the question of Mixed Residence is of secondary importance compared with that of Treaty Revision. Consequently, he and his fellow thinkers will this year concentrate their attention on the conclusion of absolutely equal treaties. In undertaking the task of Revision, it is necessary, he declares, that Japan should be prepared to denounce the treaties in case peaceful means fail to acheive her object. It will be seen from this brief *resumé* of Mr. Abei's somewhat prolix conversation, that a noteworthy change for the better has taken place in his opinions on the subject of Treaty Enforcement.

* * *

Some of the poorer territorial nobles are exposing themselves to public derision by indecorous jealousy about the grant His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon the *Kuge* nobles. Viscounts Shiujo, Torii, Kyogoku, and others have memorialized the Minister of the Household, protesting against the partiality shown to the former Court nobles. These needy territorial nobles apparently fail to perceive how unbecoming it is to criticise or complain about the methods adopted in the spontaneous manifestations of the Imperial bounty. They even threaten to lay the matter before their peers in the coming session of the Diet. It is to be hoped that they may be saved from such an unsightly course of action.

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The *Nippon* mentions a rumour that the successors of the present Cabinet, in the event of the latter's resignation, will most probably be composed of young men of the second order, such as Mr. Ito Miyoji, Mr. Kaneko Kentaro, Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, Mr. Shirane Senichi, and so forth. Of the present Ministers, Mr. Mutsu, Mr. Watanabe, and Mr. Inouye Ki are expected to remain in the new Cabinet. But who will be Premier, is a question not yet decided. Such is the gist of the *Nippon's* forecast. Most persons will deem it rather early to talk of a new Cabinet, when the present one has apparently no intention of going out of office.

* * *

Concerning the Radical Party, the organs of the allied Opposition sections circulate various injurious rumours. They state, for instance, that the Party is now in a state of helpless indecision, alike incapable of either severing its connection with the Cabinet and of strengthening that connection so as to form a definite coalition. According to another rumour, the leaders of the Party are very uneasy at the independent attitude of their followers in the North-East and in Kyushu, who are said to be dissatisfied with the propensity of those in the capital to support the Cabinet. The postponement of the Party's general conference is declared to be a device on the part of the members at head-quarters to gain time for converting their provincial associates to their own way of thinking. But in this they are said to have been entirely unsuccessful, and a disruption of the Party is predicted by its enemies. It will not be long ere the public is in a position to judge whether these rumours are well or ill founded.

* * *

The much talked of amalgamation of the *Doshi Seisha* and the *Domei Seisha* is to take place before the end of the present month. Nothing seems to have been decided about the name of the new party. Neither are we told anything as to the attitude of the members of the *Doshi Seisha* who are understood to be more or less inclined to return to the Radical camp. Seeing that many of the members of the two political factions are now absent from the capital, it may be safely predicted that the arrangement for amalgation will produce not a few dissentients.

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The members of the Tokyo Journalistic League, to which frequent allusion has been made in these columns, are reported to have recently addressed a circular to their fellow-journalists throughout the country, inviting them to join the League and to attend a grand meeting of newspaper men in Tokyo on the 13th of May.

* * *

The *Chu-o Shimbun* recently declared that, of the public men of the Choshu and Satsuma extraction, the most worthy of political trust are Viscount Shinagawa and Mr. Shirane Senichi of the former, and Viscounts Takashima and Kabayama of the latter clan. This statement has evoked considerable mirth and criticism. Writing about it, the *Keizai Zasshi* observes that as to Viscounts Shinagawa and Takashima, the one is nothing more than an enthusiast and the other a man of petty cunning: but that Mr. Shirane and Viscount Kabayama are persons of considerable calibre.

HONG TJYONG OU AND KIM OK-KYUN'S CORPSE.

A TELEGRAM despatched from Shanghai on the 13th instant, and already published in these columns, says that the Foreign Consuls in Shanghai have addressed to the Corps Diplomatique in Peking a suggestion that the Tung-li Yamen be approached with the object of urging the Korean Government to inflict due punishment on Hong Tjyong-ou, the assassin of Kim Ok-Kyün, and to refrain from subjecting the corpse of Kim to any indignities. We think it scarcely likely that the Foreign Representatives will act officially upon such a suggestion. It cannot be assumed beforehand that the Korean Authorities will behave in a manner opposed to all the principles of civilization, and any representation officially made by the Foreign Corps Diplomatique at this stage would be open to such a construction. Possibly, however, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister may see his way to move semi-officially, for it certainly is not in the interests of the peace of the Orient that Korea should follow a course of procedure, not only barbarous in itself, but also eminently calculated to embitter her relations with Japan. The feelings of Japan are strongly enlisted in this matter, as is very natural. It is plain that the plot to assassinate Kim was concocted and developed in this country. His murderer shadowed him here, enticed him hence for the purpose of taking his life, and finally consummated the cruel deed in a Japanese hotel in Shanghai. Besides, Kim was for nine years a political refugee in Japan, and during a part of that time he lived at the charges and under the official control of the Japanese Government. It is true that so soon as he voluntarily left these shores, Japan ceased to have any direct responsibility in connection with him. He reverted from that moment to his original status of a Korean subject. But the Japanese people cannot so easily forget the past, and if the unhappy man's corpse is to be dishonoured and his murderer publicly rewarded, a sense of intense indignation and umbrage will undoubtedly be excited in this country. Such incidents may not have any immediately disastrous effects, but their influence upon the Oriental situation cannot be ignored. British diplomacy in the East has always been exercised, during the past twenty-five years, in the cause of peace and amity between Japan, China, and Korea. We may be permitted to hope that so excellent a record will be adhered to on the present occasion.

THE VICE-MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE KIM AFFAIR.

IN its issue of the 14th instant, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* published a *resumé* of a reply said to have been given by the Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to certain questions addressed to him personally by Mr. Kobayashi, a gentleman who called at the Foreign Office for the purpose of urging the advisability of taking strong measures for the recovery of Kim Ok Kyün's body and the delivery of his assassin into Japan's hands. The Vice-Minister was represented as saying that the Government had resolved not to raise any question with Korea on the subject. This interpretation of the Vice-Minister's answer appears to have been incorrect, for in the *Nichi Nichi* of the following day appears a letter from that official which runs thus:—"Sir,—In a *resumé* of a conversation with the Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, which appears in your Miscellaneous column of the 13th instant, I am represented as having said that the Cabinet had decided not to take such and such steps. I beg to state, however, that I made no assertion with reference to a decision of the Cabinet, for, as a matter of fact, I had no knowledge of any such decision. Mr. Kobayashi urged the necessity of raising a question as to the late Kim Ok Kyün's nationality, and I replied that Kim was not a Japanese subject, and that so soon as he had repaired to a country whither the right of this Empire to protect him did not extend, we might indeed regret his fate, but we could not take any official steps with reference to it. I shall be obliged if you will insert this correction."

KOGANEI.

ONE of the prettiest of suburban resorts in spring is Koganei, celebrated for its ancient and magnificent cherry-trees. These are far superior to the groves of Mukojima, beautiful as the latter are; for most of the trees at Koganei are two and three centuries old, giants of their kind and enormously productive of the flower that the poet states is typical of the "heart of the Japanese." The easiest way to reach Koganei is either by *jinrikisha* to Shinjiku and thence by train to Sakai or Kokubuji, or from Uyeno direct by rail, changing cars at Shinjiku. The service is, however, a very irregular one, the trains being quite frequently as much as thirty or forty minutes behind schedule-time. Koganei is practically a long straggling village following the course of a swift, narrow stream, for some three or four miles. The surrounding country is low and rather uninteresting, but the cherries make up for whatever lack of beauty there is elsewhere. On Wednesday and Thursday last the trains carried nearly seven thousand people to the nearest stations, and the sight was a very lively and enjoyable one, despite the prevalent indulgence in *sake*. A Japanese crowd is proverbially good-natured and never more so than when in its cups. The season is a little late already, but the trees will still be worth a visit up to 20th instant.

THE HAWAIIAN TREATY.

THE four sections of the Opposition specially addicted to making incursions into the domain of foreign affairs, are said to see a chance of converting the Hawaiian Treaty question into a new stick for beating the Government. Two difficulties are raised by them. The first is that, although Hawaii's privileges with regard to Consular Jurisdiction have been formally abrogated, her people may continue to enjoy those privileges within the foreign settlements so long as the latter exist. Such, at least, is the version which a vernacular newspaper gives of these gentlemen's contention. It is a comical contention. Foreign settlements have ceased to exist in Tokyo so far as Hawaiian citizens are concerned. That is so obvious that failure to apprehend is amounts to wilful perversity.

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The second contention raised by these politicians is that although Japan has recovered her judicial autonomy in respect of Hawaiians, her gain is more apparent than real. This contention they support by pointing out that the most-favoured-nation clause of the Hawaiian Treaty has not been abolished, and consequently Hawaiians in Japan remain entitled to all privileges enjoyed by other nationals. Here again we have to deal with an argument quite undeserving of serious treatment. The most-favour-nation of the Hawaiian Treaty,

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namely, the fourth article, secures to "the Hawaiian Government and its subjects, upon like terms and conditions, free and equal participation in all privileges, immunities, and advantages" granted by Japan to any other nationals. The politicians of the Opposition fail apparently to take note of the qualifying expressions in this article; namely, "like terms and conditions" and "equal participation." Identity of terms and conditions and equality of participation—in this language the least intelligent reader should be able to find assurance against chimeras such as the Opposition politicians are said to be troubled by. The fact is that when there is question of attacking the Government, these gentlemen seem to lose sight altogether of their country's interests. We ought perhaps to mention that the four sections engaged in this extraordinary campaign are the *Domei*, *Doshi*, *Kokumin*, and *Seimu Chosa-jo*.

TREATY REVISION.

A REPORT that negotiations with the British Government for the revision of the Treaty have progressed so far that the ratification of the revised treaty will probably take place before the opening of the coming session of the Diet, seems to have been received by the Japanese public with a measure of confidence. The metropolitan papers are now publishing various hypotheses as to the probable provisions of the agreement with England. On former occasions when similar rumours created excitement, the Progressionist papers maintained an attitude of incredulity, observing, at the same time, that the present Cabinet is quite incapable of grappling with the task of revision. But even these journals appear to place full confidence in the story now circulated. It is not to be expected that the Progressionists will approve any treaty, however advantageous, that may be concluded by the present Cabinet. Consequently, their organs, as well as those belonging to the National Unionists, are united with the friends of the neo-anti-foreign movement—as for example, the *Nippon* and the *Niroku Shimpo*—in hinting strong disapproval of the alleged new treaty with England even before they venture to simulate knowledge of its conditions. They assume that Mixed Residence is to be granted in exchange for the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction alone, and that tariff autonomy is not to be recovered at the same time. Such a treaty, they say, will never be approved by the nation, however perfect it be in other respects.

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Of these papers, the *Nippon* is most conspicuous for the zeal with which it endeavours to arouse popular prejudice against the imaginary treaty with England. In addition to publishing various misleading notes on the subject, that journal makes a strong editorial appeal to the promoters of the anti-foreign movement to strike a blow in time to save the country from a humiliating compact. The *Nippon* has paid dearly for its extravagant writing, for it has been placed under the ban of suspension. It is a pity that such wholly unpatriotic and mischievous journals cannot be ruled out of existence altogether.

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On Saturday and Sunday last, Messrs Komuchi Tomotsune, Abei Iwane, Oi Kentaro, Minai Giichi, Wada Hikojiro and several other promoters of the anti-Mixed-Residence movement, held conferences in the Tokyo Hotel. They resolved to open communications with the allied factions of the Opposition, the Radical Party, and the papers belonging to the Journalistic League, for the purpose of concerting some united plan of action in opposition to the Government on the question of Treaty Revision. It is intelligible enough that they should confer with the allied factions for such a purpose, but there is something decidedly strange in their proposal to negotiate with the Radical party. However, they doubtless know perfectly what they are about. On Sunday, it is reported, their meeting was attended by a few members of the Progressionist Party.

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Writing on the same subject, the Radical organ, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, remarks that nothing but an absolutely equal treaty will be approved by its Party. "Diplomatic matters," it states, "require secrecy. A true lover of the country must, therefore, refrain from exciting popular prejudice out of party spirit, by indulging in idle and exaggerated speculations upon the basis of mere rumour. We strongly urge the union of both the Government and the people for the purpose of Treaty Revision. As to the basis on which Revision is to be effected, the opinion of the nation has long been declared. Our attitude to any new treaty will be decided by reference to the expressed sentiments of the people [*i.e.* the Address to the Throne on Treaty Revision]. This is not the proper time to make any pronouncement on the strength of mere rumours."

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It is a noteworthy circumstance that none of the papers, not even the *Nippon*, say anything against the opening of the country for Mixed Residence, while the great majority of them lay some stress upon the fact that they are not in any way opposed to Mixed Residence in itself. So the present movement against the Cabinet seems likely to turn entirely upon the subject of tariff autonomy. The Opposition politicians hold that Japan ought to insist upon entire freedom to fix her customs duties by internal legislation, as is done in the United States of America. They seem to think there is some humiliation in leaving the matter to diplomatic arrangement, a practice now universally adopted by European Powers. Judging from present indications, it is not likely that the anti-Revision movement, founded on such mistaken notions, will ever attain dangerous dimensions.

THE QUESTION OF THE KOREAN CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES.

ACCORDING to a telegraphic message received in the Foreign Office from Söul, the Japanese Minister there received, a few days ago, an official communication from the Korean Government, disavowing the conduct of Mr. Yu, the Korean *Chargé d'Affaires*, in leaving Tokyo, and expressing deep regret for the incident. The same communication also intimated the Korean Government's intention of causing the Resident Minister, Mr. Kim Shitetsu, to return to his post in Tokyo as soon as possible, Mr. Kim Shijun being meanwhile commissioned to act as *Chargé d'Affaires*. The Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed himself satisfied with this explanation offered by the Korean Government, and the question about Mr. Yu's conduct has been settled. On the 17th instant Mr. Mutsu requested Mr. Kim Shijun's attendance at the Foreign Office and orally acquainted him with the fact that his authority to act as *Chargé d'Affaires* is recognised by Japan. These facts are taken from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which expresses itself satisfied with the way in which this regrettable affair has been settled.

CHINESE BURGLAR CAUGHT.

A BURGLAR, the range of whose depredations have been far and wide, has just been caught by the Yokohama police and, it is to be hoped, will now meet with his deserts. He is a Chinese youth named Yong Tong, better known among Japanese by his sobriquet of Kinta. Born in Yokohama, he acquired a good knowledge of Japanese, and first put his hand to engineering. Finding the work rather too onerous, the enterprising youth became a tailor's apprentice, but after a while he drifted into the position of a ship's boy. This he also seems to have grown tired of and then he took up the profession of burglar. During the past two years a number of Chinese tailors and others have been robbed of cloth, and although information was given to the police, no trace of the burglar could be found, until some time last week when a young man, presumably a Japanese, was seen taking suspicious rolls of cloth to Tokyo. He was arrested on suspicion, but subsequently released, there being no proof against him. It was afterwards discovered that instead of being a subject of the Japanese empire the youth had cut his queue and dressed *à la Japonaise*. He was then shadowed by detectives and arrested on Sunday at the back of No. 1, Bluff, while waiting with a quantity of stolen goods the advent of a receiver. He denied being the actual thief, declaring that the culprit was a fellow-apprentice of his, although he admitted disposing of stolen goods, for which he had facilities.

* * *

The Japanese godown-man Omori, who misappropriated the sum of $500 belonging to his employers, Messrs. C. Illies & Co., has given himself up at the Shiogama police station. He intended going to Hokkaido but could not get away from the mainland. Omori spent $200, but states that he lost the balance, which he had put in his pocket for safety.

DIPLOMATTIC CHANGES.

WE learn that His Excellency, M. Sienkiewicz, French Representative in Tokyo, has received the appointment of Commissioner of the Danube, and will leave Japan at the end of the present month. M. Sienkiewicz's successor is M. Harmand, formerly French Resident in Tonquin, and afterwards Consul in Bangkok. The departure of M. and Madame Sienkiewicz and their family will be an irreparable loss to foreign and Japanese Society in Tokyo, and we cannot conceive that French interests could possibly fare better in any other hands.

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M. le Vicomte de Bondy, Secretary of the French Legation in Tokyo, will leave Japan at the end of next month. His departure will be greatly regretted by a host of friends. The Legation presumably will fall under the charge of M. le Vicomte de Labry, Military Attaché, the Second Secretary, Mr. Casenave, having already left. It is not often that the Legation of a Great Power is so denuded of diplomatic officials, but we may assume that France does not regard her relations with Japan at present as standing in need of much guardianship.

THE CHINESE MINISTER AND THE "JIJI SHIMPO."

A CONTROVERSY of most unusual tone has taken place in the columns of the *Jiji Shimpo*. It originated in a statement made by the *Jiji* that on the very evening when the late Kim Okkyün started for Kobe on his ill-fated journey to Shanghai, he shared a farewell dinner with the Chinese Representative in the restaurant *Kaigetsu-ro*, in Shiba, Tokyo. Considering the suspicions that have been circulated as to China's connection with the preliminaries of the assassination, this statement, supposing it ill-founded, could scarcely be suffered to pass without challenge. A secretary of the Chinese Minister, sent, on the following day, a letter to the *Jiji Shimpo*, denying that the Minister had any acquaintance whatever with Mr. Kim, and alleging that, consequently, there could have been no reason for inviting the Korean refugee to a farewell banquet. The latter added that the Minister did not, for his own sake, give himself any concern about the publication of such baseless stories, but he regretted that a journal of the *Jiji Shimpo's* standing should become the vehicle for circulating them. This communication roused the *Jiji* effectually. It scouted the idea that the Minister had never met Kim, and asked how such a thing could be credited, in view of the fact that Kim's journey to Shanghai had been undertaken in consequence of communications addressed to him from Lord Li, the former Chinese Representative in Tokyo, through the present Minister. Except to serve some special purpose, there was no reason for the Minister to disavow Kim's acquaintance at this juncture. His doing so must be regarded as an additional clue to the origin of the recent mystery. The *Jiji* then proceeds to adduce evidence in rebuttal of the Minister's assertion that he was not acquainted with Kim. This evidence is that Lord Li was intimate with Kim and introduced him to the present Representative; Lord Li, after his return to China, corresponded with Kim, and that his letters were handed to the latter personally by Mr. Wong—the present Minister; that Kim was present at a New Year's entertainment given this year in the Chinese Legation; that Mr. Wong introduced two Chinese to Kim, who desired to study Chinese and to engage an interpreter

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for his journey to China, and so forth. It does not appear to us that any one of these things, or even that the whole collectively, is conclusive proof of a personal acquaintance between the Minister and Kim Ok-kyün, except the assertion about the letters, an assertion that certainly needs substantiation. The *Jiji*, however, writes very strongly. It declares that to deny the existence of a personal acquaintance in the teeth of such a formidable array of facts is merely to excite public suspicion and to provoke keener scrutiny. "There is only one country in the world," concludes our contemporary, "where falsehood is not regarded as morally disgraceful, probably because of a traditional creed that disregard of virtuous principles is not culpable when a foreigner is its victim. To have been inveigled into making a long journey in reliance on the word of a man of that country, and to have thereby gone to meet such a fate as Mr. Kim encountered, is an everlasting regret."

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This is certainly very remarkable language. There is no mistaking its import, or the belief of the writer using it. We most assume that the *Jiji Shimpo* is prepared to substantiate its assertions. Did they occur in the columns of certain vernacular journals that need not be named here, we should have little hesitation in dismissing them as groundless. But where the *Jiji Shimpo* is in question, the case is different. On the other hand, it is wholly incredible that the Chinese Minister would have committed himself to a deliberately false declaration.

PRESENTS TO THE IMPERIAL COURT FROM A FOREIGN SOURCE.

THE presents brought for their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, in connection with the Silver Wedding, from Messrs. Tiffany and Company, are described by the vernacular press as a cake-spoon in silver, a gold watch, and four flower vases and a card-plate in porcelain or faience, we are not clear which. The spoon is elaborately decorated in a design of chrysanthemum, *Paullowina Imperialis*, cherry blossoms, and musical instruments, and on the back of the watch an open chrysanthemum flower is chiselled in relief. The decoration of these pieces is entirely hand-work and spoken of as very beautiful. As to the vases and the card-plate, the particulars given of them are meagre, but it appears that the vases are monochromatic, their colours being Rose-du-Barry and nightingale-tea—colours belonging to a category of tints with which the general public is little acquainted. An interesting point about the ware is that it bears the signature, in the *Kana* syllabary, "Yamada," from which we infer that Japanese painters are employed at the factory where the ware was produced.

THE GREAT REFORM PARTY AND KOBE.

MR. TAGUCHI UKICHI, Editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, and founder of the Great Reform Party, has been speaking in Kobe at a *réunion* given in honour of himself and his fellow-promoters in the Tokiwa restaurant. His speech, as reported by the vernacular press, contains no features of special interest. The moral which Mr. Taguchi sought to point was the necessity of official and private cōoperation, and in support of his proposition he advanced the historical incidents of Kyomori's connection with the prosperity of Kobe; Hideyoshi's work in Osaka, and the opening of Sakaye to foreign commerce in the Tokugawa days. Some of our readers may not know, perhaps, that Kyomori was the chief of the Great Taira clan in the twelfth century. His stronghold was at Fukuhara, the then name of Hyogo, and his favourite scheme was to move the Imperial Palace thither; to make Fukuhara, in short, the capital of the empire. In connection with that project he virtually constructed Hyogo harbour by enlarging the Ando Strait, a work to which Kobe manifestly owes much. The same Kyomori did much for Japanese navigation, and was the means of materially promoting the commerce between Japan and Korea. The huge building operations carried on by Hideyoshi, the Taiko, in Osaka, and the untiring care and patronage he bestowed on the development of commerce and industry are historical facts. It is, indeed, to Kyomori, Hideyoshi, and the early Tokugawa policy of opening the harbour of Sakaye to foreign trade that the Bay of Settsu owes its status as one of the greatest centres of tradal navigation in the empire. In those days, when Japan's affairs were controlled by men whose fame will never die, paramount attention was given to the fostering of trade, and as that is the prime purpose of the association formed by Mr. Taguchi and his fellow-thinkers, they naturally recall precedents telling so strongly in their favour.

MRS. BROWN-POTTER'S COMPANY.

THE Company of which Mrs. Brown Potter and Mr. Kyrle Bellew are the leading artists is now in Penang and is expected to arrive here, says the *Singapore Free Press* of the 2nd inst., on Thursday. After an unprecedented season in Calcutta—a continuous run from October 2nd to March 3rd, of five months—the Company went to Rangoon for a short time. Their stay in Singapore will probably not be a long one. Hongkong, Shanghai, and Yokohama are to be visited, after which San Francisco will be the goal, opening there on July 2nd. The repertoire the management has to place before the public is particularly large, including "Romeo and Juliet," "As you like it," "Merchant of Venice," Hamlet," "Macbeth," "La Tosca," "She stoops to Conquer," "School for Scandal," "Terese," "Adrienne Le Couvreur," "Camille," "Frou-frou," "David Garrick," "Charlotte Corday," "Lady of Lyons," "In Society," and "Francillon."

THE BLUEFIELDS INCIDENT.

BLUEFIELDS is the chief town of the Mosquito Reservation in Nicaragua. It has been the scene of proceedings productive of considerable excitement in the United States. A state of war existing for some time between Honduras and Nicaragua terminated recently in the success of Nicaragua, but during the hostilities Honduranean troops got possession of a point on the north-eastern extremityof Nicaragua, and seemed to threaten an attack thence upon Bluefields. The Government of Nicaragua thereupon, acting in its capacity of territorial sovereign, despatched a force to Bluefields to protect it. But the Mosquito Reservation is under the control of a Local Administration established by treaty in 1860 between Nicaragua and Great Britain. This Local Administration denied the right of Nicaragua to occupy the country, and made application to the British Consul at Greytown, who, seeing that the Nicaraguan soldiers were treating the local authorities and the inhabitants with violence and harshness, conveyed information to the British Minister at Guatamela city, and in view of possible disorders and dangers, a British ship-of-war visited Bluefields and landed Marines. The flag of the Mosquito Indians was therewithre-hoisted and tranquillityrestored, pending an understanding as to the questions involved. An American man-of-war, the *Kearsarge*, had been simultaneously despatched to the Nicaraguan coast, but was lost *en route* thither. Thus the first news received by the American public was that British Marines had been landed, and it was immediately inferred that a British protectorate was about to be established over the Mosquito territory, a consummation that the United States could not view with equanimity, considering the importance of American supremacy in Nicaragua because of the great canal project. The Departments of State and of the Navy at once instructed Admiral Benham, then commanding the United States Squadron at Rio, to dispatch a ship to the Nicaraguan coast, and communications were addressed to the British Government. The excitement began on the 14th of March and continued until the end of the month, by which time the United States public were convinced that an agreement had been entered into between Commissioner Lacayo, the head of the Mosquito Local Government, and Captain Howe, of H.M.S. *Cleopatra*, by which the former was left in absolute possession of the Reservation, and Great Britain received in return Corn Island, which lies about thirty miles from Bluefields and sixty from the mouth of the San Joan River and of the Nicaraguan Canal. The island is said to have been selected some years ago by the United States as a coaling station. It lies directly in the route of vessels sailing to and from the mouth of the Nicaraguan Canal. Lord Roseberry, meanwhile, had "most positively reaffirmed the declaration heretofore made on repeated occasions by Her Majesty's Government, and particularly in the notes of the Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Edwards, the *Chargé d'Affaires* at Washington, dated March 7th, 1889, and printed on page 468 of the volume of Foreign Relations of the United States for the year, and averred that no protectorate over the Mosquito Indians, in substance or form, nor anything in the nature of a protectorate, was desired or intended by the British government." But these assurances did not seem to convince the American people: they still preserve a strong suspicion that Great Britain has secured Corn Island, and Consul Seal, the United States Consul at Bluefields, has been sent to Washington to lay the matter before the Government.

THE MISSING SEALERS.

STARTLING intelligence was brought to Yokohama on Saturday by the American sealing-schooner *Retriever*, which returned from the sealing grounds with only one European, J. Warn, and four Chinese sailors aboard. This vessel, it will be remembered, left Yokohama early in February with a crew of 23 men all told. Mr. H. J. Snow was in command, and he had with him five hunters, 13 Chinese, and three other men. Success attended their venture, and all went well till about the 2nd of April, when the six boats put off from the ship to capture seals. The herd just at the present time is about 200 miles from Yokohama, at a distance of between 70 and 100 miles East of Kinkasan. The six boats which left the *Retriever's* side on the 2nd inst. contained 18 men. In each boat was a keg of water but very little provisions. The weather was fine and clear, but the four men left in charge of the schooner, having only slight acquaintance with navigation, soon lost sight of the boats, the parties evidently drifting in opposite directions. Night came on and still the boats had not returned; the vessel's head was then turned and for six days a diligent cruise was made in all directions to try to pick up the hunters. The endeavour was, however, fruitless, and the four men then determined to put back to Yokohama. How they found their way here is a miracle, for John Warn, the ship-keeper, is only acquainted with the most elementary rules of navigation. The schooner had 340 sealskins on board when she returned. The names of the missing men are as follow:—H. J. Snow, master, R. H. Caughell, hunter; Dan Flaherty, hunter; John Call, mate; Fred Cochrane, hunter; Geo. H. Lingard, hunter; James Riley, second mate; Jim Gassein, A.B.; John Lui, A.B.; and 9 Chinese.

* * *

A telegram was received in Yokohama Tuesday that twelve men out of the eighteen missing from the American sealing schooner *Retriever*, had been picked up by the British sealing schooner *Theresa* and landed at Otsuchi, Minami-Ibe District, Iwate Prefecture, on the 13th inst. A later communication conveyed the news that the party were put on board the Japanese vessel *Aikoku Maru* and were on their way to Yokohama. Late last evening a further message came over the wires from Otsuchi which said that the twelve men included an Englishman named Robert Cole—presumed to be Call, the mate—two other Englishmen, names not given, six Chinamen, one Canadian, and two Americans, names also not given. The party were reported to be "all well." They formed the crews of three boats; the other boats, containing six men, have yet to be accounted for. It will be observed that Mr. H. J. Snow's name is not

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mentioned in the last telegram, but hope of his safety need not be abandoned yet.

* * *

We are informed by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha that Captain Ekstrand of the *Omi Maru*, sailing Wednesday all 11 a.m., has been ordered to stand well off the coast on her run up to Oginohama for the purpose of attempting to obtain a clue to the fate of the other missing boats of the *Retriever*.

* * *

Six of the missing men from the *Carlotta G. Cox* arrived in Yokohama from Fukushima on Tuesday afternoon. They are, Fred. Currie, Philip de Fries, Robert Armstrong, John Bonner, Thos. Japnes, and John Clark. They left their vessel on a seal hunt on the 8th April, and losing sight of her drifted about until the 12th inst., when they landed on the coast of Fukushima.

* * *

A private telegram was received in Yokohama last evening from Fukushima conveying the intelligence that all the hunters of the sealing schooner *Retriever* were on their way down to Yokohama. In response to a telegram of enquiry despatched on receipt of this news we learn that Mr. H. J. Snow is safe, but our correspondent's telegram is so meagre that a great deal is still left to conjecture as to the exact whereabouts of Mr. Snow. It is allowable to presume that he may be among the hunters now on their way to Yokohama, while it may also be ventured that he is aboard another schooner and has not yet been landed on the coast.

MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS.

An exciting affair took place on the *City of Peking* on the second day of her voyage across from San Francisco, which resulted in the murder of a Chinese passenger, and the slashing of Chief Engineer McClure and a saloon-boy. It appears that a Chinese named Ng Tuck Tong, on the afternoon of the 31st March, wandered into the saloon from the steerage accomodation and upon being warned by the saloon-boy that he had no business there, turned on the lad, cutting him on the shoulder and right hand. Mr. McClure, the Chief Engineer, seeing the position of affairs, went up to the Chinaman, who then turned upon him. The Chief Engineer received two severe slashes across the legs, one being fully nine inches long. The Chinaman then made his escape from the saloon and bolted. On his way along the deck he encountered a fellow-countryman, named Lee Shing, whom he at once cut on the neck. The stroke severed the jugular veins and wind-pipe and the poor fellow died instantly. By this time some commotion prevailed, and the Purser, hearing the noise secured his revolver and went on deck, having heard a cry that the Chief Engineer had been killed by a Chinaman. He followed the infuriated Celestial and was just about to fire when a main-deck-hand threw the Chinaman down and very quickly the man was placed in irons. The fellow appears perfectly sane at present, but people on board the *Peking* are of opinion that he was mad when he entered the saloon. If that were so, it is indeed very fortunate that he did not turn upon the women and children who were sitting in the saloon at the time. The murderer will be handed over at Hongkong.

* * *

The Chinaman Ng Tuck, on board the *City of Peking* violently attacked the first officer the day after the arrival of the vessel in this harbour, inflicting severe wounds with broken fragment of a chamber utensil.

THE ORIENTAL QUESTION IN THE WORLD OF RELIGION.

The *Hyôron* of a recent date has an interesting article on the above subject. In the great drama to be played on the Oriental stage in the coming century, the central part—says that magazine—will fall to the lot of the Japanese nation. There are three aspects of the Oriental Question, namely, commercial, military, and religious. Of the commercial much has already been written and said by Mr. Inagaki and others; and it is gratifying to observe that their zeal has found more or less response on the part of the nation. As to the military side of the question, soldiers like Viscount Tani, Viscount Soga and so forth, have successfully called it to the attention of their countrymen. But our contemporary laments that nobody, not even those most directly interested, have paid attention to the Oriental Question in the world of religion. The *Hyoron* is pursuaded that the twentieth century is destined to witness the operation of a gigantic and aggressive scheme by the powerful Christians of the West for the conversion of Oriental races. We do not pretend to understand the *Hyoron's* meaning very clearly, but if we are not mistaken, it seems to foresee a possibility that the daring and powerful disciples of Christianity in the Occident may, out of excessive zeal for the benefit of humanity, adopt a high-handed and militant policy of propagandism, in the pursuance of which they will not hesitate to set aside the conventional rules of international intercourse, and even to interfere with the exercise of sovereign rights on the part of countries in which they happen to carry on their work. In order to realize the aims of such an energetic mode of propagandism, the Christian Powers of Europe and America may unite and apply to Oriental countries a peculiar system of International Law. Now in such wars of religion—peaceful or otherwise we fail to decipher—what part is to be played by Japan? Is she to act as a guide to the invading host and share in the spoils, or is she to suffer herself to be trodden under foot by the conquerors like the rest of her neighbours? Whether she shall hereafter become the spiritual leader of the Orient, or whether she shall be the first to be reduced to spiritual bondage, depends upon the way in which she prepares herself against the great convulsion which is to take place in the coming century. Such are the *Hyôron's* views.

LECTURE MEETINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THE KIM AFFAIR.

The friends of the late Kim Ok-kyün have projected a series of lecture meetings on the 19th instant and two following days, the entrance money to be devoted to paying the expenses of Kim's funeral and of erecting a monument to him. The Kinki-kan in the Kanda district of Tokyo, the Minato-za in Yokohama, and the Yayoi-kan in Shiba are the places selected for the delivery of the lectures, and among the names of the lecturers we observe those of Messrs. Oi Kentaro, Kono Hironaka, Wada Hikojiro, Miyake Yajiro, Ozaki Yukio, Nakamura Yaroku, Kawashima Jun, Kozuki Jokei, Ohigashi Gitetsu, Node Shozaburo, Kawatani Seikan, and Kokubo Kishichi—all men of note. It is to be hoped that these proceedings may not have the effect of creating a dangerous degree of popular excitement.

JAPANESE EMIGRANTS IN CALEDONIA.

At the request of the French authorities, Mr. Sakuma Teiichi and several others started a Company for the transporting—a little over two years ago—of Japanese labourers to the nickel-mines in New Caledonia. It was expected that nearly two thousand would be required, but only one ship-load of six hundred miners was despatched. While no fault has been found with these men and the French local authorities speak in high terms of their assiduity and faithfulness, it appears that no more labourers have a chance of employment in the mines. According to private information, we learn that of the six hundred emigrants only fifty have returned to Japan, while eight deaths occurred in twenty-six months, or a little more than an annual death-rate of six per thousand—a surprisingly small figure and one which speaks well for the management and sanitation of the men. All of these deaths resulted from dysentery, the prime cause being believed to be not properly filtered water with over-indulgence in fruits. When the miners first signed their contracts, they were to receive the equivalent of 10 *yen* a month; but owing to the fall in exchange, they are now really drawing sixteen *yen* monthly, out of which they can easily save at least nine. Some have sent for their families and intend settling down. There has not been a single case of discontent with the administration and, according to latest accounts, all were healthy and working well. Mr. Sakuma and his colleagues are expecting great things of the emigration to Queensland and the employment of Japanese there. Thursday Island is spoken of as another outlet, while the Mexican Emigration Company look forward to a brilliant future. Japanese labourers have done so well in Hawaii and New Caledonia that they should have the preference over others in future, and Mr. Sakuma is evidently the right man to look after such matters. He is, despite the possession of only one lung, one of the most indefatigable and successful business-men in Tokyo: the founder of the Shueisha, the largest printing-establishment in the Empire, the successful raiser of the Japanese exhibits sent to a former Paris Exposition—the ship bringing back the treasures that were wrecked on the Japanese coast—and a man ever alive to every philanthropic effort.

HONGKONG NEWS.

An effort that promises to have practical results is being made to effect the improvement of Macao Harbour. The new Governor, Senhor Horta e Costa, has appointed a commission over which he will himself preside, the members being the Treasurer, the Harbour Master, the Senior Naval Officer, the Director of Public Works, and the Engineer of the gunboat *Diu*. The function of the commission is to obtain tenders for a dredger and lighters, and to formulate a scheme for defraying the expenditure. The latter will probably be very difficult, as the colony is already very highly taxed, and its capacity to pay imposts is not increasing. No doubt is entertained that if the work of harbour improvement were thoroughly effected, a large measure of its ancient prosperity would be restored to Macao. The benefit would be derived chiefly by the Chinese, however, into whose hands the bulk of the trade has passed · · · Shares of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank are selling in London for $275, whereas they fetch only $238, approximately, in Hongkong · · · Hongkong is about to convert £140,000 of its 4 per-cent. loan into 3½ per cent. The Colony has had a bitter experience by borrowing on a gold basis, for it lost 1s. 2d. in the dollar on its first loan, and 8d. in the dollar on its second · · · Concerning the origin of the people of Macao, a correspondent of the *Hongkong Daily Press* says:—"Though there is a considerable oriental element in the racial origin of the Macaense, the Chinese by no means predominate. An ethnological study of the Macaense will reveal that in their characteristics there is scarcely any Chinese trace; while there are still observable some vestiges of Goanese and Malaccan traits. On the other hand, the Portuguese in the olden days married freely in Japan, usually with the daughters of wealthy magnates; and during the persecution of Christians in Japan no less than two hundred and eighty-seven Portuguese families were exiled from Nagasaki to Macao. (Kæmpfer's History of Japan, Vol. 1. Book IV., Chapter V.). These facts throw some light upon the origin of the Macaense."

FIRES IN TOKYO.

The high wind prevailing in Tokyo during the past few days has been accompanied by several destructive fires. One broke out at 11.32 a.m. on the 15th instant in No. 56, Susaki-machi, in the Mukojima suburb of Tokyo, and was not extinguished until 3.37 p.m., by which time 210 dwelling-houses had been totally destroyed, together with 15 store-houses, 2 fire-proof godowns, 1 oil-refinery, and 1 police-station. The conflagration was due to an explosion of rockets. Another fire occurred at noon the same day in Sangen-cho, Asakusa, but was extinguished after it had partially consumed 4 houses. Another happened at 10.30 a.m. on the same day in the suburb called Setagayamura, and three houses were burned. On the

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16th at 8.50 a.m., Higashimachi in Asakusa was the scene of a conflagration that did not spread beyond the building in which it broke out, and at 1.30 p.m. on the same day, 11 dwellings were completely consumed and 1 was partially burned in Minami Inari-machi, in the Shitaya district.

THE NEW COMMANDANT IN THE STRAITS.

THE successor in the Straits Settlements to Major-General Sir Charles Warren, G.C.M.G., as telegraphed by Reuter, is Colonel Hugh T. Jones-Vaughan, from half-pay, East Yorkshire Regiment, formerly the 15th Foot. Colonel H. T. Jones-Vaughan served in Bengal with the 10th Regiment in suppression of the mutiny in 1857-58; including the actions of Chanda, Umeerapore, and Sultanpore, siege and capture of Lucknow (Medal with Clasp). Served in the Afghan war of 1878-80 as Brigade-Major, Peshawur Field Force, and was present at the capture of Ali Musjid; took part in the expedition into the Bazar Valley as Orderly Officer to Brigade General Tytler, and in the expedition into the Lughman Valley as Brigade-Major (mentioned in despatches); was afterwards Brigade-Major with the Koorum Field Force, and served with the Zaimusht Expeditionary Force, including the affair at Zawa (mentioned in despatches, Brevet of Lt. Colonel, Medal with Clasp).

WHEAT AND SILVER.

THE extremely low price of wheat in the United States is having a strong influence on the minds of former ardent partisans of the gold standard. The average yearly yield of wheat during the past four years has been 480,780,000 bushels, which is not at all an over-production when the steady increase in population in the Northern Republic is borne in mind. May wheat recently dropped to 55½ cents a bushel in Chicago, reacting to 60, but all hope of seeing wheat up to a dollar a bushel has been abandoned by the American farmers. The influence of low prices for wheat is in the direction of lower wages and lower prices for all manufactured products. With the continual appreciation of gold it was inevitable that wheat should drop in price. Here is a fact of interest, bearing on this matter. In 1873 it required 1.32 quarters of wheat to buy an ounce of gold, and in January of this year 2.83 quarters! Every staple article shows the same loss of value as measured in gold—cotton, barley, oats, and wool. No wonder that in the United States bimetallism is growing in favour. The restoration of silver is advocated in influential newspapers and by bankers who, a few months ago, were gold partisans.

ANOTHER FIRE IN KANDA.

FOR the fourth time this year a fire broke out in Sarugaku Cho, Kanda District, Tokyo, at one o'clock on the morning of the 11th instant. The recent rains having thoroughly soaked the roofs, only twenty-nine houses were burnt down, about a dozen others being partly demolished. The flames spread at the outset with tremendous rapidity. They were first noticed in the house of a *tateguya*, or maker of various domestic joinery, where seven persons were sleeping, three being little children. Two of the latter were ill and the mother's first thought was to rescue these. After carrying them to a safe place she rushed back for the third child, a boy of five years, who was sleeping in an upper room. By the time she reached the foot of the steep staircase the whole house was ablaze; she called to the boy to come to the head of the stairs and he replied in a sleepy voice, evidently unaware of his imminent peril. But before he could reach the staircase, the roof fell in and the child was almost instantly burnt to a cinder. It is very strange that every one of the fires in Sarugaku Cho has been accompanied with loss of life. There has been no sadder case, however, than the death of this poor little fellow. The mother, it is said, was also badly burned about the neck and shoulders.

PIRATES ON THE CANTON RIVER.

ON Wednesday, the 4th April, a steam launch belonging to one of the proprietors of Messrs. Robert Jack & Co., of Hongkong, which started early in the morning from Canton to Whampoa with about one hundred passengers on board, when near a place called Tung-po, was taken possession of by seven pirates dressed as ordinary passengers and armed with daggers and revolvers. They ordered the launch to steer towards a place called Pak-sha, where some junks were stationed to convey them ashore. They carried property away to the amount of about $600. Two of the passengers who had valuables upon their persons jumped overboard, and nothing more was seen of them. The launch on returning to Canton reported the matter to the Custom-house.

SUICIDE OF A LADY.

A VERY sad story comes from Suma, a sea-side resort near Kobe. The tale has been elaborated into a species of serial by the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, but the gist of it is that a Japanese lady having been exceedingly unhappy in her married life owing to the dissipated habits of her husband, resolved never to marry again, and entered the Female Buddhist Society of Kyoto, the better to keep her resolve. Subsequently, however, her mother and her brother urged her so strongly and importunately to accept an eligible offer, that she resolved to die, as the only means of avoiding a second marriage. The deliberation of her procedure was remarkable. She had a photograph of herself taken for her family; she caused her posthumous name to be selected; she went and took farewell of her mother and brother; she wrote letters pleading with touching pathos for pardon, and explaining her motives; and finally she cut her throat and then threw herself into the sea. It is a miserable story.

THE UNITED STATES AND HAWAII.

ALTHOUGH President Cleveland is not prepared to include Hawaii in the Great Republic, he evidently means to have a *pied à terre* in that delectable quarter of the globe. The following extract from the *New York Herald*, under date March 23rd., is pretty conclusive:—

The *Herald's* Washington correspondent telegraphs that the main object of the President in the selection of Rear Admiral Walker for the command of the Pacific Station is connected with the lately defined policy of the Administration in regard to the occupation of Pearl Harbour by the United States. No doubt the President also had in mind the work of patrolling Behring Sea during the principal sealing season, but the Hawaiian matter is of paramount importance.

Admiral Walker fully understands what is expected of him. He has had several long conferences with the President and the Secretary of the Navy. The general nature of his instructions was outlined to-day by a high official as follows:—

The President views with concern the manifesto issued by President Dole some time ago, which stated that while the United States would be allowed to occupy Pearl Harbour in accordance with the terms of the treaty of 1887, he understood the word "grant" in that treaty to mean simply "loan," and not an outright gift, as held by the State Department.

This manifesto resulted in numerous consultations between the President and Secretary Gresham, who have reached the conclusion that it is high time for the United States to firmly assert its exclusive right to Pearl Harbour and take possession of it. The Administration regards the treaty of 1887 as giving this harbour to the United States outright and for all time.

It is now the purpose of the President to secure an absolute vested right in the harbour, carrying out the conditions prescribed in the treaty. These authorized the United States to improve the entrance to the harbour and make such other improvements as may be necessary.

With the conditions on the island already perturbed, it is feared the occupation of the harbour by the United States may excite further trouble. Hence it has been deemed desirable to have an experienced and wide awake officer upon the scene, one in whom the Administration can place the utmost confidence.

Admiral Walker fully understands that the Administration will not countenance anything that savours of foreign interference with Hawaiian affairs. It is also feared that the Provisional Government will find much difficulty in framing a new constitution, and it is regarded as not beyond the bounds of probability that a revolution may ensue before the establishment of a permanent republican form of government is established in Hawaii, and conditions may arise which will make it necessary for the United States to land its forces for the protection of its interests, which the occupancy of Pearl Harbour will make paramount to the interests of any other power. Because of its vested rights in Pearl Harbour the United States will have a hold upon the islands which will virtually amount to a protectorate.

Rear Admiral Walker has been ordered to leave his present station as president of the Board of Inspection and Survey and as president of the Stability Board on March 28th and proceed to San Francisco. At that port he will take steamer for Honolulu, where he will relieve Rear-Admiral Irwin about April 12th, just three days before the latter's retirement. He will hoist his flag on the *Philadelphia*, which will probably be his flagship throughout his whole stay, unless some vessel like the *New York* is ordered to those waters.

Rear-Admiral Walker will be accompanied on his passage to Honolulu by Lieutenant S. A Stanton and Ensign Spencer S. Wood, who will act as flag lieutenant. Stanton has been attached to the Board of Inspection and Survey and Ensign Wood has been acting as naval aide to Secretary Herbert. Their places will be filled by Lieutenant-Commander Seaton Schroeder on the Board of of Inspection and Survey, and Lieutenant L. L. Reamey, who will be the Secretary's naval aide.

UNWITTING PARRICIDE.

THE Söul correspondent of a metropolitan vernacular daily, has a most remarkable story to tell. A man by the name of Kin Shu-boku, he writes, was a resident of Kogendo Junyo, a place which we fail to recognise. On a certain evening in March, he thought he saw some suspiciously white object moving about at one end of the garden. Thinking it was a dog which had often annoyed him by predatory visits to his larder, he tiptoed close to the culprit and gave it a severe blow with a iron rod. But it gave a loud cry and then fell down in a very human fashion, so that Kin was alarmed and went for a lantern to see what it was that he had struck. To his horror he found that he had killed his own father, who had for some time been sick abed and gone out into the garden probably for a breath of fresh air. Kin concealed what he had done from his neighbours, gave out that his father had died a natural death and ordered a sumptuous funeral. But the secret leaked out somehow or other; Kin was arrested tried, and is now under sentence of decapitation, as the real though unwitting murderer of his father. The story may be true, but it sounds very improbable.

THE "KOKUMIN-NO-TOMO" ON THE SITUATION.

THE *Kokumin-no-Tomo* of the 13th instant has two characteristic articles on the political situation. In the first it discusses the connection between the Government and the Radical Party; in the second, it considers the real ground of conflict between the Government and the Opposition. The *Kokumin's* opinion of the Ito Cabinet is anything but favourable. Count Ito's desire, it says, to please everybody has ended in creating enemies on all sides. The Cabinet's blunders culminated in seeking the friendship of the Radical Party. For that reason it has forfeited the sympathy of Counts Yamagata and Matsukata, caused Count Inouye to become indifferent, and made Count Kuroda disappointed. For that same reason, it alienated the hearts of such men as Prince Konoye, Viscount Tani, Viscount Shinagawa, and Mr. Shirane. Yet, despite these sacrifices, the Cabinet has not succeeded in securing the full friendship of the Radical Party. On the contrary, that Party threatens, under certain circumstances, to go frankly into opposition. How then does the Cabinet hope to pull through the coming session of the Diet? In the *Kokumin's* opinion, its only hope lies in the shortness of the session. Attempts will no doubt be made to break up the combination of opposing factions by introducing questions of national defence, of railways, and of re-assessment of taxable value of land. But the principle stratagem is the shortness of the session. As to the Radical Party, its position is far from definite. In the *Kokumin's* opinion, its object is to secure all the advantages of alliance with the clan Government and at the same time to enjoy the reputation of attacking the Government. In other words, the *Jiyu-to* is alike unable either

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to cōoperate with the other parties in Opposition or to enter into open alliance with them. The Radical Party formerly enjoyed the reputation of being honest and straightforward, but its character is now declared to be very different from what it once was. Its fundamental object being irrational, its conduct is pronounced to be correspondingly illogical. For instance, it has declared its intention to put questions to the Cabinet about the reasons for the dissolution of the Lower House. The *Kokumin* thinks it useless to frame such questions, since the public knows perfectly well the dissolution was caused by the Representation on Strict Enforcement of the Treaties. As to the contention that the *Jiyu-to's* object in propounding these questions is to criticise the Cabinet's conduct in dissolving the Diet, our contemporary remarks that, if such be the case, nothing could be more inconsistent: for did not the Radical Party take the side of the Government on this subject? The Radicals promise also to press the Cabinet for the accomplishment of Treaty Revision. Such a step, too, is pronounced unnecessary and even ridiculous, for in the *Kokumin's* opinion a Cabinet which is afraid of the movement for Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, is incapable of accomplishing their revision. The Tokyo journal here avails itself of the opportunity to eulogise Count Okuma's policy when he was Minister of Foreign Affairs. His policy was, on the one hand, to rigidly enforce the treaties, and on the other, to demand their revision. Unless a programme of that kind be pursued, the *Kokumin* thinks there is no hope of achieving Revision. These instances suffice, it declares, to prove that the Radical Party is not serious in its declaration of opposition to the Cabinet, its object being thereby to deceive its honest members in the provincial districts. "With Mr. Mutsu as its actual leader, Mr. Hoshi as puller of the wires, and Count Goto as guardian, the Radical Party has undergone an entire degeneration, and there is no means of salvation for it." So the conclusion arrived at by the *Kokumin* is that, in the coming session of the Diet, the Cabinet and the *Jiyu-to* will mutually assume a hostile attitude, though privately exchanging friendly assurances.

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Concerning the situation between the Government and the Opposition, the *Kokumin* seems to think that there is no hope of reconciliation between them, as they represent two classes of diametrically opposite ideas. The statesmen in power are committed to the maintenance of a clannish bureaucracy in which Ministers of the Crown are not held responsible to the Diet. The Opposition, on the other hand, is equally committed to carrying out a system of Government in which the Ministers shall be responsible to the Diet. Such, says our contemporary, is the point at issue between the Government and the Opposition. The conflict is between the new and the old schools of thought. The Tokyo periodical is not so blinded by party spirit as to maintain, with some persons, that those in power are incapable of accomplishing anything good for the country. Nor does it believe that the politicians of the Opposition are saints. But speaking comparatively, the latter are declared to be purer, more disinterested, and more energetic than the former. The day on which the Administrative power passes from the hands of its present holders into those of the Opposition, will be, in the *Kokumin's* opinion, the commencement of a new era not only in politics, but in all other departments of national life. The introduction of a system of Responsible Cabinets may lead to the growth of new evils, but our contemporary is convinced that whatever disadvantages it may bring in its train will be more than counterbalanced by the large benefits resulting. So long as the representatives of the old school of thought remain in power, the *Kokumin* thinks it impossible that the administration should be thoroughly reformed. It does not pronounce any view as to the probable result of the contest which is to take place in the approaching session of the Diet. Indeed it does not seem to be at all confident of the Opposition's victory. At any rate, it strongly appeals to the public to show sympathy with the advocates of Responsible Cabinets.

* * *

In reading these articles it is to be remembered that the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* has always been strongly in favour of the Progressionists. Nothing could be more amusing, were the subject less grave, than the general verdict it pronounces as to the comparative moral standard of the Government and the Opposition. In point of fact, the vertebræ of the Opposition, whose cause the *Kokumin* advocates, consist of men who have already possessed administrative power, and who left office, not because any fundamental difference of opinion existed between them and their colleagues, the present Cabinet Ministers, but because of jealousies and contentitions lying entirely outside the sphere of high moral qualities. It is extremely diverting to find a partisan periodical arrogating the title to sit in judgment upon the moral calibre of political forces arrayed against each other in a struggle in which it is itself keenly engaged.

THE PROGRESS OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE.

At the recent graduation ceremony of the Tokyo Commercial School, Mr. Sakatani delivered a speech, the gist of which was that the country is to be sincerely congratulated on the progress made by it in the last decade. Mr. Sakatani did not allude merely to material progress. His claim was that whereas formerly nothing in the way of commerce or industry was inaugurated without official initiative, nowadays the position is reversed and the Government is beginning to lag behind the people in enterprise. By way of illustrating this contention, he instanced the opening of a steamship service to Bombay although a Japanese Consul has not yet been established there; the commencement of a large tide of emigration to Australia without any Government encouragement whatever, and finally the agitation in favour of abolishing export duties in the face of official opposition. Undoubtedly the Japanese are getting on.

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIES.

It is pleasant to learn on the authority of His Excellency Viscount Enomoto that the Shimosa sheep-farm, upon which so much money was formerly spent and which was abandoned as a hopeless enterprise under official management, is developing promise of ultimate success in the hands of the Imperial Household Department. The farm received a trial of only seven years on its original basis, and would then have been abandoned altogether had not the Household Department taken an interest in it. Viscount Enomoto adduced this case when speaking at the last general meeting of the Agricultural Society of Japan, and employed it for the purpose of illustrating a proposition that in many instances official enterprises had not received sufficient trial, but had been prematurely abandoned in deference to unintelligent criticism. The Viscount alluded, also, in the same context to the use of American cotton seed in Japan. That, too, had not been attended with any good results at first, and official connection with it had been severed. But now there was every indication that success would be attained. Viscount Enomoto contended from all this that what is chiefly needed in Japan is more hearty cōoperation between officials and people.

* * *

In the same speech Viscount Enomoto made some interesting remarks about agriculture in Japan. He denied the truth of the commonly accepted view that farming is excellent and needs no improvement. On the contrary, he alleged that with the exception of rice and barley nearly all agricultural products suffered from want of knowledge on the part of the farmer. In methods of improving the soil, preparing fertilizers, employing labour-saving implements and so forth, there was much room for progress. The Experimental Stations established in various parts of the country would doubtless supply valuable data for bringing about a better state of affairs, but of course time was needed, and moreover six of such stations was not enough: there ought to be one in every Prefecture.

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The Viscount did not fail to introduce his favourite topic—emigration. He combatted the doctrine so often advanced that an exodus of able-bodied persons from a country signified a loss of so much producing capacity. The main end to be secured was that the Japanese people should better their condition. Infertility of soil, insufficiency of arable land, and overcrowding of the agricultural profession were serious evils in this country. The farming classes in Japan constituted 70 per cent. of the total population of 40 millions. The area of land to each unit of the agricultural population in Japan averaged only 1.8 *tan* (0.45 acre), or 9 *tan* (2¼ acres) for a family of 5 persons. Without espousing the *Daino-ron*, or large-farm theory of some persons, the speaker thought that 2¼ acres was not sufficient to support a family of five in ordinary comfort, and that the area ought to be at least doubled. Another proof of the plethora of farmers was the extravagantly high price of land. While the profits derivable from agriculture were very slender, the price of land ruled exceedingly high, showing that it was an object of undue competition. To lessen the number of farmers by emigration seemed to be one of the needs of the time.

THE FIVE-STAPLES ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Mayeda Masana delivered a long speech at the meeting of the Five Staples Association which is now in session in Kyoto. We have read the speech with much interest, hoping to obtain from it some clear notion of the true reasons that have led to the organization of the Association, and of the methods contemplated by the projectors. But the impression produced by the reading is vague. Mr. Mayeda claims that the trade in the Five Staples is in a very unsatisfactory condition, and he attributes the fact chiefly to the over-shadowing part played by foreigners. His idea is that the Japanese producer is always working in the dark; that, having no direct contact with foreign consumers, he cannot gauge their tastes or adapt his own projects to them, and that he consequently fails to secure the custom otherwise within his reach. The second prime reason for the state of depression described by Mr. Mayeda is excessive competition among Japanese consumers. Here the speaker was distinctly practical. He said that by blindly sacrificing everything to cheapness, Japanese producers injure the reputation of their wares and virtually cut the throat of their trade. Hence he urged the absolute necessity of intelligent combination and cōoperation.

THE FIGHTING IN MINDANAO.

Advices have reached London from Mindanao, capital of the island of that name, in the Malay Archipelago, showing that further trouble has occurred between the Malays and the Spanish troops. A strong force of Malays, armed with modern weapons, and led by the Sultan of Ate, made an attack upon the Spanish military station at Lepanto, on the Island of Mindanao, and captured the place. The station was sacked by the natives and the officers and two men captured. The Malays then fled to the mountains where they sought refuge in a place they believed was inaccessible. While on their way with their prisoners, some of whom were women, the two officers and three of the women became so exhausted that they could not proceed fast enough to suit their captors. The latter decided that these five should be killed and they were massacred. As soon as the news reached Mindanao, a strong native force was despatched in pursuit, and an engagement took place which resulted in the defeat of the band. Many of the marauding force were captured, and swift punishment with be meted to them. Both islands of Mindanao and Jole are in an almost open state of warfare. General Blanco, of the Spanish army, is organising at Manila an expedition that will number 3,000 men to operate against them. This force will co-operate with

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the Spanish warships in Malay waters. It is said that the Malays are receiving Japanese and European support. It was only a short time ago that a large force of natives from Mindanao made an attack upon the Spanish garrison on the Island of Santar. They were repulsed with a loss of over 200 killed. The Spanish loss was only one killed but quite a number wounded.

THE PEERS AND THE IMPERIAL DONATION.

It is said that the Household Department is resolved to make a reply emphatically negative to the representation of the Peers who recently raised objections to the manner of distributing the Imperial bounty granted in connection with the Silver Wedding. The discontented Peers maintain that the continuous policy of the Government ever since the Restoration has been to obliterate the distinction between the Court Nobles and the Territorial Nobles, whereas by apportioning the bounty to the Court Nobles exclusively, new vitality is given to the distinction. But against this objection the Household Department alleges that the gifts now to be bestowed on the nobility being entirely the outcome of His Majesty's benevolent volition, the idea of raising any question from outside as to the manner of their bestowal, is contrary to all propriety. Further, the territorial nobles ought to be perfectly content with their lot. It would have been a step entirely in conformity with the natural sequence of things had the territorial nobles been deprived of all revenue from the State at the Restoration, whereas they were liberally dealt with, and are now, for the most part, in opulent circumstances. It is at once graceless and disloyal on the part of these nobles to essay any interference with the free exercise of the Imperial benevolence toward their non-territorial fellows. Such is said to be the attitude of the Imperial Household Department. It remains to be seen whether the discontented nobles will take any farther step. Their remonstrance was submitted to the Department by five chosen representatives—Viscounts Shinjo, Itakura, Yonezu, Torii, and Kyogoku—who also represent the anti-Government Sections in the Upper House. From this choice it is inferred that some intention exists of pushing the matter parliamentarily, but we scarcely believe that such a step will be taken.

WATERPROOF MAPS.

Mr. Yamada Kunisaburo, an Assistant-Surveyor in the War Department, has invented a map said to be quite incapable of injury by exposure to damp. The Department conferred on him a reward of 200 *yen* on the 31st ultimo. He has been engaged upon the work for many years, encountering not a few difficulties. In 1892 his maps were subjected to a practical test on the occasion of the grand manœuvres. They succeeded very well, but showed one defect, liability to change colour, though not losing their distinctness of outline. This fault the inventor was afterwards able to correct, and the maps are said to be now thoroughly satisfactory. The strength of the paper employed is so great that even after having been steeped in water and wrung out like wet linen, it cannot be torn without an exertion of considerable force. The material is of necessity a little more costly than ordinary paper, but its great durability more than compensates. In Europe and America maps for use in the field have to be carried in waterproof cases, but Mr. Yamada's maps require nothing of the kind.

RELIGION IN JAPAN.

Mr. Soyeda, a Councillor and Secretary of the Finance Department and a Director of the Specie Bank, delivered a lecture on religion at the last meeting of the State Science Society. His intellectual and official status lent special interest to what he had to say. Religion, he held, is a necessity in the life of a State. Without religion neither can the administration be good nor the nation prosperous and great. What religion, then, should Japan have? The choice, in Mr. Soyeda's opinion, lies between Christianity and Buddhism, and he prefers the latter. From the point of view of a system of morality, he does not detect much difference. Indeed, he does not regard any religion as strongly calculated to appeal to man ratiocinative faculties. What is wanted is something which by moving one's sentiments, shall serve as a practical guide in the affairs of every-day life. Against Christianity there have to be set the historical prejudices attaching to it, its novelty, the narrowness of the sphere it has permeated, and its tendency, unless greatly altered, to foster a philo-foreign sentiment throughout the nation. Christian propagandists condemn, for example, the respect paid by Japanese to the portraits of the Emperor and Empress, and by so doing set their creed in direct conflict with one of the most cherished instincts of the Japanese race. On the other hand, if Buddhism is to suffice for Japan's needs, it must be radically reformed. Foremost among the changes required, is abolition of the present hereditary tenure of the office of chief-priest. In such a sect as the Shinshu, where marriage is permitted to the priests and where temple property is vested in priests, a father at his death leaves his property and his office to his son, who is just as likely as not to be quite unfitted for the trust. Buddhists, again, are conspicuously inactive in matters that ought to elicit their most zealous efforts—charity, for example; correctionary instruction to criminals undergoing sentence; education of the children of the poor and so forth. The priests are too often of notoriously loose morals, prone to political ambition, disposed to engage in sectarian strife, and ill-educated. These defects, however, are capable of reform, and if they are reformed, Buddhism, in Mr. Soyeda's opinion, is the religion that Japan should earnestly embrace.

JAPANESE PETROLEUM.

Until recently the petroleum found in Echigo province did not reach the Tokyo market in any considerable quantities, but since railway facilities have been improved, the oil comes to Tokyo more abundantly. Lately some thirty thousand cases were sold, and the fact caused so much alarm—we quote from the *Shogyo Shimpo*—to persons interested in the sale of imported petroleum, that they resorted to the advice of warning the Authorities that the Echigo oil is highly inflammable, and dangerous for common use. The Board of Metropolitan Police thereupon subjected the petroleum to various tests, and finding it unsatisfactory, prohibited its sale unless steps were taken to refine it. Against that decision the *Shogyo Shimpo* protests very strongly. It admits, apparently, that the inferior kinds of Echigo oil warrant the action of the police, but it claims that the better descriptions are superior to either American or Russian petroleum, and that to stop the sale of the whole in the sequel of an examination confined to the inferior varities, is not only unjust, but also economically impolitic as tending to check the development of the national resources. Besides, there are no rules to guide the manufacturers, the regulations promulgated about fourteen years ago never having been seriously enforced. The *Shogyo* therefore claims that until accurate rules are enacted and carried out, no restraint should be put on the sale of the Echigo product. But we doubt whether our contemporary is entirely correct in this criticism. Certainly oil imported since 1882 is supposed to have satisfied the tests prescribed by the regulations then promulgated.

THE PEERS AND TREATY ENFORCEMENT.

A section of the members of the House of Peers is said to be again discussing the subject of Strict Treaty Enforcement. These members were formerly very strong in their support of Strict Enforcement, but they appear to have weakened considerably and to be now of the opinion that nothing is needed beyond the imposition of penalties in the case of persons who exceed Treaty privileges by trading, travelling, or residing outside fixed limits. It is really a legitimate subject of wonder whether these folks who agitate for such a purpose understand how completely the laws of Great Britain already provide for the strict enforcement of her Treaty obligations. For example, the Order in Council of 1865 provides that any British subject trading in any part of Japan other than the Treaty Ports shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years with or without hard labour, and with or without a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars. The same Order provides that if any British subject be guilty of publicly deriding, mocking, or insulting any religion established or observed in Japan; or of publicly offering any insult to any religious service, feast, or ceremony established or kept in any part of Japan, or to any place for worship, tomb or sanctuary belonging to any such religion, or to the ministers or professors of it, he shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than two years, with or without hard labour, and with or without a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars. The fact is that the Japanese need not give themselves the slightest trouble to enact laws for the restraint of foreigners. If they want to enforce the Treaties strictly, all that they have to do is to prefer formal complaint against anybody violating them.

RUSSIA'S GREAT TEMPTATION.

A correspondent writes:—During the past few months no subject has given rise to so much discussion as the present attitude of Russia toward England and the Continental Powers. The friendly attitude of the Great Empire towards France, and the new commercial treaty recently made by it with Germany, have given renewed occasion to the Continental press to "compare figures," as it were, and to conjecture the probable course of events in case of a European war in the near future. Touching the most sensitive point, the Bosphorus, where by common consent the awful drama has been located, the *Kolnische Zeitung* has an interesting article from which we extract the most essential thoughts. First, attention is called to the fact that International Treaties prohibit the Russian fleet stationed in the Black Sea from ever passing the Dardanelles before having first received special permission from the Sultan of Turkey. But such treaties must needs be backed by very strong military power, otherwise they are scarcely worth the paper on which they are written. Unless Turkey, or the allies, which may come to her assistence, are able to defend the Straits, Russia cannot be held to the provisions of the treaties. England's fleet has repeatedly been anchored in the Bay of Besika in order to render assistance in the defence of Constantinople. But just now England is beginning to realize that the dream of her supremacy in the Mediterranean Sea is over, and that France can to-day overpower the British fleet in these waters. The question, therefore, whether Russia can much longer be prevented from passing her fleet through the Dardanelles has become problematic. Unless some great European Power effectually backs Turkey, Russia will be practically free to pass the Straits. Captain Stenzel, one of the ablest writers on naval affairs, believes that a foreign fleet will have to decide Turkey's position in the coming war. Russia's longing for unhampered ocean-communication is of ancient date, is quite natural and, in a sense, just. She will therefore never desist from attempts to become mistress of the Bosphorus. The late Count Schuwaloff put it thus:—"Do what you please, a man who is freezing will attempt to get near the fire." In the next war the situation will be vastly different from what it was in the six wars which Russia waged against Turkey during the last one hundred and twenty-five years, for now both Roumanian and Bulgarian armies would stoutly oppose Russia. It is therefore improbable that she would take the road taken on former occasions to reach Constantinople. Roumania and Bulgaria are conscious of the fact that the destruction of the Ottoman Empire would be followed by the loss of their own independence, and that of Servia as well. In view of this we may regard it as quite certain that Russia will make her next attack by means of her navy. This then raises the question as to the value of the fortifications on the Bosphorus. There are not a few competent military writers who believe that the strength of those fortifications has been greatly

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overrated. On the other hand, of course, there are some who claim that even a fleet of modern armour-clads could not pass the Straits without sustaining very serious loss. This might be true in a sense, but as Captain Stenzel has very strikingly shown, there is a great difference between forcing a passage past the forts, and making an attack with the intention of taking them. The latter might indeed be a difficult task, while the former has frequently been executed. Captain Stenzel has endeavoured to demonstrate that it is possible for the Russians to take Constantinople with astonishing promptitude from the sea. The continual strong current from the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmora makes it possible for a vessel with a speed of fourteen knots to reach Constantinople within fifty minutes after its entrance into the Bosphorus. Moreover, the troops which garrison these forts have little or no practice with heavy guns; the batteries of Constantinople are of small account, while the Turkish fleet is for the most part badly manned and the ships are antiquated. Russia, on the other hand, has in the Black Sea 5 battleships, 2 floating batteries, 10 armoured cruisers, 3 dispatch-boats, 23 torpedo-boats, 9 transports, and 2 steamers used in laying submarine mines. Such a formidable fleet would be able to transport, in the shortest space of time, 32,000 infantry, 500 cavalry, and 20 batteries of artillery. Sebastopol is about 335 miles from the Bosphorus, Odessa only 320, and in both ports the shipping and landing of troops is continually practised. In the face of these facts it cannot surprise any one to hear it said that within two days the Turkish Capital may be in the hands of Russia. At a moment's notice from 115,000 to 120,000 Russian soldiers are ready to make the attempt. If, five days later, the British fleet should arrive, it would find the Dardanelles closed by the Russians. That Turkey can prevent such a *coup d'état* is more than doubted, for this would require the constant presence of a well equipped, modern fleet, something Turkey does not possess.

ESCAPED FROM VLADIVOSTOCK.

FOUR American sealers arrived from Nagasaki this morning and reported themselves at the American Consulate. They are Frank Tucker, Victor Kellgren, Frank Cook, and William T. Wright, and have a moving story to tell. It appears that they shipped on board the American barque *Emma*, at Juneau, Alaska, last year, and proceeded on a sealing voyage in the Behring Sea. While cruizing about the Okhotsk Sea they were discovered by the Russian patrol vessel *Yakutch*, and were by her taken to Vladivostock. This was on October 26th, 1893. Since then they have been lying in prison in the Russian fortress, their vessel being confiscated by their captors. Some time last month they managed to effect their escape, and, reaching Nagasaki, were sent on up here.

THE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE chess match for the championship of the world and $2,000 a side, between William Steinitz, the present champion, and Emanuel Lasker, began on Thursday, March 15th, in New York. The arrangement is that when one of the players has won four games, draws not counting, they go to Philadelphia, where they fight until either player has won three games. The remaining games are to be played in Montreal, the winner of the match being the player who first scores ten games, without including draws. Steinitz will be 58 on the 17th of May, whereas Lasker will not be 26 until December the 24th. The former has taken part in seven international tournaments, winning 103 games and losing 27; and in twenty-three matches, in which he won 137 and lost 44. Thus his total in great affairs is 240 wins and 71 losses. Lasker began to be a conspicuous player in 1889, when he was less than 23 years old. Since then he has played in six tournaments, winning 39 games and losing 4; and in 29 matches, conquering in all of them with 83 wins against 3 losses. His aggregate is 122 wins and 12 losses. Thus while Steinitz has lost 30 per cent., approximately, of his record games, Lasker has lost only 10 per cent. The present match, so far as it has been carried, derives special interest from the fact that the two masters seem bent upon testing by actual play the relative merits of their respective methods of attack and defence in the Ruy Lopez Gambit. Generally in these great contests, the second player adopts the close line of defence—the French or the Sicilian—but Lasker and Steinitz boldly play the Royal Opening, alike for attack and for defence. Steinitz maintains that the best defence in the Ruy Lopez is Q P 1 at the third move, whereas Lasker plays K Kt B 3 at that stage, following it by P Q 3 and P K Kt 3. The contest has not reached a sufficiently advanced stage to supply data for a final decision between the two methods, but the fight will be historical so far as the Ruy Lopez Gambit is concerned. Five games had been played when the last mail left America. Lasker had scored 3 and Steinitz 2.

APPLIED ART.

MESSRS. TIFFANY AND COMPANY of New York and Paris are very great people and do a very large business, but they will be surprised to learn that a Japanese newspaper estimates their capital at 40 millions of dollars, and their daily turnover at 9 millions. This liberal statement is made in connection with the visit of an agent of theirs, now in Tokyo, who has been holding consultations with Messrs. Iwamoto Sahichi, Hayashi Kubei, Namikawa Sosuke, Nakamura Kinosuke, and other persons prominently connected with art manufacture in Tokyo, and is said to have laid before them various projects for extending their markets and catering to European and American demand. There is plenty of room for such advice, and we are glad to learn that the agent of the well-known firm has been welcomed and assisted by the Minister and Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

THE RADICALS AND DISSOLUTION.

THE Radicals, according to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, have laid down four cases in which, and in which alone, dissolution of the House of Representatives is constitutional. The first is when the Sovereign desires to take the sense of the nation with regard to the dismissal of the Cabinet. The second is when the two Houses of the Diet are at such variance that legislation is out of the question. The third is when it becomes necessary to ascertain the views of the nation with regard to some fundamental question of State policy. And the fourth is when the House of Representatives is not supposed to represent the national will. The *Nichi Nichi* recommends the Radicals to study the matter a little more carefully.

A YOUTHFUL FIRE-FIEND.

THE mistress of a boarding-house in Hongo District has recently been several times in danger of having her house burnt down, for mysterious fires were no less than three times found to have broken out in different closets. In each instance the prompt action of the boarders prevented the flames from making headway, but the frequency of these occurrences began to give the house a bad name, resulting in an alarming falling-off in the number of lodgers. The case was finally put in the hands of the police, who found the culprit in the person of a little maid-servant of twelve years, who, it appears, started all the fires with the idea of "getting even" with her mistress, who, it is said, has a shrewish tongue. The little maiden is now where matches are no longer to be had for the asking.

THE CHARITY BALL IN TOKYO.

THE Charity Ball in Tokyo on the 17th inst. was eminently successful. About 450 tickets were disposed of at 3 *yen* each, so that a substantial sum will be available for the benevolent purposes in view. The expenses must have been comparatively small, for though an excellent supper was furnished, the music, rooms, lighting, and other etceteras, were obtained either gratis or at slight cost. The incandescent gas-light was generously installed for the evening by the Agent in Japan. It burned with great brilliancy, and as no expense was incurred in connection with it an additional benefit was thus secured. Too much credit cannot be given to the lady patronesses who took such trouble to organize the affair and whose arrangements were in every respect so perfect.

SUSPENSIONS OF NEWSPAPERS.

FOUR newspapers have been suspended in Tokyo, the *Nippon* on the 16th instant; the *Jiyu* on the 17th; the *Shin-Choya* on the 18th, and the *Niroku* on the 18th. The first three suffer on account of comments connected with the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction and the opening of the country in the case of Hawaii. The *Nirokn* is punished because of an inflammatory article seeking to rouse popular indignation against Korea and to stir up war. It is a pity that Japanese journals cannot learn to discuss their country's foreign affairs more calmly, and it is above all a pity that they can not appreciate the danger and disloyalty of dragging foreign affairs into the arena of party politics.

LORD SALISBURY ON SILVER.

LORD SALISBURY, in his speech on the East India Loan Bill, said:—"There are remedies, and one of them is to resume the negotiations which the noble Lord so rashly put aside, for trying to find out whether the other nations of Europe can not agree with us from time to time on some stable relation between the value of the two metals. I do not know whether it is possible to so agree, but I am told that all the other nations say that the only obstacle to such an agreement is the obstinacy of England, and if that is so it is very much to be regretted." Bimetallism is evidently destined to become a plank in the Conservative platform.

A JAPANESE ENGINEER IN KOREA.

A JAPANESE engineer, Mr. Inomata Gorokichi, who acquired some reputation for his successful construction of a bridge over the Shinano River at Niigata, has been employed by the Korean Government to build a bridge over the river that runs from Söul to Jinsen. The appointment has been made officially. It is stated that the Korean Government applied several times to the Japanese Representative in Söul for assistance in the matter, but his application does not appear to have been very promptly responded to. Mr. Inomata is not an engineer, strictly speaking, but a master-builder.

THE KOREAN MURDER CASE.

THE *Asahi Shimbun* says that the preliminary examination of the Koreans who attempted to murder Mr. Boku Yeiko, was concluded on the 18th inst. All of them, with the exception of Mr. Boku, who is under arrest on suspicion of having illegally confined his would-be assassin, have been found guilty. The charges under which they will be prosecuted will probably be as follow:—Li Itsshoku, incitement to and attempted murder; Ken Zai-ju, Ken To-ju, and Kim Tai-gen, attempted murder, and Tei Ran-kyo and others, illegal confinement.

ALTERATION IN MAIL TRAINS.

ON and after the 16th inst., mails will be despatched from and arrive at Yokohama by the undermentioned trains:—

Mails for Kobe close.		Mails from Kobe will arrive at Yokohama.	
1st Train	6.25 a.m.	1st Train	6.53 a.m.
2nd Train	11.50 a.m.	2nd Train	4.18 p.m.
3rd Train	10.00 p.m.		
Mails from Yokohama to Tokyo will close.		**Mails from Tokyo will arrive at Yokohama.**	
6.15...	a.m.	7.23...	a.m.
7.40...	a.m.	8.33...	a.m.
9.50...	a.m.	10.23...	a.m.
12.20...	p.m.	12.38...	p.m.
2.12...	p.m.	2.33...	p.m.
3.40...	p.m.	5.03...	p.m.
5.25...	p.m.	7.43...	p.m.
10.15...	p.m.	10.48...	p.m.
		12.06...	a.m.

TRIPLE MURDER IN TOKYO.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* says that a fire broke out in the residence of Mr. Kogure Yujim, formerly a Judge, at Sotode-cho, Honjo, Tokyo, on the 17th instant about 3 a.m. The house was burnt to the ground as well as an adjoing. dwelling. After the fire was put out it was found that Kogure (64), his wife, Kuma (50), and their fourth son, Nobuya (25) were burnt

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to death. The police upon examining the remains found various suspicious marks upon the bodies and it is supposed that some miscreant set fire to the house after having murdered all the inmates in order to cover his crime. Efforts are being made to trace the murderer or murderers.

A PROFITLESS SILVER MINE.

How few silver mines can produce at a profit at the present price of silver is exemplified by the action of the directors of the well-known Mollie Gibson Mine, in Colorado, who have been compelled to cease dividends for the present. This mine has paid in dividends $3,930,000, and according to the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, of New York, now that it has had to suspend them, it leaves the Horn Silver Mining Company of Utah the only silver producer in the United States which still pays regular dividends.

PROFESSOR SUESS.

PROFESSOR SUESS of Vienna, who predicts the universal use of silver as a money metal, even displacing gold, writes:—"The present needs of human society; the incessant growth of the commerce of the nations; the increasing population and growing prosperity; the activity of internal transportation; the creation of new commodities by means of colonization; the transformation of natural economy which goes on constantly even in Europe in the present epoch, can only be satisfied by a money measure of values which can also be produced in yearly-increasing quantities."

RAILWAY PROSPECTS.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* says that the prospects on the Government Railways for the coming year are very good. Last year the estimated earnings were a little short of 5 million *yen*, but the takings thus far in the present year indicate a probable revenue of 6 millions. If only the Diet would abstain from obstructing useful reforms, it is estimated that the Government lines might soon be earning 10 per cent. on the invested capital.

ANOTHER LEAGUE ON THE SILVER QUESTION.

ON the initiative of the Belgian Society of Agriculture, which includes several well-known economists among its members, a preliminary meeting was held at Brussels on the 10th Feb., at which it was resolved in principle to form a league, embracing France, Belgium, and Holland, for the purpose of arriving at a solution of the monetary question and rehabilitating silver by means of an international agreement.

BIG CONFLAGRATION IN TOKYO.

DURING the gale on the 15th inst. a destructive fire broke out at No. 55, Susakicho, Mukojima, Tokyo, about 11.15 a.m. The flames continued to rage until shortly after 2 p.m., by which time upwards of two hundred houses were burnt. Sparks from the fireworks displayed in connection with the regatta of the Bank of Japan is stated to be the cause of the outbreak.

ASAMA-YAMA.

THE *Official Gazette* says that the volcano, Asama, of Nagano Prefecture, erupted on the night of the 11th inst. Rumbling sounds were heard at 9 o'clock, followed by a trembling of the ground, and a number of big pumice stones were ejected during a space of seven or eight minutes. Karuizawa and the neighbourhood was covered with a dense mist, and ashes fell.

SIR CHARLES WARREN.

H.E. SIR CHARLES WARREN leaves this, says the *Singapore Free Prees* of the 2nd inst., to-day per *Surat* for Hongkong and Japan. A guard of honour of the Malay Submarine Mining Company will be in attendance. The G.O.C. goes away from us with the united good wishes of the Colony.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE UPPER HOUSE.

MESSRS. KANEKO KENTARO, Moriyama Shigeru, and Kodama Junichiro are gazetted members of the Upper House, having been chosen by the Emperor as Imperial nominees.

KOREAN NEWS.

The latest correspondence from Söul published in the vernacular press mentions that since the murder of Kim, a decided change has taken place for the better in the feelings of the Koreans toward the Japanese residents. The Koreans supposed that Kim was always engaged in plotting a revolution in the Peninsular Kingdom, and that he had the support and sympathy of the Japanese for carrying out such plots. Now that he is dead, they feel that all danger is past, and they are, consequently, disposed to be more friendly towards the Japanese. At the same time, they are said to be under no small apprehension as to the course that may be taken by the Japanese Government in connection with the scheme of assassination now under examination.

Superstitious Koreans believe that the Royal Palace at Söul is haunted by the spirits of the poor relatives of Kim, Boku, and other leaders of the abortive revolution of 1884. This idle story is not only widely circulated among the lower classes of the people, but is received with confidence even by the inhabitants of the Palace themselves. The superstitious dread of the courtiers is said to have increased after Kim's death to such a degree that the King is inclined to remove his residence to the Palace at Tai-kan.

On the 3rd instant, the King entertained at dinner the members of the Diplomatic Corps. The Japanese Representative, the Russian Minister, the English Consul, and a few others were present. The Japanese correspondence, from from which we quote these facts, states that the dinner was given in commemoration of Kim's assassination. But of course such an assertion is entirely incredible.

Kim's daughter, who was in prison, is said to have committed suicide, on receiving the news of her father' murder.

SHANGHAI NEWS.

The new Italian Minister to Peking, Signor A. Bardi, arrived in Shanghai, *en route* for his post, on April 12th.

The heaviest sufferer in the great fire at Tungadoo and Nantao, Shanghai, is said to have been the Cheng Hsieh Chee opium hong, which, at the time of the fire, had on the premises cash amounting to 35,000 dollars and thirty-seven chests of Indian opium, all of which were lost.

The Birthday Celebrations in Peking are to be made the occasion for producing some of the best porcelains that can be made in China at present. The Imperial kilns at Kintêh-chên have received orders to make life-sized images of the Goddess of Mercy in fine porcelain, a five-foot high porcelain hill covered with mushrooms of various colours, and other remarkable objects. The Viceroy Li is to have the expensive pleasure of decorating a portion of the route of the Imperial progress. What that means may be gathered from the case of the Governor of Kiangsi who has devoted Tls. 40,000 to his share in the ceremony. The Viceroy Li will certainly not give less.

The sun, on the occasion of its recent eclipse, must have been the object of a great deal of worship throughout the Chinese Empire as well as the cause of a terrible din. Local officials everywhere had tables set out with candles and incense, and as soon as the eclipse was entering upon its first phase, the Imperial obeisance of kneeling three times and *kowtowing* nine times was performed by the officials in a row before the incense tables. This was followed by beating of gongs and drums, all the available gongs and all the available drums being hammered by all the available persons in all the available court-yards, all the available crackers and muskets being fired off at the same time. The object of this performance was to drive away the ogre that was obscuring the luminary. By and by, when the sun emerged once more bright and clear, the officials also emerged, having devoted the interval to feasting; performed the same Imperial obeisance as before, and then made congratulatory bows to one another.

The transfer of Kim Ok-kyün's body and of his assassin to Korea seems to have been managed with great ease and celerity. Mr. Hsü, the Korean Consul in Tientsin, was the negotiating official. He arrived in Shanghai on the 6th of April and paid only one visit to the Local Magistrate in order to arrange the transfer. Orders were immediately transmitted to the captain of the Chinese corvette *Wei-ching* to hold himself in readiness to take on board the corpse, the assassin, and the Consul. All were safely embarked the same day. Great precautions were taken in transporting the assassin, Hong, from the Magistrate's *yamên* to the corvette, apparently lest some of Kim's friends, especially his Japanese servant, should attempt to take vengeance on Hong. In the account given of the affair by the *North China Daily News* not a word is said about the reasons that induced China to hand over the assassin to Korea instead of trying him at Shanghai.

Mr. Kung, formerly Taotai of Shanghai, and recently appointed Chinese Minister at the Court of St. James's, sailed from Shanghai for London by the *Oxus* on the 14th of April.

A great fire is reported to have taken place on April 1st at Shuch'eng in Anhui province. It lasted for 72 hours and consumed 2,600 houses, rendering 1,500 families homeless.

The report of the North China Insurance Company for 1893 shows that the income of the Company for the year was Tls. 750,823, and the balance to the credit of the working account on December 31st was Tls. 353,789. Losses and claims to the extent of Tls. 69,000 have since been paid, and it is now proposed to set aside Tls. 94,789 as provision for unsettled losses and unexpired risks, leaving an estimated surplus of Tls. 190,000, which the Directors recommend to be applied to paying interest at the rate of 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital; a bonus of 15 per cent. on contributory premia, and Tls. 10,000 to an Investment Fluctuation Account.

Permission has been given by the Taotai of Chung-king to a syndicate of merchants to open petroleum wells in Szechuan. The oil is said to be very good.

A eunuch of the Palace in Peking has been decapitated for accepting a bribe to use his influence in obtaining the appointment of one Ting to the examinership of Szechuan, and Mr. Ting has been degraded and banished.

It is now five months since rain or snow fell in the province of Shensi, and terrible distress prevails. Proclamations have been issued, remitting taxes and sanctioning relief from provincial granaries. But before the existence of a famine was officially recognised, great cruelties had been inflicted on thousands of starving people in the effort to extort taxes from them. A correspondent of the *North China Daily News* says:—"I have seen the lacerated wounds of the lictor's rod on the bodies of men whose fields are barren and cupboards empty."

The Shanghai Horse, Dog, and Poultry Show is to be held on May 19th, the entries closing a week previously.

The China Mutual Steam Navigation Company's report for 1893 shows a net profit of £36,223. This is applied to paying a dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference shares, 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and £20,000 to the "Depreciation, Boiler, and Reserve Fund," the balance being carried forward.

A committee has been formed in Shanghai to collect subscriptions for defraying the cost of a magnificent copy of the New Testament, to be presented to the Empress Dowager on her 60th birthday.

Immense flocks of geese visited Tientsin during the winter. "Within a mile of the Settlement on the Arsenal plain," writes a correspondent of the *North China Daily News*, "and within 300 yards of the Military Road, there have been acres of geese." No attempt was made to shoot them.

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EMIGRATION REGULATIONS.

THE Japanese Government has issued a body of Regulations for the control of emigration. That such a step was necessary admits of no doubt. Ever since emigration began to be associated in the popular mind with prospects of substantial earnings and prosperity, advantage has been taken of the fact by unscrupulous persons to exploit this belief in their own interests. Men have gone about falsely representing themselves as agents duly accredited to procure labour for a specified purpose in a foreign country. They easily found rustics willing to lend a ready ear to their golden tales, and even to pay a good round sum for the privilege of being sent abroad. Having pocketed the deluded emigrants' money, the agent then shipped them to some country as far as possible from Japanese Consular ken, landed them there, and left them to fare as best they might. The promised employment was not forthcoming, and the unfortunate emigrants saw themselves without the means of returning home and without any prospect of earning money. This kind of thing happened frequently, we believe, and of course much distress was entailed. To guard against its recurrence, and generally to control matters connected with emigration, the new Regulations are issued. They provide, in the first place, that every Japanese subject emigrating to foreign countries for purposes of labour must be possessed of a passport. It has been frequently stated in print that Japanese subjects have not hitherto been entitled to leave Japan without a passport, and the statement has been emphatically contradicted in these columns. There has, in fact, been no such legal restriction. Any Japanese was entitled, so far as concerned the law, to leave the country without a passport. We believe that attempts, generally successful, have been occasionally made by the police to prevent the departure of persons who could neither procure honourable gain for themselves nor win credit for their country. But even such persons, if they chose to defy the police, could have sailed away at will. The Regulations now issued, however, require that labour emigrants must be provided with passports, and obviously all other Japanese subjects are constructively exempt from any such restriction. It will also be observed that no arbitrary power of refusing passports is reserved. The nature of the proposed labour, indeed, is to be subject to the approval of the Ministers for Foreign and Home Affairs, but, for the rest, a passport can not be withheld except when the emigrant's destination is a country which has not concluded a treaty with Japan, or when the laws of the country in question would be violated by such immigration. The importance of this latter provision is considerable. Its applicability to the case of the United States is at once apparent. So soon as these new Regulations go into force, America will have a substantial assurance that the class of immigrants objected to by her and excluded by her laws, will not come to her from Japan. All Japanese reaching the shores of the United States without passports, will be inferentially franked by the Government of Japan as persons who may be allowed to enter without doing violence to the prejudices of the Pacific Slope. It is in accordance at once with Japan's dignity and with the smoothness of her international relations that she should create for herself the power of restraining her emigrants at this end instead of risking the humility and vexation of having them turned back at the other.

A considerable portion of the Regulations relates to the Emigration Agent. He has to obtain from the Minister of State for Home Affairs permission to prosecute his calling, and he has also to deposit security of not less than ten thousand *yen* with the Local Authorities. This security seems to be nothing more than a guarantee of respectability, for the Regulations contain no provision with regard to its confiscation in the event of their violation.

All labour emigration contrived by Agents must be managed by contract. Emigrants may, of course, go abroad in search of labour without recourse to an Agent, but in that case they will have to appoint sureties able to assist them when abroad, or bring them home if necessary. The nature of the contract is clearly laid down, though not with vexatious minuteness, and strict limitations are set to the fees that may be levied by an Agent. But the Regulations do not apply to emigration which has already been made the subject of international agreement. Neither do they cover the case of women inveigled to go abroad, or who go abroad voluntarily, for immoral purposes. That is an abuse concerning which a good deal has been said and written. We believe that it will be made the subject of another set of Regulations, ere long.

The penalties imposed by these Regulations are within the limits of the penal authority vested in the Government for the enforcement of Administrative Ordinances. The Regulations are, in fact, an Administrative Ordinance, or, at any rate, are so regarded by the Government. Hence their enactment without reference to the Diet.

PASSPORTS.

THE Rev. Mr. SNODGRASS again writes on the subject of passports, but he still seems to labour, if he will pardon us for saying so, under a misapprehension as to their *raison d'être*. The passport is an instrument devised by way of safeguard in the enjoyment of a privilege which Japan grants to foreigners over and above the privileges granted by Treaty. Japan need never have granted any such privilege. It was competent for her to adhere strictly to the letter of the Treaties and to restrict the travel of foreigners altogether to Treaty Limits. But, at the instance of the Foreign Representatives, she decided, many years ago, not to pursue that comparatively narrow policy, but to make the whole country accessible to respectable foreign residents or tourists. How was that to be accomplished? To throw open the interior, simply and unreservedly, was out of the question, unless some satisfactory arrangements could be made for the judicial control of foreigners travelling beyond the reasonable range of Consular Jurisdiction. It would evidently be most imprudent and improper to make every part of the empire unreservedly accessible to strangers who, in the event of their committing any violation of law, would have to be transported perhaps one hundred, perhaps two hundred, miles to the nearest Consular Court of their nationality for trial, and complaints against whom on the part of Japanese subjects must either be left unconsidered, or preferred at the cost of a long and expensive journey by the complainant and his witnesses. Such a system would have been vexatious and unfair alike to the foreigner and to the Japanese. For, to say nothing of the obvious imperfection and unsatisfactoriness of procedure that hampered the execution of justice with so much delay and such cumbrous preliminaries, a foreigner wrongfully accused might find himself subject to the indignity of having to perform a long journey in police custody before obtaining a magisterial hearing, and a Japanese who had suffered wrong at the hands of a foreigner would have been under the necessity of tamely submitting, or of seeking redress at a loss of time and money prohibitive in any but the gravest cases. There were obviously only three ways of overcoming the difficulty. One was to establish Consular Tribunals at various places throughout the empire, a step which foreign Governments were not willing to take, and to which the Japanese would naturally have objected as an extension of a system humiliating to the national dignity; another was to place foreigners entirely under Japanese jurisdiction outside Treaty Limits, a plan open to grave objections and beset with complications; the third was to devise some means of discrimination by which the interior should be accessible to only such foreigners as were tolerably certain to fall under no need of legal restraint. This third plan was chosen. It was decided that every foreigner visiting the interior must be provided with a passport applied for through his own Consular or Diplomatic Authorities, who would thus become *ipso facto* guarantors of his respectability. Evidently a logical addendum to this scheme was that the bearers of passports should be pledged not

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to engage in tradal operations, because out of such operations, however carefully and liberally conducted, disputes must certainly arise calling for judicial intervention, and because, further, the Japanese, though very willing to extend a hospitable welcome to foreign visitors, were not willing to concede *gratis* all the privileges that remained as a means of purchasing the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. That is the story of the passport system. Its inauguration was purely an act of grace and indulgence on Japan's part, and to blame her now because foreigners travelling beyond Treaty Limits have to be provided with passports is a singular injustice. Mr. SNODGRASS appears to have given the question but scant consideration. He insists upon holding Japan responsible for the existence of an instrument that he considers detestable, and he declines to see that passports are simply a means of overcoming difficulties which would otherwise altogether prevent foreign travel in the interior. "No peaceable, just, or righteous man should be interfered with," he writes. "Law is for the wicked." Precisely, and it is to provide as far as possible against any embarrassing necessity for the operation of the law that passports are used. Truly we do not see that they need be greatly railed against. If any one objects to them so bitterly, he need not use them. No one is compelled to go beyond Treaty Limits. If a man wants to travel in the interior for purposes of pleasure or profit, then to inveigh against the passport that enables him to gratify his wish is as though a traveller should abuse a railway ticket that provides him with means of locomotion. In the eyes of our correspondent the passport seems to be intrinsically so objectionable that he would prefer its abolition even at the sacrifice of the privilege it confers. We must regard that as an idiosyncracy of his own. The complaint of every-day folks is that they are not able to enjoy the privilege without the passport. It must, however, be frankly admitted that the particular experience related by Mr. SNODGRASS belongs to a class of considerations apart. That a man in his position, returning to Tokyo under such circumstances, should be stopped *en route* simply because his passport was a day too old, can only be called vexatious blundering on the part of the police. The thing was absurd. It betrayed complete misconception as to the purpose and use of passports. There is nothing to be said, so far as we can see, in extenuation of such an abuse of authority. But happily cases of the kind are so rare as to be unworthy of serious mention.

As is usually the case when any discussion touching Japan is started, this passport question has been taken as an opportunity for some graceless and unjust allegations. It has been asserted, for example, that the admission of foreigners to the interior under passports was originally conceded by Japan not out of good will, but because of pressure brought to bear by the German Representative who worked in the interests of a *savant* desiring to make investigations beyond Treaty Limits. Any thoughtful person must at once perceive the inconsequence of such a flimsy pretence. How could the Japanese Government, were it ever so weak or pusillanimous, be subjected to any moving pressure in the interests of a solitary German *savant?* Unless the volition to be liberal existed, the German *savant* must have gone without the permit he desired, and the interior must have remained closed to foreign travellers. It is not denied that the aid of diplomacy was enlisted to procure the establishment of the passport system, but most assuredly had not Japan's mood been generous, the system would never have been established. She is curiously rewarded when her act of grace is interpreted as a necessity, and when passports, which constituted the sole solution of the situation, are described as simply a vexatious instrument devised by her "to compel the proud and haughty foreigner to humbly sue for these documents as the price of his admission to the interior." Writing of that kind is mere womanly peevishness. Little less inexcusable is the pretence that "the privileges secured by passports are all on the side of Japan," and that the passport is solely "an ingenious device" to enable her to "reap prosperity without the risks of competition and the diplomatic differences that Mixed Residence might develop." Evidently both these critics can not be right. Passports can not be, at the same time, a concession wrung from unwilling Japan by German diplomatic pressure, and an ingenious device of her own for reaping easy prosperity. But both agree in abusing Japan. The consensus is generally remarkable in that respect. To us it appears that such writing is a poor return for the liberality shown by Japan in this matter, and certainly is little calculated to allay the anti-foreign prejudices upon the strength of which these writers are so fond of insisting and which they display so much alacrity to denounce.

THE STUDY OF MUSIC IN JAPAN.

THE interest of foreigners in the concert recently given at the Uyeno Academy was accentuated by the feeling of those present that it might be the last entertainment of the kind they would enjoy for an indefinite period. It may not be the immediate intention of the school authorities to suspend the study of Western music, and the question of attempting concerts in the future has probably not yet been considered; but when the appropriate time arrives for another exhibition like those of the past year, we doubt if the courage of the directors will be equal to the occasion,—unless, indeed, they shall have secured, in the interval, the services of a foreign instructor as capable as the one about to retire. That such an instructor will appear upon the scene is scarcely to be expected. Musicians as skillful as Mr. DITTRICH in the use of their especial instruments may not be difficult to find; but musicians endowed with the faculty of imparting skill to others, under the circumstances he has had to confront, are rarely to be discovered. Another teacher of perhaps far higher attainments as a *virtuoso* might have failed utterly in the task which he has carried through with singular success, and as completely as time would permit. Few teachers, moreover, would toil as he has done to prepare the occasional concerts in a manner calculated to display the accomplishments of the pupils in the best and most attractive light. It has often been obvious to close observers that the effects produced with his little body of violinists were beyond the average capacity of the players. His arrangements of the music presented have been so contrived as to bring into prominence the merits of the students, while concealing their individual deficiencies. By way of illustration, we may explain that, in certain instances, if all the first violin parts had been written identically, as they usually are for orchestras, the scholars could not have executed them unitedly, and the result of their endeavours would have been extremely questionable; whereas Mr. DITTRICH took care that no single performer should be forced outside of his limitations. Intricate passages which were possible to some, were modified for others who could not master them; while to these others a share of the work was assigned for which they, in their turn, were better qualified, In combination, therefore, they were able to interpret compositions which might have overtaxed the powers of any one member of the class, except, presumably, their acknowledged leader. This sort of labour was purely voluntary on the instructor's part. It was not, and could not be, "nominated in the bond." Not every one in his place would have taken trouble to that extent, and if the school remains unprovided—as in all likelihood it will—with a master willing to exert himself in the same spirit and to the same end, no such programmes as those which the residents of Tokyo have of late listened to can again be offered for their gratification.

The difficulty of obtaining a thoroughly conscientious and competent teacher is not the sole, nor the chief, obstacle to the advancement of the Academy. Its prospects are obscured by adverse conditions much harder to overcome. There is, in truth, no very earnest desire for its advancement, as at present constituted. among the officials upon whom its destiny depends. They have no knowledge of,

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or fondness for, Western music. Some of them positively dislike it. They cannot be brought to believe that its study will lead to any advantage, and they would not be greatly displeased if they were free to discard it altogether. No argument, apparently, has thus far had the effect of persuading them that music—genuine music—is an indispensable element of high civilization, and that a country which aims at progress cannot afford to exclude it or discourage its introduction. They do not care to look forward to the period, probably not very far distant, when Japan will stand fairly abreast with Western nations in many of their best attainments, yet will be centuries behind them in all that relates to the noblest of arts. Or, to put it another way, it gives them no concern to be reminded that while Japan has within the past twenty-five years been moved by an ardent ambition to excel in almost every line of intellectual achievement, she remains indifferent, if not actually hostile, to a growth which elsewhere represents the highest development of intelligence and refinement. It seems never to occur to them that their country's claim to a full share of the world's enlightenment may not be found quite consistent with its neglect of one of the essential attributes of modern culture.

To the remonstrances of foreigners who have ventured to point out the error of restricting the study of Western music, it has sometimes been answered that there is no purpose of abolishing it entirely, and that it will still be pursued, though on a narrower and less expensive scale than hitherto, probably under the supervision of a Japanese lady now completing her education in Germany. So far as outside observers can perceive, no effective course of training could be more economically maintained than that now provided by the Government. The annual disbursement is said to be less than 15,000 *yen*. It is not disputed that much larger sums are devoted to branches of scientific instruction which, however admirable in the abstract, yield none of the "practical" results, the supposed absence of which is alleged to the discredit of music. As to the idea of relying upon a Japanese teacher, every one qualified to hold an opinion pronounces it utterly visionary. It would be an ungracious task to recite the reasons for this conviction, even if any reasons were likely to be accepted as satisfactory by the gentlemen in control at the Academy. With or without explanations, however, a judgment unanimously declared by persons who understand music and its requirements ought to make some impression upon the minds of the responsible officials, whether it affects their action or not. For an example of the consequences of trusting to Japanese tuition, it is necessary only to recall what the band attached to the Navy Department once was, under the management of Mr. ECKERT, and to look at its condition to-day, after struggling through some years without foreign aid. Or we may take the group of well-meaning and industrious amateurs who, taught by their own countrymen, exert themselves to promote digestion during the Sunday evening dinners at the Imperial Hotel, unconscious that their exploits have chiefly the effect of creating doubts as to whether the performers or the auditors are most deserving of commiseration. The lady who, according to report, will in course of time take charge of the foreign musical studies at the Uyeno institution may prove to be an excellent violinist. But no one believes, except, possibly, those whose belief is of slight value, that she will be found to possess the quickness of decision, the confidence, the firmness, the absolute and unerring certainty of artistic knowledge that are demanded in the position soon to be left vacant. The music she and a few others are now learning is too new a thing to the Japanese neophytes to have sunk very deeply into their nature. The spirit and impulse of it are not instinctive with them, and they have none of the inherited sense of its meaning, or spontaneous love for it, which constitute the foundation for a musical education in Europe or America. The process of training they have undergone is wholly objective. When it began, there was nothing within them to welcome or assist it. How far it has penetrated we can only conjecture. We can measure exactly the degree of proficiency they have gained in the manipulation of their instruments, but we have no means of gauging their souls, or determining the extent to which their recently-awakened æsthetic consciousness has been developed. There are no indications, as yet, that it has a controlling influence over any of them. Those who have had the best opportunities for observation are of opinion that if circumstances should compel them to relinquish the study suddenly and forever, they could do it without a pang. Though they practise assiduously, and take satisfaction in demonstrating their ability to execute the tasks set before them, they are not inspired by enthusiasm for their work, nor do they seem to regard it as anything better than the acquisition of a superficial accomplishment. If this is really the condition of their minds, they are indeed poorly equipped for their duties as pioneers of a difficult art.

There are many sides to the question which we can glance at only with cursory haste, and we can imagine a Japanese disputant asking why, since he is told that his people have so little sympathy with the purposes of foreign music, the Government should persist in the effort to introduce it. Since doubts are cast upon the ability of even the foremost students to fully comprehend what they are doing, after several years of strenuous application, why not cease supplying funds for so unpromising an enterprise? Why not wait for a time when music shall come of its own accord, without being dragged in; and establish itself naturally in the affections of the populace without being grafted upon them by main force? Apart from answers which might be objected to on the ground that they are based upon sentimental considerations, one may be given, as "practical" as any utilitarian can desire. Sooner or later, music must be recognized, admitted, and fostered. It cannot be kept out of the educational system of Japan. What was done in Russia, in the eighteenth century, will have to be done here, in one way or another. We have only to consider what would now be the condition of the arts in that empire if no resolute measures for implanting them had been taken, and if their growth had never been stimulated by absolute authority. In obedience to the will of an autocrat a beginning was made, the results of which are visible to all. Here, too, a beginning has been made—a beginning of excellent promise. But if the school at Uyeno is suffered to languish or decay, the work must all be done over again. There is no escaping that conclusion. A long term of study will have been wasted, and worse than wasted. Whether we estimate the ends thus far accomplished by one standard, and say that they are extraordinary—which is perfectly true—or by another standard, and say that they have brought the students only to the threshold of their art—which is likewise true—they represent an expenditure of persevering industry and energy, not to speak of money, which it would be downright discreditable to get no return from. While we believe that the position of the pupils, as regards their acquaintance with the great principles of music, has been accurately described in these columns, we should be the last to deny that they show a marvellous technical facility, or that they are justly entitled to admiration for the rapidity with which they have overcome the difficulties of the most exacting of instruments. To have attained this power of execution is a long and important step in the right direction. It would be pitiable to think that such qualifications for an artistic career as seem to be possessed by Miss KODA—a mere child in years, yet with a command of the violin which astonishes all who hear her play—must be sacrified in compliance with a short-sighted and prejudiced official policy; nevertheless they will be sacrificed if at her present stage she is deprived of the proper and needful guidance. To scholars like her we might look for a solution of many perplexing problems, and for the gradual dissemination of true musical ideas; but if their hope of rising to a higher grade of efficiency is cut off,

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they can neither fulfill the mission for which they are partially fitted, nor be made to serve any serious educational purpose.

Mr. DITTRICH'S farewell concert was similar in general character to the others he has conducted. Its most agreeable features were, as usual, the arrangements in which the violins predominated. The choral selections were interesting as showing that the singers could be successfully led through complicated and tortuous involutions of harmony; but the voices were not good enough to afford very great pleasure. The pianoforte performances were sadly defective. One young lady was obliged to pause in the midst of a sonata, and recover herself; and two others produced ungrammatical progressions and chords, in an adaption from "Cavalleria Rusticana," which could not have bene warranted by the notes before them. It is still a puzzle why the piano, which should be comparatively easy to the Japanese, is less submissive in their hands than an instrument ordinarily found much more rebellious and refractory. But we have no inclination to speak critically of the entertainment. It will be especially remembered as an occasion of friendly and regretful leave-taking. The vehement outburst of applause which saluted the retiring teacher gave generous assurance of the esteem in which he is held by the foreign community of Tokyo and Yokohama, and of the gratitude of those who appreciate the fidelity and zeal with which he has devoted his high abilities to their welfare throughout his years of service in Japan.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

PASSPORTS AND HOW THEY TREAT US, AGAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—You misapprehend somewhat my statements about a nation's growth in the more noble virtues. And I hope just here the *Gazette* will not fail to discriminate between a globe-trotter and a missionary who was for a short time engaged by a Government School in Kanazawa, and who was, at the end of his engagement, returning to Tokyo on a proper passport obtained for him by the President of the school. The facts in the case ought to make all the difference in the world as to the way an editor should write.

But, Mr. Editor, if these passports are "abominable," it is no honour to Japan to use them. And if by adhering to the strict and correct meaning of the treaties the passports would not be granted, it would be better to abide by the interpretation of the treaties. It is wrong for any person or nation to hinder the exercise of the peaceful and innocent liberty of any other person or nation. You seem to think I represented Japan only as being slow in the more noble virtues.

You ask me to state with whom the ultimate responsibility for the continual existence of the passports rests. I answer with Japan. No nation compels Japan to use these passports. Because other nations are unjust and unreasonable, should Japan likewise be so? On what grounds could it be wrong for a peaceable man to travel through Japan? There are none. None have a right to molest him, or to restrict his liberty. Only when a man becomes injurious should he be restrained. Though other nations should, by superior power, force unjust conditions upon Japan, or try to force them, there is always left a just way of escape. Of two evils, we need not choose either; and no man or nation can force a just and good man or nation to do wrong.

Japan could permit foreigners to travel wheresoever they pleased without any restrictions, and no evil or injurious man need go unpunished for meanness he might do. And it is wrong for other nations to hold their courts in this country, ignoring the courts of this nation. But the wrongs of one will not excuse those of another. No peaceable, just, or righteous man should be interfered with. Law is for the wicked. I would not hesitate one moment to live under the Japanese law. Circumstances might have sent me to a nation of savages, without law or civilization at all. I would not have feared to live among them. It is not noble for any nation or people to restrain the peaceable movements of any person. These are the virtues which make nations, as well as persons, noble. A man should be judged according to what he is and does; and not according to the nation of which he happens to be a citizen. A nation, as a person, will be held responsible for what it could do, but does not do.

It is a question in my mind whether I shall ever again go into the interior on any kind of a passport, unless absolutely necessary for purposes of health. And, again, I have thought that probably missionaries, at least, who contemplate a life work in Japan should become citizens of the country.

Respectfully, E. SNODGRASS.

Tokyo, April 11th, 1894.

P.S.—I may say that through the help of the Governor of Ishikawa Ken, I was privileged to go on my way from Tsuruga on the day following the date of my letter to the *Mail*.—E.S.

AN ORIENTAL DREIBUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—One of the immediate results of the Korean assassination affair, has been to emphasize the extreme importance of the attitude assumed by Japan towards China and Korea. It is not necessary to enter here into any further discussion of the aspects of the matter itself, or to speculate how far the fault may lie with the Korean King or to what extent China may be implicated. That both countries heartily rejoice over the death, however encompassed, of a man whom they regarded as a standing menace to themselves, admits of no doubt. Yet it would be rash to say that either had directly brought the assassination about; in fact, this is a point which will probably never be satisfactorily cleared up, for it stands to reason that, really guilty or not, both Powers will decidedly disclaim against any such imputation. What is of more immediate import is the manner in which Japan has to deal diplomatically with the two.

As I have already noted, even the wisest of the vernacular press counsel firm action on the part of this Government; the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* uses language which, though veiled, is decidedly defiant in tone, while the *Fiyu*, ever hysterically inclined, indulges in a rhapsody on the benefits of war. The great desideratum all declare is that Japan should keep her dignity in this instance; to which the *Nippon* adds that neither the size nor countless inhabitants of the Middle Kingdom should cause this country to cede for a hand's breadth from the position which is its due; that Japan should avoid bluster in her dealings with Korea, and not be intimidated by whatever China may say or do. That is all very well. A dignified and straightforward course of conduct is both advisable and beneficial to any nation. Japan has hitherto not shown herself lacking in either qualities in her intercourse with Eastern nations, albeit she has been, and still is, rather inclined to take a high hand with the Peninsula, and this all the more because of China's suzerain claims and pretensions. The point that would urge, however, is not the necessity for an unbending demeanour, nor yet the need of enforcing respect it may be at the cannon's mouth. The question is whether Japan can or cannot work in harmony with China and Korea, not only from nobly humanitarian reasons, but because war would mean retrogression and exposure to the depredatory incursions of those powers whose one rule in their relations with Asia would appear to be the annexation of fresh territory. It may be laid down as an axiom that neither China or Korea can go to war with Japan, unless they are willing to incur the risk of weakened frontiers, a depleted treasury, and, as a matter of course, popular discontent and disturbance.

Japan is the self-elected pioneer of Western civilisation in Asia. Irrespective of China's conservatism and her inherent love for the customs and creeds of the past, it is undeniable that she views Japan's rapid advance with a sentiment akin to jealousy, and that she follows in the swift footsteps of her insular rival as fast as so unwieldy and heterogeneous an empire will permit. Viewed from every standpoint, Japan is unquestionably teaching her neighbours a great and vital lesson: that the supineness and unsouciance characteristic of all Eastern rule are incompatible with national stability and progress; that the effete and enervated Oriental nature needs the impetus derivable from an adoption, as far as possible, of the brisk, enterprising, and science-loving methods of the West. That the Occident is not all good, many Eastern nations have long since learned to their sorrow. The rapacity and aggression of France and Russia are notorious, nor are even England's colonization schemes in strict accordance with the Golden Rule. On the other hand, every year seems a greater encroachment of the West on the East, a bolder front taken, demands made and enforced inconsistent either with the dictates of International Law or even the postulates of humanity. Can it be for an instant questioned that embroilment between China, Korea, and Japan would mean international decrease of strength, mutual attrition with the worst possible results? Never was there a plainer instance of the truth of the saying, "united we stand; divided we fall." If for none other than purely selfish reasons, it is the clear duty of each of the three nations to avoid war with the rest. Morally and polically, the three are bound to keep the peace.

These are views which do not require substantiation: they are based on self-evident facts. And if we go so far as to acknowledge the necessity of friendly relations, why not take one step farther and recognize that a Triple Alliance between Japan and her two neighbours would mean the regeneration of one or the other, the opposing of an impregnable front to Occidental territorial rapacity, and the growth of broader ideas, higher theories, better government, greater popular content. This is just what Japan's geographical position and higher grade of civilization, not to speak of her vast commercial interests, show, with irresistible force, to be most needful and most advisable. Her dignity is best kept not by a bristling array of cannon nor the adoption of the latest (and most murderous) inventions of modern military science,—but by showing that she has profited by her intimacy with the West in so far as to wish to rehabilitate the East; by proving that the sword does better work when rehammered into a ploughshare; that the fruits of peace an preferable to internecine warfare; that, finally, she is willing and ready to bear her part of the burden and work for the achievement of an end as great as that of the European Dreibund—disarmament and consequent national prosperity.

Your obedient Servant, E.

April 19, 1894.

GUIDE TO THE TOKYO LIBRARY FOR STRANGERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I shall consider it a great favour if you will kindly insert in your valuable paper the following few lines:—

For strangers who come to this country with the purpose of staying a longer or shorter space of time, the Tokyo Library, I believe, is well worth a visit. It will be a great advantage to them to know something of our customs, manners, and habits,—knowledge which may, to a great extent, be acquired at a library that keeps all the recent publications and contains all the best works that have appeared on Japan.

The Tokyo Library is at present located in Uyeno Park, just opposite the Music School. It is better known by the name of the "Tokyo Toshokwan." The reading room is open daily (except on the 1st of every month and on great national holidays), from eight o'clock a.m. till half-past four p.m., but the hours for opening the reading room are not always fixed: they are changed according to the seasons of the year. Entrance tickets are of two kinds, special and ordinary. At the entrance gate, you may obtain either an ordinary or a special ticket, and at the same time you will receive a small printed paper, on which you must write both the titles of the works and the names of the authors, together with case and number. The special room is set apart from the ordinary room. You will find catalogues on the tables in the left corner of the reading room. The catalogues are of two kinds, that is, book catalogues and card catalogues. In both these the works are classified under their respective subjects and authors, but the book catalogues have an index of authors on their last pages only. If you have some difficulty in finding the books you desire in the catalogues before you, you had better ask the

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librarian to assist you. He will do his best to search for the books you desire and let you have them as soon as possible. Many newly published books arrived at the Tokyo Library only a few months ago. Among them, there are some interesting and popular works relating to Japan. Foreign periodicals, both monthly and weekly, are also received at the library as soon as they have appeared. The library itself is most carefully arranged under the special care of Mr. I. Tanaka, its Director. The number of books is increasing day by day.

I remain, sincerely yours,

T. S.,
Tokyo Library.

April 18th, 1894.

EMIGRATION REGULATIONS.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE.

We, with the advice of Our Privy Council, hereby sanction the following Regulations for the Protection of Emigrants, and Order them to be duly promulgated.

(Imperial Sign manual.)
[Great Seal.]

(Countersigned.)

Minister of State for Home Affairs.
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE No. 42.

REGULATIONS FOR PROTECTING "IMIN."

Article I.—The term *Imin* in this Ordinance applies to persons who emigrate to foreign countries for the purpose of labouring; and the term *Imin Toriatsukainin* applies to those who, under any pretext whatsoever, make it their business to secure *Imin* or make arrangements for their emigration.

The nature of the labour included in the last preceding clause shall be determined conjointly by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs.

Article II.—The *Imin* shall carry passports.

Article III.—Passports may be refused to those *Imin* who are about to emigrate to the territory of a country which has not concluded a treaty with Japan, or who emigrate in violation of the laws of the country of their destination.

Article IV.—An *Imin* who emigrates without the intervention of an *Imin Toriatsukainin* may be required to appoint sureties of not less than two persons at the time of issuing the passport, when the condition of the place of emigration is deemed to require it.

The sureties are limited to those whom the Local Authorities deem to have sufficient means to be able to help or to undertake to bring home the *Imin* in case of illness or other distress.

Article V.—Any person who desires to be an *Imin Toriatsukainin* shall obtain permission from the Minister for Home Affairs, through the Local Authorities.

Article VI.—The *Imin Toriatsukainin* cannot secure *Imin* or make arrangements for their emigration until after he has deposited security with the Local Authorities.

Article VII.—The deposit mentioned in the last preceding Article shall not be less than 10,000 *yen*, to be determined by the Local Authorities, with the approval of the Minister for Home Affairs.

Article VIII.—The *Imin Toriatsukainin*, in making arrangements for the emigration of *Imin*, shall enter into a written contract with the *Imin*.

Regarding the terms of contract mentioned in the last preceding clause approval of the Local Authorities must be previously obtained.

Article IX.—The following items shall be included in the terms referred to in the last preceding Article:—

1. Term of contract.
2. Fees for making arrangements for the emigration.
3. The methods of extending aid or sending home of *Imin* in case of illness or other distress.

Article X.—The *Imin Toriatsukainin* or his agent cannot receive from the *Imin* fees of any kind other than those for making arrangements for the emigration.

Article XI.—The *Imin Toriatsukainin* shall countersign the applications for passports of the *Imin* under his care.

In rendering services to an *Imin* who has already obtained a passport, the *Toriatsukainin* shall report the fact to the Authorities who have issued the passport. He shall enclose the passport to such authorities and obtain their certificate.

Article XII.—No *Imin Toriatsukainin* or his agent shall be allowed to secure any persons or make arrangements for their emigration unless such persons are to emigrate as *Imin*.

Article XIII.—In case an *Imin Toriatsukainin* desires to let other persons act for him in the transaction of his business, he shall report the name of such person to the Local Authorities in advance and obtain their approval.

Article XIV.—In case an *Imin Toriatsukainin* transacts business in violation of laws and orders, or fails to make good without delay any deficiency in his deposit, or is guilty of conduct which is deemed injurious to public peace or morality, the Minister for Home Affairs may either suspend his business or cancel his permission.

Article XV.—In case an *Imin* finds it necessary to apply for protection of Japanese Authorities abroad, he shall produce his passport and certify his personal standing; and if he went abroad through the intervention of an *Imin Toriatsukainin*, he shall also produce his contract with the *Imin Toriatsukainin*.

Article XVI.—Those who may obtain passports by misrepresenting the place of emigration or the nature of work to be performed in the place of emigration, and those who go abroad without procuring a passport, shall be liable to a fine of not less than 2 *yen* nor more than 20 *yen*.

Article XVII.—An *Imin Toriatsukainin* who violates the provisions of Article VI., VIII., XI. or XIII., or secures or makes arrangements for the emigration of *Imin*, knowing such emigration to be a violation of this Ordinance, shall be liable to a fine of not less than 10 *yen* nor more than 100 *yen*.

In any of the above cases, if the emigration has already taken place, he shall be liable to a fine of not less than 50 *yen* nor more than 150 *yen*.

An *Imin Toriatsukainin* or his agent who violates the provisions of Articles X. or XII., shall be liable to a fine of not less than 10 *yen* nor more than 100 *yen*.

Article XVIII.—Any person who, under any pretext whatever, secures or makes arrangements for the emigration of *Imin* without first obtaining permission to be an *Imin Toriatsukainin*, or (an *Imin Toriatsukainin*) who during the suspension of his business (performs any of the foregoing acts) shall be liable to a fine of nor less than 20 *yen* nor more than 200 *yen*.

An *Imin Toriatsukainin* or his agent who secures or makes arrangements for the emigration of *Imin* by means of deception shall be liable to the same fine as provided in the above clause.

Article XIX.—In case of a mercantile corporation, the preceding two Articles shall apply to the *Torishimariyaku* (director) or to the member who is in charge of those branches of business which are mentioned in each of the said two Articles.

SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS.

Article XX.—Those who have been pursuing business connected with *Imin* under official sanction of proper authorities obtained previous to the date of the enforcement of the present Ordinance, may continue their business for three months from the date this Ordinance takes, effect notwithstanding the provisions of Articles V. and VI.

In the event of persons mentioned in the last preceding clause desiring to still continue their business after the expiration of the said three months mentioned in the last preceding clause, they shall obtain permission during the said three months in accordance with provisions of this Ordinance.

Article XXI.—The Ordinance does not apply to those who emigrate by virtue of a special treaty concluded by Japan or to the *Toriatsukainin* thereunder.

Article XXII.—Detailed Regulations required for the enforcement of this Ordinance shall be determined conjointly by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs.

ORDINANCE No. 6 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Detailed Regulations for the enforcement of the Regulations for Protecting *Imin* are established as follows:—

MUTSU MUNEMITSU,
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Count INOUYE KAORU,
Minister of State for Home Affairs.

The 18th day, the 4th month, the 27th year of *Meiji*.

DETAILED REGULATIONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE REGULATIONS FOR PROTECTING "IMIN."

Art. I.—The kinds of labourers mentioned in Art. I. of the Regulations for Protecting *Imin* are determined as follows:—

(*a.*) Those who perform physical service in agriculture, fishing, mining, engineering, building, transportation, and all kinds of manufactures.

(*b.*) Those who are employed in domestic service such as cooking, waiting, etc.

Art. II.—Cases requiring the appointment of sureties, in accordance with Art. IV. of the Regulations for Protecting *Imin*, shall be notified in advance.

Art. III.—By the "Local Authorities" mentioned in Art. IV. of the Regulations for Protecting *Imin* are meant the Local Authorities of the place where the domicile of the sureties lies, and by the "Local Authorities" mentioned in Art. V., VI., VII., VIII., and XIII., are meant the Local Authorities of the place where head offices of *Imin Toriatsukainin* are situated.

Art. IV.—The security shall be deposited in cash. But National bonds may be used in place of cash.

Art. V.—The value of the national bonds used in place of cash for desposit shall be in accordance with the value fixed by the Local Authorities.

Art. VI.—In the event of any deficiency occurring in the deposit, the Local Authorities shall order the deficiency to be made good and shall fix a proper limit of time for its payment.

The limit of time mentioned in the last preceding clause can not exceed one month.

Art. VII.—The *Imin Toriatsukainin* shall make, according to the annexed form, a list of *Imin* under his care, and report the same to the Local Authorities of the place where his head office is situated not later than the 5th day of each month succeeding:

Number of Passport.	Date of the issue of Passport.	Full Name.	Status and Occupation.	Domicile and place of sojourn.

Age.	Object of Emigration.	Country of Destination.	Date of Embarkation.	Tem of Contract.

Art. VIII.—In the event an of *Imin* or *Imin Toriatsukainin* being ordered by the proper Authorities to it esproduce the contract mentioned in Art. VIII. of the Regulations for Protecting *Imin*, he is not allowed to refuse.

Art. IX.—An *Imin Toriatsukainin* who lets an agent transact his business must cause such agent to carry with him a certificate of identity.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, March 24.

"The Wee Ones of Japan," by Mae St. John Bramhall, is to be issued in an illustrated edition by Harper and Bros.

The "Biological Lectures" delivered at Marine Biological Laboratory, Wood's Hall, 1893, have been published by Ginn and Co., and include "The Work and the Aims of the Marine Biological Laboratory," by Prof. C. O. Whitman, once of Tokyo; "On the Nature of Cell Organization," by S. Watase, Ph. D.; and "The Inadequacy of the Cell Theory of Development," by Prof. Whitman.

Rev. E. K. Fulkerson, who several months ago became pastor of a Methodist Episcopal Church in Peoria, Ill., has been ordered by the Missionary Board to return to his labours in Japan.

Commodore William D. Whiting, who served under Perry in the expedition to Japan, and was "the first officer in the fleet to set foot on the Japanese soil," died in New York City on the 19th inst. from injuries received when run over by a cab in January.

The Judge of the United States Circuit Court sitting in Boston is doubtful whether he has the right to issue naturalization papers to one Shibato Saito, a native-born Japanese. He has reserved decision for a few days. This is said to be the first case of the kind in this country, and in order that no mistake may be made Judge Colt will confer with his associates before making a decision. The applicant for naturalization was born in Tokyo, and says he has been in this country since 1880.

Japan, China, and Korea are to be "written up" again by a travelling correspondent, Mr. Frank G. Carpenter, who will represent the Chicago *Herald*.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations is considering a new treaty just negotiated by Secretary Gresham and the Chinese Minister. This will not repeal, but practically supersedes, both the Scott Act and the Geary Law. Its principal provisions have been given as follows in the papers:—

The new treaty, it is understood, runs for twenty years, and in this respect is like a similar treaty negotiated by Secretary Bayard in 1888, and if at the expiration of the twenty years neither Government shall give notice to the other of its intention to have it terminated, then it shall remain in force another twenty years. During the period of the life of the treaty Chinese are prohibited from entering this country except upon conditions. Provision is made for the return of any Chinamen who has a lawful wife, child, or parent in the United States or property to the amount of $1,000, or debts due him to that amount. In order to secure the benefits of this provision, the Chinaman must leave with an officer of the United States a description of his family or property and secure a certificate for his return. He must also return within a year, which may be extended another year in cases of sickness or other causes beyond his control.

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The existing treaties providing for the privileges of travel and sojourn in the United States of Chinese officials, teachers, students, and travellers for curiosity, as well as the right of transit of Chinese officials through the United States, is preserved. In return for concessons granted by this country to better protect the Chinese people, and to lessen the hardships which it is claimed they suffer by reason of the Geary law, the Chinese government is to take greater precautions to prevent the coming of Chinese labourers to this country. The object of the Chinese Government is to secure to the Chinese in this country ample protection and to relieve them from any unusual hardships, although the right of citizenship is not asked nor guaranteed.

The latest reports from Samoa indicated trouble between the natives of some districts and the "white man's government." The situation, "with an empty treasury," and the possible refusal of the natives to pay taxes, was said to be "critical."

Commodore Kirkland, *en route* for Hawaii, has been suddenly recalled, and Admiral Walker, "an old and war-tried" officer, has been sent to take command at that station." The orders are understood to be due to a well-authenticated report that the Hawaiian Government is about to apply to some other Power for either annexation or a protectorate."

On the other hand, Minister Thurston is said to have been recalled to Hawaii to assist in the establishment of a permanent republican government. The first steps toward this have been taken in the passage of "an act to provide for a constitutional convention" to convene at the call of the President. The election of delegates will take place in May; and the following are the qualifications of voters at that election :—

Every male resident of the Hawaiian Islands, of Hawaiian American, or European birth or descent, who shall have taken the oath by the act provided, who shall have paid his takes for the year 1893, unless exempt by law from paying taxes; who shall have been domiciled in the Hawaiian Islands for one year and shall have caused his name to be entered on the list of voters of the precinct in which he resides, and is not insane or an idiot, or who shall not have been convicted of felony, unless pardoned, shall be entitled to vote for delegates to be elected from islands on which such voter resides.

This convention is to consist of the President, the executive and advisory councils, and delegates elected from four districts. The oath to be taken by both delegates and voters is as follows :—

Sec. 18. Form of oath: No.——, Hawaiian Islands. Island of——, District of——. I, ——, aged —— years, native of ——, residing at —— in said district, do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will support and bear true allegiance to the provisional government of the Hawaiian Islands and will oppose any attempt to restore Liliuokalani to the throne or to re-establish a monarchical government in any form in the Hawaiian Islands.

The war in Brazil, notwithstanding the flight of Admiral de Gama, the surrender of several insurgent vessels, and the capture of ninety or so of the insurgent officers, is not entirely ended. Admiral de Mello has not yet given up the struggle. The Portuguese Minister to Brazil has declined to order the commander of the *Mindello* to give up Da Gama and the other fugitives, and the matter is now in dispute between the Brazilian and the Portuguese Governments. Everything at Rio is so quiet, that all the foreign men-of-war have left except the *New York* and the *Charleston*. A dispatch from Rio in this morning's paper says that the United States, Great Britain, and Italy have united in recommending humane treatment of the insurgents: but a dispatch from Washington says that the United States will maintain non-interference.

The Bland Bill for the coinage of the seigniorage passed the Senate by a vote of 44 to 31; but will probably be vetoed by the President.

Congressman Wilson has improved so much that he was able to return from Mexico to San Antonio, Texas, where he will rest a while.

Governor Brown, of Rhode Island, has been nominated by the Republicans for re-election.

The prohibition contest in the Iowa Legislature, after several reconsiderations of bills, has resulted in the passage of a "mulct license" bill, by which "prohibition will obtain except as modified by local option." And the toleration of the liquor traffic must be sanctioned by 65 per cent. of the voters; while the license fee is fixed at $600 a year.

The friends of prohibition have lately been celebrating all over the country the ninetieth birthday of Neal Dow, "father of the Maine prohibition law" which was passed in 1851.

The papers of the past few days have had a great deal to say about an immense "army of peace" which would march from Massillon, Ohio, to Washington, D.C.; but the whole affair is now pronounced "a giant hoax," played by the correspondents of some New York and Chicago papers. That is newspaper enterprise in this country!

A contest between Governor Waite, of Colorado, and police commissioners of Denver, almost resulted, if we may believe the newspaper accounts, in a "civil war." The police commissioners denied the Governor's authority to remove them from office; the Governor called out the state militia to help him install the new Commissioners in office; and U.S. regulars, summoned by the Governor, appeared just in time to prevent bloodshed. Finally, the Governor, who had disregarded an injunction of Judge Graham of the District Court, was persuaded to submit the dispute to the decision of the Supreme Court. About the same time part of the militia had to be sent to Cripple Creek to maintain peace among striking miners. Verily, life in Colorado has been exciting.

The spring equinox did not seriously affect Chicago, except to bring colder weather; but it produced a disastrous cyclone in Texas and fierce blizzards in the North-west, where traffic was delayed and even suspended.

The Supreme Court of Illinois refused to grant a writ of *supersedeas* in the case of Prendergast; the Federal Court in this city refused to grant a writ of *habeas corpus*; Acting Governor Gill declined to grant a reprieve; but at the last hour Judge Chetlain, of this city, granted a stay of the execution till April 6. "This action was based on a special statute which prohibits the execution of a condemned criminal whose sanity is questioned." Prendergast's attorneys claimed that the murderer had become insane since his condemnation, and demanded a jury trial on the question of his sanity. This trial begins to day.

The "gas trust" which has been bleeding the citizens of Chicago is under investigation before Attorney-General Moloney; and is being "shown up" as a monopoly which has continued in defiance of law. If the investigation brings any practical result in lowering of the price of gas, all well and good; but it is more likely that the trust will continue to defy the law.

R. G. Dun & Co. report that "uncertainty is still manifest in business circles," which are waiting to see the fate of the Bland Bill.

The Finance Committe has reported the revised Wilson Bill to the U.S. Senate, which will now have its turn at debate and revision. The most prominent changes are seen in the slight increase of duties on sugar. The restoration of the old rate on cigars; the exemption of building associations from the operation of the income tax law; the termination of the reciprocity treaties with Germany and Spain; and the striking out of the section that provided for the termination of the reciprocity treaty with Hawaii. An attempt was made, but unsuccessfully, to take lumber off the free list. Senator McPherson (Dem.), of New Jersey, assented to the report of the committee (of which he is a member), believing that the bill was the best obtainable in the committee: but he gave notice that he was opposed to the income tax and the sugar schedule. On these two points will be the great fight in the Senate.

Senator Colquitt, of Georgia, is dangerously ill at Washington.

LETTER FROM ST. LOUIS.

(From a Correspondent.)

St. Louis, March 20th.

Affairs in the United States, both political and social, are in a little better shape than they were six months ago, but at best are somewhat unsettled. Congress has not yet passed any decisive measure likely to relieve the country from the effects of the financial panic, but the uneasy public pulse seems to be returning to a more normal condition. The panic at first had about the same effect upon the United States as an alarm of fire has upon an audience at a theatre. The "dash-for-life" impulse momentarily obtained the best of the ordinarily good judgment of American industry, but Yankee shrewdness was not long deceived by such a bug-a-boo scare-crow. The City of St. Louis, with its population of 600,000 inhabitants, suffered very little in comparison with other centres of the country. Not a bank failure was recorded, and while work has been a little slack, charities organised through the needs of the time kept the "wolf from the door."

The *Post-Dispatch*, the leading evening paper of this city, undertook a unique and praiseworthy scheme for the relief of the labouring people during the financial depression. It opened a public subscription to raise a fund to excavate a wide area in the centre of Forest Park, the largest open space in the city, for the purpose of creating a lake. Nearly $50,000 has up to this time been raised, and 1,000 men are now engaged on the excavation. The co-operation of one of the street railways running to the Park and the approval of the City Council was secured, thus guaranteeing the success of the scheme. Nearly 5,000 men volunteered for this work which will give some indication of the unusual number of people out of employ.

Since the close of the World's Fair, three or four young Japanese from Tokyo and Kyoto have opened a store on Olive Street, in this city, and appear to be doing a fair business in curios. There are only four other Japanese in the state of Missouri. One of them lives on Washington Avenue, St. Louis, and is engaged in the manufacture of bamboo articles, which are sold on the market as goods imported direct from Japan. Two Japanese young gentlemen are in Central College Fayette, Mo., training for the Methodist ministry. Their names are Americanized into Geo. G. Sudzuki and Thos. S. Nishikawa. Nishikawa is from Osaka, and Sudzuki from the vicinity of Tokyo. The other Japanese referred to is the Rev. A. S. Ishida, now in Caledonia, Mo., attending the Methodist College there.

We have in St. Louis several hundred Chinamen who are just at present causing considerable trouble. One day this week the police raided one of their gambling dens and captured 50 of the Celestials. They were taken in Hoodlum waggons to the Four Courts, and charged with violating the peace and dignity of the State and City, by engaging in games of chance. It was very amusing to see the court endeavouring to gather an explanation of the game and failing. The Chinese were finally dismissed by paying the costs.

A great religious revival has been sweeping over the United States for almost a year. A few months ago the *Globe-Democrat*, of this city, compiled reports from five different Western States showing that during a period of six months there had been something like 75,000 conversions and accessions to the Church. In nearly every city and town in this country, one denomination or another have already had, or are experiencing, more or less, a great revival in religious activity.

The excitement occasioned about a month ago in the city over the atrocious murder committed by the young millionaire, Dr. Arthur S. Denstrow, has somewhat subsided. Our criminal courts seem utterly unable to measure out any decree of justice to the criminals. The *St. Louis Chronicle* recently published a summary of dealings with criminals in St. Louis for the past two years, by which it demonstrated that out of 300 murders committed only one murderer has been hanged. Our prosecuting attorney has just been cleared of shooting a man in the dead hours of night in a questionable locality of the city. When brought to trial, the Circuit Attorney, instead of addressing the jury asking them to find the man guilty, made a speech in his defence. This curious proceeding has created considerable comment among the indignant public. With such a justice-mill as this it is feared that Denstrow, who shot his wife dead and then took up his child and shot its brains out, will not be brought to justice.

The city of St. Louis is rapidly growing in population, and extends several miles westward over what were, three years ago, cultivated farms. In the centre of the city large buildings have been erected during the last year or two, and in every way great improvements are in progress. This year the Union Trust Building, at the corner of Sixth and Olive Streets, was completed. This is a magnificent fourteen-story building with an observatory on the roof. A tremendous "boom" is now contemplated in the way of improving Twelveth Street, which on account of its being about 300 feet wide, could easily be made into an elegant boulevard. Some of the local daily papers have been for some time agitating the laying of telegraph and telephone wires underground. The city at present is covered by a network of wires, and the underground scheme is naturally resisted by the companies who are financially interested.

The action of the Governor of Colorado in calling out troops to enforce some of his orders has created wide-spread astonishment. It is rumoured that the Governor is insane, and opinion runs high as to the advisability of his arrest—a proceeding unprecedented in this country.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A regular meeting of the above mentioned Society was held in the rooms of the Geographical Society of Japan (Chigaku Kiokai), Nishikonya-cho, Kiobashi-ku, Tokyo, at 5 p.m., on Friday, April 13th, Mr. C. D. West, M.A., Vice-President of the Society, in the Chair.

It was announced that the Committee had decided that the annual meeting should take place on Friday, May 18th, at 4 p.m., at the Seyo-ken, in Uyeno Park, the meeting to be followed by a subscription dinner at 6 p.m.

A very large and varied collection of photographs of Fuji-san from various points of view, the result of many weeks' work during the early winter months, were shown by Mr. Kajima Seibei. Photographs of great interest were also shown by other members of the Society, and these, as well as Mr. Kajima's collection, were much admired. In Mr. Kajima's work remarkable artistic judgment in selection of foregrounds was particularly noticeable.

The proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY.

TEISHINSHO, TOKYO, APRIL 20TH, 1894.

STRANDING OF THE "NAGATO MARU"
JUDGMENT.

The Court of Inquiry assembled this morning in the Marine Bureau of the Teishinsho, Tokyo, to deliver its finding on the inquiry recently held into the circumstances attending the stranding of the N.Y.K. steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Richard Pender, on No. 2 Fort (Saratoga Spit), Tokyo Bay, in March last. Mr. Yoshida, presided, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Ito, the President, and with him sat Mr. Oshima, assessor, and Messrs J. M. James and A. F. MacNab, advisers. The following finding was first read in Japanese and then in the English language :—

STATEMENT.

The *Nagato Maru* was a steel screw steamer of 1,149.39, nett register, 197 nominal horse-power, owned by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. The master was Richard Pender, an English subject.

An inquiry into the circumstances attending the stranding which took place at No. 2 Fort (the Fort on the Saratoga Spit), in the gulf of Tokyo on the 8th of March, 1894, was as follows :—

The *Nagato Maru* left Kobe for Yokohama at noon on the 7th of March, and at 7.6 p.m. on the 8th passed Kannon-saki (in the province of Sagami) at a distance of one mile, the light bearing due west by compass (the course being North by compass at the time, the deviation 3′30″ west), and then altered the course to N. by W. by compass, the deviation still being 3′30″ W. The ship's position was verified by the four-point bearing; the master took the time and bearing and the third officer of the watch took the distance by log; the interval from four-point to beam-bearing was exactly five minutes and the speed of the ship was 12 knots at the time.

The weather at the time whilst passing Kannon-saki and after was thick and squally from N.N.E., accompanied with rain and hail, and no sight of land or light was seen until the fort was sighted right ahead at the moment of the stranding. The master was on the bridge with the chief and third officers and one seaman on the look-out forward. At 7.20 p.m. slowed down the engines and then attered the course to N. by W. ½ W. by compass—the deviation 3′ 30″ W.,—a few minutes afterwards slighted the Fort right ahead. The master then gave the order to stop and reverse engines, almost together, but which was of no avail; the ship stranded forward on the Fort at 7.30 p.m., her speed being about 6½ knots at the time.

Immediately after the ship stranded orders were given to close all valves in the water-tight bulkheads and also to lower all the boats to the water's edge ready for use if required. The depth of water around the ship as she lay at low-water was, abreast of forward, 3 fathoms; abreast of bridge, 52 fathoms; and under the stern, 7 fathoms. The ship made about 8 feet of water in the fore peak, forward of the collision bulk-head, but the ship's bottom, except in this part was intact.

After stranding, the steamer *Fuyo*, and subsequently the *Yamashiro Maru*, came and tried to tow her off, but failed. At 6.15 a.m. on the 10th, a little before high water, she slid off herself by lightening her forward. Steam on the engines being ready at the time she steamed to Yokohama by her own engines. The master attributes the stranding to have been caused by the ebb tide setting the ship to eastward, striking her on port bow instead of the star-board bow which he had previously experienced at the time of the tide. With a strong N.N.E. wind and the first of the ebb-tide he expected to have passed well clear to the West of the Fort, also he had always come up on a similar course at night with ebb and flood tides on, but always had cleared the Fort well at a distance of half on three-quarters of a mile.

JUDGMENT.

The Court having carefully considered the evidence given by the witnesses of the steamship *Nagato Maru*; the evidence consisting of the accounts given by Yoshizaki Takeo, the third officer; John Walker, the second engineer; Tominaga Wasaburo, the seaman on the look-out forward; and Kawamaru Riichiro, the quarter-master at the wheel; who were on watch at the time of stranding, and the entries in the log, the chart which the ship was navigated by, the ship's courses as laid off by the master on the said chart, and the reports of the casualty; taking all the above into consideration, the Court has formed the following opinion :—

It is considered to have been a proper measure that after passing Kannonsaki at 7.6 p.m. on the 8th March, the master reduced the ship's speed from full-speed at 7.20 p.m. on account of the weather being thick and having sighted neither any land nor lights. However, by the statement given by the master that from his previous experience he expected to have passed well clear of the Fort on the course N, by W. ½ W. as he expected the ship would have been to the Westward out of the course by the influence of the ebb-tide with a N.N.E. wind, we find that he made a mis-calculation in his reckoning. Moreover, referring to the position where the stranding took place marked by the master on the chart navigated by, we find that the position of No. 2 Fort on the chart was situated about 3 cables eastward from the true position of the Fort.

In conclusion, the Court is of opinion that although the stranding was caused chiefly from the fact that the weather was thick and so dark that it was impossible to see but a short distance, on the part of the master the direction of the ebb-tide and also the position of the No. 2 Fort have been miscalculated; consequently he took a course too close to the Fort and caused the stranding. The Court therefore reprimands the master, Richard Pender, and cautions him to be more careful in future, but recommends that his certificate be returned to him.

Tokyo, Marine Office, 20th April, 1894.
(Signed) J. ITO, President.
T. OSHIMA, Assessor.

I hereby approve of this finding.
(Signed) Count KURODA KIYOTAKA,
Minister of State for the Department of Communications.
Tokyo, 20th April, 1894.

ADRIFT IN A SEALING BOAT.

A PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

John Clark, one of the boat-pullers of the sealing schooner *Carlotta G. Cox*, who recently returned to Yokohama with others of the men missing from that vessel, has kindly favoured us with the following narrative of the adventures which the men went through ere reaching land :—

The schooner left Yokohama on 13th March bound for the North Pacific on a sealing voyage, and favoured by wind and weather reached the hunting grounds on the 5th April. Seals were plentiful and we lowered boats on the morning of the 8th inst. It was a lovely day, the sea being blue and the atmosphere dancing with light. The schooner was hove-to as we pulled away from her with our hearts light and expectations of a big catch running high. We rowed for about five or six miles, crossing a tide-rip on the way, and then noticed that the water around us had changed from a bright blue to a dirty brown. There was not much time to bestow on this, however, for we were among a large herd of seals and the hunters had to get quickly to work. Our two boats, I noticed, had got seperated from the rest as we pulled to windward, but this also we thought to be of no consequence at the time. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon we lost sight of the schooner, but having taken her bearings felt confident of picking her up before nightfall. The boats worked their way to the north and then to the eastward, and continued on this course till about 4 o'clock, when we thought it time to return to the vessel. Night was coming on, accompanied by a slight mist. This increased as the evening wore on and soon surrounded us closely. We lay by for the night, and at daylight swept the horizon for a sign of the *Carlotta G. Cox*. During the night we had seperated from our companions, but towards eight o'clock in the morning we joined company again. All day we pulled about in search of our missing vessel, but it was in vain. The day slowly lengthened and still no schooner. Things were looking rather desperate for us, too, as a wind was rising and provisions were running short, the boats having only been provided with sufficient for one day's work. At dusk preparations were made for spending another night in the boats. We lowered a sail overboard, attached to the painter, which we intended to act as a drag, while our two boats were made fast together by another painter. The night passed without anything of moment happening, but towards day-break the connecting rope between the boats snapped. The sea by this time was running pretty high, with a stiff breeze from the S.W. It blew from this quarter till about an hour before noonday, when it chopped right round to the N.E. At noon we started to run under jib-sails to the westward and were proceeding merrily, when about 3 o'clock a huge wave broke over the forward boat causing her to capsize. The crew managed to regain her and clung to the keel until the other boat took them on board. Then efforts were made to right the over-turned boat, but all endeavours were unsuccessful owing to the high seas that were running. The water, too, was swarming with sharks and we feared that another upset would endanger life or limb. With six men in her, the remaining boat was rode low on the water and the drag had to be abandoned. We hoisted sail again until nightfall. Next day a hurricane was blowing, but the heavy rain which accompanied the wind kept the sea down. All our provisions had long since vanished and with hungry-looking eyes, cold limbs, and sea-sodden clothes we faced a hopeless dawn. A bitter disappointment was in store for us that day, too. We had been discussing our chances of ever getting rescued or striking the shore when some one descried a sail in the distance. I cannot describe the sensations which this welcome sight evoked, for I have not the pen of a ready writer. It was as if life was opening up for us again, after we had bid it and its chances good-bye. Well, we watched that schooner as she ran before the gale and when she was about two miles off we tried to signal her. We hoisted a bit of a sail at the mast-head and then fired six shots from our hunting rifles. All to no purpose; she did not see us and sailed off into the spray-soaked mist. It was terribly disappointing, and sick at heart we all felt, though each did his very best to enliven the company and fight off the "blues" of despair. The sea was running mountains high, but we managed to keep the boat's head on to the waves thus preventing her from being swamped. Another night went by, and again sail was hoisted and the boat headed for the land, which we concluded lay about W. by N. Late in the afternoon the weather moderated, the sun came out, and our spirits rose. We passed, about this time, a boat bottom-up. It was covered with barnacles and must have been a derelict for a very long time. That evening, about 6 o'clock, land was seen bearing away about 50 miles. It was a welcome sight, and, exhausted though we were, the near prospect of deliverance put new hearts into all of us. We bore on all night, and at daylight were only five miles away. As we approached the shore we discovered that an enormous breaker had to be crossed and the difficulty of the situation would have frightened us had we been in any other than our present plight. But we were desperate men, and seeing some people on the shore we headed the boat straight for them. Providence, for once, was on our side, and we reached the shore safely. The Japanese soon discovered that we were hungry, and in a short space we were all doing our best to get outside of a huge potation of rice and fish. Our sodden clothes were exchanged for Japanese robes, and then hung out to dry. For two days we stayed in a native hotel recovering from the fatigues of the boat-voyage. Our journey down to Yokohama was accomplished with ease, the authorities doing everything they could to facilitate matters. In the names of my fellow-mariners, I desire to return thanks to the Japanese who so kindly helped us after we had drifted ashore, as it were, from the jaws of death, and our thanks are also due to the Government officials who were most untiring in their efforts to help us in every way possible.

RETURN OF TWELVE OF THE "RETRIEVER'S" CREW.

NOTHING DEFINITE KNOWN AS TO MR. SNOW.

By the noon train on Thursday twelve men belonging to the crew of the American sealing schooner *Retriever*, returned to Yokohama from the North-east coast. They were, R. H. Caughell, John Caughell, Geo. Longard, and Fred. Cochrane, hunters; James Riley and John Lui, boat-pullers, and six Chinese. They arrived in charge of the police of Fukushima and were immediately taken to the police station, where food was given them. Having been reported to the police and somewhat refreshed, their sealing guns were taken charge of by the Authorities, while the men marched off to the American Consulate where they were handed over to the Consul. They all looked clean and healthy; indeed, are very little the worse for their boating experience on the North Pacific. It was with surprise that the party learned that their Captain, Mr. H. J. Snow, had not arrived in Yokohama, for they were under the impression that he had left Oginohama for this port some days before their arrival.

George Longard, one of the hunters, a blue-eyed, fair-haired, thoughful-looking man, a typical representative of the Anglo-Saxon race, willingly submitted to an intervew at the hands of a *Japan Mail* reporter, just before returning aboard the little craft now lying quietly at anchor in the busy, noisy harbour, but which he had last seen on the wide, silent hunting-grounds of the North Pacific. His tale was simply told without any attempt at oratorical flourish, and at the present juncture it should prove of interest to local readers. The first ill-luck will befel the *Retriever* on the 22nd March, when, at the close of a busy

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hunting-day, one of the boats capsized and all its occupants, Dan Flaherty, Jim Gassier, and Chun Hing, sank beneath the waves and were seen no more. It occurred so suddenly that no one really saw what happened, except that the boat had disappeared from view. The explanation of the disaster is simple. The dead seals which the boat carried weighed a considerable amount, and were piled up in the bows, pulling the boat's head low in to the water. A heavy roller chanced along, and the boat not lifting in time was swamped beneath the heavy pressure of on-rushing seas. During the whole of the night of the 22nd-23rd the schooner beat to windward, hoping to pick up the hapless three, but their intentions were not realised. The vessel cruised about with varying luck until the 2nd April, and at 6 o'clock on the morning of that eventful day the order was given to lower away boats, seals having been sighted near the vessel. Five boats were lowered, each containing three men—a hunter and two pullers. Hunting continued till about half-past twelve o'clock and then itwas decided to turn. The boats were in a cold tide-rip at the time, and the schooner being in warmer water with the current running in an opposite direction, had failed to keep up with them. As we learnt when she arrived here, the *Retriever* was in a dead calm all day and was unable to advance an inch. When the boats turned at half-past twelve she was nowhere to be seen. George Longard accordingly pulled his boat alongside his Captain's and asked for the bearing. Mr. Snow replied that if they bore N.E. they would fetch up with her, and this order was passed along. Longard, Snow, and Fred. Cochrane accordingly formed up in line, leaving room between each for the various boats to hunt. The three boats kept in line and in sight of each other for about three hours, and then Mr. Snow's boat gradually pulled away. About four o'clock they lost sight of him altogether. When last observed he was still steering N.E., while the other boats had shifted a point, and were on a N.N.E. course. As darkness came down the four boats got seperated, but during the night they gathered together again. It was blowing hard, but by putting two seals overboard they made a drag and then coupled two boats together with painters. In this manner they rode through the night, firing off a gun at intervals, hoping to attract the attenting of the schooner, or of Mr. Snow if he also had failed to fetch up to her. It was still blowing hard when morning broke, but the occupants of the various boats determined upon steering for the north-eastward. Finding their search for the schooner fruitless they gave up hope about an hour before noon and turned their faces to the west. They could see nothing in sight, neither ships, boats, or land. As near as Longard could judge, they were then about 37° N. by 147° E., and had given themselves up for lost. They steered W. and rowed their craft all day, and the second night found them with no water or provisions. In fact, they had left the ship in such a hurry on the morning of the 2nd that no provisions were put into the boat, only a couple of gallons of water finding its way into each locker. But as hunger crept upon them they broke up one of the boats—her crew finding places in the other boats—and making a fire with her timbers managed to cook a little seal-flesh. About 8 o'clock on the following morning their sufferings were at an end; the schooner *Mermaid*, Capt. Whitely, of Victoria, hove in sight and rescued them. She carried them along with her for 10 days before setting them ashore at Yamada, and one day they managed to pick up 30 seals from behind the *Mermaid's* boats, which they gave to her Captain for his kindness. At Yamada they fell in with a little coasting steamer which brought them on to Oginohama, where the police took charge of them. From Oginohama they came on down here, meeting with much kindness from the Japanese all the way.

There now remains to account for three others of the *Retriever's* crew, Mr. H. J. Snow, the Chinese bo'sun, and another Chinaman. When the party of twelve arrived at Oginohama they were told, or rather made out from what the Japanese police told them, that a foreigner who could speak Japanese well, and two Chinese, had gone down south to Yokohama four days before, and they naturally concluded that this party was their Captain, Mr. H. J. Snow, and his two Chinese boat-pullers. As we know here, Mr. Snow has not yet turned up, so that the three persons so described must have got mixed up in somebody's mind with the first three men of the *Carlotta G. Cox* who arrived here on Sunday last. There is, of course, the possibility that Mr. Snow was picked up by another sealing schooner and that he is engaged in looking after his lost schooner, not knowing that she has made Yokohama. The rescued men say that after they were picked up by the *Mermaid* they saw several schooners, but their Captain was not reported as being on one of them. They all repeat the tale of the capsizing of the schooner *Mascotte*. When the boats finished hunting on the 2nd, their respective catches were, 19, 18, 18, 10, and the Captain had 10 seals.

HER MAJESTY'S SERVANTS.

By Rudyard Kipling.

It had been raining heavily for one whole month—raining on a camp of thirty thousand men and thousands of camels, elephants, horses, bullocks, and mules, all gathered together at a place called Rawal Pindi, to be reviewed by the Viceroy of India. He was receiving a visit from the Amir of Afghanistan—a wild king of a very wild country; and the Amir had brought with him for a body-guard eight hundred men and horses who had never seen a camp or locomotive before in their lives—savage men and savage horses from somewhere at the back of Central Asia. Every night a mob of these horses would be sure to break their heelropes and stampede up and down the camp through the mud in the dark, or the camels would break loose and run about and fall over the ropes of the tents, and you can imagine how pleasant that was for men trying to go to sleep. My tent lay far away from the camel lines, and I thought it was safe; but one night a man popped his head in and shouted, "Get out, quick! They're coming! My tent's gone!"

I knew who "they" were; so I put on my boots and waterproof and scuttled out into the slush. Little Vixen, my fox-terrier, went out through the other side; and then there was a roaring and a grunting and bubbling, and I saw the tent cave in, as the pole snapped, and begin to dance about like a mad ghost. A camel had blundered into it, and wet and angry as I was, I could not help laughing. Then I ran on, because I did not know how many camels might have got loose, and before long I was out of sight of the camp, ploughing my way through the mud. At last I fell over the tail-end of a gun, and by that knew I was somewhere near the Artillery lines where the cannon were stacked at night. As I did not want to plowter about any more in the drizzle and the dark, I put my waterproof over the muzzle of one gun, and made a sort of wigwam with two or three rammers that I found, and lay along the tail of another gun, wondering where Vixen had got to, and where I might be. Just as I was getting ready to go to sleep I heard a jingle of harness and a grunt, and a mule passed me shaking his wet ears. He belonged to a screw gun battery, for I could hear the rattle of the straps and rings and chains and things on his saddle-pad. The screw guns are tiny little cannon made in two pieces, that are screwed together when the time comes to use them. They are taken up mountains, anywhere that a mule can find a road, and they are very useful for fighting in rocky country. Behind the mule there was a camel, with his big soft feet squelching and slipping in the mud, and his neck bobbing to and fro like a strayed hen's. Luckily, I knew enough of beast language—not wild-beast language, but camp-beast language, of course,—from the natives to know what he was saying. He must have been the one that flopped into my tent, for he called to the mule, "What shall I do? Where shall I go? I have fought with a white thing that waved, and it took a stick and hit me on the neck." (That was my broken tent-pole, and I was very glad to know it.) "Shall we run on?"

"Oh, it was you," said the mule, you and your friends, that have been disturbing the camp? All right. You'll be beaten for this in the morning; but I may as well give you something on account now."

I heard the harness jingle as the mule backed and caught the camel two kicks in the ribs that rang like a drum. "Another time," he said, "you'll know better than to run through a mule-battery at night, shouting 'Thieves and fire!' Sit down, and keep your silly neck quiet."

The camel doubled up camel-fashion, like a two-foot rule, and sat down whimpering. There was a regular beat of hoofs in the darkness, and a big troop-horse cantered up as steadily as though he were on parade, jumped a gun-tail, and landed close to the mule.

"It's disgraceful," he said, blowing out his nostrils. "Those camels have racketed through our lines again—the third time this week. How's a horse to keep his condition if he isn't allowed to sleep? Who's here."

"I'm the breech-piece mule of number two gun of the First Screw Battery," said the mule, "and the other's one of your friends. He's waked me up too. Who are you?"

"Number Fifteen, E. troop, Ninth Lancers—Dick Cunliff's horse. Stand over a little, there."

"Oh, beg your pardon," said the mule. "It's too dark to see much. Aren't these camels too sickening for anything? I walked out of my lines to get a little peace and quiet here."

"My lords," said the camel humbly, "we dreamed bad dreams in the night, and we were very much afraid. I am only a baggage camel of the 39th Native Infantry, and I am not as brave as you are, my lords."

"Then why didn't you stay and carry baggage for the 39th Native Infantry, instead of running all round the camp?" said the mule.

"They were such very bad dreams," said the camel. "I am sorry. Listen! What is that? Shall we run on again?"

"Sit down," said the mule, "or you'll snap your long fool-legs between the guns." He cocked one ear and listened. "Bullocks!" he said. "Gun-bullocks. Oh my word, you and your friends have waked the camp very thoroughly. It takes a good deal of prodding to put up a gun-bullock."

I heard a chain dragging along the ground, and a yoke of the great sulky white bullocks that drag the heavy siege-guns when the elephants won't go any nearer to the firing, came shouldering along together; and almost stepping on the chain was another battery mule, calling wildly for "Billy."

"That's one of our recruits," said the old mule to the troop-horse. "He's calling for me. Here youngster, stop squealing; the dark never hurt anybody yet."

The gun-bullocks lay down together and began chewing the cud, but the young mule huddled close to Billy.

"Things!" he said. "Fearful and horrible things, Billy! They came into our lines while we were asleep. D'you think they'll kill us?"

"I've a very great mind to give you a number one kicking," said Billy. "The idea of a fourteen-hand mule with your training disgracing the battery before this gentleman!"

"Gently, gently!" said the troop-horse. "Remember they are always like this to begin with. The first time I ever saw a man (it was in Australia when I was a three-year-old). I ran for half a day, and if I'd seen a camel, I should have been running still."

Nearly all our horses for the English cavalry are brought to India from Australia, and are broken in by the troopers themselves.

"True enough," said Billy. "Stop shaking, youngster. The first time they put the full harness with all its chains on my back, I stood on my fore-legs and kicked every bit of it off. I hadn't learned the real science of kicking then, but the battery said they had never seen anything like it."

"But this wasn't harness or anything that jingled," said the young mule. "You know I don't mind that now, Billy. It was things like trees, and they fell up and down the lines and bubbled; and my head rope broke, and I couldn't find my driver, said I couldn't find you, Billy, so I ran off with—with these gentlemen."

"H'm!" said Billy. "As soon as I heard the camels were loose I came away on my own account. When a battery—a screw-gun—mule calls gun-bullocks gentlemen, he must be very badly shaken up. Who are you fellows on the ground there?"

The gun-bullocks rolled their cuds, and answered both together: "The seventh yoke of the first gun of the Big Gun Battery. We were asleep when the camels came, but when we were trampled on we got up and walked away. It is better to lie quiet in the mud than to be disturbed on good bedding. We told your friend here that there was nothing to be afraid of, but he know so much that he thought otherwise. Wah!"

They went on chewing.

"That comes of being afraid," said Billy. "You get laughed at by gun-bullocks, I hope you like it, young 'un."

The young mule's teeth snapped, and I heard him say something about not being afraid of any beefy old bullock in the world; but the bullocks only clicked their horns together and went on chewing.

"Now, don't be angry after you've been afraid. That's the worst kind of cowardice," said the troop-horse. "Anybody can be forgiven for being scared in the night, *I* think, if they see things they don't understand. We've broken out of our pickets, again and again, four hundred and fifty of us, just because a new recruit got to telling tales of whip-snakes at home in Australia till we were scared to death of the loose ends of our headropes."

"That's all very well in camp," said Billy; "I'm not above stampeding myself, for the fun of the thing, when I haven't been out for a day or two; but what do you do on active service?"

"Oh, that's quite another set of new shoes," said the troop-horse, "Dick Cunliffe's on my back then, and drives his knees into me, and all I have to do is to watch where I am putting my feet, and

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to keep my hind legs well under me, and be bridle-wise."

"What's bridle-wise?" said the young mule.

"By the Blue Gums of the Back Blocks," snorted the troop-horse, "do you mean to say that you aren't taught to be bridle-wise in your business? How can you do anything, unless you can spin round at once when the rein is pressed on your neck? It means life or death to your man, and of course that's life and death to you. Get round with your hind legs under you the instant you feel the rein on your neck. If you haven't room to swing round, rear up a little and come round on your hind legs. That's being bridle-wise."

"We aren't taught the way," said Billy the mule, stiffly. "We're taught to obey the man at our head; step off when he says so, and step in when he says so. I suppose it comes to the same thing. Now, with all this fine fancy business and rearing, which must be very bad for your hocks, what do you *do*?"

"That depends," said the troop-horse. "Generally I have to go in among a lot of yelling, hairy men with knives,—long shiny knives, worse than the farrier's knives,—and I have to take care that Dick's boot is just touching the next man's boot without crushing it. I can see Dick's lance to the right of my right eye, and I know I'm safe. I shouldn't care to be the man or horse that stood up to Dick and me when we're in a hurry."

"Don't the knives hurt?" said the young mule.

"Well, I got one cut across the chest once, but that wasn't Dick's fault—"

"A lot I should have cared whose fault it was, if it hurt!" said the young mule.

"You must," said the troop-horse. "If you don't trust your man, you may as well run away at once. That's what some of our horses do, and I don't blame them. As I was saying, it wasn't Dick's fault. The man was lying on the ground, and I stretched myself not to tread on him, and he slashed up at me. Next time I have to go over a man lying down I shall step on him—hard."

"H'm! said Billy; "it sounds very foolish, knives are dirty things at any time. The proper thing to do is to climb up a mountain with a well-balanced saddle, hang on by all four feet and your ears too, and creep and crawl and wriggle along, till you come out hundreds of feet above any one else, on a ledge where there's just room enough for your hoofs. Then you stand still and keep quiet—never ask a man to hold your head, young 'un—keep quiet while the guns are being put together, and then you watch the little poppy shells drop down into the tree-tops ever so far below."

"Don't you ever trip?" said the troop-horse.

"They say that when a mule trips you can split a hen's ear," said Billy. "Now and again *perhaps* a badly packed saddle will upset a mule, but it's very seldom. I wish I could show you our business. It's beautiful. Why, it took me three years to find out what the men were driving at. The science of the thing is never to show up against the sky-line, because, if you do, you may get fired at. Remember that, young 'un. Always keep hidden as much as possible, even if you have to go a mile out of your way. I lead the battery when it comes to that sort of climbing."

"Fired at without the chance of running into the people who are firing!" said the troop-horse, thinking hard. "I couldn't stand that. I should want to charge, with Dick."

"Oh no, you wouldn't; you know that as soon as the guns are in position *they'll* do all the charging. That's scientific and neat; but knives—pah!"

The baggage-camel had been bobbing his head to and fro for some time past, anxious to get a word in edgeways. Then I heard him say, as he cleared his throat, nervously:

"I—I—I have fought a little, but not in that climbing way or that running way."

"No. Now you mention it," said Billy, "you don't look as though you were made for climbing or running—much. Well, how was it, old Haybales?"

"The proper way," said the camel. "We all sat down——"

"Oh, my Crupper and Breastplate!" said the troop-horse under his breath. "Sat down!"

"We sat down—a hundred of us," the camel went on, "in a big square, and the men piled our kajawahs, our packs and saddles, outside the square, and they fired over our backs, the men did, on all sides of the square."

"What sort of men? Any men that came along?" said the troop-horse. "They teach us in riding school to lie down and let our masters fire across us, but Dick Cunliffe is the only man I'd trust to do that. It tickles my girths, and, besides, I can't see with my head on the ground."

"What does it matter who fires across you?" said the camel. "There are plenty of men and plenty of other camels close by, and a great many clouds of smoke. I am not frightened then. I sit still and wait."

"And yet," said Billy, "you dream bad dreams and upset the camp at night. Well! well! Before I'd lie down, not to speak of sitting down, and let a man fire across me, my heels and his head would have something to say to each other. Did you ever hear anything so awful as that?"

There was a long silence, and then one of the gun-bullocks lifted up his big head and said, "This is very foolish indeed. There is only one way of fighting."

"Oh, go on," said Billy. "*Please* don't mind me. I suppose you fellows fight standing on your tails?"

"Only one way," said two together. (They must have been twins.) "This is that way. To put all twenty yoke of us to the big gun as soon as Two Tails trumpets." ("Two Tails" is camp slang for the elephant.)

"What does Two Tails trumpet for?" said the young mule.

"To show that he is not going any nearer to the smoke on the other side. Two Tails is a great coward. Then we tug the big gun all together—*Heyah—Hullah! Heeyah! Hullah!* We do not climb like cats nor run like calves. We go across the level plain, twenty yoke of us, till we are unyoked again, and we graze while the big guns talk across the plain to some town with mud walls, and pieces of the wall fall out, and the dust goes up as though many cattle were coming home."

"Oh! And you choose that time for grazing?" said the young mule.

"That time or any other. Eating is always good. We eat till we are yoked up again and tug the gun back to where Two Tails is waiting for it. Sometimes there are big guns in the city that speak back, and some of us are killed, and then there is all the more grazing for those that are left. This is Fate—nothing but Fate. None the less, Two Tails is a great coward. That is the proper way to fight. We are brothers from Hapur. Our father was a sacred bull of Shiva. We have spoken."

"Well, I've certainly learned something to-night," said the troop-horse. "Do you gentlemen of the screw-gun battery feel inclined to eat when you are being fired at with big guns, and Two Tails is behind you?"

"About as much as we feel inclined to sit down and let men sprawl all over us, or run into people with knives. I never heard such stuff. A mountain ledge, a well-balanced load, a driver you can trust to let you pick your own way, and I'm your mule; but—the other things——No!" said Billy, with a stamp of the foot.

"Of course," said the troop-horse, "every one is not made in the same way, and I can quite see that your family, on your father's side, would fail to understand a great many things."

"Never you mind my family on my father's side," said Billy angrily; for every mule hates to be reminded that his father was a donkey. "My father was a Southern gentleman, and he could pull down and bite and kick into rags every horse he came across. Remember that, you big brown Brumby!"

Brumby means wild horse without any breeding. Imagine the feelings of Ormonde if a 'bus-horse called him a cocktail, and you can imagine how the Australian horse felt. I saw the white of his eyes glitter in the dark.

"See here, you son of an imported Malaga jackass," he said between his teeth, "I'd have you know that I'm related on my mother's side to Carbine, winner of the Melbourne Cup, and where I come from we aren't accustomed to being ridden over roughshod by any parrot-mouthed, pig-headed mule in a pop-gun pea-shooter battery. Are you ready?"

"On your hind legs!" squealed Billy. They both reared up facing each other, and I was expecting a furious fight, when a gurgly, rumbly voice, called out of the darkness to the right:—"Children, what are you fighting about there? Be quiet."

Both beasts dropped down with a snort of disgust, for neither horse nor mule can bear to listen to an elephant's voice.

"It's Two Tails!" said the troop-horse. "I can't stand him. A tail at each end isn't fair!"

"My feelings exactly," said Billy, crowding into the troop-horse for company. "We're very alike in some things."

"I suppose we've inherited them for our mothers," said the troop-horse. "It's not worth quarrelling about. Hi! Two Tails, are you tied up?"

"Yes," said Two Tails, with a laugh all up his trunk. "I'm picketed for the night. I've heard what you fellows have been saying. But don't be afraid. I'm not coming over."

The bullocks and the camel said, half aloud:—"Afraid of Two Tails—what nonsense!" And the bullocks went on:—"We are sorry that you heard, but it is true. Two Tails, why are you afraid of the gun when they fire?"

"Well," said Two Tails, rubbing one hind leg against the other, exactly like a little boy saying a poem, "I don't quite know whether you'd understand."

"We don't, but we have to pull the guns," said the bullocks.

"I know it, and I know you are a good deal braver than you think you are. But it's different with me. My battery captain called me a Pachydermatous Anachronism the other day."

"That's another way of fighting, I suppose?" said Billy, who was recovering his spirits."

"*You* don't know what that means, of course, but I do. It means betwixt and between, and that is just where I am. I can see inside my head what will happen when a shell bursts; and you bullocks can't."

"I can," said the troop-horse. "At least, a little bit. I try not to think about it."

"I can see more than you, and I *do* think about it. I know there's as great deal of me to take care of, and I know that nobody knows how to cure me when I'm sick. All they can do is to stop my driver's pay till I get well, and I can't trust my driver."

"Ah!" said the troop horse. "That explains it. I can trust Dick."

"You could put a whole regiment of Dicks on my back without making me feel any better. I know just enough to be uncomfortable, and not enough to go on in spite of it."

"We do not understand," said the bullocks.

"I know you don't. I'm not talking to you. You don't know what blood is."

"We do," said the bullocks. "It is red stuff that soaks into the ground and smells."

The troop-horse gave a kick and a bound and a snort.

"Don't talk of it," he said. "I can smell it now, just thinking of it. It makes me want to run—when I haven't Dick on my back."

"But it is not here," said the camel and the bullocks. "Why are you so stupid?"

"It's vile stuff," said Billy. "I don't want to talk about it."

"There you are!" said Two Tails, waving his tail to explain.

"Surely. Yes, we have been here all night," said the bullocks.

Two Tails stamped his foot till the iron ring on it jingled. "Oh, I'm not talking to *you*. You can't see insids your heads.

"No. We see out of our four eyes," said the bullocks. "We see straight in front of us."

"If I could do that and nothing else you wouldn't be needed to pull the big guns at all. If I was like my captain—he can see the things inside his head before the firing begins, and he shakes all over, but he knows too much to run away—if I was like him I could pull the guns. But if I were as wise as all that I should never be here. I should be a king in the forest, as I used to be, sleeping half the day and bathing when I liked. I haven't had a good bath for a month."

"That's all very fine," said Billy; "but giving a thing a long name does't make it any better."

"Hsh!" said the troop-horse, "I think I understand what Two Tails means."

"You'll understand better in a minute," said Two Tails angrily. "Now you just explain to me why you don't like this!"

He began trumpeting furiously at the top of his trumpet.

"Stop that!" said Billy and troop-horse together, and I could hear them stamp and shiver. An elephant's trumpeting is always nasty, especially on a dark night.

"I shan't stop," said Two Tails. "Won't you explain that, please? *Hhrrmph! Rrrt! Rrrmph! Rrrhha!* Then he stopped suddenly, and I heard a little whimper in the dark, and knew that Vixen had found me at last. She knew as well as I did that if there is one thing in the world the elephant is more afraid of than another it is a little barking dog; so she stopped to bully Two Tails in his pickets, and yapped round his big feet. Two Tails shuffled and squeaked. "Go away, little dog!" he said. "Don't snuff at my ankles, or I'll kick at you. Good little dog—nice little doggie, then! Go home, you yelping little beast! Oh, why doesn't some one take her away? She'll bite me in a minute."

"Seems to me," said Billy to the troop-horse, "that our friend Two Tails is afraid of most things. Now, if I had a full meal for every dog I've kicked across the parade-ground I should be as fat as Two Tails nearly."

I whistled, and Vixen ran up to me, muddy all over, and licked my nose, and told me a long tale about hunting for me all through the camp. I

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never let her know that I understood beast talk, or she would have taken all sorts of liberties. So I buttoned her into the breast of my overcoat, and Two Tails shuffled and stamped and growled to himself.

"Extraordinary! Most extraordinary!" he said. "It runs in our family. Now, where has that nasty little beast gone to?"

I heard him feeling about with his trunk.

"We all seem to be affected in various ways," he went on, blowing his nose. "Now, you gentlemen were alarmed, I believe, when I trumpeted."

"Not alarmed, exactly," said the troop-horse, "but it made me feel as though I had hornets where my saddle ought to be. Don't begin again."

"I'm frightened of a dog, and the camel here is frightened by bad dreams in the night."

"It is very lucky for us that we haven't all got to fight in the same way," said the troop-horse.

"What I want to know," said the young mule, who had been quiet for a long time—"What I want to know is, why we have to fight at all."

"Because we're told to," said the troop-horse, with a snort of contempt.

"Orders," said Billy the mule; and his teeth snapped.

"*Hukm hai!*" (It is an order), said the camel with a gurgle; and Two Tails and the bullocks repeated, "*Hukm hai!*"

"Yes, but who gives the orders?" said the recruit mule.

"The man who walks at your head—Or sits on your back—Or holds the nose rope—Or twists your tail," said Billy and the troop-horse and the camel and the bullocks one after the other.

"But who gives them the orders?"

"Now you want to know too much, young un," said Billy, "and that's one way of getting kicked. All you have to do is to obey the man at your head and ask no questions.

"He's quite right," said Two Tails. "I can't always obey, because I'm betwixt and between; but Billy's right. Obey the man next to you who gives the order, or you will stop all the battery, besides getting a thrashing."

The gun-bullocks got up to go. "Morning is coming," they said. "We will go back to our lines. It is true that we only see out of our eyes, and we are not very clever; but still, we are the only people to-night who have not been afraid. Good night, you brave people."

Nobody answered, and the troop-horse said, to change the conversation. "Where's that little dog? A dog means a man somewhere about."

"Here I am," yapped Vixen, "under the gun-tail with my man. You big, blundering beast of a camel you, you upset our tent. My man's very angry."

"Phew!" said the bullocks. "He must be white!"

"Of course he is," said Vixen. "Do you suppose I'm looked after by a black bullock-driver?"

"*Huah! Ousch! Ugh!*" said the bullocks. "Let us get away quick."

They plunged forward in the mud, and managed somehow to run their yoke on the pole of an ammunition waggon, where it jammed.

"Now you *have* done it," said Billy calmly. "Don't struggle. You're hung up all daylight. What on earth's the matter?"

The bullocks went off into the long hissing snorts that Indian cattle give, and pushed and crowded and slued and stamped and slipped and nearly fell down in the mud, grunting savagely.

"You'll break your necks in a minute," said the troop-horse. "What's the matter with white men? I live with 'em."

"They—eat—us! Pull!" said the near bullock: the yoke snapped with a twang and they lumbered off together.

I never knew before what made Indian cattle so scared of Englishmen. We eat beef—a thing that no cattle-driver touches—and of course the cattle do not like it.

"May I be flogged with my own pad-chains? Who'd have thought of two big lumps like those losing their heads?" said Billy.

"Never mind. I'm going to look at this man. Most of the white men, I know, have things in their pockets," said the troop-horse.

"I'll leave you, then. I can't say I'm over-fond of 'em myself. Besides, white men who haven't a place to sleep in are more than likely to be thieves, and I've a good deal of Government property on my back. Come along, young 'un, and we'll go back to our lines. Good night, Australia! See you on parade to-morrow, I suppose. Good night, old Hay-bales!—try to control your feelings, won't you? Good night, Two Tails! If you pass us on the ground to-morrow, don't trumpet. It spoils our formations."

Billy the mule stumped off with the swaggering limp of an old campaigner, as the troop-horse's head came nuzzling into my breast, and I gave him biscuits; while Vixen, who is a most conceited little dog, told him fibs about the scores of horses that she and I kept.

"I'm coming to the parade to-morrow in my dog-cart," she said. "Where will you be?"

"On the left hand of the second squadron. I set the time for all my troop, little lady," he said politely. "Now I must go back to Dick. My tail's all muddy, and he'll have two hours' hard work dressing me for parade."

The big parade of all the thirty thousand men was held that afternoon, and Vixen and I had a good place close to the Viceroy and the Amir of Afghanistan, with his high big black hat of astrachan wool and the great diamond star in the centre. The first part of the review was all sunshine, and the regiment went by in wave upon wave of legs all moving together, and guns all in a line, till our eyes grew dizzy. Then the Cavalry came up, to the beautiful cavalry canter of "Bonnie Dundee," and Vixen cocked her ear where she sat on the dog-cart. The second squadron of the Lancers shot by and there was the troop-horse, with his tail like spun silk, his head pulled into his breast, one ear forward and one back, setting the time for all his squadron, his legs going as smoothly as waltz-music. Then the big guns came by, and I saw Two Tails and two other elephants harnessed in line to a forty-pounder siege-gun, while twenty yoke of oxen walked behind. The seventh pair had a new yoke, and they looked rather stiff and tired. Last came the screw-guns, and Billy the mule carried himself as though he commanded all the troops, and his harness was oiled and polished till it winked. I gave a cheer all by myself for Billy the mule, but he never looked right or left.

The rain began to fall again, and for a while it was too misty to see what the troops were doing.

They had made a big half-circle across the plain, and were spreading out into line. That line grew and grew till it was three-quarters of a mile long from wing to wing—one solid wall of men, horses and guns. Then it came on straight towards the Viceroy and the Amir, and as it got nearer the ground began to shake, like the deck of a steamer when the engines are going fast.

Unless you have been there you cannot imagine what a frightening effect this steady come-down of troops has on the spectators, even when they know it is only a review. I looked at the Amir. Up till then he had not shown the shadow of a sign of astonishment or anything else; but now his eyes began to get bigger and bigger, and he picked up the reins on his horse's neck and looked behind him. For a minute it seemed as though he were going to draw his sword and slash his way out through the English men and women in the carriages at the back. Then the advance stopped dead, the ground stood still, the whole line saluted, and thirty bands began to play all together. That was the end of the review, and the regiments went off to their camps in the rain; and an infantry band struck up with—

The animals went in two by two,
Hurrah!
The animals went in two by two,
The elephant and the battery mu-
l', and they all got into the Ark
For to get out of the rain!

Then I heard an old, grizzled, long-haired Central Asian chief, who had come down with the Amir, asking questions of a native officer.

"Now," said he, "in what manner was this wonderful thing done?"

And the officer answered, "An order was given, and they obeyed."

"But are the beasts as wise as the men?" said the chief.

"They obey, as the men do. Mule, horse, elephant, or bullock, he obeys his driver, and the driver his sergeant, and the sergeant his lieutenant, and the lieutenant his captain, and the captain his major, and the major his colonel, and the colonel his brigadier commanding three regiments, and the brigadier the general, who obeys the Viceroy, who is the servant of the Empress. Thus it is done."

"Would it were so in Afghanistan!" said the chief; "for there we obey only our own wills."

"And for that reason," said the native officer, twirling his moustache, "your Amir whom you do not obey must come here and take orders from our Viceroy."—*Singapore Free Press.*

ECZEMA.—Book on "Skin Trouble," sent free for One Stamp by Messrs. NORTH & RAE, Limited, Yokohama.

Tommy had received a whipping from his ma. Ten minutes afterwards he crawled into the pantry, and as he set to on the best strawberry jam he muttered to himself "Revenge is sweet!"

THE NEW TREATY BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES.

Washington, March 24th.

The publication of the full text of the proposed Chinese treaty in this evening's papers, says the San Francisco *Chronicle*, has thrown the Pacific Coast colony at Washington in a state of considerable excitement. The most surprising development of the day has been the announcement on the part of the Democrats in the California delegation that they favour the treaty.

Representative Maguire says that he does not favour the exclusion of the Chinese on the ground that they compete with American labour. That would be in the nature of protection, to which he is thoroughly opposed. He considers the present treaty perfectly satisfactory, because, from his point view, it will cultivate a friendly feeling between the two Governments and because it accomplishes the same purpose as the Geary law and its amendments.

Mr. Maguire is opposed to Chinese immigration solely on the ground that the Chinese are a race who do not affiliate with Caucasians and become thoroughly imbued with our institutions. The fact that they drain the country and lower the price of labour is out of his line of argument. He does not find anything in the treaty to make it easier for Chinese to enter this country.

Mr. Caminetti characterized the treaty as a triumph of the Administration. He says that it disposes of the vexed question between the two nations and put the Geary law in force on a footing consistent with treaty obligations, as has not previously been the case.

No advices received here from California are such as would lead one to suppose that there was any vexed question at issue there, unless it be that the present laws in force are not yet enough to wholly keep out the Chinese. In fact, it appears that the alleged vexed question is one that has reached its vexatiousness since the news of the treaty has been made public. Of course, it has been well known that the Chinese desired a change in the treaty as it stands at present. In the early part of last December rumours of such a treaty were about Washington, and it now transpires that negotiations have been in active progress since then.

The Chinese Minister at first made an effort to open still wider loopholes for the entrance of Chinese, but on this he was opposed by the Administration. He showed that there was a strong prejudice in his country against the free admission of missionaries to China while the Chinese were not allowed to come here and prosecute legitimate business. He said that in case restriction was insisted upon by the country the Emperor might deem it his right to retaliate by placing an embargo upon our missionaries, who constitute 30 per cent. of the permanent American population of China; also it would be detrimental to the interests of American merchants residing in China and engaged in the export business to have the Emperor continue in his present attitude toward Americans.

On the other hand, the wily diplomat maintained that by cultivating the goodwill of his Chinese Highness and of Li Hung-chang, the Chinese Premier, many important and valuable concessions might be thrown in the way of Americans in building up the new developments of China, of which much has been heard, but nothing done.

It was in consideration of such representations and of the desire on the part of Mr. Cleveland to make our treaty obligations consistent with our statutes that led to the present treaty.

The statement that the treaty was seen and approved by Senator White before he left for California was on excellent authority, notwithsanding that Senater Perkins said to-night that he was confident that Mr. White had not seen it. This impression was because of the fact that the treaty remained in comparative obscurity in the Senate up to the time it was given in outline in the Committee on Foreign Relations immediately upon its arrival in the Senate in executive session. As it was not read, it naturally came only to the notice of the committee. Senator White, however, is said to have been shown the treaty in confidence by Secretary Gresham and to have approved of it, although it is known with what reservation. If Senator White had seen the treaty through the regular channels he would have undoubtedly spoken of it to his collague.

It is thought to be highly probable that Senator White could have approved of the second clause of the treaty, which opens the way for a large importation of Chinese, and Senator Pekins says that he does not think his colleague would wish to see that clause ratified by the Senate.

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The treaty will probably be reported at the next executive session of of the Senate on Monday. Its consideration will undoubtedly be postponed at the instance of Senator Pekins, who will insist that a matter so affecting the Pacific Coast should not be under debate in the absence of one of the Senators from the locality most interested. This will delay the passing upon its merits for at least two weeks.

Senator Dolph is opposed to the treaty because he sees in it a practical nullification of the prohibitive laws now in force. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, he has endeavoured to have stricken out that part of the second clause which allows the privilege of re entry to Chinese having debts owing them or having near relatives in this country. He has not met with success, and he will in his minority report touch upon that subject among others. In case sentiment appears to sanction the ratification of the treaty by the Senate, an amendment will be strenuously pushed to strike out this clause. Other amendments will also be offered sufficient in toto to break the force of the entire treaty in so far as it changes the existing law of the land.

It looks at present as if the chances of the treaty to be approved by the senior body would be about even, but much depends upon the action of Senator White when he returns. It is not probable that he will vote for its rejection.

It is said that Senator Hill will join forces with the Republicans against the bill. But, on the other hand, Davis of Minnesota, a Republican Senator, who is moved by religious sentiment in the matter, will stand for the adoption of the treaty, and will favour further concessions at any time they may be proposed. Davis is also a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and his position will thus carry more force than it otherwise would.

Senator Morgan's views are not yet known.

Mr. Geary was at first disposed to oppose the treaty, but he had not seen its text until to-night. He then said that he was in its favour and that he would give out a statement of his reason therefor. There are reasons to believe that he has since discovered a flaw in the treaty or that he has perhaps changed his opinion. He was not to be seen on the matter to-night although he was much in demand by correspondents, who exhausted all resources in looking for him. He will, it is said, give out a statement of his views to-morrow afternoon after maturer consideration of the matter.

Considerable curiosity is expressed over his apparent change of mind, as shown by his remarks before and after having seen the full text of the treaty, and this for the reason that the text now made public does not essentially differ from the forecast as previously published. It would not be surprising if Mr. Geary opposed the latest novelty of the Administration. He was not taken into the councils upon the drawing up of the treaty, notwithstanding the fact that during the major portion of its negotiation he was not on record as being at outs with the party policy.

The fact that one who has been so prominent in anti-Chinese legislation was left out of thought was one point for the Chinese.

The recommendations of the Foreign Relations Committee will carry much weight with the Democrats of the majority. It is interesting to note that only one of this committee is from the locality that has been largely invaded by Chinese. He is Mr. Dolph. The other members of the committee are Morgan of Alabama, Butler of North Carolina, Gray of Delaware, Turpie of Indiana, Daniel of Virginia, Democrats, and the following Republicans:—Sherman of Ohio, Frye of Maine, and Davis of Minnesota.

One of these said to-night that a report favouring the treaty would be signed by six of the committee.

The Populist Senators are looked for to aid in the defeat of the ratification. Representative Cannon of the California delegation is out and out against the treaty.

Missionary work is being done by Senator Perkins and others. Senator Davis does not find it the kind of missionary work of which he is in favour. He seems to believe in bringing the Chinese to this country and here showing them the evil of their ways.

Mr. Caminetti qualifies the approval with the statement that clause 2 should be altered.

Senater Perkins, when interviewed, said that the treaty would, if approved, become the paramount law of the land in reference to the exclusion of Chinese. It would, therefore, clearly open our doors to the entrance of Chinese cheap labour. In his opinion, the Chinese Six Companies would receive the new arrangement with great glee. They would have no need of using the relative clause, although that was capable of being turned to the uses of importers of Chinese. The Six Companies would work the indebtedness clause.

They would simply arrange to show by legal documents that various Chinese had debts owing them to amount of the $1,000 in this country. If necessary they could make out notes for that sum, payable to each subject whom it was desired to import. These notes could be recorded and made out with all the legal red-tape that might be necessary, and then the Chinese would come back on the certificate of some other Chinese, and would be made by the Six Companies to hand over the note without payment.

The photographic requirements would not necessarily stand in the way of this transaction; in fact, it is not yet made clear that a photograph will be necessary under the new treaty. Senator Perkins is of the opinion that it will not, and he is backed up in this by one of the committee who is in favour of the treaty. Others contend that photographs are still obligatory, inasmuch as the treaty states that no objection is to be made by the Chinese Government to our acts for the purpose of prohibiting emigration. This is in article 5, which is a monument of diplomatic documentation, as she is written by Gresham. It is in direct contradic with article 2, which contains a clause relating to indebtedness and to relations possessed in this country by Chinese. No such exception as therein contained forms any part of our existing law, which expressly states without reservation that no Chinese labourer shall come into this country. There is no clause which allows re-entry under any circumstances.

Senator Pekins pointed out that, even if photographs were still to be required, it would be found that many Chinese were being registered in half a dozen places at a time, and that the reason comparatively few were being registered was because many of them desired to be deported to China free of charge, such as desired to return relying on false certificates or those procured from other Chinese to open the way for their return.

Another point not yet fully appreciated is that photographs by exposure to the sun may be made so nearly illegible that it will be difficult to distinguish the features of the subject. There is such a strong resemblance between many Chinese that it would not be difficult to exchange certificates in many cases.

For this reason any treaty allowing the return of Chinese under any circumstances may be regarded as nullifying the letter and intent of the present restriction laws.

Representative Loud said that he had not yet closely examined the treaty, but that, from a brief inspection, he thought it was an extremely vicious measure, as well as one which would turn the whole Pacific Coast against the Administration if there were any Democrats left out there.

Referring to the statement that the present treaty is the forerunner of a commercial treaty, he asked what benefit this country would derive from such a treaty that would compensate for flooding our labour markets with Mongols. In the first place but few privileges were in the hands of Chinese with regard to imports. All our importations go by way of Hongkong, which is an English port. England had acquired with this port all privileges that could be given to us by China. In any case, there was little to be gained from any further trade with China, because the Chinese were so poor that there was not much of our products they could use. We already supply them with flour, and we shall continue to do this so long as we can compete with other countries, and no longer. According to one authority, China was beginning to manufacture her own cloth. Therefore we should have only a brief chance of competing for the sale of a limited amount of machinery. The ideas of oriental trade which used to fill the dreams of many Americans were now pretty well exploded. England with her force of arms had got little out of the actual trade with China except in the importation of opium from India. The promise of the extension of our Chinese trade was simply Chinese diplomacy.

Representative Bowers said that the treaty was simply another move by the Administration for the benefit of future Republican majorities in California. It was an arrangement to reopen our ports to cheap labour and to destroy the fruits of a hard-earned victory in Congress. Even the present restriction laws were not wholly satisfactory in their workings and would not be wholly so in results. With this new gateway opened labor would be stricken down in California with a blow that was a sort of ornamental finisher to that struck by the Wilson Bill.

Mr. Hilborn said that there could not be a shadow of a doubt but that the Chinese would begin to flow over the borders as soon as the treaty was ratified. He criticised the drawing up of the treaty as a bad piece of bungling.

TEXT OF THE TREATY.

Washington, March 24th.

The following is a copy of the treaty which has been negotiated with China. It was sent to the Senate on March 19th with a simple note of transmission, saying it had been concluded at Washington on March 17th. It is accompanied by nothing in the way of a communication from Secretary Gresham. The treaty is as follows:—

Whereas, On the 17th of November, A.D. 1880, and of Kwansui, the sixth year, the tenth month, and the 15th day, a treaty was concluded between the United States and China for the purpose of regulating, limiting, or suspending the coming of Chinese labourers to and their residence in the United States, and, whereas, the Government of China, in view of the antagonism and much depreciated and serious disorders to which the presence of Chinese labourers has given rise in certain parts of the United States, desires to prohibit the emigration of such labourers from China to the United States; and, whereas, the two Governments desire to co-operate in prohibiting such emigration and to strengthen in many other ways the bonds of relationship between the two countries; and, whereas, the two Governments are desirous of adopting reciprocal measures for the better protection of the citizens or subjects of each within the jurisdiction of the other, now therefore, the President of the United States has appointed Walter Q. Gresham, Secretary of State, as his Plenipotentiary, and his Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of China, has appointed Yang Yui, Officer of the Second Rank, sub-director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship and Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and the said Plenipotentiaries having exhibited their respective full powers, found to be in due form and good faith, have agreed upon the following articles:—

Article 1.—The high contracting parties agree that for a period of ten years, beginning with the date of exchange of ratification of the convention, the coming, except under conditions hereinafter specified, of Chinese labourers shall be absolutely prohibited.

Article 2.—The preceding article shall not apply to the return to the United States of any registered labourer who has a lawful wife, child, or parent in the United States, or property therein of the value of $1,000 or debts of like amount due him and pending settlement; nevertheless every Chinese labourer shall, before leaving the United States, deposit, as a condition of his return, with the Collector of Customs of the district from which he departs, a full description in writing of his family or property of debts, as aforesaid, and shall be furnished by said Collector with such certificate of his right to return under this treaty as the laws of the United States may now or hereafter prescribe, and not inconsistent with the provisions of this treaty; and should the written description of aforesaid prove to be false the right of return thereunder or of continued residence shall in each case be forfeited. Such right of return to the United States shall be exercised within one year from date of leaving the United States; but such right of return to the United States may be extended for an additional period, not to exceed one year, in cases where by reason of sickness or other cause of disability beyond his control such Chinese labourer shall be unable to sooner return, which facts shall be fully reported to the Chinese Consul at the port of departure and by him certified to the satisfaction of the Collector of the Port at which such Chinese subject shall land in the United States and no such Chinese labourer shall be permitted to enter the United States by land or sea without producing to the proper officer of the customs the return certificate herein required.

Article 3.—The provisions of this convention shall not affect the right at present enjoyed of Chinese subjects, officials, teachers, students, merchants, or travellers for curiosity or pleasure, but only labourers, of coming to the United States and resident therein. To entitle such Chinese subjects as are above described to admission in the United States they may produce a certificate from their Government or the Government where they last reside, by diplomatic or Consular representative of the United States in the country or port from which they depart. It is also agreed that Chinese labourers shall continue to enjoy the privilege of transit across the territory of the United States in the course of their journey to or from other countries, subject to such regulations by the Government of the United States as may be necessary to prevent said privilege of transit from being abused.

Article 4.—In pursuance of article 3 of the im-

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migration treaty between the United States and China, signed on the 17th day of November, 1880, at Peking, it is hereby understood and agreed that the Chinese of any other class either permanently or temporarily residing in the United States shall have for the protection of their persons and property all rights that are given by the laws of the United States to citizens of the most favoured nation, excepting the right to become naturalized citizens. And the Government of the United States reaffirms its obligations as stated in said article 3 to exert all its power to secure protection to the persons and property of all Chinese subjects in the United States.

Article 5.—The Government of the United States having by Act of Congress, approved May 1, 1882, as amended by the Act approved May 5, 1893, required all Chinese labourers lawfully within the limits of the United States by the first-named act to be registered as in said acts provided, with a view of affording them better protection, the Chinese Government will not object to the enforcement of such acts, and reciprocally the Government of the United States recognizes the right of the Government of China to enact and enforce similar laws or regulations for the registration, free of charge, of labourers, skilled or unskilled (not merchants as defined by said acts of Congress), citizens of the United States in China, whether residing within or without treaty ports, and the Government of the United States agrees that within two months of the date of the exchange and ratification of this convention, and annually thereafter, it will furnish to the Government of China registers and reports showing the full name, age, occupation, and number of the place of residence of all its citizens of the United States, including missionaries, residing both within and without treaty ports of China, not including diplomats and other officers of the United States residing in China upon official business, together with their body and household servants.

Article 6.—This convention shall remain in force for a period of ten years beginning with the date of the exchange of ratifications, and if, six months before the expiration of the said period of ten years, neither Government shall be formally given notice of its termination to the other, it shall remain in force for another like period of ten years.

Signed in duplicate this 17th day of March, 1894.

WALTER Q. GRESHAM,
Secretary of State.

YANG YUI,
Chinese Minister to the United States.

Secretary Gresham in conversation with a Representative noted that the text of the proposed new treaty with China had been published, but he added that it had not been made public by the State Department. The comments of public men on the treaty, showing the sentiment toward it, are apparently being regarded with much interest by him.

IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY REGATTA.

The Spring Regatta of the Teikoku Dai Gakko Undokwai on Saturday last was a most successful affair, most of the races being closely contested, while there was much enthusiasm among the competitors and their friends. The strong wind which began to blow shortly after noon raised clouds of dust and made it rather unpleasant for spectators. H.I.H. the Crown Prince and suite arrived shortly after one, and remained until the Championship had been rowed off, when he took his departure, being loudly cheered as he passed the students who had been drawn up in line to receive their prizes. There were also a number of foreigners present, while the multicoloured dresses of the Japanese ladies and children added brilliancy to the scene. A band was in attendance which played a selection of music. Enthusiasm ran high when the Championship was rowed, this being won by the Law Students, who were chaired by their companions and carried to the Stand, where they received their prizes, silver medals inlaid with gold presented by the *Fiji Shimpo*, and the Championship flag. The following are the results of the events, the first six being rowed in the morning, and even with the cancelling of two races the Regatta did not finish till 6 o'clock :—

	WHITE BOAT.	GREEN BOAT.
Bow.	J. Kato.	J. Yokobori.
2.	E. Kudo.	H. Hayashi.
3.	C. Sato.	M. Shibukawa.
4.	K. Saigo.	E. Suzuki.
5.	K. Kawai.	B. Hayama.
6.	T. Sato.	Y. Shima.
Cox.	T. Hashimoto.	Y. Arai.

	RED BOAT.	PURPLE BOAT.
Bow.	O. Sagata.	R. Yoshida.
2.	S. Sakamoto.	N. Saika.
3.	K. Takasu.	K. Oshima.
4.	N. Yashiro.	R. Yamada.
5.	T. Suda.	S. Mizuno.
6.	Takino.	H. Harada.
Cox.	Kihara.	S. Mochida.

	GREEN.	RED BOAT.
Bow.	K. Fujioka.	I. Nomura.
2.	Y. Hamano.	G. Yoshida.
2.	K. Tosaka.	T. Ando.
4.	H. Nishi.	T. Omori.
5.	K. Shida.	S. Osawa.
6.	Y. Sekimoto.	K. Suzuki
Cox.	Y. Nakaizumi.	T. Yonegawa.

	WHITE BOAT.	PURPLE BOAT.
Bow.	M. Yoshino.	S. Sekine.
2.	S. Takada.	M. Tokiye.
3.	K. Nansai.	S. Omura.
4.	N. Tachihara.	S. Oshigata.
5.	T. Ohara.	K. Isaka.
6.	K. Tajima.	S. Ishimaru.
Cox.	M. Hiraiishi.	K. Niho.

JAPANESE SAMPANS.

RED BOAT.	WHITE BOAT.
K. Ihara.	T. Tsuji.
T. Shirano.	Y. Takahashi.
Y. Aoki.	K. Miyako.
J. Kono.	Y. Nakaizumi.

Time, 12.41.

	PURPLE BOAT.	GREEN BOAT.
Bow.	K. Makino.	M. Matsuoka.
2.	R. Ikeda.	G. Furuta.
3.	M. Yoshino.	S. Minamikumo.
4.	K. Hirose.	T. Yamao.
5.	S. Niimoto.	K. Kawanishi.
6.	N. Tachihara.	K. Kawai.
Cox.	T. Yamada.	C. Shiba.

	WHITE BOAT.	RED BOAT.
Bow.	S. Suzuki.	K. Fuha.
2.	K. Morishima.	C. Nagasawa.
3.	T. Okawara.	S. Eto.
4.	S. Oshigata.	T. Sugawara.
5.	K. Kakehi.	T. Akaya.
6.	K. Shimamura.	K. Kishi.
Cox.	S. Kohara.	K. Kashida.

Time, 7.56.

	LAW.	MEDICINE.	ENGINEERING.
	GREEN BOAT.	RED BOAT.	WHITE BOAT.
Bow.	K. Shida.	S. Mizuno.	A. Mano.
2.	K. Kawata.	T. Sato.	C. Matsuno.
3.	K. Issaka.	H. Hayama.	G. Mochida.
4.	S. Ishimaru.	G. Moriya.	K. Suzuki.
5.	S. Tanaka.	S. Yasaki.	S. Osawa.
6.	S. Kusakabe.	T. Kawai.	Y. Shima.
Cox.	T. Ibukiyama.	S. Aoki.	Y. Tomita.

Time, 6.11.

	GREEN BOAT.	PURPLE BOAT.
Bow.	M. Atsuta.	C. Shirota.
2.	K. Fujimoto.	K. Yoshikawa.
3.	D. Tsuruta.	T. Kamiya.
4.	K. Kagawa.	G. Tsuji.
5.	K. Tosaka.	S. Niimoto.
6.	S. Takata.	T. Yamao.
Cox.	K. Wadagaki.	K. Tamba.

	WHITE BOAT.	RED BOAT.
Bow.	R. Ito.	K. Horiike.
2.	K. Hirose.	T. Tokumi.
3.	K. Senno.	K. Fujioka.
4.	E. Tanaka.	K. Shimamura.
5.	T. Ando.	I. Nomura.
6.	T. Omori.	S. Tsutsumi.
Cox.	S. Shimizu.	J. Nakayama.

Time, 7.41.

	PURPLE BOAT.	GREEN BOAT.
Bow.	R. Ito.	K. Fuha.
2.	K. Horiike.	T. Tokumi.
3.	R. Tsumagi.	S. Eto.
4.	K. Yoshikawa.	Y. Hamao.
3.	T. Okawara.	T. Akadani.
6.	K. Kishi.	K. Kagawa.
Cox.	T. Ito.	C. Shiba.

	WHITE BOAT.	RED BOAT.
Bow.	T. T. Fujita.	M. Matsuoka.
2.	C. Nagasawa.	K. Fujimoto.
3.	M. Atsuta.	T. Nishimura.
4.	E. Tanaka.	S. Sekine.
5.	I. Eisaki.	T. Iwasaki.
6.	T. Sugawara.	K. Kakehi.
Cox.	K. Nakamura.	T. Ohara.

This was a well contested race, but Green fell all to pieces opposite the Stand. Time, 8.40.

	LAW.	ENGINEERING.	MEDICINE.
	GREEN BOAT.	WHITE BOAT.	RED BOAT.
Bow.	T. Suda.	S. Omura.	M. Shibukawa.
2.	I. Ibukiyama.	Y. Sekimoto.	K. Saigo.
3.	M. Kobayashi.	C. Sato.	K. Ito.
4.	N. Yashiro.	T. Kawada.	R. Yamada.
5.	Y. Miura.	K. Yamada.	K. Taniguchi.
6.	K. Kubota.	K. Takagi.	T. Kanamori.
Cox.	B. Takahashi.	S. Shiota.	R. Ikepa.

Another close race, but the Law Students had a lot up their sleeve and won by half a length. Time, 7.52.

DAI-ICHI KOTO CHU GAKKO.

	PURPLE BOAT.	BLUE BOAT.
Bow.	U. Matsumoto.	K. Okamatsu.
2.	J. Nishikawa.	K. Yamauchi.
5.	C. Tani.	K. Sano.
4.	S. Hahazato.	M. Ota.
5.	H. Okino.	S. Taka.
6.	S. Ban.	H. Mori.
Cox.	K. Ito.	M. Iwasa.

	GREEN BOAT.	WHITE BOAT.
Bow.	I. Saito.	K. Fuse.
2.	B. Tezuka.	Y. Ozaki.
3.	S. Yokota.	I. Murayama.
4.	I. Sugimoto.	T. Imoto.
5.	N. Fukushima.	S. Watanabe.
6.	H. Iwata.	M. Kuribayashi.
Cox.	S. Ono.	K. Mitani.

Time, 7.02.

COLLEGE CHAMPION CREWS.

	LAW.	MEDICINE.	ENGINEERING.
	Green Boat.	Red Boat.	White Boat.
Bow.	M. Kobayashi.	T. Taniguchi.	A. Mano.
2.	K. Kawada.	T. Kanamori.	T. Matsuno.
3.	Y. Miura.	K. Ito.	G. Mochida.
4.	K. Kubota.	G. Moriya.	T. Kawada.
5.	S. Tanaka.	S. Yasaki.	K. Yamada.
6.	S. Kusakabe.	T. Kawai.	K. Takagi.
Cox.	B. Takahashi.	S. Aoki.	Y. Tamagawa.

The crews kept together until near home, when the Law Students drew away and won amid great excitement by about two lengths. Time, 6.34.

	GREEN BOAT.	RED BOAT.	WHITE BOAT.
Bow.	O. Sagata.	R. Kawoku.	T. Yokobori.
2.	K. Tajima.	S. Sakamoto.	K. Nishi.
3.	K. Oshima.	K. Takasu.	Y. Tamagawa.
4.	E. Tsuki.	H. Haruo.	S. Hirota.
5.	K. Kawai.	R. Yoshida.	K. Nansai.
6.	S. Harada.	I. Takino.	Y. Tomita.
Cox.	J. Kono.	Y. Arai.	S. Mochida.

Time, 7.29.

KOTO SHOGIO GAKKO.

	RED BOAT.	PURPLE BOAT.
Bow.	T. Kakiuchi.	K. Nagano.
2.	J. Ando.	S. Kubota.
3.	I. Shizawa.	S. Kaminari.
4.	I. Mitani.	T. Kato.
5.	T. Yamaguchi.	Y. Ota.
6.	K. Wada.	S. Kuboye.
Cox.	R. Saito.	Y. Yujiro.

	WHITE BOAT.	GREEN BOAT.
Bow.	J. Nakayama.	T. Nakajima.
2.	I. Yoshitomi.	T. Miyaoka.
3.	T. Kimura.	K. Okazaki.
4.	A. Tachikawa.	K. Nagauma.
5.	S. Nishio.	J. Kawarabayashi.
6.	K. Sonoda.	J. Shiogi.
Cox.	T. Kamiki.	N. Nakamura.

Time, 6.53.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, April 14.

The Navy Estimates have been brought up in the House of Commons and agreed to. Speaking on the votes for the building of new ships, the Secretary to the Admiralty said that it was intended to make the British Fleet equal to the fleets of any two foreign countries combined.

London, April 16.

The Riaz Ministry in Egypt has resigned, and a new ministry has been formed by Nubar Pasha, who takes the portfolio of Premier. The French press comment upon this change in a most acrimonious tone.

London, April 18.

The House of Commons read a second time the bill introduced by Colonel John P. Nolan for the repeal of the Coercion Act of 1887, the Government supporting the bill.

The House of Lords has passed the Behring Sea Award Bill.

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(Specially telegraphed to the "Japan Mail.")
[From the "N.-C. Daily News."]

London, April 9.

It is stated that King Humbert, Queen Margherita, and the Prince of Naples will probably visit Queen Victoria at Florence on Tuesday.

It is now settled that teas blended in England in bond will have to pay a duty of 10 per cent. in Canada.

The House of Commons has passed the East London Waterworks Bill by a majority of one against the Government.

April 10.

The Emperor of Germany arrived at Venice on Saturday last, and had the grandest and most cordial reception that it was possible to arrange, continual fêtes in honour of His Majesty's visit being held.

It is understood that the British Government has decided to retain possession of Uganda by means of local administration.

April 11.

An important meeting of tea traders was held in the City yesterday, at which resolutions were adopted protesting against the imposition of 10 per cent. duty on tea imported into Canada from England. The meeting appointed a deputation to wait upon the Hon. C. H. Tupper.

April 12.

The King and Queen of Italy, accompanied by the Prince of Naples, visited Queen Victoria at Florence yesterday in semi-State. Queen Victoria afterwards returned the visit.

Colonel Vaughan-Jones has been appointed to succeed Sir Charles Warren in command of Her Majesty's Forces in the Straits Settlements.

April 14.

The Earl of Rosebery has announced that Her Majesty's Government has resolved to establish a British Protectorate with a regular administration in Uganda, and that other details, including the question of a railway to Kikuyu, are under consideration.

Sir William Harcourt has stated in the House of Commons that it is not intended to introduce a Scotch Home Rule Bill.

The Legislative Assembly of Ottawa has announced that though imports of tea will be permitted viâ England on through bills of lading, purchases from bond in England will not be allowed.

The Swazi army has assembled at Bremersdorf to protest against the Transvaal rule, and demanding autonomy for Swaziland.

(From Tonkin Papers.)

Paris, March 25.

The *Journal* announces the termination of M. de Lanessan's Governorship of Indo-China. The *Agence Havas* denies the statement.

Paris, March 26.

The Socialist Congress in session at Vienna is considering the question of a universal strike.

Paris, March 28th.

M. Boulanger, in receiving the staff of the Colonial Office, said that the establishment of a Ministry for the Colonies signalised the increasing importance of Colonial affairs and called for new efforts. He will strengthen the control of the inspecting staff. He relies on the loyal assistance of the members of the service, who may equally rely upon him.

Paris, March 29.

The remains of Kossuth have been removed to Pesth. Demonstrations were made at all the Italian stations at which the train stopped.

Paris, March 30.

The Emperor of Austria has conferred the order of St. Etienne on M. Carnot.

The French and Austrian journals consider the conferring of this decoration as indicating a pacific and amicable spirit.

Paris, April 2.

Gen. Caprivi, in an interview, declared that Germany had no thought of disarming, notwithstanding its pacific sentiments. No cloud exists on the European horizon.

The Russian journals, in connection with the decoration conferred by the Emperor of Austria on M. Carnot, dwell on the pacific spirit of the whole of Europe.

The daily arrests of Anarchists are ceasing.

General Duchemin will this year inspect the troops of all arms in Indo-China.—*Daily News.*

[From Manila Papers.]

Madrid, March 30.

At Santander to-day, the population having been ordered to retire to a safe distance, four torpedoes were launched for the destruction of the wreck of the *Machichaco*, on which the dynamite explosions occurred. It is believed that all that remained of the hull has been destroyed. The work was accomplished without any further accident.

The Minister for the Colonies, Señor Becerra, in reply to the Deputies for Cuba and Porto Rico, stated to-day that it had been resolved to stop the circulation, officially, of foreign money in the Spanish Colonies.

(From Japanese Papers.)

Osaka, April 16, 12.45 p.m.

The Minister of Education inspected the Commercial School, the Normal, and the Higher Female School during this forenoon. He also visited the Iron Foundry on the banks of the Ujigawa and the Spinning Mills at Sangenya.

Fukushima, April 16, 3.10 p.m.

The fifteenth general assembly of the Tokoku Political Association was held here yesterday, at which over two hundred people were present.

Yamagata, April 16th, 1.12 p.m.

Influenza and typhoid fever are very prevalent here, and a large majority of the officials are unable to attend duty.

Hiroshima, April 17, 12.50 p.m.

Some leading residents of this town propose constructing a railway to Miyajima with a capital of 220,000 *yen*.

Gifu, April 18, 4.11 p.m.

Mr. Inouye, Minister of Education, arrived here to-day.

Kyoto, April 18, 1.40 p.m.

Mr. Spaulding, of the Tiffany Co., arrived here last night, and put up at the Tokiwa Hotel.

Osaka, April 18, 7.52 p.m.

About 3 p.m. yesterday a fight broke out between some 150 fishermen of Hidaka District, Kishu Province, and 90 of Kishiwada, Izumi Province, off the shore at Mioura in the former District. Seven boats belonging to Kishiwada were upset, fourteen men being more or less severely injured, and two are missing. The Headman of Kishiwada and some other Kishiwada fishermen proceeded to the spot last night.

Söul, April 16.

Many Koreans are much incensed at the action of the Government in subjecting the remains of Kim to ignominious treatment. Since the night of the public exposure of the corpse some suspicious-looking men have been wandering about the gibbet, and fears are entertained that they will take the butchered remains away. A company of guards was to-day despatched to watch the remains. The residents are panic-striken.

Nemuro, April 18.

A foreign sealing schooner, supposed to be the *Henry Denis*, which hails from San Francisco, has run on a shoal off Shibotsu island.

Morioka, April 18, 11 a.m.

An American employé on a Japanese fishing vessel was assaulted by some seamen at Sunuga-saki Point last night, and the foreigner was slightly injured.

Wakayama, April 19, 2.40 p.m.

A violent earthquake was felt here at 6.35 a.m.

Osaka, April 19th.

The delegates who are attending a grand general assembly of various Exchanges throughout the country, have agreed to establish a commercial bank with a capital of *yen* 5,000,000, and Messrs. Oye, Isono, Tamate, Yonekura, and Yoshida, promoters of the gathering, have been appointed to take charge of business connected with the establishment of the bank together with five other commissioners to be elected from the deputies of the united Exchanges.

Osaka, April 20, 3.20 p.m.

At a special general meeting of shareholders of the Naniwa Railway Co., held to-day, it was resolved to increase the capital of the company from *yen* 150,000 to *yen* 250,000.

Nemuro, April 20, 8.55 a.m.

Four of the crew of the American schooner *Henry Denis*, which went ashore a few days ago near Shibotsu Island, have arrived here, and appealed to the local branch of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for help. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has despatched a steamer to the spot.

Söul, April 19.

The corpse of Kim Ok-kyün was taken down from the gibbet yesterday, and the Authorities are yet undecided as to whether it would be advisable to expose it at prominent places throughout the country, or to bury the remains at Chikuzan.

Osaka, April 20, 4.30 p.m.

Upwards of five hundred supporters of the reassessment of the value of taxable land met at a general meeting here to-day. The inauguration of the Great Farmer's League took place at the meeting.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

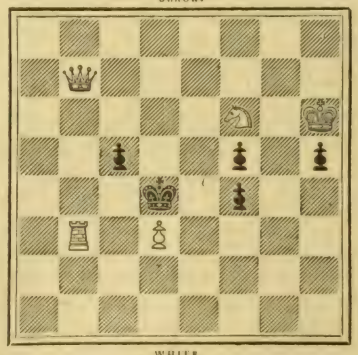
Solution of Problem No. 117.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to B 3	1—K × R
2—Q to Kt 3, ch.	2—K to Q 5
3—Kt to K 6, mate	
	if 2—P to K 6
3—Q × P (K 3), mate	
	1—P × R
2—Q to Kt 6, ch.	2—K × P
3—Kt to Kt 6, mate	
	if 1—P to K 6
2—Q × P	2—P × R
3—Kt to K 6, mate	
	if 2—K × R, or other move.
3—Q to Q 3, mate	
	if 1—K × P
2—Q to Kt 7, ch.	2—K × Kt
3—Q to Kt 3, mate	
	if 2—K to Q 3
3—Q to Q B 7, mate	
	if 1—P to R 7
2—Q to Kt 6, ch.	2—K × R
3—Q × P (K 3), mate	
	if 2—K × P
3—Kt to Kt 6, mate.	

Correct solutions received from Omega ("A good problem, sound in wind and limb,") W.H.S., J.D. (who, like ourselves, found the variation of 1—P × R extremely difficult), and Aling (who remarks how interesting it is to see the use of the Black P on K 6 in preventing three other solutions.)

Problem No. 119.

Motto: "Labor improbus omnia vincit."



White to play and mate in three moves.

Steinitz-Lasker Match.

This commenced in New York on Thursday, 15th March, and recent New York papers give the

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result of the first two games. They were both 'Ruy Lopez' and Lasker scored the first while Steinitz won the second. We shall publish from time to time the most interesting games as they come to hand.

GAME No. 124.

FRENCH DEFENCE.

WHITE. —Fritz.	BLACK. J. Mason.
1 P—K 4	1 P—K 3
2 P—Q 4	2 P—Q 4
3 Kt—Q B 3	3 Kt—K B 3
4 B—K Kt 5	4 B—K 2
5 B × Kt	5 B × B
6 Kt—B 3 (*a*)	6 Castles (*b*)
7 B—Q 3	7 P—Q Kt 3
8 P—K R 4 (*c*)	8 B—Kt 2
9 P—K 5	9 B—K 2
10 B × P ch.	10 K × B
11 Kt—Kt 5 ch.	11 K—Kt 3 (*d*)
12 Kt—K 2	12 B × Kt
13 P × B	13 P—K B 4 (*e*)
14 Kt P × P e.p.	14 R—R sq.
15 Kt—B 4 ch.	15 K—B 2
16 Q—Kt 4 (*f*)	16 R × R ch.
17 K—Q 2	17 P × P
18 Q—Kt 6 ch.	18 K—K 2
19 Q—Kt 7 ch.	19 K—K sq.
20 Q—Kt 8 ch.	20 K—K 2
21 Q × P ch.	21 K—B sq.
22 R × R	22 B—B sq.
23 R—R 8 ch.	23 K—Kt 2
24 R—R 7 ch. (*g*)	24 K × R
25 Q—B 7 ch.	25 K—R sq.
26 Kt—Kt 6 mate.	

NOTES.

(*a*).—Best. The advance of the King's Pawn is more effective later.

(*b*).—Herr Fritz proves in this game that the text move loses. Later analysis confirmed that result, and it was supposed that White's continuation would revolutionize this opening. Herr Lasker, however, shews that if Black play 6P—QR3, and continue later with P—QB4, he can generally obtain an even, and often a superior position.

(*c*).—This move, followed up by the sacrifice of a bishop, was Herr Friiz's innovation.

(*d*).—There is nothing better. If 11...K—Kt sq, instead, then 12 Q—R5, and White mates next move. If 11...B × Kt; 12 P x B dis ch, K—Kt3; 13 Q—R5 ch, K—B4; 14 R—R3 and mates next move.

(*e*).—If 13...Q x P instead, then 14 Kt—B4 ch, K—B4 (if 14...Q x Kt; 15 Q—R5 mate); 15 Q—Q3 ch, K—Kt5; 16 Q—KR3 ch, K x Kt; 17 Q—KB3 mate.

(*f*).—Beautifully played! White continues his attack in a masterly manner. The sacrifice of the rook is only temporary, as black cannot capture the second rook on account of the threatened mate by Q x KP ch, and Kt—Kt6 mate.

(*g*).—An elegant and fitting termination to a beautiful game.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, April 27th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.*
From America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, April 28th.†
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, April 21st.‡
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Sunday, April 29th.§
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 6th.‖
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Sunday, May 6th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, May 10th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, May 16th.

* *City of Sydney* left San Francisco on April 4th. † *China* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on April 10th. ‡ *Ancona* left Kobe on April 20th. § *Natal* left Hongkong on April 19th. ‖ *Belgic* left San Francisco on April 19th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, April 24th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, April 28th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, May 4th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, May 5th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, May 7th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, May 11th
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, May 12th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, May 18th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, May 19th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Port Phillip, British steamer, 1,732, Jas. Grey 14th April,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Retriever, American schooner, 75, 14th April,—Put Back, 340 Seals.—T. M. Laffin.

Bothwell Castle, British steamer, 1,683, Robertson, 14th April,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Polyphemus, British steamer, 1,803, R. F. Seale, 14th April,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tritos, German steamer, 1,085, Dessler, 14th April,—Takao, Sugar.—Flint, Kilby & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 14th April,—Kobe 13th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 15th April,—Kobe 14th April, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 16th April,—Vancouver, B.C., 3rd April, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,730, F. J. Brown, 16th April,—Niigata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 16th April,—Kobe 15th April, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 16th April,—San Francisco 29th March, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 16th April,—Kobe 15th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 16th April,—Otaru viâ ports 14th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 17th April,—Kobe 16th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ghazee, British steamer, 1,827, Scotland, 17th April,—London viâ Shanghai, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Cardiganshire, British steamer, 1,657, Sincock, 17th April,—New York viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Nüernberg, German steamer, 2,007, H. Walter, 17th April,—Hongkong 11th April, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Dryfesdale, British steamer, 1,574, J. R. Stewart, 18th April,—Singapore viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Volute, British tank-steamer, 2,348, Stott, 18th April,—Batoum, Petroleum.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Panton, R.N.R., 18th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Suruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 447, Muramatsu, 19th April,—Kobe 17th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 19th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, 11th April, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 19th April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 19th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, 12th April, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kambira, British ship, 1,452, H. W. Lancht, 19th April,—Cardiff viâ Nagasaki 8th April, 2,000 tons Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, C. Olsen, 19th April,—Kobe 18th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rheingold, German steamer, 637, Bahls, 19th April,—Manila, Sugar.—Chinese.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 20th April,—Shanghai and ports, 14th April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Achilles, British steamer, 1,470, Bartlett, 21st April,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

DEPARTURES.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 15th April,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Asano & Co.

Burma, Australian steamer, 2,004, F. Paschich, 15th April,—Hongkong via Moji, Ballast.—China & Japan Trading Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, C. Olsen, 15th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Port Phillip, British steamer, 1,732, Jas. Grey, 15th April,—New York viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 15th April,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 856, K. Kori, 15th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 15th April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 16th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,730, F. J. Brown, 16th April,—Fushiki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 17th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 17th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 17th April,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tritos, German steamer, 1,085, Dessler, 17th April,—Takao, Ballast.—Flint, Kilby & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 18th April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hideyoshi Maru, Japanese steamer, 465, S. Asai, 18th April,—Kobe, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Polyphemus, British steamer, 1,803, R. F. Seale, 19th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ghazee, British steamer, 1,827, Scotland, 19th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Saipan, British schooner, 75, J. T. Blanchfield, R.N.R., 19th April,—Guam, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 19th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 19th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cardiganshire, British steamer, 1,657, Sincock, 20th April,—Otaru, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Forfait (16), French cruiser, Captain Ricaloux, 20th April,—Nagasaki.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, Hugo Walter, 20th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 20th April,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Panton, R.N.R., 21st April,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru,* from Kobe :—1 passenger in second class and 18 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of India,* from Vancouver, B.C. :—Mrs. F. L. Babbott, Mr. M. Baggallay, Mr. J. Barrett, Mr. John W. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Boyd, Miss Boyd, Mr. A. J. H. Carlill, Miss Choinard, Mr. F. N. Corbin, Mr. J. H. Craven, Mr. F. A. Cundill, Mrs. Darrow, Mr. F. T. Dwyer, Mr. F. E. Fernald, Mr. J. Ward Hall, Mr. J. Hawes, Mr. M. H. R. Harris, Mr. A. H. Heath, Mr. J. Wesley Ladd, Mrs. W. S. Ladd, Mrs. C. E. Ladd, Mr. A. D. Lowe, Mr. H. Maki, Mr. H. A. J. MacRay, Mr. M. Marians, Mr. M. Matsumoto, Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, Mr. C. Overbeck, Miss B. L. Poulette, Mr. O. A. Poole, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Pratt, Mr. Harold T. Pratt, Mr. H. G. Querns, Mr. Edgar Quackenbush, Mr. J. Richards, Mr. J. Fred. Rodenwald, Miss M. J. Shea, Mr. A. P. Simpson, Mr. Neil Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Smith and daughter, Mr. F. W. Styan, Miss M. A. Terry, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wilson, and Mr. H. Witte in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Peking,* from San Francisco :—Mr. F. H. Leggett, Mrs. J. R. Wolfe, Mr. T. W. Hellyer and family, Dr. W. R. Faries and family, Mr. J. A. Murray, Rev. J. W. Moore, Mr. J. W. Harding, Miss L. Moore and child, Mr. Richard Haasis, Miss E. Boardman, and Mr. Frank Samuels in cabin.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg,* from Hongkong :—Mr. George Griffith, Mr. Charles Lund, Mr. Henry Win, Mr. George Thursby, Mr. and Mrs. Zillacus, Mr. R. Krebs, and Mr. Fr. Kruse in cabin; Mrs. Ohstsakang, Mrs. Fuji Tetsu Komye and child, Mr. and Mrs. Schulenbach and child, Mr. T. W. Eckhoff, Mr. Chang Lee Yun, Mr. Low Chen Tang, Mrs. Chang, Mr. Lee Yun Bet, Mr. Sing Tun, Mr. Yeik, Mr. Chang, and Mr. Chai in second class, and 47 Chinese on Deck.

Per British steamer *Victoria,* from Hongkong viâ ports :—Mr. E. S. Wheeller, Mr. A. Coutts, Miss C. A. Stone, and Miss M. Holbrook in cabin; and 140 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of China,* from Hongkong viâ ports :—Mr. and Mrs. Hulton, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Murray, Miss MacKintosh, Mr. and Mrs. Ashmore, Lieut. Payne, Mrs. D. E. Brown, Mrs. Post, Mr. and Mrs. Konnor, Mr. J. Otto, Mr. J. Irish, Lieut. E. D. Ogilvie, Mr. G. W. Lake, Mr. and Miss Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Kellar, Mr. Fernald, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Player, Mr. Lees, Mrs. Stewart, Miss C. Bell, Mr. Jubin, Rev. and Miss Swan, Misses Brandon (2), Mr. May, Mr. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bois, Miss Phillips, Mr. McLean, Miss Kinahan, Mr. D. Glass, Master A. H. Fahey, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. and Mrs. Gulland, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. E. Runge, Miss MacCarthy, Mr. R. Lundt,

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Mr. Wilford, Mr. R. Garvey, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Miss White, Miss Young, Mr. and Mrs. J. Foster, and Mr. F. Chapin in cabin; 7 passengers in second class, and 410 passengers in Asiatic steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. A. J. Sisson, Mr. J. S. Hamilton, Mr. H. C. Dring, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and servant, Mr. T. Benson, Captain C. Cass, Lieut. C. J. Gareia, Mr. R. Lane, Dr. and Mrs. Wm. Young, and Mr. K. Shimidzu in cabin. For San Francisco:—Surgeon-Major O. Cusack, Rev. and Mrs. Jamieson, Miss Jamieson, Rev. H. J. Von Qualen, and Dr. and Mrs. C. S. Terrill in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Hogan, Mr. E. C. Clitherow, Dr. Epoff, Mr. V. Kurilaff, Mr. T. A. Rougine, Mr. S. Yamada, Mr. S. Iwano, and Miss Daisy Fitzgerald in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Wong, Mr. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Oka, Mr. Oka, Master Oka, Mrs. N. Kawaguchi, Mr. Marshall Lucas, Mr. Sakai, Mr. T. Nakayama, and Mrs. Matsumoto in second class, and 92 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Loveland, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Tuska, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsley and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Tilden, Miss Divers, Mrs. May and courier, Mrs. Bech and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Macey, Master Macey, Mrs. C. A. Ladd, Miss Ladd, Mr. Ladd, Mr and Mrs. Pratt, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Brockhurst, Mrs. L. Bobbatt, Mrs. Ewing, and Mr. Fernald in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss Lombard, Mrs. L. B. Graham, Miss H. Beach, Miss F. A. Duffield, Miss E. Bourdenan, Mrs. J. R. Wolfe, Archdeacon J. R. Wolfe, Dr. and Mrs. Faries, child, and infant, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Sill and son, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith and child, Mr. J. W. Harding, Mr. H. N. Macondray, Mr. J. A. Murray, and Mr. H. Worbs in cabin; Messrs. R. Tsunoda, N. Ozawa, and Hayata in second class, and 45 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. H. Victor Gielen, Rev. Williams and family, Mr. and Mrs Zilliacus, Captain Holm and family, Messrs. Charles Lund, B. J. Jackson, M. W. Kochen, T. Saito, K. Imaidzumi, and A. Duncan in cabin; 3 Chinese in second class; 1 European in third class, and 8 Chinese on deck.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Misses Alcock (3), Mr. and Mrs. Alloway, Mr. Archer, Lord and Lord Ashburton, Mr. and Mrs. Bois and 3 children, Misses Brandon (2), Mr. Brown, Mr. Bright, Rev. and Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Chapin, Mrs. Churchill, Mrs. and Miss Corry, Mr. Corry, Mr. Dewey, Mr. W. W. Dickenson, Dr. and Mrs. Dickson, Colonel and Mrs. Dowden, Misses Du Bois (2), Mr. Elliott, Mr. Evelyn, Miss Fesca, Rev. J. M. Foster, Mr. Garvey, Mr. D. Glass, Mr. Grace, Captain and Mrs. Gulland, Mr. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins and child, Miss Holmes, Mr. Ito, Dr. and Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Kinahan, Miss Kinahan, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lewis, Mr. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Little, Mr. Lundt, Mr. Macintosh, Mr. May, Miss McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. McGeo, Mr. and Mrs. Mosthaf, Miss Mosthaf, Mr. M. T. Murray, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. North, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Parkin, Mr. Peel, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Perin, Misses Perin (2), Miss Phillips, Miss Platt, Mr. Platt, Mr. Player, Mr. Rumley, Mr. Runge, Mr. Seth, Misses Simpson (2), Mr. Simpson, Mr. H. W. Smith; Mr. W. M. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith, Mr. Saville Smith, Mr. J. C. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Stodart, Rev. Mr. Swann, Miss Swann, Miss Swan, Master Talpey, Mr. L. J. Thomson, Mr. Ulmann, Sir Chas. Warren, Miss White, Mr. Wilford, Mr. Yardley, Rev. Mr. Yokoi, and Miss Young in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $131,800.00.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	—	—	—	8	7	15
Calcutta	—	—	—	38	—	38
Nagasaki	570	—	—	—	—	570
Hyogo	—	240	—	—	—	240
Yokohama	393	50	47	—	—	490
Total	963	290	47	46	7	1,353

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	118	...	118
Yokohama	155	...	155
Total	273	... — ...	273

REPORTS.

The American steamer *City of Peking*, Captain Searle, reports:—Left San Francisco the 29th March at 4.03 p.m.; experienced foggy weather, clearing at times, with light to moderate N.W. to S.S.W. winds, small sea, and moderate swell to the 180° meridian, which was crossed April 9th; on the 10th, 11th, and 12th fresh breeze, rough swell and sea with clear weather and passing squalls; on the 13th fresh breeze from N. to S.E. moderate to small sea and swell, fine weather with occasional light rain and mist; on the 14th wind hauled from S.E. to N.W. blowing a fresh gale with rough sea and swell, wind hauling suddenly on the 16th to the N.E. blowing fresh gale with heavy sea running; generally fine and clear weather the entire trip.

The Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, Captain T. Sakai, reports:—Left Hakodate the 14th April at 8 a.m.; had rainy weather and high southerly sea. Arrived at Oginohama the 15th at 10.40 a.m. and left at 5.20 p.m.; had clear weather with strong breeze and high following sea; on the 16th clear weather throughout the day. Arrived at Yokohama at 5.45 p.m.

The German steamer *Nürnberg*, Captain Walter, reports:—Left Hongkong, April 12th at 5.50 a.m.; during the whole passage had fine weather, light variable winds and light sea; much fog in the Formosa Channel and were detained several hours. Arrived at Yokohama, April 17th at 7.40 p.m.

The British steamer *Victoria*, Captain J. Panton, R.N.R., reports:—Left Hongkong the 10th April at noon, and Kobe the 17th at 11.15 a.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 18th April at 2 p.m. Had light variable winds and fine weather.

The American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Captain J. T. Smith, reports:—Left Hongkong the 12th April at 7 a.m., viâ Nagasaki and Kobe. Arrived at Yokohama the 19th April at 2.15 p.m. Passage, 7 days, 5 hours, and 33 minutes. Had fine weather the entire trip.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain C. Olsen, reports:—Left Kobe the 18th April at noon; had light variable winds and fine weather throughout the passage. Time of arrival the 19th April at 4 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain E. W. Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 14th April at 5.10 a.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather. Arrived at Nagasaki the 15th at 9.15 p.m. and left the 16th at 5 p.m.; had fine weather but hazy. Arrived at Moji the 17th at 6.15 a.m. and left the same day; had similar weather. Arrived at Kobe the 18th at 7.15 a.m. and left the 19th at 3.15 p.m.; had fine weather all the way, the latter part fresh S.W. winds and increasing. Arrived at Yokohama the 20th April at 5.50 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Nothing doing in Grey Yarns or Shirtings for immediate delivery. The enquiry for 9lb., mentioned in our last, has resulted in the sale of some thousands of pieces "to arrive," but "spot" cargo is dull as ever. Other goods seem to be in no demand: and with the exception of some little business in Woollen Italians and Mousselines, nothing has been done. Quotations are nominal, and would have to be reduced if holders wanted to push their wares.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 2.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
	PER PIECE.
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.55 to 1.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.80
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 10/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	41.00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	43.00 to 44.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

No change whatever. Exchange seems on the turn downward once but more, and buyers are not eager to enter into fresh contracts.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.70 to 1.75

KEROSENE.

Market unchanged but firm. No sales to report. The *Volute* has arrived with oil in bulk from Batoum, but there is nothing new to say about prices or deliveries.

Chester	$1.72½ to 1.75
Comet	1.70 to 1.72½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.67½ to 1.70
Russian Moon	1.65 to 1.67½

SUGAR.

Brown—Arrivals are again larger than sales, and the stock increases. Prices weaker in consequence, and are not strong at quotations. White Refined—Market steady at last quotations.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.60 to 4.75
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.30
Brown Daitong	3.60 to 3.70
Brown Canton	4.40 to 4.50
White Java and Penang	7.10 to 7.20
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 13th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 95 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures*, 59 piculs; *Kakeda*, 14 piculs; *Oshu*, 22 piculs. In addition to this, direct shipments have been 226 bales, making the total business of the week 300 piculs.

The market has fallen upon very quiet times, and advices from consuming markets are dull indeed, there being little or no demand. Sellers are getting anxious, with a stock of 7,500 piculs and more silk in the country. They are now offering their goods freely and prices are about $20 lower than a week ago; but even this does not tempt buyers to any great extent, and holders must give way yet further if they wish to do any trade worthy of the name.

The present state of affairs gives a very strong contrast to that of the same date last year. Then, with a very small stock, we had a very lively market; and best Filatures, fine size, were quoted as high as $1,200, with exchange on Lyons fcs. 3.49. To-day the same silk could be bought at something over $800, with an exchange of fcs. 2.70; and yet these prices do not seem to induce business.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The *Oceanic*, 14th April, had 370 bales for the United States trade, and the *Verona*, same date, 197 bales for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 40,083 piculs, against 45,204 piculs last year and 44,979 piculs at the same date in 1892. The out-going mail steamers, Canadian, American and German, will probably have a little silk, particulars of which will be given in our next.

Hanks.—No business. There is practically no stock remaining.

Filatures.—There has been a small business doing, but prices are very irregular and no reliable quotations can be given until some steady trade takes place. *Bushu Filatures*, fine size, have been done at $780, with second quality at $750. In full sizes, one parcel of *Rujokan* is entered in the books at $780, while Japanese exporters are reported to have paid $760 for *Shunmeisha*. It is difficult to tell where prices really are and no doubt some bold offers would bring good silk at very reasonable prices.

Reeels.—No sale at all and it is probable that holders would meet buyers on a very fair basis, if the buyers were to be found.

Kakeda.—Until the last two days these were held comparatively strong, and even up to the 14th instant a parcel of *Horsehead* was said to be done at the old price of $730. To-day, however,

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a similar purchase is reported at $700, and this will serve to show how the market is tending.

Oshu.—One or two small purchases; *Hamatsuki* booked at $675, while *Hokushin* is noted at $685. There is now no stock of this class, but probably some more could be had from the interior if required.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	$830
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$810 to	820
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	800 to	810
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	750 to	760
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	750 to	760
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	720 to	730
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	720 to	730
Filatures—No. 3, 11/20 deniers	700 to	710
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	750 to	760
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	720 to	730
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	700 to	710
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	680 to	690
Re-reels—No. 3, 11/20 deniers	660 to	670
Kakedas—Extra	760 to	770
Kakedas—No. 1	730 to	740
Kakedas—No. 1½	700 to	710
Kakedas—No. 2	670 to	680
Kakedas—No. 2½	650 to	660
Kakedas—No. 3		—
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 20th April, 1894.

Season	1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	22,491	17,769	16,329
America	16,352	26,653	27,644
Total { Bales	38,843	44,422	43,973
Total { Piculs	40,083	45,204	44,979
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	40,500	45,600	45,450
Stock, 20th April	7,500	1,250	4,650
Available supplies to date	48,000	46,850	50,100

WASTE SILK.

Considerably more business has been done this week and the settlements amount to 868 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 417 piculs; *Kibiso*, 451 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

There seems to have been much more enquiry with the result that a fair business has passed at full rates. Holders are very stubborn and will not listen to any reduction in prices in spite of the large stock. We think they must come down ere long, but at present they seem to hold without any inconvenience.

There has been one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the English mail steamer *Verona*, 14th instant, taking 140 bales for Europe. This departure makes the present export figures 42,834 piculs, against 37,825 piculs last year, and 28,157 piculs at the same date in 1892. The outgoing mail steamers will have some cargo—particulars in out next.

Pierced Cocoons.—All trade for abroad seems finished for the season, and the small remaining stock will probably be absorbed by the native spinners.

Noshi.—There has been a fair amount of business; Medium *Filatures*, $135; Fair *Oshu*, $135; Medium *Joshu*, $70 to $75; *Shinshu*, $95. There is still plenty of stock, but orders are not plentiful.

Kibiso.—Again there has been considerable business in *Filatures*, prices for best running up to $120, and it is said that a fractional advance has been paid on this figure for something special. Medium and Common qualities have been done at $110 to $100.

Mawata and *Sundries* have given rise to no transactions this week.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110 to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	170 to 180

Export Table Waste Silk to 20th April, 1894.—

Season	1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	21,603	35,133	26,058
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	24,834	37,825	28,157
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	27,100	43,700	31,050
Stock, 20th April	15,400	2,700	7,800
Available supplies to date	42,500	46,400	38,850

Exchange after rising a point or two has declined again to something near last week's rates:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1⅞; Documents, 2/1⅞; 6m/s. Credits, 2/2. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $52; 4m/s. U.S. $53. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.70; 6m/s. fcs. 2.72.

Estimated Silk Stock, 20th April, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	5	Cocoons	150
Filatures	3,600	Noshi-ito	8,290
Re-reels	3,030	Kibiso	6,470
Kakeda	855	Mawata	150
Oshu	—	Sundries	340
Tavsaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	7,500	Total piculs	15,400

TEA.

Nothing new in this market. Everything goes favourable for New Crop, and by the end of the month there should be some early parcels ready for shipment. There will probably be a few advance musters on the *City of Rio de Janeiro* leaving port to-day.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange went up early in the week a point or two, but has again declined to about last week's rates.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/1
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1⅜
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.61
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.70
On Hongkong—Bank sight	¼% dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1¼% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	182
On India—Private 30 days' sight	185
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50¼
On America—Private 30 days' sight	51⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	52⅜
On Germany—Bank sight	2.12
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.20
Bar Silver (London)	28⅜

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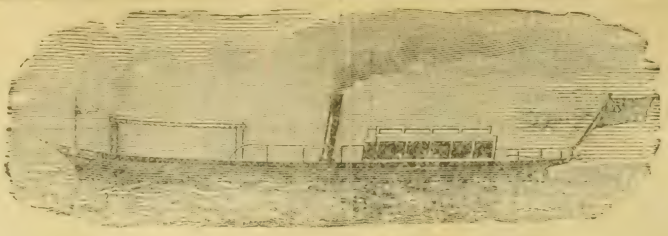
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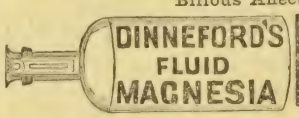
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April 23rd, 1893.

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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH, 1894.

BIRTH.

On the 21st inst., at No. 40, Tsukiji, Tokyo, the wife of J. McD. GARDINER, of a Daughter.

DEATH.

At 10.30 a.m. on April 22nd, at Kobe, Mr. O. MUENCH, of typhoid fever, aged 41 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

M. PAUL LEFEVRE has been appointed Secretary in the French Legation.

THE cost of the Hantan Railway line is estimated at *yen* 30,000 per mile.

THE *Nippon* is suffering from an intermittent attack of suspension just at present.

THE Premonition Law was put into operation on the 20th inst. against eight *soshi* of Yokohama.

THE iron-pipe question has been discussed with much rancour in the Tokyo Municipal Assembly during the week.

THE shareholders of the Yokohama Yarn, Cotton, and Metal Exchange have decided to add *yen* 10,0000 to their capital.

MR. MUTSU, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is suffering from an attack of influenza. He has gone to Kamakura to recuperate.

MR. H. J. SNOW, of the American sealing schooner *Retriever*, was picked up by the schooner *Bowhead* after drifting in an open boat for five days. He was landed at Yamada, and expects to reach Yokohama by the end of the week.

MR. HOSHI TORU wishes to rejoin the *Jiyu-to*. His re-election as President of the House of Representatives is confidently expected.

PEONIES and azaleas are now in bloom, and several noted places in the neighbourhood are attracting great crowds of sightseers.

THE sufferers by the recent fire at Mukojima, Tokyo, have accepted the *yen* 3,000 presented by the Bank of Japan towards their relief.

MRS. FANNY COOPER, an English lady of means, was found drowned off the Bund wall, Yokohama, on the morning of the 25th inst.

THE Hongaku-ji, a Buddhist temple at Asakusa, Tokyo, has been destroyed by fire. One woman connected with the temple met her death amid the flames.

SOME *soshi* faction fights have occurred in Yokohama of late, and six of the turbulent youths are cooling heels and heads in the Isezakicho Police Station.

THE sealing schooner *George Peabody* has returned to Yokohama with boats and main-boom carried away, the result of a heavy gale experienced on the sealing grounds.

THE Japanese delegates who went to Shanghai to obtain possession of Kim Ok-kyün's body, have returned to Japan considerably disgusted at the non-success of their mission.

THE Mitsui Bussan Kaisha has presented *yen* 1,000 to Mr. Yano Jiro, formerly President of the Tokyo Higher Commercial School, in recognition of the eminent educational services rendered by him.

THE cold wave which struck Yokohama on Saturday and Sunday had passed away by the middle of the week, and the temperature is again normal for the time of year, though the weather is very squally.

VISCOUNT SHIBAYAMA SUKETOYO, a young military officer, has committed suicide, being prompted to the act, it is said, though receiving an admonition from his Commander against over indulgence in *saké*.

SELDOM has a more enjoyable Concert been given in Yokohama than that of Friday evening. Prof. Dittrich made his last appearance on the platform before his departure for Europe, and was enthusiastically applauded.

THE *Kodo* Club has been established in Tokyo for the ostensible purpose of drawing into closer communion the seceders from the *Jiyu-to* who resolved themselves into the separate organizations known as the *Domei-seisha* and the *Doshi-seisha*.

THE Registration Bill has been read a first time in the House of Commons. Among other provisions, this bill reduces the qualifying period of residence for electors to three months, and abolishes plural voting at elections which shall be co-incident and held on Saturdays simultaneously throughout the three kingdoms. It is estimated that the British Budget for the current year will show a deficit of £4,500,000. This will be reduced nearly one-half by repayment from the new sinking fund of burdens arising out of the Naval Defence Acts, the remainder of the deficit being met by merging death dues into a single estate duty ranging from one-eighth per cent., by the income-tax being increase by a penny on the advance limit, by an increase of sixpence per gallon on spirits, and sixpence per barrel on beer, the whole producing an estimated surplus of £291,000. The increased duties on beer and spirits was adopted, the Scotch and Irish members alone dissenting from the latter imposts. M. Lockroy, President of the enquiry into the condition of the French Navy, has reported that in reality the state of affairs surpasses the worst forebodings; that disorder reigns throughout the administration; that nothing has been prepared either for war or mobilisation; that the sea stores have been depleted, and that many torpedo-boats and ships are unseaworthy. The report demands that new blood be infused into the administration, whose negligence has been inexcusable, and says that Admiral Vallon states the *Magenta* is liable to capsize on her first impact with another vessel. The Report further urges upon the authorities the advisability of suspending the building of ironclads. The wedding of the Grand Duke of Hesse and the Princess Victoria Melita, at Coburg, was a brilliant spectacle, the Queen wearing a crown of diamonds and occupying the front place in the ceremony. The ironclad *Aquidaban* and the remnants of the Brazilian insurgent squadron have been sunk by torpedoes after a fierce engagement with the Government fleet. At a meeting of the Primrose League, the Marquis of Salisbury stated that he approved of increasing the number of life Peers in the House of Lords and of preserving the present organization, otherwise the House would be entitled to claim representative powers. The Canadian Government has modified the tariff so that impure tea and coffee only will be liable to a duty of ten cents per pound. *The Times* announces that some speculation has begun in silver.

THERE is nothing favourable to report of the Import trade, and buyers do not come forward with offers on a scale commensurate with wants in the interior, stocks in some lines being very low. In view of the paucity of transactions in all descriptions of Yarns and Cotton and Woollen Piece-goods, prices are quite nominal. There is no movement of Metals, the trade being lifeless. A few dealers have made low offers for certain descriptions of Iron, but holders decline their advances. In the Kerosene market buyers are looking for a concession on recent prices, but holders are firm, and next to nothing has been done. There is no quotable alteration in the price of Sugar, the business for all sorts being fairly brisk at recent figures. A little more life has been infused into the Silk trade, though buying has been far from general, and the total settlements of the week only amount to a little over 600 piculs. The stock is still heavy, and holders do not make any sign of concessions. The weather has been favourable to the mulberry plantations, budding commenced early and strong, and leaf will be more plentiful than in any previous year. Of course the annual outcry about the frost will be repeated, but that does not come off till May. Hatching will have commenced in the earlier districts, but no reports have yet reached us. Waste Silk has been taken in small quantities, due more to the attitude of holders than a lack of demand, for buyers have been abroad. The Tea trade is increasing, and arrivals of leaf come in daily, parcels having been taken as they came, leaving a bare market on several days this week. The *Gaelic* will probably take a good shipment of New Tea, after which the trade will settle down to the heavy business. Fine growing weather continues, and there is promise of a large crop. Exchange has gradually hardened during the week, and rates are fairly firm at the close.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The metropolitan papers now acknowledge that the recent rumour about a speedy conclusion of the negotiations for Treaty Revision with the English Government was premature. But the question, thus brought to the front, continues to engage journalistic attention. It is a significant circumstance that, in discussing this matter, the vernacular press no longer attaches any importance to the subject of Mixed Residence, but is more and more concerned about Tariff Autonomy. Now and then slight allusions are made to Mixed Residence, and some papers suggest the desirability of closing Hokkaido and other smaller islands to foreigners. But with the exception of these occasional references, the metropolitan journals leave Mixed Residence severely alone. With regard to Tariff Autonomy, which now constitutes the principal topic of discussion, various extravagant notions are ventilated. One is that tariff conventions should be submitted to the Diet's approval before ratification. Reliance is placed on Art. LXII. of the Constitution, wherein it is provided that "the imposition of a new tax or the modification of the rates (of an existing one) shall be determined by law." "There is a rumour," says the *Kokkai*, an advocate of this theory, "that certain statesmen are inclined to so far strain the plain meaning of the Constitution as to maintain that tariff conventions are beyond the sphere of the Diet's interference. Should a tariff convention be concluded without previously seeking the consent of the Diet, a tremendous outburst of popular indignation would certainly be provoked and might lead to a serious disturbance." Our contemporary advises the allied factions of the Opposition to interrogate the Government on this subject in the beginning of the approaching session. Beside ascertaining the Cabinet's views as to whether it is prepared to submit tariff conventions for the approval of the Diet, steps should also be taken to discover at what stage of the negotiations that course would be adopted.

* * *

Writing on this subject, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* points out the fallacy of the claim advanced by the *Kokkai* and other journals. Art. XIII. of the Constitution provides that "the Emperor declares war, makes peace, and concludes treaties. No exception is made in respect of commercial treaties. Consequently the conclusion of treaties is in all cases the prerogative of the Sovereign, and the Diet has no right to interfere with the exercise of that prerogative. In some Occidental countries, the Legislature is invested with the power of sanctioning treaties. But the Japanese Constitution does not give such power to the Diet, even in the case of tariff conventions. In connection with the changes that may be introduced in the rates of customs duties, the *Nichi Nichi* admits that these matters will no doubt be submitted to the Diet for its approval, in the same way as expenditures caused by changes in the Military or Civil Department of the Government—although to effect such changes is within the Emperor's Constitutional prerogatives—are ultimately submitted to the Diet. But so far as the conventions themselves are concerned, their conclusion with foreign countries lies entirely within the Imperial competence, and the Diet is not permitted to attempt any interference. No decision of the Diet can have any effect upon the validity of a treaty of convention once ratified by the Emperor.

* * *

Another mistaken notion ventilated by certain newspapers is that Japan, in her new treaties, ought to reserve to herself the power of fixing customs duties by means of internal legislation. A section of the press, including the *Nippon* and other papers of the same type, seem to labour under an impression that such is the system prevailing in the principal countries of Europe and America, whereas in most cases tariffs are fixed by means of conventions. It must not be supposed that because these papers insist upon reserving the power to fix the tariff by legislation, they advocate the adoption of prohibitory rates of duties. Some persons may entertain that wish, but the motive now actuating newspaper writers and political agitators is connected with abstract right rather than with the practical interests of the country. They demand the reservation of such a power, because they think that otherwise their country's autonomy would not be complete. Sooner or later there will be a keen fight between protection and free trade in Japan, but for the present no idea of adopting a protective tariff exists. Indeed, the doctrine of protection has not thus far found much favour among the Japanese. Some years ago an economical periodical was started by Mr. Inukai Ki and others for the express purpose of propagating that doctrine, but, unable to make headway against the *Keizai Zasshi*, the consistent organ of free trade, it came to speedy grief. At present the *Keisai* has the field to itself.

* * *

The more sober section of the press, as the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, and so forth, and even some of the Opposition organs, maintain that it is neither humiliating nor disadvantageous for Japan to fix her tariff by conventions, after the manner of European countries. The *Jiji Shimpo*, for instance, remarks that the power of fixing duties at will is not conducive to the interests of the country, for if Japan were to put high duties upon foreign goods, foreign countries would retaliate by imposing correspondingly high duties upon Japanese goods, whereas, when duties are fixed by convention, trade is free from the harrassing effects of tariff changes. The only essential point is that these conventions must be reciprocal, instead of being one-sided like the existing arrangement in Japan. In addition to conventional tariffs, Japan ought, says the *Jiji*, to fix by legislation a general schedule applicable to non-treaty countries and to treaty Powers with which tariff conventions may be temporarily inoperative.

* * *

The Korean Assassination affair continues to attract attention. Popular excitement seems to be calming down, but it would probably be a mistake to suppose that the public cares less about the matter than formerly. The true explanation of the situation apparently is that, having said all they have to say, people are now waiting to see what course the Government will pursue in the premises. It may be anticipated that, under certain circumstances, the excitement will again rise to fever point. Nor have the papers altogether abandoned the discussion. They repeat, though at greater intervals and in a more moderate tone, their demand for the adoption of strong measures against whatever State or States may have been implicated in the plot of assassination. During the present week, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* has severely commented upon the apparent indifference of the Government, contrasting it with the enthusiasm manifested by the public at large. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, on the other hand, strongly criticizes the conduct of the Chinese Government in sending Kim's body and his assassin to Korea on board one of her own (Chinese) men-of-war. Our contemporary holds that Kim was to all intents and purposes a Japanese, having sojourned so long under the protection of the Japanese Government, known by a Japanese name, and living just like a Japanese. To hand over to Korea a criminal who had foully murdered one who might practically be considered a Japanese, and to effect the transfer by means of a national vessel, was an act highly insulting to this country. Such conduct on the part of the Chinese Government, says the *Mainichi*, ought not to be passed over.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* devotes two articles to the same subject. It urges the Japanese Government to interrogate Korea about the genuineness of the alleged royal commissions, and, in case the commissions should be disavowed, to demand the punishment of Hong Tjyong-ou and of any others that may have been connected with the assassination of Kim Ok-kyün. Unless such persons are properly dealt with by the Korean Government, there is serious danger that the indulgence thus unwisely shown may offer strong encouragement to ambitious youths in the peninsular Kingdom to make similar attempts on the life of Boku and other surviving refugees in Japan. Hence Japan is entitled to demand the punishment of Kim's murderer. Should Korea hesitate to comply, the *Jiji* recommends the Japanese Government to use force to bring her to reason. Such a procedure would be productive of very beneficial results to the permanency of friendly relations between the two countries. Since the unfortunate *émeute* of 1884, the sentiments of the Koreans toward Japan have been steadily growing worse and worse, until now things have reached a climax. In the *Jiji's* opinion, the time has arrived to adopt once for all some definite and decisive measures to set matters right before they become so bad as to defy all remedy. Unless the Government acts promptly, the Japanese people may take the matter into their own hands, and plunge the country into serious trouble. That precedents are not wanting is shown by the unsuccessful expedition planned some years ago by Mr. Oi Kentaro and others. Consequently the Japanese Government is urged to solve the Korean problem before it becomes ten times more refractory than it is now.

* * *

The allied sections of the Opposition have been alarmed by a report that about twenty of the so-called Independents in the House of Representatives are about to organize an association named the *Jitsugyō Dantai* (Business Association). The principal promoters of the project being men understood to be intimately connected with the members of the Cabinet, especially with Mr. Mutsu and Count Inouye, the Opposition papers surmise that the new association will support the Government. Should that surmise prove correct, they fear that the allied parties will be hopelessly out-numbered in the coming session of the Diet. Their organs are therefore doing their utmost to denounce the proposed association as an obsequious instrument of the Government, and to pursuade the Independents not to connect themselves with such "an ignominous body of men." Since the first session of the Diet, several attempts have been made for the formation of an association under the *Jitsugyo* standard, and in every case the members have turned out to be supporters of the Government. The Independents are told that their electors do not desire them to disgrace themselves by becoming the slaves of those in power. These papers evidently think that no nobler task awaits the Diet than to waste session after season in attempts to bait the Government.

* * *

The grand conference of the Radical Party now going on in Tokyo has attracted considerable attention. From the proceedings of the meetings thus far held, it is difficult to make any forecast about the programme that will ultimately be adopted by the Party. But judging from the speech delivered by Count Itagaki at the first meeting, its seems that, so far as he, himself, and his immediate followers are concerned, no change is contemplated. As usual, he lays much stress upon the importance of smoothly effecting the transition from the old to the new order of things. He hints, however, at the helplessness of cöoperation with the statesmen in power for the furtherance of that purpose, and it may hence be inferred that the Radical Party, though refraining from any vindictive opposition to the Cabinet, will not act in concert with it. But the organs of the allied sections pay no attention to such nice distinctions. They profess to entertain no doubt that the Radical Party's real intention is to do the bidding of the Cabinet, and they bitterly criticise the utterances of Count Itagaki. Neither is he spared gross personal insults. His speech is characterized as "stereotyped," "egoistic," and "hypocritical," and he himself is denounced as a base deserter of the people's cause and as already unfit to take part in active politics. The Radicals fresh from the country

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districts are warned against the ensnaring language of their old leader. According to these papers, the Radical Party, though numerically strong, is simply a group of so many blockheads, the flower of the Party having left it in the form of the seceders of last December. The Party is likened to clan Government; both are said to owe their present position to a lingering reflection of their departed glory.

* * *

The Radical organ, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, dismisses with haughty scorn the abusive comments of the above journals. It stands on solid ground when it boasts of the success of its Party at the last general election. But it says that the Radicals are not satisfied though they have nearly 130 members in the House of Representatives. At the next general election, they confidently look to obtain a plurality of votes in the whole House. The *Jiju* laughs at the motley group of allied factions, including conservatives and extremists, opponents and advocates of clan Government, and other equally ill-assorted politicians. It points finally to the open manner in which the Radical Party is now discussing its policy for the coming session, and bids the other parties proceed in the same manly way.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NATURALIZATION IN JAPAN.

THE question of the Naturalization Law for Japan has been again brought into prominence by the case of Mr. Uchiyama Rossetsu. This gentlemen, originally an American citizen named Russell, was adopted into the house of Mr. Uchiyama Buzayemon of Yokohama, whose third daughter he married, thus becoming a Japanese subject by adoption. Subsequently, he fell out with his wife or with his wife's family, and it was mutually agreed that the happiness of the household and the prosperity of its affairs demanded a divorce. Two questions, however, presented themselves; first, could a divorce be granted under such circumstances considering that by his marriage status alone did Mr. Uchiyama possess Japanese nationality; and secondly, supposing that divorce be granted, what would be Mr. Uchiyama's subsequent nationality, seeing that by marriage alone had he become a Japanese subject. The Governor of Kanagawa, not unnaturally perplexed by these problems, applied for guidance to the Departments of Home Affairs and Justice and received an instruction to the effect that divorce could be allowed and that after divorce Mr. Uchiyama would remain a Japanese subject. Evidently we have here a very curious question. Most people will be inclined to think that since Mr. Uchiyama's naturalization depended solely upon his assumption of the status of a Japanese householder, the loss of that status should necessarily involve the loss of Japanese nationality also. It is evident from the instruction of the Departments of Home Affairs and Justice that a foreigner can now become a naturalized Japanese subject by a merely nominal process, since he can procure adoption into a family and then follow the step by divorce previously arranged. Such a state of affairs is anomalous. A draft of Naturalization Law was submitted to the Diet in its second session, but failed to become law owing to the dissolution of the House of Representatives. Some vernacular journals now urge that a draft should be submitted in the next session. We hope that it will, but we venture at the same time to hope that the exceedingly illiberal provisions it contained will be revised or rescinded.

KIM'S FRIENDS.

KIM OK-KYÜN'S friends held a lecture meeting on Saturday last in the *Kinki-Kan*, Kanda, Tokyo. The place was full, the audience numbering in all about two thousand. On the wall at the back of the platform hung Kim's portrait and a *gaku* with Count Soyejima's poem lamenting the Korean refugee's death. The proceedings opened at 1 p.m. The first speaker was Mr. Komuro Shigehiro, M.P., who dwelt on the importance of chivalry as a national virtue, severely criticised the foreign policy of the Cabinet, and made a strong attack on the Japanese Consul in Shanghai. He was followed by Mr. Kawamura Jun, editor of the *Shin Choya Shimbun*, who lamented the decline of the martial spirit of his countrymen, and urged the Government to adopt strong measures against Korea. The third speaker, a Mr. Kobayashi Katsuto, had to leave the platform, the audience being too impatient to listen to him. Mr. Suzuki Jubi, M.P., succeeded in fixing the attention of his hearers. He referred to the luxurious mode of life led by Li Isshoku, the chief plotter of the assassination; to the frequent despatch of assassins to Japan by the Korean Government in the past, and to the favourable reception accorded to Hong Tjyongou in Söul. Arguing from these circumstances that the present plot emanated from the Korean Authorities, he urged that diplomatic communications should be opened on the subject with the Söul Government. Mr. Oi Kentaro, M.P., who followed, was received with enthusiastic acclamation and clapping of hands. He had no doubts that the Korean Government was originally responsible for the scheme of assassination, and he maintained that the facts thus far revealed were sufficient for the purpose of opening negotiations with the Korean Government, a duty which the Cabinet was bound to discharge in compliance with the wishes of the people. Mr. Shiga Shigetaka, editor of the *Nippon-jin*, then ascended the platform. He strongly criticised the vacillating foreign policy of the Government, illustrating his point by reference to the Government's conduct about the Formosan expedition, the cession of Kabafuto (Saghalien), the exploration of the South Sea Islands, and the franchise in Hawaii. Turning to the assassination affair, he spoke as though members of the Japanese Cabinet had some connection with the heinous plot. The police sergeant thereupon ordered him to leave the platform. The last speaker was Mr. Nakamura Yaroku, M.P., who argued that Kim was a Japanese to all intents and purposes. Taking such a view, it is not wonderful that he should find fault with the conduct of the Japanese Government. His usual quick temper soon carried him beyond the limits of sober criticism, and he had to follow the example of the preceding speaker.

* * *

It had been originally advertised that Mr. Kono Hironaka and several other distinguished Radicals would speak. But they did not put in an appearance, it being alleged that they had to attend a meeting of their own Party.

THE NAVAL AUTHORITIES AND THE "RETRIEVER."

WE observe that the *Japan Gazette* publishes an editorial note commenting in very severe terms on the supposed want of humanity shown by the Imperial Naval Department in not sending a vessel to search for the missing boats of the schooner *Retriever*, and contrasting the Department's inaction with the generosity of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, which Company instructed the *Omi Maru* to make a considerable detour in quest of the castaways. This criticism is based upon the ignorance that too often inspires violent and unjust writing in the local foreign press. The truth is precisely the opposite of what the *Japan Gazette* says. His Excellency Count Saigo is deserving of all praise for the deep concern manifested by him in the fate of the missing men. We have made inquiries on the subject at the United States Legation, and we have the authority of the Minister for saying that on the 17th instant Count Saigo informed him that orders had been issued for two vessels, the *Yoshino Kan* and another, to go in search of the missing men on the morning of the 18th. This statement was accompanied by an explanation that no vessel had been available for despatch at an earlier date. During the 17th, telegraphic intelligence reached the United States Legation to the effect that twelve out of the eighteen missing men had been heard from, and this news was of course communicated at once to the Naval Department, it being at the same time suggested that the sailing of the men-of-war should be deferred pending the arrival of fuller information. The next day, intelligence came that all the men were accounted for and that Mr. Snow was safe; news that was confirmed subsequently by the Yokohama local press. In the meanwhile, however, one of the war-vessels had been despatched from Yokosuka on a cruise, with orders to search for the six men not accounted for in the first report, and this vessel doubtless proceeded to the waters where the men were supposed to be. The *Yoshino Kan* had been held in readiness to start at a moment's notice, but upon receipt of the report that all the men had been rescued, her orders were countermanded. Unfortunately this report proved to be only partly true, but before that was known, so much time had been lost that it was deemed a totally hopeless undertaking to send a vessel in search of one small boat that had gone adrift three weeks previously. If Mr. Snow and his companions had not been picked up, or had failed to make land, it was impossible to believe that they could still survive. In giving these particulars, accessible as they were to any journalist caring to make enquiries, we cannot but regret that before publishing a highly invidious paragraph, grossly unjust to the Naval Department, and wholly misrepresenting the earnest desire manifested by Count Saigo and other Japanese Naval Officers to render all the assistance in their power to the unfortunate men of the *Retriever*, some slight attempt was not made to ascertain the truth. It is indeed a poor return for the naval authorities to be publicly accused of want of humanity and to have their conduct injuriously contrasted with the charitable spirit displayed by foreigners towards distressed Japanese when, in point of fact, the Navy showed most laudable helpfulness and active sympathy.

SHIPS OF WAR AND SILVER.

IT was decided by last year's Diet, as our readers may remember, that a programme of ship-building should be undertaken extending over seven years. The appropriation for the first year was 3,100,000 *yen*. The *Jiji Shimpo* says that no definite order has yet been given, not because of any neglect on the part of the Naval Authorities, but because of some question connected with design. Meanwhile, a factor of great importance has been introduced, namely silver. When the programme was initiated, a pound sterling cost only 6.892 *yen*, whereas now it costs 10 *yen* approximately. That means, of course, either that the appropriation must be largely increased, or that the programme must be considerably cut down. This question is said to be causing considerable discussion between the Departments of the Navy and Finance.

WHOLESALE ARREST OF GAMBLERS.

THE police frequently make raids on gambling-houses with the result that batches of five, six, and even half-a-score of blacklegs are sometimes netted at once; but it is rare that they make so large a haul as that of the 2nd instant in Saitama Prefecture. The chief or *oyakata* of the gamblers in Kumagai, was a certain Kobayashi Teizo. He dressed well and was ostensibly a moderately prosperous silk-merchant; in reality, however, he was a most daring and successful gambler, and the protector of a whole horde of jail-birds, unlicensed prostitutes, and desperate characters. In the select circles of his followers he was known as "Niijima no Sada." It was well-known that he had murdered his predecessor and rival in office, one Arai Tetsugoro, nicknamed *Tetsu no Bo* or the "Iron Rod;" but insufficient evidence saved him in the trial that followed, the Scottish verdict of "Not proven" being in his case justifiable, though openly at variance with his life and hang-dog face. Spending his money freely, he was thereafter for years able to keep out of the clutches of the law. The police knew him for what he was, and made several vain attempts to ensnare this wily bird; but it was not until the night of the 1st instant that they obtained the full and needful information of his whereabouts and ac-

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tions. A force of a dozen armed constables made ready the following night and went to the "silk-merchant's" fine residence under the command of a very energetic and courageous inspector named Okubo Kihin. Disguised as common people they made their way into the gambling-rooms and then, on a preconcerted signal, arrested every one present—more than thirty altogether—including some criminals that had long been wanted. Many attempted to fly, but every door of the rooms and house were guarded by other armed police, so that there was nothing for it but to submit. It is stated that the gambling going on was that known as *ikasama-bakuchi*, in which loaded dice generally play an important part. Small wonder that the regulations against gambling are so rigid and severe, when nearly all who devote their time and talents to such pursuits are criminals or social outcasts with the blackest of records. We can only hope that Inspector Okubo will receive some substantial reward for the skill and patience with which he worked up the case and effected the capture of so large a body of noxious people.

THE "DOMEI" AND "DOSHI" PARTIES.

THE much talked-of union of the *Domei* and *Dosha* Parties seems to hang fire. At a meeting of promoters held in the Imperial Hotel on the 20th inst., it was decided that no such step could be taken without consulting all the members of both sections, alike inside and outside the House of Representatives. Considering that the project has been on the *tapis* publicly ever since the conclusion of the general elections, this sudden access of prudence at the eleventh hour, and this pretence as to the necessity of consulting members whose opinions must be already well known, can be interpreted in one sense only, namely, that union is dreaded lest it should have the effect of driving back into the arms of the Radicals some important members of the *Doshi* Section. At all events, the result of all the talk is the establishment of a Club at which the delegates of the two sections may meet to consult about their political movements. It is to be called the *Kodo* Club; its place of meeting is to be the Imperial Hotel; and its two managers are to be Messrs. Suzuki Shigeto and Kudo Koken.

A BENEVOLENT FAIR.

THE story of Mr. Hongo as told by the *Shin-Choya* is almost romantic. More than once allusions have been made in these columns to his philanthropic work, but the public has not hitherto been told how he came to be what he is. Originally apprenticed to a merchant in Kyoto, he gradually attained a responsible position with corresponding command of means. Circumstances then led him to sow a considerable crop of wild oats, but apparently his dissipated mood did not last long, for we find him after a few years in Tokyo serving as a clerk in the Department of Communications. At this time he seems to have conceived the idea of devoting himself to the sustenance of orphans. He collected five destitute children and established a little orphanage in Bancho. Finding that his official duty interfered with this self-assigned task, he resigned his position and became a shoe-black. In Japan a shoe-black is not a person who plies his trade in the streets, but a man who goes from house to house polishing the inmates' foot-gear. It was a sharp transition from an official to a shoe-black, but Mr. Hongo managed even in his new capacity to earn money enough to support himself and his orphans. It may well be supposed that he soon discovered the need of a wife under such circumstances. He set about finding one in a very practical way, for he applied to the Director of a girl's school in Tsukiji who, however, did not receive his suit with much favour. But the story got abroad, and a young lady, Miss Hide Akimoto, became so much interested in Mr. Hongo that she sought his acquaintance, and despite her father's opposition at the outset—for he, as a prosperous banker, naturally objected to marrying his daughter to a shoe-black—she ultimately succeeded in obtaining consent to the marriage. Mrs. Hongo applied herself with not less zeal than her husband to the work of charity, though she was sometimes obliged to sell her clothes and jewels for the support of the orphanage. This hand-to-mouth life continued until 1891 when the destructive earthquake in Gifu created a new opportunity for usefulness in Mr. Hongo's line. He and his wife were asked to undertake the bringing-up of twenty-five orphans, and they consented at once, for they seem to have been imbued with the firm conviction that means would always be found for any benevolent undertaking, however extensive. Prudence was certainly cast to the winds when a man who had hitherto been embarrassed to support five orphans suddenly undertook to maintain five times that number. But after all, Mr. Hongo's faith was well founded. Aid has invariably been forthcoming at the darkest times and he succeeded last fall in completing three buildings at Mishima, a village on the road between the Shiobara Spa and the Nishimasu Station on the Uyeno-Aomori line. They are very modest edifices. The land on which they stand has been given by Mr. Mishima, a wealthy man of that district, and the institution is called *Gyosei Ikuji-yen*, or the Orphanage of the Morning Star. Fifty children are supported there now, and how the feat is accomplished, we are unable to say. The whole story is worth recording.

A BRAVE WOMAN.

ONE of the greatest objections to Japanese bath-houses is the frequency with which articles of clothing are stolen while the owners, *in puris naturalibus*, are oblivious to all else but the intense heat of the *furo*. There is always some one seated at the entrance, generally a woman, who is supposed to keep a sharp lookout after sneak thieves; but as this watcher is money-taker as well and has to keep an eye on both apartments, *i.e.* the separate bath-rooms of the men and women, this is sometimes an obvious impossibility when there are, as often happens, four or five score people in the rooms, their clothing being either carelessly stowed away in open wicker baskets or on the shelves that line the walls. A few days ago, however, a venturous thief reckoned without his host. He entered a bath-house in Iida-machi, Koji-machi District, Tokyo, and to all seeming was quiet and peaceable in his ways. On leaving he adroitly slipped a bundle of clothing other than his own up his sleeve, and walked quietly out of the house. But the watcher was one too many for him in this instance. The mistress herself, Sato, had been on guard, and had noticed his felonious act. As soon as he left the house she gave chase and finally caught up with him just in front of the entrance of the Red Cross Society's headquarters. The thief did all he could to shake her off, striking and kicking her most savagely; but she bravely held on till the police arrived and had the satisfaction of seeing him placed in custody. The vernacular press speak in high terms of her courageous conduct, for the thief is a burly and muscular fellow and Sato a young and slightly-built woman of twenty-five.

THE "KEIZAI ZASSHI" ON TREATY REVISION.

THE *Keizai Zasshi* is glad to observe that there no longer exists any opposition to the opening of the country for Mixed Residence. The organs of the Opposition parties censure the Cabinet for having left unsettled the question of tariff autonomy in the case of Hawaii, but not one of them has refused to acknowledge the propriety of granting Mixed Residence. Even the recognized opponents of the immediate opening of the interior, who recently held meetings at the Tokyo Hotel, did not say anything against the grant of Mixed Residence to Hawaiians promulgated by the recent Imperial Ordinance. From these circumstances the *Keizai* concludes that a great change has taken place for the better in the views of the people on the subject of Treaty Revision. In reply to the contention that men do not now oppose Mixed Residence because the foreigners for whom the interior has been thrown open are citizens of a small State, our contemporary observes that such a contention need not be taken notice of. If Mixed Residence be really so objectionable as some persons have been wont to represent it, they ought to oppose it in the case of Hawaiians just as much as in that of Englishmen or any other nationals. Not only have they not opposed it in Hawaii's case, but even in speaking of the rumoured new treaty with England, they have not said anything against the admission of British subjects into the interior. The question now entirely turns on tariff autonomy. On that subject, too, our contemporary does not think it impossible to make such arrangements as may give satisfaction to both Japan and the Treaty Powers. The *Keizai's* plan is to abolish the present uniform tariff, and arrange schedules separately with each of the Powers. Thus, in accordance with the principle of reciprocity, Japan should admit English goods free of duties; while in the case of the United States, that country should be prevailed upon to admit Japanese goods on low rates of duties corresponding to similar rates in this country. The *Keizai's* desire is to fix the rates of duties at as low rates as possible, its ultimate aim being to have the principle of free trade adopted by this country. Foreign Powers being now understood to attach little importance to Consular Jurisdiction, they will readily consent to its abolition, if Japan he prepared to take a moderate course on the subject of tariff autonomy. And the *Keizai* is convinced that the true commercial interest of its country demands the fixing of a moderate tariff.

A GREAT MEETING OF THE OPPOSITION.

THE various sections of the heterogenous body of politicians arrayed against the Government are showing remarkable activity in the matter of holding meetings and stimulating each others enthusiasm. The 22nd instant was a red-letter day in their calendar, for not only did representatives of the Six Sections assemble at the Maple Cub in Tokyo to drink destruction to the churlish folks that persist in occupying the high offices of State, but also the *Sanyokai* and the *Konwakai* of the House of Peers and the Associated Opposition press sent delegates, the result being that 115 convives came together in the spacious rooms overlooking the blooming azaleas of the Shiba temples. It was altogether a very noteworthy occasion, deriving not a little respectability from the fact that the veteran Mr. Abei Hankon was in the chair. But as to its results, they appear to have been limited to formulating a resolution to hold another monster meeting on the 7th or 8th proximo, and to the appointment of Committees for purposes of organization. We presume that such demonstrations are not without effect in Japan.

INFLAMMABLE COSMETICS.

YAMAGUCHI, one of the leaders of the *soshi* actors, has recently been achieving a great success in impersonating the ghost of a murdered woman, the mistress of the famous robber chieftain Mizoguchi, who, it is narrated, was haunted to his death by the vengeful spirit of her whom he had wantonly killed. In order to make up as a ghost, Yamaguchi applied a sort of luminous cosmetic to his face. This had to be slightly heated and then well rubbed in before it would take effect. But the processes must recently have been rather too zealously carried out, for the paste suddenly burst into flame, scorching the actor's face badly and severely burning his right hand. The chemist who had made up the cosmetic, was so greatly mortified upon hearing of this miscarriage that he was about to disembowel himself when forcibly prevented from doing so by the neighbours. There must have been a good deal of phosphorus in the mixture, and the only wonder is that it did not ignite before.

THE NATIONAL BANKS.

THE charters of the great majority of the National Banks scattered throughout Japan expire in 1897, and there is naturally much anxiety as what will then be their fate. Some politicians talk of introducing in the Diet next, or following, session a Bill providing that any National Bank may be converted into a private one on the expiration of its term if a majority of its shareholders desire such a step. The subject is

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discussed by the *Mainichi Shimbun*. That journal foresees serious complications in the working of such a measure, inasmuch as a minority of the shareholders, by objecting to the proposed course, might compel the Bank to realise all its assets for purposes of division before resuming operations on a private basis. But we presume that the Bill would guard against any contingency of that kind. At all events, the question is evidently of the greatest interest and importance.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* writes in a very uncomplimentary strain about the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. The returns of this Company since 1889 and 1890 show that its affairs are not flourishing. During those two years it seems to have reached the zenith of its prosperity, but in 1891 its gross earnings showed a diminution of about 600,000 *yen*, and decline has since then been the rule. In 1888 and 1889 the Company declared a dividend of 12 per cent., but thenceforth the figure fell to 11, then to 9, and finally to 8 per cent. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says, in effect, that were it not for the subsidy granted by the Government, the Company would not be able to pay any dividend at all, and it finds this fact very extraordinary. The Company's property must have greatly appreciated in value; its ships also must be worth more in view of the rise in the silver price of gold; the cargo consigned to it is steadily increasing; its capital has been cut down; its staff has been reduced to the extent of saving about 300,000 *yen* a year, and its has secured business men of first-rate ability to manage its affairs. Yet, despite all these advantages, it does not prosper. Were shipping business in Japan generally unprofitable, some excuse might be found for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. But shipping business is not unprofitable: other companies with less advantages succeed in earning a dividend. If the Nippon Yusen Kaisha cannot be equally successful, the *Nichi Nichi* recommends it to entrust its business to the management of experts so that its shareholders may derive a reasonable profit in proportion with the opportunities that present themselves. It is true that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is obliged to discharge certain onerous obligations on account of the subsidy granted to it by the Government, but even after every allowance has been made on that account, its record is not what it ought to be.

JAPANESE MEN-OF-WAR.

JOURNALISTIC unanimity of opinion in Japan is limited to abusing officialdom. In all other respects the diversity of opinion is curiously striking. The case in point is the Navy. All the organs of the Opposition agree in attacking the Navy as badly managed, uneconomical, and incapable of defending the country. But when it comes to particulars, we find one praising precisely what the other abuses. The *Jiyu* says that all the ships hitherto ordered for Japan from France, England, or Scotland are miserable things. Their construction has been rushed through in half the usual time and worn-out engines have been put into them, the defects produced by age and use being deftly concealed by a coating of paint and by other contrivances. For example, an important part of the machinery of the *Chiyoda Kan*, a vessel built some years ago at Lord Armstrong's works, had previously served its time in a British man-of-war and had long been exposed for sale in a London store. Hence the ship has no speed commensurate with the purpose of its construction. Similarly the *Itsukushima Kan*, build at Glasgow the year before last, is already so full of defects that she goes by the name of the "crippled cruiser." Speaking generally, the contrast between ships constructed abroad and those built in Japan is strongly in favour of the latter so far as concerns durability, speed, and so forth. Thus the *Hashidate Kan* which was made here on the same lines as the *Itsukushima Kan* and the *Matsushima Kan*, but at double the time and cost, is a vessel satisfactory in every way. The same may be said of the *Yayeyama Kan*, built at Yokosuka a few years ago. Her speed is so remarkable that, starting from Yokosuka at the same time with the train, she beats the locomotive by more than half an hour in a journey to Yokohama. In view of all these facts the *Jiyu* is disposed to hold the Naval Authorities responsible for the unhappy fate of the *Chishima Kan* and the *Unebi Kan*. At all events, the Radical organ, in the sententious strain habitual to Japanese newspapers, solemnly warns the Navy not to repeat past failures by ordering any more ships from England.

* * *

On the other hand, the *Nippon*, writing on the very same day as the *Jiyu*, condemns the *Hashidate Kan* in round terms; alleges that had she been kept at full speed a little longer on her recent trial trip, her boilers would have burst, and adds that it will be necessary to procure new boilers for her from abroad at a cost of 100,000 *yen*. The *Nippon* writes as though it were in possession of very accurate information on this subject, but we venture to doubt its statements. As for the *Jiyu's* charge that a great firm like Lord Armstrong and Company would descend to the petty dishonesty of using cast-off and worn-out machinery in a man-of-war built to the order of a foreign Government, we have no hesitation in declaring it to be a foul slander. If that be the *Jiyu's* opinion of British commercial integrity, as represented by a firm that commands universal confidence and respect throughout the whole Occident, we can only say that no falsehood written about Japan by a foreign journal is inexcusable. It is to be hoped that the Agent in Japan of the great Elswick Company will proceed against this reckless slanderer with the utmost rigour of the law.

THE RADICALS.

THE Radical Party held a great meeting on the 23rd instant under the presidency of Count Itagaki. Mr. Hoshi Toru was among those attending. Various resolutions were adopted, the most important of them being that the Party should devote its strength to introducing a system of party cabinets; that all possible means should be adopted to accomplish Treaty Revision; that steps should be taken to bring about reduction of the Land Tax and re-assessment of the taxable value of land; that during the sixth session of the Diet, five representatives of the Party from each City and Prefecture should be invited to the capital; that in each City and Prefecture a council of ten should be chosen to represent the Radicals of the locality, and that Mr. Hoshi Toru should be invited to re-enter the Party. These various resolutions were adopted by acclaim. Count Itagaki then addressed the meeting. His speech was chiefly a eulogy of the Radicals, their policy, and their *morale*. He animadverted in strong terms on the *Kaishinto*, and declared that their alliance with a party like the *Kokumin Kyokai* (National Unionists) proved conclusively how hollow were their pretences that they sought to substitute responsible Cabinets for the system of Clan Government. The Radicals, he said in conclusion, had now 120 representatives in the Lower House, and would have 150 if another general election took place. As for the charge that they were in alliance with the Government, he avowed that a "decayed chair" like the present Cabinet could never serve as as a permanent seat for the *Jiyu-to*.

KIM'S FRIENDS.

KIM'S friends held another lecture meeting on the 23rd instant at the Yayoi-kan, Shiba, Tokyo. The speakers on this occasion were Messrs. Haseba Junko, M.P., Shiga Shigetaka, editor of the *Nippon-jin*, Takenouchi Seishi, M.P., Kokubo Kishichi, M.P., Itakura Nakaba, M.P., Kato Masanosuke, M.P., Kazuki Jokei, and Kobayashi Katsuto. Mr. Kono Hironaka of the Radical Party appeared on the platform to express regret that he could not address the meeting on account of a sore throat. It is not necessary to follow the comments of each of these speakers. Suffice it to say that, as on the former occasion, they all reflected severely upon the alleged complicity of the Korean Government with the plot of assassination, a few of them also criticising the conduct of the Chinese Government. They united in calling upon the Cabinet to take prompt and decisive measures against the Government of the peninsular Kingdom, since to adopt such a course was not only an obligation that Japan owes to Korea but is also what the people of this country are loudly clamouring for.

RURAL POLITICS.

THERE is a little town in Fukuoka Prefecture where politics seem to be regarded as a very serious business. The people have formed a club called *Kokkai Bocho-Ko*, which signifies "an association for hearing the proceedings of the Diet." The appellation has one peculiarity not apparent without a knowledge of Japanese customs which usually limit the use of the term *Ko* to religious bodies. It would seem, therefore, that politics are the religion of these Fukuoka villagers. At all events, what the members of the club do is to subscribe money for the purpose of sending to each session of the Diet four of their number who thus become qualified to give to the rest an exact account of the proceedings. The chief of the four is entrusted with the function of superintendence. He is chosen by vote, but the other three are selected by lot.

A DISPUTE IN THE STEERAGE.

COMMANDERS of the Pacific Mail steamers seem to have encountered some desperate characters among their passengers of late. Captain Seabury, of the *City of Sydney*, says that on the last voyage of that vessel from Mexican ports to San Francisco a dispute arose among the steerage passengers which ended in a shot being fired. It appears that a San Francisco hoodlum feeling a little elevated began to walk around the steerage accommodation with the proverbial chip on his shoulder. He got very noisy, and at last was requested to abate the nuisance by an old Mexican miner. The hoodlum took no notice at first, and on a second request being preferred turned round and told the old miner to mind his own business. At the same time he reached his hand towards his revolver-pocket; the miner, seeing the action, followed suit, and before the other could fire had planted a bullet in his body, laying the rowdy roisterer on the deck. He made no further disturbance during the *Sydney's* voyage.

TREATY REVISION.

CONCERNING the question of Treaty Revision, the conservative section of the Upper House has inflicted a cruel disappointment on the Opposition politicians. It had been supposed that Viscount Tani and his friends would start a campaign against the Cabinet about the supposed new treaty with England. So far as Viscount Tani and a few others are concerned, the expectation was perhaps well founded, but at a meeting held on the 18th instant, the majority of the conservative members of the Upper House rejected the proposal for a movement against the Cabinet, on the ground that, although negotiations for Revision are doubtless making some progress, there is no reason to believe that the conclusion of the undertaking is within sight.

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The conservatives of Takasaki, in the Province of Kozuke, held a lecture meeting on the 16th instant. The principal speakers were invited from Tokyo, namely, Viscount Shinagawa, Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu, Mr. Abei Iwane, and so forth. Before the opening of the meeting, the local conservatives, who call themselves *Seigi-ha*, assembled in large numbers in a park on a hill called Shimizu-san, and listened to a speech by Viscount Shinagawa. The report of the speech published in the vernacular press leaves us almost completely in the dark as to its real significance. The Viscount is represented as having spoken at one moment of the beauty of the scenery in the district, and at the next of the necessity of increased expenditure for administrative purposes. In one place he alludes to the loyalty of the forefathers of his hearers; in another, he lay stress on the importance of practising economy in modes of living. But his ultimate purpose seems to have been to exhort his audience to oppose the ratification of [illegible] Treaty said to be in process of negotiation

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between Japan and England. At the lecture meeting afterwards opened in the Fujimori Theatre, the principal speakers were Messrs. Abei Iwane, Wada Hikojiro, Arai Go, and Kokubo Kishichi. Nothing is journalistically reported about the nature of the subjects discussed, but it is believed that foreign policy was the principal topic. Afterwards a convivial meeting was held at the Kogen-ro. On the following morning another friendly gathering was organized with an attendance of about 360 persons. Addresses were delivered by Viscount Shinagawa, Mr. Yasuba, Mr. Abei, and others.

SILVER.

MR. HENRY CLEWS, a New York banker, says:—"The present attitude of Germany in connection with silver foreshadows a strong probability of a conference of nations being convened at an early date for the purpose of arriving at an agreement. Since the Brussels conference, important changes have occurred in connection with the silver problem. India has suspended free coinage, and the United States Government has repealed the Sherman law. Silver, therefore, is now really without a responsible sponsor, and is drifting about like a ship without a rudder, while it is recognized almost everywhere as essential that it should be utilized as a money metal and regulated as such through international action, which is now really the only solution. The greatest necessity for such an agreement at the time of the Brussels conference was felt in this country, owing to our especial needs. The situation has since changed, however, so that all the European nations are at present much more concerned in such an outcome than we are. The initiative, therefore, will doubtless soon come from that quarter, and Germany it would appear is likely to take that action."

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The Times says:—"The world appears to be in the first stage of reaction from the relative appreciation of gold, which has been so acutely felt by traders and holders of depreciating merchandise, and of which so much has been made by bimetallists who were anxious to alter the measure of value. Last year the tendency of gold to fall was obscured by special demands from America and Australia. These things no longer obscure the position."

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The *Engineering and Mining Journal* of New York, says:—"The present condition of England's business, the losses now daily inflicted on her merchants and manufacturers by the currency trouble in India and elsewhere, and the rapid decrease in her business with silver-using nations all over the world, are impressing on her merchants the necessity for action and are creating a public opinion which must in the end influence the Government." And the same journal adds:—"The United States can now look on with great composure at the pains and penalties afflicting the great exporter—the great creditor nation. We produce a large amount of gold. Europe must have our breadstuffs, and pay for them in gold. We have no foreign business that is materially affected by the price of silver, and we hold no bonds of silver countries. Our great silver-producing States, Colorado and Idaho, are now large gold-producers. With characteristic Western enterprise, Colorado has recovered her good spirits, and with a gold production of $1,000,000 a month and an increasing output of coal, iron, copper, and many other minerals, her cities and mining camps are resuming their old-time activity. Capital is flowing back into the State whose prosperity cannot be checked by the destruction of one industry, even if it did produce $30,000,000 a year, and Colorado now looks with composure at England's silver troubles, and says:—"When you get enough of them come to us and we will show you a way out which will benefit the whole world, and is not in the interest of any one nation."

* * *

It appears that the London Produce Clearing-House Company do not look for any appreciation of the gold-price of silver, but rather a steady depreciation during the next two or three months. The following is the list of prices for future delivery in April, May and June:—

Day of the Month.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	5th.	6th.	7th.	9th,	10th:
April	30 5/16	30 5/16	30 5/16	30 3/16	29 11/16	29 9/16	29 3/16	29 5/16
May	30 0/16	30 0/16	30 1/16	29 15/16	29 10/16	29 8/16	29	29 3/16
June	—	—	—	—	—	29 8/16	29	29 2/16

Day of the Month.	12th,	13th.	14th.	15th.	16th.	17th.	19th.	20th.
April	29 13/16	29 9/16	29 3/16	28 15/16	29	29	28 15/16	28 11/16
May	29 12/16	29 8/16	29 2/16	28 14/16	28 14/16	28 14/16	28 13/16	28 8/16
June	29 12/16	29 10/16	29 8/16	28 14/16	28 14/16	28 14/16	28 13/16	28 6/16

Day of the Month.	21st.	22nd.	23rd.	24th.	26th.	27th.	28th.
April	28 8/16	28 2/16	27 9/16	27 4/16	27 8/16	27 10/16	27 8/16
May	28 0/16	28	27	27 0/16	27 6/16	27 8/16	27 6/16
June	28 0/16	28	27	27 2/16	27 6/16	27 6/16	27 6/16

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE following is a summary of the Customs Returns for March showing the foreign trade of the empire for the month:—

	1893. SILVER YEN.	1894. SILVER YEN.
Exports	6,480,574.130	10,304,410.550
Imports	6,388,761.410	9,465,647.560
Total exports and imports		19,770,058.110
Excess of imports		838,762.990

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Exports	205,168.861
Imports	304.894.210
Miscellaneous	12,748.312
Total	522,811.383

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
China	1,061,338 150	2,047,524.090	3,108,862.240
Hongkong	1,809,426.830	459,039.020	2,268,465.850
Annam & other French			
India	518 000	874,716.340	875,234.340
British India	251,391.710	329,268.020	580,659.730
Russian Asia	6,174.240	287,002.620	293,176.860
Korea	84,777.680	172,628 330	257,406.010
Philippine Islands	21,101.250	104,642 010	125,743.260
Siam	—	68,551.300	68,551.300
France	3,347,416 500	388,678.770	3,736,095.270
Great Britain	586,459.430	2,999,741.220	3,586,200.650
Germany	130,751.720	663,872 250	794,623.970
Switzerland	82,538.460	40,734.970	123,273.430
Italy	100,394.900	14,322.680	114,717.580
Austria	82,738,100	1,992.800	84,730.900
Belgium	935.250	66,891.260	67,826 510
Spain	2,550.000	2,490.840	5,040 840
Sweden & Norway	369.000	3,661.390	4,030.390
Russia	1,925.500	87.200	2,012.700
Holland	1,599 500	51.500	1,651 000
Portugal	—	536.820	536.820
Turkey	470.000	—	470.000
Denmark	225.000	131.500	356.500
United States of America	2,101,149.870	919,962.750	3,021,112.620
Canada & other British America	222,833 850	1,168.340	224,002.190
Australia	115,134 600	8,807.680	123,942 280
Hawaii	33,402.290	—	33,402 290
Other Countries	77,924.750	9,143.860	87,068.610
Total	10,123,546.580	9,465,647.560	19,589,194.140

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

	Exports.	Imports.	Total.
Yokohama	6,710,801.300	3,575,574.760	10,286,376.060
Kobe	2,663,603.290	4,488,882.550	7,152,487 840
Osaka	115,788 940	649,930.120	805,719.060
Nagasaki	254,263.000	721,311.820	975,574.820
Hakodate	29,051.140	393.760	29,444.900
Shimonoseki	229,814.610	26,740.300	256,554.910
Moji	88,237.600	—	88,237.600
Hakata	2,678.700	1,950.390	4,629 090
Karatsu	22,148.000	—	22,148.000
Kuchinotsu	135,372 000	—	135,372.000
Idzugahara	1,010.580	291.700	1,302.280
Shishimi	884.780	533.760	1,418,540
Sasuna	2,269.610	38.400	2,248.010
Otaru	8,545.000	—	8,545.000
Specie and Bullion { Exports		1,519,969.090	
Specie and Bullion { Imports		1,369,535.600	
Total			2,889,504.690
Excess of exports			150,433.490

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants { Exports	1,506,176.400	
By Japanese Merchants { Imports	2,064,246.070	
Imported by Government		135,059.840

NOVELTIES AT THE METROPOLITAN THEATRES.

THE Haruki-za, which is shortly to reopen, offers a very attractive programme. First on the list is the drama known as "Iga-goe Dochu Sugoraku," a tale of the famous vendetta of Araki Masaemon, whose name is a simile for loyalty and courage. The second play is "Onna naru Kami," which gives fine opportunities for scenic effects. In Hongo District, the Masagoza, a second-rate theatre, will re-open with "Ueno Senso," the "Battle of Ueno"—a historical drama founded on one of the last conflicts between the obstinate retainers of the Shogunate and the Imperialist forces. This is always a popular spectacle. The intermediate plays (*naka maku*) are two in number. The first is the now well-known "Fusen-nori," or "Balloon Ascension," one of the few pieces wherein the stage effects of a Japanese theatre are seen at their best. The theatrical aëronaut is generally some popular actor, and by deft manipulation of the property balloon, he appears to arise to an immense height. The balloonist is invariably dressed in outrageous imitation of Mr. Spencer, who, some years ago, gave the Japanese their first real and lasting impression of aëronautics. The second play is a novelty, being no less than a *mise-en-scène* of Lieut.-Colonel Fukushima's adventurous ride across Asia. Even the now famous pony "Altai" makes his appearance, being represented by two slim-shanked utility-men. The last play on the list is "Ishii Tsuneemon," the dramatic story of the brave *samurai* who could never be brought to shame. There are now three theatres in Tokyo rejoicing in troupes of *soshi* actors. The best troupe is that of Kawakani Otojiro, who is a really clever histrion. Then come the Fukui people, their leader making an admirable woman. Finally, there is Yamaguchi and his troupe, who have just taken over the Azuma-za in Asakusa. Here another novelty will shortly be produced, a play entitled "Sawabe no Yamabuki," dramatised from a serial story recently published as a feuilleton of the *Yorozu Choho Shimbun*. The tale is founded on the strange history of Kawaguchi Kenjiro, a once-famous criminal resident of Yokohama. There is any quantity of bloodshed in the play, and many of those realistic situations that always find favour with a Japanese audience. Besides this drama, Yamaguchi and his troupe will give the old favourite "Chuko Yamato no Onna," or "The loyal and filially pious Maid of Japan,"—a title which speaks for itself.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND THEIR ABUSES.

FOR some time past, several weeks in fact, the *Miyako Shimbun* has been publishing a series of articles on abuses said to exist in Primary Schools, particularly those of Tokyo. If only a fractional part of that which has been made public is true, then a number of the largest metropolitan educational institutions are unquestionably in a bad way. The articles appear to be written in perfect good faith, though in many instances traces of that hysteria which is fast becoming a national malady, are plainly visible. It is, however, well-known that these primary establishments are far from being wholly satisfactory, and this not with regard to the curriculum or manner of tuition, but owing to other causes which, in this instance, our contemporary is at pains to set forth in the most elaborate manner. We cannot indeed credit the whole of the *Miyako Shimbun's* statements; the series is still incomplete and the *Miyako* promises disclosures of an even more discreditable nature; but even at present it is quite evident that a very thorough revision of the larger Primary Schools is called for. At all events it seems that many parents have written approvingly to our contemporary, speaking in high terms of the fearless manner in which the exposures are made; while the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* and others do not hesitate to praise the steps taken and express a wish that the investigation might be made to include other places than Tokyo. But in reviewing the whole subject, one must take into consideration the fact that the educational system of Japan is still, like so much else, in a transition period: it has not yet become consolidated, the exact educational needs as well as the scope of education itself not being thoroughly appreciated. The fact nevertheless remains that each year sees progress made in the right direction and that there are now schools in the country of which any European might will be proud. What has hitherto been done is largely tentative. How senseless and ill-timed, under such circumstances, was the proposal of the last Diet to do away with the Department of Education, is patent. *Festina lente*, or the Japanese equivalent, *seite wa koto wo shisonzuru*, is a saying which applies to all human affairs, and never more so than at present when all the world seems to be at fever heat and the *fin-du-siècle* spirit more rampantly progressive and iconoclastic than ever. The *Miyako Shimbun*, in our opinion, lays far too much stress on matters of trivial importance. It states, however, in so

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many words that a system of favonritism is characteristic of most Primary Schools. The sons and daughters of well-to-do parents have greater care bestowed on them, are treated more politely and altogether better instructed than those who are the scions of less wealthy houses. But we can assure our contemporary that the Primary Schools of Japan are by no means unique in this instance. The same is unfortunately true of many educational establishments in Europe and America, for it is one of the inherent evil qualities of human nature that money commands respect while poverty does the reverse. Again, the *Miyako Shimbun* states that many teachers, under the guise of giving further instruction in their own homes, nominally free of charge, have large classes, the members of which makes monthly gifts of money to their masters; and that this system has in certain cases gone so far that the interests of the school proper are neglected. This is an evil which can hardly be remedied unless the monthly stipend of the teachers is increased. They are about the worst-paid pedagogues in the world, their salary barely sufficing to keep body and soul together. Under such circumstances, there is no reason for surprise if they attempt to add a little to their income. Another charge made is that, on the occasion of *Undo Kwai*, or excursions and picnics, the pupils are made to go to absurdly distant places, requiring in some instances an outlay of two or three *yen*. The teachers of the Tokiwa Gakkō, in Nihonbashi District, dragged their weary charges all the way to Nikko last year, on another occasion walking, in two days, to Enoshima and back, both formidable distances for little feet. The same school proposes this year to go either to Okitsu or Numazu, but it is to be hoped that better counsels will prevail. A more serious charge is that some teachers are in the habit of making wine-parties in company with their wealthy pupils, and that drunkenness and lewdness are characteristics of such gatherings. The students are expected to foot the bills, even to the *geisha*-hire. This is a most unfortunate matter, if true; but while there may be some isolated cases, we cannot credit the statement that such things frequently occur. Nor can we give credence to the charge that instances of immoral familiarity between teacher and taught are not uncommon. But we have quoted enough to show that the *Miyako Shimbun* is not fighting merely with windmills. State inspection, however, would be preferable to the public exposure of much that is discreditable and still more that is incredible.

EMIGRATION TO HOKKAIDO.

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, a director of the Tanko Railway Company, who recently returned from a visit to Hokkaido, reports that an unprecedented stream of immigration is flowing in. As many as 250 new-comers per day proceed to Sapporo by the Tanko line from Otaru or Mororan. In a village called Iwamizawa, lying mid-way between Sapporo and Poronai, Mr. Inouye counted more than sixty new houses that had sprung up since his visit last summer. The total number of immigrants last year was fifty thousand, approximately, but judging from the state of affairs thus far in the present year, that total will be trebled. In October of 1893 the Nippon Yusen Kaisha opened a direct steamship service between Hakodate and Mororan, and it was anticipated that the shipping interest at Otaru would suffer in consequence. But such has not been the case. On the contrary, owing to the abnormal activity of immigration, shipping affairs at Otaru are in a flourishing condition. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha, however, does not seem to have fared too prosperously. It has three steamers on the new line, and their average monthly earnings have totalled only 15,000 *yen*, a sum evidently too small to cover expenses. But the winter and early spring months are never favourable for shipping operations in Hokkaido, and it is predicted by men of experience that, according to present appearances, the Company is sure to recoup itself fully later on. Mr. Inouye speaks very hopefully of the affairs of the Tanko Company also. Its new railway, which showed a loss of 30,000 *yen* in the 25th fiscal year, made a profit of about 2,000 in the 26th year, and seems to have a still brighter prospect before it. With regard to coal, the profit derived from the mines had not hitherto exceeded 29,000 *yen* in a year, but Mr. Inouye anticipates 80,000 *yen* this year.

IMPROPER PRACTICES AT EXAMINATIONS FOR THE ARMY.

Every one remembers the commotion created last year by a report that some of the papers to be set at the examination of aspirants for legal diplomas had been divulged through carelessness on the part of the examiners. A similar charge is now preferred by the *Niroku Shimpo* in connection with a recent examination at the Military College (Shihan Gakko). It is alleged that one of the students knew the questions to be propounded in history, and made a remarkable score in that one branch, though showing no scholarship in others. The examiner whose fair fame was involved, called at the office of the newspaper, and explained that no underhand practice of the kind was possible, inasmuch as the questions are prepared at the Head Quarter Staff and forwarded under seal to the place of examination, where they are opened just before being handed to the students. But the *Niroku* declines to accept this plea. It says that the questions, though forwarded from the Head Quarter Staff, are selected from among a number submitted by the examiners in each section, and that the latter are consequently in a position to post students within certain limits. There the matter rests. It is a pity that either the paper is not compelled by legal process to retract its accusation, or that the incriminated examiner is not definitely proved guilty.

A SWINDLER.

An ingenious swindler has just been arrested in Tokyo. He came to the capital some years ago from Kochi Prefecture for purposes of study, but soon fell into such dissipated ways that his father stopped his allowance and severed all connection with him. Reduced thus to the brink of starvation, the idea of simulating muteness occurred to him. He acted on it so successfully that he obtained ingress to the Deaf and Dumb School, and remained there for some time. Leaving the School on some pretext, he proceeded to the residence of Viscount Hijikata, and communicated to the steward in writing a story about his failure to enter a deaf and dumb institution and his desire to obtain means for returning to his native province. Clan feeling is strong in Japan. The steward not only assisted him pecuniarily, but also gave him a letter of introduction to Count Sasaki, who too comes from Tosa, and being franked on by the latter nobleman's folks, he succeeded in obtaining benevolent aid from quite a number of people. Finally, he passed from real to forged letters of recommendation, and that proved his ruin. For having presented to Mr. Chimoto, a Professor in the Higher Normal School, a letter purporting to be from the Headman of Koishikawa, the Professor, who knew the Headman's hand, had his suspicions aroused, and the pretended mute, being severely pressed for an explanation, forgot his disability and burst into speech, which, of course, put an end to his career of duplicity.

TEMPLE PRESERVATION.

The question of temple preservation is receiving renewed attention in connection with the Exhibition next year in Kyoto. Several years ago, writes the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the Home Department gave instructions to have inquiries made as to the most efficacious and feasible means of conserving these relics of Japanese sentiment, civilization, and art. But apparently no very practical result was attained, for the annual appropriation made by the Treasury for purposes of preservation has remained ten thousand *yen*, a sum ridiculously insufficient. Some time ago the celebrated temple of Kwannon in Asakusa was found to be in urgent need of repairs involving an expenditure of eighty thousand *yen*, but the Home Department was not in a position to contribute more than five hundred *yen* of that amount—a striking illustration of the deficiency of its resources. Next year, an unusual access of visitors is anticipated, and there is corresponding anxiety to effect the most needed repairs of the sacred edifices before that advent of sightseers. Numerous applications for aid have reached Tokyo from To-ji, from Byodo-in, from Nanzen-ji, from Kyomizu, from Mampuku-ji, from Horyn-ji, from Daibutsu-den, from Yakushi-ji, from Toshodai-ji and so forth. What will be the issue, no one seems yet able to form any idea.

THE HONJO MURDERS.

The perpetrator of the triple murder and incendiarism in Hongo, Tokyo, is now proved, by his own confession, to be Sakakibara Yuryo, half-brother of the well-known fencing-master Sakakibara Kenkichi. The story of the crime presents no extraordinary features. Sakakibara had for many years been a recipient of Judge Kogure's favours, obtaining, through his influence, minor official positions that enabled him to support his wife and four children. On the morning of the day when the crime was perpetrated, Sakakibara importuned the ex-Judge so peremptorily that the old man lost patience and administered a beating to his annoying visitor. Sakakibara determined to be revenged. The memory of past benevolence entirely obliterated by that one act of violence, he armed himself with a cudgel, shaped like a sword, and proceeded to Mr. Kogure's house. Having been for many years a teacher of fencing scarcely less skilled than his brother, such a weapon became very formidable in his hands. He crept into the house, and finding the ex-Judge reading, felled him with one blow of the cudgel. Startled by the sound of the blow, the ex-Judge's son entered the room and was immediately felled in the same manner. Sakakibara now searched for some cutting weapon, and found a Bizen sword with which he stabbed his victims in the gullet and abdomen. He then seated himself to quietly await the return of the maid-servant. Having killed her, he possessed himself of a watch and three or four suits of clothes, and then setting the house on fire, made his escape. It was his purpose to leave Tokyo, but as suspicion fell on the dead son of the ex-Judge, he saw no reason for haste, and thus found himself in the hands of the police before he could carry out his project of flight. At first he put a bold face on the matter, but the discovery of the stolen watch and clothes in his house, as well as of bloodstains on garments worn by him, showed him that further concealment was useless, and he confessed everything.

MISTAKEN HONOUR.

Upon returning to his home after a few hours' absence, a man named Irie Tsunezo, living in Akasaka, found the corpse of his younger brother hanging in one of the apartments. The young man, Koda Kensaku, had for some time being suffering from consumption and deemed his case incurable. Unable to work, he was compelled to receive assistance at the hands of his elder brother. This fact preyed upon his mind, says a letter addressed to Irie shortly before committing suicide; he deemed it dishonourable to be a burden to his brother. While acknowledging the elder's kindness, he thought that his death would make things easier for all concerned, and so "took the liberty" of departing this world.

THE NIPPON.

We have been accustomed for the last five years to expect so much intemperance and anti-foreign violence in the columns of the *Nippon* that we have gradually ceased to regard it as a serious journal. One can get accustomed to anything. There is a story told of a man who, having been in the habit of sleeping beside a high-pressure engine suffered insomnolence when he moved to a quiet neighbourhood. In the same sense the *Nippon* with its perpetual clang and clatter had ceased to be a nuisance or indeed to be thought of, until recently when the attentions paid to it by the police brought it again

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into prominence. It has been suffering from an intermittent fever of suspensions, the intervals between the accesses growing gradually shorter. The last was only a few hours. Released from suspension on the 23rd, it was again placed under the ban on the 24th. Its offence was a tirade about the Treaties. The *Nippon* wants everything abolished, that is to say, everything that can be coustrued, however remotely, as a conventional privilege accorded to foreigners, and such is its mood that, even when everything had been abolished, it would evidently wish for a little more abolition, like Hodge and the bacon and beans. Of course there is no difficulty in understanding such writing on the part of a Japanese journal, but nevertheless its indulgence cannot be suffered unless Japan means to cut the Gordian knot of the Treaties without any thought for the vested rights of foreign nations.

THE OPPOSITION'S PROGRAMME.

SEEING no hope of inducing a majority in the House of Representatives to vote for a Strict-Treaty-enforcement measure such as was introduced last session, the six sections of the Opposition have now finally resolved to adopt another means of embarrassing the Government. They know that the Radicals themselves disapprove of the step taken by the Cabinet in dissolving the House of Representatives before it had obtained an opportunity to discuss the Strict-Enforcement motion. Hence, at the very outset of next session, they will bring up the question of the impropriety of the dissolution, and having committed the Radicals to vote with them on that point, they will then introduce a resolution that the House can not repose confidence in such a Cabinet. To add force to this resolution they will propose that the House should suspend its sittings in order to give the Government time for reflection, and thus the old weary round of fruitless conflict will be again inaugurated. Such, says the *Jiji Shimpo*, is the programme. We do not doubt it. Something of the kind has been foreshadowed in all the writings of the Opposition press since the commencement of the year. But it is scarcely likely that the Radicals will consent to be so easily made the cat's-paws of the six sections.

THE JAPANESE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY is unusually scarce in Japan at present, according to the *Jiji Shimpo*. The fall in the gold price of silver is advanced as a cause of this state of affairs, but since exchange fluctuations affect the country's foreign trade only, and since the bulk of that trade shows a strong tendency to increase, we do not clearly perceive how a change in the ratio of gold to silver can influence the Japanese money market. However that may be, the *Jiji's* fact as to tight money is presumably correct. Osaka is said to be suffering particularly. The Bank of Japan's Branch in that city has been obliged to give accommodation to the extent of 12,000,000 *yen* during the past few months, whereas its maximum previously had been only 10,000,000. Probably the true reason of this state of affairs is to be sought in the growth of industrial enterprise and the consequent fixing of floating capital. It has always been a surprise to us that Japan does not suffer more by being so thoroughly self-contained in money matters. She works entirely with her own capital, and it need scarcely be said that any merchant doing that must be content to remain in a small way of business.

* * *

We learn from the same newspaper that the President of the Bank of Japan, commenting on the above state of affairs, warns his countrymen to be prepared for still harder times when silver begins to emerge from its present abyss of depreciation. Mr. Kawada thinks that it will emerge, and bases his prophesy on reports compiled by experts of the Bank recently sent to America and India to investigate the silver question. He is probably right. Commerce will have to suffer many of the evils of a dislocated exchange in an inverse sense before the world awakes to the fact that to conduct business with media of exchange the fluctuations of which exceed the limits of any profit reasonably obtainable from the business itself, is the hardest task ever yet proposed for human beings.

A NEW RAILWAY COMPANY.

A LARGE railway project is said to be on foot, the principal promoters being Messrs. Umeura, Tsuchida, and Yokohama, influential business men of Tokyo. The idea originated, we read, with Mr. Saburi, a railway engineer, who in the course of long official duties performed in Mino, Shinano, Echigo, and adjacent provinces, found an excellent route, as he supposes, for a line constructed so as to traverse districts where a large traffic in goods rather than in passengers will be tapped. The line will connect Tokyo and Yokohama with Kyoto and Osaka. Its general plan, indeed, revives the original conception of the Nakasendo central route, and it will thus bring Hokkaido, O-u, and Hoku-yetsu into close conection with the Kwan-sei regions. The districts traversed by it will be Tajimi and Nakatsugawa of Mino; Fukushima, Suwa, Matsumoto, Nagano, Iiyama, and Suzuka of Shinano; Tokamachi, Ojiya, Nagaoka, and Shibata of Echigo, and so forth. It is anticipated that the principal staples of traffic will be timber from Kiso, silk from Shinano, cereals from Echigo, porcelain from Tajimi, woven fabrics from Ojiya, marine products from Kambara, lacquer from Yonezawa, &c. The total distance to be negotiated is 338¾ miles, and the cost is estimated at 21 million *yen*. The promoters intend to petition the Government to guarantee five per cent. on the capital pending the completion of the works of construction. So soon as the road is open to traffic all official aid will be dispensed with. The *Kokkai*, from which we take these particulars, says that the project has already received substantial support, and will doubtless be submitted for official approval in a few days.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY AND THE BOMBAY SERVICE.

THE *Nippon*, which has just enjoyed a brief period of publication after recent suspension, has an article expressing great satisfaction about what it calls the discomfiture of the Peninsular and Oriental Company. Our notoriously level-headed contemporary catalogues quite a number of causes for satisfaction. It says, in the first place, that whereas the Company hoped to crush its Japanese rival by reducing freights to almost nominal figures, its extreme action served really to exasperate the Japanese and to consolidate their union against itself. Then, again, Manchester merchants regard the Company's doings with much disfavour. Their interests are directly concerned in the fact that the Company has extended its reduction of fares to Bombay yarns, and these being consequently placed upon the Japanese market at very low rates, are enabled to compete disastrously with imports from Manchester. Finally, the *Nippon* alleges that the Company has lost credit with the native merchants of Bombay also, whose eyes have been opened by recent events to the undue profits reaped by the Company during the period when it monopolized the carrying trade between Bombay and Yokohama. We do not suppose that the reputation of the Peninsular and Oriental Company is likely to suffer much from any attacks that the *Nippon* may make. The fight is a fair one, and while we naturally sympathize with the P. & O. Company and wish it success, we can very well understand that Japanese merchants are swayed by precisely the opposite feeling.

INTERRUPTED NUPTIALS.

MATERIAL for a first-rate sensational romance might have been obtained from a scene tha recently occurred at a wedding-ceremony in Kyobashi District, Tokyo. Tadao, the eldest son of a well to-do merchant, was about to espouse the blooming Oshizu, a well-dowered young lady of somewhat mature charms. Just as the bridal couple were about to go through the ceremony of *san-san-ku*, or the thrice emptying of three tiny cups of *saké*, a man forced his way into the room and without stopping to make a presentance cried out:—"I am Sato Zentaro, of Shin Minato Cho. I see you are marrying this woman, Oshizu. Then perhaps you do not know the she has another husband living." Tadao sprang to his feet and was about to make a violent assault on the defamer of his bride, when some of the wedding guests interposed and begged him first to sift the matter. Oshizu meanwhile remained crouched on the floor, pale and speechless. It did not take many minutes to satisfy even the irate bridegroom that Oshizu was in very truth the wife of the intruder himself. Sato showed a ring that he had received from the would-be bigamist and Tadao recognised it as one that he had lately given to her whom he had supposed still in the innocence of maidenhood. A scene of great confusion followed. Oshizu had to depart under the escort of her actual husband, and Tadao, furious at the deception of which he had been the victim, took immediate steps to bring the matter into court. It is believed that the parents of the young women were accessory to her act.

EXCHANGES.

A GENERAL meeting of representatives of the various Exchanges throughout the Empire was held in Osaka during four days, beginning on the 15th instant. The attendance numbered 90. Originally nothing more than a social gathering seems to have been contemplated, but many of the members being bent upon serious business, the meeting was duly organized and proceeded to hear speeches, debate Bills, and vote resolutions. A tolerably full account is given by the vernacular press, but the details have no special interest for our readers. A Bill to amend the tax on Exchanges was introduced as a matter of course. More interesting was a proposal for extending the scope of transactions by means of marks alone without samples. At present this system is limited to rice, whereas in pre-Restoration days it extended to cotton and oil also. The matter was entrusted to a special Committee as was also a Bill relating to points of conflict between the Civil and Commercial Codes with special reference to Exchanges. The Tokyo representatives introduced a measure for the establishment of a commercial bank which found favour with the meeting.

NO MIRACLE.

"WHOM the gods love, die young," is probably the only fitting consolation one may offer to Imai O Fuki, the mistress of a well-known tea-house in Susaki Cho, Tokyo. Some days ago her son-in-law, Tetsugoro, was suddenly taken with a severe attack of pleurisy, very grave symptoms developing. A reputable metropolitan practitioner was called in and under his experienced treatment the patient grew slowly better. But this failed to satisfy O Fuki: she would have her son-in-law made well at once. Being a very ardent believer of the Remmon sect, she was persuaded that divine counsel could be obtained of the priests at her favourite temple. So she went thither and after the customary offerings asked the advice of her ghostly counsellors. They recommended her to make Tetsugoro drink some of the water in which the image of their principal deity was washed, assuring her that instant convalescence would be the result. Armed with this counsel and a portly flagon of the not over-clear fluid, O Fuki returned home and persuaded Tetsugoro into taking a copious draught. He obeyed like a lamb; but the mixture was probably too strong or else failed to work harmoniously in connection with the heterodox medicaments of the Western-taught physician, for the poor man died three days after.

SCIENCE IN JAPAN.

THE *Nippon-jin* of the 18th instant laments the tardy progress of scientific study in Japan. It is inclined to lay the blame chiefly upon the elder generation of scientists; that is to say, on the group of students who received their education in the West during the first ten years of the present era (1868-1877), and who now occupy the principal chairs in the Imperial University and other leading seats of learning. These persons enjoy the monopoly of rank and

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honours accorded to men of science in Japan. But are they devoted to science? The *Nippon-jin* emphatically replies in the negative. Their knowledge, it says, is antiquated and shallow. Satisfied with the esteem in which they are regarded by the ignorant public and still more with the official rank they have obtained, they have no desire either to engage in original investigations or to keep themselves in touch with the current of thought in the West. No wonder, therefore, that they take little interest in younger men of science who exhibit any aptitude for the investigation of scientific truths. It may even be charged against them that they discourage the growth of a spirit of original research. Among the younger students of science, the *Nippon-jin* notices many investigators of great calibre. But to them are closed all the chairs and posts of importance, since these are tenaciously held by the members of what may be termed the aristocracy of scientists. Thus, on the one hand, left out in the cold by their luckier elders, and on the other, regarded with indifference by the general public, it is not surprising that younger students should suffer from the blighting influence of neglect. The indifference of the public towards men of science is the result of the faulty teachings of Chinese philosophy, which regards politics as the highest function of gentlemen, and looks with contempt upon science and art. Works on politics and literature are applauded or condemned by more or less well qualified critics in the columns of magazines and newspapers throughout the country, but scarcely a periodical takes any notice of the productions of scientific men. But if the public entertain mistaken notions about the nature of science, the *Nippon-jin* thinks it the duty of the elder generation of scientific men to endeavour to remove such notions, and to disseminate knowledge among the people. Our contemporary urges the establishment of a system of pensions for men engaged in original scientific research. It thinks that the adoption of such a system would do much to enhance the position of this Empire among the civilized nations of the world.

A WONDER-WORKING IMAGE.

Some weeks ago, a *jinrikisha*-man named Inagaki, living in Fukagawa District, Tokyo, while digging in the tiny plot of ground attached to his house, happened to unearth one of the stone images know as *jizo*. It stood about two feet high and weighed something like twenty-four pounds. Shortly afterwards—here the account grows apocryphal—he had a remarkable dream, in which the resurrected *jizo* came and stood by his pillow, thanking him for having dug him out of his very damp and unpleasant quarters. He asked what he could to show his gratitude. Inagaki, still asleep, replied that he was troubled with a very stubborn rash that he would like to be rid of. "Rub the spots with *daiwo* (rhubarb-root)," said his godship, "and you will recover in two days." Upon awakening, Inagaki at once followed the advice of the *jizo*, and was completely restored to health in the specified time. The story of this remarkable instance got noised abroad and many people of the poorer class came to worship the mysterious image. Inagaki gave up his trade as a *kuruma*-puller, being quite able to make a comfortable living of the *saisen* (petty alms) offered to his stony benefactor. But the police got wind of the matter, and believing with materialistic harshness that the days of such miracles were past, impounded the *jizo* and arrested Inagaki for swindling. Inagaki's trial will shortly come off, when the reality of the miracle will be tested. The *jizo* seems to be having a pretty hard time of it altogether.

MEAN REVENGE.

Usurers are not more liked in Japan than elsewhere. There are three classes of men who seem in all cases to meet with nothing but disfavour at the hands of the public; almost universally execrated, their lot cannot be called an enviable one. The feeling against them runs in an ascending gamut,—*shitatsuri*, *kori-kashi*, *tantei*: bailiffs, usurers, and spies, the most heartily hated being the members of the last category. Pawnbrokers and owners of brothels are people with claims upon gentility, compared with these three classes. And so they are sometimes, as in the following instance, made to feel the brunt of personal dislike in ways more forcible than polite. On the 10th instant, a usurer named Shimomura, a resident of Tokyo, was making great preparations for his son's wedding, which was to come off that night. Shortly before the moment in which the bride was to appear, a large and heavy box was carried into the guest-chamber, the ticket attached stating that it was an humble tribute of esteem for Shimomura, the acceptance of which at this auspicious moment would confer lasting happiness on the anonymous giver. Pleased and wholly off his guard, Shimomura had the great box carefully unwrapped, and found it to be a coffin, with a neat label giving that date as the day of the usurer's decease. He was furious, and the festivities were at once completely at an end. No clue was found as to whence it came, even the bearers mysteriously disappearing so soon as the coffin had been deposited in the guest-chamber. It was undoubtedly the malicious gift of some recent victim of the usurer.

ENTERPRISE.

In these days when the old devices for getting into the pockets of charitable people are beginning to be hackneyed and new are difficult to discover, Mr. Okami Tsunekichi of Hakozaki, in Chikuzen, will be welcomed as a splendid innovator. For several years this gentleman has been engaged compiling a list of the fair beauties in that part of Japan. He grades them carefully according to their relative attractions, and so industrious has he been that his catalogue now contains 25,000 names, selected from the Prefecture of Fukuoka and adjacent provinces. Mr. Okami's original idea in undertaking this work was to organize a competitive exhibition of pretty women, but he has now adopted the more feasible project of publishing a book of beauty with 1,300 illustrations. He has another scheme also. It is to select 400, the most highly favoured out of the 25,000, whom he will employ in a species of bazaar in Tokyo. The goods offered for sale at the bazaar will be furnished at cheap rates by the merchants of Fukuoka and Hakata, and the projector has some novel ideas as to methods of sale. The safety of the fair girls is to be assured by stationing constables to look after them, and Mr. Okami thinks that such a bazaar would be an excellent opportunity, not only for gaining commercial profit, but also for finding a lovely wife. But what an idea this is for the projectors of charity bazaars!

ASAMA-YAMA.

The crater of Asama-yama seems to have undergone some considerable changes lately. It has been ascended by the chief of Police of Nagano Prefecture for the purpose of inspecting the changes, and his official report is now published. It speaks first of a deluge of rocks, generally about the size of a small *saké* cask, with which the neighbourhood of the crater is now strewn, and then passes on to describe alterations that have occurred in the fissures about the crater. These used formerly to radiate outwards from the crater, and some of them had a width of from 18 to 24 feet. But they have now disappeared, and in their place new fissures are observed concentric with the crater, but not so wide or so deep as the old fissures, being only from 6 to 10 feet wide and from 3 to 4 deep, though sometimes they attain a depth of 8 or 10 feet. The longest of these fissures does not exceed 40 yards, and though generally concentric, they sometimes intersect. Numerous depressions are also seen in the ground, and it is plain that the area thus rent must be in a state of very unstable equilibrium. From the fissures volumes of white smoke are ascending, and within the crater the cloud of smoke is so dense that not the bottom alone but even the opposite side are veiled. The stone shrine that formerly stood at the northern end of the crater has disappeared even to its foundations. The great fissure on the east of the shrine, from the lower part of which it used to be possible to see the bottom of the crater occasionally, has now been filled up, and the path that led from it into the crater exists no longer. The smoke of the crater has a strong, suphurous odour. It sweeps round the walls with great velocity, and there is constantly emitted from the interior a noise like the rush of a great cascade. The Chief of Police and his party were deterred by plain indications of danger from pursuing their investigations very closely.

RATES OF FREIGHT ON THE JAPAN RAILWAY COMPANY'S LINES.

Desirous of equalizing its earnings from freight throughout the year, the Japan Railway Company has hitherto varied its rates, charging 2 *sen* a mile per ton of goods during the six months ending in March, and 2½ *sen* during the rest of the year. Spring and summer being a dull season, whereas goods are moved largely in autumn and winter, the Company's idea is to stimulate activity by low charges during the former time. Naturally the consigners of freight object to such a system, and naturally the closing days of the cheap period see such a rush of goods that traffic is often hopelessly blocked. The *Shogyo Shimpo* says that as commercial methods improve, the tendency to periodicity of transport operations diminishes. Guided by the state of the market above all things, merchants send their goods forward at every season, and competition compels them to consider the cost of storage more than a difference of half a *sen* in freight charges, which all alike have to endure. Hence the distinction of seasons disappear, and the Company has decided to abandon the difference in charges, and levy the same rate throughout the whole year. But whether the uniform charge will be 2½ *sen*, 2 *sen*, or 1.8 to 1.9 *sen*, remains to be seen.

THE JAPAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

The growth of the Japan Railway Company is beginning to attract attention. Originally the Company's programme was limited to two trunk lines—Uyeno to Yokokawa and Uyeno to Awomori—and two branch lines—that from Sendai to Shiogama and that from Takasaki to Mayebashi. Then it added the Nikko and the Mito roads to its system, and afterwards it undertook the building of the line from Shiriuchi to Hachinoye. The inclusion of the Ryomo line cannot now be long deferred, and the Company is further pretty sure to acquire the Government line from Yokogawa to Naoyetsu (the *Shinshu Tetsudo*), which will bring into its possession the entire road from Uyeno to Naoyetsu. Finally, it will purchase the O-u line—from Fukushima to Awomori *vid* Yamakata, Akita, and Hiromaye—thus becoming proprietor of more than one-half of the railways in the country.

THE RECENT INQUEST.

The verdict pronounced by the Coroner's Jury in the recent case of death by drowning, and the action of the Coroner in accepting the verdict, have provoked criticism. It is alleged that there was no evidence to warrant a verdict of suicide, and that the only proper finding of the Jury would have been that the deceased was "found drowned." These comments are not surprising, in view of the journalistic reports alone of the case. It is natural, perhaps, that any one perusing the evidence there recorded, knowing nothing more and not waiting to reflect, should be perplexed to account for the Jury's decision. But the fact is that the newspaper reports are incomplete. In addition to the evidence there shown as having been submitted to the Jury, two letters found upon the body of the deceased lady were also placed in their hands. These letters, written in pencil, were obliterated in parts, but enough of them remained to show only too clearly what had been the nature of the unhappy lady's fate. The publication of the letters was, in the first place, withheld out of consideration for the feelings of the deceased's friends, the Coroner urging the wisdom of such reticence, and the representatives of the press of course abiding

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by his advice. Such being the case, we have been not a little astonished to observe severe editorial comments upon the verdict of the Jury and upon the acquiescence of the Coroner. That an outsider, unacquainted with the full details elicited at the inquest, and not having sufficient penetration to perceive that unless something had been left unreported such a verdict could never have been returned or accepted, should pen a hasty criticism, does not surprise us. But that the editor of a journal whose own reporter had abstained, at the Coroner's suggestion, from publishing the full details, should write as though no such details existed, seems an unfortunate and unwarrantable misleading of the public. Under the circumstances, we should be disposed to give publicity to the letters, did we not recognise that the original objection to their publication cannot be removed by the mere utterance of ill-judged and ill-informed criticism. In a case of the kind a newspaper has a higher duty to perform than that of pandering to the idle curiosity of its readers, and we are pursuaded that the reputation of the Jury and the Coroner alike are not endangered by their humane desire to have sympathetic reticence observed.

A NOVEL CUSTOM.

A VERY curious and novel custom prevails in Okinawa Prefecture (the Loochoo Islands). When a man is guilty of petty larceny, especi ally in connection with agricultural products, a tablet is handed to him having his name inscribed on it. The possession of this tablet is counted a great disgrace, and is also felt keenly in another way, for the holder has to pay a certain sum—small in actual amount but considerable to such poor people as the Loochooans—every day to the village office. What happens if he fails to make the diurnal payment, and for what maximum period he keeps the tablet, we do not know, these points not being noticed by the vernacular press from which we take the facts. It is there stated that the penalty of holding the tablet is expiated only by discovering and reporting some other pilferer, to whom the obnoxious token is then transferred. Animals also are included in the catalogue of offenders. If a man's horse or ox is found trespassing on a neighbour's farm and eating the crops, a tablet at once goes to the animal's owner. Thus the old counsel, "set a thief to catch a thief," is obeyed to the letter. Every one guilty of detected larceny becomes a special constable. The system is said to work very well. We should like to know, however, how it is modified in the case of repeated offences. Apparently a second tablet is never given to the same person. Hence, if a man were disposed to be a perpetual sinner, the holding of the tablet might be rather a convenience than an embarrassment to him. They say that the Loochooans are too unsophisticated to see the thing in that light. We do not believe it. Wisdom may linger on its way to some nations, but the knowledge of sin finds its way to all with tolerably equal celerity.

RE-UNITED.

FACT surely is stranger than fiction. Mr. J. W. Marshall, a Birmingham broker, was fifteen years ago engaged to Miss Mary Nelson, a descendant of the immortal Admiral. Marshall had a friend named John S. Giebert, whom he introduced to his *fiancée*. Giebert fell in love with her himself and won her by a cruel device. A skilful copyist, he imitated Marshall's writing in a letter addressed to the girl, and the girl's handwriting in a letter addressed to Marshall. The purport of each letter was the same: each writer declared that love was at an end and marriage impossible. Marshall was too shocked to seek an explanation. He sold out and sailed for Australia. Mary Nelson cried bitterly no doubt, and then did what girls often do under the circumstances—married the first man that came along, who of course was Giebert. They went to America and were far from happy. Marshall meanwhile prospered in Australia, married, had a daughter and lost his wife. Returning to England, his heart went back to old times and he caused enquiries to be made about Mary Nelson's fate. He found that she had been a widow for two years: that she was living in straightened circumstances with her daughter, and that Giebert, on his death-bed, had confessed his duplicity. Need we say how the story ends? The final scene took place in a barrister's office in New York. After fifteen years of separation the man and the woman are said to have "rushed at each other with extended arms." It is a veritable case of "Percival and Nina."

COUNT ITAGAKI'S SPEECH.

AT the extraordinary general meeting of the Radical party, on the 25th instant, Count Itagaki, as usual, addressed his followers on the position of the Party. He congratulated them on the Radical success in the last general election. Though they were not a majority of the House of Representatives, they might be able to control it, if they were firmly united. Even if incapable of moulding the House to their will, they would at least be able to influence public opinion. The sixth session of the Diet being at hand, the Count called upon his followers to prepare themselves for the impending fight with their enemies. The issue of the struggle could not be foretold, but the Radicals had only to do their part in the fight manfully and with prefect harmony among themselves. Nothing could be more disastrous than dissension and discord in the camp. This point was well illustrated by the unfortunate experience of the Party in the last session, when the presence of alien elements in its own ranks gave to its opponents unique opportunities of attacking it. Count Itagaki then referred to that eventful period in the history of his Party when he and his followers were engaged at the risk of their lives in sowing the seeds of liberty in Japan. In those days the Radicals had to contend, on the one hand, against the lethargic indifference of the people, and, on the other, against the merciless persecution of a despotic Government. They were reviled as malcontents and even as traitors. They were willing to die in the cause of liberty, and in fact many of them had laid down their lives cheerfully, while many more suffered in the prisons of Hokkaido and other places. Count Itagaki himself had not expected to live to see the inauguration of a constitutional system of Government. Now that they had so far attained their object as to obtain a voice in the Government of the country, would they turn upon their former oppressors and be revenged on them? Such was not the intention of the Radicals. Their purpose was to effect the transition from a clannish bureaucracy to a truly constitutional government in a smooth and peaceful manner without any of those excesses of vengeance and retaliation which too often disgraced the history of similar epochs in European countries. Even while his Party was the object of oppression by the Government, he foresaw that a day would certainly come when he should be called upon as a loyal subject to restrain the advocates of popular rights from excesses of retaliation against their former persecutors. "It was some time in 1881," said the Count, "that I called upon Count Soyejima and told him that, although I was then detested as the leader of a destructive party, it would one day be my mission to restrain the violence of my co-operators in moments of victory, namely, on the opening of the Diet." The Party was now pursuing a policy already settled in those days, namely, that of facilitating the smooth and peaceful transition from the old to the new order of things. What were the Government and the other parties doing now? The statesmen in office were anxious only to retain political power as long as they could, and were devoted more to their personal interest than to their country's. "While we are willing to effect the transition smoothly and peacefully, those in power seem inclined to embitter still more the feelings of the people against them." As an example of the Cabinet's indifference to good opinion of the people, the Radical leader pointed to the shortness of the coming session of the Diet. A Cabinet that really desires the smooth progress of things would have provided a sufficient length of time for the despatch of the important affairs demanding immediate attention. As to the other political parties, Count Itagaki observed that their only business was to embarrass the Government in retaliation for the wrongs they had suffered in former days at the hands of the latter. They were just as indifferent as the Government to the true interests of the country. With such parties, the Radicals never could cooperate. Thus the Radical Party now occupies a solitary position, and its policy will be ever to act in a just and independent manner. In the present state of things, there is no necessity for the Radical Party to have any regard to other parties and persons. It would not be long, said the Count, before his party would obtain a working majority in the Diet. He recommended his followers to wait patiently for the consummation of such an event, for then and then only would it be possible to carry out a true system of constitutional government. Meanwhile, he would advise them to take care never to abuse the growing power of their Party in the Diet. He then proceeded to lay before the assembly a project for the reorganization of the internal council of the party. During the late session of the Diet, the direction of the party had been in the hands of a council consisting of seven members. He now proposed that that council be abolished and its place be taken by two of the *Kanji*, the remaining *Kanji* being charged with the management of business affairs only. The two *Kanji* should be called Political Managers of the party. But, besides them, as far as circumstances would permit, the leader would take care to ask the opinion of the Sectional Chiefs (*Bucho*) and Assistant Chiefs. He then referred to a change in the usual proceedings of a General Conference. Hitherto, it had been customary to introduce ready-made draft resolutions for the adoption of the assembly. On the present occasion, no such draft would be submitted; but reports would be read on the results of investigations that had been conducted at the head-quarters of the party, and the assembly would then be called upon to appoint a committee to draw up resolutions on the bases of these investigations. In conclusion, he reminded his followers of the importance of maintaining their Party's well earned reputation for sincerity of intention and accuracy of political investigations conducted under its auspices. To this reputation he ascribed the success of his Party at the last general election.

STATISTICS.

MOST of our readers are probably aware that, whereas in Western countries the female section of the population always out-numbers the male, the opposite is the case in Japan, there being 10,000 men to every 9,802 women. The latest statistical returns show that this proportion differs according to rank. Among the Peers the fair sex predominates by as much as from 10 to 17 per cent., varying between these limits from year to year. Coming to the gentry (*shizoku*), we find about 99 women to every 100 men, while in one year the females actually exceeded the males by 25 in every 10,000. But in the plebeian classes the male sex markedly predominates, there being about 100 men to every 97 women.

* * *

With regard to marriage, it appears that from 800 to 855 persons become man and wife annually out of every 100,000 of the population, and the yearly number of divorces is from 268 to 306, thus averaging about ⅓ of the marriages. In other words, one out of every three persons that marry find the nuptial state a failure. Considering localities, we find marriage most frequent in the northern districts, especially in Akita Prefecture where 13 people out of every 1,000 marry annually. On the other hand, the inhabitants of Kyoto and its neighbouring provinces are conspicuously celibate: only 7 people in every 1,000 get married yearly in Kyoto, Osaka, Nara, Wakayama, Shiga, Gifu, and so forth, that is to say, in the regions collectively known as the western section of the main island. The provinces where marriages are

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most numerous enjoy the same distinction with regard to divorce, the average in the seven northern provinces being 371 divorces for every 100,000 people, Akita heading the list with 587. In this respect, Kyushu shows the best record, its average being 231 divorces for every 100,000 of its inhabitants, and the provinces in the vicinity of Kyoto where marriages are rarest have also fewest divorces.

* * *

The birth-rate is a little less than 3 per cent. throughout the Empire, and the death-rate being a little over 1 per cent., it follows that the population is increasing by from 1 to 2 per cent. annually. The maxium ratio of illegitimate to legitimate births is 617 to 10,000, and the minimum, 409 to 10,000. Roughly speaking, the western section of the main island, that is to say, the provinces lying in the Hei-han neighbourhood, have the worst record in this respect, namely 948 illegitimate births to 10,000 legitimate. At the opposite extremity of the list stand the northern provinces, their figure being 443. Considered more particularly, however, still more striking differences are apparent. Hakodate seems to be a terribly immoral place: out of every 10,000 children born there, no less than 8,545 are illegitimate. On the other hand, in Shuri, the capital of Riukiu, there are only 15 illegitimate children out of every 10,000. The sex of the child differs perceptibly according to the legitimancy or otherwise of its birth. In the case of legitimate births, male children exceed female by 5 per cent., whereas the statistics of six years ending with 1892 show that among illegitimate babies, the females exceed the males by 1 per cent.

MAILS BETWEEN TOKYO AND KOBE.

A CONSIDERABLE improvement has been effected, says the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, in the mail service between Tokyo and Kobe. There have always been three through trains daily, but mail matter was carried in two only and letters coming to Tokyo by the last trains were conveyed as far as Mayebara only. Against this plainly imperfect system the Kobe post-master preferred representations, with the result that mails from Kobe and Osaka are now forwarded thrice daily. Thus a letter posted after 9 p.m. in Kobe leaves that place by the 4.40 train next morning, reaching Tokyo at 11.35 p.m. the same day. Altogether, the conveyance of mails by the Tokaido line has been accelerated by from 5 to 6 hours. But the greatly increased rapidity of transit for passengers spoken of some time ago as likely to be effected, turns out to be a very paltry business, the maximum gain being only 35 minutes. One other noteworthy change is that the train from Osaka formerly stopping at Mayebara now runs through to Nagoya, thus greatly facilitating the transmission of mail matter between the two towns. We may observe *en passant*, that the trains carrying mail matter from Tokyo now leave Shimbashi at 6.20 a.m., 11.45 a.m., and 9.55 p.m.

A MODERN MONTE CHRISTO.

HERE is a romance from modern life, showing, among other things, that the race of lunatics at large is not extinct:—

Atlantic City, N J., March 16, 1894.—The droll pranks of Edward R. Drouin, the eccentric individual who has gained widespread newspaper notoriety lately, are still the absorbing topic of conversation among visitors and residents here. Each day and night reveals a new phase of his eccentricity.

Mr. Drouin to-day flashed on an expectant populace astride a big steeplechaser, his riding suit consisting of a scarlet cavalry jacket, white duck breeches, tan coloured topboots, and a high silk hat. He flourished a riding whip of huge dimensions and dashed along the avenue at a lightning gait, his erratic horsemanship assuring him a clear track. He was greeted with derisive remarks and jeering shouts all along the line, but was evidently quite content with the *furore* he was creating.

Drouin sallied forth from his extensive private stables two hours later on a diminutive Shetland pony. He was bent on another equestrian exhibition. This time he was arrayed in a fashionable evening suit, the long tails of which, as well as his feet, nearly touched the ground. He chose the beach as his stamping ground on this occasion, and gave the thousands of Lenten visitors who crowded the Ocean Boulevard an hour's gratuitous entertainment.

Another fad which Drouin has been indulging recently is to have a relay of vehicles from his stables placed at points a few blocks apart in charge of his stable men, who await their master's coming with anxious dread. Starting from his up-town cottage in a pony cart, Drouin drives madly up to the first relay, tosses the lines to the expectant groom, jumps into other waiting gig and is off again like a flash to the next in line. When he has completed the circuit he goes through a series of spasmodic evolutions on the highway and then proudly struts, whip in hand, along the crowded sidewalk to one of his favourite cafés.

The procession of vehicles which Drouin stations along the roadway does not exhaust his supply of rolling stock by any means. Not content with his unusually large stable, this modern Croesus recently purchased a local livery stable, and has been adding to its contents ever since. No one one but himself and his wife, however, is allowed the privileges of the place.

Mrs. Drouin is a pretty blonde, and apparently enjoys her husband's eccentricities hugely. Her actions, however, are demure and staid. Her clothing is always rich, but extremely unconventional. She bears a striking resemblance to the wife of Pugilist James J. Corbett.

One practice of Drouin's has met with the grateful approval of the gamins of the town. He places a five dollar bill under his foot, and then exerting all his strength, promises the money to the one who can push him away. He is slender and not powerful, and the feat is generally easy of accomplishment. Often he utilizes ten dollar bills to light the choice cigars which he smokes.

A local newspaper, a six thousand dollar block of Second National Bank stock and the Penn Mansion Hotel have become the property of this prodigal young resident since he appeared here, several months ago. Of what use they can be to him is problematical, as he announces that the ventures were not for pecuniary gain.

The source of Drouin's stream of wealth is something over which this place has pondered in vain. He claims Philadelphia as his residence. Merchants are paid several times the amount of their goods, and the messenger boys who are being continually summoned are fabulously rewarded. He has often been known to call a messenger to do a service which would require but half a dozen steps for him to take.

THE FISHERY ASSOCIATION.

THE Japan Fishery Association held its twelfth annual meeting in its office at Mita, Tokyo, on the 22nd instant. The President, H.I.H. Prince Komatsu, was not present, but an address in his name was read by Mr. Murata, the Chief Manager of the Association. After the presentation of diplomas to the graduates of the Fishery School, an adjournment was made to the Yayoi-sha, where lectures were delivered. Mr. Murata spoke first. The most interesting fact mentioned by him was the success attained by Japanese pickled mackerel at the Chicago World's Fair, as shown by the receipt of an order for 300,000 *yen* worth. Viscount Enomoto dwelt on the importance of deep-sea fishing as a means of supporting the population; Mr. Kaneko Kentaro spoke of the relation between sea fisheries and international law, and Mr. Wada Yuji described the result of experiments conducted by him, since last year, into the velocity and temperature of ocean currents in Japanese waters, a subject which bore, he thought, an important relation to the fishing industry.

BETROTHAL OF H.I.H. THE CZAREWITCH.

A TELEGRAM has been received in Tokyo announcing the betrothal of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Russia to Princess Alice, fifth child of the Grand Duke Ludwig of Hesse and of the late Princess Alice, second daughter of H.M. Queen Victoria. The marriage of the future Emperor of Russia to a granddaughter of the Queen of England is an event of the happiest augury. Princess Alice of Hesse was born on June 6th, 1872. Her mother, the Queen's favourite daughter, died on December 14th, 1878. A marriage has already taken place between the House of Hesse and the Imperial Russian Family, the Princess Elizabeth, second child of the Grand Duke Ludwig being the wife of the Grand Duke Sergius Alexandrovitch.

JAPANESE FISHERMEN IN RUSSIAN WATERS.

IT appears that Japanese fishermen visiting the coasts of Russian Siberia and Saghalien for the purpose of plying their trade have hitherto experienced much inconvenience owing to the difficulty of procuring Russian coins wherewith to pay the fees demanded by the local authorities. As a considerable number of men cross over to fish every year, arrangements have now been made by the Bank of Japan, working in concert with the Special Bank and the Japanese Consul in Kamschatka, for exchanging Japanese paper-money into roubles in Hakodate, the charge made for the service being 70 *sen* per 100 *yen*.

AN ACT OF VANDALISM.

IT was only a few days ago that we reported that Messrs. Boehmer had at their nursery 5,000 peonies set out, most of them in bloom, which they invited the public to come and see. The firm now informs us that last night some one entered the garden and totally destroyed 220 of the plants. The only cause Messrs. Boehmer can think of for the perpetration of this scandalous act is trade jealousy, as there are in the immediate neighbourhood scores of Japanese gardeners. The police have been communicated with, but there is small hope that the miscreants will be brought to justice, as, unlike a case of stolen property, there is nothing to trace.

FAITHFUL AFTER DEATH.

THE people in the neighbourhood of the Zoshigaya Cemetery in Koishikawa, District, Tokyo, have for some time past been startled at the sight of an apparent ghost which regularly visited the burying-ground about midnight. The apparition was seen to weep and faint sobs were heard. The police were notified, and they found that it was no ghost, but a real flesh and blood mourner, in the shape of a young widow whose husband died last month. Questioned as to why she came thither, she answered that it was to visit and guard the grave of her husband. She could not bear the thought of leaving him alone at night, and so always came after dark and wept by the grave till day-break. No effort has been made to keep her away from the cemetery, and she still, they say, watches each night by her husband's tomb.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

KOREA appears to be again suffering from one of the disturbances that are almost chronic with her now-a-days. Large numbers of persons, driven to desperation by the cruelty of the local officials in a district about 120 miles from the capital, are reported to be in open insurrection Armed with swords and spears, they have overcome the resistance of the force at the command of the local officials, have killed three of the latter, have seized a quantity of Government rice, and under the leadership of one Sai Jikyo, are moving on the capital. The particulars to hand are meagre, only the mere outlines of the affair as here given, having been telegraphed.

THE TOKYO WATER-WORKS.

THE second reading of the Iron Pipe Bill in the Tokyo City Assembly concluded last night when both reports of the Special Committee were rejected. The Assembly decided to carry out the original proposition of the City Council to cancel the contract of the Japan Cast Iron Foundry Joint Stock Co.

DEATH OF LORD HANNEN.

THE death is announced of the famous English Judge, Baron Hannen, better and more familiarly known as Sir James Hannen, the President of the famous Parnell Commission of Inquiry and also one of the arbitrators in the Behring Sea Commission. He had a distinguished career both at the Bar and on the Bench, and in him England loses a jurist of great parts.

FIRE IN TOKUSHIMA.

A VERY destructive fire is reported from Tokushima. It broke out on the 22nd instant in a temple name Toso-in, and spread from thence to the Hanya-in, the Gansei-ji, and five other temples, destroying in all eight sacred edifices with their treasures. The loss is estimated at a hundred thousand *yen*.

ENGAGEMENT OF THE CZAREWITCH.

A TELEGRAPHIC message despatched by Mr. Nishi, Japanese Minister to Russia, and received by the Foreign Office, states that it is officially announced that H.I.H. the Czarewitch of Russia was bethrothed to H.I.H. Princess Alice, of Hesse-Darmstadt, on the 21st inst.

SUICIDE OF A NOBLE.

VISCOUNT SHIBAYAMA SUKETOYU, a young officer of the Army who recently proceeded to the Narashi Plain on duty connected with the pending Spring Manœuvres, committed suicide on the 20th instant.

THE BELGIAN VICE-CONSUL.

IT is gazetted that the Government recognises M. Chevalier Ch. de Waekenaert as Belgian Vice-Consul at Yokohama.

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EDUCATION IN JAPAN.

PROFESSOR INOUYE says that the number of Chinese ideographs in use immediately before the commencement of the Christian era was only 5,340, as shown by a dictionary published at that time, but that they gradually increased until an encyclopædia compiled about two centuries ago showed no less than 40,000. Since then a supplement has been added to the encyclopædia, so that the total number of ideographs now employed may be put at 50,000. Japan has followed China's footsteps in this matter. The two have about 50,000 ideographs. Professor INOUYE adduced these figures in the context of the familiar contention that an ideographic script is a fatal obstacle to the educational progress of a nation. The Professor, however, introduced a new argument, if such it can be called, namely, that an independent country ought to have an independent method of writing. In pursuance of this idea, he proposed to simplify the present *hira-gana*, and to modify it so as to render it capable of producing all vocal sounds. To achieve this reform, he would appoint a Committee of experts, and having submitted the result of their labours for the approval of the Diet, would publish the new system simultaneously throughout the empire.

We have very little sympathy with Professor INOUYE in this matter. Independence is very fine, but when it is pushed to the extent of having a special script that must set up a barrier between a nation and all the rest of the literary world, it becomes sentimental extravagance. The whole of the civilized West—Russia and Greece excepted—employ the same method of writing. No method, so far as human ingenuity can perceive, could be simpler or more effective. The 26 letters of the Phœnician alphabet answer all literary needs. If Professor INOUYE and his friends think that they can invent an alphabet so much better that other countries will substitute it for the one now in universal use, they must form of their own capacities an estimate the most extravagant ever entertained by any set of men. We credit them with too much sense to be so singularly self-confident. But if they contemplate no such success, then their proposal is simply to set up a new barrier between Japan and the Occident. Countries like England, France, Italy, the United States of America, and so forth, do not pretend to think that an independent script is a necessary feature of national independence. Must Japan seek to soar to a higher plane of self-assertion than they? If there is one thing that contributes, above all others, to preserve the Occident's ignorance of Japan and to secure her relegation to the rank of semi-civilized States, it is her ideographic and syllabic systems. Her manner of writing envelops her in a cloud impermeable to Western intelligent observation. She is not known or understood because access to the thoughts of her people is rendered impossible by the hieroglyphs that conceal them. A modification of the *Kana* syllabary would not mend matters in that respect. On the contrary, it would be an evidence that she deliberately chose to remain isolated. Her reliance on Chinese ideographs is an unhappy accident of her history. Her elaboration and adoption of a new *Kana* system at this epoch of her progress would be a proclamation either that she is the most unreasonably self-opinionated country in the world, or that, after calm reflection and practical experience, she is resolved to remain permanently a *terra incognita* to the educated Occident. But we have omitted to note one fact. It is that this same Professor INOUYE published, last year, an elaborate thesis, the object of which was to demonstrate that Japan is not fit to associate on equal terms wit Western peoples; that she must live apart from them, or by contact lose her individuality and become, in effect, their dependent. Perhaps this new proposal of his is merely a device to perpetuate her isolation. Perhaps, by fictitious appeals to a spurious spirit of false patriotism, he seeks to promote a humiliatingly pusillanimous programme. If so, the proposition deserves no serious attention.

CHINA AND KIM OK-KYÜN.

THE excitement caused in Japan by the fate of the Korean refugee KIM OK-KYÜN and by the treatment of his assassin, appears to have subsided in great part. Probably the public at large were not much moved by the incidents. After all, KIM himself was a sanguinary murderer. The share he took in the *émeute* of 1884, and the plan he devised and carried out for the slaughter of Korean Ministers obstructing his political path, reached fully down to the lowest level of barbarous traditions. That the friends and relatives of such a man's victims should have longed to do by him as he had done by others, was only human, and it has to be remembered that human impulses find in the ethics of a country like Korea little to restrain their most direct expression. Besides, it is not so many years since the bodies of malefactors were subjected, even in Europe, to indignities as gross as those suffered by KIM'S corpse in Söul. To be hung in chains; to be broken on the wheel; to be drawn and quartered—such processes are quite as horrible as the suspension of lopped-off head, hands, and feet under a bamboo tripod, and the exposure of a body sliced after the fashion of a crimped fish. If Korean methods are savage and revolting methods, they are also the methods of mediæval Christendom, and no one claims for Korea that she is more than mediæval. As to her treatment of the assassin HONG, he is not an assassin in her eyes. He is an executioner. He has committed no crime against the public peace of Korea. On the contrary, he acted as agent for the achievement of a purpose that his country had long been seeking to compass. He inflicted upon a Korean guilty of murder and high treason punishment that ought to have been inflicted years ago. What State standing on the same plane of civilization as Korea would place HONG TJYONG-OU in the category of malefactors? Not one, surely. It may be urged, however, that no nation is entitled to plead its uncivilized condition in extenuation of its barbarous acts. That is very true where foreigners are the victims of its acts. But KIM OK-KYÜN is a Korean subject and so is HONG TJYONG-OU. If Korea chooses to wreak brutal vengeance upon the corpse of the one, and by honouring the other to openly avow that assassination ranks among her recognised methods of criminal procedure, that is Korea's affair. Japan has no mission to thrust civilization down her neighbour's throat with the point of the sword. Until Korea's circle of moral light is enlarged, we must not wonder at her apparent blindness in many directions.

It is in China's conduct that we find materials for surprise. Why did China deliver up the corpse of KIM OK-KYÜN to Korea? Why did China surrender KIM'S murderer to Korea? Why did China send the corpse and the murderer in her own man-of-war to Korea? She must have known perfectly well what fate awaited the body in Söul. Evidently the knowledge did not shock her at all. Why should it, indeed? Her own fashions of treating criminals are little if anything better than Korea's fashions. Still we can not but be startled that she should thus openly flaunt before the world her adherence to semi-savage customs. The strangest part of all is her surrender of the assassin HONG. It has been said that a treaty between China and Korea obliges the former to hand over to the latter for judicial purposes any Korean subjects committing offences within Chinese territory. We have been unable to discover any such treaty. On the contrary, the second clause of the second article of the Commercial and Trade Regulations concluded between China and Korea in September, 1882, says:—

> All cases at law arising in the ports in China that are open to foreign trade, whether civil or criminal, in which Korean subjects are concerned, either as plaintiffs or defendants, shall be heard and determined by the Chinese local authorities, according to law. The judgment shall be communicated to the Korean agent for record. If the Korean subjects concerned are dissatisfied with the verdict, the high Chinese Authorities may be appealed to by the Korean agent to order a new hearing in the interests of justice.

There is here nothing that explains China's action in handing over HONG TJYONG-OU to Korea. The man had committed a crime against the public peace and good order of the Chinese empire. He had

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perpetrated a deliberate murder; had enticed his victim to China and had there slaughtered him, just as though he held the place particularly suitable for such deeds of violence. One would have imagined that the dignity of China was concerned in punishing, by means of her own tribunals, an offence so flagrant. Besides, all the principles of justice require that a criminal should be brought to trial at the place where his crime was committed and where the necessary evidence is most readily available. In handing HONG over to Korea, China took a step extraordinary from every point of view and explicable only on the hypothesis that she also, like Korea, is content to have fugitive criminals pursued by assassins and to have the pistol or the dagger of a murderer substituted for the sword of the lawful executioner. We see no other reasonable interpretation of China's conduct. She has made herself most discreditably conspicuous in this matter. But that too is her own affair. She is not responsible to Japan, unless indeed it can be proved that HONG'S crime was plotted in, and directed from, this country, in which case there will have been a violation of Japan's sovereignty. It is premature, however, to enter upon that discussion.

THE ORIENTAL WALL PAPER MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

JAPANESE paper has for centuries been favourably known in the Occident, and, at the present day, stands acknowledged as one of the fabrics which cannot be duplicated by Western skill. Nor is this due to any secret, elaborate process of manufacture; it is solely attributable to the nature of the material used,—the inner bark of certain trees which are indigenous and refuse to thrive in other zones. This is particularly the case with the kind of paper known as *Mino-gami* (*hanshi*), which is made from the soft and pliable inner bark of the *Kozu*, one of the most important of Japanese forest trees and which deserves to rank at least equal with the *Kuwa* or mulberry. Not long after the establishment of the Insetsu Kyoku, or Imperial Printing Bureau, the question was raised as to whether it would be possible to manufacture a sort of leather-paper suitable for covering walls, in imitation of the stamped and raised—and exceedingly costly—leather wall-coverings made in America and elsewhere. The better class of Japanese paper had already two of the chief requisites, great strength and remarkable pliability; it remained therefore to make the article water-proof and attractive externally. There was another factor that promised success, for from time immemorial lacquered paper has been used in making boxes, trunks, and what not, and, as all the world knows, the lacquer of Japan is without parallel for durability, gloss, and imperviousness to moisture. So from the very outset of the undertaking, the Insetsu Kyoku had everything in its favour. The manufacturing of lacquered wall-paper was begun tentatively in 1879, but in five or six years the favour it met with abroad was so considerable, and the comparatively modest prices demanded were so attractive that the factory seemed likely to outgrow the boundaries of the Printing Bureau. In 1889 the Government permitted the withdrawal of the factory from the Insetsu Kyoku. It was felt that the work should not be kept a Government monopoly; and so the present *Heikishi Kwaisha*, or Wall-Paper Company, was formed, under the immediate and skilled supervision of those who had hitherto done so much to make the fabric a commercial success, Messrs. KANDA MASATADA, KIMURA, and KOJIMA. The plant was last year removed to the neighbourhood of Komagome, Hongo District, Tokyo, and the proprietors have recently acquired a fine piece of ground in the vicinity (Aizome-cho) on which new and spacious buildings are shortly to be erected; for the demand is steady and increasing and the beautiful fabrics turned out are ever meeting with greater approval abroad.

The process of manufacture is as interesting as it is simple. In the first place, absolutely no machinery is used. Everything is done by hand, from the stamping of the dies on the moist, heavy sheets, to the delicate painting of the raised arabesques and quaint flowers by deft fingers of skilled workwomen. The dies, being made of flawless trunks of cherry-trees, are cylindrical and from a foot to a foot and a half in diameter. These dies are most carefully carved, and despite the rough treatment to which they are necessarily subjected, they last for a considerable period, owing to the tough close grain of the wood used (*Prunus pseudocerasus*). Wet sheets of the grayish paper, measuring 38½ inches by 26½, are carefully laid on the dies, and the moist mass is beaten in by long-handled brushes with bristles taken from the deer, which are much more pliable and wear better than hog-bristles. Sheet after sheet is laid on, generally in double thickness, until a roll of stamped paper 12 yards long by a yard in width, is turned out. This roll is next taken to the drying room, which is well-ventilated. After a preliminary drying it is some six or seven times covered with *nori*, a sort of thin paste, being allowed to dry between each fresh coating. In this way the paper receives the required rigidity and smoothness of surface. The next step is to the lacquering room. If the paper is to be gilded or bronzed, a coating of silver varnish is first given it, after which the lacquer is applied, thus lending the ground-colour a reddish-golden tinge or lustre, which is either made to look like dull gold or deep bronze by a less or greater quantity of lacquer being applied in these cases, the *tout ensemble* gives a to the surface. The lacquer itself is the well-known product of the lacquer tree (*Rhus vernicifera*) which our American cousins are now hoping to grow in their own soil. The rubbing in of this lacquer takes time, and after the whole roll is smoothly covered, the drying process consumes another period of about three days. The drying-room is a dark and most evil-smelling chamber, the floor of which is covered with moist, loose straw. Screens of rice-matting are suspended everywhere from the low ceiling, and these as well as the carpeting of straw must be kept constantly wet. The dampness generates a low, even grade of heat both in summer and winter, and this is vital in making the lacquer adhere firmly and evenly. Warm, wet weather is the best; the chills of winter greatly protract the process; so in summer by far the greater quantity of first-class paper is produced, although the Company keep over one hundred hands at work all the year round.

After being thoroughly dried, the lacquered roll goes back to another long room, where the various colours demanded by the pattern are applied. In case the pattern is a simple one, this is done by a stencil and brushes of deer-bristles, the more intricate or elaborate parts being afterwards gone over with a simple paint-brush. One of the favourite colours is a dull, deep red for background, with raised gold or bronze flowers and arabesques. In other instances the stencil cannot be used to advantage, as each portion may demand a different shade or hue, as, for instance, where a leaf is given three to four hues of green, or where a crocus or iris is painted in life-like imitation of the real flower. Some are veritable works of art, and demand skill, patience. and very deft handling. All this delicate work is done by women. The roll is now finished: all that remains is the final drying. About thirty days are thus consumed in turning out each roll.

Many of the carved dies are made according to patterns patented both in America and Europe as well as in Japan; indeed, the moiety of the designs come from abroad, where they are drawn to suit the taste of customers or in deference to the prevailing fashion. Still the Company constantly employ two or three exprienced draughtsmen, besides nearly a dozen others who do nothing but carve new dies or repair those that are cracked or otherwise injured. More than three hundred cylindrical dies are in use. Among these, purely Japanese designs are at once recognisable by their greater simplicity and truer adherence to the canons of art. Those which come from elsewhere are, according to Japanese ideas, too unreal: flowers that no soil could ever produce, fruits of prodigious size and unreality. Yet even

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cheerful, light impression that is far from being unpleasant. In many instances the pattern or die is a deep one, so that the flower, fruit, or arabesque on the finished sheet stands out in very bold relief. Wherever this is the case, the flower, or whatever it may be, will be found not to yield to pressure, for in order to avoid any unsightly shrinking or indentation all these places have been carefully filled out with tightly packed paper. In the same way, patterns for ceilings are solid masses of leather-paper, as firm as, and much more durable than, wood. These beautiful ceiling-papers are sold at 2 *yen* the yard. Indeed, in consideration of the vast amount of work demanded in making even the simplest wall-papers, the prices are most moderate, ranging from two to twenty *yen* a roll.

Under these circumstances there is no danger of competition elsewhere. Not only is the prime material unobtainable outside of Japan, but the lacquer is an indigenous product and nowhere else could one hire such skilled and cheap labour. The *Tokyo Heki-shi Seizo-sho*, or Oriental Wall-paper Manufactory, should enjoy success in future, no matter how dull trade may be elsewhere, or the silver dollar drop—as pessimists predict it will—to less than a shilling.

THE DECADENCE OF ENGLISH IN JAPANESE SCHOOLS.

ONCE every year the booksellers of Japan hold a great meeting in some one of the larger cities, Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, or elsewhere. There they gather not only to discuss matters appertaining to the trade, but to learn what sort of books find most favour with the reading public and for what there is likely to be a demand. The great feature of such assemblies is that each member is allowed to sell six lots of books by auction, the bidding and sale to be concluded in not more than twenty minutes. Each lot may contain several score or even hundreds of volumes, but they must all treat of the same subject and all present the same general appearance. The bidding in such cases is not very brisk, most bargains having actually been struck before the so-called auction takes place; yet the way the books are bought is a certain indication of public favour or disfavour, and the seller learns what chance he has of getting rid of any stock he may have in hand. This is an old-established custom, and in its method and practice, presents certain points which might serve as hints to foreign dealers in books.

The principal result of this year's meeting has been the evident establishment of a somewhat surprising fact—English books have few fanciers, English text books are not in demand, English readers and grammars are a mere drug in the market. This is proof positive that the study of the English tongue is no longer given the pre-eminence it has hitherto enjoyed. While the language is taught from the lowest class of every Ordinary Middle School until the student is prepared to enter the University, and while there is no falling-off in the attendance of pupils and no appreciable deterioration in the method of instruction, it is still very clear that the study of the Anglo-Saxon idiom is going out of vogue. In face of the fact that Japan's foreign relations are yearly growing more important and that the number of her citizens in western lands, particularly the United States, is rapidly increasing, this phenomenon is most peculiar. The reasons, however, are near at hand. The decrease of interest in the study of English is perfectly natural and has not the slightest connection with any anti-foreign sentiment. Despite the unexpected platform of the *Kaishin-to* and the rhapsodies of the extremists, Japan as a nation was never more amicably disposed to the outer world than at present. That there must needs be a decrease in the interest felt in the study of English is something that has long been foreseen. A mistaken or a faulty system can never long enjoy popular favour.

In the first place, the text-books used in imparting a knowledge of English to Japanese students, are wholly inconsistent with their mental needs, not to say capacities. The Readers most widely employed are the National, LONGMANS' and SANDERS' Union series, the first and last being American compilations. All these books were written for English-speaking children only. They abound in colloquialisms, slangy expressions, and bad grammar. Students who are able to read understandingly the essays of MACAULAY, often find parts of the National First Reader absolutely unintelligible, for no other reason than because these parts are couched in the familiar, contracted speech of English and American children, easily enough understood by the youthful residents of those countries, but a most incomprehensible philological puzzle to the Japanese student. Any thoughtful man will at once perceive the injustice and unwisdom of using such books as primers of English instruction in Japan, where the very modes of thought as well as of expression are incomparable with those of the West. A step in the right direction was made by Messrs. MARUYA & Co. in bringing out a Japanese edition of SWINTON'S Primer and First Reader. The Educational Department highly approved of this act and sanctioned the introduction of these two books into all Government schools. The Mombusho Conversational Readers are very good, so far as they go. They were compiled by competent scholars and have met with a large sale. Yet in general get-up and even in text, they are far behind LONGMANS' and the National Readers. WEBSTER'S Spelling Book, sold in a reprinted form literally by tens of thousands in this country, is wholly unadapted to the work it is expected to perform. It is written by a foreigner for foreigners, and therefore utterly fails to accomplish what it should in Japanese schools. SWINTON'S and QUACKENBOS' Grammars, the two most widely used text-books, are quite out of place in the hands of a Japanese student of English. All these books pre-suppose a knowledge of the spoken language on the part of the student, and the Japanese approach their task not only without this essential knowledge but even without acquaintance with the style of Western thought and the manner in which Caucasians give visible or audible expression to their ideas. The only wonder is that under such circumstances Japanese students ever acquire any knowledge of English at all; if they were not among the most industrious of their kind and did they not naturally possess a memory unexcelled by that of the students of any Western land, the task would be plainly beyond their powers. What is necessary is a series of graded text-books, covering the whole field of the study of English text-books, compiled from a Japanese standpoint and by the best Western scholars of Japanese. Such books would take perhaps years to compile, yet they would be fully worth the time and trouble spent upon them. At present, the labour of Japanese students is doubled or trebled by inadequate helps, so that it is no wonder that cerebral complaints and myopia are becoming distinctive features of the student-world of this country.

There is one other reason. The persons chosen to teach English in Japanese schools have hitherto been in many cases incapable of performing the duty required of them. It used to be very easy to obtain a diploma warranting the possessor's instant employment in some Government school. Now, on the contrary, the competitive examination is too severe. Out of nearly three hundred applicants for a certificate of competency to instruct English in Middle Schools last year, only one succeeded in passing the ordeal, and he was a first-class graduate of the Doshisha in Kyoto. But irrespective of all this, it is nevertheless a fact that the Empire is flooded with incompetent teachers. They have acquired a certain amount of knowledge by rote, parrot-wise, but they have no skill in imparting their knowledge to others and teach within the narrowest of limits. Ninety-five out of every hundred Japanese teachers of English are absolutely incapable of carrying on an ordinary conversation in this tongue, and probably not more than one in two or three hundred can write a letter free from grammatical solecisms or without making the most absurd blunders in the style of address and the complimentary close. A knowledge of the

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tongue should be made a *sine quâ non*. A correct appreciation of the difference between the potential and subjective moods is not nearly so important as an acquaintance with the modes and idioms of ordinary everyday speech. Chinese schoolboys have to acquire by rote thousands of ideograms before they are made to understand the various meanings and employments of even one of the host they have learned. Such a system is not applicable to the study of English or indeed of any European tongue. If intelligent comprehension does not keep pace with each effort of memory, the labour is thrown away. A knowledge of English is now next in importance to that of his own tongue to the Japanese student. Everything should therefore be done to render the acquisition of this knowledge easy, compatible with the mental requirements of the pupil, and thorough.

JAPANESE SLANG.

PROPERLY speaking, the Japanese tongue has no equivalent for our word "slang," and until of late years such speech was practically unknown, or, at all events, was restricted to certain localities beyond whose boundaries topical peculiarities of diction were either unknown or else not in use. The provincialisms which are of so frequent occurrence in Japanese, and which, even at the present day, mark at once the town and almost the village of the speaker, are gradually being eliminated from the language. That is not due to the import of Western ideas or fashions, but wholly ascribable to the increased facilities of travel. Japan is, to all intents and purposes, very much smaller that she was twenty-five or thirty years ago. Then the Empire was a well-nigh isolated little world. A voyage by sea or journey overland from Tokyo to Kobe was a very serious undertaking. People did not travel about much in those days, and besides the rivalry of the clans served to still further isolate each little province. Provincialisms were encouraged rather than decried, for it was thought, and quite justly, that the greater the difference between the speech, customs, and observances of hostile clans, the greater the enmity likely to be kept in force between them, the less possibility of mutual absorption by intermarriage or a community of interests. For these various reasons one is sometimes startled by the vast difference between the idioms of people living within a radius of fifty or a hundred miles, as is the case in Sendai, Aomori, and Fukushima: not to speak of Kiushiu, where one may hear as many as half a dozen totally dissimilar dialects in the course of a day's journey. But with the advent of the raie road the language as such began to becoml-consolidated: local peculiarities of speech grew less marked and provincialisms less pronounced. Still, even to the present day, the people of Yamagata call a woman, *beya*; those of certain parts of Iwashiro, *hena*; south of Kyoto, *onago* (=*onna no ko*); while of course, *onna* is the sole universally correct word. It will not be long before these dissimilarities of expression wholly disappear, yet while they still exist they offer a most tempting field to the philologist, for centuries of ethnic movement may often be traced in the history of a solitary word. It is the railroad to which the Japanese are indebted for the effacement of linguistic peculiarities; but there is still another factor whose influence is of the first and farthest-reaching importance. That is the press. Little more than twenty years in existence, and slow to win that public appreciation which is the inalienable title of the Fourth Estate in other lands, the press of Japan has now become a power whose influence is felt throughout the Empire, and one which is surely if slowly remodelling the language to a very great extent and as steadily breaking down the barriers of provincial idiom. On picking up the *Wakayama Shimpo*, the *Nagasaki Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Osaka Asahi Shimbun*, and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* of Tokyo or Hakodate, one finds throughout the same style of expression; thought is clothed and conveyed in precisely the same manner. There are no peculiarities of diction noticeable, except perhaps in purely local paragraphs, written with an aim to arouse a smile or to add the force of a colloquialism to a witty—and sometimes rather slanderous—story. In these cases, the quaint phraseology used is often current throughout Japan. It may be classified under two heads: the one, known as *share*, consisting rather in plays on words, purposely and humourously miswritten characters and obscure witticisms. That is the style of language used when treating of any subject not strictly within the boundaries of good morals, or when showing up the venial peccadilloes of some slave of the gentle sex. Next to this comes the so-called *tsujin-kotoba*, which is the closest approximation to what is understood under the broad heading "slang" in Western lands. To the first category belong such expressions as *yama no kami* and *kojinsama* ("the scolding deity") for "wife"; *Daikoku-ten*, for the spouse of a Buddhist priest; *shiro moku dek'ka* ("he who protrudes the white of his eyes"), for a dandy or dude, more classically termed *datesha*. The list of such words is not long. Those included in the second category are much more numerous. We meet with *doron to naru*, in the sense of "to disappear, to vanish," and metaphorically "to run off," *doron* being originally an onomatapoetic word equivalent to our English "rub-a-dub;" *ojian*, very frequent in the sense of "come to an end," "finished," and used slangily like the Anglo-Indian *mafish*; *kuchi-habattai*, to express one given to boasting speech; *akisu-nerai*, a thief who breaks into a house during the owner's absence; *dorochan* and *dorokatsu* instead of *dorobo*; *sutepp-en-jo*, "first-class," "stunning"; *ken-tsuki-deppo* ("gun and bayonet") for one given to lofty criticisms of other people; *o-koboshi* ("big spiller"), for a fretful, peevish woman; *chaki-chaki*, in the sense of "energetic"; *biku-biku-suru*, "to be timid"; *mechakucha* (better *muchakucha*), meaning "unintelligible," "confused"; *hiki-komu*, "to force one's way into another's house"; *bera-bera*, "talkative," and a number of others. In this class must be included a small army of approbrious epithets that would make SIR EDWIN ARNOLD open his eyes to hitherto undiscovered "beauties" of the Japanese language, which, however dulcet-sounding and ignorant of "swear-words" (to quote GRANT ALLEN), is rich in ornate epithets that would do credit to Billingsgate. Some slang expressions have evidently been modelled after foreign phraseology: for instance *buranko suru*, "to swing," as expressive of the prevalent mode of capital punishment; *impeku*, unquestionably abbreviated from "impecunious" and having the same signification; *ensho ni dan*, "powder and shot," for money or small change. The last two are particularly fashionable among University students.

The next step is to a lower vulgar diction that can only be classified as *argot*. This is the thieves' patter, the "flash" language of the purlieus of our great cities; the cipher-speech of fishmongers, *kurumaya*, *et hoc genus omne*, in whose tongue the numerals have all been rechristened, *e.g.* *genko* (the fist) for "five; *dote* "one"; *yami*, "two"; *yami-kan*, "twenty"; *o-yari*, "one *yen*." As in Europe, there are peculiar and, to the uninitiated, wholly unintelligible phrases for "to be arrested," "to steal," "a policeman," etc., etc. Such words, however, rarely if ever find their way into the columns of the daily press, and, of course, it is in only the lowest orders that they are current. The Japanese language, like all other things pertaining to the Empire, is still to a certain extent undergoing a transition period. For one thing it is becoming better spoken and better written than it has been for centuries, despite the slipshod style, loose grammer, and multiplicity of colloquialisms to be found in the columns of the average *koshimbun*, or second-rate purveyor of social scandal and questionable news.

A FOREIGN LADY FOUND DROWNED.

A few minutes past six o'clock on Wednesday morning a sampan sendo noticed the body of a person in female foreign attire floating in the harbour opposite No. 9, Bund, and at once gave the alarm. The police soon had the body out of the water and conveyed on shore, when it was

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discovered that the corpse was that of Mrs. Fanny Cooper, an English lady of means, a native of Ely, Cambridgeshire, and the wife of Mr. John Harris Cooper of Leicester, to whom she was married at Leeds, but with whom she has not lately been living. The deceased lady arrived in this country from the States on the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Captain Smith, on the 25th March, which vessel left San Francisco on the 8th of that month, and during the last two weeks has been staying at the Club Hotel. She was of a quiet disposition, but was perpetually tormented by the hallucination that she was followed and watched by persons who wished to persecute her. In other ways, too, she was strange, but no one suspected that her mind would turn in a suicidal direction. She was last seen alive about half-past ten the previous night walking along the Bund, and then appeared calm and collected. She left the hotel carrying a valise and shawl, but when found on Wednesday the valise and shawl were both missing. Upon her dress and person were a brooch, a bracelet, some letters, and a British Legation passport. The deceased was between forty-five or fifty years of age, with white hair, and during her stay in Japan has been most staid, ladylike, and refined in her appearance and demeanour. The body has since been interred in the Cemetery, Yokohama. At the inquest held at the British Consulate on Thursday a verdict of suicide whilst in an unsound state of mind was returned.

SAFE ARRIVAL OF MR. H. J. SNOW.

All anxiety as to the safety of Mr. H. J. Snow was allayed on Wednesday night upon receipt by Mr. Laffin of a telegram from the missing man himself. He says he was five days afloat in the boat before being picked up by the American sealing schooner *Bowhead*, Captain Noyes. The *Bowhead* continued her cruize until an opportunity presented of landing the castaways on the coast at Yamada, north of Kinkasan. Mr. Snow and his two Chinese were probably put ashore some time yesterday, or possibly late the day before. From the meagre statements contained in the telegram we gather that the intrepid sealer is none the worse for his adventure. The *Retriever* will await the arrival of Mr. Snow.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Ordinarily men do not pay much attention to the doings of Count Oki, ex-Minister of Education. Whatever may be his personal qualities, his political influence is almost nil. During his long official career, extending over more than twenty years, he did not accomplish anything worthy of notice, and although he was most of the time in the Cabinet, men regarded him as a sort of make-weight rather than as an active member. But since his retirement into private life, he has been saying big things to newspaper-men. At one time it was even reported that he had offered his services as a mediator between the Progressionists and the National Unionists. At all events, he does not seem to think that he has bid a final farewell to political life. Hence a visit paid by him to Count Okuma on the 20th instant has attracted some attention in political circles. Nothing, however, is known about the meeting of the two Hizen statesmen, except that the conversation between them lasted some time.

Count Itagaki is taking a keen interest in the Korean assassination affair. He has always held pronounced views about Korean policy. Since the memorable Cabinet crisis of 1873, when he, together with the elder Saigo, Soyejima, and others left the Government on account of a difference of opinion on this subject, he is said to have never given up his idea of a Korean invasion. Whether he aims at converting the peninsular Kingdom into a regular dependency of this Empire, or whether his purpose is to establish a kind of protectorate over it, we are not in a position to state with certainty. But it is tolerably clear that his idea is not confined merely to humbling Korea by means of force. The present assassination question is said to have once more roused his warlike spirit, and rumour represents him as having instructed some of his followers to make a thorough investigation of the international bearings of the affair.

There is a movement on foot for the formation of a Neutral Party out of the independent members of the Lower House who represent the interests of the business class. The principal promoters are Messrs. Hara Zenzaburo, Oku Saburobei, Inoda Masakichi, Hiyama Tetsusaburo, and so forth. They are reported to have obtained the promise of more than twenty members to join the party. It was at first rumoured that the party would be joined by the members from Kiushu, and others believed to have more or less affinity with the Radicals, but this seems to be a mistaken forecast. It is probable that the Neutral party will vote on most questions against the allied sections of the Opposition. It will hold the balance of power in the House of Representatives.

The delegates of the allied sections of the Opposition have been holding frequent meetings. At the conference of the 20th instant, there were present Messrs. Takata Sanaye and Kadoma Hisatsune (of the *Kaishin-to*); Messrs. Furusho Kamon, Wada Hikojiro, and Hara Kozo (of the *Kokumin Kyokai*); Messrs. Taketomi Jibin and Node Shozaburo (of the *Doshi Seisha*); Messrs. Oi Kentaro, Komuchi Tomotsune, and Sakamoto Noriyoshi (of the defunct *Dai Nippon Kyokai*); and Messrs. Wakabara Kanzui, Inagaki Shimesu, and Abei Iwane (of the *Domei Seisha*). It was resolved that invitations to a convivial *réunion* of the allied sections on the 22nd instant, should be issued to outsiders holding the same views as those sections on foreign policy, and that a committee be appointed from each section to make preparations for a grand *réunion* to be held on the 10th of May. These gatherings are intended, it seems, as demonstrations on the question of foreign policy.

The press is again settling down to the belief that the report about the speedy conclusion of a new treaty with England was premature, if not entirely groundless. Some papers pretend that the story was originally circulated by a friend or *protegé* of the late Count Terajima, while others seek to trace the rumour to an unguarded expression on the part of the Minister President of State. On the whole, the Opposition journals appear inclined to believe that the occasional circulation of rumours about a speedy settlement of negotiations for Treaty Revision is a device of the Cabinet's to make the public believe that the Ministers of the Crown do not neglect their duties about the solution of this important national problem. By such subterfuges do the party organs endeavour to conceal their own want of discretion in giving easy credit to every rumour that happens to be in the air.

Whatever may have been the source from which the Treaty-Revision story emanated, the politicians of the allied sections of the Opposition have no cause to complain of its circulation. For they have artfully utilized it to foment an agitation, the ostensible object of which is to demand the recovery of both judicial and tariff autonomy, but the real purpose is to revive interest in the question of Strict Enforcement of the Treaties. As stated in these columns more than once, the results of the last general election demonstrated in a striking manner that the anti-foreign spirit originally animating the principal advocates of Strict Enforcement is entirely out of touch with the sentiment of the nation. Nevertheless, the dissolution of the Lower House having been caused principally by this question, the allied Opposition parties are bound to bring it up for discussion in the coming session of the Diet. Consciousness of the unpopularity of their ill-advised course has caused them the greatest anxiety. Fortunately for them, when things were in this unsatisfactory condition, rumours about Treaty Revision began to be circulated in the capital. By pretending intimate acquaintance with the alleged defective points in the imaginary new treaty with England, the organs of the Opposition factions have succeeded in getting up a movement for a strong foreign policy. These papers now acknowledge that the rumours about Treaty Revision were not well founded. But the agitation is to be kept up, in view of the coming struggle with the Cabinet in the sixth session of the Diet. Whether this movement is strong enough to answer the purpose of the allied factions remains to be seen, but an opinion prevails in well informed circles that, in spite of all that is done by these actions, it will be impossible for them to re-introduce the Representation on Strict Enforcement in its original shape.

Mr. Hoshi Toru has again joined the Radical Party. This step was taken by him in obedience to the unanimous expression of a wish to that effect by the *Kwanto* section of the Party. The circumstance considerably increases his chance of being nominated a candidate for the Presidency of the House of Representatives. It is stated that among the new Radical members of the House from the provincial districts, not a few are seriously opposed to Mr. Hoshi's candidature. But his possible rival, Mr. Kono Hironaka, is well known to be averse to anything like competition with him. Moreover, Mr. Hoshi will be warmly supported not only by the *Kwanto* section but also by the Tosa Radicals who form the centre of the Party under the immediate leadership of Count Itagaki. So it is believed that he will be ultimately accepted as the Party's nominee for the important post. In that case, as he is known to possess à large number of friends among the Independents, his election is held to be at least as likely as that of any other candidate. His principal rival will, of course, be Mr. Kusumoto Masataka of the *Kodo* Club.

SHANGHAI NEWS.

The grand naval review of the Peiyang fleet and a picked squadron of the Nanyang fleet, before H.E. the Viceroy Li Hung-chang and H.E. Ming An, Imperial Commissioner of Defence for the Manchurian provinces, will take place in the Gulf of Pechili on the 7th of May.

The China Mutual steamer *Ninchow*, says our Shanghai morning contemporary, was the first steamer to pass through the Suez Canal homeward-bound with the Shanghai Municipal flag flying. She was also the first to enter the port of London with the same flag flying. She reached Gravesend on the 15th of January last, and London the same evening.

The Shanghai Customs authorities have come to the conclusion that Major Bros.' oil filter press is not machinery, but a filter, and a permit to land it is to be refused no longer.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* understands that tenders will shortly be issued for supplying the fort of Chio Chou, in Shantung, in the neighbourhood of Chefoo, with heavy guns to the value of about one million taels. The tenders will be issued as soon as the terms and conditions, which are now under the consideration of the military authorities, are settled.

The high authorities at Foochow intend to still further strengthen the port of Amoy against a possible enemy, and in addition to forts already built or on the point of completion, according to the German method of fortification, they have decided to build a large fort at Pehshi'ou, near the mouth of the port. Their Excellencies, the Admiral and Taotai, performed the inaugural ceremonies of breaking the first sod on the 13th instant, with the usual sacrifices.

An anomaly in the retail opium trade of Shanghai at the present time of writing, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, is the fact that the Indian drug just now is one-eighteenth cheaper than the native produce. Hence the demand for the imported article has been greater than usual for the past ten days or so.

According to a Chinese native paper, some of the wealthy merchants and notables of Peking are thinking of inaugurating a museum of the arts and sciences of Europe, America and

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China, in that city in honour of the Imperial Birthday this year. As a companion to the Peking institution a college or university of the various branches of the progressive sciences of the West is also mooted, the buildings to be erected at Shanghai.

For the first time since India became a tea-growing country there was a falling off last year in the export of the product. The planters are not at all alarmed, however, as the temporary check admits of easy explanation. It was due, apparently, to the shortness of the crop, the quality of which was excellent, and to consequent high prices. This, observes the Shanghai morning journal, is the text upon which a home paper dogmatically remarks that there is no sign that the English consumer is going back to his old preference for China teas, "which are cheaper to buy, but so much inferior in quality that they are dearer in the long run."

The Shanghai Municipal police are no respecters of persons, and having commenced on the poor brokers for furious driving, have extended their operations to Consuls, for on Thursday afternoon last week, a Sikh policeman stopped a Consul-General in the Nanking Road because his *mafoo*, who is well known as a furious driver, was driving at a more rapid pace than is considered conducive to the safety of the lives and limbs of foot passengers. As the Sikh did not know the Consul, who declined to give his card, or write his name on a piece of paper, the Sikh and the Consul went to the Police Station.

The French Consular Court at Shanghai has come to a decision in the suit brought by the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits against a Mr. E. Lepissier, in respect of unpaid calls on some shares. Judgment was rendered for defendant, mainly on two grounds—first, that the Bank was not properly constituted according to French law, which requires that 25 per cent. of the nominal capital of a company shall be paid up; and, secondly, the Court was not satisfied with the Bank's balance sheet, and held that the Bank was not in a position which would justify it in making a call; for if a Company has lost a certain proportion of its paid-up capital, it cannot, according to French law, make a call without a general meeting of the shareholders.

According to a letter from the *N.-C. Daily News* native correspondent at Peking, H.H. Prince Kung, grand uncle of the Emperor, despite his age, seniority, and bodily infirmities, felt himself bound, amidst the general bustle and exertions of the present period of preparation, to offer to join personally in the congratulatory ceremonies, which will doubtless be very fatiguing even to younger and stronger persons, that are to be held on the occasion of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday next November, and, to this end, he has presented a memorial to the Throne upon the subject. An edict dated the 9th instant, however, compassionately makes allowance for the Prince's age and general state of health, and at the bidding of his Imperial mother the Emperor has in fitting words graciously exempted Prince Kung from attending the Birthday Celebrations in person during the whole of the fifteen days' *fêtes*.

A native letter from Peking relates the following incident which occurred within the Imperial Palace grounds recently:—Dr. Li Tê-ch'ang, Vice-President of the Imperial Academy of Physicians at Peking, who was on duty lately attending in the Suite of the Empress Dowager at Eho Park Palace, has had a rather uncomfortable experience. Attracted by curiosity, he got one of the eunuchs off duty to conduct him on a tour of inspection of the Palace grounds. Her Imperial Majesty happened, however, to see the pair leisurely wandering in the gardens, and the culprits were immediately recalled to their senses, the eunuch by being laid prone on his face and 40 blows administered on his calves by the eunuch guard, and the Doctor by being informed that he would have to go *minus* three months' salary. The Doctor's assistant, a young man named Chang, who had followed his chief at a distance on this tour of exploration, was sent out of the Palace precincts with the order never to wait upon the Imperial Lady any more.

The Directors of the Yang-tsze Insurance Association, Limited, have issued their annual report and statement of accounts to the 20th December, 1893, as duly verified by the auditor. The working account of former years now shows a balance of $6,160 at credit, against which pending claims are estimated at about $3,500. The working account of 1892 is running off very well and now shows a balance of $45,160.26 at credit. Claims pending are not heavy, and the account should show a handsome balance when it is closed next year. The working account of 1893 shows that the net premia earned, less re-insurances, returns, etc., amount to $323,011.96. A considerable and steady increase of business at the head office and principal eastern agencies is a gratifying feature and the result is a balance at credit of working account, 1893, of $245,562.47, which the Directors recommend should be appropriated as follows, viz.:—A dividend of 10 % (=$6 per share), to shareholders, $41,688.00; to reserve fund, $30,000.00; to exchange and investment fluctuation account 16,131.11: balance to be carried forwards $157,743.36 — $245,562.47. Claims paid since 30th December last, and estimated as pending on all known casualties amount to about $75,000. After adding $30,000, as proposed, the reserve fund will amount to $310,000. In view of the increase in the business the directors deem it of great importance that the reserve should be increased as much as possible for the present. Sterling exchange has been taken at 3s. 1½d. per tael (the demand rate on 30th December, 1893), and the relative value between dollars and taels at 73. The value on 30th December last has been taken for all the investments. In July last, permission was granted by the Supreme Court of Hongkong to make the return of $40 per share. The return of capital warrants were made payable on and after the 1st August, 1893, and there remain now only a few shares on which the return has not been applied for. In accordance with the articles of association the present directors all retire from office, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The accounts have been audited by Mr. Augustus White, who offers himself for re-election.

ENGLISH NEWS.

Sir Francis Cavendish Lascelles, G.C.M.G., has been appointed British Ambassador at St. Petersburg. Sir Francis has been in the diplomatic service since 1861. His most recent appointment was that of Minister Plenipotentiary at Teheran, in succession to Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, where he spent 2½ years.

Sir Mortimer Durand, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., has been appointed to succeed Sir Francis Lascelles as Minister Plenipotentiary at Teheran, his post as Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department being taken by Mr. William Lee-Warner, C.S.I.

Sir James Stephen, the great legal commentator, died on the 11th of March, and Admiral Sir Claude Buckle on the 10th of the same month.

The Honourable Sir Francis Plunkett has been made a G.C.M.G.

It has been shown by Mr. W. H. White, Director of Naval Construction, that, with the exception of 8 or 9 small vessels, the whole fleet of 70 ships provided for as an addition to the British Navy by the Naval Defence Act of 1889, were ready for service at the end of March. The building and arming of such a fleet in so brief a time was described by Mr. White as a feat that no other nation in the world could hope to essay.

Mr. Yates Thompson has offered a sum of £38,000 for the construction of a monumental chapel in connection with the Abbey of Westminster, on condition that the chapel form part of the Abbey; that provision be made for its maintenance without the imposition of heavy fees on the erection of monuments, as at present, and that it shall not become a lumber-room for existing monuments which it may be thought well to remove from the Abbey itself. Thirty-eight thousand pounds sterling means three hundred and eighty thousand Japanese *yen*. Public spirit in Japan has not yet moved any of her rich men to make a donation of such a nature.

To such an extent has the agrarian dementia been carried in Ireland that the taking of a farm from which a tenant has been evicted is now publicly denounced as "a detestable and odious practice." Monster meetings are held to protest against the iniquity of a landowner letting his land to any one except those who decline to pay any rent for it, and a crusade is preached by educated men, the object of which is to induce all sections of Irish Nationalists "to band together and make the practice uncomfortable for any land-grabber," as well as to "brand any Irishman holding intercourse with such base traitors to the people's cause as an enemy to his country and his class." Dr. Tanner preaches that "Lord Roseberry must be plainly called on to settle the question of evicted tenants as he has settled the miners question in England." The Liberal Party shouldered a veritable Old Man of the Sea when they took up the cause of Home Rule.

The Times, writing of Mr. Gladstone's retirement, says:—

A time came when from persuading others he took to persuading himself, and from that time forward he seemed to bid farewell to the high statesmanship of his prime. His unrivalled powers of persuasion still remained unimpaired, however. There have been greater orators than Mr. Gladstone. There has never been a greater Parliamentary debater. It was said of Peel that he played on the House of Commons like an old fiddle. Mr. Gladstone played on it like a whole orchestra. There was no tone in that assembly that he could not evoke at will, no mood with which he could not instantly and intimately identify himself. The note of his oratory was not literary excellence—in which he has had many superiors—but a glamour of persuasion which was intensely dramatic in its essence and largely physical in its accessories. Its secret lay not only in what a brilliant critic has called that strange magic which resides "in the mere sound of some voices, the calculated charm of their modulation, the magnetism of eye, of expression, and even of gesture," but, above all, in that rare sensibility of dramatic perception which at once exalts and effaces the mere personality of the speaker and enables him to persuade his audience, not, indeed, that he is speaking the words of truth and wisdom in the abstract, but that he is for the time being the embodiment and consummate presentation of their innermost feelings and conviction. Few orators have ever wielded this magic weapon of debate with Mr. Gladston's mastery. If the nobler features of his personality have disappeared in the witchery of the performance, if the higher statesmanship of his prime has given place to the arts of the demagogue concealed even from himself by the traditions and associations of a life devoted to lofty personal ideals and the conduct of great affairs, that, after all, is the pity of it.

Crude petroleum has been discovered on the Ashewick estate in Somerset, and experts have expressed the opinion that sufficient oil exists to warrant any expenditure on account of boring.

A Special Report on surnames in Ireland, compiled by the Assistant Registrar-General, shows, among other things, that "Murphy" is the commonest surname in Ireland, there being no fewer than 62,600 persons (or 13.3 per 1,000 of the population) so called, and the next in order of numerical strength are "Kelly" (55,900), "Sullivan" (43,600), "Walsh" (41,700), "Smith" (33,703), "O'Brien" (33,400), and "Byrne" (33,300).

The Navy estimates for the fiscal year just commenced amount to £17,366,100, an increase of £3,126,000 over the amount voted for last year. The programme of construction for the year includes the laying down of 7 first-class battle-ships, 6 cruisers, and 2 sloops. It forms part of a complete programme arranged for a term of five years. It will interest the Japanese to know that Great Britain spends upon her Navy alone in one year an amount equal to twice the whole annual revenue of this empire.

In the last statement published by the Bank of England, it is shown that the liabilities in the Baring liquidation are reduced to £3,557,667, and the debt to the Bank to £3,450,000. The assets, according to a careful valuation, stand at £4,023,241, showing an apparent surplus of £465,574.

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KOREAN NEWS.

Correspondence from Söul, dated April 17th, and published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, contains a circumstantial account of the reception of Hong Tjyong-ou and his victim's corpse in Korea. It was on the 13th instant at 1.25 p.m., that the steamship *Kan-yo* with the murderer and the dead body on board, arrived at Yokkachin, a place on the river Han a couple of miles from Söul. About twenty soldiers, who had been waiting on the wharf, put off to the steamer, and in a short while came back with a long coffin, carrying a flag on which were inscribed the ideographs 大逆無道玉均 (A most villainous traitor, Ok-kyün). The coffin was carried to a store-house where it was kept for the time being under a strong guard. The steamer, after unloading the coffin containing Kim's remains, sailed a little distance further up the river to Ryu-san, where the assassin landed. Hong entered Söul at 5.30 p.m. on the same day in a palanquin, together with his patron Cho Gi-yen, escorted by a strong body of troops. He is still living at his patron's house. As to Kim's remains, the head, arms, and legs were severed from the trunk and exposed at Yokkachin on the following day at 9 p.m. The question how to dispose of Hong seems still unsettled. According to the *Hochi Shimbun's* correspondent, it is reported that there is a proposal to appoint him Minister of War. The same correspondent states that the steamer *Kan-yo* received Hong and his victim's body from the Chinese man-of-war at Chemulpo.

The Korean Government is said to have established regulations about the reception of foreign princes. First, they are to be lodged in the Keisho Palace; secondly, some higher officials of the Cabinet are to go to Ninsen to welcome such visitors; thirdly, the Korean Princes of the Blood and the Minister of Ceremonies are to proceed to Ryu-san to receive them; fourthly the King and the Crown Prince are to go as far as the Southern Gate, attended by a body of troops; and fifthly, such princely visitors are to be entertained at the Palace by the King and Queen.

HONGKONG NEWS.

Five Japanese females were charged at the Hongkong magistracy on the 11th instant with obtaining a surreptitious passage to Hongkong in the German steamer *Pemptos*, but the case was dismissed.

Jose Sanchez del Aguilar, who recently absconded from the Ordinance Department in Hongkong after attempting unsuccessfully to pass a forged cheque for $30 at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, has been sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

It has always been difficult to form any accurate estimate of the trade of Hongkong, since it is a free port and no customs returns are available. There is, however, one means of procuring information. "From the Mail lines monthly returns are rendered on printed Forms supplied them, the River steamers also supply a monthly return, based presumably on freight receipts. The coasters and tramps have supplied the required information on arrival to the Boarding Officers and when clearing at the Harbour Office. The Merchant Shipping Ordinance of 1891 authorizes the Harbour Master, if necessary, to require the deposit of a copy of the manifest, on which document the cargo is accurately entered, but generally described in parcels, bundles, &c. The ship master or agent, on the other hand, is aware of the bulk measurement carried each voyage, and thus the more useful information can be obtained from their reports; but the information from these sources is somewhat approximate and it would appear at times to be inaccurate. Nevertheless, the facts obtained from these sources are alone available to furnish an idea about the trade of a colony that has a history of very remarkable development. We quote a few interesting facts from the Harbour Master's Report, published on the 12th instant:—

The total of arrivals and sailings in 1893 amounted to 14,349,122 tons, or an increase in 1892 of 196,273 tons. There were 32,983 arrivals with a tonnage of 7,177,025 tons and 32,858 departures of 7,172,097 tons.

The increase in tonnage in European constructed vessels is 241,707 tons, the numerical decrease is 216. Paradoxical as this appears it is in accordance with the growth of shipping all the world over, the tendency being to increase the size of ships (and by the aid of labour-saving appliances to decrease the crews, improved machinery also economising fuel).

There is an increase in the Foreign Junk Trade of 2,007 Junks representing 295,931 tons, against which must be set a decrease in the Local Junk Trade of 8,630 vessels aggregating 341,365 tons.

The 1,682 British Ships, exclusive of River Steamers, that entered the port in 1893, carried 11,876 British officers and 147 Foreigners as follows:—

British	11,876
Americans	70
Danes	2
Germans	15
Swedes	23
Portuguese	21
Norwegians	16
	12,023

126 of the British Officers belonged to the Naval Reserve, 23 of them being Engineers.

The 1,310 Foreign ships, exclusive of river steamers that entered in 1893, carried 1,200 British Officers:—

In American Ships	5
In Hawaiian Ships	3
In Chinese Ships	1,116
In Japanese Ships	76
	1,200

In European constructed vessels the general import trade, as represented by the amount of shipping entering, amounted to 1,651,290 tons from places other than China and adjacent countries, while the imports, judged by the same standard, but from places in and adjacent to China, amounted to 3,615,059 tons, making a total import tonnage in European constructed vessels of 5,266,349 tons.

Again, the general export trade, still judged as before, amounted to 1,298,235 tons to places other than China and adjacent countries, while to those places it amounted to 3,971,375 tons, making a total of export tonnage in European constructed vessels of 5,269,510 tons.

Analysing the above and comparing with 1892 we get as follows:—

Import tonnage.	Increase.	Decrease.
From places other than China, &c.	128,739	—
From China and adjacent places...	—	29,328
Net Increase	99,411	—

Export tonnage.	Increase.	Decrease.
To places other than China, &c....	127,155	—
To China and adjacent places.....	15,141	—
Net Increase	142,296	—

or in European constructed vessels a net increase of Import tonnage of 99,411 tons and a net increase of Export tonnage of 142,269 tons making a net increase of trade, as represented by tonnage of European constructed vessels, of 241,707 tons.

1893 inaugurated a new trade—kerosine oil in bulk—for which there appears to be great possibilities judging by the fact that before the arrival of each oil steamer the depôt is usually empty, but that as yet the bulk oil is largely used in the colony is not apparent. This trade is returned with considerable accuracy. I may remark that these returns regarding trade compare very favourably—registered tonnage to cargo carried—with the latest or any other returns I have access to.

During the year 8,758 European constructed vessels aggregating 10,535,859 tons carried 1,595,675 passengers and 6,215,582 tons, the latter made up as follows:—

	Tons.
Import cargo	2,859,876
Export cargo	1,613,642
Transit cargo	1,335,264
Bunker coal shipped	406,800
Total	6,215,582

IMPORTS (EXCLUDING RIVER TRADE).

		Tons.
Steamers ...	2,899 measuring	3,573,406
Sailing ships	93 measuring	83,671
Total...	2,992	3,657,077 imported.

2,717,910 tons made up as follows:—

Beans	7,070
Bones	870
Bricks	100
Coal	507,993
Cotton	2,300
Flour	6,320
Fruit	60
Hemp	600
Iron	650
Kerosine	66,939
Lead	700
Oil	240
Rice	762,374
Salt	200
Sandal Wood	790
Sugar	168,816
Tea	988
Timber	26,038
General	1,163,962
	2,717,910
Transit	1,335,264
Total	4,053,174

by arrivals.

EXPORTS (EXCLUDING RIVER TRADE).

Steamers,...	2,922 measuring	3,585,372 tons.
Sailing Ships,	88 measuring	78,604 tons.
Total 3,010		3,663,673 tons exported.

1,485,155 tons general cargo.

These 2,922 steamers also shipped 386,601 tons of Bunker Coal.

Junks in Foreign Trade imported 379,326 tons and exported from the Colony 845,177 tons, European constructed vessels imported, 1,246,234 tons in excess of exports. Junks exported 465,851 tons in excess of what they imported reducing the total excess of imports to 780,383 tons, from this must be deducted 406,800 tons of bunker coal, leaving a balance of 373,583 tons consumed, manufactured, and in stock in the Colony or unaccounted for.

The passenger traffic shows 3,407,771 persons arriving and 3,387,569 departing, a total of 6,795,340. The total revenue collected by the Harbour Department during the year was $195,821, an increase of $14,763 over the preceding year.

Rinderpest has broken out in Wanchai, Hongkong. Prompt measures have been taken to prevent its spread, twenty-six beasts being destroyed.

The *Foochow Echo* understands that Viceroy has appointed a mandarin specially to see that no spurious tea is brought to the Foochow market.

Northern despatches note that some Russian officers have recently been making a tour of inspection of the Chinese naval depôts and forts at Port Arthur, Talien-wan, and Weihai-wei. Although treated with courtesy by the mandarins at these places, the visitors were regarded with some suspicion by their hosts.

The laying of the cable from Singapore to Labuan was completed on Saturday evening, the 14th inst. The Labuan-Hongkong section will probably be completed early next month. The Cable Companies have again increased the rates to certain places to make up for the decline in exchange.

The interport rifle match between Hongkong, Shanghai, and Singapore will probably take place on the 28th inst.

Native despatches do not give very encouraging news of the season's tea market at Hankow. A considerable falling off in buyers is reported for Hankow tea hongs, and the following approximate figures are given:—Ningchow 70 per cent.; Fychow (Hueichou) and Keemên 50 per cent.; while only about 80 per cent. on an average of Hukuang teas have so far been applied for.

Two houses in the Hollywood Road, Hongkong, were destroyed by fire on the night of April 17.

His Excellency Kung, the new Chinese Minister to England and France, and suite, arrived at Hongkong on the 17th inst. by the Messageries Maritimes steamer *Oxus*, from Shanghai, *en route* for Europe. His Excellency and suite went ashore in the afternoon and arrangements were made for a visit to Canton.

A movement is on foot among Kowloon residents for the establishment, upon a substantial

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basis, of a Swimming Club. Last summer a semi-public Swimming Club was in existence, but the institution—if it ever reached a condition of organisation to justify its being called an institution—snuffed out with the destruction in the October typhoon of the bamboo structure which did duty as a bath-house.

A government intimation is given that a commencement will be made with the driving of piles in the sea bed from the new Praya Reclamation to the western side of Pottinger Street, preparatory to forming a sea wall for the extension of the Praya Reclamation. On the 17th the last steamer left the old Douglas Wharf, and it is expected that a start will be made soon with the demolition of the P. & O. and Pedder's Wharves. The new temporary wharf off the Reclamation, opposite Ice House St., to replace Pedder's Wharf, is approaching completion.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

The most noticeable feature of the religious press of the month past, expressive of religious opinion and tendency in this country, is the large number of articles in the Buddhist magazines concerning the initiation of specific missionary effort abroad, and of religious revival and reformation at home. For more than a year we have called attention to this awakening zeal within the intelligent circles of the adherents of Japan's popular religion. A marked stimulus to this energy was given by the International Conference of Religions in America last autumn. Probably, too, not the least effect of the vigorous propagandism of Christianity in recent years throughout the world, has been a gradual recovering of the ancient mood of Buddhism directed towards the extension of the sway of the Indian sage's "power of salvation." Buddhism like Christianity is in essence a missionary faith. It has the world for its field, and all men as its desired subjects. But, associated with stagnant civilizations for many centuries, itself had practically lost its original aim, and had become almost moribund. The impulse given to the whole life of Japan by the impact and penetration it received from Occidental civilization, not only has been felt in Japanese political and social institutions, but, at length, by instituted religion as well. This influence has laid bare to all eyes that can see, the corruption and impotence to which mediæval Buddhism had been degraded. For some time, "the Buddha" has been the call of prophetic minds. "Go back to Sakya Muni, recover for Japan his gospel, and proclaim that to his degenerate followers and to the world," is the summons made in these last days. What the result will be, can not be told. Evidently, however, an attempt to revive "pure Buddhism" is in the air. And, moreover, many feel that Japan's religious mission is to lead the Buddhistic world forward, as the Buddha would have it go, and to make known "the way" to the myriads of the world who are as yet "unenlightened."

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For example, in *Hansei Zasshi* we read that Buddhists for the sake of their faith should go abroad and put themselves into contact with foreign peoples. The spirit of devotion, of self-sacrifice, and ambition, says the writer, is often aroused by some external stimulus. Would a man whose patriotism is inert or weak, gain strength and earnestness, let him travel in foreign lands, and he will be fired with a new love for his native land, and will labour for home with increased devotion. Who among Buddhists at the present day are most eager to revive their inherited faith and carry it forward to new triumphs? Those who have been among alien people and have felt the force of the life which moves them. Those who have never left their homes and seen the world, are as a rule those of our discipleship who now lack real bone, blood, and soul, or who are yet sunk in torpor. Our counsel is, travel in foreign lands. If Europe and America are too far, and the journey to them is beyond your means; if, too, India and Thibet can not be reached; many certainly can go to Korea and to China. Even in these countries much will be gained by which the needed end may be secured. If we could have our way, many of our young Buddhists would spend the coming summer in journeyings in these neighbouring lands. Neither cost nor time would be great, and the results might be of the highest importance. Evidently the Buddhism which is professed and cared for by the established priesthood of to-day, is like a magnificent, old but dead tree. The substance of the trunk has already perished; only the bark remains. What we need is a revival from the roots. What we should aim to nourish is a Buddhism for the world. Young Buddhists should be separated from the present corruption affecting their faith. Their beliefs should be purified; their souls enlarged. Let them go abroad and learn how other men think and act. Let them learn of the patience and the courage of the scholars of the White Race. These went to work, and, through great difficulty, mastered as students the Buddhism of the Southern Orient. Now they have turned their labour towards the Buddhism of the North. They are investigating our religion as it has taken shape in China and Japan. Historically and doctrinally the Buddhism of to-day is being set forth as it is. We see now how Hindoo tradition and Brahmanic speculation has been intermixed with the pure truth of Buddha. This pure truth must be delivered from the corrupting things with which it has been degraded. The young Buddhists now coming into mature life have this work before them as their supreme duty. The inherited narrowness, obstinacy, and undiscerning conservatism by which they have been affected must be cast aside; indifference to the growing thought of the world must be destroyed root and branch. As a first and an effective method to this end we urge travel abroad and knowledge of the great world.

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One young Buddhist seems to have adapted the method advised above with convincing results, if we are to accept Mr. Nakajima Saishi's statements, made in a current *Bukkyo*, concerning "The Evangelizatiou of China." Mr. Nakajima, a student in the Hongwanji sect, after graduation, went to China, and journeyed, he says, over nine-tenths of the country. He returned to Japan at the beginning of last month, and since that time has spoken frequently before both Buddhist and Christian schools and at other places. He says that the religious condition of China is most deplorable, that it seems to have been forsaken by all that is really helpful. Taoism prevails everywhere. Upper and lower classes are dominated by it. In every place where there are at least twenty houses a Taoist temple stands. Of course, as a true religion, as an uplifting faith, this cult is altogether worthless. As to Confucianism, great as is its influence, it is almost wholly confined to scholars and government officials. As a power among the people it is not worth noticing. But the most lamentable fact of all is that Buddhism has decayed and is almost dead. I have sought, he says, to know the condition of Buddhism in every part of China. I found it practically in ruin. Buddhist temples exist only at Tendai, Fuda, Godai, Shunan, Gabi, and Kwannari, and these places were once chief centres of the faith. Only in the distinct of Sekkosei was my heart lightened. There I saw in every house a *Butsudan* (Buddha shrine), and there I head a devotional service, somewhat resembling our own. The Emperor, making it a political agency, professes belief in the religion of the Lama, the so-called Buddhism of Thibet. Consequently in Peking, Manc, Manchuria, and somewhat in Kanshuku-sei, this nominal Buddhism is in favour. I met with Mohammedanism in Sensei-sei and in Sansei-sei. Whence comes this deplorable state of religion? I do not attempt to answer for other faiths, but I have clear views about the degeneracy of Buddhism. Buddhism lost its power, in being made in the centuries past, altogether too much a matter of abstruse and remote speculation. It gradually ignored its mission as a practical religion for the common people. China is without a vital religion at present. But it cannot be said that the Chinese are without religious sentiment and need. They are a religious people. They labour hard in early life to earn money. They do this partly that they may marry good wives (it is the custom in China to make valuable presents to a bride's household at marriage), but in large measure also they seek to get rich, that at death their funerals may celebrate worthily their entrance into the next life. Often the half of a man's property will be spent for his consolation after death. The Chinese are happy in being able to place the images of their dead in the temples side by side with, in close communion with, apothersized along with, the *Hotoke*. In all this labour and ambition we discover the religious needs of the Chinese. Now, if a satisfactory religion, directed by adequate means, can be placed before the Chinese, doubtless it will meet with great success. Unfortunately, so far, no such religion has been offered to them. Christianity, which certainly in some measure meets religious needs, has gained some following in China. It has considerable influence in Choshufu, in Shoshufu, and in Kokwafu. Also in Taihokufu, in Formosa, it prevails. In each great city a large Christian church stands. A few years ago, the Christian missionaries already numbered twelve hundred. Most of them have a knowledge of medicine, and each week once, dispense medicines to the people. They have thus been very wise in their methods of evangelization. In Peking almost every Protestant chapel is a tea house for the people—the Chinese are very fond of tea. These tea houses are open to all comers for free entrance. It will not do for us to ignore these things. The demand is made upon us to do our part, to propagate Buddhism as we know it, to the Japanese. There are many reasons why we should do this. I name a few of them. In the first place our own beneficent faith came to us through China. It now blesses us, but our ancient benefactors are to-day in want. As we received so now should we give back. Then next, the relation between Japan and China should be made much more intimate than it has been. A practical co-operation or union of the two countries is needful for them both. A Buddhistic evangelization led by us is the best means towards this end. Thirdly, we are in duty bound to carry civilization into China. China is really an uncivilized country. It must be enlightened either by us or by the peoples of the West. But, compared with us, the Westerns are strange and alien to the Chinese. It will be far easier for us to be the bearers of civilization among them than for any other people. Under this conviction we should carry our Buddhism into that land. And lastly, the poisonous habit of opium eating must be stopped. In China this curse prevails, and we should be leaders in lifting its burdens from the people there. Thus the duty is laid upon us to cary our religious faith into China. Our difficulties do not begin to compare with those that confront the Christian missionaries. We can easily communicate with the Chinese by the pen. We can write Chinese poetry and prose. For us, but little money will be required. In attempting this work it would be well for our evangelists to prepare themselves with the knowledge of the physician. Better still would it be for us to search out some promising young Chinese, take them into our religious schools and prepare them fully to consecrate themselves to the salvation of their own people. At present there are no Japanese Buddhists at work in China excepting those who are connected with the Higashi (East) Hongwanji sect at the temple in Shanghai. But these are workers only for the Japanese living in that city.

* * *

But, is the Buddhism of Japan equal to the demand made of it by the enthusiastic and hopeful traveller whose essay we have just summarized? Reading in the current *Nonin Shimpo* an article entitled "The Buddhism of To-day," by Tentai Doshi, we are led to suppose the answer to be rather in doubt. The writer, whose real name we are told is Sugiura Juko,

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begins with the remark that Buddhism has for a long time been dominant in Japanese history. Apparently the faith is more deeply rooted in this country than in India, China, or Korea. The chief reason for this fact may be that protection was for so many centuries given to it by the Imperial Household. The labours of great priests may have done much, but it is unlikely that they could have maintained its ascendancy for so many ages. During the Tokugawa age in particular, by legal enactment every individual was directed to select his sect; priests were under stringent regulations; many barriers were erected and placed around the faith. But to-day all this has been changed. The Government safeguards have been withdrawn; and with these, the ancient prohibitions preventing monks from eating flesh and from marriage have been annulled. For these reasons Buddhism has lost greatly in its influence among the people. Priests have lost their former energy; they are satisfied with depending upon the wills of others. Moreover, in ancient times, in times of war, Buddhism was not only powerful as a religion, but as the chief agency in popular education as well. With our revival of learning (of the classics of Japan and China), after the establishment of peace under the Tokugawas, in the age of Genna, Buddhism lost its place as the leader in education, and consequently its power over the middle and upper classes of our people. Yet more, in the present age, with the opening up of intercourse between our country and the peoples of the West, science and philosophy have been brought to us, and Christianity too has found a place among us. It is said, I know, that the coming of Christianity has been a powerful stimulus to Buddhism, and, indeed, has made a revival of Buddhism possible. This may be true. In fact, an attempt to revive Buddhism and to regain for it its lost place has been begun. But, is the method chosen for this end adequate to its purpose? We question it much. Recently considerable has been done in the way of educational and magazine enterprises. There is nothing wrong in these; but that which our Buddhists teach and write do not differ very much from what is taught and written in ordinary schools and journals. Then, how about the ethics of the Buddhists? In this direction have they made themselves worthy of the reverence of ordinary people? As before, so now we must answer, in their morals as in their learning, they do not differ from the people around them. How then, being in this condition, can they revive their influence? The great priests of ancient times devoted themselves to mighty works of mercy and salvation, through great trials of body and soul. Ordinary people could not imitate them. Thus arose the great sects of Buddha's religion. But the priests of the present day are altogether unlike these ancient worthies. They have no intention of leading the people of the world; they rely upon them. They are not even at peace among themselves, but are engaged in factional wars. Of course, the reception of new learning is not valueless; but learning is not everything for a Buddhist. And see! Buddhists are even inferior to Christmas in their practical morality. I beseech you Buddhists to note these facts. Return to practical works of mercy and salvation. Seek to repel the foreign religion by some other means than either mouth or pen.

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Among items noticeable in connection with what is written above, we see in the *Nonin Shimpo* that Mr. Yabuchi Hanryo, who was at Chicago last year, believing that Buddhism has a possible mighty influence in Europe and America, has determined to devote himself to missionary work in the West. For support in carrying out his resolve, he has gone to Kumamoto, to gather the needed money in that neighbourhood. Several missionaries have lately started for Hawaii, representing the Jodo-shu, and two more are soon to follow them. The Hokkaido is to receive an episcopal visit from the Bishop of Hongwanji in June and July next. The Buddhist Summer school will hold its sessions at Gammagori, in Mikawa, this year. Many celebrated priests and gentlemen of nobility are to be present and are to give lectures. More than four hundred students are looked for. Mr. Oda Tokuno is now engaged in writing a biography of the pope of the Otani sect, Hongwanji, lately deceased. It will be completed in the early autumn. He proposes also to have ready in the course of two or three years a Buddhist dictionary of some magnitude. Mr. Nakanishi Gyuro has about finished his "History of the Eastern Propagation of Buddhism." A historical magazine edited by Mr. Murakani Senjo, is now publishing. It is devoted to Buddhist events and men. *Dento*, we observe, is vigorous in its denunciation of those who call Buddhism a religion of pessimism, as such—pessimism after all, is but the mother of optimism.

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In the Christian press we find several minor articles of general interest. Some of the more important periodicals have failed to reach us in time for this summary. In *Kirisutokyo Shimbun*, however, a significant article on "Body and Spirit" finds place. The writer opens his essay by speaking of the numerous changes in form through which historical Christianity has passed. He contrasts the simplicity which marked the Apostolic Church with the pomp of ritual worship, and the ecclesiastical absolutism of the Church of Rome. He declares then that during the centuries since the Reformation, endless changes have been taking place in Christian institutions, creeds, and modes of worship. Especially during the last forty years changes unparalleled in history have been occurring. Yet more, as all wise, discerning men see, the Churches of the West are now on the verge of a great revolution. This capability for ceaseless change is what distinguishes Christianity from all other historical religions. It indicates that Christianity may become the everlasting, universal religion. If a Church system, if the building of places of worship, if the classes of a priesthood, if the interpretation of the Sacred Books are all forced into conformity with one model, and are held there throughout the ages, religion will certainly come into conflict with growing humanity; it will become corrupt and be made incapable of reformation. This fact we see exemplified in Mahommedanism and somewhat also in the Buddhism of the East. The Buddhists of Japan have in a measure awakened to this fact and are endeavouring to save themselves by reformation and progress. In such changes, however, the vital spirit of a religion must continue. It is a serious question whether or not the Buddhists can succeed in their attempted reformation, without destroying the soul of their faith in the process. In this age of general progress change of forms in religion is inevitable; in Christianity such change in a natural characteristic. It is said that the basis of Christian faith is the Bible; that the doctrines of Christianity are not to be found outside the Bible; that therefore Christianity must fall to the rear in social progress. This declaration opposes the very essence of the Bible itself. Of course we must rely upon the Bible as the source of our spiritual life, but not on its "letter." Our reliance is on the "spirit" back of the "letter." Paul said, "the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." We look to Christ as our master, but not to the Christ of the body. We trust in him as a spirit. The biography of Christ can not supply us with perfect models for all relations of human life. If we were to follow literally his words and deeds, we should commit great errors. What we reverance and should learn in Christ, is his spirit, his principle of life. "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" said the angels at the resurrection tomb to the women who went there to find him who was crucified. In the same journal Mr. Makino declares that the "Time for the Suppression of Heresy is gone." It is right to controvert opinion with which one can not agree, but when one does this he should not mischoose his weapons. Creed revision, for example, in the direction of minuteness and conservatism, with intent to injure a fellow believer's position is disgraceful and cruel. Present feeble imitation of the heresy suppressions of past ages serves only to display ignorance. Yet, says Mr. Mashino, in another article, absolute liberalism is equivalent to scepticism. Liberal thought must be joined with vital faith. How faith can coexist with absolute liberalism we can not understand. As I warn conservatives not to give way to dogmatism, so I would entreat liberals not to yield to indifference. In *Gokkyo* we are told that the first principle of religion is direct communion with God (with Christ and Nature). Creeds, Churches, and Scriptures are no more than guiding stars to this heaven. "The Salvation Army" has found active friends in Japan. On the ninth of April a meeting in its behalf was held at the Central Tabernacle, in Hongo, Mr. Nagasaka Takeshi, who was in England for a long time and has recently returned to Japan, was the speaker. An admission fee was charged, and a pamphlet descriptive of the Salvation Army was on sale at the meeting; all profits to be used for the support of these energitic soldiers for religion. Rev. J. T. Yokoi took passage for the United States on April 20th. For a time therefore Japan will be deprived of the services of this eminent liberal Christian.

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Last month we called attention to two important Christian conferences to be held during April. The report of the doings of the *Kumiai* Church representatives has not reached us yet. We see by *Inochi* that the First Presbytery of Tokyo has failed to recommend a revision of the simple creed of the Church of Christ, in the interests of conservatism. Rev. Mr. Tamura brought forward his proposition for revision. *Inochi* says that with great eloquence he discoursed upon the imperfections of the present creed and set forth reasons for the proposed revision. A few words in opposition were spoken, when, strange to hear, Mr. Ishihara cried out, "decision." Mr. Ibuka modified this call by proposing that another friend of the conservative venture, Mr. Wada, be allowed thirty minutes for an address. "Despotic!" "despotic!" shouted Mr. Tamura in thunder tone. And Rev. Mr. Ballagh cried out, "I cannot submit to this despotic presbytery. I shall appeal to the General Assembly." But M. Ibuka's motion was passed. Mr. Wada, indignant at being thus limited in time, declined to make his speech. "What a despotic meeting!" adds *Inochi*. Even Mr. Kimura, that gentleman wept, and declared the presbytery to be heartless. After much confusion the vote was taken. The proposition failed by a minority of six against a majority of seven. *Inochi* declares that the failure is not real. Partisanship and questionable methods secured the apparent success. The same proposition was brought before the Second Presbytery of Tokyo, but the day when it was to be discussed its leading advocates (perhaps foreseeing failure) absented themselves from the meeting, and nothing was done for or against the measure. The Sanyo Presbytery had before it the same proposition. What action, if any, was taken has not yet been made known to us.

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"Biblical Criticism" has a prominent place in two of the Liberal Christian magazines. The *Jiyu Kirisutokyo* regrets the conservatism among Japanese Christians which imagines poison to Christian faith in the "Higher Criticism." Such timid Christians are as foolish as the believers in the Middle Ages, who saw in astronomy danger to religion. There is no more peril threatening religion now than then. On the contrary, the "Higher Criticism" is to make the Scriptures only the more evidently a treasury of precious truth. Christians should remember that religion has its roots in human nature. It is not involved in the continuance of any literature or popular cosmical beliefs. Faith in Christianity does not rest upon what may be learned of the origin and compilation of the Bible. The "Higher Criticism" seeks in the literature of the Bible, whatever truth may be embodied in the Scriptures. It is destructive only of mere tradition and superstition. It is

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destructive, only as science destroys. Its result can only be to fix the Bible on a firm foundation, free it from peril and leave it immovable. True faith will become manifest the more criticism is perfected. In *Shinri*, Mr. Minami writes, the aim of Biblical criticism is to understand the Bible historically in its orign and development. We learn thereby how Judaism culminated in Christianity, and how the essence of Christianity is revealed in the New Testament. Of course, Christianity centres in Christ. The New Testament is only the attempt of the early Christian Churches to prevent the truth of Christ which they held, from perishing. The New Testament writings may differ from one another to a considerable extent, but there is nothing fatal in such divergences. Criticism goes through them to the living Christ, to the Christinity of Christ, and thus to that for which Christ lived, the "Way of God" for man. In *Shukyo*, it is declared that religion must be natural and human. Take away from it adoration and reverence towards Nature (God in Nature); take from it such radical virtues as loyalty, filial obedience, charity, righteousness, &c., which arise from the relations of man with man, and what is there left for religion? The speculations of some Buddhists and the creeds of some Christians are vain and foolish things upon which to build an enduring religion. Another writer in the same magazine is much interested at hearing both national Christians and Buddhists reverence Jesus and Shaka respectively, as each the perfect human being. So difficult is it, says the writer, for men to free themselves from inherited faith and from their prejudices, even after their superstitions have long been cast aside.

* * *

The recent dedication of Yuiitzu-Kwan (Unity Hall) in Tokyo, has called forth a good deal of comment in the religious press. We have not space to reproduce this at length, but as examples of opinions from diametrically separated religionists not at all supposed to be friendly to the Unitarians, who are not Buddhists, and who are not allowed by Christians to be Christians, we quote briefly from the Methodist *Gokyo* and the Buddhist *Hansei Zasshi*. *Gokyo* says, an attack upon others because of sectarian differences is despicable. Each individual has his own belief. Whether or not his faith is true is the main question. Yet all rivers flow into the one sea. We may not clasp hands with others over the same creed, but, surely, it is no impossible thing to be at one with others in a sincere search for the truth. Those who merely criticise the faiths of others without themselves having faith, those who are proud of their liberality without having a definite religion, these are our enemies. But we bless our brothers in their worship of one God and hope that they may gain much benefit from this newly dedicated Hall. The Buddhist editor says, Unity Hall was opened with great ceremony in the presence of a notable gathering of representative men of Japan. Unitarianism is now solidly founded in this country. In view of this event we must ask Buddhists, "How is it with you?" What do you now intend to do to carry forward your work in the capital of this Empire. *Bukkyo* also remarks, the opening of this Hall is seemingly a small matter, but it is a noteworthy happening in the present critical and sceptical age."

Teacher (giving Bible lessons)—"What is meant be 'divers diseases?'" Sunday Scholar—"Watter in the heid!"

An Irishman was working on a new railway a short time since, and one pay-day he said to the ganger: "Do yer want any more hands, sor? for I've a brother at home that wants a job at wurruk." The ganger asked him what sort of a workman his brother was. "Faith, sor," Pat replied, "he's as good a man as meself." "All right," said the ganger, "tell him to come and start on Monday." 'Whoile I'm axing you for my brother, there's me poor owld father at home wanting a job at the same time, yer honour." "Well, what sort of a man is your father, Pat?" "Be jabers, sor, he's as good a man as the two of us." "Oh, well," said the ganger, "tell your father to come, and you and your brother can stay away."

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—A language in which there is such an admixture of all things as the Japanese language may be expected to be a difficult language to learn. The language, in the first place is divided into two kinds, spoken and written. The written language is not spoken and the spoken language is not written. Moreover, there are two languages used side by side. Japan, in adopting the Chinese characters and Chinese literature, adopted the Chinese language as well. The language is, therefore, bi-lingual. Each Chinese character has two pronounciations, one being Japanese and the other Chinese. As the Japanese consider it a mark of learning to use the Chinese words, educated people especially delight in using them. But having learned the so-called Chinese pronounciation, no one is able to talk with the Chinese because the pronounciation is that of several dynasties back, and for practical purposes is entirely out of date. The Chinese and Japanese are therefore unique in the fact that while they cannot converse together, they may easily understand one another in writing, since both use the same characters.

The student in learning Japanese becomes impressed with the use of honorific terms. While short abrupt expressions are generally used by the lower classes, where politeness is not considered important, the expressions for the higher classes become longer and longer, until in addressing the Deity they become quite a burden. To illustrate, take the imperative of the word "hear." It lengthens about as follows:—1. *Kike.* 2. *O Kiki nasai.* 3. *Kiite kudasai.* 4. *O Kiki nasaremase.* 5. *O Kiki kudasai.* 6. *O Kiki nashitte kudasai.* 7. *O Kiki nasarete kudasai mase.* 8. *O Kiki kudasaru koto wo negaimasu.* 9. *Kikitamawan koto wo koi-negaimatsurimasu.* These differ only in the degrees of politenes. The first is not considered polite. The others according to their length indicate self-abnegation on the part of the speaker and a corresponding exaltation of the person spoken to. The last, which is used in prayer, is supposed to express the highest exaltation of the Deity and the profoundest humility on the part of the supplicant.

If honorifics stopped with the verb, their mastery might not be considered hopeless. But nouns and adjectives come in for a share and are as difficult to place as the proper gender of the article before German nouns. Thus the foreigner who trys to humble himself (a thing he is not generally accustomed to do), and honour his friend, finds too often, alas! he has bestowed the lion's share of honour upon himself.

Having, however, mastered this difficulty, which yields at last to what the Japanese call *break-a-bone* study, one can hardly hope to know more than a smattering of Japanese without learning the Chinese characters. As the Japanese spend about ten years in the schools in getting a start in the characters, of which there are at least a hundred and twenty thousand, and put in the rest of their lives in following up their school training, the foreigner looks with dismay upon the task of learning Japanese properly. However, few people comparatively know more than four thousand characters, while a knowledge of two thousand is said to make reading the newspapers intelligible, and a few missionaries have attained as much. The real difficulty seems to be that missionaries who have spent five or seven years in learning the colloquial, become so engrossed with other duties as to make the study of the Chinese character impossible. And yet it is probably true that to know more than a smattering of Japanese, it is essential to make a considerable study of Chinese, even though one may be in danger of breaking his bones in the effort.

Your, &c., A. D. WOODWORTH.
April 20th, 1894.

THE TSUKIJI SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Before leaving for England, I should like to endorse the letter from Mr. Kirby, which appeared in your columns a few days ago. He does not in the least overstate the case for the Tsukiji School. My eldest boy, now 13, has been in the school from its commencement; and under Miss MacRae has made most satisfactory progress. The classical side of the school is especially strong; and any boy who avails himself of Miss MacRae's very able tuition, will find himself ready for matriculation at any of the English Universities. For other reasons, it might not be wise to keep a boy in Japan so long. I only put the case thus, to show that the instruction given by Miss MacRae is second to none which happens to be at the command of the foreign residents in Japan; and I think that the English-speaking community is to be congratulated on having the services of such a well-known educational expert at hand.

Thanking you by anticipation for the insertion of this,

I remain, yours truly, J. WILLIAMS.
Hotel Metropole, Tokyo, April 18th, 1894.

AUSTRALIAN BUTTER AND CHEESE.

An open Letter.

Sir,—Thirty or forty years ago the idea of importing butter and cheese from Australia would have been scouted as absurd and impracticable, and when shipments of butter on a small scale were made, people were dubious respecting the quality of the article and its colonial origin, so deeply rooted was the then existing prejudice against everything Australian, excepting wool, tallow, and gold. But all this is changed now. Australian butter has been placed in considerable quantities on the British market, and the finer kinds have been declared equal, if not superior, to those imported from France or Denmark. Nor is this to be wondered at when the extent and rich character of the Australian pasture lands, especially those in the coastal regions, are taken into consideration. Those who associate the Australian colonies with vague ideas of prolonged droughts and extensive tracts of dried-up, waterless country, would find themselves vastly surprised could they have a peep at the rich dairy-farming portions of New South Wales, more especially those in the southern coastal districts, where the rich luxuriance of the herbage and the abundance of green feed all the year round would suffice to fill with envy the heart of a Normandy farmer. The verdant slopes and extensive plains—there are no fields, as in England—watered by broad silvery streams, and dotted with comfortable-looking farmhouses and gardens in every direction, breathe their own encouraging story of agricultural peace, progress, and prosperity, in strange and pleasant contrast to the sound of discontent so frequently heard in Sydney and other places, where the congestion of population often causes the supply of labour to exceed the demand. Dairy-farming has been carried on in the southern portions of the colony from the earlier days of settlement, most of the produce being shipped to Sydney. With the progress of railway extension, and the increase in the number of steam coasting vessels, the New South Wales dairy farming industry received an impetus which has led to a complete revolution in the work of production, more particularly with respect to butter. Instead of each farmer, as formerly, making his own butter and cheese, butter factories, worked on the co-operative principle, have become established throughout the whole of the dairy farming districts. At the present there are 183 of these co-operative butter factories in the colony, of which 144 are situated in the southern districts. There are also about 60 devoted to various articles of dairy produce in addition to butter. In these establishments the latest and most improved processes are employed, the results being increased economy of production and improvement in quality. The factories are kept supplied with milk by the neighbouring dairy farmers. The quantity of butter so made during the year 1892-93 was 21,398,300 lbs., and the quantity of cheese, 5,018,296 lbs. Yet the industry, as regards co-operative production, is still in its infancy. Of the 21,398,300 lbs. of butter above mentioned, 1,532,782 lbs. were exported to the United Kingdom, and 180,684 lbs. to the other colonies and elsewhere, leaving 19,684,834 lbs. for local consumption. The quantity of cheese made was 5,018,296 lbs., of which 77,822 lbs. were exported, leaving 4,940,474 lbs. for home consumption. Some of the new South Wales cheese is fully equal in appearance and flavour to the best Cheshire or Gloucester, and as the facilities for production increase, the quantity exported will become largely augmented.

Yours, etc., JOHN PLUMMER.
Sydney, February 28th, 1894.

The *Journal Officiel* has published the decree relative to the French Colonial medal together with the conditions on which it is granted. With regard to Cochin China it is to be bestowed on soldiers and marines alike who have taken part in effective manner in the war operations of the colony.

YOKOHAMA SAILING CLUB.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Yokohama Sailing Club was held on Saturday afternoon at the Club Hotel to consider various proposed alterations and revisions of the rules. The meeting was largely attended, and among those present were Messrs. G. H. Scidmore, hon. sec. and treas., Alan Owston, C. S. Averill, L. Salabelle, A. O. Averill, J. B. Coulson, C. D. West, O. Balk, S. E. Unite, W. W. Campbell, R. Hay, T. H. Abbey, F. Komp, J. Eyton, J. B. Gibbs, A. M. Forbes, D. Maclaren, A. Beart, T. M. Laffin, A. B. Brown, W. Weston, and others.

Professor C. D. WEST, of Tokyo, was voted to the chair and he opened proceedings by reading the notice calling the meeting.

Mr. G. H. SCIDMORE announced that he had received letters embodying various propositions for altering the rules from Mr. Rogers, Mr. Alan, Owston, and Mr. Campbell. He gave an outline of their proposals and added that two other propositions would be brought forward, one by himself and another by Mr. Salabelle. His own proposition related to the election of honorary members and Mr. Salabelle's to the limiting the number of the crew carried by various classes of boats in the races.

The CHAIRMAN said the best course they could adopt would be to take the various propositions separately and vote on them one by one.

Mr. SCIDMORE announced that Mr. Rogers being unwell had written regretting his absence, and at his request, he the secretary, would put the propositions standing in Mr. Rogers' name.

The first proposition put to the meeting was one suggested by Mr. Rogers. It read :—The annual general meeting to be held as soon as possible after the close of the racing season, and not later than December.

Mr. BEART seconded.

After a few remarks from the Chair as to the advisability of amending the old rule, the proposition was carried, Mr. Campbell agreeing to a proposition standing in his name to a like effect, being withdrawn.

The next proposition had reference to the load-water-line, and after some discussion the two suggestions standing in the names of Messrs. Campbell and Rogers were incorporated.

Mr. C. S. AVERILL seconded the adoption of the new rule which was carried. It reads as follows :—That the load-water-line be marked on bow and stern of every boat ; no boat to be allowed to race without these load-water-line marks showing above water when afloat in still water.

The voting on the foregoing new rule was 9 to 6.

Mr. SALABELLE then proposed that the crews to be carried during races by the various boats be limited as follows :—For 39-raters, 8 men ; for 32's 7 ; for 26's, 6 ; for 21's, 5 ; for 17's, 4 ; for 14's, 3 ; for 12's, 2 ; and for 11's, 1.

Mr. SCIDMONE seconded.

Mr. A. O. AVERILL moved as an addition to this new rule, "That no shifting or trimming of ballast be allowed, that is dead ballast." He explained his reasons for this amendment at some length.

Mr. CAMPBELL objected to the amendment. It would be dealing unfairly with some of their fleet if they made such an amendment to the rules.

On a show of hands being demanded from the Chair, the amendment was lost by 4 to 7. Mr. Salabelle's original proposition was then carried unanimously.

Mr. CAMPBELL then moved that Rule 3 be made to read as follows :—That new members be admitted if four-fifths of the committee approve, upon the written requisition of three members (not committee-men) and the payment of the current year's subscription.

Mr. GIBBS seconded.

Mr. HAY pointed out that the proposer's idea would be fully met if the word *may* was added to the present rule.

Mr. BEART objected to the alteration of the rule altogether, and spoke at some length upon the original intentions of the founders of the Club.

The CHAIRMAN thought the alteration unnecessary.

On a show of hands being asked for, the proposition was lost by 5 votes to 8.

Mr. CAMPBELL next proposed :—That all boats entering for races must have a certificate of measurement from the official measurer and that no boat be allowed to enter without this certificate of rating. That the cost of this certificate be 50 cents. If at any time the owner of a boat wishes to change his boat's rating a new certificate must be procured and a fresh 50 cents paid ; these monies to go towards the funds of the Club.

Mr. ABBEY seconded.

Mr. OWSTON added, as an amendment, that a professional man be engaged as their measurer and that he be paid for his services.

Mr. SCIDMORE proposed, as a further amendment, that the old rule stand as it is. He pointed out the great difficulties in their way and also doubted whether 50 cents would be sufficient reward for a professional's services.

A considerable discussion arose and eventually both amendments were withdrawn. The original proposition was then voted upon. Seven voted for and seven against, and the Chairman giving his casting vote with the noes, the proposition was declared lost.

Mr. CAMPBELL proposed that Sailing Rule 10 read :—Each boat shall carry at least one life buoy on deck or close at hand ready for use.

Captain WESTON seconded.—Carried.

Mr. CAMPBELL'S next proposition was :—That all the sail area requirements be left unchanged for the coming year, as it is too late to alter our boats now, but that members be notified that for next season 1895, the measurement of head-sails will read as follows—(See Book, p.p. 12—13)—measured from deck to shoulder of topmast, instead of from the spinnaaker-boom goose-neck.

Eventually Mr. Campbell withdrew the proposition, the opinion of the meeting being against it.

Mr. CAMPBELL proposed that the following classification of boats be adopted :—17-raters, all boats over 14 and not over 17-rating ; 14-raters, all boats over 12 and not over 14-rating ; 12-raters, all boats not over 12-rating ; 11-raters all boats not over 11-rating.

Mr. SCIDMORE seconded. Carried.

Mr. CAMPBELL also proposed and Mr. SCIDMORE seconded, that all boats over 17-rating be called the A class, and all boats of 17-rating and under be called the B class.—Carried.

Mr. SCIDMORE next proposed :—That the Committee have power to elect as honorary members, exempt from annual dues, such Japanese and foreign officials and visitors interested in yachting as may be considered desirable.

Mr. CAMPBELL seconded.—Carried.

Another proposition from Mr. ROGERS was then read as follows :—That a new member joining the club for the following season previous to the annual meeting preceding that season should be entitled to attend and vote at that meeting.

Mr. OWSTON seconded.

Mr. CAMPBELL and others objected, and the matter fell to the ground, no voting taking place.

Mr. SCIDMORE in bringing the proceedings to a close proposed a vote of thanks to the proprietors of the Club Hotel for their courtesy in lending the Club the use of the room for their meeting.—Carried.

Mr. BEART proposed a vote of thanks to the chair.—Carried amid applause.

The meeting then separated.

LETTER FROM BALTIMORE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Baltimore, March 29th.

Plutocracy has aroused even the most conservative Americans by its course in the U.S. Senate. That body, lightly referred to as "the millionaires' club," is the last constitutional stronghold of pampered wealth. One of the Senators from New York, Murphy, was interested in the manufacture of collars and cuffs in Troy, New York, the chief centre for this industry in this country. The House of Representatives had reduced the duty on these articles to 35 per cent. *ad valorem*. Senator Murphy, a Democrat, refused to vote for this Democratic measure unless the rate was again elevated. He had to be placated, as the two parties are so nearly balanced in the Upper House that a loss of two or three from the Democratic side would put the Republicans in a majority. How much money this truckling takes out of our pockets and puts into Murphy's depends on how many linen collars and cuffs we buy. Coal, iron, and sugar had all been put on the free list by the more popular branch, but about half-a-dozen Democratic Senators were directly interested in these commodities and they joined hands to block all action till they were satisfied. So a duty has been placed on all three. The bill has not yet passed the Senate, but the Finance Committee has reported it after weeks of tinkering and changing so as to suit enough Senators to put it through. It will be enacted about as it stands. The Sugar trust, which controls the manufacture and refining of nearly all the sugar we use, had one of the most audacious lobbies ever seen in Washington pushing its claims for a higher rate on all refined sugar. It was satisfied. The delegations and petitions for pet schemes have been numerous, bold, and insolent. They have nearly all come from the producers—small classes—and almost none from the consumers—the masses. This special class-legislation has gone on now for a third of a century, and one-half of the total wealth of the sixty-five million inhabitants of the United States is in the hands of forty thousand people. Ten families of these favoured forty thousand are worth nearly a hundred million a piece. There are over a thousand millionaires. An enterprising paper, *The New York Tribune*, has decided to issue an album of these princes of fortune, with a biography of each one, as long and as fulsome as each will pay for. A poor wretch of half a million only can't get even his name on the roll of these gold-bugs for any consideration. It will be the most select gathering of worthies that a money aristocracy can show.

Pensions have been the scapegoat of the protectionists for keeping up a high tariff, and this practical system of largesses to strong men has done more to spread socialism among the people than all the arguments of all the Marxes and Bellamys of the day. Our civil war even now costs us in these bounties and in interest on the bonds, far more than the standing army of Germany costs. No one objects to help given to those who suffered, but one of the ablest of the great American papers, the *New York Times*, has been carrying on an investigation of its own, and there are found in every locality hearty men drawing pensions for permanent disablement. The most notorious case is that of a judge, who discharges the onerous and responsible duties of chief justice of one of the largest States of the west, at a salary of five thousand dollars a year, and yet has a pension of 72 dollars a month because he testifies he is *unable to earn a living*. Very properly his case is receiving warm administrative notice with a good chance that his soft snap will be abolished. President Cleveland is sincere in his determination to make the pension roll an honorable one by weeding out all the frauds. Even athletes and fox-hunters have been found among those claiming to be *totally disabled*. An economic Democratic majority in the House of Representattves has cut down the pension appropriation by some fourteen million dollars, but the whole amount is still over 150 million dollars for the next year.

While Congress is so largely the passive instrument of the plutocrats, many of our state legislatures and nearly all our city councils are the blind tools of sharpers, bosses, and rascals. A vicious *perennial* confidence game here is pool selling on horse races. A gang of cheats will get control of a driving park and then open offices in all the larger cities, and will keep up races all the year round, and swindle thousands of gullible suckers. The scheme was so scandalous that these sham races and pool selling were forbidden by law in nearly all places where it was profitable to work this game except Baltimore. An entire establishment was set up a year or so since in one of the suburbs of Baltimore, and such a crowd of gamblers, sports, and shameless decoys gathered around and attended the race meetings, that the spot has become a stench in decent nostrils. A bill was introduced is the State legislature now in session to close up the whole business. The pool selling lobby has gathered in such seductive strength that it is very doubtful whether the measure can ever become law.

The Hawaii matter is thought to be drawing near a crisis. The Queen is gathering recruits in British Columbia, and she has promise of all the financial aid she desires. President Cleveland still occupies the noble stand he took several months ago, that a wrong had been done, and we ought to set it right if possible. He will not, of course, attempt to interfere in the affairs of the islands, but he will be careful that Dole shall receive no assistance the next time there is an outbreak. A change has been made in the command of our forces out there ; Admiral Walker has just left to take charge. Before sending him, President Cleveland held several private conferences with him, and wrote out the instructions himself. To-day's paper gives the following account of the feeling among the President's advisers :—"The administration is impressed with the conviction that 'President' Dole and his coadjutors were and are a pack of adventurers. In private conversation, recently, the Dole side of the case has been ably and forcibly presented to the President and his advisers ; that the only wise and proper American policy under the circumstances is one of non-interference ; that those who now hold the helm in Hawaii are white men who seized savage territory and overthrew savage tribes, just as did the English in North America and the Spaniards in South America centuries ago, just as Clive and Hastings swept down on India, and as Cecil Rhodes is now grabbing in South Africa, and as, for that matter, what we of the United States have been doing with our own Indians for three-quarters of a century ; that the law of nature condemns the lower civilization to

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succumb to the upper. Dole and company are carpet-baggers, it is true, but the types of illustrious carpet-baggers who have taken for the benefit of humanity and superior civilization what did not belong to them in all ages, recent and remote. Such views have been advocated by those who are politically and personally in sympathy with the administration. It has been represented to the President that in the nature of things it cannot be possible to restore and retain in power the savage faction which has been dispossessed, that the white race will inevitably hold the islands, and if we do not, through our own people, France, Germany, or Great Britain will. While admitting the apparent force of such arguments and considerations, it is nevertheless understood that the President is firmly convinced that Mr. Dole will go."

But the rampant in either party are not satisfied with this peaceful policy. One of the extremest among them, Senator Davis, of Minnesota, has unburdened himself in the disgusting manner of rabid English jingoists when they want their gunboats to seize the earth. This dignified gentleman, a representative in the most august Upper House in the world, declared that we must have not only Hawaii, but Cuba, and a slice of Nicaragua, and furthermore we should not rest until we had absorbed Canada. All this wholesale grabbing and piracy he justified on the ground that we must have a preponderating counterbalance against the influence of the old rebel States that are now in the saddle and seeking to ruin the country by slightly reducing the war tariff rates. England can hardly show a worse *old hen of a man* being frightened by the passing shadow of Irish home rule than this roaring politician seeing images by day.

Washington society is all in a flutter of excitement and nervous anticipation. A few nights since a lady artist was giving a lecture on art at some educational establishment, using lantern slides to illustrate her remarks. She talked on in the darkness in a commonplace way flashing commonplace views on the screens, for several minutes, and then she said her most beautiful pictures she had been forbidden by the hostess to exhibit, but as the audience had paid to come in, she would show them anyhow, if a number wanted her to do so. Many stood up, and these realistic pictures were about to be thrown before their hungry eyes, when the lady manager threatened to call in the police and bundle both the fair lecturer and masculine lantern operator out in the street, if they disregarded her wishes. The entertainment went tamely on to the end, and then it was announced that the dangerous fruit would be displayed in a night or so at the house of a prominent society leader, the wife of a Senator. There will be a crush at that occasion, for even the most seclusive and refined dearly love a flavour of the polite indelicate.

Madame Tateno, the wife of the Japanese Minister, is very popular in Washington and is very successful at giving dinners. The following was in this morning's paper :—"Madame Tateno, wife of the Japanese Minister, gave a luncheon to-day of eighteen covers, her guests being Mrs. Pugh, Mrs. Blackburn, Mrs. Charles Gibson, Mrs. Oates, Mrs. John Moore, Mrs. Guzman, Mrs. Shields, Mrs. Thomas Wilson, Mrs. Van Wyck, Mrs. Cushman K. Davis, Mrs. MacArthur, Mrs. Mendonca, Mrs. Philling, Mrs. Rockhill, Mrs. Geary, Miss Gorman, and Miss Goto. The table was decked with lilies of the valley, and there were souvenir bon-bon boxes at each cover, trimmed with the same flower."

President Gilman of the Johns Hopkins University has returned to Baltimore from a trip through the South. Dr. Gilman is a member of the executive Committee of the Peabody and Slater funds. The trip was to observe what is being done in the South for the advancement of technical instruction and manual training in the schools which are benefited by these two funds. In all places he found the greatest interest manifested in the promotion of education of every grade, and the general outlook is very encouraging.

The 90th birthday of General Neal Dow, the prohibition advocate of Maine, was celebrated throughout the U.S. and Great Britain. It was poetically referred to by one of the leading papers thus :—

Neal Dow!
There is a name!
Nothing round about,
Nothing long drawn out—
Sturdy and simple the name,
And Neal—he is the same.

The great prohibitionist is a native of Portland, Maine, where he lives in the house which he built and to which he took his bride the day of their marriage in 1851. Gen. Dow is a Friend, and from early youth he has been a teetotalar and a great worker in the temperance cause. It has been said of him "He can properly be termed the Wendell Phillips of the prohibition movement." On his birthday, Gen. Dow received in his home, which was beautifully decorated with quantities of flowers, the hundreds of callers, and to each person he gave a hearty handshake such as might be expected from a man of 50. England also celebrated the birthday of this venerable prohibitionist. There were over 200 meetings held in various parts of the United Kingdom on this occasion and a long cablegram of congratulation was sent from London. But in spite of the claims and efforts of enthusiastic temperance workers, prohibition as a legal enactment may be called a failure in the U.S. Drunkenness is not so common, but the reform has come more through private persuasion and silent business influences than through legal restraints.

Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, died at Turin at the age of 92. After the war of 1848 he escaped the clutches of the Austrian soldiers and took refuge in foreign countries where he strongly preached the cause of Hungarian independence. He came to the U.S. in 1851. On arrival at New York he was met by a committee of the City Council and of the citizens of Baltimore tendering him a cordial welcome and hospitalities. During his visit to Baltimore he delivered an address which an ex-Governor of Maryland recalls to-day as being unsurpassed for beauty of diction, grace of expression, and sublimity of sentiment.

Rev. Maltbie Babcock, pastor of one of the largest Presbyterian Churches in Baltimore, has declined a call to a very wealthy church in New York—the church of the Gould family at a salary of $12,000. As his present salary is only $6,000, much surprise was shown at his decision. Few of us have such a chance, and still fewer refuse it when they do have it. Mr. Babcock is an athlete and member of a cricket club, and skilful baseball pitcher.

A Greek paper has just been issued in New York, making the 25th tongue represented in our press, and thus putting us next to England in variety of speech.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, April 5th.

Rev. W. E. Griffis, D.D., has gone to Bangor, Maine, to deliver a course of lectures on "The Religions of Chinese Asia," before the Theological Seminary (Congregational) in that place. A recent number of *Harper's Bazaar* contained "The Imperial Japanese Silver Wedding" from his pen.

The March-April number of *Our Day* contained an article on "Crudity of Japanese Theology," by Rev. J. L. Atkinson.

Prof. Ernest F. Fenellosa, of Boston, recently addressed The Twentieth Century Club of this city on "The Five Periods of Japanese Art."

The other evening at the Art Institute there was a public exhibition of water-colours, which included several Japanese subjects by Robert Blum. Two or three of these were disappointing, because they did not look natural; the others deserve hearty praise. "A Japanese Screen," by J. Alden Weir, was excellently portrayed.

Mr. H. Sato, of Tokyo, is delivering some lectures on Sunday evenings at the All Souls' Church (Unitarian) on Japanese history.

The test of the Takamine process of distilling has been finished at the Manhattan Distillery in Peoria; but the results are not yet known. This test was made with the extract of *Koji*; an experiment will also be made with the solid *Koji*.

The contract of the Post-office Department with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company expired on March 31st. This contract went into operation February 1, 1892, for ten years, but has been cancelled by the Postmaster-General "owing to non-compliance of the company with the provisions of the contract." The points of failure were not specified. Hereafter the company will be paid "according to the weight of mails carried instead of on the mileage basis."

Secretary Gresham has submitted to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations the draft of a bill relating to the Behring Sea fisheries. By the terms of this the prohibitory zone extends 60 miles around Pribyloff Islands.

It is reported from Washington, that Admiral John G. Walker, who sails to-day from San Francisco to Honolulu, bears with him important instructions with reference to both Behring Sea and Hawaiian affairs. It is thought that in Hawaii he will select the best location (perhaps Pearl Harbour) for a naval station. This will be one of three permanent bases of supplies (San Francisco, Yokohama, and Pearl Harbour?), to be established with a view toward adaptability in assisting the patrol service of the seal waters as provided by arbitration.

Ex-U.S. Minister Stevens has issued a letter giving his reason for raising the U.S. flag over the Hawaiian government building. In this letter he refers to dangerous elements, among whom he includes many "Japanese ex-soldiers who had long been seeking the right of suffrage," and with whom "it was thought that Liliuokalani might compromise." He also mentions "rumours of an intended outbreak resulting from a combination of the white adventurers and the lower native Hawaiian element under their control" with these Japanese.

The latest news from Hawaii is dated March 26, and came per *China*. It reads as follows :—

By far the most serious problem that confronts the provisional government at present is the attitude of the Japanese labourers and their representative here. The *Naniwa*, the Japanese warship, which has been stationed here for some months, left port a few days ago, ostensibly to go to Hawaii for target practice. J Fuyii, the Japanese Consul-General, went with the war-ship. The *Naniwa* returned March 21st, and either by coincidence or pre-arranged plan, she was met twenty miles away by another big Japanese war-ship, the *Takachiho*. During Fuyii's absence the Japanese on several plantations struck. The government brought all strikers, to the number of seventy, to this city and they are now in jail. The Japanese are against the provisional government, and their consul and other officers here have done all they could to further a feeling of antagonism.

At the last meeting of the councils the Executive was asked whether Minister Willis was still carrying out his plan of intervention for the purpose of restoring Liliuokalani. It was wished to let the natives understand just how the matter of restoration stood. In reply, President Dole read the following communication from the Minister :—

Legation of the United States,
Honolulu, Feb. 14, 1894.

S. B. DOLE, Minister of Foreign Affairs :—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date in answer to my letter of the 19th ult., and inform you that on the 20th ult. I was notified by my government that the Hawaiian question had been referred to Congress, and that my special instructions had been fully complied with.

With assurances of high esteem, I am, sir, very respectfully,
ALBERT S. WILLIS.
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States.

The President said that the expression, "My special instructions have been complied with," seemed to answer the question asked.

There is also a report that the natives are coming out for annexation, and that even the ex-Queen is now favourable to that policy, if it will only bring her a pension!

From Samoa has come news of fighting caused by the fact that Chief Justice Ide severely punished some native chiefs.

There is no special news from Brazil, except that the Foreign Office has authorized a positive denial of the statement that President Prixoto has revived the Imperial Decrees by which political offenders could be executed without trial.

President Bermudez, of Peru, died at Lima on the 31st ult., and has been temporarily succeeded by Senor Borgono, Second Vice-President. In Costa Rica, Don Rafael Yglesias, the liberal candidate, has been elected to the Presidency.

President Cleveland, as was expected, vetoed the Bland Seigniorage Bill, which yesterday in the House of Representatives lacked 74 votes of the two-thirds necessary to pass it over the veto.

On the 2nd inst. Senator Voorhees opened the tariff debate with an eloquent speech. Senator Stewart has publicly announced his adhesion to the Populist Party. Senator and ex-Governor A. H. Colquitt, of Georgia, died on the 26th ult. Governor Northen first appointed to the vacancy Speaker Crisp, who declined; then he named Patrick Walsh, editor of the Augusta *Chronicle*.

Among recent Presidential appointments may be mentioned those of Thos. E. Benedict, of New York, to be Public Printer, and of James D. Yeomans, of Jewa, to be Inter-State Commerce Commissioner.

Until yesterday the House of Representatives has been in a deadlock over contested election cases; but the Democrats finally succeeded in swelling their majority by unseating two Republicans.

On the 28th ult., McKinley was received with tremendous enthusiasm by the Republicans of St. Paul and Minneapolis, where he made three speeches to help along his "boom." On the 2nd instant the Iroquois Club of this city celebrated Jefferson's birthday with a grand banquet at which eloquent addresses were made by prominent Democrats of the country.

Judge Glynn, in the District Court at Denver, has rendered a decision favourable to Governor Waite's action in removing the Fire and Police Commissioners: but the latter have taken an appeal to the Supreme Court of Colorado.

The necrological list this time includes also the names of Major William Nevans, the famous bond-master, and George Ticknor Curtis, the well-known constitutional lawyer. Unfortunately, it does not yet include Prendergast, whose execution has been put off till July 2nd. On May 21st begins the trial to decide the question whether or not he is sane.

The "Commercial Army" is still marching slowly and wearily "on to Washington," and has reached Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. In some places it has been pitied and kindly treated; in other places it has received no assistance. It seems

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to consist principally of tramps; and is at present under the espionage of the police.

On the 2nd inst. many coke-workers of the region about Uniontown, Pennsylvania, went out on strike. Yesterday Chief Engineer Paddock was murdered by rioters, of whom two were killed, others wounded, and many captured, by the sheriff's *posse*. The murdered engineer was in the employ of the H. C. Frick Coke Company. The rioters are mostly Hungarians.

An attempt to enforce the new dispensary law in South Carolina has almost resulted in civil war. Governor Tillman ordered out state militia to assist constables in maintaining peace at Darlington, near Columbia; but the militia, sympathizing with the people, refused to obey. The Governor then took possession of the telegraph and railway lines, declared the State under martial order, and called for volunteers. Finally, 230 men of the militia were found who would go to Darlington to preserve peace and enforce the laws. No arrests have yet been made there; and if any are attempted, it is likely that there will be fighting. Prominent men of the State are endeavouring to secure a judicial settlement of the difficulty.

The stock-holders of the World's Columbia Exposition are still waiting for a dividend, which can not be declared until Mr. Higinbotham returns from a prolonged vacation trip. The Columbian Museum has received in all about $1,200,000 of the World's Fair Stock.

The following statistics have been published with reference to the customs service at the Fair:—Exhibits were received at the exposition from sixty different foreign nations, states, and colonies. They consisted of 162,609 packages, valued in the statement of the exhibitors at $14,797,693, and required about 8,000 cars to transport them. Of these goods about 25 per cent. have remained in the country. The result of the appraisement of those entered for consumption or re-warehouse (including value of goods on which no invoices were received) was to show an average increase of about 50 per cent. on the foreign estimate of value made by the exhibitors. The goods entered for consumption paid an average duty of 27.94 per cent. Assuming this to have been a fair average of duty on all exhibits, the collector estimates the American value of foreign exhibits at $28,000,000. The packages acquired by various universities, colleges, schools, museums, etc., was 9,828 packages, valued at $1,552,250.

In spite of a presumably infallible proverb, March did not "go out like a lion." Very severe weather was experienced from the 25th to the 29th; but the last two days of the month were quite mild.

R. G. Dun and Co. report an "encouraging condition of trade" with a "better outlook." In this city the improvement in real estate matters is considerable.

Gov. Brown (Rep.), of Rhode Island, has been re-elected by 6,000 plurality.

An evening paper just out says that a general revolution is imminent in Central America.

SAD DEATH OF A LADY TOURIST.

VERDICT—SUICIDE WHILST OF UNSOUND MIND.

An inquest was held in H.B.M's Consulate on Wednesday morning, by H.M. Consul, James Troup, Esq., sitting as Coroner, into the circumstances surrounding the death of Fanny Cooper, a married lady, and a native of Ely, Cambridgeshire, whose body was found floating in the harbour about six o'clock on Wednesday morning.

The following gentlemen were sworn on the Jury, Messrs. J. R. Black, H. V. Dickinson, and J. Budge, who at once proceeded to view the body then lying at the undertaker's. Upon reassembling in the Court Room, the following evidence was taken:—

Dr. Edwin Wheeler, sworn, deposed—I recognise the body just viewed by the jury as that of Mrs. Fanny Cooper. I attended her several times during the early part of this month, at the Club Hotel. I last saw her yesterday afternoon walking on the Bund. She bowed to me. I have examined the body. I found no marks of violence upon it; it resembled that of one lately drowned. The cause of death was drowning. I attended the deceased for insomnia. She was, more or less, suspicious of everybody, and she asked me of I knew "why all these men were coming into her room." She suffered from delusions occasionally, and among them was one that people were following her. This was only occasionally, for at times she would speak quite rationally and then again would lapse suddenly. I prescribed for her, but I think she only took medicine on one occasion. The medicine was to allay her nervousness and allow her to sleep. I last saw her professionally at the beginning of last week. The deceased was suspicious of even some lady friends who had called to see what they could do for her. She did not want them to come into her room. The last time I saw her she got suspicious of me, and said I was not to come back again. She told me that she had telegraphed to England for some money and the amount was sent her by telegraphic transfer. She would not touch this money, however, when it came because she said it had not been properly come by, meaning that it had not come out in a proper manner. I advised her to take a passage home by the P. & O., as she need not worry about money as some was laying at the Bank for her.

To Mr. Dickinson—I advised her strongly to go home, as she was alone and had no friends here. She said she had no money, and then I reminded her that the money was laying at the Bank for her. She seemed to think that it had come too quickly, and continually used the expression, "it is not properly come by," and that that—meaning the telegraphic transfer—was not the proper way to obtain money.

Tomoye Tokichi, a sendo, cautioned, said—I saw the body of a foreign woman floating in the water opposite No. 9, Bund, a little after 6 o'clock this morning. The face was turned downwards in the water, and was covered with floating weeds. The policeman on duty dispersed the crowd which had gathered round, and then I went back to the hatoba. I did not see the body taken out of the water. When I saw it, the body was lying at the foot of the Bund wall, in about 7 feet of water

An adjournment was then taken till 2 o'clock.

Dr. Neil Gordon Munro, sworn, deposed—I saw the deceased lady at the Club Hotel once, and knew her as Mrs. Cooper. This was about three days ago. I saw a body in company with Mr. Benney on the Bund at half-past seven o'clock this morning. It was lying opposite the Messageries Maritimes office. It was identifred by Mr. Benney, manager of the Club Hotel, as that of Mrs. Cooper. I was called to see the body and inspected it. Life was quite extinct, and the deceased must have been dead some hours. I could not, from the appearance of the body, determine the cause of death then. The clothes on the body were wet, and the appearance was that of a person who had been drowned. I found no external marks of violence. The Japanese police took possession of all articles of value that were upon the body. They were a purse and a paper, and I think a gold bracelet. I left the body while it was lying there.

To a Juror—The clothes were in order; but the heel of one of her boots was partially detached or loose, while the leather of both seemed to have been scraped or bruised. I could not judge from the body's appearance that the deceased had had a fit. There was froth at the mouth, such as occurs during epileptic fits, but I should not take that as evidence of the occurence of a fit, as it also occurs through drowning. I do not know that she suffered from fits. I was not attending her. Life had been extinct at least 5 or 6 hours, the skin was shrivelled, shrunken, and bleached.

Charles Tippet Benney, Manager of the Club Hotel, sworn, deposed—I knew the late Mrs. Fanny Cooper. She was staying at the Club Hotel. She first came to our Hotel on the 25th of last month, arriving on the *City of Rio de Janeiro*. She appeared in a perfectly sound mind then, there being nothing peculiar about her at all. She stayed on till the 29th when she went to Tokyo, to the Hotel Metropole, and from the manager there we first learnt that she was queer in her mind, that she was not acting right—that she was not in her right mind. Deceased returned to the Club Hotel on the 3rd April, and had been staying with us there ever since. I did not observe anything particularly peculiar in her manner on the day of her return, but a few days afterwards I noticed that she was somewhat queer. I was prepared for it. The hallucination took the form of thinking that people were after her, and watching her. This occurred more or less every day. She preferred a complaint every day. She said that we were all conspiring together to take her for another Mrs. Cooper so as to lead her into trouble and to bring her into Court. Another complaint of hers was that the other guests in the Hotel were masquerading to annoy her, and that people were constantly talking of her and mentioning her name. At first she took her meals regularly, but lately, unless I took them to her or lead her to the dining-room, a little tea and toast sufficed her for the day. If I sent anything to her room she would eat it after a while. This had been going on from the 6th or 7th of April. I last saw her alive between half-past eight and nine o'clock yesterday evening; she was then in the hall of the Club Hotel. I spoke to her and asked if she had had any dinner. She said, "No, I will go in presently." I left her in the hall—that was the last time I spoke to her. I saw her about a quarter past ten walking up and down the Bund in front of the Hotel; this was a usual habit of hers during the evening. She was alone then. I thought she was quieter than usual yesterday, and noticed nothing wrong the last time I saw her that night. The next I heard of her was this morning about seven o'clock. I had just returned from market, and the Chinese steward came up and told me that Mrs. Cooper was lying dead at the French Hatoba. I went there at once. I looked at the body and recognised it as that of Mrs. Cooper. I went across to No. 10 for Dr. Munro and took him to the body. From there I went to see Mr. Hodges, and then from his house to the undertaker's. I then returned to where the body was lying. I noticed that a small black satchel and a light coloured brown cloak which she usually carried, were missing, and returned to the Hotel to see if they were in her room; they were not there, and I cannot find them.

To Mr. Black—It was not reported to me that she had returned to the Hotel after I had seen her on the Bund at 10 o'clock. Her bills were promptly paid. I have in the Hotel money of hers to the amount of $29.70 in bills. She told me that she had family troubles at home. I heard nothing of strange behaviour or trouble on board the *City of Rio de Janeiro* coming out.

To the Coroner—She sent me two little chits while in the hotel, referring to her husband. The last one I received on Sunday morning. They were sent down by her through one of the room boys.

To Mr. Dickinson—By the look of her bed this this morning she had not slept in her bed last night. She had no serious illness, but Dr. Wheeler gave her medicine for her head. On one occasion when he called she was feverish. I never knew her go out in a sampan to visit a ship. She wanted to go once to see Captain Smith of the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, but Captain Smith was on shore at the time.

To Mr. Black—She gave no reason for travelling alone by herself. I believe she was travelling for pleasure.

To the Coroner—I urged her to proceed on her tour on Saturday. She promised that she would go to the Bank and sign a cheque for enough money to take her home, if she could do it without touching the £100 which was telegraphed out to her. She appeared scared to touch the money sent out by telegraphic transfer, for what reason I do not know. She imagined she heard voices calling her by name, and also imagined that she heard songs sung in which her name was mentioned. She would think this when no one was speaking.

To Mr. Dickinson—There is no other Mrs. Cooper staying at the Club Hotel, nor that I know of in Yokohama. There is a Mrs. Rebekah Cooper coming. I noticed her name in the papers, as at Kyoto. Letters to this Mrs. Rebekah Cooper were once handed to Mrs. Fanny Cooper at the hotel, and after that deceased would have it that there was another Mrs. Cooper in the hotel, and that I was keeping her back; this was about the time of the arrival of the last English mail. She was just about the same before as after seeing these envelopes. I do not know to whom she referred to when speaking of this other Mrs. Cooper. I do not know why she was so anxious to establish her identity. Once she asked me to take a responsible person to her room to identify her as Mrs. Fanny Cooper.

To Mr. Budge—She carried her bag and cloak with her everywhere, upstairs and downstairs in the house, as well as outside the Hotel. She had the cloak with her when I last saw her alive on the Bund. The hall-boy told me that she carried the bag with her as she went out of the hall-door.

To the Coroner—The bag has not been found, and the cloak also is missing.

To Mr. Black—The bag contained papers. She opened it in the office the day before yesterday. It then held papers, keys, and other things. She had burnt all her correspondence and photographs.

To the Coroner—The $29 are in the Hotel safe.

To Mr. Black—The hall-boy ought to have noticed that she had not returned last night. She would sometimes be absent about 10 minutes, sometimes a quarter-of-an-hour, sometimes half-an-hour. She walked very slowly.

Henry MacArthur, sworn, deposed—I have seen the deceased, whom I now understand to have been Mrs. Fanny Cooper. She came to my office yesterday morning. I was talking to her about a quarter to twelve. She asked me if the boats going out were bound for Kobe. I went to the office-door

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and looking out could see no boats at all, and none on the way out. She said she had seen two boats and that perhaps they were then out of sight.

The Coroner—Well, that was possible I suppose?

Witness—Possible, but not probable. She expected to see the boats when she went to the door. She said she wanted to go to Kobe and appeared to be lonely and melancholy. I was under the impression that she was suffering from hallucinations. She called again in the afternoon and again talked about boats in front of the office—again there were no boats in sight. I thought she seemed attracted by the water.

Miwa Hachijuro, cautioned, deposed—My attention was called this morning to a dead body floating in the water. I reported it to a police-inspector. The body was lying off the Bund opposite No. 9, Bund. The police-inspector and I went and took the body out of the water. The body was that of a foreign woman fully clothed, with no covering on her head and with boots on. The clothing was searched, and I found the articles now produced—a gold bracelet, on her arm; a purse, and several papers inside the bodice, and *pince-nez*. All the articles were wet, and the clothing was soaked with seawater. The body was quite close to the Bund wall. I sent for a doctor and then handed the body over to Mr. Hodges.

Richard Perrott Forshaw, a merchant of Yokohama living in Tokyo, sworn deposed—Within a few hours of the steamer's arrival—the *City of Rio de Janeiro*—Mrs. Cooper called at my office. She stated that she was a great personal friend of a friend of my own at home, Mr. Priestly, of Huddersfield. She was in perfectly sound mind, to the best of my belief. She talked for half-an-hour perfectly rationally. I saw her frequently afterwards in Tokyo. When I saw her in Tokyo she was quite rational in her conversation with me, and apologised for not having felt well. During the afternoon of Thursday last she came to my office about 3 o'clock, accompanied by the Chinese steward of the Club Hotel. She opened her bag and produced a counterfoil of a dividend warrant for £48, of the Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Company, and asked if it would not be possible to raise money on it here. I told her no, and asked if she wanted money. Then she said, "The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank have got a hundred pounds which they say is for me, do you think it is?" After further conversation I promised to see Mr. How at the Bank, and he satisfied me that the money was for her, and then I wrote the letter to her, which is now produced. She replied to me and I found her letter at my office. I never saw her alive after last Thursday. I understood that she didn't like to take the money, as she could not understand how it had come out, and was also under the impression that it belonged to another Mrs. Cooper. She had no letter of introduction to me, except a book from a friend of mine. She expressed a wish to me to return to America by the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, and it was by reason of this that I hurried to the Bank. To my mind she appeared perfectly rational in her manner and behaviour.

George Hodges, Shipping Clerk at H.B.M's. Consulate, sworn, deposed to receiving the body of the deceased from the Japanese police about half-past seven o'clock that morning. I recognise the body as that of Mrs. Fanney Cooper, whom I have seen at the Consulate.

George Kircher, Usher of the Court, sworn, deposed to receiving from Dr. Wheeler at the dead-house a gold watch (now produced). He said the watch was taken off the body. The watch had stopped at eight minutes past eleven o'clock. Two rings were also handed to him by Mr. Hellendall, who said he had taken them from the body; one was a wedding ring another was set with red stones.

The Coroner briefly summed up, and the Jury retired, to return after an absence of ten minutes with a verdict that deceased committed an act of suicide by drowning herself off the Bund at Yokohama some time on the night of Tuesday, the 24th of April, while she was in an unsound state of mind.

The Coroner—I entirely agree with you, gentlemen.

In the House of Commons, Sir William Houldsworth gave notice of the following amendment to the Address:—"Humbly to direct the attention of your Majesty to the heavy and disastrous fall which has occurred in the gold value of silver since the closing of the Indian mints to the unlimited coinage of that metal, and to the injury to trade with India; also to humbly express the hope that your Majesty will not sanction a duty upon silver imported into India, but that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to take such measures as will lead to the assembling of another international conference to consider the whole monetary question."

H.B.M. SUPREME COURT, SHANGHAI.

ON APPEAL FROM H.B.M.'s COURT FOR JAPAN, AT KANAGAWA.

Before N. J. HANNEN, Esq., Chief Justice, and GEORGE JAMIESON, Esq., Assistant Judge.—MONDAY, April 17th.

BETWEEN TSUNE KIJIMA AND OTHERS, PLAINTIFFS AND APPELLANTS, AND THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, DEFENDANTS AND RESPONDENTS.

This was an appeal by Tsune Kijima and others, the next of kin of men drowned in the collision which took place between the *Chishima Kan* and the *Ravenna* in the Island Sea in November, 1892, to discharge the order made by H.B.M.'s Court for Japan on the 13th of December, 1893, which dismissed the petition by the said Tsune Kijima and others.

The plaintiffs and appellants were not represented by counsel, but a written argument drawn up by the their counsel, Mr. A. B. Walford, was submitted to the Court. Mr. J. F. Lowder and Mr. A. P. Stokes appeared for the defendants and respondents.

Mr. A. B. Walford's written argument was in the following terms:—

In support of their application that the judgment of the Court for Japan should be reversed the plaintiffs and appellants desire to state their case shortly under the following heads:—

(1) They submit that in the joinder of plaintiff they have followed the procedure of the Superior Courts in England, and they refer to the rules of the Supreme Court Order XVI Rule 1 and to the cases Booth *v.* Briscoe (2 Q.B.D. 496), Arnison *v.* Smith (41 C.D. 98), and Hannay *v.* Smurthwaite (*Weekly Notes* 1893 p. 144.)

(2) They submit that their case is a matter "not expressly provided for" in the Rules for China and Japan, and that they were therefore justified in following the procedure of the Superior Courts in England. They refer to sections 4 and 5 of the Order in Council 1865 and to Rule 339.

(3) They submit that whether or not their case falls within the provisions of Rule 339 they have acted rightly according to the decision in Scott *v.* Forrester (*North China Herald* 1881, at page 177). That decision has stood unquestioned for more than twelve years and was acted upon without demur in the case of Meikle *v.* Jardine, Matheson & Co., which came before the Supreme Court on appeal in June 1889.

When the last mentioned case was before the Court for Japan the parties were represented by the same two Counsel as appeared in that Court in the case now under appeal. The learned judge ruled that the claim worded as a set-off was in fact a counter-claim, and it was so treated by all parties in the Court below and by the plaintiff in his petition of appeal and by the learned judges in the Supreme Court when they delivered judgment allowing the counter-claim.

No objection was then taken to the incorporation of the counter-claim without leave, nor, so far as the appellants' counsel is aware, has such an objection ever been taken since the above mentioned case of Scott *v.* Forrester, where it was held that the effect of Section 5 of the Order in Council was "to enable parties to follow the procedure which by any law made subsequently to the Order in Council is prescribed for England; otherwise we should be in the regrettable position of having had our procedure stereotyped for all time from 1865, and we should be deprived of the benefit of any simplification or other changes of procedure which experience may show to be necessary in England." Section 127 of the Order in Council 1865 shows that the practice in Japan was intended to be simple, so that cases should be decided "on their merits according to substantial justice without excessive regard to technicalities of pleading or procedure." It would be a curious result if in the face of that section an action could be dismissed upon a technicality which in England would be no bar to action. It is submitted that a plaintiff in Japan is entitled to take advantage of any simplification of procedure which may be introduced in England. It is especially hard for Japanese plaintiffs that being compelled by Treaty to come to a British Court for redress their petition should be dismissed upon a technical objection which could not prevail under the more enlightened procedure in England. It can hardly be supposed that they should know the technicalities of procedure of the Courts of all the different Treaty Powers, and if the construction of the Rule is doubtful they must be entitled to the benefit of the doubt, even if the Rule is not altogether superseded upon the principle decided in Scott *v.* Forrester.

(4) Finally, the appellants submit that if they have taken a false step the Court will use a discretion as to whether or not the power conferred by Rule 39 shall be exercised and the Court will dismiss the petition if the result would be to deprive the plaintiffs of all right to relief.

They refer to the permissive wording of Rule 39 and to the case of Bush *v.* Adkins reported in the *North China Herald*, 1878, page 90, in which it was attempted to join causes of action wholly different in their nature; and yet the Court ruled that the dismissal of the petition was a matter of discretion. The appellants also refer to the petition in this action as showing that they are persons in poor circumstances and that for most of them it would be impossible that they should commence and continue legal proceedings separately against a powerful British corporation, and they refer again to the petition as showing that the action has been instituted under Lord Campbell's Act, and that if the present action is dismissed no new proceedings can be commenced within the time allowed by that Act. If, therefore, the judgment of the Court for Japan is upheld it follows that the poorest of the plaintiffs were from the beginning powerless to assert their claim to damages, and that all of them are now deprived of the right to relief.

The appellants also rely upon the fact that the question of the responsibility for the collision is one which is common to all their claims. They therefore submit that if separate actions had been brought, the cases would have been proper for consolidation and after the order for consolidation the plaintiffs would have been "in the same condition as if they had been originally co-plaintiffs" (Dan. Ch. Pr. 6th edition p. 1890). After consolidation the Court would probably have exercised its powers under Order 18 Rules 1 or 8, or Order 36 Rule 8 and would have ordered some of the other issues of fact to be separately tried. The same Order can be made if the action is allowed to proceed in its present shape. The appellants submit that they have acted rightly in presenting the action in a form which it must ultimately have assumed. In the case of Arnison *v.* Smith (41 C. D. 28) reference was made to the inconvenience which might arise from the joinder of so many plaintiffs, but since those inconveniences are confined to the plaintiffs there is no cause for the defendants to complain.

And in the plaintiffs' view the course adopted is the one which is most convenient both for the parties and for the Court. The defendants have not even suggested that they are put to the slightest inconvenience or embarrassment.

In establishing their case more fully, the plaintiffs must traverse a wider field than was open to them in the Court for Japan, since in addition to the case made by the defendants in their opening the plaintiffs have now to meet the case which appears against them in the ruling of the learned judge.

It is submitted that so far as the judgment related to the procedure in England it was altogether erroneous. The decision of the Court of Appeal in Booth v. Briscoe (2 Q.B.D. 496) has never been questioned and Mr. Justice Wills had neither the power nor the will to overrule it when he decided the very different case of Sandes v. Wildsmith (1893) (1 Q.B. 771). In the latter case he expressly distinguished Booth v. Briscoe, but he agreed with Bowen L. J. that the decision ought not to be extended to cases in which the causes of action are altogether unconnected. The result of the cases then came to be that when the causes of action arose out of the same matter they could be united in one action; but when all the issues were different there must be separate actions. In the present case the causes of action arise out of of one collision, and the action comes within the principle decided in Booth v. Briscoe where the claims arose out of the libel.

The defendants in the Court for Japan relied upon a note to Order 16 in the second edition of *Wilson's Judicature Acts* to the effect that in order to justify joinder there must be identity either of parties or of subject matter. The best comment is that in the fourth edition of that work the note is conspicuous by its absence, and it is not an unfair inference that the result of intervening cases had rendered the note valueless.

Any doubt as to the right of plaintiffs to join in one action is set at rest by the decision of the Court of Appeal in Hannay *v.* Smurthwaite (*Weekly Notes*, 1893, p. 144). That case makes it clear that under the rules the plaintiffs may join in suing subject to the power of the Court to make any such Order under Order 18, Rules 1 or 8, as may appear to be necessary at a later stage to prevent inconvenience.

It is submitted also that upon the construction of Rule 39 the judgment in the Court for Japan was erroneous.

It was rightly assumed both by the defendants'

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counsel and by the learned judge that the words of Rule 39 were in their natural meaning permissive or enabling words only, and it is submitted that there was no reason for a special exercise of ingenuity to construe them in a compulsory sense. The learned judge thought that because there was no provision for directing different records to be made up he had no alternative but to dismiss the action. It is suggested that the alternative of trying the action was not altogether excluded, and that the Rule was intended to make the procedure in these Courts conformable to the procedure in England. The first paragraph of the Rule is evidently based on section 41 of 15 and 16 Vict. c. 76. The provision looked for by the learned judge in the second paragraph would have introduced a practice quite unknown to the English Courts in dealing with distinct causes of action stated by different plaintiffs. If the plaintiffs were rightly joined the action proceeded; if they were wrongly joined the action was in a proper case dismissed, but in many cases it could not be dismissed even if it was improperly instituted (*vide* 15 and 16 Vict. c. 89 §49 and Hallows *v.* Fernie, L.R. 3 Eq. and L.R. 3 Ch. at p. 471). Neither at Common Law nor in Chancery was there any practice of making up different records to suit different plaintiffs.

It is submitted that Rule 39 is expressly worded "the petition *may* be dismissed," so that in each case the Court might be guided by the practice for the time being obtaining in England. If the petition is properly instituted, under Rule 339 it ought not to be dismissed. If improperly instituted it could formerly have been dismissed, unless it came within the protection of certain statutes of procedure, but probably under the new Rules it would now never be dismissed. (*Vide* R. S. C. Order 17.) It is submitted that the action under appeal was properly instituted under Rule 339 and that the learned judge has been mistaken in his ruling.

The construction of Rule 39 was argued somewhat differently by the defendants' counsel who relied upon Macdougall *v.* Paterson (11 C.B. 755) and the principles laid down in Julius v. Lord Bishop of Oxford (5 App. Ca. 214). It was admitted that the words of the Rule being in terms enabling and permissive only, it lay upon the defendants to show that it was intended to be compulsory. The question whether the rule is permissive or compulsory depends upon whether the power was given for the purpose of making good a right already vested in the defendants. This question is to be solved *aliunde* and not from the Rule itself (5 App. Ca. 235) and the defendants have not attempted to introduce any reasons from outside the Rule. In thus confining their argument to the words of the Rule, the defendants are involved in a vicious circle. If Rule 39 were non-existent it is perfectly clear that the plaintiffs would come within Rule 339, so that apart from Rule 39 the defendants can show no right which that Rule was intended to enable them to enforce, and therefore they cannot bring themselves within the principle of Macdougall *v.* Paterson. In Crake *v.* Powell (21 L. J., Q. B. p. 183) Lord Campbell stated very clearly the reasons for the decision in Macdougall *v.* Paterson. Under the 11th sec. of the statute the plaintiff was left entitled to his costs and the 13th sec. only pointed out the way in which he was to recover them. The 13 sec. was only held to be compulsory because it dealt with a right which existed quite independently of the section.

In the case of Julius *v.* Bishop of Oxford (5 App. Ca. at pp. 231 and 232) Lord Penzance in commenting on the decision in Macdougall *v.* Paterson observed that "although the statute in terms had only conferred a power, the circumstances were such as to create a duty; when once it was plain that the plaintiff had a right to his costs it could not be intended that the Legislature had conferred a discretion on the Courts whether they would enable him to get them or not.

By way of prelude to this observation the learned judge had reminded their Lordships (p. 231) that it was far more satisfactory to look at what the Courts had done than what the judges may have said, and he drew the general conclusion (p. 232) that "if the idea of a discretion had not been excluded in these cases by the requirements of justice and other general considerations, the Courts could not have held that to be compulsory which the Legislature had described in terms enabling and permissive only."

It is submitted that in the case of Rule 39 the "requirements of justice" and all the "general considerations," so far from favouring are entirely opposed to the construction which the learned judge in the Court for Japan has put upon the Rule.

It may also be noted in passing that the case of Macdougall *v.* Paterson arose upon the construction of a section which was repealed and in substance re-enacted by 15 and 16 Vic. c. 54 §4 and that upon its reappearance the word "may" was converted into "shall."

Coming to more general considerations we find it laid down in *Broom's Legal Maxims*, 5th edition, p. 575, as an established rule of construction, "that an Act of Parliament should be read according to the ordinary and grammatical sense of the words unless being so read it would be absurd or inconsistent with the declared intention of the Legislature, to be collected from the rest of the Act or, &c." It has already been shown that if Rule 39 is read as conferring a judicial discretion is assimilates the procedure in these Courts to the procedure in England and thus carries out the declared intention of the Order in Council, 1865, as expressed in section 5. There is therefore no need to read the Rule in any other than its ordinary and grammatical sense. The Rule being thus in harmony with all its surroundings why should its natural meaning be twisted to a sense which brings it into conflict with other Rules and makes it inconsistent with the declared intention of the Order in Council?

Section 5 of the Order in Council, 1865, provides that her Majesty's jurisdiction in China and Japan shall be exercised as far as circumstances admit according to the course of procedure and practice observed by and before Courts of Justice in England, and the Rules must be construed by the light of this declared intention of the Order in Council under which they are framed. If there is any doubt about the construction of Rule 29 we have to choose between an "enabling" construction which will carry out the intention of the Legislature and a "compulsory" construction which will completely defeat that intention.

It has already been shown that the indiscriminate dismissal of actions for misjoinder of plaintiffs would be inconsistent with the practice in England, which dates from long before the Order in Council, 1865, and for that reason, even if it stood alone, the Court should hesitate to put a compulsory construction upon the words of Rule 39.

But the defendants' construction of the Rule leads to far more serious inconsistencies than that, since it would render impossible in these Courts many actions which in England have always been allowed—such as for instance actions by the creditors of a deceased debtor or by one of such creditors on behalf of himself and the others, or by legatees, or by the crew of a ship for prize-money etc. (see Dan. Ch. Pr. 6th edition p.p. 229 and 230). Each person in each of the above classes would have a separate cause of action according to the definition in Cooke v. Gill approved in Read v. Brown (22 Q. B. D. 131) and therefore the present defendants would require that each member of the class should bring a separate action. And yet no special reason has been shown why plaintiffs should be put to more expense and inconvenience in Japan than they are obliged to incur in England.

If the defendants' contention be correct it is also impossible for creditors to obtain an order for the administration of the real and personal estate of their deceased debtor, since Rule 39 forbids one creditor to sue on behalf of himself and others, which would be suing in different rights and in respect of distinct causes of action. Nor can one creditor sue in such an action himself alone, since the Court must then refuse to make the order. (Dan. Ch. Pr. 6th edition, p. 201.) The absurd conclusion follows that the creditors are powerless.

Now, according to the view of the plaintiffs, although there is no express provision that creditors may be joined or that one may sue on behalf of the class, yet under the general provision of Rule 339 they are entitled so to do and accordingly the order for administration will be made without any difficulty. This view is confirmed by Rule 34, which is framed on the assumption that the creditors will proceed according to the procedure in England. Rule 34 gives the creditors no right which they did not possess independently of the Rule but only provides for the manner in which they are to exercise a right already existing. If the creditors prefer to act as joint plaintiffs there is of course no reason in Rule 34 why they should not do so.

In further illustration of the difficulties and inconsistency to be found if Rule 39 be construed as obligatory, reference may be made to Rule 36, which provides that a plaintiff may in certain cases proceed against several defendants though on different causes of action. A plaintiff proceeding in the manner thus indicated would have grave cause of complaint if upon the application of the defendants his petition were dismissed under Rule 39. And yet if the ruling of the learned judge be upheld it is clear that such petitions are "so defective that the Court is not permitted to deal with them in any way except by dismissal."

If it be objected that the cases mentioned in Rules 34 and 36 are to be treated as if they were expressly excepted in Rule 39 it is at once apparent that upon no recognised rule of construction can Rule 34 be so treated since it does not purport to confer any power but contains an implied reference to Rule 339. If the cases referred to in Rule 34 are excepted from Rule 39 it follows that Rule 39 must be read subject to Rule 339—otherwise the exception is purely arbitrary. But indeed the necessity for any exception or qualification should be fatal to the defendant's construction. Again it is by no means an inconvenient mode of construing statutes to presume that the Legislature was aware of the state of the law at the time they passed (per Pollock C.B. in Jones *v.* Brown 2 Exch. 332) and "if words have a double intendment and the one standeth with law and the other is against law, they are to be taken in the sense which is agreeable to law," Shep. Touch. 80). We may therefore assume that the framer of Rule 39 was aware of the procedure in England and was aware that section 5 of the Order in Council, 1865, required him to frame the Rule in such a way that the jurisdiction of these Courts should be exercised in conformity with the procedure and practice observed by and before Courts of Justice in England. If the defendants' construction of the Rule be correct the framer of the Rules has wantonly departed from his instructions and the plaintiffs submit that the Court will be slow to convict him of such an offence, and will construe the Rule upon the assumption that it was intended to carry out the declared intention of the Order in Council.

And lastly, it is submitted that if it had been intended to introduce a practice so different from the practice in England that would have been done more explicitly than by the words of Rule 39. It must be a very strong reason against holding the Rule to be compulsory that apart from the Rule, plaintiffs had in many instances the right to join in bringing an action though their causes of action might be distinct. It is submitted that the Court will not hold that right to be abridged by words which are merely permission in form (see *Broom's Legal Maxims*, 5th edition, p. 570 and note) and see also The River Wear Commissioners *v.* Adamson (2 App. Ca. 743) and Western Counties Railway Company *v.* Windsor, etc., Railway Company (7 App. Ca. at p. 188).

For all the above reasons it is submitted that the judgment of the Court for Japan ought to be reversed and that an order should be made dismissing the motion with costs against the defendants, both in this Court in the Court below.

Mr. Lowder, in addressing the Court on behalf of the defendants and respondents, said that in the month of November last the defendants in the Court below were served with a petition in which 116 individuals combined, forming themselves in 62 different groups and asking that each of the 62 groups should be awarded damage in respect of the loss alleged to have been sustained by them through the loss of the lives of their relatives which resulted from the collision between the *Chishima Kan* and the *Ravenna* a year previously. The amount claimed by those 62 groups was a sum of $125,000, and therefore, from other points of view than the amount of money involved in the case, it was a case which his clients considered to be of sufficient importance to justify them in retaining two counsel to argue their case before that Court. The defendants being served with such a petition, felt that they were embarrassed by what to them was a novel mode of procedure and they applied, under Rule 39, for the petition to be dismissed. That motion came on for hearing in the Court below, and judgment was rendered on the 13th of December last dismissing the petition. The judgment had been perused by their Lordships, so he (Mr. Lowder) need not trouble to read it. The motion in the Court below was resisted on two grounds principally. The first ground was whether upon the true meaning of Rule 39 the Court had a discretion as to whether or not it would dismiss the petition upon the application of the defendants, and whether under the circumstances of the case such discretion ought to have been exercised in favour of the plaintiffs. That point, however, was not very much pressed in the Court below, because the great stand was made upon the Judicature Acts as supported by the case decided in that Court some years ago, of Scott *v.* Forrester. The argument in the Court below was that Rule 39 was absolute as soon as a mode of procedure was pointed out. Reference was made to Rules 16 and 18, framed under the Judicature Act of 1883, and it was contended on the strength of cases cited in the Court below that the true construction of the those two Rules, 16 and 18, was that the old rule which prevent several causes of action being joined together was removed by those two rules, and that now, under the Judicature Acts, several suits might be united in one. In reply to that he (Mr. Lowder) cited the case of Sands *v.*

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Wildsmith (L.R., 1 Q.B.D., 1893, p. 77 and the learned Judge, following that case, said it was unnecessary for him (Mr. Lowder) to say anything with reference to the case of Scott *v.* Forrester. In support of his arguments on the present occasion it was only right he should refer their Lordships to the latest cases, and one was the case of Hannay *v.* Smurthwaite (L.R, 93, 2 Q.B.D., p. 412). For the present he owned that that case was against him, but he had no doubt in his own mind that the very learned judgment of Lord Bowen, given at an earlier stage, would prevail when the case went into the House of Lords. He (Mr. Lowder) would submit, however, that as a specific method of procedure was laid down by Rule 39, it would not be necessary for the Court to take into consideration either of those cases or the Judicature Act at all. Rule 39 said :—

In case a petition states two or more distinct causes of suit, by and against the same parties, and the same rights, the Court may either before or at the hearing, if it appears inexpedient to try the different causes of suit together, order that different records be made up, and make such order as to adjournment and costs as justice requires.

In case a petition states two or more distinct causes of suit but not by and against the same parties, or by and against the same parties but not in the same rights, the petition may, on the application of any defendant, be dismissed.

In case such application is made within the time for answer, the petition may be dismissed, with substantial costs to be paid by the plaintiff to the defendant making the application, but in case the application is not made within the time for answer, the petition, when the defect is brought to the notice of the Court, may be dismissed without costs, or on payment of Court fees only, as to the Court seems just.

The learned counsel then went on to argue that the word "may" in the order should be read as "must." If the defect existed, and the persons interested, *i.e.*, the defendants, made application, the Court had no option but to make the order dismissing the petition. The state of the law as embodied in Rule 39, apart altogether from the Judicature Act, was found very clearly stated in several cases which were cited in the Court below, and the learned counsel then referred to and quoted from the cases of Booth *v.* Briscoe (L.R. 2 Q.B.D., p. 496), and Scott *v.* Forrester (*North China Herald*, 12th August, 1881). In giving judgment in the latter case his Lordship (Judge Mowat) remarked :—"By section 5 of the Order in Council, our civil jurisdiction is to be exercised 'upon the principles of and in conformity with . . . the statute law . . . for the time being in force in and for England,' and the effect of that provision, it seems to me, is to enable parties to follow the procedure which by any law made subsequently to the Order in Council is prescribed for England; otherwise we should be in the regrettable position of having had our procedure stereotyped for all time from 1865, and we should be deprived of the benefit of any simplification or other changes of procedure which experience may show to be necessary in England. The point is of very little practical importance in this case, but I have dealt with it at some length, as this is the first case in what the application of the Judicature Act to the practice of the Court was seriously questioned before me." He (Mr. Lowder) should ask their lordships by their decision to over-rule what was an *obiter dictum* of the learned Judge, and did not form part of the judgment.

The Chief Justice—Ought we to over-rule it?

Mr. Lowder—I think so.

The Chief Justice—We are a Court of co-ordinate jurisdiction.

Mr. Lowder—This was in a Court of first instance. I have very little doubt in my own mind that the learned Judge, to whom this part of his judgment was cited in the Court below, took the same view as I do, because addressing counsel he said, "I do not understand what you mean by the plaintiffs acting on the faith of a decision. A decision may be right or wrong and the plaintiffs must take their chance. Unless you take a decision in a final Court of Appeal you never can tell." In the case of Scott *v.* Forrester, his Lordship's attention was not drawn to the earlier case of Bush *v.* Adkins (*North-China Herald*, 27th July, 1878), which he would doubtless have left himself obliged to follow.

The Chief Justice—I do not quite follow your argument, Mr. Lowder. As I understand it, Scott *v.* Forrester said that we were bound to follow any change of procedure that the Judicature Act points out, or that any change of practice at home was binding upon us here. But, in 1878, had any change of practice been made such as would interfere with Rule 39?

Mr. Lowder—No.

The Chief Justice—Therefore, don't you see, in 1878 there was nothing to interfere with Rule 39, neither here nor at home, but in 1881 that particular Rule 55 which was under consideration in the case of Scott *v.* Forrester had been altered by the practice at home, and therefore Bush *v.* Adkins is very pertinent to this case, but I do not think it was pertinent to the case of Scott *v.* Forrester.

Mr. Lowder, continuing his argument, said his contention was borne out by Sir Richard Rennie's "Instructions to Consuls" issued in 1885, that the Rules must be followed in preference to the home practice. It would be extremely difficult if the custom were otherwise, because it would be impossible for many of the British Courts in China and Japan to follow every change in the procedure at home. In concluding, the learned counsel drew attention to the case of the Attorney General *v.* Emerson (24 Q.B.D., p. 58), and quoted from the judgment of the Master of the Rolls. He asked that the judgment of the Court below should be sustained.

The Assistant Judge said he should like to hear a little more with regard to the necessity in Rule 39 of reading the word "may" as "must."

Mr. Lowder said he could only refer their Lordships to the cases he had quoted and the cases of Julius *v.* the Bishop of Oxford (L.R, 5, Appeal Cases, p. 214) and Richardson *v.* Smith (4 Common Pleas Division, p. 112). In the course of further argument the learned counsel reiterated his contention that the petition by stating two or more distinct causes of action not in the same rights, must be dismissed upon the defendant's application. After some conversation as to the practice in consolidating suits,

Mr. A. P. Stokes briefly addressed the Court on the same side.

Their lordships reserved judgment.

PAUL ANJIRO;

OR THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY (ROMAN CATHOLICISM) IN JAPAN.

TRANSLATED AND ABRIDGED BY G. E. DIENST.

[The chapters now given to the public in English were translated from the French into Japanese, and are said to be quite a true account of that very interesting period of Japan's history covering a space from 1534 (?) to 1551 A.D. We will not vouch for the correct spelling of the proper names taken from European languages, for the original is not in our possession, neither has it been possible thus far for us to obtain the said work. We take the liberty to omit such matter as is uninteresting, or useless to the general public, and indulge the hope that these few chapters may increase our knowledge of religious work in days gone by, in this land of the Rising Sun.—G.E.D.]

I.

It is stated that the Islands of Japan were discovered in the third year of Tenbun or about 1534.[1]

It is said that three Portuguese merchants, anxious for trade with the East, set sail for China, but on the way encountered severe tempests and adverse winds and were driven on the Japanese coast, landing at Kagoshima.

They opened negotiations for commerce with Japan, when they were called upon by a young man named Anjiro. This young man was about 35 years old, and possessing much property was said to be very wealthy.

He was very licentious in his youth, which, as he grew older, caused deep repentance and much trouble of heart. He went to some Buddhist priests, stated the condition of his heart, and begged for peace of conscience. But the answer of the priests did not satisfy him, and having no knowledge of Christianity his condition remained the same. It was at this time that he met one of the Portuguese merchants to whom he opened his burdened heart. This merchant was not only a man bent upon commercial gain, but also acquainted with Christianity (Roman Catholicism), and anxious to assist Anjiro. He said, "I know a saint in India, a very learned and generous person. He teaches the way of peace. If you have any occasion to visit India, it will not be difficult to see him and taught by him. The person of whom I speak is Francis Xavier, who will be very glad to see you and relieve you of your present difficulties."

But the way to India is very far, and the hidden rocks and frequent tempests make sailing difficult. For this reason Anjiro almost relinquished his desire to visit India, when a sad accident happened. During an altercation with a fellow man he killed his opponent and was compelled to flee for refuge, which refuge he found in a Portuguese ship, and having gone thus far he resolved to visit India.

A Portuguese merchant, Alvarez by name, advised Anjiro to go to India and promised to assist him in getting there, but was on account of business, unable to accompany him; but sent him, with a letter of introduction to another ship, by which he could reach India.

(Two men, named Alvarez, brothers, are mentioned in the account. Ferdinand Alvarez is the one who recommend Anjiro, to go to India, and George Alvarez, the wealthier of the two, is the one in whose ship, Anjiro, sailed, and who brought him safely to Malacca.)

His principal object was to meet Xavier, but on arriving at Malacca he learned this was impossible for the present, as Xavier was absent at Marrick(?) What was his chagrin at thus failing to realize the object of his fondest hope! He desired to tarry awhile at Malacca for rest, but this was in vain. The captain of the ship pursuaded him to return, which Anjiro, in deep sorrow, consented to do on condition that he might visit or pass through a part of China. He started, but unfortunately was overtaken by a fierce tempest, the ship was almost wrecked, and for four days was driven hither and thither by the restless tides of an angry ocean. At last they were driven back to a port in China. This, it is said, was the will of God, but Anjiro, instead of finding himself in his own land was as far away as ever, and his sorrow became extremely great. At this place Anjiro again met Alvarez, who was going to Malacca and this afforded him some peace. Alvarez censured Anjiro for his hasty temper in not waiting the return of the saint, and pursuaded him to return again to land. Anjiro knew not what to do, but thought that if he returned to Japan he would forfeit his life, and thus consented to go again to Malacca.

When he landed he met George Alvarez who said, "Saint Xavier has already returned and is at present in the Church." Anjiro, with a feeling akin to that of a patient towards a good doctor, went immediately to the Church to meet him. Xavier was in the pulpit in the midst of his sermon when he arrived. As soon as the services closed, he ran to Xavier and told him his desires and the reason why he had ventured on and endured such long voyages and sufferings.

Xavier rejoiced and said, "Before my Lord sends me to Japan he gives me this man as a messenger." He treated Anjiro kindly and promised to show him the way to peace.

Anjiro understood a little Portugese and rejoiced greatly at what Xavier had said, and resolved to follow and obey this saint. Whenever he conversed with the saint he spoke of the Japanese, their customs, habits, manners, their character and their religion. The saint was delighted with this information and said to Anjiro, "Unless you recognize the true God, and believe in Him, your desire for peace can not be attained, and your sufferings will continue to the end of life. Unless you embrace Catholicism and obey its law, your soul will be in constant torment and for you there will be no peace."

Anjiro had already been taught some of the doctrines of Christianity (Catholicism) by the captain of the ship in which he sailed, and requested Xavier to baptize him soon. But to this Xavier did not consent and said, "If a Japanese wants to become a Christian he must go to the capital of India and see the bishop, John Dalbgelp, from whom he may receive careful instruction and a clear knowledge of the true God. So go to the Capital, Goa, where you must study Oajiru(?), where I will meet you again."

Anjiro, because he had promised the saint prior to this that he would obey his commands, whatever they might be, accepted this command and went accordingly.

The saint entrusted Anjiro to his friend, George Alvarez, who was going to Goa, and gave him a letter to Rektare, asking him to care for Anjiro and his two followers.

Anjiro arrived at Goa on the 20th of March, 1548, and was soon baptized by the kind advice of the saint.

This sacred ceremony took place in the magnificent church of Goa on the clay of Pentecost, Anjiro continued the study of Christianity in the Jesuit church called Paul Santfore (St. Paul), and therefore requested that his name also be Paul Santfore. Anjiro, by the baptism of the sacred water, was regenerated and received peace of heart. His joy and his freedom from sin was clearly manifested in a letter to Ignatius Loyola, the founder of Jesuitism there. This letter—to which Xavier seems to have made frequent mention—was dated November 29th, 1548. Anjiro was very clever, quick witted, and active in all he did. He was also very determined and thorough, as it shown by the fact that he mastered the Latin language in a short time so that he could both read and write it intelligently. He recited the whole Gospel of Matthew, and afterward translated it into Japanese.

One day Saint Xavier asked Paul Anjiro whether the preaching of Catholicism might or might not be successful in Japan. He answered, "My country-men may not very readily accept what others say, you must first make them understand the doctrine throughly and permit them to ask questions about it. They will carefully watch the character and deportment of the preacher to see

[1] This has been denied by some writers, who put this time 5 or 6 years later, or about 1540.

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if his conduct and preaching correspond. It has already been said by some that, perchance a purer and truer religion than the national religion will enter Japan."

At another time, when the Saint was conversing with Paul Anjiro he said. "The letters of the Greek, Latin and other European languages are written from left to right and the Hebrew from right to left; but the Japanese write their letters from above downwards like so many parallel standing pillars. Why is it that their form so differs from other countries?"

Paul answered. "When our Creator created the human body, he placed his head above and his feet below. Such is the style of our letter-characters. Their beginning is like the head of a man and their end like his feet. This is a true and a natural way, therefore the letters of the Europeans are unnatural."

The saint admired his wit and genius. He again asked. "What do you think of the mystery of your comfort and peace obtained in believing the doctrine of Christianity?" Paul replied. "This comfort comes from believing in the sufferings of Christ, the Redeemer, the confession of my sins and partaking of the divine (nature) which benefits and gives peace." Xavier noted his zeal and perceived that he was able to begin the study of the Ethics of Igias. He ordered the superintendent, Casimid Tray, to teach him regularly the laws given in the book of Igias which was allowed by the Pope, and requested Paul to meditate much.

Paul remained at this place six months after his baptism, and did what the saint commanded him to do. He was at one time in meditation for thirty days, regularly four times a day and once every night (the length of time spent in these periods of meditation is not stated).

In these hours of meditation he perceived the grace and light of God by which the dim clouds of doubt were made to vanish away. He further perceived the pleasures of Paradise in the kingdom of heaven. He deeply felt the love of Jesus Christ towards him, who endured the pain of the crucifixion of the cross, and who saved him out of his heretic belief. He himself resolved to sacrifice his life as a martyr for Christ. While he was thus meditating, he sometimes exclaimed loudly. "Ah! if I could die for my heavenly king I would be most blessed. O pitiful Japanese! I am grieved that you do not know the true God."

Xavier observed the rapidity with which Paul's faith advanced and the grace he received during his meditations. He believed that the Japanese people would more readily believe the doctrines of Christianity than other nations, and therefore resolved to preach in Japan. The desire to preach in Japan was augmented by the statements of Paul concerning the mildness and gentleness of the Japanese, which statements were confirmed by the Portugese merchants, who also said that the Japanese were kind, sincere, polite, faithful, and especially inclined to hear the doctrine of the Heavenly King.

II.

The statements of Paul and the merchants caused Xavier to rejoice greatly and take courage. In order to ascertain whether or not it was God's will that he should go to Japan, he made the matter a subject of intense and unceasing prayer, during which time he passed through much suffering. At last he clearly understood that it was God's will that he should go. In a letter to Igias at Rome, written at Goa, dated June 22, 1549, he says, "I find no special work in this land at present. I have prayed long to know of another place where work is necessary, and in answer to my prayer, I perceive that it is God's will that I go to Japan. I have heard from a Japanese who has recently come to our church that there is no good teacher (preacher) in that country and this has greatly increased my desire to go there. This Japanese studied Portuguese and understood it quite thoroughly in eight months. He can both read and write and is able to understand our doctrine. He is undoubtedly a genius and what he says must be true. So it is my purpose to set sail for that land and lead those ignorant people to righteousness, and work by the gracious guidance of my God. When I get there I will look for its University,[2] and try to obtain admittance through the Emperor."

Again, in a later letter to the same friend he says, "I have for a long time desired to sail for Japan; but as yet have set no time for departure. Recently I received a call from God to sail to that land and work as a preacher. I will go. If I do not I will be guilty of disobedience to the will of my God." "This," says the author, "clearly shows that his going to Japan was by the will of God only."

When he stated his determination about going to Japan to his friends, they reproved him and said, "It is unreasonable that you should not consider the people that you have instructed and led so long, and go to teach other nations. Moreover, if you stop your work when only half done its success is not assured and all is in vain to you. The believers in this land will lose their "base of solidity." If you depart from here, heathenism will tempt and deceive those who have come to us by your most earnest labour, and then will again be led into heathenism. Your desire seems intense and it is very good, but it is unreasonable. If you desire to convert heathen nations it is needless to seek distant countries. It is no easy matter to convert the people around Goa. The island of Ceylon is near. If you have success in winning the people of Nalsing (?), you need not go to Japan. Take the example of the sun which warms the regions around and then gradually goes further. The Chinese are at enmity with the Portuguese. With their vessels they watch against us and impede our progress. Moreover, pirates are numerous in those seas and often plunder the ships and kill the passengers. The distance from Goa to Japan is great and the Indian ocean is especially dangerous. Many wrecks have occured by frequent tempests and by being dashed upon the hidden rocks, which are numerous. The majority of the voyagers have lost their lives, and it is impossible to reach that land without Divine assistance. The Saint is very much needed in the new world, but is also precious to us. Although you might reach the hoped-for land its language can never be understood, the people are very haughty, and your success seems to us impossible. If there are any Portuges in Japan who have any power, you may possibly get some aid, but there are no Portuguese who are intimate with the Japanese, and that haughty people will look upon you and treat you as a beggar, never thinking that you are a preacher or a moralist. We have never known of any one who has succeeded in converting a heathen people to Christianity, awaking them from their slumber and darkness, alone. You must have help. And it will be exceedingly difficult to pursuade the Japanese to worship Him who was crucified on the Cross, a thing upon which they look as the punishment of the vilest sinner.

But more, even though you pursuade some to become believers in Japan, it is impossible for one man to preach to multitudes, cause them to repent and confess their sins, and baptize them. Though you raze Buddhism by our doctrine, they may become envious and attack you, in which event you would be in a sad predicament, for Japan is an island distant from the continent, and there is no way of escape. If the whole of Japan is to be Christianized we must have more men to preach and teach in Japan. In Europe, at present, there are few who could supply India, and of course it may be impossible to send them up to Japan."

After thus expressing themselves, some of the Portuguese stood up and said:—"Our happiness, and the happiness of our families, as well as same of the Indians simply depends upon you and your presence here. Be merciful, therefore, and remain with us. The people of this land are favourably disposed to Christianity and your work here is hopeful. If you leave a country so hopeful for one where success is doubtful, it is of no benefit to you, saying nothing of the danger to your life which you incur."

Xavier listened in deep silence to what his friends said, and thanked them for their great love and friendship toward him. Continuing he said:—Men and dearest friends, not that I like to depart from you; but it is clear to me that I am Divinely appointed to work in Japan. I must obey. If I disobey my heavenly Father, my sins are greater than that of the unbelieving Japanese; and if the Japanese continue in darkness and ignorance of the true God for a century or two, the penalty is laid upon my head. If I stand firm and do the will of God what can prevent me? On land or sea, among pirates or savages, who can hinder those who do the will of God and work righteousness? If we are guided by God nothing can obstruct our way, and though the tempests and billows rage never so furiously, there is no need to fear. My only fear is to be guilty of doubting the commands of God and His guidance. If I accomplish, with all my power and soul, that which I am commanded to do, I shall not hesitate to sacrifice my life. Since the Lord has appointed me to Japan, if by my negligence or by my disobedience the Japanese end in ignorance of the true light of Christianity, how great will be my sin, and how can I be a true child of God? If I obeyed others (you) I would be like Jonah who fled to Tarsus, instead of to Nineveh, in disobedience to God."

"You have told me that it is unprofitable to seek the hopeless by casting off the hopeful. But it seems to me that there is no greater wisdom than the command of God. True wisdom is to obey God. All things can not be done without Divine Assistance.[3] Will my Lord protect those who disobey his will? If I, in like manner, stay any longer in India against the commands of God my work will surely fail. Though I may labour with all my might it will be impossible to convert the people. It is not a proper thing for clergymen to chose their own field of labour. Their service belongs to the heavenly King. If it is not profitable for me to leave this land, India, as my friends tell me, would you call the Apostles of Christ fools because they left the land of Judea to preach in the regions beyond? I neither think nor believe that I am so important in this land. Man was created by God to do His will. Human service appointed by God is the happiest of all. No man can help God. Man's ability is given him from God. We do not know but God might call efficient clergymen even from barbarians. You have no cause to feel a deficiency of teachers. At present there are several Franciscan and Dominican teachers in this land. I also hear that some teachers have left Europe for this country. They will succeed even though I may be absent. Do not, therefore, complain of a deficiency of teachers. Even after arriving in Japan, I will not forget this church and its control,* but will write letters and make suggestions as soon as I see the need for such. You told me also that it is impossible to teach and extend the Gospel in Japan without the aid of others. This we can not tell nor know. This God alone, who sends me to Japan, knows. There is nothing which God can not do. He is omnipotent, and even one man may accomplish much if he obeys His will. Once God appointed twelve fishermen to preach throughout the whole world. Then why is not one man able to convert a single nation? Of course when I compare the work these twelve did with what I have to do, mine is much easier. If these twelve had worked with their own knowledge simply, how could they have preached with such success? How could they convert a whole world to Christianity? The church is not erected nor established by human power. We must recognise the church as the temple built by the authority of God. The reason why Portuguese merchants sailed to Japan through much suffering, through tempests, among pirates and over hidden rocks was for the purpose of worldly gain and to gratify their lust for wealth. But my purpose in going to Japan is to awaken the wandering people from darkness to light by preaching Christianity. I dare not hesitate because of possible suffering. You call me a fool instead of the Portuguese merchants who went to that heathen and barbarous land to obtain wealth, which they send back to their homes in Europe, while I go to Japan to acquire an eternal treasure reserved in heaven for me, and for all those who believe. My friends, it is in vain to prevent my going. I have resolved to sacrifice myself for my Redeemer who has died for me. My only desire was to present to you the work I intend to do in Japan."

His friends, perceiving the firmness of his resolution said nothing more, and concluded that it was all of God.

Xavier at once began preparations for his journey regardless of the sufferings that awaited him. He again wrote to Igias, "My voyage at this time is most dangerous. If we depart with four ships and only two arrive safely we shall consider it most fortunate. But oh what a joy I feel at the prospect of crossing this long and perilous ocean. I shall neither fear nor refrain from the sufferings this voyage may inflict. For I have certainly received the witness from God that, if I once preach our doctrine in Japan, I shall meet with wonderful success."

In another letter to his intimate friend Simon Rodorikof, he writes: "There is a report saying that ships coming from Malacca are manned by soldiers in Chinese ports preparatory to making war upon the Portuguese. But as I find my greatest pleasure in working and suffering for Christ, I shall not delay my going to Japan." He then started for Japan with many firm resolutions.

Xavier knowing that the voyage before him was long and his future uncertain, arranged all his matters before starting, anticipating the probability of never returning. He entrusted all his church affairs to Gasper Baley, which may be read in the life of Gasper. After all things were ready he went in a small boat from Goa to Malacca, from whence he took a larger ship to Kiushiu. Many of his parishioners desired to accompany him to Japan, some with tears. Xavier comforted them by say-

[illegible]

[2] It is difficult to know what is meant by this expression, except in this that, Anjiro had spoken to him of a university which is not mentioned in any work in the hands of the Translator.

[3] No great or good thing can be done without divine assistance. Government.

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ing :—"This voyage of mine is simply to inspect Japan, and if there is success, as I hope, I will call on you again. Therefore, be patient and assist each other to bear the burden now laid upon you."

III.

De Tray was a Spanish teacher, and was noted for his great genius and ability. He was once an assistant of the high priest at Goa. Afterwards becoming a pupil of Xavier, he desired to become a missionary. Xavier was accompanied on this voyage by this Mr. Tray and one named John Fernandez, which three bravely started for the conversion of Japan. At Malacca they were joined by Alphonse Castor, the famous martyr, and another, named Emmanuel Molares, but these two were, after some deliberation, sent to another place, while Xavier, accompanied by Paul Anjiro and his two friends, began their voyage to Japan.

Xavier bade farewell to his friends and parishioners and was soon on his way to his new field of labour. When they approached the island of Sumatra they were suddenly overtaken by a typhoon and soon found themselves in the midst of a terrible sea. Two boats lashed to the stem of the ship were torn to pieces and lost. The ship was heavily laden with freight and the Captain feared they would be wrecked. He gave orders to cast some of the freight overboard, but Xavier looking on said, "Wait a while, the tempest will soon be over, and our ship will surely arrive safely in harbour this evening. It is needless to cast the freight overboard." As he had said, the ship was driven safely into the harbour of Malacca, from whence they started.

(The accounts as given in the original seem inexplicable, for it states that they had been on their voyage five weeks when overtaken by the storm, and yet driven back in one evening. There is evidently a mistake in the time, but as they begin their voyage again from Malacca we shall be content to leave them their for the present.)

At this place Xavier received a very encouraging report from a Portuguese merchant who had been in Japan. The report states that a territorial lord desired to know about Christianity and requested that a teacher be sent him. The reason why this lord came to be interested in Christianity was as follows. Once upon a time when the Portuguese merchants came to Japan, the lord of that province commanded them to live in a ruined house long since uninhabited because there was a monster therein which did much mischief. The Portuguese knew nothing of this. In the midst of the night the walls and the furniture of the house began to shake furiously, and make a fearful noise. Something unseen pulled their beds. They were greatly amazed, when suddenly their servant rushed into their room screeming at the top of his voice, but immediately returned to his own room. Being exceedingly frightened, they each buckeled on their armour to ascertain the cause of the tumult. On entering the servant's room they saw him lying on the ground, helpless and pale from fright. They asked, "What is the matter?" He replied that he saw a ghost, very terrible. Now the servant being an upright man they did not doubt his word; but at once concluded that there was a monster in the house. They immediately thought that, in order to escape harm and drive this monster from their home, they must do it by faith and the assistance of their religion. So they placed crosses everywhere in the house and outside of it, even in the corner of the fence. From that time on they heard no repetition of that sound and felt no injury.

On the following morning the men of the neighbourhood came to visit them and to ascertain the condition of the house. The Portugese told them all things which had happened during the night, and continuing said :—"We know a way by which such devils may be expelled from the house. If you will wait a while you will see the truth of what we say." After waiting several days and seeing no repetition of the former difficulties they believed what the merchants told them. The lord immediately called these Portuguese to his house and enquired of them the means by which they escaped the injury of the monster, and in what manner they expelled him from the house. They answered that, these monsters are devils which can be driven away by the glory (strength) of our religion. In this connection they argued that human redemption was the principal point of their doctrine, and urged the necessity of accepting Christianity. The lord was exceedingly fascinated by them and commanded that crosses to be erected in many places. He also desired to study this doctrine from renowned teachers. When Xavier heard this report he was reassured that God had chosen him for Japan, and since the banner of victory already waved over Japan, his success in these islands was secure.

At that time there were many Portugese vessels in Malacca. The captains of these ships desired Xavier to accompany them to Japan, for they knew that with him their voyage would be safe. But unfortunately for Xavier these vessels were to spend the winter in Chinese ports, whereas Xavier wanted to sail directly for Japan. On this account he was compelled to take passage on board a Chinese ship, the captain of which was a pirate though Xavier did not know it at the time he secured his passage. The governor of Malacca, Peter Da Silva demanded a bond from the Chinese to the effect that he would surely take Xavier safely to Japan. This vessel set sail on the evening of the 24th of June in a very propitious breeze. When clear of the port, the captain, instead of taking the direct route, went out of his way and often instead of proceeding on his voyage went hither and thither, clearly indicating that he had no intention of sailing to Japan. Xavier saw this and was very much pained. The captain's name was Nishida. (This would indicate that the captain was a Japanese.)

The captain also, when out at sea, placed idols on the stem of the ship to which he offered gifts, and before which he burned incense, and with his sailers worshiped. They chose the direction in which they were to sail by lot. Xavier seeing this, warned them not to worship those idols by such means, but they would not hear him and there arose contention among themselves.

When about 100 miles distant from Malacca they anchored at a small island. Here they purchased timber and other materials to prepare for a possible wreck. The captain again asked his idols whether or not he would arrive safely in Japan. The answer was that, if he went to Japan, he would never return. The captain was in great fear and resolved to spend the winter in China, and changing his way he rambled about the islands along the coast spending his days in vain. Xavier seeing all this disliked to have the people worship those idols and prayed :—"I do not like to see these men worship their heathen gods. Give me power to influence them to turn from the worship of their gods. Weaken the power of these idols until they will influence these nations no more."

It is said that these heathen gods were afraid to have Xavier work against them and tried to kill him by various means. If Xavier were not Divinely protected he would certainly be lost. The heathen gods caused a great tempest to come upon the ship when they were off the coast of Cochin China. The billows were high and dashed against the ship with fury, tossing things to and fro, and almost overturning the vessel. The sailors were compelled to draw water constantly from the hold of the ship to keep it from sinking. The Chinese who accompanied Xavier fell into one of the holds and was almost drowned.

The tempest raged with tremendous force. The captain again offered sacrifice and burned fowls before the idols. Xavier cautioned him to worship these gods no more, and pointed to him the vanity of such worship and sacrifice, and entreated him to worship the true God; for if he did not the wrath of God would be increased towards him. The captain, however, stood firm in his faith, became furious against Xavier and threatened to throw him into the sea. In the meantime a strong gale of wind struck the ship and carried the captain's wife overboard. Every effort was made to save her, but it was impossible and she sank into the depths of the sea.

The captain meeting with such misfortune almost lost his senses, and wept almost day and night, regardless of the safety of his own ship, which ran into danger more and more. The state of confusion at this time on board ship is clearly stated in a letter of Xavier. "After the captain had wept a long time at the death of his wife, he again offered sacrifices to the idols and asked the cause of his misfortune. The gods answered :—If the Chinese who fell into the hold of the ship had been drowned, your wife would not have fallen overboard, for it was necessary that one of them must die. Such was the danger through which we passed under the anger of the heathen gods. Had it not been for Divine prection how could we have succeeded in safely reaching Japan."

The sufferings of Xavier at this time seems to have been caused by the revenge of the devil, because of the work Xavier did against the gods, and his influence in causing so many heathen to repent of their sins, and believe in the true God, and for his repeated attacks on the castle of Satan. In a continuation of the preceeding letter he says :—"This must have been a scheme of Satan to upset my faith, for the Lord heard my prayer and persecuted Satan. The Lord allows (permits) Satan to do evil in order that man may see the wickedness of the devil, and to test the weakness, [illegible] temptation, of the human soul. And [illegible] of such trials the Lord always given us the means to resist the devices of the devil.

In the mean time the tempest ceased and the sea became calm. The captain again unfurled the sails and with a fair wind set sail for Canton, where he desired to spend the winter. Xavier begged him to set sail for Japan, but the captain being furious at the loss of his wife would not listen to Xavier's entreaties.

The ship soon arrived at a small island near Canton, but the captain again changing his mind decided to spend the winter in Shanghai, for he thought that the time for his voyage to Japan was passed. But it is impossible to work against the will of God. As they came near Shanghai, about one mile distant, they met a ship coming from the opposite direction which told of pirates and other dangers if they continued in their course. The captain was afraid and intended to return, but the wind was contrary and he was compelled to sail towards Japan.

Thus all the efforts of Satan to hinder this Saint were in vain, and he arrived in Japan, June 15th, 1549, on the day of the assumption of Mary. The fact that this ship landed at Kagoshima, we must surely admit, was all under the guidance and protection of a Divine Providence, says the Author. This (Kagoshima) is Paul's native province and it was a very convenient place for Xavier to preach the Gospel. The company was welcomed to the home of Paul where they were treated with the greatest kindness.

The report of the arrival of Paul and the Christian teachers soon reached the ears of the lord of Satsuma. This lord invited Paul to his home and asked many questions about the customs and manners and the strange stories about the people of India. He welcomed Paul most cordially, treated him most kindly and listened with great interest to the tales he told. While Paul was thus conversing with the lord, he noticed an anxiety to listen to the doctrine of Christianity, and he said, "This time I have come to Japan with European teachers. They are all upright and learned men, and have come to preach the doctrine of the true God. I also believe in this religion, and since believing I have found peace, which is impossible to find in the religion of the Japan."

The lord's desire to hear this doctrine became intense. Paul talked about it, and tried to explain the principles of this doctrine as best he could. He also showed him the picture of Mary, the Savoir's mother, holding Christ in her arms, which picture was given him by Xavier that he might show to those who knew nothing of Christianity. The lord, and those who were with him, admired this picture very much, and bowing before it, paid homage. He also commanded Paul to go and show this picture to his mother who, with her maid, kneeled before the picture and gave homage. She asked many questions about this divine and glorious mother and her Son. Paul then narrated to her the life of Jesus, at which the mother of the lord was deeply affected. After Paul had retired from the palace, the mothor of the lord sent her servants to him to get a copy of the picture and the Bible, but there was no one in Kagoshima who could draw so nice a picture. Soon after, Paul presented her the Bible, translated into Japanese, together with Peter and other books, with which the mother was greatly pleased.

The lord hearing from Paul the virtues of Xavier desired very much to see him. Xavier was then admitted to the palace, with Paul as his interpreter. The lord received him with greatest reverence, and he, with his mother and all those in the palace, admired Xavier's courage and zeal. Xavier stated that he came not to Japan for commercial benefit, nor for worldly treasure, but to give to man eternal happiness through the doctrine of the true God which he preached. The lord talked with him till midnight, cautioned him that if his doctrine was true and pure, the devils might endeavour to disturb the progress of Christianity in Japan and destroy all his precious books. He told him to be careful and avoid the harm and evil attacks of Satan. Xavier thanked him for his kindness and at the same time asked permission to preach in his provinces. The lord immediately granted this request, and giving him his seal and card, permitted Xavier to preach and the people to believe.

IV.

Xavier was very much gratified at this permission to preach, and began at once with his comrades, the study of the Japanese language. He had already learned a little from Paul while in India, but was not able to speak before an audience. On his arrival in Japan, and soon after being so heartily welcomed by the lord of Satsuma, he wrote a letter to his friend in India, in which he says, "If we make any progress in learning Japanese, our work in the future will be very [illegible] from the present. We are now like one

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of these carved idols, which can neither speak nor answer questions, while so many come and reverence us and show us much kindness. I have begun like a school boy to study the primary part of the language."

While Xavier was studying Japanese, Paul did not spend his days in vain. He diligently taught and led into Christianity his relatives and friends, and soon thereafter baptized them.

Xavier's progress in the study of the language was very rapid, and it is said that he was able, in less than 40 days, to translate the commentaries of the disciples and the "Lord's commandments." It is also said that within a few days he began to preach to large audiences. The line of preaching he adopted was, 1st.—The falsity of the Japanese religion which is based upon novels, legends and ancient tales. 2nd.—The doctrines and commands of the Lord, which agree with knowledge and reason. 3rd.—Definition of all the rules and disciplinary requirements (of the church), the reason and justice of such doctrines. Lastly, he answered all difficult questions. The Lord blessed these sermons, and within a few days many heathen people were baptized. Those who were first baptized were all poor people. Xavier thinking that the greatest church in all Europe was founded on the teachings of twelve poor fishermen, desired to erect the Japanese church on the faith of these poor people. They afterwards became zealous and famous men.

The Japanese people think Buddhist priests messengers from heaven. So Xavier thought that unless that state of mind was disproved and such doctrine set at naught, Christianity could not prosper. He desired to commune with the priests on this subject, and called at the residence of a high priest at Kagoshima, named Ninjitsu, 80 years of age, learned, honest, sincere, a man of great talents and revered by the people. The lord of Satsuma, therefore entrusted all the affairs of his province to his management. Thus being seated on the throne as high priest, a man, mild, sincere and kind, he was very popular among the people. From his frequent sermons and conversations Xavier saw the unstable doctrine on the question of the immorality of the soul, for the priest would sometimes say that, "The soul vanishes with the body," and again, "The soul is immortal and lives after the body dies."

The priest grovelled in the mazes of vagueness and found it difficult to decide which was right. Xavier was well informed on questions of the soul. He told the priest that the soul was immortal and proved it by various methods. Ninjitsu felt ashamed to be thus excelled by a foreigner and stand in danger of loosing his fame, and hence debated very harshly with him the relation of soul and body. It was difficult to resist the force of Xavier's arguments, and being convinced of the truth, he sighed. Yet he admitted the stability of Xavier's character, recognized him as a mild and virtuous man, and loved the gentleness of heart with which he spoke on these things. The other Buddhist priests, following Ninjitsu, reverenced Xavier and his followers, to whom they showed the greatest respect. They appreciated the kindness of Xavier who came from such a distant country to Japan to save this people. They said that it must have been the Lord's will that Xavier came to Japan with such firm and settled doctrines. When he told them that believers in Christ may have eternal life after the death of the body, they were greatly pleased and some began to believe in Christ. But Christianity being a pure and perfect religion, it was a difficult matter for such rude and vulgar people to comprehend it at once, hence some hesitated in positively accepting it.

There were two Buddhist priests there at that time, one of whom went to the university in Kyoto, the other to that in Yedo (Tokyo). They were learned and intelligent men and very much admired the doctrines of Christianity which they had heard, and resolved, with three or more companions, to sail to India to study it more thoroughly.

At the beginning of the following year a hundred Japanese were baptized, among whom was a lady of rank, the wife of a noble in that country. She was a lady of strong character, of whom something will be said later on.

Now Xavier thought that he must have a house where the Christians might meet to study the doctrines and hold services until he could erect a church. A church was soon erected. The Buddhists seeing this were in suspense and feared that their property would be taken from them, that the people would cease to respect them and that the support usually given them would go, from hence, to the church. The lord (Prince) and his mother, however, preferring Christianity, the priests were unable to attack the church or prevent its further progress. They then sought for revenge by hoping to find some fault with the Christians. *This was the origin of the enmity of the Buddhists against the believers in Christianity.*

The work gradually advanced through Kagoshima. Multitudes listened to the preaching of Christianity. Though this great success was due to Xavier's work, we must admit that the Lord's hand guided him and that it was in answer to his prayers. It might be called a miracle, and as a miracle it did not show the falsity of religion, but the power of the Truth. The resurrection of one man is much superior to the statement of many scientists. St. Paul said that the conversation of the heathen is a miracle of God. With this weapon the twelve Apostles subjugated whole nations. But this theory of miracles does not apply to all nations alike; but to the Japanese who worship idols, believe in the false doctrines of Buddhism, and are obstinate and immoral this is especially applicable. The Lord sent Xavier, the Light of the West, to Japan to bring light to the ignorant and to show them the Truth. The Lord had given him this power, and his work was successful.

There are many reasons for calling Xavier a saint. Among these is one we desire to state. A daughter of a certain rich man died from disease when quite young. Her father was so saddened that he almost went mad. He prayed to the gods and to Buddha, but of no avail. He was in the depths of despair and insulted the gods. Just at that time two Christians called at his home and told him of the recent coming of Xavier and his power to heal all sorrow and grief. They advised him to go Xavier and ask him to resuscitate his daughter. The father brightened a little when he heard this, and immediately went to Xavier, and falling prostrate before him begged him to resuscitate his daughter. With vehement desire and with many tears the father said, he would sacrifice his own body for his daughter, and would become a catholic. Xavier pitied him and calling Fernandez, they kneeled and prayed for divine mercy to rest upon the father, and in praying said:—"I beseech thee O Lord! help us to manifest thy glory and power in this country, the greatness of the power of my Lord and Christ." They both prayed with much fervency, after which Xavier said to the man, his face beaming with joy, "Go in peace, your daughter is risen." Still the father was not comforted, and became very angry, thinking that he was ridiculed and mocked, and said, "What a fool! What a wretch! She is now lying in my home in her bed breathless and cold. She is certainly dead, while you say she has risen. You are making sport of me." He went his way home, jeering at the priests. He first thought if he asked them, that they would come to his home and pray beside the corpse; but they would not come, and he then thought that they did not like to come, and made those prayers as a mere pretence. Thus he jeered and slowly bent his way homeward. Two or three of his servants, seeing him coming, ran to meet him leaping and shouting for joy and reported that the daughter lived and was well. He was amazed, but would not believe them. But when he came nearer his home, his daughter came out to meet him, and seeing this he ran to his daughter and embraced her with unbounded joy. He asked her who saved her from death and what had happened after death. She answered that when she was dead two devils came to her and led her to hell and showed her every torment. After they had showed her all this, they were going to cast her into the lake of fire. At this juncture two very gentle-looking persons, rescued her out of the hands of the devils, restored life to her soul, and thus she was recussitated.

Her father made note of the fact that there were two who saved her. Soon thereafter, Xavier and his companion came to the home of the father to give thanks for what had been done, and to unite their joy with that of the father. The daughter looking at them was very much frightened, and said, "These are the persons who saved me from hell," and fell prostrate before them. Her father also thanked them most sincerely and fell on his face before them. Xavier lifted them up and said, "He who has had mercy upon you is not me, nor of me, but the Lord in heaven to whom I have prayed." They were then taught the doctrines of Christianity and were soon baptized, not only the father and daughter, but the whole family (Freundschaft-Relationship) who saw the facts of this miracle, were converted and baptized.

There never was an instance when the dead were raised to life by the power of Buddhism or Shintoism, and hence the fact of this miracle was published throughout Kagoshima and tended to increase the influence of the European teachers. It is also stated that this saint performed many other miracles, not recorded here, by which he was made very famous. Thus the divine doctrine prevailed in power in the province above mentioned. The flower of success had blossomed and was about to bear fruit, when all was checked and known of their movements, and we have relations withered by the opposition of Buddhists, who issued an edict prohibiting the further propagation of the foreign faith. The Christians were discouraged, their influence was lost. These Buddhists were, as has been already stated, a revengeful people who desired to regain the influence over the people they once exercised.

The power of the Buddhists had been fading more and more day by day. The people's faith in Buddha was gradually vanishing away, and those who met in the temples became few, and the reverence was fast dwindling to naught. When the priests thought of their own great loss they began to oppose Christianity, and treated the three foreigners as sorcerers and impostors. They also told the people that those who listened to their sermons would receive the wrath of God. They scoffed at them (foreigners), perscuted them, and often threw stones and other missiles at them when they passed along the road. Once when a Christian was preaching they mocked and said, "Do not believe the words of the foreigners, theirs is the talking of the devil who is transferred into man."

But the chief reason for this savage uproar of the Buddhists was because of the favours the Christians had received from the lord of Kagoshima. The reason for the Christian loss of official favour was due to the fact that the Portuguese ships which had always unloaded at Kagoshima, had this year anchored at Hirato. The trade of the people of Kagoshima was thus cut short, their revenue gone and the lords of Kagoshima and Hirato at enmity with each other. The lord of Kagoshima was greatly angered, and thought that the Portuguese merchants should be compelled to return to the harbour in Kagoshima by command of the saint. For this reason the lord began to despise Christianity. The Buddhists marking the change of their lord, insulted and scoffed the teachers by day, threw stones and brick, tore down the gates, doors, and roof by night. Not being satisfied with this they went to the palace of their lord and begged him to drive them out from his province. They organized a party and went to their lord and said, "Our lord! We beg his majesty to expel those foreign monks from his state. They come to Japan to beg their bread at the gates of our people. If we accept and receive the doctrine of these poor foreigners, and disdain to own our national and ancestral religion, we will be despised by all nations. Is it not, moreover, foolish to suppress our national holy religion, which gave us the throne of our Emperor from on high, and take up with the vicissitudes and cunning of a foreign religion? In case of a sudden change, unconceivable tumults may arise among the people, their unity may be dissolved, and the throne of your majesty may be endangered. The lords of neighbouring states may seek opportunities to subject us, and the Buddhist priests may form a plan to take vengeance upon us, if you assist Christianity and despise the gods, and though you may purpose to drive the Buddhist monks from the temples and make them the abode of the foreigners, our enemies, they would never consent to it, neither have you the power to drive them out and destroy their temples. You are unable to control the Buddhist priests and the people. And not only this, the people will never consent to have their form of worship destroyed and their temples defiled."

The lord listened to this with pleasure, and said:—"I have no mind to change our national religion from what it was in the beginning. The reason why I welcomed these men was for the purpose of inviting the Portuguese into our harbour, and increasing our wealth by mutual trade. But they have deceived me, and I would drive them out of my country for revenge. I would rather show them the fervency of our ancestors to Buddhism, and the superiority of our present priests who are most faithful and zealous."

The Buddhists were overjoyed at hearing this from their lord. This joy was augmented when the lord recalled the letter permitting Christian preaching in the province of Kagoshima. He also commanded that all Christians in his district be beheaded. This completely changed the minds of the people, and those who once came to Xavier for instruction came no more. When Xavier met this persecution he thought that the man who did all this must be the lord of Kagoshima: So he went to the house of the lord, met him, bowed and saluted him with the greatest reverence, and thanked him for the favours of the past. In continuing he said:—"It is a very hard thing for me to understand why you have altered my permission to preach in your province. I have never worked contrary to your desires, neither have I disobeyed your commands. As I suppose, this difficulty was caused by some Portuguese ships anchoring at Hirato. But I and my companions knew nothing about that, neither have we anything to do with it, and even though they should let us

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with them, we can not change their port of entry. The merchants in general, desire to get gain where ever they can make good purchases. By next year they may possibly come again to Kagoshima. In that case I may be able to do something good and beneficial for you, and further, if you will grant us your favour as before and protect us, you will readily see that those who believe in Christianity are the most peaceable and the most loyal to you."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

WITHIN FORBIDDEN SEAS.

WHY THE RUSSIANS DETAINED THE "EMMA."

The four American miners who arrived in Yokohama on Saturday have no doubt realized long before this that a good deal of truth is wrapt up in the compact proverb, "A cobbler had best stick to his last," notwithstanding its venerable antiquity. Poor human nature finds the invention of proverbs much easier than the observance of the natural laws which they inculcate, however, and in the case of these four fellows the hope of great and immediate gain outweighed all thoughts of precaution. What wonder then that when the smart, clipper barque *Emma*, of the port of San Francisco, dropped anchor near the Alaskan mines where they were serving, and asked for volunteers for her crew to go aventuring in pursuit of the weath-giving little fur-seals, that they stepped forward and signed articles for the voyage. It promised them greater gain than did the worrying of the earth's bowels for hidden mineral treasure; and if the risks were greater, what then? they were unknown. The *Emma* was not a big vessel, being only about 21 tons, but when she cleared from the port of Junea, Alaska, on the 8th May of last year, she looked trim enough for any sea. Towards the month of October the jaunty *Emma* fell into a state of distress, her rudder breaking just as she was cruising off the coast of Saghalien. Unfortunately for her, the Russian patrol-steamer *Yakutch* was hanging about the neighbourhood, and bearing down on the disabled *Emma*, boarded her. In vain the *Emma's* captain pointed out that she was disabled and could not help her position nor get away from it, the Russian officers would hear no excuse but at once seized her papers and announced their intention of towing her to Vladivostock. The American captain pleaded again, and said that his intention was to take the vessel to Yokohama and from thence to Korea, and that at any rate it was essentially necessary that she be beached in order to repair her broken rudder, but this reasoning also failed to have any effect. Two steel hawsers were run from the *Yakutch*, and the *Emma* was taken in tow. A gale sprung up during the night and the hawsers both parted. In trying to pick her up again the *Yakutch* ran into the *Emma's* bows, and they were stove in, while several of the boats were smashed or carried away. This rendered the voyage to Vladivostock altogether impracticable, and the nearest convict-station being Keroshki—the men would not be sure of the name as it was outlandish and required a heathenish twist of the tongue to utter aright—the luckless *Emma* was there hauled up high and dry, denuded of her stores, and dismantled. Even when her captors discovered that her broken rudder was a true and veritable fact, they did not relent in their conduct towards her crew. Their charge against them now was that they had been sealing within prohibited waters, and the heinous nature of their crime could only be rightly measured by a Civil Court sitting at Vladivostock. Week after week went by and still they awaited the sitting of the Court; at last the harbour was frozen completely over. Then the Court sat, and they heard that sealers were prohibited from landing on Russian territory even though their masts were blown out by a gale, They had no business to be hunting anywhere in the neighbourhood. Then up and spake their captain. "We were not hunting within your seas; nor did we catch a seal within Ohkotsk Sea, nor even so much as lower a boat. As we lay at anchor in the Little Kurile Strait we were hailed by the Japanese man-of-war *Banjo Kan* and to her commander we reported that we sought water wherewith to replenish our tanks, for greatly did we thirst; and also told we him the number of our catch to the full total of the skins on board. If you inquire of the Japanese Commander you will find that the present number of our seal-skins tallies to the number we there gave him." Well, the Japanese Consul telegraphed to Japan for the *Banjo's* report, but she had not yet left the sealing grounds. The Civil Court thereupon refused to wait her Commander's report and likewise refused to believe the entries in the *Emma's* books and log. It sentenced the whole of the crew to four months' imprisonment. The trial was so much dumb-show to the American sealers, for it was conducted in Russian; the sentence, however, was translated to them. Curiously enough the order of the Court was not at once given effect to, and for over one month they waited for sentence to be carried out. By the time the term of imprisonment should have come to an end, the crew had begun to plot means of escape, but only four out of the ten managed to stow themselves away on a steamer sailing for Japan. These were Frank Tucker, Victor Kellgren, Frank Cook, and William T. Wright, the men whose story is given above. They arrived at Nagasaki without adventure and were then passed on up here. All complain of the badness of the food they were compelled to eat while under Russian surveillance, and all freely acknowledge that the old capstan chantie

> Alfonso was a sailor,
> And he served aboard a whaler!

contains a lot of wholesome home truths for those who go down to the sea in ships when they have no business there.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.)

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at the Club Rooms, No. 88, Main Street, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 118.

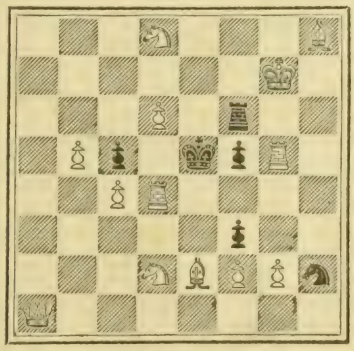
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to K B 7	1—Anything.
2—Mates accordingly.	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Digamma, Omega, and J.D.

Aling has been caught napping. *Aliquando dormitat bonus Homerus.* Kt to Kt 4 is Black's defence.

PROBLEM NO. 120.
By J. JESPERSEN.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Our esteemed contributor, Digamma, points out that the innovations ascribed to Herr Fritz in game No. 124 (published in this column last week) were practised by De Soyres; and examples of his play may be found in the *Chess Chronicle* as far back as 1880. We may add that the annotation was not ours, nor are we aware of the authorship.

The latest news by mail of the Chess Match between Steinitz and Lasker carries us to the eighth game, which resulted in a victory for Lasker. The score now stands Lasker 4, Steinitz 2, drawn 2 When we last wrote the fifth game was still undecided. It had been adjourned on the 50th move. Steinitz was a pawn to the good, but his position seemed so much inferior that a victory for Lasker was anticipated. The result, however, was a draw. A similar issue came of the sixth game after 71 moves. It, too, looked like a victory for Lasker at one point, but on resuming play on the second day he appears to have missed his strongest continuation, and Steinitz finally remained with a pawn ahead but a position necessarily involving a draw. The 7th game, in which Lasker had the move, was a Ruy Lopez, as had been five of the preceding six. Early in the game Lasker lost two pawns, but an ingenious combination saved the position, and Steinitz, pressed by time, made a blunder that cost him a queen. The game was played in 46 moves and took more than six hours. As yet only one of the first seven games, the 4th, has not been a Ruy Lopez. It that game Steinitz, having the move, played a Giuoco Piano and [illegible] when [illegible] Castled [illegible] mid-game, especially on his

The Principles of Chess in Theory and Practise. By JAMES MASON. (London: HORACE COX, 1894.)

Of a new book on Chess something new and original is expected. Mr. Mason is aware of this, and gives the *raison d'être* of his work in the Preface. "Chess," he says, "is a science as well as an art. In its exercise the tendency is to premature mechanical facility rather than to a clear perception of principles; though upon this, of course, all true and lasting faculty necessarily depends. In the present treatise this tendency is taken into account. The intention is to afford a concise yet comprehensive view of the *principles* underlying the *art* of Chess, as exemplified by the foremost practice in these closing years of the century." A high ideal this; but, what is more, Mr. Mason has very nearly realised it. The chief charm of Chess is of course found in the principles underlying the game, not in the superficial dexterity acquired by years of steady "wood-shifting." The author wishes us to *understand* the game, and it is here, precisely, where so many books on Chess are deficient.

Under "Elements of Chess," after a somewhat diffuse explanation of the game itself—a veritable boon, perhaps, to the tyro—the author gives valuable hints on Resistance, Obstruction, Restraint, Opposition, Exchanging, with ten pages and as many diagrams especially devoted to the interest-subject of "Winning," while more than sixty pages deal with the End Game, mating with a given force, queening, and pawn play in general. His explanation of the procedure with Kings and one or more pawns on the board is the clearest we have ever seen. Under "General Principles," his remarks on Time, Plan, Attack, and Defence, as well as the Maxims with which he concludes the chapter, will be of assistance even to the most practised player. His advice to take always the winning side when playing over printed games we have not seen elsewhere; but having done so ourselves for a year or more, we are firmly convinced of its usefulness in many ways. Whenever you wish to study a particular attack or defence, however, especially with a view to matches and tournaments, it is certainly better always to take the side you mean to play yourself: the best lines of play and the dangers to be guarded against are thus presented to you more clearly and in consequence impressed upon the mind more deeply. To play over printed games twice, first taking the winning and then the losing side, or *vice versa*, as is recommended by some, seems to us confusing; better take one side only and play it over twice, first to get the general drift of the player's plans, and then the second time, to examine the details and methods of play with a view to causes and effects, means and ends. We write this chiefly with a view to our own Game Department. A real understanding of three good openings is according to Mr. Mason better than a memorized acquaintance with thirty. To select the opening most suitable to your temperament and style of playing is your truest wisdom, and it is no doubt with a view to this that the author has placed as motto on his title-page, Schiller's famous lines:—

> Let none resemble the other; let each resemble the highest!
> How can that happen! Let each be all complete in himself.

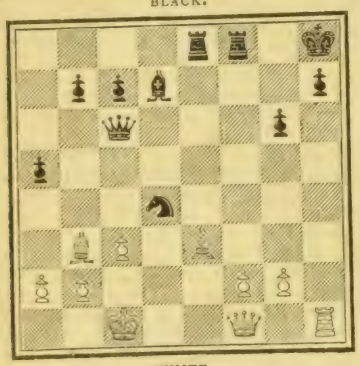
As to the details appearing in this chapter, it is difficult to quote where all call for quotation; but we will give a few extracts as specimens of the rest:—Preconception should be tested from move to move—should be, as it were, constantly under revision. Always make your move deliberately, unhesitatingly, and with decision; without hurry, vacillation, or regret. The attack is easier than the defence *while available force holds out.* Therefore beware of attacking. On the other hand, attack rightly timed has everything in its favour. When attack presses hard—exchange. Vague imaginations should have no part in your game. If you can *see* nothing in your adversary's play you should conclude there *is* nothing, and proceed accordingly. Take much thought rather than a distant Pawn with your Queen. Such a move is rarely good while the opposing Queen and other forces yet remain in the field. The Rooks doubled are more than doubly strong. Do not give up a Rook for a minor Piece unless the provocation is great. In the end the exchange is nearly equal to two Pawns, and may be heavy odds against you. Where your King's position has been damaged,

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own side, a Bishop next to him, as Kt 2, is very efficient for defence. When you have no Knight a great part of the flexibility of your position is gone, especially for attack. As the Pawn cannot retreat, its advance permanently modifies the position, for good or ill. *En avant!* is the first motto of the Pawns; "United we stand; divided we fall," is the second. To compose these two is to do justice to the Pawns. When a Pawn cannot be advanced with some definite object, or only with an object to be equally well attained by the movement of a Piece, it is usually best let alone.

The brightest part of the book, however, is the chapter on combination. About fifty winning combinations, all taken from *actual* play and accompanied with as many illustrative diagrams, are given and the underlying principles are briefly explained. This part of the book deserves the most careful and patient study. We give one example:—

BLACK.



WHITE.

From a *Ruy Lopez*—White wins:—

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R × P ch.	K × R
2—Q to R sq. ch.	K to Kt 2
3—B to R 6 ch.	K to B 3
4—Q to R 4 ch.	K to K 4
5—Q × Kt ch.	K to B 4
6—P to Kt 4 mate.	

The last chapter of the book deals in a summary way with the openings, discusses Strategy, Tactics, Judgment, Compromise, Principles Transgressed, Classification, etc., and gives a few specimens of each of more than a dozen openings, all well annotated, annotation being the well-known *forte* of Mr. Mason.

The questions at issue between the old and modern school of Chess are not referred to in this treatise. Any one desiring information on these points will probably find all he wants in Steinitz's "Modern Chess Instructor," which, after an Introduction explaining the nature, notation, laws, and terms of the game, deals more at length with the Modern School and its Tendency, and embodies the results of much original and highly valuable research conducted on the principles of the Modern School.

A short Appendix concludes Mr. Mason's work. In it he advocates the modification of the rule by which games in which the hostile King is stalemated are declared drawn, the abolition of announcing check, and the observation of all the consequences flowing therefrom, points which, together with his strictures on the modern chess problem and the poetry of chess in general, have evoked a considerable amount of adverse criticism. Apart from the Appendix (six pages), the treatise has been reviewed most favourably in every part of the Chess world. It is a bright and readable volume of 286 pages, to be followed in course of time by another dealing with the various openings more in detail.

CONCERT AT THE PUBLIC HALL.

Those responsible for the drawing-up and arranging of the Yokohama Choral Society's programme for the Concert of Friday evening had evidently a keen appreciation of current popular taste in regard to things musical, and the crowded audience which gathered at the Public Hall with commendable punctuality, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, showed that the Committee were justified in making such a strong bid for extended patronage. Each and all of the ten items possessed attractions both for the tyro as well as for the student in this most entrancing of arts, and none were mediocre. Seldom has a better selection been made combining good, sound music with a rational degree of attractiveness. The Society was, of course, fortunate in obtaining the kindly services of Miss Bloxham and Prof. Dittrich, whose contribution added greatly to the success of the evening, but its own performances were very meritorious. It is with regret that the musical public takes leave of the accomplished *maestro* of the Tokyo Academy of Music, and the wonderful instrument which he knows and loves so well, and last night's opportunities intensified the feeling. The three numbers for which Professor Dittrich was responsible were admirably rendered in the taking style which he has made particularly his own, and all were received with heartly applause. The most catching to the ordinay ear was Sarasate's arrangement of the Gavotte from "Mignon," and so loudly was it redemanded that the musician returned to the platform and repeated the sprightly *morceau*. Beethoven's Sonata in A (op: 23), in the second half, arranged as a duet, with Mr. Griffin at the pianoforte, was beyond all praise, but somehow or other it failed to catch the fancy of the assembly; perhaps it was deemed too classical after the lighter pieces which had preceded it.

Miss Bloxham, who has sung herself completely into the hearts of Yokohama folk, despite the sad undertones which commingle even with the gayest of her melodious chords, gave three songs most charmingly, and her fitting reward, in addition to persistent recalls, were three baskets of choice flowers. In Mascagni's "Ave Maria," she was accompained by four instruments, the pianoforte (Miss Mendelson), violin (Dr. Munro), cello (Mr. Crane), and organ (Mr. Griffin). The whole effect was very sweet, and more than repaid expectations. Mrs. James Walter, who was in good voice, gave one song, "Happy Days," Strelezki. This was encored, and the singer bowed her acknowledgements. The happiest effect in any of the part-songs was obtained by "Eventide," Abt, in the first half; and the ever-welcome "He that hath a pleasant face" was also noticeably good. Both went very well, the blending of the voices leaving little to be desired. The ballad and trio by Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Nicholas, and Mr. Walforid will remain as one of the pleasantest recollections of a very pleasant evening. Mrs. Campbell sang in her best manner, and was well supported by tenor and bass. The President of the Society, Mr. J. T. Griffin, conducted the choir throughout, besides taking part in the opening duet with his daughter; and Mrs. Poole accompanied the songs. The Society brought its 1893-94 season to a close with this concert. The members are to be congratulated on the position achieved and the solid basis now laid for developments on yet more ambitious lines in the near future.

PROGRAMME.

1.—P. F. duo .....Sonata in D major .....Mozart.
Miss Griffin and Mr. Griffin.

2.—Part-Songs.....*a.* O thou world so fair, } .....Abt.
b. Eventide..... }
c. Spring's awaking ... }

3.—Songs .....*a.* Ich liebe dich .....Grieg.
b. Orpheus with his lute .....Sullivan.
Miss Bloxham.

4.—Violin Solo...*a.* Legende .....Wieniawski.
b. Romance and Gavotte (Mignon)...Sarasate.
Mr. R. Dittrich.

5.—Solo and Chorus..." With a laugh as we go round" (May Queen) .....Bennett.
Mrs. Campbell and Chorus.

6.—P. F. and Violin...Sonata in A (Op: 23) .....Beethoven.
Mr. Griffin and Mr. Dittrich.

7.—Song.....Happy days" .....Strelezki
Mrs. Walter.
(Violin Obligato:—Mr. Ramseger.)

8.—Ballad ....." 'Tis jolly to hunt"....} May
Recit. and Trio..." The hawthorn in the glade" ..... } Queen } Bennett,
Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Nicholas, and Mr. Walford.

9.—Solo .....Ave Maria".....Mascagni.
Miss Bloxham.
(with accompaniment for P. F., Violin, 'Cello, and Organ).

10.—Part-Songs...*a.* "At the coming of the Spring" } ...Hatton.
b. "Calm night" ..... }
c. "He that hath a pleasant face" }

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."

London, April 23.

The Canadian Government has modified the tariff so that impure tea and coffee only will be liable to a duty of ten cents per pound.

London, April 25.

The Times says that some speculation has evidently begun in silver, and that it is not in connection with the rumours that are afloat of the re-opening of the Indian Mints.

(SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL.")
[FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, April 16.

The Registration Bill has been read a first time in the House of Commons. Amongst other provisions, this bill reduces the qualifying period of residence for electors to three months, and abolishes plural voting at elections which shall be co-incident and held on Saturdays simultaneously throughout the three kingdoms.

The German Emperor who is visiting Vienna, has had a most enthusiastic reception.

Four million dollars in gold have been shipped from New York to Europe this week.

April 17.

The French forces in Timbuctoo have defeated the Tuareg tribe in two engagements, killing the chiefs.

M. Lockroy, President of the enquiry into the condition of the French Navy, has reported that in reality the state of affairs surpasses the worst forebodings; that disorder reigns throughout the administration; that nothing has been prepared either for war or mobilisation; that the sea stores have been depleted, and that many torpedo-boats and ships are unseaworthy. The Report demands that new blood be infused into the administration, whose negligence has been inexcusable, and says that Admiral Vallon states that the *Magenta* is liable to capsize on her first impact with another vessel. The Report further urges upon the authorities the advisability of suspending the building of ironclads.

April 18.

The Queen has started for Coburg, where many royalties are gathering for the coming wedding of the Grand Duke of Hesse and the Princess Victoria Melita, which has been fixed to take place at Coburg on the 22nd inst.

The prolonged drought has come to an end and welcome rains have fallen throughout Great Britain.

The Marquis of Ripon has consented to the construction of the Malacca railway.

It is estimated that the Budget for the current year will show a deficit of £4,500,000. This will be reduced nearly one-half by repayment from the new sinking fund of burdens arising out of the Naval Defence Acts, the remainder of the deficit being met by merging death dues into a single estate duty ranging from one-eighth per cent., by the income-tax being increased by a penny on the advance limit, by an increase of sixpence per gallon on spirits, and sixpence per barrel on beer, the whole producing an estimated surplus of £291,000.

April 19.

The House of Commons has adopted the increased duties on beer and spirits, and the Press generally approve of the Budget, but the Scotch and Irish members are displeased with the revised spirit duty.

April 20.

Mr. Balfour's amendment opposing the creation of a Grand Committee on Scotch Affairs has been rejected in the House of Commons.

April 22.

The wedding of the Grand Duke of Hesse and the Princess Victoria Melita at Coburg was a brilliant spectacle, the Queen wearing the Crown diamonds and occupying the front place in the ceremony.

The ironclad *Aquidaban* and the remnants of the Brazilian insurgent squadron have been sunk by torpedoes after a fierce engagement with the Government fleet.

At a meeting of the Primrose League, the Marquis of Salisbury stated that he approved of increasing the number of life Peers in the House of Lords and of preserving the present organization, otherwise the House would be entitled to claim representative powers.

Paris, April 3.

M. Brown-Sequard is dead.

Several tribes in the neighbourhood of Timbuctoo have made their submission.

Paris April 4.

The International Sanitary Conference which has been discussing the prevention of cholera has concluded its deliberations.—*Daily Press.*

[BROWN-SEQUARD, Professor Ch. E., M.D. Paris, F.R.S., F.R.C.P. Lond., Hon. LL.D. Cantab, a physician and physiologist, was born in the Mauritius, 1817. He has devoted his time since his graduation almost exclusively to an extended series of experimental investigations on important physiological topics, such as the conditions and functions of the different constituents of the blood, animal heat, the spinal cord in its normal and pathological states, the brain, the muscular system, the sympathetic nerves and ganglions, and the inhibitory and

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other influences of many parts of the body upon others. He has visited the United States (his father's country) many times, delivering short courses of lectures, and instructing private classes of physicians in his discoveries. Having been called, in 1860, to take charge of the then newly established hospital for the paralysed and epileptic in London, he had the honour of delivering the Croonian lecture at the Royal Society and the Gulstonian lecture at the College of Physicians. He had previously in 1858, had the great and exceptional honour of being invited to deliver six lectures at the College of Surgeons. He lived in London till 1864, and then went to the United States, where he was appointed Professor of the Physiology and Pathology of the Nervous System at Harvard University. Returning to France in 1869 he was appointed Professor in the Ecole de Médecine in Paris. In 1868 he founded, in Paris, with Drs. Charcot and Vulpian, the *Archives de Physiologie normale et pathologique*, of which he is now the sole editor. He has published a large number of lectures in the London *Lancet* on various kinds of paralysis of cerebral or spinal origin, and on other subjects, and also many essays and papers, giving the details of his discoveries, besides several works on epilepsy, on paralysis of the lower extremities, on the physiology and pathology of the central nervous system, and on functional nervous affections. He has received several prizes from the French Academy of Sciences, of which he is a member, and, in 1878, was elected to the chair of medicine at the College de France. In 1881 he was awarded the Baly medal by the Royal College of Physicians of London.—*Men of the Time.*]

(From Japanese Papers.)

Kochi, April 24th, 10 a.m.

Some excitement prevails among residents of Shinsho and five other villages in Takaoka District in consequence of the authorities having ordered the postponement of the work of repairing embankments.

Kyoto, April 24, 1.42 p.m.

H.I.H. Prince Komatsu arrived here to-day, and put up at the Nakamura Hotel. Viscount Hijikata, Minister of the Imperial Household, visited the Nijo and Katsura Detached Palace yesterday, and proceeded to Uji to-day.

Osaka, April 26th, 4.30 p.m.

Mr. Murota, Japanese Consul General at Fusan, Korea, arrived here to-day. He intends conferring with merchants of this city in regard to Korean trade. He denies that Japanese residents of Fusan are raising money to be sent to Hong in recognition of services rendered to Korea in murdering Kim.

Matsuye, April 26th, 1.58 p.m.

A violent gale accompanied by heavy rain visited here last night.

Miyazaki, April 26th, 11.18 a.m.

Viscount Ito Sukeyori, ex-chief of the Ubi clan, died last night.

Okayama, April 27, 9.35 a.m.

The Takahashi and Asahi rivers have broken their embankments at Katashima and a great flood resulted. The released waters have formed an extensive lake in the neighbourhood of the village.

Okayama, April 27, 11.04 a.m.

Owing to the severe flood, railway communication to the west of Kurashiki has been interrupted.

Osaka, April 27, 12.35 p.m.

Heavy rains commenced to fall in the Bitchu Province about two o'clock this morning and continued till four o'clock, by which time the embankments on the Takahashi river were washed away, and railway tracks to the west of Kurashiki have been rendered impassable.

Amiboshi, Banshu, April 27, 7 p.m.

Serious inundations have occurred here, and the railway track is buried under four feet of water. Traffic is suspended.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, May 4th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 6th.†
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Sunday, May 6th.‡
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Wed'day, May 2nd.§
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 6th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, May 10th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 15th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N D. Lloyd	Wed'day, May 16th.

† *Belgic* left San Francisco on April 19th. ‡ *Empress of Japan* left Vancouver on April 23rd. § *Gaelic* left Hongkong on April 25th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Angers*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, April 29th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, May 1st.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, May 4th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, May 5th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, May 7th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, May 11th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, May 12th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, May 18th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, May 19th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Concord (6), U.S. gunboat, Commander Goodrich, 21st April,—Nagasaki.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 21st April,—Hongkong viâ ports, 14th April, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,240, Mokai, 21st April,—Sakata 18th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

George Peabody, American schooner, 62, C. Lindberg, 22nd April,—North Pacific, 122 Seals.—T. M. Laffin.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 22nd April,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Oka.

Kanazawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 895, Nakai, 22nd April,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

Ningchow, British steamer, 1,735, G. L. Gratton, 22nd April,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Oceana, German steamer, 1,628, J. Behrens, 22nd April,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Saipan, British schooner, 75, J. T. Blanchfield, R.N.R., 22nd April,—Put Back, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 22nd April,—Kobe 21st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 22nd April,—Otaru viâ ports 19th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 23rd April,—Kobe 21st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 24th April,—Kobe 23rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 24th April,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

Benlawers, British steamer, 1,483, Webster, 24th April,—London viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

City of Sydney, American steamer, 1,940, W. B. Seabury, 23rd April,—San Francisco 4th April, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, J. R. Hill, 23rd April,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., 5th April, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Aikoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,067, Furukawa, 23rd April,—Honolulu, General.—Oiye.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 24th April,—Kobe 22nd April, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 25th April,—Otaru viâ ports 20th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 26th April,—Kobe 25th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenearn, British steamer, 1,409, 26th April,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 27th April,—San Francisco, viâ Honolulu, 10th April, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Natal, French steamer, 4,038, H. Verron, 27th April,—Marseilles 18th March, Hongkong 19th April, Shanghai 22nd, and Kobe 26th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 27th April,—Shanghai and ports, 21st April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yarrowdale, British steamer, 1,920, Johnson, 27th April,—Middlesboro' viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,580, H. Walter, 21st April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 21st April,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, C. Olsen, 21st April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yarra, French steamer, 2,126, de Maubeuge, 21st April,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Dryfesdale, British steamer, 1,574, J. R. Stewart, 22nd April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Rheingold, German steamer, 637, Bahls, 22nd April,—Kobe, Sugar.—Chinese.

Bothwell Castle, British steamer, 1,683, Robertson, 24th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

City of Sydney, American steamer, 1,940, W. B. Seabury, 24th April,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 24th April,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 24th April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 24th April,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Achilles, British steamer, 1,470, Harvey, 25th April,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, J. R. Hill, 25th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 25rd April,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Oka.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,240, Mokai, 23rd April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 23rd April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsumaye Maru, Japanese steamer, 478, S. Higo, 23rd April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aikoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,067, Furukawa, 25th April,—Kobe, General.—Oiye.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 25th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ningchow, British steamer, 1,735, G. L. Gratton, 26th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Retriever, American schooner, 75, Lavender, 26th April,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 26th April,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Asano & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 27th April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 27th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Volute, British tank-steamer, 2,348, Stott, 37th April,—Hamburg and London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. H. West, Mrs. G. M. Dare and native servant, Mr. C. E. Chapman, and Mr. J. Caldicott in cabin; and Mr. W. Farrell in European steerage. The following passengers booked to Yokohama disembarked at Kobe:—Surgeon-Major-General and Mrs. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, Mr. Littlewood, Mr. J. F. Pearson, Mr. Marks, Mrs. Hamilton Sharp, and Mr. Sprague in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—4 Japanese in cabin, and 36 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Tacoma*, from Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—Captain C. J. Kelley, Mr. A. R. A. Heath, and Mr. C. Kline in cabin, and 36 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Aikoku Maru*, from Honolulu:—Messrs. Ogura, Goto, Ono, Ogi, R. H. Leschinsky, T. Tanaka, and J. Nessle in cabin, and 436 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. Crawford and Mrs. Shimomura in cabin; 5 passengers in second class, and 36 passengers and 80 Government passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. A. A. Thomas, Mrs. Webb, Rev. and Mrs. Graham Lee, Mr. G. Siemssen, Mr. O. H. P. Noyes, Mr. W. N. Parker, Mr. Jno. Hill Morgan, Mr. Jas. L. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Aldridge, Mrs. Holmes and 2 children, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Flint, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Gunther, Mr. D. L. Streeter, Miss Nellie Stow, Miss Kate Stow, Mr. W. Krumm, Mr. E. R. Wheeler, Mr. D. W. Deshler, Mr. F. J. Friend, Mr. and Mrs. J. Schnittenhelm, Mrs. Chamberlain, Mr. Chamberlain, Miss Chamberlain, Mr. F. P. Soloman, Mr. J. Chas. Wagner, Mr. E. D. Oppenheimer, Miss Caroline T. Burkham, Miss Mary S. Burkham, Mr. A. E. McGlew, Mr. J. E. Aveny, Mr. T. R. Jernigan, Mr. and Mrs. McCalsky, Mr. T. Lazanes, Mr. C. Nestor Edison, Dr. E. A. Lundy, Mr. M. Seya, and Mr. and Mrs. McDonald in cabin. For Hongkong:—Miss Kemper, Mr. Kemper, Master Kemper, General Del Kemper, Mr. Jno. Scrynegeous, Mr. T. H. Frith, Mr. E. J. Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Saml. Wells, Miss Wells, Miss A. Marvin, Mr. J. Alice Hunt, Mrs. W. E. Hunt and 2 children, Miss L. Hort, and Miss Courtney in cabin.

Per French steamer *Natal*, from Marseilles viâ

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ports:—Miss Burton, Messrs. Dawson, Innes, G. Yoshida, Emm. Cronquois, Oka, Kodama, P. Barboutau, Yasuda, John Thomson, Lee Yan Lye and servant, Yeo Geng Ye, Lognand and infant, Mrs. Blanchard, Mr. and Mrs. C. Cohen, Messrs. Colthurst, Lorret, G. Arbouin, G. Acheson, A. E. Breece, Atun, Hon. W. Maxwell, Messrs. Nio Hong Ten, A. Sarkies, Thiel, Port, Ziegfled, Delbourgo, Nanson and family, Wylie, and Mr. Nanson's infant and governess in cabin; and Messrs. Ismail and John Mohamed, and 4 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Lieut. Barroll, Lieut. Lochtin, Lieut. Kubo, Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Ray, Mrs. Stone, Mr. Lowder, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Tilden, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Holland, Mr. P. J. Stutchbury, Mr. Macpherson, Mr. Matsuura, Miss Divers, Mr. R. Inouye, Mr. D'Arc, Mr. Phillips, Mr. T. Takagi, Mr. Pardon, Mr. Wm. Vivian, Miss Emil, Miss Ethel, Miss Nelly, Miss Mary, and Mrs. Steele's amah in cabin; Mr. Alfred Kaup, Mr. Fukuda, Mr. Hone, Mr. Barber, Miss Ozawa, and Miss T. Ono in second class, and 32 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco:—Mr. James McWilliams, Mrs. H. W. Hancock, Miss Ella C. Bond, Rev. and Mrs. M. C. Mason and daughter, Mr. F. W. Newson, Mr. T. A. Rogine, Surgeon-Major O. Cusack, Rev. and Mrs. Jamison, Miss Jamison, and Dr. and Mrs. Terrill in cabin.

Per French steamer *Yarra*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mr. K. C. Gulland, Mr. A. C. Read, Mr. Th. Culty, Mr. Frank Leyburn and servant, Mrs. San Pedro, Mr. and Mrs. Tarnshard, Mr. J. T. Sterling, Mr. P. E. Heermann, Mr. Descubes, Mr. Delastre, Mr. Mecum, Mr. A. Baran, Mr. J. Bannon, Lieut. A. Jenkins, Lieut. D. H. Grant, Mr. Shwarcow, Mr. W. G. Powers, Mr. J. Eymard, Mr. Arthur Graf, and Mr. Eugene Nebelung in cabin; and 4 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. MacCarthy, Miss Tyng, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Hellyer and child, Messrs. T. Reed, W. P. Turner, Masujima, T. Kusumoto, Richard Harris, G. T. Thursby, M. T. B. Macpherson, H. F. Wingrove, and A. R. A. Heath in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hedges, Mr. and Mrs. Uchida, Mrs. Tosa, Messrs. Th. Deightonr T. Mercer, and W. G. Harding in second class, and 52 passengers in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Victoria*, for Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—

TEA.

	PACIFIC COAST.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	CANADA.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama ...	14	—	—	—	—	14
Hongkong.....	242	—	—	—	—	242
Calcutta	20	—	—	—	—	20
Foochow	—	—	666	304	—	970
Amoy	—	846	—	—	—	846
Total	276	846	666	304	—	2,092

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama	48	—	48
Total.....	48	—	48

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama ...	917	135	55	...	—	1,107
Hongkong ...	177	—	—	—	—	177
Total... ..	1,094	135	55	—	—	1,284

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	84	—	84
Hongkong	—	205	—	205
Yokohama	6	89	—	95
Total	6	378	—	384

Per French steamer *Yarra*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for France, 274 bales; Waste Silk for France, 33 bales.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $268,000.00.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Kumamoto Maru*, Captain Mokai, reports:—Left Sakata the 18th April at 5.18 a.m.; had gentle west breeze and cloudy weather, bar. 30.09, ther. 51, sea 50; on the 19th at 4 a.m. gentle easterly breeze and overcast weather, bar. 30.09, ther. 48, sea 47; at noon same weather; at 4 p.m. north-easterly breeze, force same and overcast weather; at midnight same weather; on the 20th at 8 a.m. same weather, bar. 29.93, ther. 54, sea 57; at 4 p.m. gentle south-westerly breeze and overcast weather, bar. 29.98, ther. 61, sea 60; at 4.9 p.m. fresh south-westerly gale and overcast weather; at midnight same weather, bar. 29.74, ther. 61, sea 59; on the 21st at 4 a.m. same weather, bar. 29.68, ther. 65, sea 64; at noon moderate south-westerly breeze and clear weather, bar. 27.73, ther. 62, sea 57. Arrived at Yokohama at 9.20 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain W. Thompson, reports:—Left Otaru the 18th April at 10 a.m. and arrived at Hakodate the 19th at 3.05 a.m.; experienced light to moderate northerly and westerly winds and overcast weather. Left Hakodate the 20th at 7.55 a.m.; experienced light variable winds and rainy weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Oginohama the 21st at 7.15 a.m. and left the same day at 2 p.m.; experienced fresh northerly winds and clear weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd April at 3.30 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Otaru the 20th April at 2 p.m.; had light variable airs and cloudy weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 21st at 7.30 a.m. and left the 23rd at 7.55 a.m.; had moderate variable airs and fine weather, but heavy N.E. swell. Arrived at Oginohama the 24th at 6.37 a.m. and left the same day at 0.20 p.m.; had light N.E. winds and heavy N.E. sea to Inuboye; thence to port light variable airs and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 25th April at 1.10 p.m.

The British steamer *China*, Captain Wm. Ward, reports:—Left San Francisco the 10th April and Honolulu the 16th; had fine weather from Henolulu until the last 24 hours; thence to port rainy and foggy weather, causing several stoppages outside, and coming up the bay.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 21st April at 11 a.m.; experienced moderate north-easterly winds and sea, with rain to arrival at Nagasaki the 23rd at 7 a.m. Left the same night; had moderate northerly breeze and fine weather to Shimonoseki. Left again the 24th at 5 p.m.; had fine weather and light easterly winds to Kobe, arriving the 25th at 2 p.m. Left Kobe the 26th at noon; had dull rainy weather and fresh east breeze, which continued until arrival in Yokohama the 27th April at 5 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

No good news in this market. Importers complain of lack of buyers; and some dealers are reported as being behind-hand with deliveries of purchases previously made. Quotations nominally the same until some trade comes along to test them.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 2.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches...	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	1.75 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.16 to 0.21
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches ..	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	PER PIECE. 1.55 to 1.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.80
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches ...	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.57½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best.....	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary.....	41.00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best.....	43.00 to 44.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

No life in the trade. Dealers are talking about lower prices; but holders are not willing to give way to any extent.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron.....	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.80
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box.....	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.70 to 1.75

KEROSENE.

No change in this market. Dealers appear to expect some concessions from the rising exchange.

Chester	$1.72½ to 1.75
Comet	1.70 to 1.72½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor.....	1.67½ to 1.70
Russian Moon	1.65 to 1.67½

SUGAR.

No special feature to note in this market. A fair amount of business doing at current prices.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.60 to 4.75
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.30
Brown Daitong	3.60 to 3.70
Brown Canton	4.40 to 4.50
White Java and Penang.....	7.10 to 7.20
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 20th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 609 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures*, 468 piculs; *Re-reels*, 55 piculs; *Kakeda*, 86 piculs. Direct shipments have been 161 bales, making the total business of the week about 800 piculs.

Business has been by no means general and is chiefly confined to three or four shippers for the United States market. Intelligence from Europe would appear to be very dull, as there is no buying for that market and prices of fine *Filatures* are all more or less nominal.

Our stock remains well over 7,000 piculs and no doubt holders would make concessions to be moving a little faster.

Exchange has been higher during the week, closing as per note at foot.

It is yet too early to say much about the new crop. The country people report the mulberry leaf to be coming out in good shape: and, no doubt, in the earlier districts hatching will have begun. Without any accident intervening, there is every prospect of a large and satisfactory crop.

There have been four shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The Canadian mail steamer *Empress of China*, 20th instant, had 155 bales for the New York trade; the N.P. steamer *Victoria*, 21st instant, 48 bales; *City of Rio*, same date, 95 bales and the French mail steamer *Yarra* took 274 bales for the European markets. These departures make the present export figures 40,685 piculs, against 45,734 piculs last year, and 46,008 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Filatures.—Considerable business has been done in spring reelings, full sizes, and the following prices have been entered: *Roku-mon-sen*, $790; *Choshinsha*, $785; *Inasha*, *Kaimeisha*, $780; *Gakosha*, $775; *Hiranosha*, *Yajima*, *Meijusha*, $770; *Rujokan*, $765; *Kairosha*, $760; *Tokosha* and *Shunmeisha*, $755. In fine sizes, nothing done.

Re-reels.—A small business in these at the following prices:—*Iwaki*, $750; *Tortoise*, 735, with fair *Joshu* at $690 and medium *Bushu*, $660. Demand is not large and holders are inclined to be current.

Kakeda.—Considerable business has been done at what look like cheap prices. In the early part of the week several parcels of *Daruma* were booked at $725; latterly, *Musume I* has been done at $675, with *Musume II* at $650, showing a very considerable reduction on the prices paid at the beginning of this month.

In other sorts, nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu).....		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu).....		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers.....	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den ...	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers		$750 to 760
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.....		750 to 760
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		720 to 730
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		720 to 730
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers.....		750 to 760
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers.....		720 to 730
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers.....		700 to 710

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Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	680 to	690
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	660 to	670
Kakedas—Extra	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1	Nom.	—
Kakedas—No. 1½	670 to	680
Kakedas—No. 2	650 to	660
Kakedas—No. 2½	630 to	640
Kakedas—No. 3		—
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 27th April, 1894.

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	22,765	18,199	16,699
America	16,650	26,741	28,268
Total { Bales	39,415	44,940	44,967
Total { Piculs	40,685	45,734	46,008
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July {	Piculs. 41,350	Piculs. 46,100	Piculs. 46,150
Stock, 27th April	7,250	1,000	4,050
Available supplies to date	48,600	47,100	50,200

WASTE SILK.

Settlements for the week are 331 piculs, divided thus:—*Cocoons*, 70 piculs; *Noshi*, 192 piculs; *Kibiso*, 30 piculs; *Neri*, 39 piculs. No direct export.

Demand has fallen off very considerably, but holders stand out firm for their prices and no reduction of any consequence can be obtained. Stock remains large and it is difficult to see how dealers can dispose of it all before the new crop is with us.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the German mail *Nürnberg*, 20th instant, taking 164 bales for Europe; the *Victoria*, 21st instant, 50 bales *Kibiso* for New York and the French mail *Yarra*, same date, 33 bales for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 25,620 piculs, against 39,360 piculs last year and 29,037 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Cocoons.—One foreign hong has taken some 70 piculs of *Najiko*, prices ranging from $14 to $17.

Noshi.—A small business; good *Oshu*, $140; *Tegara*, $120; *Shinshu*, $95; good *Joshu*, $80; common *Joshu*, $62½.

Kibiso.—Nothing done beyond a few piculs *Filatures*, prices ranging from $110 to $113.

Sundries.—Some business has been done in common *Neri*, price running from $8 to $12, and this is supposed to be for shipment to Shanghai, together with the *Najiko Cocoons* mentioned above.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$145 to 150
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	110 to 120
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	100 to 105
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	170 to 180

Export Table Waste Silk to 27th April, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	22,389	36,668	26,938
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	25,620	39,360	29,037
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July {	Piculs. 27,450	Piculs. 44,500	Piculs. 31,600
Stock, 27th April	15,550	2,400	7,500
Available supplies to date	43,000	46,900	39,100

Exchange has improved slowly all the week, closing as under:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/2; Documents, 2/2⅛; 6m/s. Credits, 2/2¼. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $52½; 4m/s. U.S. $53⅛. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.73; 6m/s. fcs. 2.75.

Estimated Silk Stock, 27th April, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	—	Cocoons	130
Filatures	3,560	Noshi-ito	8,210
Re-reels	2,940	Kibiso	6,740
Kakeda	740	Mawata	150
Oshu	—	Sundries	320
Tavsaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	7,250	Total piculs	15,550

TEA.

Some arrivals of New Leaf every day now, and considerable business done. By next week there will be still larger receipts, and a fairly large shipment will be made per *Gaelic* on the 4th proximo. We shall then settle down to a regular stride and resume quotations for the new season.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has hardened during the week and closes firm.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/1⅛
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/1⅛
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	—
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅞
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/2⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.65
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.73
On Hongkong—Bank sight	½% dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1/16% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72⅛
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	184
On India—Private 30 days' sight	187
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50⅝
On America—Private 30 days' sight	52⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	53¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.14
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.22
Bar Silver (London)	29⅛

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September 30, 1893.

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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 1894.

MARRIAGE.

DOWLER-THORN—On April 30th, at San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A., from the residence of Captain Charles Thorn, at St. Stephen's Church, by the Rev. E. J. Lion, ARTHUR ERNEST, second surviving son of Frederick Dowler, Esq., late of Leamington, Warwickshire, England, to MARY, eldest daughter of Edgar V. Thorn, Esq., of Yokohama.—(By cable).

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

SMALL-POX is still very prevalent in Nagasaki and Shizuoka.

THE Lyric Company will open at the Public Hall on Saturday next.

THE D'Arc Marionettes have been giving most amusing performances at the Public Hall this week.

THE political parties *Doshi Seisha* and *Domei Seisha* have been amalgameted into the *Rikken Kakushin-to*.

MR. UKITA SATOTSUGU has been appointed student secretary in the Japanese Consulate at Fusan, Korea.

THE usual May-day frost scare has begun, and all the silk-districts are telegraphing their fears as to the probable losses sustained.

THE British vessel *Drumelton*, bound from Shanghai to north American ports, has gone ashore near Tanegashima, Kiushu.

THE recent Charity Ball in Tokyo realised a sum of 1,046.26 *yen*, which has been divided between the two charities concerned.

THE annual general meeting of shareholders of the Japan Brewery Company was held on Monday in Yokohama, and the reports and accounts were adopted. A dividend of 8 per cent. for the year was declared.

A GENUINE attempt is being made this year by Japanese merchants to put a stop to the adulteration of tea before it reaches the open ports.

THE Cricket Ground was opened on Tuesday and practices have commenced. It is probable that a base-ball match will open the season.

THE Spring Regatta of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club took place to-day. The heats for various events were rowed off during the week and created some surprises.

THE officials in Tochigi have presented a gold cup to Mr. Orita, ex-Governor of that Prefecture, as an expression of esteem for kindness shown by him while Governor.

THE sum of *yen* 20,000 has been granted by the Imperial Household toward the restoration of the Daibutsu at Nara and *yen* 5,000 towards a permanent repairing fund.

THE system of Commercial Chambers is about to be introduced in to Korea. The rules are said to have been compiled in accordance with those of similar organizations in Japan.

THE Sakai Chamber of Commerce has presented a representation to the Foreign Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce asking for the establishment of a Japanese Consulate at Bombay.

A FIRE occurred in the out-buildings of No. 166, Settlement, a house occupied by the Chinese compradore of the Grand Hotel, on Sunday night. The damage was confined to the out-premises.

THE barley crops of which much was expected this year, have received great injury from the recent persistent rains. The damage done is greatest along the banks of the Tonegawa, where the fields are mostly submerged.

THE regular general assembly of shareholders of the Meiji Fire Insurance Co. took place in Tokyo on the 1st. *Yen* 20,000 was declared as dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, *yen* 17,111 being added to the reserve fund.

MR. MICHEL REVON, Professor in the Law College, Imperial University, and Adviser to the Minister of State for Justice, has been gazetted for the second time winner of the laureate prize for eloquence in the Académie Française.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL LYTTLETON-ANNESLEY, late Commander-in-Chief of the troops in Scotland, accompanied by the British Minister, proceeded to the Palace on the 28th ult. and was received in a private audience by H.I.M. the Emperor.

JUDGMENT was delivered in Tokyo on Thursday in the Nishigori case. Nishigori Yamaguchi Jyun, Judge Hoashi Seiga, and Watanabe Naokata have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment with proportionate fines and police surveillance—they have appealed from the decision of the Court—and Messrs. Goto Shimpei, Okano Kan, Yamada Jubei, and Koyama Toki, were acquitted.

MR. ALPHEUS CLEOPHAS MORTON, M P. for Peterborough, moved in the House of Commons that the annuity to the Duke of Coburg should be abolished. Mr. Henry Labouchere and other Radical members supported the motion, but it was rejected by a majority of two hundred and thirty. The British vote for Uganda for the current year is fixed at £50,000. Mr. Henry Hartley Fowler has stated that neither the Government of India nor the Secretary of State contemplate the re-opening of the Indian Mints to the coinage of silver. The harvest prospects in Great Britain are favourable. A very severe earthquake has occurred in Greece; the towns of Atalanti and Thebes are almost entirely destroyed. At least 200 persons have been killed, chiefly in the villages situated in the province of Phocis. Whole families have been destroyed and congregations buried beneath the *débris* of falling churches. A large army of the employed is marching from all parts of the United States to Washington to petition for the relief of their grievances. Hundreds are falling sick by the wayside, and the railway companies refuse to grant them gratuitous transport. The affair is causing a general ferment throughout the United States, and troops have been ordered to intercept the Montana contingent, which has turned agressive. The German Emperor has been appointed honorary Colonel of the First (Royal) Dragoons, which makes him the first foreign sovereign in the British Army List. A German Loan to the amount of one hundred and sixty-nine million marks has been issued. Lord Rosebery, speaking at the City Liberal Club, appealed to the Unionists to hold aloof no longer from the party which held the copyright in the name Liberal, and guaranteed the upholding of the British flag abroad and the unity of the three kingdoms. The Unionist papers are of opinion that Lord Rosebery's appeal will be futile. Trouble is said to be brewing in Swaziland, the natives being determined to resist Transvaal rule.

THERE is no improvement to chronicle in the Import trade, and for "spot" business the market is very dull. Some contracts are said to have been made in Yarns and Shirtings for forward delivery, but the terms have not transpired. Fancy Cottons continue dull, and in Woollens there has been next to nothing done. In the Metal market there have been a few sales at current rates, but the low offers made have not been responded to by holders, who have much the best of the position and decline to come down. The Kerosene market is quiet, and only a few small sales of American have to be recorded, while the stock, which has been increased by an arrival from New York, now totals about half a million cases. The long continued brisk business in Sugar has at length toned down, and with free arrivals of new crop the stock has considerably increased, with the effect that all descriptions of Brown are easier. Whites, however, exhibit no change in value, though there is very little doing. Only a small business has been done in Silk, and the stock is still heavy, with more to come down from the interior. As mentioned last week, the frost "bogie" was introduced directly May set in, but has had not the smallest effect on the market, in fact this scare is about played out. There is every probability of a good and plenteous production, independent observers reporting the mulberry leaf as fine, forward, and plentiful, and the weather has generally being well suited to hatching. Very little done to reduce the great stock of Waste, holders only making the smallest concessions for the small parcels taken. There is a large daily business in the Tea market, and leaf is coming in freely. Prices are higher than last year at same date, but when the present rate of exchange is considered the lay-down cost is less. The export during the past season, closing on April 30, shows 29,131,881 lbs. against 29,340,977 lbs the previous year. Exchange has been fairly firm during the week, and rates show a slight tendency in an upward direction.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

In proportion as the sixth session of the Diet draws near, the organs of the allied sections of the Opposition lay increasing stress upon the importance of confining the confederates' attention to a few large questions on which they are all agreed, so as to bring about a serious collision with the Cabinet immediately after the opening of the session. The Progressionist papers pretend to believe that upon the issue of such a collision depends the existence of the clan system of Government. They, therefore, urge the various sections of the Opposition to bury for the present all differences of opinion among themselves and devote their united energies to the task of demolishing Clan Government. The fight that has been in progress between Clan Government and the people for more than ten years, says one of these papers, is about to be decided in favour of the latter. The destruction of Clan Government is for the Opposition a paramount question, to the solution of which every other measure, of whatever national importance, must be sacrificed. "The allied parties of the Opposition," writes the *Mainichi Shimbun*, "are entirely agreed on three questions, namely, the demolition of Clan Government, the establishment of a system of Responsible Cabinets, and the adoption of a strong and dignified foreign policy. The growing derangement in the foreign affairs of the country is a matter of deep concern to every patriot. The remedy lies in the adoption of a strong, self-assertive policy, but such a course cannot be expected from a Cabinet which is not responsible to the Diet. Hence the necessity for establishing a system of Responsible Cabinets. Responsible Cabinets being incompatible with Clan Cabinets, the destruction of Clan Government is a measure demanding urgent attention, and its consummation a condition absolutely essential to carrying out every other reform in the political sphere. Hence the destruction of Clan Government is the first object of the alliance formed by the different sections of the Opposition; an alliance having its basis in the hearts of the forty million inhabitants of Japan. It would be a grievous error to suppose that the movement against Clan Government is confined to a few political parties."

* * *

Such is the language held by the Opposition papers in general. But anybody capable of reading between lines cannot fail to remark that, despite these lofty words, the organs of the *Kaishin-to* and of the other alleged parties are far from feeling easy about the issue of the approaching struggle. Their persistent appeals to the various sections of the Opposition to bury petty differences of opinion and be united against the common enemy, indicate plainly a consciousness of being perpetually threatened by danger of dissension in their own ranks. The object of the leaders of the anti-Government alliance is to concentrate their whole energy upon attacking the Cabinet in such a manner that the latter may be forced to surrender unconditionally. The pursuit of such a policy will leave no room for considering measures of practical interest, to promote and pass which many members belonging to the allied sections are solemnly pledged. It is consequently apprehended that these members, or some of them at least, may at the last moment refuse to support their leaders in a war *à l'outrance* against the Government. A sense of that serious danger induces the Opposition organs to represent the complete downfall of Clan Government as already within sight, hoping thus to infuse confidence and contentment into the bosoms of the motley forces of the alliance.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, on the other hand, advises the Cabinet to pursue an independent line of policy, paying no attention to the opinions or actions of the Diet. Our contemporary's estimate of the present Diet is anything but favourable. As now constituted, the Diet, or more correctly the Lower House, does not represent the sober and intelligent classes of the people. Our contemporary entertains little doubt that, one of these days, the Japanese House of Representatives will come to reflect the sentiments of those classes. "But at present the members of that House make it their sole business to embarrass the Government. Advocating, outside the walls of the Diet, a strong foreign policy, they do not hesitate, inside, to oppose the necessary measures for national defence. They demand the maintenance of official discipline and the reform of the administration; yet they do not scruple to ask for sweeping reductions of official salaries and even for the abolition of the restrictions on the appointment of officials. It is impossible to work in concert with such men, and we, therefore, advise those in power to pay no regard to what the House of Representatives says or does." In another article, the *Nichi Nichi* recommends the Cabinet to dissolve the Diet even before its assembly, should there be grounds to think that the people's representatives are bent merely on destructive measures, and in a third article, our contemporary reminds the present Ministers of State of the folly of troubling themselves about the policy to be pursued toward the Diet. If they are inclined to waste thought upon such a fruitless task, it is a sign, says the *Nichi Nichi*, that they are not fit to be trusted with the conduct of the Administration at an important juncture like the present, in which event the best thing they can do is to resign and give place to men strong enough to hold the Diet at its true value. For these articles our contemporary is severely reviled by the Opposition journals. They declare that the *Nichi Nichi's* writings are incendiary, and that the paper ought to be suppressed. In truth they cannot for a moment endure to have meted out to them the measure that they themselves are perpetually meting out to the Government.

* * *

On the subject of tariff autonomy, which continues to attract journalistic attention, the writings of the vernacular press, at first vague and unreasonable, are becoming clearer and more moderate. As already stated in a former weekly summary, there prevailed at first among the metropolitan papers a false impression that the recovery of tariff autonomy meant the reservation by Japan in her new treaties of power to fix customs duties by domestic legislation. But a little study of the matter has enabled them to discover that Japan need not insist on a system followed by the United States of America only, and that tariffs had better be arranged by means of conventions. Even the *Nippon*, which was perhaps the strongest advocate of the so-called complete recovery of tariff autonomy, now admits the above view. "Whether customs duties should be regulated," says our contemporary, "by means of independent legislation or by international arrangement, should be decided according to the circumstances of the particular Powers concerned." The point on which much stress is now laid is that a treaty containing tariff schedules should, in so far as relates to such schedules, receive the consent of the Diet before ratification by the Emperor. They contend that the Diet is invested by the Constitution with power to prevent the conclusion of tariff conventions, and they consequently recommend the allied sections of the Opposition to extract, in the coming session, a plain declaration from the Government as to the question, at what stage of the negotiations tariff conventions are to be submitted for the approval of the Diet. They are also recommended to introduce tariff schedules which may be applied to non-treaty countries or to countries with which negotiations for Revision may have been broken off on account of differences of opinion as to customs duties and with which, as a consequence, the existing tariff arrangement may have been repudiated by Japan. There will not be much time for such legislative work if the Opposition parties are in earnest in their declared intention of precipitating a decisive collision with the Cabinet immediately after the opening of the session.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* complains that the Japanese nation is comparatively cold on the subject of tariff autonomy. The public, says that paper, is ever ready to be excited to fever point on the question of Consular Jurisdiction, but manifest no such enthusiasm about the tariff question. This singular circumstance is ascribed to the influence of the *Samurai* spirit which disdains to concern itself much with questions of cents and dollars. Questions of rights and honour are, of course, vital, but our contemporary reminds its countrymen of the equal importance of questions affecting the national economy. The imposition of higher duties would produce a large additional revenue to the State, and there would then be little difficulty in carrying out the various fiscal reforms demanded by the people. The *Yomiuri* is the first on this occasion to raise such a question. Economical considerations were not lost sight of formerly by Japanese papers in discussing this subject, but just at present journalists seem bent more than ever upon confining their attention to the abstract question of rights.

* * *

The question of Strict Treaty Enforcement has not been entirely abandoned, but interest in it has nearly died out. During the present week, a significant article was published on this subject by the *Hochi Shimbun*—significant as being virtually a confession by our contemporary that the movement for the Strict Enforcement of Treaties has ceased to exist. The Progressionist organ observes that the Representation on Strict Treaty Enforcement need not be introduced in the approaching session of the Diet. "The dissolution of the late House of Representatives," says the *Hochi*, "was no doubt about by the Representation in question. It may, therefore, be considered that the question of Strict Enforcement must constitute the principal topic of discussion in the coming session. We are, however, inclined to think that there is no longer any necessity to introduce in the next session a Representation on this subject. The object of introducing it last session was to induce the Government to carry out the provisions of the present treaties. A Representation to the Government presupposes confidence in that Government's ability to carry out what is demanded, It is, consequently, illogical on the part of an Opposition which places no confidence in the Cabinet, to make Representations to the latter." Moreover, the Government has shown itself disinclined to adopt the suggestions contained in the Representation. Under such circumstances, our contemporary fails to see any good in re-introducing the same Representation in the coming session of the Diet. Instead of taking such a useless step, the allied factions of the Opposition are advised to vindicate the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement against the charge of being anti-foreign and to prove to the world that it is simply a manifestation of the independent spirit of the Japanese people. Instead of wasting time in the attempt to introduce such a Representation, the Opposition parties are advised to impeach the Government on account of its improper conduct in dissolving the late House of Representatives, and, in case of necessity, to appeal to the decision of the Emperor, so that a responsible Cabinet capable of sympathizing with the growing national spirit of the people may be called into existence. If the *Hochi* be at all sincere in the above explanation of its position as to the introduction of the Representation on Strict Treaty Enforcement, it must be concluded that, when they joined in the introduction of the Representation in the last session of the Diet, the Progressionists and others placed confidence in the Government. Such a conclusion, however, is at variance with the well-known fact that the members of the parties have ever been ready to declare want of confidence in the Cabinet. Of course the true reason why the *Hochi* is not in favour of the introduction of the Representation is that it fears a crushing defeat for the Opposition.

* * *

There is going on a curious controversy between the *Hochi Shimbun* and the *Jiyu Shimbun* on the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement.

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It originated in the latter's declaration that Treaty Revision is in a sense the enforcement of the existing treaties, or more correctly of one of their stipulations, namely that relating to revision. The Radical organ's reasoning was strained and fallacious, and it thus exposed itself to the well merited ridicule and derision of its more crafty contemporary.

* * *

The Korean assassination affair has received a considerable amount of journalistic attention during the week. We give below the gist of the principal articles on the subject.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* criticises the want of a fixed policy toward Korea on the part of the Japanese Government, and advises the latter to make no further delay in adopting a definite policy with a view to securing Japan's interest in the peninsular kingdom in the event of any emergency. Our contemporary's object is not to convert Korea into a Japanese dependency, but to save it from falling a prey to some powerful country. Some persons, says the *Jiji*, maintain that the best course for Japan is to recognize a Chinese protectorate over the peninsula and assist that country in keeping it safe from the encroachment of other Powers. But such a policy is most objectionable. China is not in a condition to maintain an effective protectorate. China's political system is rotten to the core, and the central Government in Peking is utterly incapable of defending its remote frontiers against foreign invaders. China, therefore, has more than enough occupation in preserving her own existence as an independent Power. Nothing could be more disastrous than to entrust the integrity of the Korean peninsula to such a country.

* * *

The *Kokkai* states that it is a mistake to confine attention to the paltry question of the assassination. These acts of insolence on the part of Korea are the natural consequences of the faulty policy followed by the Government toward her since the year 1884. Professing to be in possession of important information concerning the plot of assassination, the *Kokkai* declares that the restrictions enforced by the anthorities upon liberty of speech do not allow it to express its opinion freely. But it hopes that in the coming session of the Diet the question will be discussed in its true light and without the restrant of jealous authorities. The *Kokkai* advises the Opposition to spare nothing to attack the Government on its erroneous policy towards the peninsular kingdom.

* * *

The *Chu-o Shimbun* also remarks that upon the issue of the discussions in the Diet with reference to the Korean question will depend the fate of the present Cabinet. Our contemporary urges the Government to take immediate steps for bringing Korea to a right sate of mind.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* points out the mistake of endeavouring to secure the friendship and respect of China and Korea by a conciliatory policy. Our contemporary divides the past history of Japan's relations with these countries into three periods. The first period, 1868-1877, is characterized as an age of aggressive policy. In that period Japan was feared and respected by her neighbours. The seven years since 1877 form a second period, characterized by Japan's endeavours to lead her neighbours into the path of progress. During that period, too, Japan was able to maintain her ground. With the Söul *émeute* of 1884, commenced the third and last period during which Japan lost her dignity by pursuing a weak and vacillating policy. Past history, says the *Mainichi*, plainly teaches the advisability of adopting an unbending policy towards China and Korea.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* draws attention to the part played by China in the present question. It strongly criticises the conduct of the Chinese Government in delivering the murderer Hong Tjyong-Ou to Korea and in affording the Korean Government the barbarous pleasure of being avenged on the remains of the fallen refugee. These circumstances considered in connection with the telegram said to have been sent to the Söul Government by the Viceroy Li congratulating the latter upon the murder of Kim, have led the Japanese public to suspect China's original complicity in the plot of assassination. Whether the suspicion is well founded, remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the *Hochi* maintains that the open conduct of the Chinese Government, calls for a remonstrance from Japan; for China has insulted Japan by paying no regard to her sensibilities. If China, on receiving such a remonstrance, expresses regret for her conduct, well and good; but should she refuse to take that sensible course, then it would be Japan's duty not to deal with her any more as a civilized State.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* joins the other papers in demanding a decisive policy against the peninsular kingdom. It severely condemns the wavering policy of the Japanese Government in the past. But in dealing with Korea, Japan has to be prepared to deal ultimately with China. It is the consciousness of this circumstance, says the *Jiyu*, that has hitherto caused the Japanese Cabinet to be unusually conciliatory towards Korea. The Government is urged to make up its mind to a strong course against the Middle Kingdom, and with that determination to deal unflinchingly with Korea.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE RADICAL PARTY'S GRAND CONFERENCE.

THE Radical Party's grand conference commenced on April 25th and came to a conclusion on the 27th. The place of assembly was the Yayoi-kan, Shiba Park, Tokyo. About a hundred members having seats in the Diet and fifty delegates representing different localities throughout the Empire, took part in the discussions, while the proceedings were watched by some ninety Radicals who were not allowed a voice in the transaction of business. The first meeting, namely that on the 25th, was opened at 10 a.m., the chair being taken by Mr. Kono Hironaka, nominee of Count Itagaki. The proceedings commenced with a speech by Count Itagaki on the present situation of the Party, a translation of which we shall publish in our next issue. The speech, listened to with deep attention by all present, was frequently interrupted by enthusiastic outbursts of applause, and the venerable leader descended the platform amid lusty cheers for himself and the Party. Altogether his reception was exceedingly warm and enthusiastic, attesting the love and respect in which he is held by his followers. Mr. Kono, the Chairman, then put to the assembly two proposals, namely that in the present conference the programme for the next session of the Diet be drawn up by a special committee on the basis of investigations conducted at head quarters, and that the number of *Kanji* (managers) be increased to three, one to be called the "Business Manager," and the other two "Political Managers." These proposals were unanimously approved. Reports on political investigations carried out at the head-quarters of the Party were then read. The topics discussed in these reports were twenty-six, the more important among them being the last dissolution of the Diet, Naval reforms, the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement, Treaty Revision, the *Chishima Kan* affair, the disbursement of the surplus, a project of statutory tariff duties, reduction of the land tax, reassessment of the taxable value of land, and extension of steam navigation. The voting for the election of a Committee to draw up the programme for the coming session of the Diet resulted in the nomination of Messrs. Ishida Kannosuke, Misaki Kamenosuke, Kurihara Ryoichi, Suzuki Shoji, and eleven others. This concluded the meeting for that day, it being now 4.20 p.m.

* * *

The next day's meeting commenced at 10 a.m., the attendance being nearly the same as before. Count Itagaki requested the assembly to elect two delegates from each locality represented at the meeting, for the purpose of discussing the financial affairs of the Party. This business concluded, the assembly proceeded to consider draft programmes prepared by the Committee elected on the preceding day. After debates lasting some time, the following programme was adopted without any alteration:— First, the dissolution of the late House of Representatives shall be denounced as improper; secondly, the Cabinet shall be criticised for the insufficiency of the administrative reforms thus far carried out; thirdly, the reforms in the Navy shall be declared incomplete; fourthly, illegalities perpetrated in the method of transferring or dismissing judicial officials shall be censured; fifthly, the disbursement of the surplus after the manner adopted by the Government shall be pronounced illegal; sixthly, the adoption of speedy steps with regard to Treaty Revision shall be urged; seventhly, a project of statutory customs dues shall be introduced; eighthly, reduction of the land tax and re-assessment of the taxable value of land shall be carried out; ninthly, the Newspaper Regulations shall be amended; tenthly, a project for revision of the local government system shall be introduced; eleventhly, a project for revision of the Law of Election shall be introduced; and twelfthly, a project of law for granting aid to local engineering works shall be submitted. As to the extension of steam navigation, the abolition of custom duties on imported cotton, and several other questions, it was decided that they should be disposed of by the Radicals having seats in the Diet. Lastly, it was resolved that the Representation on Strict Treaty Enforcement should be opposed. After discussing a few alterations in the regulations of the Party, the meeting dispersed at 5.30.

* * *

The last day's meeting commenced at 10 a.m. The business consisted in confirming the resolutions of the preceding day. The meeting dispersed at 1.30 p.m., after having given three cheers for the Emperor, and three more for the Radical Party.

* * *

It is plain from the above programme that the Radicals stand as stoutly as ever in opposition to the Cabinet in many respects. A great deal will, of course, depend or their manner of enunciating their views. If they confine themselves to Resolutions and Representations, refraining from Votes of Censure or Addresses to the Throne, their attitude will not be sufficiently extreme to precipitate a crisis. But we have always said, and we now repeat, that no body of politicians in the empire possesses sufficient moral strength at present to openly support the Government. The only hope we can see in the situation is that the violent measures of the declared Opposition must continually antagonise the Radicals, that, while the whole House is more or less anti-official, the division in its ranks may leave a breathing space for the Administration. It is not a very happy state of affairs, but it must be accepted as an inevitable stage in Japan's political development.

THE PRISONERS IN THE KOREAN ASSASSINATION CASE.

THE preliminary examination of the prisoners in the Korean assassination case was brought to a conclusion on Saturday last. Li Isshoku and Kawakubo Tsunekichi (a Japanese) have been remanded to the Tokyo Local Court in criminal jurisdiction, the former on the charge of instigating murder, and the latter on that of having assisted the commission of murder. As to Ken Toju, Ken Zaiju, and Kim Taigen, they were discharged, on the ground that, although there is sufficient evidence to connect them with preparations for the commission of murder, there is no proof to establish that they actually attempted the crime. The Public Procurator, however, has expressed dissatisfaction at the discharge of these three prisoners, and has instituted a formal appeal against the decision of the

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Judge. It would seem that, in the Judge's opinion, the so-called attempt to murder Boku Ei-ko was not an attempt in the eye of the law, inasmuch as the act was not yet commenced. In the case of Li Isshoku, he is to be tried as instigator of Kim's murder, and if convicted, may be sentenced to death. Kawakubo stands arraigned as an accomplice in the murder, and the punishment for him, in case the crime is established against him, will be one or two degrees below that for murder.

* * *

The Korean refugees, Boku Eiko, Li Keikan, Tei Rankyo, Boku Heikitsu, Jo Ryojun, and Ryu Shoman, who were apprehended at the same time with Li Isshoku, on the charge of illegally detaining the latter and subjecting him to physical torture, have been found guilty, and remanded to the Tokyo Local Court for minor offences.

A SCANDAL.

A VERY discreditable affair is attracting some attention in the capital. Recently a petty journal called the *Yorozu Choho* commenced a violent attack on a newly established Shinto Sect, the "Remman-kyo," which has its headquarters in Tamura-cho, Shiba. The newspaper directed its abuse specially against the head of the Sect, a lady, accusing her of all kinds of immorality and declaring that the meeting place of the Sect was little better than a brothel. The office of the Sect, which has due official recognition, thereupon caused advertisements to be published in all the principal journals of the city, denouncing the *Yorozu Choho* as a libellous and disreputable paper, promising that legal action should be taken against it, and asking the public to suspend judgment until they knew the result of the suit. These advertisements seem to have been accepted as a challenge by the newspaper. Thenceforth it set apart a column in each issue for the publication of detailed accusations against the sect and the doings of its members; accusations that ought never to have found their way into print. Driven apparently to take action, the representatives of the Sect, on the 26th ultimo, made application to the Tokyo Local Court for an injunction to restrain the journal from the continued publication of such charges, pending the issue of a suit for slander. The Court issued the injunction, and has thereby evoked the criticism of some of the leading papers, which, though not sympathising in any way with the *Yorozu Choho*, are doubtful whether the Court's procedure is not an illegal interference with the right of free speech. However that may be, the strangeness of the affair is enhanced by the fact that whereas the libel suit was to have been heard on the 27th ultimo, the Sect suddenly withdrew it. No one seems to comprehend the mystery, but it is not supposed for a moment that the Department of Home Affairs will suffer the Sect to rest quiet under such imputations. Meanwhile, a collateral controversy of an even more obnoxious character has commenced between the *Yorozu Choho* and the *Kaishin Shimbun*, the latter newspaper having inserted a letter attributing the action of the former solely to blackmailing motives. The *Kaishin* is now engaged in an attempt to demonstrate, by the frankest and most circumstantial evidence, that the various members of the *Yorozu Choho's* staff are corrupt and immoral reprobates. It is a pity that this mob of prurient and scandalous sheets cannot be swept into some comprehensive dust-bin for all time.

THE "RETRIEVER'S" CASTAWAYS AND THE IMPERIAL NAVAL DEPARTMENT.

THE United States Representative has placed at our disposal the following document:—

(TRANSLATION.)

REPORT OF COMMANDER KASHIWABARA NAGASHIGE OF H.I.J.M.S. "IWAKI KAN" ON THE SEARCH FOR THE LOST BOATS OF THE AMERICAN SEALING VESSEL "RETRIEVER."

April 19th.—Weighed anchor at 7.13 a.m. At 8 a.m. passed Kwan-on-Saki. At 10 a.m. off Shiwo-Saki, Boshu. Thence coasted along keeping a lookout. At 7 p.m. sighted Cape Inuboye Light 11 N.W. nine miles distant. Course then altered towards reported position of the boats when lost sight of (Lat. 37° N. 147 2′ E.)

April 20th.—At 7.30 a.m., Lat. 36° 3′ N. Long. 143° 7′ E., a large piece of wreckage was sighted abreast the port side. Towards this we made and found, upon near approach, that it was a sailing vessel, bottom up. As she lay in the trough of the sea several holes could be seen in her bottom. From her position it was impossible to ascertain her name or nationality, though the probability is that she was the English sealing vessel *Charlotte* (75 tons) which, during the heavy gale on the 13th instant, ran upon a hidden rock off Toyo-no-mura, Province of Iwaki, and whose wreck was afterwards lost track of.

April 21st.—Weather unsettled, wind increased to a gale accompanied by rain and high seas. Rolling of the vessel violent (oscillations amounting to 45 degrees) considerably retarding her progress. At 7 a.m. reached Lat. 36° 36′ N. Long. 147° 14′ E without sighting anything. Course altered for Oginohama. From noon wind gradually veered to north and decreased in force.

April 22nd.—Weather calm. Sea going down. Nothing further sighted.

April 23rd.—Anchored at Oginohama at 5.30 a.m.

On this trip, as stated above, the capsized wreck of a sailing vessel was seen and nothing more. It is my purpose to proceed to Hakodate, searching the coast, its ports and bays along the route. I enclose a tracing showing the ship's course.

(The tracing shows the *Iwaki Kan* to have traversed 713 miles.)

From the above it will be seen that H.I.J.M.S. *Iwaki Kan* was despatched in search of the missing men on the morning of the 19th instant, and that she travelled 713 miles to look for them, subsequently prosecuting her quest along the coast to Hakodate. We are glad to publish this document, because it confirms what we have already written as to the very flagrant injustice done by the foreign local press to the Japanese Naval Department in connection with the *Retriever* affair. It appears to have been assumed, from the outset, as a matter of course, that the Naval Authorities were bound to send a man-of-war without delay in search of the missing sealers, but we should like to know in what Western country such a step would be deemed incumbent. Is it conceivable that any outcry would be raised in England because the Admiralty failed to despatch a man-of-war at a moment's notice to search for a few foreigners who had gone adrift off the English coast, while engaged in operations of which Her Majesty's Government had always disapproved, and against which the press of Great Britain had been protesting for years, especially when the commander of the castaways was a man who had made himself prominent above all others by his persistent prosecution of such operations? We venture to assert that the most hysterical journalist would never think of advancing a proposition so unreasonable. The truth is that Japan is expected, in her international relations, to live up to canons far higher than those practically recognised in the Occident, and that while she is thus required to be always abnormally amiable and magnanimous, she gets little save ill-natured abuse and unfriendly criticism from the local representatives of foreign opinion. In the particular case that we are now considering she deserves unstinted praise, for instead of falling short, as was asserted, of the ordinary standard of humane helpfulness, she went beyond any action that might reasonably have been looked for. Men-of-war are not kept ready for such purposes at an hour's notice, and although the Minister of Marine was willing and anxious to send out a vessel at once, it happened that the *Yoshino-Kan* alone was at hand, and she was under orders to be inspected by the Emperor in Yokosuka. Under any circumstances she could scarcely have been ready before the *Iwaki Kan*, the record of whose cruise is given above. Throughout this affair the conduct of the Naval Authorities merited praise and gratitude only, and we deem it a matter of very great regret that criticisms of a precisely opposite character should have been published.

MAILS BETWEEN TOKYO AND KOBE.

A CONSIDERABLE improvement has been effected, says the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, in the mail service between Tokyo and Kobe. There have always been three through trains daily, but mail matter was carried in two only and letters coming to Tokyo by the last trains were conveyed as far as Mayebara only. Against this plainly imperfect system the Kobe post-master preferred representations, with the result that mails from Kobe and Osaka are now forwarded thrice daily. Thus a letter posted after 9 p.m. in Kobe leaves that place by the 4.40 train next morning, reaching Tokyo at 11.35 p.m. the same day. Altogether, the conveyance of mails by the Tokaido line has been accelerated by from 5 to 6 hours. But the greatly increased rapidity of transit for passengers spoken of some time ago as likely to be effected, turns out to be a very paltry business, the maximum gain being only 35 minutes. One other noteworthy change is that the train from Osaka formerly stopping at Mayebara now runs through to Nagoya, thus greatly facilitating the transmission of mail matter between the two towns. We may observe *en passant*, that the trains carrying mail matter from Tokyo now leave Shimbashi at 6.20 a.m., 11.45 a.m., and 9.55 p.m.

"HORACE JAPANNED."

WE publish to-day another of the very clever poems contributed of late to these columns by a resident of Tokyo. The last from the same pen, entitled "Er," appeared in the *Japan Daily Mail* of March 13th, and was complacently assumed by many of our readers to be Rudyard Kipling's. It was certainly in Rudyard Kipling's style, and might well have been his composition so far as excellence was concerned. But though we have often re-produced Kipling's poems and tales, we have never failed to add his name, and the absence of that essential ought to have sufficed to discriminate "Er." However, the talented author of "Er," of "Horace Japanned," and of those most dainty Sapphic verses to a *geisha*, may perhaps find some compensation for his mistaken identity in the nature of the mistake. To be supposed to be Rudyard Kipling is an honour that any *literateur* might justly covet now-a-days. At the same time, we recommend our local writer to adopt a *nom-de-plume*. The public are not discriminating. As a rule they do not pause to think, and however an author may deserve to be distinguished for his work it is wise of him to help his readers to distinguish him.

HIS UNKNOWN BENEFACTOR.

A STORY that certainly reflects much credit on Count Kuroda, is now going the round of the vernacular press. Some months ago he was out shooting in the country, quite unattended, with only his dog for a companion. Being very thirsty after a long tramp, he stopped at an unpretentious farm-house and asked for a cup of tea. Though quite ignorant of the name and rank of their distinguished guest, the old farmer and his wife soon had a steaming bowl of their home-made tea ready. After drinking several cups Count Kuroda noticed that the farmer's wife took another cup on a tray to what appeared to be the entrance of a subterranean chamber in one corner of the garden. He walked thither and saw in the gloom what seemed to be a young girl, reclining in a tiny underground apartment. Thinking this very strange, he asked the farmer who it was down there, upon which the latter replied, with a deep sigh: "Sir, it is my only daughter. Some months ago we gave her in marriage to an apparently eligible young man, but she recently came back to us as you see her, in the incipient stage of leprosy, which loathsome disease she had contracted from her husband. She immediately dug for herself a small hole, about one mat in size, and has never left it since, saying that she wishes to die there without running the risk of infecting anyone. We are too poor to afford skilled medical advice, so her speedy death is all we can hope for." Touched by the tale, the Count handed two five-*yen* bills to the farmer, despite the latter's protestations, and directed him to apply to a certain acquaintance of his in Tokyo, who had the recipe for an infallible specific for the earlier stages of leprosy. Without giving his own name or address, the Count then walked away. So soon as he could, the old farmer came up to the capital, found the person to whom he had been directed and obtained not only the recipe but a large bottle of the elixir, which proved beyond expectation effective, and his daughter was completely

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restored to health. Profoundly grateful, the old man began to search for his benefactor. He remembered the kind face, but that was all. So he commenced to look among the photographers for a likeness, if happily he might find one. He had not far to seek, and soon learned that his benefactor and the saviour of his daughter was no other than Count Kuroda Kiyotaka. A few days ago the old peasant came once again to Tokyo, this time drawing a large cart on which were piled scores of those enormous white radishes of which the Japanese are so fond. One-half of the load was left at the door of the gentleman who had given the wonderful medicine; the other, deposited with grateful tears in the hands of the Count's steward. *Si non è vero, è ben trovato.*

ANOTHER PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TROUBLE.

THE Matsuchiyama Primary School, in Imado-machi, Asakusa District, is one of the largest minor educational establishments in Tokyo. It used formerly to be in Sanyabori, but proving very successful was, a few years ago, removed to where it now stands. Money donations of considerable magnitude were at the time, and have since then been, made by wealthy merchants who were pleased with the rapid progress of their children under the kind and skilful tuition of the teachers. But these gifts have, it appears, been used for a purpose quite foreign to that for which they were intended. One of the chief teachers opened a store for the sale of all kinds of articles used in the school. The shop was registered in his wife's name and plentifully stocked by means of the above-mentioned donations. This might be excused, but not the fact that, in connection with his colleagues, the chief forced in various ways the pupils to buy exclusively at his store. If a pupil went elsewhere to purchase a slate, copy-book, or what not, he was sure to meet with dark looks and unkind treatment at the hands of his instructors. Besides this, credit was given even to those of little means. Not to buy meant therefore the displeasure of their teachers; and as credit was given them, some of the pupils soon had scores against them amounting to three *yen* and upwards. The parents were then notified and in several instances *soshi* were called in, in order to enforce the claim. Such, at all events, is the story which is repeated by several of the metropolitan journals; and, perfectly true or not, it calls for strict investigation.

COUNT OYAMA'S BURGLARS.

THE burglars who paid two visits to Count Oyama's residences, one to his official house on March 18th, and the second to his private house on April 15th, have been arrested. The principal of the two, Kurazawa Momosaka, had been suspected by the police and search was being made for him. Originally a steward in the Count's household, he was dismissed in the spring of 1893 for peculation. Proceeding to Shinano, he supported himself by various frauds, until the place grew too hot for him. He then came to Tokyo, and spending the last coin he possessed on a chisel, forced an entrance into Count Oyama's official residence, when he carried off a booty of 240 *yen*. A month later, in company with another rascal, they broke into the Count's private residence, obtaining a pistol, a sword, a gold ring, and bracelet and about a dozen suits of lady's apparel. Subsequently they entered several houses without obtaining any plunder, and were reconnoitering in the Fukugawa quarter when their movements attracted police attention, and they were arrested.

COUNTERFEITERS ARRESTED.

A GANG of expert counterfeiters was arrested, towards the end of last month, in Kanda District, Tokyo, who for a long time had managed to escape detection. In December of last year, a man named Kawaida hired a house in Kanda, and has since been living there in company with two others, one Yamamoto, a Satsuma man, and Yoshinaga, a native of Kumamoto. They lived quietly, though elegantly, which was not in keeping with their ostensible trade, that of journeymen-printers. No servant was employed in their house, and the police kept a sharp eye on them despite their apparent guilelessness. A few days ago Yoshinaga started on a visit to his native province, and then came a telegram to the metropolitan Chief of Police that Yoshinaga had been arrested for passing counterfeit paper-money. The Kanda house was at once raided, and a number of remarkably well-made dies and other illegal outfit discovered. It seems that Yoshinaga was the real head of the gang, being the engraver and printer, the other two simply acting as distributors of the forged bank-notes. The notes are said to be so skilfully made as almost to defy detection, and are principally of higher denominations.

HORACE JAPANNED.

Book 2, Ode 11.

Has China designs on Korea,
Has Russia some bellicose plan?
No matter, don't set up to be a
Great Power, my gentle Japan.
Keep your thoughts from the lust of land-poaching
Beyond your blue circlet of sea;
And don't covet the wealth of the *tōjin*
Content with your *otium cum d.*

Old Japan and her Art-life so dainty
Will go all too soon with a crash,
And the old days of sweet *far niente*
Give place to the clink of hard cash.
Cherries fade. The red Rising Sun risen,
Too soon through trade's noontide you'll walk:
Then why worry at Treaty Revision
Eternally ending in talk?

To the Hall of the Maple let's hasten,
Or the House of the Eight Hundred Pines,
Where camellia-oiled, flower-decked *nesan*
Shall serve us the choicest of wines.
There's nothing so potent as *saké*
The cobwebs to clear from the brain;
Go bring me a bottle, O Take,
And fill up our *choku* again.

And hasting to far Shimmeimachi
Tempt hither the dainty O En,
Let her come with her ivory *bachi*
And trailing her long *samisen*;
Tempt hither O En and O Matsu,
And bid them not stay for their hair,
Looped up in a loose *sokuhatsu*
'Twill have a sweet *négligé* air.

REMARKABLE DISCOVERY.

THE remarkable discovery of a copy of a map by Columbus, drawn on a letter written from Jamaica in July, 1503, is recorded by *Nature*. This, although only a rough pen and ink sketch, shows exactly the opinion of Columbus himself as to the part of the world he had reached, which he believed to be the east coast of Asia. The original map, drawn by Columbus and his brother, Bartholomew, was presented to a priest named Hieronymo, who gave it, together with a description, to Alexander Stozzi, a noted collector of early voyages. He is supposed to have copied the original map roughly on the margin of the letter from Columbus, which he had bound in a volume with other documents, and this volume is now in the National Library at Florence, where the existence and significance of the map were discovered by Dr. R. von Wieser, professor of geography at Innsbruck, acting on behalf of the Austrian Institute for Historical Research.

AN IMPORTANT LAW-SUIT.

A SUIT at law involving a sum of 280,000 *yen* is now in progress in the Supreme Court of Japan. It is a complicated case turning upon the sale of coal mines in an island called Hajima some seven miles from Nagasaki. The original owner of the mines, Mr. Nabeshima Magorokuro, is said to have agreed to sell the mines in 1889 to Mr. Kawasaki Gisaburo for 210,000 *yen*, receiving a sum of 35,000 *yen* by way of bargain money, and borrowing at the same time a further sum of 50,000 *yen* from a Chinese merchant through the good offices of Mr. Kawasaki, who became security for the loan. A year later, the legal transfer of the mine not having yet been accomplished, Mr. Nabeshima is said to have sold it for 100,000 *yen* to Mr. Iwasaki Yanosuke, ignoring the previous transactions with Mr. Kawasaki. By and by the debt to the Chinaman matured, and failing to obtain payment, he sought to levy a distraint on the mine, when he found to his astonishment that it had been transferred to Mr. Iwasaki. He obtained possession, however, of a document embodying an agreement by which Mr. Iwasaki undertook to give a further sum of 100,000 *yen* to Mr. Nabeshima at the end of three years, should the mine have proved profitable, and to pay him in the interval an annual allowance of 1,500 *yen*. On the strength of that document, the creditor instituted proceedings against Mr. Iwasaki in the Tokyo Local Court and obtained a favourable judgment, which, however, was reversed on appeal. The case was finally carried to the Supreme Court which has ordered a fresh trial. Mr. Kawasaki also instituted proceedings in April, 1893, with the object of getting the contract between Messrs. Nabeshima and Iwasaki declared invalid. In this suit the plaintiff sought to prove that the transfer of the mine to Mr. Iwasaki had been the outcome of a fraudulent intrigue between that gentleman and Mr. Nabeshima, but it will readily be conceived that the Court gave judgment against him. He too appealed to the Supreme Court and the case stands for hearing at an early date. It is stated that the Chinaman from whom the sum of 50,000 *yen* was obtained is the agent of a leading Chinese merchant in Shanghai high in favour with the Viceroy Li, and that the procedure followed in suing Mr. Iwasaki was directed from point to point by Mr. Drummond, the Shanghai barrister. It is of course quite incredible that Mr. Iwasaki can have been a party to anything not strictly lawful and fair.

MR. MICHEL REVON.

MR. MICHEL REVON, Professor in the Law College, Imperial University, and Adviser to the Minister of State for Justice, has been gazetted, for the second time, as winner of the laureate prize for eloquence offered by the "Académie Française." It is now two years that Mr. Revon carried off the same prize for a discourse to which we referred at the time. The Academy of Moral and Political Science bestowed upon him, about the same time, the grand Bordin Prize for a very learned legal work on International Arbitration. The recent discourse marked out for such distinction was written in Tokyo and deals with a famous woman, the illustrious Georges Sand. For the third time since his appearance before the public, Mr. Revon has been thus honoured by the Academy of France. He seems to belong to the men who make their mark at once, *Et pour leur coup d'essai veulent des coup de maitre*. Surely, a new argument, if such were needed, against the futility of the claim advanced by some politicians and agitators that the foreign professors at the University are inferior to their colleagues in Europe and America.

THE "NIPPON MARU."

A TELEGRAM was received at Shanghai from Chefoo on the 24th ult. asking for assistance for the *Nippon*—owned by Mr. Michihisa Baba of Fushiki, and which went ashore off Aylen Bay, some fourteen miles south of the N.E. Promotory—and stating that there were hopes of getting the vessel off, and that Admiral Ting had sent a gunboat to protect her. The *Yoritomo Maru* left Shanghai on the 24th for the wreck, having on board Captain J. P. Roberts, Mr. Bœcher, divers and wrecking gear supplied by Messrs. Boyd & Co., Ld. The Japanese man-of-war *Akagi* was also leaving for the *Nippon*. Admiral Ting, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, is to be complimented for his promptitude in sending a vessel of his fleet to the wreck.

THE JAPANESE-RUSSIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.

THE "Japanese-Russian Association" has added the word "business" to its title—a good omen, we trust—and has issued a new prospectus, from which we learn that the trade between this empire and Russian Siberia in cereals, table-salt, cement, and sundry other staples, shows signs of healthy development, and the coasts of

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Saghalien and Siberia offer a rich field for Japanese fishermen. Hence the Association is bestirring itself more than ever to collect information and promote business. The document says that the Russian Government is understood to have inaugurated similar inquiries with regard to China and Japan, and that an exchange of useful knowledge may be effected. Of course the prospect of the Siberian railway's completion is referred to and its probable effects are enthusiastically spoken of. The Association's programme includes the establishment of a place for the study of Russian.

CAUGHT BY HIS VICTIM.

O Toku, an elderly lady of sixty, residing in Nogata-mura, not far from Tokyo, must evidently be possessed of great strength and presence of mind. The other evening, while returning home from a day's shopping in the metropolis, she noticed that an evil-looking fellow was evidently dogging her footsteps. It was raining heavily at the time. Just as she was about to cross the railway line, in a very lonely place, her pursuer walked boldly up, gave her a push and seized the purse she had in her girdle. O Toku was surprised by the sudden onslaught, but in no wise disconcerted. She is known far and near as one of the strongest women in the suburban villages. She seized the thief's hand, and upon his succeeding in wrenching himself loose and running off, gave chase. Though a swift runner, the thief was eventually overtaken, and in a few moments more was helpless in the hands of his intended victim. She calmly walked him on until they met a policeman, to whom she delivered him. It is said that this was the first attempt on the part of the man to play the footpad.

TIMES AND SEASONS.

Many of us can look back to the time when strawberries were regarded as a rare novelty in Japan. Who, in those days, could have anticipated the speedy coming of a year when strawberries and cream would be the *pièce de résistance* at a garden party in Tokyo in April? That was the case, however, on the occasion of the recent opening of the new lawn-tennis ground at the German Legation. One looked, indeed, for something out of the common in a garden which, owing to the care of the present German Representative, is certainly the most beautifully kept pleasure-ground in Tokyo. It is impossible to have sward, shrubberies, and rockeries more perfectly tended, and the magnificent wistaria, for which the Legation will now become famous, though their presence formerly was little heeded, seem to have appreciated the services lavished on them, for the profusion and vigour of their blossoming make a spectacle of the greatest loveliness.

SILVER.

The decline in silver, says an American exchange, together with the scarcity of Mexican dollars, is producing an almost complete stagnation of trade in the Chinese ports, and already seriously affects the trade of China with the United States. Just before the Indian Government put a 5 per cent. duty on the importation of silver, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce sent a telegram to London, urging that the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain should protest against the proposed duty on silver. The telegram declared the situation to be critical for all British interests in Asia. Owing to the low price of silver, said the telegram, British manufacturers are threatened seriously and permanently by reason of the stimulus given to the production of cotton goods in China and Japan. The total trade, exports and imports, of China, Japan, the Straits Settlements and Manila amounts to $650,000,000 yearly, while that of India amounts to $545,000,000. These figures give an idea of the enormous interests affected by the depreciation of the currency of Asia—silver money! In view of this appeal, and having received similar requests from mercantile bodies in Asia, the London Chamber of Commerce has urged on the British Government the urgency of reassembling the International Monetary Conference with a view to finding a remedy for the heavy fall and violent fluctuations of silver.

* * *

A recent cause of the weakness of the silver market in London was the announcement that £100,000 worth of the metal, sent there by Balmaceda during the civil war in Chile, and deposited in the Bank of England, was to be sold.

* * *

The imposition of the five per cent. import duty on silver by the Indian Government did not have the effect, as had been anticipated, of preventing the shipment of silver to that country, the amount sent in the week when the law was enacted being over a million dollars' worth, or double the amount sent during the corresponding week of last year.

* * *

The crops in India are good and it is argued that, as the natives are comparatively prosperous, they will buy largely of silver, taking advantage of its cheapness. Recent heavy exports of silver to India bear out this theory.

* * *

Mr. M. S. Colgate, a New York banker, says:—"Nothing can help the situation except a curtailment of product. Mexico is the 'thorn in the flesh,' of the American producer. The ore is better in many instances than American, assaying 50 to 200 and 300 ounces of silver to the ton of ore. Then, the ore can be produced cheaper. Mexico pays miners $1 a day, while in Montana they get $4 a day. Transportation facilities in Mexico are now so advanced that there is no trouble from that source. Mexico, I think, is to be the leader in the production of silver. It is only a question of a short time before an international agreement as to the coinage of silver will be had. It is bound to come, and come soon. In the meantime silver will continue to decline."

* * *

On the 12th instant Chancellor Von Caprivi submitted a proposal in the Bundesrath for the coinage of 11,000,000 marks in five-mark pieces, 7,000,000 marks in two-mark pieces, and 4,000,000 marks in one-mark pieces. The Chancellor stated that the proposal was made because of the increased demand for such coins, and also because the coinage of silver had fallen below the authorized limit, 22,000,000 marks.

BUDDHIST MYTHOLOGY.

The *North China Daily News* writes:—

In the journal just arrived of the Royal Asiatic Society, for January, there is a valuable paper by Mr. L. A. Waddell on the northern Buddhist mythology. He represents it as an indigenous Indian product. He has studied Buddhism in the land where it was cradled, in Ceylon and Burmah, in Sikkim and Bhotan, and last of all in Japan. He shows that the worship of Kuan-yin dates probably from the Council held in Cashmere under Kanishka in the first century of our era. The Mahayana philosophy was then adopted by the Northern Buddhists and spread by them to Magadha, the native seat of their religion, as well as to Afghanistan and Turkestan. Next to Magadha the typical centres of Buddhism are Ceylon and Cashmere. Ceylon Buddhism is free comparatively from disturbing foreign influences, because there no discussion was needed. No enemies appearing, there was no struggle for victory in argument. Buddhism came and conquered easily because the native races were uncivilised, and Buddhism undertook the work of civilising them. In Cashmere there was perpetual controversy and the tocsin of argumentative strife was heard throughout the northern portions of the Indian peninsula. The advocates of the existing philosophies were never at rest. A fertile country aided by the caste system which was introduced by the mixing of races, encouraged the establishment of a dominant intellectual class. The collision of opinion which we read of in the endless discussions which took place was the natural result of the monastic system. The aim of every famous monk was to be victorious in argument over all opponents. Discussions took place on the wayside under a tree or in the halls of the monasteries. The Hinayana came first and was followed by the Mahayana. In the genuine teaching of Gautama the path to the Nirvana lay in monkish reflection and inward light. The mind's own thoughts, when the world was shut out, and the avenues of temptation closed, were the monk's safest guide. But the development of the Manayana in Cashmere is itself a proof of the restlessness of the Buddhist intellect of the north. The northern Buddhists would do all for victory, and they modified the primitive teaching of their religion accordingly. Now it may be asked if it is likely that the powerful science of Western Asia with its elemental philosophy, its knowledge of the stars, its theory of the universe, its claims to divine future events, would be without effect on the development of Buddhism in Cashmere and the other countries? Why is it that the Lamas have an astrological department, and that they profess to be able to control the heavens? In their collegiate system, why do they embrace the study of the stars and medicine in addition to metaphysics? They have drawn their idea of things, it may be said, from India direct, but it does not follow that the northern Buddhist polytheism and astrology are indigenous to India, and Mr. Waddell admits that the Hindoo astrology is not of indigenous origin but came from the Greeks. The Indian intellect then was working on foreign materials when the Mahayana polytheism sprang into existence. What India contributed was refined thought, but as to the art of image making, the beautiful forms of statuary, the colouring of paintings, the casting of bronzes, these were all arts of foreign origin in India. Monastic communities for religious teaching existed before Buddhism in other countries. We find monastic institutions as we find the tonsure in western Asia, in Greece, and in Egypt before they appeared in India. The Buddhists adopted them because the whole attention of the neophyte was required to be given to religion. The various additions made to northern Budddhism at about the time of the Council of Cashmere are all of a character to suggest the presence of Western influences. So it was with the peculiar usages which Buddhism shared with Brahmanism. Cremation for example, was the result of a philosophical belief in regard to the element of fire. It was learned from Persia as the Greeks and Romans also learned it from that country.

Any one who visits a Buddhist temple in China, and remarks the images added by the northern Buddhists to those which belong to the primitive form of their religion, will do well to make the reflection that these images represent each of them a saviour, and that form is suggestive of the mode in which the divinity undertakes to save the suppliant. When any one conscious of feebleness asks the mighty aid of some divinity, Buddhism offers to him one of her fictitious teachers or guides. But since the *Zendavesta* does the same, and this book is older than Buddhism, we judge that the fire worshippers with their explicit doctrine of a future state were the model after which the keen Buddhist logicians of India shaped the Mahayana with its peculiar hierarchy of gods.

"HARA-KIRI" WHILE INTOXICATED.

Kanda is a district of Tokyo where all sorts of queer things are constantly happening. It is the great student-quarter, the Quartier Latin, of the metropolis, and statistics show that it boasts the largest number of wine-shops, tobacconists, book-stores, and sly-brothels. The first and last of these categories generally run in couples. Fires are most frequent there; brawls and "rows" of almost daily occurrence. Yet there is no part of the district through which one may not walk with perfect safety at night. And of what great Continental city may as much be said? The police-system of the metropolis is neither obtrusive nor overbearing; there are none of those burly, club-wielding representatives of "the finest," such as are supposed to keep the streets of New York in comparative quiet. But, for all that, there is better management, quicker and more effective work, than in any other city of like size. It was in Kanda, a few days ago, that a very curious attempt a self-disembowelment was made. Toyosaki Tatsugoro and his son Seisaku live in Hiranaga-cho in that district, and though diligent in their business and a well-reputed pair, are very, very fond of that species of fusel-oil which masquerades under the style of *sake*. After the day's work is done it is the innocent habit of father and son to drink until all things become pleasantly vague. But Tatsugoro is somewhat argumentative in his cups and given to lament the degeneracy of the youth of Japan, with special reference to the "unfilial conduct" of his son. Seisaku grew tired of this kind of homily, and when, the other evening, his father again tipsily upbraided him for his suppositions disobedi-

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ence, he replied that he did not know wherein he had fallen short of his duty, and was very sorry to hear that his father was dissatisfied with him. "I shert'nly (*hic*) am," replied Tatsugoro. "In that cashe," gravely responded the inebriated youth, "there'sh nothing for m (*hic*) me to do but die," and drawing a razor from his sleeve he made a deep and long slash in his bowels. The pain and the sight of the blood sobered both. Assistance was speedily called in, and Seisaku was saved from bleeding to death, although he is still in a very precarious condition. A "blue ribbon" ought to be the best tourniquet for such a wound.

MISOKA.

A CURIOUS point was recently raised in the Japanese Law Courts. Before the introduction of the new Calendar the last day of the month was known as "*misoka*." The word is still widely used, and may be said to carry the meaning of "the last day of the month," whether the 28th, 29th, 30th, or 31st. Now the law requires that certain suits must be instituted within six months of the transaction on account of which they are brought. A merchant of Tokyo, acting upon this, brought an action on the 30th of November to recover money due on the 30th of May preceding, but the Court nonsuited him, on the ground that he had exceeded the prescribed time by one day. The word used in the contract in respect of which he claimed was "*misoka*." The money had fallen due on the "*misoka*" of May. Was "*misoka*" to be regarded as the 30th or 31st. If the former, then the suit should have been instituted on the 29th of November so as to be *within* six months. If the latter, then its institution on the 30th was in order. The merchant appealed from the decision of the lower tribunal and gained his point.

MURDER IN NIIGATA.

ON the morning of April 15th the body of Murata Tai, a wealthy resident of Niigata, was found dead in her bed. The room bore evidence of a severe struggle, the *tatami* being torn and soiled and the bedclothes in confusion, while the deep indents of a knotted rope were found on the neck of the unfortunate woman. Suspicion at once fell on her son, one Kichizo, a man some forty-five years of age. He had been her legal heir, but being addicted to a loose way of living, was disinherited some time ago in favour of his cousin. Since that event he had taken a house in the immediate vicinity of his mother's home, but it had latterly become his habit to take his meals and sleep in the house that was once to have been his, and it was supposed that some sort of reconciliation must have taken place between mother and son. Kichizo is known to be in pecuniary difficulties, and this may have led to his horrible crime. Intense indignation is felt in Niigata about the case, for the murdered woman was very popular and well-known for his charities. Kichizo denies all knowledge of the act, and black though the circumstantial evidence be, has a most innocent bearing.

MURDERS IN YAMATO PROVINCE.

THE province of Yamato obtained unenviable notoriety last year when two men, having murdered ten persons, fled to the forests on the mountain of Kongo and there committed suicide after having been hunted like wild beasts for several days. The same province has now been the scene of an even more atrocious crime. A ruffian called Ozaki Tomekichi recently killed eight people there, three of whom were women and three children. The details are given with great minuteness by the vernacular press, but our readers would only be wearied by perusing them. It goes without saying that a woman was at the bottom of the terrible affair and a most abandoned woman at that. From one man whose mistress, although he was married, she had been for some time, she passed to another who married her with full knowledge of her story and who, having divorced her sought to get her back again, and failing, killed her, her paramour, his wife and child, as well as another man who had been instrumental in arranging the divorce, with his wife and two children. The murders were committed with the same sword and on the same night, and the man, at the instance of a friend, subsequently surrendered himself to the police after having eaten a hearty meal. There is nothing wonderful about the affair except the celerity and thoroughness with which the crimes were perpetrated, but a Japanese sword in the hands of a strong man is a swift and deadly weapon.

THE FIRE IN BANCHO.

IT seems a fatality, but as we have pointed out on several occasions this year, nearly every one of the smaller fires since January —and there have been scores of them—have been attended with fatal accidents. This has happened no less than four times in Kanda District alone. On the 22nd ultimo, at about ten in the evening, two or three houses were burned in Naka Roku Bancho, Kojimachi District. The origin of the fire was, as usual the upsetting of a lamp. Indeed nearly all Japanese fires result from one of three causes, either the blowing about of glowing bits of charcoal from a *hibachi* by a sudden gust of wind; or the over-heating of the partitions of a bath-house; or the overturning of a kerosene-oil lamp. In the present instance it appears that a hanging lamp was accidentally knocked down the lamp breaking and the oil igniting at once. The flames spread with such rapidity that the mother of the owner of the house had to jump from a window on the second floor, receiving severe internal injuries. The house next door was inhabited by a certain Yumura Yosaburo, who had that night been indulging freely in wine. As every effort was directed toward quenching the flames, people quite forgot that Yosaburo was in a drunken stupor upstairs. He never woke, and his body was a blackened cinder when discovered among the *débris* next morning.

A COSTLY NAP.

A FEW days ago, a well-to-do Nihombashi merchant, rejoicing in the fact that he had of late made a number of undoubted bargains, made up his mind to take a little trip to Hakone Gotenyama. He spent a day or so there and then set out again for the capital. The pleasant vernal warmth, the monotonous sound of the car-wheels, and his own fatigue combined to lure him to the land of dreams. When he avoke he found the train had arrived at Shimbashi Station. Hastily alighting, he felt for purse and ticket. Both were gone, and it was no small consolation to know that some thievish fellow-traveller must have earned 250 *en* by the merchant's nap.

THE NEW FLAGSHIP.

THE new flagship, H.M.S. *Centurion*, arrived at Hongkong on Saturday afternoon, the 21st ult. She carries a crew of 635. Her officers are:—Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle; Flag Lieut., E. D. Ogilvie; Secretary, Henry W. Paul; Clerks to Secretary, F. A. W. Denman and W. Tier; Captain, John M. McQuhae; Commanders, E. J. Fleet and G. J. S. Warrender; First Lieutenant, Richard H. L. Risk; Torpedo Lieut., Sir Robert Arbuthnot; Lieuts., B. St. J. Bellairs, F. J. Thring, A. P. James, F. L. T. Leatham, O. Farrell; Sub.Lieuts., F. A. Powlett, W. Ricketts, A. P. Solfleet. Midshipmen, W. Hose, A. C. Dewar, W. E. H. Lowther, A. B. S. Dutton, C. Peel, F. Powell, W. B. Compton, H. J. G. Lawrence, C. E. L. Thomas, F. B. Noble, Sleen, and Blount; Naval Cadets, Freemantle, Rigg, Bamber, Corner, Dew, Steel, and Thomson; Fleet Engineer, J. Pitt; Second Engineer, Jas. R. Roffey; Assistant Engineers, W. S. Westbrook, W. F. Mitchell, Block, and Brown; Fleet Paymaster, J. Bremner; Assistants, Wilson and Matthew; Assistant Clerks, Woodeson, Littlejohns, and Cornford.

TROUBLE AMONG FISHERMEN.

THERE has been an extensive fishermen's war going on for some time between the fishermen of Enamura in Shizuoka Ken and other villages along the south-western coast of the Izu peninsula. The excitement ran very high at times during the past few months. Fortunately there has been no bloodshed, but boycotting and other modern innovations were brought into requisition, and had the effect, it seems, of convincing the patriots of the nets, on both sides, that such "pleasantries" are fatal to their mutual interest and calculated to bring some of the poorer among them to the verge of starvation. We are glad to learn from a correspondent that the difficulty has now been amicably settled, and we trust, for the sake of the people of that rugged coast, that the hachet has been permanently buried.

THE "SHO NIPPON."

IT is always pleasant to do justice where justice is due, and despite our frequent necessarily adverse criticism of the *Nippon* and its rampant policy, we can only speak in terms of praise of the *Sho Nippon* which is published under the ægis of the same office. This is a very recent publication which proposes to show the other *Ko Shimbun* of the metropolis that it is possible to edit a bright and entertaining paper without reference to the local *chronique scandaleuse*, without defaming those who cannot help themselves, and without brutally immoral tendencies. If the *Sho Nippon* can really help to cleanse the Augean stables of the Tokyo *Ko Shimbunshi*, it will be doing a most praiseworthy and vitally necessary deed. It is gratifying, under the circumstances, to hear that this enterprising novelty has proved a financial success from the outset.

THE TOKYO WATER WORKS.

PATRIOTISM has finally proved more potent than the business faculty in the councils of the Tokyo City Assembly. They have decided to confiscate 50,000 *yen* out of the security money lodged by the Iron Foundry Company, for breach of contract, but the casting of pipes for the Water Works is nevertheless to be left in the Company's hands. An order for ten thousand tons is to be given to it at once, and the quantity is to be increased so soon as the Company shows itself competent to turn out good work. The agreement as to price is on a new basis, the cost of the iron, which is imported from abroad, being computed in sterling and kept distinct from the cost of casting. The former is to be £3 1s. 0¾d., and of the latter 26.213 *yen* per ton of straight pipes and 57.934 *yen* for elbows. There is further an allowance of 75 *sen* a ton on account of freight. The Company pledges itself to deliver the whole of this order by the end of next February. Mr. Kusumoto, Chairman of the City Assembly, said that it had been resolved to give the Company a chance of retrieving its reputation, there being no valid objection to such a step so long as the city did not suffer loss. The Company ought to appreciate such kind consideration. For our own part, looking at the matter from an outside point of view, we venture to differ from Mr. Kusumoto. He appears to think that the question of loss is limited to an actual outlay of *yen* and *sen*, but it seems to us that the city's real loss consists in its continued deprivation of a good water supply. The question of the Water Works has been pottered with until the citizens have a right to lay aside all patience. How many lives and how much discomfort such unbusiness-like methods have cost, can never be known, but certainly no sum of money involved in the breach of a contract for iron piping deserves to be mentioned in such a context.

A HOSPITAL FOR BONE-SETTING.

MR. KOIKE ARITSUNE, who has achieved considerable success as a bone-setter at his hospital in Yokohama, purposes extending the sphere of his operations to Tokyo, and to that end solicits the aid of charitable persons. He has addressed to the vernacular press a letter explaining that, during the three years ended in 1880, he gave gratuitons aid to 356 persons, and spent upon medicine for them a total of 400 *yen*. Between January 1881 and June 1886, his charity patients aggregated 3,943, and his expenditure on their account 5,126 *yen*. At the close of 1881, the Government rewarded him with a certificate of merit and

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a silver cup. He forsees that, so soon as he establishes a hospital in Tokyo, the number of applicants for gratuitous aid will greatly increase, and his resources being inadequate, he asks the public to assist. It appears that among his patients have been the French and Belgian Representatives and Mr. Boissonade. Good names are published as supporters of Mr. Koike's project—those of Count Katsu, Messrs. Inouye Kakugoro, Yamada Taizo, Fujita Magohei, Fukuchi Genichira, and Boissonade. The sum already collected amounts to 407 *yen*, including 50 *yen* from Mr. Boissonade, and sums from nearly all the Foreign Representatives and many men of note.

SWINDLING PRACTICES.

Some time in January, Mr. Kagaya Zembei, of Kojimachi District, Tokyo, was visited by a young and a not ill-favoured woman, dressed in mere rags, who begged some pecuniary relief on the score of the woman's being a native of the some prefecture as Mr. Kagaya,—Fukui. In the course of their conversation, it appeared that the woman's father lived in the same street, in the town of Fukui, in which Mr. Kagaya had been born. This was a new appeal to his charity. He listened sympathetically to her story and gave her a sum of money sufficient to supply her most pressing wants. Several times after this the woman came again, and on each occasion received a trifle. Finally, the other day, she rode up to the door in a *jinrikisha*. In this instance Mr. Kagaya refused to listen to her request for assistance, for he declared himself astonished that so poor a woman as she claimed to be should come for alms in a hired vehicle. She pleaded indisposition, but her evidently robust health did not confirm her words, while it considerably added to the gentleman's suspicion. Finding all her excuses in vain, the *jinrikisha*-man finally struck in and said that she had hired him with the understanding that he was to receive his fare from her "friend." But Mr. Kagaya sternly refused to pay the man's hire, and both left disconsolate. He had one of his servants immediately follow them up, and it was soon discovered that the two were a pair of arrant swindlers, who made it their practice to go to the homes of wealthy people and obtain small sums of money by means of exactly the same plea they had adduced in his own case. So successful were they at this game—for the clan spirit is still strong in Japan and the shortest road to most peoples' heart is the claim of *onaji kuni*—that they lived in comparative ease. The enterprising couple been have arrested.

THOSE COAL-MINES.

In a recent note, we had occasion to refer to the objection raised against the export of coal, the reason given being that the supply of coal was limited and not even adequate to the probable needs of Japan in another quarter of a century. The *Miyako Shimbun* keeps hammering away at this theme, the latest prognostication published being that of Mr. Wada, sometime Director of the Bureau of Mines. This gentleman says that there will be no coal left in Japan in fifty years from now. "This can unfortunately be proved at present," says our contemporary. "Most mines will exhaust the veins they are now working in less than ten years. Only the great mines of Kyushu and Hokkaido stand a chance of long-continued existence." That is a pretty broad margin, however. The coal-fields of these two places are, in the opinion of foreign experts, practically inexhaustible. There is no need of theorizing on the probable speedy fate of less rich mines. The manner in which the whole subject is treated reminds one of the famous Old Lady of Prague, whose replies were exceedingly vague. Because, forsooth, petty concerns are doomed to "peter out" in the near future, this does not by any means affect the vast collieries of Takashima, Miike, and the Hokkaido Baitan Gumi. Chikuzen is one enormous coal-field, while the possible stores of the northern provinces are as yet unknown though they should be of enormous magnitude. So long as Japanese coal can command a good price and compete favourably, with all that tends to make a desirable fuel, with the output of other Eastern Asiatic mines, there is no earthly reason why it should not be kept in open market. Black diamonds are as plentiful in Japan as real diamonds are scarce. There is certainly more coal than copper, at any rate, yet no outcry is made against the exportation of that valuable metal.

AN APOLOGY FOR THE GLOBE-TROTTER.

1.

Nay, it isn't his fault that we all cannot roam as he,
Giving each land but a glance and away!
That he isn't a green little sprig of diplomacy,
Stuck in our soil for a year and a day.

2.

That he isn't a flail for the heathen's conversion,
A banker, a broker, a clerk in a store;
That he hates what we love, and admires our aversion,
That he is—just what nature has made him, no more.

3.

Let him rave of Imperial gardens and palaces,
Give us his views upon local affairs,
Controvert anti-revisional fallacies,
Speak with approval of Japanese pears.

4.

Let him tell of visits to temples (which bore him),
Of climbing Macpherson's historical peak;
How he found Kanazawa (unheard of before him)
And happily christened it "Livingstone Creek."

5.

Bear with his chatter of "moosmy" or "naysan,"
Humour his wish to be classed with the gay:
How should he ever suspect that he plays an
Idiot's part in a farcical play?

6.

Loathe not the globe-trotter—human at least he is—
Pity his weakness, his folly condone;
Let him wander at will, like the vagabond beast he is—
We (like the limpet) will stick to our stone.

D.

A LADY MISSIONARY ASSAULTED.

The *Jiji Shimpo* says that Miss L. Imhof (the transliteration would also render it M. Hope, but Miss Imhof is the only lady missionary whose name approaches the rendering, resident at Yonezawa now), an instructress in the Eiwa Gakko, Yonezawa, Yamagata Prefecture, held an open-air meeting in the enclosure of the Uyesugi Shrine situate in the public garden, Yonezawa, during the night of the 29th ult. The festival of the shrine was being observed the same night. A large audience assembled, and much disorder prevailed during her address. The lady closed her remarks about ten o'clock amid tumultuous cries of disapproval. Miss Imhof then attempted to leave the place and met with some buffeting as she proceeded. Then one of her opponents threw a stone which struck her face, shivering the right glass of her spectacles. The broken glass cut into her face and one eye received serious injury. Help was at hand, and Miss Imhof was promptly taken to the Eiwa Gakko, where medical assistance was immediately procured. It is said that the lady will lose the sight of her injured eye. The President of the Akasaka Hospital, Tokyo, was invited, by telegraph, to Yonezawa the same night to attend the patient. The police have not yet succeeded in arresting the thrower of the stone.

MR. HIRANUMA SENZO'S REPENTANCE.

To be called a "disreputable millionaire" is a distinction that falls to the lot of very few people. Mr. Hiranuma Senzo, the Yokohama userer, has achieved it. Originally a scullion in the employ of Mr. Watanabe Jiyemon, he managed, after six years' industry, to set up a small shop for the sale of cotton fabrics. In that business he amassed enough money to become a lender, and the *auri sacra fames* impelled him to methods that quickly increased his pile. Finally, he had sufficient capital to start a bank on his own account, and it was then that he came to include among his debtors 13 impecunious noblemen, upon whom he put the thumb-screw so effectually that even the pardon proverbially extended by the public to a gainer of gold, was withheld from him. A public procurator denounced him in open court as a "Persecutor of Peers," and a Court of Law sent him to prison for bribery. But Mr. Hiranuma declares that he never was bad himself, and that the author of all the evil was a clerk whom he has now dismissed. He is about to give proof of his title to a better reputation by condoning the debts of the 13 peers on very lenient terms. The ill-wind has blown pleasantly in the case of these out-at-elbow noblemen.

THE BOYCOTT OF MESSRS. SAMUEL SAMUEL AND CO.

The vernacular press says that the Japanese merchants in Yokohama who undertook to boycott Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co., found themselves recently in an embarrassing dilemma. They had no grudge of their own against the English firm, but merely acted at the instance of their *confrères* in Kobe. Suddenly, however, they found that the latter had abandoned their hostile attitude toward the firm, and so, of course, they had to make undignified haste to follow suit. The newspaper from which we quote says that Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co., promised to extend all possible convenience to Japanese merchants trading with them. Such a promise would, of course, have been wholly superfluous. But if the intention is to suggest that Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company subscribed to any conditions whatever, we are in a position to give the statement a most emphatic denial.

THE DOSHI AND DOMEI PARTIES.

The *Doshi* and *Domei* Parties have at length persuaded themselves to cease their separate existence and unite into one association, to which they have given the name *Rikken Kakkushin-to*, or the Constitutional Reform Party. The platform of this latest political upstart is simple enough and sufficiently vague to include men of all schools. After the usual professions of devotion to Imperialism and to constitutional institutions, the document pledges the Reform Party to Responsible Cabinets, to orderly finance, to national development, to assertion of the country's sovereign autonomy, and to completion of the national defences. Probably our readers, like ourselves, have long ceased to be seriously interested in the platforms of Japanese political parties. This is the era of persons not of principles.

THE SILVER EAST.

The Chairman of the China Mutual Steam Navigation Company, speaking at the annual meeting on the 19th of March, made some pregnant remarks with regard to the bonus now enjoyed by silver-using countries. His speech is thus summarised and commented on by the *London and China Express*:—

Mr. Reid, the Chairman, pointed out that with the rapid and continuous fall in the gold value of silver the company found that not only was English coal, in countries east of Suez, no longer sought after and unprofitable to import, but it was increasingly to the advantage of the company to confine themselves to the use of Japanese fuel. The same influences also favourably affected the general disbursements of the ships at Eastern ports, and afford a further illustration of the great and growing injury to our home industries, arising from the constantly increasing appreciation of gold. The saving made to the company was really considerable, and may be taken as materially contributing to a return to dividend-paying times on the ordinary shares of the company. But there is, however, a rift in the lute, as pointed out by Mr. Maitland, and the very facts that contribute to a saving in working expenses also militate against the company in the great falling off of exports from this country to the Far East. Whilst a two-shilling dollar prevents exports, and thus affects this country in that way, so also does it from the fact that the large amounts needed to keep the steamers of the company in a proper and efficient state of repair are now mainly disbursed in the Far East. As Mr. Maitland pointed out, in China, Japan, and Singapore they have all the facilities in the way of docks and workmen for repairing steamers. With the dollar at two shillings, it is only reasonable to conclude that the whole of this money for upkeep will ultimately—as, in fact, it has already commenced—be spent in the East. On the basis of a two-shilling

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dollar the skilled labourer in China and Japan will work for a month for less than skilled labourers here would do for a week. Thus it is that to the gold countries comes the loss, whilst we persist in the vicious circle of our present currency arrangements. The longer we delay to apply the proper remedies the greater will be the troubles we shall have to ultimately suffer, and the more permanent will be the injuries inflicted. Japan is believed to be now turning out about 20,000 bales of cotton goods per month; it is not likely that the rebuilding of the Shanghai cotton mills will not be effected; the Wuchang mills are working, and other vigorous efforts are being made by the Chinese to establish the cotton spinning and weaving industry in the country. We heard only recently that the Governor of Canton had petitioned the Emperor to erect spinning mills in that city, in order to maintain its trade. Steps have already been taken to establish the industry, and a large number of plants have been purchased. The low rates of wages in China will probably contribute towards the success of the enterprise, and if the experiment succeeds other factories will, doubtless, be started. This must necessarily result in a considerable diminution in the imports of cotton tissues into China, in the same way as we have seen the trade of Japan change. Thus, a Nemesis is attending us, whose presence is likely to be borne in more forcibly still if the present policy is persisted in. The future is also most discouraging, for prices are still declining, and point to further decline; trade will continue stagnant, and the manufacturing profits and National revenue suffer as a consequence. The comparatively small extra supply of gold turned out at the Cape in relation to the demand has no influence in affecting the present course, or of allaying the demand for gold, and thus preventing its further appreciation.

THE TWO STEP.

REGARDING the "two step" dance, which appears to be again coming into vogue in America, Mr. George Dodworth, a dancing master, says in the *New York Herald*:—

Some may ask:—"What is this two step? Where did it come from? Why is it so popular?" In reply, let me partly answer in the words of the old proverb, "There is nothing new under the sun."

It is the same with the two step. It is not entirely new. It is only new to the younger set of dancers in this generation. This is the third season for it in New York and it is probably at its height. Many will remember it as the old fashioned galop—two slides with each foot, turning on the last slide to two-four time—the easiest combination of movements that form a dance. It has been handed down by our forefathers as one of the enjoyable dances used when round dancing first came into vogue. Its popularity is due to its simplicity and its adaptableness to stirring quicksteps (marches) written in six-eight time.

Unfortunately this stirring quality of the music has a tendency to spoil many of our good dancers. Not being contented to glide around in the dance in a ladylike and gentlemanly manner, they must become eccentric and thrash the air in pump-handle style, each beat to a bar of music.

The girl, not wishing to be outdone by her partner, just as vigorously thrashes the air with her left arm raised about six inches from her partner's right arm, where it should he resting lightly and quietly.

In addition to the innovation the young men must bring football tactics into the drawing room and ball-room and become "rushers" and terrors to the more gentlemanly and quiet dancers. This rushing movement is obtained by holding the girl closely and rushing her backward through the crowd at breakneck pace, regardless of torn dresses, bruises, &c.

Like all good things, the two step is being abused. It should be borne in mind that poor dancing is not the fault of the dance, but of the dancer, as the dancer makes the dance by his manner of execution.

This dance, being so easy to pick up by novices and poor dancers, is proving dangerous to our most beautiful dance of all, the waltz. To be sure, we see as many, if not more, waltzes on programmes, but we do not see so many dancing the true three step waltz. The two step, like an octopus, grabs all within reach. Formerly this step, when danced to a waltz, was called the *deux temps* (two time), or more properly the ignoramus waltz, it being attempted by many without previous practice.

So it is to-day. Poor waltzers and those who are self-taught attempt the two step to waltz music. Then, as bad examples are easily followed, our accomplished dancers are very often forced to dance the two step to waltz time by reason of having a partner with more assurance in the knowledge of the art, and hence we see he waltz degen erating.

THE OKAYAMA FLOODS.

AN Official Report just published adds little to the intelligence already received about the Okayama floods. The rain began on the 22nd ultimo and continued without interruption until the 27th. On the 25th, the Takase River rose 8½ feet above its normal level, and the Asahi 10 feet. On the evening of the following day, the bank of the former river gave way at Katashima, throughout a length of 120 yards, and the water, pouring through the breach, inundated the hamlets of Kawachi and Nakasu, submerging 800 houses, some to depth of 8 feet above the floor, and burying a part of the Sanyo Railway. The rise of the Asahi-gawa caused much anxiety to the citizens of Okayama, especially after the fall of a bridge, but happily these fears were not realized. There was no loss of life.

A STRANGE DISEASE.

A TOKYO contemporary reports a remarkable case, which is said to be puzzling the medical experts of the metropolis. The patient is an old woman, living in Akasaka District, on whose body great wens or tumor-like lumps have been forming ever since her twenty-first year. The largest of these fibro was about the size of an egg. In spite of all this, the patient has kept in tolerable health, but of late years the growths have so increased as to render existence a burden. Dr. Sakaki was applied to, and he thought the case so strange a one that he asked several of the leading local practitioners to make observations and decide upon the therapeusis, if such be possible. The woman is now an inmate of the Charity Hospital in Shiba.

DEATH OF CONSTABLE MURAKAMI.

MURAKAMI SEITARO, one of the policemen who was shot by the murderer Carstens has just died. A *post mortem* examination has been held by Doctors Eldridge, Wheeler, and Runkwitz, and as a result of their examination they declare that death was due to tuberculosis complicated by acute pneumonia. The bullet, which could not be found on the first examination after the firing, was discovered embedded in the muscles of the man's back. The shooting took place, it will be remembered, in the Honmura Road district a year and ten months ago, since which time the deceased has been in very bad health.

INCENDIARY ANGER.

WHAT might have become quite a large fire, occurred a few days since in Yokohama, a barn and several outhouses belonging to Mr. Komori Tamizo being set on fire by a former maid-servant. It appears that the girl, Suzuki Kane, had formed an attachment for a teacher in a neighbouring school, and that the conduct of the two was not all that it should have been in the opinion of the maid's employer. He abruptly dismissed her, and this so enraged O-Kane that she resolved to burn down her master's house and all that it contained. The flames were fortunately extinguished before much damage was done, and the firey-spirited maiden promptly arrested.

THE SOMA SCANDAL.

THE Soma Scandal reached its first conclusive stage on the 3rd instant by the sentencing of Nishigori and his accomplices at the Tokyo Local Court. Nishigori was condemned to 4 years' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of 40 *yen*; Yamaguchi Jyun, to 5 years' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of 50 *yen*; Judge Hoashi Seiga, to 2 years' imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of 20 *yen*, and police surveillance for 6 months; and Watanabe Naokata, to imprisonment with hard labour for 6 months and a fine a 10 *yen*. These four have appealed from the decision of the Court. Messrs. Goto Shimpei, Okano Kan, Yamada Jubei, and Koyama Toki were acquitted.

MADAME MINNIE HAUK.

CONSUL-GENERAL WARTEGG and Madame Minnie Hauk left Singapore for Bangkok on the 14th ult. From Siam they proceed to Hongkong, Shanghai, and Hankow, thence to Yokohama, where Madame Minnie Hauk will remain, while Mr. von Hesse-Wartegg pays a short visit to Korea. They then continue their journey to Europe, *via* America.

THE "ASKOLD" ROCK.

WE are informed by Captain Snow that during his recent adventures he heard from some of the sealing vessels of a rock situated in about the position of the so-called "Askold" rock, which was said to have been seen by the people of the *Abyssinia* on one of that steamer's voyages, and was subsequently searched for without being found. Mr. Snow had conversed with men who had seen the rock, but did not ascertain that its position had been determined by latitude and longitude. This voluntary and independent evidence coming from men who probably never heard of a submerged danger in that locality would seem to indicate that the "Askold" rock does really exist.

TEA ADULTERATION.

THERE seems to be a really genuine intention on the part of the Japanese merchants of Yokohama to put a stop to the vicious habit of adulteration so largely practiced by tea-producers. Finding that the abuse could not be corrected without the most effective measures, they decided on the 26th instant to appoint an examining committee through whose hands every package of tea coming from the interior will have to pass before transfer to the wholesale dealers. The vernacular press predicts that the steps now taken will undoubtedly put an end to adulteration.

AN INVENTION.

IT is stated by the Tokyo News Agency that Professor Wakayama Yoshikoro, after several years of experiment, has invented a Japanese substitute for the matallic colours hitherto imported from abroad by decorators of Japanese porcelain. The substitute is said to be cheaper and better than the imported article. We do not understand this. During two centuries and a half the Japanese have been most successfully using gold and silver in the decoration of porcelain and faience. What is meant by alleging that Professor Wakayama's invention will enable them for the first time to be independent of foreign aid?

FRIDAY'S STORM.

OWING to the exceedingly tropical nature of the downpour of rain yesterday afternoon some parts of Main Street were under water to the extent of three and four inches, the drains and culverts proving inadequate for the sudden demand made upon them. In China Town the water was over a foot deep in places. Some little damage has been done to the barley crops in the low levels beyond the Bluff, and a considerable landslip, or rather wash-out, occurred between the top road on the Bluff and No. 33-B, where the water washed down several tons of earth and even started the stone foundations of a house as it rushed down the hill.

BURIED TREASURE.

SOME workmen digging the foundations of a bell-tower at the temple of Tofuku in Saitama Prefecture, found a vase containing a thousand old gold coins. They reported the matter to the police, and the latter referred it to the Prefectural Authorities, who naturally decided that as the ground on which the temple stands is the property of the State, the gold should go to the Treasury. The priests, having anticipated some gain for themselves, are said to be much chagrined. As for the Treasury, we should hope and imagine that it will direct the money—said to be about 4,000 *yen*—to be invested for the benefit of the temple.

UNRULY SEAMEN.

As the result of a private enquiry at the American Consulate it has been discovered that the reported mutiny on board the sealer *Edward E. Webster* was nothing more than a drunken quarrel between the men. The crew were brought before the American Consul on Friday and some good advice was tendered them by that official. Most of them appeared under the influence of liquor, but as they promised to behave properly in the future they were sent on board their vessel again.

LIEUTENANT GUNJI.

LIEUTENANT GUNJI and his comrades have not passed out of mind altogether. A photographer of Takasaki, Mr. Ebara Kumataro, proposes to start for the Kuriles in May and take a series of photographs of the Lieutenant, his party, their work, and their surroundings. These he

will exhibit in a magic lantern, by which means he hopes to raise a substantial sum in aid of the adventurous settlers. Mr. Ebara's expenses are to be paid by subscription. It will be a good business for everybody.

DEPARTURE OF MR. LAKE.

MR. G. W. LAKE, the deportee of American nationality who has given the police some little trouble lately by refusing to leave the country by either the *Empress* packet or the last Pacific mail boat, left Yokohama on Tuesday morning by the *Saikio Maru* bound, we believe, for Shanghai. He was escorted on board by a strong *posse* of police in command of Inspector Kawada. A detective in private clothes accompanies him.

THE RECENT CHARITY BALL IN TOKYO.

THE Charity Ball recently organized in Tokyo realized a net profit of 1,046.62 *yen*, which has been equally divided between the two charities concerned. We are asked by the Lady Patronnesses and the Committee to convey their warm thanks to the Imperial Railway Department for the reduced price of the special train; to the Imperial Household for the band; to the Yokohama press for advertising, and to the public —especially the residents of Yokohama—for generous support.

INFANTICIDE.

TOWARDS the end of last week the body of a well-grown male infant, apparently about ten months old, was found near the public landing-place at Misaki-cho, Kanda District, Tokyo. The child was handsomely dressed, appeared well-cared for, and must have made a struggle for its little life, for the fingers of each tiny hand were tightly clenched and the mark of a cord plainy visible about its neck. The police are endeavouring to trace the parents, believing it to be a case of revenge.

THE M.M. STEAMER "SAIGON.'

THE French mail boat *Saigon*, wrecked on the coast of Annam, has become a total loss. She hangs at an angle of 45 deg. by the bows, the after part of the ship being under water. All that could be got out of her has been taken ashore, and there is no hope of floating her. The *Tamise*, a cargo boat of 2,400 tons, formerly plying between London and Havre, has been bought to run between Saigon and Tonkin in place of the wrecked mail boat.

THE OPPOSITION.

REPRESENTATIVES of the Six Sections of the Opposition held a meeting yesterday in the Imperial Hotel. Their proceedings were secret, but they are said to have decided to present Addresses to the Throne, next session, about the dissolution of the House of Representatives and about the conduct of the *Chishima-Ravenna* case, as well as to introduce a Representation for Strict Enforcement of the Treaties.

BAD ROADS.

A CORRESPONDENT who has been travelling overland from Utsunomiya to Fukushima, writes that the late rains have made the roads very "heavy," and in places almost impassable. Moreover it has been unusually cold for the time of the year, with occasional snowfalls in the neighbouring mountains. On the whole the season is late and not much to the liking of agriculturists.

THE KOREAN MURDER AFFAIR.

THE *Kokkai* says that Public Procurator Nakanokoji appealed to the Tokyo Court of Appeal on the 30th ult. against the decision of the Preliminary Judge, who released the three Koreans, named Kim Tai-gen, Ken Zai-ju, and Kem To-ju, holding that the evidence submitted was insufficient to justify a committal.

COUNT INOUYE.

THE *Official Gazette* announces that, in consequence of illness, His Excellency Count Inouye, Minister of State for Home Affairs, is granted leave of absence, and that his duties will be performed, *pro tem.*, by Mr. Yoshikawa, Minister of State for Justice.

CURRENT TOPICS.

IDLE rumours about changes in the Cabinet are again beginning to be ventilated in the columns of the metropolitan papers. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, for instance, would have us believe that the Ministry is on the point of dissolution. According to that journal, all the members of the Cabinet are discontented. Mr. Mutsu is absent from the capital, and Count Inouye is again leaving it, while Counts Kuroda and Saigo are indifferent about political affairs. As to Count Ito himself, he too is stated to be in low spirits. The *Mainichi* believes that the direction of the Government's policy is now, principally in the hands of Mr. Ito Miyoji, and that he is pursuading his chief and patron, Count Ito, to act in utter disregard of the Constitution. In short, the Progressionist organ pretends to think that the Minister President has alienated the hearts of the principal statesmen of *Sat-Cho* extraction. It is scarcely necessary to say that our contemporary's picture of the situation derives its colours from the imagination of a hostile journalist. As to Count Inouye's indisposition, it is a well known fact that he is suffering from the effects of over-work. His physician has ordered him absolute rest for three or four months, and of course he has no choice but to follow that advice. There is, therefore, no political significance in his temporary absence from the capital. With regard to Mr. Mutsu, he is recouping his health after a severe attack of influenza. Not the smallest indications exist of his being dissatisfied with the present turn of things. Counts Kuroda and Saigo, so far from being indifferent to political matters, are most regular attendants at the weekly Cabinet Councils in the Palace. Count Yamagata has been included by some papers among the discontents, but we are assured by the *Nichi Nichi* that the friendship between him and Count Ito is as warm as ever. He presides regularly over the meetings of the Privy Council, and on such occasions never fails to have a friendly chat with the Premier. Count Ito himself is as industrious as ever in the discharge of the numerous duties of his post. Altogether there is not at present anything uncertain or precarious in the Cabinet's position.

On the other hand, things do not seem to be altogether smooth and satisfactory among the heterogeneous sections of the Opposition. It is said that there is a growing coldness between the Progressionists and the members of the *Kodo* Club. Similarly the National Unionists are inclined to keep aloof from the rest of the allied factions. Of late there have been several meetings between the delegates of the different parties, but according to trustworthy authority, the meetings have proved how slight are the bonds that unite together the motley group. Whenever any important question was discussed on those occasions, it was found that these delegates could not express their opinions without coming into collision with each other, and consequently, at are cent convivial *réunion*, no speech was allowed, lest some fatal conflict might arise.

The much talked-of grand meeting of advocates of the so-called "strong foreign policy" has been fixed for the 8th instant. It was at first proposed that the meeting should take place in the Kinki-kan, Kanda, but the number of persons desiring to take part in the demonstration has increased so much that it has been decided to hold an open air meeting in the grounds of the Ekô-in temple, Ryogoku, the place celebrated as the site of the annual wrestling matches. Of course the meeting is intended as a demonstration against "the weak and conciliatory foreign policy" of the Government. Rumour has it that the meeting will be dissolved by the Authorities.

The report that Mr. Hoshi Toru had rejoined the Radical party was apparently premature. It is a fact that at a recent meeting of the *Kwanto* section of the Radicals, a resolution was adopted, amid the acclamations of all present, that Mr. Hoshi be advised to rejoin the party. But he does not seem to have acted upon the advice immediately. Only a few days ago, he is said to have applied for admission to the branch office of the Party in his locality. It is stated by the Progressionist papers, that his re-admission into the Party is opposed by a large number of Radicals, and that even his particular friends are inclined to regard his return at the present juncture as likely to be productive of injurious results. These statements are not to be accepted without much query, but it does appear beyond doubt that the question of Mr. Hoshi's re-admission to the Party is still awaiting final solution. The *Jiyu Shimbun* preserves significant silence about the whole affair.

It is reported that a large number of the members of the Upper House will attend the anti-Government demonstration on the 8th inst. Of late there has been much inter course between a section of the Peers and the leaders of the anti-foreign movement, as for example, Messrs. Oi Kentaro, Komuchi Tomotsune, and so forth. It must not be inferred from this circumstance that anti-foreign sentiments are making headway among the members of the Upper House. The House as a whole is fortunately out of reach of the contagion of such popular excitement.

KOREAN NEWS.

Correspondence from Söul, under date of April 21st, published in the columns of Japanese metropolitan papers, and evidently furnished by the News Agency in the Korean capital, contains a minute account of the circumstances attending the mutilation of Kim Ok-kyün's corpse. It is alleged that the Korean Government was originally divided into two unequal parties with reference to the treatment of the body, the more powerful, namely, the Ming section, insisting on the infliction of the most signal indignities to which the remains of a traitor could be subjected, while the other, headed by Kim Koshu, and sympathized with by Mr. Greathouse and the foreign employés, generally, strongly objected to such a course. The Japanese, Russian, and German Ministers individually advised the Korean Government to adopt no vindictive measures towards the corpse of the unfortunate refugee, and the Ministers of England, the United States, Germany, and Russia happening to meet at the Japanese Legation on the 14th April, Mr. Otori, who feared that the advice of the Russian and German Representatives, tendered separately might prove ineffectual, consulted his four colleagues and induced them to authorize him to make a joint representation to the Korean Government. On the following morning, he called at the Cabinet Office and submitted a joint note deprecating the proposed measures of vengeance, in the names of all the foreign Representatives in Söul. But it was too late: the mutilation of the corpse had been effected the preceding evening, and even when Mr. Otori presented the note, the Korean Government is said to have told him nothing about the steps taken.

As to the manner of mutilation: the corpse was laid flat on the ground, face downwards, the head and the four limbs being supported on blocks of wood to facililate the process of cutting them off. The head was first severed from the trunk by the tedious process of sawing. The right hand was then cut off at the wrist, while the left arm was severed midway between the wrist and the elbow. The feet were chopped off at the ankles. Last of all, the back of the trunk was hacked at regular intervals with three lateral cuts 7 inches long and 1 inch deep. The head was suspended from a tripod made of old bamboo sticks tied together with rough straw ropes, and the hands and feet, joined in a bundle, were hung by the side of the head, the trunk with the three lateral cuts being left on the ground just as it had been placed for mutilation. The process was carried out in a barley field by the river side at Yokkaichi.

Originally it was understood that the mutilated corpse would be exposed for a space of about a fortnight, but the disgusting business came to an end on the 16th. The trunk and was then

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thrown into the river, while the head was salted and sent to Chiku-san in Keiki-do. After exposure of the latter place, it was despatched throughout the length and breadth of the peninsula, to be finally brought back to Chiku-san and there cast away in the wilderness to become the prey of vultures. As to the hands and feet, it is stated that one hand and foot of either side were salted and sent to Kankyo and Keisho-do.

With regard to Hong Tjyong-ou, the assassin, he is said to be still staying at the house of his patron Cho. He has not yet been received in audience by the King because, forsooth, having made the voyage to Korea in the company of a dead body, his person must undergo certain rites of purification before he appears in the Royal presence. But it is confidently stated that his attendance at the Palace will be ordered by the King so soon as the question of his official appointment shall have been settled. At first rumour alleged that he would be named commander of an army corps, but the most recent opinion is that he will not be rewarded with so high an appointment. There seems, however, to be no question about recognizing his services by some official distinction. For the moment he is said to be the most popular man in Söul. From morning to night he is surrounded by a crowd of visitors, high and low. But in the midst of this apparent prosperity, Hong does not seem to be happy or at ease. He is undergoing an experience not uncommon with assassins in the West, though somewhat unexpected in the case of a Korean: the recollection of his victim in the last agonies of death is said to haunt him perpetually. He cannot endure solitude for a moment, and is obliged always to have two or three persons sleeping in his room at night. A few days before the date of the correspondence from which we are quoting, Hong is said to have been visited by a son (aged 22) of Ken Togu, one of the accomplices in the plot of assassination who are now in prison in Tokyo. Hong gave him ten *yen* and bade him be easy about his father.

The father of Kim Taigen, a Korean youth who betrayed the plot of assassination to Mr. Boku in Tokyo, is said to have fallen under the displeasure of the Korean Government. Immediately after the return of Mr. Yu, the late Korean *Chargé d'Affaires* in Japan, whose sudden departure from Tokyo evoked so much comment, the old man was arrested, and is now undergoing severe examination with torture. Mr. Yu himself is in a scarcely better plight: he too is reported to be the subject of official examination on a charge the nature of which has not yet transpired. But it is not supposed that his alleged offence has any connection with his conduct in leaving his post in Tokyo.

The *Chôhô* (Korean *Official Gazette*) of April 14th contains an extraordinary document. It is a memorial submitted to the King by the President of the *Shikan-in* (a sort of Privy Council) advising His Majesty to take speedy steps to mete out punishment to the surviving traitors of 1884. What is more remarkable is that the document is followed by an answer in which the advice is approved by the King. This probably means a fresh batch of ruthless executions. Korea will pay dearly for her barbarity one day or another.

THE PRISONERS IN THE KOREAN ASSASSINATION CASE.

The general results of the preliminary examination of the prisoners in the Korean Assassination case have already been reported in these columns. From documents since published, we take the following particulars:—

It was in the latter part of the spring of 1892 that Li Isshoku, the ringleader of the murderous gang, repaired to Japan with the intention of securing the persons of Boku Eiko, Kim Ok-kyûn, and four other refugees in this country, and of shipping them home to Korea either alive or dead. From the moment of his arrival in Japan, he endeavoured by various means to ingratiate himself with the intended victims of his plot, especially Kim and Boku. While watching for an opportunity to carry out his scheme, he obtained two accomplices in November, 1893; namely, Hong Tjyong-ou and Kawakubo Tsunekichi, of whom the former had just returned from France and the latter from Korea. To them he pretended that he had obtained the Korean King's authorization, through Ming Eisho, Minister of War. Thenceforth these two men continued actually in the pay of Li Isshoku. It was Li's original intention to bring Kim and Boku together, and seize them simultaneously. But the two refugees not being on good terms with each other, seldom met, and consequently Li determined to induce Kim to pay a visit to China where he might be secured or dispatched with greater ease.

It was in February last, that Li broached the subject of Chinese journey to Kim, representing to him the advantage of paying a visit to the Viceroy Li and his adopted son Lord Li. At the same time Kawakubo, acting under the direction of the chief conspirator, successfully prevailed upon Kim to take Hong as his companion in the intended voyage to China. On the eve of departure for Shanghai, Li Isshoku gave instructions to Hong, that the latter should shoot Kim on the way from the wharf to the Japanese hotel at Shanghai, if Kim landed there at night; but that, if the landing were in the day-time, the deed should be done at the hotel. Hong was further instructed that, in case the assassination should have to be committed in a third storey, a pistol might be used, but that in lower floors, a sword should be employed. In either event, he was to cut off the head and limbs and carry them back to Korea. Only on the event of extreme danger was he to leave these trophies of his deed behind him. We need not speak of the manner in which these instructions were carried out.

The other refugees were to be either killed or secured alive in Tokyo. The carrying out of this part of the plot fell to Li Isshoku himself, assisted by Ken Toju and Ken Zaiju. When and how the two last were admitted into the secret, the documents before us do not mention.

On March 25th, two days after Kim's departure from Kobe on his fatal voyage, Li and the two Kens came to Tokyo, after having assumed the garments of ordinary Japanese. They put up at the Unrai-kan, Sakurada-Hongo Cho, Shiba. After consulting with Kawakubo and Kim Taigen, another fellow-conspirator who had been placed in the Korean school at Bancho in order to watch the movement of the refugees, Li decided on some pretence to invite the intended victims to his lodging where, in a room destined for carrying out the murder or capture, the floor was spread with several layers of blankets in order to prevent any staining of the mats with blood. Chinese trunks large enough to hold human bodies were purchased, and pistols and swords in sufficient number were also provided.

Everything being ready for the perpetration of the deed, Li paid several visits to Boku's residence, purposely in the latter's absence, each time bringing presents of wine and beef. The expectation was that Boku would return the civility in person. But as Boku did not come, Li and Kawakubo one day went together to his lodging in Tsukiji, to invite him to repair to their house and partake of a Japanese dinner. They met him on the way and delivered their message, but were requested by him to meet him at the Korean School, the *Shinrin-Gijuku*. Li Isshoku and Kan Toju then went there, but Boku having not yet come, they did not wait for him but merely left cards. Soon afterwards, Li received a message from Boku requesting him at once to come to the school, as Boku intended soon to start on a journey. But Li seems to have suspected something, for he excused himself. This was on the 27th of March. On the following day Kim's murder was to take place at Shanghai. It being now impossible to defer the action any longer, Li Isshoku decided to adopt a desperate course. On the morning of the 28th, he went alone to the Korean school, though aware that the plot had been discovered by Boku. Before going thither, he assembled the two Kens and Kawakubo, and acquainting them with his intention, told the Kens to follow him a short time afterwards. He was sure to be seized and tortured at the school, and while the refugees were assembled in one room around him, the Kens were to rush in and despatch all of them, with either pistols of swords. Kawakubo was to guide the Kens to the Korean school. Having made these arrangements, Li Isshoku first went to Boku's lodging, and after ascertaining that the latter was at the *Shinrin Gijuku*, proceeded to that school. As soon as he went upstairs, he was seized, bound with hempen cords, and subjected to torture which he patiently endured expecting at every moment the arrival of his accomplices. But the two Kens, after the departure of their chief, were seized with terror at the desperate and dangerous game they had promised to play, and, although armed, they did not stir abroad. As to Li Isshoku, he was beaten on the face with iron tongs, receiving slight injuries. He confessed part of the plan, but as he was evidently concealing the more important facts, he was detained in one of the rooms. Meanwhile, Boku having found the alleged Royal commissions in the trunk of Li, took the documents to Mr. Shiba Shiro and asked him to investigate whether Li's confessions were true or not. Li was conducted to the police station on the afternoon of the following day.

The public trial of the prisoners, which will take place before long, is looked forward to with keen interest. It is contended by some Japanese papers that in case the guilt of the Kens be established, the surrender of Hong should be demanded of the Korean Government on the same charge of having been an accomplice in an attempted murder.

SHANGHAI NEWS.

Dr. Forke, the new German Assessor, took his seat in the Shanghai Mixed Court on Saturday, April 21st, for the first time.

General Sir George Balfour, fifty years ago British Consul at Shanghai, died in London on the 12th of March last, in his eighty-fifth year.

Great presence of mind was displayed at the Shanghai Lyceum Theatre on Saturday night week by Mrs. Brian and Mr. Mallett of the London Lyric Company. While the dialogue was proceeding between them in the first act of *In Town*, the fire in the fireplace on the scene blazed up and seriously threatened the stage. Mrs. Brian and Mr. Mallett pluckily pulled the burning material out of the fireplace and trampled out the flames, and their readiness was recognised by the audience with a hearty round of applause.

The new Chinese Cotton Cloth Mills at Shanghai are so far advanced towards completion that one-half of the buildings will be ready in a week. The *Ulysses* has arrived at Woosung with six hundred cases of spindles and the *Palamed* has five hundred more.

A curious ceremony recently took place at the Shanghai magistrate's *yamên*. This was the taking of the description of three criminals who should have been decapitated for robbing a post-boat last year, but who, owing to this being the "year of grace" have had their sentences commuted to banishment. A native phrenologist measured the heads and features of the crimials; their height and the length of their pedal extremities also were recorded. They were then branded on both cheeks with characters signifying their sentences, and returned to prison preparatory to being despatched to their various places of banishment, viz., Fukien, Szechuan, and Kansu.

In the Danish Consular Court, Shanghai, before Mr. Consul Bock and two Associates, judgment was delivered in the case of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, *v* L. Andersen, defendant. M. J. C. Hanson (Messrs. Dowdall and Hanson) conducted the case for the plaintiff company which was a claim for £300 representing calls of 10s. per share on 600 shares registered in the name of the de-

fendant, and for interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the amount of the unpaid calls. The Court gave judgment for £300, with interest at the rate of five per cent.

Mr. E. L. B. Allen, who has been acting British Consul at Wuhu and is now in Shanghai, has been ordered by wire to take up the Vice-Consulate at Pagoda Anchorage, replacing Mr. Octavius Johnson, who, it is understood, goes to Hoihow to replace Mr. E. H. Parker, who is shortly going home on leave. Mr. H. F. King is in temporary charge at Wuhu, pending Mr. Hosie's arrival.

The Viceroy Li intends to make his tour of inspection early in this month, in the S.S. *Haean*, which has just been fitted with electric lights for the purpose. A Chinese magnate who requires electric lights in the ship he travels in seems an incongruity.

The report of the Shanghai House Bazaar Company, recommending a final dividend of 4 per cent., making 7 per cent. for the year, was adopted at the annual general meeting of the Company, held on the 23rd of April.

Mr. Detring, Commissioner of Customs at Tientsin, is to accompany the Viceroy Li on his review of the military camp and the troops, the Taku Forts, Port Arthur, and Shanhaikuan.

Nanking has been placarded with intimations that "the true Northern Emperor," is coming, commissioned of heaven to re-establish the Ming Dynasty. The placards warn the people, under penalty of death, not to help the present Emperor, who is a usurper.

The poppy has been cultivated on an unprecedented scale in Shênsi, partly owing to the people's want of seed grain, and partly because of their desire to recoup by a profitable opium crop the losses caused by two successive years of bad grain produce. The Government no longer prohibits the growing of the poppy, but is content to impose a higher tax on opium, and the consequence is that no concealment is attempted by the cultivators. Formerly the poppy was grown only in places out of sight of the high road, but now its flowers are conspicuous everywhere.

Wolves in China often commit terrible depredations, carrying off children and domestic animals. But they have their uses too. A correspondent of the *North China Daily News* says:—"There is a peculiar superstition that a child who finds its way into the entrails of a wolf—in the transmigration of souls—resuscitates an infant. With this end in view dead children are in the north of the province exposed on the tops and sides of mountains and here in the plain covered over with a few inches of earth. It is a convenient way also of disposing of beggars and outcasts. Along town and village ditches the heaving earth denotes where some penniless wretch has found a temporary resting place. The next day a few torn rags and a long black pigtail attached to a rough scalp is all the monument this departed celestial has left behind."

A meeting was held recently in Yünnan Road, Shanghai, to protest against the practice of foot-binding in China. A notion prevails among many people that the process is not really painful, since, at the time when the ligatures are applied, the bones of the foot are so soft as to be easily compressed. This monstrous fallacy was effectually dispelled by the Chinese speakers at the meeting, who explained, from their own experience and by the reference to the experience of friends, how excruciating is the pain, and how long it endures. There is little hope that any reform can be effected, except, perhaps, among the native Christians.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha issued, at the end of April, excursion tickets from Shanghai to Nagasaki and back for $20.

A case is related of a Chinese youth who, after several years' sojourn in America, came back to China and unwittingly married the daughter of his own mother, who had married a second husband during her son's absence. When the relationship was discovered, he was considered particularly lucky!

A significant note in the *Foochow Echo* says that while the appreciation of gold has necessitated a rise in the prices of goods imported from the West, Japanese matches, unaffected by exchange, were never so cheap as they are at present.

It was expected that Madame Minnie Hauk, the well known American *prima donna*, would arrive in Shanghai during the first week in May *en route* for Japan. Madame Hauk has recently been in Singapore where she attracted much attention, and was decorated by the Sultan of Johore with the Order of the Crown.

There has been a sudden and disastrous freshet in the Han river. Owing to heavy rains in the Honan Province the river rose rapidly, and as the Yangtze, into which it flows, was at a low level, the water swept out of the mouth of the Han in a cataract, that carried away 300 lives and involved the death of 900 persons, according to Chinese estimates.

In answer to the protest of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce against the Chinese Government's embargo on the importation of machinery, the Russian Representative, as *Doyen* of the Corps Diplomatique in Peking, writes thus:—

I have the honour to inform you that on different occasions the Diplomatic Body has, by the intermediary of its *Doyen*, the Hon. Col. Denby, Minister of the United States, protested against the view taken by the Chinese Government, which is absolutely contrary to the existing treaties, and that as soon as I was made aware of the notification of the Imperial Chinese Customs, posted in the Customs' office and which appeared in the *North China Daily News*, I, in the name of all my colleagues and in my quality of *Doyen* of the Diplomatic Body, again once more energetically renewed this protest against a measure which attacks the existing treaties, and I declared, as H.E. Col. Denby had already done, that the Diplomatic Body would hold the Chinese Government responsible for any loss or damage occasioned to the merchants interested.

The second annual meeting of the shareholders of the Sherdian Consolidated Mining and Milling Company was held in Shanghai on the 26th of April, but a postponement of the final proceedings took place until the 21st instant in order to allow time for the preparation and circulation of the report and accounts sent in by the Smuggler Union Mining Company. The Chairman intimated, however, that the Smuggler Company had expended on the Sheridan's account $48,000 and given credit for royalties amounting to $14,600, so that the amount due to the Smuggler Company is $34,000, approximately.

HONGKONG NEWS.

The revenue of the Colony for 1893, according to a statement published in the *Government Gazette*, shows a decrease of $158,798 as compared with that of the previous year.

At Singapore the other day a Chinaman, believed to be insane, perched himself in one of the trees in the Square. It took the police several hours to get him down, a European constable, two Sikhs, and a Malay being engaged in the operation. He was then conveyed to the police station.

The pirates on the border between Tonkin and Yünnan, including the remnants of the Black Flags, are being attacked simultaneously by a French column on the Tonkin side and by a force of 6,000 Chinese regulars on the Yünnan side, and it is expected the operations will result in the total destruction of the bands.

The two bar-boys of the Hongkong Hotel supposed to be implicated in the death of Corporal Jinks were committed for trial and tried on the 19th ult. A verdict of "not guilty" was pronounced.

The Mount Austin Hotel has been bought by Mr. J. D. Humphreys at $130,050 for the Hotel and $17,000 for the furniture and fittings.

H. E. the Hon. G. T. M. O'Brien, Acting Governor, was to leave Hongkong in the N.D.L. steamer *Sachsen* on the 30th ult. He will proceed to Carlsbad for the benefit of his health.

A Lukong who entered a gambling house in Tung Man Lane, Hongkong, without a warrant but ostensibly to arrest a party of gamblers, has since been charged with violation of his duty as a policeman by so doing. When the constable entered the room the gamblers made a rush to the window and a coolie sitting on the sill was knocked over and killed by falling into the street. Inspector Hennessy, in prosecuting the case, asked the magistrate to impose the full penalty as the offence was regarded as very serious, especially as in consequence a man was killed. Mr. Dennys, who appeared for the defendant, submitted that the death of the man had nothing to do with the lukong, and that it was not a case for a heavy fine. A penalty of $200, or in default six months' imprisonment with hard labour was imposed.

Snobbishness seems to be rampant in the Victoria Recreation Club, but things are apparently approaching a crisis. It will be remembered that some time ago a number of highly respectable candidates were blackballed on the ballot, and in consequence new balloting rules were passed and a Balloting Committee appointed. A day or two ago a now commissionel officer of the garrison, very well-known and a valued contributor to many V. R. C. smoking concerts, was proposed for membership and seconded by the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, the Chairman of the Club. On the night of the ballot a certain section of the Balloting Committee turned up in force and blackballed the nomination. On hearing that, the Chairman, who for twelve years has been the most energetic and popular among its members, not unnaturally tendered his resignation, and two or three other Committeemen followed his example. Doubtless a general meeting to consider the matter will be held.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received of the death of Mr. Ninian Crawford, one of the founders of the well known firm of Lane, Crawford & Co., of Hongkong, Shanghai, and Yokohama. Mr. Crawford retired nearly thirty years ago.

One would hardly expect to find a coffee plantation managed by Englishmen in Chinese territory. A French sergeant passing through Hanoi, however, on his return from a frontier post, states that he visited Tu-long which was ceded to China on the delimitation of the frontier, and he was struck with astonishment to see a magnificent coffee plantation on which many Chinese were employed and which was managed by Englishmen. The *Avenir* gives publicity to the statement and invites confirmation or denial from any one in a position to give either.

A most interesting and sporting event took place at Hongkong on the 19th ult., the affair being a match between boats owned by the Army and Navy. The sailors were ultimately victorious by the narrow margin of 16 seconds, so that the soldiers may consider themselves, although beaten, yet by no means disgraced. The conditions were to rate all boats for length over all and to allow them to carry any sail they pleased. This rather handicapped the soldiers' boats, which were designed to cheat the rating rule for length on the load water line, *Petrel* and *Dart* in particular finding their long overhang fore and aft by no means a thing to be desired under this rule. The entries, numbering in all fourteen, included five boats from H.M.S. *Severn*, five from the Army, and the remainder made up from the other ships in harbour. The *Severn's* launch, a veritable Triton amongst minnows to unaccustomed eyes, starting from scratch, succeeded in saving the times she had to allow the remainder, and there was great cheering from the deck of H.M.S. *Severn* when the result became known. *Dart* turned out to be the soldiers' champion, but just failed to save her time by 16 seconds.

It has been notified in the Hongkong *Gazette* that the central fairway will be moved about 800 feet to the northward. The line of the fairway will continue to be marked as hitherto.

Says the *Siam Free Press*:—We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Robert Niven, late of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Bangkok. Mr. Niven arrived here

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in December, 1892, glowing with health and spirits and a fine sample of a stalwart young Britisher. He made friends fast in Bangkok, and was distinguished for a genial and friendly demeanour which made him very popular. An attack of inflammation of the lungs some three months ago so seriously impaired his health that he was ordered to Hongkong and left on March 10th in a very weak condition though cheerful and full of hope as to his immediate recovery in Hongkong. His hopes were not realized, and despite every attention he succumbed on April 10th at the Peak Hospital, Hongkong. Mr. Niven was a native of Aberdeen, and only twenty-five years of age.

ENGLISH NEWS.

Sir Charles Dilke has raised again the old question of the necessity for a closer relation between the Army and the Navy. In a speech delivered in the House of Commons he laid down the principle that England is essentially a defensive country, but that if she were ever drawn into a war, she would have to follow the ordinary rules of war and deliver counter attacks upon the enemy. In such counter attacks the Navy would be the chief weapon, but the Army also would have to serve as a weapon of parry and riposte, not as a mere shield. He did not think that this view was practically taken by the administrators of the Army and Navy. "No public company or private firm could afford to carry on business on a basis" such as that taken in managing the British Army. The Empire's military expenditure for Army and Navy varied between 53 and 58 millions sterling annually, and for that immense expenditure they had a small but good army in India, but in the United Kingdom an army upon which enormous work would have to be done before it could be formed into a homogeneous fighting machine—"an altogether intangible force arrived at on paper by adding together items various in their character, but not in any sense an army comparable with the army of any foreign Power." Sir Charles's proposed remedy was that there should be a Minister to represent both the Army and the Navy and that he should have special responsibilities with regard to those two services in the House. But he was contented with raising a debate, and did not press the question to a division.

Despite the unfavourable predictions uttered at the time of their formation as well as during many subsequent years, the Volunteers continue to maintain their efficiency. The number who received allowances for attending brigade camps in 1893 was 68,562 against 45,712 in 1892.

The British Museum is already a little world in itself. Those who know it well say that a lifetime would be required to study its contents. The museum now covers an area of nine acres and it is proposed to add about five and a half acres of adjoining land, so that the institution will extend from Russell-square on the east to Bedford-square on the west and from Montague-place on the north to Great Russell-street on the south. The Duke of Bedford, owner of the land which it is proposed to add, has shown great liberality: he has agreed to hand over the five and a half acres for £200,000, although the estimated value of the land twenty-three years ago was £240,000 and is now probably £400,000. No wonder that the Museum wants room when we consider that the annual addition to the collection of printed books averages 40,000 and the growth of the library does not greatly exceed the growth of all the other Departments. "Perhaps a century hence it will be noted with amazement that in 1894 it was supposed that a large part of the treasures of the world could be stored in the space of 14 acres."

The result of the Tebele war (the home papers persist in the mistake of calling it "the Matabele") is that Matabeleland and Mashonaland are to be converted into a territory on the basis of a British Crown Colony, its affairs directed by an Administrator in Council, the Council consisting of three nominated members and a Judge nominated by the Company, but appointed with the assent of the Secretary of State and irremovable except by the Secretary of State himself. There are also to be Magistrates holding their appointments directly under the Imperial Government. The whole expenses of the Administration are to be borne by the British South Africa Company. This means that a tract of about half a million of square miles, throughout a large portion of which Englishmen can live and rear their families in perfect health, has been opened as a field of national industry. *The Times*, writing upon this result, says with pardonable pride:—"From the original conception of the project in the mind of a man so young as Mr. Rhodes was ten years ago, to the heroic impulse which moved Major Wilson's party to meet their inevitable death, singing with bared heads 'God Save the Queen,' the spirit which has animated them has been that which the majority of the nation is proud to claim as British."

Even the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland seems to have been brought within the range of boycotting. Lord Houghton is a man of proved munificence and hospitality, and personally he secures friendship and respect everywhere. Yet the last Viceregal season at Dublin Castle is said to have been the shortest and dullest within living memory because the classes who might naturally have been expected to attend the Viceroy's Court kept away on account of politics, and His Excellency's political friends kept away, lest in the narrow jealousy of Party feeling, they might be reproached for subserviency.

The people of Cork don't like street preaching. Some evangelistic ministers attempted to give them a treat of that nature recently, but unfortunately the corporation having left large heaps of mud on the streets, the people employed this ammunition with such energy that the reverend gentlemen were bombarded nearly into insensibility and altogether into unrecognizability.

Lord Randolph Churchill has not added to his parliamentary reputation by his motion in the House of Commons on March 19th asking that the Prime Minister, Lord Rosebery, should be summoned to the bar of the House and required to answer for an infringement of the liberties and privileges of the Commons because he had made a speech at Edinburgh which was construed as intended to influence the Leith Election. The fact is that Lord Rosebery had arranged to speak at Edinburgh before there was any question whatever of an election at Leith.

The movement in England for preventing the immigration of destitute aliens is gaining strength. A special fund has been formed with the object of placing the question fairly before the public, and it has been decided to take action in both Houses of Parliament at an early date.

Lord Rosebery's utterances as to the necessity of Ulster's bowing to "the proper domination of the majority in Ireland" have roused the wrath of the Watch Committee of the Ulster Convention League. They have passed a resolution which states amongst other things that "nothing short of the exercise of the overwhelming physical force of the united empire will ever be able to impose upon Ulster a tyranny so mischievous and so hateful."

Time does not blunt the vigour of the Salvation Army. It has been decided that a sum of £50,000 sterling shall be employed to commemorate the 50th year of "General" Booth's service. The celebration is to take the form of an international congress held in July; a day of thanksgiving at the Crystal Palace; a jubilee week of reconciliation in the beginning of May; a jubilee salvation campaign of four months held by the "General" himself in the United States and Canada in the autumn; the opening up of fresh countries to Salvation Army work, including Japan, Java, and Demerara; a large increase of the Army, and so forth. It appears that a lady lately deceased left £20,000 to the "General" unconditionally, and he purposes adding this to the £50,000 fund. So we are to have the Salvation Army in Japan after all.

Persian keramic art is receiving very thorough treatment at the hands of Mr. Henry Wallis. This author has already published a magnificent volume devoted solely to Persian vases of the 12th century, and he is now about to bring out another equally fine volume on the tiles of the same epoch. It comprises 40 chromo-lithographic plates and numerous illustrations in the text, and the type is enclosed by ornamental borders from the celebrated Persian manuscript of Nizami, one of the best treasures of the British Museum.

The seven new battle-ships of the *Magnificent* class immediately to be laid down under the new Naval Programme, together with three of the same class already building, will make ten ironclads of the very largest size in course of construction in British ship-yards.

Oxford not only beat Cambridge hollow in the boat-race, but also carried off the laurels in the Athletic Sports. The records in the latter are something to think over. Mr. Lutyens of Cambridge ran the mile in 4 min. 19⅘ sec., and Mr. Horan, in spite of an injured foot, ran the three miles in 15 min. 7 sec., Mr. Fry, for Oxford, jumped 22 ft. 4 in. on the level, and Mr. Oakley, also of Oxford, jumped 22 ft. 2 in.

There is serious talk of using aluminium for the manufacture of military accoutrements. The weight carried by the soldier might thus be materially reduced. The Russians have already begun to employ this metal in the construction of ammunition waggons, the saving of weight being from 3 to 4 per cent.

During the past three years work has been in progress for the decoration of the apse, the original sanctuary bay, and the greater part of the easternmost end of the apse of St. Paul's Cathedral with mosaics from designs by Mr. W. B. Richmond, R.A. When finished there will be 26,000 square feet of mosaic, and the result already promises to be "a mass of glittering, vivid, and harmonious colour."

What it costs to "get up" Madame Tussaud's Waxworks may be gathered from details recently furnished by Mr. Tussaud. The costume of the figure of the Empress Eugenie involved an expenditure of £650, and all the Court dresses worn by figures in the royal groups cost, on the average, over £100 each. "Every figure in our exhibition," says Mr. Tussaud, "is completely clothed from head to foot; all have their entire suit of underclothing, without which it would be impossible to make the costumes sit naturally upon the models." It seems that the friends of Mrs. Maybrick offered £1,000 not to have her effigy put in the Chamber of Horrors, but as there never had been any intention of putting her there, the money was not accepted.

Messrs. Thornton, Pickard and Co. have devised a Focal Plane Shutter, by the aid of which photographs can be taken in the 1,000th part of a second.

The *Pall Mall Budget* has commenced to insert coloured illustrations. The essay is on an unpretending scale—one picture and only two colours. But experience indicates what such a departure means. The illustrations in the *Pall Mall* and the *St. James's* were very slight affairs when they began to be inserted a few years ago. Now, they are the features of both papers.

Here is a note from the *Pall Mall Budget*, neither the art nor the humour of which is easy to discover:—

> The Mikado of Japan has a mother-in-law, and that mother-in-law was lately attacked by a serious illness. So grave were the symptoms, says the *Illustration*, that 423 specialists were at once summoned to the sick lady's bedside. This, however, is not qnite the right way of putting it. The doctors being so numerous the patient had to go to them, and—though the case was not a surgical one—the operating theatre of the largest hospital was selected as the only suitable arena for the united labours of the four hundred and twenty-three. It is not surprising to read that after the first hour she showed symptoms of the greatest exhaustion. The specialists refusing to give any precise opinion, the patient did what our own patients often do in similar circumstances. She asked for the consolations of religion, and a Buddhist priest was summoned. This ecclesiastic, considering doubtless that there should be nothing secret between a priest and a penitent, applied himself not only to the diagnosis of her spiritual condition, but also to that of her malady, and he succeeded in discovering the cause with a promptitude that shamed the four hundred and twenty-three. "Malady due to the introduction of railways into Japan," was his speedy verdict, and the strangest thing is that his patient and all her doctors at once declared he was perfectly right. Till that *funeste* event she had been quite well. *Post hoc ergo propter hoc.*

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THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN ENGLAND.

LORD ROSEBERY has lost no time in entering on the fulfilment of the Radical programme detailed in the QUEEN'S Speech on the opening of the current session of Parliament, the two measures first indicated therein—that for the reinstatement of the evicted tenants in Ireland and that dealing with the registration of voters at Parliamentary elections—having been already laid before, and read for the first time in, the House of Commons. That both will be ultimately carried through the Commons there can be little doubt, looking at the unbroken cohesiveness which has hitherto, with only one exception, characterized the Government Party, and which as yet displays no sign of having been seriously impaired by the recent change of leaders. But it is equally beyond doubt that both will meet in the House of Lords strenuous opposition, such as has been organized against all Government Bills during the present parliament. The Peers are too deeply bound to the Landlords of Ireland, their interests have too much in common, to admit of the hope that they will, in this instance, depart from their long established course of materially altering measures submitted to them having reference to the condition of the agricultural classes in Ireland.

The Registration Bill will constitute a further advance toward placing the political power of the country more effectively in the hands of the masses, and completing the work that was done—it is admitted imperfectly on account of deficiencies in the Registration system—by the Reform Act of 1885. It may therefore be expected that, though ultimately passed into law by the Peers, the details of the Bill will be as severely criticised as were those of the Parish Councils Bill. Some amendments in the Registration system were made simultaneously with the passing of the last Reform Bill, but the whole machinery remained cumbrous, and large numbers of the working classes have continued to be practically disfranchised by the time limit within which it is necessary that their names should be placed on the Register. The consequences have been severely felt by the Radical Party at all elections since 1885, and have furnished material for constant and bitter complaint. While in opposition and in a large minority in the Commons, nothing of course could be done by the Party, and since Mr. GLADSTONE'S accession to power, the time of the House has been hitherto fully occupied with other measures, but it has all along been well understood by the whole party that no further appeal would be made to the suffrages of the nation, until, by the passing of a new Registration Bill, not only would ample facilities be provided for all those entitled to the franchise to exercise their right, but pluralist voting should, if not absolutely interdicted, be rendered well nigh impossible. Instances have been quoted in which one individual has been found to possess the franchise in over twenty different constituencies, and the system under which elections throughout the kingdom were spread over a space of time, varying from three weeks to a month, gave great facility to persons of wealth and leisure to vote in certainly a majority of such cases. Lord ROSEBERY'S bill, read for the first time in the Commons on the 16th instant, appears not only to directly prohibit this practice, and by doing so to establish the principle in the Parliamentary electorate of "one man one vote," but to render it almost impossible in practise, even in the absence of direct prohibition, by the provision that all elections throughout the Kingdom are to be held simultaneously on one and the same day, and that day Saturday. One of the demands made by foremost Radicals was that the day of a general election should be observed as a legal holiday, so that no interference on the part of employers with the liberty of their workmen should be possible. By the selection of Saturday, which is a general half holiday throughout England, that demand will, to a great extent, be met, without at the same time any undue interference being exercised as between employers and employed. The interests of the former can in no way be obstructed, while the latter will have ample opportunity in which to record their votes before eight o'clock in the evening when the polls close. But a much greater boon is conferred on working men by the reduction of the qualifying period of residence to three months. The necessary conditions of a great number of trades in England, entirely apart from personal considerations, oblige their followers to change their places of residence with a frequency entirely unknown among even the lowest middle classes. All claims to be placed on the list of parliamentary voters have, under the present law, to be formally lodged before the 20th of August in each year, and no claim can be made in respect of any residence which has not been in the occupation of the claimant for a full period of twelve months prior to this date. A person, therefore, whose occupation of any particular residence commenced only in the month of September in any year would not be placed on the register for a period of 23 months, a far longer interval than, in many instances, workmen ever remain within the parliamentary limits of any single constituency. Numbers on whom the law intended to confer the franchise have, therefore, never had, and under the present law never could have, the opportunity of exercising their right, but the fixing of the qualifying period at three months, accompanied probably by more frequent revision of the lists will now remove this undoubted grievance, and in all likelihood bring to the Radical ranks in England a very substantial increase of political supporters.

Once this object is attained, it is possible that the Government may feel sufficiently strong to accept the challenge so constantly flung at them by the Opposition and appeal once more to the country. If so, we may see another general election before the close of the present, or the early part of next, year, and with the aid of a greatly expanded electorate, perhaps the endorsement of English public opinion, as distinct from that of the United Kingdom, may be given to the policy of Home Rule, sufficiently, at least, to deprive the Lords of further ground for nullifying the proceedings of the House of Commons in regard to it. Lord ROSEBERY has stated that, before Irish Home Rule could be conceded by the Imperial Parliament, England, as the predominant member of the partnership, would have to be convinced of its justice, and though this doctrine has been severely criticised as being absolutely inadmissable not only by Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, the other members of the partnership, but even by English Unionists whose belief in equality of citizenship and respect for constitutional principles exceeds their party spirit, and has since, we think, been in some degree qualified or explained by Lord ROSEBERY himself, it has found strong supporters. The Parliamentary majority against Home Rule returned by England at the last general election was 71 out of the total number of 465 members. The majority in the English electorate, out of a total of considerably over 3½ millions, was only 104,470 voters. A new and simple system of registration may easily add far more than this number to the present electorate, and then, going to the country as a solid and united party, under the guidance of a popular and able leader, who will by that time in all likelihood be nearly related to the QUEEN, and appealing to the people with a long list of measures instituted for their benefit, the Radical Party may secure a triumph. We hope that things will turn out differently, but the view taken by the Radicals themselves seems to be as here stated.

MR. SOYEDA ON RELIGION.

WE recently gave a *résumé* of an interesting lecture, delivered by Mr. SOYEDA, on the subject of a religion for Japan, and the lecturer now sends us a letter, published to-day in our correspondence columns. We do not think that much cause can be found to traverse Mr. SOYEDA'S remarks. The key-note of his argument is that whatever form of creed is best suited to Japan, ethically and morally, will gain the victory, and that a fair field should be left for the contest. He indicates, with commendable precision

and distinctness, the directions in which, according to his view, Buddhism and Christianity offer inherent obstacles to successful propagandism. The plain truth is that both faiths, as presented in this country, are disfigured by defects arising from precisely opposite causes. Buddhism shows the abuses invariably incidental to a monopoly of long continuance. Its priests have become careless, their lives unlovely, their methods perfunctory, their customs defective. Christianity, on the other hand, is marred by the extravagances of excessive competition. The clash of contending creeds, the fierce intellectual warfare among which the faith of the Nazarene grew to maturity, have left an indelible impress on it: monstrous importance is attached to pettinesses of doctrine and dogma that could never weigh for a grain of sand in the judgment of the great Divinity; the principles of perfect charity and universal love are preached in the language of intolerance and by the voices of militant iconoclasts, and the magnitude of the struggle and its absorbing character have forbidden the rejection of any recruit, so that the Christian cause is often upheld by hands unworthy of such a task. These blemishes make themselves just as apparent to a thoughtful Japanese as do the disfigurements of Buddhism, and it is very interesting to have them pointed out in Mr. SOYEDA'S frank, impartial manner. We welcome, also, his distinct declaration that "religion is closely connected with the welfare and strength of the State." To be absolutely neutral toward religion, to treat it as something with which only women, children, and the uneducated need concern themselves, is the fashion among the better classes in Japan. They think, it would seem, that their country can look forward to a history inconsistent with its own past and at variance with the precedents furnished by all other States. They seem to forget what an immense debt Japan owes to religion; what large elements of her progress in science, in art, in education, in civilization, have been furnished by Buddhism; how the faiths of of SHAKA and of Shinto were bound up with her political, social, and military life in ancient, mediæval, and modern times. They imagine, it would seem, that a nation can break away recklessly from its past, and can shape for itself a future out of harmony with all the peoples it has chosen as companions on its new route. Such things are impossible. The colourness neutrality on which many Japanese pride themselves to-day, is nothing more than a reflection of the moral stagnation that crept over their country and benumbed some of its best faculties during the centuries of its isolation.

MESSRS. HENRY AND HORNEL.

WE notice in the March number of the *Art Journal* a very appreciative article on a school of painters in Scotland whose work has hitherto generally provoked by its unconventionality the ire of critics, to whom the Academy is Heaven and all outside of it the work of the devil.

We are weary of the photographic landscapes, the common-place portraits of common-place people, and the cheaply sentimental anecdote pictures that year after year hang on the Academy walls, just as weary as we are of those IBSEN'S and ZOLA'S of the palette who in France and Munich and elsewhere strive to obtain immortality for what is ugly, coarse, and material beyond all description. So that in these days of sore decline it must assuredly be considered a sign of better times that a school of Impressionists like the Glasgow School should be gradually and surely winning its way into favour; in other words, that it is becoming understood. Impressionism does not signify to its own represetatives an impersonal record of visual impression: it signifies rather a style for the expression of their individual conception of nature and for the manifestation of personal feeling. And the first canon of their artistic faith is that decoration shall be the basis of picture-making, wherefore they follow in the footsteps of the great prophet and master of modern Impressionists, WHISTLER. It is not our concern here to inquire of them concerning the truth of the faith they hold. The two members of the group whose work has been seized upon as representative of the general principles of the school, Messrs. HENRY and HORNEL, have been for some time in Japan, so that it may be interesting to note what the critic has to say of their canvases:—

Decorative treatment, such as is appropriate to a panel, is not always suitable for a canvas circled by a frame, and hung on any wall. A picture like Mr. Hornel's "Summer," lately bought after "an artistic storm in a tea-cup" by the Liverpool Corporation, is hardly on the great high-road of art, in the line of the great achievements in oil-paint; it holds much the same relation to these that exotic verse, the ballad, or rondeau, bears to the greater forms of poetry. But looking on it as a decorative panel, having "Summer" for subject, it yields a great deal of pleasure. The wealth of colour alone would justify its existence, and when we add to that, charm of rhythmic line, fanciful invention, and a certain element of fun and frolic, we are almost willing to forgive the mosaic-like surface and the somewhat archaic design. The fonts of inspiration from which Messrs. Henry and Hornel have drawn are not difficult to trace, but it is in the blending of them that the personality of the artists appears. In an age so complex as ours, Art cannot fail to be eclectic. The impulse from the East is clear, but the convention and the material are used not with the reticence and frugality of the Japanese, but with the profusion of the Gothic temper, to which the grotesqueness of the figures is also due; a certain element of mysticism is, perhaps, traceable to the influence of Matthew Maris, while the colour is reminiscent of the far subtler harmonies of Monticelli. A later picture by Mr. Hornel, "Spring-time," has similar faults and good qualities, and confirms the impression that he has not yet fully assimilated the influences under which he is working. In this larger canvas, too, one may notice, what was not quite so much in evidence in the other, a want of agreement in the treatment of the figures and the landscape; for while the latter has been rendered with the flatness appropriate to decoration, the former are modelled as if in atmosphere.

Mr. George Henry's best-known picture is the much discussed "Galloway Landscape." To judge this landscape from the usual pictorial standpoint is to do violence to the liberty of the artist and to his intention, which evidently has not been to reproduce Nature, but to use her as material for the decoration of a space; and as a decoration it seems to me very successful indeed. All the elements in it, the fields, the cattle, and the sky, have alike undergone transformation in the painter's mind and appear upon the canvas with the unity and charm of a clear, poetic conception. Mr. Henry is not always so successful; in an "Ayrshire Landscape," painted the following year, he fell, like his fellow, between the stools of pure decoration and realism. A very striking portrait, "Mademoiselle," shown in the Glasgow Institute, marks a considerable departure on style, being much more realistic than any of his previous work. It is splendidly, almost brutally, strong in handling and colour, a little bizarre, perhaps, and certainly a trifle vulgar; but had the drawing been better, and the treatment more restrained, it would have been a triumph; as it is, it is a *tour de force*. But of all Mr. Henry's work, "Poppies," a little canvas on which are painted four rosy children's heads above a bank of scarlet poppies, lingers in my memory as the most fascinating.

Contrary to the usual habit with artists visiting Japan, neither of these gentlemen, we believe, has completely finished any single picture during his stay here. They have rather busied themselves with the amassing of material and the laying in of ground work, which can more easily be worked up at home than in Japan, and we look forward with no little eagerness to the results of their visit. It is our opinion that people at home will be invited to look upon a new and more than usually fascinating interpretation of the land of the Rising Sun.

HAWAII AND THE CUSTOMS TARIFF.

AN unfortunate characteristic of Japanese politics at present is the palpable indifference to justice or accuracy exhibited by the Opposition in their choice of topics for assailing the Government. The idea evidently underlying their tactics is that any stick serves to beat a dog, and of course it results that although their unceasing onset tends to shake the Cabinet's position, its recklessness greatly discredits themselves also, and renders the contingency of their accession to office a matter of grave uneasiness to thoughtful persons. The latest and not the least flagrant example of this moral obliquity is the *Kaishin-to's* attitude toward the Government's action in the case of Hawaii. In consideration of Hawaii's voluntary abandonment of her judicial privileges in Japan, the SOVEREIGN of this empire has placed Hawaii's citizens on the footing of the most-favoured nation within his territories. Among the assailants of this act none appear to be more vehement than the *Kaishin-to*, and of course on such a subject none primarily deserve a more respectful hea ring, not only on account of their able leader's high reputation, but because their ranks include many politicians of recognised ability and erudition. On what ground, then, do the

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Kaishin-to denounce the step taken with regard to Hawaii? On the ground, briefly stated, that full freedom of trade, travel, and residence has been granted to Hawaiian citizens in consideration of their abandonment of Consular Jurisdiction only, and without obtaining for them any recognition of Japan's tariff autonomy. In other words, it is urged that whereas Japan has surrendered everything she had to reserve, Hawaii has surrendered a portion only of the special privileges enjoyed by her. Appended to this contention is the rider that although the insignificance of Hawaii deprives the new arrangement of any noteworthy importance so far as she herself is concerned, there is now established a precedent of which most inconvenient advantage may be taken by any great Power desiring to effect a similar modification of existing conditions. England or Germany, for example, say the critics, may demand for her subjects the same favours granted to Hawaii—that is to say, may demand freedom of trade, travel, and residence in exchange for submission to Japanese jurisdiction but without any recognition of Japan's tariff autonomy.

Perhaps the most remarkable point in this accusation is that it emanates from a Party whose leader, as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, concluded, in 1888, a treaty by which Mexican citizens obtained precisely the same privileges as those now granted to Hawaii. In fact, what has been done for Hawaii is merely to place her people on the footing secured to Mexican citizens by a covenant of which Count OKUMA, leader of the *Kaishin-to*, was the author. The Treaty of November, 1888, between Japan and Mexico granted to the citizens of the latter "the privilege of coming, remaining and residing in all parts of the EMPEROR of Japan's territories and possessions; of there hiring and occupying houses and warehouses; of there trading, by wholesale or retail, in all kinds of products, manufactures and merchandise of lawful commerce; and finally of there engaging in and pursuing all other lawful occupations." This grant was made without securing any special concession from Mexico in respect of the Customs Tariff, and was made, moreover, in explicit consideration of the submission of Mexican citizens to Japanese jurisdiction. How can the very men responsible for the Mexican treaty venture to condemn, as a sacrifice of national interests, Hawaii's inclusion in a grant made by their own leader five years ago to Mexico?

That, however, is merely a point of political consistency. To persons interested in the development of constitutional institutions in Japan, such lapses from condour and impartiality are matters of regret. Passing on, however, to the main question at issue, we are not less astonished at the apparent incapacity of the Opposition to grasp the salient facts of the problem they undertake to discuss. Is it really true—is there even a grain of truth in the contention—that because no concession in respect of the Customs Tariff has been obtained from Hawaii, Japan is committed to the precedent of throwing open her whole country in exchange for the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction alone and of maintaining unchanged the Customs Tariff which, wisely or unwisely, she has so long been anxious to alter? Of course it is not true. The case is very simple. There is no tariff convention annexed to the Hawaiian Treaty of 1871. The connection between that Treaty and the general Tariff Convention, concluded five years previously, was established by a parity clause which runs as follows:—

> The subjects of each of the two High Contracting Parties, respectively, shall have the liberty freely and securely to come with their ships and cargoes to all places, ports and rivers in the territories of the other where trade with other nations is permitted, * * * * paying at all times such duties and taxes as may be exacted from the citizens or subjects of other nations doing business or residing within the territories of each of the high contracting parties.

Hawaii's position is defined by this clause beyond all possibility of misconception. She is pledged to pay whatever duties and taxes may be exacted from the nationals of any other country, and under that pledge her trade with Japan is subject to the imposts fixed by the general Tariff of 1866. Should that Tariff be revised, Hawaiian citizens in Japan become liable, from the moment of its revision, to pay the new rates of duty. Hence it is the veriest chimera to pretend that the recent action of the Japanese Government toward Hawaii has established a precedent hurtful to this Empise's recovery of Tariff Autonomy, or has prejudiced in any way Japan's prospects of success in negotiations conducted with other Powers to that end. We should not be surprised to find such pretences advanced by men ignorant of the text of the treaties and entirely unversed in international law. But we are in truth surprised to find them seriously advanced by political parties like the Progressionists and the National Unionists, which include in their ranks not a few statesmen of established ability.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

RELIGION IN JAPAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—It was quite beyond my expectation to see my unworthy views concerning the future of religion in Japan inserted in the *Mail* of 21st ult. Though I do not flatter myself that what I write will be much taken notice of, I should like to be allowed to make a few additions to points that may lead to misunderstanding. The chief aim of my lecture was to show that religion is closely connected with the welfare and strength of the State, and to discuss fairly the merits and demerits of Buddhism and Christianity, placing myself quite outside any form of religion. From historical connections, I have properly from the order of things, the course open to Japan is to rely on Buddhism. But in order that Buddhism may serve the purpose of "making the people truly good," it must be thoroughly reformed, the points of reform being the abolition of hereditary livings, activity in charitable and other religious works, improvement of sermons and prayers, greater thoroughness in the education as well as greater purity in the morals of Buddhists, keeping aloof from practical politics and sectarian strife, formation of convocations, &c. The question, however, now before us is, can such a weighty and heavy work be fulfilled by Buddhists. If the work be beyond their power and Buddhism cannot be awakened from its dormant and even corrupt state, then Christianity from its superiority of doctrine (not from its greater depth, but in its being more easily grasped), from its activity and zeal, will take in future the place of Buddhism. But in order that Christianity should overcome Buddhism it also must be much improved. First of all, it must be "Japonicised," that is to say, it must be propagated by Japanese hands and be brought into harmony with our customs, manners, institutions, and sentiments. Besides, division into too many sects does more harm than good, and the lack of learned missionaries much retards the spread of the faith. What a difference exists between the sermons preached in Oxford or Cambridge and those in Tokio Churches for instance! Failing first-rate men who can preach philosophically (for our people are very fond of philosophical arguments) and who actually live His life, the propagandism of Christianity will not satisfy the aspirations of its devotees in Japan.

The above was the main drift of my argument. In short, what I wanted, though I may have failed to convey my wish, was to obtain a fair, impartial, and unprejudiced view about the future of religion in Japan, which, though hitherto much neglected, must be treated in earnest. Whichever form of religion sufficiently serves the true purpose of religion, will obtain the upper hand in the end. I myself having no preference for either form, am content to leave the victory or defeat entirely in the hands of Christians and Buddhists themselves. In conclusion, allow me to utter one prediction, namely, that the biological law of the survival of the fittest will work itself out in religious affairs as well as in any others.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

April 30th, 1894. J. SOYEDA.

MODESTY: WHAT IT IS, AND WHAT IT IS NOT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—One by one the old-world virtues are disappearing. Time was when chivalry was the crown of man, and modesty the diadem of a woman. Chivalry has given place to selfishness, and modesty to *chic*. Not that those splendid qualities can ever absolutely die, for there are, and always will be, noble men and pure women. But their diminution is serious and of evil augury.

The past has only produced one other people resembling ourselves—austere, brave, masterful, enterprising at home and abroad, colonising and road-making all the world over, skilful in peace, and matchless in war. The Romans were the English of ancient time; the English are modern Romans.

But it is to be noted among the first signs of the decline of Rome, that her women, so famous for virtue, become demoralised. The national fibre relaxed. Simplicity of life and manners made way for luxury. For duty was substituted self-gratification. Voluptuous pleasure had palled upon the jaded taste, until at length honour and decency were obliterated, and nameless horrors were of daily and common occurrence. St. Paul gave forcible evidence of contemporary manners when he represented his fellow-citizens as being "given over to uncleanness." If history has any value, it is by placing before us the wisdom and errors of the past, that we may adopt the one and reject the other. And if modesty was once a cause of national decadence, then it would undoubtedly be the same again.

But it may be said, what is modesty? I will endeavour to point out what it is, and what it is not.

Words have varying values. They may stand for certain ideas to-day, and for their opposites in the future or in the past. Their signification is modified by the development of intellect, of custom, and of sentiment. Originally "modesty," borrowed from the French "modestie," and from the Latin "modestia," meant simply in measure—therefore, moderation or temperance as opposed to excess. Gradually it has become more refined and spiritualised, so that while it may in some cases be still used in its vulgar and primary sense, it now denotes purity of thought and feeling. The truly modest, therefore, are alone "the

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pure in heart," and the nearer the approach to perfection, the greater is the measure of their modesty. Such blessed ones become centres of purifying influence, and, like the fountains of Sahara, they cleanse and refresh the stained and weary wayfarers, and create in the desert vast oases of verdure and beauty.

Prudishness is not modesty, for has not some one rightly said "the over-nice are those of nasty ideas?" Chastity is not modesty, for many who are chaste, are not so from choice. A person may be both prudish and chaste, and yet not truly modest. The downcast eye, the quiet demeanour, the maiden-like reserve, may often be its external counterfeits, the mere coating of a "whited sepulchre." Concealment is not modesty, else would the Turkish women be the most modest, whereas they are the most depraved. Eve did not make the fig-leaf apron until she had lost her innocence: thus her covering was her badge of guilt. Purity has nothing to conceal. Modesty, like love, "thinketh no evil," but, unlike love, it also subdues evil thought in others.

I once observed some young women arriving unexpectedly in a gallery upon a group of "nude" statues. They gave one good look, then screamed and fled as if pursued by satyrs. The immodesty that alarmed them was not in the statues but in their own impure minds. It was an observation of the great Flaxman that "the students, in entering the Academy where they studied from the nude figure, seemed to hang up their passions with their hats." Their familiarity with natural beauty led them only to inform their minds and to purify their tastes. When Mr. Wallace, the great naturalist, was travelling on the Amazon, he attended in a remote place at a dance given by the native Indians. All the guests, men and women, except himself, were perfectly nude. He says the master of the ceremonies performed his duties with grave dignity, and the decorum of all present compared favourably with that of the most polished assembly in a London ball-room. These poor creatures went to dance and not to flirt. They had never even heard of "Honi soit qui mal y pense."

We pride ourselves on being more modest than these. Are we really so? It seems to me that a naked Indian, thinking no guile, is more blameless than a civilised belle who bares herself as far as public opinion will concede, who conceals only that she may excite, who displays to the very point of expectancy. "The sister of St. Gregory of Nyesa was afflicted with a cancer in the breast, but could not bear that a surgeon should see it, and was rewarded for her modesty by a miraculous cure." (Mr. Lecky, "European Morals.") Miracles now-a-days are quite of another sort; we generate impurity and are accounted pure. Witness a fashionable party: white arms are flashing above the shoulders. The "modesty-bits" of our great grand-mothers are absent, and the necks and bosoms of all are as bare as were those of the courtesans of Charles II. Even the back is displayed almost to the waist by a gigantic V. Is it the initial of Virtue or of Vice? We do not pity old campaigners, the veterans of twenty seasons. But the young and innocent girls of seventeen, who have just left the school-room, whose passions are fresh and their imaginations strong—for these we tremble. How many of these will escape such an ordeal unscathed? And with what object have they been commanded to expose their budding charms to the critical eyes of bold and observant men? Will it enhance a maiden's modesty, or is it the first easy step to Avernus?

The painting and powdering, the padding in all quarters, the deceitful "make-up," should be scorned by modest and truthful women, and should be abandoned as the devices of harlots, as indeed they were. No law, human or divine, forbids women to adorn themselves, but St. Paul said, "Let women adorn themselves in modest apparel." Short dresses are not immodest; they are clean, healthy, and in use in many countries; but long dresses may be made immodest if they are worn only to be lifted suggestively, as the prevailing mode, to court the prurient gaze of the passers-by. All these first breaches of modesty are like the drunkard's first dram; they lead to others and greater. They assist in flooding our divorce courts, in infesting our streets with loose women, in filling myriads of homes with crime and wretchedness. All the poor, ever-to-be-pitied creatures marching steadily hellwards were modest once. Chaste, pure, and innocent, were they until their first immodest act or thought slew them.

For pleasures are like poppies spread,
You seize the flower, the bloom is shed.

Ah, my unconquered sisters, do not scorn them overmuch, those who have fallen by the way. It may be they have suffered vicariously that your purity has been preserved at the cost of theirs. Let us determine, that, as far as in us lies, we will lift up our common sisterhood, and will help to arrest the downward progress of our sex; that we will combat every social evil until it be annihilated; that no custom shall be privileged, no prejudice respected, no sentiment revered, no law honoured, that militates against our purity or our freedom; but, above all, that we inculcate modesty in its highest and grandest sense. Then will our children and our children's children bless us, even though we should be enrolled among the "noble army of martyrs."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

LADY COOK;
(*née* Tennessee C. Claflin.)

RETURN OF MR. H. J. SNOW.

ADRIFT FOR FIVE DAYS IN AN OPEN BOAT.

By the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Nagato Maru* on Tuesday, Mr. H. J. Snow, of the sealing schooner *Retriever*, returned to Yokohama after a most adventurous two months' absence. It will be remembered that on the 25th ult. news reached this port from Mr. Snow, assuring his friends of his safe arrival at Miyako, a small seaport and telegraph station north of Yamada, and that since then no news had been heard of him—the intrepid sealer had seemingly disappeared from public ken. This silence, Mr. Snow now explains, was due to the extraordinary red-tapeism displayed by the police at Ishi-no-maki, who, thinking that the Miyako police had acted too precipitately in sending Mr. Snow and his two Chinese sailors down from the northern port in a steam vessel without let or hindrance, wished to send him back to Miyako to commence his return journey all over again under proper police escort. To this Mr. Snow very strenuously objected, and the result was a detention at Ishi-no-maki and Oginohama of something over four days, during which time the civil, police, naval, and military authorities one after the other interviewed him upon the self-same subject of his name, the schooner's name, and the absence of his passport. Some objection was also taken to Mr. Snow posting letters to his friends, receiving money, or communicating with his Consul, and this further complicated matters. Finally the *Nagato Maru* came into Oginohama and Mr. Snow was allowed to take passage in her.

In an interview accorded to one of the staff of the *Japan Mail*, Mr. H. J. Snow gave some interesting particulars of his mishaps and adventures from the 2nd of April onwards. He lost sight of his other boats, he said, on the afternoon of April 2nd, just about 4 o'clock. They were then steering to the N.N.E., while his course was N.E. He kept on this course till dusk, and then steered in a more easterly direction, and after a while more northerly. Throughout the night he heard neither guns nor rockets, though a most careful watch was kept. A slight breeze sprang up towards morning but the sun broke perfectly clear and the occupants of the boat could see for a very long distance around. Snow stepped his mast and then a Chinaman climbed on to his shoulders to see if he could discover a trace of the *Retriever*, or perchance any of the other boats. Not a vestige of either could be seen. Throughout that day the sealer's signal was discharged at intervals—two shots in quick succession—but the sounds attracted no saving succour. The impression now became almost assured that the other boats had picked up the schooner and the latter was engaged in cruising around in search of the Captain. Acting on this presumption, the course was altered about noonday to S.S.W., but as the afternoon wore on and nothing showed up against the sky-line, Mr. Snow gave himself up for lost. Not lost to hope, by any means, but lost for the time being. Without more ado he determined upon seeking the land, and turned the boat's head towards the West. Before doing so, however, he looked into the locker and discovered that his water-keg was nearly full, but that no hard provisions, beyond the seal-meat, remained aboard. As soon as sail was hoisted and the little craft was well under weigh to the West the castaways commenced to skin the seals that they had captured—some twelve in all—and reserving only the best portions of the flesh, the flippers, for food, and one whole carcase for ballast, discharged the rest of their heavy and useless cargo. Their breakfast that morning had been raw seal-tongue, which, under the circumstances, proved very acceptable, but they determined to improve on this for the evening meal. All day the weather continued clear and fine and good progress was made. As evening settled down the voyagers broke the stern-seats into small pieces and then dipping some paper into a little gun-oil, which the Captain carried, a match was applied and soon some seal-broth was simmering in a tin pannikin, while succulent steaks were broiled upon the glowing embers. A hearty meal was made, and sufficient remained over for the following day. As the supply of water and fuel was extremely limited it was resolved to have only one square meal a day, so as to husband their resources. The whole of the 3rd of April the little boat was sailed on a W.N.W. course, but early on the morning of the 4th this had to be altered to N.W. by W. by reason of the direction of the wind. It was fine sealing weather, and plenty of seals were seen, but the three lonely men could not stop for hunting now, the pressure of their peril was too great. At 7 o'clock in the morning the wind changed to N.W. and a N.N.E. course was set. At five o'clock the wind had hauled to the N. and again the course was changed, this time to the West. By ten o'clock in the evening the boat had run into a calm, so the sail was reefed and the oars were got out. The men pulled W. by N. for some time, and then a rest was taken. The morning of the 5th opened fine and advantage was taken to broil some seal steaks over the embers of a wood fire. All day they proceeded W. by N.W. and were among packs of seals for many hours. The night which followed was fine and starlight, and the water glowed with a wonderful phosphorescence on every wavelet. Again they saw the dawn break over a silent waste of waters with no boat or sail in sight. Before long a W.N.W. by W. breeze sprang up, raising a rough and heavy sea with nasty tide-rips everywhere. It was as much as the three could do to keep their frail bark head on to the waves, and prevent her from being swamped. A drag was constructed with a sail and the boom and gaff, and this broke the seas somewhat and thus enabled them to ride out the blow. It was a miserable time; the heavy spray drenched the men to the skin, while the wind proved bitterly keen to their exhausted limbs. As the afternoon advanced the wind moderated, and at 5 o'clock they again made sail. But deliverance was close at hand, and nearer than they thought, for on the morning of the sixth day out the boat ran down close under the lee of a schooner. Her side-lights were out, but had been obscured until the boat was almost down upon her. With a mighty shout the sail was run down, while to the schooner's hail Captain Snow called out "Lost boat," accompanying his call by the sealer's signal of two shots. Very soon they were alongside and being lifted on board the haven of refuge. Their boat and skins were hoisted up and then mutual enquiries followed. The rescuing vessel proved to be the American sealing-schooner *Bowhead*, Captain Noyes. A plentiful supply of food and hot coffee was given to the three strangely found men, and everything was done that could be done to restore life and vigour to their stiffened limbs. The *Bowhead* at this time had only 26 seals on board and the hunters were feeling somewhat downcast. At the suggestion of Mr. Snow they changed their course at once towards the position in which he supposed the *Retriever* lay, as he thought he could guarantee a plentitude of seals. His advice was taken and the first day the *Bowhead's* boats were lowered 78 seals rewarded the venture. The rescued men remained on the *Bowhead* until the morning of the 25th April when the vessel drew near to the coast of Nambu. When within twenty miles of the shore Captain Snow with his two Chinese got into their boat and pulled for the shore, amid the hearty good wishes of their rescuers. It was a long pull to Yamada but they arrived there about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. At Yamada they rested for a while and then started again on an eleven-hour pull to Miyako, where the police allowed them to get on board a steamer which conveyed them to Oginohama. It was from Miyako that Mr. Snow despatched his telegram to Yokohama conveying the news of his safety. Arrived at Oginohama many formalities were gone through and the three men had eventually to go to Ishi-no-maki where they were detained two days, after which they returned to Oginohama and there caught the *Nagato Maru*, on board which Captain Olsen treated the wanderers most hospitably. The two Chinese acted splendidly thoroughout, raising not one murmur and obeying every order.

Mr. Snow brings some interesting items from the off-shore sealing grounds. On the 20th April the *Bowhead* spoke the Canadian schooner *May Belle* who said she had 750 odd skins aboard, she also reported that on the 19th she lost three boats, in one of which was their Captain, Sheilds. The mate was very anxious, and much upset by losing three of their five boats. The *Bowhead* consequently helped to search for the missing men, but up to the time of Captain Snow's departure no trace of them was found. The 22nd of April was bitterly cold, with a northerly gale blowing, so the prospects of the *May Belle's* men are not hopeful. The *Charles*

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D. Morgan tried to right the over-turned schooner *Mascotte*, but bad weather proved too much for the attempt. They found, however, that the *Mascotte's* boats were all lashed to the deck and that the main-sail had a double reef in it. The *Mattie Dyer* has passed a schooner bottom-up painted green, and with her bows stove in—name unknown. The *Herman* lost a boat, which the *Brenda* subsequently picked up. The *Vera* has had a boat smashed. The following catches are reported:—*Fawn* (25th April) a few seals only; *Sayward*, 200 odd; *Emma Louise*, 300; *Sophia D. Sutherland*, 600; *Allie J. Algar*, 500; *Winchester*, 550; *Marvin*, 700; *Casco*, 790; *Louisa D.*, 500; *Alexandria*, 270; *Teresa*, 481; *Chishima No. 1*, 250; *Chishima, No. 3*, 62; a Japanese schooner 67.

JAPAN BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of shareholders of this company was held at the Brewery on Monday afternoon. There were present Mr. J. Dodds, Chairman, Messrs. D. Fraser, W. Gordon, H. Baehr, H. Heckert, C. W. Ure, F. H. Trevithick, Y. Duer, and H. Stewart, Secretary.

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said that the report and accounts for the past twelve months had been printed and circulated among shareholders for some days, and had also appeared in the local papers. He would propose that they be taken as read. The minutes of the last meeting had also appeared in the local papers at the time, and he proposed that they also be taken as read.

These propositions were declared as carried.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

The directors have the pleasure to present the accounts of the company for the business year ended 31st March, 1894.

The confidence they expressed in their last report that "Kirin," owing to its acknowledged superiority in quality and purity, would continue to increase in public favour, has been fully justified by results,—the sales of the past 12 months exceeding those of any previous year.

The profit from the year's working has been very prejudicially affected by the fall in exchange, as the brewery uses only the best German malt and hops. With respect to the future, the directors believe that sales show a tendency to further increase, whilst there are many indications that give rise to a reasonable hope that exchange will not further fall below the figure of 2s., at which rate the accounts are made up.

The directors did not, having regard to the great uncertainty that existed last autumn with respect to the future of exchange, feel justified in declaring an interim dividend for the first half-year, and regret if shareholders suffered any inconvenience in consequence. They are pleased to find that such caution was perhaps unnecessary.

The balance at the company's credit on profit and loss account is $15,504.75. The directors propose that this sum be disposed of as follows:—

In payment of a dividend of 8 per cent for the year ...	$12,000.00
In payment of directors' and auditor's fees ...	1,200.00
In payment of bonus to brewer and other employés ...	1,475 57
Balance carried forward ...	829.18
	$15,504.75

The directors have during the year placed a further amount of $10,000 worth of debentures on favorable terms, bringing up the total amount issued to $40,000 of the $50,000 authorized by the shareholders.

There has been no change in the board of directors during the past year, which now consists of Messrs. J. Dodds, Shibusawa Yeiichi, T. B. Glover, H. Baehr, D. Fraser, and W. Gordon. The directors regret, however, now to lose the valuable services of Mr. Glover by removal to another port. The retiring directors are Messrs. J. Dodds and H. Baehr; but they, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The permanent staff in the company's employ remain unchanged, and have given entire satisfaction.

The auditor, Mr. Schwabe, retires, but the directors have pleasure in recommending his re-election, and they propose also, with the approval of the shareholders, to secure a second auditor to assist him in his duties.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

JAMES STEWART, Secretary.

Yokohama, 23rd April, 1894.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET TO 31ST MARCH, 1894.

DR.—Liabilities.

To 1,500 shares at $100 fully paid up ...	$150,000.00
To 400 Debentures at $100 ...	40,000.00
To Reserve Fund ...	10,768.56
To Reserve Fund Special ...	12,475.76
To Prize Fund ...	113.23
To Suspense Account ...	623.66
To Bills payable £1273 4 10 at 2/— ...	12,732.41
To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ...	7,461.03
To Sundry Creditors ...	6,569.89
To Profit and Loss Account ...	5,361.71
	$254,248.79

CR.—Assets.

By Landed Property and Buildings thereon ...	$ 57,564.50
By Machinery in operation ...	45,097.70
By Plant, Casks and Vats, and Corking and other Machines ...	31,910.18
By Working Stores, Malt, Hops, etc. ...	25,487.74
By Stock of Beer and Bottles ...	70,738.10
By Coal ...	89.00
By House and Office Furniture ...	529 31
By Petty Cash ...	197.69
By Fire Insurance Policies Current ...	380.22
By Hakaru Isono Loan Account ...	6,412.93
By Sundry Debtors ...	15,241.42
	$254,248.79

WORKING ACCOUNT.

DR.—31st March, 1894.

Interest ...	$ 3,101.20
Coal ...	3,428.55
Ground Rent ...	324.24
Insurance ...	1,621.84
Salaries and Wages ...	16,137.73
Samples, charges, etc ...	5,248.84
Wear and Tear ...	1,214.04
Discounts, Commission, and Advertising ...	26,514.18
Balance to Profit and Loss Account ...	14,281.89
	$ 71,872.51

CR.—31st March, 1894.

Waste Grains ...	$ 47.89
Profit on Brewing Account ...	71,824.62
	$ 71,872.51

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.

To Dividends, Fees, and Bonus Paid ...	$ 14,227.29
To Disposable Balance ...	15,504.75
	$ 29,732.04

CR.

By Balance from period ended 31st March, 1893 ...	$ 15,450.15
By Working Account ...	14,281.89
	$ 29,732.04

1st April, 1894.

By Disposable Balance ...	$ 15,504.75

JAMES STEWART, Secretary.

I have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with the books, vouchers and securities in the possession of the company, and find them to be correct.

R. S. SCHWART, Auditor.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of report and accounts, said—The 12 months for which we now submit to you our report have been months to the Directors of considerable anxiety. We have had to contend with a very keen competition on the part of other beer brewed in Japan, and we have to do this in the face of a declining exchange, which has necessarily entailed a larger expenditure on Product Account, owing to the malt and hops used in brewing "Kirin," being imported from Germany and being of the very best quality procurable. It was for these reasons, and having before us the uncertainty of the near future, that we did not consider ourselves justified in declaring the usual interim dividend, and we hope that you will think that in so acting we were rightly guided by prudential motives. You will be pleased, I am sure, to know that it is the opinion of the Board that the outlook of the Brewery for the coming year is distinctly good. The sales of the past 12 months are in excess of those of any similar period, which shows that "Kirin" is increasing in favour, and as experience tells us that in such a business steady increase in one year generally leads to a further increase the next, we have reasons to hope that the sale of these 12 months may exceed those of the first. As bearing this out, I may mention that our Secretary has just informed me that our sales for the present month are in excess of the largest month we have ever had, even those of the months of July and August, which are usually the months of largest consumption. With respect to exchange, it would be venturesome to make any prediction, but it does not seem to be taking a very sanguine estimate to say the chances are in favour of the average rate between this and next April being over 2/—, the rate at which the accounts now before you are made up, rather than under that rate. It is not, I think, necessary to go through the accounts item by item. They speak sufficiently for themselves, and any detailed information that shareholders may desire can always be obtained on application to the Secretary at the Company's offices. I would, however, refer for a moment to one item, that appearing as a "Special Reserve Fund." This results from a complete remodelling and re-statement of Property, Building, Machinery, and Plant Accounts from the first year of the Brewery's operations, which the directors thought it expedient to make in view of the course and fluctuation of Exchange, combined with a regular system of writing off depreciation from year to year, which has not hitherto existed. This account now shows the dollar balance between the value of the Company's property at present rate of exchange and the book value as entered at dates of purchase and after making full allowance for depreciation. The balance, depending on the sterling rate at which the accounts of machinery and other imports are made up, is kept as a special fund to meet any future fluctuations in exchange. In a business such as that of a brewery, and more especially when carrying on business over so extended an area, the shareholders are, if so willing, individually able to give great assistance to the management by keeping the Secretary informed of any facts that come to their knowledge that it may be to the Company's interests he should know. Previous solicitations for such assistance have scarcely met with the response the directors could have wished, and they would remind shareholders that they have it thus in their power to assist in increasing the dividend paying power of the Company. The Company's staff has worked thoroughly well, and is deserving of your best thanks. It would be to some extent invidious to mention names, and I there refrain from doing so, but I desire to draw special attention to the fact that it is no fault of theirs that the present accounts do not show a better return than any previous balance-sheet. It is sufficient for them and for you to know, as a measure of their services, that such would have been the case had exchange kept where it was at the beginning of the year. These remarks with respect to the Company's staff apply equally to the Company's General Agents in Japan. Since the report was drawn up we have heard from Mr. Glover that he is shortly to be up in Tokyo to remain for some little time, and as it is desirable to retain his valuable services as long as possible, the directors propose to ask him to retain his seat at the Board for the time being. Thinking that we have every reason to congratulate ourselves on the state of affairs as shown by the accounts, I beg formally to move their adoption as well as that of the accompanying report.

Mr. URE seconded, and in doing so, said that the shareholders should feel very gratified at the result of the year's working.

The CHAIRMAN—The report and accounts are now before the meeting. If any shareholder desires any information in regard to them the Directors will be only too pleased to answer them to the best of their ability.

There being no question, the motion was put to the meeting and carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business before the meeting is the filling of vacancies upon the Board of Directors; myself and Mr. Baehr retire by rotation but offer ourselves for re-election. Mr. Glover has not formally resigned, and as I have already announced the Board have asked him to remain upon their body.

Mr. URE—I beg to propose the re-election of the retiring directors.

Mr. DUER—I second the proposition.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The next thing before us is the reappointment of our auditor. The directors ask shareholders to leave to the Board the question of the election of a second auditor to such time as circumstances are suitable. Mr. Schwabe has been our auditor ever since the conception of the company, and during that time has rendered us valuable services. The Board therefore suggest his reappointment.

Mr. TREVITHICK—I propose the reappointment of Mr. Schwabe as auditor.

Mr. DUER—I second him.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Fraser has suggested, in connection with the remarks I let fall just now, that it would be as well to take a special vote to give your directors legal power in regard to the selection and appointment of a second auditor. We have two or three gentlemen in our minds, but we have not yet ascertained whether any of them would care to take up the labour attendant upon the position.

Mr. DUER—I propose that the Directors have power to appoint a second auditor at such time as they may think fit.

Mr. URE seconded.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN said that that concluded all the business which the Directors proposed to bring before them. The dividend warrants would be ready the next day.—(Applause.)

Mr. DUER—I propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Board of Directors.

Mr. TREVITHICK—I have great pleasure in seconding that vote.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN in fitting phrase acknowledged the compliment and the meeting closed.

The good service pension of £150 a year for captains, rendered vacant by the promotion of Rear-Admiral Rodney M. Lloyd, C.B., has been conferred upon Captain George W. Hand, R.N., at present in command of the *Aurora*. Captain Hand saw service during the war with China, and in the Naval Brigade was present at the capture of Canton, the taking of the Taku forts, and at the storming of Namtow.

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H.B.M. SUPREME COURT SHANGHAI.

ON APPEAL FROM H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN, AT KANAGAWA.

Before N. J. Hannen, Esq., Chief Justice, and George Jamieson, Esq., Assistant Judge.
Monday, April 23rd.

Between Tsune Kijima and others, Plaintiffs and Appellants, and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Defendants and Respondents.

Judgment was delivered this morning in this case, which was an appeal by Tsune Kijima and others, the next-of-kin of the men drowned in the collision which took place between the *Chishima Kan* and the *Ravenna* in the Inland Sea in November, 1892, to discharge the order made by H.B.M.'s Court for Japan on the 13th of December, 1893, which dismissed the petition by the said Tsune Kijima and others.

The appeal was heard on the 16th ult. when the plaintiffs and appellants put in a written argument drawn up by their counsel, Mr. A. B. Walford; Mr. J. F. Lowder and Mr. A. P. Stokes then appeared for the defendents and respondents, but Mr. Lowder having left for Japan, Mr. Stokes was now present alone.

The Chief Justice, in delivering judgment, said: —The decision of this appeal depends upon this short question:—"In Rule 39 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for China and Japan, is the word *may* to be read as *shall?*" The defendants and respondents rely principally upon the case of Julius *v.* Bishop of Oxford, and undoubtedly the law upon the subject was very fully considered in that case. The words there to be considered were "it shall be lawful;" here we have to consider the word "may,"—but all the remarks and arguments with regard to "it shall be lawful" are equally applicable to the word "may." Lord Cairns says:—"The words 'it shall be lawful' are not equivocal. They are plain and unambiguous. They are words merely making that legal and possible which there would otherwise be no right or authority to do. They confer a faculty or power, and they do not of themselves do more than confer a faculty or power. But there may be something in the nature of the thing empowered to be done, something in the object for which it is to be done, something in the conditions under which it is to be done, something in the title of the person or persons for whose benefit the power is to be exercised, which may couple the power with a duty, and make it the duty of the person in whom the power is reposed to exercise that power when callel upon to do so. And the words 'it shall be lawful' being according to their natural meaning permissive or enabling words only, it lies upon those, as it seems to me, who contend that an obligation exists to exercise this power, to show in the circumstances of the case something which, according to the principles I have mentioned, creates this obligation." He then goes on to the consideration of the cases in which, when a power was conferred, it was held that there was a duty to exercise that power. Lord Penzance says:—"The words 'it shall be lawful' are distinctly words of permission only—they are enabling and empowering words. They confer a legislative right and power on the individual named to do a particular thing, and the true question is not whether they mean something different, but whether, regard being had to the person so enabled, to the subject matter, to the general objects of the statute, and to the person or class of persons for whose benefit the power may be intended to have been conferred, they do, or do not, create a duty in the person on whom it is conferred, to exercise it. If the matter were to be decided by previous definitions, I should prefer that of the Lord Chief Justice Jervis, who said in the case of *Reg. v* York and North Midland Railway, that such words as 'it shall be lawful' were 'to be understood as permissive only, unless some absurdity of injustice would follow from giving them that their natural meaning.'" He also went on to consider the cases, and continued:—"In all these instances the courts decided that the power conferred was one which intended by the legislature to be exercised; and that although the statute in terms had only conferred a power, the circumstances were such as to create a duty. In other words the conclusion arrived at by the courts in these cases was this, that regard being had to the subject matter, to the position and character of the person empowered, to the general objects of the statute, and above all to the position and rights of the person, or class of persons, for whose benefit the power was conferred, the exercise of any discretion by the person empowered could not have been intended. If the idea of a discretion had not been excluded in these cases by the requirements of justice, and other general considerations, the courts could not have held that to be compulsory which the legislature had described in terms enabling and permissive only." Lord Selborne says:—"The language (certainly found in authorities entitled to very high respect) which speaks of the words 'it shall be lawful,' and the like, when used in public statutes, as ambiguous, and susceptible (according to certain rules of construction) of a discretionary or an obligatory sense, is in my opinion inaccurate. I agree with my noble and learned friends who have preceded me, that the meaning of such words is the same, whether there is or is not a duty or obligation to use the power which they confer. They are potential, and never (in themselves) significant of any obligation. The question whether a judge or public officer, to whom a power is given by such words, is bound to use it upon any particular occasion, or in any particular manner, must be solved *aliunde*, and, in general, it is to be solved from the context, from the particular provisions, or from the general scope and objects of the enactment conferring the power." Lord Blackburn says:—"I do not think the words 'it shall be lawful' are in themselves ambiguous at all. They are apt words words to express that a power is given; and as, *primâ facie*, the donee of a power may either exercise it or leave it unused, it is not inaccurate to say that, *primâ facie*, they are equivalent to saying that the donee may do it, but if the object for which the power is confined is for the purpose of enforcing a right, there may be a duty cast on the donee of the power to exercise it for the benefit of those who have that right, when required on their behalf."

From all these opinions—and I have quoted all the Lords who spoke—it appears that such words as "it shall be lawful" and "may" are merely permissive, and whether the judicial officer having the power is bound to exercise it, is for the applicant to make out *aliunde*.

Reading the Rule by the light of these authorities, we think that it merely gave a discretion, and that there was no intention to confer by the Rule itself any right which the defendants did not already possess. If the defendants can show that they have any right to have the petition in its present form dismissed, then they may apply to the Court to exercise its discretion in their favour, and the Court will be bound to do so.

Have the applicants then made out *aliunde* that they have such a right? In order to determine this we must look at the general rules and principles of pleading as provided for either by the Rules of this Court, or where they are silent, by the Rules of Judicature in England. It is admitted that there is no Rule of this Court farther than the particular section quoted that applies, and the only question is whether the defendants have such a right under the Rules of the Supreme Court of Judicature which they are at liberty to invoke under Rule 339.

At the time Rule 39 was drawn up there were cases in which two or more causes of suit not by and against the same parties might be joined in one petition (*e.g.* creditors' and legatees' actions and various Admiralty actions); there were other cases in which according to their Rules of pleading this could not be done. The Rule intended that the Court should dismiss the petition in the latter case and should exercise a judicial discretion in the former. Since that time, however, the Rules of pleading have been altered.

By Order XVI. "All persons may be joined as plaintiffs in whom the right to any relief claimed is alleged to exist whether jointly, severally, or in the alternative," and the principles upon which Courts in England allow several plaintiffs, though alleging distinct causes of action, to join in one petition have been fully set out in the recent case of Hannay *v.* Smurthwaite (L.R. 1893, 22. B. 412). We think that on the principles there laid down this case is one of a class in which the several plaintiffs may properly be joined. The right, therefore, which the defendants would have had under the old Rules of pleading to ask to have the petition dismissed is gone. It is now, we think, a matter for the discretion of the Court either to dismiss the petition or to allow it to proceed as seems most expedient for securing substantial justice between the parties. The petition is no longer "defective" in point of form as it would previously have been, and may be allowed to stand if otherwise expedient.

The position is shortly this. The burden lies on the defendants to show that words, which in their natural and ordinary meaning are permissive merely, must be read in their favour, and in no other way. They have to show that they have an absolute right to call upon the Court to exercise the power conferred on it by Rule 39 in the way they ask, viz., by dismissing the petition. We think they have failed to show this. We cannot find in the Rules of this Court, in any statute, or in any Rule of pleading now in force in England any absolute right such as they contend for.

We therefore think that the Court had a discretion in this case, and we also think that under all the circumstances of the case, that discretion should be exercised in favour of the plaintiffs. The appeal must therefore be allowed with costs.

It has not been necessary for the purposes of this decision to refer to the case of Scott *v.* Forrester, but as that case was referred to on both sides we think it well to say how far we agree with it. All that the learned Judge decided in that case was that when a matter or procedure was by our Rules left to his opinion that opinion should be guided by the practice which for the time being prevailed in England. To that extent we entirely agree with the case. But the learned Judge used language which has been construed to go far beyond that decision and which has been quoted to prove that the Court may pass over its own Rules altogether in favour of improvements and simplifications recently introduced in England. We do not think that was the intention of the learned Judge, if it was, we cannot agree with him. So long as the matter is one for which provision is made in our Rules those Rules should be followed. In matters where our Rules have made no provision, or where there is a discretion left to the Court, the practice at home may then be followed.

The appeal was allowed accordingly, with costs. —*N.-C. Daily News.*

IN THE TOKYO KOSO-IN.

Before Chief Justice Mayeda Kokai, President; and Associate Judges Kitakai, Shiono, Haniu, and Itagaki.—Thursday, May 3rd, 1894.

NEW ORIENTAL BANK, LTD., IN LIQ. *v.* A. M. APCAR.

This case came up for hearing this morning on Appeal from the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, for the evidence of Mr. Donald Fraser, and arguments by Counsel on facts elicited from his examination and the case in general.

The Appellant was represented by Messrs. Sawada and Kikuchi Takeo, while Mr. Masujima appeared for the Respondents.

Mr. Donald Fraser said, in reply to the Court, that he resided at No. 143, Bluff. He was forty-two years of age, and Manager of the National Bank of China. Was in no way related to the parties to the suit, nor did he hold the relationship of guardian between the parties.

On the Japanese form of oath—"I declare upon my conscience that I shall tell the truth; and shall conceal nothing, nor add nothing"—being presented to witness, and asked whether he had any objection to signing it, he replied in the negative. He then signed the document, the Court also cautioning him as to the punishment for not speaking the truth.

By the Court—Have you been in the service of the New O.B.C.?—Yes.

From what period?—From the inception of the bank to the 31st January, 1892.

Did you do business with M. Z. Martin of India?—No, none whatever. He came to Japan several times and drew money from the bank on a Letter of Credit, but never did any business.

Has Martin ever drawn money from the New O.B.C.?—Yes.

What is meant by a Letter of Credit?—It is a document enabling the holder to draw money from place to place. We gave Martin money against his Letter of Credit, but not on account of any business. We paid him money on a Letter of Credit from a bank in India.

In whose name was the money paid out?—In Martin's, to his order.

Did you ask Apcar to enforce a claim for $6,600 against Martin?—No, I don't remember that I did.

Did you ask Apcar to take legal proceedings against Martin?—No, but I advised him to take such proceedings.

Did you give such advice?—Probably I did.

Did you give such advice as manager of the bank?—No, not as manager.

The Interpreter was here dispensed with, and Mr. Kikuchi went on with the examination direct. —Do you know Martin?—Yes.

From what time?—From about 10 or 12 years ago; he travelled in Japan about that time, and I knew him then. I met him two or three times in Yokohama; that was when he came for money and had no more attention paid him than anyone else. I have been to his house. I don't remember when I made Apcar's acquaintance, probably I first met him with Martin, from which time we did business together. Only ordinary bank business was done with him, but I had so many transactions

of a similar kind that I do not remember the particulars of the business with Apcar. He must have been given a cheque-book in the usual course. It was in my discretion as Manager to give cheque-books to whoever I pleased.

Is it the custom of the bank to hand cheque-books to anyone who ask for them?—It is within the discretion of the Manager to give a cheque-book to whoever he likes.

When you gave the cheque-book to Apcar, did he have any deposit in the bank or a guarantee—whether he had given any security before he took out the cheque-book?—I cannot tell at present from memory, some arrangement must have been made as the goods were hypothecated to the bank.

Do you recognise the documents which I now show you as a transcript from the books of the bank?—I presume it is correct. It is written by Mr. Hall, an officer of the bank. I consider it correct, although it was written after my time.

Is it customary for a bank to allow a man to draw such large amounts as indicated without having put in a sufficient deposit?—There is no custom in banking business, everything is entirely at the direction of the Manager of the bank.

Do you often allow a man you have not known before, who has made no deposit or security, to draw money by cheques?—This has nothing to do with the present case, but he can do so for good reasons; the goods are put into his own godowns and hypothecated to the bank. That must have been the case then, for when the goods were shipped bills were drawn against them. Cheques were drawn against the goods first. I am only speaking from memory, but I think what I am saying is correct.

Can you not recollect the exact nature of the arrangement made with Apcar?—No, I cannot. If I had all the documents of the bank I could answer your question, but it is my opinion that I acted as detailed above.

Mr. Kikuchi—We don't want your opinion, we want facts.

Mr. Fraser—You must get some idea from the best of my recollection.

Do you remember what arrangements were made between you and Apcar and Martin. How did you allow Apcar to draw money without documents?—He must have had some. I did business with Apcar. I don't know whether he was introduced by Martin, but I have seen them together.

When Apcar drew cheques from the bank, who gave you documents of hypothecation?—Apcar.

Only Apcar?—Yes, it was his account.

Did Apcar make a deposit for the drawing of cheques for goods to Martin?—I don't know. He may have been drawing for others, as you will see on reference to the accounts as shown in this document (face of bank ledger).

Is it customary to mention other people's accounts?—As I have already said, there is no custom; every case stands on its own merits.

When did Apcar ask you if he could hand shipping documents to Mr. Martin?—He did so once, when he sent the documents to Martin without my permission and then told me. He never asked me, and I would never have allowed him as I would have lost my security had I done so.

Do you remember ever promising Apcar to buy clean bills on Martin?—No, I don't remember.

At the time you allowed him to draw cheques, did you not allow him to draw clean bills?—No.

Cross-examined by Mr. Masujima—You said, in answer to questions on the other side, you allowed goods to be purchased and handed over to you on letters of hypothecation. What is this document?—A letter of hypothecation.

You allowed Apcar to draw money for the first time on the 6th July. You allowed him to overdraw, then purchase goods and take out a letter of hypothecation. This document may be signed immediately or some days later?—Yes. Arrangements can first be made verbally and then documents given.

I notice that in the Bank account 8 per cent. interest is charged. Was that the customary rate then and now?—There is no custom.

Is there no current rate of interest?—No, the current rate is always by arrangement, otherwise Apcar would have objected to the 8 per cent. being charged. The discretion of the Manager is very often exercised in the way it was done in the case of Apcar.

Re-examined by Mr. Kikuchi—There are several bills mentioned in this account. Do they represent the full amounts mentioned on the face of the bill, or do they show discount?—I cannot tell from his account, they may have been both, but the sterling bills show for themselves. The 30 per cent. you point out is not a correct one. The margin—30 per cent. discount is unheard of.

This was all the verbal evidence required of Mr. Fraser. He was then informed by the Court Interpreter that he could leave.

Counsel for both sides then entered into lengthy arguments in support of documentary evidence brought forward by them, both sides traversing the case from the very outset until the evidence of Mr. Fraser, at which stage there was a recess of about fifteen minutes.

On resuming, after some further arguments and addresses by Counsel,

The Court reserved judgment until noon on the 8th inst.

PAUL ANJIRO;

OR THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY (ROMAN CATHOLICISM) IN JAPAN.

TRANSLATED AND ABRIDGED BY G. E. DIENST.

(CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY.)

V.

Xavier endeavoured, by all possible means, to pursuade the lord to change his decrees, so rashly made, but because of the threatening attitude of the Buddhists the lord hardened himself and refused the petitions of Xavier.

The saint then resolved to open a new field of labour in some other province. Before taking his departure, he assembled the members of the church and arranged with them to support this first church, the germ of Christianity in Japan, and by their exertions keep it in a flourishing condition. He cautioned them with reference to the dangers with which they were surrounded, and exhorted them to believe firmly in the doctrines they had received, and never to waver. He gave them several religious books—the Life of Jesus, a concordance, a work on mental philosophy—which he himself had translated, and entrusted all the affairs and management of the church to Paul. He then left them with the promise that, if the time should come that the lord would become more tranquil he would visit them again.

This first church has now lost her father, her shepherd, who taught the members the mysteries of the doctrines they believed. This flock was left among a multitude of wolves, the lambs were surrounded by threatening heathen who desired to exterminate the small plant by plucking it out by the roots. It is marvelous that they held to their faith amidst such persecutions. Among this flock none deserved more pity than Paul, who was compelled after six months, to flee from the country. He was a sort of bishop in the church, Xavier's substitute, bearing all the burdens of preaching and the management of the church which demanded incessant care and great prudence; but he could not endure the bodily injuries and unrelenting persecutions of the Buddhists, and fled. The members were dependent on him. His departure threatened disaster. But they were divinely strengthened and guided, and were a people of great faith, insomuch that they soon obtained considerable influence over the people, and without a leader, led more than five hundred to out a leader, led more than five hundred to Christianity in less than thirteen years. The lord or his son, it is not clearly stated which, wrote a letter to Alganus Cortas, the high priest of the mission in India, making mention of the righteous work of the believers and begged that some teachers be sent to Japan to lead the people, and expressed the opinion that all would become converted and be Christians. When Xavier left Kagoshima, he wrote a letter to the school in India in which he made mention of all the events that occurred on his journey and the work he did in Japan. He also made mention of the many things which interested him when he came to Japan. One thing that surprised him was that, the Japanese were not ashamed to do some things which we (Europeans) consider evil. This is because their ancestors did not consider such things unlawful, practiced them in public, and which things ultimately became a habit. Another thing which seemed strange to him, was their reverence to Buddhist priests. They are often licentious and unrighteous and yet reverence the priest as a god, and implicitly obey what he commands.

At the conclusion of this letter he says:—Japan, after the introduction of Christianity, was very much criticised. The people, however, began to believe and enjoy our doctrine, hence I write this letter to my Alma Mater in Europe, begging the same to send some learned, talented man here, skilled in preaching and capable of leading the people. Every one in Europe loves me and looks upon me as a child of that country, therefore I make this petition. If some one will come and help me, come with the armour of faith and in the glory of our Lord, and for the purpose of imparting spiritual happiness, I will briefly state the means by which we can successfully propagate the power of our doctrine. If we can succeed in promulgating our religion under the peculiar circumstances here, the blessings of God will rest on me and my work. Report these glad tidings to Evangelists who are labouring for the conversion of the heathen. Let us shine among the dark regions of Japan and China, let light be shed on these expansive lands and thus lead them out of darkness. China is about ten days journey from Japan. The Emperors of China and Japan commune with each other. The Japanese Emperor keeps the seal of China, therefore, if we gain favour with the Emperor of China we can readily gain entrance into Japan."

Xavier now left Kagoshima. He knew that the Portugese ships were at anchor at Hirato and that the lord of Hirato was at enmity with the lord of Kagoshima, the persecutor. He hoped to obtain favour with the lord of Hirato because of his enmity with the lord of Kagoshima. He went by sea, and when about six *ri* away, he came to a city. The mayor of that city was named Ikau and was an assistant (ally) to the lord of Kagoshima. His castle is built on a huge rock on the crest of a hill, surrounding which there is a moat. This moat, said the Spanish Captain, is built as a protection from enemies. The castle is octagonal in shape and built with huge stones, and from a distance looked like an island in the sea. The soldier's barracks are built near the castle, surrounded by a fence, and connected with the main part of the castle by small bridges or passage ways. The passage leading to the outside is always guarded by soldiers. The beauty of the inside of that castle is quite different from the outside. In the centre there is a large publlic court, aronnd which are private rooms and galleries. It is exceedingly beautiful and an object of wonder to all who see it. Xavier stopped over night near the castle, with the intention of entering it, if possible, on the morning following. Soon after the morning dawned, the lord of the castle invited Xavier to visit him, and complying with this invitation, Xavier immediately repaired to the castle where he was very cordially welcomed. He had a short interview with the lord and his wife, after which he retired to the soldiers' barracks. The soldiers respected him very much and treated him as an angel come from heaven. He explained to them his religion and told them about our heavenly Father, and when he saw that they gladly heard him he explained to them also some of his translations. The soldiers were fascinated with the truth of his doctrine and seventeen immediately became applicants for baptism. The wife and son of the lord also applied for baptism, and the lord himself wanted to become a Christian, but he feared the wrath of the lord of Kagoshima and thus hesitated to be baptized.

Soon a number were baptized, among whom was a very righteous and faithful old man. The soldiers revered him as their parent. Xavier chose him as the paster to whom he gave the order of service, the formula of baptism, a commentary, a concordance, a short life of Christ, hymns, songs and psalms. He gave him also lessons for the Sabbath, tracts and a programme for Bible reading (study) at their prayer meetings. He assembled them in a room on Sunday where they held service and exhorted them to hold prayer meetings on Friday of each week. Thus Xavier made such regulations by which every individual Christian could continue his faith independently. The Lord assisted him and the soldiers. When Luis Almeida came to Japan many years later, he found more than a hundred Christians who were zealous and strong in their faith.

When Xavier left that place, the old man, the pastor, baptized two children of the lord of the castle and five officials, among whom was a very learned man who spread abroad the doctrines and translated them into Japanese. The works translated treat of the creation of the world, the sin of our ancestors (Adam and Eve), the coming of Christ, our Saviour, his sufferings, death, and ascension. Almeida was greatly pleased with these publications and sent them to the province of Bungo so that the people abroad might read.

This man Almeida was a prolific writer as well as a man of eloquence. His conduct before the people was righteous. One day some one asked him in prayer meeting what he would do if their territorial lord commanded them to forsake Christianity? He immediately replied, "I will reply, in as far as I am your subject and servant, you, of course desire me to be faithful to you, and if necessary sacrifice myself for you in order that I may do my duty towards you regardless of my own beloved home. You desire me also to be mereiful and kind, patient, just, and honest. If such be your desire, let me uphold and preach Christianity, for Christianity accomplishes all you require of me. If you forbid me the exercise of my faith it will be the same as to urge me to revolt against

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you, and also in so doing you will urge me to be unjust, unfaithful, and dishonest. If I am not allowed to believe in Christianity my faithfulness to you cannot be depended upon, neither will I be honest with myself."[5]

Xavier gave a rod (staff) to the old man of whom we have spoken, which he himself used to prevent the exercise of his passions—lust. The Christians in Japan, especially those in the castle of Ikau, liked very much to confess their sins and repent of the same when they met together, they therefore beat themselves with this rod to prevent the exercise of their lust, all of which they did for the glory of God. They appreciated this rod as the most precious thing they possessed, and never used it under ordinary circumstances as their common rods. Here was again a most curious miracle, that by this rod, which when used brings pain to the flesh, had the power to heal fleshly diseases, proof of which is given in the cure of the lord's wife of a serious disease. She was dangerously ill and it was impossible to cure her by means of medicine. Her pain was intense. Some one took the rod left by Xavier and beat her two or three times, by which she was entirely cured of her disease. When Xavier gave this rod to the old man he told him not to use it for torturing the body and thus break it, but to use it only for the healing and pleasure of the body.

Xavier left for Hirato. After much suffering on land and sea he reached his destination. The Portuguese at Hirato welcomed him with greatest reverence in order to show the people of Hirato that he was a man of high and noble rank. When he entered the harbour, they fired a salute from their cannon, decorated their vessels with military flags and bunting, and as in the case of war, they "wrapped their ships in splendour wild," and gave expression to their feelings with a band of music. As his vessel neared their ships they greeted him with a loud shout.

The people of Hirato were astonished at this tremendous shouting and came out to see what was the cause of it. The Portuguese marched along to the palace of the lord of Hirato, being escorted and guarded by soldiers. It was a very strange sight to the Japanese to see a poor priest, clothed in dirty rags, guarded by finely clothed Portuguese. Japanese generally honour those who wear fine clothing, but when they saw the esteem the Portuguese had for Xavier and the way they treated him, they too honoured him regardless of his dirty clothing.

The lord of Hirato knew in advance, from the Portuguese, the virtues of Xavier. He desired to arouse the fury of his enemy, the Lord of Kagoshima, so he welcomed Xavier and treated him with greatest kindness and gave him permission to preach everywhere in his province, and Xavier, because of this permission, began with his companions to preach upon the streets. They both understood and spoke Japanese very well, so the people came from near and far to see and hear them. It was like a market. The large audiences were fascinated by the preaching of these priests, and some of them were baptized within twenty days. Indeed, there were more baptized here in twenty days than in all Kagoshima in one year. Xavier was greatly pleased with this great success right in the beginning of his work, and very much hoped to invade the main camp of Buddhism in Kioto, the Capital of Japan, where the greatest men and different lords assembled, for he thought that he had already won great and strong castles in Japan. He supposed that if he could preach Christianity and gain an influence over these great men, his success would be like that of Rome when she wielded an influence from centre to circumference of the great continent of Europe. He entrusted the affairs of the Christians of Hirato to one Cosmo while he, with two companions, Fernandez and Mathew Bemer, took their departure at the end of October 1550. He traveled by land as far as Hakata, some twenty miles from Hirato, and from thence went by boat a distance of more than one hundred miles to Yamaguchi.

Yamaguchi is the name of the chief town in the province of Nagato and is one of the most prosperous towns in that region, but the people were extremely immoral, because of their wealth and luxury. Xavier tarried at this port waiting for a convenient time to go to Kioto. The lord of that province heard of the arrival of the foreigners and that they were waiting an opportunity to go to Kioto, so he sent his officers to Xavier to invite him to the palace. Xavier was very glad to have so many opportunities to preach to the various lords in Japan and went to him without delay, and spoke of his faith and doctrine. The lord was very much interested in what he said, but was not willing to be baptised. He gave him, however, permission to preach in his province until he found an opportunity to go to Kioto. Xavier began on the following day by preaching in the streets. He lifted high the cross of Jesus in his right hand, explained to them every verse and word in the Bible, made comparisons with every faith, all kinds of religion, and boldly proclaimed the Truth. He then rebuked the licentiousness and improper deportment of the Buddhists, and concluded his discourse by speaking of the evil customs and habits of the Japanese, their eternal punishment and death in the world to come, and the wrath of God upon those who who commit these sins.

However, Xavier did all in his power to convert them, but they were immoral and lived in luxury, and neither heard nor obeyed. They ridiculed and laughed at his language and his dress, yet he preached of the wickedness of having concubines and the attending immoralities, which produced a multiplied anger of the people. The boys and girls ridiculed him, saying. "Here is a foolish monk! Here is a celibate monk who speaks of monogamy and only one God."

Xavier's preaching at this time received naught but ridicule and mockery from the people. But David says:—"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

VI.

But there were nobles who were fond of curiosity. They heard from their friends that a foreigner from India was zealously preaching a new doctrine in the streets. They desired to see and hear him, and all united in inviting him to appear before them. On his arrival, he found them clothed in gaudy apparel, surrounded by beautiful maidens, and guarded by soldiers both inside and outside of their mansions. Their proud and luxurious living was at once apparant. Xavier was naturally a very mild and humble man. But in this instance he disguised himself, and appeared in a very solemn and dignified manner; though his outward appearance was all but inviting, to show them that he was in high office. His salutation to the nobles was like that of an emperor to his subjects; especially when he discoursed before them, using the highest form of speech, a loud and dignified tone. His force of speech humbled the most haughty of them, like the tremendous thunder which causes the beasts of the wilderness to tremble.

After this, Xavier at times ordered Fernandez to go to the nobles, and suggested that he should be brave and courageous, answering all questions quickly, which they might ask. He said: "If they are haughty and rude, you must be the same and answer them clearly." Fernandez obeyed, but when he was threatened with the sword, he greatly feared and became quite a coward. Xavier told him to be courageous and fear no death, and in this way he could overcome the haughtiness of the Japanese. If we fear no death, the Japanese will fear us, said he, and will respect us, though poor ragged monks as we are, more than the Buddhists who live in pomp and luxury. This is the most expedient way to propagate the glory and power of the doctrine we preach.

Now the nobles of Yamaguchi were carefully watching to detect any inconsistency between the preaching and life of these foreigners. They did not like the preaching as well as some of the people, and yet in their hearts they prefered it, and agreed with what was said. They presented their opinions about this matter to their lord, who also desired to see Xavier and his companions in public. So he announced the date and place of meeting Xavier and his companions, the Buddhists and the nobles. On the day appointed, they assembled in a large hall filled with nobles, the high priest of Buddhism, in rich apparel, sitting next to the lord. The foreign priests were invited to a seat near them.

The priest asked Xavier about his native country, and all the events of his voyage. He then asked:—"Who is he that sent you to Japan from that distant corner of the world? And what is the purpose of your coming to Japan?"

Xavier answered:—"The one who sent us to your Majesty is my Lord the great God, the Creator of this world. And the reason of our coming is to tell your Majesty and your people of our Saviour, the only beloved Son of God, who came to this world to make known the law of God. To preach Him and His truth are we come. Those who obey Him and believe in Him, shall have eternal life, and shall sit at the right hand of God in Paradise."

When Xavier had finished, the Buddhist priest asked angrily:—"What is your doctrine? What is God whom you call Creator? What do you mean by Saviour? What is your object in preaching and urging people to become Christians? What hope do you hold out to them? Explain the origin of your religion and clear its mystery." Xavier was glad to hear such questions which he could readily and thoroughly explain, and then proceded to tell them of the creation of the world by the hands of God; the salvation and redemption of man through Jesus Christ and the principal object of his preaching in Japan. They were struck with amazement at the mysteries he unfolded, and without making the least disturbance, listened to all he had to say. The lords and the priest had not one word of objection, and "yea" was their only reply. Xavier then retired from the palace and from thence continued his preaching in the streets on the same themes he had explained to the lords; but this only provoked insults from the people, with no apparent success. But he considered this land a fertile one, and concluded that he must sow the seed by the sweat of his brow.

Xavier remained in Yamaguchi for a little more than one month, during which time he had nothing to comfort himself but preaching the Gospel. He then left for Kioto to see the Emperor and the Shogun, to obtain from them permission to preach in all provinces of the Empire, and thus gain the object of his first desire. The distance from Yamaguchi to Kioto is only about one hundred miles.[6] On his way there he sometimes lost the road. He had to cross steep mountains, broad valleys, deep rivers, seas and bays and constantly, when among the people, he preached to them the Gospel. After three months of weary travelling, he arrived safely in Kyoto, accompanied by Fernandez and a Japanese convert from Kagoshima.

This convert he named Bemer, made him an officer in the Jesuit church, and afterwards sent him to Rome as the first fruit of Christianity in Japan.[7] Some time later this Bemer left Rome and went to the school of Castellon (?), Spain, where he died.

It was near the end of December when Xavier left Yamaguchi and the weather was extremely cold. The road was so blocked with snow that the people could scarcely leave their homes, there being a small passage way only under the eaves of the roofs. In that country the wind is very fierce, and on the sea it blows like a typhoon. His travels were frequently interrupted by floods and almost impenetrable dark and gloomy forests. Moreover, there was some dispute between the Emperor and the Shogun, and on this account the saint often found the roads obstructed by soldiers. Xavier and his companions having but little money often suffered for want of food. True, Xavier had received some three thousand francs from the Portuguese king, but this money he gave to poor Christians and the newly baptized, and kept nothing for himself. He and his companions preceeded, notwithstanding the cold wind and their extreme sufferings, and in crossing rivers and floods they were often drenched, but having no change of garments they were compelled to walk and sleep in their damp clothing. Their food consisted simply of some bread which Bemer had brought from Yamaguchi. On entering small villages they at once went to the hotel to ask for lodging, but because of their dirty clothing and forlorn appearance the hotels refused them entrance. They were often completely fatigued, their bodies wet, their food deficient, and when turned from the hotel, they sought refuge in dilapidated huts, to shield them from the biting wind and frost.

Their chief trouble was ignorance of the way, which they so frequently lost, and fruitless wanderings in the deep forests and unknown byways. One day while wandering in the forest they met a traveller on horseback, on his way to Kioto. Xavier begged that they might accompany him to Kioto, promising that they would carry his baggage. He consented. Xavier took his goods and he and his companions ran after him for a while, but they so injured their feet upon the stones, and their knees by the thorns that they could scarcely endure it, yet did not like to desist. Xavier's companions being slow were soon left in the rear, and he himself being weak was soon dismissed. When his companions came to him he could but stand, and his feet were crimsoned by the blood that flowed from his many wounds, his knees swollen and his body almost faint from disease. Indeed they were a piteous company of men. Yet Xavier refused to yield to his sufferings and went on his way singing to comfort himself and encourage his comrades.

After one month of much suffering and fatigue, they arrived at Sakai, where Xavier was attacked with a stubborn fever and compelled to take his bed. His companions became alarmed and begged him to take some medicine, but he would not consent, saying that his life was in the hands of Providence, and there he would let it rest. At length he was happily restored.

Before he became strong, he started on his journey preaching and teaching in the many

[5] Though written in the singular, it seems to have a plural meaning. The man spake not only for himself but for the people.

[6] Though written *miles*, it evidently means *ri*.

[7] The first to go to Europe.

INTERNET ARCHIVE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

villages through which he was compelled to pass. Whenever he began his sermon, he exclaimed thrice, "Deos, Deos, Deos," for he knew no proper name in Japanese for the word God; and not only this, he feared that the Japanese would confound the Buddhist gods with the *true* God. This is why he used the word Deos. Because of his torn clothing the people ridiculed him, throwing stones, brick, and dirt at him, they nick-named him "Deos, Deos." Among those, however, who ridiculed him, some afterwards became Christians.

It seems from what they told Antony Carta, from India, the Japanese often tried to kill Xavier, because he denounced their gods and rebuked their wickedness. It is a strange fact that he always eluded their attacks, and escaped from their injuries, especially so, since the Buddhists often met together and planned to assassinate him in some out-of-the-way corner. Once their plans, which seemed to prove successful, were thwarted by a typhoon.

At length he and his companions succeeded in reaching Kioto. This was in February, 1551. He saw at once that this was not only the capital, but the centre of Buddhism, the home of the Emperor, the Shogun and high priest of Buddhism, named Zashu. His great desire was to preach and erect the standard of the Cross in this great centre of Japan. But in this he was disappointed. The term Kyo,[8] in Japanese, means many things to look at, but the city had been reduced to ashes during a great battle and many things destroyed. There remained standing the ruins of ancient palaces and a few houses only. The Shogun had recently revolted against the Emperor and there was great confusion. The lords who assisted the Shogun had returned to their provinces, and Xavier thought that it was not the proper time for him to begin; yet he endeavoured to see the Emperor and the Shogun. But when he arrived at the palace the officer requested eighteen hundred *marks* of money as admission fee, which, of course, Xavier did not have, and was therefore compelled to return to his hotel.

After failing in his designs here, he went again preaching on the streets. He gathered the people together, but as a rumour was afloat that the war would reopen, the people were in great confusion.

When possible, the people came to hear him, rarely were his congregations small, but because of the trying circumstances he tarried here only fifteen days.

At this time the Emperor of Japan was merely a nominal emperor, and the power of the Shogun extended to only five of the provinces surrounding the capital. Xavier knew this while in Kioto and thought himself a fool for having wished for the required amount of money asked to gain admission to the emperor, who was powerless to grant him permission to preach throughout Japan. He worked hard to propagate Christianity, for which he was often mocked and despised by the people. He found this work however a great pleasure. He now resolved to return to Hirato, and openly attacked Buddhism as a precedent to those who should follow him in his work in Japan. By so doing he hoped to reap a bountiful harvest. He engaged a river boat to take him to Sakai. From what Fernandez has said, it seems Xavier had a longing to remain in Kioto, for as the boat descended the river he turned his face repeatedly towards Kioto, and scarcely dared take his eyes off the capital. He recited and sang, repeatedly the hymn, "In extus Israll de Egypt" by David.

He now returned to Hirato where he found many Portuguese. He told Cosmo Torres, whom he left in this land, the events which occurred on his journey. He also told him that Yamaguchi is the best city and next in size to Kioto, and that he intended going there again. Torres and the other Portuguese consented to this, but warned him that the Japanese generally judged persons by their external appearance, and therefore, unless he wore better clothing he could not obtain favour with them. The people disliked bad clothing, and despised those who wore them. They further cautioned him:—"We must in some way conform to their customs, and let the people see the grandeur and glory of our religion. In the church we must have great and elaborate ceremonies in all our services. The true God on high even desired the high priest to put on jewels of gold and silver in order that the people might reverence him. This can be done by preaching to the Japanese the supreme beauty and value of our Christianity. But the Japanese of to-day exalt only the treasures and ambitions of this world. How can we succeed before such people if clothed like a beggar.? It is not the proper means to success. If we work hard to convert them, they will suspect that we have come to Japan to get gain instead of giving them blessings invaluable. As we are now, they will imagine us impostors and sorcerors."

But Xavier bitterly hated worldly pomp and pleasure. He never courted the favour of the people by visible means. He always used the invisible. These means are three virtues in Christ, humility, poverty, and patience. He opposed the schemes of the Portuguese by saying, "The education and development of the world does not lie in the power of human wisdom, and never can be accomplished by it. This must be done by the power of the true God which will triumph over the world. The twelve disciples of Christ did not wear fine clothing when they entered the gates of nobles and kings. If the disciples had used anything save the cross and glory of Christ, who triumphs over every nation in the world, their work would have been utterly lost. Vanity originates in the world, and it is needless for us to adorn ourselves. The Son of God began his work in poverty, and made unselfishness the root of Christianity. In beginning the work in Japan, we must begin it as the twelve began, and lay the foundation they laid. This grand work is impossible with human power alone. The one who has given us the confidence of these savage nations is God, and though they suspect us for the present, and suppose that we are here to gratify lust and obtain wealth, yet if we reject their offers of money, they will respect us."

VII.

After Xavier had thus spoken his opinion, the Portuguese retorted:—"But it you do not present a gift to the king you will never have the honour of meeting him, neither will you received any favours from him. Such is the custom of the Japanese that, those who desire to see the lords must, in advance, present something to the lord; this you may not know. If one desires to win Japan for Christianity, he must not appear as a beggar nor in ragged dress. Who will respect such an one? Who will honour him? Do not, therefore, be obstinate. Change your old clothes for better ones."

Xavier was hard to convince. He prayed for power to win the souls of his luxurious and ambitious people. He saw, however, that he must break losse from his obstinacy, and wear the better clothing presented to him by the Portuguese. He felt chagrined when he thought that, because of his poverty, he could not see the Emperor or Shogun while at Kyoto. He now resolved to present the gifts, sent by the Cardinal and Bishop from India, and intended for the Emperor, to the lord of Yamaguchi. These gifts, which Xavier left at Hirato when he went to Kioto, consisted of hand-organs and such other European manufactures which could not be had in Japan.

As soon as he arrived in Yamaguchi, he went to visit the lord in his palace, taking his presents with him, and was very cordially welcomed. Together with the gifts, he presented the messages sent by the Cardinal from India; all of which the lord gladly accepted and for which he returned many thanks. The lord reciprocated these gifts with large sums of money. But Xavier declined the gift, which astonished the lord very much, and he said:—"This is strange, for while the Buddhist priests are covetous, especially for money, the European priests desire nothing of the kind."

Xavier was very much admired for this act, but that which immediately followed caused the Japanese much alarm. The lord asked, "What do you desire most in my country, what is your greatest wish?" Xavier answered:—"My greatest desire in coming to Japan is to preach the Gospel, and propagate Christianity throughout Japan, and I asked no great favour than to be allowed to preach everywhere in your country." In this way he petitioned the lord for permission to preach the doctrine of the true God in Japan. The lord saw the honesty of Xavier, and his fervency as a Christian, and commanded his servants to treat him with special respect and reverence. He called together the officers of every department, and gave public notice that Xavier and his companions had permission to labour in his entire territory. He allowed some of his subjects to accept the new faith, and issued an edict that he would treat as criminals such who ill-used, or in any way interrupted the work of Christianity, and would punish them accordingly.

In addition to this, the lord gave them an old Buddhist temple and the garden surrounding, for a temporary dwelling.

As soon as Xavier and his companions took possession of the temple, great crowds of people, of every class and station, came to visit them. Some of those were a fraud, and came for strategic purposes; some came from curiosity, and some came to hear the truth, and see the work of these great men. This is especially true of some of the Buddhists who came to study and investigate the new doctrine. At first the Buddhist priests manifested contentment and satisfaction with the new faith. But when Xavier attacked their lewdness and immorality, they became furious and planned to injure the saint and interrupt his work; but regardless of their devices, he spent most of his time communing with the crowds of people who came to his door for information.

The preceding paragraphs are taken from letters of Xavier to his friend Ignatius, in which he wrote at length of the manners and customs of the Japanese. In these letters he further wrote on the qualifications of preachers and the principal points to be observed in preaching in Japan. He said that in the first place, the Japanese judge a man by his outward appearance and the truth or untruth of a religion by the deeds of men in high standing. Uprightness and honesty are particularly necessary.

Secondly, Because there are many learned and thinking men among the Japanese, they will accept nothing that is not in accordance with reason. The preacher must therefore possess great wisdom and learning.

Thirdly, the preacher must be patient and capable of great endurance. He must be willing to live in constant danger, and sacrifice, if need be, his own life for the truth. He must be brave and courageous. He should also possess a clear knowledge of astronomy and mathematios, for the Japanese are intensely desirous to learn the reason of eclipses, the changes of the moon, and things of like nature, and a knowledge of science may greatly aid in winning souls. He also remarked, at the close of this letter, the danger in which he was placed, and the dangers that would meet those who would follow him.

He further said, "I am perplexed every day, from morn till even by the unpleasant questions of vagabonds. Sometimes we are invited to the houses of nobles and I lose much time for Bible study and other services. I have but little time to meditate and sing my hymns. I am often perplexed to find time to eat. The Japanese, generally, are very rude and void of sympathy for foreigners. Just imagine the sufferings through which we must pass when we speak of their religion and rebuke their immorality."

There were other things they had to endure, not recorded in this letter. Once while preaching in his church he fortunately escaped great injury. He and Fernandez stood on either side of the table, preaching alternately. They were weak from want of food, and one could not preach sufficiently long enough to satisfy the curious demands of the people. Moreover, one was constantly needed to answer the difficult questions asked by the people. At first the people came to mock, not to hear. Bye and by, after carefully and mildly explaining all difficult questions, the people became tranquil. They then came to listen and finally to accept the truth, but no one desired to be baptized. There were even some convinced, but not bold enough to say so. In this, Xavier was disappointed, for he could see no visible fruit of his labour; but the great patience of Fernandez caused many to respect and accept Christ.

One day when Fernandez was preaching in a busy street, a great multitude stood round to hear him, some of whom were nobles. In the midst of his sermon a rude and vulgar man came near, pretending to listen, and suddenly spat in the preacher's face. The people at once rebuked such violence. Fernandez, as if nothing had happened, gently wiped the spittle from his face and continued his sermon as usual. The people greatly admired such composure and began to reverence him and believe his preaching.

In this multitude was also a very obstinate, but in many respects an upright man, who very heartily despised Christianity. He came to this place to find occasion for fault against Fernandez, but when he saw that the preacher endured the greatest shame and the insults of the people, and that he left all worldly favour to suffer disgrace at the hands of the people in the interest of truth, he praised the courage of the speaker and said, "Every tree is known by its fruit, and religion can be judged by the virtuous deeds of the believer. This man stands firm and strong in the truth he professes, and shuns not the attacks and insults against him. He desires immortal blessings. He does not serve wealth as the Buddhists do. His only intention is to teach the doctrine of the true God, by which means he hopes to lead souls from the darkness of sin. The one who has given them this one idea is God. We should believe him." This man, after due consideration, went to Xavier and requested baptism, to which Xavier very kindly consented. This was the first fruit in Yamaguchi. The work of Fernandez had great influence among the people, and brought them many applicants.

The report of this conversion soon spread over the province of Yamaguchi. Those who once hesitated, fearing the criticism of their friends, now

[8] We are not responsible for this definition of this word.

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made no delay in being baptized. More than five hundred persons received baptism in less than two months. There was a young man, about twenty five years of age, a graduate of the famous university in Japan, quite a superior in talent and education, honoured by the people, who came to Yamaguchi to become a Buddhist priest; but on arriving there he found no religion that suited him. He perceived clearly that there must be a First Cause, but no Buddhist was able to tell of this First Cause. He was greatly disappointed. When he heard the western priest he seemed quite satisfied, for the discourse taught of the creation of the world. He soon thereafter, called upon Xavier and had a conversation with him on this subject, he believed, was soon baptized and received the Christian name of "Roland." He was with Xavier very much, and eventually begged the privilege of living with him. Xavier thought that God had appointed this man a means by which the Gospel could be spread throughout all Japan. He granted his request and made him a member of the Jesuit church. This man served as a preacher for thirty years, and had much success. He led many nobles and territorial lords to Christianity, all of whom aided in laying the foundations of this doctrine in Japan.

This young man was also the means of converting many teachers of Buddhism, and spoke plainly concerning the evil deeds and plans of the Buddhists to tempt the people, and it was by this means that Xavier understood the condition of the people in Japan. He considered the Buddhist priests the most forcible enemies Christianity had in Japan. He publicly censured their deceptions, and reproached their superstitions. He was not able to oppose all the sects in Japan, but designed to defeat the most powerful and then the conquest of the smaller would be an easy matter.

The priests of the most powerful sect taught these five commandments,[9] which all must keep in order to attain to eternal happiness.

1. Man should not kill, neither should he eat of the flesh he has killed.
2. Man must not steal.
3. Man must not commit adultery.
4. Man must not deceive.
5. Man must not drink wine nor strong liquor.

The priests said in in explanation that, "The man of the world, absorbed in worldliness, finds it impossible to keep all these commandents. The god of Buddhism therefore, commands all men to erect splendid temples for the use of Buddhist priests, and to support them bountifully. Man must entrust all spiritual matters to the priest, and it will be sufficient (for the man) if the priest alone keeps commandments." In continuing, the priests say, "It matters not how great the sins of man are, and how often they are committed, if he offers abundant gifts to the priest, he will be exempted from the punishment due such sins; and even if he should fall into hell after death, he can be redeemed from the torments of the same by Buddhist priests reciting the sacred books for him."[10]

The facts above narrated are strongly believed by the Japanese and are the cause of their obstinate superstitions. The priests got great gain by teaching certain doctrines respecting women. They taught that "Women are extremely sinful, much more so than men, and hence their salvation is very difficult. The only means by which they can be saved is to divide the property belonging to such persons, into equal parts, and give the priest one-half of the said property. For many centuries they used such means to gratify their propensity for gain, and often profited at the expense of good men and women.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

[9] A reference to the Catechism on Buddhism, published by Mr. Olcott, intimates that Buddhism, from the beginning held and taught more than these five commandments.

[10] This doctrine is taught and believed by many Buddhists in Japan to-day. A priest in high rank told the translater recently that, the doctrines of Buddhism taught probation after death, and it mattered not how sinful man was, nor how long he might remain in hell because of his sins, the time would come when he would not want to endure the torments of *jigoku*—hell—and by a process of good works, would reach the state of *hotoke*,—more properly, unalloyed happiness. Though he might fail repeatedly in his efforts to obtain this happiness, it would not be in vain,—he would ultimately reach the desired haven. This happiness, he said, was not absolute, but consisted principally in the absence of unhappiness.

[11] A similar doctrine, respecting women, was also mentioned, but he did not ascribe to them such wickedness as is set forth in the above.

The new Japanese Minister in London, Viscount Aoki, has accepted the invitation of the Council of the Japan Society's President in succession to Viscount Kawase, the recent Japanese Minister, who has returned to Japan. The annual dinner of the society is to be held on May 21.

The award of the arbitrators who have been examining into the disputes between the Government of Siam and Mr. G. Murray Campbell, the contractor of the Bangkok and Korat Railway, was given on 16th inst. We understand that the judgment was entirely in Mr. Campball's favour.

UNITED STATES SENATOR LODGE ON BIMETALLISM.

One of the most significant movements in support of the restoration of silver to its former rank as a money-metal is the organization, in Boston, of a Bimetallic Committee, to which we have already called attention. Almost simultaneously with the formation of the Boston Committee came the appointment of a Special Commission in Germany to give study to the same question, and the two events indicate that silver is not to be permanently relegated to the condition of a non-precious metal without a struggle in its behalf both in the United States and on the Continent of Europe. Boston is, as is known, the capital of the State of Massachusetts, a community noted for its intelligence and the sound sense of its people, and it is interesting to find that both the United States Senators from Massachusetts, Mr. George Frisbie Hoar and Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, have declared themselves in favour of bimetallism. On the 6th of this month, Senator Lodge, certainly a statesman not easily converted to new financial theories, whose career we have watched for many years with great interest, regarding him as we do as one of the most brilliant and, at the same time, most capable statesmen of the Northern Republic, made a speech in support of bimetallism on the floor of the Senate. Naturally, a declaration in favour of silver from a Senator from Massachusetts attracted much attention in the Press, and we take pleasure in presenting here a condensation of his remarks. Mr. Lodge declared it to be his belief that the general feeling of the people of the United States, with the exception of a "wholly insignificant fraction," is favourable to the use of silver and against the abandonment of either of the precious metals as money. "I have no question," said the Senator, "that one of the causes of the decline in silver is over-production, but it seems to me equally clear that the withdrawal of demand must also have had a powerful effect in reducing its value. The great demand for silver has been in currency; yet one after another of the great nations of the earth have closed their mints to silver, reducing the demand, although all the time there was an increase of business and an increase in the everyday use of money owing to the increase of population. In other words, you have withdrawn a large demand from silver; that is, you have stimulated its decline. If the decline started in overproduction it has been stimulated by the withdrawal of the demand for use. At the same time the demand for gold has been greatly increased, so that the two metals have been pushed constantly apart by for forces working upon each of them."

There is a great deal of practical wisdom condensed in the foregoing observation. Mr. Lodge is not a silver fanatic; he does not believe that the United States simply by adopting a policy of the free coinage of silver can restore that metal to its ancient place in the currency of the world, but he does hope, as sensible men must, that, by the concerted action of the great Governments of the world, relief may come. Continuing, the Senator cited Mr. Giffen, an English advocate of gold monometallism, who admits that practically the gold coin supply of the world has not increased; that the annual product has gone into the arts; to India, which is substantially the same thing as being used in the arts, because it is hoarded away from circulation, and by the repair of the ordinary supply. "That is," comments Mr. Lodge, "you have been adding nothing to the world's supply of gold as a circulating medium, while at the same time you have been increasing the demand. You have been increasing the production of silver and diminishing the demand. You have been using up the production of gold and have failed to add to the supply, while at the same time you have increased the demand enormously. Of course, under those forces the two metals have drifted further and further apart." Concluding, the Senator said:—

"Now, Mr. President, that seems to me a most significant utterance, an utterance that would not have been possible from Germany eighteen months or two years ago. It shows that the effort to maintain the business of the world on a gold standard is coming home to the nations who forced it upon the world, to Germany and to England. My own belief is, that if there is any prospect anywhere of doing anything for silver it must be done by a general international agreement.

"There is a limited quantity of gold in existence for the business of the world, and the whole world to-day is competing for that gold. In my opinion, we could vastly facilitate the settlement of this question if we entered into that competition and endeavoured with a strong hand to bring gold to this country. But in any event the strain that is put upon the gold supply of the world to-day is enormous. Vast sums are being locked up in military chests. Vast sums are held by nations who dread the loss of the metal. With all that, and also with the increased demand for business and for population, we are adding nothing to the supply. This means that the civilized nations of the earth are engaged in a vast contraction. You cannot find a single gold-standard man who will not cry out against inflation as the unsoundest sort of finance, and he is perfectly right. The effort to raise prices artificially by pouring out money which the people do not need and cannot normally use is the artificial inflation of prices. But if the artificial inflation of prices is an evil the artificial contraction of prices is also an evil, and the effort to force the money supply of the world below its needs brings on an artificial contraction just as an effort to increase the supply above the normal needs brings on artificial inflation.

"That is the situation, as it appears to me, with which we are confronted. As I said, it seems to me a question that goes deeper than any other question now confronting the world, because it affects everybody alike. I think we can see its effects in the condition of exchanges, in the condition of prices everywhere. From my point of view, I think there is no safety except in holding our own position, and not attempting to enter on any plan of upholding silver by ourselves. The single gold standard policy, the effort to contract the circulation of the world, is an English policy, begun by England, because she is a great creditor nation, with a view of increasing her profits, because she has a larger control of a commodity in which other commodities are measured.

"Just as fast as she could raise the value of her commodity, so she raised her profits, forgetting that she might bring upon herself just what she is bringing to-day—bankruptcy in her colonies, bankruptcy in the Argentine, bankruptcy in Guatemala and the small countries to which she has lent money; bankruptcy in her great Indian possessions, so that she not only gets no profit, but nothing at all. England to-day is feeling this pressure. I think if this country stands as it stands now, and if we remain ready to take advantage of the present situation, we may solve the silver question so that the solution will last."

We have devoted unusual space to this speech, because of its great significance, coming from a Senator of the United States, who represents a State which has hitherto been regarded as a stronghold of gold monometallism. Mr. Lodge could not have spoken with more emphasis in behalf of silver, and the ground he has taken in support of a waiting policy by the United States is precisely, as our readers are aware, the ground we have ourselves taken during the past two years. We heartily congratulate Massachusetts on possessing, in Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, a statesmen who in the United States Senate continues the traditions of a State which has never failed to send men of marked intellectual ability to the National Legislature.—*Mexican Financier*, March 31.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."

London, April 30.

Mr. Henry Hartley Fowler has stated that neither the Government of India nor the Secretary of State contemplates the re-opening of the Indian Mints to the coinage of silver.

The harvest prospects in Great Britain are favourable.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Kobe, May 3.

In Her Britannic Majesty's Court yesterday a motion was made, and the libel action against the *Kobe Chronicle* withdrawn, the plaintiffs paying the costs.

(SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL.")
[FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, April 23.

In the House of Commons last night, Mr. Alpheus Cleophas Morton, M.P. for Peterborough, moved that the annuity to the Duke of Coburg should be abolished. Mr. Henry Labouchere and other Radical members supported the motion, which was rejected by a majority of two hundred and thirty.

The betrothal of the Czarewitch and Princess Alix of Hesse has been announced.

A German Loan to the amount of one hun-

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dred and sixty-nine million marks has been issued.

Trouble is said to be brewing in Swaziland, the natives being determined to resist Transvaal rule.

M. Harmand has been appointed French Minister to Japan.

April 24.

A very severe earthquake has occurred in Greece: the towns of Atalanti and Thebes are almost entirely destroyed. At least 200 persons have been killed, chiefly in the villages situated in the province of Phocis. Whole families have been destroyed and congregations buried beneath the *débris* of falling churches.

The vote for Uganda for the current year is fixed at £50,000.

A large army of the unemployed is marching from all parts of the United States to Washington to petition for the relief of their grievances. Hundreds are falling sick by the wayside, and the railway companies refuse to grant them gratuitous transport. The affair is causing general ferment throughout the United States. a

April 25.

The German Emperor has been appointed honorary Colonel of the First (Royal) Dragoons, which makes him the first foreign sovereign in the British Army List.

April 26.

Lord Rosebery, speaking at the City Liberal Club, appealed to the Unionists to hold aloof no longer from the party which held the copyright in the name Liberal, and guaranteed the upholding of the British flag abroad and the unity of the three kingdoms.

April 27.

The Unionist papers are of opinion that Lord Rosebery's appeal to the Unionist party will be futile.

Renewed shocks of earthquake have been experienced in Greece.

The bands of unemployed marching to Washington are becoming aggressive, and the United States Government has ordered troops to intercept the Montana contingent.

(From Tonkin Papers.)

Paris, April 12.

Several bombs have been discovered at Rome.

Paris, April 13.

The Egyptian Cabinet has resigned.

The conflict between M. Crispi and the Finance Committee it becoming more acute. The resignation of M. Crispi or the dissolution of the Chamber is expected.

April 15.

Commandant Joffre has defeated the Touaregs in the neighbourhood of Timbuctoo, inflicting a loss of 120 killed. On the French side the loss was only two wounded.

April 16.

Nubar Pasha has reformed the Egyptian Cabinet.

The Reichstag has repealed the law against the Jesuits.—*Daily Press.*

(From Manila Papers.)

Madrid, April 12.

The Committee of the Senate is delaying its report on the commercial treaties concluded with other nations, notwithstanding that the Government has undertaken to obtain their approval before the 15th May.

The President of the Council of Ministers, Senator Sagasta, stated in Congress to-day that the approval of the commercial treaties will be regarded as a question of confidence and that he will resign if they are not approved.

April 13.

The Committee of the Senate are conducting their deliberations in such a way as will delay the report.

The Government is negotiating a *modus vivendi* with Germany which will overcome the difficulty in connection with the undertaking that the treaty with that country should be approved before the 15th May.

April 16.

Notwithstanding the defeat sustained by the Government in connection with the question of the commercial treaties it is expected that the situation will continue.

April 13.

The United States new tariff comes into force on the 1st June.

(From Japanese Papers.)

Okayama, April 28, 11 a.m.

At 9 p.m. on the 26th instant, the embankment of the Takahashi River at Nakata-jima in the Asakuchi district, which gave way last year and was temporarily rebuilt, broke down, and the water, pouring through, submerged 375 acres of cultivated land and 800 houses. No casualties to man or beast occurred. Two thousand four hundred persons are receiving assistance. The Governor, the engineering experts of the Prefecture, and the Police Authorities have proceeded to the breach, and are adopting vigorous measures for its repair. The calamity is not so bad as that of last year. Fully a mile of the railway is under water, the greatest depth being from 5 to 6 feet above the rails. The railway officials have constructed platforms at either end, and are sending the passengers across in boats. The breach in the bank of the Takahashi River being narrow, repairs can be effected without serious difficulty.

Kyoto, April 28, 2.50 p.m.

The Otonase-gawa, Tamba Province, has done some damage to bridges and roads along its course.

Fukui, April 28, 4.30 p.m.

The preliminary trial of Mr. Sugita Teiichi, M.P., who seriously assaulted his younger brother, has concluded, and he has been remanded to the Local Court on a charge of attempted murder.

Osaka, April 28.

The noon up-train from Kobe yesterday came into collision with a freight down-train at Yamashina Station owing to the mistake of a pointsman. The engines and carriages were damaged to the extent of *yen* 1,600. The passengers escaped injury.

Okayama, April 28th, 11.15 a.m.

The railway track devasted by recent inundations will require a week to get into working order again.

Kagoshima, April 30.

Twenty-nine men of the *Elten* (*Drumelton*?) ashore near Tanegashima, arrived here this morning by the *Mishima Maru*.

Sendai, April 30.

The preliminary examination of Mr. Oba, M.P., charged with violating the Election Law during the past general election, has concluded; he has been found not guilty.

Sapporo, May 1.

An explosion of gas took place in the Horonai coal mine yesterday, and five persons were more or less severely injured.

Kobe, May 1.

Mr. Foster, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs in the U. S. Government, arrived here yesterday, and proceeded to Osaka to-day.

Osaka, May 1.

Mr. Foster, who reached here this afternoon, put up at the Jiyutei Hotel. He visited Osaka Castle under the guidance of local officials, and will pass the night in this city.

Utsunomiya, May 1.

Mr. Hoshi Toru yesterday intimated his intention of becoming a member of the Utsunomiya branch of the *Jiyu-to*. He has taken this step after consultation with Count Itagaki.

Utsunomiya, May 2.

Sir William Robinson, Governor of Hongkong, reached here last night, and left at once for Nikko.

Kofu, May 2.

Snow fell here last night, and some anxiety prevails among sericulturists.

Mayebashi, May 2.

Intense cold prevailed here this morning, and a severe frost is reported from the neighbourhood of Numata.

Yamaguchi, May 2.

The frost was very severe this morning.

Nagano, May 2.

Severe frost was experienced here this morning, and some damage was done to mulberry leaves.

Osaka, May 2.

Mr. Foster, ex-Secretary of State in the U.S. Government, left for Nara to-day.

Nagasaki, May 3.

Three British men-of-war have been staying at Kyobunto, Korea, and an order for the supply of three months' provisions for the ships has been given to a merchant of this port. Nothing is known as to the length or reason of their stay at that island.

Matsuye, May 4.

Mr. Nishita, Superintendent of the Shimane Police, on behalf of the Governor, has left for the capital to petition for an Imperial visit to the Prefecture.

Utsunomiya, May 4.

Heavy rains occurred here to-day, and various rivers overflowed.

Sapporo, May 4.

An exceptionally large fire broke out at Temiyacho, Otaru, at 7 o'clock last night, and more than five hundred buildings were destroyed.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The Yokohama Chess Club is now closed for the season and will reopen on Monday 1st October.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 119.

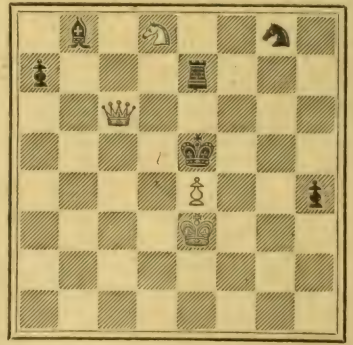
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to R 3	1—K to K 6
2—Q to Q Kt 2	2—P to K B 6
3—Kt to Q 5, mate	
	if 2—K to B 6, or P to R 5
3—P to Q 4, dis. mate	
	if 2—P to Q B 5
3—P × P, dis. mate	
	if 1—K to K 4
2—P to Q 4, ch. or Q to Q B 7, ch.	2—K × Kt, or moves
3—R or Q, mates acc.	
	if 2—K × P
3—Q to Q 5, mate	
	if 2—P × P
3—Q to Q B 7, mate	
	if 2—K to Q 3
3—Q to Q 7, or R to R 6, mate	
	if 1—P to Q B 5
2—Q to Kt 6, ch.	2—K to K 4
3—R to R 5, mate	
	if 1—P to K B 6
2—Q to Kt 2, ch.	2—K to K 6
3—Kt to Q 5, mate	
	if 1—P to R 5
2—Q to Q Kt 2, ch.	2—K to K 6
3—P to Q 4, dis mate.	

Correct solutions received from Digamma, W.H.S. ("a remarkably well-concealed Key-move"), Omega (who points out the dual on Black playing K to K 4, and justly considers it a great blemish), and J.D.

Problem No. 121.

By H. Hermann.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

We have no later news than we published last week about the Steinitz-Lasker contest. We re-

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print one of the games below, which is remarkable from the fact that Steinitz adopted the Giuoco Piano opening and pushed a "Max Lange" attack to a successful issue. He tried the same thing in the sixth game of the match but on that occasion had to be content with a draw. Lasker won games 7 and 8—details of the play have not yet arrived.

GAME 125.

GIUOCO PIANO.

WHITE. Steinitz.	BLACK. Lasker.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to B 4	3—B to B 4
4—P to B 3	4—Kt to B 3
5—P to Q 4	5—P × P
6—P to K 5	6—P to Q 4
7—B to Q Kt 5	7—Kt to K 5
8—P × P	8—B to K 2
9—Kt to B 3	9—Castles
10—B to Q 3	10—P to B 4
11—P × P, *e.p.*	11—Kt × P
12—B to K 3	12—Kt to Q Kt 5
13—B to Kt sq.	13—Kt to Kt 5
14—P to Q R 3	14—Kt × B
15—P × K Kt	15—B to R 5 ch.
16—P to Kt 3	16—B to Kt 5
17—Castles	17—Q to K sq.
18—P × Kt	18—Q to R 4
19—Kt × P	19—R × Kt
20—Kt to B 4	20—R × Kt
21—Q to Kt 3 ch.	21—R to B 2
22—R × R	22—Q × R
23—B to R 2	23—Q × Q
24—B × Q ch.	24—K to B sq.
25—P × B	25—K to K 2
26—B to Q 5	26—P to B 3
27—B to K 4	27—P to Q R 3
28—R to R 5	28—P to R 3
29—P to Kt 5	29—B P × P
30—B × P	30—R to R 2
31—B to B 6	31—B to Q 2
32—B × B	32—K × B
33—K to B 2	33—K to B 3
34—K to K 2	34—K to Kt 3
35—R to R sq.	35—P to Q R 4
36—K to Q 3	36—P to R 5
37—P to K 4	37—R to K B 2
38—P to K 5	38—R to B 6 ch.
39—K to K 4	39—R to B 7
40—R to Q Kt sq.	40—K to B 3
41—P to Q 5 ch.	41—K to Q 2
42—K to Q 4	42—R to Q 7 ch.
43—K to B 5	43—R to B 7 ch.
44—K × P	44—R to K 7
45—P to K 6 ch.	45—K to Q 3
46—R to Q sq.	46—R × P ch.
47—K × P	47—R × P
48—R to K sq.	48—R to R 7 ch.
49—K to Kt 3	49—R to R sq.
50—K to B 4	50—P to Kt 4
51—P × P	51—P × P
52—K to Q 4	52—R to R 5 ch.
53—K to Q 3	53—R to R 6 ch.
54—K to K 4	54—P to Kt 5
55—K to B 5	55—R to R sq.
56—P to K 7	56—R to K sq.
57—K to B 6	57—P to Kt 6
58—K to B 7	58—K to Q 2
59—P to Q 6	59—P to Kt 7
60—R to K Kt sq.	60—Resigns.

Notes by W. Steinitz furnished to the New York *Recorder*:—

A good deal of surprise prevailed when I, as my *debût* in the game, selected a Giuoco piano. Not only because I heretofore have never been known to adopt this opening, but, moreover, because I choose a most universal form, which practically has been given up by the masters. The new idea which I had in view did not come to the surface, as Lasker was the first to make an alteration from the usual line of play by his eighth move, B to K 2.

My eleventh move proved a surprise, as I exchanged an apparently strong passed pawn, and, furthermore, deliberately isolated my queen's pawn in order to keep up an attack against the king's side. On the thirteenth move Black initiated an ingenious counter attack and a regular fireworks game of sacrifices. After Black checked with his bishop, White, perhaps, would have done better to play his king to Q 2, which would have yielded him a clear pawn, as Black was bound to retreat his knight, whereupon knight takes Q P would have followed, which Black evidently could not retake on account of B to R 2 winning the queen.

My nineteenth move was faulty; a subsequent examination showed that I should have taken the bishop instead of the knight. It would have much sooner extricated me from all difficulties. With my twentieth move I forced a series of exchanges which left me with a simple end game and a pawn ahead. A long struggle followed. White missed several chances of finishing off the game in a more easy manner. Notably, in the twenth-sixth move, where he should have played P to Kt 5, instead of B to Q 5. Lasker defended himself most ingeniously, and owing to some weak play on the other side, it is by no means certain that White would have won, after having neglected the forcible R to K Kt sq. in his forty-second move. However, Lasker completely compromised his game on his fifty-second and fifty-third moves by useless checks, which only helped White to bring his king to the support of his pawns, which now marched on victoriously.

Lasker has the following to say about the game: Black sprung an attack upon his adversary early in the game, leaving two pieces *en prise* which, however, could not have been taken because Black would have doubled his rooks on the king's bishop's file and thereby forced a win. White thereupon extricated himself skillfully and eventually espied a variation, by means of which he secured a pawn. The end game now became highly interesting, and White seemed to have the "pull." Black defended himself all right up to a certain point, but lost in the end by an obvious blunder when the game ought to have been a draw.

Many players thought that with 19—B × Kt P, I could have forced a win. White, however, would have replied (20)—P × B, and if then 20—R × Kt; 21—Q to K sq., and if 20—B × Kt, 21—R × B, R × R; 22—K to Kt 2, and has the best of it.

The Yokohama Chess Club has closed for the season, reopening on Monday, 1st October. The Tokyo Chess Club remains open until the end of the present month.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, May 11th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 6th.*
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Sunday, May 6th.†
From America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 15th.‡
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, May 11th.§
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Friday, May 11th.‖
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, May 10th.¶
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, May 16th.

* *Belgic* left San Francisco on April 19th. † *Empress of Japan* left Vancouver on April 23rd. ‡ *Peru* left San Francisco on April 28th. § *Melbourne* (with French mail) left Hongkong on May 2nd. ‖ *Verona* left Hongkong on May 2nd. ¶ *Empress of India* left Hongkong on May 3rd.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, May 7th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, May 8th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, May 11th
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, May 12th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, May 12th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, May 18th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, May 19th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, May 19th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Ulysses, British steamer, 2,300, Wm. P. Lapage, 28th April,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 28th April,—Otaru viâ ports 23rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Petrel (4), U.S. gunboat, Commander Book, 28th April,—Shanghai.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 28th April,—Kobe 27th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Geneva, British schooner, 98, O'Leary, 29th April,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 29th April,—Kobe 28th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, E. S. Barstow, 1st May,—Manila viâ ports, 18th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Normandie, Norwegian steamer, 956, E. A. Bery, 1st May,—Newchwang, Beans and Bean Cake.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, C. Olsen, 1st May,—Otaru viâ ports 26th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Caroline (14), cruiser, Captain C. J. Norcock, 1st May,—Hongkong viâ Kobe.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 1st May,—Kobe 30th April, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 1st May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 1st May,—Kobe 30th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Redpole (6), gunboat, Captain C. G. May, 2nd May,—Hongkong.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, J. Wilson, 2nd May,—Kobe 1st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 2nd May,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Oka.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 2nd May,—Hongkong viâ ports, 25th April, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 2nd May,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Glenclova, British ship, 2,360, Watt, 2nd May,—New York 30th November, Petroleum.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Edward E. Webster, American schooner, 98, Daniel McLean, 3rd May,—North Pacific 28th April, 1,235 Seals.—H. Ahrens & Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 3rd May,—Shanghai and ports 27th April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Meiji Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,010, Nakao Masakiyo, 4th May,—Yokosuka 4th May, Ballast.—Lighthouse Department.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 4th May,—Kobe 3rd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenfruin, British steamer, 1,918, E. Norman, 5th May,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

DEPARTURES.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 28th April,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Saipan, British schooner, 75, J. T. Blanchfield, R.N.R., 28th April,—Guam, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 29th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Oceana, German steamer, 1,628, J. Behrens, 29th April,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Benlawers, British steamer, 1,483, Webster, 30th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Comes & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 30th April,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, M. Matsumoto, 30th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 30th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yarrowdale, British steamer, 1,920, Johnson, 30th April,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Ulysses, British steamer, 2,300, Wm. P. Lapage, 1st May,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 1st May,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 1st May,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Glenearn, British steamer, 1,409, Murray, 2nd May,—New York viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, E. S. Barstow, 2nd May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 2nd May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 2nd May,—Hachinohe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Geneva, British schooner, 98, Wm. O'Leary, 2nd May,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Kanazawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 895, Nakai, 2nd May,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Asano & Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, J. Wilson, 3rd May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

George Peabody, American schooner, 62, C. Lindberg, 3rd May,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 3rd May,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Oka.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, E. S. Barstow, 3rd May,—Manila viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 3rd May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 4th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Retriever, American schooner, 75, H. J. Snow, 5th May,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—T. M. Laffin.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Messrs. H. J. Snow and Carl Soranson in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Kobe:—2 passengers in second class and 32 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Miss M. Stewart, Miss Lamond, Miss F. Smith, Miss Barkely, Mr. M. Deans, Mr. Parke, Mr. J. M. Murray, Mr. J. C. Hill, Mr. R. T. Wright, Captain Newell, Mr. M. E. Beit, Mr. Smart, Lieut. Panferoff, Lieut. Bozkrovny, Lieut. Nassonoff, Lieut. Gerassimoff, Rev. G. and Mrs. Hudson and 3 children, Sir William Jardine, Miss M. Hesser, Mr. J. Hargreaves, Mr. and Mrs. Read, Lieut. and Mrs. Laird, Lord Dunmore, Mr. A. L. Donaldson, Vicomte de Labry, Dr. R. Moore Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Lemaitre, Hon. Adelaide Lister, Hon. M. Lister, Dr. and Mrs. de Forest and 2 children, Miss Sheed, Mr. C. E. Charington, and Mr. M. Robinson in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. H. C. Peterson, Mr. M. W. Alcock, Mr. S. Godard, Mr. E. Champ, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Dett, and Mr. M. Ah Ling in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Lowder, Master Lowder, Mr. T. J. Hovell, Lieut. Dixon, Rev. R. B. Peery, and Lieut. D. Hotta in cabin; Mrs. Ozawa, Messrs. Fuchioka, H. Mori, E. Ferguson, and J. Cornwell in second class, and 52 passengers in steerage. For America:—Miss Hale, Mr. W. T. Gracey, and Mr. F. M. Gratton in cabin, and Mr. Geo. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Butcher in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Kobe:—6 passengers in cabin, and 40 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *China*, for Hongkong:—Mr. E. Abdula, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Aldridge, and Captain J. J. Efford in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. A. E. McGlew, Mr. J. Scrymgeour, Mr. H. C. Marshall, Mr. A. A. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Graham Lee, Mrs. M. A. Webb, and Mr. M. Marians in cabin; and one Indian in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Seemsen, J. R. Avery, T. R. Jernigan, G. W. Lake, A. Matsumoto, J. C. Wagner, and Wadagaki in cabin; Miss Hairst, Miss Idales, Mrs. Maruhashi, Messrs. K. Mukai, M. Baba, and Y. Chiwata in second class, and 47 passengers in steeraga.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—Mr. Alcock, Lieut. H. H. Barroll, U.S.N., Lieut. Berzkrovny, Dr. W. Buresch, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Butcher, Miss Chamney, Mr. Champ, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Davis and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. Lem. Heem Dott and son, Prof. B. K. Emmerson, Dr. and Mrs. De Forest and two children, Miss F. Gardner, Mr. S. Godard, Lieut. Gerassinioff, Mr. F. M. Gratton, Mr. E. Grosser, Miss M. K. Hesser, Miss Hale, Mr. A. Heinholdt, Count T. A. Honolstein, Miss Hennessey, Mr. and Mrs. T. Hogan, Dr. Holderer, Rev. and Mrs. G. G. Hudson and three children, Mr. H. Hewlett-Hayes, Hon. R. W. Irwin, Lieut. and Mrs. J. K. Laird, Mr. R. G. Lawson, Mr. L. Lees, Mr. J. S. Muirhead, Lieut. Nassimoff, Lieut. Panferoff, Mr. M. S. Pilcher, Mr. Peterson, Mr. W. H. Player, Miss Shed, Mr. E. Holden Smith, Mr. H. Spaulding, Mr. Houston A. Thomas, Mr. George J. Thursby, Count T. A. Unger, Rev. and Mrs. M. S. Vail and four children, Mr. G. Warne, Mr. T. Wassiliew, Mr. H. T. Wingrove, Mr. H. Wylie, Mr. H. L. Walker, and Mr. C. R. Walter in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 100 bales; Waste Silk, 81 bales.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $116,000.00.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	HAMILTON.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Nagasaki	—	—	—	484	—	484
Hyogo	—	42	50	—	—	92
Yokohama	94	854	117	—	115	1,180
Hongkong	299	—	—	—	—	299
Total	393	896	367	484	115	2,255

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	520	—	520
Hongkong	—	190	—	190
Yokohama	—	886	—	886
Total	—	1,596	—	1,596

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru*, Captain Barstow, reports:—Left Manila viâ ports, the 18th April, Hongkong the 22nd, Amoy the 23rd, and Kobe the 29th. Arrived at Yokohama the 1st May at morning. Had light to moderate breeze and hazy foggy weather to Hongkong; similar weather to Amoy; thence to Kobe strong N.E. and N.W. winds with high sea and dull, cloudy weather; thence to Yokohama light to moderate and fresh variable winds and cloudy weather.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain C. Young, reports:—Left Kobe the 30th April at noon; had moderate to fresh variable winds and fine weather throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 1st May at 5.5 p.m.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Pearne, reports:—Left Hongkong the 25th April at 6.05 a.m., viâ ports; had light northerly winds and fine weather to Kobe; thence to port strong north-east winds. Arrived at Yokohama the 2nd May at 3.01 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 27th April at 3.30 p.m.; had light variable winds accompanied with fine, clear weather and strong north-easterly swell up to arrival at Nagasaki the 29th at 7 a.m. Left the same day at 5 p.m.; had light increasing to moderate westerly winds and continued fine, clear weather, arriving at Shimonoseki the 30th at 6.20 a.m. Left the same day at 11.30 a.m.; had fresh westerly and N.W. winds and continued fine, clear weather up to arrival at Kobe the 1st May at 8.30 a.m. Left Kobe the 2nd at noon; had light variable winds and fine, clear weather to passing Oshima at 8.30 p.m.; thence to Rock Island, which was passed the 3rd at 11 a.m., moderate easterly winds accompanied with clear weather; thence to arrival at Yokohama at 5 p.m. light variable winds and continued fine, clear weather.

The Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, Captain W. Thompson, reports:—Left Kobe the 3rd May at 0.12 p.m.; had moderate and increasing S.S.E. winds and overcast; at 9.55 p.m. passed Oshima Light, wind increasing to moderate gale from S.S.E. with heavy rain and high beam sea; on the 4th at 3 a.m. blowing a fresh S.E. gale with mountainous sea and heavy rain, which continued to 2 p.m., when wind shifted to the south-westward and weather cleared, but still blowing a fresh gale and high southerly sea; at 3.30 p.m. passed Observation Point (Vries Island); at 4 p.m. wind decreasing. Arrived at Yokohama at 7.40 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Market very dull all round, especially for "spot" business. Some forward contracts are said to have been made in fine Yarns and 9lb. Shirtings, but no details are known. Fancies and Woollen dull.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38¼ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 3.00
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38¼ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.40
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.40 to 2.85
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.70 to 0.75
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	41.00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	43.00 to 44.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Slow market, with occasional sales at quotations. Dealers want concessions, but holders are fairly strong and apparently able to take care of themselves.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.50
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.70

KEROSENE.

Small sales of American at quotations. Market quiet. The ship *Glenclova* is in with Oil from New York, and her cargo will bring the total stock near 500,000 cases once more.

Chester	$1.70 to 1.72½
Comet	1.67½ to 1.70
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.65 to 1.67½
Russian Moon	1.60 to 1.62½

SUGAR.

Market generally very quiet. Browns are lower, with free arrivals and increasing stock. White Refined also quiet, but prices maintained.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.50 to 4.60
Brown Manila	5.10 to 5.20
Brown Daitong	3.30 to 3.40
Brown Canton	4.10 to 4.40
White Java and Penang	7.10 to 7.20
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 27th April, since which date settlements on this market are 368 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures*, 145 piculs; *Reeels*, 34 piculs; *Kakeda*, 189 piculs. Direct shipments have been 156 bales, making the total business for the week 500 piculs.

There has been some trade doing for the United States market at lower prices, and holders seem inclined to push along, although at closing the rise in exchange seems to stop the business somewhat. From Europe there appears to be no good news at all, consumers there being apparently content to look on and await the result of growing crops.

Here we have a stock of 7,000 piculs remaining, with more silk in the country still to come in, and there seems to be no reason why prices should not decline yet further. With regard to new crop, it is still too early to say anything definite, but the spring weather has been very favorable for the growth of leaf and there seems every probability of a good and plentiful crop. Of course, the usual rumours with regard to frosts in the upland districts have been circulated, but so far as we can make out, very little, if any, damage has been done.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The English mail *Ancona*, 29th ultimo, took 100 bales for Europe and the *Gaelic*, which left port this morning, carried 886 bales for the New York trade. These departures make the present export figures 41,684 piculs, against 46,051 piculs last year and 46,310 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Filatures.—There has been some small daily business in these, principally in sorts for the United States, and the following prices have been paid: *Choshinsha*, $780; *Kaimeisha*, $775; *Gajosha*, $765; *Hiranosha*, *Toeisha* and similar, $760, *Tokosha*, $750. In fine sizes for Europe, next to nothing has been done, some few bales of good silk, fine size, being done as low as $755; but generally speaking there is no demand for these silks and prices are more or less nominal.

Re-reels.—Very small business, although producers are said to be shipping pretty freely on their own account. Prices for these are fairly well maintained at our quotations given below.

Kakeda.—This has seen a considerable revival, holders accepting low prices and showing a general desire to be current. Extra are offered at $725;

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Daruma have been done at $705; *Horsehead, Musume, Oxhead*, etc., at $675.

In other sorts no business.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom.	$780 to 790
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	Nom.	790 to 800
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers		730 to 740
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den		750 to 760
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		700 to 710
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		720 to 730
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		700 to 710
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		740 to 750
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		710 to 720
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		680 to 690
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		665 to 675
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		650 to 660
Kakedas—Extra		720 to 730
Kakedas—No. 1		700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 1½		670 to 680
Kakedas—No. 2		650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 2½		630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 3		—
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 4th May, 1894.

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	22,865	18,309	17,007
America	17,536	26,946	28,268
Total { Bales	40,401	45,255	45,275
Total { Piculs	41,684	46,051	46,310
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	41,800	46,400	46,550
Stock, 4th May	7,000	880	4,000
Available supplies to date	48,800	47,280	50,550

WASTE SILK.

Very little doing, although there is some enquiry if prices would suit. Settlements for the week are 400 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 260 piculs; *Kibiso*, 55 piculs, *Mawata*, 75 piculs; *Neri*, 10 piculs. No direct shipments.

Dealers have shown some disposition to meet buyers and have reduced their prices slightly, but not sufficiently to cause a general trade. With a large stock and new crop fast coming on, we think they will have to take less money before very long, especially as exchange now appears hardening in good earnest.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the English mail steamer *Ancona*, on the 29th ultimo, taking 81 bales for Europe, and the *Saikio Maru*, first instant, having about 75 bales common Waste and Cocoons for Shanghai. These departures bring the present export figures up to 26,094 piculs, against 39,651 piculs last year and 29,562 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—Considerable parcels of *Oshu* are taken in at $135, with some at $130. *Joshu* of fair quality has been done at $74 and a small parcel of *Shinshu* at $95, with *Bushu*, medium quality, at $91.

Kibiso.—A small business in *Filature* at from $95 to $105. Other kinds neglected.

Mawata.—Some likely parcels have been purchased, probably for the States at or under $165.

Sundries.—Nothing done beyond a small parcel of very common *Neri*.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$140 to 145
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	130 to 135
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	120 to 125
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	130 to 140
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	95 to 100
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	85 to 90
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	120 to 130
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	75 to 80
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	65 to 70
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	105 to 115
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	90 to 100
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 80
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	160 to 170

Export Table Waste Silk to 4th May, 1894.

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	22,863	36,959	27,463
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	26,094	39,651	29,562
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	27,800	45,150	31,950
Stock, 4th May	15,500	2,100	6,950
Available supplies to date	43,300	47,250	38,900

Exchange has continued firm, rates closing as under:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/2½; Documents, 2/2¼; 6m/s. Credits, 2/2¼. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $53; 4m/s. U.S. $53⅜. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.75; 6m/s. fcs. 2.76.

Estimated Silk Stock, 4th May, 1894.

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	—	Cocoons	140
Filatures	3,550	Noshi-ito	8,070
Re-reels	2,900	Kibiso	6,860
Kakeda	550	Mawata	120
Oshu	—	Sundries	310
Tavsaam Kinds	—		
Total piculs	7,000	Total piculs	15,500

TEA.

New Leaf comes in freely now, and a large daily business is doing. Dollar prices are above those of last May, but with a lower exchange the laydown cost in consuming market is reduced below that of last year. The total export for the season closed on 30th April, was 29,131,881lbs. against 29,346,977lbs. the previous season.

QUOTATIONS (NEW LEAF).

	Per Picul.
Choicest	$40 and over
Choice	36 to 38
Finest	33 to 35
Fine	29 to 31

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has continued firm, and closes with an upward tendency.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/1½
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/1⅝
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1⅝
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/2⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/2¼
On Paris—Bank sight	2.68
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.76
On Hongkong—Bank sight	¼ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	½ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72⅛
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	192
On India—Private 30 days' sight	195
On America—Bank Bills on demand	51¼
On America—Private 30 days' sight	53
On America—Private 4 months' sight	53⅜
On Germany—Bank sight	2.15
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.23
Bar Silver (London)	29¼

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 12TH, 1894.

MARRIAGE.

At St. Andrew's Church, Shiba, Tokyo, on Thursday the 10th inst., by the Rev. J. Cooper Robinson, M.A., of Nagoya, assisted by the Rev. L. B. Cholmondeley, M.A., of St. Andrew's Church, the Rev. JOHN GASKIN DUNLOP, M.A., of Shizuoka, Japan, to Miss EMMA E. ELY, daughter of Samuel Ely, Esq., of Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

EIGHT forgers of paper money were recently arrested in Tokyo.

THE Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club begins on Monday next.

THE *Nippon Maru*, wrecked on the China coast, has been abandoned.

THE D'Arc Marionettes concluded their visit to Yokohama on Wednesday.

THE *Tsukuba Kan* left Yokosuka on the 7th inst. for Ogasawara-jima.

AN earthquake of long duration was experienced in Yokohama on Thursday morning.

THE Yokohama Sailing Club open their season to-day with a race for the B division.

THE gross receipts at the Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Exchange Offices throughout the country during April last were *yen* 574,902, a decrease of *yen* 32,697 against the previous month.

A funeral service by Mr. Kim's friends in Japan will be held in the capital on the 28th inst.

COUNT INOUYE, Minister of Home Affairs, intends passing the summer at Kamakura.

LIEUTENAT SAITO KOSHI has been promoted private Secretary to the Minister of the Navy.

THE Hokkaido Coal Mining and Railway Company declare a dividend of 8 per cent. for the past year.

MR. HARADA MATSUSABURO has been appointed student-secretary in the Japanese Consulate at Gensan, Korea.

MR. SATO SHOZO, M.P., who was recently expelled from the National Union, is advised by his electors to resign his seat.

MR. KITO TEIJIRO, President of the Yokohama Doshin Kaisha, died on the 7th inst. He was at one time Japanese Consul at Vancouver.

H.I.M. the Empress has promised to attend a meeting of the Red Cross Society of Japan, to be held in Tokyo at the end of the month.

A FOREST fire which occurred in the plain near Oyama, Hoki Province, destroyed a wide area of pasturage and burnt sixteen military horses.

THE *Shoyo Maru*, an old Blue-Funnel liner, has foundered in the Iwafune Sea, while on a voyage from Hokkaido to Osaka, *vid* Miyako and Yokohama.

Two burglars, who have been breaking into houses of European residents lately, were arrested by the Bluff Police this week and are now in durance vile.

THE appeal brought by Mr. Apcar, against the decision of the Yokohama Court in the action New O.B.C. *versus* Apcar, has been thrown out by the Court of Appeal.

THE REV. E. CHAMPNEYS IRWINE, M.A., Rector of Christ Church, Yokohama, has written a charming Whitsuntide Carol, which will be sung at the evening service on Sunday.

THE *Jiyu-to* intend supporting Mr. Kono Hironaka for the Presidentship of the Lower House of the Diet. Mr. Kusumoto Masataka will be put forward by the United Opposition.

THE meeting of the six sections of the Opposition held last Sunday in the Nakamura-ro ended in a fiasco, no speeches being made, and comparatively few persons being present.

THE Railway Council has been in session during the past week. Several new lines have been projected, but many proposed extensions have failed to obtain the Council's approval.

MR. TAKEDANI, ex-paymaster of the *Iwaki Kan*, has been found guilty of embezzling Government funds. His sentence is two years' major confinement and police supervision for six months.

TROUBLE has arisen between the Japanese settlers and the natives of some Islands in the South Sea, and a petition has been presented to the Minister of the Navy asking for the despatch of a man-of-war for the protection of Japanese subjects in the Islands. The Authorities have decided to order the Captain of the *Kongo Kan*, now at Honolulu, to visit the Islands.

The Times urges the annexation by Great Britain of Zanzibar and its junction with Uganda. Mr. Asquith has introduced a bill to disestablish and disendow the Church in Wales, to take effect in January, 1896. The bill excludes Welsh Bishops from the House of Lords, and provides annuities for actual incumbents. It passed its first reading on May 3rd. The bill to create a Grand Committee on Scotch Affairs, introduced by Sir George Trevelyan, has passed by a majority of 25. The Earl of Rosebery, speaking at Manchester, said he was not hopeful of passing the various measures to be submitted to Parliament during the present session, mainly owing to the excessive length of speeches. An International Bimetallic Conference has been held at the Mansion House. German, French, and Dutch unofficial delegates were present at the meeting, which was of a purely consultative nature. No resolutions were passed. Messrs. Balfour and Courtney maintained that the double standard by means of an international agreement is the only possible expedient. The Government ignore the Conference. The Chinese Minister has concluded with Russia a *modus vivendi* in regard to the Pamirs. Russia has made large concessions, and has engaged not to push troops into the disputed territory until the final treaty has been concluded. In a debate on foreign affairs in the French House of Representatives, M. Blanc states that the object of the Triple Alliance was solely defensive and indicated the pacific wishes of European sovereigns to exclude the danger of war. There was nothing to prevent France being friendly with Italy. The unemployed in America continue to seize trains in their endeavour to reach Washington. The Militia have captured one trainload, and the Ohio Cavalry captured another trainload from Oregon. Greece continues to experience severe earthquake shocks. Henry, the bomb-thrower, has been sentenced to death. The May Day celebrations on the Continent passed off quietly. The Khedive of Egypt will visit Austria, France, and England, starting on his tour in July next.

No substantial improvement can be recorded in the Import trade, though a few "spot" bargains in Turkey Reds, White Shirtings, and Italian Cloth have been struck, but Yarns and Woollens are still neglected. The Metal market continues quiet, and dealers keep out of sight; prices, however, show no change. The Kerosene trade is dull and prices rather weaker, though no quotable change has been made. A cargo of American Oil—65,000 cases—has arrived. There are signs of life in the Sugar business, and certain kinds of Brown have been sold at a slight rise on recent quotations; and Refined Whites are firm, without any actual change in values. The Silk market has again been dull, and only a small business has been put through, consequently the stock remains much the same as last reported. Holders are offering freely, without finding buyers, and business to any extent can only be done at lower rates than are now asked. Reports from all Silk producing countries are favourable to the new crop, and Japan's production bids fair to be large and good. Only a very small business has been done in Waste, and a large stock remains. The Tea trade has been unusually brisk, and many heavy parcels have been purchased, the total settlements to date being nearly double those of last year at the same time. High prices have been paid, competition between buyers having been somewhat acute, though the majority of the parcels do not show any improvement in quality when compared by grade to those of last year. That, as predicted, the season is early, is shown by the quantity of medium grade leaf already handled. Exchange has declined somewhat during the week, but rates are fairly firm at the close.

INTERNET ARCHIVE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Hitherto during the week immediately preceding the opening of a session of the Diet a prominent place has always been given by the vernacular press to discussing the probable results of the impending struggle. But, on the present occasion, the metropolitan papers have shown themselves less prone to indulge in such speculations. It does not follow, however, that the session opening this day is looked forward to with less impatience than any preceding session. On the contrary, there is no doubt that a large section of the Opposition politicians entertain sanguine hopes about the issue of the conflict impending with the Government. According to their views, the present session is to decide the fate of Clan Government, and to inaugurate a new epoch in the political history of the country by introducing a system of Responsible Cabinets. Is it, then, a sense of certain victory that makes the vernacular press apparently so indifferent about the approaching fight? Decidedly not. The true explanation, in our opinion, is to be sought in very simple circumstances. One of these is that the topics connected with the present session of the Diet having been discussed over and over again since the time of the late general election, there remain little to be written about. A second and perhaps a more immediate cause is that all of the papers most uncompromisingly opposed to the Cabinet —namely the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the *Hochi Shimbun*, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, and the *Kokumin Shimbun*—have been placed under the ban of suspension in the course of the present week. Had they been published as usual, the journalistic world in the capital would probably have presented a very different aspect. But probably the most potent cause of the metropolitan papers' silence is that, despite the oft-repeated assurances of the Progressionist journals about the victory of the Opposition, the majority of the vernacular newspapers are profoundly impressed with a sense of the uncertainty of the situation. These circumstances combined seem to have dictated unusual silence to the metropolitan press on the eve of an interesting and important campaign against the Government.

* * *

The Grand *Réunion* of the advocates of a strong foreign policy, which took place on the 10th inst., has been the most talked-of event during the week. Having failed to obtain the permission of the police authorities to hold an open air meeting at the Eko-in temple grounds, the self-styled representatives of the majority of the people had to be contented with the tamer programme of an indoor *réunion*. Journalistic accounts differ very much about the number of persons present on the occasion. The figures range between 1,000 and 5,000. The one noteworthy feature about the meeting was the distribution of copies of verses highly seditious in their drift. It was the publication of these poetical pieces in "extras" that brought about the suspension of the *Kokumin*, the *Hochi*, and the *Yomiuri*. The papers belong to the allied Opposition factions write in an exaggerated manner about the meeting. They consider it the most significant event, politically speaking, during several years. They claim that the meeting represented the sentiments of at least a majority of the nation. As to the object of the meeting, there seems to be an irreconcilable difference of views between the sections of the Opposition. Broadly speaking, the object is declared to be two-fold, namely, the demolition of Clan Government and the adoption of a strong foreign policy. Expressed in that form, the two propositions appear to receive the approval of all the different Sections. But when we look a little more closely into the matter, it is noticeable that a great divergence of views exists. So far as the question of foreign policy is concerned, there may be a measure of unanimity, though even here the Progressionists and many of the original promoters of the movement for Strict Treaty Enforcement differ essentially. The latter are actuated by more or less conservative ideas, with a strong tendency to oppose the admission of foreigners into the interior. Led by men like Mr. Oi Kentaro, and others of the same type, and represented by the *Nippon*, the *Niroku Shimpo*, and to a certain extent, the *Chuo Shimbun*, they view with much discontent the subsidence of the Treaty Enforcement agitation. The Progressionists, on the other hand, do not attach much importance to the question of Strict Enforcement, and have no objection to the admission of foreigners into the interior. But a really serious divergence of view exists on the subject of Responsible Cabinets. With the Progressionists, the demolition of Clan Government is almost synonymous with the introduction of Party Cabinets. The organs of their party proclaim that the Grand *Réunion* of the 8th instant was a demonstration in favour of Responsible Cabinets. The National Unionists, on the other hand, can not consistently advocate the introduction of such a system. It is true that they nominally approve the destruction of the so-called Clan Government, but there they stop and show no inclination to unite with the other sections of the Opposition in endeavours to world Party Cabinets. Their organ, the *Chu-o Shimbun*, for instance, makes the following observations:—"The Clan Government must be destroyed on account of its temporizing and effeminate domestic administration, while its weak and conciliatory foreign policy makes the people impatient to have it displaced by strong statesmen." Thus, in the opinion of the *Chu-o*, the Clan Government is to be exterminated, not because of its irresponsibility to the Diet, but because of its incapacity to pursue a strong and independent policy at home and abroad. Hence it would seem that, while the hostility of the National Unionists to the Cabinet is conditional, that of the Progressionists and others is fundamental and implacable. An Opposition composed of such incongruous elements is exposed to constant danger of disruption.

* * *

The declaration of the Opposition journals that the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement is approved by the majority of people, is challenged by the *Jiji Shimpo*. No doubt, observes our contemporary, such a doctrine may be popular among the professional politicians in the capital. But they do not constitute the majority of the people. It is their custom to assert that the movement is very popular in the localities from which they come, but the statement is altogether wide of the truth. The provincials are very well affected toward foreigners and are even desirous of their admission into the interior. Of the large cities, Tokyo, as already stated, contains a number of men opposed to Mixed Residence. But even in the capital, the business section is in favour of opening the country. In other cities, the Strict Treaty Enforcement movement has no footing. The *Jiji* advises these politicians to revisit their constituencies and inquire for themselves the actual state of things there.

* * *

The public organization of the *Rikken Kakushin-to* (Constitutional Reform party) by amalgamating the *Doshi* and the *Domei* Clubs, attracts considerable attention. The new party has been welcomed with particular joy by the papers of the Progressionists. These journals are anxious to show friendship to the *Kakushin-to*, chiefly because it has solemnly pledged itself to labour for the introduction of a system of Responsible Cabinets, that is, Government by Party. Hence its members are extolled as the embodiment of everything true and noble. But the Manifesto issued by the new Party has led to an interesting controversy between the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Nippon*. The Manifesto is certainly open to a charge of having transgressed the limits of propriety in urging the necessity of establishing a system of Party Government. Commenting on this subject, the *Nichi Nichi* accuses the *Kakushin-to* of demanding a radical change in the Constitution of the Empire. For the Constitution, as it now stands, is incompatible with a system of Government by Party. The Ministers of State are responsible to the Emperor alone. The manifesto is also condemned as betraying a strong democratic tendency. Hence, the *Nichi Nichi* thinks that the Reform party is open to a charge of disloyalty and even treason. In another article, the same paper challenges the members of the new Party to reduce their dangerous doctrine to a tangible form and embody it in an Address to the Throne. If they have not courage to take such a course, they have no title to distract public attention by enunciating such mischievous opinions.

* * *

The *Nippon* might have been thought the last paper to undertake the defence of the *Rikken Kakushin-to*. But evidently yielding to the promptings of private friendship with some members of the new Party, our contemporary protests against the sweeping accusations of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. But the manner in which the *Nippon* has undertaken the defence of its personal friends, clearly shows that it feels the justice of the charges brought against them. It simply claims that, misleading as the language of the Manifesto no doubt is in some places, the members of the Party are far from meaning any disrespect to the Imperial family or dissatisfaction with the Constitution. In fact no defence is really attempted.

* * *

The Radical organ, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, is discharging shafts of criticism equally at the Government and at the allied parties. The Government is censured for being half-hearted and temporizing about introducing reforms in the various branches of the Administration. Our contemporary declares that its Party will strongly oppose the Government in the coming session of the Diet. But its article, we observe, alleges that its Party is in favour of effecting a peaceful and smooth transition from Clan to Responsible Cabinets by a happy cöoperation between the Government and the Diet. Harmony between the two, however, is to be obtained by the adoption of the Diet's suggestion by the Cabinet.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SOSHI RUDENESS.

THE other day as a foreigner was passing in front of the Chinese Legation in Nagatacho, he met three *soshi*, one of whom, conspicuous by the length of his hair, made use of some abusive language, spat at the foreigner, and then ran away. The following day an intimation was received by the authorities from the British Legation to the effect that a teacher in the Azabu Eiwa Gakko had experienced similar treatment at the hands of a *soshi* also distinguished by long hair. The police therefore kept a sharp look-out for Absalom-headed youths and very shortly arrested one who, when brought before a magistrate, confessed himself the culprit. The only difficulty, says a vernacular paper, was how to punish him, for there is no clause in the Penal Code directly applicable to such an offence. He was finally convicted of a misdemeanour and sentenced to ten days' confinement.

* * *

With reference to the absence of a penal provision directly applicable to such a case, it may be useful to mention a belief very commonly prevalent, namely, that Japanese law has no preventive clauses, but only punitive. A well-known Japanese writer recently illustrated this theory by saying that if a man picked up a stone to break a window, he could not legally be checked until he had actually thrown the stone, although his intention of throwing it with felonious purpose might have been manifest from the outset. We do not understand such a belief. The 2nd Clause of the 326th Article of the Penal Code says that "if threats are used, having for their object either blows or wounds or any other violence against the person, or fire, or the destruction or robbery of property, the person using them shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for a period of from eleven days to two months and a fine of from

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two to ten *yen*." This Article plainly provides for the restraint of persons who threaten to commit violence of any kind. We do not of course mean to suggest that such a provision is in any way applicable to the case of the *soshi* mentioned above. It does really seem that mere verbal abuse, although accompanied by spitting, does not constitute a crime according to Japanese law, though it does constitute a misdemeanour. It would not constitute a crime according to English law, we imagine, unless the act were held provocative of a breach of the peace. Two wrongs, however, do not make a right. The absence of penalties directly applicable to such offences is a decided blemish in any code. The Japanese law is not so defective as to permit a man to threaten actual violence with impunity, though, as we have said, many people accuse it of that faultiness.

THE BANKERS OF JAPAN.

THERE is to be a grand meeting of Japanese Bankers in Tokyo in the middle of this month, for the purpose of discussing the future of the National Banks. The time is now approaching when the charters of these Banks expire, and when, consequently, their paper must be redeemed. It is stated that a large section of the bankers—namely, those doing business in Shikoku, Chiugoku, and Kiushu—advocate a ten years' extension of the charter period, in which case the redemption of their notes might, of course, be deferred. Delegates of the banks entertaining that view have been sent to Tokyo, but they found themselves at first not entirely in accord with the programme advocated by the bankers of Osaka and the Kwanto districts. These latter, however, commissioned Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi to decide the question, and he, after mature consideration, is said to have concluded, first, that as to the redemption of the Banks' paper, the responsibility should be accepted by the Bank of Japan, the National Banks pledging themselves to pay a certain sum yearly for the purpose; and secondly, that as to the future of the Banks themselves, a law should be passed empowering them to continue business as private institutions. The great majority of the Banks, it is understood, desire to become private concerns at the expiration of their charters as National Banks, but under the existing law it is not possible for them to do so unless absolute unanimity exists among their shareholders. Mr. Shibusawa urges the drafting of a law authorizing any Bank to be guided by the vote of a majority of its shareholders in such a matter, and it is understood that the Government will present a project in that sense next session. Should it fail to secure the approval of the Diet, then Mr. Shibusawa advocates the alternative of extending the charters for ten years.

JAPANESE TRADE WITH KOREA.

MR. MUROTA, Japanese Consul General at Fusan, spoke in an interesting manner at a recent banquet in Osaka about this empire's trade with Korea. An idea, he said, seemed to prevail that the trade was declining, but the fallacy of the notion was at once shown by the fact that whereas the total tonnage of Japanese ships entering Korean ports three years ago was only 160,000 tons, it had now reached 400,000. The prospects of rice export from the peninsula were also bright, for the export, by opening a new market, had produced an appreciation of price, and Korean farmers had consequently been induced to bring new lands under cultivation. But the methods pursued by Japanese merchants in Korea were very faulty. It was their habit to leave their business entirely in the hands of clerks, and to avoid going over there themselves. For the sake of a paltry saving in the matter of travelling expenses, they imperilled the whole success of their business. Moreover, they had already damaged their reputation by offering adulterated and coarse goods for sale, so that the Koreans were beginning to prefer trading with the Japanese vessels of which such large numbers now visited their shores. There were no less than some 5,000 of such vessels. They went to the shores of the peninsula ostensibly for purposes of fishing, but only about a third of their number really engaged in fishing operations, the rest devoting themselves to smuggling merchandise inwards and outwards. No effective steps were taken by the Korean Government to restrain this illegitimate commerce, and unless the lawful Japanese merchants were content to be gradually deprived of their business altogether, they must endeavour to make their ways and their wares more attractive to the Koreans.

MISSIONARY STATISTICS.

ACCORDING to the latest statistics, compiled and published by the Rev. A. Loomis, the total number of Protestant Missionaries in Japan is 593, divided among 31 missions, and the total membership of the missions is 37,398. Attached to the missions are 20 boarding-schools for boys and 51 for girls, with an attendance of 1,633 males and 2,661 females; and 73 day schools with an attendance of 4,222; the total number of schools thus being 144, and the total number of scholars 8,516. This represents education of a chiefly secular character. In addition, there are Sunday Schools and Theological Schools, the former with an attendance of 26,959, and the latter with an attendance of 367. The native Ministers aggregate 206, and unordained preachers and helpers 665. The contributions of native Christians for all purposes during the year amounted to 62,416.73 *yen*, and the number of churches wholly self-supporting was 78. With regard to the Greek Church, it has 2 missionaries, 19 native ministers, and 159 unordained helpers and preachers, and its total membership is 21,239. The Roman Catholics have 81 missionaries, 97 friars and sisters, 30 native ministers, and 297 Catechists, and the total membership is 46,682. Thus the grand total of Christians in Japan is 105,319, and the grand total of foreign missionaries, friars, and sisters, 773. The Greek Church is conspicuous for the small number of its missionaries, having only 1 for 10,619 converts; the Roman Catholic Church comes next with 1 to 262 converts, and the Protestant Church heads the list with 1 missionary for every 63 converts. Mr. Loomis does not give any statistics as to the money contributed from abroad for mission purposes, and it is, of course, difficult to form any definite conclusion on that point. But we know that the American Board Mission has been spending upwards of $80,000 (gold) annually for several years, and that the Episcopal Mission spends about $60,000. Reckoning on this basis, the total disbursements should be put at $730,000, but we may certainly reckon them at not less than $600,000, or, say, 1¼ million *yen* annually.

BIRTH OF THE CHINESE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

TELEGRAPHIC intelligence published by the News Agency says that a son was born to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of China on the 14th of last month. As the little Prince is heir apparent to the Throne, a general holiday was observed in Peking, and great rejoicings took place.

THE CHARITY CONCERT IN TOKYO.

THE Charity Concert that took place in Tokyo on the evening of the 5th instant under the patronage of His Excellency the German Representative, was eminently successful from the point of view of the performance and the attendance alike. The rooms at the Rokumeikan were crowded, and the audience seemed thoroughly pleased with the admirable programme provided for their benefit. There was a pleasant admixture of Japanese music, and one of the pieces, a performance with the Satsuma Biwa, evoked enthusiastic applause from the Japanese listeners. Satsuma songs and the Satsuma Biwa used to be counted somewhat rustic affairs in the days of Tokugawa supremacy. But times have changed, and it must be admitted that in this particular respect the change is fortunate, for the Biwa and the stirring stanzas to which it forms an accompaniment, are redolent of local colouring and national sentiment, which lend moving power to all music, however slight may be its conformity with the dictates of high art. It goes without saying that one of the chief attractions of the evening was Professor Dittrich's violin solo, the last, most unfortunately, that we are to have the pleasure of hearing him perform in public in Japan. We do not propose to make any detailed comments. In such a case it is our part merely to express the general sense of gratitude not alone for the kindness that prompted the performers but also for the great pleasure afforded to the public.

THE SUSPENSION OF THE "MAINICHI SHIMBUN."

THE *Mainichi Shimbun* of the 5th instant being judged to contain matter prejudicial to the public peace, was suspended by the Minister of Home Affairs. Our contemporary's issue of that date contains several articles any one of which may be a sufficient reason for the strong measure taken against it. In a long note, it severely criticizes the appropriation of large tracts of forest land as Imperial domain, and exposes various alleged cases of mismanagement in the Bureau of Imperial Domains. In another, it vehemently assails the Cabinet, in the words of an unnamed member of the House of Representatives, for sacrificing the Railway problem to the selfish purpose of maintaining the Clan Government in power. The Progressionist organ's offence culminates in a leading article, in which His Majesty's Ministers of State are denounced as "a body of impotent men," "incapable of doing anything" and "good for nothing." Not content with this general condemnation, the *Mainichi* vents its spleen upon Mr. Yoshikawa, Minister of Justice and Acting Minister of Home Affairs, whom it calls a merely nominal Minister of State. It is a pity that a paper of the *Mainichi's* general sobriety and judgment should be betrayed into such extremes of party animosity.

LOSSES FROM FLOODS.

A TERRIBLE tale of havoc wrought by inundations is told by the *Kokkai*. According to that journal's figures, the record for the decade ending with 1891 was as follows:—

	Yen.
Value of houses destroyed	4,391,781
Value of arable land devasted ...	76,381,484
Value of other kinds of land devastated	2,799,715
Miscellaneous losses	50,309,511
Grand total	133,882,491

Of course the loss of life was also heavy: no less than 6,689 persons were killed during the ten years. Hence it appears that the country's loss averaged nearly 700 lives and 13 million *yen* annually. The Prefectures that suffered most were, in order:—Fukuoka, Wakayama, Osaka, Gifu, Hyogo, and Tokushima. The worst year among the ten was 1889, when the total damage was estimated at as much as 34,000,000 *yen*, nearly one-half of the state's annual revenue. The sum spent for the control of rivers during the eleven years ending in 1891 is put by the same authority at 40,732,500 *yen*, being an average of about 3¾ million *yen* annually. The chief part of this great expenditure was borne by the localities, the Central Treasury having supplied less than one-fifth of the total. No wonder that the riparian problem is beginning to occupy a prominent place in Japanese public attention.

A MIDNIGHT ASSAULT.

A VERY strange case of assault occurred the other day in Shitaya District, Tokyo. Some unknown person entered the dwelling of a man named Ishikuro Gozo, shortly after two o'clock at night. He entered Ishikuro's sleeping-apartment and trod violently on his head. Ishikuro awoke, but as he rose from his bed received a deep and dangerous cut in the thigh. Being a man of great courage and presence of mind, he seized a quilt and endeavoured to close with his invisible assailant, for the room was without a light; but already weakened, he only received s number of sword-cuts in various parts of his body, so that he at last fell fainting to the floor.

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Hearing the noise of the scuffle, several people forced their way into the room, but only to find the would-be assassin gone and his victim bleeding to death. Ishikuro is a graduate of an American technical college and an enthusiastic civil engineer; he is a man of considerable wealth and had a large circle of friends. No motive can be ascribed for the deed, and the ruffian who committed it is still at large.

THE WRECK OF THE "DRUMELTAN."

From fuller details of the wreck of the British ship *Drumeltan* which have reached our Japanese contemporaries, says the *Kobe Chronicle* of the 5th inst., we learn that the vessel went ashore on the island of Tanegashima, south of the Van Diemen Straits. It appears that while passing between the islands of Tanegashima and Yakushima on the night of the 25th ult. a series of very heavy squalls was encountered, and despite all the efforts of those on board the *Drumeltan* drifted towards the shore and, caught in a strong current, at last struck on the rocks. The night was extremely dark, with heavy rain and a strong wind, and when the perilous position of the ship was discovered guns were fired for assistance. The attention of the islanders being thus attracted, a crowd gathered on the beach, and at last two of the islanders, with a pluck deserving of high praise, swam out to the ship and offered their assistance. What was then done is not clear from the account published, but eventually everybody on board was got safely to land, where the police managed to find an interpreter to communicate with the strangers. On the following day a Japanese steamer named the *Mishima Maru* brought the crew on to Kagoshima, from which it is doubtless to be inferred that the vessel was an utter wreck and any hope of getting her off had been abandoned. She is described as a fine vessel of some three thousand tons gross.

HOKKAIDO.

It really does seem as though the efforts of the Hokkaido Association were likely to exercise a very marked influence in developing the resources of the northern island. At the last general meeting of the Association, held on the 29th ultimo, the President, Prince Konoye, was able to report that, although the Association had been only a few years in existence, its labours had begun to produce a distinct effect. Between February and April of the present year notices of arrival in Hokkaido had been received from 3,900 immigrants, and fully 1,000 more might be expected, bringing up the number to 5,000 in the space of 100 days, an unprecedented record. The Prince attributed much of this activity to the special rates secured for emigrants by the Association, namely, a reduction from 20 *yen* to 7 in the case of ships and from 7 *yen* to 3 in the case of railways. Of course there was some abuse of the privileges thus furnished. The Association often found itself compelled to provide for destitute immigrants who had gone to Hokkaido without either means or projects. But on the whole the Association's efforts are conducing greatly to the peopling of Hokkaido. Other speakers at the meeting alluded to the necessity of extending railway communication and constructing harbours in the northern island. A project in that sense was submitted to the Diet last session, but failed to come up for discussion owing to the dissolution of the House of Representatives.

SAMOA.

We take this note about affairs in Samoa from an American exchange:—"The details of the trouble in Samoa show that both the Chief Justice and King Malietoa exercised very little common sense in dealing with the natives who revolted. The Chief Justice confined chiefs of the Aana tribe in a cook-house where pigs were roasted, thus exposing them to the taunts of their enemies. The term pig is one which cannot be applied to a Samoan without bloodshed following, yet this insulting epithet was used by the Savaii, the hereditary enemies of the Aana people. Naturally there was a row, and when Malietoa heard of the excitement among the Aana natives he added fuel to the fire by sending a body of the Savaii as Government police to quell the distance. It looks very much as though old Malietoa wished to stir up strife. If he did not he displayed such bad judgment in pitting enemies against each other that he ought to be retired. The fighting caused no great loss of life, but it was attended by the usual barbarous practice of cutting off heads, thus showing that the veneer of Christianity and civilization on the Samoan is very thin, and disappears when his blood is stirred by the rage of battle."

SONG OF THE JINRIKISHA MAN.

The Poets of Greece were wont to ride
On a winged horse through the air:
We would rather read about that in their verse,
Than try to follow them there.

Old Homer sang of the charioteer,
With noble steeds to pull:
But when dead Hector was dragged behind,
It must have been very dreadful!

Alexander the Great rode Bucephalus;
A beautiful steed, no doubt:
But very soon would he level us
If we tried to trot him out.

A lofty seat is a camel's back,
With, instead of a saddle, a hump;
But your bones, if you fall to the ground, alack!
Will suffer a terrible thump.

A donkey is easily mounted, of course,
And not very far to fall,
When you visit the Nile, on a donkey you'll ride,
If ever you ride at all.

But of all the ways of getting along
Over land or river or sea,
As the easiest, surest and trimmest of all,
The Motor Man for me!

He never stumbles, he never kicks,
He gives you nothing but smiles,
He will find your way, by night or day,
For a hundred yards, or miles.

Through sunshine or rain, he will still trudge on;
You may go to sleep if you will;
And when you weary with sitting so long,
He will let you walk up hill.

A long-eared brute to Balaam spoke,
And told him the truth besides;
But when my jinrikisha man goes out,
It may be the ass that rides.

So, with racers and steamers and dynamos,
Men may travel as fast as they can:
Could I do as I chose, I would always propose
To go with the 'Rikisha Man.

Pinto.

MONEY FORGERS.

We mentioned in a recent issue that counterfeit bank-notes had been found in circulation and that they were so cleverly forged as to defy detection except by experts. The police have now succeeded in arresting the forgers. As usual, the Tokyo detectives seem to have shown much astuteness. They had no apparent clue whatever, but their scrutiny into the doings of a certain class of persons is so close that they were soon able to obtain information about the sale of a printing-press to men who had no ostensible use for such an object and who, moreover, were spending money with greater freedom than was consistent with their apparent means of earning it. This information sufficed. On the 26th of last month one of the men connected with the purchase of the machine was arrested and found in possession of 130 forged notes and some copper plates for forging them His confession led to the arrest of seven other forgers. It appears that there had been two ringleaders who commenced operations by enlisting the services of an engraver, an ex-convict. Under the promise of a thousand *yen* for his services, this man consented to engrave a plate from which some 1,200 notes were struck last March. How many of these were put into circulation, we do not learn, but the principal ringleader is said to have spent a hundred *yen* of the counterfeit money.

A GENERAL EXCHANGE FOR TOKYO.

Another attempt has been made by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to smoothe away the difficulties that impede the establishment of a general Exchange in Tokyo. The capital lags far behind several minor cities and towns in this respect, not that its need of an Exchange is less urgent than theirs, but that two rival parties seek to monopolize the privilege of establishing an Exchange and have not yet been persuaded to reconcile their differences. One of these parties, headed by Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi, wishes to establish an Exchange for transacting business in nine staples; the other, headed by Mr. Amenomiya, projects an Exchange for three staples. Both parties have applied for a charter, but as the law forbids the establishment of two Exchanges for transacting the same kind of business in the same place, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has hitherto been unable to grant a charter to either. A few days ago His Excellency Viscount Enomoto summoned the projectors of the two Exchanges to the Department and strongly urged upon them the imperative necessity of agreeing to some compromise so that Tokyo might no longer be without an Exchange. This step of the Minister's is expected to have a good result, especially as the members of Mr. Amenomiya's party are understood to be quite prepared to agree with their rivals.

DONE OUT OF HIS WIFE.

Sada Gonjiro, a resident of Ushigame-mura, one of the metropolitan suburbs, was victimized after a very painful fashion four or five days ago. His best friend was a certain Mochizuki, one in whom he placed implicit confidence and who had been his intimate for years. He received a letter from this Mochizuki inviting him to a little tea-party, and joyfully acquiesced, as his friend had always proved a model host. On the appointed day he went to Mochizuki's house, taking a box of cakes with him as a gift. To his suprise, he found his friend not at home, but was reassured by the maid who told him that Mochizuki had left word that he would soon return. All day long he waited, gradually growing more impatient and vexed. As evening came he quite angrily returned to his own home. Everything was dark there: no lamp lit and no one came to receive him at the door. Angrier than ever, he struck a light, and was surprised to note a general air of confusion, the bureau-drawers being empty and all his wife's effects gone. A letter lying on the bureau, addressed to him in his wife's handwriting, finally undeceived him. She had eloped with Mochizuki, whom, she frankiy stated, she had learned to love far better than her own husband. He need not seek to find where they were, and, under any circumstances, she would never come back to him. Nothing of his had been touched; she had taken only her own clothing and other personal property. Furious with both his false wife and falser friend, Gonjiro applied to the police authorities for redress, but a divorce *a mensa et thoro* is all that he could hope for.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

According to the *Jiji Shimpo's* information, the private measures that will be introduced in the House of Peers during the approaching session are, a Question with reference to the dissolution of the last House of Representatives; an Address to the Throne about the *Chishima-Ravenna* affair; a Bill for abolishing export duties; a Bill for the transfer of prison expenditures to the charge of the Treasury; a Project of game law; a Representation about railways in Hokkaido; a Representation relating to the establishment of an iron foundry; a Representation with reference to the illegal use of the surplus revenue. Among the above, the Question relating to the dissolution of the last House of Representatives will be introduced at the very commencement of the session, and according to the answer, an Address to the Throne may possibly ensue.

THE CASE OF MR. SUGITA TEIICHI.

Mr. Sugita Teiichi, a member of the House of Representatives, who lies in prison charged with the attempted murder of his half-brother, has undergone trial in the Fukui Local Court and been sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. He has appealed from the judgment.

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The evidence adduced at the trial presents the affair in a somewhat new light. It appears that there was a good deal of deliberation about Mr. Sugita's act. His half-brother, not contented with a proposed division of the family estate, repaired to Mr. Sugita's house in the dead of night and became so threateniug in his demeanour that Mr. Sugita's wife and children had to escape to a neighbour's residence and summon a policeman's interference. The policeman went away after reprimanding the intruder, and Mr. Sugita, who had hitherto taken no part in the *fracas*, now emerged from an inner chamber and attacked his brother with a sword, evidently determined to take his life although the brother was not at the moment creating any disturbance, but was quietly engaged in a conversation with his mother. It is difficult to discover much extenuation for such a crime. All that can be said on Mr. Sugita's behalf is that he did not succeed in killing his victim.

A MUTUAL SURPRISE.

An elderly farmer of Aichi Prefecture came up, a week or so ago, to take his first look at the scenes and sights of the capital. He had been well-primed with stories of the confidence-men, pickpockets, and swindlers supposed to be always lying in wait for unsuspicious country-people, and had resolved to form a notable exception to the general rule. He had fortunately a son staying in Tokyo, and it was with him as a guide that he went to see the parks and all else. But one evening he had occasion to return, at a somewhat advanced hour, from his son's house in Koishikawa District to his own hotel in Nihonbashi. Nearing Megane-bashi, he saw same black shadow darkly outlined against the wall in a side-street, and the shadow evidently appeared to be dogging him. This doubtless, thought he, was one of those desperadoes of whom he had heard and read so much. So he took to his heels, and the black thing started after him. Both were swift runners; the old man, winged with fear, raced over the bridge shouting "Save life! To the rescue!" While the pursuer silently closed on his prey. Paralysed with fright, the old farmer turned around to face his dreaded captor,—and found him to be only a constable who, his suspicions having been aroused by the stealthy, slinking gait of the countryman, had believed him to be some thief or escaped criminal. Mutual explanations followed, with mutual apologies.

SCARCITY OF COAL.

Tokyo is said to be threatened with a scarcity of coal. This state of affairs is attributed to a greatly increased demand from the Kansei districts and abroad, so that the comparatively small available stock of Kiushu coal barely suffices to implement fixed contracts. Several of the Tokyo factories are said to be embarrassed, and when the Railway Bureau recently invited tenders for a supply of coal, only one tender was received, namely, from the Tanko Company of Hokkaido. Meanwhile, it is alleged that the consumption in Tokyo has greatly increased, the Railway Department alone requiring 20,000 tons more than before, and the needs of the factories are similarly growing. On the other hand, the chief source of supply for Tokyo is the Hokkaido mines, and of the 400,000 tons produced there generally, 370,000 have already been contracted for, so that a very small quantity remains available for the general public.

KITSUNE-TSUKI.

Despite all that may be said to the contrary, the majority of the Japanese still attribute supernatural powers to the fox and racoon-dog (*tanuki*), and even men of learning are not easily disabused of their inherited belief in *Kitsune-tsuki*, or fox-magic. There is still much to be said on the subject and it is not improbable that in some instances of the so-called *Kitsune-tsuki* we have to do with a phase of cerebral exaltation as yet unknown to Western science. The latest case recorded must be confessed very strange, premising always that the data as given are correct. Egawa Ginzo is a native of Oimura, near Tokyo, well-known for his physical strength and skill in gambling. A week or so ago he had occasion to call on a friend at a little distance, returning home late at night. It was at once observed that his looks were wild and his conduct strange. He called for *sakana* fried in oil—foxes are supposed to be very found of that diet—and repeatedly stated that he had been metamorphosed into a fox, advising the inmates of the house to treat him with honour as he had become *Inari-sama*. This remarkable delusion continued for several days, although the patient appeared in his usual health. Various medicines were unsuccessfully exhibited and his family prayed night and morning to their gods to cure him. "We doubt his recovery being attributable to any interposition on the part of the gods," sceptically remarks the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*, "but at all events he is sane now." The attack seems to have left him very weak and since his convalescence he has lost rather than regained strength. European scientists would probably call this a mild case of temporary dementia, accompanied with a fixed hallucination. Such things are frequent even in a Western world.

ARREST OF MR. J. RITCHIE.

Yesterday morning, says the *Kobe Chronicle* of the 9th inst., the Japanese Police, acting on a warrant issued by the British Consul, entered the house on the hill of Mr. da Silva and arrested Mr. J. Ritchie therein. It will be remembered that Mr. Ritchie, over whom the Japanese claim jurisdiction as a Portuguese, was sentenced some nine or ten months ago to a month's imprisonment for an assault on a Japanese, but left the country just before the sentence was pronounced, for the purpose, it was said, of obtaining papers in Hongkong proving that he was a British subject and therefore not amenable to Japanese laws. It is said that he returned some little time ago to Kobe, where we understand his wife and family are still resident, and has since been in hiding, but the Japanese police getting wind of this have now arrested him, and he will doubtless have to serve his sentence. It will be recollected that from the evidence given at the trial it appeared that the complainant, while walking near Mr. Ritchie's house, was called an *aho* by one of his children, and that he then pushed the child, which fell down. Mr. Ritchie came out on hearing the child cry, and a row took place in which the complainant was struck. Taking into consideration the circumstances of the case the sentence appears a harsh one, but as the defendant absconded for a while from the jurisdiction of the court, it is hardly probable that it will now be reduced.

ENGLAND'S NEW COALING STATION.

The rumour that Great Britain has negotiated with Peru for the acquisition of the island of San Lorenzo as a naval coaling station, seems not unlikely to be true. Concerning the island and its situation, we take the following from an American journal:—

> There are a very few good harbours in the west coast of South America and these are Payta, Chimbote, and Callao, in Peru, and Guayacan and Talcahuano, in Chili, the rest being open roadsteads, shallow bays, or bays exposed to certain winds, like Valparaiso, which is defenceless against the north winds—the prevailing winter winds. A naval station at Callao Bay, where San Lorenzo stands, combines the advantages afforded by a good harbour with those of being in a central position on that coast, in a healthy and temperate climate and within easy reach of the well supplied markets of Lima and Callao.
>
> Moreover, there is at Callao a floating dock capable of lifting five thousand tons, owned by an English company; a mole or darsena, including docks and piers, whose total length of sea wall is 4,520 feet, enclosing a space of fifty-two acres, with berthing accommodations for large ships which can find fresh water supply at eight different points of said mole, eighteen heavy steam cranes connected by a triple line of rails with the railroad running to Lima and the Cordilleras, as well as with the storehouses, foundries, and machine shops of the port, one of the largest of which is that of the Pacific Mail Navigation Company, the English company of steamships doing the service between Panama and Valparaiso. The works of this company consist of steam cranes placed on their own piers, which serve for loading and unloading; iron and brass foundries, artificers' shops, with steam power, and storehouses covering an area of 180,000 square feet.
>
> It is possible with all these facilities to repair, clean, water, and supply ships at Callao with great ease, and if in addition to all this the English vessels could be protected by a land fortress on the San Lorenzo Island, the ideal conditions for a naval station would be fulfilled.
>
> Callao is built along a spit of land and on the shores of a large bay facing north. Two lines of railroad connect it with Lima, a distance of eight miles over a plain, which rises slightly to the foot of the Maritime Cordilleras. The spit, at the extreme of which is the bathing resort called La Punta, is separated from the high and barren island of San Lorenzo by a narrow channel called "Boqueron." This island, about two miles long and a thousand feet high, stands to the south of the Bay of Callao, protecting it against the prevailing winds. It is very rocky and affords but one landing place. The lighthouse placed at first on its highest point was found to be of no service in the foggy season on account of its enormous elevation and was lowered to the extreme west of the island. The lack of facilities was the only thing which kept the Chilians from mounting guns on its summit and thus accomplish the destruction of Callao without endangering their ships, for Peru had left it entirely unfortified and deserted.
>
> As San Lorenzo is about five miles from the central portion of Callao and only one mile and a half from La Punta, long range guns of the most improved type placed on San Lorenzo could not only reach Callao, but even Lima. On this account it seems difficult to believe that Peru would hand itself so readily into the hands of England, while, on the other hand, the realization that the country while without a navy will be in Chili's hands, makes it possible to imagine the acceptance of Peru of such a contract as the one mentioned at the beginning of this article. Peruvians of no low rank have often spoken of granting Chimbote to the United States for a naval station, and their sympathies are more with Americans than with Englishmen.

POVERTY IN TOKYO.

The number of destitute in the metropolis according to recent investigations, is sadly on the increase. A great deal is kept out of sight or rarely becomes public; but a walk through a side street of any of the thickly populated districts will reveal the existence of great distress and dire poverty. Quarrels over very petty sums of money are more frequent than ever. Quite recently a serious disturbance occurred near Kanda Myojin, the origin of the fracas being the inability of a *kurumaya* to collect one *sen* five *rin* from a debtor. Toward the end of last month a man in Shitaya District was beaten over the head and badly wounded by a one-time friend to whom he refused the loan of a few *sen*. These and similar instances have prompted several of the vernacular press to urge the adoption of some remedial measure. The present state of affairs, they claim, cannot long continue; some organization should be set on foot that might unostentatiously and impartially relieve the bitter distress of the worthy poor. This is very good advice. Japan has few philanthropists, and even these are generally men of small means. Anything like an organized popular effort to succor the destitute has not yet been made, and measures of this description would do greater service to the State than reams of political rant and scores of loud-mouthed demagogues.

TAKING NEITHER SCRIP NOR STAFF.

The story of a youth of genuine faith is told by the vernacular press. Having graduated at a Buddhist school, he became a novitiate in the Hompuku Temple of Tokushima, and absconded from that place, with 3 *sen* in his pocket, to preach the doctrine of Shaka. His sermons were sufficiently eloquent to support him, until a certain Mr. Bright, an English tourist then in Kobe, took an interest in him and obtained for him a position as servant in a steamer, and finally a passage in a vessel voyaging to Australia and New Zealand. There the young man continued his religious propagandism, but with what success we are not told. Recently he came back to Japan for some books, having

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failed to supply himself with that essential, and then started for Shanghai, whence he intends to go for a couple of years to India and ultimately to America. A missionary who commences his career of propagandism with three farthings in his pocket, and never asks any "society" to supplement that sum, is assuredly a courageous zealot.

PUBLIC INSULTS WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

We recently quoted from the vernacular press a report with refence to a *Soshi* who, having used abusive language toward a foreigner in the street and spat at him, was arrested and punished by confinement without hard labour and a fine. The Japanese journals, describing the case, said that the Court had been perplexed how to deal with the culprit, as the Penal Code contains no provision bearing directly upon such an offence. A correspondent now writes to us:—"Not only does the Code punish for threats (threats against persons and threats against things), but it also punishes for public abuse. Art. 426, Clause 12 is formal. It says: Any one who shall have publicly abused an individual shall be liable to a penalty of minor confinement for a period of from 2 to 5 days, and a fine of from 50 *sen* to 1.50 *yen*."

BRAZIL.

Vernacular newspapers believe that Brazil is about to be added to the Powers having treaties with Japan. It is a question of utilizing Japanese labour to develop the resources of the great South-American Republic. Probably this question would have been brought upon the *tapis* much sooner but for the domestic troubles that have agitated Brazil. In fact an application for permission to send over a party of emigrants was made last year by Japanese agents to the Foreign Office in Tokyo, but the Government of this country having wisely resolved not to give official sanction to any scheme of emigration unless it can be internationally supervised rejected the application. Thus the question of a treaty came upon the *tapis* and it is now stated that the duty of negotiating it has been entrusted to the Brazilian Consul in Shanghai who will shortly come to Tokyo for the purpose. An immediate opening is said to exist for 2,000 labourers on the coffee and sugar plantations and the number may ultimately swell to as much as 100,000.

FOOTBALL.

What football involves may be gathered from the following note in the *Lancet*:—"Accidents at football in England during the last quarter of 1893:—Two concussions of the spine, in one of which it was stated that three ribs were torn from the spinal column; one concussion of the brain, one fracture of the thigh, sixteen fractures of the leg, this list including fractures of either or both bones and of simple or compound nature; fifteen fractures of the arm, no particulars having reached us whether of the arm proper or of the forearm. Five deaths were reported. Accidents at football during the expired portion of 1894:—One concussion of the brain, fifteen fractures of the leg, six fractures of the collar-bone, one fracture of the shoulder blade, one fracture of the arm, five dislocated shoulders, and one dislocated knee, to which must be added six undescribed cases of injury to legs, back, head, and abdomen, necessitating hospital treatment, three of which resulted in death. Fifteen deaths were reported."

A DARING ATTEMPT.

Two most clever rascals recently made an attempt at intimidating the managers of the Meiji Fire Insurance Company. A couple of policemen entered the Company's offices in Nihombashi District, Tokyo, early in the forenoon, demanding to see the managers at once. Shown into the inner office, they stated that the police authorities had heard that some of the Company's officers had recently attempted to put counterfeit money into circulation, and that they were armed with a warrant, which they produced, to look over all the cash in the Company's safe, to prove the truth or fallacy of the report. The managers naturally enough demurred to this, but the warrant was not to be disobeyed and finally all the funds in hand were produced for inspection. Nevertheless there seemed to be something strange about the conduct of the two constables, and the whole affair looked very mysterious. Telephonic communication was privately conveyed to police head-quarters, but not without the act being noticed by the two "inspectors." One of them quietly slipped out, alleging his necessary return to the office for further aid; the other stated that he had found nothing suspicious among the notes examined, but that to allay the doubts of his chief he would take fifty bills, selected at random, as specimens of the whole. He made up a neat little parcel while he spoke, and was just about to decamp with his booty when a number of *bonâ fide* constables arrived at full speed in *jinrikisha* and seized the man. As the managers had suspected, he was an arrant impostor disguised as a policeman. The following night his accomplice was also arrested, and proved to be a well-known criminal resident of Asakusa District. It is rare indeed that Japanese thieves exhibit such daring as these two.

EPIDEMIC STATISTICS.

A medical journal publishes some interesting statistics concerning the prevalence last year of what are known as the "six epidemics,"—cholera, typhus, diphtheria, gastric typhoid, relapsing typhus, and dysentry. No less than 250,250 cases were recorded during twelve months, with a percentage of 64.1 death among males and 25.85 females. Compared with 1892, a total increase of 104,484 cases, with 27,828 deaths, is very alarming. This enormous increase is ascribed to the unusual prevalence of a very stubborn and fatal form of dysentry. All prefectural governors have been advised to take every step to prevent so sad a showing again this year, and to be strict in the enforcement of sanitary precautions. Specialists have been despatched to the districts in which the epidemics proved most fatal, and tests of drinking water are being carried out on a large scale. With proper precautions the death-rate ought to fall off largely in the present year, for typhus and its congeners are, in nine cases out of ten, nought but the result of the non-observance of simple sanitary rules, or of the drinking of water charged with organic matter.

A WORLD'S FAIR FOR JAPAN.

The idea of a World's Fair in Japan is gaining ground. It was mooted once more and strongly approved at the late general meeting of the Five Staples Association in Kyoto. The arguments employed by the projectors can easily be imagined. They lay chief stress upon the utility of familiarizing the people of Japan with the grooves in which Occidental tastes run, as a valuable object lesson to help the manufacturers of this empire. But they do not appear to have considered what advantage foreign exhibitors might be expected to derive by sending their goods to this remote quarter of the globe, and upon that rock, we fear, the project is likely to split. Ten million *yen* is the expense estimated as Japan's initial outlay, but it is believed that a great part, if not the whole, of the money would be recovered by the sale of tickets and so forth, a belief which we do not for one instant share. The projectors are not in a hurry. They talk of waiting ten years, and of sending a commission to the next French international exhibition, five years hence, for the purpose of enlisting the sympathies of the commissioners there assembled with the Japanese scheme.

LEARNED IGNORANCE.

Despite the efforts of the Japan Society and other learned bodies at home and in the East, there is still a vast amount of ignorance concerning "Things Japanese," even among those who set themselves up to teach other people. We read under the heading of "prayer-wheel," in the great "Century Dictionary," that this is a wheel of stone or wood on which Buddhist prayers are graven or written, and that each time it is made to revolve is equivalent to offering up a fresh petition. So far so good, but the accompanying cut is explained as a sketch of such a wheel in "Asakusa Park, Tokyo." There is nothing of the kind there; indeed, we very much doubt the existence of prayer-wheels being known to the Japanese. There is the expression *hō-rin*, but this means the "Wheel of the Law," or the Buddhist doctrine as taught by Gautama. Again, the latest edition of Dr. Brewer's "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable," is replete with mistakes concerning the Japanese pantheon in particular and Japanese institutions in general. We find *hari-kiri*, instead of *hara-kiri*, and this may be conceded at least as one step in the right direction, for earlier editions still clung to the form *hari-kari*. But there is no excuse for "*Dizo*, one of the Japanese gods," in which there may have been some faint recollection of *Jizo*, the name given to the numerous stone images found by the wayside in country places. Still more remarkable is a definition given in Dr. James Murray's otherwise excellent "Companion Dictionary," published a little over one year ago. There we find "*Zen*, the name of a Japanese coin equivalent to 4*s*. English money." This is no misprint for it is classed under the letter Z. Of course, *Yen* is meant, but we should really like to know who is responsible for the statement that one *yen* is worth "4*s*. English money." Would that it were!

LIFE INSURANCE IN JAPAN.

The business of life insurance, of very recent but very rapid growth in Japan, seems to be already suffering from abuses that have disfigured its early years, more or less, in every country. There are three great companies in existence, the Meiji, the Teikoku, and the Nippon, the policies issued by the first aggregating about 8 million *yen* annually, and those of the others 6½ millions each. But in addition to these there are many small companies of which some deserve to be given a wide berth by prudent people. We read in the *Jiji* that the latest device with mushroom companies seeking to attract custom is to offer policies at unchanged rates to persons insured with other companies. There is an obvious advantage for the policy-holder in such an arrangement. He receives from the old Company, on abandoning his policy, a third of the sums already paid by him as premia—supposing that his policy has been kept up for at least three years—and he gets a new policy on the old terms from another Company. But of course the Company granting policies at such rates is doing a plainly unsound business, since it ignores the basis of all insurance, namely, the probability of life as deduced from tables of mortality. The *Jiji Shimpo* does well to warn the public against this ingenious from of chicanery.

COUNT INOUYE.

Emphatic semi-official denials are published of the rumours circulated in connection with Count Inouye's illness. It is unfortunately true that, owing to a return of the brain trouble which has so often temporarily incapacitated him for work since the terrible injuries he received from the swords of his would-be assassins, His Excellency is now compelled to follow the mandate of his medical advisers and take a three-months' holiday. But there is not a word of truth in the allegations that he has insisted on resigning and has tried to induce Counts Matsukata and Kuroda and Mr. Shirane Senichi to relieve him of the portfolio of Home Affairs. Count Inouye has not, and never had, any idea of resigning on the eve of the Diet's special session.

DR. CHALMERS.

Dr. and Mrs. Chalmers who are passengers by the *Empress of India*, go home on the usual furlough, says the *China Mail*, but by their departure Hongkong and Canton lose two of the best European residents that South China has ever seen. The worthy Doctor has been over forty years in this part of the world,

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and has done more—in his quiet and unobtrusive way, and by his almost unequalled scholarship—to further the true and best interests of China and the Chinese than can be calculated at the present time. As an authority on Chinese language and literature, Chalmers stands second to none. As a devoted missionary of the school of broad methods and wide views, he need give way to few in this part of the world. His labours in connection with the recent translation of the New Testament are regarded by all sections to be of the greatest value, and, if his health permits, the Doctor desires to return to the Far East to complete that work. Dr. and Mrs. Chalmers will take with them the sincerest good wishes of a large circle of friends, for a pleasant trip and a speedy return. They have seen many changes in Hongkong and Canton since they first came to the East, but the friendship of those who know them has ever been the same, though it may have become deeper and truer perhaps, with age.

THE GOLD VALUE OF THE "YEN."

THE following notice, over the signature of the United States Consul-General at this port, was issued on the 9th inst. :—

Owing to an error in telegraphing the mint value of the Japanese silver *yen*, the circular from this office of April 6, 1894, is rescinded and the following words are substituted :—

The United States Mint assay value of the Japanese Silver *Yen* has been officially fixed, until further notice, at Fifty and one-tenth cents ($0.501) in United States Currency, at which rate all Fees paid at this office will be received. Invoices should be made out in Silver *Yen*.

In accordance with the foregoing, the following tariff of fees is established :—

	Yen.
For Invoice Certificate	5.00
For Extra Copy of Invoice	4.00
For Currency Certificate	2.00
For Landing Certificate	5.00
For Bill of Health	5.00
For Endrosement to Bill of Health	1 00
For Personal Effects Certificate	1.00
For Emigration Manifest	50

To avoid delay in transacting business at this office, persons paying fees are requested to present the exact change.

A PROGRESSIONIST LECTURE MEETING.

THE Progressionists held a lecture meeting on Sunday last at the Kinki-kan, Kanda, Tokyo. The meeting was opened at noon. The place was full of hostile *soshi*, who, as soon as the first speaker Mr. Iizuka Asajiro ascended the platform, began to create a disturbance and speedily came to blows with those belonging to the Progresionist party. The consequence was indescribable confusion, chairs being hurled in every direction and hard knocks exchanged with clenched fists in every part of the hall. Order was, however, with great difficulty restored in a short time. The speaker had already left the platform, having scarcely succeeded in announcing the subject of his ill-fated lecture. When the next speaker, Mr. Tsuruda Yujiro, appeared on the platform, a *soshi* was observed to make his way hastily toward the lecturer from behind. He was intercepted by some *soshi* of the Progressionist party and there again ensued a tumultuous scene. But order was restored with comparative ease, and the lecturer was able to finish his harangue in safety. The third speaker, Mr. Matoba Heiji, discussed the question of the independence of the Judiciary. When he alluded to the Otsu incident, he was stopped by the police inspector. A similar fate befel the next speaker, Mr. Kurosu Ryutaro, whose subject of criticism was "The Sasshu Navy." Mr. Saito Wataro, who next ascended the platform, was able to finish his lecture (on the subject of dissolution) without interference either by the *soshi* or the police. Mr. Takagi Masatoshi, M.P. then, addressed the audience on the subject of a Nationalistic Movement. He severely attacked the Government's foreign policy as being too weak to secure the respect of foreign countries. He was followed by Mr. Otsu Junichiro, M.P., who railed at the present Cabinet's want of courage, illustrating his point principally by allusion to the fact that no Minister of State dared to be present in the Diet and refute the address on the subject of Official Discipline. The next speaker, Mr. Koizuka Ryu, M.P., discussed the policy to be followed by the Opposition in the sixth session of the Diet, the points touched by him being the dissolution of the late House of Representatives, the Korean Assassination affair, the Hawaiian treaty, and so forth. Mr. Ozaki Yukio, M.P., who was received with loud cheers, commenced in his usual caustic style to enumerate the instances of the present Cabinet's misgovernment. But he had to leave the platform before he had made any progress by the order of the police inspector. Lastly, Mr. Shimada Saburo, M.P., spoke on the subject of "Just Demands." He condemned the late dissolution of the Lower House ; protested against the alleged dissemination, through the columns of the *Japan Mail* and some London journals, of misleading notions about the motives of the movement for the Strict Enforcement of Treaties; and finally reviewed the history of Japan's foreign relations in the present era. He remarked that an Address to the Throne on the subject of foreign policy is now a matter of absolute necessity. His speech lasted two hours. It was 5 p.m. when the meeting began to disperse.

THE KYUSHU POLITICIANS.

THE politicians from Kyushu, sympathizing with the movement for the introduction of Responsible Cabinets and the adoption of a strong foreign policy, held a reunion on the 4th instant at the Maple Club, Shiba Park, Tokyo. A little over a hundred persons belonging to various political factions assembled, among whom we may mention Viscounts Soga, Baron Ozawa, ex-Governor Fujimura Shiro, and Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu, all members of the House of Peers; Messrs. Kusumoto Masataka, M.P., Kawashima Jun, M.P., Furusho Kamon, M.P., Sassa Tomofusa, M.P., Motoda Hajime, M.P., Kashiwada Moribumi, M.P., Messrs. Tokutomi Iichiro, editor of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, Wada Seishu, associate editor of the *Hochi Shimbun*, Motono Seikyo, proprietor of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, and so forth. We have stated that, on the authority of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, these persons are in sympathy with the movement for the introduction of Responsible Cabinets as well as the adoption of a strong foreign policy. But it seems to us that the common ground on which men of such conflicting political principles were brought together was confined to the question of foreign policy. It is a well known fact that politicians like Messrs. Yasuba, Furusho, Sassa Tomofusa, and many others attending the réunion of the 4th instant, are, if not absolutely opposed to, at least perfectly indifferent about, the introduction of a system of so-called Responsible Cabinets. The correctness of our view is borne out by the speeches of Viscount Soga and Baron Ozawa. Neither of them made the slightest allusion to the subject of Responsible Cabinets, but dwelt exclusively on the question of foreign relations. Baron Ozawa, who was the first to address the company, set out with expressing satisfaction at the good attendance of the meeting. He then proceeded to call attention to the distinguished part Japan is destined to play in the arena of new commercial activity in the East that will follow the completion of the Siberian Railway and the Nicaragua Canal. Is Japan prepared to fully utilize her splendid opportunity? In order to act her part well in the coming drama, Baron Ozawa thinks that both the Government and the people of Japan ought to be united in elevating the prestige of the country *vis-à-vis* foreign Powers. He then alluded, with satisfaction, to the increasing tendency among the various political parties to associate with each other with greater freedom and less mutual prejudice. He hoped that this auspicious tendency would go on until the whole nation might be united on the subject of foreign policy. Viscount Soga, who spoke next, dwelt with pride upon the glorious part which men of Kyushu have played in the Empire's foreign relations in the past. The invasions of Korea by the Empress Jingo and by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and the repulsion of the Chinese forces sent over by Kublai Khan—in all of these wars the leading part was played by the forefathers of men assembled together on the present occasion. He even alluded to the hordes of pirates who were a terror on the Chinese coasts some centuries ago and who principally came from Kyushu. Finally, he exhorted his listeners to prove themselves worthy descendants of their illustrious ancestors by devoting their energies for the elevation of the country's prestige abroad. Mr. Kawashima Jun, who rose next, remarked that men of Kyushu have never yielded a step to the inhabitants of the other parts of the country. The chief characteristics of the Kyushu men is that they are brave and resolute in critical moments. The speaker advised his hearers to maintain in future the distinguished position which they have obtained in the field of politics. Mr. Iwaya Matsuhei also is said to have spoken, but his address is not reported.

A SANITARIUM AT HAKONE.

WE are informed that a sanitarium and hotel on an extensive scale have been projected in the Hakone district, and that a large area of land has been secured by a combination of Japanese landowners who possess suitable lots in the neighbourhood of the proposed new undertaking. The chief incentive to the establishment of this concern is said to be the discovery of a hot mineral spring which, in temperature and constituents, is very nearly allied to the famous waters of Kusatsu. This verdict has, it is reported, been already pronounced upon the qualities of the water by foreign medical experts, and if such water exists in sufficient volume in any place within a few hours of Yokohama and Tokyo to supply bathing on a large scale, the success of the concern is at once assured. We do not see any reason why the Hakone district should not supply waters of an entirely different nature to those of Miyanoshita and Ashinoyu if sought for in the hills at the back of Ojinoku, and if a spring has been discovered, as alleged, emitting waters that approach those of Kusatsu in temperature and constituents, then the fortunes of the owners are made.

A MODEL WIFE.

IWA, the wife of Maeda Sadaichi, of Buppumura in Shimane Prefecture, certainly deserves to be quoted as a model spouse for all time. Her husband has been bedridden for the last ten years and thus totally unable to attend to his calling, which is that of a petty farmer. But during this long period the faithful wife has, unaided, tilled their fields, attended to all domestic duties, gathered the harvests, and waited most assiduously on her invalid husband. Her conduct, says the Shimane press, is beyond praise. The prefectural authorities recently sent her a substantial gift of money, together with an engrossed scroll extolling her virtues. It is such recognition as this which reconciles one to the patriarchal system of government.

ANOTHER FIRE IN NAGASAKI.

ABOUT 3.30 a.m. on Monday last, says the *Rising Sun* of the 2nd inst., a fire broke out in the roof of Messrs. Adams & Co.'s bakery, at the rear of No. 42B, Sagarimatsu, being the third conflagration that has occurred in our small Settlement during the past four months, but on the present occasion, thanks mainly to the local fire brigade, aided by other favourable conditions, the fire was confined to that part of the building in which it originated. The building covering the ovens, which was not insured, was so badly burnt as to necessitate entire reconstruction. The ovens and machinery, however, only sustained slight damage, and are now in working order again.

SUICIDES IN THE SUMIDA RIVER.

PROBABLY in connection with or owing to the prevalent distress among the lower classes in the metropolis, the number of corpses found floating in the Sumida River has been of late unusually large. During the final week of last month no less than seven drowned bodies were discovered, all being presumable suicides. The

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majority were women, and one was evidently near the time of her confinement. The body of another elderly woman was very well clad, the *obi* in especial being of unusually expensive stuff. This would point rather to the commission of a crime than to self-immolation. But the Sumida River is almost as great a place for suicide as is the Seine.

DEATH OF M. DE KOLEMINE.

M. DE KOLEMINE, who will be remembered as Russian Consul at this port, recently died at Trieste. This gentleman, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, was "the Russian diplomatist whose pretty wife was the heroine ten years ago of that remarkable episode in the life of the late Grand Duke of Hesse which is recorded in "Le Roi de Thessalie." It will be remembered that after the loss of his first wife, Princess Alice, his Royal Highness paid marked attention to the volatile Muscovite, who in due course was divorced by her husband. On April 29, 1884, Queen Victoria, the Prince and Princess Imperial of Germany (afterward the Emperor and Empress Frederick), and other illustrious guests were assembled at the Palace in Darmstadt for the marriage of Prince Louis of Battenberg with Princess Victoria of Hesse, when the infatuated Grand Duke chose this inauspicious moment to go through a wedding service at midnight in the private chapel of the castle with his inamorata. Next morning the fact became known to her Majesty, who lost no time in taking vigorous action. Madame de Kolemine was sent off at daybreak before the second nuptial ceremony took place, and a dissolution of her ambitious alliance was procured with all despatch. She received the title of Countess von Romrode, and a pension, it is said, of a thousand a year, which she still enjoys, living at Kösen, in Thuringia. M. de Kolemine, who had the reputation of being an able and steady-going official, was a good deal older than Countess Alexandrine Hulten-Czapska, for that was the lady's maiden name.

THE NIPPON RACE CLUB.

A LIST has been circulated and has met with the support of nine members for the purchase of China ponies at the Shanghai Auction, on Tuesday. The terms are:—

1.—That 10 or 15 ponies be ordered from the Shanghai Horse Bazaar, terms of purchase same as for the Autumn Griffins of 1893.

2.—On arrival in Yokohama the ponies be sold at public auction, members of the N. R. C. only allowed to bid.

3.—Profit or loss on the transaction to be divided equally between the Club and the gentlemen who add their names to the list.

4.—It shall not be compulsory on members signing the proposal to buy a pony at the auction; they merely agree to take a part interest in the venture.

5.—That there be five races at the Autumn meeting for these ponies and China subscription ponies that have not won a race in Japan at date of entry since Spring 1893.

Members of the Club wishing to give the proposed scheme of purchase their support are requested to send in their names to the Secretary at once, as the order will have to leave today. A telegram has already been sent to the Bazaar asking for an offer of ponies at $125 instead of $150 each, conditions same as before. There seems no prospect of obtaining a new lot of either Japan or Half-bred ponies for the Autumn.

A COMMERCIAL BANK.

THE long talked of project of starting a commercial bank seems to be growing to maturity. It developed definite proportions when Count Goto and Mr. Saito Shuichiro were at the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and having been discussed at the recent meeting of Exchange representatives in Osaka, it at once obtained more than 50 influential supporters, whose number has since been augmented. A committee has been appointed to consider details, and will meet shortly in Nagoya. The original programme pointed to a capital of five million *yen*, but in view of the wide support extended to the scheme, it seems probable that that amount will be doubled. Count Goto and Mr. Saito Shuichiro are indicated by public opinion as likely to play a leading part in the management of the bank.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

THE Department of Agriculture and Commerce has issued the following notice to mariners:—

For the observation of the sea currents, glass bottles will be put into the seas lying between Nagasaki and Formosa, and around Hokkaido.

Any person finding these bottles anywhere, whether in sea or on coast, will oblige by taking out the post cards which will be found in the bottles and forwarding the same to the Imperial Fisheries Commission, Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Tokyo, Japan, filling in the details therein requested, viz.:—

1.—Where and when (date and hour) the bottles were found.

2.—The names of the ship and the finder, and their nationality.

3.—The number of bottles found.

* * *

The following notice to mariners, referring to the Shanghai district of the China Sea, has been issued from the Coast Inspector's Office of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs:—Notice is hereby given that Captain R. Morgan, of the British steamer *Feilung*, reports that on the 19th instant he crossed, from north to south, a shoal patch, having from 6½ to 7 fathoms, fine sand, for about 3 miles and then deepening to 13 fathoms, blue mud, the position of the middle of the shoal in the line where the *Feilung* crossed it being—latitude 32° 18′ 30″ N., longitude 112° 27′ E., in which locality the Admiralty Chart No. 1,262 shows from 18 to 20 fathoms.

THE TOKUSHIMA FIRE.

PARTICULARS concerning the recent great fire in Tokushima have been published. The most notable buildings destroyed were the Shotoki Taishido, the Emado and Daikokudo. All of these were within the precincts of the famous Kasuga-jinja, one of the oldest and finest temples in the country. Irreparable is the loss of a large quantity of ancient domestic utensils, a number of invaluable paintings, and several celebrated pieces of sculpture in stone and metal. The fire is believed to have been the work of an incendiary, for several gamblers of very reckless character and unsavoury reputation were known to have a grudge against the temple authorities. Strict investigations are being made and severe punishments will be meted out to the evil-doers.

KIM OK-KYÜN'S HEAD.

QUITE an excitement was caused among the friends of the late Kim Ok-kyün on Saturday last by a report that his head had arrived in Tokyo. The story was vague as to the manner in which the head had been obtained, but very precise as to the dimensions of the box in which it was carried and as to the movements of the box after it reached Nagasaki. From this it may be inferred that although the box was a reality, the head supposed to be enclosed in it was a myth. The fact is that some of Kim's clothes have reached Tokyo where they will play a conspicuous part in the funeral obsequies which his friends are preparing to celebrate.

KOBE HARBOUR.

A PROJECT is to be submitted to the Diet, says the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, for improving Kobe harbour, where a steady increase of shipping calls for enlarged facilities. The idea is to prolong the American pier, in front of the Custom House, until it has the same length as the old pier, and then to curve the new and the old piers toward each other, leaving a comparatively narrow space for the entry of ships. Moreover, a portion of the sea along the pier will be reclaimed, so as to obtain space for warehouses and other necessary buildings. The outlay is estimated at 160,000 *yen*.

RUMOURED EMEUTE IN KOREA.

ANOTHER rumour of trouble in Korea is published by the *Kokkai*. It is to the effect that three thousand of the *Togaku-to* have risen in Chyonla-do, killed some thirty or forty officials, and pushed on to the neighbourhood of the capital. The telegram—which purports to have been despatched from Fusan at 1.35 p.m. on the 9th instant—adds that eight hundred Chinese troops have been despatched to assist in quelling the disturbance. But we can not discover that any intelligence of such an event has been received officially.

THE JINRIKISHA PROJECT IN SAN FRANCISCO.

THE enterprising San Franciscan who proposed to start a service of *jinrikisha* in connection with the Midwinter Fair, but whose scheme fell through owing to the unwillingness of the Japanese residents to see their countrymen parade as beasts of burden before the visitors to the Fair, is said to be much incensed against Mr. Ota, an official in the Japanese Consulate there. Mr. Ota was a chief mover in the action taken by his nationals to prevent Japanese labourers from hiring themselves to draw the *jinrikisha*, and the American merchant, holding that such conduct was improper, intends to make it a subject of complaint to the Japanese Government. It it difficult to credit the story.

CONDENSED BIOGRAPHY.

THE *Sho-Nippon* gives the following laconic biographical sketch of a thief who has just been condemned to a long term of imprisonment:—"Born in Hamamatsu—Under-gaoler in the Hamamatsu Penitentiary—Turnkey—Dismissed in disgrace (*menshoku*)—Came to Tokyo—Student of a Hongo School—Loose Habits—Employed in the Yoshiwara—Very Poor—Thief—Arrested by the police." With some slight changes, this might serve as a sketch of the career of nine out of every ten thieves in Japan.

OPPOSITION CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENTSHIP OF THE LOWER HOUSE.

A MEETING of deputies from the six Opposition Parties was held yesterday for the purpose of adopting candidates for the election of President of the Lower House of the Diet. The meeting decided upon Messrs. Kusumoto Masataka and Oi Kentaro as the most suitable, and their names will be submitted in to-day's election for the President and Vice-President of the House of Representatives respectively.

THE NEGISHI MURDER CASE.

JUDGMENT was given on Thursday in the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho in the case of Oka Junji, and his son, Hirayama Taikichi, who were charged with the murder at the Kaisho Temple, Negishi. The Court sentenced Oka Junji to death, in accordance with Article 380 of the Criminal Code, while Hirayama Taikichi, the younger prisoner, received penal servitude for life.

THE JAPANESE CONSULAR SERVICE.

AN Imperial Ordinance lately issued increases the Japanese Consular and Legation Services by two Consuls and three clerks. The Consuls are to be stationed in Bombay and New South Wales, with which places Japan's commercial relations have become sufficiently important to require the services of such officials.

CHOLERA IN CANTON.

FROM a private letter we learn that cholera is very bad in the City of Rams. For some time past a few sporadic cases have been reported, but since a recent change in the temperature and considerable rainfall it has become epidemic in certain quarters of the city, and in one street 18 deaths took place in one day.

A NEW COMET.

THE *New York Herald* says:—"A Kiel despatch to the *Herald's* European edition states that a new comet was discovered by Mr. Holmes at London on April 9th near the stars Phi and Chi in the constellation of the Dragon. This constellation will be seen during April not far from the zenith or pole of the heavens, but a little to the north of east, displaying a long, doubly sinuous row of stars, its tail separating the Greater and Lesser Bear. We must hope

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that the new comet discovered by Mr. Holmes is not like that discovered recently by Mr. Denning, of Bristol, moving in an orbit which quickly carries it out of sight of terrestrial observers."

COD ROE.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"You gave in a recent issue an account of a cod-fish, caught in British waters with a roe weighing 9lbs. equal to 30,000,000 eggs. This is undoubtedly an abnormal roe, as the average cod roe weighs 2½lbs., but in *Land and Water* last year an account is given of a monster cod landed at Hopeman in the Moray Firth. The fish weighed 72lbs., was 4 feet 4 inches in length, and the roe weighed 12lbs. According to the usual formula this roe contained 40,000,000 eggs."

FIRE ALARMS FROM JAPANESE BELL-TOWERS.

NEW fire-bell regulations have been issued for Kanagawa *Ken*. According to the new rules one separate alarm will be rung from a bell-tower when fire occurs outside its particular district, or when it is considered that the aid of firemen is not required. Should a fire break out in an official or other important building several successive alarms will be rung, while one separate and then two alarms will be rung as an indication of the fire being subdued. Two alarms will be rung when the presence of firemen is required.

A WHITSUNTIDE CAROL.

THE Rev. E. CHAMPNEYS IRWINE, M.A., Rector of Christ Church, an enthusiatic hymnologist of the charming modern school, has written a beautiful Whitsuntide Carol, entitled "In the Holy City Waiting," which will be sung at the evening service on Sunday next. The carol is dedicated to the very reverend and valiant Charles John Vaughan, D.D., Dean of Llandaff and master of the Temple. The setting is the familiar "Stuttgart" of Würtemberger Gesangbuch, *tempo* 1711.

THE RADICAL CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE Radical members of the House of Representatives, to the number of 99, held a meeting yesterday, to decide upon a candidate for the Presidency of the House of Representatives. Mr. Hoshi Toru was in the chair. He announced his resolve not to stand for the Presidency, as he considered that his doing so would not be in the interests of his Party, and the meeting resolved that Mr. Kono Hironaka should be the Party's candidate.

SUSPENSIONS OF NEWSPAPERS.

IN consequence of having inserted in their columns a series of verses of a seditious and peace-disturbing character, said to be now daily sung by members of the *Taigai Koha*, several newspapers have been suspended, including the *Kokumin*, the *Hochi*, and the *Yomiuri*. The *Jiji Shimpo* denounces the verses as vulgar and absurd.

THE "KOYO MARU."

THE crew of the *Koyo Maru*, wrecked off Iwafune, Chiba Prefecture, on the morning of the 5th inst., landed at Kutsuura the same day. The value of the cargo on board the sunken steamer is placed at $70,000. The *Bochyo Maru* and a man-of-war have gone to the scene of the disaster.

MADAME MINNIE HAUK.

MADAME MINNIE HAUK, the famous *prima donna*, who is making a grand tour of the world with her husband Mr. von Hesse Wartegg, the distinguished *literateur*, may be expected in Japan at the end of this month.

DEATH OF MR. KITO TEIJIRO.

THE death is announced of Mr. Kito, President of the Doshin Kaisha, Yokohama, formerly Japanese Consul at Vancouver, which took place on the 7th inst.

THE EMPRESS AT THE NOBLES SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

HER MAJESTY THE EMPRESS paid a visit yesterday to the Nobles School for girls, and inspected the work of all the classes, afterwards making presents to the students.

THE NATIONAL UNIONISTS AND THE PROGRESSIONISTS.

The National Unionists held a grand meeting on the 3rd instant at the Party's head-quarters, Uchi-Saiwai-Cho, Tokyo. The proceedings commenced from 2.30 p.m., with Mr. Yasuba, general manager of the Party, in the chair. There were about a hundred members in the hall. Mr. Iwai Isoichiro, M.P., reported on the doings of the Party since it was registered as a political association last year. Mr. Minai Gichi proposed a new constitution, and after some discussion it was adopted in the following form:

It is the object of our Party, in due reverence toward the everlasting national polity and in pursuance of the Imperial Constitution, to promote the harmonious advancement of the country's civilization, to elevate the national prestige abroad, and to increase the happiness of the people at home."

PROGRAMME.

I.—The constitutional monarchical system should be placed on a solid foundation, and efforts should be made to reform the administration and perfect the system of self-government.

II.—Education should be encouraged and national civilization promoted.

III.—The national resources should be increased by the development of industries.

IV.—The safety and peace of the country should be maintained by completing the Military and Naval defences.

V.—A Nationalistic foreign policy should be adopted for the assertion of the country's rights.

The next business was the election of a Standing Council consisting of fifty members, but the names need not be given here. Mr. Motoda Hajime, M.P., then laid before the meeting a programme for the coming session of the Diet and explained the points included in it. Modifications were proposed by Mr. Arai Go, M.P., and after some discussion, the following programme was adopted:—

At the opening of the fifth session of the Diet, we adopted a programme containing twenty items, hoping thereby to realize the purposes of our Party. But the session ended in a dissolution after a duration of only about a month, during which time the Diet was twice prorogued; and consequently it proved impossible to carry out any of the items of our programme except that relating to official discipline in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. There was not time enough to bring up for discussion even such measures of urgent necessity as those relating to riparian improvements, national defence, and railways. The sixth session of the Diet being now near at hand, we have decided upon the following policy:—

I.—The items contained in the programme for the last session should be carried out.

II.—The Government conduct toward the late Diet should be criticised and its responsibility therefore clearly defined.

III.—The Government should likewise be criticised for its misdeeds since the dissolution of the late House of Representatives.

Viscount Shinagawa, leader of the Party, then ascended the platform and delivered a speech, which is described by the *Chu-o Shimbun*—from which we quote these facts,—as having produced a profound impression upon the audience. But reading it as reported, we cannot find anything remarkable. The alleged effect must have been due to the style of delivery. He congratulated his Party on its success—he actually called it success—in the last general elections; alluded sarcastically to the enemies of the National Unionists, calling them advocates of the "India-Rubber principle;" called attention to the presence of serious danger at home and abroad, and finally impressed upon his followers the importance of always having regard to the best interests of the country. He was followed by various speakers, the principal among them being Messrs. Yasuba Yasukazu, Imperial nominee to the House of Peers; Kashiwada Moribumi, M.P.; and Ooka Ikuzo, M.P. Their addresses are not reported, but it is stated that, as might have been expected, they all attacked the Cabinet. When these speeches were over, the assembly joined in enthusiastic cheers for the Emperor, the National Unionist Party, and Viscount Shinagawa. Having then partaken of simple refreshments, an occupation varied by the delivery of several speeches, they dispersed at about 5.30 p.m.

The great conference of the *Kaishin-to* came off on the 5th instant in the Kinki-kan, Kanda, Tokyo. The meeting was opened at 1 p.m., Mr. Maruo Bunroku in the chair, about 350 members of the Party being present. Mr. Okuma Hidemaru, the adopted son of Count Okuma, read the latter's congratulatory address to the assembly. After some business affairs had been despatched, Mr. Kato Masanosuke, M.P., introduced and explained a programme for the coming session of the Diet, which, with some alterations and additions, was adopted as follows:—

I.—The Cabinet should be censured for the impropriety of the dissolution of the late House of Representatives.

II.—The Cabinet's conduct about the *Chishima Kan* collision affair should be condemned as improper.

III.—The Government's foreign policy should be disapproved, and complete change of policy in that direction should be insisted upon.

IV.—The Government should be urged to strictly enforce the treaties and promptly accomplish their revision.

V.—The disbursement of the surplus should be condemned as contrary to the Constitution.

VI.—Encroachments upon the independence of the Judiciary should be stopped.

VII.—Reduction of the Land Tax and Re-assessment of the Taxable Value of Land should be carried out. (Determination of the exact extent of reduction or re-assessment is to be left to the discretion of those Progressionists who have seats in the Diet.)

VIII.—The construction of railways should be expedited.

IX.—The Cabinet should be urged to adopt plans for the regulation of forests and the improvement of rivers, so that devastating inundations may be avoided.

X.—The suspension of newspapers should be abolished.

XI.—The members having seats in the Diet should be charged with using their discretion to introduce in the coming session questions relating to Hokkaido, to the abolition of the Peace Preservation Regulations, to the amendment of the Regulations for Public Meetings and Political Associations, to the abolition of the import duty on cotton, to the abolition of export duties, to the prolongation of the duration of the session, and so forth.

Mr. Takata Sanape, M.P., read a report on the branch office at Shizuoka. Mr. Sudo Rikuzo, M.P., proposed that letters of condolence and exhortation be sent in the name of the Party to members who failed to be returned to the new House of Representatives, and that a resolution be adopted expressing gratitude to local members who distinguished themselves by their zeal in assisting the Party's candidates in the recent elections. Mr. Tanaka Shozo, M.P., proposed that some members be sent out on a tour of political inspection throughout the country. These proposals were unanimously adopted. After some other business was disposed of the assembly sat down for a réunion at about six o'clock.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF TOKYO.

On the 5th inst. took place the dedication of the fine new brick buildings of the Tokyo Young Men's Christian Association, at Mitoshiro-cho, Kanda. The principal building is of three storeys, containing fine suites of rooms for offices, library, reading-room, dining-room, hall, and so forth. At the back of this building and connected with it is a spacious and airy lecture hall capable of seating about a thousand persons. These handsome edifices, which by the way confer great credit upon the architect, Mr. Josiah Conder, represent the benevolence of three Americans who subscribed, each separately, sums aggregating in all about $40,000 in gold. These donations were obtained principally through the exertions of Mr. J. T. Swift, secretary of the International Section of the Young Men's Christian Association in New York,

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whose important services for the developement of the Tokyo Association will be noticed more at length before concluding the present note. The ceremony of dedication commenced in the Lecture Hall about 2 p.m., Mr. Ebara Soroku, a well-known M.P., being in the Chair. The exercises commenced with a prayer by the Rev. Harada Tasuku, pastor of the Bancho Church, who was followed by Dr. Ibuka Kajinosuke, President of the *Meiji Gaku-in*, with a reading from the Bible. Then speeches were made by Mr. Handa Yoichi, President of the Awoyama Eiwa Gakko, Mr. J. T. Swift, of the New York Young Men's Christian Association, Professor Ichihara Seiko, of the *Doshisha* College, Dr. Verbeck, and Rev. Oshikawa Masayoshi. Mr. Honda dwelt on the important position which young men occupy in society as the source of national glory and strength in future. He insisted on the maintenance of the strictly religious character of the Association; and spoke with grateful satisfaction of the services rendered by Mr. Swift in the promotion of its welfare and prosperity. Mr. Swift spoke on the past history of the institution, telling how for some years the original promoters of the Association had prayed for God's help, and how their prayer was answered in the shape of donations received from most unexpected quarters and under most singular circumstances. The names of the benefactors seem to be kept in solemn secrecy. At least, Mr. Swift did not name any of them. One of them who was the first to make a constribution is said to be a man who, until that time, had never been known to give money for such purposes, and who, moreover, was not particularly rich. Professor Ichibara remarked that, judging from the present state of the country, there was not much need for Young Men's Christian Associations. The principal object for which these institutions were originated in the West was to find fields for the employment of youthful energy. In the West, important positions in all departments of life are filled in most cases by men of gray hairs, and youngsters find great difficulties in employing themselves in a useful manner. Hence the great necessity for institutions of the kind. But in Japan, it is young men who take the principal part in the political, religious, literary, educational, and other spheres of activity. But time will certainly come, and that soon, when young men will be placed under the same disadvantageous conditions as in Europe and America, and in view of that circumstance, Mr. Ichihara was glad to observe the increase of Young Men's Christian Associations in Japan. Speaking of the particular Association whose buildings were dedicated on the present occasion, he hoped that it would serve as a new basis for the operations of Christian propagandism, and that it would impart a fresh impetus to the movement for the unification of the Christian Church in Japan. In conclusion he observed that the new buildings of the Association were a fresh monument of American friendship to Japan. Dr. Verbeck, who was received with enthusiastic acclamations, especially from the youthful portion of the audience, offered a few words of useful advice to the members of the Association. Lastly, Rev. Oshikawa spoke on the subject of *Michi* (道) which is an embodiment of what is true, beautiful, and good. He enjoys the reputation of being one of the most powerful preachers in Japan. On the present occasion, he did not appear to his best advantage, for he seemed to be carried away by his subject, and some among the audience were inclined to think that his manners betrayed theatrical affectation. The exercises concluded with a benediction pronounced by Rev. Okuno Masatsuna. It remains to be noted that, at regular intervals, the audience was entertained by a Military Band and the singing of hymns by the girls of the Awoyama Jo-Gakko. We must not omit to mention that the guests were presented on departing with a tiny box containing confectionaries.

We take this opportunity to say a few words on the origin and the present condition of the Young Men's Christian Association of Tokyo. It is more than ten years since the leaders of the Christian community in the capital—among them Mr. Kozaki Hiromichi, now President of the *Doshisha* College of Kyoto, and Mr. Uyemura Masahisa, a well-known preacher and journalist—first organized the Association. The example was followed in different parts of the country, and in the course of a few years the number of these Associations reached over fifty. They did not lack members of disinterested zeal, but they failed to produce any remarkable results, because they all laboured under the disadvantage of want of necessary funds. So far as the one in Tokyo is concerned, this want was supplied about five years ago by the arrival of Mr. Swift from America with large donations for the construction and maintenance of Association buildings. Since then the Association entered upon a new stage of development. The work at present undertaken by the Association is of various kind, the principal among them being the publication of a monthly journal called *Kirisutokyo Seinen* (Christian Young Men); lectures on philosophy, religious, scientific, and social subjects every Sunday afternoon; evening classes in English conversation, composition, and translation; and the maintenance of a boarding house for students under proper superintendence. The latter institution is of special importance in a city like Tokyo, where a vast number of boys are assembled practically independent of restraints of any kind. We understand that the management of the boarding school is principally, if not wholly, in the hands of Mr. R. S. Miller, whose zeal is warmly spoken of by the members of the Association. The members of the Association at present number about a hundred and fifty. The Board of Directors consists of the following persons:—Messrs. Miyoshi Taizo, President of the Court of Cassation (Chairman), Shimada Saburo, M.P., (Vice-Chairman), Tatsui Raizo (Secretary), Suzuki Shinichi (Treasurer), Eguchi Teijo (Treasurer), Watase Torajiro, *Nogakushi*, Ebara Soroku, M.P., Kimura Sunkichi, *Rigakushi*, Yuasa Jiro, ex-M.P., Serada Ryo, Sotome Toyoaki, Iwamoto Zenji, Principal of the Meiji Jogakko, Professor Wadagaki of the Imperial University, Takata Koan, Shimizu Tomosuke, J. T. Swift (Honorary Manager), R. S. Miller (Honorary Manager), and Niwa Seijiro (Manager).

SHANGHAI NEWS.

The victim of the Chinese attack at Hsianfu appears to have been the Rev. F. Hugh, Pro. Vicar Apostolic of Northern Shensi, an Irishman, who was very roughly handled by the Chinese in August, 1892, as reported in Shanghai papers in October of that year. The latest news as to Père Hugh is in a telegram from Bishop Pagnucci at Hsianfu, which says:—"Liberated without reparation, and gone to Peking."

Fire broke out on the French Concession at 8.45 p.m. on the 27th ultimo in some houses on the Quai des Fossés, facing the native city. The firemen, notwithstanding that a number of them were either at the Lyceum or on their way there, were quickly on the spot and succeeded in confining the flames to two houses, which were partially destroyed. The firemen left the scene before 10 o'clock.

Telegrams received by the Chinese naval commander at Shanghai from Canton announce that the Lai or Li savages in Hainan Island have gone on the war-path once more and that many of the border villages inhabited by Chinese colonists have since been raided and a number of lives taken. In addition to the troubles on land, piracy is also rampant, three richly laden junks having been robbed of their contents and some of the crews killed.

A despatch from a Peking native correspondent states that H.E. Hsüeh Fuch'êng, Chinese Minister to Great Britain and France, has telegraphed to the Tsung-li Yamên to the effect that he left London for Paris on the 10th of March last, for the purpose of arranging matters in that city and turning over his seals of office to the new Minister, H.E. Kung, when he arrives there. This done, H.E. Hsüeh states that he will return at once to China.

In accordance with instructions received by the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung from the Tsung-li Yamên, he is having the Imperial Edict of 1891 in favour of missionaries re-posted throughout his government.

In the appeal to the Privy Council of the Bank of China, etc., against Chief Justice Hannen's decision in favour of the American Trading Company, judgment has been given by the Privy Council fully sustaining Mr. Hannen's decision.

A Chinese girl of the native city who recently found out that her elder sister had such an aversion to her *fiancée* that she twice attempted to commit suicide in order to get rid of marrying, offered herself to take her elder sister's place. The father, who had no sons and only these two daughters, was only too glad to compromise and save his eldest daughter and so consented to the change. The marriage was celebrated with *éclat* on Tuesday evening, May 1st.

A band of disguised robbers visited the house of a rich widow and her only daughter, last week, at a place called Ch'angshuh, near Soochow, and after killing the two inmates under most horrible circumstances, made away with over Tls. 4,000 worth of jewels and sycee.

Shanghai has only made 760 points in the Interport Rifle Match, against 823 made by Hongkong and 817 by Singapore.

The Shanghai races passed off very successfully, Mr. Sassoon securing the lion's share of winning mounts and races, while the remainder were fairly evenly divided. The Totalisator, for places, and Pari-Mutual, for wins, showed a total receipt of $71,925 for the three days.

The Chinese Government's method of dealing with strikes is sharp, short, and conclusive. It appears that frequently strikes have occurred among the artisans and skilled labourers employed at Government buildings in connection with the approaching Imperial Birthday Celebrations, and the Ministers of the Crown have complained to His Majesty of the inconvenience thus caused. The Emperor has accordingly promulgated an edict ordering the Peking gendarmerie to make wholesale arrests of the offending parties, who will be punished without mercy. It is inferred from remarks made by the Emperor that the most refractory among the ringleaders will be sentenced to strangulation or banishment. That ought to cure the tendency.

Competitive examinations in China are worthy of the name. The number of candidates for metropolitan degrees at the recent grace examination in Peking was 6,896, and the number of degrees to be conferred did not exceed 300. Hence only one candidate in every twenty-three could hope for success.

Japanese patriots must read with some uneasiness and envy the programme of the Chinese fleets' approaching manœuvres in the Gulf of Pechili. Admiral Ting is to be in command, and the number of vessels engaged will be not less than thirty. A still larger force might be collected were the Min-Chê Squadron called upon for a contingent, but it has been left out. Thirty serviceable ships of war is, however, an imposing display.

Another cotton cloth mill is to be established in China. The place chosen is Yenpu, near Canton, and the capital is $500,000 in five thousand shares of $100 each. The mill is to employ 500 hands, including 300 females, at the outset, and the projectors evidently entertain a most rosy idea of its prospects, for they predict a gross profit of $200,000 annually, one half of which at least is to be clear gain to the shareholders. Would there have been any opening for such enterprises in China had not the appreciation of gold fatally handicapped the manufactures of gold-using countries?

It is stated that the South Formosa sugar crop is turning out very badly. Supplies are not expected to reach 250,000 piculs, which, though not worse than last season, is one of the poorest yields on record. The Tainanfoo crop is also comparatively small.

The Chinese are generally supposed to be free from over-government. But a step recently

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taken by the Viceroy of Nanking contradicts that theory. The Shanghai Magistrate, acting under instructions from the Viceroy, has issued a proclamation interdicting all night sailing of junks on the waters of the Woosung, Tsungming, and Yang-tze districts in the vicinity of Chiukiang. The reasons assigned for this strange measure are partly paternal and partly arbitrary. The Viceroy desires to save the junks from going ashore or getting shipwrecked; he also wishes to prevent them from trying to run the blockade of the *likin* barrier stations; and he wishes finally to secure them against the peril of piratical attacks. So the junks must anchor at sunset at the nearest riverine towns or barrier station, and not to proceed on their voyage before 8.30 the next morning. Conceive such an order emanating from officials in England.

The Sungpu massacre affair seems to have been finally brought to a conclusion. The innocent men imprisoned because they aided the missionaries have been released, and the Imperial Edict of 1891 against anti-foreign riots has been re-posted throughout the Yang-tze districts. The re-issue of this Edict was one of the steps demanded by the Foreign Representatives. The effect is expected to be most beneficial.

The freshets in the Han River, alluded to in our last summary of Chinese news, continued throughout a week and wrought great havoc. Warning might easily have been sent down the river by telegraph, but nothing of the kind being done, fleets of boats, suddenly caught by a wave two or three feet high, were swept into the Yang-tze in a broken and sinking state. Nothing accurate is known as to the number of boats and lives lost, but certainly the figures in each case would total several hundreds.

Two Kalmuck Tartars from the banks of the Volga—Messrs. Menkudjinov and Ulanov—have just completed a wonderful journey from Astrakhan to Lassa and thence to Peking. A correspondent of the *North China Daily News* writes thus about them:—

> They say it took them fourteen months to reach Lassa, and on the way they had to cross mountains so high that the blood oozed out from eyes and ears, and it was so cold that they had to wear each two skin coats in August. They had to cross deserts so barren and so broad that not a single inhabitant was to be seen in a month's journey, and when they did meet with people they were robbers. As Russians they would never have been allowed to approach Lassa, not on account of any special dislike the native Tibetans have to foreigners, but in consequence of the machinations of the Chinese officials and garrison. They, however, travelled as Mongols, and being able to speak that language had no hindrance put in their way. They duly worshipped the Dalai Lama, who made them a present of a Buddhist Bible in 120 volumes, and worth a thousand ounces of silver. They also procured on their own account twenty packages of sacred books, prayers—it was interesting to notice that the prayers were printed on Chinese paper which must have originally hailed from the province of Kiangsi,—charms, and images, and with these they made their way eastward through Kokonor and North China to Peking, a journey which took them fifteen months.

Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in Peking is now on a tour to Shanghai and the river ports. It is evidently his intention to establish the closest possible personal relations with the communities whose interests he is charged to look after.

The railway from Tientsin to Shanhaikuan, a distance of 175 miles, is now open and is said to be working excellently. The journey can be made in 8 hours.

The Shanghai Races came off on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of May. Eight of the twenty events on the first two days were won by Mr. Sassoon's ponies, Mr. Sassoon himself riding in six cases. The Ladies' Purse was presented by Miss Ethel Jamieson, who made a wholly new departure by delivering a rythmical address.

The *North China Daily News* gives editorial credence to an extraordinary story that the Viceroy of Nanking has been feigning sickness for many weeks entirely with the object of withholding from Mr. Lu, the new Taotai of Shanghai, the commission without which he cannot enter upon the duties of his office. Our contemporary goes so far as to hint that the Viceroy's sickness will last several months longer. Considering that the commission must be given sooner or later, the futile and utterly petty conduct attributed to the Viceroy overtaxes the credulity of ordinary folks. We may add that the Viceroy is now recovered.

The Viceroy Li's accounts of expenses incurred by the Peiyang Fleet from 1887 to 1890 have been scrutinized in a seemingly captious spirit by the Board of War, for the great man is virtually accused of over-charging. He is declared to have charged Tls. 108 for the carriage of 900 tons of warlike stores a distance of of 3¼ miles from the steamer to the godowns, whereas the Board thinks that the cost of carriage should not have exceeded Tls. 15. How such a weight of goods could possibly be transported to such a distance for such a sum we cannot conceive. The Viceroy is also condemned for showing Tls. 40 as the price of a passage by steamer from Tientsin to Shanghai, whereas Tls. 30 should have sufficed. Both of these accusations, the latter of which everybody knows to be false, are apparently credited by the Throne!

HONGKONG NEWS.

An amusing instance of the biter being bitten occurred in the Hongkong Police Court recently. A *lukong* was charged with misconducting himself and with violation of his duties as a police constable. From the evidence it appeared that he went into an eating house, at 294, Queen's Road West, the other morning about 4 o'clock and peremptoriiy ordered some dumplings. The *chef* politely said that "dumplings were off" at that hour. With a sinister threat of "All right. I will fix you," the *lukong* left, to reappear next morning with three other men. Then with all the effrontery imaginable he ordered a customer out of the establishment, seized the proprietor by the queue, and—sublimest impudence of all!—took him to No. 7 Police Station and charged him with creating a disturbance in the public street. The case was actually heard but very properly dismissed. The *lukong* has now been fined $15 or six weeks' for the first offence and $50 or two month's for the second, the terms of imprisonment to be consecutive.

Hongkong fired on the 24th ult., in the Interport Rifle Match and made a score of 823 on the three ranges, being six more than that made by Singapore. The shooting was on the whole fair, the total score showing 93 bull's eyes, 71 inners, 40 magpies, and 30 outers. A highest possible was made by Mr. Duncan at the 200 yards range and another by Acting Inspector Watson at the 500 yards. The latter, who made the top score, 93, left for home the next day. This is the sixth match, and of the previous five, four have been won by Hongkong and one by Shanghai. The Northern port has yet to fire.

The Russian warship *Kreiser* has reached Hobson's Bay on her way to the Russian Pacific station. She is described in Australian papers as a smart-looking barque-rigged vessel of 1,500 tons displacement, but one of the old type, built of iron and wood, nearly 20 years ago, at St. Petersburg. Her commander is Captain Nebogatoff. She originally sailed last October from Cronstadt, but has made Australia *viâ* Cape Town, and has come along under sail. After leaving the Cape she was under steam only four days of the thirty-eight days' passage to Melbourne.

Some cases of small-pox have occurred in the colony. A Roman Catholic priest was removed to the sanitarium at Pokfulum, and a master at the Diocesan School was also attacked and had to be conveyed to the *Hygeia*. Cases have also been reported among Chinese.

On the 25th ult., H.M.S. *Severn* came out of dock where she has been undergoing an overhaul. She was to leave Hongkong on the 29th ult. for Foochow and Nagasaki. The flagship *Centurion* was to take in 1,000 tons of coal on April 26. This, it is understood, is the largest amount ever taken in by a war-vessel in Hongkong in one day.

Since the 23rd ult. the naval authorities at Hongkong have been actively employed storing, provisioning, and putting ammunition on board H.M.S. *Wivern* and *Tweed*, and the torpedo boats. They have been equipped in every respect for active service, and are taking part in mobilization manœuvres. The guard-ships, with the flotilla of torpedo boats, proceeded to Tytam Bay on the 25th, where they were to remain till the Saturday following. Commander Ashe is in command of the *Wivern*, and Lieut. C. F. Thursby of the *Tweed*. Torpedo boats are commanded by Lieuts. T. L. Barnardiston, C. E. Rooke, and E. S. Carey.

H.M.S. *Pallas*, Captain McLeod, left Hongkong on the 24th ult., homeward bound. She does not go home by the Cape, as has been rumoured, but by the Suez Canal. Upon leaving Hongkong she was to search for any traces of the missing vessels *Morayshire* and *Blair Athole*, and would first visit the Philippine Islands, coaling at Manila, then go to Warren Hastings Island, some of the Caroline Islands and Java. In this detour the voyage to Singapore will extend over 4,000 miles, instead of the usual trip of 1,400 miles. The British iron ship *Morayshire* (Capt. Mouatt),+100 A 1 Lloyds, 1482 tons gross, built 1875, sailed from Samarang for Vancouver on 22nd November, 1892, with a cargo of sugar. The British iron ship *Blair Athole* (Captain Liser),+100 A 1 Lloyds, 1,777 tons gross, built 1874, sailed from Pasarœang for Vancouver on 27th February, 1893, with a cargo of sugar. Since sailing neither vessel has been heard of.

Advices from South Formosa, says the *Amoy Gazette*, report thas the steamer *Tritos* on her last trip to Takow loaded, in twelve hours, 18,700 bags of sugar, the largest quantity of cargo ever put on board a steamer in one day at Takow. The sugar crop is turning out a miserable one, and it is estimated that supplies will not reach 250,000 piculs, one of the poorest yields for many years, with the exception of last season. The Tainanfoo crop is also a comparatively small one, and there is general disappointment at the poor export trade, after the fair prospects held out at the commencement of the season.

ENGLISH NEWS.

The action of the United States Government in sending Admiral Walker to Hawaii to establish an American naval station at Pearl Harbour has been interpreted in London as the virtual establishment of an American protectorate over Hawaii.

Messrs. Humphrys, Tennant, and Co., of Deptford, have obtained the contract for the engines of No. 1 battleship, 14,900 tons displacement, which is to be laid down shortly at Portsmonth. The engines are to develop 10,000 horse-power with natural and 12,000 with forced draught.

Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen, director of the South Kensington Museum, died of heart-disease on March 23rd.

Sir Robert Prescott Stewart, Professor of Music in Dublin University, died on the 25th of March of heart disease. Few men were better known in Dublin and none had given wider pleasure both by his beautiful compositions and by his admirable performances as an organist in Trinity College Chapel, Christchurch, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. He was in his sixty-ninth year.

A correspondent of the *The Times* strongly urges the suitability of the present time for emigration to Canada. He says that a number of partly improved farms are procurable at exceptionally cheap rates owing to the fact that the men who originally settled there have moved further afield, not because of ill-success, but because the pioneer fever prevented them from resting quietly anywhere. It appears that there has been a mania for land in the West and that people flocked thither abandoning equally profitable positions in the East with-

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out giving them a fair trial. The same correspondent, speaking of the canal traffic in Canada, says that the tonnage of ships passing through the lock between Lake Huron and Lake Superior exceeds by 1 or 2 million tons annually that passing through the Suez Canal.

Mr. Holt S. Hallett writes an interesting letter to *The Times* in which he asserts that Her Majesty's Government in order to induce China to abandon her suzerain claims to Burmah has ceded to that Empire three Burmese Shan States besides other tracts of territory. Among these States is Kiang Hung, the only part of Great Britain's Burmese dominions that touches China proper. In order to connect by rail our Burmese seaboard with Ssumao, the frontier post and emporium of trade in south-west Yünnan, the line would have to be built for the last 150 miles of its length through the province of Kiang Hung, and Mr. Hallett insists that if that province be ceded to China without reserving a right to build a railway through it, England will have practically abandoned to France the opportunity of tapping viâ Tonkin and Annam the trade of the populous regions of Southern and South-Western China. Incidentally Mr. Hallett condemns the British system of concluding and ratifying conventions without previous reference to Parliament. In France, he points out, no treaty, or convention can be ratified until it has been discussed and approved by the Chambers, but in England things may have gone entirely past alteration before the public learns anything.

The process of annexation goes on rapidly in Africa. "Without a shot fired or an assegai thrown, the Cape Colony has come into possession of a country nearly as large as Wales, which in many of its characteristics it closely resembles." The name of this new addition to the British Empire is Pondoland. It lies between the Cape Colony and Natal; has a population of about 150,000 people, and is considered a most eligible acquisition, being well watered, having everywhere luxuriant vegetation, being admirably suited to the growth of palms, firs, bananas, oranges and lemons, cotton and tea plants, and many timber and fruit trees of special kinds, while pasture for sheep and cattle is abundant, and Indian and other corn grows rapidly. In addition to all these advantages, it boasts a river and a harbour, concerning which we read, that from Pungwe to Cape Town no part of the coast of the Indian Ocean possesses either a river or a harbour with such great natural advantages. As to the method by which this splendid country has been acquired, it would appear simply that the people, having learned the advantages of British rule from object lessons furnished by the comfort and prosperity of the Kaffirs in the surrounding districts and tired of the exactions of their own chiefs, have become honestly anxious for annexation, while the chiefs, having generally no higher ambition in life than to be plentifully supplied with brandy, are only too glad to exchange their precarious sovereignties for assured annuities varying from £200 to £50 sterling per annum.

Much anxiety has been caused in England by the announcement that an eight hours day is about to be adopted in the Royal Dockyards. It is felt that private employers will be in a manner coerced into adopting a similar course and that British industry will thus be more than ever handicapped in competition with foreign.

The theory formerly held was that English industrial efficiency enabled English manufacturers to compete successfully with any European country in the markets of the world. But that theory has ceased to be tenable in proportion as machines have taken the place of hand labour. There can be no question that as between two factories furnished with machines working at the same rate of speed on the same character of work and with the same power of production, the advantage lies with the factory that is kept in operation for the greater number of hours out of the twenty-four. Already the ordinary duration of work in British engineering and shipbuilding establishments is fifty-six hours per week, whereas in most Continental establishments of a similar character it is from sixty to sixty-five hours. If the British time is now to be still further reduced to forty-eight hours, the rate of pay also being higher than in Continental factories, it is easy to estimate the consequences.

No Australian eleven will visit England this year, but, for the first time in the history of cricket, the Cape Colony will send a team to fight for laurels in the old country. George Lohmann and some other good English cricketers are now residents of South Africa, so that the Colony will probably be able to put a fair eleven into the field. That cricket loses none of its interest in England as years go by is attested by the fact that *The Times* devotes no less than 4½ columns to "the coming cricket season."

An arts and industrial exhibition was opened in Belfast on the 25th of March.

It appears probable, from subsequent investigations, that there is no truth in the charge preferred against two Bechuanaland Police Troopers of having fraudulently appropriated a sum of £1,000 sent by Lobengula in token of willingness to surrender before the disaster to Major Wilson's party. The troopers were supposed to have kept the money and concealed the fact of any such message having been received. But it appears now that neither of the accused troopers understands the Tebele tongue, and a belief gains ground that if the King sent any money for such a purpose it was stolen by the native messengers themselves.

The new Canadian Tariff is based on lines beneficial to trade with Great Britain, the reductions of duties being almost entirely on goods that Canada imports largely from the mother country. The general purpose of the Tariff is to replace the present system of mixed specific and *ad valorem* duties by *ad valorem* duties alone.

The National Union of Teachers opened its 25th annual conference at Oxford on the 26th of March. There were more than 1,000 representatives from all parts of the country. Resolutions were carried affirming the necessity for a complete register of teachers, and expressing an opinion that a complete and co-ordinated system of national education was desirable; and that one and the same central authority should have control over all departments of public education. A resolution was carried to the effect that all persons appointed as inspectors should have had such adequate practical experience within State-aided schools as would insure a competent knowledge of the work of the schools they would be required to inspect; and the conference also passed a resolution urging the Parliamentary committees of the various working-class organizations to make such representations to the Secondary Education Commission as would insure the close connexion between primary and secondary schools, and that secondary schools should be organized so that the interests and needs of children from the elementary schools might be duly safeguarded and fully supplied."

The annual meeting of the *Freeman's Journal* Company, held in the Antient Concert-rooms, Dublin, on the 27th and 28th of March, was a scene of bickering and strife, showing only too clearly the state of dissension and division into which the Irish Party is falling. Irish national efforts have always split on the same rock—the impossibility of maintaining discipline and union among their supporters. It has been well said that whatever measure of autonomy England might grant to Ireland, the spirit of discord would destroy all the ability of the Irish to use their power mischievously.

We have heard a great deal from the American side about the so-called "aggressive proceedings" of Great Britain at Bluefields. The other side of the story is thus told in *The Times*:

Nicaragua has been guilty of an act of aggression. She violently took possession of the Mosquito Reservation on the morning of the 12th February, invading its capital, the town of Bluefields, with an armed forced of soldiers when all its inhabitants were fast asleep, breaking open the Government buildings and placing them under a strong guard, temporarily arresting those who might have escaped to raise an alarm, forcing open the gaols and letting loose all the prisoners, hoisting her flag on the Mosquito flagstaff, and declaring the natives Nicaraguan citizens. By these measures the Nicaraguans have deprived the chief, Robert Henry Clarence, of his authority as President of the Council, dismissed the members of that body, removed the Judges of the Supreme Court, the magistrates, and every Government official in the service of his Excellency the Chief. They have also appropriated moneys, and roughly handled a British subject, the Custom-house collector, to obtain the keys of the safe. Up to the present date we have been under martial law, which was proclaimed on the 12th inst.

In this way Nicaragua has used force and intimidation to deprive the Mosquitos of their rights. She has also offered bribes to many influential persons to agree and consent to this when the final settlement comes. The natives are opposed to any closer relation with Nicaragua, with whom they have no sympathy, their customs, manners, and character being so much at variance. The Mosquitos have a great liking for England; they were happy and contented while under her protectorate from the latter part of the 17th century to 1860, and a pang went through the whole of the tribes when the best part of their territory was handed over to Honduras and Nicaragua. However, they were pacified by having a portion set apart for their use, and at being free to govern themselves without any interference from the supreme Government; and they implicitly believed that England would see that all the stipulations of the Treaty of Managua made between her Britannic Majesty and the Republic of Nicaragua in 1860 were carried out. So far they have done their best to comply with all the stipulations of this treaty, and have respected the rights of the Sovereign Power. They have borne patiently the encroachments and oppression of Nicaragua for many year past, protesting and reporting to the Foreign Office from time to time as they occurred; but, for some reason or other, no satisfaction was ever obtained. For the last ten years the commercial development of this country has made rapid strides. Foreign capitalists, especially American, have established the banana trade, which is now, very extensive; other investments have also been made in connection with the natural products of the country according to the laws of the Mosquito Government; and, if this radical and sudden change is to have effect, concessions, grants, leases of lands, and Government obligations will have to be taken into consideration and regulated accordingly, all having been done upon the strength of the treaty.

AMERICAN NEWS.

It has been proved definitely that one of the jurors empanelled to try McKane in connection with the Gravesend election scandals was bribed heavily by McKane's agents. The discovery of the fact was quite dramatic. It reads like a story in a novel. The jurors during the course of the trial were lodged at the St. George Hotel, and one of them, undressing one night for bed, dropped a large roll of notes out of his pocket. Thereupon his eleven associates put their heads together and observing that this man was bent upon acquitting McKane, they roundly accused him in Court of having accepted a bribe. The result was that in a thorough fright he confessed. Considering the practices said to have been indulged in under McKane's direction last summer in Coney Island, the mere bribing of a juror seems a petty offence.

The strike of the coke workers in the Connellsville district culminated in scenes of violence and bloodshed. The district has an unhappy reputation. Three years ago it was similarly disturbed by a strike on even a larger scale, no less than 18,000 men having been then out of work. The strikers, who on that occasion as well as on the present consisted for the most part of Hungarians, made an organized attack upon the Morewood Works of the Frick Company but were repulsed with the loss of ten Hungarians killed and fifty wounded. The present strike has been partial. Out of 17,521 coke ovens in the region, 11,374 remained in operation, and 7,000 men went on strike while 9,000 remained at work. The origin of the trouble is to be sought in the same cause that is bringing distress to the whole civilized world —the general fall of prices owing to gold appreciation. After the 1891 strike it was agreed

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that the workmen should receive one dollar for every hundred pounds of coke produced, this scale being based on a selling price of $1.75. But since then the selling price of coke has fallen steadily, and the operators have been obliged to cut down the workmen's dollar to 90 cents, then to 85 cents, then to 75 cents, and finally to 70 cents. Thereupon the crisis came and another tragedy has to be placed to the account of the demonetization of silver. The strike culminated in bloodshed on April 4th. One of the Carnegie officials passing in the neighbourhood of a gang of strikers was recognized, hunted, shot, or clubbed to death. This event did not find the operators unprepared. They had armed some five hundred deputies with Remington rifles and some of these deputies speedily avenged the brutal murder by shooting four of the Hungarians who had been engaged in it and wounding a number of others. The trouble seems to be now practically at an end.

A most extraordinary course has been adopted by Coroner Fitzpatrick in New York. On the 17th of March a girl named Martha J. Fuller of considerable personal attractions and unblemished reputation was found lying dead in the office where she had served as a type-writer. Death had been caused by a pistol bullet passing through her head. The affair was shrouded in mystery. At first it seemed that the girl had shot herself, although no conceivable motive could be assigned for such an act. By and by, however, close scrutiny showed that the pistol could not have been fired by the woman herself and suspicion then began to be directed towards Joseph T. Magee, a fellow-clerk of Miss Fuller's with whom her relations had not been as close as Magee desired. The man was taken into custody and from that time until the 4th of April he was detained in prison while the police collected evidence. This evidence amounted practically to nothing, but such as it was, it was submitted to a coroner's jury who, after fifty-five minutes' deliberation, found that they were unable to determine who fired the shot that killed Miss Fuller. The coroner, however, seems to have made up his mind that Magee was guilty. He forthwith remanded him for the Grand Jury, and stranger still used in the document consigning him to the Tombs, the following language:—"We command you to convey to the City Prison the body of Joseph T. Magee, who stands charged before me on the finding of a Coroner's jury with having caused the death of Martha T. Fuller." This singular act on the part of the Coroner has naturally caused much astonishment. The whole affair is evidently destined to form another item on the record of sensational crimes.

There are strong indications that the popularity of the Democratic Party is declining in the States. The Party has sustained reverses from Rhode Island to New Mexico and Utah. The causes assigned are that the Democrats have failed to carry out their pledge of a constitutional tariff, and that they have attempted to introduce an income tax. It appears to be felt that having come into office under the pretence of radically changing the protective system, the Democrats have merely pared and pruned the old tariff and supplemented it by an obnoxious addition. There can be little doubt, too, that the foreign policy of the Cleveland Administration is not popular. Theoretically the Americans may be the least aggressive people imaginable, but when a practical opportunity of aggrandisement offers, the old Anglo-Saxon spirit flames out with irrepressible force.

Two tramps met with a horrible death on the 3rd of April. They crept into a lime-kiln in West Fifty-Fifth Street, New York, to sleep by the warmth of the smouldering fires, were suffocated by the poisonous gas and were burned to death, one of them beyond identification. The latter is supposed to have been a man who had already been rescued four times from imminent peril of death from the same cause in the same place.

The eighth game and the last of the New York series in the Championship Chess Match shows that the rivals have begun to be weary of testing each other's theories about a particular *début* on an occasion of such a momentous character. Steinitz had the move, and in answer to his Royal opening, Lasker played the French defence (P.K. 3), thus falling back upon the tactics generally adopted since the London Tourney of 1855 in great matches. The game ran to 77 moves, when Steinitz resigned. The seventh game had been a Ruy Lopez defended by Steinitz in his special style (3—P.Q. 3). It is said by experts that Steinitz had a winning position until the 41st move when he made a blunder. The record thus far stands:—

Opening by	Opening.	No. moves.	Won by
1...Lasker	Ruy Lopez	60	Lasker.
2...Steinitz	Ruy Lopez	42	Steinitz.
3...Lasker	Ruy Lopez	52	Lasker.
4...Steinitz	Giuoco Piano	60	Steinitz.
5...Lasker	Ruy Lopez	50	Draw.
6...Steinitz	Giuoco Piano	61	Draw.
7...Lasker	Ruy Lopez	46	Lasker.
8...Steinitz	French Defence	76	Lasker.

After a week's interval the match was resumed on April 21st in Philadelphia. Although the score shows Steinitz in a minority of two games, his friends have not lost heart, being persuaded that he will yet be true to his record and come out much better in the next series of the match. Lasker has added to his already earned reputation as an end-game expert.

The manifest impracticality of the lines upon which female education has entered in the West was illustrated at the Commencement Exercises in the University of New York on April 5th. Twenty-nine young ladies graduated in law, and received the Chancellor's certificate. Not one of these fair students has any intention of taking up the practice of law, but they apparently hold the doctrine ennuciated by Mr. Leonard Weber, President of the Women's Legal Education Society, that man's original sin was withholding education from women, and that all steps, however extravagant, must be at once taken to redress the wrong. So future wives and mothers devote themselves to attending full courses of lectures upon a subject that can never, in the natural course of events, be of the slightest service to them. But these considerations do not weigh with ladies pledged to the modern movement. They talk of establishing "legal dispensaries where women can be helped to recover their rights, just as in medical dispensaries they are helped to recover their health, and in religious, to save their souls. Among the rights to be recovered are the abolition of the word "obey" from the marriage service; the reform of the abuse that deprives a woman of her own surname in marriage; and the correction of the false custom that distinguishes between the titles of married and unmarried females, but makes no such distinction in the case of men.

Mrs. Cornelia Frances Coster, who died on April 1st in New York, left a will directing that her entire fortune of $1,000,000 (gold) should be devoted to building a mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery. It appears that this strange will grew out of an agreement made years ago between Mrs. Coster, her husband, and her mother. Each was to devise his or her estate to the others, on condition that the survivor should devote the whole property to the erection of a tomb. Mrs. Coster survived, and carried out the agreement. Probably her testament will be disputed. If not upset, it will give to America the most expensive mausoleum ever erected.

The Government of the United States commissioned Mr. St. Gaudens to design a medal for the Chicago World's Fair awards. The artist planned a medal, on one side of which he placed a nude male figure. Grave folks are said to be disgusted. It is certainly time that public taste should revert to wholesome channels, and rebel against the monstrous doctrine that all beauty must be shown in the nude.

The *New York Herald* of April 7th writes:—

The Japanese Government is actively carrying out its colonization schemes in the Far East. A Commercial Cable despatch from Bangkok says that negotiations are in progress with the Siamese Government for the establishment of large colonies by Japanese immigrants at Korat in the Land of the White Elephant. Similar negotiations with the authorities of the Malay peninsula have been successfully concluded. The Japanese government is also seeking to enter into a treaty of commerce with Siam. All this indicates that Japan is endeavouring to secure a predominant position among her neighbours in the East.

The Commercial Cable despatch referred to in the above runs as follows:—

Bangkok, April 6th, 1894.—A Japanese official is here negotiating with the Siamese authorities for permission to start large plantations at Korat with a thousand Japanese immigrants. Similar negotiations have been successfully completed with the authorities of the Malay Peninsular.

The Japanese official now here is also conducting negotiations with a view to the conclusion of a commercial treaty between Japan and Siam.

The Siamese Ministry has been reappointed without change. Prince Devawongse remains in charge of foreign affairs.

The Grand American Handicap at Dexter Park—which, we should, perhaps, add, is a pigeon-shooting tourney—on April 6th, was won by Mr. P. W. Morfey, the second prize being taken by Captain Money. Both the men are English by birth. Both killed the first 25 birds without a miss. In shooting off the tie, each killed 8 out of 10. It was then decided to have a "miss and out issue." Morfey killed his 2 birds and Captain Money missed his second. Thus Morfey brought down 35 birds out of 37 and Money 34.

The Ferris Wheel is to be carried from Chicago and set up in or near Broadway, New York. This is what the great wheel is:—

The Ferris wheel is 264 feet in height and 254 feet in diameter. Each of the thirty-six passenger cars is larger than a railroad coach. When the wheel is "filled" with passengers 2,160 persons are "on board," and are caried up and down like birds in a nest.

The wheel is built entirely of steel, and looks much like an immense bicycle wheel revolving between two huge towers. It is really a double wheel placed on an axle and twenty-eight and a half feet apart, but held together by struts and ties. The cars are built of wood and steel, and are upholstered and artistically finished. Each weighs nineteen tons.

Three thousand incandescent lights of various colours are arranged in groups around the crown of the wheel. These are extinguished and relighted at intervals as the wheel revolves, producing an effect at a distance similar to a huge display of fireworks. Six months was occupied in building the wheel. Its cost was about $400,000.

Robert Alden Yates, who, two years ago, being then only 15 years of age, murdered Thomas Haydon, clerk in a straw hat manufactory, the motive of the crime being robbery, was re-sentenced in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, New Jersey, on April 7th, to be hung on May 10th. He exhibited the utmost coolness both during and after the deliveryof the sentence.

The science, if such it may be called, of palmistry is in high vogue at Lakewood, New Jersey, where a certain Madame Potter of New York is practising it with increasing success. She argues that no two palms of different people are similarly lined except in so far as the characters of the persons are similar, and she professes not only to decipher a man's past history by the marks it has left on his hand, but also to predict his future as likely to be moulded by himself.

It is probable that a contest will be held in New York to decide who is the strongest man in the world—that is to say, the strongest among those that publicly claim the distinction. There are five: Louis Cyr, and French Canadian; Eugene Sandow, a German; Carl A. Sampson, with whose nationality we are unacquainted, and J. W. Kennedy, an American. Cyr raises a dumbbell of 260 lbs. weight with one hand; Kennedy lifts 1,205 lbs. dead weight with his hands; Sampson raises 4,008 lbs in harness, and Sandow has muscles that stand out in bunches and are almost as hard as wood. It is believed that these men, in their public performances, resort more or less to fraud, and a *bonâ fide* contest would be interesting. A Mr. R. K. Fox has wagered $1,000 that Cyr can beat Sandow. An international tournament will be held in New York for competition among all comers. "Professor" Attila, a well known athlete, is endeavouring to arrange to. He says that the compe-

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titors might be Sandow, Louis Cyr, of Canada; Turk, Peck, and Wertessa, of Vienna; George Singer, of Munich; Romulus, of Italy; Wahlunger, of Sweden; Hercules, of England; Kramer, of Holland; Mertens, of Belgium; Appolan, of France; Kennedy, of America; Kohler, of New York; and Nordstrom, of Brooklyn. The scene of the trial is to be New York.

There is a strong opinion in America that the armour plate frauds were more extensive than originally supposed and that the safety of some of the vessels now flying the Stars and Stripes may be questionable. It is probable that a thorough investigation will be held.

The *New York Herald* has contracted for Zola's new novel "Lourdes," and commenced the publication in its Sunday issue, April 16th. The announcement will take many persons by surprise. So the *Herald* evidently expects. Here is what it says about the book :—

It is not the Zola of a quarter of a century ago that the *Herald's* readers will find, nor yet exactly the Zola of the long "Rougon-Macquart" series, which traces the descent of persons and families that sprang from the deterioration of the Second Empire. And yet it will be the continuation, if not the completion, of that remarkable series, depicting the fearful army of diseased and brutalized humanity left full of remorse and bearing the germs of death, chanting pious litanies, hoping against hope for miraculous cure, as they join the masses of earnest pilgrims ever wending their way, filled with faith, toward Lourdes.

An attempt to "hold up" the Rock Island train four miles beyond Pond Creek in the Oklahoma Territory on April 9th was defeated by Harmon, the Wells, Fargo express messenger. Four or five bandits boarded the train, but the express messenger had time to fasten the door of the express car. The bandits blew out the end of the car with dynamite, but the first to enter was shot dead by Harmon, and the others retreated hastily, not, however, before Harmon, assisted by other trainmen, had captured one of them.

A violent gale blew two schooners ashore on the Jersey sands off Squan and Highland Beach on April 11th. Their entire crews, numbering 16 in all, were lost, under the eyes of men trying to succour them with rockets and other appliances.

New York was visited by a cyclone, accompanied by sleet, snow, and rain, on the 11th of April. No lives were lost, but much damage was done in the suburbs.

Mr. Howard Gould, the millionaire, whose engagement to Miss Odette Tyler, an actress, was recently announced, has broken off the match at the instigation of his family. It is alleged by some, however, that Miss Tyler herself put an end to the affair, being offended because the Gould family employed a detective to look into her family history.

David Dudley Field, the eminent barrister, died on the morning of April 14th of pneumonia, in the house of his daughtrs-in-law, 22 Gramercy Park, New York. He was one of four brothers, all celebrated—Stephen, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Cyrus, the founder of the Atlantic cable system, Henry the scholar and divine, and David, the lawyer. Mr. Field was in his ninety-first year.

Mr. A. C. Rumble of San Francisco claims to have nearly completed a new invention called the "Phonantograph." It is a machine combining stenography and type-writing. A letter dictated into one end of the machine comes out at the other ready for mailing. Other wonderful capacities are attributed to the phonantograph, but the thing has not yet emerged from newspaper columns.

The great Breckinridge-Pollard case has been brought to an end. On April 14th the Jury gave a verdict in favour of the plaintiff, Miss Pollard, with $15,000 damages. The last days of the trial were devoted to the delivery of speeches by counsel on each side. They were doubtless great forensic efforts, but the main object kept in view by the speakers was to employ every art of oratory, rhetoric, and dramatic sophistry for the purpose of proving, on the one hand, that Colonel Breckenridge was a faithless *roué*; on the other, that Miss Pollard, from the age of 15, was a girl lost to all consciousness of moral restraint and governed simply by the desire of winning money and position. Colonel Breckenridge has stated his resolve to employ every possible legal means of reversing the verdict. On the afternoon of the day when the trial closed, he drove out with his wife in a carriage on Pennsylvania Avenue, in order to prove to the public that his family relations were not altered. It is said that, financially, Miss Pollard will make nothing by the verdict, Colonel Breckenridge being a man without property who has always lived up to his means. His wife has money, but there is little likelihood of her volunteering to pay such a claim.

Santa Cruz suffered from a serious conflagration on the night of April 14th. An incendiary, knowing—as it is supposed—that an accident had temporarily crippled the water system, set fire to a house, and during the interval of 2 hours pending repair of the water works, the flames gained such head that a whole block of fine new buildings was destroyed in the centre of the city. The loss is estimated at $350,000, and the insurance was little over $100,000. Most of the houses burned, however, were owned by wealthy people.

A great strike has taken place among the operatives on the Great Northern Railway. Fifteen hundred miles of the railway were tied up at an early date, and the strike spread so that, at the time (April 19th) of our latest advices, more than four thousand miles of track were involved. There appears to be a general opinion that the strikers have legitimate grievances, and that the only way to put a final end to such troubles is to establish Governmental control of the great lines of railroad in the United States.

In connection with the projected visit of Seumanu Tafa, a Samoan Chief, to America, an incident not previously published, so far as we remember, is related :—

The chief was the man who worked so nobly and heroically during the big storm in Apia harbour when the *Trenton* and *Vandalia* were wrecked. The vessels were being torn by the waves and the angry seas were running high. The sailors who were not washed overboard jumped for their lives. On shore were gathered thousands watching the work of destruction and death, and all seemed powerless to aid the seamen.

Suddenly the great chief addressed a crowd of his followers and then plunged into the seething waters. Native after native followed him, and on and on he swam till he reached the *Trenton*. A native grasped him around the body, and he in turn was grasped by another, until a human bridge was formed from the ship to the shore. Sailor after sailor was passed along that bridge and many lives were saved. Seumanu Tafa clung to his moorings with indomitable courage until every castaway was landed. Then the natives followed him to the shore.

The United States Government rewarded the gallant action of the Samoan chief by presenting him with a medal and a whaleboat.

Long accounts are contained in the American newspapers of the gradual progress of the various sections of Coxey's Commonweal Army toward Washington. The advance of these bodies of tramps and unemployed was attended with various incidents, but, on the whole, an unexpected measure of discipline was observed and the men abstained from open violations of the law up to a late period of their "campaign." Ultimately, however, they took to forcibly appropriating railway cars, and as recent telegrams tell us, frequent collisions with the police ensued. On April 18th, the Senate in Washington briefly debated the contingencies of the Army's arrival in that city, and decided that no special precautions need be adopted.

An ugly riot occurred at Detroit on April 18th. The Water Board Authorities decided to substitute piece-work for day labour in the construction of a new main, and 100 Poles, resenting the decision, made a fierce attack upon the officers of the Board. The latter had to use their revolvers. Two Poles were killed and many wounded, and Sheriff Collins and Foreman Cathey were terribly beaten with shovels.

Reports from Hawaii indicate that the Royalists are making a very determined effort to prevent the natives from registering as a token of submission to the new constitution. When the last advices were received from Honolulu fifteen days of the period for registration still remained, and it was hoped by President Dole and his friends that a large number would take the oath and place their names on the lists during that interval.

THE GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLE-CHASE.

In to-day's telegrams it will be seen that Reuter wires the result of the Chester Cup, a race of small importance now compared with what it was thirty years ago, but he neglected to send out the result of the Grand National, which many horsemen regard as the greatest sporting event in the turf world. This year, in particular, the race caused unusual excitement. First, because when the weights appeared it was found that last year's winner, Cloister, had been given the same impost (12st. 7lb.) that he carried to victory in front of a field of 15, winning by forty lengths. This was explained by the handicapper as an error in copying out the weights, as he had given Cloister 12st. 12lb. It is astonishing that no one in Messrs. Weatherby's office regarded Cloister's weight as a possible error, and telegraphed enquiry of the handicapper before publication took place. After publication nothing could be done, and the horse was backed for an immense amount of money, until a fortnight before the race the odds came down to 7 to 4, notwithstanding that a difficulty had arisen in regard to Cloister's "entry," which was alleged to be informal. It appears that Mr. Duff, the owner of Cloister, owing to a domestic bereavement, and not wishing his name to be prominent in sporting matters, had recently entered several horses under a properly registered racing name as "Mr. Grant's (late Mr. Duff's)" so-and-so. Now a horse so entered must run once before the words "(late Mr. Duff's)" can be discarded, and Cloister having been entered before the registration of "Mr. Grant," and not having run after, it was held that the entry was improper, and that if the horse won he would be disqualified. This of course caused a meeting of the Stewards, who decided that Cloister was properly entered. But the Aintree favourite was doomed to create more sensation among turfites, for a few days after he dropped back in the betting in one short hour from 7 to 4 to 6 to 1, his owner at that time being as much in the dark as the public, certainly much more so than the bookmakers. Mr. Duff lost no time in going down to Alresford, where Cloister was stabled, taking with him an eminent veterinary. Here it was found that after doing a splendid gallop of four miles and a half at Sandown, Cloister was placed in a box and sent back to Alresford, and when taken out of the box appeared to be in pain, shortly after which he broke out into a sweat and remained all night without lying down. One vet.'s opinion was that the horse had got a chill on the journey, another's that he had over-reached himself in taking his fences at Sandown. However, the noble animal had the pen put through his name for his Liverpool engagement nearly a week before the race, and thus ended the chance of his repeating The Colonel's performance in 1869 and the following year. As to the race, details of which came by yesterday's mail, the field of sixteen is described as about as poor a lot as ever contested the event. Why Not and Nelly Gray, each at 5 to 1, started favourites, and the former won by a length and a half from Lady Ellen II., only a neck separating second and third. The winner, ridden by Arthur Nightingale, carried 11st. 13lb., and the stakes are valued at £2,500, besides the trophy, which is worth £100. Why Not was known to have a great chance, especially after the scratching of Cloister, and probably Captain Fenwick and the stable landed a large stake.

DIRECT TRADE.

IT was explained some time ago in these columns that the *Doshin Kaisha*, one of the very few firms that have continued to carry on direct trade with foreign countries, had fared so ill last year that its chances of paying a dividend were very small. At the recent annual meeting of the Company the details of its difficulties were made known. The natural conclusion would be that a company engaged in exporting Japanese produce to America ought to enjoy remarkable prosperity at a time like the present when every gold dollar obtained on the other side means two silver *yen* on this side. But it matters comparatively little what exchange may be if money to exchange is not procurable, and the fact is that owing to the depression of trade in America for which the currency question is chiefly responsible, the *Doshin Kaisha's* usual customers either fail to buy, or buying, fail to pay. Moreover, the expenses of the Company's agents in the States have increased perceptibly when translated into silver, and thus, finally, instead of benefiting by a state of affairs that ought to be highly beneficial to all exporters, the Company made a loss of 30,000 *yen* in the second half of last year. Fortunately it holds a sum of 18,000 *yen* set aside for equalizing dividends, and moreover the capital of the branch office in New York, namely, $60,000 (gold), has appreciated to nearly double that amount in silver. Thus the Company's books do not make a bad showing by any means, and in view of them some of the shareholders were disposed to insist on the payment of a dividend. But happily wiser counsels prevailed. The Company has made a change, we observe, in its system of conducting business in New York. Hitherto it has paid its agents a commission irrespective of the results of their transactions, but henceforth they are to be placed on fixed salaries. If the change were made in the direction of a cöoperative system we should have more faith in its usefulness.

It must be confessed that on the whole the success hitherto achieved by the Japanese in their attempts to rule the foreign local merchant out of commercial transactions with the West has not been encouraging. The most formidable essay of the kind, however, is also the most recent. We refer to the establishment of the importing firm, Messrs. OKURA and Company, in Kobe. It is evident that a Japanese firm possesses many advantages in transacting import business with its own nationals. It knows exactly the men whose orders may be accepted with confidence, and it must have closer touch with the needs of the home markets than is possible to a foreign merchant. Probably for this reason the transactions conducted by Messrs. OKURA and Company in Kobe have already attained large dimensions, and must have the effect of diverting from foreign houses a considerable part of the business hitherto enjoyed by them. Incursions into the field of direct foreign trade by Japanese merchants with little capital and less experience are not much to be feared. But the case is different when people commanding such resources and such competent assistance as Messrs. OKURA and Company command become the foreigners' competitors. One immediate result of the new competition is that the monopoly of importing rails for the Kiushu roads hitherto enjoyed by German merchants has been rudely disturbed, a large order in that line having recently been secured by Messrs. OKURA and Company. Nevertheless, strange as the belief may seem, we are convinced that a foreign firm in Japan can carry on its business more cheaply than a Japanese firm. It has always been contended that though the country were thrown open, foreign merchants could not attempt to open business in the interior, to such peculation and chicanery would they be exposed. But the experienced foreign merchant knows better than that. He knows that there enter into business conducted by the Japanese themselves elements of sentiment, defects of organization, and indifference to details which in the aggregate greatly hamper commercial success, and which, being for the most part absent from transactions conducted by the foreigner, represent a distinct advantage on his side. For the rest, it is certainly curious that this time of markedly unfavourable exchange should have been chosen by a Japanese firm to enter the import trade. But we observe that most of Messrs. OKURA and Company's contracts are on a sterling basis, so that the risk of a fluctuating medium falls entirely on the person giving the order.

THE FOREIGN POLICY STALWARTS.

THE futility of the movement for the adoption of what is called a strong foreign policy was displayed in the result of an attempted demonstration yesterday at the Nakamura-ro, Tokyo. The promoters of this movement call themselves the *Taigwai Koha*, or Foreign Policy Stalwarts, but they have not as yet succeeded in conveying to the public a very clear idea of their programme, nor is it by any means certain that they possess a very clear idea themselves. Probably the only correct description applicable to them is that they are the Government's opponents, and that they deem it a shrewd political card to try and persuade the nation that, in some vague, indescribable manner, its prestige would fare better in their hands than it could possibly fare in the hands of the present Cabinet. They profess to be discontented about the country's attitude toward Korea, about its attitude toward China, and about its attitude toward foreign Powers generally, but how they would proceed to alter that attitude were the task entrusted to them, it has been their persistent care to avoid explaining. The scheme of Strict Treaty Enforcement was the nearest approach they succeeded in making to a definition of purpose, but when they found themselves face to face with the electors, they discovered that to secure even their old supporters' suffrages it was necessary to modify the scheme of Strict Enforcement to the extent of eliminating nearly all its elements of strictness. Still, professions of patriotism need never be couched in very explicit terms, and the nebulous prospect of vindicating the empire's dignity by some mysterious exercise of self-assertion has doubtless proved an effective means of holding together the heterogeneous elements of the Opposition. To emphasise that attractive purpose it was recently proposed to organise a public demonstration in Tokyo. Our Western notion of a public demonstration is a mass meeting brought together in pursuance of an explicit aim and held together by vehement and more or less eloquent enunciations of that aim. But such a plan of procedure presupposes unity of idea on the part of the persons attending the meeting as well as of the persons organizing it, whereas unity of idea is the very last thing that the Opposition in Japan can now simulate. They have indeed one common purpose, namely, to overthrow the Government, but they can not agree even as to their reasons for seeking to overthrow it, still less as to the programme they would themselves pursue were they entrusted with office. Hence they are confronted by considerable difficulties when they set about organizing a demonstration. It happens, however, that modern Japan has evolved for herself a peculiar kind of gathering, called a *Konshin-kai*, or friendly meeting, at which eating and drinking and general conviviality constitute the chief elements of the performance, and which may be invested with just as much or as little political character as the promoters please. If, for example, a *Konshin-kai* is made the occasion for strong political speeches and the adoption of strong political resolutions, it assumes an unmistakable aspect. But when there are no speeches nor any formally proposed and adopted resolutions, it cannot be regarded as more than a device for bringing folks into amicable contact and enabling them to interchange irresponsible ideas. It was with this latter kind of invertebrate affair that the six sections of the Opposition were obliged to be content on the 8th instant. Their original plan had been to come together at the wrestling matches held every Spring in the Ekoin, near Ryogoku Bridge. That conception showed some cleverness, for the wrestling matches always attract a great audience, and since no one could have distinguished clearly

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between persons drawn solely by the wrestling and persons attending the political assembly, such a choice of occasion presented manifest advantages. But the police did not endorse the propriety of including an involuntary audience in a demonstration of the kind, and so the promoters had to fall back upon a *Konshinkai* at the big restaurant called Nakamuraro. A high-sounding title was chosen. The affair was "A Great Friendly Gathering of Fellow-thinkers of the Whole Empire," and it was arranged that every patriot attending should have a thirty-*sen* tiffin. Ample notice had been given of the affair, but the promoters themselves evidently had little hope of a gathering at all commensurate with their brave title, for they ordered only twelve hundred of the thirty-*sen* tiffin boxes to be prepared. The event justified their foresight. Not more than a thousand persons attended in all, and so far from representing the whole empire, they did not include almost any politicians who had come to the capital to attend the meeting. On the contrary, the vast majority of them were youths of the *soshi* class who followed their patrons to the place, ready to shout for or against any proposition. What was still more significant, no speech-making was allowed. The promoters, knowing well that so soon as political views began to be clearly enunciated, differences of opinion would at once manifest themselves, interdicted speeches. Viscount TANI said half a dozen words, declaring that there would be no speaking and trusting that those present would work together for the country's good, and Mr. SHIGA read a resolution announcing that the meeting considered itself representative of one half of the nation, and that its aim was to promote a strong foreign policy and party cabinets. After that brief interruption the audience went on eating their thirty-*sen* tiffins, and presently dispersed quietly. Nothing could have been tamer or more *jejeune*. As a political demonstration the thing was a fiasco. We shall doubtless hear it described in grandiloquent terms, but in truth it showed nothing except the insignificance and want of cohesion of the Six Sections of the Opposition. Nothing could be more inconsistent or comical than that politicians not united enough to trust themselves to speak, and unable to muster more than a thousand partizans all belonging to the capital, should pose as the exponents of a policy of strength, and as representatives of a moiety of the nation.

SOME AGRARIAN FACTS.

THREE official investigations have already been made with the object of determining the ratio existing between the area of lands cultivated by their owners and the area of those cultivated by tenant farmers. The question, apart from its general interest, has a special bearing upon the land-tax problem, for it is obvious that the persons chiefly interested in reduction of the land tax and re-assessment of the taxable value of land are, not the tenants, whose rents would remain practically unaffected by any such lightening of imposts, but the proprietors out of whose pockets the tax comes directly. The first official inquiry took place in 1883; the next in 1887, and the last, of which the results are now before us, in 1892. It appears that the total extent of the lands cultivated by their owners is 3,056,030 *cho* (7,487,273 acres), and the extent of those cultivated by tenants 2,094,941 *cho* (5,132,605 acres), the total of land under cultivation being 5,150,971 *cho* (12,619,878 acres). It appears, therefore, that the area of the lands actually held and farmed by their proprietors exceeds the area of lands let to tenants by 961,089 *cho* (2,354,668 acres). But from previous statistics we learn that this difference used to be greater. Thus, in 1883, the ratio of tenant-farming to proprietor-farming was 36 to 100; in 1887, it rose to 39 to 100, and in 1892 it became 40 to 100. There is, in fact, a steady tendency to an increase of tenant farming. In connection with this the question presents itself whether the increase of tenant farmers is ascribable to an actual change in the status of the agricultural classes—a change by which men who were originally owners have been converted into tenants—or to the reclamation of new land by capitalists and its occupation by tenants. The latter conclusion seems to be adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in presenting these statistics. The area of land under cultivation in 1892 showed an increase of 12 per cent. as compared with the area in 1887, and the number of tenant-farmers increased by 16 per cent. in the same interval. But of course a general analysis of that kind may be very misleading. To arrive at a definite comprehension of the causes at work, it would be necessary to consider the state of affairs in each province and prefecture—a task not attempted in the statistics before us. It is interesting to find that the nature of the land perceptibly influences the manner of its tenure. Wet fields, in other words, low-lands where rice is cultivated, are chiefly in the hands of tenants, probably because the severe labour involved in that kind of cultivation is more readily undertaken by the poorer class of agriculturists. The areas of low-lands to up-lands throughout the empire, in farms cultivated by their owners, are very nearly equal, the figures being 1,501,892 *cho* (3,679, 622 acres) of up-lands, and 1,554,138 *cho* (3,818,038 acres) of low-lands. But in farms held by tenants, the percentage of low-lands is 61.5 and that of up-lands 38.5. The places where tenant farming prevails most largely are Osaka, Shizuoka, Niigata, Toyama, Tottori, Shimane, and Kagawa, 50 per cent. of the lands being there cultivated by tenants; whereas in Iwate, Fukushima, Kochi, Miyazaki, and Kagoshima, 70 per cent. of the farming is done by the proprietors themselves.

CONCERNING THE HAWAIIAN TREATY.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing on the subject of the Hawaiian Treaty, propounds some interesting questions, which we shall endeavour to answer.

"Was not the conclusion of a treaty with Hawaii at the present time a hasty step?" This question includes a misapprehension, though, perhaps, the form of expression alone is misleading. A treaty has not been concluded with Hawaii. What has happened is very different. Hawaii, in order to render herself eligible for the advantages enjoyed in Japan by the most favoured nation, voluntarily surrendered a privilege—Consular Jurisdiction—the possession of which disqualified her for those advantages, and Japan recognised the act by placing Hawaii on the footing of the most-favoured nation, namely, Mexico. There has been no formal exchange of privilege against concession. Each Power's procedure has been purely voluntary. Japanese subjects in Hawaii are guaranteed most-favoured-nation treatment. A similar guarantee could not be given to Hawaiian citizens in Japan until their attitude toward the territorial law and its administration became the same as is the attitute of Japanese subjects in Hawaii toward Hawaiian law and its administration. Hawaii chose to modify her attitude in that respect, and this empire made a reciprocal modification in the status of Hawaiian citizens within Japan's borders.

Our correspondent's description of what has occurred is, however, only incidental to his query as to the competence of the Provisional Government to enter into any international arrangement whatever. With regard to that, it will probably suffice to recall the well known and generally recognised principle that a *de-facto* government's acts are valid against all the world except against the *de-jure* government. Japan had no occasion to concern herself about the Provisional Government's competence. For the rest, it is well known that the QUEEN'S Government had long been willing to take the very step now taken by its successors. The foreign policy of Hawaii has been continuous in this respect.

We come now to the last and most interesting of our correspondent's queries —"In case Hawaii should be annexed to the United States on the return of the Republican Party to power, or in case the Islands should be incorporated into any other political body, what would probably become of this treaty?" The answer, we think, is dictated by a very simple and fundamental

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consideration. All international compacts are made with due regard to the actually existing geographical, ethical, and political conditions of the high contracting parties. If the circumstances of either of two treaty nations undergo a change materially affecting the interests contemplated by the treaty, and not foreseen or provided against when the treaty was concluded, then it follows as a matter of course and of plain propriety, that the treaty ceases, from the time of such change, to be binding upon the other nation. Take an object lesson. Suppose that Japan were to conclude with the present United States of America a convention granting to American citizens within Japanese territory all the privileges of trade, travel, and residence enjoyed by Japanese subjects, and suppose that, a year after the conclusion of such a convention and while it was still in force, America added China to her territories, would the whole Chinese nation become entitled to enjoy the privileges enumerated in the convention? Obviously not. All compacts between States being necessarily referable to the actual circumstances of the time when the compact is made, must cease to have validity when, in consequence of any material alteration of those circumstances, contingencies arise whose existence originally would have modified, or perhaps altogether pevented, the compact. Were Hawaii annexed to the United States on the return of the Republican Party to power, the privileges now granted to Hawaii as an independent republic would certainly not pass to the United States because Hawaii had become a portion of American territory.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURE IN JAPAN.

THE gradual construction of buildings in foreign style is a circumstance that has attracted wonderfully little journalistic attention in Japan. The House of Representatives is to a great extent responsible for this. Its face has been set from the beginning against all innovations that cost money especially when officialdom is connected with them, and inasmuch as Count INOUYE may be said to have done more than all other persons put together to promote the introduction of foreign architecture and to take steps for converting the capital from a congeries of huts into a collection of presentable edifices, the retrogressive Radicals in the Lower House have always been hostile to evidences of foreign architecture. Happily these short-sighted politicians exercise no control over the Tokyo Municipality, and the latter, compelled by the calamities that devastate the the city rather, perhaps, than prompted by any abstract notions of progress, have taken a step that will ultimately force the citizens to recognize the incongruity between their old buildings and their new civilization. We allude to the widening of the streets that is now taking place so rapidly in Tokyo. The recurrence of conflagrations suggested this step. Having plenty of room to work in, the Tokyo Authorities thought that the best way of checking fires would be to widen the intervals across which the flames must leap, and with that object they elaborated a programme of street-widening that has already been carried out in numerous instances. The device will of course serve the purpose contemplated, but it has also produced an unforeseen result, namely, that of dwarfing the already pigmy dwellings of the citizens, so that a visitor walking along these pacious streets bounded by bee-hive-like residences might imagine himself in a city peopled by Liliputian householders but designed for Gargantuan traffic. A sense of proportion has always been counted among the faculties with which the Japanese are most richly endowed. We presume therefore that they will soon begin to be shocked by the contrast between these huge streets and tiny houses. Their reason too will doubtless soon suggest that if streets should be widened in order to impede the progress of flames, buildings should be solidified with the same object. Finally, their appreciation of the beautiful and the majestic ought to sway them in favour of foreign architecture even though its displays in Tokyo have not hitherto been of the most attractive kind. In saying this we do not mean to cast the shadow of a reflection upon the ability of the foreign architects that have worked for Japan, but everybody knows that in no single instance has a foreign architect hitherto been allowed to obey the dictates of his own genius, and that even the best buildings to be seen in Tokyo represent, not the capacity of their designers, but the very straightened limits of Japanese resources. Still, the tide has certainly set in the direction of foreign architecture, and it is interesting to find the subject discussed in the leading columns of the *Mainichi Shimbun*. That journal accepts as an accomplished fact that Western architecture has come to Japan to stay. It notes that of the many foreigners employed by this Empire for architectural purposes, Mr. CONDER alone remains, though it has not the grace to add such a eulogy of his services as might well be introduced in this context. Its tone is one of triumph, not that foreign architecture has fallen into disfavour, but that Japanese architects have developed sufficient capacity to dispense with foreign aid. Three names are singled out by our contemporary as standing easily at the head of the list of Japanese architectural experts. They are Professor TATSUNO and Messrs. TSUMAKI RAIKO and KATAYAMA TOYU. Professor TATSUNO built the Engineering College in the Imperial University and designed the new Bank of Japan, now in course of construction, while Mr. KATAYAMA is responsible for the residences of Princes FUSHIMI and ICHIJO. Both these gentlemen have received the title of Kogaku Hakase. Mr. TSUMAKI has not been similarly honoured, though his works are more numerous—the Tokyo Foundling Hospital, the residence of Prince SANJO, the new Tokyo Municipal Offices, with their wonderful gingerbread minaret, and a prison now building. The same authority says that the first edifice in foreign style in Tokyo was the Tatsunokuch Bazaar, long ago reduced to ashes, and that the next in order were the Koishikawa Arsenal, the old Kobu Daigakko, the Imperial Printing Bureau, the Museum, the Foreign Office, and the Privy Council. All these were the work of foreigners, and it must be confessed that the edificies subsequently erected from Japanese plans display a strong family likeness to their ancestors. We wonder how far Japan would still be from the possession of competent architects in foreign style, and of buildings that have already done much to redeem the capital from its wigwam-like dinginess, had not the liberal progressiveness of officialdom, so much abused by the people's representatives, supplied the initiative and the incentive.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

CONCERNING THE HAWAIIAN TREATY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The Japanese-Hawaiian treaty recently announced gives rise to some interesting questions in International Law, and I would be glad to have the opinion of the Editor of the *Japan Mail* concerning them. Doubtless other readers besides myself are interested in the same questions.

(1) Was not the conclusion of a treaty with Hawaii at the present time a hasty step? Have the Powers of the world ever yet acknowledged to the Provisional Government an ability to make treaties? Such power can only be exercised by absolute sovereignty and has a government which is only provisional that absolute sovereignty?

(2) In case Hawaii should be annexed to the United States on the return of the Republican Party to power, or in case the Islands should be incorporated into any other political body, what would probably become of this treaty?

By answering the above you will greatly oblige,

A STUDENT OF INTERNAIONAL LAW.

April 25th, 1894.

SCHOLARLY TOPSY-TURVYDOM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I think Mr. Dienst would render us a good service by giving us the title of Japanese work parts of which he has translated for your valuable paper. As far as I can judge from the abstracts, his contribution seems derived from an illustrated work on the Life and Letters of Xaverius, published under the auspices of the present Archbishop of Japan about two years ago (in 3 volumes). He seems, however, not to know that almost the whole substance of this work is taken from H. T. Coleridge's Life and Letters of St. Francis Xavier (2 vols., London 1890) and Pagès' well-known work on the same subject. There he would have found that "the Maurick" is the Japanese rendering of the Moluccas, and "that the University which is not mentioned in any work in the hands of the Translator," is in the original "the place or university of Jenico or Chenguinco," which is simply a mistake for the country of Tenjiku or India.

Unfortunately, I cannot with Mr. Dienst "indulge the hope that these chapters may increase

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our knowledge of the religious work in days gone by;" for they have been more fully "given to the public in English" as long ago as 1872 and again in 1890. Besides Pagès' admirable collection of the letters in French is of easy access. The original Latin texts may also be found in Maffei's and Hay's Collections.

It is really a pity that a Japanese scholar spends so much time on retranslating so well known European sources from their crude Japanese rendering, while so many valuable original works in Japanese remain untouched.

With compliments to Mr. Dienst, I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant, Z.Y.

Tokyo, May 4th, 1894.

"PAUL ANJIRO."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—There is now appearing in your paper a translation by the Reverend G. E. Dienst of a Japanese work, being itself a translation from the French, purporting to be a true account of the introduction of Christianity (Roman Catholicism) in Japan.

I am afraid the Reverend Gentleman is wasting his time and labour on a futile work, for, although at a first glance these chapters seem very interesting, they, after all, teach us nothing about that very interesting period of which we do not already know; nay more, if due allowance is made for the fact that we have before us a translation from French into Japanese, again from Japanese into English—and God knows what is meant by that!—also, that the English translator has omitted such matter as seemed uninteresting to him, I am pretty sure that the Japanese book in question, is a partial translation of the celebrated and well known work of Father de Charlevoix: "Histoire et description du Japon," etc. published in Paris in 1736, and that this Japanese translation must be a very modern one.

The facts now published by the Reverend Mr. Dienst are related in the same way and in the same sequence by Father de Charlevoix, the history and adventures of Paul Anjiro included. Such proper names, which puzzle the English translator may very easily be identified in following Charlevoix. For instance:

"Anjiro on arriving at Malacca, learned that Xavier was absent at *Marrick* (?) for the present."

Marrick, perhaps Morrick, is intended for Molucca, in French, Moluques; John Dalbgelp, is the Catholic Bishop of India, Dom Juan d'Albuquerque; the personage Igias at Rome, to whom Xavier writes so often, is of course Ignace de Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus; Simon Rodorikof is Simon Rodoriguez, one of the first followers of St. Ignace; the two monks who accompanied Xavier to Japan, and who are named, after the English translator, de Tray and John Fernandez, are Father Côme de Torrez and Fray Juan Fernandez, the latter, it may be remarked, was illiterate; the name of the Captain of the Chinese pirate ship which the English version gives as Nishida, is written Nécéda by Charlevoix, and so on.

I remain, yours truly, Fois. DIETZ.

Yokohama, May 7th, 1894.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your issue of May 8, Mr. "Z.Y." offers some friendly criticism on "Paul Anjiro." Now if Mr. "Z.Y." will take the mask from his face, or confer with me privately, I will gladly tell him all about Paul Anjiro. It is sufficient for me to say at this time, that he is wholly wrong in his intimations. Very truly yours, G. E. DIENST.

Tokyo, Japan, May 8th.

NO ILLUSIONS, IF YOU PLEASE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Happening to be present at the concert given last Saturday evening at the Rokumei kwan, I was concerned to observe a singular lack of taste and correct understanding of their position on the part of the persons to whom the incidental duty of supplying the music was assigned. These individuals, almost without exception, played with so little regard to the proper requirements of the situation that on one or two occasions the conversation of the ladies and gentlemen in attendance could scarcely be heard across the room. It is true that this did not often occur, and I cannot say that the performers even once succeeded in positively interrupting the dialogue which was the main feature of the evening; but there were certainly times when their strains were nearly as audible, if not quite, as the voices of the general company. That such apparent unconsciousness of what was expected of them should be exhibited by the Japanese players is not altogether surprising. It may be accounted for by their unfamiliarity with the usages of polite foreign society. But no such excuse can be offered, I fear, for the Europeans who now and then appeared on the stage. The violinist who was favoured with the especial privilege of being permitted to perform a solo was so ill-advised as to begin a long and elaborate cadenza at a moment when the discussion in front of him had taken an unusually animated turn; and as he showed no disposition to stop, it was impossible for many in the assemblage to give their undivided attention to the colloquy. It may be urged, in his defence, that he was not responsible for the exact point at which the cadenza was introduced by the composer of the piece; but there was certainly nothing to prevent him from postponing the execution of it until the interest in the more important proceedings had subsided. If he had waited a little, he might have avoided causing annoyance by his inopportune persistency, for brief periods were more than once remarked,—mostly in the intervals between the successive numbers of the programme,—when comparative silence prevailed.

I do not wish to be understood as intimating that anything like an idea of setting up a rival claim to consideration was entertained by the musicians. Whispers to the effect that they seemed to think themselves entitled to an equal share of attention were heard during the evening, but I am sure they were too well aware of what was becoming to indulge in such presumptuous fancies. It may be the fact that, in America, that dangerous apostle of radicalism and revolution, Theodore Thomas, is in the habit of checking his orchestra whenever he discovers, among the patrons who honour him with their support, a group engaged in innocent laughter, or exchanging pleasantries across the hall; and that he mars the pleasure of these light-hearted visitors by pointing them out with his baton. But things of this kind take place only in the United States, where the most frightful democratic outrages may be perpetrated with impunity. No one need apprehend that such violations of decorum would be tolerated in this part of the world. At the same time, it is to be hoped that the musicians here dwelling, professional or amateur, will not be carried away by the notion that they are brought into prominence for any reason but to afford a pretext for social reunions, and to provide a gently stimulating accompaniment to the flow of genial discourse. Otherwise it may be necessary to take a stand against the spread of demoralizing illusions.

H.

Tokyo, May 7th, 1894.

A NUISANCE IN A POLICE STATION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The caption to this letter will probably be read with surprise, for the reason that few would suspect the existence of a "nuisance in a police station." Perhaps those of the police who can read English and fall across this indictment against them will also be surprised. If so, then their surprise will probably be the outcome of ignorance; at all events I build that golden bridge for their escape from the charge I now bring against them. The police station against which I complain is that one situated on the Bluff, and what I complain of is that, Sunday and Monday, morning, noon, and night, hour after hour, and for hours and hours consecutively, the members of the force in the Bluff Police Station annoy the surrounding neighbourhood with their performances on trumpets. This thing has now been going on for many weeks, but it was only recently that I discovered the actual guilty parties. At first I thought the dreadful sounds emanated from some leather-lipped school-boy, and thought perhaps after a time he would tire of his toy. One day, however, owing possible to the direction of the wind, the sounds were more blatant and ear-piercing than usual, and I sent a servant to find out from whence they were produced. I expected that his search might discover a youth who, with a musical education, might turn out to be a phenomenon, and had visions of finding a Japanese Kœnig or Levy in embryo, but much to my disgust my servant's report was to the effect that he traced the sound to the Police Station, that ten or a dozen constables sat round a room on the east side of the apartment—and that first one man played the *rappa*, then another. Questioned as to being sure they were police, the man said "Yes, they were in uniform." To me the sounds produced seem to be from a tin horn; it is not much like a brass instrument, the tone being something horrible. No attempt at music is made, in fact music could not be played on the wretched thing, as being without valves only open notes are produced—simple toot-toot-toot, hour after hour as described above. To my dismay during the last few days, I find that another horn has been added, and now duets are attempted. The leader, however, is now practising what no doubt he thinks is a bugle call. It begins somewhat like "cease firing," and in the middle for a few notes reminds one of "stables," but at the end is like nothing that ever was blown in any camp in the world. I said above that it is probably due to ignorance that these men do not know what an intolerable nuisance they create. I am not a nervous man by any means, and think that I could put up with a neighbour who practised on the ophicleide or trombone if he played music, but no one who has not heard the fearful sounds that emanate from the Bluff Police Station would believe what awful notes can be produced by novices on tin horns.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

ANTI-RAPPA.

Yokohama, May 9th, 1894.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I was pleased to see the letter of "Anti-Rappa" in your issue of 10th inst. I think I am a greater sufferer, from the nuisance complained of, than your correspondent, as my residence is so close to the Bluff Police Station that I can distinctly hear the words of command given during the morning drill.

Personally, I would rather listen to a Tonic Sol-fa Chorus, warbled by a parcel of precocious youngsters under the guidance of an energetic baton-wielder, than to the horribly discordant sounds emanating from the Bluff Police Station at unseasonable times.

Gilbert writes, speaking of a gentleman who attemped to render an air on the bag-pipes:—

> It was wild, it was fitfull, as wild as the breeze,
> It wandered around into several keys,
> It was jerky, spasmodic, and harsh I'm aware,
> But still it distinctly suggested an air.

But the diabolical sounds complained of only suggest the use of strong language to me, and, as I do not profess to be a saint, the result may be imagined. The Police Station is surrounded by the houses of foreigners, and I have no doubt the courteous chief will stop the practice as soon as it comes to his knowledge that the noise incommodes the neighbours.

Yours faithfully, GALLIO.

Yokohama, May 10th, 1894.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I am awfully obliged to "Anti-rappa," who writes in your issue of this date a complaint about the dreadful racket made by the Police at the Bluff Station with trumpets. It never ocurred to me to write to the papers. I have been distracted with the continual nuisance, which is truly described as hour after hour and day after day, until sometimes I hardly know what I am doing. What is the meaning of it? Surely no sane man can take delight in the production of such terrible discords? Equally it cannot possibly be connected with Police duty? I cannot agree with your correspondet that these men err through ignorance—and believe that they must be perfectly aware that their perpetual brayings are an unmitigated nuisance. I, like "Anti-rappa," could not at first tell from whence the sounds emanated, but I soon found out and went twice to the station to complain, but on each occasion the Inspector was absent. Calling on a neighbour a few days ago, I found him on the point of throwing his chessmen in a heap after having spent more than an hour in an endeavour to solve what he said he thought was a simple problem, through the distraction of the terrible horn-blowing. As for myself, I shall be driven out of my house if this thing continues—I would'nt live in the place rent free with such a terrible infliction. Certainly house property within reach of this Police nuisance will soon be lowered in value. What a cheerful thing it must be for the masters and pupils in the Victoria Public School, which is directly opposite the trumpeters' window; and with what delight the patients in the German Hospital must listen as they lie on their sick beds to the musical treat provided for them!

It occurs to me that the police would be very much better employed learning English or French than the trumpet. The other day just as I had left my house, a gentleman, accompanied by a lady—strangers—asked me to direct them to the Public Gardens, with an apology, saying that along the Bluff road they had enquired of three

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policemen, using both French and English, and neither of them understood the term "Public Gardens." The Bluff Policemen, of all others, situated as they are entirely in the midst of foreigners, should have a smattering of some foreign language, and it can hardly be said that this useful accomplishment is not easier to acquire than skill in blowing a trumpet.

Yours, &c., NERVES.

May 10th, 1894.

MR. GLADSTONE'S "SUPERSTITIOUS IDEAS."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The following appeared as an editorial paragraph in a recent issue of a daily paper published in Japan:—

Mr. Gladstone, as one of his daughters says, is always very careful to avoid travelling on Sunday, and also to put aside all secular work on that day and keep himself to his special Sunday books and thoughts. He has never been able to wholly divest himself of the superstitious ideas in which he was educated.

What a pity! Poor, old, deluded, "superstitious" man! Having lived nearly eighty-five years in this enlightened age, spending three score years in public life as a great leader of men in the most progressive nation in modern history, and having mastered the Greek and other ancient classics and done more with his own pen in the way of enriching English literature than almost any of his contemporaries, the "Grand Old Man" is passing down to his grave with gross superstition writ on every wrinkle of his aged brow. "'Tis strange, 'tis passing strange, 'tis pitiful, 'tis wondrous pitiful" that such an intellect should spend such an enormous amount of energy in accomplishing both in politics and in literature that which has called forth the admiration and wonder of the world, and has done it all under the very great disadvantage of being handicapped and blinded by "superstitious ideas."

Methinks I see "in my mind's eye" what mighty and glorious things he would have accomplished had he only "been able to wholly divest himself of the superstitious ideas" which have followed him all down these eventful years, and which have, no doubt, greatly hampered him in his mighty struggles after truth and light in connection with the great questions he has had to face: I think I see how he might have placed the world under lasting obligations to himself by compiling some profound treatise on this wonderful "age of reason;" or have explained satisfactorily to restless mankind the burning question of how they, in some prehistoric age, were evolved from monkeys; or have proven to rational men, once for all, that the soul is a myth and that the worship of a Supreme Being is puerile and silly; or last, but not least, he might have edited a small daily paper in some far corner of the earth, and by penning pithy paragraphs about great men and deep problems, have thus shed much needed light to those that sit around in darkness.

But then I suppose it is too late to hope now that the old man will ever change his ideas on this question, however superstitions they may be. He will doubtless continue to the end of his days to take his seventh day rest and to spend it with his "Sunday books and thoughts." He enjoys it, and it has doubtless become a sort of second nature with him. In fact, not long since, he made a very interesting declaration on this question, which is as follows:—

The older I grow, the more confirmed I am in my faith and religion. I have been in public life fifty-eight years, and forty-seven in the Cabinet of the British Government, and during those forty-seven years I have been associated with sixty of the master minds of the country, and all but five of the sixty were Christians.

And since he is growing more and more confirmed in these "superstitious ideas" and has had so much honourable company to sympathize with him and to cheer him in his deluded Sunday thoughts, I hope he will not allow this brief exposure of his mental and moral defects to disturb the pleasant Sabbath rest of his old age.

Yours truly, WILL PATTILLO.

May 8th, 1894.

THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOLD DISCOVERIES.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The Australian colonies are learning that there is a silver lining to every cloud, and that if they have suffered from the widely spread commercial and industrial depression which has bedeprived hundreds of hard-working men of their customary employment, they are likely to gain by the stimulus which has been afforded those to whom idleness is worse than death, the men who will leave no stone unturned to avoid the necessity for accepting the charity of the state. It is to individuals of this self reliant class that much of the gold-mining revival in Australia is due, especially in New South Wales, where there have been scenes reminding old colonists of the early days of gold discovery. At Wyalong, little more than a day's journey from Sydney, where, less than a month ago, the population numbered about a score, there are now from 8,000 to 9,000, men, women, and children; and a large township has sprung up where the sunshine of the passing summer used to reveal only the primeval bush. Practically, the auriferous wealth of New South Wales remains untouched. Even the colonists are often in ignorance of the treasures lying at their very doors. When the crowds of unemployed marched in grim procession through the streets of Sydney, there were none who dreamed that within less than a couple of days' journey from the metropolis, there were thousands of ounces of gold waiting to be extracted from the soft and yielding rock. Australians have been very wasteful in obtaining the gold. On every field there are heaps of wash dirt or tailings, as the earth and stone obtained from the mines are designated, which, like the masses of refuse near the mouths of the British coal-pits, have become neglected and an eyesore, although containing thousands of ounces of the precious metal, generally in such minute forms as to need considerable patience and perseverance in the work of extraction. The New South Wales Government decided upon sending large numbers of the better class of unemployed to some of these places, giving them free railway passes, and other assistance. It was deemed better that these men should be employed in "fossicking" for gold in likely districts, than in loafing about the metropolitan open spaces. The experiment has proved a complete success. The quantity of gold obtained in New South Wales during 1893 was 179,288 oz., or an increase of 22,418 oz. over the yield for 1892, the value of the increased output being estimated at £82,107. This yield is the largest known in the colony since 1875, when it amounted to 230,882 oz. It may also be remarked that the smallest yield since 1851, when gold was first discovered in Australia, was in 1888, when it amounted to 87,503 oz. In connection with the gold mining revival in New South Wales, the goldfields wardens have reported to the New South Wales Mines Department that the "fossickers" despatched by the Colonial Government during the year are responsible to a large extent for the increased output of the colony, and though in the first place they, as a rule, objected to the sending of these men to the gold-fields, the results achieved have caused them to change their opinions, and it is now admitted that the experiment, for such it really was, has been successful. It has certainly assisted in showing the illimitable nature of the auriferous resources of the colony. The extent of auriferous country in the southern part of New South Wales, that in which Wyalong goldfield is situated, was estimated, so far back as 1852, to be something like 16,000 square miles, yet, up to the present time, only a few hundred square miles have been systematically prospected and worked, a fact that tells its own story.

Yours, etc., JOHN PLUMMER.

Sydney, April 2nd.

REVIEW.

"From the Land of the Queue."

Under this title Herr von Brandt, former German Ambassador at Peking, has published what he modestly styles "Chats of an old Chinaman." While he has thus, after his victory over Herr Paasch, the *Staatsbürgerzeitung*, and other Anti-Semitic journals, occupied the *otium cum dignitate* he enjoys at the watering place of Wiesbaden, he has at the same time placed the German public—the book is not yet translated into English—under considerable obligations. Short as it is, the book deals with many aspects of Chinese life, and throughout its 133 pages the advice to take the Chinese seriously seems to be the predominant key-note. As to trade, the author finds that while Germany has done well, other nations have done better; a fact he ascribes to the slowness of German companies in substituting steam for sail, to their reluctance to combine, and to their neglect of the well proved truth that steady employment can be secured only by ships definitely and permanently engaged in the China trade. The German flag thus driven from more than one harbour is not likely to recover the lost ground against the stronger English companies; but a bank and subsidised mail-steamers are at present very gratifying features of German commerce in Eastern Asia. As to diplomatic methods, Herr von Brandt is decidedly in favour of the *suaviter in modo*, but he is as strong an advocate of jealous care where the maintenance of existing treaties is concerned. Every attempt to introduce foreign methods of production is, he thinks, inspired by the thought of "China for the Chinese;" but all trials in this direction have so far been lamentable failures and must continue such while absolute security of capital is not assured. The motive lying behind these efforts, however, calls for close observation in all its varying phases, and the time may soon come when Chinese competition will make itself inconveniently felt to Western industries. Chinese development, however, is slow; and for the time Germany's duty is confined to training and holding in readiness a number of men competent, by reason of linguistic ability as well as knowledge of men and things, to powerfully assist her home industries at the psychological moment, a task not by any means so easy as it looks. However enterprising her merchants and seamen, her engineers are slow and awkward. Their English and American rivals go abroad, even at low salaries, with the firm conviction that they can successfully cope with adverse circumstances and will come out all right in the end. Even Frenchmen are in this respect superior. This is partly due to conditions inevitably bound up with the state ownership of railways and telegraphs in Germany. While you have but to raise a finger to get a dozen applications from foreign engineers, a German will not give up his post without knowing whether he will be taken back again into the State service and whether the years spent abroad count towards his pension. As to political complications that might arise through French, Russian, or probably even Japanese restlessness, he thinks that German interests call only for a prevention of such territorial changes as might tend to narrow the field of her commercial activity. It is of course impossible for Herr von Brandt to deal with China without also touching on the audience question. The humiliating *Ko-tow* had actually been submitted to by papal legates as well as Dutch, Portuguese, and Russian representatives; but Lord Macartney, in 1792, and Lord Amherst, in 1816, refused to yield to this demand, and there the matter rested till 1873 when, through French initiative, the question was settled as best it could be, without the *Ko-tow* of course. Subsequent criticisms that the ambassadors had permitted themselves to be received in the Hall of Subject Nations, were without any foundation in fact; but a more serious objection, viz., that in the agreement the audience was called a favour instead of a right, was completely overlooked by the critics at the time. The regency of two females after the death of the Emperor kept the question in abeyance until 1888, when the Chinese themselves opened negotiations which were for all that difficult enough. The audience was now granted as a right, but at the urgent request of the government the Hall in which the reception had taken place in 1873 and 1874, was used for this purpose once more. There was no valid objection to the place itself, and the audience, barring the fact that the Hall was very cold for the Foreign Representatives with their thin uniforms and bare heads, and pleasant enough for the well-clad Chinese with their winter hats of black felt, was a great success and mutually satisfactory. The Chinese Emperor especially, a sovereign of intelligence and moral courage, as is amply proved by his learning English, was well pleased with the whole affair. In 1890, the Representatives of France and Russia broke the unity of the *corps diplomatique* by demanding an audience in one of the halls of the palace itself, but they failed in this and have not yet presented their credentials. It was unwise, the author thinks, to provoke a conflict on a matter of mere ceremony, especially as the advance of Western diplomacy must surely appear striking enough to a Chinese who now sees the representatives of foreign countries stand before and address his sovereign, while his own dignitaries must kneel before the Emperor, a position in which the address of the ambassadors had also to be translated into the language of the court. Hence the unwisdom of demanding an audience, itself a deviation from ceremonies of hoary antiquity, at a place where the highest dignitaries of China cannot enter, but must make their *Ko-tow* kneeling on the steps of the throne-room or in the court outside.

The Royal Wedding.—Messrs. Street & Co., of 30, Cornhill, London, E.C., have had the honour to present to his Royal Highness the Duke of York a collection of cuttings from the Press from all parts of the Empire with reference to the Royal Betrothal and Marriage. To give some idea of the size of the work, it is stated that there are no less than nine large foolscap volumes.

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LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, April 14th.

Mrs. Mabel Loomis Todd, who accompanied her husband, Professor David P. Todd, on a trip several years ago to Japan to observe the Transit of Venus, is the author of a book entitled "Total Eclipses of the Sun" (No. 1, Columbian Knowledge Series), published by Roberts Bros., Boston, and selling at $1.00.

The sad news comes from Ann Arbor, Mich., that Miss Lois H. Janes (Jones?), whose father is reported to be in Japan, and who is a grand-daughter of Rev. Dr. Henry M. Scudder, committed suicide by taking strychnine.

In re Behring Sea matters President Cleveland has issued the following proclamation:—

Whereas, an act of Congress entitled "An act to give effect to the award rendered by the tribunal of arbitration at Paris, under the treaty between the United States and Great Britain concluded at Washington, Feb. 29, 1892, for the purpose of submitting to arbitration certain questions concerning the preservation of the fur seals," was approved April 6, 1894. [Here the Act is quoted in full.]

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States of America, have caused the said Act speedily to be proclaimed to the end that its provisions may be known and observed; and I hereby proclaim that any person guilty of violation of the provisions of said Act will be arrested and punished as therein provided; and all vessels so employed, their tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo, will be seized and forfeited.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington, this 10th day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, and the independence of the United States the one hundred and eighteenth.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

By the President.

Walter Q. Gresham, Secretary of State.

In Samoa civil war has broken out between two of the tribes; but it is not likely, according to reports, that the Government will interfere. From Washington comes the news this morning, that there is a movement to release the United States from the tripartite protectorate, which is thought to have subjected us to "a degree of annoyance and expense" disproportionate to our interests there.

From Hawaii there has just come very interesting news, in which the Japanese, of course, play an important part. It is said, that since the arrival of the *Takachiho Kan*, they have taken on a much more independent air than formerly. Even "a prominent Japanese official connected with the legation" in Honolulu is reported to have said to the Associated Press correspondent:—

The Japanese here want the franchise and they are going to get it. If they cannot our government is going to take a hand in the matter. We have two big men-of-war here and we do not intend to let our interests be trampled upon by the Provisional Government.

On the other hand, the new American Union party, both through its various clubs and in its central Committee, has taken strong ground against the claims of the Japanese.

President Dole is busy at work upon a new constitution to be submitted to the convention soon to be held. Some features of this constitution are reported. There will be a President, who will not, however, have a seat in the Executive Council, but will have the power of veto, which may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the Senate and Assembly. The Vice-President also will not have a seat in the Council, and will merely be the presiding officer of the Senate. The Executive Council will consist of five members; the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of Finance, of the Interior, of Health and Education, and of Justice (or Attorney-General). The Senate will consist of 24 members, appointed for two years by the President, Vice-President and Council. The Assembly will contain 40 members to be appointed by the Council and the Senators. There will probably be an educational qualification for the franchise. It is reported from Grinnell, Iowa, that Professor Jesse Macy, of Iowa College, has been asked to assist in the framing of a constitution which will suit present conditions in Hawaii, and not need much modification if the new Republic should ever become a State of our Union. It is also stated, that Minister Thurston will, perhaps, become Minister of the Interior.

Senator Morgan has completed and will soon present to the Senate a report which is a strong plea in favour of the Nicaragua Canal.

There is still more or less fighting in Brazil, but none of great importance, between the Government and scattered forces of the rebels.

The Republic of San Domingo has adopted a new monetary system, the author of which is Prof. Laughlin, of the University of Chicago, who has just returned from a trip to that island. The measure provides for a system of gold and silver currency on a permanent gold basis.

Senator Morgan, just mentioned, is also the author of a bill for the complete reorganization of the State Department on a civil-service basis with an educational qualification for appointment and for promotion.

Among recent Presidential appointments are those of Edward H. Strobel to be U.S. Minister to Ecuador, and of William Rockhill, of Maryland, to be Third Assistant Secretary of State.

Senator Hill has finally delivered his long expected speech, which, though appearing like opposition to tariff-reform, was really a personal attack on President Cleveland.

The Democrats of the House of Representatives, in caucus, have decided, by a vote of 80 to 44, that the Committee on Rules shall formulate a rule to ascertain the presence of a quorum, and shall prescribe some method for compelling the attendance of absent members. The Republicans look upon this as a vindication of "Czar" Reed's methods.

The insurrection ("whiskey insurrection" it was called) in South Carolina was declared at an end by Governor Tillman on the 5th inst. The matter under dispute will be settled by due process of law.

David Dudley Field, the eminent lawyer and jurist, died at his home in New York City yesterday at the age of 89. He was a brother of Cyrus W. Field, of Atlantic cable fame; Stephen J. Field, U.S. Supreme Court Justice; and Rev. Henry M. Field, of the New York *Evangelist*.

Milwaukee has suffered from a repetition of the horrors of the Cold Storage fire which darkened the history of the World's Fair. Nine or ten firemen were killed, and several were injured, by dropping through the roof of the Davidson Theatre and Hotel which was burning early the other morning. It is hoped that most of them were killed instantly by the fall; but it is known that some, whose cries could be heard, were roasted alive.

The list of casualties includes also numerous wrecks on the Atlantic coast, and a big fire in Buffalo, where the plant of the American Glucose Company was totally destroyed with a loss of about $1,000,000 and several lives.

Samuel Gompera, President of the American Federation of Labour, has sent Vice-President Stevenson a letter protesting against the ratification of the new Chinese treaty, and making a plea in behalf of the "millions of our fellowmen and women actually idle, and literally without means of sustaining life." At such a time "the flood-gates of immigration should not be opened."

Coxey's "Commonweal Army" has been continuing its march in spite of obstacles and delays, such as rain, snow, and toll-gates, and has at last entered Maryland. The heterogeneous elements, moreover, of the army fail to act in perfect harmony, so that quarrels are not infrequent. Similar bands are organizing in other parts of the country for a march to Washington. But when they all get there, they will find Major Moore, Chief of Police in that city, ready to welcome them and take care of them.

The coke rioters in Pennsylvania have quieted down: but the national union of the United Mine Workers has ordered a general strike for April 21. Yesterday, moreover, there began a strike on the Great Northern Railway, which, as the strike affects every class of employés, is completely tied up over almost 1,500 miles of road. It is feared that the men on the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul road will also go out. It is reported that the American Railway Union will make a hard fight in this, its first, contest.

There have been, by the way, some important legal decisions recently with reference to the "rights" of employers and employés. Judge Jenkins in Milwaukee asserts that courts have power to interfere in illegal acts where public interest is at stake; and says that injunction is the proper agent to prevent wrong, violence, and injury to business and property. On the other hand, Judge Caldwell in Omaha says that interference with property in the hands of receivers is punishable as contempt of court; and asserts that injunction is, not only unnecessary, but an engine of slavery. Judge Dundy, also in Omaha, has ordered the receivers of the Union Pacific Railway to restore the old rate of wages which were cut last September. Public opinion, so far as it can be ascertained through the press, hails Judge Caldwell's decision with delight, especially in its assertion of the absolute equality of employers and employés in making contracts and of the duty of both under them. "A corporation is organized capital, organized labour is organized capital."

Bradstreet and R. G. Dun and Co. report that the strikes have, of course, checked somewhat the general improvement of business, but that the outlook is hopeful, especially in the West.

The following clipping may be of interest:—

BRIDE RETAINS HER MAIDEN NAME.

Dr. F. Byron Robinson and Dr. Lucy Waite were quietly married March 7 by Rev. H. W. Thomas at his residence. The invitations to their post-nuptial reception read:—"Dr. F. Byron Robinson—Dr. Lucy Waite. At Home." This was the first intimation the bride gave to her acquaintances that she was not to be known by her husband's name. But she says she has practiced medicine eleven years as Dr. Lucy Waite and her wish to retain that name is approved by her husband. Dr. Waite is the daughter of ex-Judge C. B. Waite, of Hyde Park. She is a well educated woman and has an extensive practice as a physician.

It is stated, that Lucy Stone was the first woman who retained her maiden name after marriage, and that Lucy Waite is the second so to do. The latter is an alumna of the University of Chicago, Class of '80, and obtained abroad part of her medical training.

Dr. Andrew S. Draper, superintendent of schools at Cleveland, Ohio, and before that superintendent of public instruction in New York State, has been elected Regent (=President) of the University of Illinois.

A "Congress of liberal religious societies" is to meet in this city in Sinai Temple, May 22, 23, and 24.

LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

April 14th, 1894.

Philadelphia's streets are all torn up for the laying of new tracks—the sort of tracks which require no spiking—for the new electric traction system. At the same time the more important streets are being paved with asphaltum. Philadelphia is proverbially a slow city, but at present it seems eager to make up for lost time in the matter of rapid getting about. Splendid residences now abound in the suburbs, and a small army of people move out of town early in April and remain until cold weather. The trains of the Pennsylvania and the Reading system now land passengers right in the heart of the city, and the electric car lines give easy access to all parts of the city from the suburbs inwards. A magnificent scheme is well under way, that is to say so far as the letting of contracts is concerned, for a gigantic system of electric railways running from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, a hundred miles stretch. It is to be a four track line. It will have numerous branches running to the scores of little towns and villages along the line, and express trains are to be run at 40 miles an hour. Local cars will run at about 10 miles an hour. Lower rates are to be charged than on the steam roads. These steam roads are controlled almost wholly by the Pennsylvania road and an interesting legal fight is to be looked for. The scheme, with its details, fills all the papers.

The Coxey Industrial Army—it is industrial in that its members are working harder than they have ever worked before—is now on the march to the Capital, to demonstrate to Congress that a great reform is needed in its treatment of the working-people. The Army of the Commonweal is made up at present almost wholly of tramps, idlers, and such like. The real unemployed working-men have had precious little to do with the movement. The Coxey Army has been the butt of endless jokes. Yet, after all, there is here a factor worthy of consideration on the part of those who are studying sociological problems. Philadelphia's delegation, out of perhaps forty thousand unemployed men, was only three score or so. This contingent was largely rag, tag, and bobtail.

The last of the Wistar Brothers, long and well known among all Philadelphians, has just died. They were exceedingly eccentric and bitterly hostile to all improvements. At one time they were immensely wealthy, but their policy steadily reduced their wealth. The statement of the valuation of their properties foots up $1,357,900, but the encumbrances and indebtedness leave only about $300,000 all told, which will be applied to a free library and other charities, provided that the heirs-at-law do not scatter that among the lawyers. Very little regret has been expressed at their death, their churlishness, their retrogressiveness, and their lack of public spirit alienating public interest. It does not appear that a single individual mourns their death. In one instance a citizen sought to purchase a small bit of unoccupied ground, but they would not sell, and he had to build his fine house much after the shape of a wedge of cheese in consequence. Again, they bitterly opposed the taking—by Government condemnation—of a piece of land for the site for the new United States Mint, though all the other property-holders were perfectly reasonable in their dealings with the Government.

There is no let-up as yet in the business depression. Philadelphia is largely a manufacturing city, and a great many of its industries, iron, cotton and woollen, etc., are at a standstill. There is not much impatience, however. Congress loiters along, and everything is uncertain. It is a bad time for any one to start a new enterprise in or about Philadelphia now, in the way of manufactures or trade. Talking, yesterday, with a

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couple of Japanese gentlemen, they stated that their countrymen in trade in this city are making earnest efforts to get out of business and go back to Japan, because things are so dull here.

In the religious world there has been a great stir among the churches this winter, and large ingatherings of converts are reported. This is almost always the case simultaneously with depression in commercial matters. The Missionary Societies, now just closing their financial year, all report, as a result of the hard times, great deficits in their incomes. The missionaries in Japan may expect to have to practise a rigid economy in the year just ahead. The great annual gatherings of the Presbyterians and Baptists are to be held in May, from the 17th onwards, and both bodies meet this year at Saratoga Springs, New York State. The great Christian Endeavour Society, with its tens of thousands of delegates, is busily planning for its July meeting at Cleveland, Ohio.

PAUL ANJIRO;

OR THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY (ROMAN CATHOLICISM) IN JAPAN.

TRANSLATED AND ABRIDGED BY G. E. DIENST.

(CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY.)

VIII.

There was a very rich nobleman in Yamaguchi named Naito, who with his wife, had already heard about Christianity, but refused to accept it for the reason that they feared their revenue would be cut short. Since however, they did, in a measure, believe in Christianity, they assisted Xavier and his companions in various ways. They also gave of their bounty to the poor who had become Christians. In dispensing their charity they did not forget the Buddhists, but built for them a temple, and gave freely to the priests, and on this account they were loved by all, whether Buddhist or Christian. They supposed by this that they were doing the will of God.

Xavier showed them their folly and superstition and took pains to point out the fraudulent acts of priests. His explanations were very long, too long for record here, but the nobleman and his wife replied, "The Buddhist preists can not live without support. All who work must live." From this the nobleman's faith in Christianity was doubted.

The other nobles, being convinced of their superstition, ceased to give for support of the Priesthood, and the priests were, on this account compelled to forsake their temples and resort to other employment. Buddhism gradually lost its power, and the new light spead by the teaching of the saint and his companions, throughout the whole province of Yamaguchi. Xavier was treated as a great saint. One particular reason why he was so highly honoured by the people, was because of his miracles, performed by means of divine water and the cross. He healed all manner of diseases: even the deaf were made to hear and the dumb to speak. In this connection we must not forget to mention his clear answer to the people, especially the Buddhists, on the immortality of the soul, the motion of the heavenly bodies, eclipses of the sun and moon, the colours of the rainbow, signs of Divine mercy, paradise, and hell. His words were short, but ful of meaning. The delight and satisfaction of the people at his answers was like, in sweetness, to the manna in the wilderness, given at the time of greatest need. They were like the words of the Apostle—easily understood.

The Japanese people were astonished at these miraculous deeds. They supposed that Xavier alone had the power to perform these miracles. So when Xavier left Yamaguchi and Torres came in his stead, the Buddhist priests said among themselves that "This man is not like Xavier, he has not the knowledge possessed by the saint, neither can he answer our questions with such simple and clear words."

In a letter of Antony Carta to Jack Milon (?), the pastor of Provance, in Portugal, four years after the departure of Xavier from Japan, he says: —"A Japanese told me that Xavier performed three miracles in Japan; he made the dumb to speak, the deaf to hear, and the lame to walk." He also said that Xavier was esteemed as the greatest European in Japan, and that the other teachers could not be compared with him. Xavier had the faculty of comprehending the questions of the people to such an extent that he sometimes answered ten of them by a single word. The others answered each question separately." On being told that perhaps the questions to Xavier were similar, he replied that they were very dissimilar and on very different subjects.

God endowed the saint with remarkable linguistic powers, by which he readily learned the language of India and that of Japan. It is also said that he was able to preach in Chinese, though having never really studied that language. It was his custom to preach in Japanese every afternoon. His tone and accent was so like the Japanese that the people could not distinguish the slightest tinge of foreign accent.

Xavier tarried in Yamaguchi only about one year, during which time he baptized more three thousand Japanese, among whom were nobles who prefered the blessings of God to the favour of their king. These people immediately built a a church in which they held daily services. The saint once remarked:—"Is it not a cheerful thought that in all parts of this land the people praise the name of Christianity, the name they bitterly opposed yesterday they protect and defend to-day." This thought he communicated to the bishop of the Jesuit church in Europe.

The following extract of a letter written by the saint is of interest. He says "I am well, though my hair is snowy white. I always rejoice when instructing people who seek after truth. The greatest pleasure I ever experienced was in Yamaguchi, where I obtained permission from the territorial lord to preach in his province. By the preaching of our doctrine, the influence of the Buddhist priests was set at naught. The most haughty enemies of Christianity were converted, and the songs of victory of these converts, when debating with the Buddhist priests, were powerful. They endeavoured with all their might to extinguish the dim light of heathenism, in which they were signally successful. The reports of daily converts was exceedingly encouraging and I thus forgot my pain and troubles occasioned by severe labour. I am now rewarded with joy. This Divine comfort can never be erased from my memory. I write, therefore, these things unto you, not only that I want to tell you the condition of Christianity in Japan; but that I believe you, and those who are with you in the University will share my feelings at this success. Let the young men who are studying theology understand that, to enjoy this heavenly comfort and lead the heathen to righteousness, they must labour and suffer for truth's sake."

In another letter he remarked that "It was at Yamaguchi where we preached every day, where we debated with the Buddhists and sorcerers, and where we converted the noble and learned to Christianity, and where we have defeated heathenism, after much discussion, by the grace of our Lord. The people had never heard from the Buddhists of the creation of the world, and when we told them the doctrine respecting this subject they were amazed and admired the truth as told them."

"The people of Yamaguchi revered Xavier and and became much interested in his sermons but they were somewhat obstinate in believing, for they had never heard of such a thing in their religion. They worshipped a Chinese, the founder of their religion, as a great father and the greatest of all saints."

The following are some of the most important things recorded in Xavier's autobiography. "The people of Yamaguchi asked me a great many questions concerning the *first cause*, which I explained to them. They asked for instance, 'What are the attributes of the heavenly God? It he good or evil? Or are his attributes both good and evil?' I explained to them that our Lord was the Supreme God and the source of all good. But they would not believe this, and said, 'The devil is, from the beginning, evil, and the greatest enemy of man. Why then should God, whom you say is the Supreme Good, create such a being? There can be no reason for this.' I answered them, God endowed Satan, in the first place, with a good nature, but he revolted against God, and thus became evil and was cast into eternal punishment. They soon began criticising, saying that, 'If God put such a terrible punishment on the created, he is not good but extremely evil,' and then continued. "If God created man in order to be reverenced and worshipped by him, why does he allow the devil to tempt and persecute all humanity? If God is true and righteous why had he not the power to create man in such a way that he could not obey nor follow the devil? Was God unable to save man from sin and misfortune? Since God has created hell in the middle of the earth, can we suppose that his attributes can be Good? If good, does He not pity those who are languishing and in torment, being punished in hell? Moreover, if he is just, He would never have given such strict commandments, which are impossible to keep.' Still, they themselves thought that Christianity is superior to all other religions, because, thought they, the Founder of this religion will redeem us from hell, even though we may have fallen therein, if we implore him for mercy. They could not believe that they would be cast into hell forever without the possibility of redemption. For this reason they thought that the Christian religion was more merciful and compassionate than other religions. The above were the most perplexing questions which were asked. The author intimates that these questions caused a good deal of instability in the faith of the believers.

The reason why Xavier did not record his answers, which some think he should have done, is for the simple reason that this autobiograpy was to go before the bishops of the Jesuit church, who were his superiors, and not ignorant of the doctrines of the church on these questions. Moreover, they were questions from heathens, and have been brought against Christianity from ancient times and are not new. Another reason for not recording them is that they are clearly and minutely answered in the works of the Fathers, Tertullian, Augustine, Origen, and others, in their replies to the heathen philosophers. Xavier was very circumspect and supposed that it would be ill-bred for him to record his answers in documents that should go before his teachers, for whom he had such great respect. The reason why he wrote these questions for his teachers in Europe, was to inform them of the condition of affairs in Japan, and to pursuade them to send more teachers to help him. The answers alone would make quite a volume.

The author of the work from which we translate the above, says very pertinently, that "The historian must avoid recording hindrances and stumbling blocks, for the reason that these works are extensively read by men and women, the learned and unlearned. This is the reason why I thought it necessary to omit the record of hindrances, by a trifling people."[1]

But after reconsidering, says the author, these things are not only the simple records of Xavier, but are also written in his Biography. Moreover, when I read the works of violent Protestants, who use false premises in discussions, I can not remain silent, and am compelled to record here the above facts. I thought it my duty to state here the clear and perfect answers to the questions, but this will be done later on when I notice the discussions of the Buddhist priests with Xavier and Torres in Yamaguchi.

In order to show the ability of Xavier in so clearly and satisfactorily answering the questions of the people, it will be necessary to add here a few more words, taken from his letters. He says:— "By the great mercy and guidance of God, I was enabled to explain all these hard questions and disperse the doubts of my hearers. After the explanation of these questions I baptized more than five hundred people, and this number is daily increasing." At the end of this letter the saint expresses his great joy at the multitude of idolators who came to listen to his sermons at Yamaguchi. He had never had such pleasure before. He says, "I am exceedingly glad because I have confuted and humbled the Buddhists." In a later letter he says, "I have no day of rest, for I am constantly busy with my daily sermons, preaching to crowds of Buddhists and nobles who come to hear me. The chapel became too small to accommodate them all, and yet, with various questions, they begged me to explain away their superstitions. I answered them as clearly as possible and they understood me thoroughly. Finally they, themselves, saw the fallacy of their religion and the truth of Christianity. Hence, in a few days, and after some short discussions, they accepted Christianity and were baptized."

He also stated that whenever he had a discussion with the Buddhist priests he never failed to confute their arguments. The congregations were always satisfied with his statements and assured him that he had gained the victory over his foes. His arguments greatly assisted good converts in refuting the Buddhists.

There are many more records left by Xavier respecting his work in Japan, but we omit them here. It is sufficient to say that many people, high and low, Buddhists and Confucianists became Christians, worked for the saint, and in some instances sacrificed themselves for the truth of Christianity. This is proof of the firmness with which the Japanese took hold of the Truth.

In concluding this section, we boldly state that the foundation of the success of the doctrine of Christianity in Japan is due the toil and sufferings of Xavier and his attendants. It was by this that they were enabled to dispel the superstition and doubts of the people. It would not be extravagant to say that, all those not void of conscience, were affected by the preaching of Xavier and his associates.

IX.

Christianity progressed daily. Xavier perceiv-

[1] The idea is that those who questioned were not always sincere, neither were they of the majority, nor always of the better class.

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ing this success was greatly pleased, but unfortunately, an event occurred just at this time which compelled his return to India at once. The man who brought this intelligence was the captain of a Portuguese vessel, whose name was Edouard de Gama and whose ship was now at anchor in the harbour of Hizen, about one mile distant from the city of Bungo, and about fifty miles from Yamaguchi. Desiring to see Xavier, he secured a passport from the lord of Bungo permitting the saint to pass through his province.

Xavier had, for a long time, desired to enter the land of Bungo, and now that he had a passport for this purpose, he was exceedingly glad, and immediately wrote to Torres, whom he left at Hirato, to come at once to Yamaguchi. Torres entrusted all the affairs of the newly erected church at Hirato to an old man of that place, and immediately took his departure, but on arriving at Yamaguchi he learned that Xavier had already gone.

At this time peculiar gossip was afloat to the effect that, the saint would never return to Yamaguchi, and the Christians of the city in consequence, sank into deepest sorrow. When the day of departure approached, Xavier assembled all the believers in the church and admonished them to be strong in the faith: in which they should increase more and more day by day.

He entrusted all the affairs of his pupils and his church to Torres and his comrade, John Fernandez. He then took his people by the hand and said:—"To-day we have reached a time when we must pray and petition the Lord Almighty to bestow His tenderest mercy upon you all. The Lord on high has the power to bestow this mercy upon man. He will freely give this to all those who bathe in the glory of the Gospel. He will bestow upon us the everlasting blessings, and not on us alone, but on all those who believe in him. I can not tell when I shall meet you again in this wicked world, but I hope to meet with you all in the promised Paradise where there can be no more parting." When he finished speaking, the people bade him farewell with tear-moistened eyes, and he, when he heard their grief and sighs, could scarcely leave them.

His departure caused the lord of Yamaguchi much grief, which in turn augmented the grief of Xavier. The Buddhists took advantage of his departure to circulate a slanderous report that, the saint was in intrigue with the Portuguese against the lord of Yamaguchi. This report gained such prominence that the lord himself feared it might be true, and in consequence ordered the enforcement of the old law, which did not go so far as to expel or exterminate the Christians, but which permitted the people to shamefully abuse them and confiscate their property. Some of this even happened before Xavier had gone, but he could not delay his departure. He took with him Mathew, Bemer, and Roland, about whom mention was made in preceding pages. At the time of his departure, two young princes of the lord besought Xavier to become his companions, which was granted. They had recently come into possession of land, the income of which amounted to more than three thousand dollars, annually. Because of their actions, they were at once disinherited by the lord, but when they became Christians they gave themselves no anxiety about their temporal loss, but trusted in the injunction of the Bible which says, "Seek the treasures of poverty, and love them more than worldly treasures and lands."[13]

It was about the middle of November, 1551, when Xavier started on his journey.[14] It might have been more pleasant for him to go by boat, but he preferred to go by land, and on foot. He, himself, carried an instrument of marble called a "Caliph"[15] used in the celebration of the service. This, with other instruments, he carried on his back, refusing to entrust them to others because they contained some precious and necessary implements of worship.

When only a short distance on his way, his feet suddenly became swollen, but he did not murmur, and continued his journey to a village called Hirasuka, not far from from the city of Hizen, where he became so exhausted that he could not move another step. Three of his companions, Matthieu, Bemer, and Roland went in advance to where the Portuguese ships were at anchor and reported the coming of Xavier to the captain. Captain Gama now ordered all the merchants and sailors in the port of Hizen to welcome the saint. They held a consultation and decided to go on horseback to meet him.

When Xavier recovered a little of his strength, he proceeded to Hizen, and when about one mile distant he was met by this company of Portuguese cavalry, still carrying the instruments on his back and accompanied by the two young noblemen from Yamaguchi. As soon as Captain Gama saw him coming he, with his comrades, dismounted, and advanced towards Xavier before whom he bowed, and with his comrades took him by the hand and welcomed him. Xavier returned the bow with tear-filled eyes and thanked them for their kindness. The Portuguese tried to pursuade him to mount a horse and ride the remainder of the way, but he would not, for he preferred walking. The Portuguese, leading their horses, walked with the saint to the port where the escort bade him farewell.

Captain Gama commanded the sailors to prepare a public reception on board ship. The command was obeyed and the ship was adorned with flags of different colours, the decks were nicely carpeted, and the marines, in regular order, manned the guns. The sight was very imposing, and when the cannons were fired the Japanese were greatly amazed. The roar of the guns echoed through the city, even to the palace of the lord of Bungo. The lord knew not the reason of this demonstration, and thought that pirates had attacked the Portuguese ships, and immediately sent his attendant to Captain Gama in order to help him if necessary.

Captain Gama explained to the attendant the cause of this firing of cannon, and said: "This is nothing but the ceremonies of the reception of this divine," pointing to Xavier, "given in the same manner as towards a king or a noble." The attenant was astonished at this and thought there was no occasion to pay such respect to Xavier, for he had heard the slanderous reports of the Buddhists of Yamaguchi. He said to Gama, "I have no message to take to my lord, for as I have just heard, your respect for Xavier is like that toward nobles; but the Buddhists of Yamaguchi reported recently that Xavier communed with devils and is a sorcerer. They also say that he is a poor, depraved man, a magician, who, by his magic tore down castles, and with his magical wand does great harm to the people, which they have witnessed with their own eyes. Even the worms on his body refuse to eat his flesh and suck his blood. Because of this evil talk of the Buddhists the people hated both Xavier and his doctrine, still my lord is a clear-headed man and will not readily believe all they say. If you will give proof of the value and dignity of this person, my lord will suppress the slander of the Buddhists and will aid you."

The captain at once showed him proof of Xavier's standing and his virtue as a great man. He said to the attendant: "This man is, by birth, a wealthy man, but is naturally opposed to prodigality and luxury, and well-satisfied with poverty. His principal desire is to lead men to a realization of the glory of the Lord and to fellowship with God. He never thinks of worldly treasure. He is a righteous and greatly learned man, and free from lust. The Lord has, therefore, given him the power to raise the dead, to still the tempest, and to foresee the future distinctly. The truth of this you can ascertain from every Portuguese and Indian. He has also performed miracles in Japan, the most renowned of which is the resuscitation of a girl in Kagoshima. If you have any doubt on this matter enquire of the lord of that place and he will give you the details. This man is indeed an extraordinary man. His good deeds and his golden words exceed in grandeur that which any one can describe."

The attendant, on hearing this, hastened to his lord and told him that the Portuguese vessels were loaded with the entire treasure of the Orient, a sacred and divine man who is far happier than they. The lord of Bungo was only about twenty-five years of age at this time. He was wise, dignified, and solemn. But he had fallen into carnal affection for women, according to the Japanese custom, and believed all the women said. He was, until this time, deceived by the Buddhists, yet refused to see Xavier. Nevertheless, after hearing clearly from his attendant about Xavier, the desire to see him increased, and he immediately sent his heir on a visit to Xavier with a letter inviting him to his palace. In this letter he says, "I send word to an honorable missionary of Portugal with fear and respect. Your coming to my country is a great blessing, and we think, when we hear your praises of God's grace, that you were sent here by Him. To-day I sent my servant to you who brought me the report that you had landed in Hizen, having come from Yamaguchi. At this my joy was great, which my family well knows. Unfortunately, I have not yet had a favourable opportunity of seeing and hearing you, I shall therefore gladly await your coming. I humbly beg you to come to me to-morrow morning before the dawn of day, and beg you to enter from the rear gate. Be not displeased with impoliteness, but have pity upon me and respect my true desire. Now into your truthfulness of my own heart. I pray to your Lord to impart your straightforward and simple character to my posterity, so that my heirs may not be dissipated and proud. I fear principally the superstitions of my country-men. I will be waiting for your answer—joyful tidings. I will also await your coming, rising early in the morning as soon as the cocks herald the approach of day.

This letter was delivered by the young heir, who was accompanied by thirty young, and one old man. This old man was a very excellent man in Bungo and brother-in-law to the lord. Xavier received this letter and answered it at once. He invited the heir into the ship, at which time they fired a salute in honour of the heir, who looking back to his attendants said: "How supremely great is the Divine favour towards the foreigners! The Lord made these merchants, who come here from the distant corner of the earth, to honour this poor and humble missionary by firing cannons!"

After the heir had returned, Gama and his comrades turned to Xavier and said: "It is customary in Japan to despise poverty and exalt riches, as you well know from your experiences in Yamaguchi. The Buddhists have reviled you as a miserable man. Though some of the nobles and lords longed to possess your virtues, yet the majority of the people could not appreciate you, neither obey nor respect you. In order to frustrate their superstitions, and pursuade them to respect the preachers of Christianity and its doctrines, you must at once change your extreme humility and appear before the lord in splendid apparel. For what you are about to do pertains to the honour and glory of God."

Thus the Portuguese discussed earnestly with Xavier. He withstood them boldly and replied to them as he did to the merchants in Hirato. He said: "The preachers are representatives of Christ. They should be humble and wear humble clothing as Christ did. The Lord might, in such a case, bestow His grace upon us in such a measure as to conquer the luxury of the Buddhists with our humility. This you should all understand. Christianity should never be afraid to stand before the people in poverty, and we need not live in luxury to win the souls of men. The Christian should manifest his virtues in holy deeds instead of words. Thus let the heathen acknowledge the truth and sublimity of Christianity." Notwithstanding these and previous explanations, the Portuguese insisted that he should put on fine clothes in order that the Buddhists[16] should not despise him and say that he came to beg his bread. They further said that they would not only despise the man, but his religion also, and say that he has no foundation for his doctrine. This they very much regretted before the heathen, and particulaly in this case, when he was to appear before the lord. With this exception he might do as he liked.

This argument of the Portugese greatly puzzled Xavier and he was at last compelled to obey. He immediately changed his old clothes for better ones, and started with a magnificent procession to the home of the lord. He was preceded by the Portuguese in splended uniform, with golden straps on their shoulders and feathers in their caps. This procession was followed by the servants in ordinary uniform. Xavier was clothed in black woollen cloth, with green velvet hanging from his neck, and a gilt-edged scarf hanging from his shoulders. They all sailed in a boat which was carpeted with a fine Chinese carpet and decorated with various flags, and as they sailed over the placid waters they were lustily cheered by the band of music belonging to one of the ships. This procession was escorted to Kokufuguchi. This cannon's roar was heard far and near as it echoed down the valleys and around the hillside. Great crowds of people had, out of curiosity, assembled on the seashore so that the Portuguese could hardly effect a landing. In this crowd was an officer of rank waiting to escort Xavier, with a sedan chair, to the palace which he, Xavier, however, refused and walked in the procession to the palace.

Captain Gama, taking Xavier by the hand, as a guard, headed the procession. They were followed by five Portuguese officers, one of whom held above his head the Bible wrapped in silk. Another carried a picture of the mother of Christ wrapped in scarlet silk, another carried a bamboo cane from Bengal ornamented with a golden apple, while another held, over Xavier's head, a large umbrella. This procession marched in greatest solemnity. The people came from every nook and corner, until the windows and roofs of the houses by the way were full of gazing countenances, to witness the procession.

Xavier arrived at the lord's palace and was welcomed by Hizendono, who was accompanied by five hundred soldiers, and who escorted the

[13] Literally translated.
[14] Le 20 novembre de l'annee 1551. See *Histoire des Jesuites* por Adolphe Boucher.
[15] So spelled in Kana.
[16] The word translated "Buddhists" has reference more particularly to Buddhist priests.

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saint to the first parlour of the palace. The five Portuguese kneeled before Xavier, one holding aloft the cane of Bengal, another removed the saint's velvet slippers, two held parasols on either side, while the fifth stood behind the saint. Every Japanese officer was astonished at the reverence shown Xavier by the Portuguese. They conversed with each other saying, "The missionary is just the opposite to what we expected and there is nothing to be said against him by the Buddhists. If the lord meets this man he will very easily understand that what the Buddhists have said is deceit and slander."

After this formal ceremony, Xavier was led to a magnificent hall, where he found nobles in elegant attire. In the midst of the hall stood an aged man with a small child seven or eight years old. The old man took this child by the hand and advancing towards Xavier, bowed very low, and bade the saint welcome. The old man said, "Your honorable coming to my palace brings great joy to my lord. You are to us like a shower of rain in a famine. The good people of my country, with ardent love, longed to see you, and though the wicked hate and pounce upon you as the robber does on the poor traveller in the wilderness on a dark night, we vow that we love you intensely."

The child then politely said, "You have come from a far distant land to my country to propagate the doctrine of the true God. But you have been, unfortunately, ridiculed and despised by the people, yet you never tired nor faltered. You are indeed courageous and truly brave. The grace of God, whom you serve, is so great that your poverty is turned into riches. A man of such fervency can not be found among the Buddhists. The Buddhists themselves say that they can do nothing for the poor, and go so far as to say that if the people do not offer *them* presents they, even the women, can not be saved."

There are many other things which the child said, and in such an elevated and educated manner that Xavier was compelled to answer as he would one of great learning and high rank.

x.

Xavier now entered the hall where he met many noblemen, servants of the lord, dressed in gaudy uniform. Though there were many noblemen here assembled, two only bowed and welcomed the saint. These two men spoke in glowing terms in their salutations, some of which we note as follows:—"Your honourable coming makes us feel towards you as a child who is glad to see its mother. All our surroundings urge us to express the joy of our hearts at seeing you. We never flatter nor deceive. Such joy as we now feel is to the honour and glory of the God you preached at Yamaguchi."

This address ended, each one sought to lead the saint into an adjoining room, but the attendant who held Xavier's hand forbade them, and he alone led him into the room or parlour. From this room (house) surrounded by orange trees, he was led into another and more richly decorated hall, a most magnificent room, the floors of which were carpeted with the richest carpet, the walls decorated with choice pictures in beautifully carved frames; add to this the rich robes of the nobles and we have a sight truly gorgeous. This is the room where the lord of Yamaguchi, Hayashidono, younger brother of the lord of Bungo, entertained Xavier. The attendant led the saint to the lord, then made his bow, and retired to an adjoining room. The brother of the lord saluted Xavier as he would a nobleman, and said. "This is a day of great ceremony in the family of the lord, and your coming brings great joy to him and his household. He feels happier than if he had won thirty money-vaults from China."

Xavier expressed his gratitude to the brother of the lord for his hospitality, and accompanied this brother into the room of the lord where many noblemen were also assembled. They greeted Xavier with a cheer, and accompanied him to the lord conversing freely with each other. The Portuguese followed Xavier, and on entering the lord's department they found him standing ready to receive them, and as they approached he advanced six steps and bowed twice. Xavier returned the salutation kneeling, and shook the hand of the lord who now led him to a seat near the ruler.

Now the lord had heard of the miracles of the saint and his work at Yamaguchi. This intensified his reverence for the saint, though having never seen him. Now his desire was fulfilled. He had the opportunity to see and hear form the saint's own lips and to converse freely with him. His faith was at once greatly strengthened when he saw the virtue, impartiality, mildness, sincerity, and humility of the saint.

The people of Japan looked upon their lords as gods, and were never allowed to enter into their presence, and it was a custom among the lords when together, for each one to praise his own greatness and grandeur; but the lord of Bungo, when meeting with these foreigners saw his littleness and spoke to them as to an intimate friend. After a brief conversation, the lord asked concerning the doctrine he had been preaching, and desired to know the mystery of Christianity, to which the saint readily replied, and made mention of the greatest moral text in the Bible. The lord was so affected that he turned to his brother and said, "How do you feel since hearing the doctrine this missionary teaches? Methinks there can be no more elevating doctrine than this, and none more reasonable. The doctrine of the Buddhist is like a tale, vague and dim. There is no reason in what they say, neither are their opinions reliable. Their words of to-day are changed on the morrow. Vacillating are their words. As to the doctrine of Christianity, on the contrary, I believe there are none who will protest against it, based, as it is on an immovable foundation of truth. If I were allowed to speak, I would ask the true God in heaven why He allowed us to sink into such depths of ignorance for the past hundreds of years? Why has He not given us the Light in which the Gentiles have long since delighted?" While these remarks were being made there was in the same room, a famous Buddhist priest named Hakushio. When he heard the lord praise Christianity and depreciate Buddhism he arose as an insane man and mockingly said, "It is not the lord's duty to discuss the affairs of religion. He has never studied in the University of Hanjima, and how can he argue questions of such importance? Your duty (turning to the lord), is to rule, and the priest's duty to argue matters of religion. Though you have the ability to discuss religious matters, you must first inquire of the priest, the religious scholar, a pupil of Buddha. Having done this you may decide as you like. The priest is the one to speak of religion, not the lord, if have you suspicion of my religion, ask any question you like and it will be clearly answered." These words of the priest aroused the ire of the lord, but because of the presence of Xavier and the noblemen, he controlled himself and said to the priest, "If you are in earnest in what you say, I will patiently hear you, and you may boldly protest against what you have heard."

Hakushio proudly gave the legend of the life of Buddha, and proclaimed the truthfullness of his religion, referring to the pure and perfect life of the priests, the extreme rigour with which they conduct themselves, forsaking all the pleasures derived from the five senses, neither eating flesh nor fish, and that it is their prerogative to teach princes and nobles and tranquilize society. He further stated that, "The one who guides the dead in the darkness of the future and prays for a blessing on the same in the future would, is the priest. The one who communes with the Universe, the sun, the moon, the stars, the satellites, is the Buddhist. The Buddhist enjoys communion with the universe, which communion is sometimes continued throughout the night." The lord laughed at this superstition and folly. The priest became angry at the lord and said that he was "An ignorant man." The lord commanded the priest to be silent and had him taken from the room by his brother. The brother said to the priest, "Get out of this room. The purity and perfectness of your life witnesses the truth of your religion. But you teach men to communicate with the devils in hell, rather than with the true God in heaven." These words augmented the fury of the priest. He exclaimed loudly as if insane, "Hakushiodono is ranked with the angels in heaven. When I forsake all wordly affairs and come again, neither you nor any of the lords of Japan, will be worthy to kiss my feet." The lord of Bungo was patient at all this, and, looking at Xavier, smiled. Xavier frankly told the lord to send the priest home, because he was so angry; to which the lord consented and commanded the priest to depart from his presence at once. In doing so he said to the priest: "Take heed how you compare yourself with the gods. Such comparison is debasing the gods and a disgrace to them. If there are any gods which can be compared with you they are inferior to the lowest class of people. You have now told us that you converse with gods; let this be as it may, it should teach you to hold your tongue when you are in the presence of your lord and master. If you desire to win the fame of the gods you should not be as impatient as a brute." The priest retired, but could hardly control his anger. When out of doors he exclaimed loudly, "Buddha will send down fire from heaven and burn all those who speak as the lord has spoken."

After the priest had retired the lord continued his conversation on the disgrace of Buddhists until it was time for dinner. When all preparations for the feast were complete, the lord invited Xavier to dine with him, but he humbly declined the invitation. The lord then took the hand of Xavier and said, "Japanese lords, as a custom, express their esteem and affection for others by asking such persons to dine which them, and it will be a great joy to me to be allowed the pleasure of your company at dinner."

Xavier accepted the invitation and kissed the sword which the lord wore, and before they began to dine he lifted up his hands and looking into heaven prayed:—"O my Lord, the Creator of this world! Bestow, I pray Thee, thy light upon this lord, that he may know thy presence and keep thy commandments, and after being regenerated abide with Thee eternally in Paradise." The lord thanked him for his kindness in thus praying for him and begged him to speak more of his doctrine when time allowed. This done they all dined.

It was indeed a strange sight to see this poor missionary seated at the table with this lord, his officers and the Portuguese officials. The greatest honour bestowed on Xavier was that the lord himself handed the dish to the saint. This is done only when the greatest respect is shown. The Portuguese seeing this respect shown to their comrade, were filled with gratitude, and to express their feelings, they arose, and going to the lord, shook his hand and thanked him for this special favour.

The feast ended, Xavier conversed for a time with the lord, after which he returned to the ship in the same order in which he came. After that Xavier often visited the lord in company with some Portuguese in ordinary dress. The lord freely and with pleasure conversed with Xavier. After this the saint investigated the matters pertaining to the licentiousness of the lord, and thought that as long as he sought to gratify his five senses the spirit of faith could not dwell in him; and he warned him of the danger into which his immorality would lead him. The Lord Almighty blessed his words, and the lord who was young and licentious, and found it difficult to rid himself of this carnal habit, yet soon repented and overcame the elements of wickedness which dwelt within him, and from thence reformed from his evil habits. Thus Xavier cultivated the heart of the lord until he overcame his disgrace. He then advised the lord to be merciful to the poor; but at this time the Buddhists coveted worldly treasures and despised poverty and argued that "to save those who are forsaken by Buddha is unjust, and to exceed Buddha in charity is to dishonour him. The suffering of man in this world is designed by Buddha as a punishment for sins committed. We should not, therefore, seek by acts of mercy to exalt humanity to that of the divine." Thus they pursued the lord who was overtaken by temptation, and despised the poor as the dust of the ground.

Xavier explained to the lord that the difference of rich and poor was not because of the impartiality of God's power, but is indispensably necessary for religious and social benefit. Unless poverty exists among men there can be no real society. If there be no faithful artisans, no farmers to cultivate the soil, no hunters and fishers, no merchants to circulate wealth, nor articles to be sold, no men and women who serve in the manufacture of these goods, all productions would be exhausted and there would be no difference in the ranks of the people. Even those who supply our demands would become few, nay even be exterminated.

The lord answered him saying, "Your words are perfectly true, but I do not think the power of God extends to such length."

Xavier again said "You see if all men were wealthy and independent of each other, there would be constant monotony, and what would be the consequence of such a state? The existence of society depends upon the difference in station and wealth. Idleness is the source of immorality, diligence and patience the source of virtue."

The lord again replied, "The Buddhists of my province refuse virtue and prefer wealth. They admit the existence of poor people, but have not the courage to endure poverty." Xavier said that the ignorance and unrighteousness of the Buddhists is the consequence of such attitude, for if they would love and honour poverty they would love and honour the poor. If they suppose that the poor are forsaken and hated of God, why do they ask favours from them. And why do they say that if the people do not support Buddhism they can not be saved? Of course, the Buddhists should not require the poor to support them. Is it inconsistent for them to say that the poor are hated by God, and they dependent on the alms of the poor for support, who are loved by Him."

To this the lord replied, "It is clear to me, I acknowledge their words as false and untrue." Xavier said, "According to the opinion of the Buddhists the poor can neither pray nor petition God for help. Unto the wealthy God has given

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riches for support, and if they distribute it to the poor they are threatened with eternal punishment."

These words, the like of which the lord of Bungo had never before heard, greatly interested him and through them he was persuaded to have compassion on the poor. His deeds of charity from hence became almost excessive. By the advice of the saint he revised or readjusted all his public and private matters.

Though Xavier visited the palace daily, he never neglected his own duties. He taught the people Christianity, preaching in the streets and private houses. The continued diligence of Xavier, who worked day and night, gave the Portuguese some alarm, and they suggested that he take a little rest for his own sake and health. The consequence of such continued exertions would certainly be injurious and cause premature death. To the Missionary, occasional rest is essential. The saint replied to the Portuguese: "Since I have come to this country by Divinie command, it is necessary for me to be diligent in the performance of duties entrusted to me by God. Portuguese may come to me during the night for instruction, but the day must be devoted to teaching the Japanese idolators. I shall leave Japan in a few days and then can be with Portuguese more frequently." With this answer they were satisfied and let the saint have his way. They were surprised at the great endurance of this man and the little food he took for his support, and begged him to increase his daily portion so that he could lead more people to the truth. The people listened carefully to his sermons, and because of the lord, treated him with respect. Xavier, by consent of the lord, had some spirited discussions with the priests and with many proofs showed them their superstition. By this means he dissolved the doubts of the heathen. One of the most successful discussions he had at this time was with a priest from Kanahama named Sakaijiro, the most learned of his sect. This priest was afraid to injure his own fame by discussing with Xavier, and always avoided details as to truth, and in so doing became very obstinate. At length Xavier, by the grace of Christ, completely subdued his obstinacy.

One day this priest intended to hold a public discussion with Xavier in a certain place in the city. The people of that district came *en masse* to hear the discussion. The saint very profoundly explained the truth of Christianity. This somewhat drew the priest to Christianity, but he boldly clung to his original faith. At length he was unable to withstand the sharp spear of Xavier's argument, and under the influence of Divine power, he suddenly kneeled down, lifted up his hands and with tears in his eyes he vowed unto God saying, "O Jesus Christ the only Son of the true God. From hence I will follow and obey Thee, and believe in our Creator, our redeemer, the Lord God with all my heart. O my countrymen and friends of Buddhism, listen to my words. What I have lately preached and argued is all false. Of this I am convinced. There is no other God but He whom Xavier has proclaimed. I humbly apologize to all of you for having led you into false doctrine. Ah! I sincerely desire all of you to make known my repentance and acceptance of the true religion, Christianity, to which all of you have already listened."

The people were greatly moved at hearing these words. From what was stated to the Portuguese it is evident that many were converted and more than five hundred were baptized. Xavier feared some might turn to their idols again, and therefore entrusted the care of this people to the young priest Sakaijiro, the convert.

XI.

The Buddhists of Bungo, after the conversion of this young man, feared the decay of their power. They plotted to hinder the influence of Xavier and the progress of his doctrine. They persuaded the baptized to complain to Xavier and say that they had lost all their property by believing the foreign doctrine, and were rapidly drifting into starvation. "Xavier would," said they, "be unjust if he did not relieve your distress." Their object was to destroy Xavier's confidence in the people. This is clear from the following. By thus complaining, thought they, Xavier would be forced into giving money or refusing it. If Xavier gave them money they would say, "Xavier wins the people with money. If he refused, they would say, "He is not a beggar nor a poor wanderer, but a miser, a wicked man, who came to Japan to starve the people into believing his doctrine."

But this plan miscarried, as it was found impracticable.

There was not a trace of misconduct on the part of the saint, and he was always willing to meet the demands of the people.

There were none who ridiculed him as a miser, yet he never gave money to new converts unless they were in real need of help. It was for this reason that the believers would not only not petition him for money but were willing to sacrifice for his benefit. This proves the popularity of the saint and shows his zeal and fervency in leading the people to righteousness.

Hence it was unnecessary to defend Christianity. Great crowds of people came to hear Xavier preach, and the Buddhist temples were vacated and silent. This discomfort was too much for the Buddhists to endure, and they again plotted to rob the saint of his fame and honour, sometimes in a mild way, sometimes in a very rough manner.

But the confidence of the lord's family in this foreigner was too strong to be so easily shaken. Finally they went to the lord and complained that his sympathies were for the foreigner only, and the Buddhists would revolt, devastate the fields, burn the houses and utterly ruin the state. Thus they threatened the lord by saying further: "Do not think that we threaten you with our vain tongues. This is the immutable sentence from the Supreme Court of heavenly Buddha, and he has commanded us to communicate it unto you."

The lord had already learned that an imaginary Buddha could not control the consciences of men and refused to accept the statement of his guests' He disdained to listen to them and commanded them to dissolve the rites of the temple. Hereupon the priests rushed into the streets and shouted. "The lord intends to expel all the gods and destroy all the temples." Their intention was to so excite the people that a tumult would ensue, in which time they purposed to assassinate Xavier and the Portuguese. But the lord understand their plans and at once thwarted them. Failing again in this, the priests almost gave up in despair. They tried again; this time by violently ringing the bells and calling the people together in a certain place. After much debate they decided to compel Xavier to desist from further preaching.

About twelve miles distant from this town was a noted temple the pastor of which was called Fukaradono, the most excellent priest in Japan, one who had been for thirty years a teacher in a university. The people of that place looked upon him as a peer among priests. The Buddhists of that town formed an alliance and with one accord went to this man and said, "Unless we find some one who may become our leader, Buddhism in Japan is doomed to ruin. Recenly a foreign monk arrived at Hizen. He despises Buddha and the gods, impugns our rituals and derides us as sorcerers and sinners. He seeks to invalidate our religion with his smooth tongue, by slandering us to our lord. He is really a magician who leads the people astray with false doctrines. The lord, is, unfortunately infatuated with him, and thus repulses the Buddhists and honours that forlorn foreign monk. He (Xavier) has often held solemn discussions with nobles and Buddhists in the lord's palace. But they have all become deluded, even Sakaijiro, the most intelligent of Buddhists, publicly declared that he himself has become a follower of that monk and a believer in Christianity. He has given up his Buddhist faith entirely. From the present condition of affairs we see that, if the progress of such injuries is not at once brought into subjection, the people will eventually destroy our temples, expel our gods and take charge of our shrines and parsonages. We, in fact all Buddhists, must suffer from this calamity, even *your* temples will not be excepted. Therefore, we have endeavoured to drive that monk, who caused our loud to violate the ordinances of peace, from Japan. The plans we made were various, some were mild, others decidedly forcible; but all were in vain. There is now no way open to us but to visit you, the most virtuous priest in all the world, and petition you to visit our town, and by your able discussions completely vanquish that western monk. Your fame is very great and the people will follow any command that comes from Fukaradono. If you come to our town, the foreign monk will not be able to withstand you and will flee away to his ship. You are the only one sufficiently able to cope with him. If you are able to repulse him, you will be classed with the founder of Buddhism in this that, you became the greatest protector and defender of Buddhism in the sixty-six states (provinces) in Japan."

The priest, haughty and proud, encouraged by these words of flattery and the prospect of becoming the leading power in Buddhism, selected six men from among his followers, the most learned and zealous, and departed with his auditors to the town in which they lived.

Just at that time Xavier was in the lord's palace with the Portuguese, to bid farewell to the lord and his retinue before taking his departure for India, for which he had been delayed forty days while the ships were being repaired for the journey. Suddenly a request came to the palace that Fukaradono desired to see the lord in the presence of Xavier. The instant the lord heard the name of the stranger he perceived that he came with charges against Xavier; he hesitated a moment, ceased his conversation and appeared dumb for a while. Though he knew quite well the ability of Xavier, yet he did not want to have his name abused by the fluent tongue of the enraged priest. The saint, glancing at the face of the lord at once surmised the cause of that painful expression, and begged the privilege of seeing the priest, for the knew very well the feeble power of the masked priests of idolatry. He wanted to disperse their clouds of superstition by the sunlight of his doctrine, being armed, as he was, with the truth. To this end he requested the lord to keep a careful watch over his opponents in order that no undue or illegal violence might be perpetrated.

The lord beholding the self-possessed countenance of the saint ordered his attendant to show the priest into the room. The priest very respectfully bowed thrice to the lord and advancing, saluted Xavier, which salutation was cordially returned, and the priest invited to a seat of honour. He sat, however, in a haughty and diffident manner. The lord asked the purpose of his coming. The priest answered, "My coming to you is naught but to enquire into and examine the nature of the new religion brought from a foreign land, by Xavier, just before his departure from Japan." The lord told him to question Xavier freely as he was now in his presence.

The priest stared at the saint for a while and then said, "Do you not know me?"

Xavier replied that he had no remembrance of having seen him. The priest suddenly burst into haughty laughter, and looking back at his followers said. "It is an easy matter to subjugate the man who disguises his knowledge of me, for I have already met him more than a hundred times."

He again turned to Xavier and with fraudulence asked, "Do you still insist that you do not know me? Do you not remember that you once sold me some goods at Hienoiyama harbour? Will you still keep the remainder of those goods?"

Xavier good naturedly replied, "If you wish me to reply to your questions, state the the matter clearly. I never answer to things obscure and which I cannot understand. But I will say to you that I am no merchant, neither have I seen nor visited Hienoiyama. I have no more to say to you."

The priest, in a very startled manner said again, "Is your memory so defective as all that? Can one be so impractical?" Xavier answered, "It is the truth! If you think I am so defective in memory, why not call me to remembrance by associating some other event with the one in question. But you must indeed remember that you are in the lord's presence. No untruth should be spoken in this place." Xavier said this because he thought that Fukaradono, like the other people, except the Pythagorians, believed in the transmigration of the human soul. They believe that man remembers nothing until his soul is transmitted to other beings.

The priest continued his words of deceit and said: "While I was at Hienoiyama 1,500 years ago, you sold me 300 yards of silken and woollen cloth at a high price. Had that already slipped your memory?" Xavier asked the lord to grant him the privilege to question the priest. He then very calmly asked, "What is your age?" The priest answered—"Fifty two." He asked again. "How do you know that you purchased goods 1,500 years ago, since you are now only 52 years of age? Have you never read Japanese history? Did not the intercourse between Japan and foreign nations begin only 1,000 years ago? Especially with reference to the district of Hienoiyama, have you not read in history that its rise have been quite recent"?

The priest was very much puzzled with these questions but still boldly said, "I now clearly see that you are void of comprehension. You have told me that you possess a clear knowledge of the present, which knowledge you obtained while in Europe. I will show you very intelligently things of the past. You must recognize, in the first place, three things, *i.e.*, the infinity of the world in its beginning and end,[1] the immortality of the human soul, the extent of the death (perhaps nihilation) of the human body, which, however, does not affect the soul. Men are born with different faces, appearances, and shapes, according to the stars which control their birth. Continuence of life is produced by birth and death. This is the natural law of heaven and the good fortune of every human being. The human soul, when once separated from the body is transmitted to another body without changing its original characteristics. The soul of the righteous is transmitted into the body

[1] Though it is not clearly stated, this seems to refer to the doctrine of the eternity of matter.

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of the wise, be he hero, king, or priest. That of the wicked into the body of brutes, according to the sins committed. Some men are of dull, others of bright and excellent memory. The latter, like myself, remember all events and occurrences during the past innumerable years. The former, on the contrary, being thick-headed, poor in memory, retains nothing. Yours is of that sort, by the consequence of which, you have forgotten the fact that I have met you."[18]

The Portuguese who were present at this discussion reported how successfully Xavier refuted every argument, overthrew the fallacious reasoning by his profound wisdom and acute arguments.

But the Portuguese confess that he could not say publicly by what mysterious reasoning the saint enlightened the misunderstanding of the unlearned and benighted priest, neither had they sufficient ability to explain his arguments. From the writings of the historian who obtained his facts from Xavier himself, we get a glimpse of the arguments used in proving the immortality of the soul, but disproving the doctrine of transmigration. The priest could find no words to answer to these arguments and changed the subject to that of morality. The priest supposed that the lord and his followers would take his part on this question because they themselves had been immoral. Turning to them he said, "Is it not a fact that I should put into subjection him who mocks the virtues of Buddhists who faithfully serve their Japanese nobles, and who abstain from all sensual pleasure"?

But Xavier continues his attack against the priest, with tremendous argumentative force, who now flees into a miry refuge from his enemy, who argues such form of morality as is based upon Divine principles. He scorned the wicked deeds of Japanese sinners. He spoke clearly of the fallacy of Buddhistic doctrines. The men who were present in the room cried out, "The words of Xavier are truth. You (Xavier) are triumphant."

The priest became rude with his criticism, and committed deeds unbecoming a member of the priesthood. An officer warning him said, "You should be ashamed of your position and the name of a priest to so dishearten yourself with anger. Your doctrine also, will be despised. Imitate the mildness of the foreign monk. Your threatening of the monk can give you no pleasure. You will obtain honour by conquering yourself. You should take great care not to injure your theme, or protect it with violence."

The warnings of this wise officer were in vain and the priest, instead of being calmed, grew in anger and fury. He was as rude as he could be. The lord could not endure him and ordered him to retire from the palace at once, intimating that if he were not a priest he would be beheaded. The priest, with his followers, rudely left the palace. They rambled about the town talking of the treatment of the lord and his nobles towards them, and said that the lord would destroy, not only the Buddhists, but would exterminate the gods; and that the Buddhists should at once flee into the main temple, and put under lock and key, in some upper storey, all the idols therein contained.

The next day they effectively closed all the temples in the town and posted notices on the wall saying: "No one is allowed to worship the gods until the Portuguese are banished."

The indignation of the people was beyond all expectation. They rushed in bands, male and female together, to the Buddhists and demanded the temples to be opened at once. But they were not able to effect their object and the mob turned on the Portuguese. The Portuguese had, in the meantime, investiged the matter and resolved to flee to their vessels. They informed Xavier of the danger and asked him to escape to the ship. Xavier replied, "I fear the wrath of God upon me if I leave my believers in the mouths of these fiercely raging tigers and wolves, to save my own life. If you desire to escape, you are at liberty to do so. I have decided to suffer assassination rather than to look upon the newly baptized Christians being sacrificed by idolators which I can not endure." As he had said, he neither hid himself nor escaped, but remained courageously in the town. The excitement grew in intensity and the mob went into the harbour to attack the Portuguese in their ships; but the Portuguese weighed anchor and as the danger was now near them, sailed into the ocean. With this the mob was satisfied.

But Captain Gamma was anxious about the fate of Xavier, for he feared the wrath of the Portuguese King if any accident should befall this popular saint. He returned to his landing again and sought the presence of Xavier.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

[18] This is in keeping with the doctrine stated by a priest in July, 1893, to the translator, that in Buddhism there are degrees of perfection in which man, if he his attained thereto, can, at one and the same time, see everything, hear everything and *smell* everything.

YOKOHAMA SPRING REGATTA.

PRESENTATION TO MR. H. C. LITCHFIELD.

The radiant glories of a calm May day added greatly to the success which attended the Spring Regatta of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club, held on Saturday afternoon. The sun shone from out a dappled sky and its genial heat was tempered during the early part of the proceedings by a nice seaward breeze, raising but a slight ripple on the rowing course, a ripple which lent life and animation to the water and interfered but little with the labours of the oarsmen. In the light of previous experience over the Yokohama regatta course, the surface on Saturday was the best that has ever been, and the times made are, therefore, no better than they ought to be. Considerable enthusiasm had been evoked among the younger members during the period of practising and it is gratifying to observe that victory rested in most instances where it had been deserved. Good steady work at the oar and with the sculls always pays well in the long run, although, as with other sport, the unexpected does happen occasionally and undisciplined pluck carries all before it. The best time over the three-quarter-mile was made in the Single-Sculls, (the Ladies Purse), Mottu's time being 5m. 6s.; the Senior Double-Sculls, a walk-over, or more properly row-over, was 51 secs. longer. The Club Fours was slow, 8m. 56¼s. for the mile, the best work being put in when near the finish. The men-of-war races were, as usual, good fun—honours were divided between the two navies represented, and the prizes were eventually shared by all the sturdy competitors. Perhaps the greatest sport of the day was derived from the two scratch races arranged at the close of the regular programme. Five boats entered in each and a splendid struggle resulted in a win on the post in both events. The crews in the first of these races were composed of members of the Y.A.R.C., but in the second of the students of the Imperial University who had taken part in one of the previous events, got into the Club boats and were coxed by Yokohama residents, among them being the Marquis Nembrini de Gonzaga, about whose safe and dry return many doubts were hazarded, especially when, after passing the Breakwater, he took his craft right across the bows of another competing boat and then headed for the French mail anchorage. Daylight was fading fast when the last gun was fired, but most of the spectators, among whom were many ladies, stayed to the very last and were present at the distribution of prizes, a task gracefully performed by Mrs. H. C. Litchfield. The Ladies' Purse was presented earlier in the day to the winner by Miss Morriss, who accompanied the gift with words of high encouragement, to which Mottu courteously replied in fit and modest phrase. The Yokohama Town Band, which was in attendance, gave the following selection during the afternoon:—

1.—Lanisen March, ... Faust.
2.—Overture 2. Op. ..... "Nebukodonzer," ..... Verdi.
3.—Waltz ..... ——.
4.—Fantasie ..... "La Fille de Mde. Angot." ..... ——.
5.—Polka ..... ——.
6.—Cavatina ..... "From Lucrezia Borgia," ..... Donizzetti.
7.—Waltz ..... ——.
8.—Ungarisher Marsch ..... Gung'l.
9.—Schottische ..... ——.
10.—Potpourri ..... "Soldiers' Life" ..... K. Bela.
11.—Mazurka ..... ——.
12.—Waltz ..... ——.
13.—Leichtes Blut Galop ..... Strauss.

The Committee and Officials were Messrs. J. Rickett, Captain; F. J. Hall, Hon. Secretary; P. S. Bent, Hon. Treasurer; H. C. Litchfield, Judge; T. Brewer, Umpire and Starter; J. F. Pinn, Timekeeper; Lieut. Maud, R.N., Duncan McNeil, W. W. Campbell, C. K.-Marshall Martin, W. J. Kenny, Dr. Wheeler, H. V. Henson, Jas. Walter, W. Sutter, Geo. Philip, and Lieut. Merriam, U.S.N. With the exception of some delay in getting the crews afloat, the arrangements were carried out very satisfactorily. Details of events:—

JUNIOR FOURS.—¾ Mile.

	RED BOAT.—(1)	BLACK BOAT.—(2)
Bow.	K. Wilson.	J. G. Wilson.
2.	P. E. Webb.	A. K. Rees.
3.	E. J. Libeaud.	R. Boyes.
Stroke.	H. R. Mair.	M. Schellenberg.
Cox.	D. McLaren.	H. S. Goddard.

	BLUE BOAT.—(3)	WHITE BOAT.—(0)
Bow.	A. Bouffier.	A. T. Woodward.
2.	W. Tucker.	R. C. Ross.
3.	H. Goldman.	C. V. Schmidt.
Stroke.	F. H. Abbey.	W. Goddard.
Cox.	G. Hood.	W. W. Campbell.

The boats went off well together, Red at 38, Black at 36, Blue at 40, and White at 40. Blue opened out first, the fast stroke telling, with Black in close attendance. White, the lightest of the four crews, soon dropped behind and was practically out of the hunt before the Pacific Mail wharf was reached. At this point Blue was still leading, with a stroke of 36; Black, still pressing the leaders, had dropped to 30, while Red, who were slowly reducing the distance between them and Black, kept pegging away at 34. White was clocked at 34 too. As the Breakwater was neared the strokes called on their men, and the boats were on level terms as they passed the Creek. Coming up along the Bund, Red spurted splendidly and drew to the front, then Black was seen to be drawing dangerously close to Blue; immediately after Blue collapsed and the race was over, Black being a quarter of a length to the bad. Time, 6m. 13s. When the crews landed a protest was raised by Blue against Black, a foul being claimed. As the result of the race was not affected by the foul the protest did not reach the Referee.

MEN-OF-WAR.—2 Miles.

H.M.S. *Caroline* 6 oared Gig 1
U.S.S. *Concord* 6 oared Gig 2
H.M.S. *Caroline* 5 oared Whaler 3
H.M.S. *Redpole* 4 oared Gig 4

The course was two miles round the harbour. After a foul at the very start, the boats pulled out well and before the race was half over the result looked beyond doubt.

TEIKOKU DAIGAKU UNDOKWAI.—1 Mile.

	WHITE.—(1)	GREEN.—(2)
Bow.	S. Omura.	M. Kobayashi.
2.	T. Sato.	B. Takahashi.
3.	Y. Miura.	G. Mochiba.
4.	T. Kawada.	S. Harada.
5.	S. Yasaki.	K. Yamada.
Stroke.	K. Kubota.	T. Kawai.
Cox.	Y. Tamagawa.	T. Ibukiyama.

RED.—(3)

Bow.	K. Taniguchi.
2.	E. Sekimoto.
3.	K. Ito.
4.	N. Yashiro.
5.	S. Tanaka.
Stroke.	S. Kusakabe.
Cox.	S. Awoki.

The White boat quickly demonstrated the superiority of its crew by taking a commanding lead, Green coming next, and Red last. In this order the race was rowed throughout, though towards the finish Green made a gallant attempt to catch up with the leaders. It was a forlorn hope, however, and White won easily by four lengths. Time, 9m. 2⅘s.

CLUB FOURS.—1 Mile.

	WHITE BOAT.—(1)	BLUE BOAT.—(2)
Bow.	C. V. Schmidt.	H. S. Goddard.
2.	P. C. Potts.	W. A. Cabeldu.
3.	F. J. Hall.	J. Eyton, Jun.
Stroke.	A. L. Mottu.	G. Hood.
Cox.	A. H. Lay.	J. Rickett.

	BLACK BOAT.—(3)	RED BOAT.—(4)
Bow.	E. J. Marshall.	E. Mendelson.
2.	W. Goddard.	H. R. Mair.
3.	M. Schellenberg.	H. Pinckney.
Stroke.	D. McNeill.	P. S. Bent.
Cox.	D. McLaren.	W. W. Campbell.

Out of the five entries four came down to the Istake-boat, Green being the absentee. A beautiful eine was obtained, but the breeze carried the starter's voice in the wrong direction so that Black had the worst of the start. It recovered the loss within the first three strokes, getting on level terms with White, the first away. Hood had set his men 40, Bent, 34, Mottu, 34, and McNeill 32 to the minute. Upon settling down, Blue was observed to be catching up a bit, while Red had dropped hopelessly astern. Half way down the course Blue was still keeping up the fastest stroke right merrily, only being one less than at the commencement; White had steadied to 32, Black to 31, and Red to 33. At the P.M. Wharf, Blue had obtained a lead, but its stroke had fallen to 32, White had quickened to 31, and Black to 33, while Red was steady at 32. At the Breakwater Black drew up considerably, but already the race lay between Blue and White. White's crew rowed well together, the swing and time being perfect, but No. 3 in the Blue boat looked done-up, as indeed was the case. The pace was fast, and White had all it could do to keep a nose ahead. When the gun fired Blue was only two feet behind, while Black was within a length of the leaders; a splendid finish. Time, 8m. 56¼s.

MEN-OF-WAR. (All Comers).—2 Miles.

U.S.S. *Concord* 10 oared Cutter 1
U.S.S. *Concord* 12 oared Cutter 2
U.S.S. *Concord* 12 oared Launch 3
H.M.S. *Caroline* 12 oared Cutter 4

A very good race. Thirteen seconds separated 1st and 2nd; 1m. 13s., 2nd and 3rd; 1m. 35s., 1st and 4th, at the finish.

SKIFF RACE.—½ Mile.

H. S. Goddard ..... (1) J. B. Gibbs, Jun. ..... (2)

Goddard had the race from the start and won easily. Time, 4m. 4⅘ secs.

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SENIOR DOUBLE SCULLS. (Final Heat).—¾ Mile.

"TERN."—(W.O.)

Bow. R. Boyes.
Stroke. P. Sorhagen.

Owing to the "gruelling" in the Club Fours, Eyton thought it advisable not to contest this race, so Boyes and Sorhagen rowed-over. Time, 5m. 57s.

CLUB *versus* COMMITTEE.—¾ Mile.

	WHITE BOAT.—(1)	BLACK BOAT.—(2)
Bow.	A. L. Mottu.	F. J. Hall.
2.	P. A. F. Cabeldu.	P. S. Bent.
3.	H. Pinckney.	D. McNeill.
Stroke.	E. T. Nicholas.	C. K.-M. Martin.
Cox.	W. W. Campbell.	J. Rickett.

A good start was effected. Nicholas set 38, and Martin 35 at the beginning, and then both steadied down to 32. At the P.M. wharf "the Club" had established a lead which was never seriously threatened, although a good spurt was made along the Bund, "the Committee" at 35 and "the Club" at 34. The "Club won by an easy length and a half. Time, 6m. 4½s.

JUNIOR DOUBLE SCULLS. (Final Heat).—¾ Mile.

	TERN.—(1)	PEARL.—(2)
Bow.	R. C. Ross.	E. J. Libeaud.
Streke.	M. Schellenberg.	C. V. Schmidt.

This was an easy win for Ross and Schellenberg, who appeared much fresher than their competitors. Time, 6m. 31¾s.

SINGLE SCULLS (Ladies' Purse).—¾ Mile.

A. L. Mottu.—1 P. Sorhagen.—2 G. Hood.—3

Sorhagen, was, if anything, somewhat the favourite, though Mottu found almost as many backers. All the men started at 30 to the minute, and soon Sorhagen was seen to be leading by a trifle; Mottu, however, finding the water to his fancy, quickened to 32, while Sorhagen slackened to 28. Hood had fallen to the rear soon after the start, and although he quickened to 32 just after passing the P. M. wharf, failed to diminish the distance between himself and the leaders. Entering the harbour, where the water had an almost glass-like surface, Mottu found things even more to his liking, and increasing his lead every stroke pulled in an easy winner by 5 lengths. Time, 5m. 6s.

CHAMPION PAIRS (Kirin Cup). Final Heat.—¾ Mile.

	MALLARD.—(1)	WIDGEON.—(2)
Bow.	F. H. Abbey.	G. W. Barton.
Stroke.	P. A. F. Cabeldu.	D. McNeill.
Cox.	A. H. Lay.	D. McLaren.

Cabeldu led away at 39, McNeill at 34. The youngsters, who were decidedly the fresher of the two crews, had everything their own way and won easily. Time, 6m. 1s.

SCRATCH FOURS. From P. M. Wharf.

BLUE BOAT.—(1)

Bow. A. T. Woodward.
2. W. Tucker.
3. H. Goldman.
Stroke. W. W. Campbell.
Cox. F. H. Hooper.

Five boats started, and made a desperate race up from the P.M. wharf. Green had a splendid lead, but in the struggle at the finish it gave place to Blue who got in by barely a nose. Time, 3m. 2¾s.

UNIVERSITY SCRATCH FOURS. From P. M. Wharf.

Five crews entered, and Black, White, and Red made a capital race of it. Red (Mair, cox.) and White (Lay) had the lead, then Red got ahead. White again got level, but at the very close Black, coxed by Kenyon, came with a rush and obtained the Judge's gun.

At the close of the races an adjournment was made to the upper room of the Boat House, where the prizes were displayed. Among the trophies was a handsome silver cup of chaste design. It stood upon a stand which bore the following inscription:—

Presented
To
HENRY CHARLES LITCHFIELD
By the Members of the
Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club,
1894.

Upon silence being proclaimed,

Mr. RICKETT, Captain of the Club, said—Mr. and Mrs. Litchfield—I have the honour, on behalf of the members of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club, of presenting to you this little wedding present, which we hope you will give us the pleasure of accepting with the cordial good wishes of the Club that health and happiness may attend you through life. It should have been presented to you at your marriage along with your other marriage gifts, but as it was not ready in time we thought there could not be a more fitting occasion than a regatta to present our old Captain with his wedding persent. Mr. Litchfield—You have been connected with the Club almost from its infancy, and the members take this opportunity of expressing their high appreciation of the valuable services you have always so cheerfully rendered it, whether on the committee or off the committee, and more especially during the years you held the office of Captain, which you filled so ably and with such advantage to the Club. It has been said in Clubs when a man gets married, "There's another good fellow gone," but we feel it is otherwise with you, and that we may still rely on you for assistance and advice when needed, and that you will always take an interest in the welfare of the Club. Mr. and Mrs. Litchfield—I have now the pleasure of handing you this cup brimming over with the good wishes of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club.—(Loud and prolonged cheers.)

Mr. LITCHFIELD, who was greeted with vociferous cheering as he came forward to reply, said—Mr. Rickett and Gentlemen, the Committee and members of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club—I have to thank you heartily on behalf of myself and my wife for your kind wishes and congratulations on the ocasion of our marriage. I have to thank you, too, for the handsome token with which you have accompanied those wishes. I find it difficult to express my thanks for your kindness in appropriate terms, the more so as in the face of this testimonial of your regard I cannot pretend that I have not done some good work for your Club, but that work was a labour of love.—(Loud cheers.) And I remember too, that during that time of work I received much kindness from the members of the Club. I can only thank you and wish the Club continued prosperity.—(Cheers.)

The prizes were then distributed and the company dispersed.

MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY.

TEISHINSHO, TOKYO, MAY 11TH, 1894.

THE STRANDING OF THE "SAKATA MARU."

A Marine Court of Inquiry was held at the Teishinsho (Mercantile Marine Bureau), Tokyo, on Friday morning into the circumstances attending the stranding of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Sakata Maru*, Captain Rennie, which vessel stranded at the entrance to Fushiki harbour on the 23rd January last.

The Court was composed as follows:—Mr. I. Ito, President; Mr. U. Yoshida, Mr. S. Yoshida, Mr. J. M. James, Mr. A. F. Macnab, Advisers.

James Webster Rennie was first called. Having been duly cautioned he deposed:—I was master of the *Sakata Maru* at the time of her stranding. I was in command of her that day. I hold a Japanese certificate of the first degree, No. 177. I have been in command of steamers trading on the coast of Japan for two years. I joined the *Sakata Maru* on the 1st of January this year. I was on a voyage from Hakodate to Fushiki when the stranding took place. I left Yokohama at 4 p.m. on the 18th January and arrived at Hakodate at 3.30 a.m. on the 21st, and left there at 10 a.m. for Fushiki, the same day. I was putting in there on account of bad weather. I did not discharge any cargo at Hakodate as the ship was in ballast. The weather was bad, thick, and snowy, with a heavy westerly sea outside Hakodate—this induced me to put into that port. On the 22nd of January, at 5.50 p.m., when under the lee of Cape Noto, I reduced the speed in order to enter Fushiki about daylight. At 6.14 p.m. Roku-saki Light was abeam with bearing N.W. ½ W. magnetic, by four-point bearing seven miles abeam. I had previously taken the four-point bearing. The error of the compass was 2¾° W. at this time. The ship's head was S.W. ¼ S. I then steered S.W. by S., by compass, making a S.S.W. ¾ W. magnetic course, the deviation allowed being 2¾° W., with the intention of making Fushiki Light. At 8 p.m. reduced the speed again, the ship making about 5 knots. I remained on the bridge until 10 p.m.; there being a moon, one could see a fair distance. It had been cloudy and squally until about 9 p.m. I left the bridge in charge of the Chief Officer. I call a fair distance about four or five miles. When I left the bridge I went to the chart-house, which is immediately under the bridge, to rest. I told the Chief Officer to call me at once should it snow, and to call me at midnight, so that I might be on deck with the Second Officer. I did not anticipate sighting Fushiki Light before midnight. About 11.43 p.m. the officer reported a bright white light right ahead. I immediately went on to the bridge and saw that it was Fushiki Light, bearing S.W. by S., southerly, that is allowing for deviation of compass. I judged that I was outside the range of the light, and being able to see a considerable distance, decided to go into the anchorage. At 11.45 p.m., I rang "Full speed." I steered the same course, S.W. by S. by compass, till the light bore S.S.W. ¼ W., by compass. I kept the light on that bearing, steering S.S.W. by compass, deviation being as before—I steered direct for the light. At midnight the hands were called and anchors got ready, every preparation being made for going into port. The Second Officer was on the bridge with me; the Chief Officer was stationed on the forecastle, in charge forward. About 0.30 a.m., the 23rd Jan., I ordered the log to be hauled in and the quarter-master to heave the lead. At 0.44, "Stand-by" was telegraphed to the engine-room. I then said, "Heave your lead;" the first cast was reported 3¾ fathoms. I then ordered, "Stop," and "Full-speed astern," about the same time. At about 0.46 I let go the starboard anchor, but the ship was still forging ahead. It immediately took the ground and stopped. I worked the engines astern till 0.50 a.m., but the ship merely moved her head round to the southward, seawards, and her stern to the shoal water. I ordered the ballast-tank to be pumped out, and worked the engines astern until 1.5 a.m. It was of no avail. By repeated blasts of the whistle, boats were attracted from the shore, and I sent the Purser on shore to inform the Company's Agent and get immediate assistance. I laid out two steam anchors from the port quarter to keep the ship from drifting further in. About 1.30 a.m. the Chief Engineer reported, "Not gaining on after ballast tank." At the time of the grounding the sea was smooth, there was no noise of broken water, and the wind was light from the westward. I attribute the stranding of the ship to an error of judgment—misjudging the distance off Fushiki Light—the haze over the low land and the reflection of the moon's rays preventing me from making out the shore. At the time I rung, "Stand-by," I judged from the appearance of the light that I was one mile and a quarter out.

By the President—I did everything in my power, with the anchors and other appliances on board, to get the boat off.

To the Court—I remained on board the ship until she was taken into dock. Four tug-boats first tried to tow her off, then the *Totomi Maru* tried, and also the *Mikawa Maru*, and another steamer. I was in charge until the Company's salvage party arrived; then the Superintendent Captain took charge, and I assisted him until the vessel came off. The log-book contains all entries regarding the steps taken to float her. I took the vessel, after she floated, to Nakaye, then back to Fushiki, and from thence to Nagasaki. The ship had been stranded for seven days before the salvage party arrived. The Superintendent Captain ordered the ship to go to Nakaye for repairs to the after ballast tank, and then we returned to Fushiki for shingle and sand ballast, preparatory to starting for Nagasaki. We sailed for Nagasaki on the 16th March, and the following day put into Tsuruga Bay for shelter. I was in command after the vessel floated until we reached Nagasaki, on March 20th, at 4.30 p.m. We went into dock on the 24th March, and I remained by the ship for about seven days when I was relieved on account of ill-health at my own request.

By the President—When the light on Roku-saki was abeam I was on the bridge along with the officer of the watch, the Third Officer, Mr. Abei. At 5.50 p.m. on the 22nd January, my reduced speed was 40 revolutions, or about 6 knots an hour.

By Mr. James—The four-point bearing was taken by the Third Officer; the log was noted at that time by the quarter-master on watch. The Third Officer does not always take the four-point bearing. I have been in Fushiki harbour before for three months while on the *Sorachi Maru*; and I have entered it times innumerable, but never at night. When I sighted Fushiki Light I thought I was eleven miles away, at least. The *Sakata Maru's* bridge is about 35 feet above the water-line, the level of the sea.

By the President—The weather when I sighted the light was clear, but very hazy over the land, I mean along the shore line. I could see the tops of the high land to the southward, over the haze. I could not see any land to the west.

By Mr. James—I have always used the lead in entering Fushiki harbour, and have previously found 7 fathoms. I have always entered on the same course as that used on the night of the stranding, anchoring down in a position to facilitate the working of the cargo as close as prudence demanded.

By the President—Fushiki Light was continuously in sight from first seen until the moment of

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stranding. When I found the ship running into shoal-water I let go the anchor to prevent her from forging ahead. Under any circumstances it takes the *Sakata Maru* a long time to go astern. I did not foul any fishing nets when entering the harbour—the weather had been too bad for several day previously and none were out. Snow lay on the ground to the depth of 20 feet. After stranding, the ship made no water, except in the double bottom after tank; the forward bilges were leaking a little on the second day—this arose through working the ship.

An adjournment was then taken for tiffin.

Upon resuming, witness said—When daylight broke I found that Fushiki Light was about two cables distant from the ship. The reason why I did not order the engines to go astern sooner than I did, was because of my belief that I was farther off from the light than I really was. A minute must have elapsed between giving the order to cast the lead and the throwing of the same. The reason why the interval between the engine-room signals was so short was because I found myself suddenly within shoal water. There was only an interval of one minute between the orders "Stand-by," and "Full-speed astern." The casts of the lead gave 3¾, then 3½, and 2½ fathoms, by which time I was aground. I gave the last two orders to the engine-room simultaneously solely from the sudden shoaling of the water; from the appearance of the light I thought I was at least half-a-mile off. My object in abandoning my original intention of waiting until daylight before entering, was to obtain rest, which I greatly required—ever since leaving Yokohama I had had a hard time of it—and my anxiety was also great to facilitate the Company's interest. Had I never been in the harbour before I should not have thought of entering it at night. I gave the order to the Chief Engineer himself to reduce the speed at 8 p.m. on the 22nd, and the speed was reduced. The Chief Officer took charge of the deck from 8 p.m. I was navigating the ship by the Japanese chart of the Noto Peninsula, large scale, No. 243, 1890, Japanese Naval Survey. After the ship stranded I sounded the depth of water around the ship. It was 2 fathoms forward, both sides the same; 2½ amidships; and 3 fathoms aft under the stern. The vessel rested on soft sand. The ship, however, forged ahead over her anchor and thus fractured one of her plates, causing a leak. The anchor used was a plain, old fashioned stock. The damage done to the ship was on the port side, aft, under the after ballast-tank. It was in the outer shell of the vessel. The fracture, or hole, was about two feet square. Other damage, principally bending of plates, was caused through working-off the ship after she had sunk ten feet through the sand and reached the boulders. She sank gradually, and when the divers went down they reported large and small boulders. The ship had gradually been swept further into shore by this time, through the action of the tide and occasional heavy seas which came up there.

By Mr. Macnab—The hole in the ship's bottom was not discovered until the ship arrived at Nakaye, when the Company's diver went down. If I could have got the after ballast tank out I might have got the ship off, but the Chief Engineer told me that he could not gain on it, and so I was helpless.

By Mr. James—I can only presume that the fracture was caused by the ship grounding on her anchor. This is only my own supposition. The size of the hole may have been only about six inches at first, and then in the working of the ship it grew larger. In all my experience I had never heard of boulders being found at Fushiki before. Other people on board besides myself may have held the opinion that the fracture might have been caused by the anchor. All hands were on deck when the ship stranded, the regular men being on the look-out—one man forward, the Second Officer and myself on the bridge, a quartermaster at the wheel on the bridge, and another at the lead. The Third Officer, not being required on deck, was below at the time—this is the usual custom with vessels running on the West coast. Nothing was in sight at the time of stranding save the Fushiki Light. There were no lights on shore. The crew worked under my orders until the arrival of the salvage party, when the Superintendent Captain took charge of the operations under the Company's orders. I laid out five anchors myself, but all the hawsers were carried away. I gave orders to my own crew after the arrival of the salvage party. I did not give up command of the ship at all, but the Superintendent Captain took charge of the salvage operations, receiving my advice if wanted.

Where you under the orders of the Superintendent Captain or did you give him the orders?—I was under the orders of the Company's Captain-Superintendent. I retained command under his instructions.

On the 18th February the Second Officer and several men were unfortunately drowned while working in the after double bottom, were they not?—Yes, unfortunately. I was injured the next day.

How many men were drowned?—Eleven; ten of them were coolies not belonging to the ship.

How did this occur?—Through a sudden rush of water through the hole.

What was the reason for the men being there; who gave the order?—I did not give the order; and, as I said before, I was not responsible after the arrival of the salvage company. I did not think I was to be examined on this matter and am not prepared to speak upon it.

Can you give details of how the affair occurred?—We had all been in the tank, the Superintendent Captain, the Chief Engineer, myself, and the Chief Officer—any of us might have been caught in the same way, for the operations had been going on some ten days. I can't remember the exact date of the occurrence. I did not take notes of the date. I did not give the order for the men to go into the tank, and I am not responsible for what occurred. The men were working under the orders of the Superintendent Captain.

What was the reason sending the men into the tank?—To get the sand out of it, so as to lighten the ship.

Had men been working in this tank previously?—Yes, from day to day, and the top of the tank—the man hole—was put on every night after work. The men had been working in the tank for about three hours on the morning the accident occurred—from seven until ten.

Had you any trouble in getting the bodies out?—Yes. The diver had to go down and fish them out with a hook. The Second Officer's body was not recovered for some days.

What was your first intimation of the accident?—The quartermaster at work in the starboard tank reported it to me. There were three men working with him, and they also escaped. The water came in with such a rush in the other tank that it was up to the top before one man could get out—three heads were, in fact, jambed in the man-hole. Everything possible was done to save them, but without avail.

Under whose orders were these men working?—Under the Superintendent-Captain, Captain William H. Forbes.

Was he in entire charge?—Yes, in entire charge.

Did he give the order to the Second Officer directly, or through you?—He gave the order to the Second Officer himself; I did not give it.

Had you ever been in the ballast-tank in which the accident occurred?—I was in the starboard-side tank only, in company with the Superintendent Captain, but I believe he had been in both tanks. The starboard-side tank showed no signs of leaking.

What prevented you from going into the port-side tank, had you any doubts as to any leak breaking out?—Nothing prevented me. I never had any doubts about leaks. Nobody expected any leaks to break out. The Superintendent Captain had no suspicion of any leak or he would not have sent the men there. It was purely an accident that the Second Officer was in the tank, for he had been working in both tanks. I have never been in the port tank, neither before nor since the accident.

Had the Superintendent Captain ever been there to your knowledge?—He had. I don't know the condition of this part ballast-tank internally from my own observation. I don't remember the name of the quartermaster who reported the accident; his name is not recorded in the log. The starboard tank filled shortly after the accident happened—it might have been within three or four minutes. I was forward at the time, and did not see the tanks until the water was already up to the top.

How do you account for the sudden rush of water into the port tank?—That is what none can tell. These was no motion in the ship; no swell on the sea—it was a pure accident. I can give no reason for it whatever. A boulder might have pierced the fractured portion of the plate and thus caused the sudden inrush. The vessel's keel had been resting on the boulders for some days before. I did not think I was to be questioned about the accident; I had nothing whatever to do with it.

Mr. James said that the Court had considered it expedient to put the questions to witness as he was in command of the ship whose stranding was the cause of the Inquiry.

The Court then adjourned till nine o'clock the following morning.

ARIMA CONFERENCE.

The following is the Official Programme of the Arima Conference of 1894, as finally settled by the Board of Managers:—

SUNDAY, 5TH AUGUST.

10. a.m.—Divine Service, with Sermon by the Rev. G. H. Pole, of the Church Missionary Society, Osaka.

7.30 p.m.—Divine Service, with Sermon by the Rev. H. T. Graham, of the U.S.A. Presbyterian Mission (So.), Takamatsu.

MONDAY, 6TH AUGUST.

10—10.45 a.m.—Bible Study, by the Rev. H. D. Page, of the American Episcopal Mission, Osaka.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper and Conference on "Christ our Pattern," to be opened by Mr. C. M. Bradbury Ph.D., of the American Methodist Episcopal Church (So.), Kobe.

TUESDAY, 7TH AUGUST.

10—10.45 a.m.—Paper and Conference on "Missionary Work in the Chekiang Province," to be opened by the Rev. W. N. Hayes of the American Presbyterian Mission (No.), Soochow.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper and Conference on "Woman's Work in the Chekiang Province," to be opened by Mrs. Parker, of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, Soochow.

WEDNESDAY, 8TH AUGUST.

10—10.45 a.m.—Bible Study, by the Rev. B. W. Waters of the American Methodist Episcopal Church (So.), Hiroshima.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper and Conference on "Christ, our Saviour," to be opened by the Rev. J. B. Porter, of the American Presbyterian Mission (No.), Kyoto.

THURSDAY, 9TH AUGUST.

10—10.45 a.m.—Paper and Conference on "The growth of the Christian Church in Japan and the development of its Spiritual Life," by the Rev. A. D. Hail, D.D., of the Cumberland Presbyterian Mission, Osaka.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper and Conference on "Woman's Work in the Evangelisation of Japan," by Miss Adelaide Daughaday, of the American Congregational Board Mission, Tottori.

FRIDAY, 10TH AUGUST.

10—10.45 a.m.—Bible Study, by Mr. Edward Evans, of Shanghai.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper and Conference on "Christ, our Leader," to be opened by the Rev. W. Wynd of the Baptist Missionary Union, Osaka.

SATURDAY, 11TH AUGUST.

10—10.45 a.m.—Bible Study, by Mr. Edward Evans, of Shanghai.

10.45—11.30 a.m.—Paper and Conference on "Christ, our Life," to be opened by the Rev. R. E. McAlpine, of the U.S.A. Presbyterian Mission (So.), Kobe.

SUNDAY, 12TH AUGUST.

10 a.m. Divine Service, with Sermon by the Rev. C. F. Reid, of the American Methodist Episcopal Church (So.), Shanghai.

7.30 p.m. Consecration Service, with Address by the President of the Conference.

NOTE:—1. A Prayer Meeting, lasting half an hour, will be held daily from Monday to Saturday mornings at half-past six o'clock.

NOTE:—2. A Devotional Meeting, lasting one hour, will be held daily from Monday to Saturday evenings at half-past seven o'clock. The subjects and names of conductors of these Meetings will be published at Arima before the opening of the Conference.

G. H. POLE, Hon. Sec. to the Board.

Osaka, 10th May, 1894.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."

London, May 6.

Renewed shocks of earthquake have occurred in Greece, and the utmost panic prevails in Athens, where most of the people are camping out and many are sleeping in boats.

London, May 8.

The Khedive of Egypt will visit Austria, France, and England, starting on his tour in July next.

(SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL.")
[FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, April 28.

The Times urges the annexation by Great Britain of Zanzibar and uniting it with Uganda.

Original from UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
BIBLIOTHEK ARCHIVE

Mr. Asquith has introduced a bill to disestablish and disendow the Church in Wales, to take effect in January, 1896. The bill excludes Welsh Bishops from the House of Lords, and provides annuities for actual incumbents.

April 30.

The bill to create a Grand Committee on Scotch Affairs, introduced by Sir George Trevelyan, has been passed in the House of Commons by a majority of 25.

A prolonged shock of earthquake has occurred in Greece, which has utterly destroyed the town of Thebes.

The Chinese Minister has concluded a *modus vivendi* with regard to the Pamirs, based upon mutual concessions.

United States troops have captured a trainfull of the Montana contingent of unemployed without resistance.

May 1.

Shocks of earthquake continue in Greece, thousands of people are homeless, and the distress and panic are terrible. Three hundred persons were killed in the earthquake at Thebes reported on Friday.

Henry, the bomb-thrower at the Café Terminus, has been sentenced to death.

The unemployed in America continue to seize trains in their endeavour to reach Washington. The Militia have captured one trainload, and the Ohio Cavalry captured another trainload from Oregon.

May 2.

In the *modus vivendi* between Russia and China in regard to the Pamirs, Russia has made large concessions, and has engaged not to push troops into the disputed territory until the final treaty has been concluded.

May 3.

The May Day celebrations on the Continent passed off quietly.

The Times' correspondent says that the Emperor of Austria and the Sultan of Turkey have undertaken to mediate with the Czar with the view of securing the latter's recognition of Prince Ferdinard of Bulgaria.

The Welsh Church Disestablishment and Disendowment Bill has been read a first time in the House of Commons. Mr. Balfour, in his speech, made a most vehement protest against the bill.

The race for the Chester Cup resulted as follows:—

Quæsitum, 4 yrs., 8st.	1
Dare Devil, 6 yrs., 9st.	2
Spindle Leg, 4 yrs., 7st.	3

An International Bimetallic Conference has been opened at the Mansion House. German, French, and Dutch unofficial delegates were present at the meeting, which is of a purely consultative nature. No resolutions were passed, and the Government ignores the Conference. Messrs. Balfour and Courtney maintain that the double standard by means of an international agreement is the only possible expedient.

May 5.

In a debate on foreign affairs in the French House of Representatives, M. Blanc stated that the object of the Triple Alliance was solely defensive and indicated the pacific wishes of European sovereigns to exclude the danger of war. There was nothing to prevent France being friendly with Italy.

The Bimetallic Conference has closed with a resolution that it be decided to do the utmost possible to obtain from candidates at the next election pledges in support of bimetallism.

The Earl of Rosebery, speaking at Manchester, said he was not hopeful of passing the various measures to be submitted to Parliament during the present session, mainly owing to the excessive length of speeches.

(From Tonkin Papers).

Paris, April 17.

It is reported that the Emperor William asked the Czar to convene a Disarmament Congress, but that the Czar refused.

Crispi declared in the Italian Chamber that the Cabinet would resist the reduction of the war budget.

Paris, April 18.

The budget contemplates several reforms, amongst others the suppression of the tax on doors and windows and the replacing of the tax on moveable signs by a tax on rentals and servants.

Paris, April 19.

The Socialist Deputy Toussaint is to be prosecuted for his action in connection with the strike at the Trignac steel works.

Paris, April 19.

The salary of the Archbishop of Lyons has been suspended because he condemned the employers' liability law.

Paris, April 20.

The report of the Thomson Commission appointed to enquire into the alleged thefts of provisions supplied to the Navy negatives robbery but reports to the existence of administrative disorder and a want of surveillance.—

Paris, April 21.

Dahomey being now pacified, General Dodds s returning to France.

Paris, April 22.

The Paris loan was tendered for eighty-five times over.—*Daily Press.*

Paris, April 25.

The opening of the Chamber took place without excitement of any kind.

Paris, April 26.

Fénénon, an official in the War Department, has been arrested on a charge of being an Anarchist.

(From Japanese Papers.)

Osaka, May 8.

Sato, an employé of Hirao Kiheiji, a shipping agent, committed *hara-kiri* early yesterday morning. Rumour says that Hirao and his wife were, two or three days ago, summoned to the Gendarmerie office, where they are still detained in custody. The deceased was to visit the office on the 7th at the request of the authorities, but committed suicide the same morning. It is said that Hirao forged a seal and altered the figures in a document belonging to the Arsenal, and thereby embezzled about *yen* 100,000.

Later.

Hirao Kiheiji and four others have been charged with committing forgery and fraud. The accused were removed to the Local Court to-day.

Fusan, Korea, May 9.

Some three thousand *Togaku-to* adherents have created a disturbance in Zenra-do, and thirty-four local officials have been killed. It is considered likely that the rioters will attack the capital. Eight hundred Chinese soldiers have been despatched to restore order.

Nagasaki, May 10.

Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister to Korea, has arrived here, and is staying at the Geiyo-tei.

Osaka, May 10.

Oka Munenaga, an officer in the Transport Section of the Osaka Arsenal, committed suicide this morning in front of the residence of Hirai Sukeyuki, another officer in the same Section. It is stated that his death is connected with frauds committed by Hirao Kihei.

Söul, Korea, May 10.

The *Togaku-to* partisans of Zenrado and Chuseido, who have been somewhat turbulent since the 6th or 7th inst., finally broke out and killed some thirty or forty officials. It is stated that a company of Chinese soldiers will be despatched to the locality, and the *Oshima Kan* will stay at Jinsen for the protection of Japanese subjects. A rumour is current that the *Togaku-to* will push into the capital, and much anxiety is felt.

Nagasaki, May 11.

Mr. Kim Shi-tetsu, Korean Minister to Japan, arrived here last night. He left for the capital to-day with Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister to Korea.

Nirashima, May 11.

There are signs of an outbreak among the firshermen on Hiuchinada, and affairs are in a very excitable state. The Governor and Superintendent of Police in this Prefecture have proceeded to Ehime on business connected with the trouble.

Kofu, May 11.

The trial of the bribery case laid in the third Election District of this Prefecture took place yesterday. Mr. Kagami Toichiro and nine others, who were charged with the offence, were acquitted.

Söul, Korea, May 11.

The reported dispatch of some seven or eight hundred Chinese soldiers to restore order in Zenra-do and Chinsei-do, where some *Togaku-to* partisans have been behaving in a very disorderly manner, is without foundation in fact. The soldiers sent to the interier were Koreans.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The Yokohama Chess Club is now closed for the season and will re-open on Monday, 1st October.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 120.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to K Kt sq.	1—K × R
2—Q to Q R sq., mate	
	1—P × R
2—Q × Kt, mate	
	1—P × B
2—P to B 4, mate	
	1—R × P
2—R to K 4, mate	
	1—R checks
2—K × R, mate.	

Correct solutions received from Digamma ("Key-move artistic and by no means obvious"), W.H.S., Omega ("a good problem. Several neat and well-nigh successful 'tries' enhance its value"), J.D. ("a bright two-mover"), O.B., and Aling.

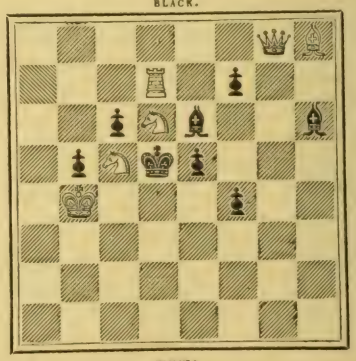
Aling.—You are also credited with correct solution of No. 119. Mason's *Principles of Chess* will shortly be procurable at Kelly and Walsh's, Yokohama.

Problem No. 122.

By O. Balk, Yokohama.

(Dedicated to the Problem Editor of the *Japan Mail*).

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

The steamer *Salatiga* carries away from Yokohama Mr. Oscar Balk, one of our foremost chess-players, and the present Champion of the Yokohama Chess Club. Arriving in Japan about four years ago it was not long before he made himself known as a devotee of Caissa; and in conjunction with Mr. Griffin, he established the Yokohama Chess Club which has just closed its fourth season. He now sets forth on his travels into the Southern hemisphere and the best wishes of his *confrères* go with him. Our loss, and it is no small one, will be the gain of some antipodean community and we envy them their good fortune. Kind, genial, frank, and hearty, a strong player over the board, we shall not easily replace him: he leaves us a small legacy in the shape of the problem printed above, but it required not that to keep his memory green wherever Chess is mentioned in connection with Japan.

We have not heard further results in the Steinitz-Lasker match. After the eighth game the combatants appear to have taken a week's holiday, agreeing to meet again in the Franklin Chess Club, Philadelphia, on the 21st of April to continue the contest. We anxiously await fresh news and meantime give below a transcript of the seventh game:—A Ruy Lopez won by Lasker.

Digitized by INTERNET ARCHIVE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

It is a notable fact that the new defence of Steinitz to this opening (so much vaunted and lauded in some quarters) 3—P to Q 3, has not succeeded in any of the veteran's games in this match against Lasker, the young aspirant for Championship honours.

WHITE. Lasker.	BLACK. Steinitz.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to Q 3
4—P to Q 4	4—B to Q 2
5—Kt to B 3	5—K Kt to K 2
6—B to K 3 (*a*)	6—Kt to Kt 3
7—Q to Q 2	7—B to K 2
8—Castles, Q R	8—P to Q R 3
9—B to K 2	9—P × P
10—Kt × P	10—Kt × Kt
11—Q × Kt	11—B to K B 3
12—Q to Q 2	12—B to B 3
13—Kt to Q 5	13—Castles
14—P to K Kt 4	14—R to K sq.
15—P to Kt 5 (*b*)	15—B × Kt
16—Q × B (*c*)	16—R to K 4
17—Q to Q 2	17—B × P
18—P to K B 4 (*d*)	18—R × K P
19—P × B	19—Q to K 2 !
20—Q R to B sq.	20—R × B
21—B to B 4	21—Kt to R sq.
22—P to K R 4	22—P to B 3
23—P to Kt 6	23—P to Q 4 (*f*)
24—P × R P ch.	24—K × P
25—B to Q 3 ch.	25—K to Kt sq.
26—P to R 5	26—R to K sq.
27—P to R 6	27—P to K Kt 3
28—P to R 7 ch.	28—K to Kt 2
29—K to Kt sq.	29—Q to K 4
30—P to R 3	30—P to Q B 4
31—Q to B 2 !	31—P to B 5
32—Q to R 4 (*g*)	32—P to B 3
33—B to B 5 !	33—K to B 2
34—K R to Kt sq.	34—P × B (*h*)
35—Q to R 5 ch.	35—K to K 2
36—R to Kt 8	36—K to Q 3
37—R × K B P	37—Q to K 3
38—R × R	38—Q × R
39—R × B P ch.	39—K to B 4 (*i*)
40—Q to R 6	40—R to K 2
41—Q to R 2 !	41—Q to Q 2 (*j*)
42—Q to Kt sq. ch.	42—P to Q 5
43—Q to Kt 5 ch.	43—Q to Q 4
44—R to B 5	44—Q × R
45—Q × Q ch.	45—K to Q 3
46—Q to B 6 ch.	46—Resigns.

NOTES BY W. STEINITZ.

(*a*) A novel line of play for the attack.
(*b*) This advance is premature. He evidently overlooked Black's coming scheme. P-KB3 was better.
(*c*) This is bad and should have lost. PxB was the proper move.
(*d*) This results in the loss of a second pawn, but is White's best chance of attack.
(*e*) A king side attack was here his only chance, and White now plays a rather ingenious one.
(*f*) A little consideration ought to have shown Black that he could safely capture P with P, followed by P to K Kt 4 upon the advance of White's R P to the fifth.
(*g*) At first glance it would seem that White could win by B takes Kt P. But this does not realize if Black simply plays 32—P x B; 33—Q to R 4, Kt to B 2; 34—P to Q sq. ch., R x Q; 35—R x Kt ch., K x R, etc.
(*h*) P to K Kt 4 was probably better.
(*i*) Now K to B 2 was much better.
(*j*) Disastrous. Black was, however, under pressure of time-limit hereabouts. He should have played R to K 3.

Lasker has the following to say about the game:

The game proceeded on novel lines from the fifth move, when, in order to get more advantage out of the position, I changed my line of attack completely. The fundamental difference of the two treatments consisted in the early castling on the queen's side, and playing for an attack on the king's side. It seems, however, that I overreached my attack when playing P to K Kt 4. A quiet move like P to K B 3 first would have greatly solidified my position.

Steinitz, by a finely laid trap, gained two pawns, and, although I could have won one of them back by 20—B to B 3, I preferred to go on with my attack. Apparently Black underrated the game, otherwise he would have played 21—R to K B sq. Perhaps my twenty-third move was unexpected to him. When I sacrificed a third pawn he did not see his way clear to accept this offer, because I would have forced an open king's rook's file.

On Steinitz' thirty-second turn I expected K to B sq., whereupon again B to B 5 would have left me with good chances for a draw, as the bishop could not well be taken on account of K R to Kt sq. My opponent preferred to play P to K B 3 instead, which was a trifle risky. In consequence I held a very strong position, which should have been a warning for Black not to attempt to force the win. In the end Black's winning chances were almost annihilated, if, indeed, White had not the best of the bargain. However, Steinitz still playing for a win, committed a great blunder on the forty-first move, lost the queen and knight or rook and resigned shortly afterward.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, May 18th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 15th.*
From Hongkong	per N. P. Co.	Thursday, May 17th.†
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, May 25th.‡
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, May 17th.§
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, May 16th ‖
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 20th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, May 25th.
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, May 28th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, May 31st.

* *Peru* left San Francisco on April 28th. † *Tacoma* (with English mail) left Hongkong on May 8th. ‡ *Oceanic* left San Francisco on May 8th. § *City of Sydney* left Hongkong on May 9th. ‖ *Nurnberg* left Hongkong on May 11th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 13th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, May 15th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, May 18th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Friday, May 18th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, May 19th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, May 19th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, May 29th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, June 1st.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, June 2nd.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 5th May,—Otaru viâ ports 2nd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bygdo, Norwegian steamer, 771, Ch. Brekke, 6th May,—Hongkong, Sugar and Rice.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Maple Branch, British steamer, 1,935, Hutchison, 6th May,—New York viâ ports, General.—Frazar & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 7th May,—Vancouver, B.C., 23rd April, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, Wm. H. Walker, 7th May,—San Francisco 19th April, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Salatiga, German steamer, 1,639, Christiansen, 7th May,—Hamburg, viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Henriette, German ship, 1,705, Seemann, 8th May,—New York 23rd December, Petroleum.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Palamed, British steamer, 1,482, C. Jackson, 8th May,—Liverpool viâ Shanghai, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Omega, German steamer, 1,043, A. Bendisien, 8th May,—Takao 2nd May, 23,500 cases Sugar.—Flint, Kilby & Co.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,035, C. Anderson, 9th May,—Hakodate 7th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 9th May,—Hongkong 2nd, Nagasaki 6th, and Kobe 8th May, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 10th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, 3rd May, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 10th May,—Otaru viâ ports 6th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 10th May,—Kobe 9th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Melbourne, French steamer, 4,038, H. Vimont, 11th May,—Marseilles 1st April, Hongkong 2nd May, Shanghai 5th, and Kobe 9th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 11th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, 3rd May, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, Farquhar, 11th May,—London viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Bonanza, American schooner, 97, Aleck McLean, 11th May,—North Pacific, 1,085 Seals.—Captain.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 1,910, Long, 12th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Natal, French steamer, 4,738, H. Verron, 5th May,—Shanghai via Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Normandie, Norwegian steamer, 956, E. A. Bery, 5th May,—Kobe, Ballast.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 6th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompson, 6th May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Redpole (6), gunboat, Captain C. G. May, 7th May,—Hakodate.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 7th May,—Hongkong, viâ ports, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, Wm. H. Walker, 9th May,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Maple Branch, British steamer, 1,935, Hutchinson, 9th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, Ballast.—Frazar & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 9th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenfruin, British steamer, 1,918, E. Norman, 10th May,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Petrel (4), U.S. gunboat, Lieutenant-Commander Book, 10th May,—Behring Sea.

Edward E. Webster, American schooner, 98, Daniel McLean, 11th May,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—H. Ahrens & Co.

Omega, German steamer, 1,043, A. Bendisien, 11th May,—Kobe, Sugar.—Flint, Kilby & Co.

Caroline (14), cruiser, Captain C. J. Norcock, 11th May,—Behring Sea.

Bygdo, Norwegian steamer, 771, Ch. Brekke, 11th May,—Kobe, Ballast.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, Marshall, R.N.R., 11th May,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,035, C. Anderson, 11th May,—Bombay viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Palamed, British steamer, 1,482, Robinson, 11th May,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. Harnan in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. R. A. Bole, Mr. R. H. Bruce, Mr. H. J. C. Chambers, Rev. J. Caron, Mrs. Ramsay Dinnis, Miss E. E. Ely, Mr. D. L. Dortch, Mr. T. G. Gowland, Mr. W. Graham, Mr. Harvey Hadden, Dr. and Mrs. Hartigan and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hosie and child, Mr. H. J. Hunt, Mr. H. R. Hunt, Rev. J. G. and Mrs. Kerr, Mr. H. T. Terry, Mr. C. Watanabe, Mr. Hans Zeigler, and Mr. Kawashima in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from San Francisco:—Mr. W. J. Schroth, Mr. A. M. Easton, Mrs. A. M. Easton, Mr. A. J. McGlew, Mrs. J. S. Happer, Mrs. Jennie Orchard and 2 children, Mrs. T. W. Badger, and Mr. T. B. Cunningham in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. W. Melcher, Mrs. M. Sloan, and Master W. A. Sloan in cabin.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Coleman, Lieut. Lambert, Mrs. Ah Ling, Mr. A. Y. Woolley, and Captain Newell in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Miss Parkes, Mr. and Mrs. Ede, Mr. G. M. Gray, Rev. J. J. Rousseille, Major Bennet, Mr. G. L. Heastry, Mr. W. Ritchie, Mr. T. O. Jones, Mrs. and Miss Munson, Mr. Mannock, Commander Barre, Dr. Duville, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Swann and family, Miss Thwing, Mrs. Drew and infant, the Misses Elsa, Lucy, and Kathleen Drew, Mrs. Wilson and child, Mrs. Burton, nurse, and 2 children, Mrs. Goddard and child, Mrs. Dalrymple, Mrs. Burnie and 3 children, Miss Plummer, Mrs. Keswick, family, and 2 maids, Mr. J. Rankin, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Freese and child, Mr. J. Orkney, Mr. and Mrs. Himen, Mr. and Mrs. Baret, Mr. and Mrs. Fox, Miss Lacey, Mr. and Mrs. Greystone and valet, Mrs. Alford, 2 children, and nurse, Mr. D. E. Brown, Colonel Greene, Miss Hodgson, Mrs. Jellison and family, Mrs. and Miss Coutts, Mr., Mrs., and Miss de Bernieres, Mr. Nils Möller, Dr. Cox, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Leaman, the Misses Leaman (2), Mrs. Milne, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Gard'ner, family, and nurse, Mr. Benohr, Mr. R. H. Percival, Mr. A. G. Rowan, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. H. Burgoyne, Mr. L. A. Lyall, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Liddell and family, Mr. F. Lemke, Mr. C. Wolter, Mr. A. C. Schomberg, Mrs. Evans and 2 children, Dr. and Mrs. Maclusky, Mr. E. J. Foree, Mr. C. Porter, Dr. MacCaulay, Dr. Moore-Graham, Mr. Matsuka, Master Paul Atwood, Dr. and Mrs. Clapp, Mr. and Mrs. Cadby, and Mr. J. P. Stutchbury in cabin; 3 passengers in second class, and 247 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Captain Tsuda in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 20 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Kobe:—19 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, from Marseilles

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viâ ports :—Messrs. Père Mathon, Machida, Oscar Follak, Kawamura, Lees, A. V. C. Bruyn, Prince d'Owemberg, Mr. Mauduit, Mr. and Mrs. Yahashi, Mr. Georges, Mr. A. and Miss J. Aviles, Messrs. H. Freverick, E. Montiggia, Weindray, Desbordes, the London Lyric Co. troupe 21, Mr. F. Gillard, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Bougouin, Mr. Berard, and Mr. Tallers in cabin; and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from Hongkong viâ ports :—Mr. E. A. Harrison, Mr. F. E. Griffith, Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Walker, Mrs. C. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. McEwen, Mrs. Taibert, Miss Taibert, Mrs. C. B. Schensky, Miss Hogg, Miss C. G. Hogg, and Mrs. L. Von Bonsdorff in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Natal*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe :—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Simon, Messrs. Bougouin, Shelchburg, P. A. Nicolle, A. H. Janni, Pineyro Y. Villavarencia, Charles Eymard, Claude Eymard, B. Arge, and John Millwood in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for Hongkong :—Mr. W. Melcher, Mrs. M. Sloan and son, and Mr. J. H. Firth in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, for Kobe :—Mrs. Orchard and 2 children, Mrs. and Master Holmes, Mrs. D. K. Wright and child, Mrs. Flint, Mr. J. Leslie, Mr. W. F. Gotch, Mr. T. B. Cunningham, Mr. C. Tamari, Captain C. Olsen, Mr. T. Tanaka, and Mr. J. Schroth in cabin; Messrs. T. Hansen, R. Kau, Inaguchi, R. Stainton, and R. Komatsugawa in second class, and 50 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C. :—Mr. and Mrs. Ashmore, Master Atwood, Mr. G. C. Austin, Hon. A. H. Baring, Miss M. Barkley, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett, Major Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Bland, Mr. J. B. Bland, Mr. Brower, Mrs. Brower, Mr. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Cadby and child, Mr. and Mrs. Carment and child, Miss Carment, Miss Carrick, Dr. and Mrs. Clappe, Mr. E. J. Colthurst, Mrs. Coutts, Miss Coutts, Dr. Dalton, Mr. Pierre de Bagneux, Mr. and Mrs. de Berniers, Mr. A. M. de Berniers, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Dick and child, Mrs. Drew and children, Mr. and Mrs. Drysdale, Mr. Dumelin, Earl Dunmore, Mr. and Mrs. Ede, Mrs. Evans and 2 children, Mr. J. F. Favernay, Mr. Garland, Mr. Grey, Mr. W. M. Hallgarton, Miss Hargrave, Mr. Hargraves, Rev. C. K. Harrington, Miss L. Hart, Mr. Harada, Mr. Helm, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. T. Hewetson, Miss Amelia Hill, Miss Louisa Hill, Mr. and Miss Holland, Mrs. W. E. Hoy and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Hulton, Mr. Hugh Inglis, Sir Wm. Jardine, Mrs. Jellison and children, Mrs. Kellar, Dr. J. J. Kirkbride, Mr. G. G. Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Layard and child, Lieut. Leake, R.N., Rev. and Mrs. Leaman and child, Miss Leaman, Mr. Lemke, Mr. and Mrs. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Liddell and children, Miss Lister, Mr. Lister, Mr. P. M. Lortet, Mr. Lyall, Mrs. Lye, Mr. Matsuki, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. McCulsky, Captain McMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McQuade, Mrs. Milne, Captain Nils Möller, Mr. Mollison, Mrs. Munson and child, Mr. John Myers, Miss A. Naess, Miss Parkes, Mr. John Payne, Mr. Percival, Mr. Pierce, Mr. W. Rentsche, Mr. Ripley, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Joseph Rock, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Rogers, Rev. J. J. Roussielle, Mr. Rowland, Colonel W. D. Samuells, Miss Scholfield, Miss G. Scholfield, Mr. Schomberg, Lord Henry Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Scoulaudi, Mr. Stutchbury, Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Swan and children, Mr. and Mrs. Swift and child, Mr. Wm. Tebb, Miss Tebb, Miss Thwing, Miss Thomson, Miss Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Gard'ner and children, Mr. A. W. Whitley, Mr. C. W. Whish, Mr. Wilkinson, and Mr. Wolter in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Natal*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe :—Raw Silk for France, 69 bales; Waste Silk for France, 49 bales.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, for Kobe :—Treasure, $174,200.00.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C. :—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	—	—	—	60	—	60
Foochow	200	—	—	—	—	200
Hyogo	239	862	495	—	—	1,596
Yokohama	1,436	3,454	4,638	140	—	7,668
Total	1,875	4,316	5,133	200	—	11,524

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	10	—	10
Shanghai	177	—	177
Yokohama	146	—	146
Total	333	—	333

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from Hongkong viâ ports :—Rice, 1,752 bags; Sugar, 482 bags; Merchandise, 62 packages; total, 2,296.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Belgic*, Captain Walker, reports :—Left San Francisco the 19th April; had strong westerly winds and sea throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama the 7th May at 1.20 p.m. Time, 16 days, 3 hours, 57 minutes.

The French steamer *Melbourne*, Captain H. Vimont, reports :—Left Marseilles on the 1st April at 5 p.m.; passed Messina on the 3rd at 2 p.m.; thence to Candia stormy and rainy weather, heavy sea with strong East wind; called at Alexandria on the 6th and the same day at Port Said; entered the Suez Canal on the 7th at 2 a.m., left Suez the same day at 8 p.m., experienced fine weather with very smooth sea all through the Red Sea; left Aden on the 12th at 11 a.m. fine weather, smooth water; on the 14th supplied with water Arabian boat which had left Bombay three weeks before and was going to Aden. Arrived in Colombo on the 12th, and in Singapore on the 24th. Left Saigon on the 28th at 2 p.m.; experienced fine weather and N.E. swell as far as Parcels Reefs; thence overcast and rainy weather, fresh N.E. breeze freshening in approaching Hongkong, heavy sea; passed Gap Rock on the 1st May at 8 a.m. and moored in Hongkong at 10.45 a.m. Left Hongkong on the 2nd May at 5 a.m., hazy and rainy weather, fresh N.E. breeze, moderate sea; passed Lammocks at 8.30 p.m.; thence hazy weather calm; passed Turnabout at 11 a.m. on the 3rd May; thence N.E. swell with variable breezes, hazy weather; passed Steep Island at 11 a.m. on the 4th, and anchored in Woosung at 7.30 p.m.; left Woosung on the 5th inst. at 10.15 p.m.; passed Gutzlaff on the 5th at 2.15 a.m.; thence to Goto Islands foggy and rainy weather, light East breeze; thence fresh N.E. breeze, moderate sea; passed Shimonoseki on the 7th at 4.30 p.m.; thence to Kobe overcast and hazy weather. Came alongside the piers on the 8th at 10.45 a.m. Left Kobe on the 9th at 4 p.m., calm and fine weather; passed Ooshima at 11.45 p.m.; thence till 4 a.m. on the 10th calm and rainy weather; thence strong north-easterly wind, heavy sea; passed Rock Island at 2.15 p.m. Moored in Yokohama at 7.30 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Market generally unchanged. Nothing much doing in "spot" bargains, although a few parcels Turkey Reds, White Shirtings, and Italian Cloth change hands now and then. Grey Yarns, Grey Shirtings, and Woollens generally are all about at a standstill. Quotations unchanged, but looking weak.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 3.00
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.40
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.40 to 2.85
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb., per lb	0.45 to 0.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	41.00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	43.00 to 44.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Market very quiet. Dealers hold off: and although quotations are unchanged the tone is feeble.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.50
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.70

KEROSENE.

Market very quiet with prices weaker. The *Henriette* has just arrived from New York with 65,000 cases *Chester*. We leave all quotations unchanged, but they cannot be called strong.

Chester	$1.70 to 1.72½
Comet	1.67½ to 1.70
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.65 to 1.67½
Russian Moon	1.60 to 1.62½

SUGAR.

More doing, and in Browns prices are stronger with a slight rise in some kinds. White Refined —Market firm, with no change in quotations.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.50 to 4.60
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.30
Brown Daitong	3.30 to 3.40
Brown Canton	4.10 to 4.40
White Java and Penang	7.10 to 7.20
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 4th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 231 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 157 piculs; *Re-reels*, 49 piculs; *Kakeda*, 25 piculs. Direct shipments have been 7 bales, making the total business of the week equal to 240 piculs.

Some business for the United States has continued, prices gradually declining with each purchase made. Holders are offering their stock freely, but without finding many takers and the prospect is that prices will go still lower.

Stock remains in the neighbourhood of 7,000 piculs, daily arrivals being quite equal to the sales.

New Crop.—Advices from all producing countries both in Europe and Asia appear to be good so far and consumers have made up their minds to only buy from hand to mouth until the outcome of the new crop is ascertained. Here the weather is cool, unusually so, but without being sufficiently cold to damage the crop, and if nothing worse happens to us, we shall have a crop larger than that of the present season.

There has only been one shipping opportunity, the French mail S.S. *Natal*, which left port on the 5th instant, taking 69 bales for Europe. The present export figures are 41,787 piculs against 46,566 piculs last year and 47,797 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Filatures.—A few purchases from day to day, chiefly for the United States trade, prices declining. The latest sales give *Kaimeisha* $760; *Inasha*, $760; *Yajima*, $750; *Rujokan*, $740; *Koshu Yajima* is also said to have been done at $750. Some ordinary Filatures, mixed brands, are reported at $700, with common *Tottori* at $660. Nothing done for Europe and prices are more or less nominal, although dealers offer to sell cheap.

Re-reels.—There has not much been done in these. The last sale noted was *Tortoise* chop, $710, with common *Rikuchu* at $650.

Kakeda.—These have been bought in small parcels, prices being on the downward grade. *Horsehead*, $660, with *Flower Girl* at about the same price.

In other sorts, nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom. $740 to 750
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	Nom. 760 to 770
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	710 to 720
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	740 to 750
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	690 to 700
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	700 to 710
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	680 to 690
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom. —
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	720 to 730
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	700 to 710
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	670 to 680
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	650 to 660

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Re-reels—No. 3, 11/20 deniers	630 to 640
Kakedas—Extra	710 to 720
Kakedas—No. 1	690 to 700
Kakedas—No. 1½	650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 2	630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 2½	610 to 620
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 11th May, 1894.

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	22,934	18,619	17,909
America	17,536	27,153	28,834
Total { Bales	40,470	45,772	46,743
Total { Piculs	41,787	46,566	47,797
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 42,050	Piculs. 46,600	Piculs. 47,650
Stock, 11th May	6,950	1000	3,300
Available supplies to date	49,000	47,600	50,950

WASTE SILK.

A small business and dull market, settlements being 115 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 57 piculs; *Kibiso*, 58 piculs. No direct shipments.

The market seems to have fallen upon dull times indeed and the small business done has been at lower prices. Buyers look for a further reduction before they operate to any large extent, and from all appearances dealers will have to give way, the stock being large and cumbersome.

There have been two shipping opportunities, the French mail steamer *Natal* taking 67 bales and the Canal steamer *Glenearn* 74 bales, all for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 26,558 piculs, against 40,396 piculs last year and 30,663 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—Nothing done beyond a few purchases in *Joshu* at $62 and $64 per picul.

Kibiso.—Small purchases of *Filature* at about $100, with ordinary *Yechigo* at $43.

In other sorts, nothing whatever doing.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	115 to 120
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	125 to 135
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	70 to 75
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	60 to 65
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	100 to 110
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	90 to 95
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 75
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	160 to 170

Export Table Waste Silk to 11th May, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	23,327	37,704	28,564
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	26,558	40,396	30,663
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 27,900	Piculs. 45,620	Piculs. 33,400
Stock, 11th May	15,600	2,200	5,500
Available supplies to date	43,500	47,820	38,900

Exchange has weakened slightly during the week, present rates being as under:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1¾; Documents, 2/1⅞; 6m/s. Credits, 2/2. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $52; 4m/s. U.S. $53. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.71; 6m/s. fcs. 2.72½.

Estimated Silk Stock, 11th May, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	—	Cocoons	140
Filatures	3,550	Noshi-ito	8,030
Re-reels	2,875	Kibiso	7,000
Kakeda	525	Mawata	120
Oshu	—	Sundries	310
Tavsaam Kinds	—		
Total piculs	6,950	Total piculs	15,600

TEA.

Large business doing, and settlements to date are about double what they were last year. Buyers have rushed each other a bit, paying long prices for the new leaf, which shows no improvement over last year's quality. The season is early and Medium grades already in the field.

QUOTATIONS (NEW LEAF).

	Per Picul.
Choicest	$38 to 40
Choice	35 to 36
Finest	33 to 34
Fine	30 to 31
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has weakened to a small extent during the week, but rates are fairly firm at the close.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/1
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/1⅛
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1⅜
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.63
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	2.70
On Hongkong—Bank sight	¼ % dis.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1¼ % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73½
On India—Bank sight	193
On India—Private 30 days' sight	196
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50¾
On America—Private 30 days' sight	52
On America—Private 4 months' sight	52⅝
On Germany—Bank sight	2.11
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.19
Bar Silver (London)	28⅝

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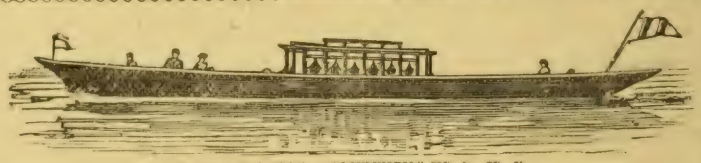


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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 19TH, 1894.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE members of the Lower House will be admitted to the Imperial Palace on the 20th inst.

CAPTAIN SHIELDS of the sealer *May Belle*, has arrived at Hakodate, having been picked up by another vessel.

MR. KUSUMOTO MASATAKA has been chosen President of the Lower House, with Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi, as Vice-President.

MR. HIRANUMA SENZO, the Yokohama millionaire, has lost his appeal in the High Court; he will now take it to the Supreme Court.

THE two Hogan Temples in Kyoto are to be insured. The amount of the policy is estimated to exceed *yen* 5,000,000 for each temple.

THE Presidentship of the Yokohama Doshin Kaisha, vacant through the death of Mr. Kito Teijiro, has been accepted by Mr. Watanabe Koki.

JAPANESE post-cards hitherto solely used for domestic service within the Empire, may now be sent abroad if the necessary extra postage-stamps are attached.

THE real business of the Diet commenced on Wednesday, when the Committees were chosen and the Section arranged. Count Ito delivered a speech during which he was frequently interrupted, and much disorder prevailed. On Thursday the allied Opposition's Address to the Throne was rejected, after a tumultuous debate, by a majority of five.

SIXTY-NINE persons were attacked by small-pox in Yamanashi Prefecture during the week ended the 12th inst., of whom twenty-two died.

MESSRS. ONODA UTAJI, Matsuoka Tsunekichi, and Yokota Sennosuke, advocates in the Tokyo Bar, will defend Li Ii-shoku in the Korean attempted murder case.

AN enquiry has been held in Tokyo into the circumstances surrounding the stranding of the N.Y.K. steamer *Wakanoura Maru* on Saratoga Spit on the 5th of March last.

THE consumption of Japanese coal is steadily increasing in Bombay, where it can be delivered at 14 rupees, as against 20 rupees, the cost and freight price of Cardiff coal.

A WRECK has been discovered, buried in the sand, at Matsumra, Naka District, Ibaraki Prefecture, with the body of a foreigner in an advanced stage of decomposition on board.

THE Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club took place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Despite the paucity of entries the sport provided was fairly good. Miss Wheeler presented the Ladies Purse.

JAMES OLDFIELD, an English sailor, on being removed under remand from the British Court on Wednesday, smashed several panes of glass in the Shipping Office of the Consulate ere proceeding to the cells.

A PLAGUE known as "Black Death" has broken out in Canton and spread to Hongkong. Strict quarantine regulations will be put into force by the Government to prevent the fatal disease from entering Japan.

THE British ship *Queen Victoria*, while coming up the Bay on Tuesday, ran aground at Futtsu Spit, but floated off at high tide. On Wednesday the *Argomene*, also a British sailing vessel, ran ashore at Iida, Suruga Bay.

THE London Lyric Company has been playing to good houses at the Public Hall this week. They have given "Jane," "The Private Secretary," "Liberty Hall," "Charley's Aunt," "The Guardsman," and "Nerves."

A NOTIFICATION has been issued by the Minister of Communications to the effect that Western Australia has been added to the list of countries grouped in accordance with the International Telegraph Agreement.

A GENERAL meeting of the Barristers' Association of Yokohama was held on the 12th instant, at which Messrs. Yano Sukeyoshi and Yamashita Yasuyoshi were elected President and Vice-President respectively.

THE fortifications at Kanonzaki, Futtsu, and Sasushima are nearly completed, and it is stated that H.I.M. the Emperor will inspect them at no distant date. Experimental firing with big guns will take place on the occasion.

ZAI-GEN, father of the Korean murderer, Hong, lately arrived at Söul to meet his son. It is said that Zai-Gen has been appointed a Headman in Taikin-fu in recognition of the meritorius services of his son in assassinating Kim-Ok-kyün.

THE following is a comparison of the out-turn of sugar in Japan, for five years ended 1892, with imported sugar:—1892: Home sugar, 8,108,519 *kin*; foreign sugar, 189,991,481 *kin* (*yen* 9,519,614 in value); ratio between home production and imported sugar, 4.5 to 95.5; 1891: home sugar, 9,699,644 *kin*; foreign sugar, 1,611,603,584 *kin* (*yen* 7,735,742); ratio, 5.8 to 94.2; 1890: home sugar, 11,777,356 *kin*; foreign sugar, 165,955,614 *kin* (*yen* 8,384,858); ratio, 6.6 to 93.4; 1889: home sugar, 8,267,094 *kin*; foreign sugar, 120,722,172 *kin* (*yen* 6,205,217); ratio, 6.4 to 93.6; 1888: home sugar, 6,817,406 *kin*; foreign sugar, 145,425,595 *kin* (*yen* 6,853,384); ratio, 4.5 to 95.5. Sugar is mostly produced in Kagawa, Tokushima, Ehime, Hiroshima, Kochi, Miyazaki, and Kagoshima, while Osaka and Wakayama rank next in quantity.

BOMB explosions continue in Paris, the last occurring in the Rue Kleber; no life was lost. The Anarchists, Ferrara and Polti, who were arrested in London, have been sentenced to twenty and ten years' penal servitude respectively. An explosion has taken place in the Royal Cordite Factory at Waltham. Many people were killed and injured, and much damage was done. Roberts, the champion billiard player, has made a break of 1,332, spot-barred. Lord Salisbury is willing to submit to the will of the nation in matters of internal politics. The Registration Bill has been read a second time in the House of Commons. Sir E. Grey has stated that Major Owen reached Wadelai (Central Africa, north of the Albert Nyanza) on the 4th February, and hoisted the British flag. But he acted without instructions from the Government. Ladas, Lord Rosebery's colt, has won the Two Thousand Guineas. Italy intends maintaining her colony at Massowah and the protectorate over Abyssinia. Signor Crispi thinks that if Italy were to disarm she would have to pay the costs of the conqueror in the event of a European war. The Dutch Royal Commission have reported in favour of a scheme for reclaiming half a million acres of land from the Zuyder Zee. The work will cost thirty millions sterling. The editors of five Berlin newspapers have been imprisoned for periods varying from two to five months, and others have been heavily fined, for accusing the police of exceeding their duty in dispersing a meeting of unemployed.

THERE is very little to say about the Import trade and no improvement to report. There have been a few sales of Yarn (doubles), and small parcels of Silk Satins, summer Flannel, and certain Fancy Cottons have been taken, but the business has been almost retail in extent. As usual, during race week, there has been a general falling off of transactions, but the trade of the last few days since people returned to business has been of the most meagre description. The Metal market is unchanged, and dullness reigns supreme. Prices are without change for Kerosene, with no fresh business to report. Notwithstanding rumours of a short crop of Sugar in Formosa, prices have not gone up, and there seems to be a fairly large stock here of all descriptions. There has been a little more doing in Silk, but not enough to make any great impression on the large stock, which holders are beginning to see the necessity of reducing, and prices in consequence have been a little easier. Crop prospects are excellent. A little more also has been done in Waste, but the stock still remains at 15,000 piculs odd. Heavy settlements have been made in Tea, and prices have declined a dollar for most grades as supplies are coming in plentifully, and the firing godowns have been in full swing, a lot of cargo having been got ready during the past week. Exchange has again declined.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The political horizon, of late overcast with dark and threatening clouds, has cleared up for the present at least. In spite of all that the allied parties could do for the passage of the Address to the Throne declaring want of confidence in the Government, it was rejected by the House of Representatives on Thursday last. There remains another Address proposed by the Radical party; but its fate is sealed. It will be opposed by the allied parties on the ground that is not strong enough, and by the majority of the Independents for the same reason that induced them to reject the other Address. Thus it will probably be thrown out by a larger majority than its predecessor. The Radical motion for a resolution about the dissolution of the late House of Representatives may pass, though there is a strong probability against it. But it is a measure comparatively of secondary importance, and even though passed by a large majority it would be incapable of affecting the Government's position. There remains the question of the employment of the surplus; it may, under certain circumstances, bring about a collision between the Cabinet and the House of Representatives. But a collision on such a point is not likely to lead to serious consequences. So far as we can now look ahead, there is good reason to hope that the present session will end, on the whole, satisfactorily.

* * *

The papers have not yet discussed the issue of Thursday's debate upon the Address to the Throne. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves in the present summary to articles in which that Address is reviewed by the metropolitan papers. A glance over such articles brings into prominence two salient facts, first, that the Address was regarded by the Opposition papers as the ground on which the issue of the parliamentary war in the present session was to be decided; and secondly, that, while apparently holding bold language about the result of the impending fight, these papers scarcely succeed in concealing their anxiety and uncertainty. They call the discussions on the Address "Sekigahara"—a battle which decided the struggle between the Houses of Toyotomi and Tokugawa—thus intimating that it is the decisive struggle between the Cabinet and the Opposition. They urge all persons who love their country and their liberty to support the Address. On the other hand, they declare that the infamy of surrender to the Government will attach to the name of every man weak enough to oppose the Address. None of these journals, however, is bold enough to predict victory for its side.

* * *

The position of the Radical Party is singular. On the one hand, it is opposed to the allied Six Parties; on the other, it is not disposed to cōoperate with the Government. However, as it is positively opposed to the supposed anti-foreign and narrow-minded policy of the Six Sections, the effect of its actions will be to render direct help to the Government on the most important of all the questions demanding attention in the present session. Writing about the Address proposed by the allied factions, the *Jiyu Shimbun* severely criticises that document as being false in its statement of facts and erroneous in its expression of opinion. There being no doubt that the Representation on Strict Treaty Enforcement was the true cause of the dissolution of the late House of Representatives, the plainest course for the allied parties would have been, in the Radical organ's opinion, to re-introduce the same Representation and decide the issue between themselves and the Government on that question. But instead of followtng such a plain and intelligible route, they propose to throw that most vital question into the background, and to measure their strength over an Address couched in language ambiguous in meaning and disrespectful to the Emperor. They charge the Ministers with deceiving the Emperor and the people, but it is they, says the *Jiyu*, who are really open to that serious accusation. In the Radical organ's opinion, these parties are playing into the hands of the Cabinet, for the blind course they are now pursuing will give the latter a plausible ground for another dissolution.

* * *

Concerning the Address to the Throne proposed by the Radical Party, the organs of the allied Sections denounce it as being weak and ineffectual. They are united in regarding it as a mere device to conceal the Radical Party's secret connection with the Government. The Radical organ boasts of the sobriety and respectful tone of the Address proposed by its Party, and states that the introduction of such an Address is a legitimate consequence of the Cabinet's inability to redeem its pledges as to Administrative Reform and of its negligence in the prosecution of the task of Treaty Revision.

* * *

The question of Strict Enforcement still continues to attract some journalistic attention. The advocacy of this discredited doctrine is now confined almost entirely to papers representing the Conservatives, such, for example, as the *Nippon* and the *Chu-o Shimbun*. The *Nippon* seems to think that the present House of Representatives is morally bound to introduce the Representation that caused the last dissolution. Our contemporary still insists that the majority of the nation, without distinction of party or faction, are in favour of the doctrine of Strict Enforcement. With the carrying out of that doctrine are bound up, in the *Nippon's* opinion, the honour and reputation of the country. For the rest, our contemporary simply reports the arguments and declamations so often reproduced in these columns from vernacular papers.

* * *

The *Chu-o Shimbun* writes a panegyric upon Count Okuma as the first and only Minister of Foreign Affairs who carried out the principle of Strict Treaty Enforcement. As to the programme he followed in the matter of Treaty Revision some years ago, the National Unionist organ professes to have been anything but favourable to it. But since his retirement from office, he is said to have extensively associated with far-sighted men of the Opposition, and, as a result, to have come to entertain most healthy views on the subject of foreign policy. In this respect, says the *Chu-o*, "he is far superior to men like Count Ito and Mr. Mutsu." Our contemporary mentions some examples of the manner in which Count Okuma enforced the treaties; how he restrained foreigners from abusing the privilege of travel in the interior, how he forbade foreigners to address lecture meetings outside the Settlements; how he rejected the application of a certain foreign Ministers who sought to have a Japanese subject punished for violating a foreign patent; how he caused the removal of a pier at Kobe, and so forth. Had he been allowed full scope in the management of the country's foreign policy, the *Chu-ō* thinks that he would have easily succeeded in concluding equal treaties with foreign Powers.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun*, writing on the subject of Public Opinion, calls into question the claim advanced by the allied parties that the movement for the so-called "strong foreign policy" has the support of the majority of the nation. If that which makes the greatest noise always represented the public opinion of the country, the above mentioned claim of the allied parties might have some foundation. But men that talk loudest do not necessarily express the sentiments of the majority. Very often the reverse proves to be the case. The Radical organ illustrates its point by reference to the time when Count Okuma's programme of Treaty Revision gave rise to a popular excitement. At that era the papers of the Progressionist party at first boasted with apparent justification that the majority of the newspapers published in Japan were in favour of Count Okuma's scheme. They also pointed to various meetings and demonstrations held by his sympathizers. Thus they fairly succeeded in organizing a noisy agitation in favour of the proposed new treaties. But they failed to perceive that all the while there was a strong undercurrent of opposition against Count Okuma's programme, waiting for an opportunity to burst with irresistible force. The Progressionist leader had finally to succumb to the long repressed explosion. The same thing is now taking place. The Progressionists, assisted by their allies, have succeeded in getting up an agitation on the subject of foreign policy. At first the agitation seemed to be pretty general, but its originators have been incapable of perceiving that it is contrary to the real sentiments of the people, and that their efforts are doomed to a complete failure.

* * *

There has been from the beginning a strong tendency among the metropolitan papers to express dissatisfaction with the shortness of the session. Writing on this subject, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that there is no necessity to become excited over this matter, for the Cabinet will not hesitate to advise the Emperor to prolong the session if the Houses of the Diet be really inclined to attend soberly to the discharge of their legislative functions. That complaints are made by the Opposition papers against the shortness of the Session is considered by our contemporary a good sign, because it proves that the parties of the Opposition are disposed to attend to the real business of legislation. Should the Cabinet refuse to advise the prolongation of the session even in case the majority in the House shall have proved themselves really disposed to attend to their regular work, then it will be time enough to hold the Cabinet responsible for preventing the despatch of business.

* * *

Count Ito's speech in the House of Representatives on Wednesday has elicited very unfavourable comments from the press. The Opposition papers are indignant, because in the first place the Premier pointed out that the movement for Strict Treaty Enforcement had its origin in opposition to Mixed Residence, and secondly because he gave a warning to the members that, should they persist in recklessly opposing the Imperial policy of opening the country, it would become necessary to advise the Emperor to dissolve the Diet. For these reasons Count Ito is severely criticised as having wilfully misrepresented the sentiments of the House of Representatives and as having resorted to intimidation. The *Kokkai* goes so far as to declare that, in consideration of the unfriendly and contemptuous reception he met with in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, the Premier ought at once to resign. Why was he the object of such insults and derision? Because, answers the *Kokkai*, he has completely forfeited the confidence of the people. Consequently, according to the fundamental principles of Constitutional Government, he is bound to give up his office.

* * *

There is a rumour that the Constitutional Reform Party, to which belong Messrs. Kawashima Jun, Gamo Sen, Haseba Junko, Nakamura Yaroku, and others, who made themselves conspicuous on Wednesday by their indecorous conduct during Count Ito's speech, received instructions from some powerful Satsuma statesmen to spare nothing to embarrass those now in power. For our own part, we do not put any confidence in this rumour. But in connection with this rumour it is worth while to notice a recent article in the *Jiji Shimpo*, which strongly urges those now in office to give place to some other statesmen of the elder generation, if they have not courage enough to preserve the Government against the attacks of the Opposition parties. Evidently there is, or rather was, some political intrigue on foot somewhere. As to the present Cabinet, its position is as strong as ever. The rejection of the Address to the Throne has not lessened the security of the Government.

INTERNET ARCHIVE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EDITORIL NOTES.

A NEW PHILANTHROPIC PROJECT.

Mr. Ishii, whose name is well known in connection with the Okayama Orphanage, has started a Reformatory on Christian principles in the same place. Curiously enough the necessity for some such institution was suggested by the career of a Roman Catholic native Minister, who, instead of leading others to grace, fell so far from it himself that, in despair, he was about to commit suicide when another *quondam roué*, also tired of wickedness, dissuaded him and induced him to seek Mr. Ishii's advice. This incident is said to have shown to Mr. Ishii the need of establishing a place where people whose evil doing had alienated their friends and exhausted their resources might find a refuge from their sin and destitution. Among Mr. Ishii's assistants at the Reformatory are two men with rather remarkable records. One, having been abandoned by his parents in childhood, became a pick-pocket and was several times criminally convicted. Christian sermons heard in prison converted him, and he became himself a preacher. The other is an ex-burglar who spent twelve years of his life in jail. Under such control reclaimed sinners naturally look for sympathy. The work done at the Reformatory is decorative matting, which, being one of the staple industries of Okayama, gives ready employment to persons emerging from Mr. Ishii's care.

MEETING OF HIGHER SCHOOL DIRECTORS.

The Directors of Higher Middle Schools throughout the empire are now in Tokyo, carrying on deliberations, the subject of which, though not publicly announced, is understood to be the conversion of these schools into colleges. It is easy to appreciate the motives of such a reform, which, for the rest, owed its conception to the lamented Minister, Viscount Mori. Many youths whose resources do not suffice to procure for them a university education in Tokyo, and who nevertheless desire to receive special courses of instruction with the view of applying their attainments practically, will find what they want in the new colleges. The instruction there will naturally be of a grade inferior to that provided in the University, and the period involved will be shorter. But it will be sufficient to equip youths for pursuits adapted to the status of provincial folk. At present a lad graduating from a Common School at fourteen cannot hope to take his degree at the University before he is twenty-five, which is a greater tax on the years of a man's useful life than the lower middle classes can endure. That drawback will be corrected by the new system. Another advantage will be the decentralization of education. At present the capital is the necessary goal of youths seeking to complete their education, and there are obvious objections to such a crowding of young men in a great city. We learn too that the Directors have been invited to consider some method of improving the connection between the Higher and Ordinary Middle Schools, so that a graduate of the latter may be secured against having to repeat much of his studies on entering the former. That question has long been discussed, and it is time that some solution was found.

TWO GUIDES.

Mr. Hayami, Secretary to the President of the Sanyo Railway, has compiled and published a very beautiful guide to the Sanyo Railway. For frontispiece we have an excellent map of the districts through which the Railway passes, and the body of the work consists of short but instructive notices of the various remarkable places along the line, accompanied by pretty collotypes and a few wood-cuts. The book, so far as typography and design are concerned, reflects great credit on its publishers, the Hyogo News Company, and Mr. Hayami's descriptions, with their well-chosen illustrations, should tempt a great many tourists to visit the lovely spots rendered now easily accessible by the Sanyo line.

* * *

A work of much more limited scope is a "Guide to Korakuen" by Mr. Kenriu Oda, who, as this title shows, has not yet penetrated the mysteries of the article in English. To write a guide to the pleasure park of Okayama is a task that would not have occurred to an ordinary mind, and we are compelled to confess that had it not occurred to Mr. Kenriu's mind the public would not have suffered much loss. Nobody wants particularly to learn that one of the paths in the park passes by a rock showing "signs of the beating of the waves on it in former times," or that "a long narrow house near by has a bench for those who wish to rest." However, we admire Mr. Kenriu's enterprise, and trust that it may find a worthier field next time.

MISS POLLARD.

Counsel for Colonel Breckenridge in the celebrated case recently concluded, gave it as their opinion that Miss Pollard, the plaintiff, is an actress of the highest talent, equal, they declared, to Clara Morris or Sara Bernhardt. But there never yet was a human being of ordinary intelligence who could not act so as deceive any audience, provided only that the idea of acting were known to be removed from the minds of the onlookers. Examples of this have been conspicuously furnished at electro-biological performances. A number of persons, selected promiscuously from the audience, place themselves on the stage and submit to be mesmerized or hypnotized. With some the experiment succeeds, curious and genuine results being obtained. But with others the process fails altogether, yet, while entirely possessed of their normal senses, such persons have been known to simulate all the symptoms of the mesmeric objectivity, and to play difficult parts so perfectly that the deception was never suspected for an instant. The truth appears to be that what interferes above all things with successful acting is self-consciousness; in other words, the sense of being watched as an actor. The vast majority of persons are gifted with capacity to perform a rôle of deception so that it shall be true to the life, but that capacity is wholly distinct from histrionic talent. We do not intend to offer the slightest suggestion that Miss Pollard's object was to deceive the Court, the Jury, and the public. She may have been absolutely ingenuous from first to last. What we question is the propriety of crediting her with stage talent. But certainly she was a most remarkable witness. Mr. Butterworth, whose experience of witnesses is pretty wide, said this of her:—"She is the most remarkable witness I ever saw or ever heard of or ever read of. She has her case thoroughly in hand, every detail of it. I never saw anything like the tact and art of this woman. If there is a time when she hasn't a ready answer she will make a plea for sympathy to gain time, and all the time her mind is active to coin some nice phrase or apt one in which to reply."

SHEEP IN AUSTRALIA.

The development of sheep-farming in Australia is certainly among the wonders of the world. "The live stock that accompanied Captain Philip from the shores of England to New South Wales," says Mr. John Plummer in his interesting Australian Notes, "included 29 sheep. This was in 1788. In 1792, according to the Government Statistician of New South Wales, the number of sheep had increased to 105; in 1796 to 1,531; in 1825 to 237,622; in 1842 to 4,804,946; and in 1850 to 13,059,324. In 1891, notwithstanding that the limits of New South Wales had become restricted by the creation of Victoria and Queensland into separate colonies, the number of sheep was 61,831,416. This illustrates the suitability of a considerable portion of the land of the colony for pastoral purposes. The earlier sheep were of an ordinary character, but the systematic importation of stud sheep has done much to make the Australian animal equal to any in the world for meat or wool production. To Captain Macarthur largely belongs the credit of establishing the wool industry in New South Wales. With a view to improving the character of his flocks, he procured from the Cape of Good Hope, at great cost and trouble, a number of superior rams and ewes. A happy circumstance occurred which favoured his enterprise; for he had the good fortune to secure possession of three rams and five ewes of very fine Spanish breed, which had been presented by the King of Spain to the Dutch Government. These animals, out of a total of twenty-nine purchased at the Cape, arrived in Sydney in 1797, and were disposed of to various breeders. The importation of stud sheep from foreign countries, notably France, Germany, and America, which was continued for many years after the superfine quality of Australian wool had been established in the markets of the world, practically ceased even before importation was legally prohibited; for it had become apparent that the fleece, instead of showing signs of deterioration under the influence of the climate, had on the whole a tendency to improve. The introduction of sheep and cattle into New South Wales was forbidden for many years, owing entirely to the fear of the stock-owners that their herds would be contaminated by scab and other diseases prevalent in European flocks; but these restrictions were removed at the beginning of the year 1888, and 432 pure bred sheep, comprising 354 American merino, 60 German merino, and 18 English stud sheep arrived in 1891, in addition to 14,026 stud sheep from other parts of Australasia. It is now generally admitted that as far as the fleece is concerned the Australian merino has little to gain by any further admixture of European or American blood, but it is also admitted that there is room for improvement in the physique of the animal. To produce a larger carcase, without interfering with the quality of the fleece, many experiments have been made, but without much success, and it has been found that the crossing of noted breeds of English rams with Australian ewes has invariably resulted, after a generation or two, in a deterioration of the merino. The breeding of sheep for consumption, and for the sake of the wool, has, therefore, developed naturally into two distinct fields of industry, each of which has become developed on an extensive scale, the quantity of wool exported from the colony in 1891 being 331,887,720 lbs., valued at £11,036,018; while the exports of mutton and beef, frozen, salt, and preserved, amounted to 17,725,873 lbs., valued at £197,526. In 1892, the quantity exported had become increased to 34,905,706 lbs., valued at £285,421. In 1893, the quantity exported was largely increased, and this year will see a further increase."

TROUBLE IN GIFU.

The Prefecture of Gifu appears to be doomed to disturbance ever since the terrible earthquake three years ago. A curious difficulty is now reported to have occurred there. Certain works of repair were planned in the vicinity of Tajimi, after the earthquake, officials of the *Kencho* being in agreement with the programme. The conduct of these works would have involved turning a large volume of water into a Division the inhabitants of which strongly objected to anything of the kind, and employed every means in their power to prevent it. Finally, after the subject had been mentioned in the Diet, a change of plan was made, and the people were so delighted that they resolved to commemorate the event by erecting a monument. But when they were recently about to unveil the monument, the police interfered, and so, once more, local discontent is rife. Beyond these very meagre details, which evidently require to be supplemented before the action of the police can be understood, we learn nothing from the vernacular press.

A MYSTERIOUS LASS.

Valentine Vox seems to have found a most successful imitator in a girl of eighteen who resides in the province of Kai in a house where she has been adopted. Her foster-parents and the people of the neighbourhood were recently astounded by the discovery that the house was haunted by a voice making itself audible anywhere and everywhere, telling people's ages, relating incidents in neighbouring houses, guessing a questioner's thoughts, prophesying

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future events, prescribing medicines, and doing a great many things, at least one-half of which we may assume to be the outcome of the simple villagers' imagination. They had shrewdness enough to connect the voice with the girl, but of course their rusticity led them to diagnose her possession by a fox, a badger, or even a snake. The phenomenon became so notorious that it finally came to the ears of Mr. Inouye Enryo who devotes himself to the investigation of mysteries in every shape. He proceeded to the village where the girl lives and after sundry enquiries came to the conclusion that she is a clever ventriloquist and that she has been exercising her faculty for the purpose of compelling her parents by adoption to restore her to her real mother.

RECIPROCITY.

FIVE years ago some fishermen of Hokkaido discovered a new fishing-ground to which they gave the name of Horoizumi. It is situated twenty miles from Cape Erimoto at the junction of a branch current of the Kuro-shiwo and a current setting from the Kuriles. The place is said to abound with whales, sardines, cod-fish, cuttle-fish, herring, and so forth, and the fishermen of the adjacent districts formed themselves into a joint-stock company for the purpose of exploiting this source of wealth. From the outset, however, want of capital impeded their success and recently two Americans resident in Hakodate proposed to invest a sum of money in the enterprise. But the leading members of the company appear to have imagined that the mere use of foreigners' money would by some subtle process end in alienating the fishing-ground from Japan. They have come to raise Japanese money in Tokyo where they are very astutely enlisting the sympathies of the so-called patriots who pretend to think it a disgrace to the country that its progress should be aided in any way by alien capital. Does it, we wonder, ever occur to these profound persons to look beyond the limits of their own country and observe what Japanese subjects are doing abroad. Take for example the case of Mr. Aikawa of Gumma Prefecture. Crossing to America seven years ago he engaged with such success in a fishing and lumber business in British Columbia that he amassed a considerable sum which he carried with him to Alaska and there employed it in salmon fishing, subsequently devoting his attention to *awabi* and sea-weed, for which there is a ready market in Japan, but which are left untouched in Alaska. Recently this gentleman returned to Japan to procure assistance, and having engaged the services of two graduates of the Fishery Schools, the three sailed for Vancouver on the 11th instant. We do not hear any American patriots leading a crusade against such an interference by foreigners with the development of American resources. Reciprocity is not universal.

A STRANGE CAREER.

WE find in the *Shin-Choya* a story of a lady whose career is worth recording. Her present name is Ogino Toshi, but her real family name is Hashimoto. Her father, a retainer of the Shogun, was sentenced to commit *seppuku* when she was only eight years old and her mother died a few months afterwards. Such was her affection for her parents that she used to spend whole days by their grave, not returning at night unless her grandfather sent to fetch her. By way of comfort, the old man told her that when she grew up he would take her to Etchu, where she would certainly meet her parents again. The child did not propose to wait until she was grown up. One night she stole away from home and set out for Etchu, travelling for three days and nights without any food. At the end of that time she sank down insensible and was picked up by a charitable woman who, hearing that she was on her way to find her parents, gave her a string of cash and instructed her how to travel in the cheapest possible away. Thus, by living on the merest pittance and obtaining charity here and there, she actually succeeded in reaching Yokogawa. There the guards at the barrier station refused to let her pass, but a traveller coming that way took pity on her and succeeded in getting her through. She told him her story, and he of course dispelled her delusion as to meeting her parents, but was so much interested in her that he adopted her. This man was Dr. Ogino, of Nagasaki. He took the child thither, and being himself without family, he brought her up as his adopted daughter, teaching her Dutch and procuring for her an excellent education. At fifteen she could speak Dutch sufficiently well to converse with foreigners, and had studied foreign political systems sufficiently to appreciate the evils of the dual administration in Japan. This conviction impelled her at eighteen years of age to travel through the country preaching the necessity of reform. Her beauty and intelligence attracted a host of admirers, but she seems to have despised them all. By and by the Tokugawa detectives began to take notice of her, and she was compelled to turn her feet homeward. Arriving at Nagasaki she found that her foster-father had met with a violent death, and while visiting his tomb she was seized by two detectives from whom she barely escaped by the aid of a pistol that she always carried. Running to the shore she managed to get on board a Dutch ship, the captain of which agreed to take her to Holland when he learned her peril. In Holland she studied law and politics, subsequently proceeding to Germany to complete her researches. How she lived during this time we are not told, and perhaps too close a scrutiny would not be kind. In the fall of 1870 we find her in Paris, where she learned for the first time of the overthrow of the Shogunate, and turned her face homeward after seven years' absence. In Japan she renewed her former acquaintances and repeated her experience of many suitors, but she had retained her old pride and would not give herself away to anyone below a Minister of State. So it fared with her as with many a disdainful beauty. The men she had refused rose gradually to the highest posts in the State, while she passed more and more out of recollection and had finally no choice but to shave her head and become a nun. At forty-nine she finds consolation in religious observances and comfort in an inquisitive press which recalls her to public notice after so many years of oblivion.

ETIQUETTE OF WHIST.

HERE are some useful extracts from the Amended Code of the American Whist League:—

34.—Any one, during the play of a trick and before the cards have been touched for the purpose of gathering them together, may demand that the players draw their cards.

35.—If any one, prior to his partner playing, calls attention in any manner to the trick or to the score, the adversary last to play to the trick may require the offender's partner to play his highest or lowest of the suit led, or if he has none, to trump or not to trump the trick.

36.—If any player says "I can win the rest," "The rest are ours," "We have the game," or words to that effect, his partner's cards must be laid upon the table and are liable to be called

37.—When a trick has been turned and quitted it must not again be seen until after the hand has been played. A violation of this law subjects the offender's side to the same penalty as in the case of a lead out of turn.

38.—If a player is lawfully called upon to play the highest or lowest of a suit, or to trump or not to lead a suit, and unnecessarily fails to comply, he is liable to the same penalty as if he had revoked.

39.—In all cases where a penalty has been incurred the offender must await the decision of the adversaries. If either of them, with or without his partner's consent, demands a penalty to which they are entitled, such decision is final. If the wrong adversary demands a penalty or a wrong penalty is demanded, none can be enforced.

The following rules belong to the established code of whist etiquette. They are formulated with a view to discourage and repress certain improprieties of conduct therein pointed out which are not reached by the laws. The courtesy which marks the intercourse of gentlemen will regulate other more obvious cases:

1.—No conversation should be indulged in during the play except such as is allowed by the laws of the game.

2.—No player should in any manner whatsoever give any intimation as to the state of his hand or of the game or of approval or disapproval of a play.

3.—No player should lead until the preceding trick is turned and quitted.

4.—No player should, after having led a winning card, draw a card from his hand for another lead until his partner has played to the current trick.

5.—No player should play a card in any manner so as to call particular attention to it, nor should he demand that the cards be placed in order to attract the attention of his partner.

6.—No player should purposely incur a penalty because he is willing to pay it, nor should he make a second revoke in order to conceal one previously made.

7.—No player should take advantage of information imparted by his partner through a breach of etiquette.

8.—No player should object to referring a disputed question of fact to a bystander who professes himself uninterested in the result of the game and able to decide the question.

9.—Bystanders should not in any manner call attention to or give any intimation concerning the play or the state of the game during the play of the hand. They should not look over the hand of a player without his permission, nor should they walk around the table to look at the different hands.

CHARITY CONCERT.

WE are requested to call attention to a Concert in aid of a most worthy object advertised in another column. It is to aid the funds of the *Dokuritsu Jo-Gakko* or Industrial Girls School, Tsuno Hadzu Mura, Tokyo. The history of the School is as follows:—The Joshi Dokuritsu Gakko was established in 1889, and is situated in one of the suburbs of Tokyo, on ground which was purchased for the school by the aid of ladies who were interested in the plan to found an institution in which young women of the middle class might secure instruction in the ordinary branches taught in schools, and also in various industries. The first-class was graduated last year, and although the means for the support of the school have been so limited that much that seemed desirable has been left undone, still those who have watched the progress of the pupils in their work feel that there is great cause for encouragment and thankfulness. The Director, Mrs. Toshi Kato, has her residence in the school building and takes direct oversight of the pupils. After her return from America in Nov. last, she, with the ladies of the Board of Managers, felt it important to make strenuous efferts to place the finances of the school upon a better basis and also to add one or more industries. To aid in the accomplishment of this object an entertainment has been arranged to take place at one o'clock p.m. on the 19th of this month in the Hall of the Young Men's Christian Association Building in Mitoshiro Cho, Kanda, Tokyo. Various articles made by the pupiis will be on sale.

THE JAPANESE POST OFFICE IN SHANGHAI.

THE Japanese Post Office in Shanghai has found itself obliged to announce that in future money-orders sent from Japan will be paid in Japanese coin. Hitherto an order purchased for a hundred *yen* in Japan was paid in Shanghai either in *yen* or Mexican dollars at the option of the receiver. That was possible so long as *yen* and dollars were at par, but there is now a difference of from 2 to 4 per cent. in favour of the dollars, and of course the Post Office has to modify its procedure acordingly. We cannot ourselves recall many occasions on which it was possible to transfer money from Japan to Shanghai without a loss on account of exchange, nor can we see how the Post Office was in a position to give better terms in this matter than the banks. Be that as it may, however, the fact appears to be that the Post Office has now abjured Mexican dollars altogether.

AN UNFORTUNATELY SHORTENED CAREER.

OBITUARY notices in the Japanese press often remind us how little foreigners really know of the men who are making modern Japanese history. We finds long accounts of officials or private individuals whose names are almost entirely strange to us, though the amount of public attention attracted by their deaths tell us that we ought to have been more or less familiar with their careers. The case of Mr. Kido Teijiro is an example. His early life was full of hardship and brave struggle with adverse circumstances. From serving as an assistant in the shop of a petty mender of watches and clocks, he rose to be a councillor of the Department of Agriculture and Com-

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merce and ultimately to be Consul at Vancouver. The latter office he resigned last year with the object of undertaking an important fishery enterprise in Hokkaido, but at the early age of forty, death cut short his career before he could consummate any of his projects.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE P. AND O. STEAMER "VERONA."

Some very decided improvements, conducing to the comfort, convenience, and well-being of passengers by the P. & O. steamship *Verona* have recently been carried out, and should greatly enhance the popularity of this boat on the China-Japan run. They consist principally of a music-room which has been built on the upper deck by taking in the captain's cabin at the head of the saloon gangway, while a new captain's room has been built under the bridge immediately adjoining the chart-room. The new music-room is upholstered and decorated in a most artistic style, white and gold being the principal colours used in the mural ornamentation. The lounges around the sides of the room are covered with peacock-blue tapestry, having an old gold border; and the carpet is designed to match. Two charming oil paintings fill in the spaces of the wall which separates this cosy chamber from the saloon gangway, while the opposite corners are fitted with Japanese panels decorated with beautifully finished groups of chrysanthemums. The whole design reflects great credit upon the taste of Captain Tocque.

NAVAL NEWS.

The arrivals here during the past week, says the *Rising Sun*, have been H.I.J.M.S. *Manjiu Kan* from Saseho on Wednesday, and H.B.M.S. *Plover* and *Severn* from Shanghai and Hongkong respectively on Saturday. H.I.R.M.S. *Sevoutch* proceeded to Vladivostock on Sunday last, whilst yesterday the following departures took place:—H.B.M.S. *Severn* for Chefoo, H.I.R.M.S. *Manjour* for Shanghai, and H.I.J.M.S. *Manjiu Kan* for a cruise. Vessels in harbour at date are H.B.M.S. *Mercury* and *Plover*; H.I.R.M.S. *Admiral Nachimoff* and *Admiral Korniloff*; and H.I.J.M.S. *Chokai Kan*. The U.S. flag-ship *Baltimore*, Admiral Skerrett on board, is expected from Shanghai on the 18th inst., and will probably remain here some time. H.B.M.'s flag-ship *Centurion*, the largest and most formidable ship that has ever visited the East, is also shortly expected from Hongkong.

PUBLIC WORKS IN KOBE.

Quite a number of public works are either in process or in prospect in Kobe just now. First come the Waterworks, which are approaching completion. Application has been made to the Treasury for a subsidy of 300,000 *yen* on account of these works, but as the people are determined to have pure water the works will be finished whether the Treasury grant the subsidy or not. Then there are works connected with the Minato River. These have not advanced beyond the stage of surveying, but as there is general agreement about their usefulness, they will doubtless be pushed forward rapidly. As to the canal cutting, reference to which was recently made in these columns, it appears that some difference of opinion has occurred with reference to the purchase of the land, but since there can be no question about the facilities that the enterprise will confer on merchants, and since a charter has already been granted, it is confidently anticipated that an understanding will soon be established. The electric railway, on the contrary, appears to have experienced some obstacles. Objections are raised by the citizens residing in the streets through which the line would pass, and the City Assembly has declined to pass the bill. Attempts to effect a compromise are in progress, but it is said that little hope of success is entertained at present. As to the scheme for removing the railway station to another site, it has been approved by the City Assembly, and is now in the hands of a Special Committee, but in view of the magnitude of the undertaking, the Committee is not likely to come to a speedy decision. With regard to the construction of a pier at Kaigandori, Rokuchome, the City Assembly having shown a disposition to reject the bill, the projectors have asked leave to withdraw it, for the purpose of modifying their scheme. The harbour re-construction project, too, has not yet emerged from the region of talk, though it appears to be assuming definite proportions. Finally, a scheme for enlarging the Custom House has received the warm support of all the merchants engaged in foreign trade, and has been approved by the Chamber of Commerce. It will probably be submitted to the Diet next session.

ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST TANK OIL IN NAGASAKI.

Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co.'s tank steamer *Euplectela* arrived here on Monday last, says the *Rising Sun* of May 9th, with the first cargo of bulk petroleum from Batoum for this port, and anchored off Kozaki Point, where the tanks, machinery, and godowns have been erected. To those of our readers who have not yet visited the scene of this the latest commercial innovation, we can assure them that it is well worth viewing, but will no doubt be more interesting a little later on, as at present the whole of the buildings are not quite completed. The site chosen is the last small bay inside of the Point, on the N.W. side of the harbour. This has been filled in and levelled down, making sufficient flat space for two enormous tanks, (each of 1,500 tons capacity), a large filtering tank, three brick godowns (for filling, packing, and storing oil in tins), and an engine-house. Apparently no expense has been spared to make the tanks and everything connected with them of the most substantial and lasting nature. The tanks are situated at the rear, with the filter standing between the two. To one of the tanks is connected a fixed pipe, leading to the sea-wall, and to this, when required, are joined movable pipes leading to the steamer, moored as close in shore as the depth of water will allow. The buildings are all of brick, with Portland cement floors; whilst the machinery for filling, etc., is all automatic, and of the latest type. To what extent the tank system will succeed in Japan, financially, remains to be seen; but there is no denying the fact that the founders of it deserve great praise for the their enterprise, whilst as regards the local depôt, the agents, Messrs. Holme, Ringer & Co., are to be congratulated upon the satisfactory manner in which the work has been carried on so far.

CARRIAGE ACCIDENT IN KOBE.

Shortly before midday on Saturday, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, while Mr. De Ath was driving in his buggy along Sakai-machi, the horse suddenly bolted, and before it could be pulled in, the wheels were caught by one of the electric light posts which now obstruct all the thoroughfares in Kobe, and Mr. De Ath was thrown out heavily, falling on his back. Messrs. A. J. and A. E. McGlew, who happened to be following in *kuruma*, with Mr. Davies' assistance, got the injured gentleman into a *jinrikisha*, and he was brought down to his office, when doctors were at once summoned. Dr. Miller and Dr. Harris were quickly on the spot, and as the result of an examination we are glad to say it was found that no bones were broken, only the muscles of the back being strained and bruised, and a few days' rest will doubtless see Mr. De Ath about again. When the carriage came into contact with the post, the shafts broke short off and the horse trotted down Sakaimachi and then round by the Bund and home to his stable, without doing any furtherdamage.

RAILWAYS.

There is again talk of transferring the Government Railways to a private company. But by whom the project has been revived we do not learn, but the reason appears to be that much dissatisfaction is felt by the public with regard to the management of Government Lines. It is admitted that the officially controlled roads used to be worthy models for private concerns, but the cases are said to be reversed now, the managers of the Government Railways showing no disposition to adapt themselves to the requirements of the public. On the other hand, to expect the application of any radical remedy by either the Government or the Diet is considered extravagant, since both are engrossed by their political squabbles. According to the programme said to have been evolved by the projectors of the scheme, a hundred million *yen* of capital is required, to be applied as follows:—

	YEN.
Purchase of Government Railways ...	36,000,000
Doubling the Tokaido Line ...	11,000,000
Additional Rolling Stock for Tokaido Line ...	2,500,000
Enlargement of Stations at Shimbashi and Yokohama ...	1,200,000
Construction of Fukushima-Aomori Railway ...	17,000,000
Construction of Toyama-Tsuruga Railway ...	6,500,000
Construction of line through Tokyo (Shimbashi to Uyeno) ...	5,000,000
Construction of Nakasendo Railway (Hachioji to Nagoya) ...	20,000,000

The profit is estimated thus:—

	YEN.
Profit on Old Government Lines ...	2,700,000
Additional Profit on Tokaido Line ...	650,000
Three per cent. on Fukushima-Aomori Line ...	510,000
Four per cent. on Toyama-Tsuruga Line	260,000
Four per cent. on Nakasendo Line ...	380,000
Total ...	5,000,000

There would be, according to this estimate, a profit of 5 per cent. on the total capital. With regard to raising the capital, the idea is to have a million shares of 100 *yen* each, and to contrive that they shall be as widely as possible held, instead of falling into the hands of a few millionaires.

A CURIOUS CASE.

There appears to be no doubt as to the truth of the extraordinary story circulated by the vernacular press about Mr. Hirao Kiheiji, a man of reported substance in Osaka and owner of three steamers. A forged promissory note—purporting to have been issued by the Cavalry Division in Osaka—against which Hirao borrowed 100 *yen*, led to an inquiry showing that he stood indebted for a total of a quarter of million *yen* to some 80 creditors. Such an incident is not remarkable, but in this case it led to very sad results, for it now seems that Mr. Okaiye, an official of the Transport Section of the Osaka Cavalry, who committed suicide during the night of the 10th instant in front of a military accountant's residence, made away with himself simply because the forged note had been drawn on the department to iwhich he belonged and because he desired to clear himself of all connection with it. Suicide was a strange manner of establishing his innocence, but Japanese custom used to be of that nature. Mr. Hirao's clerk also has killed himself, but the circumstances of his case are not published.

AN OPINION ON THE SILVER QUESTION.

In a recent speech, Gen. Francis A. Walker, of Boston, said:—"In the language of Prof. Lexis of Germany, one of the greatest economic statisticians of the world, the concurrence of England, Germany, France, Italy, and the United States in free coinage at a common ratio would suffice to extinguish all preference for either metal outside the bimetallic basin. The only question, then, which remains is whether international bimetallism is, politically and diplomatically, possible: that is, whether the concurrence of a sufficient number of nations can be secured to this end. Here we reach the ground of conjecture. Upon this subject no man can speak with assurance; yet there is great reason for hope in the remarkable change which within a few years has come over the public mind of England."

THE RUDE FOREIGNER ONCE MORE.

As is usually the case on the occasion of any public ceremony, a charge of rudenes is preferred against a foreigner in connection with the Emperor's progress to the Diet on Tuesday. The foreigner, who was mounted, is said to have attempted to break through the line, but

was restrained by the police at the instance of a *Soshi*, and also became the butt of some inspiriting remarks from a group of *Soshi*, such as "cut him down," "have at him." The incident is taken as an opportunity for describing another act of a similar kind said to have occurred when the Empress visited the Nobles School for girls a few days ago. Now, never in a single instance, so far as we are aware, has it been proved that a foreigner was guilty of intentional rudeness or want of courtesy on such an occasion as the above, and it seems to us that vernacular newspapers, in giving publicity to stories of this kind, might have the grace to note that a foreigner has never been shown to have been a witting offender. Foreigners do not yield to the Japanese themselves in the heartiness of their desire to show respect towards the Sovereign of this realm.

PRINCE GEORGE OF GREECE.

THAT magnificent but contemptible myth which represents Prince George of Greece as having saved the life of the Czarewitch continues to find circulators and believers. It makes its latest appearance in an article in *The Strand Magazine* written by Miss Phyllis Bentley, a young lady celebrated for her performance of many mysterious muscular feats. After speaking of Prince George's remarkable physique, she writes thus:—

> It was this young Viking who saved the life of the Czarewitch whilst in Japan, and the head of the murderously-inclined Jap must have been of abnormal thickness to have withstood the blow His Royal Highess dealt him with the stick that warded off the sword-thrust at the heir to the throne of all the Russias; an ordinary head would have been smashed in as easily as an egg-shell.
>
> When the account of Prince George's feat in Japan appeared in the papers, more than one writer, I remember, expressed their surprise that a man who showed such slight muscular development could have knocked anyone down but these very superior critics had no personal knowledge of Prince George, whom they mistook for his younger brother, Prince Nicholas.

Need we repeat what has been said twenty times already that Prince George of Greece never warded off any blow aimed by a Japanese at the Czarewitch, that he never knocked down any Japanese, unless he did so in some escapade of which the public has no knowledge, and that he had no more to do with the saving of His Imperial Highness' life than Miss Bentley herself had? How this fable was originally put into circulation is a mystery. But for the fact that it has remained in circulation and that no resolute attempt has ever been made by Prince George himself to contradict it, he must be held responsible, and a very sorry responsibility it is.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Minister of State for Finance has been stepping down from his official pedestal and playing with some students in Nagano Prefecture the game known in the West as the tug-of-war. It seems—we quote from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*—that Mr. Watanabe is a man of considerable strength, and that he undertook to pull at one end of the rope against several students at the other. The students were unable to drag him across the line, but they balanced the account very cleverly by letting go the rope at such a critical moment that Mr. Watanabe tumbled into a ditch. The Minister was fully equal to the occasion. He scrambled out as gracefully as possible, and remarked with a smile that if he, a native of Nagano, had enjoyed the distinction of directing the national finances, it was evident from the fate that had just befallen him that many youths of the same Prefecture were ready to upset him and take his place. Of course this elicited loud cries of "hiya! hiya!"

AN EMIGRATION SCHEME.

The Lower Californian, of Ensenada, says in a recent issue:—"Mr. H. W. S. Edmunds of the Anglo-Japanese Colonization Company, of Yokohama, Japan, passed through Ensenada, on 17th March on his way to San Francisco on the steamer *St. Paul*. Mr. Edmunds was born on one of the sugar plantations of Queensland, Australia, and is thoroughly posted on the working of tropical plantations. He has resided some two years in Japan, and has just returned from some of the tropical and semi-tropical states of Mexico, where he has made contracts with different planters for the introduction of Japanese colonists, for the cultivation of sugar, tobacco, cacao, vanilla, and other tropical products. He says the Japanese official who was sent over by his Government to inspect Mexican lands, thought them very suitable for the agriculturists of his country."

THE TACTICS OF THE OPPOSITION.

ALTHOUGH the Six Sections of the Opposition are agreed in presenting to the Throne an Address that amount to a violent impeachment of the Government, they are by no means agreed as to the course to be pursued if the Address obtains a majority vote. Some of them are in favour of thereupon suspending the House's sittings until the Government takes some action; and others, as the National Unionists, the Central Progressionists and so forth, are against anything of the kind, being disposed, on the contrary, to petition for prolongation of the session.

* * *

The Radicals, too, have not developed unanimity of view with regard to their procedure subsequent to the passing of the Address to the Throne presented by them, should it pass. The idea of the members of the House is that sittings should be suspended for a fixed number of days in order to await the Government's reply, whereas the representatives of the Party who are without seats in the House advocate suspension of its sittings for an indefinite time. Which opinion will carry the day, we have not yet learned.

JAPANESE SERVANTS IN CAPE TOWN.

WE observe that a resident of Cape Town, recently on a visit to Japan, has secured the services of two Japanese, a man and his wife, to accompany him to South Africa in the capacity of domestic servants, under a four years' agreement. The house-servant difficulty is said to be most embarrassing in Cape Town, and the gentleman taking this step believes that he has solved the vexed question so far, at any rate, as he himself is concerned. If his experiment proves successful, and we see no reason to doubt that it will, an opening of some importance may be found for Japanese emigrants to Cape Town and other parts of South Africa. All this emigration movement should have the effect of stimulating once more the study of the English language in Japan. To whatever part of the world the Japanese may be-take themselves, their prospect of success must depend largely upon their knowledge of a foreign language, and of all languages English is beyond question the most useful.

MR. OTORI KEISUKE ON THE KIM INCIDENT.

THE Japanese Representative in Söul, while passing through Osaka *en route* for Tokyo, was interviewed by one of the staff of the *Kokkai*. When the news of Kim Ok-kyün's assassination reached Söul, the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs called on Mr. Otori and asked him to instruct the Japanese Consul in Shanghai to surrender the body of Kim and his assassin Hong to the Korean authorities. Of course Mr. Otori flatly refused to do anything of the kind, not having competence to do it even supposing that he had been willing. As to the mutilation of Kim's remains, Mr. Otori and the Chinese Minister Resident united in making deterrent representations to the Korean Government. They were unsuccessful, but being backed by the other Foreign Ministers, they were able to prevent Hong's elevation to an important official position. With regard to the Korean Chargé d'Affaires who left Tokyo in such a strange manner, he is to be dismissed from his post. Before leaving Söul, Mr. Otori heard that policemen had been sent to arrest Kim's surviving relatives and that his aged father had committed suicide. Bin Yei-yoku, who has been living for some time in Hongkong, is prevented from returning to Korea by causes which Mr. Otori did not feel at liberty to explain. It appears that Mr. Yuan, the well-known Chinese Representative in Söul, is to leave that city for his new post next month. Another item of news furnished by Mr. Otori is interesting. He says that some 3,000 Koreans having settled in Siberia, the Russian Government opened negotiations with the Cabinet in Söul to ascertain whether these people might be regarded as naturalized Russian subjects or whether the Korean Government intended to recall them. The Söul Ministry replied that the settlers would be recalled, but what to do with them is a question that causes Korea some embarrassment. We do not understand this intelligence. Russia has her own naturalization laws, and is not at all likely to make their operation depend on any intentions that Korea may entertain.

BLACK DEATH IN HONGKONG.

IN consequence of rumours published by vernacular newspapers on the 15th instant, to the effect that an epidemic had broken out in Hongkong, the Government, says the *Kokkai*, at once despatched a cablegram to ascertain the truth, and received from Consul Nakayama a reply confirming the rumour. The Consul's message seems to indicate that the pestilence is not cholera, but "black death." The first case appeared at the end of last month, and was quickly followed by 50 others, of whom the great majority have developed very high fever with swelling of the head, the arm-pits, and other parts. As to the rate of mortality nothing is said. The *Kokkai* adds that instructions have been issued to the open ports in Japan to prevent the coming of the disease.

* * *

Telegraphic intelligence dispatched by Mr. Ogoshi, Japanese Consul-General in Shanghai, and received by the Government on the 16th inst., states that the various Consuls in Shanghai have requested the Harbour Office to put the Harbour Quarantine Regulations into strict operation against all vessels coming from Hongkong showing any suspicion of "black-death" on board. Any ship having patients on board is to remain outside the port with the yellow flag hoisted.

THE FOREIGNER ACCUSED OF RUDENESS ON THE 15TH INSTANT.

THE *Kokkai* has withdrawn the story it published about a mounted foreigner having attempted to force his way across the space reserved for the Imperial Progress on the 15th instant. The facts, as we have learned from an unquestionable source, are that the foreigner made no attempt whatever to pass and had no immediate intention of doing so. He was waiting quietly, when the police, who seem to have supposed that he sought to get on, indicated a route to him, and he took it. Thereupon a clamour was raised by some of the bystanders—apparently *Soshi*—and the police, influenced by it, directed the foreigner to follow another street, with which direction he immediately complied, having been from the first perfectly amenable to any authoritative indication. Of course there is not the most shadowy ground for accusing him of rudeness. He is, for the rest, a man perfectly conversant with all the rules of etiquette observed on such occasions, and is quite incapable of violating them.

JAPANESE TEA.

IT has always been a question of interest to know the quantity of tea produced annually in Japan, but only within recent years have statistics been available. From figures published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, we now learn that the total produce of 1892 was 7,822,034 *kwan* (64,610,000 lbs). This shows an increase in all kinds of tea, as compared with 1891, the increase in the best kinds (*sencha*) aggregating 411,963 *kwan*, and that in the inferior kinds, 449,322 *kwan*. From the Customs Returns we learn that the quantity of tea exported in 1892 was 49,524,021 lbs, so that the quantity consumed by the Japanese themselves was only 15,085,972 lbs., or a little more than ½ lb. per head. We should not have sup-

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posed that a quantity so small would suffice for such a nation of tea drinkers. The value of 15 million lbs. of tea is a little more than 2 million *yen*, so that, on the above hypothesis the expenditure per head of the Japanese nation on account of tea is only 5 *sen*, and since this is re-fired tea, we must add 30 per cent. to obtain the quantity actually purchased by foreign merchants for export. Making that correction, it results that the demand of the foreign markets represented 64,381,227 lbs., and there remained only 228,773 lbs. for home consumption. That, of course, is quite incredible. The Japanese are essentially a tea-drinking nation. They sip tea at all times and seasons, and though their manner of drinking and method of making the beverage are about as economical as possible, it is obviously absurd to suppose that their average annual consumption *per capita* is only a very small fraction of an ounce. The investigations conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce are evidently insufficient: they greatly understate the amount of tea actually produced in Japan.

TROUBLE IN TOTTORI.

After the floods by which Tottori Prefecture was devastated at the end of last year, investigations were conducted by engineers despatched by the Central Government, and the Treasury made a grant of 1,600,000 *yen* on account of repairs. Subsequent surveys carried out by the Local authorities suggested the advisability of curtailing the works contemplated in the programme of the Central Government's experts. Meanwhile, the people becoming impatient to have the repairs effected before the time of rice harvest, sent a large number of deputies to the Prefectural Office, and these, discovering the reductions proposed by the Local Authorities, offered strong protests, being especially disturbed about the delay that must ensue in obtaining the Home Office's endorsement of the changes. There is reported to be much discontent in the Prefecture, and steps have been taken to appeal to the Central Government.

TRADE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

There are said to be some four thousand Japanese residents in Russian Siberia in connection with trade, but so far as Russia proper is concerned there has hitherto been very little commercial intercourse between her and Japan. Two years ago much talk was heard of a commission despatched by the Central Tea Guild to open a brick-tea trade with Russia, but nothing more has been heard of the project: presumably it fell through. We now read in the vernacular press that Mr. Suzuki Otoya, formerly a translator in the Russian Legation, has been engaged for the past ten years in trade with Siberia, encountering no small hardships. He has now decided to push further afield, by taking a large consignment of art objects to Odessa, and thence to Moscow and St. Petersburg. He is to set out in July, taking one of the Russian volunteer steamers.

COUNTERFEIT BANKNOTES.

Information has reached the metropolitan police that a comparatively large quantity of counterfeit Nippon Ginko notes has been put into circulation in Yokohama. The bills are very skilfully executed, so much so that the most minute inspection of externals fails to reveal any suspicious variances. There is only one thing by which the counterfeits may be known, and that is that, strange to say, they all bear the same number (in Japanese ideographs) on the upper right-hand corner,—45574 (四五五七四). It is advisable to keep a sharp look-out for these notes, they being so very deceptive in appearance and of several denominations.

A PRECOCIOUS CHILD.

In Kochi Prefecture there is living a lad, five years of age, called Miyamoto Seigamon. He has already attained such proficiency in the writing of Chinese ideographs that people solicit his caligraphy on gold-foil screens and brocade-mounted scrolls. The child's writing is said to show strong individuality. It is a somewhat incredible story, but we take it from the columns of a sober newspaper, the *Jiyu*. Ideographic caligraphy is invariably the field in which Japanese children show their precocity. No other field indeed is open to them. Let us hope, however, that this little lad of Kochi will find some better use for his talent.

JURIDICAL STENOGRAPHY.

We have received a notice that Messrs. Dietze and Peter are prepared to supply, for a very moderate semi-annual subscription, reports of the proceedings in the Supreme Court of the Empire of Germany. The intimation will have interest for our legal readers. But even those not directly concerned with the law may derive, we venture to think, not a little edification from the English translations furnished by the "Reichsgerichts-Reporter." To demonstrate the grounds of this our conviction, we reproduce a portion of the specimen report, precisely as it reaches us:—

For the disobedience against the executive power was condemned the butcher Henry Pollender to a punishment of imprisonment by the general court of justice at Essen in the month December 1893. He made complaints to the supreme court of the German empire in Leipsic against this sentence, which he would prove, that the policeman might not have been empowed him to disposses of the place, where he sold his flesh, as he might have payed the duty for his place. Though he avow, that the head of the hog, was gnowed of worms and that he would have in sale also yet others parts of worm-eaten flesh, he would not have given cause of it, that the police-man might make use of the coercitive measures. On the contrary oppose the procurator of state, that the sale of the worm eaten flesh not was the only cause, for disposses the butcher Pollender, but because he would attract forcibly a dispute with the police-man an him would resist by with great stubbornness; therefore might not give suit the complainant the supreme court of justice of Germany at Leipsic; moreover he was fined to the costs of revision.

The revision of the possessor of a printing-office John Brinkmann at Mulhouse (Alsace) which was condemned for the fault against the law of the press by the country court of justice at Mulhouse (Alsace) in the month October 1893—was not given suit in the session of the first senate of the supreme court of justice of Germany at Leipsic. The supreme court of justice and the first instance were agreeing in their sentence, whereafter Brinkmann is culpable to have done fault informations in retation to the name and the place at which this pamphlet was printet. The complainant might let pass, that he knew only a french law of the press by a Jaquin ?, nevertheless appear this, as an incroyable subterfuge.

A very remarquable case of a chastisement do decide to-day the supreme court of justice of Germany. The complainant is a vicar, with name John Stumpf at Offenbach o/M., which was condemned for the fault in office to a fine of twenty Mark, by the country-court at Darmstadt, the 6th November 1893. The vicar Stumpf teached in the religion the children of the school of district at Offenbach. To a day, as he had quit the school-room, he observed after his return a great bustle between the boys. Upon his question, who this bustle have caused, it be named the school-boy Mann by all itscomrades. Ireful he give a blow upon the head, hand and back. The wound begin presently to bleed. This is with few of words the event. Though the vivar Stumpf knew, that he had exceeded the measure of the corporeal chastisement, he not suppose, that the may have offenced the law of the school and the words of the disciplinar law: are to evitate (in german: sind zu vermeiden) are only a warning. Besides he have never read this disciplinar law and he seek repeated to refer, that he not have cudgeled intentionally. But this explanations appear the more incredible, as the vicar, Stumpf had received long bevore a reprimand by a court of justice. Also the words, with which he menaced the boy: I will thee cudgel, and if still more bleed thy head let know the intention of his chastisement, wherefore the supreme court of justice of the German empire not suit this revision.

As the 18th August 1893 the carter's-man John David Horsch went between the line of the railway Francfurt-Escharsheim, justly as coming a train of Eschersheim, he not thought, that his stubbornness might look for an end before the court of justice. The danger was already near and an accident with the end before the court of justice—immutable. In the manner came the event to the country-court at Francfurt o|M, which condemned the accused Horsch to one week imprisonment for bringing into danger a train. Against this sentence he complained to the supreme court of Justice at Leipsic and pretended, he have slept in this time. The supreme court not-suit therefore the revision.

CORSETS.

Here is a counterblast to the writer who recently declared that corsets, so far from being an injurious article of dress, are highly beneficial when properly used:—

Kingston N.Y., March 18, 1894.—Mrs. Huizinga is the Vice-president of the Ulster County Temperance Union and the wife of the Rev. O. H. Huizinga, of New Paltz. She is highly cultivated and has a commanding presence. The convention which was held in the new St. James' Methodist Church here has just closed, but her paper is still the theme of a most lively and general discussion.

The paper was entitled "Physician, Heal Thyself," in which the essentially feminine vice was handled in a plain and pointed manner. She said:—"The human body is the most beautiful of created objects. It is strong, delicate, supple and graceful. This applies pre-eminently to the female form; but while woman seems to be satisfied with the way God made the trees, flowers and animals, she is not satisfied with the way He made her body, so she seeks to improve perfection.

"She trusts God to shape and plan the universe, but not her body, for while he put a sufficient number of bones inside her body to hold it erect, she, forsooth, must supplement them with a layer of bones outside to change and improve the outside of the figure. So we have that abomination known as the corset.

"History tells us that as nations have grown wealthy and extravagant, the people giving themselves up to excesses of all kinds, the corset has been laced tight and even tighter, as the climax of frivolity approached. The consumption of corsets in America, not including those imported, is said to be sixty millions yearly. What does this argue for the state of morals in our country? It is said that national dress keeps pace with national history. Both begin in simplicity and end in voluptuousness.

"Tight lacing has been one of the high water marks of the self-indulgent period. The body when encased in stiff bones or tight lacing of any kind, is incapable of graceful motion, healthful exercise and ability to perform the work of life.

"The 'Venus of Milo,' the acknowledged standard of beauty of form, has a waist about twice the girth of the modern belle, and the undulating lines and curves of the statue flow into each other, revealing great refinement of curvature and imperceptible gradation.

'How different is the corset made form with high, square shoulders, waist like an hour glass, hips extremely prominent, an artificial and ungainly attire!

"If your horses, cattle and dogs were subjected to the cruel treatment young women inflict upon themselves the newspapers and the officers for the prevention of cruelty to animals would be on the tracks of the guilty parties. But why should women exhaust their vitality by injurious modes of dressing? 'Oh, it's the fashion,' comes the reply.

"But what is fashion that her laws should be obeyed in defiance of all the laws of beauty, fitness, true grace, and health? If she declares that woman shall wear a hump at her back, wide crinoline skirts trailing in the dust or a waist like a wasp, there seems to be no resistance. The plates and fashion papers of the day represented only caricatures of the female form.

"The corset curse among women is more insiduous than the drink curse among men. Both sins seek to extenuate themselves on the plea of moderation. A woman can no more be trusted with a corset than a drunkard with a glass of whiskey.

"More harm to the health and vitality of our race as a whole is done by corsets than by rum. This article of clothing violates the laws of good health. It weakens the body, enfeebles the mind and dwarfs the soul!"

The large audience which listened earnestly to the reading of the paper was divided in its views on the corset question, and many a tight-laced woman was the object of inspection and criticism.

CHINA, KOREA, AND KIM OK-KYÜN.

Naturally, there are some Japanese who feel a good deal of dissatisfaction about the international aspects of the Kim assassination. Whether any action will be taken in the Diet, we do not know, but in the meanwhile Mr. Yamada Kinosuke, a well known Tokyo barrister, has published his ideas on the subject. Mr. Yamada holds, so far as we can gather, that, from a legal point of view, Kim Ok-kyün was a naturalized Japanese, since he had taken up his domicile in Japan, had adopted a Japanese name, and had abandoned, to all appearances, any *animus revertendi*. Arriving in Shanghai, he furnished plain evidence of the light in which he regarded himself, by writing his Japanese name in the hotel book and lodging at the Japanese inn. Hence China's action in conveying Kim's body in a man-of-war to Korea, without any reference to Japan, seems to Mr. Yamada most reprehensible. Japan, he says, should demand explicit explanation of procedure that infringed her sovereign right of asylum and protection. As for Korea, she has publicly rewarded an assassin who planned his murderous scheme in Japan, who enticed his victim from Japan for the purpose of slaying him, and who perpetrated a crime against Japanese peace and good order. In the absence of an extradition treaty, Japan may not be in a position to demand Hong's surrender, but she can at least require his suitable punishment. With regard to the contention advanced by some that, inasmuch as the crime was perpetrated outside Japanese territory Japan has no right to a voice in its punishment, Mr. Yamada points out that, were such a doctrine

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admitted, it would follow that a Japanese subject might be decoyed to a desert island and murdered there with impunity. At all events, the preliminary stages of Hong's crime took place on Japanese territory, and its victim was a man living under Japanese protection. Mr. Yamada lays down these propositions with much assurance. But he appears to forget that the States which he would invite to follow him into such advanced chapters of international law are China and Korea.

AMATEUR BURGLARY.

An almost unprecedented instance in the burglary line occurred, a week or so ago, in Kanda District, Tokyo. In the small hours of the morning a suspicious noise was heard in the dwelling of a druggist in Koyanagi-cho, and his son, who was bedridden, awoke to find a robber, armed with a dirk, just entering the room. The invalid gave a loud cry, which awoke and immediately brought the druggist to the spot. The thief appeared to be non-plussed and when angrily addressed, replied, his teeth chattering with fright, that this was his first attempt at robbery. The druggist, himself distrustful of that ugly-looking knife, told the thief that there was no money in the house and that he had better go home. "But after taking all the trouble to break in," said this curious burglar, "you might let me have just a little. I'm a poor man and cannot afford to work for nothing." The druggist "pitied" him—we quote from a vernacular contemporary—and handed him a *yen* bank-note and fifty *sen* in copper. The latter the burglar refused, saying that one *yen* was quite sufficient for his immediate wants, and then this remarkable scene came to a close. It would seem that both were very timid people, this being the burglar's first appearance in public, while the druggist despite the proverbially unstrained quality of mercy—was evidently in the bluest of funks.

ANTHROPOIDAL APES.

For once, it would appear, one of those marvelous tales that are the delight of the *Ko-Shimbun* scribes, is to be thoroughly sifted. A story has long been circulated concerning the existence, in a lonely spot some seven *ri* from Yawata, in Gifu Prefecture, of two brothers whose bodies are covered with long hair and whose voices, features, and behaviour are exactly those of apes. So persistently has the rumour been spread that the prefectural authorities have requested Mr. Tsuboi Hayami, Chief Physician of the Gifu Hospital, to repair to the place in question and draw up a minute report on the strange pair, if they really exist. Hairy men are no great novelties; but a hirsute growth in connection with simian characteristics of a pronounced type, sounds like the discovery of the Missing Link.

MR. HIRANUMA SENZO.

Judgment in the case of Mr. Hiranuma, the great money-lender of Yokohama, was given by the Tokyo Court of Appeal on the 16th inst. and the appeal brought by him against the decision of the Tokyo Local Court was thrown out while the new prosecution proposed by the Public Procurator was also rejected. According to the decision of the Local Court, the accused is to undergo major confinement for one month, and fined ten *yen*. Mr. Hiranuma intends to appeal to the Supreme Court against this decision.

VISCOUNT AND VISCOUNTESS DE BONDY.

To the great regret of the foreign and Japanese communities of Tokyo, Viscount de Bondy, Secretary of the French Legation, and Viscountess de Bondy leave the capital *en route* for Paris by the 4.10 p.m. train on the 17th instant, to embark in the M.M.S. steamer *Melbourne* at Yokohama. The Viscount and Viscountess have been universally popular during their residence in Tokyo, and we venture to hope that the routine of official promotion may restore them to Japan after the briefest possible interval.

REBUILDING AT HACHIOJI.

We are pleased to learn that the business prospect at Hachioji have greatly improved since last year. The financial panic, which a year ago or more was of a most distressing character to the people of that town, and on the top of which occurred the great fire of last summer, burning out a large section in the heart of the town, is now fortunately a thing of the past. The burnt out section is now almost completely rebuilt. Many of the new buildings are, of course, of the ordinary description, but there are a goodly number of substantial houses and godowns to be seen in the rebuilt portion.

ANOTHER TRADE DIFFICULTY.

The vernacular press describes another difficulty between Japanese and foreign merchants in Yokohama. What the precise facts of the case may be, we can not tell, but the charge preferred is that a foreign firm—No. 193—behaved in an arbitrary manner, retaining silk in its warehouse for an unduly long time, then insisting on a considerable rebate, and even after the rebate was made, refusing to close the transaction. This is an old story with, doubtless, another side to it. There is talk of a boy cott, but we trust that calmer counsels will prevail.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that a train which left Uyeno, Tokyo, on the 11th inst. at 2.30 p.m. for Aomori, was derailed about 1.40 the following day, between Okawara and Tsukigi. The accident was the result of premeditated design on the part of some person or persons unknown, the rails at the spot having been loosened from the sleepers. The locomotive, three freight and three passenger' cars were derailed. No injuries were sustained by the passengers. A break-down gang was soon on the spot, and the first train from Uyeno on the 12th was able to proceed without interruption.

POST CARDS.

An announcement was made by the Minister of State for Communications, in the *Official Gazette* of the 12th instant, to the effect that post cards hitherto employed for domestic circulation only may henceforth be sent abroad by merely affixing the necessary stamps. It is expected that this will prove a considerable convenience, especially to people in the interior who may not be in a position to procure international cards.

A CHURCH ROBBED.

We learn that the Tsukiji Church of the Evangelical Association at Shintome-bashi, Tokyo, a fire-proof brick building, was invaded by thieves who stole among other things the clock, the communion service, and the contents of the offertory box. The latter had not been opened since the first of April, and no doubt contained a considerable amount of money. The theft took place several days ago, but as yet the police have not been able to trace the sacrilegious rascals.

VISCOUNT DE BONDY.

Viscount de Bondy, Secretary of the French Legation, and Viscountess de Bondy left Tokyo by the 4.10 train on the 17th instant, *en route* for France. A very large number of foreigners and Japanese, including nearly all the members of the Corps Diplomatique and many high Japanese officials, assembled to bid them farewell, and hearty wishes for their speedy return to this country were universally expressed.

MULBERRY TREES IN THE TAMA AND ASAGAWA VALLEYS.

We are informed by a gentleman who has just returned from a tour through the Tama and Asagawa valleys, that notwithstanding the slight frosts which occurred during the past few weeks, the last one on the night of the 12th instant, the mulberry trees are in splendid condition and the sericulturists throughout these districts anticipate a very fine harvest.

KIM OK-KYUN.

According to a telegram received yesterday in Tokyo, the Korean Government has paused in its barbarous treatment of the corpse of Kim Ok-kyün. The murdered man's head was to have been sent round the eight provinces for exposure, but in deference to the remonstrances of the Foreign Representatives and others, the Government has announced that it will adopt a different course.

FIRE INSURANCE IN JAPAN.

A striking illustration of the growing popularity of fire insurance in Japan is furnished by the returns of the Meiji Fire Insurance Company. The following figures speak for themselves.

Date	Amount of Policies issued. *Yen.*	Amount of Premia received. *Yen.*
March 31st, 1893 ...	3,205,119	52,108
March 31st, 1894 ...	11,449,720	168,594
Increase	8,244,601	116,486

THE NETHERLANDS MINISTRY.

Telegraphic intelligence dispatched by Mr. Takahira, Japanese Minister Resident in Holland, and received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the 14th inst., states that the Dutch Cabinet has resigned, not having obtained a majority in the general elections. A Radical Cabinet has been organised by one of the elected representatives.

SHIP AGROUND IN SURUGA GULF.

Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co., write as follows:—"We beg to inform you that the ship *Argomene* is ashore at Ida, in Suruga Bay, but we are glad to say she is undamaged, and we expect her here probably to-day." We learn this morning that the steamer *Benledi*, Captain Farquhar, left Yokohama last night to render any assistance she can to the *Argomene*.

SUICIDE OF AN ARTILLERY NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER.

The affair of Hirao Kiheiji, who, by means of a forged official seal, embezzled a sum of 10,000 *yen* has led to another catastrophe, namely, the sucide of an artillery non-commissioned officer named Oka Munenaga, who, on the morning of the 10th instant, killed himself before the gate of Mr. Hirai Sukeyuki, in Osaka.

THEFT OF 30,000 YEN.

An employé, of the Yokohama Branch of the Kakegawa Bank, at Kitanaka-dori, Yokohama, named Fujita Jisuke (62), was robbed of 30,000 *yen* on the 15th inst. at Yokohama Railway Station, whence he was to leave for Kakegawa to take the money to the head office. The thief has not yet been arrested despite great exertions by the police.

AN ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

An application has been presented to the Authorities for a charter to build an electric railway from Yoroi-machi, in Saitama Prefecture, to Bessho-gashi, in the same Prefecture, *vid* Kumagae-machi, a distance of 25 miles. The motive power is to be obtained from water, and the total outlay is estimated at 300,000 *yen*. The projectors anticipate a profit of 12 per cent.

THE OSAKA HOTEL.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has a note about a new hotel in course of construction at Naka-no-shima in Osaka. It is to be in foreign style, four stories high, with 63 bedrooms, and a dining salon capable of accommodating 800 persons. The building is to cost 80,000 *yen* and the furniture 30,000. Work began on it last October, and the roof was put up on the 27th of April.

THE EMPEROR'S TOUR.

It was His Majesty the Emperor's intention to make a progress through Shimane and Tottori Prefectures after the Summer Manœuvres in Kiushu in July, but as it has been found difficult to make the necessary preparations in time, the project has been abandoned for this year, and will be deferred until His Majesty's visit to the Kyoto Exhibition next year.

MR. FOSTER.

The *Official Gazette* says that H.I.M. the Emperor gave a private audience to Mr. Foster, ex-Secretary of State in the U.S. Government, on the 14th inst. at the Palace. The American Minister and Mr. Orr were received in audience at the same time.

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THE "MAY BELLE'S" LOST MEN.

Two out of the three boats reported by Captain Snow, of the *Retriever*, as being missing from the British schooner *May Belle*, have turned up safely, being brought into Yokohama by the *Bonanza* on Friday night, and strong hopes are entertained by the rescued men that Captain Shields has also been picked up. George Dobson, one of the men, in an interview on Saturday, said that he and Adolf Perrer, along with Thos. Field, left the schooner on April 17th for a day's hunting. The weather was fine, with a slight haze. They pulled away for about 5 miles and then commenced work. The Captain's boat was near them. It contained in addition to Captain Shield, James Cashion and Anthony Smith. About noon all the boats tacked preparatory to making the schooner. Soon afterwards they lost sight of the Captain's boat, while the schooner was nowhere to be seen. Towards dusk the lost men caught sight of another sealing-boat, in which were Robert Cohn, Richard Lockwood, and Billy Trueworthy. Together they cruised about for three and a half-days before being picked up by the *Bonanza*. Fortunately, each boat was provided with a can of corned beef, a can of salmon, a loaf of soft bread, some 25 crackers, a few slices of salt beef, and a keg of water. When the water was exhausted they opened a seal and drank its blood, while the solid provisions were carefully husbanded. Nothing of moment occurred, with the exception of a blow on the night of the 19th April. Up to the date of their losing the *May Belle*, that vessel had had a most successful season, some 850 skins being secured, of which 342 fell to Dobson's boat. On the day they were lost one boat had caught 17 seals, the other 15. The *May Belle*, has still 11 men on board, the mate being in charge.

THE "MIIKE MARU" IN COLLISION

A telegram was received at the Head Office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha on Tuesday, from Shanghai, advising the Company, in meagre terms, of a collision between the steamer *Miike Maru* (Captain Tipple), of their Bombay line, and the steamer *Monmouthshire*, one of the "Shire" liners. The telegram reads as follows:—"Steamer *Miike Maru* has been in collision with steamer *Monmouthshire*, damaged between wind and water; cargo in good condition; surveyors have ordered her to be docked for examination, will have to partly discharge for repairs, which will take about a week." No particulars as to how the collision occurred are yet to hand. The *Miike Maru* was evidently coming down stream and met the *Monmouthshire*, bound in from Kutchinotzu, which port she left at 7 a.m. on the 10th inst. The *Miike's* cargo consists principally of cotton from Bombay.

DISCOVERY OF A WRECK.

A report has been received by the Kanagawa *Ken* Police, from the Ibaraki local officials, to the effect that the wreck of a vessel and the remains of a man, supposed to be one of her crew, were discovered on the shore of Matsumura, in the Naka district of Ibaraki Prefecture, on the 11th inst. The vessel is almost entirely buried in the sand, only a portion of her bottom and stern showing, from which it is evident that she is a vessel of foreign construction. The corpse, which was very much disfigured and decomposed, is supposed to have been exposed to the elements for ten days or more. No clothing has been discovered, but there was a woollen stocking on the deceased's right foot. The body measured 5 *shaku* 4 *sun* (one *sun* $=1\frac{3}{16}$ in. and 10 *sun*=one *shaku*). The man's hair was of a reddish hue, and he had an anchor tatooed on the back of his left hand. He is doubtless a foreigner, but of course his nationality cannot be determined. The body has been temporary interred.

SHIP RUNS AGROUND ON FUTTSU SPIT.

The British ship *Queen Victoria*, of some 1,700 tons, and commanded by Captain Logie, ran aground about 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning between the new fort and the west shore fort at the entrance to the Bay. The *Queen Victoria* left Kobe on the 9th inst., in ballast, consigned to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and was drawing about $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet of water. Fortunately she ran on to a sandy bottom in 12 feet of water, and it is not expected that she will be much damaged. Mr. Laffin, upon hearing of the accident, at once proceeded down the Bay in the *Yokosuka Maru* and rendered all assistance possible. At high tide on Wednesday morning the stranded ship floated off and was towed up to her anchorage.

THE TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.

Ladas, the Derby favourite, has won the Two Thousand Guineas, and remains an unbeaten colt. This will probably be his record when he retires to the *haras*, as he is very lightly engaged—only entered in fact in six other races. Ladas is a Hampton colt out of Illuminata, and won all the four events for which he started as a two-year-old, namely, the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom, where he started at 10 to 1 in a field of six and won by a length and a half; in the Coventry Stakes, for which he was favourite, when he showed his heels to a field of a dozen; in the Champagne Stakes, where his only opponent was Sempronius, whom he defeated, starting at 11 to 4 on; and the Middle Park Plate, which he won by two lengths in a field of five, starting at 5 to 1 on. Lord Rosebery's colt is engaged in the Newmarket Stakes, run on the 22nd inst., the Derby, run on June 6th, the Prince of Wales Stakes at Ascot, the Princess of Wales Stakes at Newmarket July, the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park, and the Leger. As little as 3 to 1 had been taken about Ladas for the Derby at the end of March, but no bets had been made about the Guineas at that time as it was very uncertain whether or not he would fill either of his engagements previous to the Derby. His having been started at Newmarket, however, and his victory over the Rowley Mile would seem to indicate that he was in tip-top fettle, and will make a bid for the triple crown. Match Box is a bay colt by St. Simon—Match Girl, owned by Lord Alington, and Athlone, a bay colt by Sarabande—Princess Arena, belonging to Sir J. Blundell Maple. The former won three of the four events he started for as a two-year-old, but the latter seems to have sported silk for the first time in the Guineas. He is heavily engaged this year, being entered in no less than 22 races. Both colts are in the Derby and St. Leger.

SHANGHAI NEWS.

The case of the Bank of China *v.* L. Anderson, has been appealed by the defendant to the High Court of Denmark.

A native paper states that the Viceroy Li Hung-chang has appointed an expectant Taotai, by the name of Ch'ên, who has had some European experience in embassies to foreign countries, to be Commissioner of Cotton Mills in the Treaty ports.

The *Amoy Gazette* of the 1st inst. says:—We understand that the National Bank of China, Limited, will shortly commence the issue of its notes for circulation in this port. It will doubtless be a great boon to the public generally and the foreign community in particular. The convenience of carrying and using notes in place of the chopped and occasionally spurious dollars of Amoy currency, will, without doubt be preferred by all. The shroffing and weighing of the dollars will be done away with and monetary transactions reduced to the simplicity of merely counting the notes. We congratulate the Bank and its popular local manager on this additional step in the right direction. The difficulties attending the introduction of this new Bank being overcome, its success is now secured as one of the important institutions in China.

In obedience to instructions received from General T'an, Provincial Commander-in-Chief at Sungkiang, Colonel Liae, commandant of the native city garrison at Shanghai, inspected on Sunday, May 6th, the Taihu Lake naval brigade, consisting of five battalions and about eighty gunboats, which had assembled a few miles south of Shanghai for their triennial review. The effect was, to say the least, picturesque, great interest being manifested in the diving operations of a body of sailors, some of whom, the native spectators solemnly averred to a representative of the *N. C. Daily News*, could stay under water half-a-day, without the necessity of coming to the surface for a breathing spell! The object of the diving drill was to demonstrate the feasibility of boring holes in the enemy's gunboats in order to sink them.

The now famous Hsü Chih-siang, the daring critic of the Viceroys Chang Chih-tung and Li Hung-chang, passed through Shanghai from the North the other day, at about the same time as the Governor-designate of Chêkiang, H.E. Liao Shou-fêng, whose fellow-townsman he is. This "iron-faced" official—for so Hsü Chih-siang is styled by the Pekingese—with the manners characteristic of the man, travelled *incog*. So there was no demonstration or flattering reception accorded him by the local mandarins, who must have been chagrined to find when too late, that this famous person, who is sure to rise in the future, passed through their district without even notifying them of the fact. It will be remembered that Hsü Chih-siang was formerly President of the Court of Revision, a body of Censors with special functions to keep a watch over the administration of the criminal law of the empire, but on account of making it "too hot" for the two powerful satraps Li and Chang and their supporters at Peking, the Emperor was influenced against him, and from a high metropolitan post he was lately transferred to the post of Literary Chancellor of Chêkiang. This is an apparent rise, but the difference of Power and the chance of being promoted within a couple of years to the Vice-Presidency of a Board greatly out-balanced the "promotion" in this case. A Soochow despatch says that Hsü Chih-siang, having visited his ancestral home at Kading passed through the former city *en route* for his post at Hangchow on the 2nd instant.

Mr. O'Conor, British Minister to Peking, has abandoned for the present his intention of visiting Shanghai, in consequence of telegraphic instructions from home.

Steamers arriving in Shanghai on May 8th reported the disappearance of the S. E. knoll buoy from its position. As it was seen on the deck of the U.S. Flagship *Baltimore* and divers were at work under her stern, it is presumed the propeller of the flagship was foul of the buoy moorings. The *Baltimore* returned to Woosung on the 9th.

Yang Shih-hai, one of the most notorious of the *Ko'ao Hui* chiefs, who had avoided capture for the past three years, was arrested by the Kiukiang Brigadier-General after a desperate fight on the borders of Kiangsi, near Hunan, about three weeks ago and summarily executed on the 2nd instant at Kiukiang.

The following whimsical paragraph appears in the *N. C. Daily News* for May 11th:—"We mentioned that when the Spanish man-of-war *Don Juan de Austria* arrived at Shanghai, she saluted the port, which naturally was not returned, Shanghai not being a saluting port. She left here on Wednesday and is still anchored at Woo-sung, and the story is that her commander wants his salute returned and is in communication with the Woosung forts on the subject." The evening journal of Shanghai of the same date says:—Yesterday at 4 p.m., the forts at Woosung returned the salute of the Spanish cruiser *Don Juan de Austria*. We are informed that the Commander of this man-of-war, according to international etiquette, was obliged to salute the United States Admiral, but before doing so he was obliged to salute the Chinese flag.

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A fire occurred in Seward Road, Shanghai, on the 5th instant and twelve houses were destroyed. The houses and their contents were insured.

There is to be a new bund at Shanghai beyond the French side to the East Gate. It was marked out on the 4th of May by the local Chinese officials.

The tea hongs in Amoy and Tamsui, taught by experience that competition amongst themselves has the effect of only making them pay high prices for tea, have this year signed an agreement that nobody will ship this season's tea before the 26th of May. The *rationale* of their compact is that by that time the local market will be well stocked with new tea and low prices will consequently rule. One merchant of Tamsui has not subscribed to this agreement and therefore has a monopoly of the buying at present.

The Rev. F. Hugh, Pro-Vicar-Apostolic of Northern Shensi, who is an Irishman by birth, has published in the *North China Daily Herald* an account of the recent anti-Christian outrages in that province. We reproduce the main part in his own words :—

On Friday the 30th of March, at midnight, a determined attempt to destroy by fire the whole Christian mission of Shankientze in the district of Houshien was made by the pagans, in consequence of a pending suit regarding property belonging to a Christian which had been forcibly taken over to afford for a pagoda. It was only by the greatest efforts of priest and people that the flames were arrested within a few yards of the church. A strong wind was blowing at the time and only the intervention of Providence could have averted a general calamity It was but natural that, under the circumstances, the missionary should appeal to the *yamén* for an investigation and that the *yamén* should pay attention. The writer was asked to accompany the missionary in question, the Rev. Father Gabriel, of French nationality We had the pleasure of being detained nearly two hours at the gate of the *yamén*, the objects of the obnoxious curiosity of the populace congregated in their numbers at the fair being held at the time. During all this interval no one of respectability was sent by the magistrate to our encounter, in spite of the Emperor's reiterated commands that the missionary should be received by the local mandarin with all due respect and consideration. After so long a delay receiving for answer that the mandarin was indisposed, the French priest determined to proceed to the *menn-koung's* office, open all day to those who have affairs to transact with the *yamén*. The door of the great tribunal lay open ; it was trap into which my companion was rushing, for behind the second door the satellites had been mustered in force On attempting to cross the threshold he was immediately pounced upon. Hurrying to his protection, I was seized from behind by the honourable appendage called a pig-tail and hustled and beaten My companion getting clear rushed forward crying out for the protection of the mandarin, believing it safer than a backward movement which would have put him at the mercy of the people, upon whom no dependence could be placed after the example given by the mandarin's retainers. He succeeded in reaching the second hall, followed by the runners, and cried out in the name of the Treaty for protection, but all the reply he heard from the mandarin's quarters was, "Rebellion, rebellion ! Bring up the four divisions and the military ! Beat and imprison them." This all happened in the public hall to which we had certainly a right to enter, having a matter of the gravest importance to transact. Then happened what is alleged as the whole brunt of his offending. Being overwhelmed by underlings, who dragged him by the legs and arms and hair of his head, in falling he seized the first object within reach, which happened to be a table which he is aware of having dragged out of place, but of nothing further. It is behind this table which is exalted into the representative of the Emperor himself, that the delinquent magistrate is to hide himself after his gross conduct. Its displacement, or what other accident happened to it, is due to the violence of the satellites themselves. It is to be the magistrate's excuse to his superiors for his outrageous conduct, not to speak of the grosser and really too absurd calumny, if ever it were made, which I disbelieve, of having broken open the State coffer and spilt the money among the people ; a likely proceeding in face of the officials and the numerous crowd of people ! But who after Sung-pu can enter into the depths of Chinese iniquity, mixed with stupidity ? The entry of two pacific Europeans armed with the authorisation of the Emperor is exaggerated into a rebellion. Very luckily the order for the assembly of the military did not reach them, or reached them too late or was disobeyed, therewise it is quite possible that some spear thrusts would have added to the list of victims of Chinese hatred.

As I stated, we had been seized and were now being dragged by the hair, pushed, beaten, surrounded by the whole executive body numbering two or three hundred, shouting and cursing, in the face of the whole population. Outside the great hall, finding myself free for a moment, I went to the aid of my companion and besought the runners to release hold of his hair. Immediately I was seized again from behind held to the ground, beaten, kicked, cursed, father, mother and progenitors—who according to Chinese Darwinism were declared to be dogs, asses, etc. Then surrounded by a howling herd of underlings I was dragged by the hair through the house of detention of the light brigade of police to the cells of the chained prisoners. I was left on the threshold, whither I wandered back to a chair outside the entry of the cells, where I found my companion who had in the same unceremonious manner been introduced. After talking over matters, my companion rose to find out whether *de facto* we were prisoners or not. On attempting to leave, twice he was dragged back by the hair of the head. After an interval of an hour he made a third experiment, penetrating into the courtyard, but cries were raised from the tribunal, "Arrest him, imprison him !" He was immediately surrounded by a circle of runners who, without laying hands upon him, followed all his movements till his return into the prison. I must not omit a further circumstance. After our entry into the court-yard of the *menn-koung's* office the door was closed behind us to prevent our escape. The presentor of our card—a man adorned with the insignia of a mandarin but not wearing his official dress at the time—was shut in. On opening the door to leave he was roughly handled, receiving a blow on the chest. A search was made for him later in the town but he was harboured by pagans till he could make good his escape. Our legal adviser was also struck on the hand while warding off a blow and shared for a time our imprisonment, but being invited to a consultation with the assistant magistrate seized the opportunity to escape to Hsian. It is stated that in the attack on us three swords were observed in the hands of the runners. During the day we despatched a telegram to Peking and sent our complaint to the Provincial Governor through the Bishop, The complaint was refused and the messenger threatened with imprisonment. The Bishop was not a mandarin—evidently an objection to the form—and our complaints must be a parcel of lies. The bearer, however, replied, "Imprison me or not ! The matter is as represented." Finally a copy was made and a promise was given that the matter would be attended to, with a request to the bearer to say nothing of the bad reception that he had received. Evidently the *yamén* and not the Governor were the actors in the first reception scene, as is usually the case.

The sequel of this affair is the most curious part of it. The missionaries having been got into prison wrongfully, and the authorities becoming apprehensive about the consequences of the blunder, every possible effort was made to induce the two reverend gentlemen to remove themselves quietly. But Mr. Hugh, as we have said, is an Irishman, and Irishmen are apt to be obstinate. Besides, he had the example of Paul and Silas in the prison at Thyatara to guide him. He and his companion refused to leave the prison. Then the Chinese, finding themselves in a perplexing quandary, adopted a thoroughly Chinese method of emerging from it. Unable to remove the missionaries from the prison, they removed the prison from the missionaries. This unique performance was not achieved with any Genius-of-the-Lamp celerity. It was gradual. In the first place, the room where the missionaries were incarcerated was cut off from the cells and the body of the prison. This certainly had the effect of differentiating the missionaries from the ordinary prisoners, but it also reduced them to the necessity of spending their days and nights and performing all the functions of life in a solitary room open to the street and to the crowds attracted by the novel spectacle. This horrible discomfort did not shake the Celt's resolution. Therefore the Chinese proceeded with their programme. On the 4th day they removed all the Chinese prisoners, one by one, as secretly as possible ; on the 5th, they removed all the staff of the prison except one or two men disguised in plain clothes, and on the 6th, they invited the people to contemplate the curious spectacle of two foreign gentlemen voluntarily remaining day after day in a pagoda which they had entered by mistake expecting to find a mandarin there. But we doubt whether any "heathen Chinee" born of woman is a match for a genuine Irishman. For ten days Mr. Hugh and his companion remained in the dismantled prison visited daily by thousands of spectators who justly regarded them as *fin de siècle* curiosities. Mr. Hugh himself seems to have some qualms about the Christian-like gentleness of his conduct. He excuses it by offering an explanation, namely, that to understand his action it is necessary to appreciate his estimate of the Chinese as "the most false and hypocritical people on the face of the globe." Nobody wanted an excuse from Mr. Hugh. We have only admiration for his courage, resolution, and astuteness. But if he wanted to give an excuse, we could wish that he had framed it differently. After ten days the Assistant Magistrate himself visited the ex-prison, but though showing every disposition to conciliate the missionaries, failed to induce them to change their quarters. They may still, for aught we know to the contrary, be sitting under colours nailed to a mast of indescribable discomfort and hardship unless their telegrams to Peking have before now induced the authorities there to take conclusive steps. We sincerely hope that this valiant Irishman may come out of the affair with flying colours.

The rosy views recently taken of affairs in the Yangtze region were premature. It will be remembered that in accordance with demands preferred by the Foreign Representatives in Peking, instructions were issued for re-posting the celebrated Imperial Edict of 1891 throughout the region. This was supposed to have been done and as the Edict is really a wonderfully liberal document, there was great rejoicing over its re-publication and the Sungpu massacre was supposed to have produced more good than harm. But it now turns out that these estimates were greatly exaggerated. The Edict has been posted only in the immediate vicinity of Hankow, and not at all in the districts where it is really wanted. There its place is taken by a number of placards, some of huge dimensions and striking colour threatening with death and destruction of property anyone guilty of aiding or abetting the foreign barbarian. The *North China Daily News'* Hankow correspondent describes the placards as follows :—

In these productions we are informed that the scholars and people of the district of Machêng, hearing that the foreign mission case was still unsettled, and that there was an idea of compelling the magistrates to re-establish the preaching hall, regardless of all the mischiefs which might follow, and of the fact that certain villains through their greed for petty gains had brought calamities on themselves to the obliterating of families, and the disgracing of ancestors, as the next cart would follow in the same rut as the first, they, the people, had decided to be on their guard, and would not permit a single inch of Chinese land to be occupied by the barbarian. Each man would look after his own house, and each locality would protect itself, and should any one again dare to have intercourse with the barbarians, all would unite to punish him. They would not send him to the magistrate, but deal with him according to the regulations now made and provided. These are to the effect that any foreigner passing would be allowed a meal, or a night's lodging, but should any innkeeper permit him to remain longer his inn would be destroyed and the site confiscated. Any foreigner coming to sell books would be allowed to do so, but no one would be hindered from reviling and insulting him, and should any native dare to buy a book he would be severely punished. If foreigners are to establish a mission they must have somewhere to stow their bodies in, but it is determined they shall not have an inch. If any one dares to disregard this he will be murdered, and so save his ancestors from disgrace. Should any foreign merchant come to rent or stay the people must excuse themselves with smooth words, and should any one, covetous of heavy prices, allow him to obtain a lodgment and begin building, his house will be pulled to pieces, so as to save the mischief of having to burn it later on.

The same correspondent notes that these placards indicate a new departure. Formerly threats thus published were directed entirely against the foreigners ; now the native is intimidated. Another subtle device has been to convert the Sung-pu affair into a play performed by means of a magic lantern. "In this way foreigners, who are exhibited as practising the grossest immoralities, are thrown down from the house-tops nightly and beaten to death to the great delight of rustic audiences."

Another anti-foreign outrage is reported from Yanglo-tung, a place lying on the opposite side of Hankow from Sung-pu and about twice as far from it. The victim was Mr. N. Danilow who has been in the habit of going every year to Yanglo-tung to buy tea on account of the Russian firm, Messrs. Popow Frères. He was set upon by a band of men, dragged from his sedan chair and beaten into insensibility. Possibly this outrage may have been planned by the native tea-merchants to get rid of an inconvenient foreign competitor.

Shanghai held its 21st Annual Flower Show in the Astor Hall on the 9th of May. The *North China Daily News* says that in only two departments did the exhibits show improvement, the ferns and the vegetables, and that the roses were particularly poor.

The Viceroy Li certainly does not do things by halves. His recommendation of three officials for reward, as published in the Peking Gazette of January 26th, is about as thoroughgoing as any recommendation we have ever seen. He prefaces it by saying that he "never presumes to recommend men to the Throne's notice unless he has had personal knowledge of, and personally tried, them in various lights and never found them wanting ? This declaration

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adds the more force to the unstinted panegyrics he then proceeds to bestow on three officials, whom he asks to have summoned to Peking and presented to the Emperor, "leaving it to the resplendent and generous will of the Throne to determine" how their services should be utilized. It is pleasant to note that the outspoken Viceroy's suggestion was at once acted on by the Emperor.

HONGKONG NEWS.

The movement for the establishment of a Club at the Peak has now taken definite form, and "The Homestead," the property of Mr. Granville Sharp, has been rented for the purpose.

In the Supreme Court recently before His Honour Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Chief Justice, Mr. A. J. Leach, the Acting Attorney-General, brought up the question of the appeal by Chun Hing against a sentence of Commander Hastings of six months' imprisonment for unlawful possession of arms. He said that the Crown did not intend to ask for a rehearing of the matter, and consented to the sentence being reversed and the conviction quashed. His Lordship said that he saw no objection to that course and therefore made the order, with the concurrence of Mr. A. G. Wise, Acting Puisne Judge.

"Francillon," "Forget-me-Not," and "In Society" have been played to crowded houses in Hongkong by the Brown-Potter-Kyrle Bellew combination.

All that remains of the ill-fated tug *Pilot Fish*, which lies a wreck several feet under water near Tamtoo Island, was knocked down by auction to Chi Wo for $1,000.

An attempt is in progress to improve the appearance of an arid waste at Kowloon known as Humphreys' Estate by planting trees on each side of the newly-formed streets.

Says the *China Mail* of the 3rd inst.:—Much amusement was given to the occupants of the dress circle in the Theatre last night by a young Englishman who went to sleep in the Governor's box during the progress of *Forget-me-Not*. In the course of the first act, which was almost dreary enough for anything, this young fellow dropped off into a snooze from which he did not awake till the play was concluded. If he had selected a less prominent position he would not have been so noticeable. There was a certain amount of passive irony about his action, but no one could believe that he had any grudge against the members of the Company and took this means of satirising their efforts to amuse and entertain. The culminating point was reached when the unconscious sleeper placed his feet upon the back of the chair in front, right in view of the rest of the audience in the dress circle. The offender, whoever he is, ought to be advised to find a more suitable place when next he goes to the Theatre to sleep.

A Chess Club has been established in Hongkong, and the first meeting was arranged to take place on the 15th May. A Championship Tournament will be arranged as quickly as possible.

Mr. J. D. Humphreys, General Manager of Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., of Hongkong, in his annual report upon the Company's working to the 31st December, 1893, says:—The net profits of the Company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including General Management, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and with the addition of $7,704.85 brought forward from last year, amount to $137,100.69. From this there has been written off for depreciation of furniture, fittings, steam launch, securities, and properties $18,968.53. And for the adjustment of exchange on sterling liabilities $29,952.14—18,920.67. Leaving a balance to be dealt with of $88,130.02 From this amount I propose to appropriate a sum of $30,000 to be specially written off for depreciation in the value of the buildings, furniture, fittings, and sign-boards of the whole of our Chinese branch establishments on the mainland $30,000.00. There will then remain available for dividends $58,180.02. We paid an interim dividend of 4 per cent. in November last, absorbing $24,000, and I now proposes to pay a further dividend of 4 per cent. (making 8 per cent. for the year), which will absorb $24,000 leaving a balance of $10,180.02 to be carried forward.

Writing on the 16th of May, the Hongkong *Daily Press* says:—The pestilential disease, or plague as it is called in Canton, appears to become worse and worse day by day. It is now spreading to Honam and Fatshan, where, although not many fatal cases have been reported, the inhabitants are in a very alarmed state of mind. The authorities have issued a proclamation prohibiting the slaughter of pigs, and on the 7th inst. another notice was also posted up in the streets prohibiting even the capture of fish. Processions with josses are still parading the streets day and night and crackers, sandal-wood, and joss-sticks are to be burnt in every house all the time with the intention of getting rid of the visitation. The disease is regarded as not only dangerous to those who live in the city but also a peril to those who are visiting the place. From native sources we learn that in some cases people have been found dead whilst being carried in chairs in the streets. The stock of coffins is now nearly exhausted, and the undertakers are working day and night to meet the demand. The *Chung Noi Sau Po* relates the following curious story. Inside the city there lived a family in which seven out of the eight occupiers had succumbed to the disease in the course of one day, and the only survivor was a girl, who could not go out to buy coffins for the dead bodies and she was sitting down. Later on a thief broke into the house with a view to rob the giri, but as soon as he stepped into it the latter offered him some money and asked him to buy coffins for her deceased relatives, saying that if he would fulfil the errand she would allow him to take away all he liked. The man promised and left the house with the money. But on his return he found the girl had also died, and he began to gather together the valuables in the house, but in the course of this he suddenly fell down and expired.

The *Daily Press* hears that the M.M. steamer *Volga* was bought at auction by the China Mutual agents for $24,100. "The vessel requires a good deal of repair," it says, "but is cheap at the price."

A correspondent sends the *China Mail* the following:—Memo. for the Retrenchment Committee. There are nine English masters employed at the "Queen's College" as it is now called. The second master is away on leave, the fourth is acting as first clerk at the Magistracy, the sixth is just going for twelve months' holiday in England, and even when the seventh sprains his ankle at tennis and is incapacitated from work, the skies do not fall but the College apparently goes on just in the old sweet way.

ENGLISH NEWS.

Mr. R. H. Elliot, a well-known planter in Mysore, has written a book showing that, by the closing of the Indian mints, which forced the rupee from one shilling and three pence to one shilling and fourpence, the coffee-growers in Mysore alone will lose £56,000 a year, and the producing classes of India as a whole will lose about £7,000,000 sterling annually on their aggregate exports. Curiously enough, just as this book was published in India Mr. E. Turnor, who owns over 20,000 acres of land in Lincolnshire, was giving evidence before the Royal Commission on Agriculture to the effect that the root of the present depression springs from in the demonetization of silver.

Colonel Saunderson is naturally in high fettle over the action of the Lords toward the Home Rule Bill. Speaking recently at the opening of a Bazaar, he made use of the following words:—"With Home Rule there would have been in this country the domination of a class as great Imperial duties, as well as the dogs and of politics absolutely subversive of all liberty and of all prosperity. Now they were in perfect peace, owing to the action of the House of Lords, which loyalists never ought to forget The Home Rule Bill had been ignominiously kicked out of that Assembly. No agitation had since occurred to show that the British people resented that action, and although the Unionists might not be successful at the present bye-elections he had no doubt that when a general election came the final torch would be put to that nefarious measure and those who aided and abetted it."

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts has published its 192nd annual report. The American Colonies were the field of its earliest operations in 1702, and its latest campaign took it into Manchuria in 1892. The Society's total annual income amounts to £113,079, with which sum it maintains 718 ordained missionaries, including 10 Bishops, 2,300 lay teachers, and 2,600 students in its colleges in different parts of the world, while 38,000 children receive education at its schools in Asia and Africa.

A singlar story is gradually growing up round King Theebaw's Crown jewels and regalia. This property, supposed to be of great value, disappeared from the Royal Palace at Mandalay during the night before the occupation of the place by the British troops in 1885. All attempts to trace the lost articles were unsuccessful, though as to their existence no doubt could be entertained, one of the Colonels on guard at the Palace having stated that he had seen there gold vases and other ornaments which upon the entry of the troops the following morning were missing. The jewels and regalia had almost faded from public recollection when attention was again directed to them by a rumour that their whereabouts had been recalled in the death-bed confession of a British soldier. It now appears, however, that this version of the facts is incorrect. Two soldiers, of whom one has since died, secreted the jewels and the regalia, having stolen them from the Palace during the night. The soldier that actually did the stealing, or at any rate is credited by his comrade with doing it, has since died, but the survivor, William White, *alias* Jack Marshall, professes to know exactly where the treasures lie. His acquaintance with their whereabouts having come to the knowledge of Mr. Mobbs, a Southhampton estate agent, the latter put himself into communication with the India Office, and after various negotiations obtained not only a satisfactory promise as to his own reward if the lost property were unearthed, but also a document indemnifying White from the consequences of his dishonesty. Complications then arose with reference to the manner of getting at the jewels, and before things were settled the man White, carrying his indemnity in his pocket, quietly set off on his own account for Rangoon. It looks as if this ex-private of the 2nd Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, who after he left the army worked as a farm labourer and a dock hand, would outwit the Authorities and get possession of the buried treasures. The Authorities, however, conjecture That he is merely seeking to secure for himself the whole reward offered by the Indian Government for their recovery. He is said to speak the native tongue, to have a native wife and son near Rangoon, and to be very cunning.

The Government seems to be getting into trouble with Scotland as well as Ireland over the question of Home Rule. Eight years ago the late Mr. John Bright proposed as a substitute for Home Rule that separate Grand Committees should be formed of the members for Scotland and Ireland to whom all Bills relating to those countries might respectively be referred. That is the system which the Government is now seeking to inaugurate for Scotland, but the Scottish Home Rule Association have issued a strong manifesto protesting against such a substitute for the more drastic measure of Home Rule, and declaring that "the Imperial Parliament is no longer fit to undertake

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mestic legislation of the home countries, and such legislation can be best understood and framed by the people whom it concerns, the true solution of the difficulty is to be found in a general devolution upon each of the great historic and geographical divisions of the United Kingdom of such legislative and administrative powers as are necessary for the management of its internal affairs, leaving the Imperial Parliament untouched in its integrity and supremacy, free to give due attention to the great Imperial interests which are at present too much neglected." On April 2nd, Sir George Trevelyan, in his position as a Minister of the Crown, proposed that Scotch affairs should be dealt with by a Scotch Grand Committee, and the debate that ensued was deferred until April 5th. But on April 3rd Mr. Dalziel made a motion for setting up a Home Rule Legislature in Scotland, and after a two hours' debate the proposal was passed by a majority of 10 in a House of 355 members, the Government voting in favour of the Bill, though its own less radical measure was still before the House. The explanation offered of this extraordinary course is that, by pushing its own scheme, the Government would have invited a defeat, since the Irish members must have voted against it.

The doings of some of the British officers and soldiers in Africa, related in the most sober and matter-of-fact way in the columns of *The Times*, read like romances. Last November a bloodthirsty chief named Makanjira and his horde of ruffian followers, who subsisted by the most brutal form of slave trade, were driven from their position, and peace was restored to the region previously terrorized by them. Very quickly a new and flourishing town grew upon the site of Makanjira's long famous head-quarters on the east shore of Lake Nyasa, protection being afforded to it by Fort Maguire, about a mile and a quarter distant. On the 6th of January, Makanjira and some 3,000 of his followers made a raid upon this town, their object being to loot the houses, and carry the people into slavery. The officer in command of the fort was Captain Edwards. Within a few minutes after the sounding of the alarm, he reached the town at the head of 31 Sikhs, 9 Makua gunners, and 70 natives, a fine force to lead to the assault of 3,000 desperadoes. "The town," we read, "had already been fired in several places, and hundreds of armed men were within it looting the houses and capturing the people. Another body of raiders was in a wood near at hand, and not fewer than 1,500 were visible. Part of them at once began to get round on both flanks to the rear of the little force of Sikhs, which was presently hotly engaged simultaneously to the front, to the right, and to the left. After half-an-hour of this, the enemy growing bolder and the ammunition scarcer, Edwards ordered a charge at the biggest body of the foe. The raiders held their ground until the Sikhs were close upon them, and then broke and fled toward the lake. The pressure of the situation was relieved, but, in the meantime, another body of raiders was attempting to occupy the favourable position which the Sikhs had just vacated. This body was hastily charged and dispersed by Edwards at the head of 19 men only, but the attention of the defenders was still cunningly occupied by minor detachments of the enemy, while the main force, about 600 strong, was getting away on the south side of the village with a large number of captive women. It would probably have been impossible for Captain Edwards to prevent this party from effecting its object, had not the villagers themselves opportunely rallied and attacked the rear of the slavers who were holding the Sikhs in check. As soon as this attack began to produce its effect, Edwards, with but four Sikhs, three Makua, and 40 villagers, started at the double after the rapidly-disappearing kidnappers, who were going south. After a three miles' chase the scoundrels were overtaken and charged, whereupon, in spite of their enormously superior numbers, they abandoned their prisoners and loot and decamped. They were hotly pursued for nine miles. Of the raiders, ten were taken, and at least 43 are known to have been killed." Among, the Sikhs there were no casualties, strange to say. Edwards charging hundreds of the enemy at the head of his 4 Sikhs and 3 Makuas reminds as of the Irishman who, being asked how he managed single-handed to capture three prisoners, replied, 'Faix, I just surrounded them."

"At a council meeting of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture held on April 3rd in London a report of the Bimetallic Committee, which stated that a marked advance had taken place in public opinion on the subject of bimetallism, and expressed the hope that the mercantile world would soon endorse the view, of scientific economists, was presented and adopted."

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., speaking from the chair at a convention of Parnellite Home Rulers in the Round-room of the Dublin Rotunda on April 3rd, said that, "at the present moment the Independent Party were in danger of losing all the fruits of the last 15 years' labour, sacrifice, and suffering. They were face to face with something even worse than that—the danger of the people of Ireland giving up in disgust all constitutional agitation. They were face to face almost with the ruin of the cause they had at heart, owing to the course taken by raw recruits led by terrified captains, of making the Irish party sub-servient to an English Gomment. For a short time in the present Parliament, Ireland had been a great power, but it was swept away by the conduct of those terrified captains who were afraid to use that power, and now it had slipped out of their hands. What was the position of Ireland at home today? It was a position of disunion, squalid and humiliating personal altercations and petty vanities. The men who were to unite Ireland were themselves presenting to the world a spectacle which must degrade the name of Ireland in the eyes of every nation." We trust that Mr. John Redmond is a sound prophet.

A curious accident occurred on board H.M.S. *Serapis* on March 11th, just before she reached Bombay. "The crew were engaged unbending sails when the fore-topgallant yard came down by the run, and, striking the planks end on, penetrated the upper deck, passed through the engine-room, and through the main deck into the staff-sergeants' quarters, the yard-arm ultimately resting on one of the beds there. No deaths resulted."

The man Scott, upon whom so much interest centred in connection with the Ardlamont murder, surrendered on April 5th to the London Police Authorities, but they declined to arrest him, as the warrant against him had been withdrawn.

A public meeting was held at the Calcutta Town-hall on April 5th, under the presidency of Maharajah Sir Totendro Mohun Tagore, to protest against the exclusion of cotton goods from the Tariff Act. The meeting decided to circulate for signature throughout India a petition that should ultimately be presented to the House of Commons. *The Times'* correspondent at Calcutta says:—"The petition sets forth the case in forcible but temperate terms. It states that the action of the Secretary of State has seriously shaken the belief of the people of India in the desire of England to rule the country in the interests of India, and has excited fears lest it should become a cardinal axiom that those interests are not to be considered against the supposed interests of even a section of the English people. It adds that a settlement of the question whether cotton goods alone are to be exempted from import duties will be regarded by the people of India as a crucial test of the truth of England's boast that she governs India in the interests of India and not for the purpose of party exigencies."

The financial condition of the disestablished Irish Church was very clearly set forth in the report of the Church Representative Body submitted to the General Synod on April 5th. The Provost of Trinity College, referring to the report, said:—"It was encouraging to find that the receipts from all sources for the year 1893 exceeded in the aggregate those of the preceding 12 months. The contributions received from voluntary sources during the year 1893 amounted to £156,597, as against £170,177 in 1891 and £150,902 in 1892. The total contributions received from voluntary sources since disestablishment amounted to £4,376,197. The income from investments during 1893 amounted to £300,174, making the total income for that year £487,681. The total expenditure had been £421,553, leaving a balance of £66,128 to be added to capital. The total assets of the Representative Body on December 31, 1893, amounted to £7,714.801."

The Sanitary Conference of all the Governments of Europe and the United States of America, held in Paris, to consider the best means of preventing the spread of cholera in the East, has drawn up a convention, to which all the Powers, with the exception of the United States, Holland, and Turkey, have appended their signatures. The convention contains many provisions relating to the management of quarantine stations, but its general import may be gathered from the following *resumé*:—"The convention aims at extending to the East, especially in regard to the pilgrim traffic through the Red Sea and Arabia, the convention for preventing the spread of cholera, agreed upon for Europe at the Cholera Conference of the Powers held in Venice and Dresden in 1892 and 1893, the real principle of which was to give up the ancient and wrong principle of treating ships according to the health of the ports from which they sailed or touched at on their voyages. It is aimed at doing away with the old powers and measures of quarantine, by which ships which had sailed half-way round the world were quarantined, although during the voyage not a single case of illness occurred on board during the interval since they left a port where cholera was known to exist. Under the old system such a ship might be quarantined for many days at the port of arrival if any epidemic existed at the port of departure. As a matter of fact, no better quarantine exists than a sea voyage now with quickly-moving ships through the salt-laden air, and the delegates believe that, even if it were not so, it is impossible to erect barriers to disease by the old methods. All that can be down now is to prevent people actually suffering from disease from freely circulating in the country, and the principal point in the whole convention is that only the sick will be detained on landing."

A new quarterly illustrated magazine has appeared in London. It is called the *Yellow Book*. Its list of contributors includes many names of note, and its illustrators are also famous.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward has published a new novel entitled "Marcella." It deals with socialism. The reviews are most favourable.

The *Saturday Review*, writing of "The Life of Sir Harry Parkes," by Messrs. Lane-Poole and Dickins, says:—

A bright interval of eighteen years—1865-1883—was spent by Sir Harry Parkes at the Legation in Japan. The episode is ably told by Mr. Dickins in the second volume of the work before us. A personal knowledge of the events described has added a vivid reality to the narrative, and Mr. Dickins takes us *currente calamo* through the many kaleidoscopic changes which came over the Land of the Rising Sun during that stirring period. The transfer from China to Japan was to Sir Harry like going into a new world. Instead of the stagnant and obstinately conservative attitude of the Chinese, he found a people quick and ready to recognize all that was best in other systems. For the sullen indifference of the Celestials he exchanged the bright, joyous civility of the Japanese, and for the dirt and tawdry meanness of Chinese cities the clean and picturesque towns of Japan. At the time of Sir Harry Parkes's arrival the Constitution was in the throes of birth, and with a true instinct he threw the whole of his weight in favour of the new order of things. In him the Japanese found a true friend and an excellent adviser. He recognized their good qualities, he devoted himself to their true service, and he kept them faithful to their treaty obligations. "He is the only foreigner," said one of their diplomatists, "whom we cannot twist round our little fingers." They felt his power and respected him for it, and when the news of his death reached Tokyo the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs telegraphed his "deep sorrow at the death of one whose wise and frank advice and timely energetic action have assisted Japan in the course of her progress, and whose sincerity and kindness of character have won him so many friends among Japanese officials."

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ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE result of the election in the House of Representatives on the 12th instant belied our forecast. The first ballot's issue was as follows :—

	Votes.
Mr. Kusumoto Masataka	153
Mr. Kono Hironaka	147
Mr. Hatoyama Kazuo	45
Mr. Ando Kinka	30
Mr. Shimada Saburo	23

The law requires that each of the three names submitted to the EMPEROR must have a plurality of votes, and as there were 295 members present, a second ballot had to be taken, the final result being that the names of Messrs. KUSUMOTO, KONO, and HATOYAMA were sent up for HIS MAJESTY'S selection. The election of the Vice-President then took place, Mr. OI KENTARO coming out at the head of the poll on the first ballot with 145 votes. Fortunately, he fell short of obtaining a plurality, and a second ballot being taken, the following result was obtained :—

	Votes.
Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi	151
Mr. Oi Kentaro	148
Mr. Sato Shozo	89

Mr. KUSUMOTO MASATAKA being the candidate put forward by the Six Sections of the Opposition, his success signifies, of course, a victory for the latter. But it does not by any means signify that the Opposition commands a majority in the House, or that impending questions of national or international importance will be decided in the sense desired by them. There is no longer any uncertainty as to the relative strength of the Radicals (*Jiyu-to*) under Count ITAGAKI'S leadership, and the Six Sections forming the Opposition. The former count 124 members ; the latter, 130. At present two Radical members are unable to attend, one through sickness, the other being held for trial on a criminal charge, so that the actual strength of the Party in the House in 122, against 130 Opposition members. The remaining 46, out of the total of 300, are called "Independents," but they consist, for the most part, of moderate men who may be expected not to lend their support to any extreme measures. In order to understand, then, how the Opposition's candidate carried the day in the face of a coalition such as naturally might have been anticipated between the Radicals and the Independents, it is necessary to remember that the Presidential question is not regarded in any sense as a party affair. In truth it is not a party affair, except in the sense that the Six Sections put up one candidate and the Radicals another. No principal being involved, the Independents were free to vote for whichever candidate they personally preferred, and as Mr. KUSUMOTO enjoys exceptional popularity, having made many friends in former years when Chairman of the Tokyo City Assembly, it was natural that he should obtain votes quite apart from his political associations. Another consideration that must have operated strongly in his favour is that he was chosen President of the House after Mr. HOSHI TORU'S deposition last session, and that he had held the office only a few days when the Edict of Dissolution was pronounced. Any Independents who voted for him in December and who still possess seats in the House would have found it very difficult to transfer their support to Mr. KONO HIRONAKA. A final point worthy of note is the manner of voting. It is by *scrutin de liste :* that is to say, each member has to write on his balloting paper three names for the EMPEROR'S selection. A voter whose sympathies are not specially engaged on account of either of the principal candidates might very well be disposed to inscribe the names of both leaving the ultimate choice to the Sovereign, and of course a vote thus cast could not influence the relative position of the candidates. Men voting strictly on party lines would not commit the error of thus neutralizing their suffrages, but it is precisely what an Independent member might be expected to do, and evidently some did so, since the total number of votes cast for Messrs. KUSUMOTO and KONO exceeded the number of members actually voting. All these considerations go to show that no significance attaches to the result of the election as an index of the majority's probable attitude toward important pending questions, such, for example, as Strict Treaty Enforcement. It is one thing to vote for the election of a man whose elevation to the Presidential chair involves no principle and who possesses strong personal claims. It is another and a very different thing to vote for a measure affecting a vital problem of domestic or foreign policy. At the same time, it would be foolish to minimize the power of cohesion displayed by the Opposition in this instance. We shall not be guilty of any exaggeration if we say that the Six Sections of the Opposition have absolutely nothing in common except their sentiment of hostility to the Government. It is a grotesque comedy to see men like Count OKUMA, Mr. OI KENTARO, and Viscount SHINAGAWA masquerading as allies in the political arena. Their union could not for one instant survive the test of constructive statesmanship, though it may hold temporarily for destructive purposes. Even in the matter of electing a President we doubted the possibility of unanimity on the part of the Six Sections, and it is easy to see that the effort has not been made without a serious sacrifice. That sacrifice is the inclusion of Mr. OI KENTARO'S name among the three candidates submitted to the EMPEROR for the office of Vice-President. The number of votes cast for him (148) shows that he must have obtained the suffrages of the whole Six Sections, including the Progressionists and the National Unionists. Now it is beyond the extremest limits of fancy to imagine that these two Parties would have dreamed of voting for such a man se Mr. OI KENTARO had they been free to pay the smallest deference to any consideration connected with the interests of the empire or the dignity of the House of Representatives. Plainly they were not free. Plainly they had to purchase the alliance of the little coterie following Mr. OI'S banner by pledging themselves to support him for the Vice-Presidency. Where the balance swung so evenly, half a dozen votes were sufficient to turn the scale, and rather than risk the loss of half a dozen votes, men like Messrs. SHIMADA SABURO, INUGAI KI, HATOYAMA KAZUO, MOTODA HAJIME, OOKA IKUZO, and so forth, actually lent their assistance to raise Mr. OI KENTARO to the Vice-Presidency. Happily the good genius that watches over their country's destiny averted the catastrophe. But the Progressionists and National Unionists did their best to precipitate it. No friend of Japan can feign not to feel great uneasiness in view of such doings. If sacrifices of that kind are to be made for the sake of securing cohesion in a comparatively trivial matter like the election of a President, to what may not the Progressionists and National Unionists pledge themselves for the same purpose in grave contingencies?

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EVIDENTLY the tactics of the Opposition are dictated solely by a desire to embarass the Cabinet, impede useful legislation, and render the administration of State affairs impossible to the present Ministers of the CROWN, not by any wish to submit to fair and intelligent judgment the questions at issue between the Government and the Opposition. They attach paramount importance to the dissolution of the House of Representatives last December, and claim that it was unconstitutional and improper. Now, not a shadow of doubt exists in the mind of any rational person as to the chief cause of the House of Representatives' dissolution. That cause was the House's evident resolve to pass a Representation and an annexed Bill that would have seriously discredited the empire in the eyes of foreign nations, and thrown a fatal obstacle in the path of enlightened progress steadily pursued by the *Meiji* Government. The Ministers of the CROWN did not believe, we presume, that the attitude of the majority towards these measures reflected the sentiment of the nation, or was even consistent with unbiassed judgment of the House itself. They doubtless observed—as every impartial onlooker could not fail to observe—that the majority of the members were under the sway of a vertigo of opposition

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so violent as to impair their reflecting faculties, and betray them into excesses of the nature of Mr. HOSHI TORU'S removal from the Presidency and expulsion from the House. From an Opposition so passionate, and so careless of the national interests, the Government appealed to the country, and the country has answered the appeal by returning a House that certainly will not pass any measure of such a character as were Mr. ABEI IWANE'S Strict Enforcement Representation and its correlated project of law. The Government, therefore, has been justified by the nation's verdict. It cannot of course be pretended by politicians of any school that a Cabinet, finding its fundamental national policy assailed by the House of Representatives, has not an unquestionable right to carry the case to the bar of national opinion, and ask the constituencies to determine between itself and its opponents. That seems to us to be what the Cabinet did last December, and unless the new House of Representatives is prepared to pass a Strict Treaty Enforcement measure analogous to that laid before its predecessor by Mr. ABEI IWANE, the dissolution ordered by the Sovereign five months ago is vindicated by facts. Is the House prepared to pass such a measure? Has the Opposition sufficient courage to put the matter to the test of actual experiment? We do not think so. The question between the last House and the Cabinet is patent to all the world. There is not the least uncertainty about it. How does the present House intend to treat that question? If the majority's views remain as were the views of the majority in the last House, then the Government's appeal to the country was fruitless, though under no circumstances can it be called unconstitutional. If the majority's views are radically different, then the Government and the nation are one, and recourse to dissolution was a wise step.

PROJECTS OF ADDRESSES TO THE THRONE.

THE prediction so often expressed of late in these columns, that a crisis would be precipitated between the Cabinet and the House of Representatives at the very commencement of the present session, is about to the fulfilled. Two projects of Addresses to the Throne, declaring want of confidence in the Ministry, were placed in the hands of the President of the House of Representatives at the opening of the session one by the Radicals, the other by the allied Opposition parties. The Radical Address expresses want of confidence in the Cabinet on the grounds that it has not redeemed its pledges about the introduction of reforms in the Administration; that its measures about the *Ohkhima* affair have been faulty; and that it is negligent with regard to Treaty Revision. The Address introduced by the allied parties is very much stronger.

It will be at once evident to any one reading it that this document exceeds in violence of language, everything of the kind ever before submitted for the Diet's approval. We shall not analyse it here, however, but will confine ourselves to emphasizing two points. The first is that the question of the Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, as enunciated in the Address, assumes a complexion radically different from the measure in that sense introduced last session. It loses nearly all its objectionable features, and becomes a mere truism which no one will be disposed to dispute, namely, that the Treaties should be carried out in accurate accordance with their terms. Moreover, the sting is entirely taken out of it by the rider that its purpose is to promote the opening of the country. The second point is that the attitude of the framers of the Address is plainly incompatible with any possibility of cöoperation between the present Legislature and the present Executive, while, at the same time, it would be wholly out of the Opposition's power to take over the reins of the Administration even supposing that it succeeded in driving their present holders out of office. A coalition for purposes of constructive statesmanship between the Progressionists, the National Unionists, the New Reform Party, the Oriental Radicals, and so forth, is about as inconceivable as anything could be. The question to be considered then is, not whether a system of party cabinets shall be introduced, but whether any system of administration suited to the exigencies of the time can be found. It is a crisis calculated to tax the energy and capacity of Japan's most loyal subjects. The only solid hope is that, in view of a situation so grave, the *Meiji* statesmen may reconcile their petty differences, and combining once more in earnest, exercise in their country's cause the overwhelming strength they undoubtedly possess.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' OPENING DAY.

THE Order of the Day on the 16th instant was of the least interesting nature, namely, the election of the Chairman of Committee of the Whole House and of the various Standing Committees. But owing to a rumour that Count ITO would speak and, further, that an urgency motion would be raised for considering one of the Addresses to the Throne that had been introduced, the session attracted an unusually large number of spectators. The election of the Chairman of Committee of the Whole proceeded in the usual manner, the rival candidates being Mr. ANDO KYUKWA of the National Unionist Party, and Mr. ISHIDA KANNOSUKE of the Radical Party. Of this part of the proceedings we need not say much. Mr. ANDO was successful by a majority of only three votes, the fact seeming to confirm the impression suggested by the election of the President, namely, that the Opposition Sections command a slender majority. A recess was then taken for the election of the Standing Committees in the separate Sections. At about 4 p.m. the House re-assembled to hear the results of the elections. When the reading of the names of the members of the different Committees had been nearly finished, His Excellency Count ITO took his usual seat on the right hand side of the President, followed by Count SAIGO, Minister of State for the Navy; Count OYAMA, Minister of State for War; Viscount ENOMOTO, Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce; Mr. YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA, Minister of State for Justice and Acting Minister of State for Home Affairs; Mr. WATANABE, Minister of State for Finance; and Mr. INOUYE KI, Minister of State for Education. On the left of the President, sat a number of the Delegates of the Government. The Minister President of State immediately afterwards ascended the rostrum and delivered an important speech, elsewhere published, on the question of Treaty Revision. As usual his delivery was distinct and easy. At first the House listened in silence, but when the Premier began to allude to the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement, there was an immediate outburst of loud cries and hostile comments. It was regrettable to notice among the most vehement and indecorous critics of the Premeir's speech men of such standing as Messrs. KAWASHIMA JUN, GAMO SEN, and HASEBA JUNKO. The notorious Mr. TANAKA SHOZO of course took full advantage of the occasion. Cries of ridicule and rude remarks interrupted the Premier's speech, but in the midst of these obstructions, he kept his temper under admirable control, and on the whole succeeded in making himself audible above the clamour of the excited politicians forming his audience. Scarcely had he ended his speech, when several members sprang to their feet desiring to put questions to him. Mr. KUSAKARI SHIMMEI, a Radical from Sendai, and a few others propounded some ingenious queries, but Count ITO wisely declined to be drawn into a fruitless altercation. He requested his critics to present their questions in writing according to the prescribed procedure. Mr. OI KENTARO called for a hearing several times, but failed to attract the attention of the President. While confusion still reigned, Count ITO left the House followed by the rest of his colleagues, except Mr. INOUYE KI, who remained behind. Mr. HASEBA JUNKO vehemently attacked the Premier on account of his refusal to answer the questions put to him, insinuating even that Count ITO was a coward to fly in the face of his enemies. Several other mem-

bers having spoken to the same effect, the Minister of Education, the only member of the Cabinet in the House, entered the rostrum and energetically repelled the charge of cowardice preferred against the Premier. He told the House that the only proper course for it was to forward its questions in writing according to the Law of the Houses. The members, however, insisted that their object was not to ask questions in the ordinary sense, but to seek fuller explanations of certain passages in the Count's speech. But Mr. INOUYE justly observed that to seek explanations and to ask questions were really one and the same thing. The House then rose without any further disturbance. Judging from the mood displayed, it is very evident that the new representatives of the people are not inclined to attend to the business of the session in a sober and practical manner.

THE ALLIED PARTIES DEFEATED.

THE apprehended calamity of another dissolution has been happily averted for the present at least, by the defeat of the allied factions in the House of Representatives on Thursday over the Address to the Throne declaring want of confidence in the Cabinet. Circumstances connected with the election of the President of the House, and the manner in which the Minister President of State was received by the members on Wednesday, caused the public to foresee an evil issue to the debate on the Address. But events have falsified that prediction.

The session was opened as usual a few minutes past 1 p.m., the attendance being more than usually good. After the reading of reports by the Secretary, Mr. SUZUKI JUBI of the Radical Party, explained questions addressed by him to the Government, one about the dismissal of law officials, and the other about the Korean Assassination affair. Fifteen Government Bills relating to Railways, Special Ports for Foreign Trade, and Technical Schools stood on the Order of the Day, and had to be disposed of before opening the debate on the Address. A few of these Bills were hurried through their three readings and passed by a large majority, while the rest were handed over to Special Committees. By 3.50 p.m. the path was clear, and at once it became evident that a critical moment had arrived. Vacant seats began to be quickly filled, and the audience's excitement could not be concealed. Perfect silence reigned in the House when a secretary read the proposed Address to the Throne, a translation of which will be found in our report of the proceedings. The task of explaining the Address fell to the lot of Mr. HASEBA JUNKO, a well-known member of the Constitutional Reform Party. A man of undoubted ability and integrity, he is not, however, conspicuous for either eloquence or knowledge, and though he spoke audibly and with great zeal, he entirely failed to bring out the full meaning of the Address in a clear and convincing manner. Perhaps from the nature of things the task was impossible. At all events none of the supporters of the Address who spoke afterwards succeeded any better than Mr. HASEBA. Like every other speaker for or against the measure, he attached chief weight to the subject of Strict Treaty Enforcement, and like every other supporter of the Address, he protested against the charge that the doctrine of Strict Enforcement had its origin in anti-foreign sentiment. His speech was interrupted from beginning to end by loud cries of dissent and hostile comments from Radical members, and at the conclusion of his remarks he was mercilessly cross-questioned by Messrs. HOSHI TORU and INOUYE KAKUGORO, who wanted to know what Japan would do in case Foreign Powers retaliated by withholding from her subjects the privileges now enjoyed by them, not in consequence of treaty stipulations, but by way of international courtesy. Mr. HASEBA was evidently perplexed: he could not make any answer, and his friends came to his rescue by raising such a din and confusion that Mr. HOSHI and Mr. INOUYE became inaudible. Mr. HOSHI was not, however, to be defeated by such manœuvres. He succeeded in proclaiming above the tumult the discomfiture of Mr. HASEBA. Thereupon Mr. SHIMADA, perceiving the injurious consequences of suffering Mr. HOSHI'S triumph to pass unchallenged, volunteered to answer whatever questions might be propounded by the opponents of the Address, but the confusion was so great that the President either failed to notice Mr. SHIMADA'S proposal, or deemed it unwise to allow further queries. The next speaker was Mr. AWAYA SHINAZO of Osaka, who opposed the Address. For the space of about a quarter of an hour he amused the whole House by quaint and humourous statements, though his arguments themselves were of little value. He was followed by Dr. HATOYAMA, of the Pregressionist Party, who spoke with his usual calmness and erudition. He warned his friends and foes alike to devote careful consideration to the question under debate, and his speech supplied many of the defects conspicuous in the address of the introducer, Mr. HASEBA. Dr. HATOYAMA disposed of the subject of Strict Treaty Enforcement with a few remarks, pointing out that the true nature of that doctrine was not in sympathy with anti-foreign sentiments. He devoted himself principally to the *Chishima-Ravenna* affair, criticising the use of the EMPEROR'S title and the recognition of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court at Shanghai. He, too, was severely questioned by Messrs. HOSHI TORU and SUYEMATSU KENCHO, but he emerged from the ordeal comparatively unscathed. Mr. MISAKI KAMENOSUKE of the Radical Party followed, with a speech from every point of view the best in the debate. Clear, eloquent, and well-reasoned, his arguments produced a visible effect upon the House. Especially forcible was his manner of exposing the fallacies of the Strict Enforcement doctrine. Mr. ARAI GO, a prominent National Unionist, then ascended the platform to support the Address, but his speech served simply to weary the House and enhance the effect produced by his predecessor. It was now about a quarter to 7, and the House took a short recess. Already rumours began to be circulated that the fate of the Address was sealed, and the estimate proved correct. On the resumption of the debate at 7.15, Mr. SUZUKI JUBI, a Radical, spoke against the Address, but though his speech was tolerably good, it could not be compared with that Mr. MISAKI. At its conclusion, a scene of wild tumult was produced by the President's refusal to take notice of a motion for the closure, introduced by a Radical member and duly seconded. In spite of the motion, the President allowed Mr. OSAKI YUKIO to ascend the tribune, and for some time, found himself quite unable to restore order, so loud and vehement were the protests against his clearly erroneous and partial action. He persisted, however, and Mr. OZAKI was able to speak in favour of the Address, though the Radicals, excited beyond measure by the conduct of the President, made a very tumultuous audience. The distinguished Progressionist, careless of all interruption, proceeded calmly with his attacks upon the Cabinet and the Radical Party, speaking well, but confining himself throughout to declamation rather than arguments. When he descended from the rostrum, the closure, being again moved, was carried by a large majority. As to the mode of voting, two methods were proposed, namely closed and open ballots, the former advocated by the Radicals, the latter by the allied parties. Here the Radicals were defeated by a majority of 8, and many persons apprehended that a similar fate awaited them in the division on the Address itself. But the result of the open ballot showed 144 for and 149 against the Address. The announcement of the figures by the President was the signal for deafening cries of *Jiyu-to-Banzai* from every quarter of the House, and the memorable debate closed at a few minutes before 10 o'clock. We are now, perhaps, justified in concluding that the session will end without a dissolution, for the Independent members who voted against the Opposition's Address to the Throne, will probably adopt a similar attitude toward the Radicals also.

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IMPERIAL DIET.

TUESDAY MAY 15TH.

The Official Opening of the Imperial Diet took place on the forenoon of the 15th instant. The ceremonies connected with the event did not differ in any respect from these already described on former occasions. The Speech from the Throne was as follows:—

We inform the members of the House of Peers and of the House of Representatives that We have attended in person for the purpose of performing this opening ceremony.

We have instructed Our Ministers of State to prepare and present, as matters of urgency, a Supplementary Budget and certain projects of law.

We expect that in the discharge of Your important State-duties, you will exercise your function of consent with careful deliberation.

To the above Speech, the House of Representatives' Reply was as follows:—

With profound respect Your Majesty's servants desire to express the sense of deep gratitude inspired by Your Majesty's condescension in being present at this ceremony of opening the Imperial Diet, and by Your Majesty's gracious words. It is the humble desire of Your Majesty's servants, in conformity with Your Majesty's will, to exert themselves to the utmost in the discharge of the important public duties devolving on them, and in the due exercise of their function of consent, so as to evince their deep sense of Your Majesty's benevolence, and to justify the trust reposed in them by the nation.

In all humility Your Majesty's servant Kusumoto Masataka, President of the House of Representatives, ventures to submit this reverential reply.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16TH.

The two Houses of the Diet met to-day, the Order of the Day for each alike being:—

1.—Election of a Chairman of Committee of the Whole.
2.—Election of Standing Committees.

The Reply of the House of Peers to the Speech from the Throne was as follows:—

We, Your Majesty's servants of the House of Peers, with the utmost reverence venture to submit to Your Illustrious Majesty our profound gratitude for Your Majestys' gracious act in opening the Imperial Diet, and our humble appreciation of the import of Your Majesty's words. It shall be our earnest endeavour to discharge with diligence the public duties devolving on us under the Constitution, and to render to Your Majesty whatever service we may be capable of by the careful performance of our functions of deliberation and consent.

The contest for the Chairmanship of Committee of the Whole lay between Viscount Tani and Viscount Yuri Sansei. On a ballot being taken, Viscount Yuri was found to have 89 votes and Viscount Tani 85, Prince Konoye receiving 7, Viscount Torio 3, and Prince Tokugawa and Viscount Hayashi 2 each. The receipt of the following Government and Private Bills was announced:—

1.—Government Bill relating to the Period of Probation for Judicial officials.
2.—Government Bill relating to Treasury Loans and Debts.
3.—Private Bill, presented by Viscount Hayashi, Mr. Ozaki Saburo, and Mr. Yuzawa Howa, for transferring Prison Expenditures from the charges of the Localities to those of the Treasury.
4.—Private Bill, presented by Count Kyosu and Mr. Murata Tamotsu, relating to the Game Laws.
5.—Representation, introduced by Prince Konoye and Baron Ozawa, for laying Railways and constructing Harbours in Hokkaido.
6.—Representation, introduced by Viscount Tani, relating to the Protection of colonists in the Kuriles.
7.—Government Report relating to the Settled Accounts for the 24th year of *Meiji*.

The receipt of the following Question was also announced:—

QUESTION RELATING TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Whereas, the Government ordered the dissolution of the House of Representatives, during its Fifth Session, on the 30th of the 12th month of the 26th year of *Meiji*; and whereas, we are unable to discover in the proceedings of that House anything whatever that called for such a step, we venture to inquire what reasons influenced the Government.

Presented by Viscount MATSUDAIRA NORITSUGU and two others.
Supported by Marquis SATAKE YOSHINARI and thirty-two others.

The voting for a Chairman of Commitee of the Whole in the House of Representatives resulted as follows:—

Mr. Ando Kiukwa (National Unionist) 146 votes.
Mr. Ishida Kannosuke (*Jiyu-to*)..... 143 votes.

The receipt of the following Bills, &c., was announced:—

1.—Government Bill for abolishing the Export Duty on Cotton Yarns.
2.—Government Bill for opening the harbours of Fuseki in Etchiu and Otaru in Shiribe to ships trading with Sagahlien and Korea.
3.—Government Bill for making Muroran in Iburi a Special Port of Export.
4.—Government Bill for opening Nawa in Riukiu to ships trading with China.
5.—Government Bill for making Grants in Aid of Technical Education.
6.—Government Bill relating to Comparative Lines of Railway.
7.—Government Bill relating to granting Charters to Private Companies for the construction of Railways included in the Parliamentary Project.
8.—Government Bill relating to the Business of the National Banks.
9.—Government Bill relating to Pensions confiscated on account of Political offences.
10.—Government Bill for Amending a portion of the Tax-collecting Regulations.
11.—Government Bill for Amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141 of the 22nd year of *Meiji*.
12.—Government Bill for Amending Law No. 4 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*.

It was further announced that the following Resolution had been received:—

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Whereas, the Government dissolved the House of Representatives during its Fifth Session in the 26th year of *Meiji*, before the House's sentiments and decision had been declared; and whereas the Government did not explain the reasons of that step, therefore this House considers that the Government's procedure was unconstitutional, and resolves that its action in dissolving the House of Representatives was improper.

Presented by KONO HIRONAKA and MISAKI KAMENOSUKE.
Supported by YAMADA TOJI and 19 others.

His Excellency the Minister President of State then addressed the House as follows:—

GENTLEMEN—Having been returned to the Diet at the last general election, you have been summoned by Imperial writ to meet together in the present session. Important measures of State, namely, a Supplementary Budget and various projects of law, have already been placed in your hands, in accordance with the Imperial commands. I hope that you will bestow most deliberate consideration upon these measures.

I purpose, Gentlemen, to avail myself of this opportunity to say a few words on the Government's attitude with respect to Treaty Revision. As you may be aware, the Government's policy on this subject has never changed since the time of the Restoration.—(Cries of "No, No," and various remarks.)—I beg that you will reserve criticisms until I have finished my speech. It is scarcely necessary to state that the Government has repeatedly attempted to solve this problem and has repeatedly failed to attain its object. But in spite of failure, the Government is still pursuing the same line of policy followed in former years.

It is a matter of deep regret that the dissolution of the late House of Representatives was connected with this subject of Treaty Revision.—(Cries of "misunderstanding.")—It is a fact that there was a difference of views between the Government and the House of Representatives, and the consequent dissolution of the House was principally attributable to the introduction of a Representation on the Strict Enforcement of the Treaties. In itself, that Representation seemed to be of slight consequence, but the Government attached much importance to it, because it owed its origin to a movement against the opening of the interior for Mixed Residence.—("No, no.")—To that Representation, therefore, the Government was positively opposed. Its passage through the House was considered by the Government as likely to be productive of highly injurious results.—("Explain yourself more fully.")—The Government is now conducting negotiations on the subject of Treaty Revision along the lines hitherto pursued.—("No hope of success.")—The Government, let me assure you, would not have undertaken the task, had there not been hope of success. In introducing the Representation already alluded to, you must doubtless have had good reasons for your conduct; and although the Government was sincerely sorry to bring things to a crisis, it was absolutely necessary under the circumstances to advise the Emperor to dissolve the House of Representatives. But I am now glad to learn directly from you that you were not actuated by any sentiments antagonistic to the opening of the country for Mixed Residence. You will, then, be ready to acknowledge that the demand for the conclusion of equal treaties and the opposition to Mixed Residence are incompatible. The Government's policy, as you well know, has always been since the Restoration to open the country and maintain the Empire's independent position within the pale of International Law. In other words, our aim has been and is to hold intercourse with other nations by conforming with the customs prevalent among the principal States of the world.

The existing treaties are unsuited to the present state of things, and must be revised. If my information is not wrong, some of you seem to regard Strict Enforcement as a means of expediting Treaty Revision. The Government, however, does not endorse such a view. Of course the Government is strictly enforcing the provisions of the present Treaties, in so far as their enforcement is deemed necessary. But the Government's gravest responsibility in connection with the foreign policy of the country is to accomplish the revision of the existing Treaties. The Government is now diligently engaged in the prosecution of that task, and is determined to sweep every obstacle out of its path.—("Be brave with foreign countries, not with your own countrymen only.")—The Government is perfectly aware that its views may not be acceptable to you, but I think it not altogether unnecessary to lay my opinion on the subject before you and appeal to your candid judgment. The Government, as I have already told you, will proceed on this matter along the same lines as heretofore, and we are confident that the consummation of our object is not far off. We will abide by the result of our endeavours on the question of Treaty Revision. It is, then, the Government's earnest desire that, in view of these circumstances, you will for the present desist from purely political agitation. There are among you not a few well acquainted with diplomatic affairs. Such persons, no doubt, will agree with me when I say that revision of the Treaties cannot be accomplished merely by means of intimidation. A satisfactory consummation of the task requires the peaceful agreement of the parties concerned. Having now once more taken up the thread of negotiations on this subject, it is the Government's firm resolution to bring the task to a happy issue. And I wish to call your attention to the fact that it is extremely regrettable to occasion frequent collisions between the Government and the Diet on a subject like the present.—("We are compelled to oppose the Government.")—I am informed that you are going to debate an Address to the Throne on this matter. In that case, another collision will be unavoidable, and it will again be impossible to dispose of the question of the national defences and other measures of vital importance. For such a regrettable contingency, you cannot but be held responsible. I earnestly hope that you will not compel the Government to advise His Imperial Majesty to adopt the last resource.—("Mr. President, stop the Premier's speech; it is intimidation." "We are not assembled here to listen to the Cabinet's intimidation.")—I do not seek to intimidate you; my only purpose has been to bespeak your sober and candid deliberation.

Mr. Kudo Kokan said that he hoped the Minister would not follow the precedent hitherto observed of leaving his place immediately, but would remain and answer any question addressed to him by members.

Count Ito said that while willing to afford to the House any information in his power to give, he desired to avoid anything like discussion with the members, and he therefore begged that questions might be presented according to the usual routine.

Mr. Gamo Sen did not consider that the Minister's speech was worth asking questions about. He had many queries to put to the Government, but he should wait for a future occasion.

Mr. Kusakari Shimmei desired to ask three questions. First, how did the Government expect that, within the brief space of 17 days, the House could dispose of a pile of Bills that had taken months to draft? Secondly, was it to be understood that the accomplishment of Treaty Revision was now within measurable distance? Thirdly, the Minister President had stated that the immediate cause of the House's dissolution had been its attitude towards the strict Enforcement Resolution. Was it to be understood then that the Government had no respect for the views entertained by the 300 representatives of the people, since it had dismissed the House without awaiting any definite expression of those views?

The President asked whether the Minister President of State would afford the desired explanations at once, but Count Ito replied in the negative.

Mr. Kammuchi Tomotsune understood from the Minister's speech that the negotiations for Treaty Revision were progressing. If so, he

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wished to know what course was being adopted with regard to the Tariff. Was a system of conventional tariffs contemplated? If so, would the mutual interests of the contracting parties receive equal consideration? And in the event of failure to arrive at an agreement, what policy would be pursued? Again, with regard to the coastwise trade, what was the Government's programme? Finally, the Minister President had stated that the Government disapproved of the spirit of the Resolution relating to Strict Treaty Enforcement. But it did not seem proper that, when the House voted a Resolution, the spirit of the proceeding should receive paramount attention. Did the Government intend to examine each Resolution of the House in that sense?

Other members having risen to put questions, the Minister President repeated his declaration that he should answer no questions then and there. Having made this announcement, he left the House, followed by the other Ministers of State, with the exception of Mr. Inouye.

Mr. Haseba Jun said that although the Minister President declined to answer questions, the House's right to put them remained unimpaired. He then charged the Government with the whole responsibility for the friction between the Legislature and the Executive, the real cause of the friction being the Cabinet's indifference to the views expressed by the House. The Minister President of State seemed afraid to face his opponents.

Mr. Inouye, Minister of State for Education, reminded the House that the Constitution provided a method of addressing questions to the Government, and that all necessary explanations of could be obtained in that way.

Mr. Haseba Jun said that whereas the Government laid stress on the necessity for amicable cōoperation, they themselves rendered anything of the kind impossible by delivering incomprehensible speeches and then declining to offer explanations sought by the House.

Mr. Inouye, having made some remark from his place, was about to leave the House, when several members called to him to ascend the rostrum, and the President bade him do so. The Minister objected, claiming that a Minister of State was not bound to obey the dictates of the President of the House, but as the President insisted, he ascended the rostrum, and having briefly stated that he saw no reason to offer any explanations, left the House.

Mr. Hayashi Yuzo moved that as the House would now be called upon for the first time to consider the Settled Accounts of the Treasury, a Committee for that purpose be elected, to consist of three members from each Section. The House agreed without discussion.

The names of the Standing Committee-men having been announced, the House rose at 5.30 p.m.

The following is the text of an Address to the Throne introduced by the Radical Party :—

ADDRESS TO THE THRONE BY THE RADICAL PARTY.

May it please Your Majesty—

Your Enlightened and August Majesty, on ascending the Throne, was so gracious as to solemnly make five vows in the face of all Your Majesty's loyal subjects, to the end that both the Authorities and the people might cōoperate, as with one heart, to promote the successful conduct of State affairs. The great Imperial Rescript containing these vows stands even as conspicuous and firm as a mountain. Profoundly impressed with the boundless benevolence of Your Majesty, it has always been during many years our constant and never ceasing endeavour to contribute, to the utmost of our ability, our humble share toward the fulfilment of Your Majesty's gracious intentions. The Ministers of State, on the other hand, have of late years adopted measures at variance with the wishes and expectations of the nation, until, in the fourth session of the Imperial Diet, the difference of views between the Ministers of State and us, Your Majesty's humble servants, became so great that we ventured to represent to Your Majesty our inability to work any longer in concert with them. Your Imperial Majesty, in pursuance of the solemn vows above referred to, was pleased to issue a gracious Message charging both Your Majesty's Ministers of State and Your Majesty's humble servants, the members of the Imperial Diet, to labour harmoniously for the consummation of the grand objects of this glorious reign. Your Majesty, moreover, was pleased especially to order the Ministers of State to introduce reforms in the various branches of the Administration. The Ministers of State, on their part, in obedience to Your Majesty's benevolent command, promised to bring about, by the fifth session of the Diet, the maintenance of official discipline, the reduction of public expenses, and the reform of the Naval Department. Thereupon the people of the whole country rejoiced exceedingly at Your Majesty's gracious condescension in approving the wishes of the nation; and hoped that the fifth session of the Diet would bring them the promised blessings. The Ministers of State, however, tried mere temporizing measures, and neither the maintenance of official discipline nor the reform of the Navy was achieved in a satisfactory manner, the only thing accomplished being retrenchment of public expenses and dismissal of certain officials. Such a temporizing policy is totally incapable of giving satisfaction to the people, and is, we apprehend, contrary to the gracious wishes of Your Majesty. We, Your Majesty's humble servants, are sincerely desirous of promoting the smooth conduct of affairs in obedience to the Imperial Rescript mentioned above. But the action of the Ministers of State makes it impossible for us to keep silence. We humbly pray that Your Majesty may graciously be pleased to adopt the wishes of the people and bid the Ministers of State shape their conduct in such a manner as to bring about harmonious cōoperation between the Government and the Diet. This Address is respectfully submitted by Your Majesty's humble servant Kusumoto Masataka, President of the House of Representatives.

The Radical Party has further introduced the following Resolution :—

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Whereas, the Government ordered the dissolution of the House of Representatives, in the 26th year of *Meiji*, in its fifth session, before the House had had an opportunity to express its opinion, and whereas the Government did not publicly announce the reason of the dissolution, therefore it is hereby resolved that the Government's procedure with regard to the dissolution of the House of Representatives in its fifth session was improper and unconstitutional.

THURSDAY, MAY 17TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.30 a.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Various applications for leave of absence.
2.—Government Bill relating to the Period of Probation of Judicial Officials.
3.—Government Bill relating to the Treatment of Surplus Revenue.
4.—Private Bill for Transferring Prison Expenditures to the Charge of the Treasury.
5.—Private Bill, Game Law.
6.—Representation relating to the building of Railways and the construction of Harbours in Hokkaido.
7.—Representation relating to the Protection of Emigrants to the Kuriles.

The President announced the receipt of a Question from Baron Date and Mr. Fujimura relating to the application of the Surplus Revenue.

The various applications for leave having been granted, the Minister of State for Justice explained that the Government Bill relating to the Period of Probation of Judicial Officers had been presented to the House and passed by it last session, but had not come up for discussion in the Lower House. It was unnecessary under the circumstances to enter into any explanation of the measure.

The Bill was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President.

The Minister of State for Finance explained that the object of the Bill standing third on the Order of the Day was to empower the Government to lodge in the Bank of Japan on temporary or fixed deposit and at a proper rate of interest any surplus revenue that might be in the hands of Treasury during the year, so as not to withdraw such money needlessly from circulation, or to keep it idle when it might be earning an income for the State.

Mr. Fujimura asked whether the Bank of Japan had agreed to the proposed arrangement, and if so, what rate of interest would be obtainable.

Viscount Sakai said that the Bank of Japan did not at present pay interest on temporary deposits. Would an exception be made in favour of money lodged by the Treasury?

The Minister of State for Finance replied that the object of the Bill was merely to empower the Government to make such arrangements as the circumstances of the time might permit.

Various other questions having been asked and answered, the Bill was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President.

Viscount Hayashi introduced the Bill relating to Prison Expenditures but refrained from any lengthy explanation, the Bill having been debated and passed by the House in the preceding session.

Count Ogimachi proposed that the Bill be passed through its three Readings at once. The House agreed.

Count Kiyosu, introducing the Game Law, said that as the Project was simply a transcript of that considered and adopted by the House in the previous session, he trusted that it would be passed at once.

The House voted to entrust the Bill to a Special Committee nominated by the President.

The Representation relating to Hokkaido was then read as follows :—

Whereas, nothing can be more important for promoting the development of Hokkaido than the building of railways in desirable places and the construction of harbours connected with them, therefore this House trusts that the Government will give consideration to these matters and take steps to carry them out.

Prince Konoye spoke in favour of the Representation. He claimed that the large sums hitherto expended upon Hokkaido had produced very small results. The last census showed a total population of only 540,000 and an area of 600,000 square miles. Nothing was more necessary than to increase the number of settlers, and it was plain that railways and harbours were the best means to that end. The lowest computation showed that Hokkaido needed 835 miles of railway, and he held that the lines ought to be constructed by the Government. He deprecated the opposition of persons who might apprehend that the financing of such a measure would interfere with reduction of the Land Tax. The method of obtaining funds would be a matter for subsequent consideration.

Baron Ozawa supported the Bill, adducing examples of the effects produced by railways and urging that their construction in Hokkaido would at once lead to the reclamation and cultivation of lands now lying waste.

The Representation was passed by the House.

After the mid-day recess the Representation relating to the Kuriles was read as follows :—

REPRESENTATION RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF SETTLERS IN THE KURILE ISLADS (CHISHIMA).

The land of Hokkaido abounds, as is well known, in fertile plains and especially is so rich in fisheries and marine products that its resources are even pronounced inexhaustible. Such being the case, the coasts of the main island are becoming more and more settled by emigrants who to some extent succeed in exploiting the boundless resources of the region. This, however, is not the case with the islands of Chishima. There, with the sole exception of Etrup and Shikotan, all the islands are entirely uninhabited, the sea-weed being left to rot, the fish remaining uncaptured, and the marine animals falling for the most part into the hands of foreign poachers. In fact, the Chishima group and the territorial waters encircling it are Japanese dominions only in name. Last year, however, Lieutenant Gunji of the Japanese Imperial Navy proceeded hither, at the head of a party of seamen whose terms of service had expired, and has undertaken the work of opening up the islands. The gallant enterprise was highly applauded at the time by the public, and was so far appreciated by the Imperial Court that a sum of money was granted toward the attainment of the object in view. Nor is there any cause to wonder that the enterprise was so much appreciated both by the Court and by the people, inasmuch as it was a national affair of great importance not by any means a work of individual self-interest. The undertaking is indeed of a permanent and far-reaching nature, and as such should not be entirely left to the care of the Lieutenant's party, or merely regarded indifferently by the public. We therefore hold it the bounden duty of the Government to give some help toward the achievement of the aim contemplated, and for that purpose, to defray, out of the Treasury, a sum of 15,000 *yen* annually for the period of five years, counted from the present

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year, and to afford the party shipping facilities and supply them with the necessary provisions. Such a step will, on the one hand, develop the resources of the country, and, on the other, contribute to the national defence. We make this Representation and hope that the Government will take suitable steps in the matter.

Introduced by Viscount TANI, and supported by Prince NIJO and others.

Viscount Tani introduced the Representation in a brief speech, and the House passed it by a large majority.

The House rose at 2.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.10 p.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Government Bill for making Muroran in Ibari into a Special Port of Export.
2.—Government Bill for granting Aid to Technical Education.
3.—Government Bills relating to Comparative Lines of Railway.
4.—Government Bills relating to Railway Charters to Private Companies.
5.—Government Bill for abolishing the Export Duty upon Cotton Yarn.
6.—Government Bill relating to the opening of Fuseki and Otaru harbours to ships trading with Saghalien and Korea.
7.—Government Bill for opening Nadā in Riukiu to ships trading with China.
8.—Address to the Throne.
9.—Representation relating to the Dissolution of the House of Representatives.
0.—Representation relating to the Time of opening the Session.
1.—Address to the Throne.

Mr. Suzuki Yubi presented two Questions, one relating to the removal of several Judicial Officers, a procedure that seemed contrary to the Law of the Organization of the Law Courts; the other with reference to the assassination of Kim Ok-Kyŭn, concerning which Korea's conduct had been a distinct violation of Japan's sovereignty.

Mr. Tajiri, Vice-Minister of Finance, briefly explained the Government Bill relating to Muroran, and asked the House to pass it, as well the similar Bills relating to Fuseki, Otaru, and Nada.

The House declined to submit the Bill to a Special Committee and voted to carry it at once to a Second Reading, and passed the Second and Third Readings.

The Minister of State for Education then spoke upon the Government Bill for granting aid to Technical Education.

(The Speech is held over.)

The House voted to entrust the Bill to a Special Committee elected by the Sections.

The Government Delegate having briefly introduced the Bills relating to Comparative Lines of Railway, the House voted to entrust them to a Special Committee nominated by the President.

Mr. Tajiri explained the Bill relating to Export Duties on Cotton Yarn, and it was entrusted to a Special Committee.

The Bills relating to the harbours of Fuseki, Otaru, and Nada were carried through their three Readings.

Mr. Haseba Junko introduced the following Address to the Throne :—

Your Majesty's humble servant, Kusumoto Masataka, President of the House of Representatives, hereby, in pursuance of a resolution of the House, most respectfully presents to Your Majesty the present Address :—

It is the humble opinion of the House of Representatives that the Ministers of State, by their temporizing and ease-loving policy, have betrayed their grave trust in respect of Affairs of State both at home and abroad, and have caused derangement of official discipline, thereby completely forfeiting the confidence and respect of the people.

In the fifth session of the Diet, the Ministers of State had the audacity to impede the exercise of the legislative functions of the State by advising Your Majesty to order, contrary to reason and without justification, the dissolution of the House of Representatives. Such conduct betrayed an utter want of respect toward the Constitution and toward the Diet. Further, Your Majesty's humble servant and others, lamenting the violation of national rights in connection with Strict Enforcement of the existing Treaties, introduced, in the same session of the Diet, a Representation to the Government urging the latter to clearly define the rights and obligations arising out of those Treaties, and to strictly enforce their stipulations. The object of the introducers of that Representation was simply to further the Imperial policy of opening the country. The Ministers of State, however, sought to brand the motion as a manifestation of anti-foreign sentiment, and rashly advised your Majesty to order, first a prorogation and then the dissolution of the House of Representatives, thus preventing your Majesty's humble servant and others from even opening their mouths on that subject. Such conduct on the part of the Ministers justly exposes them to the charge of having deceived both their Sovereign and the people, and of having acted contrary to the great Imperial Policy. With regard to the collision of your Majesty's ship *Chishima Kan* with the British steamer *Ravenna*, the Ministers of State took wrong steps by instituting a suit in a foreign court of law and by making use of your Majesty's title. They thereby impaired Your Majesty's dignity and did injury to the rights of the country, a thing never previously witnessed since the establishment of the Empire.

In a reply given to Prince Nijo Motohiro and some other members of the House of Peers, Count Ito Hirobumi, Minister President of State, makes use of many impertinent expressions. For example, he regards the Imperial Diet merely in the light of an advisory body established for the convenience of the Ministers of State, thereby insulting the Constitution as well as the Diet. Moreover, he states that there was no prospect of harmonious cooperation with the Diet in the matter of a Budget that had not yet been brought up for discussion. That is simply a perversion of facts in the vain endeavour to manufacture a pretext.

In short, the reins of administration have been slackened both at home and abroad, and the disorder in the management of State affairs is daily becoming more and more difficult to remedy. Under these circumstances, the Ministers of State show a constantly increasing tendency to elude their responsibility by screening themselves in the shadow of your Majesty. Nothing could be more contrary to the purpose of Constitutional Government, or more at variance with the obligations that the Ministers of State owe to Your Majesty as Your Majesty's advisers. Unless the Ministers of State be held responsible for such neglect of duty, it is the apprehension of your Majesty's humble servant and others, that the result may be alienation of the people's hearts at home and lowering of the national prestige abroad, leading finally to inoperativeness of the constitution and even decadence of the Imperial House.

For these reasons your Majesty's humble servant and others are filled with apprehension and dismay when they consider the present state of affairs. It is a matter of deep regret to them, as Your Majesty's loyal subjects, that of late years they have been constrained so often to approach the Throne with humble petitions. But they now once more venture, with profound reverence, to invoke Your Majesty's gracious decision on matters vitally connected with the destiny of the country.

The purpose of the introducers of this Address, he said, was to secure the smooth working of the Constitution.—(Cries of "No! no! It is to drive out foreigners.") They introduced it with great reluctance.—("It's your own choice. Show the courage of your opinions.") But they felt that no other course was open to them. It was the duty of a Cabinet under a Constitutional form of government to pay due attention to the wishes of the people expressed through their elected representatives, but the present Cabinet showed no concern whatever for those wishes. It had dissolved the House without even allowing it to express its views, and without assigning any reason for the dissolution. From Count Ito's reply to a document addressed to him by the Peers and from what he had said in the House yesterday, it appeared that the Representation on Strict Enforcement was the cause of the dissolution. But a Representation was the most moderate method the House could adopt of conveying its views. Why should the Government fear to receive a Representation? People alleged that the Representation had its origin in opposition to Mixed Residence. Well, he himself was an opponent of Mixed Residence, but he could say with truth that his purpose in advocating the Strict Enforcement of the present Treaties was to secure their Revision. For twenty-five years the country had been bound by a Treaty that constituted a national disgrace, but to their great humiliation all attempts to revise it had failed. The supporters of this Address held that the sole way to effect Revision was to prove to foreigners the irksomeness of the Treaties by strictly enforcing their provisions. It was perfectly proper that the House should debate such a subject and should present a Representation about it. The House had a Constitutional right to do so, and the Cabinet had arbitrarily deprived it of that right. They wanted the Treaties revised and they could not possibly place any confidence in the Cabinet's ability to revise them—a Cabinet not even capable of enforcing the existing Treaties. The speaker then proceeded to charge the Ito Cabinet with violating its pledges of reform and with placing the responsibility of its errors on the shoulders of the Sovereign, and called upon the House to show its emphatic disapproval of such Ministers by openly impeaching them. The speech lasted a long while and was much interrupted.

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro asked the speaker to say distinctly why he had supported the Strict Enforcement Representation last session. Mr. Haseba answered that his object had been national progress and the opening of the country.

Mr. Hoshi Toru asked whether the introducers of the Address had considered how things would fare if foreign countries also adopted the policy of Strict Enforcement and drove all the Japanese out of their territories. This question led to much confusion in the House. Mr. Haseba said that so soon as Treaties on equal terms were concluded, both sides were free to enforce them as strictly as they pleased. Mr. Hoshi pointed out that his question did not refer to revised Treaties but to existing Treaties. Presumably Mr. Haseba's advocacy of Strict Enforcement did not refer to Treaties not yet in existence. The confusion here became more marked. Mr. Shimada Saburo asked permission to answer Mr. Hoshi from the rostrum, and the President seemed disposed to allow him, but several members vehemently objected to such a course as out of order. The tumult was only quelled by the appearance of the House's favourite Mr. Awaya Shinazo in the rostrum.

Mr. Awaya Shinazo opposed the Address, chiefly on the ground that its passing must involve another dissolution.

Mr. Hatoyama Kazuo had intended to speak only of the *Chishima* affair, but he could not choose but remark incidentally that Strict Treaty Enforcement meant nothing more than carrying out the letter of the law, and that its sole object was to expedite Revision of the Treaties. If the Treaties forbade foreigners to travel beyond certain limits and interdicted their ownership of real estate, then they should be confined within these limits and prevented from acquiring possession of real estate. That was all the measure contemplated. As to the pretence that Foreign Powers on their side might retaliate by expelling Japanese subjects from their territories, he invited the House to conceive on what pretext the British nation, for example, could be induced to adopt such a course. Passing on to the *Chishima* affair, he asserted that the Government by following the appeal to Shanghai had behaved as though Japan were a colony of Great Britain, and by using the Emperor's name in the pleadings, thus making his Majesty the plaintiff where a foreign mercantile firm was the defendant and the tribunal was a foreign court established within His Majesty's realm, had seriously impaired the dignity of the Crown.

Mr. Hoshi Toru inquired whether the Emperor of Russia's name had not been used in a suit brought before an American tribunal, and whether the British Court would have entertained a suit brought in the name of the Minister of State for the Navy.

Mr. Hatoyama replied that Japan was not Russia, and that a British Court would presumably entertain a suit brought by a Japanese in conformity with the provisions of the Japanese Code of Civil Procedure.

Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke opposed the Address. He had been astounded to hear the views expressed by a man of such erudition and knowledge of foreign affairs as Mr. Hatoyama. They had been told by Professor Hatoyama that to follow an appeal from Yokohama to Shanghai was virtually to convert Japan into a colony of Great Britain. But if an appeal should not be followed, then an appeal could not be made, and thus Japanese suitors entering British Courts would be deprived of the privilege of appeal, one of the most vital features

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of complete legal procedure. Again, the Professor had spoken of Strict Treaty Enforcement as though it were merely an affair of confining foreigners within Treaty limits, and preventing them from acquiring real estate. But Professor Hatoyama must be well aware that Strict Enforcement meant a great deal more than that. It meant that a species of mixed courts would have to be established in Japan, among other things, and that many results most inconvenient to Japan would be entailed. Besides, what was the use of pretending that Strict Enforcement, as introduced last session, had been honestly intended as a weapon to promote Treaty Revision? With whom did the Representation originate? By whom was it introduced? Was it not by men publicly pledged to oppose Mixed Residence? It was a singular thing that the Progressionists should have joined hands with the advocates of such a measure, but many singular things happened. There could be little question about the significance of the movement in the eyes of the world. It would have certainly been taken as signifying that the promoters of the Representation did not want the Treaties revised, but that they did want to keep the country closed, and to make the existing Treaties a weapon for holding foreigners more than ever at arm's length. He thought that the Government had been perfectly justified in preventing the House from pledging itself to such a doctrine. The speaker then proceeded to show that the wording of the Address was altogether too violent for presentation to the Sovereign.

Mr. Arai Go repudiated the idea that the supporters of Strict Enforcement were conservatives who wished to keep the country closed. He also contended, with regard to the *Chishima* affair, that no precedent should be followed merely because it was a precedent. To say that the procedure of the British Law Courts had been conformed with for twenty years was no excuse or reason for conforming with it in the twenty-first year, if the act had been wrong *ab origine*.

The House took a recess at 6.45 p.m., and reassembled at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Suzuki Jubi was not opposed to all the points advanced in the Address, but he was opposed to the notion of including them in an Address to the Throne. Above all he was opposed to the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement. It was an absurd doctrine, advanced in manifest ignorance of the true nature of a treaty. A treaty imposed obligations on each side. It also guaranteed privileges, but there was no question of Japan's enjoying privileges when she spoke of carrying out her Treaties to the letter. There was simply a question of her accurately discharging the duties imposed on her by the Treaties. If that was what they wanted, he could not go with them. The nation's great complaint against the Treaties was that they impaired the Sovereign rights of the State, and now it was proposed to enforce such Treaties with the utmost possible strictness. He could never share in such a procedure. As to the *Chishima* affair, whatever trouble there was must be attributed to the imperfection of the Treaties. It was because the defective Treaties made these things possible that the course unavoidably pursued was open to cavil. Yet they were asked to vote for the strict enforcement of these very Treaties.

At this point the closure was moved, but as the President, without putting the motion, allowed Mr. Ozaki Yukio to ascend the rostrum, much confusion arose and was with difficulty repressed.

Mr. Ozaki Yukio failed to see how the Radical Party could reconcile its treatment of this Address with its previous attitude toward the Government. Of the five points advanced in the Address, the Radicals were pledged to support four, yet because they opposed the fifth they were now arraying themselves against the whole Address. Strict Treaty Enforcement was the one thing they really objected to. They pretended to think that Strict Enforcement meant the continued closing of the country. Nothing of the kind. It meant simply that Japan should exercise one of the weapons available for forcing the hands of Foreign Powers. There were two ways of accomplishing Treaty Revision. It might be accomplished either by cajolery or by resolution. Count Ito had told them that it could not be achieved by intimidation. Probably not; but did it follow that Japan was to submit tamely to everything, and to allow the restrictions of the Treaties to be so little respected that the situation became for foreigners too pleasant to be worth altering? As to the *Chishima* affair, he thought it a disgrace to the country that such a thing should ever have been made the subject of a suit at law. A Japanese man-of-war had been sunk by a foreign merchant vessel, and the Government had run into a foreign Court in the Emperor's name to ask for compensation. It was a miserable business. As well might a soldier wounded by a tradesman apply to a legal tribunal for money to pay for sticking-plaster. Turning to the Cabinet, he declared that Count Ito's sole idea of statesmanship was to hide his head under the sleeve of the Sovereign whenever anything inconvenient happened. He had done so in the fourth session, by inducing His Majesty to issue an Imperial Rescript when the Diet and the Cabinet were in collision, and he had done so in the fifth session by asking the Emperor to dissolve the House when it became too troublesome. The Throne was made a shield for the Cabinet. No loyal subject should suffer that to continue.

The closure was moved and carried.

The House decided by a vote of 150 to 142 not to take a closed ballot.

An open ballot was taken with the following result:—

Against the Address	149
For the Address	144

The result was welcomed with deafening cheers.

The House rose at 9.50 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 18TH, 1894.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.45 a.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Applications for Leave of Absence.
2.—Government Bill, sent up from the Lower House, for opening the port of Muroran to certain Foreign Trade.
3.—Government Bill, sent up from the Lower House, for opening the port of Fuseki and Otaru to vessels trading to Saghalien and its adjacent waters and to Korea.
4.—Government Bill, sent up from the Lower House, for opening the port of Naha in Riukiu to vessels trading with China.
5.—Representation, introduced by Viscount Yuri Kinsei, with reference to collecting Materials for a History of Modern Times.

The first item on the programme having been disposed of, the Minister of State for Finance briefly introduced the Bill relating to Muroran harbour. After a few questions, the House voted to proceed with the Bill at once without submitting it to a Special Committee. Some anxiety was shown as to whether Muroran harbour was sufficiently spacious to serve as a naval port and a commercial port at the same time. It was finally decided to postpone the further consideration of the Bill until the Minister of State for the Navy, or some other competent official, could inform the House on this point.

The Bill relating to the ports of Fuseki and Otaru was passed through its three Readings at once in the following form:—

BILL RELATING TO THE PORTS OF FUSEKI AND OTARU.

From the 1st day of the 8th month of the 27th year of *Meiji*, the port of Fuseki in Etchiu and the port of Otaru in Shiribetsu shall be open for the entry and exit, lading and unlading of vessels owned by Japanese subjects and engaged in trade with the Russian island of Saghalien and its waters or with Korea.

Provided that, in respect of such entry and exit, lading and unlading, the appropriate provisions of the Customs Tariff and Regulations shall be applicable.

The Government Representative for the Naval Department being now present, explained with regard to the port of Muroran that no inconvenience was apprehended on the score of size as there would always be accommodation for two or three vessels of war. The depth of water was from 13 to 15 fathoms, and the Naval Authorities contemplated dredging the shallow part.

The Bill was at once carried through its second and third readings in the following form:—

BILL RELATING TO THE PORT OF MURORAN.

The Port of Muroran in the province of Iburi shall be added to the list of Special Ports of Export, enumerated in Law No. 20 of the 22nd year of *Meiji*.

This Law shall come into operation from the 15th day of the 6th month of the 27th year of *Meiji*.

The Government Delegate explained, with reference to the Bill for opening Naha port, that considerable trade had been carried on in pre-Restoration days by the people of Riukiu with China, and that as it had again begun to grow active, the opening of Naha to ships engaged in such commerce became necessary. The trade outwards to China now averaged about 40,000 *yen* annually, and that inwards from China, about 100,000 *yen*.

The Bill was passed through its three readings in the following form:—

BILL RELATING TO NAHA PORT IN RIUKIU.

From the 1st day of the 10th month of the 27th year of *Meiji*, the port of Naha in Riukiu shall be open to the entry and exit, lading and unlading, of ships owned by Japanese subjects and engaged in trade with China.

Provided that, in respect of such entry and exit, lading and unlading, the appropriate provisions of the Customs Tariff and Regulations shall be applied.

The Representation relating to collecting materials for Modern History was then read as follows:—

REPRESENTATION RELATING TO THE COLLECTION OF MATERIALS FOR A HISTORY OF MODERN TIMES.

The compilation of a History of Modern Times being an affair of urgent national importance, must be carried out. Fortunately, there now exists a Historical Society (*Shidan-kai*) which engages chiefly in work of that kind and follows excellent methods. But being a private society, it is not competent to collect universal materials and do complete work. Therefore this House trusts that the Government will make a grant from the Surplus Revenue to expedite the Society's undertaking.

Viscount Yuri, introducing the Representation, said that many of the records of the former fiefs, indispensable materials for compiling a history of modern times, must soon become in great part, if not altogether, inaccessible, and that no time should be lost in collecting them. The Historical Society had been organized for that purpose, but its resources were insufficient, however excellent its methods, and unless the State came to its aid, an irreparable loss would be entailed on the country.

Marquis Daigo and Viscount Torio opposed the Representation. While fully in sympathy with its object, they feared that official interference in such a matter would establish a dangerous precedent.

The House adopted the Representation by a vote of 59 to 56 and rose at 3 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.10 p.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Government Bill for Amending the Railway Law.
2.—Government Bill relating to Comparative Lines of Railway.
3.—Government Bill relating to Prolongation of the Business of National Banks.
4.—Government Bill relating to Pensions confiscated on account of Political Offences.
5.—Government Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations.
6.—Government Bill for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141, of the 22nd year of *Meiji*.
7.—Government Bill for amending Law No. 4, of the 23rd year of *Meiji*.
8.—Government Bill relating to Expenditures from the Reserves for the 25th year of *Meiji*.
9.—Government Bill relating to Various Expenditures over and above the Budgetary Items for the 25th year of *Meiji*.
10.—Government Bill relating to Expenditures from the Reserve for the 26th year of *Meiji*.
11.—Government Bill relating to Appropriations from the Surplus Revenue for the 25th year of *Meiji*.
12.—Government Bill relating to Appropriations from the Central Famine Relief Fund to meet expenditures in excess of the Reserve.
13.—Resolution relating to the Dissolution of the House of Representatives.
14.—Resolution relating to the Duration of the Sixth Session of the Imperial Diet.
15.—Address to the Throne.
16.—Private Bill relating to Special Reassessment of the Taxable value of Land.

The receipt of various Bills having been announced,

Mr. Moriya Kanosuke presented a Question to the Government with reference to the murder of the Korean refugee Kim Ok-kyün. For nine years Kim had lived in Japan, making many friends there and ceasing to be regarded as a foreigner. In truth, Kim himself seemed to have abandoned his Korean nationality and become in heart as well as in name a Japanese, known

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to every one not as Kim Ok-kyün but as Iwata Shusaku. He had travelled to Shanghai from Kobe as Iwata Shusaku, and had been foully murdered in Shanghai by a Korean who followed him from Japan, having plotted his assassination and taken the first steps towards it in this country. Undoubtedly the peace of the Japanese empire had been disturbed by such an act. Then again, after Shusaku's body had been taken by his attendant Wada and after arrangements had been made by the latter for its carriage to Japan, the Chinese had been allowed to steal it, and send it, together with the assassin, to Korea where barbarous punishment had been inflicted on the corpse. Surely that procedure on China's part was a gross insult to Japan. What steps had the Ito Cabinet taken to obtain redress? Count Ito had told them in his speech two days previously that the Government's foreign policy had remained unchanged since the Restoration. What was that policy, and how had it been manifested in this affair of Iwata Shusaku?

Mr. Yamaguchi Chiosaku preferred a Question with reference to the Government Bill for restoring pensions that had been confiscated on account of political offences. He claimed that the proposed measure was unjust and partial since it excluded cases fully as deserving as those included.

The Government Delegate briefly introduced he following Bill :—

BILL FOR AMENDING THE RAILWAY LAW.

The following two clauses shall be added after clause 9 Article 7 of the Railway Law, No. 4, of the 25th year of *Meiji* :—

Among the Central Projected Railways, a line from Nagano or Shino-no-i in Nagano Prefecture, *viâ* Matsumoto, to join the line mentioned in clause 1.

Among the Kishiu Projected Railways, a line from Udo in Kumamoto Prefecture to Kagoshima *viâ* Yatsushiro.

The Bill was entrusted, without question or discussion, to a Special Committee, as was also the Bill relating to Comparative Lines.

The Vice-Minister of Finance introduced the Bill relating to the National Banks, which ran as follows :—

BILL RELATING TO CONTINUING THE BUSINESS OF NATIONAL BANKS THE TERMS OF WHICH HAVE EXPIRED.

Art. I.—A National Bank which, after the expiration of its term, purposes to continue its business in the capacity of a private bank, in accordance with the provisions of Art. XII. of the National Bank Regulations, must prepare its resolution as to the continuation of its business and the amendment of its bye-laws six months in advance counted from the day on which the term of its charter expires, and must apply to the Minister of State for Finance for permission to continue its business, accompanying the application with a copy of the amended bye-laws.

Art. II.—A National Bank which, as provided in the preceding article, intends to continue its business on a reduced capital, must apply, in conformity with the provisions of the preceding Article, for permission to continue its business, after having complied with the procedure specified in Arts. XLII., XLIII., and XLIV. of the National Bank Regulations. The restrictions mentioned in Art. XVII. of the same Regulations need not be applied.

Art. III.—Resolutions taken in connection with continuation of business and amendment of bye-laws must conform with the terms specified in Art. LXIX. of the National Bank Regulations.

Art. IV.—With reference to the process of winding up a National Bank that does not intend to continue business on the expiration of its term, the provisions of the Commercial Code relating to the dissolution of a joint stock company and the settlement of its accounts must be adhered to.

It was unnecessary, he said, to explain that steps must be taken in the case of the National Banks which, after years of usefulness, were now approaching the end of the period originally contemplated for their existence as National Banks. With regard to the Banks' issues of paper currency, a measure would subsequently be drafted and submitted to the House. It was not in contemplation to endue the National Banks with note-issuing competence after their transformation into private banks.

The Bill was entrusted to a Special Committee of 18 nominated by the President.

The Vice-Minister of Finance introduced the Bill relating to Pensions as follows :—

BILL RELATING TO PERSONS WHOSE PENSION BONDS AND PENSIONS HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED ON ACCOUNT OF POLITICAL OFFENCES.

Art. I.—Those persons who on account of having committed offences of a political nature during the interval of time commencing from the day on which the Han Organization notified by the Daijokan on September 10th of the 3rd year of *Meiji* (1870), came into force, to the day on which Notification No. 108, issued by the Daijokan, in August of the 9th year of *Meiji* (1876) was enforced, or had the salaries granted to their family (*karoku*) or Government pensions confiscated; also those persons who on the day of the enforcement of the present Law, are the legal heirs of such families, shall be entitled to receive from the Treasury a sum of money based on the amount of salaries confiscated at the time and corresponding to the value of the Pension Bonds according to the scale given in Art. I. of Notification No. 108 of the Daijokan of the 9th year of *Meiji* (1876).

Art. II.—The amount of salaries mentioned in the foregoing Article shall be determined according to the investigations made on the basis of Notification No. 18, issued by the Department of Civil Affairs (Minbusho) in the 4th year of *Meiji* (1871) : on Notification Nos. 64 and 65, issued by the Department of Finance in the 4th year of *Meiji*; and on Notication No. 138 issued by the Daijokan in the 8th year of *Meiji* (1877). Provided that if the confiscation of salaries was prior to the making of the investigation, then the amount of salaries that had been actually received at the time of confiscation shall be used as a basis of estimation.

In case it shall be found necessary to convert the amount of the salaries mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs to currency, such reckoning shall be made in accordance with Notification No. 138 issued in the 8th year of *Meiji* (1876) by the Daijokan.

Art. III.—Any person wishing to receive a grant in accordance with the provisions of Art. I. should forward an application to the Local Office together with a certificate from the Law Court at which the sentence relating to the political offence was given, or from the Office to which the business transacted at the Court was subsequently transferred; such certificate stating that the requirements of Art. IV. of the present Law have been complied with, as also the particulars of the confiscation of salary.

Provided that if within three months computed from the day on which the present Law comes into force such certificate is not applied for; or if within one month computed from the day on which it is not forwarded, the grant mentioned in Art. I. can not be obtained.

APPENDIX.

By "political offences" mentioned in the present Law are meant such offences as are recognized by the Court which originally pronounced the sentence, or by the Office to which the business transacted at the Court was subsequently transferred, as offences of a similar nature to those specified in Arts. 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, and 134 of the Criminal Law.

The Bill having been already twice before the House, no detailed explanation was required.

The Bill was entrusted to a Committee of 9 nominated by the President.

The Vice-Minister of State for Finance introduced the Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations, and refrained from making any statement about it as it had been fully considered in the last session. He asked the House to entrust to the Special Committee charged to report upon this Bill, the correlated Bills for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141 of the 22nd year of *Meiji* and Law No. 4 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*.

BILL FOR AMENDING PORTIONS OF THE TAX COLLECTING REGULATIONS.

In the Collection of National Taxes, Law No. IX., issued in the 22nd year of *Meiji* (1889), the following Amendments and additions shall be made :—

The following clause shall be appended in Art. VI. :—

In case a tax-payer is deemed unable to pay taxes in consequence of having suffered from an unusual calamity, national or otherwise, the Minister for Finance may defer for a period not exceeding 12 months, the collection of those taxes which were yet unpaid at the time of the disaster, and in the case of those taxes which fall due within 6 months after the occurrence of the calamity, to a period not exceeding 12 months, calculated from the time at which those taxes become due.

Art. X.—Except in cases where special provisions or *reasons* exist, such notice or intimation shall be issued, where there is a prescribed date for payment of the tax, fifteen days previous to that date; where the period of payment extends over several days, fifteen days previous to the first day; and where the tax is an extraordinary one the limit of time shall be specially fixed.

Art. XI.—In the case set forth in the first paragraph of Art. VIII. each tax payer shall pay the amount of his tax to the city, town, or village treasurer, and on receiving a receipt bearing the seal of the [head of the city, town, or village as the case may be] *treasurer in question*, shall be held to have fulfilled his obligation to pay the tax.

In the case as set forth in the second paragraph of Art. VIII. each tax-payer shall pay his tax to the local treasury, and on receiving in exchange [a] the proper receipt [with a special note attached, shall hand the same to the responsible official. On having such note stamped with the seal of receipt] shall be held to have fulfilled his obligation to pay the tax.

Art. XII.—Heads of cities, towns, or villages shall receive the amount of the tax from the treasurer of cities, towns, or villages, and shall transmit the same *amount of taxes collected therein* to the Treasury *and* on receiving a receipt therefore *from the treasury* [with a special note. The receipt shall then be forwarded to the responsible official who shall return such note stamped with the seal of receipt, which shall discharge] the obligation of such [heads of] cities, towns, or villages *shall be held discharged. The period of the foregoing transmission shall be within three days calculated from the day on which the payment of the taxes is to conclude.*

Art. XIII.—Should any tax-payer fail to make payment of the amount of his taxes within the prescribed period, the nature and amount of the tax in arrears and the name and address of the defaulter should be reported to the Government Treasurers—*by the Head of the city, town, or village* in question.

Art. XIV.—When a tax-payer *has his goods distrained, or* is declared bankrupt on account of debts to others, his taxes shall be collected in advance of his other debts even though the time of payment of such taxes has not arrived, provided that the notice or intimation has been issued. In the foregoing event taxes on *saké* and *shoyu* which are fixed by law, should be collected in advance of other debts, even though the time of payment of such tax has not arrived.

Art. XVII.—If full three years, reckoning from the day following that on which the time for payment of a tax expires, have elapsed and no notice or intimation as hereinbefore provided has been issued, *or even if issued, if no collection has been made by that time*, the taxpayer shall be held freed from the obligation to pay the tax.

N.B.—In the above draft bill, all words included in brackets are intended to be excised, words in *italics* are for insertion.

The three Bills were entrusted to a Special Committee of 9 nominated by the President.

The Bill relating to expenditures from the Reserve for the 25th financial year was entrusted to a Special Committee of 9, and the same Committee was ordered to report upon the Bill relating to Expenditures over and above the Budgetary Items for the 25th financial year, and upon the Bill relating to Expenditures from the Reserve for the 26th financial year.

The Bill relating to Expenditures from the Surplus Revenue for the 26th year was handed to a Special Committee of 9 elected by the Sections, the same Committee being ordered to report upon the Bill relating to Expenditures from the Central Famine Relief Fund.

The Resolution relating to the Dissolution of the last House of Representatives was then read as follows :—

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Whereas, the Government ordered the dissolution of the House of Representatives, in the 26th year of *Meiji* in its fifth session, before the House had had an opportunity to express its opinion, and whereas the Government did not publicly announce the reason of the dissolution, therefore it is hereby resolved that the Government's procedure with regard to the dissolution of the House of Representatives in its fifth session was improper and unconstitutional.

The President announced the receipt of the following Amendment from Mr. Inugai Ki :—"The procedure of the present Cabinet having been wrong and improper, this House cannot place confidence in the present Cabinet."

Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke spoke in support of the original Resolution. He did not for a moment question the Government's right to appeal

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from the House to the constituencies. That was a matter of Imperial Prerogative. But it was necessary that some good reason should be given. In this case no reason had been given. The measure on account of which dissolution was understood to have been ordered, had never been even discussed. Twice when it was on the verge of discussion the Government had prorogued the House, and had finally dissolved it. No one could approve such procedure. They had all seen Count Ito's explanation given to the Peers, and they must all agree that it was an insufficient and unsatisfactory reason.

Several members pressed Mr. Misaki whether he intended the Resolution to be a vote of want of confidence, but he declined to make any explicit statement.

Mr. Inugai Ki declared that not the smallest confidence could be placed in the present Cabinet. Everything the Cabinet did was more or less faulty, but in no instance did it show any sign of amendment. Its foreign policy was simply cowardly. Look at its failure to insist on the observance of the Tientsin Treaty, and its attitude toward Korea. Even in the case of a petty State like Korea, the present Ministers could not maintain the dignity of this empire or assert its rights. What possible hope was there of their holding their own *vis-à-vis* the Great Powers of the West? What conceivable chance was there of their accomplishing Treaty Revision? It was useless to discuss the details of such a Cabinet's doings. Let them at once vote it utterly unworthy of public confidence.

Mr. Hoshi Toru asked whether the House was to understand that Mr. Inugai's sweeping denunciation of the Government included the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement.

Mr. Inugai answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Suzuki Jubi moved that the so-called Amendment was not an amendment at all.

This contention caused a great commotion.

The President ruled Mr. Suzuki out of order, and the commotion increased still more.

Mr. Yamada Toji did not attempt to defend the Cabinet's procedure, but considered that Mr. Inugai's so-called "Amendment" was merely a device to retrieve the defeat suffered by his Party the preceding day on the subject of the Address to the Throne.

Mr. Wada Hikojiro contended that nothing could be gained by passing such an invertebrate Resolution as that before the House. The Cabinet had proved abundantly that it did not pay the smallest respect to the Constitution and that it was resolved to lay its own sins on the shoulders of the Diet. (At this point Dr. Hasegawa Tai called out "*Bakka Yaro*," and a commotion arose.) Mr. Wada criticised Count Ito's speech on the 16th instant as contradictory and insulting to the House.

Mr. Shimada Saburo spoke at great length in support of the Amendment. He dwelt on the importance of Strict Enforcement as a means to achieve the end of Treaty Revision, and denied altogether that the measure involved any hostility to foreigners or any desire to keep them out of the country. The Government by it organs had greatly misled both its own people and foreigners in that matter. He also denounced the new Hawaiian Treaty as establishing the false principle that the opening of the interior was to be the price paid for the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction alone, and he declared that it was ridiculous to imagine that such a Cabinet as the present could be capable of concluding satisfactory treaties with the Great Power of the West.

A dispute here arose between Mr. Inouye Kakugoro and the President, the latter having refused to allow the former to enter into an explanation of a question he desired to propound. Mr. Inouye, however, yielded finally to the President's ruling.

After some further desultory discussion, a closed ballot was taken with regard to Mr. Inugai's Amendment, when 139 voted for and 149 against the Amendment.

A closed ballot was then taken as to the original Resolution, when 131 voted for it and 148 against.

The House rose at 5.50 p.m.

NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS AND THE RAILWAY COUNCIL.

We give below in a tabulated form a list of the various railway projects engaging attention at the present time in different parts of the country. The list is arranged in the order of date on which applications for provisional charters were made to the Authorities. Such charters, when granted in cases where the applicant is already an established railway company, give the latter the privilege of surveying the districts through which the proposed line is to pass, and in cases where applications are sent in from promoters of entirely new railway projects, the provisional charter confers the right of establishiug a company for conducting such surveys. Applications have been made by 50 different companies or bodies of projectors for over 70 different lines of railway, covering a distance of over 1,800 miles, which will involve an aggregate outlay of over *yen* 80,000,000. The first project on the list, an extension of the Kobu Railway from Misaki-cho to Yorodzuyo-bashi, Tokyo, originated in 1890. With this exception, the proposed new lines have been projected within the last twelve months; and the Railway Bureau and its staff of engineers are said to have had an exceedingly busy time lately making investigations into the engineering and financial prospects of these undertakings for incorporation in the reports laid before the Railway Council.

Name of Railway.	Distance. m. ch.	Estimated Cost. Yen.
KOBU RAILWAY*—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Iidamachi to Yorozuyo-bashi (Tokyo)	1.18	160,000
Line—Yotsuya viâ Akasaka to Iidamachi (Tokyo)	5.12	1,500,000
TOYOKAWA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Shimoji to Toyokawa	4.00	50,000
Line—Toyokawa to Shinjo	8.00	100,000
Line—Toyokawa to Kokubu	4.00	40,000
SETTAN RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Oto to Sonobe, Ikuse to Mita	38.40	1,350,000
Line—M'meda (Osaka) to Funaoka	34.00	1,500,000
Line—M'meda (Osaka) viâ Yamaka to Maizuru	67.00	3,000,000
Line—M'meda viâ Ayabe to Maizuru	69.40	3,000,000
RYOMO RAILWAY*—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Maebashi to Shibukawa	11.00	300,000
OTA RAILWAY†—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Mito to Ono	6.00	50,000
SOBU RAILWAY†—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Koiwa to Akabane	14.40	600,000
Line—Chiba to Hamano	4.40	90,000
Line—Hamano to Shigehara	12.40	250,000
Line—Sakura to Narito	15.00	300,000
Line—Ichikawa to Fuse	17.00	425,000
Line—Narito to Choshi	30.00	900,000
Line—Senju to Okawaguchi	8.40	425,000
ISOMINATO RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Mito to Iwai	7.64	200,000
GOYU RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Goyu to Toyokawa	6.00	75,000
OSAKA RAILWAY*—		
Gauge—3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Sakurai to Hase	3.30	150,000
KYOTO RAILWAY—		
Gauge—3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Kyoto to Maizuru, Miyazu, Fukuchiyama and Wadayama	100.02	5,000,000
SAKURA RAILWAY—		
Gauge—3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Sakura to Naito	7.71	130,000
SHIMOSA RAILWAY—		
Gauge—3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Sakura to Sawara	20.40	500,000
KAYO RAILWAY—		
Gauge—2 ft. 9 ins.		
Line—Kashiwara to Mikkaichi	14.00	300,000
KIZU-NANIWA RAILWAY—		
Gauge—3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Kizu to Shijo	13.60	900,000
NIPPON RAILWAY*—		
Gauge—3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Ueno to Shimbashi (Elevated through Tokyo)	3.60	5,000,000
Line—Mito to Iwanuma	130.30	5,640,000
Line—Nakazato to Sumidagawa	3.00	450,000
HANKAKU RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Lines—Sonezaki to Maizuru, and Fukuchiyama to Yoshika	106.00	5,500,000
KIKA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 9 ins.		
Lines—Kizu to Shijo, and Nagao to Yawatamachi	22.40	500,000
Line—Yawata to Shijo	—	250,000
HOKUWA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Nara to Shijo	13.00	600,000
KIWA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Gojo to Wakayama.	31.20	1,400,000
FUSHIKI RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Fushiki to Takaoka	4.40	140,000
CHIUWA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Okidome to Kawarajo	5.49	130,000
IGA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Sakurai to Toba	68.50	2,300,000
Line—Nabari to Ueno	11.00	200,000
FUTAMI RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Uji to Yamada and Futami	5.00	136,000
DZUSO RAILWAY—		
Gauge 4 ft. 8½ ins.		
Lines—Kodzu to Yumoto, and Numadzu to Nanjo	17.58	500,000
CHIUETSU RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Takaoka to Shirobata	20.00	220,000
BOSO RAILWAY†—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Lines—Ozuna to Tokane, and Ozuna to Ichinomiya	18.07	450,000
Lines—Tokane to Yokaichiba, and Sogamachi to Chiba	18.51	450,000
KAIKYO RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Sakae to Hashimoto	22.00	1,500,000
SANUKI RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Marugame to Takamatsu	17.19	500,000
CHIKUHO RAILWAY*—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Iizuka to Usui	5.00	129,000
Line—Iizuka to Harada or Tosu and Yamaka to Yoshii	21.00	1,224,834
SEISEI RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Sonezaki to Tenpozan	4.56	300,000
ARIMA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Kobe to Yuyama	15.00	300,000
YAMAGA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Yamaga to Ueki	10.00	265,000
KANO RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Tsubata to Nanao.	34.70	700,000
TOYO RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Imaji to Matsuyama	28.00	300,000
KISETSU RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Minatomachi (Osaka) Wakayama	40.00	2,800,000
BANTAN RAILWAY†—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Ikuno to Wadayama	13.40	500,000
OMI RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Hikone to Fukagawa	26.00	1,000,000
KOTSUKE RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Takasaki to Shimonita.	16.00	200,000
HAKATA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 8 ins.		
Line—Hakata to Dazaifu	12.00	250,000
HOSHU RAILWAY†—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Ikari to Yugeta	2.10	198,512
KANTO RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Hakodate to Shimoyugawa	3.50	95,000
SETTSU RAILWAY*—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Amagasaki to Ajikawa-dori (Osaka)	4.00	300,000
SEIWA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		

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Lines—Sakurai to Toba, and Kawaimura to Tsu	90.00	4,500,000
BISEI RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Tsushima to Ichinomiya	10.00	200,000
NANSO RAILWAY—		
Line—Hamano to Futtsu	—	1,100,000
BITSU RAILWAY—		
Gauge 2 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Tsushima to Nagoya	7.00	150,000
TOSAN RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Lines—Ebi to Maeshiba, Inamura and Toyohashi	28.30	500,000
SAKATA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Sakataminato to Shinjo	31.00	1,000,000
JOBU RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Lines—Omiya to Kumgae and Tanaka to Ogawamachi	38.00	1,200,000
SAITAMA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Lines—Kitaadachigori to Omiya, and Chichibugori to Omiya.	50.00	1,500,000
HOKUETSU RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Naoetsu to Shibata viâ Niigata	95.00	3,700,000
GANETSU RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Koriyama to Niigata	115.00	7,500,000
NIIGATA RAILWAY—		
Gauge 3 ft. 6 ins.		
Line—Koriyama to Niigata	115.00	5,500,000
Totals	1,853.76	82,583,346

* Signifies proposed extension of lines already in operation.
† Signifies extension proposed by Companies whose original lines are in course of construction and not yet opened for traffic. The others are entirely new projects.

* * *

The third session of the Railway Council met at the customary meeting place within the Railway Bureau, on alternate days since the 3rd instant. The questions dealt with consisted principally of the reports and estimates connected with the above enumerated private railway projects. The Council decided to grant the following applications:—

Sobu Railway Company, for all proposed Extensions.
Kyoto Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Sakura Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Shimosa Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Nippon Railway Company, for Sumida-gawa Extension.
Hankaku Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Kiwa Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Chiuwa Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Boso Railway Company, for proposed Extensions.
Sanuki Railway Company, for proposed Extensions.
Chikuho Railway Company, for proposed Extensions.
Yamaga Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Kano Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Kisetsu Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Bantan Railway Company, for proposed Extensions.
Omi Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Sakata Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Hokuetsu Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.
Ganetsu Railway Projectors, for Organization of Company.

The following applications were rejected:—

Kayo Railway Company.
Futami Railway Company.
Toyo Railway Company.

* * *

The following gentlemen comprise the *personnel* of the present Railway Council:—

PRESIDENT.

Lieut.-General Kawakami Soroku, Vice Chief of the General Staff.

MEMBERS.

Major-General Kodama Gentaro, Vice-Minisetr of War.
Colonel Terauchi Seiki, General Staff.
Major Kamihara Yasaku, General Staff.
Major Yamane Takesuke, General Staff.
Captain Tsunoda Hikomatsu, Navy Department.
Mr. Sudzuki Daisuke, Vice-Minister of Communications.
Mr. Matsumoto Soichiro, C.E., Director of Railway Bureau.
Mr. Sengoku Mitsugu, C.E., Railway Bureau.
Mr. Den Kenjiro, Director of Communications Bureau.
Mr. Nakahashi Tokugoro, Secretary, Communications Department.
Mr. Sone Shidzuo, Director of Bureau of Taxes.
Mr. Ishiguro Isoji, C.E., Inspecting Engineer, Agriculture and Commerce Department.
Mr. Wakamiya Seion, Director of Bureau of Commerce and Industries,
Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi, President Tokyo Chamber of Commerce.
Mr. Tamura Tahei, President Osaka Chamber of Commerce.
Mr. Kawada Koichi, President Bank of Japan.
Viscount Inouye Masaru, Member of House of Peers.
Viscount Hotta Seiyo, Member of House of Peers.
Mr. Komuro Shinobu, Member of House of Peers.
Mr. Wakao Ippei, Member of House of Peers.
Mr. Minoura Katsuto, Member of House of Representatives.
Mr. Ito Daihachi, Member of House of Representatives.
Mr. Sato Riji, Member of House of Representatives.
Mr. Murano Sanjin, Member of House of Representatives.
Mr. Watanabe Hiromoto, President Sanyo Railway Company.
Mr. Mochidzuki Unai, President of the Railway Union.

SECRETARY.

Mr. Inuzuka Katsutaro, Secretary, Railway Bureau.

Considerable changes have taken place in this body since the last session of the Council, the most notable being the entry of Viscount Inouye, for many years chief of the Railway Bureau, who takes the place of General Viscount Tani, who resigned last year, and the appointment of Mr. Mochidzuki, the head of the Railway Union. The abnormal predominance of the "war element" is still maintained. The Council met on Sunday last, and having settled all the more important questions, decided to adjourn *sine die*. It is not likely to be convened again for at least a week or ten days.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers ust distinctly understa nd that we are in no sense responsible for the senti ents or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

"PAUL ANJIRO."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In a letter of May 8th, Mr. Dienst kindly offers that, under certain conditions, he "will gladly tell me all about Paul Anjiro." Despite the assumed haughty tone of his letter, I think it must be clear to him that I know more about "Paul Anjiro" than he is ever likely to translate from his "marked" book or to learn from other sources at his disposal. But the moral code of the literary world demands that a translator who "indulges the hope to increase our knowledge" should name the book which he claims "to give to the public in English."

I am, Sir, yours faithfully, Z. Y.

Tokyo, May 11th, 1894.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I fail to understand Mr. Dienst. I did not pretend to *criticise* his work—a bare translation—I merely ventured to advise him that he was wasting his time and labour on a useless work. Fancy a person laying hands on a Japanese book,—say a treatise on astronomy—being an *avowed* translation from a French work, who on earth would think of translating this Japanese book into English! If such a work were thought absolutely necessary, would it not be more rational to translate from the original French? This is the case with Mr. Dienst. If the Japanese version had contained some new and genuine remarks or notes, adding to our knowledge of that eventful period, or if the French book had been lost, the matter would have been different. But it has not been lost; a French book of the 18th century cannot be lost, and notwithstanding the strange denial of Mr. Dienst, I positively maintain that the original work was Charlevoise's or a work directly derived from it, therefore "the authenticity of the work and the correctness of the history it records" are not in question.

That there are "very many who have not heard or read but little on the matter contained in 'Paul Anjiro'" goes without saying, but that can be no justification. If a person desires to know something of that period he has better sources of information than a mutilated retranslation of an original work, and let it be clearly understood I have no reason to doubt Mr. Dienst's scholarship, neither was it my intention to criticise his translation, but those who have some knowledge of the mechanism of Oriental tongues know what must be involved in a translation from French into Japanese and a subsequent retranslation into English. To take an instance at random, who would believe that by "Xavier.....perceived that he (Anjiro) was able to begin the *Study of the Ethics* of Igias. He ordered the *Superintendent*, Casimid Tray, to *teach him regularly* the laws given in the book of Igias, and requested Paul to meditate much. Paul did what the Saint commanded him to do. He was at one time in meditation for thirty days, regularly four times a day and once every night (the length of time spent in these periods of meditation is not stated)," who, I repeat, would take the above to mean that Xavier, perceiving that Anjiro, after his baptism, was endowed with great sanctity, caused him to begin, under the direction of Father de Torrez, the spiritual exercises of St. Ignace, and that this retreat lasted thirty days?

In conclusion "Z.Y." stigmatised Mr. Dienst's work (!) as "Scholarly Topsy-Turvydom." The phrase is hard, but just.

Yours faithfully, F. Dz.

Yokohama, May 13th, 1894.

A NUISANCE IN A POLICE STATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I would thank you for a few lines of space in which to add my testimony to that of previous correspondents in regard to the nuisance created by the Police in the Bluff Station in the matter of horn-blowing. I can easily understand what those persons must suffer who live close to the Station from the irritation and annoyance felt by everyone in my house, which is some distance away. But your correspondents suggest no remedy. As it would probably be useless to appeal to the feelings of the Police Inspector, I propose that a petition be drawn up and presented to Mr. Nakano. I believe that the Police of the *Ken* are under the orders of the Governor, and that he would be entirely on the side of the large number of persons who must at present be sufferers from what is clearly an unmitigated nuisance.

Yours truly, OLD RESIDENT.

Yokohama, May 11th, 1894.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Kindly permit me to make a few remarks in answer to your correspondent, "Anti-rappa." Anything done with a useful object in view, although such deed may be, in the minds of some, a nuisance, still—such a nuisance in my humble opinion may be excused by all.

Perhaps, if "Anti-rappa" consulted the Police authorities as to why some of the constables practise playing on the bugle, before he sat down to write his correspondence, the word nuisance might have been conspicuous by its absence.

I am too ignorant to understand the logic of the two following sentences from Anti-rappa's pen:—"In fact music could not be played on the wretched thing. It begins somewhat like 'cease firing,' and in the middle for a few notes reminds one of 'stables.'" Simple toot-toot-toot is all this bugle can do; and toot-toot-toot calls back to one's memory (in a mild form) the bugle call of "cease firing;" and a few notes of this toot-toot-toot remind one of "stables." How times must have changed! even the bugle calls are not what they used to be; Which gallant army and what branch of the latter, adopts the toot-toot-toot? "Is like nothing that ever was blown in any camp in the world; with all respect and reverence O Wellington, O Moltke, O Napoleon, did ye know so much? "Anti-rappa" is not a nervous man, but still, the sounds of the bugle are, to him fearful! awful!! horrible!!! As "Anti-rappa" concludes his corre-

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spondence by writing about tin horns, he or his servant evidently don't know whether the sound issues from a brass or tin instrument.

And, to say the least of it, "Anti-rappa" might have gone to the Bluff Police-Station and seen the bugles for himself, without trying to ridicule, unjustly, the metal of the instruments in question. Fun is fun, and a joke is a joke, but a public ridicule in a newspaper, and an unjust one at that, is not the way to bring about a kindly feeling between the Police and foreigners; and who can wonder at it?

Thanking you, in anticipation, for inserting this letter,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Yokohama, May 10th, 1894. BRITISH.

BUDDHIST PRAYER-WHEELS IN JAPAN

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In a paragraph contained in your issue of the 10th inst., I observed, the writer expresses doubt of the "existence of prayer-wheels" being known to the Japanese."

No longer ago than the month of December, 1891, there was in existence, at Higane-san, on the mountain-road which leads from Atami to Hakone, just by the side of the path at the last place where the tourist usually rests before reaching the top of what is commonly known as the Ten Province Pass, one of those wheels, made of wood; and I have seen the passing pedestrian give it a turn. No doubt the wheel is there still.

Many years ago there was such a wheel at Bukenji, behind Kanagawa, by the foot path, near the top of the ridge, before you descend to the monastery. I looked for it there lately, but it seems to have now disappeared,—as many other things are disappearing, in modern Japan.

At Hasedera, in Yamato, a fortune-telling wheel, or pair of wheels, may be seen at the back of the hall of the monastery,—but the idea there is not quite the same as that of the prayer,—or invocation-wheel.

Yours truly, TESTIS.

Yokohama, May 12th, 1894.

ORIENTAL WALL PAPER.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I beg leave to inform you that in your leading article of the 26th ult. concerning the Oriental Wall Paper Manufacturing Company, there are unfortunately some mistakes and misrepresentations, and in order to rectify the said statements, I beg to acquaint you with the following facts, viz.:—I have myself been engaged for about ten years as manager of the Wall Paper Manufactory, formerly carried on by the Insatsu Kyoku, Printing Bureau of the Department of the Treasury, and it was in the year 1890 that I resigned that office, just at the time when the Printing Bureau discontinued the manufacture of Wall Paper. Having been engaged for so many years in this line of business, I soon after, with the permission of the Minister of State for the Treasury of the Japanese Government, erected a new and spacious factory at No. 40, Suidocho, Ushigome-Ku, Tokyo now called the "Yamaji Hekishi Seizosho." I bought all the blocks, patterns and other necessary utensils, formerly used by the "Government Factory," when they were put up for sale, and all the artisans of the Insatsu Kyoku, factory joined me and are still in my employ. Indeed, I am carrying on the business at the same place and under the same conditions as before. The aforesaid blocks and patterns and other utensils, purchased by me from the Government Printing Bureau, are still in my possession, and therefore the statement in your paper that the Oriental Wall Paper Manufacturing Company, is in possession of the same, is a misrepresentation. As almost all the best kind of patterns and blocks purchased by me from the Insatsu Kyoku, and the others which have been manufactured in my factory are now and have been for years registered in my sole name at the Government Patent Office in Tokyo, no other factory can manufacture the same patterns as those produced at my establishment.

Our monthly production is about one thousand rolls, which quantity is taken solely by Messrs. Rottmann, & Co., London, formerly known as Rottman, Strome & Co.; besides we are constantly improving our factory and turning out new and artistic designs, for which purpose we have special artists in Europe, studying the taste and fashion prevailing there. I repeat again that almost all our blocks and designs are patented, so that neither the so-called Oriental Wall Paper Manufacturing Co. nor any other factory, can manufacture the same artistic papers such as are made at the Yamaji Hekishi Seizosho.

The above being the real and true facts, I have to conclude, that the statement in your paper of the 26th ult., is a misrepresentation, and as such information may cause me harm and mislead others, I have been compelled to solicit your favour, to rectify that part of your article concerning the Oriental Wall-Paper Manufacturing Company, which concern you declare as having succeeded to the official enterprise of the Insatsu Kyoku.

I shall be much obliged, if you will kindly insert this letter is your daily paper to let the public know the true facts.

I am, Sir, your very truly. R. YAMAJI.

Tokyo, May 12th, 1894.

[This letter appears to be little more than an advertisement. But if Mr. Yamaji considers that he has been injured, we have no objection to publish his letter.—Ed. *J.M.*]

MISS IMHOF.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In a recent issue of your paper appears an account of the assault upon Miss Imhof, translated from the *Fiji Shimpo*. As that paper was not exact in reporting the occurence, I wish to give you the particulars, hoping that both your paper and the *Fiji Shimpo* may give room for a true statement. Miss Imhof is a teacher in the Yonezawa Eiwa-jo Gakko. Upon the 29th ultimo, it being the anniversary of the festival of the Uyesugi Shrine, permission was asked by the pastors of the two Christian Churches of the place to hold an open air meeting, which request was granted by the authorities, a policeman being in attendance.

The meeting was not within the enclosure of the shrine, but in the public park, adjoining.

A meeting was held in the afternoon, at which such good order prevailed that it was decided to hold one in the evening also. The speakers at both meetings were men, Japanese, the pastors and others, Miss Imhof going by request to assist in the singing, which, aside from destributing tracts and picture cards, was the only part she took.

In the evening good attention was given till one of the young men, a student, rather unwisely charged the people with worshipping idols that were not gods, when they became somewhat noisy, though not interrupting the speakers, who finished the meeting in good order.

After the close of the meeting, and as Miss Imhof was reaching up to take down her foreign lantern, a stone, which seems to have been the first and only one, was thrown, striking her in the right eye—breaking her spectacles, some peices of the glass entering the eye.

A Japanese physician was called, who removed the pieces and who is now caring for the patient. He is an able man and seems to be doing all that can be done. He hopes that after the eye has healed—by an operation similar to that performed for cataract, partial vision may be restored to the injured eye.

No one imagines that the offender had any intention of doing personal injury, but that he thought it a fine opportunity for a practical joke, by breaking the foreign lantern and frightening the foreign lady.

Miss Imhof is much respected and loved by the people of Yonezawa for her kind and gentle spirit, and they all are greatly distressed that this accident should befall her. The Governor, Mayor, and other officials called or sent messengers expressing their regret and inquiring as to her progress. Not only the Christians, but non-Christians send her the most touching and heartfelt letters of sympathy.

Miss Imhof is very thankful for the kindness shown by the people, and has not the least bitterness, even toward the one, unknown to her, who has caused her so much suffering and anxiety. She thinks it simply an accident, unintentional, at least, of serious results.

Yours very truly, H.W.S.

May 12th, 1894.

SUPERSTITIOUS IDEAS OF GREAT MEN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Allow me to thank your correspondent "Will Pattillo" for his recent letter criticising a journalist's reference to Mr. Gladstone's superstitious ideas with regard to Sunday observance. This style of journalistic reference to our great men has become much to common. The fact that Mr. Gladstone has accomplished work in politics and literature which has called forth "the admiration and wonder of the world" ought to be quite sufficient to prove that his views on religion and supernaturalism are correct, and his success in one field should place him beyond the reach of criticism in another. This spirit of criticism of our great men is being carried to the most extreme and dangerous lengths. Some time ago I remember reading a paragraph in a newspaper stating that the great Dr. Johnson was in the habit of touching every post between the coffee house where he had spent the evening and his lodging, and that if he was undecided on reaching his door whether he had touched them all he would go back and begin all over again. This was followed by some remarks regretting that a great mind could allow itself to be enslaved by such trifles. Here was a journalist who was no more capable of doing the great and valuable work in literature accomplished by Dr. Johnson than of writing Shakespeare's plays, actually pitying him for a habit which may possibly have done much to ensure his greatness! For myself, what I did upon reading the paragraph was to touch every post I have since passed in the hope that I might thus absorb some of the great Doctor's genius.

The principle might be applied further, for I see no reason why genius should not consecrate even great men's so called vices. Richard Steele gave way to drink, and wrote some excellent articles for the *Spectator;* Coleridge became an opium-eater, and wrote "Kubla Khan." Are we to say there is no connection between these things? Instead of criticism, would it not be better for us to humbly acknowledge it as possible, nay, probable, that to indulgence in wine and opium these men owed the greatness of intellect which enabled them to accomplish such marvellous work. As to Coleridge, it has indeed been pointed out by a recent writer that it was only after he commenced indulgence in his favourite drug that his genius was recognised by the world, so there is something in my theory which deserves investigation.

Instead of criticising our betters, therefore, let us in future be superstitious with Gladstone and Johnson, intoxicated with Steele, and an opium slave with Coleridge, that we may in some measure approach the greatness of these men in their various fields of labour.

Enclosing my card, I am, yours, &c.,

HERO WORSHIPPER.

May 17th, 1894.

THE DIET AND THE EMPEROR.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In to-day's issue of the *Japan Mail* you publish what is supposed to be the text of an Address to the Throne emanating from the allied Opposition parties, members of the Diet. If such a document finds for its supporters a majority of the Diet it will be conclusive that, although a profession of loyalty is vouchsafed, there is a determination to obstruct the Government regardless of consequences. The wording of the Address is not only implacably hostile to the Ministry but insolent to His Majesty. Not only is it insolent, but it is more, it is threatening. After enumerating the alleged offences of the Ministry, asserting that "nothing could be more contrary to the purposes of Constitutional Government, or more at variance with the obligations that the Ministers of State owe to your Majesty as your Majesty's advisers," a concise indictment indeed, when, read in connection with the demand made upon His Majesty in the following sentence, "Unless the Ministers of State be held responsible for such neglect of duty, it is the apprehension of your Majesty's humble servant and others, that the result may be the alienation of the people's hearts at home and lowering of the national prestige abroad, leading finally to inoperativeness of the Constitution and even decadence of the Imperial House." As the Ministry is responsible to His Majesty solely and as His Majesty has so far approved the acts of his Ministers, the above avowal is a threat direct to His Majesty. No more bald or naked avowal of contemplated treason could be made than is conveyed in the alternative proposition. The inference is that His Majesty has allowed his Ministers to act as being without responsibility. The pith of the Address is as much of an arraignment of His Majesty as it is of the Ministry. And yet the House of Representatives, has the audacity to say—"But they now once more venture, with profound reverence, to invoke Your Majesty's gracious decision on matters vitally connected with the destiny of the nation." The Diet is anxious about the prestige abroad. If the supporters of this Address to the Throne could understand the situation they would know that they are traitors and bringing contempt not only upon themselves but upon the Empire.

Yours truly, X.

Yokohama, May 18th, 1894.

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LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Chicago, April 23rd.

Mr. Frank G. Carpenter's letters of travel are appearing from time to time in the *Herald* of this city. The first one which told of his trip from Chicago to Yokohama, and gave first impressions of Japan, only re-iterated the same old facts, gained evidently at second-hand. The next letter was a slight improvement in that it contained interesting statistics concerning the cost of living in Japan. The illustrations are far from excellent. "The Wee Ones of Japan," by Mae W. St. John Bramhall, is chiefly, if not entirely, a reprint of articles which appeared in *Harper's Bazaar*, and is published by Harper and Brothers. It is finely illustrated by C. D. Weldon, and is, with the exception of a tendency to "gush," a very charming story of child-life in Japan. It is marred by mistakes, mostly typographical, in transliteration; but is, after all, a valuable little book.

The following appreciative item is from the Chicago *Herald*:—

All America, and Chicago in particular, will wish the Japanese good luck in their great national exposition which is to be held at Hiogo next year. Japan has been advancing steadily in civilization since 1854, when the American fleet, under Commodore M. C. Perry, opened up the country to intercourse with western nations. The Japanese have progressed at a rate that is without a parallel in the history of so-called barbarous nations. As a matter of fact their civilization is far older than our own, though of a different type. They have, however, chosen to adopt European rather than Asiatic modes of thought and progress, and in some particulars they have outstripped their tutors. The coming exposition is their first attempt to meet the nations of the west on their own ground. That it will be a success will not be doubted by anyone who has watched the progress of the Japanese nation in the arts of civilization. Those who remember the Japanese section at the World's Fair will be inclined to believe that the exposition-makers of other countries will find that a pace has been set for them when the big fair at Hiogo is opened.

The latest news with reference to Samoan affairs is that the government of New Zealand wishes to annex Samoa, and has made to Great Britain a suggestion to that effect. It is also stated, that the Samoans themselves are not at all averse to that plan.

There have been no advices from the Hawaiian Islands since my last letter, and at this end there has been absolutely nothing on that subject. From Brazil also, though conflicting reports have come, there is nothing at all of a positive or important nature.

It is seems quite unlikely now that any of the territories will be admitted to statehood. Bills for the admission of Arizona and New Mexico have passed the House of Representations, but are conveniently "stuck" in the Senate. The Democrats are afraid that the new states would elect Republican Senators; and the Republicans know that the new Senators would surely be advocates of the free coinage of silver. It is, moreover, very much to be doubted whether any territory is yet fit for statehood.

The necrological list this time includes General Henry W. Slocum, who served with honour in the Union army and in the House of Representatives; Senator Zebulon B. Vance, who served with credit in the Confederate army, in the governorship of North Carolina, in the House of Representatives and in the Senate; ex-Governor and ex-Senator James M. Harvey, of Kansas; Henry S. Ives, the "Napoleon of Finance" and infamous "railroad wrecker," at a very early age (29?); and ex-Governor and ex-Congressman James W. Throckmorton, of Texas.

J. T. Jarvis, whoever he may be, has been appointed U. S. Senator to succeed Vance.

The Colorado Supreme Court has rendered a decision upholding Governor Waite in his claim to a legal right to remove the Denver Police and Fire Commissioners.

The following dispatch speaks for itself:—

Columbia, S. C., April 21.—Every dispensary in the state is closed to-day. Governor Tillman was in a jocular mood this morning.

"There is no dispensary," he answered, with emphasis.

"What are you going to do with the liquor on hand?" was asked.

"Oh, well," said the governor, "that is a matter for the legislature to say."

"Are you going to call an extra session of the legislature?"

"I won't say anything about what I'm going to do, but I will tell you what I have already done. I discharged the constables, ordered all the dispensaries to close and quit business as state barkeepers. The state bar has ceased operations and gone into summer quarters for repairs."

No licenses to sell whisky have been applied for or granted here, but the blind tigers are doing a big business and railroads are hauling liquor into the state.

Mayor Hopkins of this city is receiving the hearty commendation of all "West-Siders," irrespective of politics, because he has refused the request of the Gorfield Park Club for a license. "South-Siders" are now hoping that he will treat similarly the Washington Park Club. The clubs at both places have encouraged gambling in connection with the races, which have been the beginning and the cause of many a young man's downfall.

Mrs. Potter Palmer is at work on a history of women's work at the World's Fair, and hopes to finish it by July. In August Mr. and Mrs. Potter Palmer expect to sail for Japan, China, and India.

The Field Columbian Museum has been so fortunate as to secure some rare Egyptian curios in the line of mummies and their appurtenances.

This country is the camping-ground of several armies, all of which are on their way to Washington. They come from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South. The "original" army under Coxey has been marching, chiefly along the old national turnpike, through Maryland, and yesterday was resting in "Camp Nazareth," Hagerstown. Texas was the starting-point of another army under "General" Frye; and Wilmington, Ohio, was the last place from which the remnant of them hailed. A Boston division was yesterday attacked by a mob and roughly handled. But the most excitement has lately been caused by "General" Kelly's "western army."

This body was treated in Omaha with some kindness on the part of the citizens, who, nevertheless, were relieved when it crossed the line into Iowa. Here the army found itself not at all welcome, especially at Council Bluffs, where it was stranded for a few days. Several companies of the state militia went with the Governor to that place, and put the army's camp on the Chautauqua grounds under martial law. Efforts were made by the citizens of Council Bluffs to secure free transportation by rail to Chicago! But the railroads all declined to interfere, and refused to carry any of the army except as passengers at regular rates. Finally, on the 19th, the men started out on foot, but did not get any farther that day than Weston, 9 miles distant. Here the farmers took pity on them, and gave them shelter in barns. The next day citizens of Omaha, South Omaha and Council Bluffs took possession of a train which they offered to "General" Kelly; but he refused to accept aid of that kind. He was, however, glad to get clothing and food for his 1,500 men, who are now marching slowly across Iowa.

The movements of these armies are being watched with solicitude. At first, the whole thing seemed like a kind of joke; and it certainly did have, and still has, a ridiculous side. But it has also become a serious matter, a difficult problem in sociology. There is just enough "reason" in this "madness" to command the attention of thinking persons. Coxey's original plan was to lay before Congress a petition "for an issue of $500,000,000 in new legal-tender greenbacks for the various states, in the ratio of the population, to be distributed and expended in constructing good roads." This was, of course, a wild scheme; but it only represented the financial difficulties and unrest of the country, and was devised for the laudable purpose of giving work to unemployed. Many of the recruits in these armies are said to be fairly respectable men, temporarily out of work; but many are undoubtedly tramps of the idle and vicious sort. What will be done with these "industrial armies," as they are called? Can they be prevented from getting to Washington? If they get there, how will they be kept? These are hard questions.

Meanwhile strikes also are harassing the country in many localities. The Great Northern Railway is suffering severely along its line from St. Paul to Seattle and on branches. At St. Cloud the strikers even resorted to violence to prevent the running of a train. The railway company on the 18th instituted proceedings for an injunction against the ten men who had cut apart the cars at St. Cloud; and on the 20th arrested, without resistance on his part, President Foster, of the American Railway Union, under the auspices of which the strike is being carried on, and seven strikers. Since this exercise of the authority of the law, and the warning of the U.S. Marshal, that, if necessary, he would call out the U.S. troops, quiet has prevailed.

On the 21st inst., as pre-arranged, began the strike of the United Mine Workers, of whom it is said that 150,000 men have quit work, and that others will follow.

It is almost needless to add, that both Dun and Bradstreet report that the growth of business is seriously retarded by these strikes.

The troopship *Himalaya* arrived at Portsmouth on 4th inst. after a round of trooping service at Hongkong, Colombo, Penang, and intermediate ports. She brought 38 officers of various regiments, Major Phillips, Royal Artillery, in command, eight ladies, 11 children, and 850 men, 46 women, and 66 children. One death occurred on the voyage.

MARINE COURTS OF INQUIRY.

Teishinsho, Saturday, May 12th, 1894.

THE STRANDING OF THE "SAKATA MARU."

On the re-assembling of the Court this morning, Oki Hatsujiro, deposed—I was on board the *Sakata Maru* on the date of her stranding. I was third engineer of the vessel and hold a second's certificate. I joined the vessel on the 17th January, and this was my first voyage to Fushiki. Was on watch from 12 o'clock midnight. At the time of the stranding the engines were going at 60 revolutions per minute. Some time after 12—about 44 minutes past 12—I heard the signals—"stand-by," "stop," and "full speed astern"—immediately one after the other. As soon as the order "full speed astern" was given, I heard a grating sound, then the order "stop" and "full speed astern" again, but the vessel was immovable. It appeared to me as if the vessel had struck something—could not say what, as I was in the engine-room. The telegraph signal and the grating sound were heard by me almost simultaneously—if anything a little before the order to "stop," and then "full speed astern" was immediately signalled. There was no concussion, only a slight grating sound preceding the stoppage of the vessel. I did not go on deck, but the chief engineer, an oiler and myself were on watch. I was in charge of the engines, but when the signals were heard the chief immediately came down and took charge. The signal was simply "full speed astern," nothing else was rung on the telegraph. Nakazawa, the 4th engineer, was on the previous watch. Took no notice of the weather I as went from my cabin to the engine-room. At first the vessel made no water, but shortly afterwards some water came in from aft—probably the ballast tank. Don't know whether there was any water in the ballast tank or not when the vessel struck. Had no orders during my watch to pump out water from the ballast tank, but it was done the following day. The bulk-heads were closed before the stranding as were also the ballast tanks. They were opened after the vessel struck to ascertain if she had sustained any damage in the bows. When we put into Hakodate through stress of weather, I was not on watch. Was so busily engaged in the engine-room I was unable to say anything in regard to the death of the second officer. The main engines were used in pumping the vesssel, and when she made less water, the donkey was used. The main engines were used for six days. Never went aft except immediately after she struck, when I looked over her stern. A lot of sand entered the ballast tank which was being removed by coolies, and there was five or six feet of water in the hold. Went to see what could be done to combat the rise of the water—went at about 10 o'clock on the 18th. The tank was full of sand, but when this was removed the water gradually came in. The men worked night and day in removing the sand. The main hold was open most of the time with a man on watch, but afterwards it was closed when the water came in. The sand was being removed in baskets. I can only account for the rush of water into the tank by the men scraping the sand away from the aperture, hence the accident. The tank is about five or six *shaku* in depth. Don't know the ballast capacity of the tank. This was the only place though which water came in. While the sand was being cleared from the tank the vessel was so much embedded in sand outside that nothing could be done. There was no sea at the time the vessel struck.

Captain Rennie, recalled—Did a diver go down to ascertain the extent of the damage before the accident occurred?—No, he could not get below.

Do you know the extent of water the after-tank will hold?—I cannot say exactly, but think about 110 tons.

The patent log, was it correct or not, and where did you last test them and when?—This was my first voyage on the ship, and I had to take things as I found them. I had not tested them.

What was the draught of the ship?—When she left Yokohama she was drawing 11.7 feet forward and 16 feet aft, but when she arrived at Fushiki she would be about 85 tons lighter, this being the quantity of coals burnt.

Tsuiki Toyokichi, deposed—I was on board the *Sakata Maru* on the date of her stranding. I was a quarter-master on board, and joined the vessel in April last year. I was on watch from midnight on the date of the accident—on the look-out on the bridge, the upper bridge. The night was clear, but a haze hung over the land. The stars were visible as also the moon. It was almost full moon and I could see the hills on the right, but not the low lying land. I could see Fushiki light, but every now and then it became invisible. Did not see the light at midnight, but shortly afterwards.

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I immediately informed the officer of the watch as soon as I sighted the light. The second officer, Sugiyama, the Captain, and the man at the wheel were on deck. When the light was sighted, I think we were about five miles away. After this it was sometimes visible and sometimes invisible. When we struck the light was invisible, but we sighted it shortly afterwards, the haze being so thick. I was not told by the man on watch whom I relieved that he had sighted a light.

The President—The Captain says the light was visible all the time, whereas you say it was visible now and then. You were both on the bridge; which is correct, what you say or the Captain's statement?—I think I am not mistaken.

Witness continuing, said—The lead was hove very shortly after it was got ready and indicated 3¾ fathoms. The second cast made 3½ fathoms, then 3 fathoms: the vessel struck when 2½ fathoms were indicated. The interval between each cast of the lead would be three or four minutes. From the time the lead was first cast and the vessel's striking about twelve or thirteen minutes elapsed. At the time of the third cast of the lead the vessel had almost stopped, the anchor having been let go. My previous watch was from 6 to 8. There was some snow at the time, it falling every now and then. It snowed and cleared three times during the two hours. Noto light was visible when I came on deck at 12 (midnight). I don't remember the vessel's course during my watch. There was no sound that I heard previous to striking, only the ripple of the water when the vessel struck. When the accident happened to the second officer I was on deck on the bridge; Yamada, another quarter master, was working with him at the time. I never went into the tank after the accident or before. I went down once to relieve, but was told to keep watch on deck. At first there was only water in the tank, rising and falling with the tide, but gradually the outside of the vessel became banked up with sand, and as the water was pumped out the sand entered. The sand was being removed for four days, when the tank was almost cleared, there was an inrush of water and the men who were working therein were drowned. The sand outside was being cleared at the same time as the inside to enable divers to patch her bottom. Mr. Sugiyama was in charge of the operations in the tank, superintending the pumping and the removal of sand. He acted under orders from the Captain who came up from Yokohama, Captain Rennie having nothing to do with the direction of affairs.

The Captain had no questions to ask either the engineer or quartermaster.

Captain Rennie recalled—The statement of Tsuiki Toyokichi, the quartermaster, relative to the light being invisible at the moment the vessel struck is incorrect, I saw it both before and after stranding so long as it was lit. I saw it every night while I was there after the vessel's stranding.

The evidence was then read over to the witnesses, who signed their depositions, and the Court rose, judgment being reserved.

TEISHINSHO, TOKYO, May 17th, 1894.

THE STRANDING OF THE "WAKANOURA MARU."

A Marine Court of Inquiry was held to-day in the Mercantile Marine Bureau of the Department of Communications, Tokyo, into the circumstances attending the stranding of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Wakanoura Maru* on Futtsu Spit on March 5th. The Court was composed as follows:—Mr. J. Ito, President; Mr. U. Yoshida and T. Atsumi, assessors; with Mr. J. M. James, adviser.

William Thompsen, duly cautioned, deposed—I was commander and in charge of the *Wakanoura Maru* at the time of her stranding. I hold a Japanese certificate of the first class, No. 76. I was bound on a voyage from Kobe to Yokohama when the accident occurred. I left Kobe at 4 p.m. on the 4th March, and passed Kannonsaki at 6.28 p.m. on the 5th. The light was bearing west by compass, the ship's head being North, and the deviation ½° Easterly. I passed Kannonsaki at a distance of half-a-mile. I ascertained the distance by the four-point bearing myself. The speed was then 12 knots an hour. The weather was dark but clear. After passing Kannonsaki the course steered was N. by W. ¼ W. by compass, the deviation then being 1½° W. I kept on this course until passing the red light buoy marking the Western Fort at a distance of 3 to 4 cables on my port hand. I ordered the helm to be starboarded, but at this moment a red light was reported right ahead. I then countermanded the order, and steered as before. At this time I observed that the red ray on the lower light on Kannonsaki was obscured. Consequently, I anticipated no danger and continued on the same course. If the light had not been obscured I should have acted otherwise, gone to the westward, stopped engines or gone astern to avoid the danger—the vessel ahead with the red light. There was plenty of room to go either to port or to starboard. I am sure this red light was on a vessel of some kind, for I saw it right across the fort. She was on the opposite side of the fort to us. I was still steering the course mentioned when I discovered the danger, namely sighting the fort right ahead a little off the port bow. Two minutes before the vessel struck her engines were put "Full speed astern," and the helm hard to starboard. But the ship took the ground immediately. [The position of the stranding was then marked upon the chart. The spot was about 100 feet to the West of the fort.] As soon as the ship struck, I stopped the engines; then all the boats were ordered to be swung out and got ready to land passengers and mails if required. The wells were sounded, and soundings were also taken round the ship. The bulkhead valves were all closed; they are worked every day, but are at other times kept closed. The ship made no water. The ship was ashore from bow to bridge on the starboard side, about 100 feet. About two hours after stranding the vessel had risen forward eighteen inches, and was about one foot down by the stern, over her draught. She was firm in her position, and did not move until the morning, when she floated off herself. This was at 3.30 a.m. on the 5th March. We were on shore for six hours and a half. She came off just a little before high-water, without any outside assistance. I then steamed up slowly to Yokohama, arriving at the anchorage just before day-light. I discharged nothing while ashore, but of course all preparations were made to discharge cargo if it had been found necessary to do so. I did not ascertain whether any damage was done until after arriving at Yokohama. The bottom was then examined by Capt. Carst's divers. On the course I was steering I expected to pass Saratoga Spit fifteen minutes after Kannonsaki Light was abeam, and at a distance of three cables to the westward. I did not take any cast of the lead when nearing Saratoga Spit. I did not consider it necessary. I do not now remember the exact time of the stranding, but the information is to be found in the log.

Mr. James—By the log-book 6.44 p.m. is noted.

Witness resuming—I did not see the necessity of taking a bearing from the upper light of Kannonsaki and the red light buoy, after the lower red light ray on Kannonsaki was obscured; besides there was no time. I could see the fort, and I thought I was all right. I was watching the red light ahead so closely that I had no time for taking the suggested bearing; I thought it more important to keep a good look-out ahead. On the course I was steering the actual distance between the western extreme of Saratoga Spit Fort and the eastern extremity of the Central Fort was about three-quarters of a mile. The tide was in the first quarter of the ebb. From Kannonsaki to the Western Fort, the red light buoy, I expected to have the tide setting to the S.E., and beyond that I expected it to set about S. I have proved this by previous experience. I can only account for finding myself in the position of the stranding through the influence of an unusually strong tide which set me out more to the eastward than I have ever previously experienced. I did not afterwards sight the vessel carrying the red light. I observed no change in the bearing of the light as I approached it; the time was so short I have not observed a red light in that position before. I don't think it could have been the red light on the Honmoku Lightship thrown up by mirage, because the night was not suitable for an effect of that kind. I was too much occupied in getting the boats out and arranging other things after the stranding that I had no time to observe any ship. I am not aware whether any one else on board my vessel noticed the ship after our stranding. When I shaped my course at Kannonsaki I made a little allowance for the set of the tide, about a cable for the seven minutes. My intention was to starboard after passing the red light buoy, so I did not make much tide allowance. I could see the red light buoy when I had Kannonsaki Light west, so I steered to pass the fort by about three or four cables on the port hand. From this I intended starboarding my helm. If it had been a dark or dirty night I should have gone to the north of the red light. My reason for intendings to starboard was to give the Saratoga Spit plenty of room, in case we met other vessels and had to manœuvre. I was on the bridge all the time from passing Kannonsaki until the stranding. The officer of the watch was the third officer, Mr. Kamoshita. The man on the look-out first reported the red light ahead. I saw it about the same time. The bridge of the *Wakanoura Maru* is about 25 feet above the water line. I think I sighted the fort first. The soundings taken after stranding were, under the stern 6 fathoms, amidships 4 fathoms on the starboard side and 5½ on the port, forward on the starboard side, abreast the cat-davit 15 feet, on the port side about 16 feet. She was drawing about 15 feet. The nature of the bottom was soft sand and mud. The diver reported no damage to the bottom at the close of his examination.

An adjournment was then taken till half-past one. Upon resuming,

Roger Hamilton, said—I was chief engineer of the *Wakanoura Maru* at the time when she stranded at Saratoga Fort. I was not in the engine-room when the order "Stop" was given, but I was present when "Stand-by" was signalled. The orders were carried out promptly and immediately. The ship was making 77 revolutions per minute when these orders were given; this would give a speed of about 12½ knots. Everything was working well in the engine-room, and within two minutes the engines were working astern. The effect would be to reduce the speed of the ship to about 8 knots, but this would depend upon the number of revolutions she was going. It would take about 4 minutes for her to stop after the orders "Full speed ahead" and then "Full speed astern" were given. It would of course depend upon the depth of water which she was drawing. I personally superintended the closing of all the bulkhead valves. The vessel made no water after she got on shore. There has been no leakage so far as I know since the stranding.

Kamoshita Yasukichi, third officer, corroborated. He said that when the fort was first seen the Captain gave the order to port the helm, and then to starboard.

Capt. Thompson, recalled, said that these orders were given in one breath, and the helm was not moved to port. It was dark and clear to the westward, and cloudy and dark to the north-east and north. I should not call it overcast, the stars showing above. The distance from the bow of the ship to the fort when she stranded was approximately about 25 to 30 feet. We looked down upon the fort as we stood on the bridge. The ship was actually turning before she took the ground, the starboard helm telling upon her. I should say she had turned 3½ points, heading N.W. by W. as she lay stranded.

Matsuo Teikichi, fourth engineer, having given a statement similar in detail to that of the chief engineer, the depositions were signed and Judgment was reserved.

PAUL ANJIRO;

OR THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY (ROMAN CATHOLICISM) IN JAPAN.

TRANSLATED AND ABRIDGED BY G. E. DIENST.

(CONCLUDE FROM SATURDAY).

XII.

Captain Gama found Xavier sitting in a circle of Christians exhorting them to be martyrs, if necessary, for their own doctrine. Gama congratulated Xavier upon his safety and begged him to escape to the ship in order to avoid the present danger, for this was the will of God and the Portuguese. But the saint was persistent in his refusal to obey these orders, or wishes, saying that he dared not leave those entrusted to his care by God amidst such impending danger. He further said to Gama, "My Captain! Do not fear that you will be brought to dishonour if you leave me in this island. For you have neither brought nor led me here and hence cannot be responsible for me. We are now in a crisis. If my followers desire to save their own lives they must abandon their faith; to retain their faith means death to them.

"If I run away from such calamity and leave the people alone, what will my future punishment be? Moreover, what would it profit my enemies, over whom I have gained such victory, and whom I subjected by my discussions, if I flee at their threatening? They would doubtless look upon me as a coward. Then again, see the satisfaction it will afford Buddhists and immorality if I flee these persecutions and give them the triumph? They indeed hate me. Though you consider it your duty to send your passengers to Canton before they can be injured, yet you have no consideration for these poor creatures who are purchased by the precious blood of the Son of God. I am entrusted with the responsibility of their protection; a responsibility I must fulfill. My goods and baggage are valuable compared with yours.[18]

[18] By "goods" and "baggage" he means his followers.

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I dare not lose them. I am indeed grateful for the tender love you show to me in expressing such anxiety for the protection of my body. But I dare say, your love to me is not a true love. For you desire not, nay do not even sympathize with me in the persecutions I suffer in this distant land, and the torments through which I have passed in travelling so many thousands of miles."

Captain Gama, looking up to heaven sighed, but respected the opinion of Xavier. He burst into tears, then returned to his ship and felt that he never wanted to move again.

He told his conversation to the Portuguese and said that Xavier was ready to die with the new Christians. He, Gama, promised the Portuguese that he would send the passengers with their baggage, and man the ship with sailors, but would not promise to go himself, on the contrary he told them that he would return to the town and die with Xavier.

The Portuguese were very much affected with the statements of their captain, and in their sympathy pledged themselves to undergo the same Providence. They brought their ship to the shore, and upon landing all went to where Xavier was stopping.

Xavier and his followers were greatly comforted by their coming, but the Buddhists were very much surprised. Fortunately the tumult had subsided at this time, and moreover, the lord had stationed his soldiers in the various districts of the town to protect the innocent and pacify the mob. The Buddhists were incapable of further revenge. Still their purpose to take revenge was by no means squashed. At one of their meetings they decided that as a means to accomplish their purpose they would again hold a discussion with the Portuguese Missionary. It was their authority that in his discussions Xavier had threatened, but if he should now attack them, the victory would be theirs. This was the general supposition among the Japanese.

The Buddhists went again to the lord's palace in order to require him to permit another discussion with the saint. The lord at first thought of refusing their request, but considering their violence, their ignorance, and the danger to himself and his household because of his communications with foreigners, he granted their request after exacting the following promises.

1.—Everything was to be done peaceably. Avoid quarrelsome language and reviling words.

2.—Elect Judges to manage the debate and give decisions.

3.—The Judges must be selected from those present, except Buddhists. In case the decision is a tie, then it is to be decided by the majority.

4.—When Fukara-dono has submitted his arguments, the Buddhists are not allowed to hinder those who desire to believe in the doctrine of the true God.

This contract seemed to be rather cruel to the priest because it demanded the choice of an ordinary man as judge. But the lord himself admitted that he had the authority to decide the debate, but disliked to exercise his lordly prerogatives, since he knew that the Buddhist books are full of legends and many unreliable stories. He made this contract for the public good and appointed the judges because he knew that those whom he would appoint knew enough of Buddhism, and were sufficiently intelligent to decide in a proper manner.

The lord demanded that this contract be strictly obeyed by all and forbade all looseness. The next morning Fukara-dono came to the palace with three hundred Buddhists. The lord was greatly astonished to see such a multitude.

He commanded his attendant to tell them that they could not have the honour to come in such multitudes to hold debate with a single individual, for when they were overcome by discussion and argument they would resort to force. He therefore permitted but four persons to enter with Fukara-dono. The Buddhists were excited when they heard this, but were compelled to submit.

The lord immediately sent word to Xavier asking him to come to the palace, stating that the Buddhists were waiting to discuss the previous subject with him once more.

The Portuguese again advised Xavier to put on his fine robes, the same as he wore when he first visited the lord, but the saint refused. He was at last obliged to comply with their request. The Portuguese arrayed themselves in full dress and marched along the streets with flutes and trumpets, and in this imposing procession followed Xavier to the palace.

Fukara-dono was disappointed when he saw this procession. And when those in the palace called out, "Is this the Missionary whom the Buddhists ridicule as a poor, pitiful, or strange monk," his anger was greatly increased. This was the beginning of the failure of all their plans. Fukara-dono became very haughty. The time arrived when the debate was to be opened. The hall was filled with a great crowd of listeners. The lord was seated on an elevated throne. He ordered the assembly to keep silence.

He then commanded Fukara-dono to state briefly, why the doctrine which Xavier taught might not be promulgated in Japan. Fukara-dono, humbly and with circumspection answered, giving his reasons why the foreign religion should not be allowed in Japan. The reasons are as follows:—

1.—Because the foreign religion is contrary to Japanese religious rites and is a mocker of our gods and protection. (Perhaps rulers.)

2.—Because it is detrimental to the fame and glory of Buddhists whose service is to bestow blessings upon the people—special favours from the gods to which the people desire to attain.

3.—Because it stigmatizes those who have been accepted even by the Shoguns and the high priests of the various sects as pious people, as sinners.

4.—Because it teaches that no one can be saved except he who believes and accepts this doctrine; and that Amida, Buddha, Shaka Jizo, Kannon, and other gods lead men into eternal punishment and make them bait for the devil.

Fukara-dono spoke no more after this. The lord requested Xavier to answer. He mildly replied, "Irregular questions engender discussions, and this special meeting will be in vain. I think it proper to discuss and master article after article until all is finished. To be in proper order, let Fukara-dono first question me, I will answer clearly and decidedly." The audience, as well as, Fukara-dono agreed to this, and the questioning began accordingly.

"Why does Christianity contend for the fame and godliness held by the gods of Japan; gods which are worshipped by all throughout the country as true Gods"?

Xavier, in answer to this question, sought to prove the truth of Christianity. He thought this a most favourable opportunity to dispel their superstitious opinions and win their bewildered souls.

He tried to explain to the interrogator the existence of the great first cause, who *created* the universe and controls all creatures. This he wanted to do by inferences from Geometry and Physics, but his auditors did not understand this, so he used other illustrations and argued the existence of a Creator from the premises of creatures.

In his statement he said, "It is necessary that all should know and understand the existence of the Creator and Ruler of this immense world, who is called God. The world must either have been naturally produced or accidentally created, or there must be an omniscent ruler of all things. The first theory of natural production can hardly be accepted. There must be something prior to creation in order to actuate creation, and since, according to this theory, none such exists there can be no creation. For instance, I accept the theory of the natural production of the world, then the world must have existed before it was indeed formed. That this is impossible and unreasonable is plain enough. Then a Cause of the world's creation is necessary. This Cause must necessarily be grand, perfect, and infinite. For there can be no perfect effect without a perfect cause. From this we positively affirm that nothing existed before the creation of the world.

"If we believe that the world was naturally produced, human beings, the most excellent things of the universe, must also have been of natural production. But it is clear that man was created or caused to be by some being other than man. All self-constituted things can never belong to anything else and have neither beginning nor end. Thus all things must be either of natural production or they must have been created by a superior being. Now is it not clear that the world is not self-existent but was created and is upheld by a superior cause?"

All those present agreed to this view of creation.

Xavier continued his statement as to the impossibility of the accidental creation of the world. He said, "Everything created, not by accident must have a cause. Although the universe presents differences the whole is under one immutable law.

Therefore, unless there is something to originate, there can be nothing originated. There can be no reason for believing that the world was accidentally created from vacuum.

"Moreover, things produced by accident can not possess the characteristics of regularity, moderation, and power; yet we find nothing moving in such perfect order and with such immutability as the world."

In proof of these statements, Xavier used the following illustration:—"Suppose a traveller was passing a forest, suddenly he beholds a palace carefully furnished with beds, table, various furniture, halls, apartments used for the king; gardens, ponds, trees, stones, flower-beds, etc., he would at once imagine that this was all prepared for some king or lord. If upon inquiry some one would tell him that 'This palace was made in consequence of an accidental accumulation of beautiful stones cast out of a neighbouring mountain,' the traveller would think the man crazy. In fact he might be called insane."

He then concluded by saying:—"This immense world, with its beautiful features, its regularity of motion in every department, its organization, its proportion, its order, its beauty, and its construction is but a palace. Those who believe in the doctrine of accidental production, and deny the handiwork of an infinite Artist may be called exceedingly great fools.

"If I should say to you that that beautiful picture in a frame hanging on the wall is not the production of an artist, but was made by the accidental accumulation of paints of varied hues on a piece of silk to form such a beautiful figure, what would you say of me?

"But what is that picture compared with this immense world of ours? If there is any one here who declares and conscientiously believes in the creation of the world by accident without the assistance of wisdom, art, and power; he would also say that the books in my possession are not masterly and excellent works, but the accidental combination of letters to form what they contain. Without ability to comprehend how these books were made, how can he believe the world was not produced by accident? Can there be any book more complete, grand, and beautiful than this world? Its every part is but the effect of Divine words, which sufficiently manifest the truthfulness, infinite wisdom, authority, and perfection of its author. And yet can any one affirm that the world was made in disorder, and by the accidental accumulation of disorganized matter? I will not hesitate to say that such men are extremely thoughtless and mindless." These statements met the approval of all present.

The statement by which Xavier won the confidence of those present, even of Fukara-dano, were his remarks on astronomy. He explained to them the immense breadth of the sky, the solar system, the orbits of stars and moons. He again said, "These can not be from mere accident. Suppose for a moment that these are from accident, then we must also conclude that the ship which came to Hizen from India sailed of its own accord, without the aid of human assistance, clearing all dangers from hidden rocks and tempests. Can you imagine the ship coming to Japan accidentally?"

From astronomy he advanced to the theory of the world, as to its order, its perfect regularity in every department, the distribution of its elements, the various seasons according to the distance from the sun and location upon the earth's surface, the currents and tides, the mighty power of the wind, the irrigation and fertilization of the land by the various but crooked rivers, the centralization of matter by the most direct lines, the nature of animals, their knowledge in providing for themselves, their bodily construction, and finally the inferiority of human efforts compared with the Divine, for every molecule, every insect and worm is perfect in its construction, not one unnecessary thing wanting." From this, he proved that the creation and government of the world is by an omniscient Being called God, and assured them that no one could reasonably deny this doctrine.

He supported his statements by reference to the human body, by the minute and peculiar organism of which he taught that it was created by God and not by mere accident, and that this God was omniscient. Every word was listened to with marked attention.

But the most essential part of the discussion, and that which gave Xavier the victory was the theory of the differences of the human countenance. In this he still more clearly proved the existence of God. He said, "All human beings are much the same in form but different in face. Who can imagine such an infinite number of different faces without also imagining that they are the products of an infinite mind? The artist, though he may be exceedingly clever, cannot paint more than twenty different faces without a model. Suppose the human family were all alike in face, what would be the consequence? There would be neither peace nor safety—not only quarrels, but constant tumults.

Xavier turning to the lord remarked, "Imagine my lord, your subjects all of one and the same face, what a tumult, what disorder would be in your country? Husbands would not know their wives, parents would not know their children, creditors their debtors, friends their friends, masters their servants, and judges the criminals. Adultery, fraud, murder, and every variety of crime would be committed. Officers could not arrest nor punish

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offenders, for they would not be able to distinguish the guilty from the innocent.

"For such was the will of God that he gave to every individual a different face by which that individual may be known and by which confusion and immorality may be avoided. He also gave different voices to different persons in order that they may be distinguished by their voice in the darkness, and by the blind who can not discern colour." This concluded his arguments. The lord and his associates affirmed the truth of what the saint had said; and declared his theories as clear as the noonday sun.

Fukara-dono was also compelled, by this argument, to accept the theory of one true God, and reject it no more. However, he again asked Xavier to listen to polytheism.

XIII.

In answer to Fukara-dono, Xavier said, "Polytheism is a doctrine without reason and should never be taught. Polytheistic teachings vanish at the approach of the doctrine of the existence of the true God. To accept the teachings of Polytheism is to deny the doctrine of a Divine Existence. In proof of this we must say that, if there be many gods they must serve each other or be independent of each other. If independent, they cannot be true gods for they exercise no power over other gods, and this is contrary to the teachings of nature which reveals the existence of a true God to whom all power belongs. If they are correlative, none can be chief. They might become jealous and seek superiority, and in doing so cease to be independent. At all events, it is quite easy for them to loose godly natures."

In continuation he said further, "Suppose there are many gods, can they distinguish between themselves? No, this they can never do. If you can not distinguish one from the other, or if they are not distinguishable, they are not many gods, but one. If they are distinguishable they each possess peculiar perfections not common to all.

"Universal characteristics can not be classified. For so far as they admit of classification, they must possess characteristics common to all. Then if they do not possess alike goodness and perfection they can not be called two gods; for the true God is infinite in goodness and purity far exceeding the imagination of man."

Hearing this, the people praised and lauded him, for he had won in the discussion. But Fukara-dono showed inclination to retort upon Xavier's statements. The lord, however, told him to turn his conversation to some other subject, as the one just discussed was decided against him. He then became sullen and subjected himself to severe criticism by the Judges. This was indeed mortifying.

Another priest turning to Xavier said:—"We teach that those who donate certain sums for the support of the temple receive for it a cheque, called Kechimyaku, from the Buddhists. When he dies this cheque is examined in the coming world, where he receives in return a hundred times more than he donated. Now, by what means can you oppose this doctrine?"

Xavier at once ridiculed him for such a ludicrous and laughable question. He proved that Buddha was not a true god. He said:—"The cheques issued by Buddhists can not be valid, for they are but well devised schemes to extract money from the wealthy. The only currency in the world to come is infinite love. The human soul is an immortal spirit which demands neither wealth, food, nor clothing after it has taken its departure from the body. The true God who has created man to dwell with him in his eternal kingdom does not bestow peace in turn for wealth donated; but will bestow peace only according to the life lived. If we say that peace can be obtained by wealthy men only, we thereby say that the Lord has opened a poisonous fountain for man; for should such be the case, we would seek to obtain wealth by many questionable means in order to gain entrance into the kingdom of heaven. If the Lord has destined some people to suffer poverty from birth, and then, against such close the doors of heaven, he would be called unjust. But usually the poor are less sinful than the wealthy. They are more in accordance with His will, who loves virtue rather than riches. Every one should strive to attain to true happiness and heaven. The only two things which God requires of man in granting to him these blessings are, to believe in what he has revealed and obey that which he has commanded. These two things we must receive and keep. In conclusion, I say, he who is to be blessed in the world to come, be he rich or poor, noble or ignoble, must live righteous in this."

Now the judges in this discussion were all wealthy men. They regarded, as the majority of wealthy Japanese do, the poor as ex-communicated from society; still they were compelled to admit the truth of Xavier's statements. They agreed upon three points.

1.—The cheques of Buddhists were but fraudulent means to obtain the wealth of the people.

2.—The soul of the dead needs no wealth.

3.—The poor may obtain entrance into the kingdom of heaven as well as the rich.

Fukara dono, and those of his sect, on the contrary, were exceedingly perplexed and excited about this decision, for they were thereby stigmatized as frauds, and since this custom of issuing cheques was the principal source of income, that it should be set at naught by Xavier was almost too much for them. But since it was so decided they submitted in silence. They then adjourned until the following day.

Now the people advised the Buddhists to withdraw from the debate as they brought evil upon themselves; but they at once saw that in doing so they would admit their defeat and lose the confidence of their constituents.

On the following day they came to the place of discussion and were very courteous.

Fukara-dono was accompanied by six other Buddhists chosen from among the 3,000 of the town in which they lived. He began his discussion by extolling the virtues of the cheque system and the necessity of the poor being cast into hell. The lord stopped him at once and told that these two subjects had already been decided.

The criticism of Xavier that Buddha punishes men in hell with exceeding torment was a subject of great importance and dare not be disregarded; for if they did so it would bring upon them the greatest disgrace, especially if it was preached throughout Japan. Fukara-dono relapsed into silence, for he saw the truth of Xavier's arguments. Laying aside these two subjects he asked, What is the doctrine you preach? And can we not be saved except we believe in and obey your doctrine?

Xavier was now compelled to explain to him the principal doctrines of Christianity, original sin, the birth of the Son of God, his life, his crucifixion and death for sinful man, his resurrection and ascension, his final coming to this world again at the day of judgment. To show the necessity of obedience to the Lord's commands, and to impress upon their minds the Christian faith, he further said, "It is a natural law that the soul of man should be controlled by the power of God, for God is our Creator and we must devote our powers, our minds and souls to Him. Though the law may be contrary to our feelings and our inclinations yet we are to keep this law and serve him with all our souls. And though his revealed truth may seem contrary to human nature yet we are to believe Him with all our heart and worship Him with all our soul. God is infinite. His providence cannot be comprehended with a finite mind. If we could comprehend (clearly know) his revelations, he would then cease to be God. Those who have on idea of religion are led into immeasurable depths of perplexities by walking according to their own peculiar wisdom. They each, individually, frame their own religion by their own life and conduct. Every being, were he wise and saintly, would necessarily fall into immeasurable misconceptions. Human beings, unless they possess some kind of religion, doubt that which they should believe, and are undecided what to do in order to obtain happiness.

Xavier again said, "God is omniscient, nothing can tempt him. He is just, hence He tempts no one. He has clearly shown us that we should believe in, and worship Him, and thus obtain life eternal. Those to whom he has revealed his will, have always been the most divinely favoured people in the world. To promote the increase of faith, God gave to the divinely favoured the power to perform miracles—to divide the waters of the sea, to cleave the rock and cause from the cleft streams of water to flow, to stop the movement of the sun and to raise the dead. These have been performed, and have demonstrated to the people that the great prophets and teachers received this gift from God. To save the soul and to annul superstition, God sent His only beloved Son into the world, through whom we have redemption and entrance into Paradise. The Son of God, to assure man that he was Divine, raised the dead, healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and caused the lame to walk. These miracles he performed before the people. And at last, to redeem man from sin, he died willingly on the cross and after three days arose from the dead.

What wonderful miracles he has performed to demonstrate the truthfulness of His doctrines! He taught that man is to be saved, the unity of his religion, the immortality of the same, the destiny of the same after death—heaven or hell, eternal judgment in the court of God respecting the good or evil deeds of man and the uniting of soul and body. His disciples were sent into various parts of the country to preach His doctrine, perform miracles, and give testimony to the divinity of the doctrine."

The Buddhists were all stricken with wonder at the mysteries of this doctrine. The lord, however, who had heard of the miracles Xavier performed in India, Kagoshima, and at Yamaguchi was not so much astonished. On the contrary, he extolled the doctrine and praised Xavier.

In continuing his theme, Xavier said, "My lord, you readily see that the Japanese religion is not able to save man; for a false religion, or a religion which worships false gods can never save the life of any man. I have already proved the unity of the true God.

"But the Japanese religion worships many gods and is polytheistic. I have also proved that the true God is an eternal Spirit; but the Japanese people honour those who die and make them gods (Spirit). There is nothing, indeed, so deceitful and so little worthy of faith at this. Do you think that we can be saved if we ascribe to man and devils that reverence that should be given to God only?"

"No man, I think, is consistent who believes two opposing theories—he must be unreasonable. Hence no religion can be true which contradicts itself or teaches fallacious doctrines. Man can not believe two religions when one contradicts the other. One is false the other true. The theory of one God and the theory of several gods is no less different. Christianity teaches the unity of the God-head, the Japanese religion believes in polytheism. But I have already explained the impossibility of the existence of many gods. Therefore polytheism must be heathenish and not true. It is not consistent with the will of God, the great Source of truth. No one can be saved by polytheism.

"I have one thing more to say. Since Christianity is a true religion, it will never lead man into heathenism. It proclaims justice, and antagonizes injustice.

"Christianity declares one true God, and the teachings of Jesus as superior to all other teachings, and thus exposes the falsity of heathenism. Everyone must be a Christian in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. All disbelievers will surely be cast into hell."

Fukara-dono was stunned with this doctrine, but when he saw the people were waiting for an answer, he boldly said, "If the religion of the west is true our religion must be false, and no man can be saved by it. But in order to criticise the Japanese religion you should first understand the truth of your own. All what you have said is inconsistent. You have proclaimed in the first place so many unreasonable things—that God did not prevent man from committing sin, He even anticipated the temptation of man by Satan—the death of His son by man, and that he has left Japan only in darkness and ignorance while He has civilized many foreign countries. I would like to know the reason of these things."

Xavier very quickly answered his questions, and Fukara-dono was compelled to hold his tongue.

The Portuguese say that Xavier so utterly defeated the Buddhists that they blushed for shame. If the Buddhists recognized the impossibility of many gods, how could they continue to proclaim their religion? If they recognized the falsity of their doctrine how can they continue to believe it?

Xavier was a man of great learning and philosophical ability.

The following account could have been given by his own genius only. He explained that it is a glory to God to be worshipped by free moral beings, as men and angels. For this purpose God has endowed them with the power of volition. However, he might be worshipped by powerless slaves and not by free beings. The nature of this freedom with which man is endowed inclines to either evil or good—one or the other. But God, of course, possessed the power to prevent the sins of man (to pardon the sins of man) so that some may live sinless and innocent. But to make it impossible for men and angels to sin would be contrary to their freedom and would at once indicate partiality. Although our ancestors have fallen into the depths of sin, it was by no other power but that which God knew was in existence. He has manifested his authority as Judge, by judging the angels who committed sin, and his grace by saving man who was led into sin by the temptation of Satan. Let this great power to judge be hidden until eternity shall dawn.

Eternal punishment is a necessity to bring man into obedience. Even if people are left to themselves, they recognize the justice of punishing the sins which they have committed. One more reason why God allowed man to fall into sin is because man is naturally proud and filled with lust, and this was done to humble him.

But the grace of God is superior to His judg-

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ments. We prove it by the incarnation of Christ, the eternal Son of God, who was sent down from heaven. The overflow of His grace was like the overflow of an inexhaustible fountain. The descension of the Son of God is the descension of His grace. The manifestation of His power in creation, the unity of the Divine and human natures, and his appearance as a man show forth His glory and grace. Some pages are here devoted to the work of Christ and historical proofs of His divinity, but as they differ so little from that already given we omit details. The fact that the Apostles took up the work where Christ left off, and fearlessly went into various parts of the world preaching and performing miracles seemed to add force to his arguments.

His answer to the question of the Buddhists why God had left Japan in darkness and ignorance for many ages, was as follows:—"It was my purpose to puzzle the Buddhists before they could interfere with the faith of the believers. But I was successful in annihilating the superstition of the people by the grace of God. I remarked chiefly, to the people, that the doctrine of the true God is the most ancient of all doctrines. Before the Japanese received their doctrine from China, they intuitively knew that it was wrong to kill and to steal and commit other crimes, which things are taught in the doctrine of the true God. On hearing this doctrine the Japanese immediately repented in sorrow, and were grieved at even a single crime."

He also, in this connection, remarked that, "It is a natural law of man to love good and hate evil." This he sought to impress upon their minds very firmly. If we enquire of the barbarians—the savage—respecting these things they will reply at once that killing and stealing and such like is wrong. This needs no discussion. If God, the Creator of the universe, did not teach man these things, then where did he learn them? If barbarians comprehend these things, how much more intelligently should civilized nations believe and obey them? I dare say that the law of God was sealed in the heart of man before the law of man was, and no one can escape the punishment of sin no matter how much he may reason against such doctrine.

In continuation of this argument, he remarked that men are led to Christianity by natural laws, and those who disobey these natural laws of right and wrong and turn to idols are lost. This aroused the indignation of the idolators who at once remarked that, in such a case, their ancestors were lost. But Xavier himself says that the idolators at last saw the magnanimity of this law, and very gladly submitted to what he had said.

This debate continued for five days. Christianity was bitterly opposed by every one, but the judges decided in favour of Xavier.

The lord declared that the religion which Xavier taught was more in accordance with truth and human laws than the religion of the Buddhists.

Turning to Fukara-dono and his associates, he said:—"It should be clear to you by this time, that no one can make or rebuke such a divine being as Christ, and the doctrines taught by the missionary. I have also perceived that your religion is not real and honourable because you threaten me. Be gone! every one of you! You must become better men." The Buddhists were stunned as if struck with a thunder-bolt. Gnashing their teeth and in dire vexation they retired from the lord's palace, reviling his name.

Xavier, on the contrary, was calm and tranquil. The lord took him by the hand and led him into the hall with his followers where he congratulated him on his successful triumphs on the field of battle. Thus the discussion closed. The consequences were a great boon to Christianity. Only a few of those present became Christians, simply because the lord did not make his purposes on this subject public.

It was also difficult for many to become Christians because the Japanese are licentious from their youth and are sunken in immorality. They were very reluctant in giving up their lusts for this new religion. The words of Xavier were seeds of Divine doctrine sown in the soil of human hearts and an abundant harvest is sure in the future.

Before noting the return of Xavier to his home, we must record a little incident which happened in Yamaguchi.

XIV.

At the time Xavier was earnestly discussing with the Buddhists of Bungo, Mr. Torres was trying to avert an attack of the Buddhists at Yamaguchi, which arose after Xavier's departure from that place.

The Buddhists sought the more to persecute Mr. Torres and brought to him many difficult questions. We will notice a few of these questions taken from a letter written by him to Xavier. The questions were similar to those put to Xavier, the facts of which the author claims to have also learned from other very reliable sources.

The Buddhists of Yamaguchi asked Torres "with what sort of substance did God make the human soul? and what colour does this soul possess?"

Torres replied, "The human soul is spiritual and is not created from material substances, but from vacuum. (Chaos, nonentity.) As to the cause of all things, natural or artificial, its power is limited and it produces only things of its kind.

The things originated do not belong to their cause; but is infinite. He needs no substances from which to originate or produce things. His spirit is truly spiritual and cannot have its cause in the body which is inferior to spirit. The spirit must have been produced from nonentity or vacuum. Form and colour are attributes of material substances. The spirit does not belong to the circle of material substances, but is spiritual, hence has neither form nor colour."

The Buddhists again asked, "The spirit may be nothing if it has no colour."

Before replying to this Torres asked, "We acknowledge the existence of air—what colour has *it*? Is it white, black, gray, or yellow?" They answered that air is without colour. Torres again said, "But air is a substance, and is one of the four elements which compose the world. Now you say that air is without colour, is it more difficult to understand that the spirit has no colour, since it is an invisible as the air?"

They acknowledged the force of the argument and were compelled to retire from the hall.

Another wise priest came to Torres and asked, "What is God? and is there only one true God?" Torres saw the necessity of answering this question clearly, as the most illustrious priests lived in Yamaguchi. He said, "I understand the term 'True God' to mean the Creator of the universe, He who has created the world and rules it by His wisdom, preserves it by his power, causes it to flourish by his providence, and whose attributes and power are infinite and eternal." He then explained why all those present should acknowledge the true God, very much in the same way as Xavier did.

He said, "As we see the movement of the earth we perceive the necessity of a cause. As we see the existence of things, animate or inanimate, things which excite our feelings, we see the necessity of a Creator who created these things. For the earth cannot exist of itself. Nothing cannot produce something.

Nothing is non-existent. If we admit non-existence, we must admit that the world existed before it did exist, and naturally caused itself to exist. But this is illogical. Motion must necessarily have existence. Before the earth could exist spontaneously there must have been a prior existence. Such a statement is called *petitio principii* or begging the question. If we accept the doctrine of the spontaneous origin of the universe, and its evolution from nothing, we must have same eternal and infinite cause prior to the origin of tha universe. This cause, we call the *true God*, eternal, infinite, ruling the world and all that in it is, unlimited in power, and the one who created man a free moral being."

After Torres had proved to them the existence of God, he explained to them how illogical it was to believe in the existence of two or more gods, according to the theology taught by Fukara-dono in the presence of Xavier.

All admitted the reasonableness of these statements, and even the Buddhists, who detested such a doctrine, confessed its truthfulness.

But to hide his ignorance the priest again asked, "Where will the spirit go after it leaves the body?" Torres answered, "The spirit of the good go to worship God in heaven and are eternally blessed and happy. But the spirit of the evil is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, and is eternally punished by Satan."

Some of those present asked, "Who is Satan?" Torres replied, "Satan is the evil spirit, at enmity with God, jealous and proud. This spirit constantly tempts and deceives men into wickedness and trys to lead them into his own condition."

The Buddhists then asked, "How can we be as wicked as Satan?" He answered, "This wickedness is caused by evil and haughty dispositions. The truth of the matter is this, Satan was the most spiritual of the spiritual, and was created by God. He had absolute power. But as his features were beautiful, he was bewitched by his own beauty and planned to resemble God. He withdrew from God's domain and became independent. God could not endure such insubordination and violence, and expelled him and his followers to hell. He stripped him of his honour and his inheritance in Paradise. As an example to sinful man he and his followers were cast into the fire in the bottom of the earth where they are in eternal torment."

The Buddhists said, "We understand that it was proper for God to punish Satan because of his wickedness, pride, and rebellion. But why does Satan tempt *us*? Is it any gain to him if we are lost? Is he blessed if we suffer? Does it lessen his torment if we are made to suffer with him?"

Torres answered, "No! That can not be the reason. On the contrary, as his sins are heavy, his punishment is multiplied; as when oil is thrown into the fire its flame is increased. However, his greatest desire is to tempt men to do wrong. This is because he, Satan, has three pernicious characteristics viz., wickedness, pride, and jealousy. As a wicked being he bitterly hates everything that loves or is like God. As a jealous being he delights in the misfortune of men and can not endure, even a glance at those who reet in Paradise. As a foul being, he has no control over his will. He is constantly trying to be God. This desire is in part gratified if he can lead men to destruction; because by this act he exercises a certain control over the souls of men which has once exercised by God, and he may be like God in this that he receives praise and obedience of men which should be rendered to God." The Buddhists asked, "Has God not the power to control the work of Satan? Since God loves us and desires to save us, why does he disregard the injury done us by Satan?"

Torres replied, "The reason why God tempts us through Satan is to redeem us. All those who are without virtue cannot enter the road to heaven. Without opposition there can be no virtue. For instance, the sharp sword, if not repeatedly cleaned and kept in a scabbard, will eventually rust. Also seawater, if it contained no salt and was not frequently put in motion by the storm would eventually became stagnant. Unless man is not opposed and tempted his virtue will decrease. Our present world is supported by mutual attraction and opposition. The spiritual world also, existed by temptation. In order to attain to Paradise, we must progress without delay. When Satan tempts us, God shows us the way in which to go. Temptation is like a needle that pricks the waves and excites sensation, it reminds us that we must not slumber on our way heavenward. Unless we are tempted in this world, how can we know our weakness, be sure of God's guidance and cry upon him for help? Without battle, a warrior is without merit. Without an enemy there can be no battle."

"But the king will praise no one unless he succeeds in his duties. Although God has the power to prohibit Satan, he desires the weakest man to overcome Satan. The angels in heaven are never tempted. More than half of their number have fallen into hell on account of their sins[19] we therefore must realize that God tempts us to save us."

The Buddhists then asked the following: "Since God has created man to live a divine life and at last take him to heaven, why does he allow man to gratify his lust and thus be led into wickedness?"

Torres immediately answered, "God created man with a power to control his lust. But man has done wrong, and in doing so has lost the power to control his lust. Consequently, God, to keep man in obedience, has caused him to see his own weakness." Another question put by the Buddhists, and one which was frequently asked Xavier, is as follows: "Is there no way of escape for those who are cast into hell, or must they remain there eternally in such misery?"

Xavier's answer was that there was no change in their condition, it was eternal.

The newly converted Christians hearing this answer asked Xavier, "If so, are our ancestors, who were ignorant of the existence of God, forever in the fire of hell?"

Xavier replied, "Truly, they are! But their punishment is their own fault, because the law of God is the law of nature. This your reason will make clear to you. If they had obeyed this law, they might have found peace of mind."

This was hard for them to bear. They began to lament and weep at these words. Xavier sympathized with them every much.

Torres's answer is much like the above.

He, in order to explain to the people the impartiality of God's judgments made reference to the sinfulness of sin, the work of transgressors, and the necessity of eternal punishment, which gave them some comfort. He also remarked that the degree of punishment was according to the will of the transgressor and not according to the greatness of his sins.

Some other matters were stated in extenuation of this doctrine, but are irrelevant and of little consequence. This, however, was added with emphasis, "Suppose the punishment in hell would not be eternal, the fear of hell would be very freble in keeping men from committing

[19] It is difficult to harmonize these statements.

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crimes. All would imagine that eternal pleasure would follow this probation in torment, and have little regard for this limited punishment."

He then said: "The reason why Japanese are so rude and barbarous and addicted to intemperance is because they believe that their future punishment will not be eternal. They pay little heed to this punishment. They suppose that in a few years they will escape from their punishment.[20] Suppose this were true, what a world of wickedness there would be!" He concluded his argument by saying, "It is more consistent for God to eternally punish transgressors of his law than to make the punishment temporal. All legislators work for the peace of the country by punishing crime. To prohibit lust and carnal desires eternal punishment is meted out to transgressors. It is obvious that God will bring his wrath upon transgressors in order to keep men from gratifying carnal desires." In many ways he sought to prove the magnitude of God's grace, His impartiality, his justice in judgment. He said, "If there were no religion the people could have no salvation. Christianity teaches that punishment is eternal. So God taught in the beginning; so the prophets prophecied, so the disciples preached. To show the dire effects of sin, God sent His Son into the world to save man from sin. If any one doubts this, he has forsaken religion. From ancient times, how many of the old and young, men and women, rich and poor, noble and ignoble, have trampled sensual pleasures under foot to escape eternal punishment! How many thousands have died in massacres and as martyrs! Even those who do not believe this doctrine confess that men are holy and divine who do not fall into the punishment of hell. This is apparent and has been clearly stated repeatedly. We must confess that those who wish for such punishment instead of avoiding it are exceedingly great fools." The accounts as given above are taken from a letter of Torres to Xavier, who left Bungo, Nov. 28, 1551.

XV.

When Xavier left Yamaguchi, the Buddhists of that place thought that they could exterminate Christianity without difficulty. But they were utterly defeated in their discussions. They then resolved to create a tumult in the province, for they knew that they could not possibly conquer Torres in discussing with him. They said, "The Christian Missionary steals our children by night, drinks their blood and eats their flesh. He (the lord) told us that these two Europeans and his pupils and their doctrine is what he taught." And again, "We have truly seen the devils casting fire upon the palace as by lightning. This must be the punishment of the gods because the lord allowed these men of strange religion to enter our Srate and oppose our gods."

The singular way in which the Buddhists threatened the people in order to seize their wealth was by proclaiming the most direful calamities which would fall upon those who did not worship and serve the gods generously.

Such tumults were frequent in Japan, and therefore their prophecies were sometimes true. Consequently the people would offer to the Buddhist priests many of the things they would demand of them. But the chief way in which their prophecies were fulfilled consisted in this, that they sometimes knew beforehand who would rebel against the lord, or that they themselves had planned such revolt. Within a few days after this proclamation or threatening by the Buddhists, a powerful council, filled with hatred against the lord, incited to rebellion and attacked the town of Yamaguchi.

The lord of Yamaguchi was not prepared to resist the attack, neither able to defend the castle against the enemy. He escaped by strategy, but his enemies pursued him. He was ashamed to be killed by the hands of his enemy. He bravely, according to Japanese custom which he honoured and praised as most courageous, after sending word to his assistant to burn his body so that even his ashes would not fall into the hands of his enemy, killed his own child with his own sword, and then killed himself by *hara kiri*.

The enemy were furious, they murdered citizens, burned houses, and ravaged what they could. The lord's palace was also burned. They were indeed sanguinary. Some people who were at enmity with others took this opportunity to revenge themselves, and others resorted to ravaging and committing other depredations. They murdered each other in their houses. This continued for eight days, and it is written that the corpses, if put upon one heap, would make quite a hill and the blood shed would make a river. Wherever the murderers went, screaming and lamentation resounded through fields and alleys of the city; and no matter how diligently they sought for refuge there was none to be found, for all the gates were closely guarded by the armies of the enemy. As they were ashamed to be killed by the enemy, they flung themselves from the walls surrounding the castle into the moat below and were drowned.

Though these scenes were frightfully cruel, the Buddhists rejoiced in this victory over their enemy. The soldiers ravaged the town according to their pleasure and each returned with his hands full of booty. After the army had retired, the Buddhists wandered about the town proudly proclaiming the fulfillment of their prophecy. They said—"The calamities at this time are caused by the wrath of the gods. To appease the wrath of the gods we must at once execute the foreigners who are the cause of these difficulties.

The Christians were constantly persecuted, and at times retorted to the insults of the Buddhists, who said that wars, famine, floods, and pestilence were results of the religion of Rome. The words, "Before there were Christians, was there no overflow of the Tiber? no famine? no pestilence?" is a pertinent statement of Saint Augustine to the heathen. But the inhabitants of Yamaguchi regarded the cause of these difficulties to be the sudden change of religion.

They were greatly excited by the threats of the Buddhists and besought the bishop to offer them as a sacrifice to their gods.

However, at the time of the difficulties at Yamaguchi, none of the newly converted Christians were killed nor wounded. The Missionaries of the Jesuit Church were saved by the heathen. This was indeed the guiding act of a Divine Hand.

There was a rich Count named Naito-dono and he was a heathen, yet he loved the Christian missionaries so did his wife; because the foreigners always entertained them with great care and explained to them the true and sincere religion; but as they were under some obligations to the Buddhists they would not dare to be baptized. But since they preferred the missionaries to the Buddhists, whenever there was a tumult in the town the missionaries sent all their valuables to the house of the Count. The wife consented to take charge of these things, and requested them, in case they were to escape, to flee to her house. But the enemy was numerous and impeded the ways of the missionaries and closed many of the streets. Whenever they went from their home the enemy would exclaim—"The foreigner ridicules our national deties, He is the cause of our misery. Catch him and kill him." But by the guidance of God they passed safely through the ranks of the enemy.

The remarkable incident which manifested a divine protection and guidance, was the security with which the foreigners could pass to and fro right in the midst of such a ferocious enemy. When they escaped to the house of Naito, he sent them to a Buddhist temple which he himself had built, and commanded the priest to guard them carefully so that no harm could reach them. The Buddhists had some dispute with the master about this matter, for they considered the foreigners their arch enemies and the cause of the present tumult; but by the urgent request of the master they finally yielded and put them into an uncomfortably small room.

Here they remained for three days. The Count found it difficult to establish peace while they were in a Buddhist temple, so he took them into his own home. After selecting a place of safety, namely, in the home of a certain Christian, they were removed to that place and kept in hiding until the tumult was over.

The high officials of Yamaguchi then held a meeting for the purpose of electing a new lord. According to the decision of the majority the elder brother of the lord of Bungo was chosen as lord. This man was very courageous and very reliable. They sent a public messenger to Bungo to inform him of his election to the lordly throne of Yamaguchi. Xavier was at Bungo at this time and highly pleased with this election. He thought that the recent tumult was a favourable omen for Christianity in Japan, because the last lord of Yamaguchi was intemperate and a man of sanguinary disposition. Xavier once told him in the presence of the Buddhists that, if he did not reform he would be visited with punishment from heaven. His high officials said that his misfortune at this time was the result of his licentiousness. The above facts are given in a letter from a missionary to his teacher when Xavier was at Bungo. The letter was dated Oct. 23, 1551. From that time on Xavier earnestly desired the lord of Bungo to request his brother to look favourably upon the Christians in Yamaguchi. His brother promised Xavier that he would protect the Christians when they were ill treated.

At this time the preparations for the departure of the Portuguese vessels were completed and the petitions for Xavier's return to India frequent and urgent. He was therefore compelled to leave Japan. In order to bid farewell, he went with the Portuguese to the palace, and meeting the lord, kissed his hand and most sincerely and reverently thanked him for all his kindnesses toward him, and requested the lord to show the same kindness to his successor who was soon to arrive. The lord expressed his sorrow at the departure of Xavier and said to the Portuguese—"You must show me a kindness by sending some one to succeed Xavier in the work here. His departure is like the loss of a father to me. When I think of the impossibility of meeting you all again, my sorrow is more than I can bear." Xavier also expressed similar grief, but he said to the lord—"I must go to Goa because of very important affairs there, as I have been requested by the Cardinal of India. But I think I shall again visit Japan and China."

Xavier then made special requests for the maintenance of peace among the people and said—"I beg of you my lord to seek the prosperity of your soul rather than that of your position. God will provide for you a much more precious crown than that which you now wear. If you live the life of a Christian you will never lose that crown. Set not your affections upon worldly pleasures and the attainment of transient happiness. No religion but Christianity teaches the doctrine of spiritual peace. God has sent me from a distant corner of the world to your country to proclaim this truth. Such grace was never made known to you before not to your ancestors. Your ancestors died in ignorance of their sins. If my lord will not accept this grace, there is no escape for him. So far as you have comprehended the truth, you should live accordingly. Those who succeed in great things, exalt sagacity. A loss of a single opportunity will often cause the most signal failures. If we delay in obtaining spiritual peace we subject ourselves to great danger. Give the devil a chance and he will interrupt all progress; and the Lord will withhold his grace from those who love darkness."

My lord, listen to what your Creator speaks to you. You must not envelop you righteous heart with things of a carnal nature and growth. What benefit will it be you to prosper in worldly matters and suffer eternal torment after death? What profit is there in being a temporary lord in this world and an eternal slave to devils in the world to come?

Human life is short and wordly grandeur ephemeral. Though you be strong and powerful you can not escape death. Though you are a lord you can not escape the judgment of God. If you refuse to listen to God's messenger who has come from a distant part of the world to tell you of these things, what will your answer be to God in the great judgment? I pray that such unhappy circumstance may never befall you. I have already noticed your righteousness and your conscientiousness. As I have great hopes for you, I shall never cease, while I live, to pray for you. If I should be so happy as to see the lord of Bungo baptized and become a Christian, my life shall be not spent in vain."

Xavier spoke the above while being surrounded by the glory of God. The lord's countenance was twice changed while Xavier thus spoke to him, his eyes were filed with tears which proved that something was affecting him. The shedding of tears by the lord greatly amazed his attendants. The lord grasped the hand of Xavier, and Xavier gave vent to his emotions by repeatedly kissing the lord's hands. He then took his departure from Bungo; this was at the end of No. 5, 1551. Xavier carried nothing precious nor curious from Japan, save two Japanese named Bernard and Mathew, who were baptized in Yamaguchi. Mathew was with Xavier at Kioto.

It was Xavier's purpose to take these two persons to Rome as the fruit of his work in Japan, but Mathew died in Goa before Xavier and his companion could set sail for Portugal, and Bernard, as has already been stated, died in the Jesuit College soon after his departure from Rome to Portugal. There was a noblemen, an attendant of the lord of Bungo, on board with Xavier. He took a letter from the lord of Bungo to the Cardinal in India requesting that a missionary of the Jesuit Church be sent to Japan for the purpose of propagating Christianity. This letter also sought to make an alliance with the Cardinal of India.

* * * *

Such was the introduction of Christianity (Roman Catholicism) into Japan. Many of the instances here recorded border on the romantic, and give us a glimpse of the experiences of Christian workers more than 200 years ago.

We have not given details in all cases, for this would be rather monotonous reading, nor have we attempted a literal translation, but simply tried to give the substance of the original.

[20] See the doctrine of Jo-Ju-E-Ku.

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THE CLUB HOTEL, LIMITED.

The fifth annual general meeting of shareholders in the Club Hotel, Limited, was held on Friday afternoon, in the dining-hall of the hotel. Mr. D. Fraser, Chairman of Directors, presided, and there were also present Messrs. A. B. Walford, C. D. Moss, J. Ph. von Hemert, G. H. Allcock, H. M. Arnould, G. Booth, J. W. Hall, R. Ward, T. Abbey, Capt. Allen, W. Waggott, and G. Blakeway, secretary.

The SECRETARY first read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then announced that as the report and accounts of the Company had been printed and published in the newspapers he thought it would be unnecessary to read them.

Mr. ALLCOCK asked whether the Chairman considered the meeting a representative gathering of shareholders of the Club Hotel Company?

The CHAIRMAN—Three members holding one hundred shares are quite sufficient to carry out the business before us.

Mr. ALLCOCK proposed that the minutes of the last annual meeting be taken as read.

Mr. H. M. ARNOULD seconded.

Mr. MOSS said he would like to hear the minutes read.

The SECRETARY accordingly read the minutes, and at their close,

Mr. ARNOULD proposed and Mr. BOOTH seconded that they be carried. The motion was passed unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business is the passing and adoption of the accounts, but first of all I should like to refer to the remark made by Mr. Allcock, who asked whether I considered this to be a representative meeting of the Company. Well, the meeting was called for half-past four o'clock, it is now five minutes to five and I do not think that we should wait any longer. According to our Articles of Association if three members are present who hold one hundred shares, they can proceed with the business of a general meeting. There may be some other shareholders in the company who desire to be present, and perhaps they will turn up shortly—I hope indeed, that they will—but I think that we can stop no longer for them, but must proceed with our business. I should be glad if some shareholder present would propose the adoption of the report and accounts now before you. If there is any information required in regard to them I shall be most happy to furnish it to the best of my power.

Mr. WALFORD—It is most unsatisfactory to pass accounts such as these in the absence of our auditor. Is there no chance of his being present?

The CHAIRMAN—Unfortunately, no; he is in the country and likely to be absent for a week.

Mr. WALFORD—I made my remark just now, because when I was in England a meeting was held at which Mr. Kiel, who was then our auditor, was not present. The accounts were passed and immediately afterwards Mr. Kiel sent in his resignation of his position s auditor, giving as his reason that he was not satisfied with the way in which the accounts were kept. If we pass these accounts now, we cannot afterwards dispute them even if we desired to do so.

The CHAIRMAN said that no fears need be entertained as to the correctness of the accounts. Their auditor, Mr. Ure, had been most particular in regard to them. Indeed, on one occasion after the Board had signed the accounts he refused to pass them because he had not gone through one or two small matters in regard to them himself. He gave this as an instance of the extreme care which Mr. Ure has taken in regard to them.

Mr. WALFORD—Is he satisfied with the way in which they are kept?

The CHAIRMAN—They are kept according to his own rule and formula.

Mr. WALFORD—I thought it was an extraordinary proceeding on the part of Mr. Kiel, that is why I ask whether the auditor is satisfied with the way in which the accounts are now kept.

Mr. BOOTH—Mr. Ure has expressed to me that he is satisfied with the way in which the accounts are kept.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, Mr. Ure has been very particular about them.

Captain ALLEN—In the account for fire, lighting, and washing—$4,700—what amount has to be put down to the electric light?

Mr. ARNOULD—About $175 a month.

The CHAIRMAN—About one half.

Captain ALLEN—By whom is the light supplied?

The CHAIRMAN—By Mr. Cocking.

Captain ALLEN—Have we a special arrangement, or do we pay for so much light at a certain price?

The CHAIRMAN—It is supplied through a meter specially fitted up on our premises.

Mr. ALLCOCK—There is no electric light meter in the world that can accurately tell how much of the current has passed through it.

The CHAIRMAN—You are perfectly correct, sir.

Mr. WALFORD—I notice that the item of salaries has increased.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, there has been an increase of the staff; but during the coming year we intend doing with two men what used to be done by three. Our accountant has left us, so we intend that the clerk who is engaged to check off everything that comes in or goes out of the hotel, shall combine with these duties some office work with Mr. Blakeway, the secretary. I think the arrangement will work very well.

Mr. WALFORD—I see that the Tokyo Branch is debited with $69,000.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, but it has paid 7 per cent. upon its capital this year. The capital is about $70,000, and after paying interest on that there is a small loss incurred on the working account. Its prospects are decidedly improving, and are better than we expected at the beginning of the year.

Mr. WALFORD—I have pleasure in proposing the adoption of the accounts.

Captain ALLEN—I second the proposition,—Carried.

The Directors beg to submit to you their 5th Annual Report under Sec. 52 of the Articles of Association.

BUSINESS.

The Directors have pleasure in noting that the business of the past year shows an improvement over that of the previous two years. At our last meeting we showed a loss of $4,465.09, which was, roughly speaking, a loss in Working Account of $2,500 for each of the two years referred to. It will be observed that there is a considerable improvement in the year under review.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

The balance carried to debit of this Account is $3,449.93, which includes $1,643.24 on account of repairs and improvements. A large proportion of this might have gone to Property Account and been written off by yearly amounts, but the Directors thought it best to write it off Profit and Loss at once and be done with it. There is also a sum of $1,705.83 written off for bad debts. This amount ought to have been written off previous years, as no part of it is connected with last year, and it now leaves our Sundry Debtors' Account fairly clean and liquid. Taking these amounts into account, you will observe that if we had not had to deal with them our Profit and Loss Account would be about square—in other words, instead of losing $2,500 last year, as in the two previous years, which would have made our Profit and Loss about $7,500 to the bad (irrespective of the amounts referred to as written off) we have cleared off the sum of nearly $4,000, which was to the bad in last account, showing that we are really nearly $7,500 better than last year.

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Yokohama shows a credit balance of $5,836.28. Tokyo shows a loss of $972.05; but it must be pointed out that Tokyo has been debited with 7 per cent. interest on about $70,000.

DIRECTOR.

Mr. Cocking retires from the Board and does not offer himself for rëelection.

Mr. Brower retires from the Board and being eligible offers himself for rëelection.

D. FRASER,
T. L. BROWER,
GEO. BOOTH,
HENRY M. ARNOULD, } Directors.

GEO. BLAKEWAY, Secretary.

Yokohama, 7th May, 1894.

WORKING ACCOUNT—FROM 1ST BPRIL, 1893, TO 31ST MARCH, 1894.

Dr.

To Wines, Spirits and Cigars Account		$11,802.21
To Stores and Provisions Account	$16,422.57	
Less value of stock	293.10	16,129.47
To Salaries and Wages Account		10,100.03
To Insurance Account		1,496.23
To General Expenses Account		3,489 77
To Firing, Lighting and Washing		4,078.52
To Rent Account		298.12
To Steam Launch Account		58.15
To Auditor's Fee		200.00
To Hire of Furniture		191.30
To Gross Expenditure		$ 48,744.70
To Debenture Interest paid		5,250.00
		$ 53,994.70
To Balance transfered to Profit and Loss Account		5,836.28
		$ 59,830.98

Cr.

By Wines, Spirits and Cigars Account	$20,261.48	
Value of Stock in hand	2,817.85	
	$23,079.34	
By House Account	32,030.48	
By Share Transfer Fee Account	4.00	
Gross Receipts		$ 55,119.92
By Interest Account		4,721.16
		$ 59,830.98

TOKYO BRANCH ACCOUNT.

WORKING ACCOUNT—FROM 1ST APRIL, 1893, TO 31ST DARCH, 1894.

Dr.

To Wines, Spirits and Cigars Account	$3,668.92	
Less Value of Stock in hand	1,194.50	
	$2,474.42	
To Insurance Account	497.50	
To Stores and Provisions Account	5,975.42	
To Salaries and Wages Account	2,944.75	
To General Expenses Account	511.98	
To Firing, Lighting and Washing Account	2,286.92	
To Ground Rent Account	441.54	
To Repairs and Improvement Account	156.64	
Gross Expenditure		$ 15,289.16
To Interest Account		4,830.00
		20,019.16

Cr.

By House Account	$ 19,047.25
By Balance transferred to Profit and Loss Account	972.05
	20.019.16

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—31ST MARCH, 1894.

Dr.

To Balance from last year	$ 4,965.09
To Balance transferred from Tokyo Branch Working Account	972.05
To Cost of Repairs and improvements written off	1,643.24
To Doubtful and Bad Debts written off	1,705.83
	9,286.21
To Balance brought down	$ 3,449.93

Cr.

By Balance transferred from Club Hotel Working Account	$ 5,836.28
By Balance carried down	3,449.93
	9,286.21

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES—31ST MARCH, 1894.

Dr.

Cash on Hand	$ 499.96	
Cssh on Hand Tokio Branch	619.10	
		$ 1,119.06
Sundry Debtors	7,498.33	
Less written off	1,705 83	
		5,792.50
Insurance Account		807.05
Steam Launch Account		2,500.00
Property Account		270,693.43
Furniture Account		48,043.73
Electric Light Plant		5,139.35
Stores Account		293.10
Wines, Spirits and Cigars Account		4,022.35
Profit and Loss Account		5,449.93
		$341,840.50

Cr.

Capital Account	$160,000.00
Debenture Account	75,000.00
National Bank of China	2,869.38
Sundry Creditors Account	3,453.02
Debenture Interest Account	437.50
Unclaimed Dividend	90.00
	$341,850.50

E. & O. E.

D. FRASER,
T. L. BROWER,
GEO. BOOTH,
HENRY M. ARNOULD, } Directors.

GEO, BLAKEWAY, Secretary.

I have compared the Statements with the Books and Vouchers of the Company and have found the same to be in accordance therewith.

CHAS. W. URE, Auditor.

Yokohama, May 7th, 1894.

The CHAIRMAN—The Tokyo Branch has always been our white elephant, but as I said just now its present prospects are decidedly bright, and I feel justified in expecting that it will become in time a paying concern. It has paid this year 7 per cent. on its $70,000 capital. This year, too, I know from experience, that it has become better known. I also know that the Imperial Hotel is not getting so many of the globe-trotters from Yokohama as it did. But I do not wish to make any observations upon that point, beyond saying that the branch is in a better position now than it ever was. And now we come to the next business before us, the election of Directors. Mr. Cocking retires from the Board and does not seek rëelection. Mr. Brower also retires, but offers himself for rëelection. He has recently gone home, but before starting off wrote for leave of absence. There has not been a board meeting since the letter was sent, so that it is not before us officially yet. I shall be glad to have Mr. Brower back on the Board with me, for during his term of office he has proved a very valuable acquisition to the Board.

Mr. ALLCOCK—I don't see the reason for rëelecting him, seeing that he will be absent for nearly a year.

The CHAIRMAN—No, not a year.

Mr. MOSS—I think he will be gone for about that time.

The CHAIRMAN—Of course it lays with you, gentlemen, but I know that Mr. Brower has gone home for seven months. He may return within four or five months, but he is not certain. This is a matter on which I feel very strongly. It is very difficult to get gentlemen to serve on a Board of Directors who will pull well together and work in harmony in the interests of the Company. There are several gentlemen I should like to see upon the Board, but they won't serve. I should

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much like to bring about the election of Mr. Morris, of the China and Japan Trading Company. He has very kindly consented to serve, and I beg to propose his election as a Director of your Company. I have now been on the Board of your Company for three years and during all that time I have had more trouble than I care to tell. I wished Mr. Hall to resign his position as a Director, but he has refused to do so. He has been a stumbling block to me ever since I joined the Board, opposing me in every way. I desired him to resign from the position without any washing of dirty linen in public, but he has rendered that course very difficult to pursue. I will only say this now, that I will not continue to sit upon the Board any longer if Mr. Hall remains there. I shall be sorry to have to take such a step just as we are getting the concern out of the mire, and when things are beginning to show signs of our being able to come round in time, but I certainly shall sit down and resign unless the gentleman I have just named takes the step we desire of him. I won't serve any longer if Mr. Hall does not retire. I don't care two straws what he does now, but this I can assure you, that it is not any use for you to have a Board of Directors who cannot pull together. If the Company is to succeed there must be no quarrelling among its directors. I may mention that it is entered in the minutes of the Board meetings that on one occasion a most disgraceful scene occurred for which my friend Mr. Hall had afterwards to apologise. I have given him a chance to retire, he may take it or leave it just as he likes. Meantime, I have pleasure in proposing the election of Mr. Morriss as a director of your Company.

Mr. Moss seconded, and the proposition was carried.

Mr. Hall—As the Chairman has brought this matter up, I should like the minutes of that Board meeting read. Ever since the shareholders did me the honour of rëelecting me at the last annual general meeting, I have endeavoured to do my duty by the shareholders, and I did what I could so far as I could. On one or two occasions it happened that my opinions about certain things did not coincide with Mr. Fraser's; it was unfortunate, certainly, but every man has a right to his own opinions. I have not gone against Mr. Fraser continually. I have done little or nothing of late owing to the fact that everything I suggested was always objected to by Mr. Fraser. I think that it will be to the interest of all parties if the minutes of that meeting be read now, and then the meeting will see that it was a matter connected with the accounts. I said at that meeting that the Directors should know clearly what was going on, that the accounts should be put before them so that they could see how things really were. It had been my intention to resign but the Board of Directors have never sent me a letter signed by themselves as provided in our rules. If they desire me to resign they should send me the proper letter.

The Chairman—Mr. Hall's statement is far from correct. In the first place, however, the reason why we did not send him a formal official document was because we did not want to make any bother about it, and besides just then it would have been impossible to get the signatures of all the Directors to that document because Mr. Ward happened to be then at Sendai. We wanted Mr. Hall to retire privately so that the matter need not have been brought before the meeting at all. In regard to the affair itself it arose out of a remark made by Mr. Hall that he had not seen the accounts, and that he had never been able to see the accounts. It was pointed out to him that the accounts were to be seen by any of the Directors, and that it was the Directors' duty to see the accounts, and that so far from his never being able to see them, that they were always placed upon the table. As a result of the investigation which followed, Mr. Hall apologised, having discovered that the accounts were upon the table.

Mr. Hall—I say that they were not on the table; they never were on the table unless a Director asked for them.

Mr. Booth (a Director)—Mr. Hall, I say they were.

Mr. Hall—Those two Directors—(indicating Mr. Fraser and Mr. Booth)—think to run the company all by themselves. Those two form a Committee of two and order things all their own way.

The Chairman—In regard to this Committee, gentlemen—Mr. Hall has even had the impudence to call it a self-elected Committee—I may tell you that it was elected as a House Committee by the other Directors for the purpose of attending to and checking everything coming in or connected with the household management. All the Directors could not be employed doing this duty, which was to supervise and check things properly, and to sign cheques when necessary. Mr. Hall objects to this Committee—

Mr. Hall.—I say that the accounts of this committee should be laid upon the table, and that they should be gone into properly.

Mr. Booth—I say that they were, and that they were always open for any Director who chose to look at them.

Captain Allen—Gentlemen, with regard to this discussion, it would be well to prevent these details from getting into the papers, it is not a private meeting and the discussion can do no good.

The Chairman—I did all that I could do to prevent it, but he would not resign.

Captain Allen—It is a pity that it should go into the papers.

The Chairman—I have no objection to its appearing in the papers. I should like the minutes of the Directors meeting read, for Mr. Hall has made an incorrect statement regarding the affair.

The Secretary then read the following extract from the Minute Book—"Mr. Hall said that only members of the Sub-Committee saw the accounts. The Chairman called Mr. Hall to order. The accounts were always at the disposal of the Directors and were produced at all meetings. He thought Mr. Hall should withdraw or resign.—Mr. Hall expressed his regret at having made a statement not supported by facts.—The Chairman expressed his strong disapproval at the way in which Mr. Hall challenged every matter placed before the Board and which made their labours so much harder and wasted valuable time which might be better employed. If this opposition were persisted in he would call a special meeting and take the opinion of the shareholders."

The Chairman—I leave the matter in your hands, gentlemen; I need say no more.

Mr. Walford inquired what were the views of the Directors present.

Mr. Booth said that the accounts were always laidupon the table.

Mr. Walford—What I wanted to gather was whether, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, it was impossible to work along with Mr. Hall?

Mr. Arnould said he refused to serve on board if Mr. Fraser resigned.

Mr. Walford—Is that the opinion of other members of the Board?

Mr. Booth—Yes. Before I joined the Board I was much dissatisfied with the way things were apparently worked, but since Mr. Fraser has joined I am perfectly satisfied and I know that he has done everything that was best.

The Chairman—As matters stand now the Board consists of Messrs. Morris, Arnould, Ward, Hall, Booth, and myself. It is for the shareholders to say if Mr. Hall or myself shall resign. I want things to work harmoniously in the interests of the company. Now that prospects are improving for us, I should feel sorry to leave the Company, just as the hard work I have put in is beginning to look fruitful of good results.

Captain Allen—How long is a Director elected for?

The Chairman—The rule is that two directors retire in rotation every year. Mr. Hall and I retired last year, so that we do not retire this.

Mr. Walford—There is a clause in the Articles of Association providing for the resignation of a Director should he receive a written requisition signed by all the other Directors requesting him to retire. If the Directors obtain the support of this meeting cannot they send such a letter to Mr. Hall?

Mr. Moss—Are there no means of getting over this difficulty?

The Chairman—It must be either Mr. Hall's resignation or mine.

Mr. Moss—Is there no middle course?

The Chairman—No.

Mr. Moss—In a small community like this it is not advisable to lose a good man.

The Chairman—Who's a good man?

Mr. Moss—I look on you both as good men.

The Chairman—It is no use. I am tired of the whole thing. I have had over two years of it, and I do not care to have another. I will not serve again on the same Board along with Mr. Hall. If he had only taken the hint as Mr. von Hemert did there would have been no trouble. He did not take it and this is the consequence. He can stay on the Board and become its Chairman for all I care.

Mr. Walford—I think that if Mr. Hall finds it unpleasant to serve with the present Directors he will resign.

Mr. Hall—I leave it with the shareholders. They have had the proofs on either side and must decide as they see fit.

Mr. Walford—Without any personal feeling in the matter and without desiring to cast any reflection of whatsoever kind upon Mr. Hall being moved with no personal feeling for either side—I beg to propose that Mr. J. W. Hall be requested to resign his position as Director of this company.

Mr. Von Hemert—I second that.

On the vote being taken 6 voted for and 3 against—the proposition was therefore declared carried.

Mr. Hall—Mr. Hall resigns with very much pleasure and satisfaction.

The Chairman—I much regret that this matter has had to come before the shareholders, but I think that on the whole it is best for the Company that the matter should be settled. Our Board of Directors now consists of Messrs. Booth, Arnould, Ward, Fraser, and Morris. According to our Articles of Association we may have a Board of from three to seven members. We now have five members, the question is, shall we fill up the vacancies and make the number up to seven again.

Mr. Walford suggested that the matter might be left to the Directors, who had power to add to their number if necessary.

The Chairman—I propose that Mr. Brower be rëelected.

Mr. Arnould seconded, and the motion was carried, there being only three dissentients.

The Chairman—This is really no matter for the shareholders, for if we wanted Mr. Brower we should certainly have put him in. I now beg to propose that Mr. Ure be reappointed auditor.

Mr. Booth seconded, and the same was carried.

Mr. Walford, in answer to a remark of the Chairman, who had announced that the business of the meeting was finished unless any shareholder had an observation to make, said it appeared a most extraordinary thing to him that notwithstanding the increase of visitors to the place that the Company which had once paid 10 per cent. and carried forward $20,000 in one year, should now show a debit balance of $3,000 or $4,000. He had given notice to Mr. Keil that he should put some questions upon this matter and the latter had promised to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, Mr. Kiel was unable to attend through sickness.

The Chairman—Yes, it is unfortunate that he is away, because I know nothing about the matter, not being on the Board then. The proper course would have been for you to have given notice of your questions before the meeting.

Mr. Walford—I gave Mr. Kiel notice, and he promised to be here.

The Chairman—But you should have notified the Secretary.

Mr. Walford—It is certainly very strange that we paid 10 per cent. once and in that now, in what should be better years, we lose.

A vote of thanks to the Chair, proposed by Mr. Walford was then put and carried. The meeting afterwards dispersed.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

Reuter "Sepcial" to "Japan Mail."

London, May 13.

A bomb has been exploded in the Rue Kleber, in Paris, but without loss of life. Only damage to the houses in the vicinity has been reported.

(Specially telegraphed to the "Japan Mail.")
[From the "N.-C. Daily News."]

London, May 7.

The Registration Bill has been read a second time in the House of Commons.

The Anarchists, Ferrara and Polti, who were arrested in London, have been sentenced to twenty and ten years' penal servitude respectively.

In a billiard match at Manchester, Roberts made a break of 1,392, spot-barred.

Speaking at Trowbridge, Lord Salisbury stated that the House of Lords must submit to the will of the nation, but it was bound to ascertain that will clearly. No Government ever before introduced Bills dividing Great Britain from Ireland, and disestablishing a portion of the English Church.

May 8.

In the Italian Chamber, Baron Blanc, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that Italy was firmly resolved upon retaining her African Colony (at Massowah) and maintaining a protectorate over Abyssinia.

The Dutch Royal Commission have reported in favour of a scheme for reclaiming half a

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million acres of land from the Zuyder Zee. The work will cost thirty millions sterling.

In a debate in the Italian Chamber, Signor Crispi said, while affirming the friendship that existed between France and Russia, that if Italy were disarmed she would have, as formerly, to pay the costs of the conqueror in the event of war.

May 8.

The Indian trooping service will henceforth be conducted from Southampton instead of from Portsmouth.

An explosion has taken place in the Royal cordite factory at Waltham. Many people were killed and injured, and much damage was done.

May 11.

Sir E. Grey, answering a question put in the House of Commons, stated that Captain Owen reached Wadelai (Central Africa, north of the Albert Nyanza) on the 4th February, and hoisted the British flag. But he acted without instructions from the Government.

The Two Thousand Guineas has resulted as follows:—

Ladas, b c by Hampton—Illuminata (Lord Rosebery) 1
Matchbox, b c by St. Simon—Match Girl (Lord Alington) 2
Athlone, b c by Sarabande—Princess Arena (Sir J. Blundell Maple) 3

The editors of five Berlin newspapers have been imprisoned for periods varying from two to five months; and others have been heavily fined for accusing the police of exceeding their duty in dispersing a meeting of unemployed.

(From Manila Papers).

Madrid, April 24.

An animated debate on the Melilla affair has been commenced in the Congress.

The Supreme Council of War, reviewing the process recently instituted with reference to the robbery of commissarist stores at the Carraco Arsenal, has ordered the arrest of the officials composing the responsible Board.

Madrid, April 27.

The Committee of the Senate appointed to report on the treaties of commence persists in delaying its report.

(From Saigon Papers.)

Paris, April 27.

Henry appeared at the assizes cynically calm and declared that he wished to kill by the Café Terminus explosion as many of the bourgeois as possible.—*Daily Press.*

(From the "Singapore Free Press.")

Penang, April 25.

On Tuesday at 12-30 a.m. near Tanjong Hantu, the *Ngapoota* collided with the *Kwangtung* and sank in five minutes. Two of her boats were stove in; a third boat containing forty-eight passengers [is safe]. The loss is probably under sixty lives. The *Kwangtung* sank in shallow water near Telok Sera.

[From Tonkin Papers.]

Paris, April 29.

Henry on being sentenced to death cried "Vive l'Anarchie."

Paris, April 29.

The Lyons Exhibition was opened in the presence of MM. Casimir Perièr, Burdeau, and Marty, and a large assemblage. The opening proved a great success.

Paris, May 1.

M. Casimir Perièr, speaking at Lyons, praised the fiscal reforms that have been effected and said the Government desired a triumphant Republic that should fear nothing and hope for everything.

General Boisdeffre has been appointed chief of the army staff.

The eve of May Day was quiet in Paris and the provinces. There was little celebration. Meetings have been announced in most of the towns for this evening. Abroad complete calm prevails.

Paris, May 3.

The May Day fête was a fiasco almost everywhere. Bloody tumults, however, occurred at Gratz (Austria), Hamme (Belgium), and Cleveland (United States.)

The sawmill at Toulon Arsenal has been burnt. The damage is estimated at five million francs.

The Court has confirmed the agreement between the liquidators of the Panama Company and the Reinach estate and Cornelius Herz, by which the latter will have to pay three million francs. The extradition of Cornelius Herz has been abandoned.

(From Japanese Papers.)

Hokkaido Administrative Board, May 14.

Several rivers in Nemuro Province overflowed on the 4th and 5th. Two persons were drowned, three houses washed away, and eight bridges destroyed; much timber was swept away.

Jinsen, Korea, May 16.

A very violent disturbance has taken place in Heian-do.

Nara, May 16.

The Russian Minister arrived here to-day.

Osaka, May 16.

A woman fifty-three years of age, was attacked by sporadic cholera at Hirano, Sumiyoshi District, yesterday.

Kobe, May 18.

The Russian Minister left here to-day for Nagasaki in the *Yokohama Maru.*

Osaka, May 18.

Correspondence from Jinsen, Korea, dated the the 12th inst., says that Tokaku-to partisans created a disturbance in the Chinsei-do, and their example was followed by the Seigaku-to adherents, while about eight thousand disorderly persons behaved in a very threatening manner towards the local officials of Kinkai-fu in Keisho-do. The officials have been put into prison.

Osaka, May 18.

The *Akashi Maru* arrived here last night from Jinsen. One of her crew states that everything was quiet in that port, but that *Heiyen-go* and two other ships which were dispatched to the place of disturbance, had not returned to Jinsen when she left that port.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The Yokohama Chess Club is now closed for the season and will re-open on Monday, 1st October.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 121.

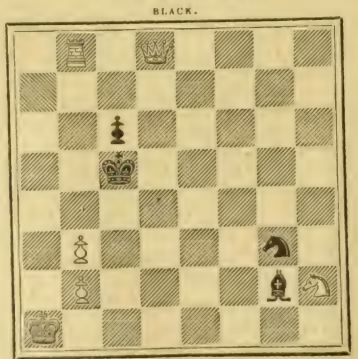
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to Q R 6	1—Kt to B 3
2—Q to K 6 ch.	2—R × Q
3—Kt to B 7 mate	
	if 1—Kt to R 3
2—Q × Kt	2—Any
3—Q or Kt mates	
	if 1—P to R 6
2—Q to K Kt 6	2—Kt to B 3
2—Q to Kt 3 mate.	

Correct solutions received from Omega, W.H.S., and J.D.

Problem No. 123.

By Jan Kotre.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

Here is what Dr. Broughton says in the "Brooklyn Souvenir" on the subject of Chess problems:—"Problems are in chess what sonatas are in music—the combining of the most pure harmonies, the building of ideas in the framework of imagination. They are the clever conceptions of genius whose creations often show the possession of powers equal to the educated architect. The chess pieces and board are to the problemist what the canvas and pencils are to the artist, and, though the composer may not have so large an audience, his work is appreciated in proportion to its merits in its own field as any work of art would be."

Steinitz-Lasker Match.

This was continued in Philadelphia on 14th April, when the Champion lost the first game of the Philadelphia series, a Ruy Lopez. He also lost the next two games, being 5 losses in succession, and on the 21st applied for an adjournment to 1st May, which was granted by Lasker. The score stood thus when the adjournment was decided on:—Lasker, 7; Steinitz, 2; Drawn, 2, and the veteran's chances were looking very gloomy.

We give a reprint of the eighth game below and hope to follow it up with some of the later ones next week:—

Game 127.

French Defence.

WHITE. Steinitz.	BLACK. Lasker.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 3
2—P to Q 4	2—P to Q 4
3—Kt to Q B 3	3—P × P (a)
4—Kt × P	4—Kt to Q 2
5—K Kt to B 3	5—K K tto B 3
6—Kt to Kt 3	6—P to B 4
7—B to K 2 (bb)	7—P × P
8—Kt × P	8—B to B 4
9—Kt to Kt 3	9—B to K 2
10—Castles	10—Castles
11—B to Q 2	11—Q to B 2
12—P to Q B 4 (cc)	12—Kt to K 4
13—Q to B 2 (b)	13—Kt to Kt 3 (c)
14—K R to K sq. (d)	14—B to Q 2
15—Q R to B sq.	15—K R to B sq. (e)
16—B to K B sq.	16—B to R 5
17—B to B 3	17—Kt to Kt 5 (f)
18—Q to K 2	18—Kt to B 3
19—Kt to Q 4	19—B to Q 2
20—P to Kt 4	20—R to Q sq.
21—Q to Kt 2	21—Q R to B sq.
22—Kt to Kt 3	22—Q to B 5
23—B to Q 2	23—Q to Kt sq. (g)
24—P to Kt 5 (h)	24—P to Kt 3
25—B to B 3	25—Kt to K sq.
26—Kt to K R 5 (i)	26—P to B 3
27—P to Q R 4 (j)	27—P to K 4
28—P to R 5	28—B to K Kt 5
29—Kt to Kt 3	29—B to K 3
30—Kt to Q 2 (ff)	30—Kt to B 5
31—Q to Kt sq.	31—B to B 2
32—Kt to B 5	32—B to B sq.
33—B to Kt 4	33—Kt to Q 3
34—Kt × Kt	34—B × Kt
35—Kt to K 4 (k)	35—B × B
36—Q × B	36—R to Q 5!
37—P × P (gg)	37—P × P
38—P to Kt 3? (hh)	38—Kt to Q 6
39—B × Kt	39—R × B
40—P to B 5	40—R to Q 5 (ii)
41—Q to Kt sq.	41—P × P
42—Kt × P	42—R to Q B 5
43—Kt to Q 7 (l)	43—Q to Kt 2
44—Q R to Q sq.	44—B to K 3
45—Kt × P (m)	45—P × Kt
46—R × P	46—B to R 6!
47—K R to Q 5	47—R to B 8
48—Q to Q 3	48—P to R 3? (kk)
49—P to Kt 4 (n)	49—B × P
50—P to B 3	50—R × R ch.
51—Q × R	51—B to K 3
52—R to Q 6	52—Q to K 2
53—P to Kt 6	53—R to B 8
54—Q × R	54—Q × R
55—Q to K 3	55—B to Q 4
56—K to Kt 2	56—Q to Kt 3 ch.
57—K to B 2	57—Q to B 7 ch.
58—K to Kt 3	58—Q to Kt 3 ch.
59—K to B 2	59—Q to B 7 ch.
60—K to Kt 3	60—Q to Kt 3 ch.
61—K to B 2	61—B to Kt 2
62—Q to Kt 3 ch.	62—Q to B 2
63—Q to Q 3	63—Q to Q 4
64—Q to K 3	64—Q to Q 3
65—K to Kt 2	65—K to B 2
66—P to R 4	66—Q to K 3 (o)
67—Q to B 4 ch.	67—K to Kt 3
68—Q to Kt 3 ch.	68—K to R 2
69—Q to B 2	69—Q to Kt 5 ch.
70—K to R 2	70—Q × K B P
71—Q to B 2 ch.	71—Q to K 5
72—Q to B 2	72—Q to B 6
73—Q to B 2 ch.	73—B to K 5
74—Q to Q 2	74—Q to B 3

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75—Q to K 3	75—Q × P ch.
76—K to Kt sq.	76—Q to Kt 4 ch.
77—Resigns.	

NOTES BY W. STEINITZ.

(a) First brought to public notice by the late T. H. Janer in a local tournament in Vienna.
(b) R to B sq was superior.
(c) Hardly as good as Kt to B3.
(d) More consistent with the Queen's side attack, which he had in view, was this rook to Q B sq.
(e) Black also loses time,
(f) This move is wasted, as will be seen.
(g) Black sees in time that nothing could be gained by 22, Q to R5; 23, Kt to Q4; 23, B to B3; 24, Kt to B5, winning a very strong pawn.
(h) This advance was probably premature. The two pawns abreast are much stronger than in the present situation.
(i) Kt to K4 was obviously much stronger, and, in fact, there seems to be no satisfactory answer. If then 26, P to B3; 27, P to B5, P x P; 28, B to R5, Kt to B2; 29, Kt (Kt 3) x P with a winning advantage. Or 26, P to B4; 27, Kt (K4) to Q2, followed by P to Q R 4 and B to Kt4.
(j) Again wrong. He should either not advance it at all or only one square.
(k) Time pressure becomes evident from this point up to the forty fifth move. White could have obtained an excellent attack by 35, Bx B, R x B; 36, Kt to K4, and if 36, B to Kt3; 37, P x P; P x P 38, Kt x R, B x Q; 39, Kt x R, B to Kt2; 40, Kt x P, Q x Kt, 41, P to B5, and it will be found by close examination that White wins.
(l) Hazardous in the extreme, 43, Kt to R6, R x R; 44, R x R R x R ch; 45, Q x R, Q x P; 46, Q B8 ch, and thongh Black is a pawn ahead White ought to draw.
(m) This desperate resource was the only one.
(n) White is completely tied up, and this is the only way to give him temporary relief. If 49, P to B3, Q to Kt3 ch; 50, K to Rsq (or R to Q4; 51, R x R ch, followed by R to B5); 51, R x R ch, Q x R; 52, Q to B7; 53, R to Q8 ch, R x R; 54, Q x R ch. K to R2; 55, Q to Q3 ch, P to Kt3, and wins.
(o) The ending is beautifully played by Lasker.

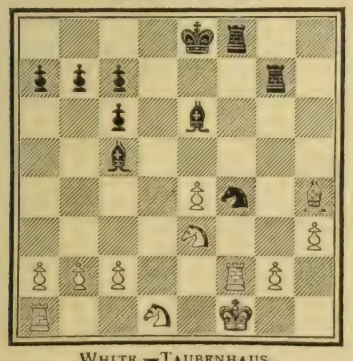
NOTES BY LASKER.

(a) Perhaps not as strong as the usual continuation Kt to K B3. It has the advantage of creating a free game in the centre.
(bb) The bishop cannot well be played to Q3, as it would constantly be harassed on that square by the Black knights.
(cc) Partly to keep the black pieces from queen's fourth, partly a preparation for a queen's side attack. The text move gives White a little pull.
(f) Laying a trap. If White advances P to K R3, 18, B x Kt; 19 P x B, B to B4; 20, P x Kt, Q x Kt; 21, P to Kt 4, Kt to B5; 22, P x B, Kt to R6 ch; 23, K to R sq. Kt x P ch; 24, K to Kt, sq. Kt x Kt P and should win.
(h) This move gets White into difficulties. B to B3 would have been preferable. White's object ought to have been to maintain a pressure on the adversary's King's side, while the Q B P ought to have been pushed first.
(ff) Hardly a move to my liking, inasmuch as it crowds White's pieces too much. Why not B to Q2?
(gg) Here Q R to Q sq. was preferable, because the black rooks threaten to become rather dangerous on that file, and it would have been advantageous for White to exchange at least one of the rooks and to continue his attack with Q to K7.
(hh) An error of judgment; it weakens the K's side and allows Black to exchange his Kt for B, a piece which added much toward solidifying White's game. Now White loses a pawn by force.
(ii) R to Kt6 would probably lead to a draw, namely, 41, Q to R4, P x P; 42, Kt x P, R x KtP (if Q x KtP instead, White continues 43, Kt x R); 43, Kt to Q7, R x R, 44, R x R, Q to Kt2; 45, Kt to B5, and so on.
(ll) Giving up the piece for two pawns would have been the best course to adopt, but for the consequences of White's thirty-eighth move. Any other continuation loses the QKt P by force.
(kk) If 48, R x R; 49, Q x R, R to B8; 50, R to Q8 ch, K to B2; 51, R to Q7 ch, Q x R; 52, Q x R, and matters for Black would have been made more difficult. Although White makes a gallant fight he could not possibly prevent the ultimate loss.

END GAME No. 6.

In the interesting position given below, which occurred in the recent New York tourney, the brilliant W. H. K. Pollock "doubled up" the French Champion, Taubenhaus, in the following artistic fashion.

BLACK.—POLLOCK.



WHITE.—TAUBENHAUS.

WHITE. Taubenhaus.	BLACK. Pollock.
1.....	1—Kt × Kt P
2—R × R ch.	2—K × R
3—Kt × Kt	3—B to B 5 ch.
4—K to K sq.	4—R × Kt
5—P to Q Kt 3	5—B to Kt 5 ch.
6—P to B 3	6—R to K 7 ch.
7—K to B sq.	7—R × R P ch.

Winning the R and the game.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 12th May,—Yokkaichi 11th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 12th May,—Kobe 11th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Angers, British steamer, 2,076, Baunuter, 13th May,—London viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 13th May,—Kobe 12th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Euplectala, British tank-steamer, 2,515, Barry, 13th May,—Batoum viâ ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, J. Wilson, 13th May,—Yokkaichi 12th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,828, T. Golding, 13th May,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., 25th April, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 13th May,—Yokkaichi 12th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 13th May,—Otaru viâ ports 9th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 14th May,—Kobe 13th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 14th May,—Yokkaichi 13th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 14th May,—Yokosuka 14th May, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 14th May,—San Francisco 28th April, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Florence M. Smith, British schooner, 98, Jno. C. Allen, 14th May,—Halifax, N.S., Sealing Gear.—Captain Kelley.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 15th May,—Yokkaichi 14th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Priok, German steamer, 1,635, Madsen, 15th May,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Glenartney, British steamer, 1,943, J. McGregor, 16th May,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Queen Victoria, British ship, 1,587, R. Logie, 16th May,—Kobe 7th May, Ballast.—Southern Pacific Co.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 16th May,—Kobe 15th May, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 16th May,—Yokkaichi 15th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 16th May,—Otaru viâ ports 12th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Radnorshire, British steamer, 1,889, F. Davis, 16th May,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, H. Walter, 16th May,—Hongkong 11th May, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 17th May,—Kobe 15th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 17th May,—Yokkaichi 16th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Sydney, American steamer, 1,940, W. B. Seabury, 16th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, 9th May, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 18th May,—Hyogo 17th May, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, V. Perkes, 18th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, 8th May, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 18th May,—Shanghai and ports, 12th May, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 18th May,—Yokkaichi 17th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oakley, British steamer, 1,740, Mahood, 18th May,—New York viâ ports, General.—Frazar & Co.

DEPARTURES.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 12th May,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 12th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 12th May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 12th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Salatiga, German steamer, 1,639, Christiansen, 12th May,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 13th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 13th May,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,219, J. Wilson, 14th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,527, T. Golding, 14th May,—Hongkong viâ Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 14th May,—Hachinohe viâ Miyako, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 14th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 14th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 15th May,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 15th May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 15th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bonanza, American schooner, 97, Aleck McLean, 16th May,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—H. Ahrens & Co.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, Daniel Friele, 16th May,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 16th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 16th May,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 16th May,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Concord (6), U.S. gunboat, Commander Goodrich, 16th May,—Vladivostock.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, Farquhar, 17th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 1,910, Long, 17th May,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 7th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 18th May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 18th May,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 18th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Sydney, American steamer, 1,940, W. B. Seabury, 19th May,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, H. Walter, 19th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—3 passengers in second class and 34 passengers in steeraga.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Good and Mr. Samson in cabin, and 28 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *Peru*, from San Francisco:—Mr. A. Becker and Miss Susie Pratt in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. and Mrs. Fairhurst, Mrs. Wilson, and Miss Wilson in cabin. For Amoy:—Mr. J. McD. Carrington, U.S. Vice-Consul, in cabin.

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Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—28 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, from Hongkong:—Mr. James Lochead, Captain J. Efford, Mrs. and Miss Efford, and Mr. W. Elkan in cabin; Mr. A. Harmsten, Dr. Yamagura, Dr. K. Hormichi, Mr. H. B. Lewis, Mr. G. Bunschoten, Mrs. Osaksan, Messrs. Young, Teik, Ching Ni Ko, Wong Su King, Ah Ching, and L. Gat Sang in second class; Mrs. Grand and child, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Bernstein, Mr. A. Wichow, and Mr. Carl Volghy in third class, and 51 Chinese on deck.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—Mrs. J. Napier and child, Miss Stoeler, Mr. M. Engert, Mr. A. Ekstrand, and Mr. H. Ogawa in cabin, and 26 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Tacoma*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Major and Mrs. Wynne Eyton, child, and amah, Captain and Mrs. Hunt, Messrs. A. Murray, G. C. Murray, J. M. Underwood, Juce, W. Brent, and S. Komor in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. Kirby, Dr. Coates, Mrs. and Miss Coates, Dr. Alex. Ross, Mr. P. A. Schlumberger, Mr. A. P. Morriss, Mrs. J. H. Robert and 2 children, Mrs. Pilcher and child, Mrs. Poole, Mrs. Strahler, Mr. W. H. Curtis and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Y. Lo and child, Mr. H. Pitnes, and Mr. F. J. Collins in cabin; Mr. Bradley, Mr. Chillow, Mr. Nishi, Mrs. J. Nishi, Mrs. F. Nishi, Mr. and Mrs. Senzaki, and Mr. and Mrs. Fujii in second class, and 58 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, for Bombay viâ ports:—Mr. R. H. Lischensky in cabin, and 18 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. J. P. McEwen, Mr. Geo. Miller, Mrs. E. Cohen, Mr. W. Lloyd, Dr. and Mrs. Wm. Young, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Walker, Mr. R. Peverley, Mr. Geo. M. Ferguson, and Mr. F. C. Greene in cabin.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs Fox, Miss Lacey, Captain Newell, Mrs. Chope, Messrs. A. Woolley, Copmann and native servant, and W. Quai Chit in cabin, and 4 Chinese and child in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Fairhurst, Mrs. Wilson and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. How, Captain Furber, Miss Belle Allen, Dr. Ellen Lyon, Miss Donald, Mr. and Mrs. Easton, Mrs. Schensky, Messrs. A. Porter, C. F. Heinlien, B. R. Perry, J. L. Morgan, Wm. N. Parker, H. Hadden, S. Warning, G. N. Macondray, and F. Paulsen in cabin; Messrs. Okumura, Nagano Toshi, Krager, and Wolff in second class, and 39 passengers in steerage.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Kauffmann, Miss Louis Kauffmann, Mr. and Mrs. Crosby S. Noyes, Miss Mina Noyes, Miss Belle Brian, Messrs. Edwin Fergusson, Edward J. Foree, Alfred Rogers, J. H. Benson, H. G. Quern, G. Henry, E. A. Hornell, Graf Wedel, and Katayama Yoshimoto in cabin; 2 Chinese in second class; 1 European in third class, and 7 Chinese on deck.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 20 bales; Waste Silk, 38 bales.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $85,000.00.

Per American steamer *City of Sydney*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MINNEAPOLIS.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	34	1,005	270	—	—	1,309
Yokohama	333	2,444	2,608	265	—	5,650
Total	367	3,449	2,878	265	—	6,959

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	180	—	180
Hongkong	—	110	—	10
Yokohama	—	214	—	214
Total	—	404	—	404

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, Captain Conner, reports:—Left Shanghai the 12th May at 4 a.m. and arrived at Nagasaki the 13th at 8 p.m.; experienced light easterly winds and dull weather. Left Nagasaki the 14th at 7 p.m.; had light N.E. winds and thick, rainy weather to arrival at Shimonoseki the 15th at 9.50 a.m. Left again the same day at 2 p.m. and were detained several hours in Inland Sea by fog; at 11 p.m. weather cleared and remained fine to arrival at Kobe the 16th at noon. Left Kobe the 17th at midday; had light easterly winds, dull, cloudy, and showery weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 18th.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, May 25th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, May 25th.*
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, May 20th.†
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, May 25th.‡
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, May 22nd.§
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, May 28th.‖
From America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, June 3rd.¶
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, May 31st.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, June 13th.

* *Oceanic* left San Francisco on May 8th. † *Ancona* left Kobe on May 19th. ‡ *Océanien* (with French mail) left Hongkong on May 17th. § *China* left Hongkong on May 15th. ‖ *Empress of China* left Vancouver on May 14th. ¶ *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on May 17th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, May 22nd.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Friday, May 25th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, May 26th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, May 29th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, June 1st.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, June 2nd.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, June 2nd.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, June 9th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, June 15th.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Dull all round. Race holidays and a falling exchange seem to have bereft the market of all life, and we have little to chronicle, beyond a few sales of Double Yarns at about last quotations, with retail sales of Silk Satins and Summer flannel.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 3.00
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.40
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches ..	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.40 to 2.85
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches ...	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 10/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	39.50 to 40.50
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	41.00 to 42.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	42.00 to 43.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	43.00 to 44.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	46.00 to 47.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	45.00 to 46.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	52.00 to 54.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

The situation remains unchanged. Buyers few and far between. Holders decline to make fresh reductions in price, and the present course of exchange is in their favour.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ½ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.75 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.50
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.10 to 6.30
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.70

KEROSENE.

Nothing fresh in this market. Prices are without change, but the lower exchange will probably stop any further fall.

Chester	$1.70	to 1.72½
Comet	1.67½	to 1.70
Devoe	—	
Russian Anchor	1.65	to 1.67½
Russian Moon	1.60	to 1.62½

SUGAR.

Plenty of arrivals and a fair business doing. Quotations practically unchanged, for although Formosa reports a short crop there seems to be no lack of supplies here at present.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.50 to 4.60
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.30
Brown Daitong	3.30 to 3.40
Brown Canton	4.10 to 4.40
White Java and Penang	7.10 to 7.20
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 11th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 435 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 325 piculs; *Re-reels*, 52 piculs; *Kakeda*, 58 piculs. Direct shipments have been 141 bales, making the total business of the week 600 piculs.

There has been rather more doing this week as prices decline; holders continue to offer their stock freely, having still 6,500 piculs of old silk on hand which they would be very glad to quit before the new season opens. The principal business has been done in *Filatures*, and prices for these show a reduction of $30 since the last mail. *Re-reels* and *Kakeda* have also been purchased, but the fall in these is not so great.

Exchange now seems upon a downward path once more in sympathy with a fall in silver at London.

New Crop.—All goes well; the weather is warmer and all talk of frost has disappeared. The mulberry leaf is in excellent condition, apparently finer than for some seasons past. Hatching has become pretty general in the lowland provinces; and the present outlook is for an abundant crop, of good quality, at cheap prices.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The *Empress of India*, 11th instant, took 146 bales for the New York trade, followed by the *City of Peking* with 168 bales, and the English mail steamer *Verona*, 13th instant, had 20 bales for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 42,140 piculs, against 46,618 piculs last year, and 48,345 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Filatures.—A few purchases from day to day, chiefly for the United States trade, although Lyons has taken a small quantity also. Among the most recent sales are *Kaimeisha*, $730; *Hiranosha* and similar quality at $720; *Tokosha*, $710, being a reduction of about $30 per picul since our last Circular. Similar silks at this time last year were done at $980, with a very much higher exchange. For Europe, several parcels of fine size have been bought, one lot of *Inuyama* being done at $690 per picul. On the 19th May last year we chronicled the purchase of similar silk at $1,100 per picul, with an exchange on Lyons of fcs. 3.48 against to-day's exchange quotation of fcs. 2.65. These facts will speak for themselves.

Re-reels.—Not very much done, the only sale of any note being *Tengensha*, *Kosuisha*, and *Five Girl* at $690.

Kakeda.—The stock of these is somewhat reduced and holders are firmer in this class than in *Filatures* or *Re-reels*. The small purchases made are said to be at the same prices as quoted a week ago, namely, $660, for *Horsehead*, although probably this quotation may be shaded a little before weighing.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1¼		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom.	$720 to 730
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den		740 to 750
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers		690 to 700
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.....		710 to 720
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		670 to 680
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		680 to 690
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		650 to 660
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers.....		700 to 710
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers...		680 to 690
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers.....		660 to 670
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		640 to 650
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		620 to 630
Kakedas—Extra		700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 1		680 to 690
Kakedas—No. 1½		650 to 660

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Kakedas—No. 2	630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 2½	610 to 620
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 18th May, 1894.—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	22,954	18,629	17,909
America	17,850	27,195	29,372
Total { Bales	40,804	45,824	47,281
Total { Piculs	42,140	46,618	48,345
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	42,650	46,700	48,200
Stock, 18th May	6,550	1,100	2,600
Available supplies to date	49,200	47,800	50,800

WASTE SILK.

Rather more doing this week, settlements reaching 455 piculs, divided thus:—*Noshi*, 132 piculs; *Kibiso*, 320 piculs; *Sundries*, 3 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

Holders have shown a disposition to be current and have met buyers to some extent with the above result; still, the stock is heavy and we look for further reductions in the near future.

There has only been one shipping opportunity, the English mail steamer *Verona*, 13th instant, taking 38 bales for Europe, and the present export figures are 26,672 piculs, against 40,922 piculs last year, and 30,663 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Cocoons.—Nothing done and the season is closed; the present stock, being inferior, will probably be absorded by the native spinners.

Noshi.—Not a large business but fair purchases of *Joshu* have been made at prices ranging from $64 to $70.

Kibiso.—The principal business has been in this class, *Filatures*, $90 to $100; *Zagouri*, $45 to $65; ordinary *Joshu*, $28½.

Sundries.—Nothing done beyond a sample of *Neri*.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$135 to 140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	125 to 130
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	115 to 120
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	125 to 135
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	70 to 75
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	60 to 65
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	100 to 110
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	90 to 95
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	70 to 75
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	40 to 35
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	35 to 30
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	150 to 160

Export Table Waste Silk to 18th May, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	23,441	38,230	28,564
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	26,672	40,922	30,663
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	28,300	45,950	34,500
Stock, 18th May	15,200	2,300	4,700
Available supplies to date	43,500	48,250	39,200

Exchange has dropped again, in sympathy with silver at home. Present quotations are:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1½; Documents, 2/1⅝; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1⅝. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $51¼; 4m/s. U.S. $52. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.65.

Estimated Silk Stock, 18th May, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	—	Cocoons	140
Filatures	3,400	Noshi-ito	7,925
Re-reels	2,750	Kibiso	6,705
Kakeda	460	Mawata	120
Oshu	—	Sundries	310
Tavsaam Kinds	—		
Total piculs	6,550	Total piculs	15,200

TEA.

Business increases and there are heavy settlements. Prices declined a dollar or so as supplies became more plentiful. The outgoing steamers should have plenty of cargo, as all the firing godowns are fully occupied.

QUOTATIONS (NEW LEAF).

	Per Picul.
Choicest	$38 to 40
Choice	35 to 36
Finest	33 to 34
Fine	30 to 31
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has fallen once more, and there is no stability in rates.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅜
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/0⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1¼
On Paris—Bank sight	2.59
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	2.66
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72⅜
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73½
On India—Bank sight	196
On India—Private 30 days' sight	199
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50¼
On America—Private 30 days' sight	51⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	52¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.09
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.16
Bar Silver (London)	28 3/16

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 26TH, 1894.

MARRIAGE.

On May 9th, at St. Joseph's Church, Hongkong, by the Very Reverend Father Vigano, EDWARD MCCABE, to ROSE FAGAN, both of New Brighton, Liverpool.

DEATHS.

At No. 59, Bluff, at 2.30 a.m., M. J. B. NOORDHOEK HEGT, aged 72.

At the British Naval Hospital, on the 21st instant, THOMAS BREWER.

At Kobe, on the 25th inst., CH. DEBBE, of Bremen, aged 28 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE rumour that Black Death has broken out in Japan is unfounded.

MR. HAYASHI, Master of Services to H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager, died on the 22nd inst.

THE Bluff team beat the Settlement in the first cricket match of the season by seven runs.

THE Tokyo Tramway Co. expect to pay a dividend of 18 per cent. for the present year.

THE London Lyric Company concluded its engagement at the Public Hall on Monday. It is now playing in Kobe.

THE King's Daughters of the Yokohama Circle gave a most enjoyable garden-party on Wednesday, with the object of completing the gathering of $1,000 wherewith to endow a woman's bed in the Foreign Hospital.

A TRAIN from Aomori was derailed near Morioka station on the 18th inst. No injuries were sustained by the passengers.

ONE thousand five hundred Japanese emigrants will leave Yokohama on the 15th of June next in the *Miike Maru* for Hawaii.

AN insurrection has broken out in the southern provinces of the Korean Peninsula. Troops have been dispatched to quell the tumult.

THURSDAY was the Queen's Birthday, but owing to its being mail day, the celebration was put off till Friday, when a general holiday was held.

H.B.M. MINISTER to Japan has been very ill suffering from gastric trouble. His condition showed improvement towards the end of the week.

IN a private match on Thursday, T.T. beat Zephyr over three-quarters of a mile; on Friday the same speedy animal signally defeated Un Russe.

MR. SUGITA TEIICHI, M.P., who has been under arrest for some time, has been sentenced to six months' major confinement for the assault upon his brother.

Two old residents of Yokohama passed away on Monday in the persons of Mr. Hegt and Mr. T. Brewer. Their funerals were largely attended.

MESSRS. KIJIMA KOZO and Matsushita Junnosuke, Attachés in the Foreign Department, have been promoted student-secretaries in the Japanese Consulate at Jinsen, Korea.

A GIGANTIC bank robbery was perpetrated in Yokohama at the end of last week, the means employed being a forged telegram sent in the private code of a Japanese bank.

RUMOUR says that Count Yamagata, President of the Privy Council, intends to resign, and some influential officials are endeavouring to induce Count Oki to take the office.

MESSRS. YU, Korean *Chargé d'Affairs* and Kim Lak-Shun, a Secretary in the Korean Legation, have been placed on the Retired List. Their dismissal arises from the recent Korean murder case.

FOUR Japanese women were discovered packed in travelling trunks on board the out-going mail steamer *Tacoma* last Saturday. The girls, when rescued, were in a shocking condition. Their procurers are under arrest.

THE *Yomiuri Shimbun*, *Kokumin Shimbun*, and *Hochi Shimbun* were released from suspension on the 21st inst., while the *Shin Choya* and *Mainichi Shimbun* were suspended on the 19th and 20th respectively.

THE funeral of the late Mr. Kazuki, ex-M.P., took place in the capital on the 22nd inst. The ceremony was attended by over three hundred persons, including Viscount Shinagawa, Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu, and other distinguished Unionists.

A BIG fight is being made in the British House of Commons over the Budget. The measure only obtained its second reading by a majority of 12, the dissentient ministerialists yielding at the last moment to the pressure of the whips. *The Times* observes that it is evident the Budget will constitute the chief business of the session, and that its discussion in Committee will be prolonged and bitter. Mr. Mundella, President of the Board of Trade, has resigned in order to prevent the appearance of a conflict between his public and private interests. The Queen has opened the Manchester Canal. The London Cabmen have struck against the cab-masters for a reduction in the rates of hiring, and the cab-stands both in the streets and at railway stations are entirely denuded of vehicles. A monster procession of cabmen was held in Hyde Park and much rioting took place *en route*, in which vehicles of non-striking cabmen were overturned. The cab-masters have resolved to maintain their stand against what they term the unjust demands of the drivers, but a few have yielded. Hundreds of persons, members of a so-called Society for Political Liberty, have been arrested in the principal cities of Russia. The marriage of the Czarewich with the Princess Alix has been fixed for the 10th of November. Speaking in the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Signor Crispi stated that though to all appearance the policy of the Powers was pacific, it was impossible to reduce the armaments of the country, and an attitude of defiance was the best guarantee for the security of the national independence. The German Squadron, including the ship under the command of Prince Henry, has anchored in the Firth of Forth, and Edinburgh has been the scene of great fêtes in consequence. The Belgian Expedition under Baert, while marching towards Lado, was attacked and defeated by Dervishes, and had to beat a retreat to await the arrival of reinforcements. Brazil has broken off relations with Portugal in consequence of the harbouring of Da Gama and other insurgents on board Portuguese warships at Rio de Janeiro. A match has been arranged between the yachts *Vigilant* and *Valkyrie*, the best of three races, to be sailed in British waters. Edmund Yates, the pioneer of "Society" journalism in England, is dead. A commercial treaty between Russia and Austria has been concluded. King Alexander has suspended the Servian Constitution owing to the invalidating of an Ukase annulling the banishment of his parents.

THERE is not much improvement to be noted in the Import trade. A little more business has been moving in Yarns, but at very low prices. The heavy descriptions of Shirtings are unsaleable, and only a small business has been done in light at late rates. Other Piece-goods are more or less neglected, a few sales of Turkey Reds being the principal item reported. The Metal trade is extremely dull, though there are offers in the market of very low figures which holders steadily decline to accept. There is but little business in the Kerosene trade, and no change in prices generally, though a few small sales of American have been made during the week, said to be a fraction under present quotations. Russian Oil is steady, but without transactions. There is not much doing in Sugar, in Yokohama, though white sorts have gone off well at the Tokyo auctions. Arrivals continue large, and there is a fair amount "floating," consequently, with no great demand, quotations are barely maintained. The Silk trade continues in a weak and unsatisfactory condition, at irregular prices, with only a small demand from the States and none at all from Europe. Crop prospects continue good. Hardly anything has been done in Waste, and the immense stock has suffered no reduction, though lower prices are now asked which a month ago would have cleared away six or seven thousand piculs, but this attitude of holders has been assumed too late. The Tea trade has been rushed, exports to date, including ships loading here at present, amount to well into three million pounds, consequently the higher grades are falling off and prices are receding as quality gets scarcer. Exchange jumped suddenly early in the week, but has since declined, though not quite back to last week's rates.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The Diet and its proceedings now engrosses public attention. As already stated more than once, there seems to be good reason to hope that the present session will end without any serious crisis in the political situation. Keenly feeling their defeat over the Address to the Throne declaring want of confidence in the Cabinet, the allied Opposition parties endeavoured to attain their object by adroitly turning the Radical Resolution, condemning the dissolution of the late House of Representatives, into a vote of want of confidence. The Radicals stoutly opposed any essential change in the sense of the Resolution, and the allied factions only succeeded in introducing a curious amendment declaring want of confidence not in the Cabinet, but in a certain past act of the Cabinet. In such a form the Resolution was justly treated with indifference by the Cabinet. The Radical Address to the Throne is still in the hands of the Committee. The Opposition members are trying to turn it into a vote of want of confidence, but all proposals tending in that direction are rejected by the Radicals, and at present there seems to be little chance of reconciling the views of the rival sections in the Committee. We give below a *résumé* of the comments of the vernacular press on each of the above subjects.

* * *

As to the defeat of the allied factions over their Address to the Throne, the Opposition papers show great chagrin, and console themselves by abusing the Independent members who voted against the measure. Against them are launched all the ugly names that personal malice and political disappointment can suggest. The Radicals also are assailed. Their opposition to the Address on the ground that it embodied the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement is adduced as a proof of secret combination with the Government. The *Nippon* is particularly painstaking in enumerating causes of the Opposition's defeat. Seven are mentioned: first, that the Railway Bills, in the passage of which all the members of the Lower House are keenly interested, were employed to avert an early collision between the House and the Cabinet. Secondly, that the question of the re-assessment of the taxable value of land was used in a similar manner. Thirdly, that the threat of dissolution powerfully operated against the passage of the Address. Fourthly, that the suspension of several influential papers must have had some influence on the issue of the contest. Fifthly, that some members were secretly warned that, if they voted for the Address, a keen scrutiny would be instituted into their actions at the time of the last general election. Sixthly, that tempting offers of money and public posts converted some members into opponents of the Address. Seventhly and lastly, that the so-called *Shin-chô* (gentlemen merchants) used their interest with the Independents in favour of the Cabinet. The *Nippon* makes the above enumeration in a vague and indefinite manner. The allied parties, on the other hand, could not, it says, employ any such means of gaining votes, and in consideration of the unequal circumstances under which the contest took place, a minority of only five really proved the effective strength of the Opposition. Such is the *Nippon's* view.

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The *Mainichi Shimbun* acknowledges the defeat of the Opposition, but can not believe that the Cabinet has escaped without serious injury. The Address was thrown out by a bare majority of five, but "the powerful speeches" which the supporters of the measure made against the Cabinet demonstrated beyond all doubt how thoroughly the stouter portion of the nation is opposed to those in power. The Progressionist organ recalls to mind what took place in the third session of the Diet; that is to say, in the session, following the general election of 1892. In that session the Opposition's Address to the Throne on the subject of interference in elections was rejected by a majority of three but the public sympathy excited by the Address eventually led to the resignation of the Cabinet. Our contemporary ventures to believe that events will tend in the same direction on the present occasion. What astonished the *Mainichi* most in the proceedings of the House of Representatives on the 17th instant was that no Minister of State attended to speak against the Address. Our contemporary expresses surprise that the task of defending the Cabinet against the attacks of the Opposition was undertaken by members of the Radical Party. "While lamenting the rejection of the Address by a small majority, we are glad to state that the discussion of the subject brought about at least one usful result, namely, the exposure of the true character of the Radical Party."

* * *

The Opposition papers carefully avoid all allusion to the most important aspect of the question, namely the subject of Strict Treaty Enforcement. That subject formed the principal point in the Address, and the latter's rejection gave the *coup de grace* to the movement for Strict Enforcement. Of course the movement lost its original verve long ago. The Address itself contained a declaration that its introducers were in favour of the progressive policy of opening the country. This phase of the affair receives due attention from papers like the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the *Jiji Shimpo*, and the *Jiyu Shimbun*. The last congratulates the country upon the disappearance of injurious agitation for Strict Enforcement. The movement was supported by various parties from different motives; by the Conservatives, as a very useful measure for the revival of the *Yamato-damashii*; by the Progressionists, as a ladder for stepping into office; by the National Unionists, as a weapon of attack upon the Civil section of the clan statesmen; and by the Constitutional Reform Party as a means of embarrassing clan statesmen in general. The common bond of union between the heterogenous sections of the allies having been severed, the *Jiyu* believes that their alliance will soon be dissolved.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that neither the insinuating eloquence of the introducers of the Address, nor the unrestrained use of *soshi*, nor the partiality of the President of the House, nor the zealous assistance of a section of the members of the Upper House, nor the enthusiastic watch kept over the actions of the Independent Members, was sufficient to secure the passage of the Address. Under such circumstances, the verdict which the House of Representatives pronounced must be taken as a faithful reflection of the sentiments entertained by the majority of the nation.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* writes in a similar strain, but adds a curious statement, to the effect that the *Meiji* Government, being originally responsible for the rise of the recent reactionary movement, ought to confess its faults to the people and make public announcement that it no longer favours such conservative ideas as it encouraged in 1881-1882. We (*Japan Mail*) fail to perceive the practical importance of this advice seeing that the Government has been consistently pursuing the same progressive policy of opening the country ever since the Restoration. This is a subject on which we had a controversy with the *Jiyu* some time ago, and we have no desire to renew the fight.

* * *

The Resolution condemning the dissolution of the late House of Representatives, is held up by the Opposion papers as a vote of want of confidence in the Cabinet. They do not take the trouble to explain how a simple condemnation of a past act of the Cabinet can be called a vote of want of confidence. No doubt the expression "want of confidence" was inserted in the Resolution, but it meant, if it had any sense at all, that the House could not approve the act specified. The Opposition papers, or rather those belonging to the Progressionist Party, contend that the Resolution was really a vote of want of confidence, and censure of the Cabinet's indifference about it. Such conduct, they say, furnishes another reason for want of confidence. On the other hand, the House of Representatives is reminded of its responsibility to demand the resignation of the Cabinets. Unless it takes such a measure, it will be open to the charge of betraying the trust of the people.

* * *

The papers belonging to the other sections of the Opposition refrain from using such bold language. They evidently perceive the absurdity of the contention advanced by the Progressionist organs.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* spares no pains to expose the fallacies of the Progressionist journals' arguments. It ridicules the inconsistency of the allied factions. In their zeal to attack the Cabinet they gave their adhesion to the Radical Resolution, which condemned the Government's conduct in dissolving the House of Representatives before the latter had an opportunity to record its vote upon the subject of Strict Treaty Enforcement. Why was such conduct blameworthy? The Government would have exposed itself to serious criticism had it not been plainly evident that the Representation on Strict Treaty Enforcement was supported by an absolute majority in the House. The allied parties constituted a large majority, and if they had any confidence in their own strength, they ought to admit that the Representation had the support of the majority. The result of the debate on the subject being thus a foregone conclusion, there was no impropriety on the Cabinet's part in advising the Emperor to dissolve the House without formally taking its sense. The Radicals have some show of reason to complain against the Cabinet's conduct, for being opposed to the Representation, they perhaps entertained some hope of making converts to their own views, though such an undertaking was practically impossible. But the allied parties have no reason whatever to object to the step taken by the Government. To do so is to confess want of confidence in their own strength.

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The Radical Party is the subject of several virulent articles in the columns of the organs of the Six Sections. It is not necessary to reproduce any of these writings. Their only object is to injure the reputation of the Party by representing it as an instrument of Clan Government.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

FRIENDLY MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TWO HOUSES.

THIRTY-EIGHT members of the Upper and one hundred and three members of the Lower House held a friendly gathering at the Maple Leaf Club, in Shiba, on the 17th instant, after the exciting parliamentary scenes of the day were over. Mr. Suzuki Shigeto, Constitutional Progressionist (*Rikken Kaishin-to*), regretted that the policy hitherto observed by the Government had been at variance with the character of firmness necessary to the existence of the State. The Premier's speech on that day had clearly demonstrated the fact that the views shared by Mr. Suzuki's colleagues and himself were wholly inconsistent with those of the Government, and the fact was calculated to urge them to pursue their policy with all the greater energy. It was in accordance with that view that this friendly meeting of congenial spirits had been convened. Prince Konoye next addressed the assembly. The House of Lords, he remarked, had hitherto been held up to ridicule as a House of Idlers, but the time had now come to cease from sloth and ease. In the name of those sharing his opinions in the Upper House he promised that they should act in concert with the members of the House of Representatives in all that concerned the welfare of the country. Viscount Tani thereupon stated that the pursuance of a strict policy in all relations with foreign countries was what he had insisted upon when resigning from the Ministry,

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and that his convictions had grown only stronger since then. This policy should now be urged with greater vigour than ever. In case of another dissolution of the Diet, then the members of the House of Lords who held similar opinions to those of the dispersing Representatives, should make it their duty to do everything to compass the re-election of their fellow-thinkers. He had himself no funds to spare, but he would not, for such a cause, hesitate to sacrifice his private means.

"SOSHI" AND A MEMBER OF THE DIET.

A *soshi* caused some excitement in Tokyo on the afternoon of the 21st instant, though his procedure was of a more dramatic than dangerous character. It was not a political affair, but a vulgar question of money. Mr. Ota Magojiyemon, a member of the House of Representatives, went security some time ago for a loan of 300 *yen*. The debt is said to have been duly discharged, but some trouble must have subsequently arisen in connection with it, for as Mr. Ota was on his way to the House on the 21st instant, he was attacked by a *soshi*. The youth was evidently a species of wag, for he had provided himself with two glass balls containing red ink. These he threw, one after the other, at Mr. Ota's *jinrikisha*, and the second, striking the vehicle, produced much splashing and sputtering of a sanguinary-looking nature. Mr. Ota himself had an escort of three *soshi* and they quickly seized the "ink-slinger" and handed him over to the police. It was altogether a paltry affair, but the red ink produced the contemplated effect, and quite a crowd collected subsequently on the Aibiya parade-ground, inspecting the stains and inventing terrible explanations of them.

INCREASED INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN JAPAN.

ONE of the best signs of the increased industrial activity in the interior is found, according to the *Jiji Shimpo*, in the fact that all the large factories in Tokyo have an unusual number of orders on hand. The Telegraph and Engineering Works at Shibaura furnish an apt example. Orders for boilers and electric lighting plant are coming in thick and fast. The boilers required range, as a rule, from fifty to one hundred h.p., while the electric machinery is generally for the purpose of generating electricity by water-power. The ingenuity of the Japanese, complacently remarks our contemporary, is frequently manifested in the orders given. A certain person in Tsushima, for instance, requested an electric light of two-candle power, with a long wire attachment. The light itself was not to be encased in a glass vacuum but in the thoroughly dried skin of a Tetrodon, or *fugu*-fish, the skin to be modelled after the shape of another fish of which the octopus is very fond. The idea of the deviser was that cuttle-fish would speedily be attracted by the luminous dainty, and upon putting the light into operation, it proved eminently successful, as indeed it deserved to be. Another indubitably favourable indication of the awakening of industrial enterprise, is that orders are coming abundantly from Osaka. But labour is cheaper in that city than in Tokyo, as the *Jiji Shimpo* points out, so that the only reason why contracts are made in the metropolis, is because the southern city is no longer able to meet all demands. Trade must be brisk there, indeed.

THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE HOKKAIDO TANKO RAILWAY COMPANY.

THE ninth general meeting of the shareholders of the Tanko Railway Company was held at the Tsukiji-Kan, Tsukiji, on the 15th instant, Mr. Nishimura Sutezo, President of the Company, being in the chair. More than ninety shareholders were present, including Mr. Ida, a Treasurer of the Imperial Household. After a brief speech by the President, in which the present and future prospects of the Company were touched upon, the report for the half-year ending March 30th was read and adopted. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, M.P., took a seat as one of the managers and answered all questions put by the shareholders present as to the business of the Company. He set forth the reasons for the special allowance and bonus made to the Company's officers, and stated the amount of loss incurred by the recent explosion of gas. He also showed why certain bills had been introduced for the approval of the shareholders. There were three of these, relating to the purchase of a steamer of 3,700 tons; the raising of a loan of 1,800,000 *yen*; and certain matters connected with the salaries of the officers. Eight hundred thousand *yen* of the loan he proposed raising during the current fiscal year at an annual interest of not more than six per cent. The salaries of the Company's officers should be reduced by one-half, in conformity with the policy which had led to the radical retrenchments of last year. The President's salary was thus to be reduced to 250 *yen* per mensem, but by special desire of the majority of the shareholders present this sum was increased to 300 *yen*. The purchase of the steamer and the raising of the loan were approved of. The accounts for the half-year were as follows:—

Net Profit	282,077.70
Brought forward from last account	47,653.40
	329,731.10
Appropriation for the construction of new lines of railway	33,858.94
Placed to Reserve Fund	8,199.00
Special Allowances and Bonus	16,398.00
Dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum	260,000.00
Balance, carried forward to next Account	11,275.17
	329,731.10

NO INSULT INTENDED.

Two youthful *geisha* of Osaka recently met with a very hard fate. They were mere children in years and full of fun and frolic, and so, when called to ply their vocation a few evenings ago, they noticed that on crossing the Aiai Bridge their wooden clogs made a pleasant, noisy clatter on the resonant boards, and both on coming and returning to their homes stopped to romp and stamp, taking childish delight in the noise they made. This was, innocent though the pastime, their undoing; for on both occasions a boat filled with constables belonging to the river patrol was passing under the bridge, and the police naturally believed themselves insulted by the thoughtless maidens, especially as their jumping and romping had caused several sizable flakes of dust and mud to fall on the official uniform. Moreover, their girlish laughter had, or was supposed to have, a scornful ring in it. This was enough and more than enough. Two or three enraged constables soon clambered up the wooden trestles and arrested the protesting hoydens. They were taken to the station and charged with a mild form of *lèze-majisté*, to which they could only reply that no insult had been intended, the whole affair being due to mere chance, and their total ignorance of the passage of the patrol-boat. They were remanded and the case is shortly to be tried. But it had really better be quashed.

ANOTHER CONVERT.

HON. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS of Boston, former President of the Union Pacific Railway, has been converted recently to bimetallism. Mr. Adams says that when the silver discussion broke out a year or so ago he was "a gold monometallist." He regarded the talk of there not being gold enough to go around as "pure nonsense." But he has "since seen occasion to revise this conclusion." "The financial troubles of last summer, due entirely to the withdrawal of a small amount of gold from this country, has satisfied me that a gold monometallic basis is altogether dangerous." It might do, he says, in times of peace and quiet; but let any disturbance come, let any nation, in view of impending international trouble, deem it necessary to strengthen itself by drawing a hundred millions of gold into its coffers, and "the entire exchanges of the whole world would be disturbed." "The trouble is, of course," he proceeds, "that the withdrawal of any considerable quantity of that metal not only produces the natural amount of disturbance, but it produces first acquaintance with the interior of a gaol probably twenty times that amount, owing to the superstructure of credit which necessarily, in modern communities, exists on a basis of precious metal."

CARD PLAYING.

The Times has this about a recently published book:—

Sharps and Flats is the suggestive title of a book by Mr. John Nevil Maskelyne, of the Egyptian-hall, intended as "a complete revelation of the secrets of cheating at games of chance and skill" (Longmans) It will be read with much curiosity. People talk glibly enough of sleight of hand, marked and manipulated cards, loaded dice, and the like but few indeed realize the exact nature and nicety of the tricks employed by the professional sharper. How many English card-players, we wonder, could define a "reflector" or a "hold-out"? Or how many could give any account of the commonest "aids" employed by the professional player of "faro," roulette, and "highball poker"? To such mysteries there could be no better guide than Mr. Maskelyne, who has always been an indefatigable detective of cheating and imposture It is satisfactory to hear that English gamblers are ever so far behind American in the science of cheating; the most convincing proof of which is to be found in the impudent trade lists of "advantage goods"—a euphemism for marked cards and other tools of the sharper—which are sent out by the American "sporting houses," and reproduced by Mr. Maskelyne. Here is a specimen of such an advertisement:—

TO SMART POKER PLAYERS.

I have invented a process by which a man is sure of winning if he can introduce his own cards. The cards are not trimmed or marked in any way, shape, or manner. They can be handled and shuffled by all at the board, and, without looking at a card, you can, by making two or three shuffles or ripping them in, oblige the dealer to give three of a kind to any one playing, or the same advantage can be take on your own deal. This is a big thing for any game. In euchre you can hold the joker every time, or the cards most wanted in any game. The process is very hard to detect, as the cards look perfectly natural, and it is something card players are not looking for. Other dealers have been selling sanded cards, or cheap cards with spermaceti rubbed on, and calling them professional playing or magnetic cards. I don't want you to class my cards with that kind of trash. I use a liquid preparation put on with rollers on all cards made; this dries on the cards and does not show, and will last as long as the cards do. The object is to make certain cards, not prepared, slip off easier than others in shuffling. You can part or break the deck to an ace or king, and easily "put up threes," no matter where they lay in the deck. This fine advantage works fine single-handed, or when the left-hand man shuffles and offers the cards to be cut. These cards are ten times better than readers or strippers, and they get the money faster. Price $2 per pack by mail, $2c per dozen backs. If you order a dozen, I will furnish cards like you use.

Mr. Maskelyne withholds the name and address of this enterprising firm and others in the same line "for obvious reasons." These reasons are, we suppose, that the evil-disposed might use the information for illicit purposes. Even as it is, we have some doubts whether Mr. Maskelyne's book is not likely to be conned more attentively by the "sharp" than by the "flat."

WHY NOT!

AN interesting, though demoralizing, tale comes to the *St. James's Gazette* from a sporting centre in the Midlands. A party of hunting men (unemployed) were amusing themselves with "drawing" a young lady who professed to have the clairvoyant gift. Can you dream a race? she was asked. "Of course I could," she replied. "Well then," they went on, "could you spot the winner of the Grand National?" "Why not," she replied. *Why not!* They jumped at the omen; out they went to the telegraph office and put their money on that excellent animal! Only one of them, a superior person who does not believe in dreams and nonsense, refused to take the heaven-sent hint, and he has not since been fit to speak to. Obviously this is not a story that should be told to any member of the Society for the Suppression of Gambling. We present it to the Psychical Researchers.

TERRIBLE INCIDENT IN NEW IRELAND.

THE *Minatogawa Maru*, which arrived at Yokohama on the 21st from the South Pacific, brings very lamentable intelligence. It reports that in the beginning of March last a German trader, named Charley (?), and his Japanese employé, Arinaga Jinzo (25), a native of Ehime Prefecture, and two islanders, also employés of the foreigner, who engaged is transacting business on the shore of a South Pacific island named New Ireland, were killed by the natives and then their bodies were rifled and their goods divided among the spoilers.

PROGRESSIVE CIVILISATION.

THE *Yorozu Chōhō* quaintly observes that progress in civilisation also means greater cunning and more novel schemes on the part of thieves and robbers, at least in this part of the world. As an instance illustrative of this fact, our contemporary cites the case of one Takahashi Mitsu, a thievish young person now about to make her

owing to her predilection for taking the clothes off other people's backs. She was arrested last month while denuding a poor little fellow of some three years whom she had enticed to a lonely part of Asakusa Park. This, it appears, has been her custom for some time, So far as we can recollect, this is what Fagin called the "Kinchin lay," warmly recommending it to Mr. Noah Bolter as a safe and pleasant method of obtaining wealth. But it does not necessarily follow that this pursuit is a necessary adjunct or consequence of Western civilisation.

THE YONEZAWA AFFAIR.

ONE of the most villanious and unpardonable libels ever penned against a foreigner appears in the columns of the *Nippon*, a journal that has long ceased to command the smallest credit among respectable folks, though our denunciation of its untrustworthiness three years ago evoked indignant denial in certain quarters. Our readers are aware of the admirable demeanour recently shown by Miss L. Imhof under very painful circumstances; of her thoroughly charitable and large-hearted references to the outrage by which the sight of one her eyes was impaired, if not destroyed, and of the public testimony borne in her name to the expressions of kindly sympathy addressed to her by Japanese in Yonezawa. Nothing could have been more forbearing or more consistent with the dictates of true charity than her conduct. Here, then, is what the *Nippon* has to say about the affair:—

We recently reported the incident in Yonezawa, Yamagata Prefecture, when a stone was thrown at an American missionary, Miss Imhof, and one of her eyes was injured. The affair had its origin in an utterance of Miss Imhof's that day. She declared that all Japanese outside the pale of Christianity were not human beings. Since that time the local police have been busily searching for the culprit, but we now learn that the lady has expressed regret for her own intemperate language and has withdrawn her complaint, so that the affair is settled.

We can conceive no more miserable or contemptible *rôle* than that played by the *Nippon*, with its perpetual ventilation of lies and slanders. Nothing was wanting to fill the measure of its infamy except this attack upon an unoffending lady, who, so far from uttering a word against the Japanese, has shown herself too kindly to suspect them of ill-will even when she had suffered acute pain and permanent injury at their hands.

LAUNCH OF A JAPANESE CRUISER.

THE cruiser *Tatsuta Kan*, built for the Japanese Government by Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell and Co., has been launched at Elswick, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The launch was attended by Viscount Aoki and other representatives of Japan in England, and the vessel was christened by Mme. Takayama. The *Tatsuta* is 240ft. long and 27½ft. in beam, with displacement 875 tons, and indicated horse-power 5,500, giving her a speed of 21 knots. She has two 4·7in. quick-firing guns, four 3-pounder quick-firing guns, and five torpedo tubes. The torpedo-tubes are a feature in the vessel, and are said to be far superior to those on any of Her Majesty's ships. Viscount Aoki said he trusted that the increase in the strength of the Navy would assist in the preservation of peace which his Government had so much at heart.

THE STRANDED SHIP "DRUMELTAN."

THE survey party which left here, says the *Nagasaki Express*, for the stranded British ship *Drumeltan*, in the *Dai Ni Kairio Maru*, on Saturday the 5th inst., returned on Thursday last, having left the chief officer, boatswain, and carpenter on the island, in charge of the ship, until the receipt of further instructions. The stranded vessel, although apparently none the worse for her mishap, was found still further imbedded in sand, the starboard side being buried to the extent of 14ft., and the port side 9ft. The sand-bank through which a channel will have to be cut and kept clear, in order to float her, extends about a quarter of a mile. The expense and risk attached to the work of floating her will, we believe, result in her being abandoned and sold by public auction, due notice of which will be given.

THE TREATY!

The British Government having assented to the revised Treaty, Mr. Fraser has brought it with him to Japan.
Evening Paper (from the *Shin Choya*.)

1. The Queen admits her subjects have too long enjoyed immunity
   From paying, just like Japanese, the taxes of the State;
   They shall pay them for the future and make good to the community
   The amount of all arrears accrued since eighteen sixty-eight.
2. Since the subjects of Her Majesty are often most unruly,
   And wanting in politeness to the common sort of men,
   All who fail to say "*anata*" when they're speaking to a coolie
   Shall be punished by imprisonment and fines of fifty *yen*.
3. Inasmuch as British subjects cause excessive irritation,
   By doing things which Japanese themselves do quite as well,
   They shall cease to deal in curios (except for exportation)
   Or concern themselves in banking, or in running an hotel.
4. The use of guns and rifles being terribly exciting,
   And likely any day to lead to acts of lawless force,
   British subjects shall not carry them, except with leave (in writing)
   Signed by two Imperial Councillors and the Master of the Horse.
5. With a view to uniformity these presents have provided
   For every British male adult a dress both cheap and chaste;
   A flannel shirt, a Kimono, stout boots (elastic-sided)
   No trowsers—but the woollen pants approved by native taste.
6. British subjects are forbidden from their settlements to stray away,
   And the police shall have authority to force them to return all.
   Exception: certain persons, if they go, are bound to stay away
   Namely printers, owners, editors of any evening journal.
7. The British Court shall still remain with little alteration
   Except a trifling matter which the Queen would never grudge;
   The whole expense shall fall as now upon the British nation
   But Mr. Oi Kentaro shall supersede the judge.
8. The Privy Council shall receive an order most imperative
   To decide (with due reluctance) the "Ravenna" is to blame;
   And Mrs. Tsune Kijima and every other relative
   Shall receive as compensation twice as much as they may claim.
9. The Queen has no objection to revision of the tariff,
   If His Majesty's advisers wish to take the task in hand;
   And the old perpetual leases shall not constitute a bar, if
   They consider it desirable to re-acquire the land.
10. In the hope of knitting closer all the bonds of peace and amity,
    His Majesty the Emperor most willingly agrees
    To impose (unless compelled to by a national calamity)
    No duty upon prayer-books, or sealing-wax, or cheese.

DEATH OF TWO OLD RESIDENTS.

Two deaths in one day, both old residents of Japan. The first, Mr. Hegt, passed quietly away on Monday morning after a very short illness, having taken his customary daily drive only a few days ago. Mr. Hegt was for many years master of a ship before settling down in Japan in the sixties, and was well-known in Java, the Straits, and other parts of the East. He was 72 years of age. The other old resident, who died on Tuesday, was Mr. T. Brewer. The deceased had resided for some years in Shanghai before coming to Yokohama, and both there and here had a host of friends who will sincerely mourn his loss. Cheery, and ever active to promote any form of aquatic sport, his end may be said in a manner to have been hastened by his devotion to duty. When just recovering from a severe attack of influenza, Mr. Brewer left his sick-room to act in the capacity of starter at the Spring Regatta of the Yokohama Rowing Club. He was much too unwell for any such work, and after a few races had been pulled off was induced to leave the launch and go ashore. But he declined to leave the Boat Club until the races had finished. A relapse followed, and eventually dropsy set in with other complications, and the sufferer slowly sank to rest. He will be greatly missed by the boating and sailing communities of the Settlement.

METALS.

MESSRS. S. W. ROYSE & Co. in their report, dated March 31st, say:—This has been an uneventful month in the Pig Iron trade. There has not been the improved demand that was expected; in fact, only a moderate amount of business has been passing, and the fluctuations in values have been unimportant, present prices of both Scotch and Middlesbrough Iron being just a little above those current at the beginning of the month. Now that the holidays are over, fresh business is being looked for, and is wanted in both the Pig Iron and the Manufactured Iron branches. Copper has fluctuated a little, and closes at about the same price as at the beginning of the month, with an easing tendency. Tin has gained considerably during the month, but is now easing again. Spelter is practically unchanged, and is steady. Lead has given way slightly, and is at present easy.

NEWCHWANG.

MESSRS. BANDINEL in their circular dated May 7th, say:—Prices of produce are fairly maintained and supplies are not much in excess of the requirements of the shippers and beancake manufacturers. We quote:—Beans, 3 piculs, Taels 3½; Bean Oil per picul Taels 3.85; Beancakes per 10 pieces, Taels 4.45. Our freight market is very quiet, as shippers have chartered all the tonnage they want at present. Arrivals to date are 92 steamers and 10 sailers, against 60 steamers and 4 sailers last year. Vessels in port, *Taku*, *Tai-yak*, *Yik-sang*, *Yung-ching*, *Nanaimo*, *Satsuma*, *Sea Swallow*, *Athene*, *Contest*, *Claro Babuyan*. The *Deuteros* sailed on the 26th April with the first direct shipment of beancakes for Java.

ROBBERY AT THE VILLA OF MR. SHIBUSAWA EIICHI.

AT about 9 o'clock in the evening of the 15th instant a thief entered the villa of Mr. Shibusawa at Nishigahara, a suburb of Tokyo. He crossed the fence, and effected an entry into the sitting room of Mrs. Shibusawa, taking from a cabinet jewels and money aggregating about 1,000 *yen* in value. Fortunately, as he was leaping over the same fence on his way out, a gardener detected him and raised the alarm. A constable on watch at the gate of the house pursued the thief and, overtaking him, found him to be a fire-man, of Senzu, who confessed that want of funds to carry on a dissipated life had promted him to commit the burglary. The jewels and money were all returned to their owner.

HONGKONG.

THE Plague is still very seriously affecting the Chinese residents of Hongkong, but the percentage of deaths is low. The M.M. steamer *Yarra*, homeward bound, did not enter the harbour but lay in utter isolation in Kowloon Bay. The agents refused to allow her to carry either passengers or freight from Hongkong in view of sanitary regulations in the southern ports. The *Nagoya Maru* on her run to Bombay will not call at Hongkong; the *Nuernberg* also keeps clear of the infected port, transferring her cargo and passengers to the *Preussen* at Shanghai. Rumours are afloat that some of the Portuguese community in the Colony have fallen

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victims to the Plague. A fire which broke out in Queen's Road, West, on May 15th, destroyed No. 137 and its contents, the water supply being very scanty. Some tigers have been shot on the Kowloon Peninsula and their heads exposed to public view at Yaumati.

H.B.M. MINISTER.

We regret to state that His Excellency Mr. Fraser is suffering from a somewhat serious illness, in consequence of which it will be impossible for Mrs. Fraser to receive on the 25th instant. We make this announcement by request. On Monday evening Drs. Baelz and Scriba were in consultation, and the bulletin was not at all favourable. The trouble is gastric. Peritonitis was apprehended at one time, and the possibility of its occurrence is not yet averted, we believe.

* * *

We are glad to be able to state that Mr. Fraser's condition showed improvement Tuesday. Drs. Baelz and Scriba remained in attendance throughout Monday night.

* * *

Mr. Fraser's condition has not undergone any special alteration. He passed a quiet night on Wednesday, and on Thursday afternoon an operation was performed, which he bore well. We trust that the next bulletin will be still more favourable.

* * *

Mr. Fraser was not so well yesterday afternoon, but some improvement set in toward evening.

* * *

We are glad to learn this morning that Mr. Fraser had a very good night's rest last night, and that there is considerable improvement in his condition.

AN EDUCATED SWINDLER.

The principal villain in the recent attempt to rob the 1st National Bank of 28,000 *yen* was a graduate of the Law College of the Imperial University. In 1892 he obtained employment in the Bank, and was in receipt of a monthly salary of 60 *yen* at the time of the fraudulent attempt. The details of the transaction have already been published—how this man, Suwa Mankichi, in collusion with Kuga Yasutaro made a false remittance of 28,000 *yen* by telegraph to the Bank, sending the message in the name of the Bank's Osaka Branch and using the Bank's private cipher; how they at once drew the amount in gold and had it changed into paper at a Chinese exchange shop, and how Kuga escaped with the money to a hotel named Osakaya in Honcho. It is possible that the robbers might have eluded pursuit altogether had not the police been rendered particularly keen at the moment by a recent theft of 30,000 *yen* from the Kakegawa Bank. Watching the exchange shops carefully they soon obtained knowledge of the two confederates' transaction, and connecting them with the 30,000 *yen* robbery, arrested Kuga at his hotel and subsequently Suwa, who was found working quietly at his desk in the Bank.

DELIVERY OF LETTERS IN TOKYO.

We are sorry to have to note that the postal service in Tokyo is forfeiting public confidence. There have recently been brought to our observation no less than four authenticated instances of letters duly stamped, clearly addressed, and posted in the capital which never reached their destinations at all or were so long *en route* that their arrival ceased to be a matter of any consequence. The total loss of four letters within a brief period or a delay of days or even weeks in their transmission from one part of the capital to the other indicates a state of affairs upon which we need not comment. The Post Office Authorities will doubtless give the matter due attention now that it is brought to their notice.

GOLD AND INDUSTRIES.

An estimate made at Washington is that within ten years a quantity of gold equal to the present annual production of the United States will be employed in that country for industrial purposes —in dentistry, the manufacture of jewelry, and the arts. As the gold employed in dentistry, in gilding and in some of the arts, is absolutely lost to the world, as far as any use may be made of it for coinage, it is plain that, with the world's expanding population, the demand for the yellow metal for other than monetary purposes will go on increasing. This fact has an important bearing on the future of silver.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE RIUKIU ISLANDS.

A good deal of attention has lately been paid by the metropolitan press to Okinawa Prefecture, better known to foreigners as the Loo-choo Islands. They lie a little more than 1,200 nautical miles south-west of Tokyo and are commonly regarded as the key to the Emperor's southern gate. The group has a most fertile soil and abounds in other natural resources. The prime staple, so far as export is concerned, is sugar, which gave the islanders last year an income of about one million *yen*, no mean sum to be divided up between not more than 400,000 people. Other sources of income exist in marine products, wild indigo, a very alcoholic spirit brewed from millet-seed, and various textile manufactures, from all of which the Okinawa people derive a by no means insignificant profit. Considered from either a strategic or a commercial point of view, communication between the archipelago and Japan proper should be both facile and frequent. But this is by no means the case. Steamers go from the main island hardly more than twice or thrice a month, and even these vessels sometimes arrive or leave almost on the same date, owing to the boisterous seas and uncertain winds, so that it often amounts to no more than one monthly shipping opportunity. There being no cable communication, it follows that when an urgent despatch is to be forwarded, it must first be mailed to Kagoshima, whence it is wired to its destination. This is bad enough in these progressive times, as it frequently happens that a letter despatched simultaneously with a telegram, reaches its destination every whit as soon, if not sooner. For these reasons, the islanders regard the laying of a submarine cable as a matter of paramount importance and have regularly forwarded petitions to this effect to the Imperial Diet since 1891. In the fifth (last year's) session of this august body, a Government Bill relating to the laying of a cable was introduced, but dissolution occurred before the bill could be discussed. It has again been presented to the present session, the Okinawa people being determined to enjoy the benefits of telegraphic facilities.

MASS MEETING OF SAKÉ-BREWERS.

The leading brewers of *saké* throughout the Empire are now assembled in Tokyo and holding a series of deliberative meetings with the purpose of obtaining a reduction in the tax imposed on their manufactures. A petition to this effect has already been submitted to the Government, the result of which is still uncertain. The petitioners state that they are greatly hampered by the excessive impost. This opinion would appear to be confirmed by statements recently made by Mr. Watanabe Tetsu, Chairman of the League, to a member of the *Shogyo Shimpo* staff. Prior to the Restoration the tax on brewing was, according to Mr. Watanabe, at the rate of twenty *ryo* per hundred *koku* (1 *koku*=10 *to*; 1 *to*=10 *sho*; one *sho*=about 1½ quarts), but the duty has since then gradually increased until at present four hundred *yen* are charged on the same quantity. There is a difference between the respective values of one *ryo* and one *yen*, but even making every allowance for the decrease in the purchasing power of money during the last two decades, it is evident that the impost is twenty times as much as it used to be. It is often argued that the tax on *saké* really comes out of the buyer's pocket, but Mr. Watanabe is not of that opinion. *Saké* more than one year old can never be sold for the same price as that fetched by a fresh brew, and as it not infrequently occurs that a brewer is unable to dispose of his wares, he must, in such a case, shoulder the whole burden himself. Another difficulty lies in his fact that the price of *saké* cannot be raised in proportion to any increase in the cost of the raw material, for the liquor is an article of luxury, the sale of which is liable to be greatly affected even at unvarying rates whenever the value of rice goes up. To increase the price of *saké* in proportion with that of rice, would be equivalent to stopping the whole trade. In reply to the suggestion that the steady increase in the quantity of *saké* produced in Hyogo Prefecture, tends to weaken the arguments adanced by brewers, Mr. Watanabe contends that this apparent increase is in reality due to the shutting down of many small local breweries in the interior, owing to their inability to work with profit, and also in consequence of the policy pursued by the Hyogo brewers, who are making every effort to enlarge the scope of their trade. Thus, in his opinion, the greater activity of the trade in Nada, by which name the brewing districts of Hyogo Prefecture are generally known, is only another proof of the serious difficulty under which Japanese brewers are at present labouring.

* * *

Turning to the statistics given in official reports, we find a corroboration of Mr. Watanabe's statements. During the six years ending in 1891, the whole number of breweries and brewers showed a steady decline, for whereas the figures for 1888 were respectively 15,708 and 15,613, they fell, three years later, to 14,703 and 14,515, the lowest figures during that period. In point of quantity, the downward scale is less decided. In 1888-89, the whole amount of *saké* brewed was very little short of four million *koku*, whereas in 1890-91, the total was 3,400,000 *koku*, in round figures. On the other hand, the number of those who brew for their personal consumption is on the increase, no less than 960,000 private breweries being registered in 1891.

PENNY WISDOM.

A correspondent of the *Fiji Shimpo* tells of a man who is now wiser and sadder than he was before. Having received from a friend in the interior a bank bill for 6 *yen*, he deferred cashing it for some time, and in the interval lost it. Ultimately the bank took the trouble to communicate with him, and advised him to report the matter to a law Court if he had lost the cheque. Then commenced a programme of correspondence and advertising for which the unhappy individual had to pay in all 17 *yen* before he recovered the 6. The correspondent's moral is don't lose little cheques, and if you do, be careful not to publish your loss.

KANDA MYOJIN.

The festival of the Kanda Myojin, or tutelary deity of Kanda Distinct, Tokyo, has this year been observed with somewhat more than usual *éclát*. In spite of the hard times, some fifteen huge *dashi* were put together, representing various scenes in Japanese history and surmounted by some of the popular monarchs and heroes of old, such as the Empress Jingu, Takenouchi no Sukune, Benkei—Yoshitsune's warrior-priest—and Minamoto no Tametomo. The actual *myojin*, or chief deity in honour of whom the fine shrine just on the boundary between Hongo and Kanda is erected, was a member of the Taira family and, if history be not mistaken, very far from an Imperialist. Still all that is now forgotten and forgiven: indeed, nine out of every ten worshippers are wholly ignorant of the personal history of the deified hero whose good-will they beseech. The peccant Taira has become one of the *yao yorozu kami* of the Japanese pantheon and time has hallowed his name. In former years, before the War of the Restoration, the Kanda festival used to be a much grander affair, less tinsel and more crape. The metropolitans, fond of amusement and merry-making though they be, have lost the fine, old, unquestioning faith of yore; the student-world laughs at the superstitions of its ancestors, despite the reproachful wagging of gray beards. They

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have learned that holy water is, after all, nothing but H_2O, with a generally large admixture of unclean organic matter: that miracles are out of date; and that Izanagi and his numerous progeny are hardly anything more than a stately myth. And so there is no longer any fervour noticeable in any of the religious festivals of the capital. They have become mere *Folksfeste*, popular merry-makings, with the added attractions of raree-shows, strolling thespians, and extortionate flower-sellers, combined with rare opportunities to show off one's best clothing and indulge in a little harmless flirtation. And soon even these fêtes will become a mere memory.

THE SHOKONSHA FESTIVAL.

UNUSUALLY large crowds attended the Shokonsha Festival this year, for the weather on the first two days, the 5th and 6th instants, was exceptionally fine, the rule being rather that a moiety of the festivities have to be foregone on account of rain. The Shokonsha is a Shinto shrine erected in memory of those soldiers who fell in the War of the Restoration and subsequent South-western Rebellion, the ideographs composing the name meaning literally "inviting" (*sho*) "spirits" (*kon*). Twice a year the manes of the fallen heroes are here worshipped in true Japanese style, *i.e.*, all the troops in the Tokyo garrison file past and salute the shrine, after which three days are given up to wrestling, horse-racing, open-air dances, and visiting the scores of booths that erect their nomadic tents for the time being along the roadside. For the national religion of the Japanese, or rather their religious observances, require concomitant pleasure and merry-making, exactly in the style of the ancient Greeks, whom they resemble in so much besides. Day and night fireworks are another attractive eature, huge rockets being let off every five or ften minutes after nightfall at the base of the bronze statue of Omura, the first Minister of War—whose wife and eldest son are, by the by, still living. Some of the booths or raree-shows were well worth seeing this year, especially the *onna chikara-mochi*, where women of huge muscular development lifted, carried, and juggled with vats of *saké* and hundredweights of sand or rice; the canine booth, where dogs jumped through hoops of fire, walked on stilts, balanced on spheres, and acted otherwise in a wholly human manner; and finally the *Affen*-theatre, in which some highly educated macaques gave a mournful if ludicrous representation of the story of Anchin and Kiyohime. It was Isezaki-cho on a large scale, the only difference being the beautiful park surrounding the shrine, and the fact that most of the merry-makers belonged to a better class than the people who generally haunt the Yokohama throughfare and its vicinity.

NAVAL NEWS.

THE arrivals during the past week, says the Nagasaki paper of the 16th inst., have been H.I.J.M.S. *Takao Kan* from Tokuyama on Sunday, the Spanish cruiser *Don Juan de Austria* from Hongkong on Sunday, the U.S. flagship *Baltimore* from Shanghai on Monday, and the Russian cruiser *Rynda* from Hongkong on the same date. These were followed yesterday by H.I.J.M.S. *Matsushima Kan* and *Chiyoda Kan* from Tokuyama. The departures have been H.I.J.M.S. *Chokai Kan* for Sasebo on Thursday, and H.I.R.M.S. *Admiral Nakimoff* for Vladivostock *via* Chefoo on Sunday. H.I.R.M.S. *Admiral Korniloff* leaves on Sunday next, homeward-bound.

THE THREE KOREANS RELEASED.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that the objection raised by Public Procurator Nakanokaji on the decision of the Preliminary Judge who found that Ken Zai-ju, Ken To-ju, and Kim Tai-gen, accomplices in the attempted murder of Mr. Boku Yei-ko, were not guilty of the crime charged, was rejected by the Tokyo Court of Appeal on the 19th inst. The Koreans were at once removed from the Prison, and the same day the Japanese Government issued an order for their deportation from the Empire. They have made all preparations to leave the country, and a Police Inspector and three constables are commissioned to accompany them to Nagasaki.

THE T.T.-ZEPHYR MATCH.

THE match on Thursday morning, over three-quarters of a mile, between T.T., ridden by Mr. Watts, and Zephyr, by Mr. Collins, resulted in a victory for the former in 1m. 40secs. Zephyr, who to all appearance had the race safe at the half-mile post, shut up as soon as he was called on, and T.T. won by two lengths. This morning another match took place, the distance being one mile and a half, between T.T., ridden by Mr. Watts, and Un Russe, Mr. Mottu up. A beautiful race resulted. Both animals went away at a very fast pace, going as hard as they could to the Stand, when they were steadied, T.T. being allowed a length and a half lead. At the Trees Un Russe began to come up, but could not quite catch T.T. who won by half a length. The time was better than that made at the recent meeting, 30, 65, 1.41, 2.18, 2.52, and 3.31 for the whole distance.

LAUNCH OF THE "NAN DES'KA."

THE latest addition to the fleet of the Yokohama Sailing Club was launched yesterday morning. She was built by Messrs. Warnecke and Petersen from designs by Mr. W. W. Campbell and several other of her owners. The curious looking craft, has been most aptly named the *Nan' des' ka*. She is 23 ft. over all, 15 ft. load water line and 7 ft. 6 in. beam, with 308 ft. of canvas. Her owners—whose number runs into double figures we understand—were all present at the launch, also several ladies, and advantage was taken to drink to the health of Her Majesty—it being the Queen's Birthday—in addition to christening the new craft.

PAPER IN LIEU OF SKIN.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* tells a story difficult of credence. A certain Mr. Kumagaye, it says, invented a kind of paper that can take the place of the sheep-skin used in parts of cotton-spinning gear, a great saving being thus effected. His invention was warmly approved abroad, and he obtained patents in England and America. But when he applied for a patent in his own country, he was refused on the ground that any one could employ such a device after a moment's thought. We venture to doubt the facts.

RECEPTION AT THE U.S. CONSULATE.

A VERY pleasant reception was given at the U. S. Consulate, Yokohama, on the 21st inst. to Mr. Foster, an ex-Secretary of State in the U.S. Government and Mr. Orr. Mr. Nakano, Governor; Mr. Mitsuhashi, Secretary; Mr. Yoshida, Superintendent of the Kanagawa Police; Mr. Akiyama, President, and Mr. Ando, Chief Public Procurator of the Yokohama Local Court; Mr. Megata, Commissioner of the Yokohama Customs; Mr. Unagami, Director of the Yokohama Post and Telegraph Office; and Mr. Edwin Dun, American Minister, were invited to meet the guests.

SAD DEATH OF AN OLD CHINA HAND.

NEWS was received in Shanghai on the 18th inst. of the accidental death at Foochow of Mr. F. W. White, the Senior Commissioner in the Imperial Maritime Customs. Mr. White appears to have fallen over his verandah in the night, and was found lying on the ground with his skull fractured, never regaining consciousness. He joined the Customs in August, 1859, two months after Sir Robert Hart, and was appointed a Commissioner in January, 1866.

PICTURES BY KOHOGEN.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says the pictures of the Five Hundred Rishi by Kano Motonobu, or Kohogen—a hundred scrolls said to be in excellent preservation—are exposed to public view in the temple Komyo-ji, at Kamura, from the 15th to the 31st instant.

A TRAIN DERAILED.

THE *Asahi Shimbun* says that on the 18th inst. the engine of the through train from Aomori broke down about two or three *ri* this side of Morioka Station. A fresh engine was at once sent from the latter Station, but while setting out for its destination was derailed owing to the mistake of a pointsman. The train arrived at Morioka some two hours later. No injury was sustained either by passengers or to the cars.

SALE OF THE "POLLUX" TO JAPANESE.

THE German steamer *Pollux* has been purchased by Mr. Ukon Gonzayemon of Osaka, and named the *Nanyetsu Maru*. She is now ready, says the *Rising Sun*, to run between Osaka and Otaru, but before running on the coast may make one or two voyages abroad. The vessel is insured by both German and Japanese companies. Her tonnage is 1,330 gross, and she steams 12 knots.

THE "SAKATA MARU."

CAPTAIN OLSEN, for some time in command of the N.Y.K. steamer *Kumamoto Maru*, and latterly for a short time captain of the *Nagato* and the *Hyogo*, arrived at Nagasaki by the *Kobe*, to take command of the *Sakata*, which vessel went out for a trial-trip on the 16th, to test her machinery after undergoing repairs.

THE "ARGOMENE."

THE *Argomene*, which was towed into harbour on Saturday evening by the *Benledi*, has gone to Yokosuka for repairs. It is only by a miracle that she was saved from destruction, for had she run aground a few yards further along the coast she would have struck jagged rocks instead of a sandy, shelving beach.

GARDEN PARTY IN YOKOHAMA.

A MOST successful garden party to celebrate the Queen's Birthday was given by Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, Acting Judge of H.B.M.'s Court for Kanagawa, at his charming sea side villa above Mississipi Bay on the 24th instant. The weather was perfect, and everything combined to render the occasion thoroughly enjoyable.

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE IN GREECE.

A TELEGRAPHIC message from St. Petersburg arrived in Tokyo on the 23rd inst., stating that another great earthquake shock was felt at Patras, Greece, on the 22nd, by which more than 430 houses were destroyed, and many lives lost. Officials have been dispatched to organize relief measures for the sufferers.

THEFT BY AN EMPLOYÉ.

MESSRS. MOUTRIE & Co. are the victims of a dishonest Japanese employé. The man obtained permission to see his sick parents—a very common excuse with persons of this class—and during his absence it was discovered that he had stolen some of the firm's money.

A LEAKY SHIP.

THE American barque *Mount Washington*, Captain Rose, arrived in Yokohama on Wednesday night from Kuchinotzu. She is bound for San Francisco with coal, but put in here on account of leakiness. After effecting necessary repairs to her pumps she will proceed on her voyage.

THE "MIIKE MARU."

THE repairs to the *Monmouthshire* consequent on her collision with the *Miike Maru*, near Shanghai, will necessitate the removal of some fourteen plates and the straightening of her stem. The *Miike Maru*, is having eleven plates taken out.

DEATH OF MR. HAYASHI.

WE regret to state that the Master of Services to H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager, Mr. Hayashi, who has been ill for some time, expired on the 22nd inst. His position has been given to Viscount Takatsuji, a Court Auditor.

THE BLACK-DEATH.

TO-DAY'S *Official Gazette* contains an Imperial Ordinance authorizing the inspection of all vessels coming from China and Hongkong in order to prevent the introduction of the plague into Japan.

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GARDEN PARTY OF THE KING'S DAUGHTERS.

The King's Daughters belonging to the Yokohama Circle of this now wide-spread society gave a most delightful garden party on Wednesday afternoon. The Bluff Gardens in which the *fête champêtre* was held are looking their very best at this season of the year, the greenery of the shrubs and lawns being yet in the lighter tints. The afternoon was bright with May sunshine, and the heat agreeably tempered by a slight breeze from the South, while plenty of shade was afforded by the big gypsy umbrellas under which the tea-tables were set. Each table was attended by two daintily attired maidens, whose cotton crêpe dresses were cut after the fashion laid down by a certain Kate Greenaway, having broad green crêpe sashes, but no frills, while a little green toque of the same material, fashioned after a strawberry cup and stalk rested upon each young lady's head. The colours of the dresses, we learnt, were supposed to represent the various colours of the strawberry on its way to maturity, and by that same token the red-robed maidens were placed over the candy-store. The young ladies were, Red: Miss Thorn and Miss Kuhn, with Miss Bessie Burns as a flower-girl in green; Yellow: Miss Moss and Miss Annie Bunting; Miss Eleanor Poole and Miss Flora Mendelson; Pink: Miss Bourne, and Miss Pauline Brittain; Miss Cissie Carst and Miss Jennie Loomis; White: the Miss Page and the Misses Watts. Mrs. E. H. R. Manley superintended the commissariat generally, assisted by Mrs. Loomis and the Misses Mendelson, while the President of the Circle, Mrs. Theodore Morris, was indefatigable in seeing to the comfort of everybody. The gypsy umbrellas were garlanded in flowers, and some of the floral arrangements were most artistic. Particularly noticeable in this connection were some festoons of cherry-blossom, while another pleasing conception was a design in which yellow roses played a conspicuous part. The King's Daughters of Yokohama have long been desirous of raising one thousand dollars wherewith to support a bed in the General Hospital. They had collected something approaching within a hundred dollars of the desired sum some time before their Garden Party, so we imagine that their hopes were fully realised on Wednesday, the Bluff Gardens being thronged throughout the afternoon. The Town Band, we may mention, was in attendance and gave several selections.

NEW LAWS.

The Emperor has confirmed the following Laws recently passed by both Houses of the Diet:—

LAW No. 1.

The Port of Muroran in Iburi Province is hereby included in the Special Ports of Export enumerated in the 1st Article of the Regulations for Special Ports of Export promulgated by Law No. 20 of the 22nd year of *Meiji*.

This Law shall go into operation from the 15th day of the 6th month of the 27th year of *Meiji* (15th of June, 1894.)

LAW No. 2.

The Ports of Fuseki in Etchiu and Otaru in Shiribeshi are hereby declared open from the 1st day of the 8th month of the 27th year of *Meiji* for the entry and clearance, lading and unlading, of ships owned by subjects of the Japanese Empire and engaged in trade with the Russian Island of Saghalien or with Korea.

Provided that the Customs Laws and Regulations shall be applicable to the entry and clearance, lading and unlading, of such vessels.

LAW No. 3.

From the 1st day of the 10th month of the 27th year of *Meiji* it shall be lawful for ships owned by subjects of the Japanese Empire and engaged in trade with China to enter and clear, load and unload at the Port of Naba in Riukiu.

Provided that the Customs Laws and Regulations shall be applicable to the entry and clearance, lading and unlading, of such ships.

GIGANTIC BANK ROBBERY.

On Saturday last the Yokohama branch of the First National Bank received a telegram, in code, from its office in Osaka, to hand over to Van Tai, a Chinese exchange shop at No. 72, Main Street, the sum of $28,000. Subsequently a man named Kuga Yasutaro, who went under the alias of Hata Giichi, called at the exchange shop in Main Street and drew, on different occasions, $4,000; $10,000; then $6,500 in gold, equivalent to $12,740 silver, leaving a balance of $1,260 which he said he would call for later on. The man put up at a lodging-house named Osakaya, where his lavish expenditure of money aroused the suspicions of the proprietor who gave information to the police, when Kuga was subsequently arrested. It appears that the man, after despatching the telegram, came to Yokohama, where he showed Van Tai his right to the money, and obtained it as above stated. Kuga is now under arrest. It has been ascertained that he is a relation to the Manager of the bank at Osaka, and the latter also has been arrested, there being grave suspicion that he is mixed-up in the affair, in view of the fact that the private code of the bank has been used. The balance of the money has been sealed by the police.

THE TRAFFIC IN JAPANESE WOMEN.

As the vigilance of the Water Police increases the stratagems of the vile procurers of Japanese women grow more desperate in their endeavours to get the wretched girls whom they entice into their clutches away from the country upon the outgoing mail steamers. The old dodge of hailing the vessels after they had passed outside the lightships has long ago been abandoned, while the cöoperation of the mail-packet officers has also put a stop to the practice of Japanese women going on board the vessels on the pretext of saying farewell to departing friends and then being locked up in convenient places until the ship had got out to sea. It was left, however, to the ingenious brain of a Japanese named Tottori Yorozu and his wife to pack up their unfortunate victims—Suzuki Yoshi (18), Hoshide Ino (18), Hasegawa Ito (21), and Kaneko Ichi (17)—in four old travelling trunks. In the bottom of these a hole, six inches square, was cut with a lid opening inwards into a false bottom, in order to admit air when required. These boxes, alleged to contain clothes, were taken off to the *Tacoma* on Saturday, and it was only by good luck, or the merest accident, that the dastardly scheming did not end fatally to at least three of the girls. It appears that a Japanese accomplice had gone off to the ship to receive the trunks, intending to unlock them when opportunity offered, but his intention was frustrated through the officers refusing such bulky packages in the steerage accomodation. Three of the boxes had been dumped on the deck without anything occurring—the unfortunate girls having already fainted for want of air—but when the fourth—a somewhat large trunk, in which was stowed Hoshide Ino—was put on the deck upside down, attention was directed through Hoshide crying out "Let me out," in Japanese. The trunk was immediately opened and to the surprise of everybody a Japanese woman was found huddled up inside. This discovery caused the other trunks to be opened and in each a semi-unconscious woman was found. The voluminous clothing of a female Japanese had in three instances prevented the ingress of air into the trunks, and the girls had soon fainted away. The police took charge of the distressed damsels, and after landing them at the hatoba conveyed them to the police-station. One was so exhausted that she had to be carried all the way from the ship, and was in fact, at one time, given up for dead. The vile traffickers in human frailty have been arrested and we trust will be made an example of. The price these wretches hoped to obtain from the sale of the girls, they have acknowledged, was from $400 to $500, gold.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Count Ito's declaration in the House of Representatives that the Cabinet has reason to hope for a satisfactory termination, at no distant date, of the negotiations now proceeding for Revision of the Treaties, is beginning to divert public attention once again to that problem. The papers more or less in sympathy with the doctrine that the time has not yet come for the opening of the country to Mixed Residence, evidently feel uneasy. The *Nippon*, conspicuous among them, pretends to place no confidence in the Minister President's declaration. It asserts that the present Cabinet is wholly incapable of concluding treaties satisfactory to the people, and that the solution of the problem must be left to a future Ministry. No one need be surprised that Japanese journalists find difficulty in crediting the imminence of an issue so interminably deferred.

The severe attack which the Radical Party made on Count Inouye, through Mr. Saito Keiji, in Tuesday's session of the House of Representatives, has been a surprise to the public. People did not expect such action from that Party. Many ascribe it to the Radicals' impatience to clear themselves from the charge of having combined with the Government. This explanation is rendered probable by the fact that one of the Radicals, Mr. Doi Kokwa, exultingly cried out that he should like to know if, after these disclosures, anybody would dare to assert his Party's alliance with the Cabinet. Some persons, however, unquestionably well acquainted with the back-stairs of politics, are inclined to ascribe the violent personal attacks which the Radicals have commenced against the Minister of Home Affairs to intrigues fomented by a certain powerful statesman who lost his position chiefly in consequence of Count Inouye's opposition. According to these persons, the object of the present persecution is two-fold, first, to gratify the above statesman's passion for personal retaliation, and secondly, to complete the separation of Count Inouye from Count Ito and others, so that the problem of a rumoured political combination may be solved more easily. For our part, we refrain from choosing between these hypotheses. Whichever, if any, of them be true, we feel confident that these particular tactics of the Radical Party will ultimately redound to its own discomfiture. The documents on which Mr. Saito built his astounding charges against Count Inouye in connection with the inner workings of the Fujita-gumi of Osaka, and with the celebrated canard about the forgery of paper money, are evidently identical with those by means of which the Radical organ, some months ago, essayed to attract attention to a series of so-called "revelations." It is well known that a certain greedy speculator tried at the time to sell these documents to Count Inouye and others, but that the Count contemptuously rejected his offer. It is also well known that, at the time of the celebrated forgery case, some of the detectives endeavoured to obtain money by manufacturing false documents, and that through these documents Mr. Ando, then Vice-Inspector-General of Police, was betrayed into a rash step that cost him his official position. Rumour says that some of the forged papers have been carefully preserved by one of the police sergeants dismissed in connection with the affair, and that they have now found their way into the hands of the credulous Radicals.

There is a report that Marquis Saionji, who was recently appointed a Privy Councillor, will succeed Mr. Yoshikawa as Minister of State for Justice, and that Mr. Yoshikawa will be transferred to the chair of Home Affairs, the assumption being that Count Inouye is resolved to resign. It is also asserted that Count Yamagata is desirous of resigning, the reason being that he is blamed by his friends of the Military party for rendering help to Count Ito. We mention these rumours for what they are worth.

The allied Opposition Parties have thus far failed completely. Their organs contend that

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the recent Resolution about the dissolution of the House of Representatives was virtually a vote of want of confidence. If it meant anything, that Resolution meant simply that the House could not approve the conduct of the Government in so far as it related to the dissolution. The only opportunity which remains for the Opposition is the Address on Administrative Reforms, originally introduced by the Radical Party, but entrusted to a Special Committee in which the Opposition members have a majority. It seems to be the Opposition's intention to hold over this measure until the Railway Bills and other measures of practical importance shall have been disposed of. It is believed by some that several members voted against the Opposition's Address to the Throne declaring want of confidence in the Cabinet, fearing that the passage of such an Address would bring about another dissolution and thus defer the discussion of the above mentioned practical measures. Consequently the Opposition politicians hope that, by waiting for a proper opportunity, they can yet retrieve their defeat. That remains to be seen.

OBSEQUIES OF KIM OK-KYÜN.

The obsequies of the late Mr. Kim were conducted on Sunday by his Japanese friends. A lock of the deceased's hair, some of the clothes worn by him at the time of his assassination, and the contents of the mysterious box said to have reached a certain gentleman of Tokyo from Korea—these were all that the refugee's sympathisers had to carry to his grave. What that box really contained, we do not pretend know. At a few minutes past 9, or an hour later than the time originally announced, the bier started from the hotel in Yurakucho, Tokyo, where Mr. Kim had sojourned previous to his departure for Shanghai, and proceeded toward the Hongan Temple in Asakusa. In the van marched the City Band performing suitable music. It was followed by some forty pairs of flower stands presented by the friends of the deceased, after which came a dozen banners bearing ideographic legends appropriate to the occasion. The bier, supporting a handsome oblong shaped coffin, was carried by twenty men in white, and after it was borne a large square-shaped column, to be erected at the burial-ground. The chief mourner was Mr. Ryu-Koku Ro, a Korean political refugee who played an important part at the time of Kim's insurrection against the Bin party. The procession was not in any sense imposing, for the number following the coffin did not exceed a hundred. At 11 o'clock the bier reached its destination, where a large crowd of sympathizers and idle spectators, aggregating probably two thousand, awaited its arrival. The service was conducted after a short recess, and among those who listened to it were Viscount Tani, Messrs. Inouye Kakugoro, Ozaki Yukio, Inukai Ki, Shiga Shigetaka, and Takata Sanaye. Thereafter eulogies of the deceased were pronounced by about ten sympathisers, the majority of whom confined themselves to lamenting the unhappy death of Kim at the moment when he was revolving a scheme for effecting a radical change in the Government of Korea, but a few uttered indignant protests against the statesmen in power whom they accused as having betrayed him into the hands of his enemies. At about 12 o'clock the service and the eulogies ended, and the bier was then carried back to Aoyama cemetry, a distance of some 5 miles. These long journeyings to and fro had evidently been planned with the idea of making an effective demonstration, but the cortége was not sufficiently imposing to be at all impressive. A number of policemen were on duty at the Hongan Temple. We need scarcely add that the story recently circulated as to Kim's body having been spirited away from Söul and transported to Tokyo, had no foundation in fact.

INSURRECTION IN KOREA.

An insurrection of an alarming nature is reported by the vernacular press to have broken out in Korea. As usual the party called *Togaku-to* are the disturbers of the peace. These folks, our readers may remember, are bigoted conservatives, who adhere to Chinese doctrines and resolutely oppose Western ideas and Western intercourse. The trouble on the present occasion is said to have originated in a certain section of the Tsin-la district, *i.e.*, the south-western extremity of the peninsula. The insurgents made an attack on the office of the district, killed several of the officials, and succeeded in obtaining control of the whole region of Tsin-la. The leader of the rebels is one Sai-ji-kyo, who having been concerned in a similar but disastrously unsuccessful project a few years ago, had lived in strict retirement prior to his present re-appearance on the stage of insurrection. It is not stated that any specific cause existed. The man simply wanted an opportunity, and thought that he saw one in the laxity and incompetence prevailing among officials, and the universal disaffection by which the nation is supposed to be permeated. Moreover, an ancient superstition that present the dynasty of Korea could hold power for only five centuries furnished an explanation of the outbreak, since it is now 503 years since the establishment of the reigning house of Li. Having succeeded at the outset in defeating the troops of Tsing-la, the rebels have circulated their manifesto far and wide, laying special stress on four points:—(2) Blood must not be wantonly spilled. (2) The safety of the country and the restoration of public tranquillity must be accomplished by upholding the principles of loyalty and filial virtue; (3) Steps must be taken to expel foreigners and to purify the doctrines of the saints. (4) The persons that hold authority must be put down, and the precepts of the saints must be obeyed by restoring order and tranquillity to the country. The insurgents are estimated to be over 50,000. The alarm is spreading to the neighbouring districts of Kieng-sang and Tong-tieng. They are well provided with provisions and arms, mostly taken from the official store-houses or robbed from persons whom they regard as unfriendly to their undertaking. The Governors of Tsing-la and of Tong-tieng sent express messengers to Söul to report the state of affairs, and have requested the prompt despatch of troops; whereupon the Court decided to convey by ship a body of 800 men under the command of General Hong. Taking with them two field-pieces and 600,000 rounds of ammunition, these troops set sail from Jinsen for Tong-tieng on the 8th instant, in three steamers, one of which was a Chinese war-vessel. It is said that the native Roman Catholics have joined the rebels.

THE "ARGOMENE."

Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co., received a telegram from Captain Efford, Lloyds' Surveyor, on Saturday, informing them that the British ship *Argomene* was floated that a.m., and at 5 o'clock proceeded in tow of the *Benledi*, to Yokohama, where she arrived on Saturday evening. The *Argomene* has had a very rough time of it ever since leaving New York, and was 180 days out from port before reaching her first destination, Shanghai. On the voyage up from Kobe, which she left last Saturday week, a storm carried her up into the Enshu Nada, on the coast of Shidzuoka Prefecture. So bad did the outlook seem that the crew of 29 men took to the boats, but lay-to near the vessel until the gale moderated. When things had calmed down sufficiently they went on board her again and found the vessel comparatively uninjured though stuck fast on the sand. The captain then pulled to Iida, and from thence made his way to Numadzu from whence he dispatched news of his distress.

THE SO-CALLED "BLACK DEATH" IN CHINA.

The Hongkong Sanitary Board at a meeting held on May 10th, received several reports upon the prevalence of a pestilential disease which had broken out in Canton. Dr. Rennie of that port had informed the British Consul of the occurrence, and his report was sent on by the latter official to the authorities in Hongkong. It reads as follows:—

Canton, 28th April, 1894.

Lately a disease of an epidemic character has been prevalent in the city of Canton. The first outbreak occurred in the last week of March, and was confined to a poor quarter of the city, near the South Gate. This neighbourhood we visited on the 8th April, and the writer had an opportunity of examining one or two cases and also inquiring into the sanitary condition of the houses.

The symptoms are as follow:—With or without premonitory warning in the shape of malaise or chill, there is a sudden onset of fever rising to 105°, or over. There is much headache and cerebral disturbance, accompanied by stupor. In from 12 to 24 hours a glandular swelling occurs in the neck, arm-pit, or groin, rapidly enlarging to the size of a fowl's egg; it is hard and exceedingly tender. With or without a decline of the fever, the patient sinks deeper into a condition of coma and dies usually at the end of 48 hours or sooner. If six days are reached recovery is hopeful. The glandular swelling shows no signs of suppuration. In some cases epistaxis or vomiting of blood occurs; petechiæ appear in a few cases, but no regular eruption. Such are, briefly, the symptoms at the beginning of the disease. It was then extremely fatal, over 30 deaths having occurred in the small street we visited. The mortality was high, being over 65 per cent. of the patients attacked, whose houses are occupied by labourers and artisans; they are small and badly ventilated houses, with damp earthen floors. Underneath the flagstones in front of the houses in question is the usual drainage arrangement, which, at the period of our visit, was in a very insanitary condition on account of the lack of water and in consequence of the prolonged drought. The people stated that at first many dead rats were found about the houses, but that after a few days these animals entirely disappeared.

Remarks:—The disease is evidently similar to or identical with that which under the name of the "Great Plague of London" proved so fatal to the inhabitants of that city in 1665. It has been described by Baber, Rocher, Bourne and other travellers in Western China, and also very fully by Dr. Lowry as observed by him in Pakhoi in 1882 (*vide* Customs Medical report No. 24). It is usually known as the "bubonic plague." It does not appear to be very contagious except to those living in the same houses or under the same conditions as those suffering from the disease.

(Signed) ALEX. RENNIE, M.B., C.M.

During the discussion that followed, the Colonial Surgeon (Dr. P. B. C. Ayres), said there were then thirteen cases in the Tung Wah Hospital and four deaths had occurred from the disease in the Colony. The disease was one entirely due to poverty and filth. It was a similar disease in Asiatic countries to typhus in European lands, but there was no necessity to get up a scare about it. He should treat it as an infectious disease, though he would have no fear to go among it himself. Dr. Lowson, in the course of some remarks, expressed the opinion that the poison was developed from atmospheric conditions involving the houses in a certain district and was caused by poverty and dirt. Under ordinary conditions the disease was not contagious, but if healthy persons remained in the same atmosphere there was a good probability of their catching the disease. He believed that a few days' good rain would wash the poison out, it being, he thought, more chemical than bacteriogical. Mr. Francis eventually moved that the Government be addressed with a view to the issue of a proclamation under section 3 of the Health Ordinance. The proposition was carried unanimously, and at 6 o'clock the same afternoon the Executive Council met and a proclamation extraordinary was issued over the signature of Major-General Barker, who is administering the Government in the absence of the Governor and Colonial Secretary on leave, authorizing the putting into force the proper sections of the Heath Ordinnace, which empower the Sanitary Board to draw up bye-laws for dealing with the disease.

Prince Henri d'Orléans will leave France next month for Madagascar, where he will spend two months, afterwards proceedings, *vid* Aden, to French Indo-China. This will be the third journey made by the young Prince in the Far East. He takes the utmost interest in colonial questions, and has done much to convert the Reactionaries to the policy originated by Jules Ferry in Tong-King.

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THE EPIDEMIC IN CHINA.

In response to a telegram despatched from the Government in Tokyo, Mr. Nakagawa, Japanese Consul in Hongkong, has wired that up to the forenoon of the 21st instant, the total number of deaths in that colony was 271. He took the opportunity of renewing his caution against allowing free access of Chinese to Japan.

The Government has resolved to put the Medical Inspection Regulations into immediate operation. The Central Sanitary Bureau, having been convened on the 23rd instant to consider the matter, made a recommendation in the above sense. Regulations will doubtless be carried out at Nagasaki, Nagaura, and Shimonoseki.

The Tokyo *Asahi Shimbun's* assertion that a case of the plague had occurred in Matsuyama, Iyo Province—a most improbable place—induced the officials of the Sanitary Bureau to institute special inquiries, with the result that the statement is shown to be entirely without foundation.

We find the following in the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 16th instant:—

Although it cannot be said that the plague has as yet assumed any very alarming proportions in itself, the fact that it exists and that the measures taken have not had the immediate effect of checking or stamping out the disease constitutes a very grave danger to the port and a serious loss and inconvenience to the shipping frequenting it. The first indication that the steamship companies would anticipate trouble at further ports of call by reason of the prevalence here of so fatal a disease as this bubonic plague was given yesterday when the M. M. Company intimated that they could neither take cargo nor passengers per the *Yarra* to-day. This is a serious matter, but it is not improbable if the colony is not soon declared free that other companies will perforce have to follow suit, and a general dislocation of traffic ensue. Saigon has already imposed ten days' quarantine on Hongkong vessels, and it is very likely that the Manila authorities will be among the first to similarly restrict vessels arriving from Hongkong, and all places within a week's journey will probably also deem a similar step necessary for their protection. The Australian colonies would scarcely be justified in doing so, taking into account the length of the sea voyage from here, but they are notoriously particular in those matters, and might prescribe quarantine for a short period. In Hongkong itself a rigorous examination of all native passengers is being made, and the boats from Canton and Macao are subjected to a thorough inspection. This of course is a highly necessary proceeding, as the opinion is held in some quarters that the disease may have been introduced into the colony by Chinese who fled from the plague-stricken districts of Canton to the scarcely more healthy native quarter here. If must be admitted that the authorities here are doing everything in their power to stamp out the disease and put in sanitary order the districts which are particularly favourable to its spread. The police officers, led by their energetic chief, Mr. F. H. May, are indefatigable in the discharge of an arduous and disagreeable—not to say actually dangerous—duty. Several more special sanitary officers have been enrolled, and the work has been thoroughly organized. The house to house visitation continues, and yesterday several cases were discovered and removed to the *Hygeia*. The difficulty noted the other day of conveying the patients to the wharf has been overcome. Flushing of the drains proceeds all day, and it is to be hoped that what is being so generally well done will soon have the desired effect of ridding us of so unwelcome a visitor as the plague.

Twenty-seven deaths from plague occurred during the twenty-four hours ending at noon yesterday. Of these twelve took place on board the *Hygeia*, five in the Kennedytown Hospital, and ten in outside districts. Of the latter, four occurred in the Tung Wah Hospital, two in Queen's Road West, and one in Victoria Street (on the east of the new Central Market). There was also the death in Wanchai Road, noted elsewhere, which may be attributed to the plague. From this it will be seen that the disease can no longer be said to prevail in one limited locality or any circumscribed area, but has manifested itself in various directions, suggesting a danger to the whole colony. From noon on the 14th to noon yesterday twelve new cases were admitted on to the *Hygeia*, four new cases to the Kennedytown Hospital, and there were under treatment—on the *Hygeia* 16, in Kennedytown Hospital 25, Tung Wah Hospital, none. Total 41.

A number of dead animals have been found lying about the streets, to all appearance victims of the plague. It will be remembered that the medical officers noted the fact that animals living near the ground are peculiarly subject to the disease.

The Kennedytown Police Station has been transformed into a temporary hospital for the reception of patients which the *Hygeia* is unable to accommodate. The matshed erected at Kennedytown will not be used unless the necessities of the case require it.

Among the deaths reported yesterday was one from No. 75, Wanchai Road, an old woman dying there after an illness of 24 hours. The symptoms were almost identical with those of the plague, and there is only too much reason to believe that this is the commencement of the disease in the hitherto uninfected eastern district.

An express was issued yesterday afternoon by the agent of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes to the effect that in order to avoid sanitary difficulties in further ports, the Company's steamer *Yarra*, which leaves to-day at noon, will not carry either passengers or cargo. The vessel did not come into the harbour, and is lying in Kowloon Bay in complete isolation.

The arrangements for the burial of victims of the plague do not appear to be quite satisfactory. A good deal of delay takes place before the bodies are interred, seperate graves having to be dug in a rather rocky and refractory soil. The squatters on the land contiguous to this cemetery have petitioned the Government on the matter. Evidently a more suitable site ought to be selected.

The following circular has been issued by the Sanitary Board for the guidance of all concerned, and has been circulated among the police and sanitary officers:—

Observations to be made by officers conducting house to house visitation:—

1.—See if the patient is feverish.
2.—Look for swellings (buboes) under the arms, on the groin, on the neck, above the elbow.
3.—Observe if the patient has an anxious expression, and (if he is walking) a tottering gait.

At the Police Court yesterday there were several cases of failure to report the occurrence of the disease, and doubtless a few convictions and fines will make landlords more alive to the vital necessity of bringing the cases to the attention of the authorities without the slightest delay. Ning Kin and Lau Chuck, widows, the occupants respectively of Nos. 72 and 74, Market Street, were charged by Inspector Quincey before Mr. H. E. Wodehouse with neglecting to report the outbreak of plague in their houses. The Inspector stated that he visited the places and found men suffering from the disease, whom he had removed to the *Hygeia*. The symptoms were very pronounced at the time and there would be no difficulty in identifying the disease. His Worship fined the first defendant $2 or fourteen days' and discharged the second. Lai You Chung, a teacher, for a similar neglect in respect to a case at 10, Wai Tak Lane, was fined $5 or in default 14 days' imprisonment.

The fire engines yesterday were engaged in flushing the sewers and drains of the Taipingshan district from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The water was pumped from the harbour by the boating engine up to the Hollywood Road level and from thence to the Caine Road. A good quantity of water was used. This operation will be continued to-day.

We understand on reliable authority that eight or nine members of the Portuguese community have died of the plague during the past week, but that the deaths have been registered as due to "fever, with bubonic symptoms." Some of these cases occurred in the Central District.

During the past two days, says the *Chung Ngoi San Po*, the plague in Canton has become better so far as we can judge. The mortality percentage of those who contracted the disease was reported to be about 70, but it has now decreased to between 30 and 40. A famous doctor has arrived at the city from Ying-tak-hsien and attends the patients, free of charge, in the village at the East Gate district. A large number of people go to ask his advice and receive his prescription every day, and it is stated that 80 per cent. of those who are so treated have recovered. Some San-Szes have subscribed money for the erection of a large matshed in the place for the reception of patients being attended. On the 11th inst. the Pun Yu and Nanhoi Magistrates sacrificed for rain in the Sing Wong Temple and on the 13th at 4 p.m. a heavy rain commenced to fall in East Gate district and in Honam, but only softly in the West. Although it only lasted about half an hour the residents have naturally heartily welcomed it.

HONGKONG NEWS.

The water supply in Hongkong was dwindling rapidly when last mail advices left the Colony, the reservoirs at Tytam and Pokfulam being expected to be beyond control within three days. The Colony would therefore be dependent on the hills streams which trickle into Tytam at the rate of half a million gallons daily, but these would supply water indefinitely to the extent of five gallons per head daily. The plague is being actively combatted, sea water being used in flushing operations. The disease, however, is spreading, thirty-four deaths occurring on board the sanitary hulk *Hygeia*, nine in the Tung-wah Hospital, and two outside, on the 14th inst.

Another "old hand" passed away in Hongkong on the 14th inst. in the person of Captain Speechly, who died of dysentery after about a week's illness. Captain Speechly was well known amongst the sea-faring community. He was for some years boarding officer in the Harbour Department. Leaving the Government service he went to sea again and after holding several commands he became a Canton river pilot.

MM. Retz, Bouyer, and Fritz Humbert Droz, who have for several months been detained in captivity by the Tokin pirates have been given up. Ten piratical bands comprising 700 men, of whom 500 were armed with repeating rifles, have made their submission, and as a guarantee of their good faith the captives have been given up without ransom. The *Courrier d'Haiphong* gives great praise to the officers who have succeeded in bringing about this happy arrangement.

The Hongkong correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—I hear that Mr. Samuel Barff, Deputy Registrar and Accountant of the Supreme Court, is about to resign his appointment and take his pension. He intends to take up his residence in Japan, where the dollar will go farther than in the United Kingdom, while the climate is milder. Mr. Barff will be succeeded by Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Chief Clerk of the Court, but who will step into Mr. Hazeland's shoes I cannot say at present, nothing having been decided.

The lenses of the Gap Rock light which were injured in the typhoon of last October have been replaced by new ones, and the light is now restored to its original efficiency.

The final heat in the H.K.C.C. Lawn Tennis tournament double handicap was played last week, when Bird and Platt (owe 30) met C. M. Firth and F. Firth (owe 15). The match was the best of five setts, and Bird and Platt won rather easily, the score being 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead, who is going home on leave, has been the recipient, of very valuable tokens of esteem and regard at the hands of the Chinese merchants of the colony. The presentation took the form of a magnificently embroidered scroll, a silver salver, and a silver vase, beautifully chased and suitably inscribed. The Bank clerks employed in the Hongkong branch of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, presented Mr. Whitehead with a finely wrought silver claret jug and an address which was permanently placed on lacquer by a new process. The effect was admirable, the address itself being bordered by well-chosen views of the colony.

SHANGHAI NEWS.

The following note on the tea market at Wênchow, says our Shanghai morning contemporary, is to hand:—The first season's tea was ready for sale on the 25th of April last, and the prices for black tea ranged from $40, $28, and $24, according to quality, per picul, while green teas fetched $30, $20, and $15 per picul. Upon the second instalment of teas arriving at Wênchow from the interior on the 2nd and 3rd instant, there was a falling off in prices; black tea being sold at $30, $20, and $15 per picul, and green tea at about twenty per cent. less than the first prices quoted above. Altogether some 7,030

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chests have been bought up, which were to be shipped to Shanghai by the steamer *Poochi*, which, however, could not only carry 5,000 chests, leaving the balance of 2,000 for the next trip.

According to native accounts, Shanghai is at present being made the operating ground of a band of kidnappers. Several children all under ten have recently mysteriously disappeared, and not the slightest trace has been found of them.

An important work with reference to the water communication between Sungkiang and Shanghai and Sungkiang and Soochow, was commenced on the 2nd instant. This is the deepening of the creeks and canals connecting these cities, by soldiers deputed by H.E. T'an Pih-li, Commander-in Chief of the province, whose head-quarters are in Sungkiang.

The *Glenogle* arrived at Shanghai on Sunday, May 12th, having made the run from London to port in 39 days. She left London on the 4th of April, and the *Preussen* left Southampton on the 1st. The latter arrived on the 13th, but had to call at more ports than the *Glenogle*. The *Glenogle* made such a rapid passage that she arrived at Shanghai ahead of her despaches. She is the first tea steamer on the berth this season for New York, while the *Glenearn*, also in that port, is the last for the last season.

The St. George's Day celebrations at Shanghai took place on Whit Monday and were a huge success. They took the form of an old English Fair and rural fête.

The descriptions given in the Shanghai journals of the organ recitals held in the Cathedral each season accentuate our feeling that many of the things most desirable in life are wanting in Japan. Shanghai, in addition to a splendid organist, Mr. Crompton, has a brilliant soprano, Mrs. Roche, a tenor of pure timbre, Mr. Fleet, and a fine baritone, Mr. Wedemeyer. With such materials performances of high merit can be organized at the Cathedral, and that they are successfully organized may be clearly gathered from the eulogies of the press and the eagerness of the public to be present. Does not Yokohama possess similar materials? But they are not utilized.

The Horse, Dog, and Poultry Society's show was to be held on the 19th instant in Shanghai. It promised to be very successful. "Among the new features in the programme," says the *North China Daily News*, "is a Ladies' Driving Competition. The prize will be presented by the President to the best fair handler of the ribbons. And it will be pleasant for the winners in all the various classes to know that the prizes will be presented on the ground; thus avoiding those long delays which hitherto have been so fertile a cause for dissatisfaction. The driving enclosure is in front of the Grand Stand, and advantage has already been taken by very many to get their cattle acquainted with the nature and size of the ground."

With regard to the silk industry in Hupeh, we take the following from the *North China Daily News*:—

As already stated in a previous issue the Viceroy Chang at Wuchang having decided to encourage the silk industry in the Hukuang provinces, collected a moderate sum of money recently for the purpose of building a silk factory for the weaving of silks and satins, the proceeds of which were to go to the establishment of silk filatures on the foreign system. A correspondent now writes from Wuchang that the deputy sent to Soochow and Hangchow for silk artificers and weavers has already succeeded in getting a company of these men to act as instructors, with half-a-dozen silk weaving machines which have since been set up at Wuchang. They have been at work now nearly six weeks, and have turned out very good gauzes, pongees and heavier silks, weighing from sixty to seventy-five ounces to the piece of fifty feet length. Each machine employs six men who are able, at an ordinary rate of speed, to turn out about nine feet of silk a day. The Viceroy Chang is said to be so satisfied with the work that he has ordered the purchase from Kiangsu of a number more of these silk weaving machines. His Excellency intends to present the Empress Dowager with some of the products of his new silk weaving factory next November.

Faith can move mountains. It can also make snow fall. Here is one of the Emperor of China's latest Edicts:—

The other day we commanded that worship should be made at the temples of the Most High and of the Seasons to beseech the clemency of Heaven for more snow which has fallen but sparsely since the advent of winter weather; to the first temple we went ourselves in person to sacrifice, while Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order, sacrificed in our stead at the latter temple. Thanks to the beneficence of Heaven our prayers have been heard and a refreshing quantity of snow has since fallen upon the parched and frozen fields; it is fitting therefore, that we should return thanks for this bountiful beneficence of Heaven, and so command that on the 30th instant, preparations be made at the temple of the Most High where we intend to attend personally for that purpose, while Prince Tsai Lien shall go on the same day to give thanks at the temple of the Seasons; Prince Tsai Shu, 3rd Order, to the temple of Tsaohsüen, and Prince P'u Lun, 4th Order, to the Hsüenjên temple. The Imperial Duke Tsai Tsê shall proceed for the same purpose that day to the Ningho temple. Thus may our gratitude to High Heaven be manifested for the bountiful snow sent to gladden the hearts of our subjects in the Imperial prefecture.

A member of the Chinese Legation in London passed through Shanghai about the 10th inst., carrying the treaty which the Chinese Minister in London has negotiated with the British Government for the delimitation of the frontiers between China and Burmah. It is rumoured that China has obtained very favourable terms, but as nothing definite is known, we need not reproduce the conjectures circulated.

A missionary of the Church Missionary Society suffered injury recently at the hands of brigands within about ten miles of Ning-po. It is supposed that his assailants did not know him to be a foreigner, as their attack was directed against a native boat in which he happened to be travelling, and as they decamped when they discovered that a European was among their victims. But he received some heavy blows.

Two young ladies, Miss Marie Imaudt and Miss Bessie Maxwell, who are travelling on behalf of the *Dundee Weekly News*, have reached Shanghai and may soon be expected in Japan. Their mission seems to be to enquire into the condition of woman in the East, but we presume that their range of observation will not be confined to that. They have been interviewed by a representative of the *North-China Daily News*, upon whom they evidently produced a most pleasing impression.

The death of Mr. Charles H. Dallas occurred after a very short illness, as to the nature of which nothing is said in the Shanghai papers. Mr. Dallas was well-known in Japan, where he spent the greater part of his life in the East. He was an enthusiastic Freemason and had attained the highest position among the Craft in this country. In the early years of the *Meiji* era he barely escaped a violent death in Tokyo at the hands of two Japanese *Samurai*. Particulars of this affair need not be repeated, but we may note that the *North-China Daily News* is mistaken in describing the two Japanese as *Ronin*.

St. George's Celebration in Shanghai seems to have been a signal success. The programme alone would occupy the greater part of one of our columns and to attempt either to reproduce or to epitomize the descriptions given in the Shanghai papers is out of the question. It was the first fête of the kind ever held in Shanghai, but doubtless it will not be the last. The place chosen was the Chang Suho's Garden, a beautiful Chinese pleasure ground several acres in extent.

The unfortunate Chou Futsing, convicted of an attempt to bribe an Imperial examiner, is ot suffer the extreme penalty of the law. At one time it appeared as though he would escape with a bambooing and banishment. The Board of Punishments presented a recommendation in that sense on the ground that the crime had been found out before any harm was done, and that the bribe took the form, not of hard cash, but of a cheque that might have been dishonoured. The Emperor, however, refused to recognize these pleas, and sentenced Chou to decapitation. Considering that Chinese officialdom is supposed to be honeycombed with bribery and corruption, the only comment to be made on Chou's fate is the old Spartan proverb, "Anything is better than discovery."

The Customs Returns of Trade just published show that the gross value of China's Foreign Trade was, in 1893 Hk. Tls. 177,017,836; in 1892 Hk. Tls. 166,827,502; and in 1891 Hk. Tls. 165,543,862. The import of cotton goods shows a notable shrinkage, being 90 million yards less in 1893 than in 1892, but the actual falling off in deliveries was only about half of that amount. The report says—"Rapid and violent exchange fluctuations have recommended to foreign importers and native dealers alike a policy of conducting thetrade upon smaller stocks than the market has formerly been accustomed to, and thus January 1894 saw the port and its dependencies very much more lightly supplied than at the opening of 1893."

The people of Canton have been trying to play the plague a trick. A fortune-teller announced that the epidemic would cease at the approach of the spring solstice, so the citizens, in order to deceive the gods of sickness, made the 5th of May their New Year's Day, celebrating the occasion with all the prescribed rites and decorations. The local authorities assisted to complete the illusion, but whether the gods were taken in is not yet known.

The Emperor of China has created a sensation by personally examining the Theses sent in by competitors at the recent compulsory examination of members of the Hanlin Academy and Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent. There had been reason to doubt not only the competence but also the impartiality of some of the examiners, and that reasons existed for the doubt was proved by what followed. The high Ministers of State that constituted the examining board had read the Theses and determined the standing of each competitor when the Emperor suddenly constituted himself examiner-in-chief. There were 208 competitors, and it took His Majesty three whole days to look over the essays. The result was that the decisions of the examining board were almost completely reversed. One notable sufferer by the Imperial interference was H.E. Tsui, the lately-returned Minister to the United States, Spain, and Peru. He had a brevet button of the 2nd rank, and held the post of Senior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction to the Heir Apparent. It was because of this latter position that despite his years and previous services abroad, he had to present himself at the Examination Hall. The examining board placed him among the first thirty and recommended him for promotion. But the Emperor thrust him down low in the third class, the consequence being that he lost his button and was degraded from the post of Deputy Supervisor to that of Junior Secretary.

ENGLISH NEWS.

Professor Victor Horseley, F.R.S., has been lecturing in a most interesting manner on the destructive effects of small projectiles. The main point to which his investigations had been addressed was to determine why a bullet of a certain size and travelling at a certain rate, simply perforates some substances, such as wood or iron, while in others, such as clay, brain, &c., it exercises a bursting and disruptive action. Huguier, as long ago as 1848, gave an explanation. He said that the great lateral disturbance produced in certain substances by the passage of a bullet was due to the fact that the tissues contained water in large quantity, and that the energy of the moving projectile being imparted to the particles of water caused their dispersion in a hydrodynamic fashion. This conclusion was verified by Kocher in 1874-76, who found that when bullets were fired through two tin canisters of equal size, the one full of dry lint and the other of wet, the former was simply perforated while the latter was burst explosively.

Now, in life the brain is a more or less fluid body, though in a state of *rigor mortis* it is practically a solid, owing to coagulation of the blood and protoplasm. Hence, a shot fired into the skull must have a disruptive effect and tend to burst it. If that does not happen, the brain substance must be driven against the internal surface of the skull, and the energy of the bullet communicated to the fluid in the ventricular cavities which tunnel the brain down to the *medulla oblongata*. This is, therefore, subjected to pressure from two sources—(1) The hydrodynamic displacement of the brain *en masse*; (2) the direct crushing effect due to the movement of the cerebro-spinal fluid in the ventricles. Professor Horsley then passed to the pathological side of the subject, and described the experi-

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ments, by means of which he verified the deductions made from physical considerations. A dog, which, of course, was under ether, was arranged with apparatus to record by tracings the heart-beats, the blood-pressures in the trunk-arteries and the small capillary system, the movements of respiration, and the pressure within the skull. When a bullet entered the cranial cavity and set up the powerful hydrodynamic pressure referred to, the result was complete arrest of the respiration and a slight fall in the central blood pressure, which caused a similar fall in the peripheral pressure. Synchronously with the arrest of respiration there occurred a remarkable rise in the blood pressure, which continued till the normal tension was exceeded. This experiment shows that the first cause of death in such cases is not arrest of the heart and syncope, as the text-books affirm, seeing that the heart continues to beat. It is rather arrest of breathing, and if artificial respiration be quickly performed recovery from the otherwise fatal arrest may be obtained, as has been experimentally proved. The practical deduction from this fact is that with wounds in the head from rifles and revolvers the first thing to be done is to employ artificial respiration rather than to give stimulants. The physiological explanation of the phenomena observed is this. In the *medulla oblongata* is the chief centre for the movements of respiration, and also the centre and origin of the *vagus* nerve, which has the power of slowing the heart. There are thus two important centres liable to be affected by such changes of pressure around them as are induced when a bullet traverses the cerebral hemispheres. Supposing that the arrest of breathing has been removed by artificial respiration, there is another condition to be overcome, else death must ensue. The blood-vessels which have been lacerated by the bullet pour out blood, which again raises the inter-cranial tension. This constitutes the second cause of death, for it again paralyzes the respiratory centre and slows the heart. To treat such hæmorrhage, however, only ordinary surgical measures are necessary, but these will be impossible if the activity of the respiratory centre has not previously been restored.

Wales has at length been provided with a university of its own. The project had long been on the *tapis* and had received the approval of several successive Cabinets, but has only now become a *fait accompli*. Wales has been very active in matters of education during the past 25 years. She has organized three University Colleges — Aberystwith, Bangor, and Cardiff—by the aid of private subscriptions aggregating £200,000, and she now caps her work by founding a body which will absorb the University Colleges into one system and be competent to institute faculties and grant degrees. The new institution is to have a grant of £3,000 per annum from the Imperial Exchequer. An interesting future of the University's charter is that women are declared eligible, equally with men, for admittance to any degree which the University is authorized to confer.

New Zealand's experiment of granting the franchise to women has been practically tested. From the time of the Act's coming into operation until the general election there was an interval of only six weeks for effecting registration, yet no fewer than 109,461 women managed to get their names on the roll. There can be no question about their political zeal, after that. Out of that number, 90,200 voted. The male electors of New Zealand aggregate 193,526. Of these only 129,790 voted. The women therefore made much better use of their privilege than the men did.

To the Japanese politicians who labour so earnestly to introduce the party-cabinet system in this country, we commend the following verdict of the London *Times* elicited in connection with Naval affairs :—"The party system enables the Government of the day to do things that the settled judgment of the nation does not approve, and much more to leave undone things that the nation desires to see done."

It may be inferred from Sir E. Grey's answer to Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett, in the House of Commons on April 2nd, that H.B.M.'s Government have recognised China's claim to the Shan State of Kiang Hung. Sir E. Grey said, "We found Kiang Hung under Chinese Administration." Mr. Holt S. Hallett traverses this declaration. He refers to two maps—that of the Chinese province of Yünnan, published by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs in 1891, and that of the "Missions Pavie en Indo-Chine," published in 1892—as showing that the province was never previously so regarded. He then proceeds to say :—

If the Chinese administered Kiang Hung previous to 1891—*i.e.*, previous to six years after the Burmese dominions had fallen to us—the administration must have been of such a character that the French did not consider it recognizable, and so partial and so faint that Chinese official maps made no note of it. France has long been hungering for the portion of Kiang Hung lying to the east of the Mekong, which contains the celebrated I-bang tea-gardens. As early as 1884 M. Jules Ferry had his eye on it. This is evidenced by Lord Lyon's letters, contained in Blue-book "Correspondence relating to Burma, 1886." The desire works still in the French mind. This is shown by the events and claims of last year, and by the letter from M. Develle to Lord Dufferin on December 1st, 1893. This important document indicates that, as soon as we cede Kiang Hung to China, France will commence negotiations with that country for the delimitation of her frontier in the direction of Kiang Hung. That the French idea of rectification means the Mekong as their border from China southwards is notorious. If we cede Kiang Hung to China we practically cede the eastern half of it to France, thus interposing some 60 or 70 miles of French territory between us and Ssumao. It is simply impossible for our Government to commit a greater blunder, a blunder more disastrous to the future welfare and expansion of British commerce, than to block our railway route to China by parting with Kiang Hung and thus allowing its eastern half to be seized by the French. On no account should the Burmo-Chinese Frontier Convention be allowed to be ratified until it has been made public, fully discussed, and so altered as to be advantageous and not disastrous to British commerce.

The annual meeting of the English Bar, held in the hall of Lincoln's Inn, on April 7th, was the occasion of a proposition by Mr. Crump, Q.C., that all barristers in practice—of whom there are said to be not more than 1,000 or 1,500 though the names of about 8,000 barristers are borne on the "Law List"—should, as in America and Scotland, "form themselves into an organization, having at their head a council or an executive committee thoroughly representatives of the working Bar, and especially of the junior Bar. The result would be," according to the advocates of the scheme, "that they would follow on the lines of the new Bar Association, taking its members as a nucleus, and asking the Bar Committee to come and take the head of that body." The proposal was evidently suggested by a feeling of dissatisfaction with the work of the present Bar Committee, though there was no idea of doing away with that body. Sir Henry James, Sir Richard Webster, Sir Edward Clarke and other magnates of the Bar opposed the proposition, and moved an amendment, "that a committee be appointed to consider whether the constitution, organization, or action of the Bar Committee can be improved, and, if so, in what respect." This amendment was carried, and it was subsequently agreed, "that such committee consist of 15 members, five to be nominated by the mover and seconder of the resolution (Mr. Crump's resolution), five by the Bar Committee, and five by the law officers, and that such committee report to a meeting of the Bar on a day to be named by the Attorney-General."

We take the following from *The Times* :—

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society held on Monday evening at the University of London a paper by Mr. St. George R. Littledale was read.

The lecturer said that he and Mrs. Littledale left England in January, 1893, with the intention of crossing Asia from west to east, filling up some blanks in the map, and procuring specimens of the wild camel. They received, as usual, the greatest kindness from the Russian officials in Central Asia. At Kashgar Mr. Petrovsky expressed great anxiety at a lady attempting such a journey and tried to dissuade Mrs. Littledale from proceeding. After purchasing nearly two pony-loads of silver yamboos known on the China coast as sycee silver, they travelled in carts to Kurla, where they organized a caravan of 20 ponies and 40 donkeys and followed the river Tarim to Lob Nor. They camped by the Lob Nor swamp, but found the water too salt near the edge to drink; by wading out some distance they were able to get some just drinkable. Along the Altyn Tag, as far as the Galochan Bulak, there was a certain amount of water and grazing. This was the point where the great Russian traveller Prjevalsky turned back; but beyond the desert was of an appalling nature, hardly any grass whatever, and water very scarce; all the men suffered greatly from thirst, and the animals lost flesh rapidly and many died. Water, as a rule, was only found every second day. Mr. Littledale in this district shot four wild camels. They passed an embankment several miles in length, which it was difficult to account for unless it was a continuation of the Great Wall of China from Suchan, 200 miles to the east. At Saiju the Chinese officials were civil, but tried to prevent them from returning to the mountains. Colonel Yule in his book questioned the accuracy of Marco Polo's statement that it was a month's journey from Lob Nor to Saiju; it took Mr. Littledale exactly 30 days. Mr. Littledale found his own way over the mountains by a pass and reached the head waters of the Bahain Gol. They travelled for six days through a luxuriant grass country and camped on the shores of the Koko Nor. Another 13 days found them at Lanchau, where they disbanded their caravan. Here some China Inland missionaries kindly helped them to arrange a raft, on which they drifted down the Hoang-ho. Soon after leaving Lanchau the river dashes through a narrow gorge, and the raft had several narrow escapes of being broken up; it was knocked out of shape and some of the logs were smashed. Lower down, the river became broader and shallower, and they changed their raft for a flat-bottomed scow and reached Bonto in 25 days. At Kwei-hwa-cheng Mr. Littledale said there was a colony of about twenty-five Swedish girls living alone. They had been sent to out China through the instrumentality of an American; these poor ladies were exposed to daily ribald remarks in the streets; it was terrible to think what might be their fate. It was terrible to speak temperately of a society or individual which in the name of religion lightly took upon itself the responsibility of sending these women out wholesale to a country like China and when there left them practically without chaperonage or protection. It would hardly be credited that a girl barely speaking a word of the language would sometimes be sent alone with a Chinaman several days' journey in a cart, to stay in a town where there might or might not be a European. Both Mr. and Mrs. Littledale felt very sad the day they left those kind, enthusiastic, open-hearted Swedes. On September 27 they passed through the Great Wall and reached Pekin three days later.

The Times has an excellent laugh at Sir W. W. Harcourt. In his position of Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the Lower House, it fell to that statesman's lot to announce the Government's decision that Uganda should henceforth be administered by the Crown. Here is what *The Times* says about it :—

Every good-natured man must sympathize with Sir William Harcourt's reluctance to speak about affairs of this kind. It must be remembered that he finds himself in a wholly unprecedented situation. During a long political career it has never hitherto been his fortune to occupy any considerable post under a Prime Minister who took a constant and lively interest in Imperial affairs. It is rather hard upon him to be now compelled to give his mind to these trivial matters, and even to find money for the advancement of Imperial aims. He is learning his new lesson as a man with his remarkable flexibility cannot fail to do in the long run, but the habits of a life are not lightly flung aside. He do doubt honestly meant to inform the country on April 9th what the Government intend to do, but the unaccustomed duty could not be performed without further preparation. On April 12th he got so far as to make a very stiff and formal little statement to the effect that Her Majesty's Government have determined to establish a regular administration in Uganda, and for that purpose to declare a British Protectorate. It evidently cost him an effort, but he may be assured that we all appreciate the heroism with which he made it. Discussion, as every one will readily understand, would have been too much for him after such a strain. His request for postponement was natural and not unmanly. Lord Rosebery, combining respect for the House of Lords with delicate consideration for his colleague, made an identical announcement in another place. But, as he is accustomed to face our Imperial responsibilities, he, of course, did not show any signs of distress.

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THE LATEST PHASE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STRUGGLE.

NO political party in Japan to-day, no section in the House of Representatives, openly supports the Government. Various explanations, more or less subtle, have been given of this remarkably wholesale hostility. But from every analysis the true reason, as we venture to think, has been omitted. That reason is to be sought in a fact peculiar to Japanese politics at present: not one of the so-called political parties enjoys a share in the sweets of office. In other countries the party in opposition alone is excluded from the administration. Here, all are excluded. Therefore all alike are interested in pulling down the Government. Were this community of sentiment alone consulted, virtually the entire House of Representatives would be found voting want of confidence in the Cabinet. Such a signal result is precluded, however, by the circumstance that anxious as the various parties are to overthrow the Government, they are equally anxious to prevent each other from sharing in the operation; equally anxious, in short, to overthrow each other. Their mutual antipathies incapacitate them for any united demonstration. Hence it was that the Address to the Throne introduced by the Six Sections of the Opposition failed to obtain a majority. On the other hand, when the opponents of the Address introduced a Resolution censuring the Government's action in dissolving the House of Representatives, they, in turn, found arrayed against them the men whose measure they had defeated on the preceding day. Thus the Resolution also failed to pass. So did an amendment proposed by the Six Sections. A curious piece of parliamentary tactics was that amendment. The original Resolution ran as follows:—

> Whereas, the Government ordered the dissolution of the House of Representatives, in the 26th year of *Meiji* in its fifth session, before the House had had an opportunity to express its opinion, and whereas the Government did not publicly announce the reason of the dissolution, therefore it is hereby resolved that the Government's procedure with regard to the dissolution of the House of Representatives in its fifth session was improper and unconstitutional.

The amendment was this:—

> Whereas, the procedure of the present Cabinet is wrong and improper, therefore, this House resolves that it cannot place confidence in the present Cabinet.

The original Resolution condemned one specific act; the amendment condemned the whole procedure of the Government. The introducers of the amendment thus sought to retrieve the defeat of the Address to the Throne. Could they have succeeded in inducing the House to pass a sweeping vote of want of confidence in the Government, the object of the Address would have been virtually achieved. But the members who had voted against the Address, detecting this obvious ruse, voted also against the amendment. Then by way of retaliation the others voted against the Resolution. In this way a kind of see-saw was set up. Both sides would have been glad to deal the Government a fatal blow, but neither could agree to let the other participate in the act, and since their strength was pretty evenly balanced, while a party of Independents numerically few, lbut yet sufficient to turn the scale, held themselves always in readiness to prevent the passage of any measure in the nature of an ultimatum, it resulted that all the House's animosity against the Government became impotent. Naturally, practical politicians grew impatient of such helplessness. Especially intolerable must it have seemed to them that while all were agreed in resenting the dissolution of the last House of Representatives, even that simple fact could not be placed on record. An exit from the dilemma was found on the 19th instant. Among the Standing Orders of the House there is an Article providing for the resuscitation of a measure which, though once rejected, embodies a principle endorsed by the House. This somewhat peculiar Article is worth quoting verbatim:—

> When although an amended Bill and the original Bill both fail to obtain a majority vote, the House is nevertheless of opinion that the measure in question ought not to be abandoned, it shall be lawful to appoint a Special Committee and entrust it with the duty of preparing another Bill for renewed deliberation.

Here was a way out of the *impasse* in which the various parties found themselves. They were unquestionably agreed that the Government ought to be censured for dissolving the House of Representatives, yet they had rejected a Resolution in that sense, and nothing remained for them now but to appoint a Committee and have a new Resolution framed. Even that resource, however, required a measure of agreement and the necessary *rapprochement* was not effected without difficulty. When the House met on the 19th, Mr. KANMUCHI, a member whose proposals are always listened to with respect, moved that such a Committee should be appointed to resuscitate in an altered form the resolution thrown out the preceding day. Then the House did a curious thing. It took a recess of an hour and a half in order, avowedly, that the leaders of the various parties might confer about this proposal. Nothing could more forcibly illustrate the exceptional character of Japanese politics. Fancy the House of Commons in Westminster adjourning to the lobbies and committee-rooms in order that Mr. BALFOUR, Mr. REDMOND, Mr. GOSCHEN, Dr. TANNER, Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, and Mr. LABOUCHERE might consult as to what course their respective parties should pursue about a Resolution introduced by Mr. JOHN MORLEY. The thing is inconceivable, yet it is precisely what the Japanese House of Representatives did last Saturday, and did successfully, for on re-assembling after the recess, Mr. KANMUCHI's proposal was voted by an overwhelming majority, and a Committee of 18 was immediately appointed to re-draft the rejected Resolution. The Committee set about its task the same evening. It prepared the following resolution which will doubtless be passed by the House to-day:—

> Whereas this House considers that the dissolution of the House of Representatives in the Fifth Session and the failure to furnish any explanation of the act were unconstitutional measures, therefore, this House cannot place confidence in the procedure of the Government so far as concerns the dissolution of the House of Representatives in its Fifth Session.

Immediately after the appointment of the above Committee there came up for discussion an Address to the Throne introduced by the Radical Party. This Address would certainly have fared like its predecessor had it been submitted to the mutual animosities of the various parties. But, it too, was handed to the Committee—which, we may mention, consists of an equal number of Radicals and of the Six Sections' combination—so that we may now look forward to the passing of an Address less moderate in tone than that drafted by the Radicals, but a good deal more moderate than that proposed by the Six Sections. The various parties have thus found a way of marching hand in hand to the attack of the Government. We shall not venture to predict the issue.

THE RESOLUTION ABOUT DISSOLUTION.

THE House of Representatives has passed a Resolution that faithfully reflects the perplexity of the members. Influenced as the great majority of them are by a desire to attack the Government, they differ so radically in their political creeds that really combined action is impossible, and out of this conflict of inclination and potentiality there has emerged a measure equally incomprehensible to its drafters and its supporters. What the House means by declaring that it cannot repose confidence in a specific act of the Government that took place last December, we can not comprehend. Want of confidence in a Cabinet means, according to the every-day acceptation of the term, that the Cabinet's future acts are not trusted, but the House of Representatives has placed on record the curious declaration that it has no confidence in something done by the Cabinet five months ago. The fact is that the Opposition laboured under an embarrassing necessity. They had to devise some step vindicating their procedure about Strict Treaty Enforcement last session, but they knew perfectly well that no step in the nature of an avowed vindication could hope to obtain a majority in the House. Thus they were driven to take refuge in a Resolution worded in such a manner that no one can be sure what it really signifies; a Resolution that may consequently be interpreted in the sense desired by the Opposition if only suffi-

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cient good will be brought to the task of interpreting it. A very poor consolation truly is this recourse to studied vagueness. To grudge it to politicians in such a tight place would be churlish. The Government, of course, will take no notice of the Resolution. They dissolved the House because it was on the eve of passing a Representation calculated to create an evil impression in foreign countries by suggesting the erroneous inference that the people of Japan are hostile to foreigners and desirous of keeping them at a distance. It was to save the nation from an implication so injurious that the constituencies were appealed to, and the constituencies have responded to the appeal by returning a House that dares not revive in any form the measure so stoutly advocated last December. The Government's action is amply vindicated by its results. The EMPEROR'S advisers can afford to ignore resolutions as inconsequential as they are unintelligible.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

IT is plain that the new President of the House of Representatives has not succeeded in winning confidence. His action since he was raised to the Chair has created the impression that party feeling strongly sways his conduct. At no time in the history of Japanese parliamentary institutions has the House of Representatives been so little under control, a fact in itself suggestive of the light in which the authority of the chair is regarded by the members. The first exhibition of the President's incompetence or partiality was afforded when Count ITO delivered his important speech in the House on the 16th instant. Not the least effort was made by Mr. KUSUMOTO to check the interruptions indulged in by the members, or to put an end to the disorder that reigned in the House. We can scarcely imagine that a man who has sat in the House since its first assembly and who has enjoyed the privilege of witnessing the impartial presidency of Messrs. NAKAJIMA and HOSHI, can be in any doubt as to what is meant by holding the members sufficiently in control to ensure for each speaker a fair hearing. Must we not conclude, then, that in allowing such turbulent and continuous interruption of Count ITO'S speech, the President played into the hands of his Party instead of obeying the dictates of duty? The most charitable construction to put on his conduct would be that he does not possess the qualities requisite for discharging such onerous functions. But that is not the view taken by his own countrymen. Certainly no such excuse can be found for his action on the 17th instant, when he allowed Mr. OZAKI YUKIO to address the House after the closure had been duly moved and seconded. One of the clearest points of Japanese Parliamentary procedure is the article in the Standing Orders with reference to the closure. It is there plainly laid down that so soon as the closure is moved and seconded, the President must take the sense of the House without allowing the debate to proceed any further. The closure was duly moved and seconded at a certain point in the debate on the Opposition's Address to the Throne on the 17th instant, yet the President, without putting the closure to the vote, allowed Mr. OZAKI YUKIO, a distinguished member of the *Kaishin-to*, to ascend the rostrum and deliver a long speech in support of the Address. It is of course conceivable that the President may have extended permission to Mr. OZAKI before the moving of the closure. But that is not the view taken by his own countrymen. An amendment proposed by Mr. INUGAI KI on the 18th instant is quoted by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* as another instance of the President's partiality. The original motion condemned a specific act of the Cabinet's l the amendment declared that the whole conduct of the Cabinet being wrong and improper, the Ministry had forfeited the confidence of the House. We do not ourselves perceive that such an amendment was out of order, but a section of the members did so consider it, and the previous question was duly moved and seconded. But the President declined to take the sense of the House, and ruled the amendment to be in order, thus playing into the hands of the Opposition, his own Party. Other charges are preferred against Mr. KUSUMOTO, but we need not reproduce them. As foreigners we are not concerned in Japanese party politics. But we are concerned in the story of the Japanese Diet, since it constitutes an incident of the greatest interest in the development of parliamentary institutions generally. Whatever may have been the intention of the framers of the Japanese system, it is quite plain that the system is evolving one most objectionable characteristic: the President of the House of Representatives is becoming a mere party leader. Nothing could have been franker than the nature of the Presidential election on the 12th instant. It was essentially a party affair—though a few of the members appear to have regarded it otherwise—and its result was regarded as a victory by the Opposition. How can we reasonably expect that a human being with strong party proclivities, who has acted for years as a party leader, wil; suddenly divest himself of all his highly coloured political garments and don the white raiment of justice and impartiality so soon as he is raised, by his Party's efforts, to a position of honour and strength, the functions of which may be exercised in a manner highly conducive to his Party's advantage? We imagine that the Presidential question is likely to thrust itself into the foreground of parliamentary reform in Japan ere many years have passed.

THE BLACK PLAGUE.

IT is useless to attempt to disguise the fact that the recent outbreak of epidemic disease in Canton and Hongkong may, possibly, prove of very grave importance. There appears no reason to doubt that the malady is a severe form of the Plague, a pestilence that has perhaps caused more deaths than any other of the great epidemic sicknesses which affect the human race. In view of the fact that Plague has been, practically, unknown in civilized countries for nearly a hundred years, it has come to be regarded as of interest only in a historical sense. It is, consequently, somewhat startling, in these days of rapid intercourse and mundane homogeneity, to find it appearing at a commercial centre, in so malignant a type that it has already earned the mediæval title of "The Black Death."

From the sixth to the eighteenth centuries, the Plague was the terror of Europe, where it raged at frequently recurring periods with a violence that is appalling even in description. DE FOE'S "Journal of a Citizen," founded upon the recollections of those who had witnessed the horrors of the Great Plague of London in 1665-66, while not to be taken as accurate in historical detail, presents a most realistic picture of a typical epidemic of this disease and is confirmed by contemporary records. From 1800 to the middle of the century, the Plague was several times severely prevalent in the countries about the eastern end of the Mediterranean, and made isolated and brief appearances at several points on the more western shores of that sea, being there eradicated by prompt and severe sanitary measures. Arabia and Persia suffered from violent epidemics at various dates from 1853 to 1878, the latter year being that of the last known outbreak of Plague upon European soil. This occurred in the neighbourhood of Astrakhan, on the western bank of the lower Volga. Most active proceedings were at once taken by the Russian Government, including the stationing of a triple cordon of troops around the infected district, and the disease was quickly stamped out. It is an indication of the estimation in which this malady in held by those best qualified to judge of such matters, that sanitarians throughout the world betrayed the deepest interest in this comparatively trifling epidemic at a remote point, and that all the leading nations of Europe promptly despatched scientific commissions to the spot; these, however, arriving too late for advantageous investigation. It was formerly thought that the great river Indus strictly limited the eastern extension of the Plague. This idea undoubtedly arose from the paucity of information regarding the Far East, for it is now well known that the disease has several times been epidemic in different provinces of northern India, and that, on

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at least two occasions in the past, it swept through China with a besom of destruction. An old Russian chronicle, in fact, declares that the cycle of epidemics which ravaged Europe in the fourteenth century, originated on Chinese soil. Plague has been known to exist in Yünnan, for some years past, and has been severely prevalent in Pakhoi more than once, and is now epidemic there. It seems probable that, from Yünnan or Pakhoi, the disease reached Canton, by commercial routes, early in March of this year.

The Plague, described non-technically, is an acute fever, infectious and contagious as well; that is, caused by a special poison which is propagated in the bodies of the sick, and, perhaps, in favouring conditions, outside of them also; and which is capable of being directly communicated from man to man. It is accompanied by evidences of intense blood-poisoning, such as swelling and abscess of the glands of the arm-pit and groin, this being its most distinctive symptom; carbuncles, hæmorrhages under the skin, and, sometimes, from internal organs, and by great prostration of strength. It is fatal to a very large proportion of those attacked, after a period which may be measured by hours only. The symptoms of the disease are so peculiar and characteristic that its recognition is easy, even at its first appearance, which is not necessarily the case as regards certain other epidemic maladies.

While deprecating any needless alarm, the writer feels that some knowledge of the kind and extent of the present danger, and of the measures to be taken for its minimization or avoidance, should be made public, and that it is certainly not the part of wisdom to deny or underrate the existing peril.

The laws of epidemic disease in general are now far better understood than in even the immediate past; their causes, both essential and exciting, are, in a degree, recognized; and some means of their prevention are known. As regards cholera, for instance, we no longer find the unreasoning terror, which formerly, among even the intelligent and educated accompanied its then mysterious invasions. The method by which it spreads is known, we are acquainted with the habitat of its infection, and are familiar with the precautions advisable and generally effective.

Now while we have, unfortunately, no such complete knowledge of the Plague as we have of cholera, we do know something about it; sufficient to enable us to predict, with reasonable certainty, the circumstances under which it will spread and become malignant, and to roughly define the conditions that imply danger to those brought in contact with it, as well as the means likely to prove useful for avoiding its attack, either upon the individual or the community. The infrequency with which Plague has appeared epidemically, in recent times, but, still more, the remoteness and uncivilized character of the regions in which it has occurred, have not allowed of the study of this disease in the light of modern scientific discoveries. We do know, however, that, like most other grave epidemic diseases, it is one of nature's punishments for filthy habits. That it was the curse of the Middle Ages, was due to the fact that the cities of Europe were, at that time, filthy and insanitary to an extent only comparable with the condition of some of the towns of Asia at the present day. Filth is the great factor in the development and increase of epidemic disease; but, having begun in a crowded and dirty environment, and progressed to epidemic extent, the infection often seems to become so intense as to tend to overleap its natural boundaries, and to attack with greater or less violence those living in far better circumstances. From this it follows that, even were we disposed to ignore the existence of an epidemic among the poor and ignorant, self-preservation would forbid such an inhuman course.

We know too, that, although Plague is one of the most infectious of diseases, the activity of its infection varying with the type of the outbreak, whether this be mild or severe, a more or less prolonged exposure in the atmosphere surrounding the sick is generally necessary to its contraction. While the old ideas as to its contagious character were therefore exaggerated, to deny its great infectiousness is absurd. We do not know the exact nature of the infection of Plague, perhaps from the lack of opportunities for the study of the subject, as already noted. All analogy, nevertheless, points, with a probability amounting to certainty, to the death-dealing family of the microbes as furnishing its essential element. It is rather surprising, then, to find a member of the Sanitary Board of Hongkong assuming that the disease depends upon a purely chemical poison rather than on one of parasitic nature, nor do we believe that the facts afford his hypothesis the least support. There is the strongest ground for supposing that the infection of the Plague is capable of adhering to inanimate objects, such as clothing, furs, bedding, and furniture, and that it may be thus carried to a considerable distance. The lower animals are subject to the attack of the disease, though chiefly the domestic species and those which hang about human habitations, especially rats. The latter often die by thousands at the very beginning of an epidemic, as has already been noted in Canton; a fact that lends some colour to the suggestion that the disease poison finds a breeding place in the soil, as well as in the human body; for rats are burrowing animals.

Climatic conditions have much influence upon the development of the Plague. It is very rarely prevalent in cold weather, though there have been marked exceptions to this rule. Again, a very high temperature, especially when accompanied by dryness of air and soil, is decidedly inimical to it spread, often causing it to disappear. On the other hand, moisture is recognized as especially favouring the epidemic prevalence of Plague, and this fact suggests an enquiry as to the grounds upon which the sanitary authorities of Hongkong base their confident prediction that rain will speedily eradicate the disease. It is true that a small portion of the filth, so characteristic of Chinese quarters, might be removed by the natural flushing of their very incomplete and almost useless drains; but this alone would be but ineffective sanitation. As a matter of fact, there had been four days of copious rain just prior to the despatch of the latest official telegram from Hongkong, dated May 20th, but the disease was far from abating. Considering the, at least possible, importance of this outbreak of disease, which began in Canton in March, and the existence and nature of which should have been, if it was not, speedily known to the authorities of Hongkong, it is somewhat remarkable to find the first recorded action of the Sanitary Board, as regards this subject, taking place only about May 10th; after the disease had attained a firm hold in the colony. There may be sufficient reasons for this seemingly culpable delay, but they are not apparent, and such procrastination is in harmony with what has several times occurred as regards outbreaks of cholera.

Having thus briefly reviewed the history and best ascertained facts as to the nature of Plague, let us consider the means which should be adopted for its mitigation and prevention. We would here accentuate the importance of filth, and over-crowding, in the development of Plague to epidemic proportions, the infection once being present. Where the disease already exists, isolation of the sick and the most thorough cleansing and disinfection of the infected locality should be at once enforced; while persons who have been exposed to contagion should be watched till the period of danger has passed. All material capable of transmitting infection, which has been in contact with, or in the immediate neighbourhood of, the sick, should be ruthlessly destroyed by fire. In districts not yet attacked but presumably in danger, the strictest possible measures of general sanitation should be carried out, including drainage, removal and destruction of all accumulations of filth, prevention of overcrowding, ventilation of dwellings, and improvement of the physical condition of the very poor. The state of things in China generally, but especially in its cities, is, unfortunately, highly favourable to the extension of any pestilential disease, and measures of precaution are practically impossible, save at the open ports; but, in these, they should be at once taken.

So far as Japan is concerned, the cleanly

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personal habits of the people, the open arrangement and free ventilation of the cities, with their comparative freedom from the pollution of accumulated filth, warrant the hope that, even should the malady, by misadventure, obtain a lodgment on our shores, its control and extermination may not prove a very difficult undertaking. In view, however, of the limitations of our knowledge as to the laws of this special epidemic disease, and of the exact nature and virulence of its infection, it seems to the writer that the Government of Japan should err rather in the direction of excessive precaution than in the opposite, and should make all other interests subservient to that of protecting its people. Rigid inspection should be applied to all vessels coming from, or by way of, infected ports or those suspected to be infected, and, if cases of illness are found presenting symptoms even in the least degree suspicious, these should be isolated and watched. The ship should, meanwhile, be emptied of all passengers and crew, and these detained under observation for not less than eight full days after the disease has ceased to appear; and the vessel thoroughly and by preference repeatedly disinfected. All baggage and cargo of such a nature as to be the possible carriers of infection, should be disinfected by heat, and such material as has been in the immediate neighbourhood of the sick, destroyed by fire. The bodies of those dying of the disease should be promptly cremated. Should the disease appear on shore, scarcely any measures for its repression can be deemed too severe. Even the so-called "shot-gun" quarantine is here, if anywhere, warranted, both by the imminence and magnitude of the danger, and by the fact that the method of transmission of the disease, by personal contact, renders it far more likely to be effective, than in the case of other diseases, not so transmitted, to which "shot-gun" quarantee it has been applied. There are many instances on record in which the Plague has been arrested by a military cordon, after other means had failed. I am well aware that the consensus of opinion of modern sanitarians is against measures of excessive stringency; but modern sanitary science has not as yet had to deal with the enemy in question, which appears to be, in many respects, *sui generis*. It was experience of the efficacy of severe measures in the control of this disease that led to the establishment of the strict, and, individually considered, often actually cruel, quarantines of the Mediterranean ports, which have scarcely yet been abolished, despite the fact that through improved sanitation the protected places no longer invite the invasion of the pestilence. The general measures of sanitary value which should be employed have already been indicated. So far as individual precaution goes, contact with the disease should be avoided by all whose duty does not compel them to deal with it; the ordinary mode of life, if correct and healthful, should be pursued as usual, and all needless alarm discouraged.

While thus outlining the procedure believed to be advisable in the present emergency, and the conditions which may grow out of it, the writer would add that long experience in working with the sanitary officers of the Japanese Government, and a considerable familiarity with their aims, methods, and results, enable him to assure the public that no effort will be spared to protect the country against the threatened evil, and that such measures as seem in the present state of our knowledge most likely to be effectual for this end, will be promptly, carefully, and intelligently enforced.

STUART ELDRIDGE, M.D.

IMPERIAL DIET.

SATURDAY, MAY 19.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.25 a.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Government Bill for amending the Law relating to Lost Articles.
2.—Government Bill for supplementing the Pension Regulations.
3.—Representation relating to the Establishment of an Iron Foundry.

Mr. Matsuoka, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, explained that the proposed amendments of the Lost Articles Law were of undoubted practical necessity, the Law not having been altered since the time of its promulgation in 1877.

The Bill was handed to a Special Committee of 9 nominated by the President.

Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu introduced the Bill for supplementing the Pension Regulations. According to the present Regulations, Headmen of of Districts and Divisions (*Gun Ku-cho*), not having been classed as officials until the year 1883 (June), were unable to count their service prior to that time for pension records. But in truth they were officials to all intents and purposes. Moreover, the Secretaries of District and Divisional offices, though inferior in rank to the Headmen, were classed as officials and were entitled to count their service prior to 1883 for pension purposes. Thus a great injustice was done to the Headmen. The object of the Bill now before the House was to remedy that injustice by empowering the Headmen to count their service prior to 1883.

The Bill was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President.

The Representation relating to an Iron Foundry was then read :—

Whereas, the country has urgent need of an Iron Foundry alike for economical and military reasons, therefore this House trusts that the Government will take immediate steps for the establishment of such a foundry.

Baron Ozawa Takeo introduced the Representation. The country, he said, had purchased 12½ million *yen* worth of manufactured iron from abroad annually, according to the average of the past five years, and its needs in the future must be still greater. He need not dwell on the desirability of substituting domestic material if possible, nor need he point out how imperative it was from a military point of view to be independent of foreign countries in the matter of material for ship-building and the manufacture of arms and armour. Expert investigations had shown that plenty of iron existed in Japan, and if only the means to manufacture it were provided Japan might not only become self-supplying, but also might export to China and Korea. It seemed hopeless to abandon the enterprise to private effort. The State must take it up.

In answer to Mr. Kato Hiroyuki, Baron Ozawa said that when he spoke of national independence in this context, he meant that arms and munitions of war need not be procured abroad. As to the quality of Japanese manufactured iron, there was no reason to apprehend its inferiority to the imported article, and as to the cost, full particulars were accessible in the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the question.

The Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, in reply to questions, said that the Investigation Committee appointed to prepare a report on this subject had been dissolved at the close of the last fiscal year in consequence of no appropriation having been made in the Budget for its continuance. The original idea had been that the Committee's labours would be finished before the end of the 26th fiscal year, but they had not been finished, and an appropriation would be asked for in the next Budget.

Viscount Naito urged, at some length, the necessity of taking decisive steps for establishing a Foundry without waiting for the report of the Investigation Committee.

The Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce said, in reply to questions, that it had not yet been found possible, for financial reasons, to send a special mission to China for the purpose of inquiring into the circumstances of the Foundry established there, but information had been obtained from an expert and embodied in a report which might be handed to the members if they wished. It appeared that China had spent 2½ million Taels originally on the Foundry, and that, if he remembered aright, 2 millions more had been subsequently expended and the site chosen was understood to be unsuitable. He shared the view held by the former Minister of Agriculture and Commerce that the enterprise might safely be left to private effort if State aid were furnished for the first five or six years. But this opinion did not extend to war material. It would be necessary that some official supervision should be exercised there.

Viscount Soga spoke strongly in favour of placing the enterprise under State direction, and after a few more remarks the Home adopted the Representation by a large majority.

The House rose at 12.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.10 p.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Address to the Throne; introduced by Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi and others.
2.—Bill for Special Re-assessment of the Taxable Value of Land; introduced by Mr. Higashiwo Heitaro and others.
3.—Bill for amending the Second-Hand Articles Dealers Regulations; introduced by Mr. Mori Toichiro.
4.—Bill for abolishing the Special System of Local Government in the case of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka; introduced by Mr. Kato Kiyemon.
5.—Bill for supplementing the City Government System; introduced by Mr. Kato Kiyemon.

Mr. Kanmuchi Tamotsune asked leave to introduce an urgency motion for submitting to a Special Committee the Resolution proposed on the preceding day by Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke, with reference to the Dissolution of the last House of Representatives. Although the Resolution as well as the amendment proposed by Mr. Inugai Ki had not obtained a majority vote, it had been made plain that all parties agreed in considering the Government's procedure improper. The Standing Orders of the House provided that when a measure failed to pass in the form submitted to the House, it might be entrusted to a Special Committee for re-drafting if the House desired to assert the principle involved. He considered that a wise and suitable course in the present case, so that the views of the House might find expression.

At the suggestion of some of the members, a brief recess was taken at 1.20 p.m. to enable the various political parties to hold a conference.

The House re-assembled at 3 o'clock, and agreed by a large majority to change the Order of the Day for the purpose of debating Mr. Kanmuchi's urgency motion.

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro called the attention of the House to the extraordinary precedent that it was about to establish. The 123rd Article of the Standing Orders provided that when a measure as well as its amendments, if such were proposed, failed to pass the House, a

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similar measure could not again be submitted in the same session. The Constitution contained a similar provision. They were therefore invited to violate alike their own rules and the Constitution. If they passed the proposal now before them, a similar course might be pursued with regard to any Bill hereafter.

The closure was moved and carried, and the House passed Mr. Kanmuchi's resolution, namely :—

For the purpose of giving expression to the opinion entertained by this House with reference to the Government's conduct in dissolving the last House of Representatives, a Special Committee of 18, nominated by the President, shall be entrusted with the duty of drawing up a Resolution.

The Address to the Throne was then read as follows :—

ADDRESS TO THE THRONE BY THE RADICAL PARTY.

May it please Your Majesty—

Your Enlightened and August Majesty, on ascending the Throne, was so gracious as to solemnly make five vows in the face of all Your Majesty's loyal subjects, to the end that both the Authorities and the people might cōoperate, as with one heart, to promote the successful conduct of State affairs. The great Imperial Rescript containing these vows stands even as conspicuous and firm as a mountain. Profoundly impressed with the boundless benevolence of Your Majesty, it has always been during many years our constant and never ceasing endeavour to contribute, to the utmost of our ability, our humble share toward the fulfilment of Your Majesty's gracious intentions. The Ministers of State, on the other hand, have, of late years, adopted measures at variance with the wishes and expectations of the nation, until, in the fourth session of the Imperial Diet, the difference of views between the Ministers of State and us, Your Majesty's humble servants, became so great that we ventured to represent to Your Majesty our inability to work any longer in concert with them. Your Imperial Majesty, in pursuance of the solemn vows above referred to, was pleased to issue a gracious Message charging both Your Majesty's Ministers of State and Your Majesty's humble servants, the members of the Imperial Diet, to labour harmoniously for the consummation of the grand objects of this glorious reign. Your Majesty, moreover, was pleased especially to order the Ministers of State to introduce reforms in the various branches of the Administration. The Ministers of State, on their part, in obedience to Your Majesty's benevolent command, promised to bring about, by the fifth session of the Diet, the maintenance of official discipline, the reduction of public expenses, and the reform of the Naval Department. Thereupon the people of the whole country rejoiced exceedingly at Your Majesty's gracious condescension in approving the wishes of the nation; and hoped that the fifth session of the Diet would bring them the promised blessings. The Ministers of State, however, tried mere temporizing measures, and neither the maintenance of official discipline nor the reform of the Navy was achieved in a satisfactory manner, the only thing accomplished being retrenchment of public expenses and dismissal of certain officials. Such a temporizing policy is totally incapable of giving satisfaction to the people, and is, we apprehend, contrary to the gracious wishes of Your Majesty. We, Your Majesty's humble servants, are sincerely desirous of promoting the smooth conduct of affairs in obedience to the Imperial Rescript mentioned above. But the action of the Ministers of State makes it impossible for us to keep silence. We humbly pray that Your Majesty may graciously be pleased to adopt the wishes of the people and bid the Ministers of State shape their conduct in such a manner as to bring about harmonious cōoperation between the Government and the Diet. This Address is respectfully submitted by Your Majesty's humble servant Kusumoto Masataka, President of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Kurihara Ryoichi explained that the introducers of the Address were fully conscious of the extreme care that should be exercised in approaching the Throne, but they felt that in this case they had no choice. The Government had pledged itself to make Administrative reforms of a drastic nature, but had done nothing beyond reducing Administrative Expenses. The country wanted something much more than that. Above all, it wanted a complete change made in the Naval Department. It wanted the Combatant and Executive branches thoroughly separated; it wanted the system of appointing military officials to the Admiralty reorganized; it wanted the establishment of Staff Officers fixed; it wanted a proper system of training officers; it wanted the Naval Station system changed; it wanted the Reserve organization remodelled; it wanted a thorough system of overseeing the supply of Stores; it wanted the Medical and Paymasters Colleges abolished; it wanted the expenses of the Naval Academy reduced, and it wanted many other things to which the Government showed no disposition to attend. (The speech was extended to great length with much reading of documents so that, in the end, the speaker addressed himself to nearly empty benches.)

Mr. Minoura Katsuto moved that the Address be handed to a Special Committee, and the motion was carried by 138 to 137, the Committee being the same as that to which the previous measure had been entrusted.

Mr. Higashio Heitaro introduced the Bill for Special Re-assessment of the Taxable Value of Land as follows :—

PROJECT OF LAW FOR THE SPECIAL RE-ASSESSMENT OF THE TAXABLE VALUE OF LAND UNDER CULTIVATION.

Art. I.—In cases where the present valuation of land devoted to cultivation is considered unduly high, it shall be specially amended and reduced, and the total to be reduced shall not be under 150,000,000 *yen*.

Art. II.—The standards observed in amending the above unduly high valuation shall be as follow :—

(*a*) The assumed yield shall be reduced in proportion to the grade of the land and to the average yield in each district.

(*b*) The assumed price of rice per *koku* shall be lowered in the same ratio in the different localities, on the basis of the average market price during the five years from the 21st to the 25th year of *Meiji* inclusive.

(*c*) The assumed rate of interest shall be six per cent.

Art. III.—The general amount to be reduced from the existing valuation of land in each City, Town, and District shall be determined by the Minister of State for Finance, in accordance with the system of territorial division adopted at the time of the Land Tax Revision. The amount to be reduced from the existing valuation of particular farms, in each City, Town, or District, shall be fixed by decision of the Council of Land-owners. Provided that the organization and competence of such Council of Land-owners shall be determined by Imperial Ordinance.

Art. IV.—The expenses incurred for purposes of re-assessment in each City, Town, or District shall be defrayed by the owners of the lands, the taxable value of which has been reduced.

Art. V.—Lands whose valuation has been amended in accordance with this Law, shall be taxed on the basis of the amended valuation from the 28th year of *Meiji*. Provided that, in the case of Cities, Towns, and Districts, where the work of re-assessment has not been completed by the aforementioned year, the land tax shall continue to be levied on the basis of the present valuation until the work of re-assessment is completed.

Art. VI.—With regard to the enforcement of this Law, Law No. 105 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*, namely, the Law of Complaint, shall not be applicable.

Introduced by HIGASHIO HEITARO and 23 others.
Supported by KIMURA SEITARO and 104 others.

Mr. Higashio explained the Bill at some length, but his arguments did not extend beyond the contention that great inequalities existed in the present assessment, and that justice required immediate re-assessment. He charged the Government with playing fast and loose with the nation in this matter. They had themselves introduced a re-assessment Bill in the Lower House last session, and had subsequently contrived that it should be thrown out by the Peers, thus plainly showing that its original introduction had not been dictated by a sense of the measure's genuine expediency, but merely for the purpose of placating the Opposition. Had the Ministers of the Crown been sincere, they would have introduced the Bill again this session, and since they had failed to do so, he and his supporters ventured to do it for them.

The Bill was handed to a Special Committee of 9 elected by the Sections.

The Bill for amending the Regulations for Dealers in Second Hand Articles was entrusted to a Special Committee of 9 nominated by the President, the House dispensing with any explanation. The Bill was as follows :—

AMENDED REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF DEALERS IN SECOND-HAND ARTICLES.

Art. I.—Persons who make it their business to purchase or sell second-hand furniture, wares, books, manuscripts pictures, clothes, or old copper, iron, gold, &c., shall be known as Dealers in Second-hand Articles for the purposes of the present Law; and in the same category shall be included any of the following traders who make the purchase, sale, or exchange of second-hand articles a part of their business; namely, sword-dealers, dealers in, and manufacturers of, powders and purses, toilet articles, tortoise-shell ornaments, watches and clocks, gold and silver ornaments, gold and silver leaf, or tobacco-pipes.

Art. II.—Every Dealer in Second-hand Articles must obtain a license from the local authorities of the district to which he belongs; and, if in Tokyo, from the Board of the Metropolitan Police, *provided that when a license has been obtained he may purchase or sell or exchange articles at any place.*

Art. III.—When a Dealer in Second-hand Articles sells, purchases, or exchanges any article, he must record the particulars of the transaction in his books in such a way that the police will have no difficulty in tracing the article as well as its buyers or sellers.

Art. IV.—All purchases of goods from, or their exchange with, untrustworthy persons is strictly forbidden.

This rule, however, does not apply to cases when a trustworthy person becomes security for the transaction, or where special sanction has been obtained from the police.

Art. V.—The purchase or exchange of articles must not be effected with persons under fifteen years of age, with persons suffering from mental derangement, or with servants who reside in the houses of their employers.

This rule does not, however, apply to cases where parents, guardians, employers, or other trustworthy persons become security for the transaction.

Articles bearing the seal, or mark, or number, of an office, city, town, village, school, hospital, temple, company, or firm, must not be purchased, or exchanged for other articles, unless the legality of the transaction is attested by [two or more] sureties.

Dealers who violate the provisions of the preceding two paragraphs may be ordered to restore the articles without receiving any compensation.

Art. VI.—No swords, or articles containing swords, may be sold to untrustworthy persons, or to persons who have been punished for theft or gambling. The sale of such articles by the way-side or at stalls on the public thoroughwares is also forbidden.

Art. VII.—When it is deemed essential, the police may issue official notices with special regard to articles among those stolen or fraudulently made away with, which are made in some special way. (This Article is practically a new one.)

Art. VIII.—When official notices are issued with regard to articles stolen or fraudulently made away with, copies of such notices must be kept by Dealers in Second-Hand Articles, and on them must be noted the hour, day, month, and year of their receipt. If Articles indicated in such notices are purchased, or received in exchange, or temporarily taken charge of by Dealers in Second-hand Articles within one year after the receipt of the notice; or if it is found that the Articles in question were obtained previous to the issue of such notice, and are still in the possession of the Dealers, a report of the fact must be made to the police-station of the district in which such dealers reside.

Art. IX.—The ledgers in which are entered the records of Articles sold, purchased, or exchanged, and the copies of notices issued with reference to goods stolen or fraudulently made away with, must be preserved for [ten] *three* years.

Art. X.—Whenever there is a suspicion of stolen goods having been received by Dealers in Second-hand Articles, it shall at all times be lawful for police officers to enter their shops, to inspect their ledgers and goods, and, if necessary, to seize such goods. The Dealers must also present their ledgers for examination when required. They are not permitted to refuse such request for any reason whatsoever.

Art. XI.—Dealers who violate any of the provisions of Arts. II., III., IV., V., VI., VIII., IX., X. [or who make false reports], shall be liable to a fine of not less than 2 *yen* and not more than 20 *yen*.

Art. XII.—Any Dealer contravening these Regulations twice within a year, shall be liable to be sentenced, by executive process, to a permanent or temporary suspension of his trading license.

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Art. XIII.—In the case of contraventions of these Regulations, that portion of the Criminal Code which refers to the concurrence of infractions shall not be applicable.

Art. XIV.—Should Articles purchased or exchanged in contravention of these Regulations be identified as stolen or fraudulently made away with, the police authorities shall take steps to recover and restore them to their rightful owners, whether their purchase or exchange was effected between professional dealers or not. Should the rightful owners be unknown, the articles shall be carefully preserved and after the lapse of a year shall become the property of the State.

Arts. XV.—Detailed rules for the enforcement of the present Regulations shall be made and issued by the Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Arts. VI., VII., IX., XV., XVI., XVII., XVIII., XX. of the Regulations for the Control of Dealers in Second-hand Articles have been excised in the present Bill.

N.B.—The italicised portions are added to, and the bracketed portions excised from, the original Regulations.

The Bills relating to City Government were entrusted to Special Committees without any explanation from their introducers, and the House rose at 5.50 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 21ST, 1894.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.35 a.m. the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Report of Special Committee on the Bill relating to the temporary investment of Surplus Revenue.
2.—Report of Special Committee on a Project of Game Law.

Viscount Yuri, Chairman of the Special Committee, reported that the Committee unanimously approved the Bill authorizing the lodging of surplus revenue in the Bank of Japan at a proper rate of interest, inasmuch as such a step was calculated to prevent the uneconomical withdrawal of a large sum of money from circulation.

The Bill was passed through its Second and Third Readings without debate or opposition.

Viscount Tani, Chairman of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Game Law, with a few amendments. The same project of law had been before the House in the preceding session, so that he might dispense with any lengthy explanation. It was necessary to note, however, that the amendment proposed in the 17th Article was dictated by the fact that certain foreigners were now entitled to the same privileges as those enjoyed by Japanese subjects.

The House, without discussion, voted for the Second Reading of the Bill and agreed to proceed with the Reading at once.

The Bill was discussed clause by clause and passed, the Third Reading also being voted.

CHAPTER I.—HUNTING IMPLEMENTS AND METHOD OF HUNTING.

Art. I.—The term "hunting" used in the present law, means to capture birds or animals by the agency of fire-arms, nets of any kind, faloons, ropes or poles armed with bird time, or ropes, or traps (*hago*).

The exact nature of the implements mentioned in the foregoing clause shall be determined by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

Art. II.—To capture birds or animals by the agency of explosives, gun-traps, or dangerous gyns or pit-falls, shall not be lawful.

With respect to any hunting implement or method of hunting not enumerated in the foregoing clauses, local Governors may enact regulations for control and superintendence, by permission of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

Art. III.—Before sunrise, after sunset in a street, or within range of any thickly populated locality, or place where a crowd is assembled, or of any building, ship, or train, hunting is interdicted.

Art. IV—In the following places no hunting shall be allowed :—

1. Imperial Preserves.
2. Places where notifications prohibiting hunting are posted.
3. Public roads.
4. Public parks.
5. Grounds reserved for Shrines and Temples.
6. Cemeteries.
7. Private grounds, fenced, or enclosed, or in which any agricultural product is cultivated, *or common hunting grounds for which a license has been obtained by others.* Provided that this prohibition shall not apply if permission of the owner or superintendent of such land shall have been obtained.

Art. V.—Local Governors may, in accordance with an application of a landowner, or for any other reasons which they deem sufficient, issue a notification prohibiting the pursuit of game.

CHAPTER II.—HUNTING LICENSES.

Art. VI.—Any persons desiring to pursue game must obtain a hunting license by applying to the Local Governor. Provided that the pursuit of game within fenced or enclosed private grounds without the use of fire-arms shall be exempted from this provision.

Any person against whom the penal provisions of Art. XXII. have been enforced, shall not be competent to apply for a license before a period of one year has elapsed.

Art. VII.—Persons who, in accordance with the usage of a district, purpose pursuing game in union, within a certain limit of ground, may apply for a license to the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce through the medium of the Local Governor.

Provided that rules pertaining to the operation of this Article shall be determined by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

Art. VIII.—Hunting licenses shall be divided into two kinds; namely, licenses for professional, and licenses for amateur, pursuers of game. Each of these kinds shall be subdivided into classes A. and B.

A license for professional pursuit of game shall be granted to any person who makes hunting an occupation; and a license for amateur pursuit of game, to any person who hunts for pleasure.

Licenses of class A. shall be granted to any person who pursues game without fire-arms, and those of class B. to any person who employs fire-arms.

Art. IX.—The following shall not be competent to receive a license for the professional pursuit of game :—

1. Any official of or above the rank of *hannin*, or any persons entitled to receive the treatment of such an official.

Those who are not in receipt of salaries shall be excepted.

2. Any person who pays income tax.
3. Any person who pays more than 15 *yen* of Land-tax.
4. Any member of a family the head of which pays more than 15 *yen* of income tax.

Art. X.—The following fees shall be paid for licenses according to the kind :—

Professional license	Class A. *yen*	0.50
	Class B. *yen*	1.00
Amateur license	Class A. *yen*	5 00
	Class B. *yen*	10.00

Art. XI.—The period covered by a license of class A. shall be one full year, from the 15th day of the 10th month (October 15th); and that for a license of class B. shall be from the 15th day of the 10th month to the 15th day of the 4th month of the following year.

Local Governors shall have competence, subject to the sanction of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, to shorten the foregoing period by 30 days at most.

Art. XII.—A license can be used only by the person to whom it is granted. Provided that in a mode of hunting which requires the use of assistants the holder of a license may be accompanied by one or more persons not possessing licenses.

Art. XIII.—A pursuer of game must carry his license with him when he goes out in pursuit of game.

Police, gendarmes, forestry officials, or Headmen of *shi*, *cho*, and *son* are competent to call for the production of a license.

In the above cases, no pursuer of game can refuse to produce his license for inspection.

Art. XIV.—If a license is lost, the fact must be notified to the Police Station of the district, and to the office where the license was originally obtained.

When a license is lost or destroyed, its holder may apply for a new license. In such case a fee of 25 *sen* shall be paid.

Art. XV.—No person under 16 years of age shall recive a license of class B.

Art. XVI.—Within 30 days after the expiration of the period covered by a license it shall be returned to the office where it was originally received.

Art. XVII.—Any foreigner subject to the limitations fixed by Treaty who has obtained an Amateur license may pursue game within the said limitations, but in the event of his pursuing game beyond those limitations, his license shall thenceforth become invalid.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS.

Art. XVIII.—It shall be unlawful to capture birds and animals the protection of which is deemed essential. The kinds of such birds and animals, and the duration of the period of protection, shall be determined by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, according to the condition of the locality.

Art. XIX.—It is prohibited to take or sell the eggs or young of the birds and animals the capture of which is forbidden under the provisions of the preceding Article.

Art. XX.—Even in the case of birds and animals the capture of which is forbidden, should it be considered that their removal or capture is conducive to the pursuit of scientific research, or to other purposes, the local Governor shall have competence to sanction such removal or capture.

If it be considered necessary to remove noxious birds or beasts, the Local Governor may grant a permit for the purpose.

CHAPTER IV.—PUNISHMENTS.

Art. XXI.—Any person who pursues game in contravention of Art. VI., Clause 1, or who obtains a license of class B. in violation of the provisions of Art. XV., shall be subject to a fine of not less than 3 *yen* and not more than 30 *yen*. When a professional license is obtained in violation of the provisions of Art. IX., a fine of not less than 7 *yen* and not more than 70 *yen* shall be imposed.

Art. XXII.—Any person who violates the provisions of Art. II., Clause 1 of Art. III., or of Art. IV., Clauses 1 to 6; shall be subject to a fine of not less than 5 *yen* and not more than 50 *yen*.

The license of a person fined under the foregoing Articles shall thereafter become invalid.

Art. XXIII.—Any person who violates the provisions of Art. IV., Clause 7; Art. XIII., Clause 3; Art. XVIII., Clause 1; or Art. XIX., shall be subject to a fine of not less than 2 *yen* and not more than 20 *yen*. Provided that, with respect to violations of Art. IV. Clause 7, the penalty shall not be imposed unless the landowner or the person who has charge of the land takes legal proceedings.

Art. XXIV.—Any person who violates Art. XIII., Clause 1; Art. XIV. Clause 1; or Art. XVI., shall be subject to a fine of not less than 1 *yen* and not more than 1.95 *yen*.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

Art. XXV.—The Game Law issued in October of the 25th year of *Meiji* (Oct. 1892) by Imperial Ordinance No. LXXXIV., shall cease to have efficacy from the day on which the present Law goes into force. Game preserves, for the establishment of which licenses were issued prior to the enforcement of the present Law, shall continue to have efficacy during the period covered by such license. Provided that rules pertaining to Game Preserves shall be determined by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

Art. XXVI.—Persons who have obtained licenses prior to the enforcement of the present Law may pursue game without applying for fresh licenses.

The House rose at 2.50 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.10 p.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Government Bill relating to Military Telegraph Regulations.
2.—Government Bill for transferring Prison Expenditures to the Charge of the Treasury.
3.—Representation relating to the Section of the Medical College in the Imperial University for the treatment of Diseases of the Spine and Brain.
4.—Private Bill relating to the Press Law.
5.—Private Bill for abolishing the Import Duty on Raw Cotton.
6.—Private Bill for amending the Land Tax Regulations.
7.—Private Bill for amending the Law of Election for the House of Representatives.
8.—Representation relating to Treaty Revision.

Mr. Sakamoto Sokubi presented a Question to the Government on the subject of Treaty Revision. Count Ito had told them that there were hopes of Treaty Revision being soon achieved, and from what the speaker had learned otherwise, it appeared that considerable progress had really been made. Of course if large concessions were made to foreigners and few rights reserved to Japanese, no great difficulty would be experienced in revising the Treaties. What he wanted to know, then, was the policy adopted by the Government in the matter. First, how was the Tariff question treated? Was it true that the Government contemplated conventional tariffs? He understood that in the negotiations of 1882 the Government had proposed to increase the import duties to 10 per cent., or even 25 per cent. in some cases, but the Foreign Powers had objected that such duties would be protective, and the Japanese Government, though denying that the duties would have any prohibitive effect, had nevertheless admitted the objection. Was a similarly yielding policy to be pursued on the present occasion? Se-

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condly, if conventional tariffs were to be adopted, what standard of duties would be taken? Thirdly, when would the new tariff be submitted for the Diet's approval—during the present session or during the next? No one doubted that the power of making treaties belonged to the Prerogatives of the Crown, but, on the other hand, the Diet was entitled to a voice in all matters of taxation, and should therefore be consulted about the fixing of a tariff. When were the Diet's views to be taken? Fourthly, supposing the system of conventional tariffs to be adopted, what course would be followed with regard to States that refused to accept Japan's proposals? Would the present treaties with such States be denounced, as certain journals predicted? Fifthly, what was the programme with regard to the recovery of Judicial Autonomy? In every Sovereign State, all persons living within or visiting its territories ought to be subject to its laws and jurisdiction. That Japan's exercise of her Sovereign Rights in that respect had been for so many years suspended, was a national humiliation, and the country desired anxiously to know how the matter was to be treated in the revised treaties. Sixthly, with regard to Mixed Residence, if it was to be permitted, what precautions would be adopted? The Hawaii Treaty showed how carelessly the Government could treat such matters, since by that Treaty a privilege was granted conditionally that the most favoured nations might claim unconditionally. It was important, therefore, to inquire how the question of Mixed Residence was to be treated in the revised treaties.

Mr. Tsunoda Shimpei also presented a Question with regard to Treaty Revision. Count Ito had told them that the consummation was within measurable distance. How far, then, had the negotiations really been carried? He feared that the Premier's statement must be interpreted politically: that it was addressed simply to the Diet and not to the nation. Further, was China to be included in the list of countries with which treaties on equal terms were to be concluded. If so, how were Japanese subjects to be treated in China if they violated Chinese laws? Were they to be subject to Chinese jurisdiction? And were the Chinese to have free access to all parts of Japan? If, on the other hand, the treaty with China was to remain unaltered, what arrangements were contemplated with regard to Chinese Settlements? Finally, it was rumoured that the Government did not intend to seek the Diet's consent to the new scale of customs duties, but purposed concluding conventional tariffs without reference to the Diet. He desired a clear explanation on that point.

Mr. Ebara Soroku, Chairman of the Special Committee appointed to draft a Resolution on the subject of the Dissolution of the last House of Representatives, reported that the Committee had drafted the following:—

Whereas the procedure of the Government in dissolving the House of Representatives in the fifth session before the House had expressed its opinion or taken any action, is regarded by this House as unconstitutional, therefore this House resolves that it cannot place confidence in the Government so far as concerns the dissolution of the House of Representatives in the fifth session.

In answer to questions, Mr. Ebara said that the scope of the Resolution was limited to the dissolution of the House. No deep meaning was contemplated. It was an announcement limited to that particular act of the Government.

Mr. Ayai Takeo asked whether the idea of placing confidence in a Cabinet could refer to anything but its future actions.

Mr. Ebara replied that no such point had been discussed by the Committee.

The Order of the Day was then taken.

The first Bill on the Order was handed to a Special Committee of 9 nominated by the President.

The Bill relating to Prison Expenditures was handed to a Special Committee elected by the Sections.

Mr. Ebara now moved that the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of discussing the Resolution relating to the Dissolution of the last House of Representatives.

Mr. Meguro Sadaji declared that the House was about to reconsider a measure which it had rejected two days previously. Such a course was distinctly contrary to law.

Mr. Ooka Ikuzo spoke in support of the Resolution. He attempted to justify the measure for Strict Treaty Enforcement, but was vigorously interrupted with cries of "Order," "Irrelevant," &c. One of the audience in the Strangers' Gallery was expelled by the police for echoing these cries.

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro thought that the House would be an object of ridicule if it passed this Resolution. Apparently it was about to receive the support of members who declared most vehemently that they had no confidence in any act of the Government: that they considered it unworthy of confidence from first to last. Yet now these same men were going to vote that their lack of confidence was limited to one special act. By construction, they had confidence in other acts. He complimented them on their perspicacity and consistency. No doubt they were much pained at the death by inanition of their pet measure, Strict Treaty Enforcement. But so far as the Cabinet was concerned, its procedure in dissolving the House had been amply vindicated by events. It had appealed to the country on the Strict Enforcement question, and the country had returned a House opposed to Strict Enforcement. The fact was not to be gainsaid. Moreover, looking a little more closely, how had the constituencies treated the advocates and the opponents of Strict Enforcement and Mixed Residence? The *Jiyu-to* supported Mixed Residence and opposed Strict Enforcement, and the *Jiyu-to's* success at the polls had been unprecedented. On the other hand, the *Kokumin Kyokai* opposed Mixed Residence and supported Strict Enforcement, and their number had dwindled from 74 in the last House to 29 in the present. Could the constituencies have given more conspicuously conclusive proof that they justified the Government's act in dissolving the Diet. (The speaker then went on to ridicule the incongruous nature of the alliances formed for the purpose of passing the Resolution, and the incomprehensible character of the Resolution itself.)

Mr. Ayai Takeo moved to expunge from the Resolution the words "so far as concerns the dissolution of the House of Representatives in the fifth session." If the scope of the Resolution were limited by these words, it would certainly bear the interpretation assigned to it by Mr. Inouye, namely, that the House's want of confidence in the Government was limited to the Cabinet's procedure in dissolving the House, whereas the House had no confidence in any act of the present Cabinet.

Mr. Tanaka Shozo declared that Mr. Inouye Kakugoro had treated a great question of State as though it were a theme for a street ballad. He hoped that they should have no repetition of such light behaviour.

Mr. Shigeoka Kungoro said that the proposed amendment would convert the Resolution into a declaration of general want of confidence in the Cabinet, but experience had taught them that there was not the slightest use in voting such resolutions.

Mr. Hiyama Tetsusaburo opposed the Resolution. It simply meant that the Six Sections of the Opposition were being permitted to pass for a moment by a back-door into the *Jiyu-to* camp. They had better have supported the *Jiyu-to's* original Resolution at once.

The closure was moved and carried, and the House having rejected Mr. Ayai's amendment, a closed ballot was taken with regard to the original Resolution. Several members rose and declared that the Resolution being incomprehensible in its present form they declined to vote.

The ballot resulted in 253 "ayes" and 17 "noes."

The Order of the Day was changed for the purpose of proceeding at once with the Project of Press Law.

Mr. Node Shozaburo, introducing the Bill, reminded the House that it had been several times discussed in previous sessions, and that the failure to get it made law did little credit to their resolution. The principal change contemplated by the project had reference to the suspension of newspapers, which would no longer be possible except by the sentence of a Court of Law.

Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, Government Delegate, said that although the proposed change was of a very limited character, the Government could not endorse it, being persuaded that the time had not come when the power of suspending a newspaper could be safely taken away from the Administration.

Mr. Koizuka Riu supported the Bill. He said that the power of suspension now vested in the Minister of State for Home Affairs was one of the greatest abuses of the time. It was exercised nominally in the interests of public peace and good order, but really in the interests of the peace of the Cabinet Ministers.

The closure was put and carried and the Second Reading of the Bill was passed.

Dr. Hasegawa Tai introduced the Representation advocating a grant establishing a special course of study in diseases of the brain and spine at the Medical College in the Imperial University. He said that Japan was backward in this branch of medicine, and that in Dr. Miura she possessed an expert well qualified to give the necessary instruction.

The Representation was handed to a Special Committee.

The Bill for abolishing Import Duties on Raw Cotton was handed to a Special Committee, as were also the Bills relating to the Land Tax and the Law of Election.

The House rose at 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 22ND.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.40 a.m., the Order of the Day being:—

Report of the Special Committee on the Bill relating to the Period of Probation for Judicial Officials.

Prince Tokugawa, Chairman of the Special Committee, reported that the Committee approved the Bill, but recommended that the words "the period of five years" should be expunged, so that the Bill should simply read, "The period of practical study for Judicial Officials shall be a year and a half."

Several members opposed the Bill on the ground that the present period of practical training, namely, three years, was quite short enough.

The Government Delegate explained that the Bill was dictated by the necessities of the service, inasmuch as, under the present system, it was not found possible to fill the vacancies occurring.

The House, by a vote of 84 to 68, threw out the Second Reading of the Bill.

Viscount Soga moved, as a matter of urgency, that a clause be added to the Standing Orders providing for the election of a Standing Committee of 27 members to report upon the Settled Accounts. The House was now called upon for the first time to deal with the Settled Accounts, and as it would henceforth have to perform that duty every session, the desirability of having a Standing Committee for the purpose, in the same manner as for the Budget itself, seemed evident.

The House voted the motion, and having elected the Committee, rose at 1.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.10 p.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Report of the Special Committee on the Bill relating to confiscated Pensions of Political Offenders.
2.—Report of the Special Committee on the Bill for abolishing the Export Duty on Cotton Yarn.
3.—Government Bill relating to Mobilization Expenses.
4.—Representation relating to Treaty Revision.
5.—Private Bill for amending the District Government System.
6.—Private Bill for amending the City and Prefectural Government System.
7.—Private Bill for amending the Pawnbrokers' Regulations.

Mr. Okubo Tanzo explained a Question presented by him with reference to land formerly owned by three vassals of the Sendai Fief.

Mr. Ebara Soroku, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported that the Committee were

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unanimously in favour of the Bill relating to the restoration of Confiscated Pensions. The amount involved was about 600,000 *yen*.

Mr. Node Shozaburo asked whether persons who had been guilty of acts of violence against foreigners in the early days of the *Meiji* era were included among the "Political Offenders" mentioned in the Bill.

The Government Delegate replied that the persons contemplated were chiefly offenders who had been pardoned. The required funds were to be taken from the surplus revenue for the 27th year of *Meiji*.

The House voted for the Second Reading, and, proceeding with it at once, passed the Bill through all its stages.

Mr. Kurihara Ryoichi, on behalf of the Special Committee, said that the Bill for abolishing the Export Duty on Raw Cotton had received the House's approval last session, but had failed to become law owing to the Dissolution. The Committee unanimously recommended it. Statistics relating to the export of cotton yarns were as follow :—

Year.	Total Value of Export.	Duties collected.
1890	2,360 *yen*	118 *yen*.
1891	4,873 „	118 „
1892	7,720 „	386 „
1893	59,176 „	3,282 „

An extraordinary increase had taken place last year, and there seemed to be every prospect of further development, for whereas the yarns sent from England and India to China were heavily handicapped by the appreciation of gold, Japan's yarns were helped by that cause. Moreover, no export duty was paid by English and Indian yarns. The only impost to which they were subjected before reaching the markets of China was the import duty in China. Japan ought not to hamper her merchants in competition with those of India and England.

The House passed the Bill at once without discussion.

Mr. Kodama, Government Delegate, explained that under the present financial system a delay of fully two days was entailed before money to defray the expenses of mobilizing troops could be obtained from the Treasury. The Government considered such an interval excessive, and had therefore introduced the Bill now before the House, its object being to render the required funds immediately accessible.

The Bill was entrusted to a Committee of 9 nominated by the President.

The Representation relating to Treaty Revision was then read as follows :—

Whereas, the urgent importance of Treaty Revision is an indisputable fact, and whereas, those entrusted with the direction of the country's foreign policy have repeatedly failed to accomplish Revision, so that it remains to this day unachieved, to the great regret of the entire nation, therefore this House resolves that the Government should, with all expedition, carry the work of Revision to completion, in accordance with the views contained in the House of Representatives' Address to the Throne passed in the Fourth Session; and further, that if any foreign State refuses to negotiate a treaty on equal terms, the Government should adopt decisive measures toward that country.

(Introduced by) Mr. MISAKI KAMENOSUKE and another.

(Seconded by) Mr. ITAKURA and 35 others.

Mr. Misaki Kamenosuke said that the House, in its fourth session, had presented to the Throne an Address praying that the Treaties should be revised on a basis of equality, Japan recovering her Judicial and Tariff Autonomy but reserving her coastwise carrying trade. That Address had been introduced by eight members, among whom were Messrs. Ozaki Yukio, Shimada Saburo, Takata Sanaye, Kawashima Jun, Inagaki Shimesu, and Kato Heishiro, in other words by members now belonging to the Six Sections, and with them had been two *Jiyu-to* representatives. In fact, every party in the House had been united on that occasion, for they recognised that the question lay entirely outside the sphere of party politics. A year and a half had elapsed, and the time had now come when some step should be taken to urge the Government to greater expedition. It might be objected by some that the last clause in the Representation was too strong, but in truth no course short of denunciation presented itself in the case of Powers with whom all reasonable efforts to negotiate an agreement proved hopeless. Denunciation was a step not infrequently resorted to by Western Powers. Another objection might be that no useful end could be gained by addressing Representations to a weak Cabinet like the present. He did not think, however, that such considerations should have weight. The House must do its duty irrespective of what others might do. Above all, the House must not allow itself to be swayed in such a matter by party prejudices. It must be conceded that a virtual consensus of opinion with regard to Revision existed throughout the nation, and it was the House's function to insist that effect should be given to that opinion.

Mr. Motoda Hajime asked whether, when Mr. Misaki introduced this Representation, he placed confidence in the Government.

Mr. Misaki replied that he had dealt fully with that point. Being further pressed by Mr. Motoda, he said that whether an Ito Cabinet or a Shinagawa Cabinet or any other Cabinet undertook the work of Revision, it made no matter in his opinion, provided only that Revision were achieved.

Mr. Tanaka Shozo understood Mr. Misaki to say that provided the country's interests were consulted, it mattered nothing what statesmen accomplished the work of Revision. That was a very fine sentiment. But he had one question to ask. Suppose that in a certain country—not Japan of course—two parties existed, the one insisting on strict enforcement of the Treaties and advocating a strong policy throughout, the other invertebrate and vacillating, not even competent to preserve for the country the rights which it had never agreed not to exercise; and suppose further that the strong party, in consequence of its persisteut adherence to its opinions had been the means of bringing about a dissolution of the Diet and a general election in the sequel of which a host of sycophantine waverers had been returned by the constituencies, would Mr. Misaki, under such circumstances, seriously advocate the entrusting of a vital problem of State to a Cabinet supported by these sycophantine politicians?

Mr. Ayai Takeo inquired whether the "decisive measures" mentioned in the last clause of the Representation meant denunciation of the Treaties.

Mr. Misaki said that the words might bear that interpretation.

Mr. Moriya Konosuke asked whether this Representation was introduced at the instance of Count Ito and Mr. Mutsu. (Cries of "Absurd." "The *Jiyu-to* is not capable of such act.")

Mr. Sekido Kakuzo inquired whether Mr. Misaki supposed that the present Cabinet could achieve such a great task as Treaty Revision.

Mr. Misaki replied that Mr. Sekido had been among those who voted for the Address to the Throne in the fourth session of the Diet when the same Cabinet was in power. He might refer to his own views at the time of casting that vote to obtain an answer to his present question.

Mr. Kashiwada Moribumi opposed the Representation. It was true that the whole country, from the Sovereign downward, desired to have the Treaties revised. But they could not afford to entrust the task to the present Cabinet. Numerous failures had been made by the Government, and the lesson taught by them all was that success had been rendered impossible because of the Government's want of firmness, and its futile policy of attempting to conciliate foreigners by organizing dancing classes at the Rokumeikan, and other equally contemptible means. The country could not afford to risk another failure, and the work must therefore be taken out of the hands of the present Cabinet. If it were necessary to speak more explicitly, he should explain that the House had already presented an Address to the Throne urging the necessity of Treaty Revision, and that certain Questions presented on the same subject in the present session were still awaiting the Government's answers. There was no need of a Representation under such circumstances, and it could do no good in view of the Cabinet's incompetence. To ask the present Cabinet to revise the Treaties was as though one should set Mr. Mutsu to wrestle with the champion Konishiki. Another consideration was that the Government, by its recent action towards Hawaii, had placed a new obstacle in the path to Revision, and furnished a fresh demonstration of its inability to discharge such a task. He could not vote for any measure that implied entrusting Treaty Revision to the Minister now in power.

Mr. Ayai Takeo under ordinary circumstances would vote with the Six Sections, but in the present case he felt compelled to support this Representation. For he rejoiced to see that it breathed the very spirit by which he himself had been animated several years ago. When Count Okuma's programme of Revision was on the *tapis*, he, the speaker, had been one of the leaders of the "Equal Treaty Association" founded in Osaka, and had been subjected to no little opposition for the part he then played. Moreover, he and his friends had urged that unless equal treaties could be secured, the present treaties should be denounced. For that doctrine too he had suffered much. But now his views were all embodied in a Representation introduced by the Radical Party, and were even endorsed by the *Kaishin-to* who had supported Count Okuma's Treaty project six years ago. Truly, the nation had progressed largely in its attitude toward this important question, and he rejoiced to find that public opinion was now in agreement with the views steadily advocated by himself for so many years. He was persuaded that equal treaties could never be secured unless the problem were approached on the lines indicated by the Representation, namely, Revision or Denunciation. It was very well to talk of the present Cabinet being too invertebrate to succeed. No one disapproved more than he did of the methods resorted to by the country's statesmen in former years—the dancing classes, the fancy dress balls, the journalistic appeals, the lectures, and so forth. But if the present Cabinet were not to do the work, what Cabinet was to do it? An Okuma Cabinet? Or a Shinagawa Cabinet? As practical men they must not confine themselves to mere negations but must think also of positive procedure. It was the country's business to render united and ungrudging support to its negotiators. With the nation at its back, the Cabinet would experience no serious difficulty in effecting Revision on a footing of equality. He thought that all party considerations should be laid aside, and that the House should give its unanimous support to the Representation.

Mr. Takata Sanaye had been one of the supporters of the Address to the Throne on Treaty Revision, and it was his constant and most earnest desire to see the problem solved. But he could not consent to resort to such a comparatively paltry measure as a Representation to the Government after an Address had been laid before the Throne on the same subject. The Representation talked of taking decisive steps in the case of countries that refused to conclude equal covenants. In other words, the treaties now existing with such countries were to be denounced. Who imagined that the present Cabinet was capable of anything so resolute? As well bid a cripple stand up. (A voice, "Bid Count Okuma stand up, for example.") Not even towards China and Korea could the Cabinet maintain the country's prestige. Both States had shown their contempt for Japan in connection with the assassination of Kim Ok-kyün. He should not vote for any measure implying that the House confided in the Cabinet's ability, or was prepared to afford it a fresh opportunity for bringing the nation into discredit.

Mr. Komatsu Sansei was astounded at the assurance of the *Kaishin-to* in posing as the cham-

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pions of an uncompromising policy. Had they forgotten their own leader's failure to achieve Treaty Revision? Had they forgotten the cause of his failure, namely, his project of employing foreigners to sit upon the Japanese bench? The *Kaishin-to* and their leader had lagged so far behind the spirit of the nation five years ago that they had brought disgrace and discredit on themselves. Did they now pretend to claim for themselves a monopoly of patriotism and courage? This was essentially an occasion when party jealousies should be laid aside. It was their duty to support any ministers that held the Sovereign's commission when there was question of solving a national problem. If the Cabinet seemed too weak for the task, then they should strengthen it by backing it up. With the whole nation's support, the Cabinet would have no serious difficulty in obtaining treaties on equal terms. They had been told that because the House had no confidence in the present Ministry, they should fold their hands and let things drift. Was that what they would do if, instead of negotiations with Foreign Powers, an attack from abroad had to be repelled? Their duty was plain. They must show their united and firm resolve to have the Treaties revised on a proper basis, and then, if failure ensued, there could be no difficulty in localizing the blame.

The closure was moved and carried.

A closed ballot was taken when 140 voted for the Representation and 150 against.

Mr. Saito Keiji obtained leave to introduce an urgency motion for the appointment of a Special Committee to inquire into certain transactions that had occurred many years ago in Yamaguchi Prefecture. He made a long speech charging Count Inouye, Count Yamagata, and Viscount Torio with dishonest practices, and read a number of documents in support of his allegations.

The House agreed to the appointment of a Committee.

The Bills for amending the Local Government System were handed to a Special Committee, as also was the Bill for amending the Pawnbrokers' Regulations.

The House rose at 5.40 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23RD.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10 a.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Question relating to an amendment of the Peers Regulations.

The proceedings were in secret session, and the House rose at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.15 p.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Report of the Special Committee on Six Bills relating to Comparative Lines of Railway.
2.—Government Bill for granting charters to Private Companies for the construction of certain Railways included in the Scheme of Projected Lines.
3.—Government Bill for amending the Railway Law.
4.—Government Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations.
5.—Government Bill for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141 of the 22nd year of *Meiji*.
6.—Government Bill for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 4 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*.
7.—Government Bill relating to an Increase of the Floating Capital of the Artillery Arsenal.
8.—Private Bill for affording Emergency State Aid to Engineering Works in Localities.
9.—Private Bill relating to Unpaid Taxes in Districts devastated by Earthquakes.

Mr. Sato Satoji, Chairman of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the first Bill for constructing railways from Hachioji in Tokyo *Fu*, to Ko-fu in Yamanashi Prefecture, and from Nishi-chikuma-gori *vid* Suwa, in Nagano Prefecture, to Nagoya in Aichi Prefecture. They were to be single lines, and the cost was estimated at 12,000,000 *yen*.

Mr. Kato Heishiro, having ascertained by questions that the total time given by the Committee to the examination of the Bill had been 20 hours, said that although the Government's object in introducing so many measures in so short a session could be guessed, he wished to know whether the Special Committee thought it possible to consider and pass Bills such as would not involve future errors.

Mr. Sato replied that he could not speak for the future.

A number of questions were asked and answered by the Government Delegate, Mr. Matsumoto.

Mr. Ayai Takeo did not consider it possible that the Bill should pass both Houses during this brief session. He inquired whether the Government entertained any such hope.

Mr. Matsumoto said that the Government confined itself to using every possible expedition.

Mr. Ayai Takeo moved that these Bills relating to Government Railways should be deferred till next session. He considered that they were not receiving sufficiently careful deliberation.

Mr. Ito Daihachi seconded the motion. He asserted that the procedure of the Railway Bureau in the past had been marked by lack of due attention to military requirements, and that these Bills now before them were the consequence of an awakening perception of the needs of the empire's defences. The whole subject demanded closer attention than it had received, and in view of its vital importance he thought that a decision should be postponed. He referred only to the lines in the Central Section.

Mr. Kudo Kokan moved an amendment that Private Lines should be considered first, and that if any time remained, it should be devoted to the examination of the projects for Government Lines.

Mr. Kagami Kahei opposed Mr. Ayai's motion. It was true that the session was short, but in point of fact this question had been before the country and the House since the second session, and everybody interested in politics must be perfectly familiar with it already. The next session would bring its own business. What they had to do now was to accomplish as much as lay in their power, and not to fold their hands and procrastinate simply because time was short. The country's resources could never be developed by such methods.

The closure was moved and carried. Mr. Kudo's amendment having found no seconder, fell to the ground, and Mr. Ayai Takeo's motion having been put to the vote, was rejected.

Mr. Kato Heishiro opposed the Bill, his chief argument being that time to consider it properly was not available.

Mr. Saito Keiji strongly urged the passing of the Bill. No one ventured to deny that the proposed railways were required, or that their construction had been excessively deferred. The House's duty was to waste no more time debating useless points, but to vote the measure at once.

The closure was put and carried, and the House voted to carry the Bill to a Second Reading.

Amendments were moved by Messrs. Tsunoda, Kemuro, Ebara, Ota, and Yamada, but the House rejected them all and passed the original Bill, which was carried at once through its Second and Third Readings.

Mr. Sato Satoji, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Second Bill for constructing railways from Naoyetsu in Niigata Prefecture to Niigata and Shibata.

Mr. Arai Go opposed the Bill, but the House voted its Second Reading.

Mr. Arai Go and Dr. Hasegawa moved amendments which were rejected, and the original Bill was carried through its Second and Third Readings.

The House rose at 5.55 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 24TH, 1894.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.35 p.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Government Bill relating to the Management of Forged Paper Money.
2.—Bill, sent up from the Lower House, relating to Restoration of confiscated Pensions.
3.—Bill, sent up from the Lower House, for abolishing the Export Duty on Cotton Yarn.
4.—Bill, sent up from the Lower House, for amending the Press Law.

The Minister of State for Finance, introducing the first Bill on the Order of the Day, said that of late various notes resembling real banknotes had come into use for toy purposes. Many people, however, had been deceived by them, and the notes had so often been employed fraudulently that the Government deemed it necessary to enact a law forbidding their manufacture or sale.

Mr. Murata Tamotsu asked whether it was necessary, as provided in the third article of the Bill, to empower the police to confiscate such notes. Could not that step be made to depend on the decision of a Law Court?

The Government Delegate explained that the 43rd Article of the Criminal Code warranted the procedure laid down in the proposed law.

The Bill was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President, with directions to present its report in two days.

With reference to the second Bill on the Order, the Government Delegate, in answer to questions, said that the number of persons affected was about 540 or 550, and the sum involved aggregated some six hundred thousand *yen*. The idea was to pay in ready money, because it did not seem worth while to issue bonds for so small an amount.

The Bill was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President, with instructions to report within three days.

The Minister of State for Finance introduced the third Bill on the Order as a measure calculated to promote the development of the country's industrial enterprise.

The Government Delegate, in reply to questions, said that the manufacture of cotton yarns in Japan had grown from 20 million catties in 1889 to 63 million catties in 1890, and that the import of cotton yarns had fallen from 40 million catties, valued at 13 million *yen* in 1888, to 19 million catties valued at 7 million *yen* in 1893.

The Bill was carried at once through its Second and Third Readings, at the request of the Minister of State for Finance.

With reference to the Bill for amending the Press Law, Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, Government Delegate, said that the Government felt compelled to oppose the Bill, being persuaded that the time had not yet come when the power to suspend a newspaper could be safely taken from the Executive. In answer to Baron Date, he admitted that the Government did not approve of the principle of conferring such a power on the Executive, but considered that the circumstances of the time rendered the procedure inevitable. In answer to Mr. Yamagawa Ko, he said that suspension was not so much a punishment as a precaution against mischievous results.

Viscount Ogasawara moved that the Bill be entrusted to a Special Committee, and trusted that it would not be "blocked" by the Committee as had previously been the case.

Prince Konoye, as Chairman of the Special Committee entrusted with the same Bill last session, protested against the language employed by Viscount Ogasawara.

The Bill was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President with instructions to report within two days.

The House rose at 12.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.15 p.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Government Bill relating to the Paper Issue of the National Banks.
2.—Government Bill for supplementing Law No. 25 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*.
3.—Government Bill relating to Comparative Lines of Railway.
4.—Government Bill relating to the Construction by Private Companies of Railways included in the Railway Project.

Mr. Node Shozaburo presented certain Questions with regard to the Hawaiian Treaty. First, had the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction on one side and the opening of the country on the other been matters of mutual agreement. Secondly, why had the country been opened in exchange for the recovery of Judicial Autonomy only, without recovering Tariff Autonomy also, and why had no limits been imposed on Mixed Residence? Thirdly, whereas the granting of Mixed Residence ought to be accomplished by law, it had been done by Imperial Ordinance. For what reason? He found it extremely difficult to understand these points, and he therefore sought an explicit statement from the Government.

The Government Delegate briefly introduced the first Bill on the Order, explaining that as

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the periods fixed by the charters of the National Banks were now approaching completion, legislation dealing with the circulation of their paper money was essential.

The Bill was entrusted to the Special Committee already appointed to report upon the Bill for continuing the business of the National Banks.

The second Bill on the Order, relating to the same subject, was entrusted to the same Committee.

Mr Sato Satoji, chairman of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Railway from Kyoto to Maizuru in preference to the Railway from Tsuchiyama to Maizuru.

Mr. Nishimura Teitaro traversed this selection alike from an engineering and from an economical point of view, and called upon Mr. Tanaka Shozo to elaborate the question.

Mr. Tanaka Shozo thereupon commenced an attack upon the Government for appointing such a man as Mr. Mochizuki on the Special Committee. He said that rumour gave Mr. Mochizuki a very bad character and accused him of taking bribes. Was he on the Council merely as a creature of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs? Such procedure was a disgrace to the empire; a disgrace to the Diet. Advantage was taken of the fact that the members of the House, being entirely engrossed with the effort to introduce a system of responsible Cabinets, had not time to acquaint themselves with practical details.—(Laughter.) The members that laughed were a pack of low officials (*zokuri-domo*); a parcel of thieves (*dorobonakama*). They had been drunk the night before at the Maple Club. (The President repeatedly called Mr. Tanaka to order and at length reduced him to silence.)

Mr. Mochizuki Unai protested against the language used by Mr. Tanaka Shozo, and said that, unless the House chose to consider Mr. Tanaka out of his mind and therefore irresponsible, his accusations must be investigated.

The President explained that Mr. Tanaka's language should be ruled out of the stenographic record, and Mr. Mochizuki agreed to let the matter drop.

The Bill was passed through its Second and Third Readings.

Mr. Motoda Hajime questioned the propriety of the course adopted with regard to Mr. Tanaka Shozo. It was not to be supposed that even Mr. Tanaka had spoken recklessly. He was doubtless prepared to accept the responsibility, of his allegations. The sense of the House ought to be taken on the matter.

The President said that the 87th Article of the Law of the Houses gave him authority to expunge from the record any expressions calculated to disturb the good order of the House. He considered that the occasion now in question was covered by that Article.

Mr. Ishida Kannosuke pointed out that the application of the Article depended on the previous consent of the House.—(Cries of "We do not consent.")

Mr. Mochizuki repeatedly endeavoured to attract the President's attention, but failing to do so by the usual method of calling out his number, began to cry "oi" "oi" (hulloa). This elicited protests from several members.

Mr. Mochizuki finally succeeded in reaching the rostrum, but when he attempted to re-open the question of Mr. Tanaka's language, the President called him to order, and a great uproar arose in the House, some members urging him to proceed and others reminding him that he had agreed to let the matter drop. He finally yielded to the President's ruling and resumed his seat.

The Bill for constructing a Railway from Takata in Nara Prefecture to Wakayama in Wakayama Prefecture *vid* Gojo, was then passed through its Second and Third Readings.

The House remained for a time very tumultuous about the Tanaka-Mochizuki incident.

Mr. Sato Satoji, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Railway from Himeji in Hyogo Prefecture to Sakai in Tottori Prefecture *vid* Tottori, in preference to the Okayama route which presented considerable difficulties and would require the use of the Abt system.

A long discussion ensued as to the relative merit of the two routes, and the House finally decided, by a vote of 132 to 96, taken by a closed ballot, to carry the Bill, as reported by the Special Committee, to a second Reading, and to proceed with the Second Reading at once.

Several amendments, in favour of different routes, were introduced, but all were rejected and the Bill was finally passed.

Mr. Sato Satoji, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Bill for granting charters to private companies to construct the following lines, originally included in the system to be officially constructed:—

A line from Niitsu in Niigata Prefecture *vid* Wakamatsu in Fukushima Prefecture to the neighbourhood of Shirakawa Hongu.

A line from Himeji in Hyogo Prefecture *vid* Ikuno or Sasayama to Maizuru or Sonobe in Kyoto *Fu*.

Among the lines from Tsuchiyama in Hyogo Prefecture *vid* Fukuchiyama in Kyoto *Fu* to Maizuru, a line from Ikuno in Hyogo Prefecture to Ayabe in Kyoto *Fu vid* Wakayama.

A line from Iizuka in Fukuoka Prefecture to Harada.

Various amendments were proposed and rejected, and it was finally decided to re-commit the Bill to a Special Committee nominated by the President for fuller consideration and amendment.

The House rose at 6 p.m.

FRIDAY MAY 25TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.30 a.m. the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Bills sent up from the Lower House relating to Comparative Lines of Railway.

The Government Delegate, in answer to Baron Watanabe, said that the Bill before the House had been marked urgent because it was impossible to commence the construction of railways in the districts concerned until a final choice had been made between the comparative routes. With regard to the lines in question—namely, one from Hachioji to Kofu, and another from Hachioji to Nagoya *vid* Suwa—no occasion for employing the Abt system existed anywhere. The distance from Hachioji to Nagoya was 222 miles, and the steepest gradient was one in forty.

Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu, commenting on the mania that now existed for railway building, asked whether the Government had formed any programme as to the mileage of roads to be officially constructed and the mileage of those to be privately constructed. Also, what amount of capital would be involved in each case.

Mr. Matsumoto, Government Delegate, replied in detail, giving the names and localities of a number of lines. The mileage of the roads to be constructed by the Government during the First Period was 913 (including the Sanin and Sanyo lines), and the capital involved was from 64 to 65 million *yen*. The number of Private Companies actually engaged on works of construction was 16, with a capital of 63 million *yen*, to be probably increased by 13 million, and the length of their roads was 630 miles. With regard to companies to which charters had been granted but which had not yet commenced operations, there were 12 with a capital of 7 million *yen*. Moreover, 5 companies with a capital of 3 million *yen* had received provisional charters, and the applications of 19 other companies, with an aggregate capital of 7½ million *yen*, some contemplating the opening of new roads, others the extension of old ones, had been considered and approved by the Railway Council. Finally, as to companies likely to obtain provisional charters, he could not speak with absolute accuracy, but the capital involved was some 10 million *yen*. Between Government roads and private roads the aggregate capital certainly required was from 130 to 140 million *yen*. In the case of Government roads, a Construction Period, as the House doubtless knew, was 12 years, and the capital was to be spent at the rate of 5 millions annually. For private lines there was no fixed period; it varied from 7 to 10 years. Investigations had been carried on last year to determine the amount of capital already spent by Private Companies, and it was found to be 56 million *yen* approximately. This amount had been spent at the rate of about 6 millions annually. On Government lines the expenditure, since the 21st year of *Meiji*, had been about 10 millions yearly, and it was not anticipated that any trouble would be caused in the market by devoting 10 or 12 millions in that way.

Viscount Soga said that, so far as he could judge, the intention was that the Central Roads should be constructed by the Government and the rest by private enterprise. If that were so, what plan was contemplated with regard to the Kiushu lines? Further, was it intended to use rails imported from abroad or rails made in Japan? Of course, if rails of domestic manufacture were not suitable, they must be procured elsewhere. How much of the 130 millions involved would have to go out of the country for the purchase of material.

The Government Delegate replied that in addition to the Central Roads the Government intended to construct the Kagoshima, the Sanin, the Sanyo, and the Shinonoi lines. As to rails, the expenditure for each mile of the Government roads would be fifteen thousand *yen* approximately, making some 13½ millions for the length of 913 miles, or an expenditure of about 1,300,000 *yen* annually for the remaining 11 years of the First Construction Period. Probably the expenditure for private lines might be somewhat less per mile, but assuming it to be fifteen thousand *yen*, the total for 1,970 miles was about 30 millions. The aggregate purchases of material from abroad on account of both Government and Private Lines would probably not exceed 4 million *yen*.

Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu expressed satisfaction with the exhaustive character of the Government Delegate's replies, but said that there still remained a multitude of points requiring elucidation. He therefore moved that the Bill be not treated as an urgency measure but handed to a Special Committee after the usual plan.

Mr. Yamagawa and others supported the motion.

After some further discussion the Bill was handed to a Special Committee with instructions to report within 4 days.

The Bill for constructing a line from Naoyetsu to Niigata and Shibata was then taken.

Viscount Soga said that this line traversed a region bordering the sea. Was it regarded by the Government as a strategical line?

The Government Delegate replied in the negative. It would connect with the Ganyetsu Road.

Viscount Soga asked when the construction of the Ganyetsu Road would be decided, and being answered that it belonged to the Second Construction Period and would probably be entrusted to a Private Company, he moved that the decision of the Bill now before the House be deferred until the question of the Ganyetsu Line came up for debate.

The Bill was handed to the same Special Cnmmittee, Viscount Soga's motion having been rejected.

Mr. Hayashi Soyemon moved that the three Railway Bills sent up the preceding day from the Lower House be placed immediately on the Order of the Day, and the House agreed.

The three Bills, namely, those relating to the Kyoto-Maizuru, Takata-Wakayama, and Himeji-Sakai roads were handed to the same Committee.

The House rose at 12.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.15 p.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Government Bills relating to granting of charters to Private Companies for Railway Construction. Report of Special Committee.

2.—Government Bill for amending the Railway Laws. Report of Special Committee.

3.—Government Bill relating to Comparative Lines of Railway. Report of Special Committee.

4.—Government Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations Report of Special Committee.
5.—Government Bill for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141 of the 22nd year of *Meiji*. Report of Special Committee.
6.—Government Bill for amending Law No. 4 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*. Report of Special Committee.
7.—Government Bill for increasing the Floating Capital of the Tokyo Artillery Arsenal.
8.—Government Bill relating to Military Telegraphs. Report of Special Committee.
9.—Government Bill for granting Aid to Technical Education. Report of Special Committee.
10.—Government Bill for the Temporary Investment of Surplus Revenue. Sent down from the Peers.
11.—Bill for Granting Aid to Emergency Engineering Works.
12.—Bill relating to deferred Payment of Taxes in Districts devastated by Earthquakes.
13.—Bill for abolishing the Special Local Government System in the cases of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. Report of Special Commitee.
14.—Bill for supplementing the Local Government Law.
15.—Bill for amending the Second-hand Articles Dealers' Regulations.
16.—Bill for amending the Banking Regulations.
17.—Bill for amending the Savings Banks Law.
18.—Representation relating to the Removal of Poisonous Vapours in Okinawa Prefecture.
19.—Address to the Throne with relation to the extending the Duration of the Sixth Session of the Diet.

Mr. Ooka Ikuzo presented and explained a Question relating to the Soma affair, and Mr. Kato Heishiro a Question as to why the Government had undertaken the work of doubling the line from Kobe to Osaka without obtaining the consent of the Diet, and whence the funds required for the purpose had been obtained.

Mr. Kammuchi Tomotsune asked that the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of presenting the report of the Special Committee appointed the preceding day in conection with the Bill for granting railway charters to private companies. The House granted permission, and Mr. Kammuchi having explained that the Committee recommended the Bill with a slight amendment, it was passed through its Second and Third Readings. The railways concerned were those from Niitsu to Shirakawa, from Himeji to Maizuru or Sonobe, and from Ikuno to Ayabe.

Mr. Sato Satoji, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the first Bill on the Order of the Day.

Mr. Higashiwo Heitaro moved that the consideration of the line from Kyoto to Maizuru be deferred until the next session of the Diet. He asserted that the line was not conceived in the interests of the public, but in those of a few private individuals. If the public interest had been considered, another route would have been chosen, but the directorate of the Kyoto-Maizuru Road included several influential politicians, as Messrs. Hoshi Toru, Ishida Kannosuke, and Den Teikichi, and through their influence it had been preferred by the Railway Council. Mr. Hoshi was said to have resigned his position on the Directorate, but whether he had really severed his connection with the affair was a question. It seemed, too, that there had been strange doings in the Railway Council with regard to the line. The Council had decided to postpone its consideration until next session, but on the 9th instant Mr. Mochizuki, a member of the Council, had moved that that decision be reconsidered, and though his proposition was at first negatived, it came up again at the Council's meeting on the 11th, and finally a special meet was held on the 13th and the project was approved. Great differences of opinion and much friction had arisen in Osaka on this subject, and from every point of view it seemed wiser to defer a final decision.

Mr. Mochizuki asked where Mr. Higashiwo had obtained information as to the proceedings of the Railway Council, seeing that its sessions were secret.

The President ruled the question out of order. Mr. Mochizuki declared that it was in order, and complained bitterly that the President would neither allow him to enter the rostrum not permit him to put a perfectly proper question as to allegations openly made by a member from the rostrum. Much commotion ensued. Several members cried out against the President's tyranny and partiality. Others exhorted him to suspend Mr. Mochizuki. Others shouted that Mr. Hoshi Toru had been equally arbitrary as President.

Mr. Uwozumi Itsuji traversed Mr. Higashiwo's allegations. He said that the various routes had received the fullest and most impartial consideration with the result that the Kyoto-Maizuru Line had been selected. It was easy to infer Mr. Higashiwo's difficulty in finding a ground of objection from the fact that he had been driven to the absurdity of representing the Railway Council as intimidated by a few *Jiyuto* members.

After some further discussion the Bill was carried through its Second and Third Readings. The lines concerned were as follow :—

From Naoyetsu in Niigata Prefecture to Niigata and Shibata.

From Kyoto to Maizuru.

From Gojo to Wakayama on the Takata-Wakayama Line.

On the Line from Tsuruga in Fukui Prefecture *via* Kanazawa in Ishikawa Prefecture to Toyama in Toyama Prefecture, a branch to Nanao in Ishikawa Prefecture.

On the Road from Uyeno in Tokyo *via* Sakura in Chiba Prefecture to Choshi, a line from Sakura to Choshi.

From Mito in Ibaraki Prefecture *via* Taira in Fukushima Prefecture to Iwanuma in Miyagi Prefecture.

From Nara in Nara Prefecture to Tuge in Miye Prefecture.

From Himeji in Hyogo Prefecture *via* Ikuno or Sasayama to Maizuru in Kyoto *Fu* and Sonobe ; or, on the line from Tsuchiyama in Hyogo Prefecture *via* Fukuchiyama in Kyoto *Fu* to Maizuru, a line from Tanigawa in Hyogo Prefecture to Sasayama, and a line from Tanigawa to Fukuchiyama in Kyoto *Fu*, a branch to Sakata in Yamagata Prefecture on the road from Kinbo in Fukushima Prefecture *via* Yonezawa in Yamagata, Akita in Akita Prefecture and Hiramaye in Aomori Prefecture to Aomori.

The Bill for amending the Railway Law was then taken and, after same discussion, passed its Second and Third Readings. The Bill provided for adding the following Lines to the project for the First Construction Period :—

From Nagano in Nagano Prefecture, or from Shinanoi, *via* Matsumoto, to join the line in the preceding clause of the Law.

From Udo in Kumamoto Prefecture via Yatsushiro to Kagoshima.

The Bill relating to Comparative Lines was then passed. It provided for the construction of the line from Shinonoi in Nagano Prefecture viâ Matsumoto in preference to the alternative line from Nagano mentioned in the preceding Bill.

Mr. Fuji Kinsaku, Chairman of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations (*vide* Proceedings of 18th instant), and it was passed through its Second and Third Readings.

The Bill for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141 of the 22nd year of *Meiji* was also passed. It provided that taxes might be paid direct into the Bank of Japan or its branches and that a receipt should be given for the amount.

The Bill for amending Law No. 4 of the 23rd year of *Meiji* was passed. It provided for an improved method of paying the taxes on marine products in Hokkaido.

The Bill for increasing the capital of the Tokyo Artillery Arsenal, which had passed the House last session but failed to come up for discussion by the Peers, was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President.

The Bill relating to Military Telegraphs was passed as follows :—

BILL RELATING TO MILITARY TELEGRAPHS.
MILITARY TELEGRAPH REGULATIONS.

Art. I.—Military telegraphs shall conduct communications relating to military affairs with the aid of electric machines.

Art. II.—Military telegraphs shall be controlled by the Ministers of State for War and for the Navy.

Art. III.—Military telegraphs shall be divided into the following two kinds :—

(*a.*) Stationary military telegraphs.
(*b.*) Movable military telegraphs.

Art. IV.—Stationary military telegraphs shall be established at forts, out-posts, naval depôts, harbours of strategical importance, towers erected at sea coasts, patrolling-stations, and other places important for the defence of the locality, and also for purposes of communication between such places.

When stationary military telegraphs are to be established, the Telegraph and Phonograph construction Regulations, Law No. LVIII., of the 23rd year of *Meiji* (1890), shall be applied.

Art. V.—Movable military telegraphs shall be specially established in cases of emergency or of review at places where their establishment shall be deemed necessary.

For the construction of movable military telegraphs a building privately owned may be made use of, and the necessary preparations may be made in it. As to the process of taking possession of such building and of making compensation for any damage done to it, the Requisition Regulations shall be applied.

Art. VI.—Military telegraphs may be connected with private telegraph offices in the vicinity, or may be stretched on the poles of private telegraphs.

Art. VII.—Stationary military telegraphs may be applied for purposes of communication at large, according to the provisions of Imperial Ordinance.

Art. VIII.—Art. CLXIV. of the Criminal Code, Arts. LVIII. to LXIII. and Art. LXXI. of the Telegraph Regulations, Notification No. VIII., of the 18th year of *Meiji* (1887) shall be applied to Military Telegraphs.

Art. IX.—In case those engaged in military telegraph business shall fall under the provisions of Art. LVIII. to Art. LXIII. of the Telegraph Regulations in connexion with Military Telegraphs, their punishment shall be increased by one degree ; when the substance of a communication is divulged, they shall be liable to major confinement of not less than four months and not more than four years, with the additional penalty of a fine ranging from five to fifty *yen*.

Art. X.—Any person who shall have conceived the intention of violating Arts. LVII. and LXII. of the Telegraph Regulations in connection with Military Telegraphs, but shall not have consummated the act of violation shall be dealt with in accordance with the provision relating to non-Consummated Offences in the Criminal Code.

Dr. Hasegawa, Chairman of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Bill for granting aid to Technical Education.

Mr. Higashiwo Heitaro moved that the discussion of the Bill be postponed until after the question of Re-assessment of the Taxable Value of Land had been settled, but the House rejected the motion, and after some discussion the Bill was passed.

BILL FOR AFFORDING AID FROM THE TREASURY TOWARD THE EXPENSES OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Art. I.—For the purpose of encouraging technical education, a sum of *yen* 150,000 shall be annually disbursed from the Treasury toward the expenses of the same.

Art. II.—To such of the Public Technological Schools, Apprentices' Schools, and Technological Training-Schools, attached to Elementary Schools, as are deemed efficient in their instruction, the Minister of State for Education shall grant aid in money.

When the Minister of State for Education deems it necessary, he may aid the Public Agricultural Schools, Commercial Schools, and Agricultural and Commercial Training-Schools attached to Elementary Schools, as well as the Schools mentioned in the above clause.

Art. III.—The subsidy granted to any School shall never exceed one-half of the sum defrayed by the Prefecture, Rural District, Urban District, Division or Division School League, for the organization and maintenance of that School.

Art. IV.—No School not observing the Regulations relating to the education of students, approved by the Minister of State for Education, or not fulfilling the required conditions prescribed by the said Minister of State, shall be entitled to receive a subsidy.

Art. V.—The Prefecture, Rural District, Urban District Division, Ward and Division School League, receiving aid under the present law, shall be bound to defray the expenses of all Schools within their limits receiving subsidies for more than five consecutive years. Provided that the same obligation remains in case the subsidy is continued in accordance with Art. VI.

Art. V.—Five years constitute a term in bestowing a subsidy upon each School. The grant, if necessary, may be continued after the expiration of a term. Provided that, when the Minister of State for Education deems the School imperfectly managed, or when it has declined in prosperity, or when Art. IV. and other Regulations determined by the Minister of State for Education are violated, or when the obligations stated in Art. V. are neglected, the subsidy may be withdrawn or suspended even before the expiration of its term.

Art. VII.—When it is found necessary to train the masters to be employed in the Schools mentioned in Art. II., the Minister of State for Education may disburse a sum not exceeding one tenth of the sum stated in Art. I. for meeting the required expenses.

Art. VIII.—Regulations necessary for the enforcement of the present law shall be determined by the Minister of State for Education.

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SUPPLEMENTARY RULE.

ART. IX.—The present law shall come into force on and after the 1st day of April of the 27th year of *Meiji* (1894).

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL FOR AFFORDING AID FROM THE TREASURY IN RESPECT OF THE COST OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

It admits of no doubt that, for the increase of national wealth, it is necessary to take measures for ensuring the progress of industrial arts. The technological and other branches of the industry of this country have, it is true, their peculiar empirical rules and have certainly made considerable advance, but they are not yet altogether in a position to utilize the fruits of science and civilization. Not a few of them, still hampered by old customs, remain stationary and unprogressive.

It is a matter of urgent necessity to-day to improve the industrial arts, and though there are many ways to be suggested, the most necessary of all is the laying a good foundation of technical, and especially elementary technical, education. The fruits of technical education can only be obtained by the establishment of industrial schools of various descriptions. These schools may be divided into higher and lower. Those that are now maintained by the Central Government mostly belong to the higher category, whilst those of a lower class are nowhere sufficiently numerous in country districts. This must be ascribed partly to the inadequate appreciation of them on the part of the industrial classes at large, and partly to want of funds in the hands of local bodies for providing them with requisite equipments.

In modern Europe there is not a State that does not promote technological education as a means of increasing its wealth, or strive to excel other nations in the application of science to profitable production. In this country, however, the feudal prejudice of paying undue homage to unproductive branches of learning still reigns in the minds of most people, and even young persons are apt to give themselves up to scholastic discussions and to ignore the industrial arts. But, if we wish to have our national education a source of national wealth and power by making it and production go hand in hand, it must be useful to encourage technical education, especially popular technical education, and to aid all local attempts that are made to further its improvement and development. This is the reason why the enactment of the law for affording aid to technical schools is indispensable to-day.

The Bill for the Temporary Investment of Surplus Revenue was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President.

The Bill relating to grants in Aid of Emergency Engineering Works was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President, and the House rose at 6 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers ust distinctly understa nd that we are in no sense responsible for the senti ents or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

"PAUL ANJIRO."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I am really grateful to my critics, who so kindly correct certain misspelled words in "Paul Anjiro." Since the publication of the first few chapters I have had access to such works as will aid me in the correct spelling of European names in the future.

As to the source of my information, Mr. Dietz is wholly wrong, so is Mr. Z. Y. As to the authenticity of the work, and the correctness of the history it records, there can be but little doubt. Time might be spent more successfully elsewhere, but I know of very many who have heard or read but little on the matter contained in "Paul Anjiro." As to the correctness of the translation of the facts from Japanese into English, I let those who have the original be the judges.

I am, yours very truly, G. E. DIENST.

44, Tsukiji, Tokyo, May 10th, 1894.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Absence from home has delayed a reply to "Z.Y." and Mr. Dietz respecting "Paul Anjiro." The recent letters from these two gentlemen need no detailed reply, except to repeat that they are wrong in their intimations as to the authority from which I derive my information. The original was written by a Mr. Crasset, and published in 1715. An effort to obtain this book through Paris book-sellers has failed, as well as all other efforts thus far. I should consider it a great favour if Mr. "Z.Y." or Mr. D. would tell me where the original French may be had.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

G. E. DIENST.

Tokyo, May 22nd, 1894.

LETTER OF THANKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I should like to publicly acknowledge, through the columns of your paper, my appreciation of the kindness I received from the authorities and natives of the little village of Eno-no-Ura, when my ship was driven ashore during a heavy gale on Wednesday last. They rendered me every possible assistance, and I must say that their conduct compares very favourably with that sometimes experienced from Western nations. I more particularly beg to tender my thanks to the Chief of Police at Eno, the Governor of Numazu, and the Custom House Officer sent from Yokohama, from all of whom I received great kindness under trying circumstances. I have already privately acknowledged my thanks to the Minister of Marine in Tokyo, and to the Captain of the *Tenriu Kan*, the war-vessel sent to my assistance, the latter of whom was willing to use every possible means to put my vessel in a position of safety.

I would thank you to publish this letter, as I consider it only due to the parties herein mentioned.

Trusting I have not encroached too much on your valuable space,

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

WM. O. THOMAS,
Master of British Ship *Argomene*.

Yokohama, 22nd May, 1894.

PRAYER-WHEELS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I think you are mistaken in your editorial of May 10th, stating that nothing resembling a prayer-wheel exists at Asakusa. I, your humble servant, have, in the grounds of Asakusa Temple, actually turned—not exactly a prayer wheel, but something closely resembling one in idea. It is a huge revolving book-case, containing a complete set of the Buddhist canons, and to turn it once is said to be equivalent in merit to the perusal of the whole Tripitaka. I hope I have acquired the merit. Whether the thing is still there, I cannot say. It is now nearly five years since I turned it. Such a construction, although not perhaps a prayer-wheel, might rightly be compared to one.

Yours, &c., L. H.

May 14, 1894.

THE YOKOHAMA WATER-WORKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Appreciating the freedom your columns have ever afforded correspondents who have written upon subjects of general interest to the foreign community, I should be glad to avail myself of this privilege in making known a somewhat unpleasant experience we have had in connection with the Water-works. We get our water supply from the Water-works, and at the end of March received a bill for the cost of about 32,000 gallons of water. As we had occupied the house about 2½ months at that time, we called attention to the enormous quantity charged to our account and made inquiries regarding it. We discovered that we had been charged for the whole amount consumed upon the premises from January 1st to May 31st, including a considerable quantity used for building and cementing purposes, as well as a large proportion used for business purposes by the Yokohama Co-operative Association. Mr. Kobayashi called upon me at my request, and we tried to solve the difficult problem of how fair a proportion might be charged to the other two consumers as well as ourselves, as sometime during February a separate metre had been put in for our use. Satisfied of there being some mistake, Mr. Kobayashi went away, and we thought some fair division would be made. However, a notice came calling our attention to a certain article in in the Code of Regulations, which article we had never seen, and which code we had never received, so we didn't know much about the subject. We went again to the office, and said that as the manager of the Co-operative Association was sick and we could not arrange with him, we would be responsible for the whole amount and fix up matters with the other two consumers ourselves. But within three days, at five o'clock in the evening, the supply was cut off. We posted off to the office and inquired why. Oh, we hadn't paid for the 32,000 odd gallons of water alleged to have been consumed by us.

Now comes the scandalous part of the business. We could not blame them for charging the whole quantity to us. Nor could we blame them for stopping the supply. But what I submit is a shameful piece of business is that:

1st. They cut off the supply at about five o'clock, just before the dinner, and left their office for the night, giving us no opportunity to rectify any error or satisfy their demands. As our house is an hotel the inconvenince occasioned to us is very apparent, as we could get no water until it pleased them to open their office at 9 or 10 next morning. 2nd. That although there was an official left in charge—an official who understood and spoke English—and we offered to deposit with him a larger sum in money that their bill demanded, he refused to receive it, and said it was contrary to regulations. 3rd. That they would not only not receive the money, but refused our earnest request that the water might be turned on for that evening, or until the matter could be settled next morning.

If they could not receive the money as it was past office hours, why on earth should they turn off the water just before leaving their office for the night and not turn it off in the morning during business hours, or not give us the slightest warning. There was no chance of putting things right. They turn off the water because we delayed paying an extraordinary demand, and they refuse to receive the money when offered and refuse to supply the water until the following morning. It was contrary to "regulations." Aye, and common sense and civility too.

Yours truly,

F. STANILAND.

May 24th, 1894.

ELECTRIC LIGHT METERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In your report of the proceedings at the General Meeting of the Club Hotel, Ltd., I was very much astonished as well as amused at the statement made by a shareholder, when discussing the electric light charges, that "There is no electric light meter in the world that can accurately tell how much of the current has passed through it." This was emphasized by the Chairman as "Perfectly correct, sir." I do not know whether these two gentlemen claim experience as electricians and made professional investigations of the various electric light meters in use, or if they have only jauntily expressed their opinions as consumers of electricity by meter. I have had some little experience with meters, and very considerable experience with consumers of electricity, both by meter and otherwise, and I am very much impressed by the fact, very prevalent among Yokohama residents (and probably elsewhere as well), that the electric light is looked upon as so much sunshine—costs nothing to the supplier, and when once laid on to a building can be used *ad libitum*, and a good grumble at the end of the month is considered a *quid pro quo* for the amount of light supplied. From this point of view, all I can do is to parody the words of the Club Hotel shareholder, and say that there is no electric light meter in the world than can accurately tell the amount of shuffling that will be used at the end of the month in trying to get out of paying for what has been actually supplied in the shape of light. Hapless electric light suppliers! It is very fortunate there are not many such victims who have undertaken to add to the comfort and convenience of the community. On the contrary, if those gentlemen of the Club Hotel speak thus authoritatively as electricians, then allow me to quote an authority which perhaps is as good as theirs, which will show both the ignorance and fallacy of their statements upon electric light meters in general and the one in particular in use at the Club Hotel. There are no doubt both good and bad among meters, as well as among humanity, and neither are infallible. The meter in use at the Club Hotel is known as the Aron Meter and extracts from the report of investigations made by an electrician of world-wide repute, namely, Mr. Gisbert Kapp, upon the Aron Meter, and published in the *Electrician*, 7th February, 1890, will show the opinion of one who does understand something about this matter.

After having stated that he subjected the Aron Meter to a series of tests extending over 10 days, with the minimum and maximum currents respectively of 7 and 26 amperes and a variation in pressure of between 95 and 130 volts, Mr. Kapp winds up the results with the following observations:—"The meter being intended for a 40-light installation, it seemed advisable to test it within the limits of the current which would ordinarily obtain in such an installation, I made, therefore, prolonged tests with currents of 8 and 23 amperes, which corresponded to 12 and 35 lamps respectively. The co-efficients I obtained were the following:—

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with 35 lamps, 1.130, with 12 lamps, 1.141. I also made a prolonged test with a single lamp in order to determine the accuracy of the meter at the lowest current at which it can possibly be used in practice. This test is for all meters the most severe, since any error, however small, absolutely becomes relatively large if the current to be metered is very small. I found that even at the lowest limit of current the Aron Meter gave a remarkably accurate result, the co-efficient with one lamp, 1.146. On the basis of these figures it is now possible to form an estimate of the accuracy of the meter when in practical use taking the mean between the co-efficients for 12 and 35 lamps, I find 1.1355 as the co-efficient to be used with this meter. The maximum error which would obtain if the meter were always worked at the lower or always at the higher limit of current would then be *one-half per cent.*, but as in practice the meter will generally be worked at intermediate currents the probable error will *be less than one-half per cent.* I need hardly say that this degree of accuracy is *greater that than of any gas meter* and more than sufficient for all practical purposes."

The above is the opinion of a world-renowned expert electrician. Now is the Club Hotel shareholder prepared to substantiate his vague condemnation of electric light meters by a corresponding analysis of what he has based his experience upon. I am afraid, with him, it is more a matter of dividends than meters. According to the above statements, a maximum error of one-half per cent. is only 87½ cents in $175.00, the amount stated at the meeting as the cost per month of the electric light; however, it will be very hard work for this Club Hotel shareholder to get his dividend out of that possible error in the expenditure of the Hotel. In fact, the error might be the other way, and he would then have 87½ cents less than nothing. Anyhow he had better grumble at something else than electric light meters.

Absolute accuracy in measuring electric currents is not confined to the Aron Meter, as a writer in the *Electrician* of 14th February, 1890, when confirming Mr. Kapp's verdict, says:—"As an instance of what a meter can do, I may mention one that has been at work since December, 1887, continuously, and is still working satisfactorily. The constant was determined at 1.9 amperes, at 95 amperes, and at four intermediate points, and the extreme variation from the mean was 0.1 per cent." This would reduce the shareholder's dividend to 8¾ cents. only.

Again, out of 1,573 meters in use in London in 1891, no less than 508 of them were Aron Meters, and the same meter gained the prize of 2,000 francs awarded by the Municipal Council of Paris in 1890 for the most accurate electric light meter.

I must apologise for referring to the incident at such length, but as there are now many people using the electric light and so much misconception existing among the general public in regard to it and its use, I trust these remarks will help to assure the apparently misinformed that in using the electric light, they are more likely to be charged correctly than they are when using gas.

Yours, &c., S. C.

Kamakura, May 19th, 1894.

RAILWAY MILEAGE IN JAPAN.

The following shows the mileages of the railways in operation and of those under construction in Japan at the present time:—

OPEN LINES.

	m. ch.	m. ch.
GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS—		
Tokyo-Kobe	376.31	
Ofuna-Yokosuka	10.03	
Obu-Taketoyo	12.01	
Maibara-Kanagasaki	31.01	
Nagahama-Fukatami	9.60	
Baba-Otsu	1.23	
Takasaki-Naoetsu	117.10	
		557.49
NIPPON RAILWAY COMPANY—		
Tokyo-Aomori	454.66	
Shinagawa-Akabane	12.76	
Omiya-Maibashi	51.14	
Utsunomiya-Nikko	25.00	
Iwakiri-Shiogama	4.23	
Uyeno-Akihanohara	1.15	
Oyama-Mito	41.45	
Mito-Nakagawa	0.62	
Shiriuchi-Hachinohe	3.30	
		595.11
KOBU RAILWAY—		
Shinjiku-Hachioji		22.77
RYOMO RAILWAY—		
Oyama-Maebashi		52.17
SANYO RAILWAYS—		
Kobe-Mihara	143.40	
Hiogo-Wadasaki	1.64	
		145.24
KIUSHU RAILWAYS—		
Moji-Kumamoto	121.31	
Tosu-Saga	15.30	
		136.61
KWANSEI RAILWAYS—		
Kusatsu-Yokkaichi	49.25	
Kameyama-Tsu	9.60	
		59.05
OSAKA RAILWAYS—		
Osaka-Sakurai	29.10	
Oji-Nara	9.38	
		38.48
HANKWAI RAILWAY—		
Osaka-Sakai		6.13
CHIKUHO RAILWAYS—		
Wakamatsu-Iizuka	24.38	
Nokata-Kaneda	6.20	
		30.58
SETTSU RAILWAY—		
Amagasaki-Ikeda		8.35
IYO RAILWAY—		
Takahama-Hiraigawara		10.19
SANUKI RAILWAY—		
Marugame-Kotohira		10.15
SANGU RAILWAY—		
Tsu-Miyagawa		23.58
HOKKAIDO RAILWAYS—		
Temiya-Horonai	56.02	
Horonaibuto-Yakushunbetsu	4.39	
Muroran-Sorachifuto	108.43	
Sunagawa-Utashinai	8.64	
Oiwake-Yubari	26.49	
		204.39
KUSHIRO RAILWAY—		
Shibecha-Atosanobori		25.78
SANO RAILWAY—		
Kudzuo-Koshinagawa		9.50
Grand Total		1,937.15

LINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS—		
Fukushima-Aomori	298.26	
Tsuruga-Toyama	123.58	
		422.04
SANYO RAILWAY—		
Mihara-Hiroshima		45.29
KIUSHU RAILWAYS—		
Kumamoto-Matsuhashi	11.00	
Saga-Tsukasaki	17.60	
		28 60
KWANSEI RAILWAY—		
Yokkaichi-Nagoya		23 55
HOSHIU RAILWAY—		
Gyohashi-Ikari		17.56
KAWAGOE RAILWAY—		
Kokubunji-Kawagoe		18.20
OME RAILWAY—		
Ome-Tachikawa		13.07
OSAKA RAILWAY—		
Tennoji-Mimeda		6.00
NANWA RAILWAY—		
Takata-Gojyo		16.40
BANTAN RAILWAY—		
Shikama-Ikuno		29.00
SETTSU RAILWAY—		
Itami-Namase		6.00
BOSO RAILWAY—		
Sogano-Odzuna		11.39
NARA RAILWAY—		
Nara-Kyoto		26.00
KOBU RAILWAY—		
Shinjiku-Iidamachi		3.50
OTA RAILWAY—		
Ota-Mito		12.18
SOBU RAILWAY—		
Honjo-Sakura		31.40
NANYO RAILWAY—		
Matsuyama-Gunnaka		6.57
DOGO RAILWAY—		
Dogo-Asami and Matsuyama		3.06
Grand Total		721.01

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

The Annual Meeting of the above mentioned Society was held at the Shiba Koyokwan, at 4 p.m. on the 20th inst., Dr. E. Divers, F.R.S., in the chair.

The first business was the election of officers, and the following changes and additions were made:—

Mr. Kajima Seibei resigned the treasurership and was elected a Vice-President

Dr. E. Baelz was elected a Vice-President.

Mr. Y. Ishizu was elected a Treasurer.

Mr. K. Ogura was elected a member of the Committee.

The remaining officers for the past year were all re-elected.

The Secretaries' report was not read, on account of the absence of Dr. Augustus Wood, but Messrs. Y. Ishikawa and W. K. Burton gave the general sense of it. The report is as follows:—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, MAY, 24TH.

Your Secretaries have to report a healthy growth of the Society. Regular monthly meetings have been held in the rooms of the Geographical Society of Japan in Tokyo, and in Yokohama, and in every case results of investigations have been exhibited and new theories in photography have been brought forward which have largely contributed to the advancement of our science in Japan. Many members, both Japanese and foreign, have brought before the meetings results of new investigations in the photographic art and have incited others to further investigations. It is worthy of remark that the Japanese members have expecially distinguished themselves by new and striking investigations. In May, 1893, the Society held an exhibition in Uyeno Park of pictures loaned from England, and prizes were awarded by a Jury of Japanese artists. For the succese of this exhibition the society was much indebted to the efforts of three of its members, Messrs. Kajima, Hornel, and Henry. The exhibition was continued for a period in the Public Hall at Yokohama. Since our last report there has been a large addition to the membership of the society. It has been our deepest misfortune that one member has left us, one who often presided over our meetings, one whom we all loved and whose loss we deeply regret, Mr. Edmund R. Holmes. We will not soon forget his sympathy for our efforts, his fine manliness, and his genial fellowship.

On the whole, the year marks a decided advance in our Society, in a closer union of the different members and a more exact investigation of photographic phenomena.

The following report of the Treasurers was read and fully explained by Mr. A. J. Hare:—

TREASURERS' REPORT FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING APRIL, 1894.

CASH ACCOUNT.

1893-4.	
To 2 years' Entrance fees and Subscriptions for both Japanese and foreign members	$462.000
To Cash balance from 1892 account	92.055
To interest until December, 1893	719
	$554.774
1893-4.	
By Printing report for the year 1892	$ 16.744
By Hire of rooms, refreshments, and expenses at meetings in Yokohama and Tokyo	106.970
By Field-day (excursion) expenses	11.500
By Printing circulars, notices, post-cards, postage, and stationery	67.150
By Club Hotel Account Meeting on February, 1893	10.000
By Oriental Hotel Account Meeting on February, 1894.	12.000
By Expenses incurred by Hon. Corresponding Secretary in connection with correspondence to America and Europe, since 1890	25.000
By Case to contain address presented to H.I.M. the Emperor	10.000
By Rent of piano, Yokohama meeting, 1893	7.000
By Collector's wages 1894	17.130
By Balance in Bank (119th National)	271.284
	$554.774

RESOURCES.—1893-1894.

Subscriptions and entrance fees due from 76 members	$260	
Deducting 15 absent	104	
		$156.000
Property of the Society—		
Cash box	$1.60	
Flags	7.00	
Treasurer's stamp	85	
Papyrograph	1.50	
Lantern Screen	9.00	
		19.950
Balance in Bank		271.284
		$447.234

LIABILITIES.

Rent and expenses Annual Meeting, 1894	$ 20.000
Balance in favour of Society	427.234
	$447.234

A number of samples of "Imperial Dry-plates," sent by the Imperial Dry Plate Company, Limited, of London, and of "Photographic Tabloids" sent by Messrs. Burroughs, Welcome & Co., also of London, were distributed amongst the members.

Mr. W. K. Burton showed the results of work with the newest form of Dallmeyer's tele-photographic lens.

The business meeting was followed by a dinner partaken of by a large number of members and their friends, all of whom seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves.

Yet another addition to the ranks of the Royal authors. One of the Roman reviews promises its readers a series of popular stories by Queen Margaret of Italy.

He (accepted): "You say you were never engaged before?" She: "Never!" He: "How does that happen? I thought all women had three or four engagements." She: (guilelessly): "Well, I presume I shall, too. You see this is the first chance I've had!"

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IN H.B.M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before H. S. WILKINSON, Esq., Judge.
TUESDAY, May 22nd, 1894.

EDWARD WHITTALL v. THOMAS HOLYOAKE BOX.

This was a claim made by Mr. Edward Whittall, of 59-D, Yokohama, to recover from Mr. Thomas Holyoake Box, the sum of 1,630 silver *yen*, principal and interest of a promissory note given by the defendant to plaintiff in March of last year.

Mr. H. C. Litchfield appeared for plaintiff; defendant appeared in person.

Mr. Litchfield, in opening, said that this was a claim made by Mr. Edward Whittall, a merchant of Yokohama, against Thomas Holyoake Box, based upon a promissary note given by defendant to plaintiff for money advanced on the 14th March, 1893. The petition before the Court alleged that the loan was made by the plaintiff to the defendant. It also alleged, in the 3rd paragraph, that an agreement of mortgage upon property, landed property, on the Bluff and elsewhere, was given by defendant to plaintiff to secure the loan. The claim now was for 1,630 silver *yen*, principal and interest of the loan. To this petition the defendant put in an answer which admits the truth of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 5. The answer also admits the making of the promissory note; admits the advance given by plaintiff; admits the giving of the mortgage upon the property as security for the loan, as alleged in the petition; admits that defendant has not repaid the loan, either in interest or principal; and upon that statement of pleading I respectfully urge that plaintiff is entitled to judgment for the amount claimed, unless defendant can make out a case further than that set out in his answer; and to do that, the onus of proving his case lays with him and not with us.

His Honour—I am with you, Mr. Litchfield.

Mr. Litchfield—Then I submit that it lays with defendant to open and, if he can, prove his case.

His Honour inquired if Mr. Litchfield objected to the manner in which the pleadings were set out, or whether he objected to the Bench clearing up the issues between the parties, so that no time need be wasted.

Mr. Litchfield—No counter-claim has been filed by defendant, and I have only his answer before me, the allegations contained in which might perhaps be a matter for a counter-claim, but not as a set-off to the petition as the case now stands. Defendant alleges that he had suffered certain losses through the action of plaintiff. But to bring the matter properly before the Court defendant should have filed a counter-claim in this case and then endeavoured to substantiate his allegations.

His Honour—I take it that the pleadings are defective in this respect. If defendant had been represented by Counsel, I should direct that the case stand over until the pleadings were properly amended. But if you have no objection to the course I propose to take, we can settle the issues between plaintiff and defendant here in Court and then proceed as if the pleadings were properly set out. I don't think the course I propose will do damage to either party.

Mr. Litchfield said that, under Rule 54 of that Court, His Honour had power to take the course indicated and to set out the issues relative to either of the parties concerned.

His Honour—Yes, and now what are these issues. Mr. Box, I consider that your pleadings are defective and that as they stand at present they do not help you to establish the claim set out in your answer. You have put in an answer to the petition, but have not filed a cross-suit in support of your claim. Now, if I were to adjourn the case and order you to amend your pleadings I might be putting you to much cost and delay, therefore I propose to settle the issues between you and plaintiff at once, and shall accordingly ask you to assist me in determing what these issues are.

Defendant—Very well.

His Honour—Mr. Litchfield says that you admit the making of the promissory note, and the answer you have made to the petition confirms that statement. What have you to urge why this promissory note, for which you received good and valuable consideration, should not be satisfied? If you have no defence to offer, then I can do nothing but give judgment against you. You have to prove your case against plaintiff. If the pleadings had been properly drawn up you would now be appearing really as a plaintiff in a counter-claim. On the pleadings, as they now stand, it appears that the promissory note was given by you to plaintiff on the 14th March, 1893, and accordingly you promised to pay a certain sum of money after a certain date.

Defendant—The promissory note is admitted; it is quite in order.

His Honour—Well, it is upon this promissory note that the plaintiff comes into Court with a claim for 1,500 silver *yen* and accrued interest upon that sum to date.

Defendant—I admit that.

His Honour—In the third paragraph of the petition it is stated that you have given as security for the loan, a mortgage upon No. 166, Bluff.

Defendant—I admit that, and also paragraph No. 4.

His Honour—Paragraph No. 4 says that you give in further security your life policy for £500 in the London Assurance Company. Do you admit that?

Defendant—I have admitted paragraph 4.

Mr. Litchfield said he thought he had mentioned that paragraph 4 was admitted.

His Honour (to defendant)—In the second paragraph you deny that anything is due from you, but you do not deny that you have paid away money on behalf of the business you speak of.

Defendant—I have paid out money incurred through the business.

His Honour—Very well; you see one disadvantage of improper pleadings is that they are no answer to allegations laid down in the plaintiff's petition. Now the petition states that you were lent this money for the purpose of getting samples of silks in order to carry on a business in that material in America; and you say that this business was a partnership arrangement.

Mr. Litchfield—We deny that there was any partnership at all. We advanced the money, but it was to be used by defendant to pay his expenses while in America, and not for the purposes of carrying on a business on joint account.

His Honour—In paragraph 5 of the petition you deny that any partnership was arranged, do you not Mr. Litchfield?

Mr. Litchfield—Yes.

His Honour (to defendant)—And you say that the agreement of parnership was verbal and not in writing.

Defendant—Yes, verbal your Honour.

His Honour—Referring to paragraph 6, does the denial include the whole of the paragraph?

Mr. Litchfield—We admit that there was some arrangement between plaintiff and defendant, that defendant should receive half of the net profits on certain business in silk goods which should be done by the plaintiff here.

His Honour—And you were to pay all the expenses as well as to finance the business.

Mr. Litchfield—Well, seeing that the business belonged to plaintiff, that would only be natural.

His Honour—And did you agree to pay 120 silver *yen* a month to defendant for clerical services?

Mr. Litchfield—There was no such agreement. We deny that we were to pay defendant any salary.

His Honour—Looking at paragraph 7 of the answer to the petition, reference is made to the taking of an office at 50 silver *yen* per month.

Mr. Litchfield—Yes, Mr. Whittall had offices at 59, and Mr. Box had his office there too. I believe no arrangement was made in regard to rent.

Plaintiff—There was none at all, it was never mentioned.

His Honour—Now as to the 8th paragraph?

Mr. Litchfield—The 8th paragraph is denied, but unfortunately the plaintiff has paid out all he has been asked to pay and suffered great loss in consequence.

His Honour—Mr. Box, in your answer to the 8th paragraph of the petition you say that plaintiff has refused to pay the expenses of the business and that you have suffered loss in consequence. Do you allege that you have paid away expenses which should be repaid you by plaintiff?

Defendant—Yes, Sir, I have evidence in Court to prove it.

His Honour—Mr. Litchfield, the issue there then is that defendant alleges that he has paid out expenses which you have refused to repay him, and you deny that?

Mr. Litchfield—Yes, I deny that.

His Honour—The next issue suggests a question; it is in regard to the alleged refusal to finance the business. Looking at the answer, I find that defendant alleges that Mr. Whittall wrongfully put an end to this partnership prematurely.

Defendant—That is so.

His Honour—Well, we must have a clear understanding of this point What was the term originally fixed for this partnership to run?

Defendant—There was no term mentioned when the agreement was originally made.

His Honour—What is you contention then in regard to that?

Defendant—That the agreement was based on an agreement made by me with certain business parties in San Francisco, which was that the agreement should remain in force for five years. One agreement was based on the other—that the agreement remain in force for five years from this date, was the understanding.

His Honour—Then you claim an agreement for a five years partnership?

Defendant—That was understood, but not definitely arranged. It was understood that the partnership should remain in force by virtue of this agreement in America for five years.

His Honour—Well, it could only remain in force by some such agreement expressed or implied. I take it that on one side of this case, a partnership for five years was understood, while on the other it is held that there was no partnership, or if there was an agreement it was an agreement at will.

Mr. Litchfield—I understand defendant's contention on this point, but I do not understand his explanation.

His Honour—Defendant's claims are based on the argument that there was an agreement for five years, while you say there was no such agreement made and that any such agreement as may have been made was made at will. The 10th paragraph, I see, is admitted partly; and now as to the closing of the arrangement?

Mr. Litchfield—Yes, he admits the statement, and we claim that defendant has drawn further sums beyond the $1,500. I deny that he was allowed a salary, but I admit that the arrangement as to his working on Mr. Whittall's premises was stopped. We admit that he was ordered out of the office, but deny that it was wrongful, and certainly do not admit the consequences. He was not in any way prevented from going back if he so desired.

Defendant—Perhaps it would save time, that is if your Honour rules that I am in order, if I asked for a more explicit statement in regard to paragraph 3. I should like to ask whether plaintiff considers the business his, or mine, or ours conjointly.

His Honour—We cannot go into that any further now. You say that the money was lent to you on behalf of some business project arranged between you and plaintiff. Some issues are now pending between you in this matter and they have been stated. You will have an opportunity to cross-examine plaintiff later on. I think I will take your evidence now.

Thomas Holyoake Box, sworn, deposed—I am defendant in this action. I was introduced to plaintiff in February of last year, my object being to try to start a silk business. Plaintiff told me he had tried to do a similiar business but had not succeeded, and consequently did not care to take any risk in another undertaking. He said he would help me, or try and help me, to raise a loan on my property to enable me to go to America; that he would give me certain letters of introduction; and that if I succeeded he would go into the business with me. He tried at two or three Banks here to get a loan for me, and I also tried, but did not succeed. Eventually plaintiff advanced me the money himself, and I gave him the same security as I should have give to the bank. I proceeded to get together my patterns, and previous to leaving for America I invited the plaintiff up to my house, No. 166, Bluff, to introduce him to the Japanese there as the gentleman who was to finance this business should it be successful. Mr. Whittall stayed some time. During the conversation he said that he could finance the business up to $100,000, and that he did not expect it to be remunerative for the first year as the expenses in starting it would be heavy. I left for San Francisco on the 31st of March, 1893. I put in the following correspondence, and would like plaintiff to produce a copy of a letter of introduction to the Bank manager at San Francisco, a copy of a letter to the Bank manager at New York, and a copy of the introduction to a firm in San Francisco.

Mr. Litchfield—I have no objection to their being produced, if they are in existence.

Defendant—I have given written notice to the plaintiff that I should require them. I gave up the originals in America.

His Honour—I see by the notice you served on the plaintiff that these letters are not specifically mentioned, but Mr. Litchfield will produce them if he can find them.

Defendant, continuing—In San Francisco I entered into certain arrangements which I submitted to Mr. Whittall in a letter on the 29th of April. [Copy of letter handed in and read. It referred to an agreement for business arranged with Messrs. Newhall's Sons and Company, in which phrases, such as "on our joint account," and "business which we are entering into together," were used.]

Mr. Litchfield called for the original of the agreement. The plaintiff had never seen the original of the agreement, and therefore it could not

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be put in as evidence. He objected to the agreement being put in.

Defendant admitted that the original of the agreement was not sent to plaintiff. It was written by him (defendant), to Messrs Newhalls' Sons and left in San Francisco.

His Honour allowed the objection.

Defendant, continuing, said—I wrote to plaintiff again on the 25th April, and I should like the letter put in. [Letter put in: it referred to the outlook for Japanese coal in America and also to other lines of Japanese staples.] Mr. Whittall answered that letter on the 12th May. [Letter put in.] I wrote to Mr. Whittall again on the 29th April; and again on the 5th May. On the 9th May I wrote him from Winnipeg.

Mr. Litchfield said that it would be a waste of time to read this letter; it appeared to him to be merely a dissertation on American politics.

After some discussion, His Honour asked each party to state clearly their issues on this correspondence.

Defendant said that he was trying to prove that the correspondence showed that he was trying to work up a business in America on a joint-account with Mr. Whittall, and that therefore he should get half of the expenses out of Mr. Whittall.

Mr. Litchfield said that plaintiff contended that Mr. Box went to America on his own account, and borrowed money from Mr. Whittall to pay his expenses. Before he left Japan another arrangement was alleged to have been entered into verbally. It was that the profits of any business which might be done should be equally divided. In other words, there were two arrangements, the one through which Mr. Box went to America on his own account to try and work up a business, and the other which had regard to the division of any profits which might be made from certain orders that might come to hand.

Defendant then continued the reading of the letters, in one of which he stated that his expenses having been heavy he feared he should have to draw on Mr. Whittall for money, but that his disbursement account, which he would produce on his return to Yokohama, would show that he had been very careful in regard to his expenses. Continuing, he said--Mr. Whittall's replies to my letters I will now hand in. In them he speaks of "our account," and uses the word "we" more than once, while he says that I could draw on him for another $100 or $150 if necessary. A letter sent by me from Montreal to Mr. Whittall I now put in. In it I refer again to the fact that plaintiff entirely financed the business, and that I only moved in money matters according to his orders. [Letter put in.] On the 7th June I wrote to him again upon money matters, telling him that I drew upon him for $250. On June 9th Mr. Whittall wrote to me informing me that he would wire me certain silk prices to San Francisco.

At half-past twelve the Court adjourned for tiffin, meeting again at 2 o'clock.

Defendant, resuming, asked if the letters inquired for before the adjournment, had been found.

Mr. Litchfield said that the letters known to the Court now as the Beveridge letters were in Court; as for the others he proposed making a thorough search after the Court adjourned for the day.

Defendant then read the letter, dated San Francisco, from Mr. Beveridge to Mr. Whittall; and also another from the same gentleman on the 13th May; and the reply thereto. [Letters put in.] I left Montreal and went to New York and tried to get an agency there. The great financial crisis which swept over America last year, happened just at that time, and I could not get any one to go definitely into the matter then, so I made temporary arrangements with two houses in New York and then left for Chicago. I found the same difficulty there, but succeeded in making temporary arrangements, which afterwards ended in business. I returned to San Francisco, and their booked two more orders; and on account of the depression, Messrs. Newhall's asked me to reduce their stock order from 10,000 Mexican dollars to 4,000 dollars in gold. I left San Francisco on the 3rd July and arrived here on the 20th. I saw Mr. Whittall on the 21st. He seemed in every way satisfied with what I had done, made some reference to the state of affairs in America, as an excuse for my orders not being large—as an encouragement to me—and said he had every confidence in a large business resulting as soon as things improved in the States. He next introduced me to a gentlemen, here in Yokohama, in the tea trade, with whom he is interested, with the object of forming one business—this tea business, his own business, and what I had done in America—under the name of E. Whittall and Company. I declined to have anything at all to do with tea. I knew that it was a risky business, and that it would not go well with silk at all. Mr. Whittall at that time was going in largely for railway contracts. He proposed that we should join our businesses together; that my experience in railway material, etc., would be of assistance to him, and that the contract that he had with a gentlemen who was doing that business with him was only for twelve months, and that then we could do the whole business together. Mr. Whittall also proposed to go in for raw silk and the manufacture of silk handkerchiefs, in fact proposed what I thought was a very large undertaking. I told Mr. Whittall that I had no capital, and that I could not run any risk in speculation, but that if he would allow me a competency I would do all I could to further the business. Mr. Whittall asked me how much I could live on, and I said, at the very lowest, $120 a month. It was then agreed that I was to draw $120 per month for my services. Mr. Whittall, as an excuse for not making this arrangement public at once, said he had several little things incomplete, that it would be as well to let the thing go on to the end of the year, when his books and everything would be balanced up, and that he would write home for stationery, books, etc., to be printed and made ready in the name of E. Whittall & Company, by the end of the year, Mr. Whittall wanted us to have our office at No. 258, a building then being erected for him, or in connection with him, I don't know exactly which, where this tea-business was to be carried on. I then again objected to being connected in any way with tea, and about this time No. 59-D., the property of the plaintiff, was given up by the Club Hotel. I was asked to go over and see it. I went and saw that the upstair rooms would be just the places for silk. It was then arranged that the rent was to be $50 per month. I occupied the premises myself at first, put down matting on the floors and got the fixtures arranged; brought furniture down from my house on the Bluff to fit up my own office, and had every thing ready before Mr. Whittall came into the place several days afterwards. Mr. Whittall then took a box at the Post Office in which to put the letters which came addressed to either of us, and out of courtesy to Mr. Whittall I suggested that as the partnership was to be made public in a short time, I should write to my people in America and ask them to address their correspondence to E. Whittall. I should be glad to be allowed to put in correspondence from America addressed to me but now in the plaintiff's possession.

His Honour remarked that these letters numbered 100 in all.

Defendant said that he wished to put them in to prove that the American letters were first addressed to him, and then he also wished to put in his press copy-book to show that he had written to America to advise his people to address their correspondence to E. Whittall.

Some half dozen letters addressed to defendant by an American firm were then read, and also the replies written by defendant and signed by plaintiff.

His Honour then asked Mr. Litchfield if he would accept the remainder of the correspondence as being connected with the same kind of business, and all addressed to E. Whittall.

Mr. Litchfield said that he should like time to go through the correspondence, and applied for an adjournment.

The Court thereupon adjourned till 10 o'clock the following day.

WEDNESDAY, May 23rd.

The hearing of this case, for the recovery of $1,630, the value of a promissory note, was resumed at 10 o'clock. Mr. H. C. Litchfield again appeared for the plaintiff; defendant pleaded in person.

His Honour asked Mr. Litchfield whether he had gone through the letters handed over to him on the adjournment of the Court the day before.

Mr. Litchfield—Yes, I have gone into them more or less minutely, and find that the majority of them are immaterial, being purely business letters passing between firm and firm. In some of them Mr. Box is spoken of as having some connection with Mr. Whittall in the silk business. This connection is not denied. It has been admitted by us that Mr. Box was to have a share in the profits arising out of the silk business. But that there was any partnership such as Mr. Box alleges we most emphatically deny. We deny that there was any partnership in the sense implied by Mr. Box.

His Honour—I think then, Mr. Litchfield, that it would save time if the letters were read now. I thought when we adjourned yesterday that some time might have been saved by your looking through the letters, but evidently nothing can be arranged.

Defendent—Before proceeding with my statement, I should like to refer to something which occurred yesterday, and in regard to which I fear a little misunderstanding has arisen. It is in reference to the original of the letter written by me on the 29th April, and which I said Mr. Whittall had never seen. He did not see the original, but he has seen the copy in the press copy-book which I wish now to put in.

His Honour—Well, I will take your evidence upon it then.

Defendant—This is the general press copy-book, containing copies of all the letters that have been written in connection with this business. I took it to America with me and used it all the time there, bringing it back with me on my return. It contains all the letters written by me to Messrs. Newhall's Sons and Company, and is the original impression of them. Mr. Whittall knew of everything that was in this book, and has read everything it contains to the best of my knowledge and belief.

His Honour—What is your reason for this belief?—If anything was written on mail-night after Mr. Whittall was gone, he invariably came up into my office the next morning and read them over with me.

His Honour—What did you read over?

Defendant—All the things copied in that book. The letter I now refer to is the one written in San Francisco to Messrs. Newhall's Sons and Company, and on my return I showed it to Mr. Whittall. At the time I wrote it, I sent Mr. Whittall a *resumé* of the contents by mail. On my return I showed him the press copy-book. We went though everything in Mr. Whittall's office together so that he could see what I had done in America. He went through everything with me.

His Honour—I think, Mr. Litchfield, the best course for me to pursue would be to admit this letter now, subject to any evidence which may be given in regard to it later.

Mr. Litchfield—Very well, your Honour.

Defendant—The press copy-book has always been open to Mr. Whittall; never under lock or key. I now put in a letter written by me to Messrs. Newhall's Sons and Company, dated San Francisco, April 29, 1893. This is the press copy, the original being left in San Francisco. [Letter read.] I should like to have Messrs. Newhall's Sons and Company's reply to Mr. Whittall. [Letter put in. Both referred to an agreement entered into by the firm with Mr. Box in regard to shipments and orders of silk goods, Mr. Whittall being the shipper in Japan.]

His Honour—I wish you to clear up this matter before we proceed. You have not yet put in any letter proving that Mr. Whittall read your letter to Messrs. Newhall's Sons.

Defendant—I have no such letter.

His Honour—Does not your contention depend upon the last clause in that letter, the clause which refers to the five years agreement?

Defendant—No; what I wish to prove is that Mr. Whittall always had entry to this press copy-book, nothing more.

His Honour—Oh, very well; I understand.

Defendant then asked for the letter of introduction given him by Mr. Whittall for Messrs. Newhall's Sons.

Mr. Litchfield read the letter and then handed up the press copy. Letters of introduction to Mr. W. H. Harries, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, San Francisco, also a similar letter to A. M. Townsend, Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, New York were next read. The letters stated that Mr. Whittall was interested in the silk business which Mr. Box was working-up. A letter written to Mr. Whittall by Messrs. Belding Paul & Co. of Montreal, dated June 5th, was next read; it had reference to the terms for taking up a silk handerchief agency in Canada.

After many other letters had been read.

His Honour observed that he thought the letters had gone far enough for him to have a clear comprehension of the contentions on both sides, and he did not think that it was necessary to read any more of them, Mr. Litchfield having admitted that Mr. Box was allowed half profits on certain orders.

Mr. Litchfield—That is so.

His Honour—I take it then that there may be something due to Mr. Box on account of these transactions?

Mr. Litchfield—Oh, no, there is nothing due.

His Honour—I am not taking the balance of account between you. If there was this arrangement between you, would Mr. Box still be entitled to something on the unfinished transactions?

Mr. Litchfield—He would if there had been any profits.

His Honour—Cannot the accounts between Mr. Whittall on the one side and Mr. Box on the other be made up? If this arrangement was a joint account affair, there must be some settling of the balance between the parties. Could these

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accounts not be made up before we go into any further evidence as to the termination of the agreement. It would save the time of the Court, and the time of all parties concerned, I think, if such was done. I cannot make up the accounts here with the evidence in its present state. Of course you both understand that I express no opinion either way about these matters, I am only pointing out the lines upon which I consider the evidence should now be addressed. I will read, for the benefit of Mr. Box, who is not represented by Counsel, an extract from the Statute relating to partnership. I read it to him for his information, so that he may know really how the law stands upon the subject, for at present he does not appear to have the advantage of a knowledge of the subject. His Honour read some extracts relating to the law of partnerships and pointed out that it was essential for such contracts to have a stated term of existence mentioned at their very commencement, otherwise any arrangement made was terminable at will. Having read the law on the subject, His Honour inquired whether the accounts of the transactions conducted for the joint benefit of the parties could not be made out now.

Plaintiff—It can be done in ten minutes.

His Honour—I would give you a little longer than that. You understand that I am not now dealing with any moral aspect of the question, but merely with the legal side of this alleged partnership arrangement. Suppose, now Mr. Box, that there was a partnership between you and Mr. Whittall, which you say there was—understand I am not saying one way or the other whether there was or was not—but supposing that there was this partnership, on your own showing you say that no length of time was ever mentioned, then there is no doubt that Mr. Whittall was entitled in law to put an end to it at any moment he liked. He has put an end to it, and I want you to confine your evidence to the point, whether Mr. Whittall was compelled to continue the partnership.

Defendant—I deny that I had notice of the termination of the partnership. I was ejected from the office; indeed, to use a common expression, I was kicked out, and I can prove it. Besides, in my opinion, there is no necessity for any account to be made out between us. The whole reason why the business did not succeed was owing to the bad financing of Mr. Whittall. If he had carried out his agreement the business would have resulted favourably to all concerned; as it was his bad financing has caused the business to have a bad name and thus involved loss.

His Honour—I will assume, for the moment, that your account of the matter is all right, that you have the strongest case and the other side no answer at all; that, as you say, Mr. Whittall bungled, not to use any stronger term; well, what damages do you expect you can get out of Mr. Whittall for his bungling?

Defendant—I can't say. I should like to know.

His Honour—You cannot get any. You do not allege that he has behaved in any fraudulent or wrong manner, you simply allege that Mr. Whittall mismanaged the business. Even if you were to prove that to me, by leading further evidence, you cannot think to get any damages out of Mr. Whittall. Understand, I am not giving any opinion on the merits of your case at all, I am merely trying to bring within a reasonable focus as much of the evidence as possible as will help you in your case. If you like to carry on your case further, then you must bring evidence to bear on such points as you may deem essential to your view. You see that the Statute lays down that in the absence of any agreement in the terms of the partnership fixing any time for its continuance, then the law allows Mr. Whittall to terminate the arrangement whenever he likes. You say that there was no time fixed, and you allege that the failure of the business to produce remunerative returns was owing to the bad financing of Mr. Whittall. I wish you to put me right if I am wrong, but that is what I have gathered from you yourself.

Defendant—If Mr. Whittall had financed the business as he had undertaken to do, then the business would have turned out all right. I will prove to you that he failed to find the money when it was wanted; that he dishonoured a draft drawn on him by one of my clients, thus spoiling the reputation of the business; that he did not carry out his promises at all. I have proved that the business was to be done on our joint-account and made arrangements accordingly in America, and that when I returned to Japan I found that Mr. Whittall had failed to carry out any of his undertakings. I say that he simply ruined the business by his actions.

His Honour—Your allegation, Mr. Box, is that you and Mr. Whittall were partners,—Mr. Whittall does allow that you were, and will not use the term, preferring to call it an arrangement—and that you carried out your part of the agreement very well indeed, but that Mr. Whittall failed in his part, which was the financing of the business. Well, I am assuming for the moment that you are quite right and Mr. Whittall quite wrong, and, to use your words, will say that no time was specified as to the length of the partnership, and that one day Mr. Whittall comes along and says—I promised to finance this business; well I am not satisfied with the arrangement and refuse to finance it any longer. Now then, if he was a partner with you on those terms, was it not open to him at any time to stop the business in that way? Understand me, Mr. Box, I don't wish you to withdraw your case through any suggestion of mine. If you think you have good grounds for continuing it, do so by all means. I think, however, that I should be doing you a kindness if I adjourn the case until Monday, so that you may have an opportunity of thinking over what I have pointed out as regards the legal aspect of the question.

Defendant—I am entirely in your Honour's hands, and thank you for your kind assistance. I will only now point out that plaintiff has caused me loss and damage by his actions in regard to this business. There are a few outstanding accounts still between us, only a few dollars in themselves, but a dollar is a dollar to me now-a-days, and these accounts have not been paid. I think that if an arrangement be come to that it will be very necessary that I have your judgment upon these things.

His Honour—Is it in regard to your claim for salary? Have you any writing, or anything you can bring before me about your salary?

Defendant—Only the receipts.

Mr. Litchfield—Mr. Box came back from America in July and he has drawn since then about $700 on account, which, being divided, would come up to about $125 a month; but it certainly was not drawn as salary.

His Honour—No; then how was it drawn?

Mr. Litchfield—He was allowed to draw on account until the business was fairly started. A man cannot live on air, and so Mr. Box was allowed to draw certain sums on account. He was, in fact, allowed to draw his living expenses.

Plaintiff—Yes, he always asked me for it.

Defendant—If your Honour will allow me, I should like to read a letter received by me on the 12th December from Mr. Whittall in which he says that he requests me to leave the office in consequence of a conversation we had had in the office that afternoon. He said that I had insulted him so much that he would not ask me for an apology.

His Honour—I think you can take that letter, Mr. Box, as a sufficient notice that Mr. Whittall desired the arrangement between you to terminate. I will hear your evidence as to what took place between you and Mr. Whittall if you like. Still, if you actually did fall out, through Mr. Whittall's actions or from a display of bad temper on his part, whichever you may choose to call it, there is no disputing that your partnership did come to an end. Of that there seems to me to be no dispute. It was quite competent for Mr. Whittall or for you to terminate the agreement when you liked. He evidently liked to do so and you cannot lay any damages. Still I think we cannot do better now than to adjourn till Monday, it will give you an opportunity to consider whether you will proceed with the case or not, very probably you will decide not to press it further.

Defendant—There is one thing I should like to lay before your Honour, before we adjourn. It is an account of what occurred on the 12th of December in my office at No. 59-D. I had the upper rooms and Mr. Whittall the lower rooms as offices. That morning he came upstairs and we talked about the business and the prospects for fully an hour. Everything was very pleasant, and I mentioned that there was still one account for $150 unpaid. I said I wished the man would come and take his money for the goods. Mr. Whittall appeared in the best of tempers about matters. I then asked him for some money, as I had not had any since the previous month. He appeared not to notice my remark, although I followed him to the stairway. About 2 o'clock, after tiffin, he returned. He was red with passion and loudly declared that he thought all the accounts were all paid; that he was tired of the way things were being conducted and finally told me that he had had enough of the whole concern. I do not consider that what took place then was a proper dismissal.

His Honour—Well, I think that you had better have time to consider quietly whether you will continue your case. I see by this certificate that you have had Counsel's opinion upon it, perhaps it would be as well for you to tell him all that has taken place here and what has been said to you from the Bench, and then you can proceed according to his advice.

Mr. Litchfield—I don't like to make any observations during the course of a case; I do not wish to do so now, but I can assure your Honour that I feel very strongly tempted to make some very strong observations indeed.

His Honour—Mr. Box, from the evidence you have already laid before the Court, it is very clear to me that you had a distinct notice of the termination of this partnership or business arrangement, whichever you will. Mr. Whittall was at liberty, whether he had a reason or not—a good reason or a bad reason, it does not matter which—to stop the financing of the business whenever he liked. We will adjourn the hearing of the case till Monday so that you may have time to think over what I have said, and then when we re-assemble you can state the course which you may wish to take. You say that you would have no money to take from the business now.

Defendant—There is nothing left, all the profits that were made were absorbed in telegraphic and other expenses.

His Honour—Then upon that point you are agreed.

Defendant—Yes, that is so.

His Honour—Then the only question is whether your partner had a right to put a sudden stop to your agreement. I have already pointed out to you, that according to your own evidence, the law says that he had. It may be very hard, and no doubt it is very hard, when partners go into business for one of them to suddenly put an end to it. But such is the law upon the matter, and you have got to submit to it. You quite understand that I am not giving an opinion upon the merits of your whole case, I am merely pointing out where the case as presented to the Court by Mr. Box, appearing as Counsel for and instructed by Mr. Box, is faulty and is without relief. I have merely assumed that you have the strongest case for the purpose of this argument, and therefore do not say which side I may consider is right or which side wrong in the whole matter. If you desire, after reflection, to continue your case, you are at perfect liberty to do so, and can go on with your evidence.

Defendant—I will carefully consider all what your Honour has said, and by Monday shall have decided what course to take.

The Court then adjourned till 10.30 on Monday morning.

CRICKET.

BLUFF V. SETTLEMENT.

The local cricket season was formally opened in Yokohama on Saturday with the usual match, Bluff *v.* Settlement, the teams being captained by Messrs. Walford and White respectively. Throughout the afternoon the air was gloriously full of sunshine, and fielders were heard to declare now and again that a breeze would have proved most acceptable. For the beginning of the season the form displayed by some of the bats was very creditable, but the fielding left much to be hoped for. Indeed, the number of "lives" accorded to some players bordered on the marvellous, but this is only what may be expected in the very first match of the season. The Settlement went to the wickets first, sending out White and Dickinson and the two kept together for upwards of an hour, Dickinson being the first to succumb, after compiling a neat score of 28. White should have been caught out when he had made about ten, but providence remained with him up to his 62nd run, soon after which he was neatly caught by Hunt. Three other men of the team also got into double figures, and when the tenth wicket fell, 155, including 13 extras, had been knocked up. White's score included six 4's, Dickinson's, two boundaries. The Bluff then sent in Dr. Wheeler and Mair to face the bowling of Black and White—a coincidence in names which caused some amusement in the Pavilion. They found the wicket rather inclined to hang, the balls coming up dead at times. Dr. Wheeler, who soon lost his partner Mair, remained at the wickets for twenty-four minutes during which time he made 26 runs, including five boundaries, an excellent record at any time. The veteran sportsman was heartily cheered on his return, but he bore his blushing honours modestly, setting a right excellent example to the youngsters. Crawford, who was third man in, carried out his bat for 75, having played in his usual correct form throughout. One miss at the wicket when his score stood at 60, resulted in a slight injury to his left cheek, the ball striking

him just below the eye. Notwithstanding the pain he pluckily stuck to the bat till the game closed, making the winning hit some few minutes after six o'clock, amid resounding cheers. Of the two other men who made double figures, E. R. Morriss' 12 were made in two hits, the young batsman sending the ball over the fence on both occasions. Scores:—

SETTLEMENT.

Mr. F. E. White, c. Hunt, b. Philip	62
Mr. H. V. Dickinson, c. Philip, b. E. Morriss ...	28
Mr. C. B. Black, c. Crawford, b. Walford	0
Mr. W. Y. Showler, c. Walford, b. Morriss	11
Mr. J. Thomson, b. Morriss	5
Mr. A. R. Lamb, b. Crawford	10
Mr. B. Sharp, b. Walford	4
Mr. J. Tuska, b. Walford...	7
Mr. L. J. Healing, c. Philip, b. Walford	0
Mr. W. J. Kenney, b. Philip	15
Mr. H. Tennant, not out	0
b. 11, l.b. 2	13
	155

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.
Mr. A. B. Walford ...	90	52	1	4
Mr. K. F. Crawford ...	40	31	1	1
Dr. E. Wheeler	10	9	0	0
Mr. E. R. Morriss ...	55	34	2	3
Mr. G. Philip	48	22	0	2

BLUFF.

Dr. Wheeler, c. Kenney, b. White	26
Mr. H. R. Mair, c. Showler, b. Black	5
Mr. K. F. Crawford, not out	75
Mr. A. B. Walford, c. Showler, b. Thomson	17
Mr. E. R. Morriss, c. and b. Black	12
Mr. G. Philip, b. Black	3
Dr. Todd, c. and b. Black	1
Mr. A. S. Garfit, c. Healing, b. White	1
Dr. Stokes, st., Dickinson	2
Mr. R. H. Hunt, b. Black	3
Mr. W. H. R. Carew, b. Black	0
Mr. H. E. Allcock, c. Showler, b. Black	0
b. 14, w. 3	17
	102

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.
Mr. Black	95	53	2	6
Mr. White	100	65	3	3
Mr. Thomson	95	74	1	1
Mr. Lamb	15	17	—	—

ODD NUMBERS V. EVEN NUMBERS.

The teams chosen for the match on Friday—the Queen's Birthday holiday—were arranged according to the numbers of their houses of business in the Settlement, and even for such a rough and ready division were rather badly balanced. The day was everything that could be desired, perfect "Queen's weather" prevailing throughout. Walford captained the Even numbers, Crawford the Odd, and the former winning the toss sent in, at 11.15, three-quarters of an hour after the advertised time for commencing, Munro and Dickinson to face the bowling of Philip and E. Morriss. Seventeen had been telegraphed when Dr. Munro was caught by substitute (Tuska), to which he had contributed 4. P. Morriss took the vacant place, but had not time to break his duck ere his brother scattered the bails. Libeaud then went in, and a change of bowlers also took place at the farther end, Thomson (sub.) relieving E. Morriss. Runs came quickly, and before Libeaud was caught and bowled by Philip, he had knocked up 21 from his own bat. Several changes in the bowling occurred during the partnership, Crawford relieving Philip, and Dr. Wheeler Thomson, but it had no effect upon the batsmen. Philip eventually went back, Crawford going out into the field, and the first ball of the following over saw the third wicket fall—3 for 83. Walford, who took Libeaud's bat, commenced with some very free hitting, and the score continued to rise until, at the adjournment for tiffin, 134 was telegraphed. At the close of the repast Mr. J. P. Mollison, President of the Club, proposed the health of "The Queen," the toast being enthusiastically received. Play then recommenced, the batsmen fairly collaring the bowling. Shortly before half-past two Dickinson reached his century—the first this season—amid rousing applause from the Pavilion. Despite the changes in bowlers, runs continued to be made, and Walford nearly reached his century. Luck was against him, however, and at 98 he succumbed to a neat ball from E. Morriss. The retiring batsman's score included nine 4's and two 6's. Kenyon, next man, swelled the total by eleven, and then Walford declared the innings closed, the hands of the clock having reached 3.30 p.m.; Dickinson thus carried out his bat for 169, a rather lucky innings, in which indifferent bowling was equalled only by the indifferent fielding.

The Odds' opened with Dr. Wheeler and Mair, Black and Libeaud having charge of the bowling. The younger batsman's innings were short, Black finding his outer stump during the third over. Of the 10 runs scored Mair had but two to his credit. The Doctor was been joined by Crawford, and the partnership resulted in twenty runs, of which 10 were made by Crawford, the out going bat. E. Morriss, who followed, had only placed one run on the score when Black found his middle stump. Dodds took his place and for a good half hour the veterans—Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Dodds—continued to pile up the runs. Then Walford went on to bowl, relieving Libeaud, Black changing to the latter's end. Soon after, Dodds was caught by Gillett at mid-field on. Hunt succeeded him. The score was now, 59-4-10, and little animation remained on either side. After compiling two runs, Hunt was dismissed by Walford, the wickets going down very neatly. A change came over the game, however, when White and Todd got together, and runs were knocked up very quickly, but time did not allow them a chance to carry the score anywhere near their rivals' figures. At half-past six stumps were drawn, three wickets being yet to fall. The Town Band was in attendance during the afternoon. Scores:—

EVEN NUMBERS.

Mr. H. V. Dickinson, not out ...	169
Dr. Munro, c. sub., b. Philip ...	4
Mr. P. Morriss, b. E. Morriss ...	0
Mr. E. Libeaud, c. and b. Philip ...	21
Mr. A. B. Walford, b. E. Morriss ...	98
Mr. E. O. Kenyon, not out.	11
Mr. J. P. Mollison.	Did not bat, innings declared closed.
Mr. C. A. Black.	
Mr. E. Coutts.	
Mr. F. Gillett.	
Mr. F. Hooper.	
Mr. D. S. Tuska.	
b. 19, w. 4 ...	23
	326

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.
Mr. Philip ...	120	94	2	—
Mr. E. Morriss.	60	38	2	—
Mr. Thomson ...	25	8	—	3
Mr. Crawford...	35	30	—	—
Dr. Wheeler ...	45	44	—	—
Mr. White ...	85	50	—	—
Dr. Todd ...	5	7	—	—
Mr. Mair ...	15	15	—	—
Mr. Hunt ...	10	11	—	—

ODD NUMBERS.

Mr. H. R. Mair, b. Black...	2
Dr. Wheeler, c. Coutts, b. Libeaud ...	56
Mr. K. F. Crawford, c. Dickinson, b. Libeaud ...	10
Mr. E. R. Morriss, b. Black	1
Mr. J. Dodds, c. Gillett, b. Black ...	10
Mr. H. R. Hunt, b. Walford	2
Mr. F. E. White, not out...	34
Mr. G. Philip, b. Libeaud.	20
Dr. Todd, b. Walford ...	28
Mr. W. Y. Showler, b. Walford ...	0
Mr. F. Thomson, c. Coutts, b. Libeaud...	0
Mr. L. J. Healing, not out.	2
Mr. J. Archer, did not bat.	0
Extras...	17
	182

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	W.
Mr. Black...	155	70	3
Mr. Libeaud ...	135	73	4
Mr. Walford ...	55	21	3

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.)

The Yokohama Chess Club is now closed for the season and will re-open on Monday, 1st October.

The Tokyo Chess Club meets at the Hotel Métropole on Fridays from 1 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 122.

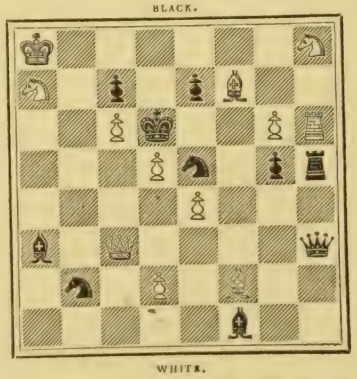
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to Kt 4	1—Any
2—Kt or Q mates accordingly.	

Correct solutions received from Digamma, Omega ("a nice little *souvenir* from our absent friend"), J.D., W.H.S., Shogi ("neat and effective"), and Aling (who is also credited with correct solution of No. 121).

PROBLEM No. 124.

By HUNTER and MEYER.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

CORRESPONDENCE GAMES.

Mr. A. L. Jordan, of Nagasaki, will be glad to hear from any player in Japan who is desirous of playing a game by correspondence. We hope some of our readers will avail themselves of this opportunity of testing their strength against one of the strongest players in the Far East.

STEINITZ-LASKER.

No fresh news at present as to the further progress of this match. The papers by the *Oceanic* will probably give us some intelligence.

For our game this week we reproduce the ninth contest between these giants, being the first of the Philadelphia series. It is astonishing to see the Champion still holding on to his pet defence in the Ruy Lopez after so many failures with it. The game below is an excellent specimen of Lasker's play: cautious, careful, calculating, and spare. The work with the King is especially fine.

GAME 128.

(NINTH GAME—RUY LOPEZ.)

WHITE. Lasker.	BLACK. Steinitz.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to Q 3
4—Kt to B 3	4—P to Q R 3
5—B to B 4	5—B to K 3
6—B × B	6—P × B
7—P to Q 4	7—P × P
8—Kt × P	8—Kt × Kt
9—Q × Kt	9—Kt to K 2
10—B to Kt 5	10—Kt to B 3
11—B × Q	11—Kt × Q
12—Castles Q R	12—Kt to Kt 4
13—Kt × Kt	13—P × Kt
14—B × P	14—R × P
15—B to Kt 6	15—B to K 2
16—P to Q B 3	16—K to B 2
17—K to B 2	17—K R to R sq.
18—K to Kt 3	18—Q R to R 5
19—P to B 3	19—K R to R 3
20—B to Q 4	20—P to K Kt 3
21—R to Q 3	21—K to K sq.
22—K R to Q sq.	22—P to K 4
23—B to K 3	23—K to Q 2
24—B to B 5	24—R to K 8
25—K R to Q 2	25—K to K 3
26—B to R 3	26—P to Kt 4
27—R to Q 5	27—R to Kt 3
28—K to Kt 4	28—P to Kt 5
29—K to R 5	29—R to R 3 ch.
30—K × P	30—P to R 4
31—R to Q sq.	31—R × R
32—R × R	32—P × P
33—P × P	33—R to R sq.
34—K to Kt 6	34—R to K Kt sq.
35—K × P	35—R to Kt 7
36—P to R 4	36—R to R 7
37—K to B 6	37—B × P
38—R × P ch.	38—K to B 2
39—K to Q 5	39—B to B 3
40—R to Q 7 ch.	40—K to Kt 3
41—K to K 6	41—P to R 5
42—R to Q sq.	42—P to R 6
43—R to Kt sq. ch.	43—R to Kt 7
44—R × R ch.	44—P × R
45—B to B 5	45—B to Q sq.
46—P to Kt 4	46—K to Kt 4
47—K to Q 7	47—B to B 3
48—P to Kt 5	48—K to B 5
49—P to Kt 6	49—Resigns.

Lasker had this to say about the game:—

"The fourth move of White inaugurated not a mere transposition of the succession of moves, as were played in former games, but it left White with the additional advantage of playing B to Q B 4 either before or after P to Q 4. The opening, after Black's fifth move, came into the well-known lines of the Philidor defence. It is doubtful whether the exchanging of bishops, or the retiring to knight's third, is preferable.

"Black's tenth move was practically forced, as White's threatened bishop takes knight with a very strong position. Black evidently overrated his attack when he offered the exchange of knights on the twelfth move. Probably, 16—R to R 5, and if K R to K sq., 17—P to Kt 5 was Steinitz's strongest line of play, as this was really his only chance to dissolve his doubled pawn during the whole game. After this omission, White got a slight pull.

"On account of the weakness of the Queen's Pawn Black seemed compelled to push his King's Pawn on his twenty-second turn. Now, on my twenty-sixth move I might have avoided many complications by advancing my Rook's Pawn to its third square, although Pawn to King's Rook's fourth would have been a very strong rejoinder on the part of the Black. In actual play I had to make a very tedious manœuvre in order to win the Queen's Knight's Pawn. While I was thus engaged in my scheme Black initiated a strong attack upon my King's flank in a truly marvellous manner, and I had to give my entire attention to it, although I had a decisive superiority of Pawns.

"On Steinitz's thirtieth move he might have continued 30..... R to K R 8; 31—P × P, R to K 8; 32—P to R 3, R × P; 33—P to Q B 4, but he evidently thought that in this variation White's King's side Pawns would prove too dangerous. Had I, at my thirty-fifth move, continued with R to Q 2, then my opponent would have replied with R to Kt 2, thus saving his Queen's Knight's Pawn and he also would have threatened to push his Rook's Pawn, which in some variations would have given him even a chance to win.

"My thirty-ninth move was imperative as Black's King's Rook's Pawn could advance, for if 39—R to R 6, B to Kt 4; 40—R to R 8, K to Kt 2; 41—R to K 8, B to B 5; 42—B × Q P, K to B 2; 43—R to R 3, K to Kt 2; 44—R to K 8, K to B 2; 45—K to K 7 ch, K to B 3; 46—R to

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R 7, K to Kt 3, and it is very doubtful, indeed, whether White could win. Black could have won my Bishop by 39.....R to Q 7 ch: 40—K × P, R × R; 41— B × R, B to Kt 6 ch; 42—P to B 4, P to R 5; 43—B to B 5, P to R 6; 44—B to Kt, sq. P to R 7, but my Pawns would have won.

NORTH v. SOUTH—RETURN MATCH.

On 7th April chess-players of the South of England were pitted against those of the North—216 in all—the antagonists consisting of the best experts in England. The match took place in the Portman Rooms, Baker-street, each side being represented by 108 players, who fought against their opponents (one game each) on 108 boards. An hour after play began the South scored the first result, soon followed by the North. From that point, however, results came quicker, and it became apparent that the South were gaining fast. Never afterwards did the North manage to equalise; and the end proved a victory for the South by sixty-four and a-half games to forty-three and a-half. Considering that the South has London to draw on, and that the Northern players were a long way from home, the result is not discreditable to the North. Last year the first match of the kind took at Birmingham, when the South only won by a majority of one.—*L. and C. Express.*

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."

London, May 20.

A match has been arranged between the yachts *Vigilant* and *Valkyrie*, the best of three races, to be sailed in British waters.

Edmund Yates is dead.

May 21.

The Queen opened the Manchester Canal amid great enthusiasm.

The Austro-Russian Commercial Treaty has been concluded.

The King has suspended the Servian Constitution owing to the invalidating of an Ukase annulling the banishment of parents.

YATES, Edmund Hodgson, son of the well-known actor, who was sometime lessee of the Adelphi, born in July, 1831, was for many years Chief of the Missing Letter Department in the Post-Office. He has written "My Haunts and their Frequenters," published in 1854; "After Office Hours," in 1861; "Broken to Harness," a story, in 1864; "Business of Pleasure," "Pages in Waiting," and "Running the Gauntlet, a Novel," in 1865; and "Kissing the Rod," and "Land at Last, a Novel," in 1866. In conjunction with the late Mr. F. E. Smedley, he wrote "Mirth and Metre, by Two Merry Men," published in 1854; in conjunction with the late Mr. R. B. Brough, edited "Our Miscellany," which appeared in 1857-8; prepared a condensed edition of "The Life and Correspondence of C. Mathews the Elder," published in 1860; and a "Memoir of Albert Smith and Mont Blanc." Mr. Yates, who has written some dramas, and was the theatrical critic of the *Daily News* for six years, edited the *Temple Bar Magazine*, in which his novel "Broken to Harness" appeared as a serial in 1864-5; was the first editor of *Tinsley's Magazine*; and a constant contributor to *All the Year Round*, in which his novel "Black Sheep" was the leading serial story in 1866-7. His later novels are "Wrecked in Port," 1869; "Dr. Wainwright's Patient," 1871; Nobody's Fortune," 1871; "The Yellow Flag," 1873; and "The Impending Sword," 1874. In May, 1872, Mr. Yates retired from the Post-Office in order to devote himself exclusively to literature. In the course of that year he went on a lecturing tour in the United States, and in May, 1873, he was appointed London representative of the *New York Herald*, which post he resigned in July, 1874, when he established *The World*," a journal for men and women," which has a wide circulation, and of which he remained till the day of his death sole proprietor and editor. In November, 1884, Mr. Yates published two volumes of "Personal Reminiscences and Experiences," an autobiography, which has gone through four editions. Mr. Yates was in 1884 indicted for libel on the Earl of Lonsdale, and was sentenced by the Lord Chief Justice to four months' imprisonment.—*Men of the Time.*]

[SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL" FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, May 12.

The House of Commons threw out a motion for the rejection of the Budget, which was then read a second time and passed by a majority of 308 to 294.

The House of Commons will adjourn on the 21st inst.

Speaking at the National Liberal Club, the Earl of Rosebery said that if he obtained a majority which consisted only of two he would persevere and fight to the end.

May 14.

At the last moment the dissentient ministerialists yielded to the pressure of the Whips and voted in favour of the Budget.

The Times observes that it is evident the Budget will constitute the chief business of the session, and that its discussion in Committee will be prolonged to the bitter end.

May 15

Hundreds of persons, members of a so-called Society for Political Liberty, have been arrested in the principal cities of Russia.

The marriage of the Czarewich with the Princess Alix has been fixed for the 10th of November.

Speaking in the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Signor Crispi stated that though to all appearance the policy of the Powers was pacific, it was impossible to reduce the armaments of the country, and an attitude of defiance was the best guarantee for the security of the national independence.

May 16.

Mr. Mundella, President of the Board of Trade, has resigned in order to prevent the appearance of a conflict between his public and private interests.

The German Squadron, including the ship under the command of Prince Henry, has anchored in the Firth of Forth, and Edinburgh has been the scene of great fêtes in consequence.

The Belgian Expedition under Baert, while marching towards Lado, was attacked and defeated by Dervishes, and had to beat a retreat to await the arrival of reinforcements.

May 17.

Brazil has broken off relations with Portugal in consequence of the harbouring of Da Gama and other insurgents on board Portuguese warships at Rio de Janeiro.

The National Liberal Federation has convened a conference to be held at Leeds, on the 20th June, to consider the attitude of the Liberals in regard to the House of Lords.

The London Cabmen have struck against the cab-masters for a reduction in the rates of hiring, and the cab-stands both in the streets and at railway stations are entirely denuded of vehicles. There was a monster procession of cabmen in Hyde Park yesterday, and much rioting *en route*, in which the vehicles of the non-striking cabmen were overturned. The cab-masters have resolved to maintain the strike against what they term the unjust demands of the drivers, but a few cab-masters have yielded.

London, May 18.

The Council of the Colonial Institute have presented a memorial to Sir W. V. Harcourt, protesting against the Budget proposals for making personal property outside Great Britain liable to a new rebate (probate?) duty.

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.)

Kobe, May 24.

Kim Tai-gen, one of the Korean deportees who have been ordered to leave Japan in consequence of the recent Korean murder case, attempted to decamp this morning, but was unable to carry out his intention successfully, being discovered by the constables of his escort.

Fukushima, May 23.

Judgment in the case of the Wakayama Prison forgery has been given. Kamada, ex-chief jailer, has been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment, and Aizawa, a jailer, to ten months' major confinement.

Söul, May 20.

Sai Ji-ko, chief of the *Togaku-to*, has called upon the districts of Koyo, Fuan, Kotoku, Kohei, and Koyo in Zenra Province to surrender. His followers now number over eight thousand. At the battle of Ekizan the Government soldiers were badly defeated, and the *Togaku-to* partisans are likely to follow the retreat of the soldiers up to the Korean capital. A party of Government troops arrived at Ra-shu yesterday, and at once left for Rinha.

Sapporo, May 25.

An explosion of gas occurred in the Yubari coal mine on the 22nd, and two persons were killed.

Akita, May 25.

A violent gale, accompanied by heavy rains, visited Asahigawa-mura, Minami-Akita District, on the 23rd. Hail-stones fell during the storm, and some anxiety is entertained by farmers.

Aomori, May 25.

Some residents of this town intend petitioning the Diet to open the port of Aomori as an export port for Russian Asia.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, June 1st
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, May 28th *
From America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, June 3rd.†
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, May 31st ‡
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, June 1st.§
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 3rd.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, June 8th.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, June 13th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 17th.

* *Empress of China* left Vancouver on May 14th. † *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on May 17th. ‡ *Empress of Japan* left Hongkong on May 23rd. § *Belgic* left Hongkong on May 24th. The English mail is on board the steamer *Menmuir*.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, May 29th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, May 29th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, June 1st.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Saturday, June 2nd.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, June 2nd.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, June 9th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, June 9th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, June 12th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, June 15th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Argomene, British ship, Wm. O. Thomas, 19th May,—Kobe, Ballast.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, Farquhar, 19th May,—Suruga Bay 19th May, General.—Cornes & Co.

Oolong, British steamer, 1,970, Allen, 19th May,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, M. Matsumoto, 19th May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 20th May,—Hongkong 12th, Nagasaki 16th, and Kobe 19th May, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 21st May,—Moji 17th May, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Priam, British steamer, 1,802, C. Jackson, 21st May,—Liverpool, viâ Kobe 20th May, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,730, F. J. Brown, 21st May,—Niigata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hinode Maru, Japanese steamer, 789, G. Sofuye, 21st May,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 22nd May,—Hongkong viâ ports, 15th May, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 22nd May,—Otaru viâ ports 20th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 22nd May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 23rd May,—Kobe 21st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mount Washington, American bark, 1,217, Rose, 23rd May,—Kuchinotsu, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma 24th May,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Asano & Co.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, Duke, 24th May,—London viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Mathe, son & Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 24th May,—Shanghai and ports, 18th May, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Océanien, French steamer, 2,127, Schmitz, 24th May,—Marseilles 15th April, Hongkong 17th May, Shanghai 20th, and Kobe 23rd, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Argomene, British steamer, 1,579, Wm. O. Thomas, 25th May,—Yokosuka 25th May, Ballast.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Era, British steamer, 1,555, Moore, 25th May,—Middlesboro' viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 25th May,—San Francisco 8th May, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 25th May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Matsumoto, 25th May,—Kobe 24th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hector, British steamer, 1,489, Bartlett, 26th May,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

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DEPARTURES.

Melbourne, French steamer, 4,038, Vimont, 19th May,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, V. Perkes, 19th May,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Euplectela, British tank-steamer, 2,412, Barry, 19th May,—Hamburg and London viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Argomene, British ship, Wm. O. Thomas, 20th May,—Yokosuka, Ballast.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, Farquhar, 20th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Comes & Co.

Florence M. Smith, British schooner, 98, Jno. C. Allen, 20th May,—North Pacific, Sealing Gear.—Captain Kelley.

Oakley, British steamer, 1,740, Mahood, 20th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Frazar & Co.

Glenartney, British steamer, 1,943, J. McGregor, 21st May,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Matsumoto, 21st May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Radnorshire, British steamer, 1,889, F. Davis, 21st May,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 21st May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Priok, German steamer, 1,635, Madsen, 22nd May,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 22nd May,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 22nd May,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Priam, British steamer, 1,802, C. Jackson, 24th May,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 24th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompson, 24th May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hinode Maru, Japanese steamer, 789, G. Sofuye, 25th May,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Asano & Co.

China, British steamer, 2,600, Wm. Ward, 25th May,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Oolong, British steamer, 1,970, Allen, 25th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 25th May,—Yokosuka, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 26th May,—Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Bell, Mr. W. P. Bliss, Mr. Rochefeller, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hall, Captain and Mrs. Eaton, Mr. G. Braithwaite, Dr. G. Horsey, Mrs. Horsey, Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Mr. J. H. Curling, Mr. A. F. Watt, Mr. Benohr, Mr. Kaufmann, and Mr. Sprague and Japanese servant in cabin. Disembarked at Kobe:—Lieut. H. Fielden, Mr. C. J. Le Mesurier, Mr. F. D. Galpin, the Misses Galpin (2), and Mr. T. North Christie in cabin.

Per British steamer *China*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Napean, Surgeon-Major S. F. Langhead, Captain A. M. Domogiroff, Mr. Paul Schramm, Mr. Kozakow, Mr. C. F. Heinlien, Mr. E. Oswald Kenyon, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Macy and son, Mr. F. E. Fenald, Mr. and Mrs. Lew Hing and 3 children, and Mr. and Mrs. Lew Lung and 2 children in cabin. For San Francisco:—Rev. and Mrs. E. Edman and 2 children, Mr. W. H. Ayres, and Mr. C. H. Cowan in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, from Hakodate viâ ports:—Mr. Hatsuda Hiroshi, Mrs. Hatsuda Itsu, Miss Hatsuda Kiku, and Miss Hatsuda Masa in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Kobe:—Captain W. H. Forbes, Mrs. Pitts and 3 children, and Mr. To Fu in cabin, and 35 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. O. S. McLeavy, Mr. S. Imanaga, Mrs. Scudder and child, Miss Imandt, Mrs. Noble and 3 children, Mrs. Faukes, Dr. Reich, Mr. J. H. Scott, Mr. Green, Poole and Mr. John Leslie in cabin; Mr. Inaka and Mr. Sahhe in second class, and 41 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Océanien*, from Marseilles viâ ports:—Rev. Pere Evrard, Mr. Kiyama, Mr. Hiotaro Soda, Mr. Kunope, Mr. Ferrari, Mr. and Mrs. Dautremer and 3 children, Mr. Alford, and Mr. Hauginis in cabin.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from San Francisco:—Mr. J. T. Boag, Miss M. C. Winn, Mr. F. G. Sale and servant, Miss F. Singer, Mr. J. Russell Wild, M.D., Mrs. Naylor, Miss A. E. Garvin, Rev. T. S. Tyng, and Mr. M. J. Brandenstein in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Viscount and Viscountess de Bondy, 2 infants, governess, and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Lemaitre, Mr. and Mrs. Adam de Villiers, infant, and family, Mr. Alex. R. Catto, Mr. Lee Tian Syne and servant, Mr. A. L. Donaldson, Mr. A. Whitbeek Parke, Mr. and Mrs. Tayler and servant, Mr. Neo Hong Tew, Mr. Jose Martin, Mr. Sawaye, Mrs. de Souza and 3 infants, Mr. Ching Chung Kin, Mr. and Mrs. Wong Trast Thing, and Mr. C. B. Morton in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. H. McQuade, 3 children, and governess, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sampson, Mr. and Mrs. Nunn and child, Mr. and Mrs. Mallett, Mrs. and Miss Brian, Miss Gregor, Miss Tasselli, Mr. and Mrs. Kitts, Mrs. Tagami, Miss Ono, Miss T. Ono, Mrs. Hirai, Captain Lee, Messrs. Hardy, Verner, Vallance, Smith, Durant, Sewell, Millar, Harding, W. Brent, J. Terada, T. Ono and child, M. Nozu, Iwanaga, and Master Ernest in cabin; Mr. Kwon Hoy Chin in second class, and 40 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—Mr. W. H. Ayres, Mr. C. C. Branch, Mr. H. O. de Barretto, Mr. T. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Brookings, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Babbott, Mrs. T. W. Badger, Miss Barnard, Mr. J. F. Cox-Edwards, Dr. W. H. Curtis and 2 children, Mrs. Copper, Captain A. M. Domojiroff, I.R.N., Mr. H. C. Dring, Rev. and Mrs. Edman and 2 children, the Hon. and Mrs. J. W. Foster, Miss Gossip, Major James O. Hutchinson, Mr. F. S. Hamilton, Mr. E. A. Harrison, Mr. John Leslie, Mr. A. E. Lees, Mrs. Lamden, Mr. A. H. Morley, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Morley, Mr. W. C. Macnaughton, Mr. J. F. Massop, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Morris, Mr. Frank Nichols, Mrs. O. D. Norton, Major J. L. Orr, Miss E. S. Orr, Miss M. D. Orr, Mr. Geo. D. Pratt, Mr. Harold J. Pratt, Mrs. Charles Pratt, Miss H. F. Pratt, Mr. A. W. Paul, Mr. H. Palmer, Mrs. Pilcher and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Paine, Miss Paine, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, Mrs. Roberts and 2 children, Mr. J. H. Scott, Mr. S. S. Schilizzie, Mr. and Mrs. P. Sowler, Dr. G. F. Smith, Mr. L. K. G. Smith, Mr. A. J. Sisson, Mr. P. A. Schlemberger, Mrs. M. E. Torbert, Miss Torbert, Mr. C. Watney and valet, and Miss Wallace in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. Mansfield, Mr. and Mrs. Waggott, Mr. H. J. Irish, Mr. J. E. Otto, and Mr. Oscar Rowe in cabin; and 1 Indian in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for Europe, 29 bales. Treasure for Shanghai, $2,500.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $50,000.00.

Per British steamer *China*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MINNEAPOLIS.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	65	—	—	—	—	65
Hyogo	—	1,141	1,079	—	—	2,220
Yokohama	277	3,932	3,878	—	1,078	9,165
Hongkong	155	—	—	—	—	155
Amoy	—	1,738	—	—	—	1,738
Total	497	6,811	4,957	—	1,078	13,343

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	193	—	193
Hongkong	—	10	—	10
Yokohama	—	510	—	510
Total	—	713	—	713

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 73 bales; Waste Silk, 41 bales.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *China*, Captain Ward, reports:—Left Hongkong the 15th May, Nagasaki the 19th, and Kobe the 21st; had fine weather throughout the passage.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain W. M. Smith, reports:—Left San Francisco the 8th May. Arrived at Yokohama the 25th May at 4.50 p.m. Passage from San Francisco, 16 days, 8 hours, 52 minutes.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

YARNS.—More doing, but at lower prices, and importers groan at the result of the sales made. SHIRTINGS.—9lb. inanimate, 8¼lb. some little business doing at quotations. T. CLOTHS.—Buyers offer low prices for small parcels but without result. TURKEY REDS.—A few sales of a retail character. FANCY COTTON and WOOLLENS stagnant.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 3.00
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.40
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.16 to 0.21
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.40 to 2.85
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb., per lb.	0.45 to 0.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 10/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$37.00 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	39.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	39.50 to 40.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	40.00 to 41.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	44.00 to 45.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 44.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	49.00 to 52.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Market very dull. Dealers try for a reduction in price, but so far holders maintain their ground fairly well for most classes of Iron. Tin plates are lower, stock large, and the demand small.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.70 to 4.90
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.50
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	5.80 to 6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.70

KEROSENE.

No change to report. Market dull, and a few sales of American have been made at a slight reduction on last week's rates. Russian steady, but no sales to report. Stock of both kinds is now equal to 600,000 cases.

Chester	$1.67½ to 1.70
Comet	1.65 to 1.67½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.65 to 1.67½
Russian Moon	1.60 to 1.62½

SUGAR.

BROWNS.—Arrivals continue on a free scale. Market quiet and quotations barely maintained. WHITE.—A fair business done at the Tsukiji Auctions, and prices unchanged.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.50 to 4.60
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.30
Brown Daitong	3.30 to 3.40
Brown Canton	4.00 to 4.30
White Java and Penang	7.10 to 7.20
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 18th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 382 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures*, 298 piculs, *Re-reels*, 22 piculs; *Kakeda*, 62 piculs. Direct shipments have been 184 bales, making the total business of the week 600 piculs.

As before, the only business doing has been for the United States trade, purchases being made from day to day as prices declined. There has been practically no business doing for Europe, and prices for fine-sized *Filatures* are nominal. With regard to full sizes, quotations are

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more or less irregular and it is probable that we may see further ease next week.

Exchange took rather a sharp rise, but is now easier again, as per our table at foot.

New Crop.—All the reports are satisfactory as far as Japan is concerned, and there is no reason to alter our anticipations expressed last week. From Shanghai we hear of some little disturbance to the crop arising from a cold and wet spring in North China, but we do not think there is any serious damage done. Advices from Europe remain good and the prospect is that in the coming season we shall see cheaper Raw Silk all over the world than has ever before been known.

There have been four shipping opportunities since we last wrote, all the steamers leaving on the same day, 19th May. The P.M. steamer *City of Sydney* had 214 bales for the New York trade; the German mail *Nürnberg*, 65 bales for Europe; the French mail *Melbourne*, 29 bales for Europe and the Northern Pacific steamer *Tacoma*, 148 bales for New York. These departures make the present export figures 42,621 piculs, against 46,859 piculs last year, and 49,116 piculs at the same date in 1892. (The *China*, which left port this forenoon, carried 510 bales for the New York trade. The particulars and weights will be included in our next).

Filatures.—Business for the United States trade has been done at a further decline, the last purchases giving *Gakosha* $705; *Maishinsha*, $695; *Onosha*, 685; *Kanayama*, same price. These prices could probably be further shaded now as holders are very anxious to be moving. For Europe, very little is passing, ordinary *Bishu* being entered at $675; *Soshu*, $665; *Yechigo*, $650.

Re-reels.—A very small business in these; one parcel of *Oshu* at $700, with good-medium *Joshu* at $620.

Kakeda.—Some business was done in the early part of the week, but nothing the last two or three days. The price paid was $650 for *Flower Girl* and *Horsehead* together. The stock in this class is not large and holders are fairly firm.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3		—
Hanks—No. 3		—
Hanks—No. 3½		—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom.	$720 to 730
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den		700 to 710
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers		680 to 690
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den		680 to 690
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		650 to 660
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		650 to 660
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		—
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers		690 to 700
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers		670 to 680
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		650 to 660
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers		630 to 640
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		610 to 620
Kakedas—Extra		700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 1		680 to 690
Kakedas—No. 1½		650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 2		630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 2½		610 to 620
Kakedas—No. 3		—
Kakedas—No. 3½		—
Kakedas—No. 4		—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½		—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.	—
Sodai—No. 2½		—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 25th May, 1894:—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	23,048	18,775	18,676
America	18,212	27,289	29,372
Total { Bales	41,260	46,064	48,048
Total { Piculs	42,621	46,859	49,116
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 43,250	Piculs. 46,900	Piculs. 48,700
Stock, 25th May	6,050	1,100	2,100
Available supplies to date	49,300	48,000	50,800

WASTE SILK.

A very small business this week, settlements being 140 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 66 piculs; *Kibiso*, 70 piculs; *Mawata*, 4 piculs. No direct shipments this week.

Holders have at last lowered their quotations, but too late. Had they been current a month ago they could have cleared off probably half the present stock; but they refused then the reasonable offers which buyers made them, and now they themselves are wanting offers without being able to obtain them. The prospect is that the market must fall yet further and the dealers who have foolishly held on will burn their fingers.

There have been two shipping opportunities, the French mail steamer *Melbourne* taking 8 bales and the German mail 213 bales, all for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 27,424 piculs, against 43,501 piculs last year and 31,855 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—Holders have reduced their asking prices about $10 per picul all round, but even at this there is very little doing, the only purchase during the week being *Joshu* at from $63 to $67 per picul. *Filature* and *Oshu* sorts have been quite neglected.

Kibiso.—Prices in this class have also been reduced without attracting buyers. Nothing done beyond a few piculs of *Zagouri*, prices running from $32 to $45 per picul.

Mawata.—One sample bale was packed, price paid being $185 per picul.

Sundries.—Nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$120 to 125
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	70 to 65
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	105 to 115
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	65 to 70
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	60 to 62½
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	90 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 85
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	60 to 65
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	35 to 30
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	150 to 160

Export Table Waste Silk to 25th May, 1894.—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	24,193	40,809	29,756
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	27,424	43,501	31,855
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	Piculs. 28,400	Piculs. 46,380	Piculs. 35,300
Stock, 25th May	15,300	2,200	4,300
Available supplies to date	43,700	48,580	39,600

Exchange, after a temporary rise, is down again but has not as yet touched last week's rates:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1⅛; Documents, 2/1⅝; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1⅝. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $51¾; 4m/s. U.S. $52⅛. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.67; 6m/s. fcs. 2.68

Estimated Silk Stock, 25th May, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	—	Cocoons	140
Filatures	3,100	Noshi-ito	7,900
Re-reels	2,610	Kibiso	6,840
Kakeda	340	Mawata	110
Osnu	—	Sundries	310
Tavsaam Kinds	—		
Total piculs	6,050	Total piculs	15,300

TEA.

A rushing trade; settlements for the season to date being near 100,000 piculs. Tasters complain that the quality is falling off, and that the fine qualities are already scarce. Prices recede as the season advances, and will probably be lower again next week. Present export (not including *China* and the Suez steamers now loading) is 2½ million pounds, against 1½ millions at same date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

	Per Picul.
Choicest	$35 up
Choice	30 to 31
Finest	27 to 28
Fine	23 to 24
Good Medium	20 to 21
Medium	18 to 19
Good Common	16 to 17

EXCHANGE.

Exchange rose in the beginning of the week, but has again declined, though not quite to last week's rates.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/0¾
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1¼
On Paris—Bank sight	2.59
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	2.66
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72⅝
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73⅛
On India—Bank sight	197
On India—Private 30 days' sight	200
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50¼
On America—Private 30 days' sight	51⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	52⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.09
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.17
Bar Silver (London)	28⅜

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One of the features of the Kaikatei is the detached Suites of Apartments, where perfect quiet and privacy can be secured. This arrangement for invalids and convalescents from the Tropics is a great desideratum, as being entirely removed from the Dining Room, Billiard Room, Bar, and Baths, while all are connected by covered passages.

To a Liberal Table are added an excellent *Cuisine* and good attendance, supplemented by a large variety of Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors of the very best kinds.

For the amusement of Guests, a fine English Billiard Table, by Burroughs and Watts, has been added to the Establishment, as well as Archery, Quoits, and other Games, and Ponies for riding over the hills and a Yacht for sailing on Hakone Lake can be hired.

Visitors to Kowaki-dani who bring a rod with them will be shown the haunts of the speckled Trout, a nice stream of several miles in length being within easy walking distance of the Hotel; Hakone Lake is also well stocked with a variety of fish, including salmon, and the Fishing is FREE; while Entomologists will find rare and valuable specimens in the surrounding hills, and the Flora of the district is extremely interesting to the Botanist.

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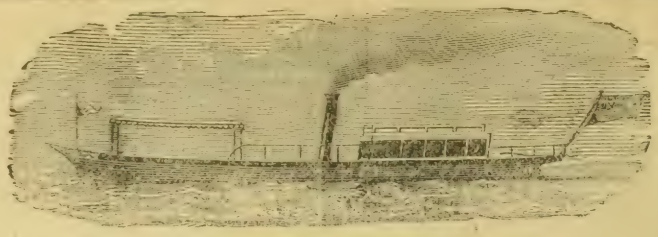
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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND, 1894.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE price of ice is rising in Tokyo, owing to the sudden setting-in of hot weather.

M. G. DUBAIL, Consul-General for France at Shanghai, has arrived in Japan to act as *Chargé d Affaires*.

THE spring sale of race ponies took place on Monday and some very good prices were given for a few of the animals.

THE Chinese theatre and seven other houses were destroyed by fire on Tuesday afternoon. The outbreak originated in a firework store.

A FAREWELL dinner to M. Sienkiewicz was tendered last week by the French communities of Yokohama and Tokyo at the Rokumeikan.

AMONG the items of the Supplementary Budget disallowed by the House of Representatives is the appropriation for the Yokohama Harbour Works.

DR. GOTO, ex-Chief of the Sanitary Bureau, who has been under arrest in connection with the Nishigori case, was released on the 25th ult. on bail.

THE 28th ult. was the Birthday of H.I.M. The Empress. Her Majesty was unfortunrtely too indisposed to receive the guests who called to offer their congratulations.

COUNT ITO, Minister President, spoke in the House of Peers on Tuesday upon the question of the last dissolution. He said the Government had the courage of its convictions and the Houses of the Diet were free to take what steps they might desire upon the matter.

H.B.M. JUDGE has non-suited Mr. Box in the case brought in the British Court by Mr. E. Whittall to recover the value of a promissory note given by the former to the latter.

FROM the commencement of the year up to the 25th ult. the number of smallpox cases in Yamanashi, Nagasaki, and Hiroshima, was 8,321, of whom 2,142 ended fatally.

THE certificate of Captain Renny, who was in command of the *Sakata Maru* at the time of her stranding at Fushiki in January last, has been suspended for four months.

A workman was crushed to death on the 29th ult., at Eirakucho, Kojimachi, Tokyo, by the fall of some timbers from Mr. Iwasaki's, Bank, which is now in course of construction there.

THE Judges of the Supreme Court have decided to open a Disciplinary Court to examine into the case of Mr. Chitani, the discontented judge who declined to take up his appointment in Okinawa.

STRICT sanitary precautions are being taken to prevent the entry of the black pest into Japan. The epidemic is still rife in Hongkong, and the Chinese are leaving the Colony in large numbers.

A POLICE inspector attached to the Yokohama Central Station shot a girl in a brothel on Tuesday night and then committed suicide. Both were dead when the inmates of the house entered the room.

OWING to some dispute as to the division of the share capital of the Yokohama Exchange, the Yokohama Guild of Japanese Commission Merchants have passed a vote of no confidence in their officers.

MESSRS. YAGISHITA SHIKO and Saito Kumejiro, of the Home Office, left the capital on the 29th ult. for Kanagawa, Hyogo, Yamaguchi and Nagasaki on business connected with the opening of Quarantine Stations.

SOME railway capitalists have agreed to establish a railway company with a capital of six hundred thousand *yen* for the purpose of constructing a railway between Hachioji and Yokohama, *via* Haramachida, a distance of twenty-six miles.

PROFESSOR AOYAMA TAMMICHI and Dr. Kitazato Shibasaburo leave Yokohama on the 16th inst. for Hongkong to investigate into the nature, history, symptoms, and cause of the pest, also the actual condition and the methods of preventing the spread of the pestilence.

THE five accomplices in the recent attempt to smuggle four Japanese women out of the country, who adopted the device of packing their victims in travelling trunks, which were received on the *Tacoma* as ordinary passengers' baggage, have been heavily fined under the provisions of the Emigrants' Protection Law.

THE Earl of Rosebery has been visiting Portsmouth in reference, it is believed, to the proposed improvement of the defences of Portsmouth, Chatham, and Devonport, and providing docking accommodation for a large fleet as each place. An enormous grant will be required to render these places adequate to the necessities of the Navy. The Liberal Federation in North Wales has resolved that the time has come for the Welsh Party to adopt an independent policy and has voted in favour of calling a general convention of Welshmen to formulate a national policy. A motion introduced in the House of Commons by Sir John Lubbock, on behalf of the Opposition, to divide the Budget Bill into two parts, so as to enable the House of Lords to vote the Naval Sinking Fund Section, has been rejected by a majority of forty. Mr. Morley, speaking at Newcastle, said he feared that the House of Lords had gone too far to be mended, and must, therefore, be ended. A successful operation for cataract has been performed on Mr. Gladstone's right eye. His general health is unimpaired. The treaty drawn up between Her Majesty's Government and the King of the Belgians leaves the province of Bahrel Gazel, in the Congo State, to King Leopold, whose successors shall remain Sovereigns of the Congo State. The *Temps* and the *Journal des Débats* vehemently attack the treaty, and say that France will never recognise this arrangement. These papers further state that the cession of Bahrel Gazel constitutes a new factor in the Egyptian question, and that France will contest the matter with England. The Russian Government is sending experts to India, Ceylon, and China in December to study tea planting. A plot has been discovered in Servia in favour of a pretender to the Throne. Mr. Casimir Perier has resigned and Mr. Dupuy is forming a new cabinet. The Anarchists continue very active in Europe. Henry, the bomb thrower at the Café Terminus, has been guillotined, while six of the men implicated in the outrage at the Liceo Theatre, Barcelona, have been shot. Dowe's bullet-proof coat has been tested in the presence of the Duke of Cambridge, General Lord Roberts, and others, and when cordite cartridges were fired at it at a distance of a few yards only the projectiles failed to penetrate.

THERE is no revival in the Import trade, though there have been further sales of Yarns, but in Piece-goods there is very little doing. White Shirtings, Turkey Reds, and Italian Cloth having been bought only in a retail way. There is nothing to report in the Metal trade, except the complaints of importers that every branch of the business is exceedingly dull, and as the hot weather approaches no improvement can be expected in this market. There is little doing in Kerosene, and the small demand made upon the stock has been filled at recent rates. Deliveries have been fair, and there is a goodly stock in hand. The demand for Sugar of all kinds has fallen off, though sales continue at last week's prices. There have been a few small settlements in the Silk trade. The total only amounts to 600 piculs, more than 100 of which is accounted for by direct shipment. The bulk of the parcels taken, however, go to Europe, a rumour having got about that there was something wrong with the crop there. The truth is that there has been a good deal of bad weather in Italy, but the crop is progressing all right. Holders checked the advances of buyers on the strength of the news from Europe, some going the length of taking their Silk off the market. There has been a little more doing in Waste Silk, though nothing compared with the stock, which is still over 15,000 piculs. During the past month the Tea business has been on a very extensive scale, more transactions having been put through during that period than ever before in the same time, in fact nearly one-half of the expected total business of the season. Prices for medium and lower grade leaf have declined, and heavy parcels continue to be purchased. Export figures to May 31 amount to over three million pounds. Exchange has fluctuated slightly during the interval, and closes below the rates of a week ago.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The allied Opposition Parties have at last been able to carry their point. Their policy of deferring the discussion of the Radical Party's Address to the Throne until all measures of practical importance—to the passage of which many of the Independent Provincial members were pledged—had been disposed of proved successful. So soon as the Radical Bills and other measures of special interest were voted by both Houses of the Diet, these members or at least several of them, apparently thought themselves at liberty to join the party politicians in their attempt to embarrass the Cabinet. Owing to this and other circumstances not yet fully brought to light, the allied factions were able on Thursday last, to pass, by a small majority, their own amendments of the Address originally introduced by the Radicals. In the shape in which the measure was adopted, it bore a sufficiently close resemblance to their own Address, which had been rejected by the House in the beginning of the session. How this latest action of the House of Representatives will affect the political situation remains to be seen. The metropolitan papers have not yet written on the subject.

* * *

The final defeat of the Bill for the Amendment of the Newspaper Regulations in the House of Peers by only two votes, is the subject of endless lamentation and indignation on the part of the papers. For some weeks these journals had been loudly clamouring for the favourable reception of the Bill by members of the Upper House. They imagined that this time their long cherished desire was to be attained. But they were disappointed, and are now vying with each other in finding ugly names for the members of the Upper House who voted against the Bill. "Enemies of liberty" and "Slaves of the Government," are among the commonest epithets. The *Nippon* has been conspicuously violent and unrestrained in its attacks upon the Imperial nominees. The latter almost to a man opposed the amendment of the Regulations, and their presence in the Upper House is declared by our hot-headed contemporary to be injurious to the smooth working of constitutional Government. Among the Peers singled out for public condemnation, the most conspicuous are Baron Kikuchi, Baron Shikazono, Count Ohara, Viscount Tanuma, and Viscount Torio. The last mentioned statesman is included in the list because he absented himself at the critical moment. Among the Imperial nominees, Mr. Miura Yasushi, Governor of Tokyo, is vehemently decried. Although from a public point of view the continuance of the present restraints on the liberty of the press seems a desirable measure, it must be owned that the system is liable to grave abuses. The metropolitan papers are to be sympathized with in this deferment of their long cherished hope.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, in an elaborate article, traverses the arguments advanced by several papers in favour of the abolition of the power of suspension. The most popular of those arguments is that the present Regulations are at variance with Art. XXIII. of the Constitution, which states that "No Japanese subject shall be arrested, detained, tried, or punished, unless according to law." Suspension, says the *Mainichi*, for instance, is a very severe form of punishment, for it subjects the paper in question to the loss of a large sum of money. The *Nichi Nichi* replies that suspension is not contrary to the above mentioned provision of the Constitution, for the guaranty therein provided is to hold good within the limits of law, and the Newspaper Regulations are nothing more or less than a law. As to the contention that the progress which journalism has already made in this country demands the removal of all restraints upon freedom of speech, the allegation is called in serious question by the *Nichi Nichi*. It points to the ludicrous behaviour of the majority of the papers in connection with the Soma affair and with the agitation for the Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, and declares that the time has not yet come for complete freedom of the press.

* * *

Regarding the attack on Count Inouye and others, the Radical Party is censured by the whole press of the capital. It is singular to find papers which as a habit vehemently oppose the Cabinet, manifesting sympathy with a prominent member of it. We need not dwell further on this topic, as we have dealt with it in special articles.

* * *

The insurrection in Korea attracts considerable attention is Japan. The Japanese papers fear that the weakness of the Korean Government may invite the interference of a foreign Power. They consequently urge upon the Japanese Government the necessity of keeping a keen watch over the course of events in the peninsular Kingdom, so that this country may not be forestalled by some other Powers in coming to the rescue of the Söul Government. We will briefly notice the more important of the articles on this subject.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun*, remarks that, although the avowed object of the insurgents seems to be principally to "remove the present wicked Ministers of State," they have also declared their intention of clearing their country of the presence of Europeans and Japanese. Consequently growth of the trouble may lead to serious diplomatic complications, to say nothing of dangers attending the life and property of foreign residents in the peninsula. This phase of the matter is of great importance to Japan. It is Japan's duty as well as interest, continues our contemporary, to protect the independence and promote the civilization and prosperity of the Korean Kingdom, and she ought, therefore, to be prepared at any moment to secure that country against whatever foreign Power may attempt to imperil its independence. The *Hochi* takes this opportunity of criticising the past policy of the Japanese Government toward Korea. "The present internal trouble," it says in conclusion, "is no doubt a great misfortune, but so far as Japan is concerned, she may, if her rulers be true to their trust, not only be capable of protecting her own people in the peninsula but she may also establish a firm footing there and add lustre to the national glory. Everything, however, depends upon forestalling China."

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* advises the Korean Government to use promptitude in quelling the rising. That the insurgents have been able to muster such a force, and win a measure of public confidence must be ascribed, says the *Jiyu*, to the fact that the malpractices of the officials of the present Government have almost entirely alienated the hearts of the people. The Söul statesmen are reminded, among other things, of their cruelties to the remains of Kim Ok-kyün and to the latter's relatives. Unless the Korean Government be thoroughly reformed, the fate of the present dynasty is declared to be doomed. "We have no intention," says that journal, "to take any unfair advantage of Korea's troubles; but should her Government prove incorrigible, the public indignation of the Japanese people would know how to vent itself.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* is as usual out-spoken on the subject. Our contemporary thinks that the insurrection in itself is not a very formidable affair. But the helpless weakness of the Söul Cabinet may induce some ambitious politician to join the rebels, and in that event the trouble will speedily assume quite another aspect, for it will then be a revolutionary war. Should it end merely with a change of Government or dynasty, Japan would have nothing to do with it. But it is almost certain, says our contemporary, that, when the existence of the present Government is endangered, a foreign Power will offer to help it and thus interfere with the internal affairs of the peninsular kingdom. Such an event must be prevented by Japan by all means. The Japanese Government is advised, under certain circumstances, to assist the Söul Cabinet to put down the insurrection. If Japan does not place sufficient troops at the disposal of the Korean Government, China will certainly do so, and the opportunity for Japan will have for ever gone by. If it be unadvisable to send troops to Korea without communicating with China, the Japanese Government is urged to effect such communication and unite with China in quelling the trouble in Korea. But the *Jiji's* opinion seems to be that Japan should not wait for China's cöoperation but act in this matter on her own sole responsibility. At all events, some troops must be sent to Korea, if it were only to protect the Japanese residents there. However, these measures are to be taken only when the present insurrection shall have assumed more dangerous proportions.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* writes in a similar strain, and urges the Government to despatch a large force to Korea. The Tien-tsin Convention is no bar to such a procedure on Japan's part, for, in our contemporary's opinion, that treaty only requires the communication of such fact to China. Whatever Power shall first send troops will be able to maintain her position in Korea. The time, says our contemporary, has at last came for the solution of the Eastern Question. For the rest, the *Kokumin* follows nearly the same lines as the *Jiji*.

* * *

The question of Treaty Revision has not been suffered to lie at rest. It is reported by some papers that negotiations with the United States, Germany, and England are going on very smoothly, while France is trying to throw more or less obstacles in the way. It is also rumoured that Russia's attitude is as yet uncertain. The *Jiji Shimpo*, writing on this subject, advises the Government to persevere in the task it has undertaken, in spite of any obstruction the Opposition parties may throw in its way. Our contemporary seems to think that the undertaking is likely to be crowned with success. The politicians opposed to the Government know quite well that Japan has to make large concessions in order to recover her judicial and tariff autonomy; but they oppose whatever programme of revision elaborated by the Government, simply because they find in this question a very convenient instrument to the embarrass the Authorities. As soon as the revised treaties shall have been ratified and promulgated, the Government is advised to resign and give place to the politicians of the Opposition. In this way the latter will be furnished with an opportunity to taste the difficulties of responsible situations and it will, says the *Jiji*, become for the first time possible to carry out constitutional Government in a smooth and peaceful manner.

* * *

The appearance of the pest in Hongkong has excited much attention in this country. The papers urge upon the authorities to take prompt and full measures for the prevention of the dangerous disease.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE KOBE BARRISTERS' ANTI-FOREIGN LEAGUE. ACCORDING to a recent telegram from Kobe to the *Nippon*, the Japanese barristers of that port held a meeting on the 13th instant, on which occasion a resolution was passed to the effect that "perceiving the conduct of foreign residents to be at variance with the laws of Japan, and that the provisions of the Treaties were either frequently ignored or else given a special signification," they, the barristers present, "solemnly pledged themselves to form a close league in order to inquire into the actual facts and devise measures for the remedying of the evil, with the view of asserting an unflinching policy toward all foreigners." Commenting editorially upon this meeting, the *Nippon* remarks that Kobe is the place of all others where foreign disregard of Japanese rights is most notorious. Consular jurisdiction flourishes there

side by side with mixed residence, so it is only natural that the people of that port should be far more sensible of foreign aggression than the inhabitants of other towns. It is at all events quite evident that the local barristers have fully comprehended the urgent necessity for strict enforcement of the treaties and have decided to endorse this policy from the standpoint of their own practical experience, irrespective of party politics. That they are alive to the injurious effects of foreign aggression, is amply proved by the resolution they have taken at this juncture; and this action of the Kobe barristers, concludes our contemporary, is incontrovertible testimony in behalf of the strict enforcement policy, which is no mere empty talk but based on actual facts and the requirements of the present. A similar course should be adopted by the barristers of Tokyo. But we (*Japan Mail*) trust that wiser counsels will prevail in the metropolis. Such leagues cannot possibly forward the revision of the treaties. They serve only to rouse the latent anti-foreign sentiment that such demagogues as Oi Kentaro are ever eager to blow into flame.

THE JAPAN SOCIETY.

THE Japan Society has now 535 members, of whom 18 are honorary and 97 corresponding. Among the honorary members have just been included the names of Mr. F. T. Piggott, Vice-Chairman of the Council since January, 1892, who has proceeded to Mauritius to take up his appointment as Procureur-Général, and Mr. Daigoro Go, Joint Honorary Secretary of the Society, who has been transferred to another post from that of Chancellor of the Japanese Consulate-General in London. The Society's third annual dinner was to take place on May 21st in the Whitehall Rooms of the Hôtel Métropole. Every guest was promised a model of a Japanese animal made at Asakusa and imported for the occasion, a *menu* card of Japanese design, prepared by a Tokyo artist and painted in colours in Japan, and a name card specially painted by a Tokyo artist. There were 250 members and guests at the second annual dinner, and doubtless the third was at least equally successful. We note that at the 14th ordinary meeting, held on the 30th of April, the Venerable Archdeacon Shaw was to read a paper on "Aspects of social life in modern Japan."

KIM OK-KYÜN'S AUTOGRAPHS.

IT is not generally known that the late Korean refugee was a caligrapher of a very high order. Even during his life-time, ornate specimens of his penmanship commanded a high price, as much as five and even ten *yen* being paid for scrolls containing a half dozen Chinese ideographs written in that bold and free style so much admired by the Japanese. Kim was very proud of his skill, and rarely wrote for profit, unless very hard pinched indeed. Now that he is dead, autographs of his are said to command a fabulous price, one hundred *yen* having recently been paid for a scroll containing twelve characters only. Letters written by him are also eagerly sought for and are generally mounted on silk by the fortunate possessors. For even in his private correspondence Kim wrote with a quaint stateliness and precision quite out of the ordinary, and wholly at variance with his own impetuous, adventurous spirit. His intimate friends in Tokyo have been importuned for even a scrap of his writing, while some of the old brushes used by him shortly before setting out on his last journey have been most carefully preserved and are to be divided up among those who claimed closest friendship. Kim was an excellent Chinese scholar, and more at home in the complex ideographs of that country than when writing the abbreviated syllabary of Japan. Some ardent epistles written in *kana* and directed to a widow lady to whom he was once greatly attached, are extant and said to be most amusing reading, as Kim was, at the time, but slightly acquainted with Japanese.

SMUGGLING AT THE KOBE CUSTOM HOUSE.

STRICT investigations are now being made, says the *Niroku Shimbun*, into a case of smuggling that recently became known in Osaka. The illegal traffic is alleged to have connection principally with the Korean trade, the offenders being a pseudo joint-stock firm known as the Osaka Shosen Gumi. The company was established in September of last year by three Osaka merchants and an ex-clerk of the Kobe Custom House, and now certain officials of the Kobe Customs as well as a number of employés of the Osaka Steamship Company are said to be implicated. Copper plates were shipped to Korea under the style of raw material, the duty payable being thus greatly reduced, while a number of other illegitimate invoices were made serviceable in like manner. So far as the investigations have at present gone, a total defalcation of more than seven thousand *yen* has been discovered at the Kobe Custom House alone, but it is believed that a further examination into the business methods of the Osaka Branch and the books of this smuggling firm, will reveal the avoidance of a far larger amount of duty. Detectives have been despatched to Fusan and Jinsan in order to work the case up. The Korea-Japanese Trading Company of Osaka is greatly incensed against the Steamship Company of that city, going so far as even to refuse to ship any more of their goods in any vessels of that line, albeit the Directors of the Company appear wholly ignorant of what has occurred on their vessel. The discovery of these extensive evasions of the Customs dues is said to be owing to the dismissal of several clerks of the smuggling firm, who, enraged at being deprived of a chance to share in the spoils, made damaging admissions to the certain officials of the Kobe Customs service. The matter certainly deserves to be well sifted, for crimes of this description are not in the best of keeping with the demand for tariff autonomy.

THE YOKOHAMA HARBOUR WORKS.

YESTERDAY the House of Representatives threw out the appropriation sought by the Government for the purpose of prosecuting the Yokohama Harbour Works. No one raised any question as to the necessity of the works, and Mr. Furuichi, Chief of the Engineering Bureau in the Home Department, declared that to suspend works of such a character meant virtually to abandon them, since they could not be protected against the action of the waves. Nevertheless, the Radical Party again set up Mr. Saito Keiji—who distinguished himself a few days ago by ventilating a number of long exploded scandals against Counts Inouye and Yamagata and Viscount Torio—to repeat all the silly rumours about irregularities connected with the works, not excluding the purchase of the *Ayame*, a steam-dredger. Apparently the House believed Mr. Saito's canards, for it withheld the grant. How things will fare with the works, we do not understand.

THE YAEYAMA ISLANDS.

SOMEWHAT more than two hundred nautical miles to the south of the main island of Okinawa, is the insular group known as Yaeyama-jima. The two largest islands of this little archipelago measure 22 *ri* (one *ri* = 2.44 miles) in circumference, while there are several others of less size. The climate is tropical and the vegetation luxuriant; but in consequence of the lack of proper roadways and the irregularity of communication with the adjacent islands, the people are in a singularly undeveloped condition, in fact, hardly beyond the primitive state. The reason of the comparative isolation of this group is alleged to be a very enervating endemic malaria. Not only has this materially arrested any increase in the population, but it is even said to have reduced the total number of inhabitants by nearly two-thirds. In 1760 a census of 21,798 was recorded, and this despite the occurrence in the previous year of a furious typhoon in which some ten thousand of the islanders had perished. In 1870, the census returns showed only a little more than ten thousand people on the islands; those of 1892 exhibited an increase of some three thousand. How fearful the virulence of the local malaria is, may be seen from the returns of 1892, which show that nearly ten per cent. of the total population were affected by the disease. A correspondent of the *Nippon* greatly regrets the unhealthy nature of the islands, for, as he points out, the group is of great strategic importance, being separated from Formosa by only a narrow strait. The natural resources of the islands, it appears, are peculiarly rich, immense coal-beds being found in several places. The *Nippon's* correspondent urges the importance of taking the necessary sanitary measures for the improvement of the health of the islanders, as under more favourable conditions there can be no doubt that the archipelago could be profitably developed.

NEMESIS.

A TOKYO contemporary relates the following amusing story:—Near Shiba Park is the residence of a certain Viscount who is notorious for his miserly habits. So penurious is he that his brother peers as well as the former retainers of his clan have gradually become alienated and altogether ceased to call upon him. But this did not in the least vex the money-loving noble, who reflected with gratification that he was thus spared the expense of having to give dinners or otherwise entertain his guests. Yet a just punishment has recently overtaken him, entailing upon him that which he views with absolute horror—a serious loss. Some years ago the Dowager Viscountess departed this life, and her son had even then so far succeeded in estranging his old intimates that the funeral procession was of the scantiest description, only her one-time vassals following the coffin to the cemetery. There are, however, ceremonies which cannot be omitted even by the meanest peer: observances enforced by custom, and often of a very costly nature. The 13th instant was the anniversary of the founder of the Viscount's family, an occasion which could by no means be left without celebration, and so invitations were perforce sent out to the former clansmen. Out of respect to the memory of the founder, the one-time retainers resolved to send two representatives, who were to attend the ceremonies observed and make suitable offerings before the ancestral cenotaph. The occasion being one of special significance, the two representatives were requested to stay after the conclusion of the ceremonies, whereupon a very poor meal was served them, though not better than that of which the Viscount himself partook. A special silver wine-cup of large size was then brought out, and in accordance with Japanese custom, the peer quaffed a portion of the contents, handing it then to one of the two old retainers. The recipient gave a knowing wink to his comrade as he sipped at the cup. So soon as the other vassal had drained the vessel, he and his confederate made a profound obeisance, saying that they were deeply grateful to his lordship for giving them so beautiful a cup, which they and their fellow-vassals would preserve in grateful remembrance of their former master's bounty. With these words they arose and immediately left, the Viscount being speechless with amazement. On the following day the nobleman's steward called on the two wily ex-vassals and requested them to return the cup, alleging that it was part of the dowry of the Viscountess and could not therefore be given away. But this plea the two old *samurai* would not listen too, stoutly protesting that his lordship had actually given it to them as representatives of the whole clan, and that they were therefore compelled to hand it to their comrades. The steward could make no reply to this and returned without the cup, which is valued at 130 *yen*.

"A THOUSAND ESSAYISTS."

THERE can be no doubt that the Hakubun-kwan is far and away the most progressive and open-handed of Japanese publishing-houses. It pays the highest prices for MS., knows what books will meet with public approval, and brings out a new volume nearly every day in the year, besides directly publishing, editing, and managing no less than thirteen magazines, one of which alone, the *Yoken Zasshi*, has an actual circulation of over forty thousand. It is not only owing to the comparatively enormous sale of these high-class

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periodicals that they are sold at very low figures; the *Yonen Zasshi*, for example, has some of the best reputed *litterateurs* of the country on its list of contributors, and yet sells at only three *sen* per copy; it is rather attributable to the enlightened policy of the firm and its adept managers, who seek in every way to foster the growth of and taste for literature of the best class. Their efforts are attended with deserved and invariable success. One of the latest publications of this enterprising firm gives an insight into its working methods and broad views. The book is entitled *Sen Nin Bunsho*, or "The Essays of One Thousand Men." Some months ago the Hakubun-kwan announced that they would publish a volume containing one thousand of the best essays sent in during a certain specified time. Each essay was to be not longer than 250 ideographs, including *kana*. Twenty themes were given out, yet the essay-writer might choose any theme that pleased him. No less than ten thousand competed for the hunour—by no means an empty one, for three hundred prizes were to be awarded—of being included among the chosen thousand. The first prize, of forty *yen*, was taken by an essay written in Classic Chinese style; the second prize went to a young writer who wrote in modern Sinico-Japanese; while the majority of those who got third and fourth prizes, took the language of the older *monogatari*, such as the Genji and Heike, for their model. The money prizes amounted to several hundred *yen*, while there were nearly two hundred volumes of "Educational Encyclopædias" and other scholarly works awarded to successful competitors. The Hakubun-kwan is doing a grand work if it can improve the literary excellence of and give fresh impulse to the study of the Japanese language. Such high-class competitive essay-writing is just what is most needed.

JAPANESE AUTHORS AND THEIR RECENT WORKS.

SINCE the publication of his compendious "Dictionary of Names and Places," Bimyosai, one of the most popular as well as skilful writers of the day, has been engaged in recasting several of the older well-known dramas, most of which stand sadly in need of revision. As a rule, the Japanese drama is too realistic—a point in which it errs in company with Chinese plays—and the unities are not always properly observed. This Bimyosai has made it his task to correct, as far as possible. He will shortly publish a series of commentaries on the best works of the famous dramatists Monza, Monryu, and Kaimon. These commentaries are to be brought out by the Hakubun Kwan, and the first volume is to appear next month. Zankwa, another writer of biographical fame, has been publishing in the *Mainichi Shimbun*, since the first of this year a notable series of essays entitled, *Tokugawa Bushi Meimei Den*, or "The Lives of famous *Samurai* of the Tokugawa Era." He is also editing at present a work called *Sanbyaku shoko*, or "Biographical Sketches of Three hundred Feudal Lords" who flourished in the same era. This work is under the *ægis* of the Hakubun Kwan and will fill a dozen volumes when completed. By-the-by, Zankwa himself is included among the eighteen hundred cavaliers of the Tokugawa régime. That versatile reporter of the *Hochi Shimbun*, Reishi, is winning golden opinions by his articles under the caption of *Yuki no Saikyo*, "Snow-scenes in Kyoto." He was sent thither to write up the funeral ceremony of the Gennyo Shonin, and these articles are the result of his mission. Reisui affects the Chinese style, but his language is none the less graceful and his phrases fluent. Koyo, one of the most popular novelists of the day, has just completed his *Murasaki*, "Miss Purple," which has been appearing as a serial story. His preceding book, *Tonari no Musume*, "The Girl Next Door," met with great favour. Both of these novels are written in a familiar conversational style very different from the earlier productions of his pen. It is, said, however, that he himself disapproves of this lighter tone and will in future resume his former more elaborate style. The works of Namiroku never fail to command the attention of the reading public. Among his chief efforts are *Fukami*, *Jūza*, and *Hègeno Ikyu*, but his masterpiece is undoubtedly *Mikazuki*, a really delightful book. He is now the leading *feuilletonist* of the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*, in which paper a sequel to *Mikazuki* is at present being published. Japanese novel-readers invariably give the palm to this writer, whose style is free from those immoral tendencies that so mar the work of second-rate men. A writer of a very different style is Otsuki Takashi, the well-known author of *Michi to Hito*, "Duty and Man." He is also the author of one of the best critical essays that have appeared in the *Meiji* era, the *Bungaku no Chowa* or "Harmony of Literature." Otsuki's complaint is that men of to-day are not taught the true value of books; he holds that their thoughts wander too much in other directions, and that they thus lose one of the chief pleasures in life. His self-imposed task is to remedy this evil and make the literature of to-day consistent with and attractive to the work-a-day world. Aiba Kwoson, the ardent admirer of Dickens and skilful translator of "A Christmas Carol," has just published, under the style of *Arima-fude*, a collection of three of his best tales that had appeared in the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*. These tales are *Niwoi-hoshu*, *Omuishi*, and *Fuku-jizai*. The first tells of the unexpected and wholly joyful réunion of a scattered family, and points a moral in the indissoluble tie between parent and child; the second is an ironical sketch, written in Aiba's happiest vein, the last is a rather theatrical romance, hardly in keeping with his fame. Aiba has been called the Dickens of Japan, and the magazine he formerly published, *Mura-take*, was unique in its way. Latterly he appears to have become slightly careless and his present style is rather loose than severely correct. Ningetsu, the poet and critic, is now staying at Kanazawa in Kaga. He sent recently an essay to Prof. Tsubouchi's high-class literary magazine, the *Waseda Bungaku*. The subject treated is "Alliteration in Japanese Poesy," the writer claiming that Japanese poems of ancient times have more alliterative instances than the poetry of any other language. This masterly written essay is enriched with copious illustrations in confirmation of his theory, most of the quotations being made from the poems of Basho. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* is offering a number of valuable prizes for the best novels and plays sent in within a stated period. So far only twenty writers have entered the lists and from report nothing of any unusual value has yet come forth. The majority have chosen as their themes incidents in the lives of well-known heroes, or narratives of the unswerving loyalty of retainers in past times. First-class men seem to have been rather reluctant to answer the *Yomiuri's* call.

CANNIBALISM IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

REFERENCE has already been made in these columns to certain murders of a revolting nature, which, according to the vernacular press, have been perpetrated by the savages of New Ireland. There were, it will be remembered, three victims: a German, a Japanese, and a native of the island. It appears that the *Minatogawa Maru*, owned by Mr. Nonaka Hansuke, of Koamicho, Nihonbashi District, left for the South Sea Islands some months ago, taking a cargo of miscellaneous wares for the purpose of bartering with the natives. This vessel returned to Yokohama on the 21st instant. The captain reports that while staying among the islands, three of the crew, with his consent, were taken into the employ of a local German trader. About a month before the vessel left, the German started, in company with one of his Japanese employés, for a certain inland hamlet at a distance of several miles from the place in which his store was. The natives were all eager for barter, but the things they produced not being thought of sufficient value, the traders refused to make terms with them. This fact greatly provoked the simple-minded islanders, who finally, emboldened by their numbers, rushed on the little party, murdered and afterwards ate them. The Japanese who met his death in this unnatural fashion, was named Arinaga Ninzo. One paper says that the German trader and his Japanese employé were murdered but not eaten, their flesh being esteemed too sour for "home consumption." It is to be hoped that this latter report is true. At all events the Captain of the *Minatogawa Maru* reported the facts of the case to the chief magistrate of the island, and then set sail for Japan.

PRODUCTION OF GOLD IN THE UNITED STATES.

WE take this from an American journal:—

Director Preston of the Mint Bureau has completed his final figures on the gold production of the United Siates during the calendar year, 1893. The total production is given the value of $39,950,000, which is an increase of 73,455 ounces, representing $1,158,423. The following table shows the production in fine ounces for the calendar year by States, with the increase or decrease as compared with the year 1892:

For State.	Amount.	Incr'se.	Decr'se.
Alaska	$ 48,863	—	$ 3,403
Arizona	57,286	$ 321	—
California	584 370	—	23,796
Colorado	364,092	96,072	—
Georgia	4,072	119	—
Michigan	2,033	—	354
Montana	172,731	29,413	—
Nevada	46,396	—	29,654
New Mexico	44,179	—	22,229
North Carolina	2,593	—	1,207
Oregon	76,543	7,733	—
South Carolina	5,598	30	—
South Dakota	193,761	4,043	—
Utah	41,293	9,357	—
Washington	10,744	—	7,327
All other States	726		

The value of the gold in any case may be found by multiplying the number of ounces by 20.67.

These figures are about $1,000,000 less than the aggregated values reported by the agents of the bureau, for the reason that it has been unable to trace the full amount reported to the refineries and mints. The director states that his estimates are certainly not in excess of the actual production.

DRUGGING IN TRAINS.

SEVERAL cases have of late occurred where passengers by rail have been drugged and robbed. The narcotic or suporific is generally concealed in an unsuspicious-looking cigarette or cake, so impregnated with the drug that a few whiffs or mouthfuls are sufficient to produce a heavy sleep. The metropolitan press cite a number of instances of people being put off their guard and robbed in this fashion, and warn all against kindly-behaved strangers who are over-generous in the matter of tobacco or sweetmeats.

THE INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

"A BULLETIN recently issued by the Census Office," says *Bradstreet's*, "gives statistics for the manufacturing and mechanical industries of the United States which reported products valued at $30,000,000 or over during the census year ending May 31, 1890. The statistics collated in the bulletin show that there were 287,501 establishments reported for the sixty-seven industries presented, or 80.89 per cent. of the total number of establishments in the United States. These establishments show $5,249,139,842 of capital invested, or 80.45 per cent. of the total capital for all classes of industry. They also report 3,730,557 employés, receiving $1,811,186,882 wages, or 79.17 per cent. of the employés and 79.34 per cent. of the wages for all industries. The cost of materials used was $4,273,402,066, or 82.84 per cent. of the total materials for all industries. The value of product was $7,618,836,200, which was 81.31 per cent. of the total product of manufactures in 1890."

MINNIE HAUK'S CONCERT.

IT is announced in the advertising columns of the *Japan Daily Mail* that a grand concert will take place on Wednesday next. The prima donna will be assisted by amateurs, and though the programme has not yet been completed in detail, we are in a position to state that it will be a vocal *parure* of the very first order in a setting of high-class instrumental music. As a matter of course, as the creator of the part of *Carmen*, Minnie Hauk will give selections from the opera of that name; and as a friend and admirer of the late Richard Wagner, and a brilliant exponent of the *maestro's* compositions, selections from "Lohengrin" will be included

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in the bill. There are few small communities that contain more nationalities than that of Yokohama, but the mixed audience that will fill the Public Hall on Wednesday next will be well provided for in the matter of music in their own language, for the reason that Minnie Hauk can warble in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish.

THE FERRIS SEMINARY.

THE English Exhibition of the pupils of the Ferris Seminary, No. 178, Bluff, Yokohama, given at Van Schaick Hall last night, was a great success. A large number of guests were present, the majority being foreign ladies and gentlemen, who appeared deeply interested in the work of this important educational establishment. As on previous occasions, the proceedings were somewhat lengthy, but all the items in the programme were given in excellent style. Much improvement is to be noticed in English composition, while the musical perceptions of the more advanced girls reflect great credit upon their instructress. The most delightful of all the musical items was the motion glee, "Flower Song," which was given by six girls, each holding a flower garland in her hand with which she accompanied the music; this proved a very delightful surprise to the audience.

THE DEADLY PARALLEL.

Japan Gazette.	*Japan Gazette.*
May 26th, 1894.	May 31st, 1894.
We specified which of Mr. Shimada's utterances we should be responsible for. *It certainly was not the laughable charge that the "Mail" had ever accused the Opposition of being anti-foreign. On the contrary, it took great pains to argue that things were not what they seemed—its usual rôle.*	(After quoting an extract from the *Japan Mail* of January 5th, 1894). *If Mr. Shimada read this, was he very far wrong in asseverating that the "Mail" represented the advocates of Treaty Enforcement as being desirous of driving out the foreigners? We humbly confess that is the conclusion we should form after its perusal,* were it not that we could quote many parallel passages condemning these contentions. *Mr. Shimada was indeed amply justified.*

PONY SALE.

FAIRLY good prices were realized by Mr. Jno. W. Hall at his sale of Race ponies on Monday afternoon. Amber fetched $50, Romolo $40, Boniface $52, Bluebeard $31, Varuna $85, Champion $59, Olympia $40, Oceanic $27, Lally $70, Moh-stotz $74, Zephyr $72, Un Russe $80, Time $65, Tornado $60, Tartar $52, Timothy $42, Tide $21, Tim $40, Montezuma $86, St. Emilion $24, Sapphire $21, Agate $65, Galopin $45, Topaz $31, and Emerald $55. Merrylegs was bought in for $125 and Pioneer for $185, while Renzo, Tom, and Gaelic were withdrawn. Merino was sold privately. A lot of saddles, bridles, carriages, and horse clothing was then offered.

COAL.

THE *Nippon* gives statistics about the production of coal last year in Japan exclusive of Hokkaido:—

		Catties.
Fukuoka Prefecture	Chikuzen	1,876,711,504
	Chikugo	1,005,003,762
	Bungo	650,644,103
Saga Prefecture		421,552,646
Nagasaki Prefecture		761,406,839
Kumamoto Prefecture		81,875,887
Okinawa Prefecture		669,290
Yamaguchi Prefecture		217,331,739
Total		5,210,195,770

FIND OF $50.

A SMALL boy while playing on the Bund between Nos. 5 and 6 this morning saw a paper package in the water. He went down and picked it up when it was found to contain $50 Mexican, which he handed to the police.

THE MAHA-BODHI SOCIETY IN JAPAN.

MR. DHARMAPALA, General Secretary of the Maha-bodhi Society, who visited Japan at the close of last year for the purpose of enlisting sympathy with the objects of the Society, and especially with the Buddha Gaya movement, seems to have been greatly pleased with the reception given to him here and with the enthusiasm displayed by the priests and the people. He has an article on the subject in the journal of the Maha-Bodhi Society, in which he says that during the month and a half spent by him in Japan, he felt himself "breathing in an atmosphere of love."

TO A FAIRE LADYE'S SLIPPER.

Daintie little slippers,
Daintie little feet
Threading mazy waltzes
While the music sweet
Weaves its glamour o'er her
Of voluptuous sound,
Guides her gliding footsteps
Dreamily around.
* * * *
Daintie little slipper,
Daintie little toe,
Like some timid field mouse
Darting to and fro.
Peeping from its shelter
Out into the light,
Timorously gliding
Back in hurried flight.
* * * *
Daintie little slipper,
Would that I were you;
Dash it! no! I'm bothered—
Beg pardon—if I do.
* * * *
Daintie little slipper,
May you ne'er grow old!
May your bones ne'er moulder
In some cupboard cold!
May no worms feed on you
When your sole has fled!
As they feed on mortals
When their life is dead.
May some quick cremation
End you days of toil!
When alas! you shuffle
Off this mortal coil.
May some kindly spirit
To the blessèd shore
Bear your sole translated,
Where they waltz no more;
Where they dance no polkas,
Lancers, or quadrilles,
Where are no flirtations
In dark window-sills.

P.

THE FRENCH MINISTER.

THE French Minister, M. A. Sienkiewicz, proceeded to the Palace on the 29th ult. to present a congratulatory address sent by the President of France in connection with the Silver Wedding of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and to take his leave. The Minister afterwards dined with His Majesty in company with Their Imperial Highnesses Princes Arisugawa Taruhito and Kanin Kotohito, Count Ito, Viscount Hijikata, Marquis Tokudaiji, Mr. Mutsu, Marquis Saionji, Marquis Nabeshima, Viscount Kagawa, and Mr. Sannomiya.

IMPORTS OF SILK TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE following are the Imports of Raw Silk at the ports of New York and the Pacific Coast during April, 1894:—

	Bales.	Lbs.	Value.
New York	827	174,982	679,723
Pacific Coast Ports	2,439	299,962	1,122,030
	3,286	374,944	$1,801,753

The Imports of Waste, Noils, and Cocoons in the same period were:—

New York	156	51,200	$19,417

EXPORT DUTY ON COTTON YARNS.

THE following Law, passed by the Diet, has received Imperial sanction and been promulgated:

LAW No. 4.

Cotton Yarn exported abroad shall be exempt from Customs duty from the 1st day of the 7th month of the 27th year of *Meiji* (1st July, 1894).

TRAFFICKERS IN JAPANESE WOMEN.

THE trial of the three men and two women who enticed the four Japanese girls on board the British steamer *Tacoma*, packed up in travelling trunks, took place at the Yokohama Local Court on the 28th ult., and judgment was given on Tuesday. Todori Man and Tamba Haru were fined *yen* 120 each, and Sano Masakichi and Ishikawa Tsune were fined *yen* 100 each, while Osaka Takeshichi's fine amounted to *yen* 80. This is the first breach of the newly promulgat-Emigrants' Protection Law.

CARRIAGE ACCIDENT TO COUNTESS OYAMA.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* says that about two o'clock on the afternoon of the 1st inst., Countess Oyama's carriage was upset near the Great Gate at the foot of the steep road in front of the Imperial Palace. The Countess was driving to the Palace to visit H.I.M. the Empress. Several police constables, who were on guard at the Palace, and many others were soon on the spot, and conveyed the Countess to the Palace; but beyond a shaking her ladyship sustained no injuries. The accident was caused by the carelessness of the driver.

GROUNDED.

As the P. and O. steamer *Manila* was leaving Hongkong for Shanghai on the afternoon of the 23rd ult., she was drifted by the strong current upon a large boulder at the wharf at Kowloon, and had to be made fast to the wharf again, as all attempts to haul her off were unsuccessful. It was believed, when our last advices left the Colony, that she was not damaged in any way, but would be floated off when the tide rises and then proceed on her voyage.

WELL DESERVED.

THE *Hsinchi*, then lying at Shanghai, was gaily decorated with flags on Saturday, May 19th, while between the masts fluttered a flag forty feet long, which has been presented to Captain Patterson by the Tientsin merchants on his completing his five hundredth trip to Tientsin. The figures 500 appear on the flag. Captain Patterson has been on the coast since 1866.

MARINE COURTS OF INQUIRY.

JUDGMENT in the case of the stranding of the N.Y.K. steamer *Wakanoura Maru* on Saratoga Spit, in March last, will be given in Tokyo on Monday. Afterwards the Court will inquire into the circumstances attending the loss of the *Koryo Maru* about twenty miles south of Tokyo Bay a month ago.

THE FRENCH MINISTRY.

A TELEGRAM dispatched by Mr. Kato, Japanese Acting *Chargé d'Affaires* in France, and received by the Foreign Office on the 1st inst. states that a new French Cabinet has been organized. M. Dupuy becomes Premier and Home Minister, while the portfolio of Foreign Affairs has been given to M. Anot.

ACCIDENT AT A SCHOOL.

A RATHER peculiar accident occurred at the Collegiate School at Chefoo on the 21st ult., when without any warning one of the wings of the building collapsed. Fortunately the accident happened in the daytime, and the boys were able to scramble out of the ruins without receiving much hurt.

THE FRENCH MINISTRY.

ON Monday's *Official Gazette* says that a telegram dispatched by Mr. Sone, Japanese Minister to France, reached the Foreign Office on the 25th ult., stating that the French Ministry has resigned in connection with some railway questions.

STOWAWAYS.

NINE Japanese stowed themselves away on the N.P. steamer *Victoria* on her last trip from Yokohama. Two escaped, but seven have been brought back. A woman, who hid herself in a box, when discovered paid her passage and was allowed to land.

THE GERMAN LEGATION TENNIS.

WE are asked to state that in consequence of the illness of the British Minister, the usual lawn tennis party will not take place at the German Legation next Thursday.

MR. FRASER.

WE can not speak more hopefully of Mr. Fraser's condition. He lies in a state of great weakness.

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LOSS OF THE "ALWINE SEYD."

The *Alwine Seyd*, news of the loss of which appears in to-day's telegrams, was a German steamer of 553 tons register, under the command of Captain Gosewich, and has been in the coasting trade for some years. Barren Island, the place where the vessel is wrecked, is a rocky island lying about one mile west of the south-west point of Ta Cheng Tao (Té Chöng Do) on the west coast of Korea. The *Alwine Seyd* was built at Bremen in 1884.

THE FRENCH MINISTER.

A farewell banquet was given to His Excellency M. Sienkiewicz by the leading French residents of Tokyo and Yokohama on the 26th instant, in the Rokumeikan Tokyo. Thirty-eight sat down, the chair being occupied by M. Conil, representing the French community. In proposing the health of the departing Minister, M. Conil spoke in the highest terms of the unceasing vigilance and zeal displayed by M. Sienkiewicz on behalf of French interests during the many years of his service in Japan, and said that the confidence inspired by his ability merited and received the esteem and gratitude of his nationals. A graceful tribute was also paid to the social qualities that have won M. Sienkiewicz so many friends, and the speaker concluded by wishing that his future career might be successful as had been every phase of his official life in Japan. M. Sienkiewicz replied in one of those brief but eminently happy speeches for which he is famous, and then S. G. the Archbishop of Tokyo asked permission to thank the Minister in the name of the Catholic community for the large-hearted help invariably accorded by him to all religious and charitable work, and for the practical interest shown by him in missionary affairs. The Marseillaise was played after M. Conil's speech and at the time of the Minister's departure, which took place at 11 o'clock amid a storm of cheers.

His Excellency the Minister and Madame Sienkiewicz leave Tokyo by the 9.20 a.m. train on Friday, June 1st. Their departure will be universally regretted, for it has not fallen to the lot of any Tokyo residents to win wider or heartier goodwill and friendship. We feel that it scarcely lies within the province of an English journal to make any detailed allusion to the official record of a French Representative, but we are permitted to speak of the social part played by Monsieur and Madame Sienkiewicz in this cosmopolitan community; of the unfailing interest taken by them in everything that made for the general good and happiness; of the graceful and genial hospitality dispensed at the French Legation under their *régime*; of their open-handed benevolence; of the tact and friendliness that marked their intercourse with the Japanese, and of the irreparable loss that all nationalities will suffer by their departure.

* * *

The crowd that assembled at Shimbashi Station at 9.20 on Friday morning, to bid farewell to H.E. the French Representative, Madame Sienkiewicz, and their family was almost more than the building could contain. Every one of the Ministers of State were present, as were delegates from the Emperor and Empress, the whole of the Corps Diplomatique, and apparently all the foreign residents of Tokyo, with as many Japanese. A more marked tribute of esteem has never been paid to a departing Foreign Minister. Several exquisite bouquets were presented to the ladies, conspicuous among them being a huge basket of magnificent roses from the German Representative. Most of M. Sienkiewicz's colleagues and many ladies accompanied the departing friends to Yokohama, and were entertained at luncheon on board the steamer, more than thirty taking part in this final display of the Minister's proverbial hospitality.

THE RADICAL PARTY AND COUNT INOUYE.

The attack that Mr. Saito Keiji made in the House of Representatives upon Count Inouye, Count Yamagata, and Viscount Torio in connection with the Fujita-gumi affair, does not seem to represent the unanimous opinion of the Radical Party. On the contrary, it is reported that the majority of the Radicals knew nothing about the matter until the very moment when Mr. Saito asked leave to introduce an urgency motion. The whole affair appears to have been planned in secret by Count Itagaki, Mr. Ando Sokumei, an Imperial nominee to the House of Peers, and formerly Vice Inspector-General of Police, and Mr. Saito Keiji. A few other Radicals may have been taken into their leader's confidence, but the majority were left in profound ignorance. Mr. Hoshi, who was among those consulted, is said to have opposed the scheme as discreditable to the Party. Some time last summer, Mr. Ando is reported to have visited Count Itagaki and told the latter that, although the celebrated forgery case had not been established by sufficient evidence, its examination had elicited grave irregularities on the part of certain distinguished dignitaries of State with reference to sales of rice paid as taxes by the people of Yamaguchi Prefecture. Subsequently several meetings took place between the ex-Vice-Inspector-General of Police and the Radical leader. Mr. Ando went so far as to furnish the "aggrieved" people of Yamaguchi Prefecture with money to send a deputation to Tokyo carrying a petition to the House of Representatives. The petition was drawn up by Mr. Saito Keiji. About the same time as, or a little before, the first meeting between Count Itagaki and Mr. Ando last summer, the Radical Party came into possession of some documents purporting to be the originals of papers found in the house of Mr. Fujita Denzaburo at the time of the latter's arrest on a charge of forgery. These documents are believed to have emanated from the hands of a certain Sato Shiro, one of the police sergeants dismissed from office at the same time with their superior, Mr. Ando, on the ground that they had failed to thoroughly sift the false representation made by the detectives in connection with the affair. Sato had been trying for the last few years to sell the documents to Count Yamagata, Count Inouye, and several other persons, but his offer having been contemptuously rejected, and finding himself reduced to the last extremity of poverty, he carried the papers to a member of the Radical Party, who bought them for a sum of a little less than a hundred *yen*. Such are the principal facts connected with the affair before it was recently brought into the House of Representatives by Mr. Saito Keiji. Of these papers, the alleged letters of Count Inouye and the so-called "diary" of the late Mr. Nakano Yoichi, formerly Governor of Yamaguchi, are believed to be forgeries.

The opinion of the metropolitan press is decidedly unfavourable to the Radicals in this case. The papers, without distinction of party, doubt the authenticity of the documents produced by Mr. Saito in support of his astounding charges against Count Inouye, Count Yamagata, and Viscount Torio. The Progressionist papers generally regard the matter with a contemptuous indifference. The *Hochi Shimbun*, for instance, dismisses it with a brief notice, saying that it will probably end without leading to any practical results because there does not seem to be any solid evidence in support of the charges preferred by Mr. Saito Keiji. On the other hand, the Radical Party is severely criticised by several papers for having resorted to such cowardly tactics in order to facilitate a combination between itself and a section of the Cabinet. In short, the general opinion evidently is that the charges brought against the three Choshu statesmen have no importance except as part of a secret polical intrigue concocted, as some say, between Count Goto, Mr. Mutsu, Count Itagaki, and Mr. Hoshi. But this theory, too, is merely conjectural and rests on no solid foundation. Whatever may be said of others, it is unquestionally false to include the Minister of Foreign Affairs among the originators of a plot directed principally against his friend, colleague, and benefactor.

Count Yamagata has been prompt to point out the errors in Mr. Saito's statements in so far as they relate to His Excellency. Mr. Saito alleged that official telegrams addressed to Count Yamagata, then Minister of War, and dated March 9th and March 20th, 1877, from the battle-fields in Kyushu, were found in Mr. Fujita's house in Osaka in the following year. He further stated that Count Yamagata was at the time staying at Mr. Fujita's house, and from these facts he inferred that Count Yamagata must have shown the telegrams to Mr. Fujita to help his business speculations. Count Yamagata has demonstrated that at the time in question he was directing the military operations against the rebels in Kyushu, having left Kobe on the 23rd of February, 1877. Previous to his departure for Kyushu, he came down to Osaka on several occasions, but he never stayed at Mr. Fujita's house, his quarters being either at the Sankyo-ro, the Ten-go, or the Higashi Hongwanji. As to Count Inouye and Viscount Torio, they have not yet made any public protest, but the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* promises soon to place the public in possession of the true facts about these statemen.

So far as the charges preferred by Mr. Saito are concerned, they are regarded with indifference even by the parties opposed to the Cabinet. But there is a danger that this affair may be handled by the Opposition papers in such a manner as to create an unfavourable impression against Count Ito, Mr. Mutsu, and other members of the Cabinet, who are generally supposed to be more or less friendly toward the Radical Party. Already indications of such a tendency may be detected in the writings of the Opposition press. One indication is the spread of rumours about the impending dissolution of the Cabinet; rumours that have no more foundation than the so-called revelations made by Mr. Saito Keiji.

True to its promise, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has published an elaborate refutation of the charges brought against Count Inouye by a Radical member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Saito Keiji. These charges may be summed up in one, namely, that Count Inouye carried on business transactions while he occupied a high post in the Government. The first fact pointed out by Mr. Saito in support of his allegation was that Count Inouye had taken part in disposing of rice paid as tax by the people of Yamaguchi Prefecture, while he was in the position of Senior Assistant Minister of State for Finance. Now it is a fact that Count Inouye bought a quantity of the above mentioned rice, but the transaction took place, not, as Mr. Saito alleges, while the Count was connected with the Department of Finance, but while he was a private individual, and President of a mercantile company known as the *Senshu Kaisha*. The facts are these: On May 14, 1873, he resigned the office of Senior Assistant Minister of State for Finance, and in February of the following year, he established the above mentioned company, in concert with Messrs. Masuda Takashi and Yoshitomi Konichi. The principal business of the company seems to have been to deal in rice. In April, 1874, the company entered into a contract with the *Kangyo Kyoku*—a private establishment in Yamaguchi *Ken* charged with the conversion of tribute rice into money—for the purchase of such grain to the quantity of 50,000 *koku* at 4 *yen* 35 *sen* per *koku*. But the price of rice having subsequently risen, the *Kangyo Kyoku* refused to carry out the agreements completely. After handing over 34,382 *koku*—and that, too, only on the payment by the *Senshu Kaisha* of 5,000 *yen* in addition to the price originally agreed upon—the *Kangyo Kyoku* of Yamaguchi arbitrarily stopped the delivery of any further quantity. The *Senshu Kaisha*, however, magnanimously waived its right, and its disinterested conduct elicited expressions of profound admiration from the *Kangyo Kyoku*. Mr. Saito declared, on the authority of the late Mr. Nakano Goichi's alleged diary (about which more

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presently) that this contract was made in 1872, but in that year neither the *Senshu Kaisha* nor the *Kangyo Kyoku*, the party to the agreement, had yet come into existence.

Mr. Saito further stated that Count Inouye continued, while a Senator (appointed December, 1875) and Minister of Public Works (appointed July, 1878), to carry on business by secretly combining with Messrs. Fujita Denzaburo and Nakano Goichi of Osaka. He even went so far as to assert that Count Inouye was the real owner of the Fujita Gumi of Osaka. In support of this allegation, the Radical politician quoted extracts from what he alleged to be the house-law of the above mentioned firm. From the portions of the document read by Mr. Saito, it might have been inferred that Count Inouye had some interest in the firm, for in one place it was written that, in all things, Mr. Fujita Denzaburo was to obey the instructions of the Count. The *Nichi Nichi* has not succeeded in finding out whether this document is genuine or not, but even supposing it genuine, it does not, says our contemporary, prove anything beyond that he did for Mr. Fujita what he has done for several other persons. It is a well-known fact that Count Inouye out of pure kindness, has taken an active interest in the reform of family economy in the case of such persons as Prince Mori, some of the branches of that noble house, Mr. Ichikawa Danjuro, the celebrated actor, and the heirs of the late Count Yamada, Mr. Uyeno Kagenori, and Mr. Matsuda Michiyuki. Many of these persons have vowed to observe family regulations drawn by Count Inouye, regarding him in the light of their law-giver. Such is the boundless confidence his disinterested kindness has excited among his friends and acquaintances. Now Mr. Fujita is from the same locality as the Count, whose bosom friend he has always been. It is widely known that Count Inouye warned Mr. Fujita on several occasions against the latter's tendency to extravagance in his manner of life. There is nothing improbable in the hypothesis that the Count may have prevailed upon Mr. Fujita to manger his affairs in accordance with some rigid regulations. Assuming, the alleged entries to be genuine, it has been discovered by the Special Committee charged with the investigatiou of the affair, that the document containing them contains also provisions clearly establishing the disinterestedness of Count Inouye. According to Art. 2 of the family regulations, it is stated that, "Count Inouye's motive being simply to assist Mr. Fujita, out of pure kindness, in the success of his business' the Count does not claim any right to profits." Among other things, it is provided that no speculative business should be undertaken by the firm and that the three brothers of the house of Fujita should work in harmony for the permanent prosperity of their house. From these and other provisions, it is clear that the document, if genuine, is of the same nature as the house laws which the Count enacted on behalf of several other persons. That Mr. Saito Keiji read only such portions as seemed to serve his own purpose, is a good illustration of the general untrustworthiness of his declarations on the subject.

Turning now to the quality of the papers produced by Mr. Saito, it is stated by the *Nichi Nichi* that they are mostly forgeries. Great importance was attached to the alleged diary of Mr. Nakano Goichi, but he is known to have never been in the habit of keeping a diary. Moreover, the present document is said to be written in a style and hand essentially different from those of Mr. Nakano. As to the alleged letters of Count Inouye, no doubt is entertained by anybody that they are all forgeries. Concerning Viscount Torio, it is acknowledged that he did stay at Mr. Fujita's house at the time of the Satsuma Rebellion, and that a large bundle of telegrams was left by him where he started for Kyushu. These telegrams were seized by police authorities in the following year, when Mr. Fujita's house was searched in connection with the case of the forgery of paper money. But there is no evidence whatever that Viscount Torio disclosed military secrets to his host.

With regard to the above mentioned forgery case, to which Mr. Saito made some allusions in a mysterious manner, the *Nichi Nichi* promises to give a trustworthy account of the affair, since some people may entertain more or less doubt on this subject.

The contemptuous indifference, if not positive condemnation, with which these wretched tactics of the Radical Party have been received by the most vehemently anti-Government papers of the capital, plainly shows in what kind of light the affair is regarded by the public in general. That Party now finds itself in an embarrassing situation. It is stated that a large number of Radicals are angry with their leaders for having adopted such an important step as the introduction of this question in the Lower House without consulting their views. The Special Committee appointed by the House has declared in the most emphatic and uncompromising manner—indeed no Committee's report hitherto made to the House can compare with the report of Dr. Hatoyama's Committee in thoroughness and conclusiveness—that Mr. Saito Keiji's charges are one and all wholly baseless and even frivolous. Mr. Saito has accepted the verdict with a bad grace, making, indeed, a feeble attempt to cling to his opinion, but evidently conscious of hopeless discomfiture. We ourselves find it difficult to imagine that Mr. Saito's accusations were preferred on any authority save his own. It is scarcely credible that they can have been subjected to any previous scrutiny by the leaders of his Party. But, however that may be, the affair is eminently discreditable. It affords another striking condemnation of the criticism too often suggested by the proceedings of the Japanese House of Representatives, namely, that the members are not controlled by any serious sense of responsibility.

THE INSURRECTION IN KOREA.

According to the latest correspondence published in the Japanese papers, the trouble in Korea seems to be developing more and more importance. At present the disturbance appears to be confined principally to Zenra Do and Chusei Do, but news of more or less disorder is reported from other localties, so that many people fear lest the whole peninsula may ere long be plunged in one vast revolutionary war. The insurgents in Zenra Do are said to include a large number of gamblers, robbers, and other lawless characters, but the forces gathered together in Chusei Do belong to quite another category. The latter are said to consist of respectable people and to be under admirable control. On the whole, the people now in arms against the Söul Government are reported to be couducting themselves with moderation and even benevolence towards the population. They never levy contributions upon peaceful folks; they pay handsome prices for whatever they take from private people, and they maintain themselves by seizing whatever Government property they can lay their hands on. For the present, instead of hurrying in the direction of Söul, the insurgents are said to be busily engaged in accumulating stores of provisions, arms and ammunition, and in winning the hearts of the people in general.

Accounts differ as to the number of men in arms against the Söul Government. According to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* correspondent, the *Togaku-to* malcontents, who constitute the backbone of the insurrection, are estimated to be about 4,000 strong, while the total number of insurgents is put at more than 10,000. They are armed in various ways, some with matchlocks and others with swords and spears. The number of matchlocks is believed to be about 3,000 in all. Of these some 2,000 have been in the possession of the insurgents from the beginning, while the remainder were obtained by plundering armouries belonging to the Government. About 100 men are mounted and serve as scouts. From the manner in which the insurgent forces march and fight, the Japanese newspaper correspondents infer that they must have been drilled in modern style. Some writers even state that several Japanese are among the rebels.

Certain local functionaries and military officers have joined the rebels. Kim Seiho, the commander of the Garrison at Zenshu, having long been known to be in communication with the *Togaku-to*, was put under arrest. Being, however, a man of extraordinary bodily strength, he forced his way out of the prison, but was soon overtaken by a party of soliders and despatched on the spot.

The first collision between the Government troops and the rebels took place at Reisan on the 28th of March (Korean Calendar), resulting in a victory for the former. The next encounter was on the 16th of May (April 2 of Korean Calendar), at a place called Hakusan. This time the Government troops were completely routed. They were foolish enough to be deceived by a party of rebels who feigned to retreat in disorder, and drew their pursuers deep into the enemy's camp, where they were suddenly surrounded on all sides. More than two hundred of them were killed or wounded, and the rest fled in all directions. This disastrous defeat is said to have completely demoralized the Government forces.

The troops, about 800 strong, sent to Gunsan on board the three Chinese men-of-war, landed there in safety on April 7th (Korean Calendar), after hesitating for some time, and the Chinese war vessels returned to Ninsen on the 16th instant. The officer in command of one of these ships, Hei-yen, is said to have explained that the Chinese Resident, Mr. Yuan, was unwilling to place the war-vessels of his country at the service of the Korean Government, but that he had finally to give his consent in consequence of the latter's incessant solicitation.

The insurgents are reported to have succeeded wonderfully in winning the symyathy and confidence of the people in general. Even in Söul two-thirds of the population are said to be friendly towards the rebels. Intense excitement prevails among official classes in the capital.

Our Söul correspondent, writing under date of May 25th, says:—"The riot which began in the magistracy of Ko Bu in Chulla province, and for a while attributed to the Tong Hak or anti-foreign feeling, has taken on quite a serious phase. As was suspected by not a few the agitation is a revolt from the present official, despotism. It is clear now that the insurrectionists have enough of a following to make a stand. They refuse Tong Haks, boldly announcing that they are not interested in banishing foreigners, but to be freed from their yoke of bondage. They have issued a "Call" stating in most respectful terms their allegiance to their sovereign, but scoring the officials who "close the ears and eyes of the king to all news and reports." "Ministers of State, Governors and Magistracy are all indifferent to the welfare of the country and bent only on enriching themselves. Civil service examinations are a farce, being nothing more than places of barter. They care not for the debt into which the country is fast sinking, they are proud, vain-glorious, adulterous, avaricious. Many of these officials live in Söul and own country residences and rice-fields. They flatter and fawn in peace; desert and betray in times of trouble."

This call comes very near the truth. The troops despatched to Chulla province have met with reverses. The King issued a proclamation three days ago assuring the insurrectionists of his desire to mete out justice. The Governor of the province has been deposed, the magistrate of Ko Bu, the hothed of the insurrection, deposed and disgraced—receiving the same treatment meted out to traitors. The special envoy sent from Söul to investigate the trouble, reported so unsatisfactorily that he, too, is in disgrace, and this does not take into account those who are sure to be sent into "exile."

The Government here undoubtedly have cause for alarm. Loyalty is a commodity little known, though a good deal prated about. The danger now is of the trouble spreading to new and unaffected districts. However, a little more administration of wholesome justice will do much toward quieting the disaffected people. In the meantime, so report has it to-day, the rice-fields remain unplanted and a new danger has to be met here."

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THE PEST.

The following Notification of the Department of Home Affairs appears in the *Official Gazette*:

NOTIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS.—No. 66.

Whereas, an epidemic disease, the pest, has made its appearance in the Chinese Empire in Canton and Hongkong, and there is danger of its spreading;

Therefore, it is hereby announced that the processes of Medical Inspection and Disinfection laid down in Imperial Ordinance No. 56 issued in the 5th month of the 27th year of *Meiji* shall be applied at the undermentioned ports to vessels coming from any port on the coast of China, or from Hongkong; and to vessels that have touched at those ports; and to vessels that have come from those ports and touched at other ports *en route* for Japan:—

The ports of Nagasaki and Kuchinotsu in Nagasaki Prefecture.
The port of Akamagaseki in Yamaguchi Prefecture.
The port of Moji in Fukuoka Prefecture.
The port of Kobe in Hyogo Prefecture.
The port of Yokohama in Kanagawa Prefecture.

The inspection of ships coming to the port of Moji in Fukuoka Prefecture shall be carried out in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

In the case of ships arriving at Kuchinotsu in Nagasaki Prefecture or at any of the Special Ports of Export, the process of disinfection, if required, shall be carried out at the nearest disinfecting station.

NOTIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS.—No 67.

Ships liable to inspection according to the provisions of Notification No. 66 of the Department of Home Affairs of the present year, shall undergo inspection and disinfection at Cape Wada in Hyogo Prefecture when they arrive at Kobe, and at Nagaura in Kanagawa Prefecture when they arrive at Yokohama.

(Signed) YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA,
Acting Minister of State for Home Affairs.

* * *

Telegrams received in Shanghai state that the Chinese residents of Hongkong were opposing the enforcement of sanitary measures in connection with the control of the plague, and that a riot has only been averted by the Government submitting to a separate hospital under Chinese control. There has been a large exodus from the Colony. On the 20th May there 44 new cases and 56 deaths, and on the following day 46 new cases and 45 deaths. The following telegram from Hongkong was posted at the Shanghai Club on May 21st:—Saturday afternoon Chinese endeavoured to prevent inspection, many houses blockaded, sanitary officers stoned, mob dispersed by police. Yesterday inspection resumed under police guard. Noon Saturday to noon yesterday 22 deaths reported, decrease due no doubt to interruption of inspection.

Telegraphing on the 22nd of May, at 7.17 p.m., the Hongkong correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* says:—There have been twenty-eight new cases of the plague since yesterday and twenty-seven deaths. The exodus of Chinese from the colony is increasing. On the 32rd, at 6.48 p.m. the same correspondent wired:—There have been eighteen new cases to-day and twenty-three deaths. The cargo-boatmen of the Colony have gone out on strike.

A telegram despatched from Hongkong on May 27th, says:—From noon of the 21st up to noon of the 26th, 114 persons died from the pest. Some 72 patients are now under medical treatment.

The Government has ordered Drs. Kitazato and Aoyama, both of whom hold the Degree of *Igaku Hakase*, to proceed to Hongkong for the purpose of making investigations into the epidemic prevailing there.

A telegram from the Japanese Consul in Hongkong to the Department of Home Affairs, says that the number of cases up to the 21st instant had been 340, and the number of deaths 271. From that time until the 26th at noon there had been 114 deaths, and 72 cases were expected to end fatally. These figures are published in the *Jiji Shimpo*, but it will be observed that they are not very clear.

There seems every reason to believe that the rainy season has at length set in definitely in Hongkong, and residents in the Colony are beginning to hope that both the water famine and the plague will soon be only unpleasant recollections. On the 17th inst. the returns showed a diminution both in the deaths and the number of new cases. The reported deaths in the Portuguese community cannot with accuracy be set down to the plague. They were unattended by medical men, and the priest who administered extreme unction is unable to diagnose the cases. On the 18th, an increase in the number of the victims was reported, but this was attributed to the newly completed organisation of the sanitary inspection, which is operating for the detection of all cases of the plague. Writing on May 21st, the *Daily Press* says:—Very serious and dangerous features in connection with the plague have appeared during the last two days, and although the disease itself has not increased to any alarming extent, circumstances have arisen which are of the most regrettable character and the gravest import. On knowledge of the existence of plague being brought to the notice of the Authorities, it was a matter for congratulation that the Sanitary Board immediately grasped the serious possibilities involved and took prompt steps, by the appointment of a permanent Committee, to combat its spread and stamp it out with the least possible delay. In these well directed efforts they were providentially assisted by the arrival of the much needed rain, and by indefatigable exertions and the enlistment of a large number of special sanitary officers thoroughly organised for the work of searching and disinfecting the localities in which the plague has the most fertile field for development, it was hoped that in a few days such an appreciable conquest of the disease would be achieved that no further danger need be anticipated. A certain section of the Chinese have now, however, attempted to frustrate all these efforts, and are determined to assert aggressively the ignorance and stupidity which peculiarly belong to the multitude of the natives. It will be remembered that one of the first acts of the permanent committee was to order the removal of all patients from the Tung Wah Hospital to the *Hygeia*, and the next wise edict was that no patients were to be sent to the Hospital but removed direct to the hulk. There was at the time much grumbling and opposition to this course, the patients themselves, with the instinct of their race, objecting, sometimes violently, to their removal to the *Hygeia* and their treatment by Western skill and science. It appears that this feeling of resentment has been simmering and increasing during the past few days, and on Saturday it broke bounds and completely disorganised the work of cleansing, disinfecting, and investigating which was in progress. Mr. Lau Wai Chuen, a member of the Sanitary Board aud also Chairman of the Tung Wah Hospital, has, with an intelligence which unfortunately does not belong to all his countrymen, lent the Government his hearty co-operation in the measures they have taken. Some of his colleagues on the Hospital Committee, however, imbued with anti-foreign feeling, have resisted this policy, and by their influence have created a strong opposition among the native population to the work which the authorities are presenting with such vigour. On Saturday many of the houses visited were blockaded and the sanitary officers stoned, and in the afternoon all attempts to continue the house-to-house inspection had to be discontinued, the work being rendered exceedingly unsafe and difficult. A mob also collected at the Po Leung Kuk office and broke the windows, but was dispersed by the police before doing further damage. Yesterday, while a meeting at the Tung Wah Hospital was in progress, Mr. Lau was hurriedly sent for, news arriving that his hong was being wrecked. When Mr. Lau left the building he was surrounded by a howling mob of Chinese and had to be escorted by police to his residence. Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, grasped the situation at once and sent a mounted contingent of armed Sikhs to the district, the presence of which fortunately prevented further disturbances. The Government have so far met the Chinese opposition as to assent to the establishment of a temporary hospital under the management of the Tung Wah at the Glassworks, Kennedy-town, to which all patients will be removed and where they will be treated by native practitioners, and the use of the *Hygeia* for the reception of plague patients will be discontinued.

The plague returns for the 21st May showed a serious increase on the statistics of the previous day, but considering that the disturbances in the native quarter prevented surveillance being exercised for practically two days this cannot really be a matter for surprise. There seemed to be at the date of our last advices no further danger of a renewal of the rioting, the Government having met the Tung Wah Hospital Committee in their demand that no more cases should be sent on board the *Hygeia*. The new Chinese Hospital at the Glassworks is now occupied and in future all cases will be sent there. The *Hygeia*, after the patients at present under treatment have been disposed of, will not be further utilised for the purpose. On the morning of the 21st the sanitary officers entered a house supposed to be empty and made the horrible discovery that there were five corpses on the premises and four very serious cases, all exhibiting pronounced symptoms of the plague. On the 22nd a deputation of Chinese waited upon the Governor of Hongkong and petitioned: (1)—That the house to house visitation should cease. (2)—That sick persons should be allowed to return to their own country. (3)—That the patients on the *Hygeia* should be sent to the Glassworks Hospital. (4)—That all sick persons should be sent to the Glassworks Hospital. Of course these demands could not be acceded to, and as a result of the petition, H.E. the Governor, issued a proclamation of which the following is a *précis*:—

Whereas Hongkong is now visited by a plague which is killing off Chinese at the rate of between 30 and 40 a day, and it is understood that the infection is conveyed from the inmates of a house to the neighbours, it is necessary to take measures to prevent the spread of the disease in order to protect the people. All cases of plague should be removed to one place, and those dying of plague should be promptly buried, and the premises disinfected and cleansed. You people are to report cases of plague and of death from plague at once to the nearest authorities and to cleanse and disinfect your houses. Out of consideration for the welfare of the people and to prevent the poor from being neglected, Sanitary Inspectors, &c., have been appointed to made a close house to house visitation, to cleanse and disinfect your houses, and to help in the removal of the sick to hospital for careful treatment. Fatal cases will be buried with due respect. Now, three temporary hospitals have been opened for treating cases, two under European control, the other under the direction of the Tung Wah Hospital Committee. All treatment is gratis. No distinction of nationality will be made. The proclamation is to inform you people to give all assistance and not to obstruct the Sanitary Inspectors, &c., in their house to house visitation and the removal of sick persons and the bodies of the dead, and in disinfecting and cleansing your premises. The loyal and respectable population should assist the Government to wipe out this plague. Let every one obey this command, and refuse to listen to rumours spread by bad characters; and let no one contravene these orders lest he be punished and repentance come too late.

On the 24th May, at 7.15 p.m., the Hongkong correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* telegraphed:—Eighteen new cases were reported to-day and nineteen deaths. The cargo-boats have resumed working. Riots are feared, but the Government is firm. At 7.55 p.m. May 25th, he wired:—"There were twenty-two new cases to-day, and twenty-one deaths. All is quiet in the Colony." Manila has imposed fifteen days' quarantine on steamers from Hongkong. Singapore nine days including duration of voyage. Both Harmston's Circus and the London Lyric Company have passed over Hongkong, one going straight from Singapore to Shanghai, and the other from Shanghai to Singapore.

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND TREATY REVISION.

NOTHING is better calculated to involve embarrassing contingencies than the case of two people who want to journey to the same place by the same road at the same time, but are determined to avoid each other's company *en route*. That is the position in which the *Jiyu-to* and the Six Sections of the Opposition find themselves at present in the House of Representatives. These two bodies of politicians, when marching together to the attack of the Government in the fourth session, voted an Address to the Throne urging HIS MAJESTY to adopt speedy means of revising the Treaties in such a way as to remove the disabilities under which Japan laboured. That happened a year and a half ago, and though a year and a half is not a very considerable period when compared with the interminable delay that has already attended the negotiations for Revision, it is certainly a time long enough to justify enquiry as to the progress made, and even to warrant some display of importunity on the part of the House. Hence the *Jiyu-to* this session resolved to ventilate the subject once more. Another Address to the Throne was of course out of the question, so they adopted the alternative of a Representation to the Government. It was a brief, but emphatic, document, declaring that the country desired to have the treaties revised so as to place Japan on a footing of equality with Western Powers, and that decisive measures should be adopted toward any State refusing to negotiate on such a basis. These declarations were nothing more than an epitomized repetition of the views already adopted by the House in its Address to the Throne, and since the Cabinet now in office was also in office at the time of the Address, there does not at first sight appear to be any reason why the House should not have unanimously passed the Representation. Nevertheless, a very cogent reason did exist. A Representation to the Government urging that a certain step be taken, involves the hypothesis that the people presenting the Representation believe in the Government's competence to take that step. That, however, is precisely what the Six Sections of the Opposition profess not to believe. Their unceasing claim is that the present Cabinet is unworthy of confidence in every respect, and with that cry constantly in their mouths, they would have been stultifying themselves had they importuned the Cabinet to discharge a task impossible to statesmen not possessing the people's trust. On the other hand, failure to accomplish Treaty Revision is a crime that the Six Sections long to lay to the Government's charge, and, at the same time, as the nation's representatives they are bound to employ every available means of expediting Revision. Dragged thus in diametrically opposite directions by party interest and national duty, their position on the 22nd instant when the Representation came up for discussion, was decidedly perplexing. The majority of them seem to have adopted what was probably the most prudent course under the circumstances: they simply voted against the Representation and made no attempt to explain their reasons for doing so. A few, however, probably feeling themselves the cynosure of too much observation to take refuge in silence, undertook to expound their views and to justify their hostility to the measure. Perusal of their speeches shows that they were swayed uniquely by one consideration, namely, a resolve not to approach the present Cabinet with any suggestion implying faith in its practical ability. That was a difficult attitude for the rest of the Opposition, especially the *Kaishin-to* to endorse, seeing that the *Kaishin-to* themselves and their distinguished leader had been the victims of precisely similar distrust five years previously. The *Kaishin-to* members know perfectly well that had not party jealousy outweighed patriotism in 1889, they would have been able to claim the credit of having achieved Treaty Revision. They know perfectly well, taught as they have been by bitter experience, that nothing is more likely to defer the attainment of the nation's aspirations than any intrusion of party politics into the negotiations for Revision. They cannot pretend that the fear of adding fresh failure to past ill-success forbids them to trust the present Cabinet, for the most signal ill-success hitherto made stands on their own records. But the *Kaishin-to* are not just now in the mood to concern themselves much about logic. They seem frankly resolved never to assist any national undertaking in which they themselves are not directly concerned, and they therefore voted solidly against the Representation without attempting the farce of reconciling their practice with their theory, and without paying any attention to the views they thus supported. Other members of the Six Sections showed less reticence and more imprudence, but the significance of the whole movement against the Representation was not to be misinterpreted. Undoubtedly, a good many dissentient votes were due to a feeling that a subject concerning which the Throne had been addressed ought not to be subsequently placed on the comparatively low level of a Representation to the Government. But the majority of the "noes" were dictated by party feeling: the Six Sections could not bring themselves to vote for a measure emanating from their political opponents, the *Jiyu-to*, or to approach the Cabinet with any proposition implying faith in the latter's competence. So the Representation was rejected.

Regrettable as it is that party prejudices in Japan should thus invade the region of foreign politics, the debate on the 22nd ultimo presented one decidedly reassuring feature. Not a single member ventured to give expression to the sentiment so persistently attributed to the bulk of the nation by interested outsiders, namely, that Revision of the Treaties is not desirable and that foreigners should be kept out of the interior. We do not pretend to suppose that among the 300 members in the House of Representatives there may not be a few conservatives who entertain that view. Mr. OI KENTARO certainly does, and so do the little coterie of politicians ranged under his banner. But what seems certain is that no one dare give expression to any sentiment of the kind within the walls of the House of Representatives. Journalistic agitators and platform demagogues may make capital out of it, but no member of parliament ventures to espouse it openly in the Diet. A corresponding inference must be drawn from the House's attitude toward Strict Enforcement. The advocates of that measure have not ceased to advocate it, but one after another they have been careful emphatically to disavow any purpose apart from that of facilitating Treaty Revision, and to disclaim any antipathy to the complete opening of the country. In the face of these indisputable facts, the most bigoted believer in Japanese popular prejudice against Revision should be silenced. Every indication capable of interpretation or possessing significance goes to prove that the nation is practically unanimous in its desire for Revision, and in its readiness to remove all existing restrictions upon foreign trade, travel, and residence. The Government doubtless understood that long ago, but the confirmation now afforded is none the less worthy of record. The Government must also have understood long ago a fact of which fresh evidence is now furnished, namely, that the one serious obstacle to Treaty Revision on Japan's side is party jealousy, and that the negotiations, to be successful, must be conducted by statesmen standing aloof from all parties.

LYING CHARGES WITHIN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND FAITHFUL ECHOES WITHOUT.

IT is characteristic of our local journalism that more noise is made about the lying charges preferred by Messrs. SHIMADA SABURO and SAITO KEIJI in the House of Representatives than about any of the other speeches delivered there. Mr. SHIMADA SABURO uttered a number of the grossest falsehoods against this journal, and Mr. SAITO KEIJI re-produced a series of long-exploded accusations against Count INOUYE, Count YAMAGATA and Viscount TORIO, supporting them by documents which are understood to have been previously offered for sale to Count INOUYE and contemptuously de-

clined. In our necessarily epitomized reports of the proceedings of the Diet, it does not occur to us to devote special space to utterances like those of Mr. SHIMADA and Mr. SAITO, since we place them on the same level as the personalities resorted to by discomfited controversialists, and since their interest must necessarily be small in the eyes of all sober persons. To allege, however, as the *Japan Gazette* alleges, that we "utterly ignored" the speeches of Messrs. SHIMADA and SAITO, is to rival the reckless untruthfulness of the former gentleman. Both speeches were reported in these columns, the particular points that have furnished such welcome material to journalistic scandal-mongers being epitomized as follows :—

Mr. Shimada Saburo spoke at great length in support of the Amendment. He dwelt on the importance of Strict Enforcement as a means to achieve the end, Treaty Revision, and denied altogether that the measure involved any hostility to foreigners or any desire to keep them out of the country. The Government by its organs had greatly misled both its own people and foreigners in that matter.

Mr. Saito Keiji obtained leave to introduce an urgency motion for the appointment of a Special Committee to inquire into certain transactions that had occurred many years ago in Yamaguchi Prefecture. He made a long speech charging Count Inouye, Count Yamagata, and Viscount Torio with dishonest practices, and read a number of documents in support of his allegation.

Mr. SAITO KEIJI'S accusations are now under examination by a Special Committee, and if found worthy of detailed reference, will, of course, be duly referred to. As for Mr. SHIMADA SABURO, the *Japan Gazette* knows perfectly well that no man could possibly have uttered grosser falsehoods than he did when he accused the *Japan Mail* of having—in the words of the *Japan Gazette's* own translation—"spread abroad the slander that Japanese society generally had returned to its old port-closing spirit." The *Japan Gazette* knows perfectly well that Mr. SHIMADA SABURO lied—we regret to be obliged to employ the offensive term but no milder is applicable—that Mr. SHIMADA SABURO lied in the most uncompromising manner when he represented the *Japan Mail* as having sought to convict the Japanese nation of being imbued with anti-foreign sentiment. The *Japan Gazette* knows perfectly well that no accusation could be wider of the truth. The *Japan Gazette* knows perfectly well that the Government could never have inspired such writing. The *Japan Gazette* knows perfectly well that such libellous misrepresentations of the mood of the Japanese people have been persistently ventilated in its own columns and in the columns of the other local evening journal, and have been as persistently combatted by the *Japan Mail*. Yet, knowing these things, the *Japan Gazette* supports Mr. SHIMADA SABURO and "adopts his utterances as its own." It must be agreeable to politicians of Mr. SHIMADA'S type to possess such faithful echoes. Public intelligence finds the spectacle supremely contemptible, but public intelligence understands very well that humanity is always prone to ugly exhibitions, and that politicians blinded by party rancour and journalists stung by a sense of hopeless insignificance are not the kind of material out of which mirrors of morality and magnanimity may be easily constructed.

DIPLOMACY AND MARRIAGE.

THE French Government is said to have followed Germany's example. A decree issued by the President forbids a member of the Diplomatic or Consular Service to marry a foreigner. We must assume that there is some reason for this extraordinary interdict. Germany had a reason. Perhaps she had more than one reason, but so far as the public knows, the EMPEROR was induced to revert to strict enforcement of the old order because of an incident in South America which was held to justify the precaution. It may be that France too has had a convincing experience. But there can be no doubt as to the retrogressive character of such measures. The interesting question is how they are to be interpreted. Do they really mean that in these closing days of the 19th century history is to be read as indicating that international brotherhood is impossible, and that the poet's dream, the federation of the world, must remain a dream? Or do they mean that the realm of women's sway has been unduly extended, and that her supremacy in the household is held to affect even her husband's discharge of his official duties? Whatever be the answer, we find ourselves confronted by the disagreeable fact that nations are not drawing closer together, but are rather falling farther apart. Yet how strangely things are ruled! It is thought quite a correct, nay even a desirable, thing that the Sovereign of a country should wed with a lady of foreign origin, though surely if anything were to be apprehended from the alien character of a wife's proclivities, the apprehension ought to have most weight where the head of a State is concerned. Perhaps it is believed that love, as a rule, has little to do with Imperial and Royal matches; that they are purely affairs of expediency, and that they retain that cold character even to the end. If such be the theory it has certainly found in practical experience contradictions quite as numerous as are the examples of a diplomatic husband's perversion from the path of loyal duty under the sway of his wife's caprices. From an abstract point of view a rule applicable to the one case ought to be at least equally applicable to the other. But it is also claimed that the proverbial inability of a woman to keep a secret is the cause of the restrictive edict. Who can think so? Who can hold the fair sex in such slight esteem as to suppose that their own want of faithful reticence is responsible for the trouble? For our part we decline to imagine that betrayal of their husband's official secrets constitutes their disqualification. Anyhow, it is a miserable state of affairs. Generally speaking, the members of the Diplomatic and Consular Services are the most eligible *parties* in the communities where their sphere of duty lies. It has not been historically recorded, either, that knowledge of the obstacles lying between them and the matrimonial goal interferes seriously with their initial progress along the path leading in that direction. On the contrary, some social analysts observe that the fact of being labelled "ineligible" generally impels them to more than ordinary displays of gallantry. And why not indeed? They naturally desire to efface as far as possible the unpleasant memory of their disability. That is diplomatic tact. But of course the results cannot always be guaranteed, and if the gentleman may invariably count on closing the chapter with a stern re-assertion of his official duty, the lady cannot reckon on a similar consolation. A word should be said too for poor mothers, the cares of whose guardianship must be considerably enhanced by these differentiating restrictions. However, it is a subject that looks worse the more we examine it. Let us dismiss it with a lament, first, for its prospective victims, and secondly, for the reproach it casts upon European civilization.

MEXICAN DOLLARS OF AMERICAN COINAGE.

ON the 10th of April Mr. WOLCOTT introduced in the Senate of the United States the following Resolution :—

That the President of the United States, with a view to encourage and extend our commercial relations with China and other Asiatic countries, be requested to enter into negotiations with the Republic of Mexico, looking to the coinage by the United States, at its mints, of standard Mexican dollars, under some proper arrangement with the said Republic of Mexico as to seigniorage, method and amount of said coinage; and that he be further requested to report the result of his negotiations to the Senate.

In support of this resolution Senator WOLCOTT made a long speech, in the course of which he stated that the amount of silver produced in Mexico annually is 50 million dollars, of which from 25 to 26 millions are coined at the Mexican mints, about one million remaining in Mexico, the remainder being exported to China, Japan, and India. Of this export about 7½ millions go by way of San Francisco, a somewhat smaller amount by way of England from Liverpool and London, and as for the other 10 to 11 millions Senator WOLCOTT thinks that they find their way to the East in the pockets of returning Chinamen or through Chilian or Peruvian ports. The Mexican Government charges a seigniorage of 4.4 per cent. on every dollar that it coins, and in order to induce people to bring their silver for coinage, it charges a duty of 2 per cent. on all exports of the white metal in bullion. This duty does not succeed, however, in preventing an export of about 20 millions annually,

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which goes to the great refineries of Swansea in England, while another 5 millions are exported in bullion to meet the local demands of trade and commerce. In fine, Mexico has her own method of dealing with her silver and a very profitable method it is to the Government of the Republic, as will be seen from the above figures. What kind of compensation Senator WOLCOTT would give to Mexico in exchange for her surrender of this profitable business we do not know: his speech contains no hint about that. As for Mexico, her idea of Senator WOLCOTT'S proposition may be gathered from the *Mexican Financier*, which writes thus :—

> The scheme is a most extraordinary one, as it contemplates asking Mexico to abdicate one of the essential prerogatives of a civilized government, the striking of her own coins. A large outlet for Mexican silver is through the Orient, where the eagle dollar of this country (Mexico) has won the esteem of a very conservative people. To allow another nation to flood that market with Mexican dollars would be a strange policy.

With regard to the benefit that the United States would derive were the Senator's proposal put into practice, what he says is this :—

> If these dollars shall be coined at our mints at Carson City and at San Francisco, it will create something of an active silver market on the Pacific coast, and where the dollars are the facilities for shipment and commerce will go also. There will be a demand for these dollars from London merchants and from English and from Scotch merchants. They will send gold to this country in exchange for the dollars which will be shipped direct, and it will add much to the steamship commerce between the Pacific coast and Asia. Many of these dollars will find their way into the Indian market. They are handy; they will go up country, be remelted and made into bangles and ornaments. There is always a certain demand in India also for Mexican dollars.

Stated briefly, the Senator's project is nothing more nor less than to provide a new channel for the utilization of the silver produced in the United States. He is not concerned about the fate of the silver produced in Mexico, though he seems to have a rudimentary conception of the idea now gradually developing among those engaged in Oriental trade, namely, that the supply of Mexican dollars is not sufficient, that they are technically defective coins, and that some means of supplementing them, if not of supplanting them, ought to be found. It is curious and interesting to note how little information the Senators seems to possess about the currency of Eastern countries. They all, so far as we can see, believe that Mexican dollars are still largely current in Japan, and Senator SHERMAN, who, of all men, ought to be well posted on this subject, informed his colleagues that the *yen* is a coin issued by the Chinese Government. We think there is very little probability of Senator WOLCOTT'S resolution being adopted, or at any rate, of its passing through all the stages that precede practical operation. The Senator himself is evidently very timid about it. He says frankly that "it may come to nothing, but is worth the trying;" words embodying a spirit not calculated to inspire confidence or enlist support. There are, nevertheless, two paragraphs in the Senator's speech that we venture to quote. They represent the feeling that is becoming more and more prevalent in America about the consequences of the demonetization of silver:

> Our furnaces are cold, our fires are out, our mines are most of them closed; those which are kept open are kept open in order to prevent the timbers from rotting and the waters from flooding the mines; yet when these miners—intelligent men who have up to this time found work at prices which remunerated them and enabled them to add to the glory of American manhood, to educate their children, to feed them and to own their own homes—find that the monetary policy of this country prevents their receiving these wages, and that it is starvation or nothing, we shall inevitably find that silver will continue to be produced at some price.
>
> Great Britain, with the United States attending upon its policy, seems willing to destroy four thousand millions of existing silver coinage in order that it may prevent the output of about one hundred millions of silver a year available for coinage. They are waiting for a river to run by that will be fed by the eternal spring of man's necessities. As you degrade silver, you degrade American manhood, American wages, American labour, American prices; but you will find that silver will continue to be produced as long as that metal is found within the bowels of mother earth.

MORAL EDUCATION IN JAPANESE SCHOOLS.

(COMMUNICATED.)

ONE of the most startling features of modern education in Japan, is that there is practically no system of morality taught; that students from their entrance into some Primary School until graduating from the Imperial University are not brought into contact with, or instructed in, any system of ethics that would serve to stimulate and regulate the spiritual growth in like measure as the brain is fostered and developed. Yet under the circumstances one does not see how it could well be otherwise. Buddhism and Shinto are the two national religions of the Japanese, for Christianity, powerful and progressive though it be, counts but a small percentage of adherents among the myriads of young men and women in attendance at the State educational establishments; and experiments have fully and for all time demonstrated the fact that neither of these creeds can hope to absorb the allegiance of the thoughtful portion of the people. The Shinto history of the mythical origin of Japan, the stories of AMATERASU and SUSANO-O, of IZANAGI and IZANAMI, though a part of the curriculum of every student, are received either with silent incredulity or open sneers. Young Japan is critical and iconoclastic, and it is well that it should be so; for this is the age of scientific criticism, and legends of antiquity, time-honoured though they be, that cannot satisfy the postulates of science, are better relegated whither they belong—the realm of old-wives' fabledom. Nor can Buddhism hope to become the necessary moral factor in education. It is all very well in Buddhistic schools or such institutions as are under the direct supervision of Buddhist communities or associations, but the creed does not and cannot have that vivifying force necessary to the spiritual or even ethical requirements of young people; it is far too abstract a philosophy and even at best ends with the denial of a First Cause and holds out only the hope of ultimate annihilation. For Nirvana, whatever may be said to the contrary, is a condition wherein all personality is absorbed, individual faculties are no longer necessary: a dreamless, inactive torpor, utterly inconsistent with human aspirations and the longing to be and to do something. Finally, with regard to Christianity, it is still too early to hope for the introduction of this creed of creeds into Japanese schools. We believe that the day will come when the Bible will form, as it does in Christian lands, a part of the curriculum of every Japanese educational institution. For the present, however, this seems impossible, and the question naturally confronts us, as it does the educational authorities of this land, what system of ethics may be consistently taught in the schools? How is the moral, not to say spiritual, growth of Japanese students to be secured?

So far, every step made in the direction of teaching a system of ethics, has been entirely tentative. The dry husks of Confucianism, though some pearls be hidden here and there, are insufficient moral food. Moreover, the Chinese classics, excellent ethical maxims though they may contain within certain narrow limits, are not taught mainly for their ethical value, but as an exercise of the mnemonic faculties, the learning by rote of new ideographs and the acquirement of a certain degree of facility in the construing of Chinese sentences. It is exactly as the teaching of ARISTOTLE and PLATO, of LUCRETIUS and SENECA, in Western schools, *i.e.*, not so much for the moral value of the works as for the purity, excellence, and diction of the text. And with instruction in such books, the moral education of Japanese students ends and begins. What ideas they may have on the subject of practical ethics, they either form independently or pick up from others, often to their own detriment, nor can it cause surprise that, under such conditions, the vast majority are without any belief, profess agnosticism without knowing why they do so, or rather vain-gloriously denominate themselves atheists, as if it were an honour to profess disbelief in that which every flower and each drop of water teaches in such unmistakable and forcible terms—the indubitable existence of a sentient, all-wise, all-knowing, all-powerful First Cause. There is no thinking man who can fail to regard this phase of Japanese education with infinite pity and profound regret.

Is there no golden mean? Cannot moral education, for the time being, be kept apart from sectarian instruction? We believe it possible. The Japanese mind is peculiarly susceptible to external influences—exceptionally so, when young—and the influence and force of exampel

go farther than any amount of precept. As Professor HYSLOP recently wrote:—"Moral education must be a will-moving force, not a logic-chopping process or a mind-stuffing exercise." As such it is not to be accomplished at present by any form of doctrinal teaching. The memory and reasoning powers may thus be developed, but the conscience never. Moral education can be effected in Japan only in three ways: by example, humanity, and discipline. More fully expressed, these forces resolve themselves into the personal habits and character of the teacher, personal affection for students, and the disciplinary influences of life, organised on a rational basis. So the moralisation of the student must begin by the moralisation of the system of instruction, and this can be accomplished only by abandoning the mercantile and economic method for a moral one. The competition in education, the great draw-back of Japanese schools, should not be for numbers of students, as now, or for merely great scholars as teachers, but also for those who know how to win the affections of students and to command their reverence. What the public and educational institutions, both public and private, need to learn is the all important fact that schools and colleges are missionary agencies, not business corporations. For morality, ethics in the highest sense, is a social product: it is not the result of intellectual and scientific teaching. Personal example and personal affection are its true soil. When this fact is thoroughly grasped by Japanese teachers, we shall no longer have any need to complain of the absence of moral education in Japanese schools.

THE ADDRESS TO THE THRONE.

THE House of Representatives has at length fired its shot at the Government. All parties were anxious that a gun of some kind should be discharged, but for a time they failed to agree about the kind of ammunition with which it should be loaded. The Six Sections of the Opposition wanted to put in dynamite, or nitroglycerine, or some other particularly violent explosive. The Radicals wished for slow-burning powder, and would not have seriously objected to a blank cartridge. This divergence of view about materials threatened, at first, to prevent the discharge altogether. But as all parties felt themselves morally bound to bombard the Cabinet somehow or other, the Six Sections because they really wanted to fire the Ministry out of office, and the Radicals because they wanted to re-assert their independence, a mode of agreement was at length thought to have been discovered. A Special Committee was appointed to amend an Address to the Throne emanating from the Radicals. The Address, in its original form, was not vehemently denunciatory. It arraigned the Government on the charge of having insufficiently carried out the reforms indicated by the celebrated Imperial Rescript of the Fourth Session, and it prayed the SOVEREIGN to instruct the Ministers of State to "shape their conduct in such a manner as to bring about harmonious cöoperation between the Government and the Diet." The Special Committee charged with the duty of amending this Address was nominated by the President, and he, being a strong partisan of the Six Sections, naturally placed a majority of their representatives on the Committee. From that moment the character of the amendments could, of course, be pretty clearly predicted. The task the Committee-men had to discharge was not difficult, when approached as they approached it. Had they sought to introduce amendments such as would command the endorsement of the Radicals, while, at the same time, satisfying the Six Sections, they must have failed signally. Therefore they confined themselves to the comparatively simple course of winning over a little coterie of so-called "Independents" who vacillated between the two camps, and whose adherence to either would give it a majority. That they could reasonably hope to effect, for the Independents were always prepared to gravitate in any direction that offered an opportunity of saving their conscience without sacrificing their consistency. Here, then, are the amendments made by the Committee:—

ORIGINAL ADDRESS.	AMENDMENTS AND INTERPOLATIONS.
The Ministers of State have, of late years, adopted measures at variance with the wishes and expectations of the nation.	The Ministers of State have, of late years, failed to discharge their duties in respect of affairs of State, both at home and abroad, and, in some cases, their errors have caused trouble to the Imperial House.
	Specially unsatisfactory has been their conduct in the sphere of foreign affairs, for they have followed an ease-loving and temporizing policy, their only anxiety being to preserve the goodwill of foreigners, and they have completely reversed the attitude which they ought to maintain to their own countrymen and foreigners respectively.
Such a temporizing policy is totally incapable of giving satisfaction to the people, and is, we apprehend, contrary to the gracious wishes of Your Majesty.	Such conduct on the part of the Ministers of State, we apprehend, is contrary to the gracious wishes of Your Majesty.
But the action of the Ministers of State makes it impossible for us to keep silence. We humbly pray that Your Majesty may graciously be pleased to adopt the wishes of the people and bid the Ministers of State shape their conduct in such a manner as to bring about harmonious cöoperation between the Government and the Diet.	But the Ministers of State make it impossible for us. We humbly pray for Your Majesty's gracious and enlightened judgment.

The first amendment constitutes a much more sweeping denunciation of the Ministry than the corresponding clause of the Original Address. In domestic and foreign affairs alike the Cabinet is accused of failing to discharge its duty, and the favourite allegation of the Opposition, namely, that the Ministers of the Crown take refuge under the SOVEREIGN'S sleeve, is hinted in the phrase "in some cases their errors have caused trouble to the Imperial House." It is singular that the leaders of the Opposition should rely so implicitly on the blindness and credulity of the public as to imagine that, while in every instance they themselves have had recourse to the Throne, they can still gravely pretend to transfer to the Cabinet the responsibility of troubling the SOVEREIGN. The most interesting amendment however, is the clause interpolated with reference to foreign policy. This, we presume, is intended to embody the principle of Strict Enforcement, but truly a less straightforward and more shuffling device to save their face could scarcely have been conceived by the Six Sections. The great question of Strict Enforcement, the question that involved dissolution of the House of Representatives and an appeal to the country; the question that inspired a Representation to the Government last session, with a voluminous appendix of reasons and with correlated projects of vexatious and retrogressive laws, this question now dwindles into a vague allegation that the Government has followed an ease-loving and temporizing policy, has been over-anxious to conciliate foreigners, and has reversed the attitude it ought to maintain toward aliens and its own nationals respectively. Nor is invertebrate vagueness the only fault of this interpolation. The Committee themselves, when directly questioned, did not venture to assert that they intended to refer to Strict Enforcement. They shuffled out of the dilemma by saying that every one was at liberty to interpret the clause after his own fancy! In such a fiasco does the grand movement of last session end! From a cut and dry protest against the manner of enforcing the treaties, an exhaustive analysis of the Government's sins of omission in respect of them, and a circumstantial programme of strict reform, the Opposition have passed to a nebulous declaration of animosity against the Ministers of the Crown and of umbrage against the semblance of foreign superiority. Nobody need be much disturbed about such an issue when compared with the agitation that preceded it. Of course the Radicals voted *en bloc* against the amended Address. But it enlisted the sympathies of the waverers among the "Independents." It is precisely in such indefinite generalities that an "independent" conscience finds a welcome refuge. Probably, too, the immediately previous fracas between the House and the Government Delegates influenced some votes. For the Opposition introduced the Address as an urgency motion so as to take astute tactical advantage of the House's heated mood. Nine "Independents," who had voted against the Opposition's Address on the 17th of May, seem to have supported the Address of the 31st, and one was probably absent. The numbers on the two occasions were as follow:—

	DIVISION ON MAY 17TH.	DIVISION ON MAY 31ST.
Against the Address ...	149	139
For the Address	144	153

The House has again invited the EMPEROR'S decision, and should it be favourable to the Ministers, they will doubtless be again charged with "troubling the Imperial House."

IMPERIAL DIET.

SATURDAY, MAY 26TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.35 a.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Government Bill relating to the Control of Imitation Paper Money. Report of Special Committee.
2.—Private Bill for amending the Newspaper Regulations. Report of Special Committee.

The report of the Special Committee on the Bill for the control of Imitation Paper Money was in favour of the Bill with some few amendments.

Several members objected to the power which the Bill conferred on the police of confiscating imitation money wherever found, however innocent might be its possessor's purpose.

Mr. Ozaki Saburo moved that the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of at once taking the Railway Bills sent up from the Lower House.

The House agreed, and the five Bills were entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President, with instructions to report in four days.

The Second Reading of the Imitation Paper Money Bill was voted, but the House decided not to proceed with the reading at once.

Mr. Kioura Keigo, on behalf of the Special Committee charged with the examination of the Press Law Amendment Bill, reported that the Committee was divided in its opinion. Some members contended that to endue the police with competence to suspend a journal was contrary to the Constitution and a violation of the principle of free speech. They further asserted that the power was often abused, so that newspapers were suspended, not in the interests of public peace, but in the interests of the Government's peace. The other side, while admitting the principle involved in these arguments, alleged that unfortunately the development of the newspaper press had not yet reached a point justifying the abolition of the power in question, and that daily experience proved its indispensability. The latter view had found a majority of supporters.

Mr. Murakami Keisaku asked to be informed in what respect each of the journals suspended since Count Ito became Prime Minister had threatened to disturb the public peace. He also desired to know whether the Special Committee considered that the power had been abused.

Mr. Kioura Keigo replied that the members of the Committee had their own views as individuals with regard to the question of abuse. They held that there had been occasional abuses. The Committee recommended that the power of suspension should be preserved, but that the authorities be required to indicate the matter on account of which suspension was ordered.

Viscount Funabashi inquired whether a newspaper would be entitled to offer an explanation exculpating the impugned matter, and if not, whether the system would not still remain open to grave abuses.

Mr. Kioura answered that it was not contemplated to secure such a privilege to the newspapers. The idea of the Committee was that by requiring the Authorities to indicate the implicated matter, the door would be closed to many possible abuses. The police would not be able to suspend a journal without plainly sufficient reason. If they did, public opinion and the Diet's action would soon restrain them.

Marquis Kuroda, a member of the Special Committee, presented a minority report to the effect that the power of suspension was in reality applied by way of punishment, and not by way of prevention, as the Authorities claimed; that other and ample means of preserving public peace and good order existed; that the progress of society was only checked by treating it as though it did not progress, and that if the arbitrary power of suspension was abrogated, public opinion and their own sense of self-respect would soon impose the necessary restraint upon editors of newspapers.

Mr. Miura Yasu had supported the abolition of the power of suspension in the fourth session of the Diet, but experience had since convinced him that the power could not yet be completely dispensed with. (Viscount Tani asked whether his experience had been acquired since he became Governor of Tokyo). In the same way Viscount Torio had previously opposed the abolition of the power, but he now supported it.

Viscount Soga said that the old proverb spoke of getting out of the valleys and ascending the hills of progress, but did not speak of leaving the hills and returning to the valleys. He recommended Mr. Miura Yasu to adhere to his original attitude towards this Bill.

This announcement led to a desultory discussion, several members preferring questions to Mr. Miura, which he either ignored or answered in the briefest terms.

The question with reference to suspensions of newspapers since Count Ito became Prime Minister having been pressed, the Government Delegate said that he had not come provided with documents to answer such a question.

Mr. Kioura said that, according to information submitted to the Special Committee, the number of journals suspended in 1892 had been 87; the number suspended in 1893 had also been 87, and the number suspended up to the present in the current year had been 56. The greater part had suffered owing to disturbance of the public peace, but he was not in a position to refer to their cases in detail.

Viscount Tani had always considered this power of suspension unconstitutional and believed that it could not be too soon abolished. He observed that since the Ito Cabinet came into power on the 4th of August, 1892, no less than 93 different newspapers and periodicals had fallen under sentence of suspension, and the number of suspensions had been 151, the aggregate periods of suspension being 1,681 days. When it was remembered that each of these newspapers employed from 25 to 130 or 140 men daily, the nature of the power wielded by the Executive could be appreciated. Why had suspensions been so numerous under the rule of the present Cabinet. He thought it was because the Cabinet had forfeited public confidence. Like a sick man shrinking from every loud noise, the Ministers shrank from expressions of journalistic opinion, which were really an excellent medicine for them. It was alleged that suspension was usually ordered for the purpose of preventing disturbance of the public peace. For his own part, in only one case could he perceive that such a contention applied. That was the case of the *Jiyu Shimbun* when it published the so-called revelations about the Fujita-gumi business. In truth, the power of suspension was exercised not to preserve public peace but to preserve official peace. It was remarkable that the newspapers favourable to the Government never suffered. Even if the men who wielded the power were persons of erudition and discernment some excuse might be found. But they were petty officials, quite incompetent to be entrusted with such a responsibility. In fine, the whole thing was a disgrace to the country's civilization and a violation of the constitution. He earnestly exhorted the House to pass the Bill in the form sent up from the Representatives.

Marquis Daigo would prefer the existing Law to the proposed law, and certainly preferred the Committee's amendments to the Representatives' draft.

Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, Government Delegate, observed with regard to Viscount Tani's remarks, that the business of running a newspaper must not be regarded in the same light as any ordinary money-making enterprise. There were undoubtedly journals conducted on purely financial lines, but there were also many journals the proprietors of which thought far less of making money than of ventilating certain views or promoting a certain cause. Such journals were always prepared for suspension, and the cessation of their *employés'* bread-earning opportunities was not to be largely taken into account. Besides, there was no question that the newspapers themselves often derived benefit from the restraint that suspension placed upon their tendency to licence of language. Viscount Tani's method of regarding the question seemed to err on the side of sentimentalism.

Viscount Soga inquired as to the truth of a rumour that it was customary to put marks against a newspaper, and that when the marks reached 10, the paper was suspended.

Mr. Suyematsu replied that no such system was followed.

Mr. Kikuchi Takeo thought that the power of suspension had been necessary some years ago, but that the time for exercising it had long past. No disturbance of public peace was any longer to be apprehended in connection with political affairs, however strongly the newspapers might write. The fact was that public opinion had been a much more effective factor of control than the Government itself. It would be much to the country's credit to abolish this obnoxious power, so liable to abuse and so often abused, and it would be equally to the country's discredit did the fact go abroad that the Government had opposed such a reform in despite of the House of Representatives' frequently expressed opinion. He urged the Ministers of the Crown to abandon their nervous policy, and abide manfully by public opinion.

Mr. Ozaki Saburo had been for many years directly connected as an official with the control of newspapers and felt qualified to express an opinion on the subject. While holding an official position he admitted that he had perceived some necessity for the power of suspension, but wiser counsels had prevailed with him. The Newspaper Regulations had been promulgated in 1875, and the idea at that time among officials had been that such regulations could not be carried out. He was then in the Foreign Office, and subsequently on his transfer to the Home Office he had been called upon to discharged duties connected with the control of newspapers. Very arduous and unpleasant duties they had been, entailing the receipt of many threatening letters. His experience then garnered and subsequently confirmed was that one might as well seek to check the flow of a river as to close men's mouths. No Government was strong enough to control the nation's tongue. Any attempt to do so merely brought the Government into contempt or impaired its authority. Many amendments of the Press Regulations had been made, all in a liberal and progressive sense; but the power of suspension had been reserved to the Executive throughout. It was emphatically an unconstitutional power and one that could not be too quickly done away with. As for the Committee's proposed amendment, it reminded him of the man who, having been in the habit of stealing 5 or 6 of his neighbours' chickens daily, made up his mind to reform but in order to avoid inconvenient scarcity in his larder, limited his repentence to the diurnal theft of 2 chickens only. The amendment was a miserable affair, temporizing and unmanly. Everything counselled the total abolition of a power so unconstitutional and uncivilized.

Mr. Kato Hiroyuki did not fully approve of either the original Bill or the Committee's amendments. He thought that the country stood in need of a new law having special reference to measures for preventing violations of the public peace. But as there was no immediate prospect of such a law being enacted, he should vote for the amended Bill.

The House voted to carry the Bill to a Second Reading, and to proceed with the reading at once.

The Bill as amended by the Committee was passed by a vote of 94 to 90, the Third Reading being voted at once.

The House rose at 4 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.15 p.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Government Bill relating to Disbursements from the Reserve for the 25th year of *Meiji*.
2.—Government Bill relating to Expenditures over and above the Items in the Budget for the 25th year of *Meiji*.
3.—Government Bill relating to Disbursements from the Reserve for the 26th year of *Meiji*.
4.—Bill relating to the Powers of the Diet in connection with the Final Accounts of the Treasury.
5.—Bill relating to Deferred Payment of Taxes in Districts devastated by Earthquakes.
6.—Bill for abolishing the Special System of Local Government in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka.

7.—Bill for supplementing the Local Government System.
8.—Bill for amending the Law relating to Dealers in Second-hand Goods.

The following reply from the Government to a Question relating to Judicial Removals was read :—

A QUESTION RELATING TO THE REMOVAL OF JUDGES.

Article LXXIV. of the Law of the Organization of Law Courts provides that "when in consequence of enfeeblement of physical strength or mental faculties a Judge becomes unable to discharge his duties, the Minister of State for Justice may, with the approval of a general assembly of an Appeal Court or the Supreme Court, order said judge to retire from the judicial service." Thus, whenever the Minister of State for Justice orders judges to retire from active service, his action must be based on two conditions : one, the enfeeblement of the constitution or mental faculties of the judge removed; the other, the resolution of a general assembly of a Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court. Despite this fact, of the judges ordered to retire from service since last year the majority have enjoyed special compensation either in the form of promotion or of an increase of salary on the day preceding the reception of such an order or on the day itself. So judges who held posts in District Courts received special appointments as superintendent judges of those courts, while the retiring magistrates of Local or Appeal Courts were appointed Chief Judges of the sections of the Courts of Appeal, or were given similar posts in Local Courts. Now if the removal of these judges was really in consequence of physical or mental incapacity, there is no reason why they should have enjoyed such special treatment or have been appointed to posts of such importance. The whole procedure must be regarded as self-contradictory. It is, moreover, stated that of the judges thus ordered to relinquish their positions, very few received this command as the result of the voice of a general assembly of an Appeal or the Supreme Court. And if this be true, the two conditions specified in Article LXXIV. of the Law above referred were wholly neglected, and the arrangements made we consequently of an illegal character. We desire to have a reply on these points.

But even supposing that the retirement of these judges was due to a request preferred by themselves, there is still a point open to serious doubt, *i.e.*, the provision relating to judicial retirement being thus evidently established for the especial purpose of rewarding those enfeebled in body or mind, they are a sort of guarantee of pension, for without being called upon in any way to discharge official duties, such a judge is seen to enjoy remuneration for no work during his life time. For this reason, special treatment of this nature should not be accorded except in such cases as are specially provided for by law. Should the Government grant such a pension to judges who have applied for permission to retire from service, this would amount to giving an unearned salary to officials who have voluntarily relinquished their official duties. Moreover, to judges who have been promoted in grade or had their salaries increased, so to speak, in the morning, the notice of their dismissal from service has been given in the evening of the same day. Such an action is surely not only at variance with the law itself but also cannot be characterized otherwise as unfair.

The above Question is put in accordance with Article XLVIII. of the Law of the Houses. We await an immediate reply.

Presented by SUZUKI JUBI.

Supported by SHIGEOKA KUNGORO and 34 others.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE ABOVE.

With reference to the dismissal of judges, a safeguard is found in Article LVIII. of the Imperial Constitution. Based on this safe-guard, the Law of the Organization of Law Courts has specified cases with respect to the removal of official functions, change of locality, suspension or dismissal from service, diminution of salary, and retirement from active service. These provisions, however, are confined to those instances in which the judges do not give their consent, and have thus no application to cases where such consent is signified. Article LXXIII. of the Law of the Organization of Judicial Courts provides that "a judge shall not, against his will, be either removed to any other official position, or transferred from one Court to another, or be suspended from exercising his judicial functions, or suffer dismissal, or have his salary decreased, unless by virtue of a criminal sentence or as a disciplinary punishment." The special insertion of the words "against his will" show, indirectly, that no other condition or prerequisite with reference to removals, etc., in consequence of voluntary preference. Article LXXIV. of the same Law provides that when, in consequence of the enfeeblement of the physical constitution or mental faculties, a judge finds himself incapable of discharging his official duties, the Minister of State for Justice may, acting in accordance with the resolution of a general meeting of a Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court, order him to retire from the judicial service. The weakening of physical or mental vigour constitutes a valid cause for dismissal, so when such a cause exists the Minister of Justice has the right to order such a judge to retire from actual service, even though it be contrary to the latter's will. In providing for the issue of an order relating to compulsory retirement, the act determining the cause thereof is, with a view to imposing a restraint on the pressure of others, not left to the sole disposal of the executive officials, but is made dependent upon a resolution passed by a general meeting of the Supreme Court or a Court of Appeal. On the other hand, when, in consequence of physical or mental debility, a judge realizes his incapability of discharging his duties and hence applies for permission to retire from active service, the existence of the cause of dismissal being fully comprehended by the judge himself and the act itself in no way contrary to his inclinations, it is not necessary for a general judicial assembly to pass a resolution in the required sense. There are some judges who, after receiving an increase of salay or having been promoted in rank, have at once been placed on the retired list. This is simply in accordance with usages handed down from former times, according to which special procedure is observed in the case of those judges who have rendered meritious services to the State for a long series of years. In the Question it is stated that "even supposing that the retirement of these judges is due to a request preferred by themselves, there is still a point open to serious doubt, *i.e.* the provision relating to judicial retirement being evidently established for the special purpose of rewarding those enfeebled in body or mind, they are a sort of guarantee of pension, for without being called upon in any way to discharge official duties, such a judge is sure to enjoy remuneration for no work during his life-time." And yet in Article LXXVII., of the same Law, it is provided that "judges, upon their retirement from active service, shall be pensioned in accordance with the provisions of the Pension Law. Now, this pension is to be enjoyed according to the number of years of service, but it does not by any means follow that every judge ordered to retire from judicial service shall receive a pension. Article III. of Imperial Notification, No. 254, issued in 1890, provides that" when a judge, whose tenure of office extends over a period of more than fifteen years applies for suspension from active service (*kyūshoku*) in consequence of any incapacity to discharge his official duties owing to disease or any other cause, the Minister of State for Justice may order him to suspend his judicial functions." It is further provided in Article IV. of the same Notification that a judge whose judicial functions are interrupted "shall receive a salary equivalent to one-third of the amount drawn prior to such interruption." In view of these stipulations, it is quite proper, legally considered, that a judge, upon retiring from service, should, like any other ordinary Government official, receive a pension if his tenure of office has exceeded a period of fifteen years, said pension to be equivalent to one-fourth of the salary drawn by him prior to his retirement.

(Signed) YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA,
Minister of State for Justice.

May 19th, 27th year of *Meiji* (1894).

Mr. Kyuchi Shin presented a Question relating to Okinawa Prefecture (the Loochoo Islands). He said that the Okinawa Islands could not yet be considered as thoroughly incorporated with the empire of Japan. Some of the people still regarded China as their father though they counted Japan their mother. Under such circumstances, it was the duty of the Government to adopt every possible means of winning the affections of the inhabitants and proving to them that their material interests would be best consulted by a spirit of unreserved allegiance to Japan. Was such a policy pursued? He doubted it, and the cause of his doubt was the fact concerning which his question was asked. It appeared that a tract of land measuring 1,500 *cho* (3,750 acres) had been leased by the Government to Mr. Matsuoka Koki, now Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs, and nine others, in consequence of a petition from the lessees representing themselves as desirous of establishing in Okinawa a sugar refinery according to foreign methods. It was understood that this project was planned at the time of Count Inouye's visit to Hokkaido, and that Marquis Hachisuka was interested in it. Among the lessees appeared the names of a nephew of the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture and of a Manager of Marquis Hachisuka's. Nothing had yet been done toward establishing the sugar refinery, and it was understood that a proposal from some of the local folks who desired to rent a part of the land for the purpose of planting sugar-canes had been accepted by the lessees, who not only held such a large tract without applying it to the alleged purpose, but were also endeavouring to secure a further grant of 3,000 *cho* (7,500 acres). He desired to know, first, whether the Government, in leasing this land to the petitioners, had really believed that there existed a *bond fide* intention of establishing a sugar refinery. Secondly, if such intention existed, when and where was the factory to be established, and why was such a large tract of land required? Thirdly, why had the lessees been left to deal with the matter as they pleased, not taking any steps to establish a refinery and contenting themselves with reclaiming a mere fraction of the land by sub-leasing it? Fourthly, was not Mr. Matsuoka's connection with such an enterprise distinctly a violation of the Official Discipline Regulations?

Mr. Dai Kokwa preferred a Question with reference to sealing in Japanese waters. It was notorious, he said, that foreign vessels freely engaged in sealing operations within the territorial waters of Japan off the coasts of Hokkaido, Ogasawara (the Bonins) and Sagarenjima. Why were no steps taken to check these depredations? Western Powers, as Great Britain, Russia, the United States of America, and so forth, had entered into mutual agreements for the purpose of restraining foreign trespassers in pursuit of marine animals, and one consequence of these agreements had been that the poachers had been impelled to devote their attention still more closely to Japanese waters. He desired to know what policy the Government intended to pursue for the restraint of such marauders.

Mr. Moriya Konosuke, Chairman of the Budget Committee, reported in favour of the first Bill on the Order, explaining that the expenditures tabulated therein had been found correct.

After a few questions the Bill was passed, as was also the second Bill.

On coming to the third Bill, Mr. Kashiwada asked whether the grants-in-aid in connection with the Chicago Exhibition had been made on the basis of exhibitors or of exhibits, and if on the latter basis, whether grants had been given irrespective of the profits made by the exhibitor.

The Government Delegate replied that the grants had been made on the basis of exhibits. As to the second question, although it was undoubted that Japan's reputation had been greatly enhanced by the Exhibition, the immediate financial result had been far from favourable, owing to the commercial depression existing abroad in consequence of the depreciation of silver.

Mr. Node Shozaburo asked for explanations with regard to an item of 45,000 *yen* of secret service money appearing in the Home Department's appropriations as outlay in connection with the general elections. How and for what purposes had the money been spent? Similar expenditures had been incurred, he understood, on similar occasions in the past, and it was desirable to have an explicit understanding. He observed also an item of 46,000 *yen* as travelling expenses in connection with the elections. How had that money been employed? Rumour said that in a certain prefecture the grant for travelling expenses had been so large that the officials experienced difficulty in expending it. Had any such fact come to the knowledge of the Government?

Mr. Matsuoka, Government Delegate, said that the money had been appropriated in small sums of varying magnitude to the different localities throughout the empire, and had been expended in the discharge of the exceptional duties inevitably devolving on officials at such a time. He was not prepared at the moment to

state the exact figures in every case, but he referred to various localities where the presence of *Soshi* had necessitated the despatch of extra police and gensdarmes.

Mr. Yamada Taizo noticed that the three Tama Districts were mentioned by the Government Delegate as one of the localities where extra police precautions had been required. But the elections in that district had passed off perfectly quietly, and as the people would naturally resent the Government Delegate's allusion, he asked for an explanation.

Mr. Takagi Shonen said that the vague character of the Government Delegate's account as to the division of the money suggestsd suspicions of its improper employment for influencing the result of the elections.

The Government Delegate failed to see how such a suspicion could attach to a sum of forty-five thousand *yen* distributed among forty-four prefectures throughout the empire.

Mr. Hayashi, Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in reply to questions, said that the expenditure in connection with the Cereals Export Prohibition affair in Korea had been 3,600 *yen* on account of telegrams and 572 *yen* on account of travelling expenses. The large outlay on account of telegrams had been due to the fact that the concluding stages of the negotiation had occupied only 15 days, communication by letter being thus impossible.

Mr. Haseba Junko asked whether the item for telegrams included messages sent by Count Ito to the Viceroy Li and to the Chinese Resident Yuan, enlisting their good offices in the cause of a peaceful settlement.

The Government Delegate knew nothing of that.

Mr. To Ryosaburo noted that although the number of cases tried in the Law Courts had been less in 1893 than in 1892, the outlay on account of enquiries conducted *in loco* had been greater in the former year. That suggested that trips to conduct inquiries were lightly undertaken, perhaps simply as amusing variations of the judicial routine. Or was there some special explanation?

Mr. Ishida Kannosuke contended that the item of secret service money ought to have been defrayed out of the First Reserve and not out of the Second. All expenditures falling within the items of the Budget should, according to the Law of Finance, be defrayed from the First Reserve, and expenditure for preserving order at general elections certainly belonged to that category. He moved that the Bill be re-submitted to Committee for further examination.

The House agreed to this proposal.

Mr. Yamamoto Riutaro moved that the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of handing over Mr. Tanaka Shozo to the Disciplinary Committee on account of the language used by him two days previously in the House. It was true that the President had expunged Mr. Tanaka's language from the Record, but Mr. Tanaka himself had made no attempt to apologise or explain, and since the use of such language did not affect only its immediate object, Mr. Mochizuki, but also the reputation of the whole House, some definite step should be adopted.

The House agreed by a vote of 122 to 112 to change the Order of the Day.

Mr. Yamamoto formally introduced his motion, and claimed thai Mr. Tanaka Shozo had made use of the expressions, "bribery," "thieves," and so forth.

Mr. Ayai Takeo asked where such expressions were to be found in the Stenographic Record.

Mr. Takeichi Shoichi wanted to know how the Disciplinary Committee could be asked to consider a matter plainly ruled out of the Record.

Mr. Yamamoto replied that precisely because it was a matter requiring to be expunged from the Record, the Disciplinary Committee should be invited to pronounce judgment on it.

In accordance with the Standing Orders, the proposal was put to the vote without discussion, an open ballot being taken, when 134 voted against the motion and 132 for it.

The fourth Bill on the Order was then introduced:—

Art. I.—At the same time that the Imperial Diet, by the 64th Article of the Constitution, is empowered to give its consent to the Annual Budget of State Expenditures and Revenue, so the Imperial Diet has power to receive, and give its consent to, the Final Account of the Expenditures and Revenue of the State as provided in the 72nd Article of the Constitution.

Art. II.—At the same time that the Imperial Diet is empowered to superintend the various proceedings of the Administration, so it is empowered to pronounce a final decision as to any illegalities that may appear in the Final Account of State Expenditures.

Art. III.—The Imperial Diet, having pronounced a final decision with regard to any illegalities appearing in the Final Account of State Expenditures, shall communicate the same to the Government, and require that a responsible course be adopted. In the event of the Government's failing to discharge its responsible duty in the premises, the Imperial Diet shall be empowered to Address the Throne on the subject.

Art. IV.—The House of Representatives, having pronounced its decision with regard to the Final Account, shall transmit it to the House of Peers.

Art. V.—The House of Representatives shall have power to address questions to the Government with regard to the Final Account and to demand explanations from the Departments concerned.

Mr. Komabayashi Koun moved the previous question. There was no occasion to consider such a Bill. The House had not attempted to make any such definition or *exposé* of its powers in the opening session when the Budget was placed in its hands for the first time. It had merely submitted the Budget to the Committee, and no difficulty or inconvenience had been subsequently experienced. The declarations made in this Bill were of a far-reaching and important character. They involved the Government, the Throne, and the House of Peers. It would be a matter of much chagrin to the House if, after passing such a Bill, it should fail to become law.

Mr. Shigeoka Kugoro opposed Mr. Komabayashi's motion. He claimed that the Budget and the Final Account were different. For the purpose of dealing with the Budget they had a Budget Committee and the powers and procedure of the House were defined with sufficient clearness. But with regard to the Final Account, the Constitution provided simply that it should be submitted to the Diet, and said nothing about the latter's method of dealing with it. It seemed essential, therefore, that the House itself should formulate some clear statement of its competence.

The closure was moved, but without formally putting it the President took the sense of the House with regard to Mr. Komabayashi's motion, and the House decided in the affirmative, namely, that no occasion existed to discuss or define the nature of its powers in respect of the Final Accounts.

Mr. Kurachi Iyemon introduced the next Bill with relation to Unpaid Taxes in the Districts devasted by the great earthquake of 1891. The people in Aichi and Gifu Prefectures had been granted a delay of three years in paying their taxes, but that period of grace had not proved sufficient, and a further delay of three years was now proposed by the Bill.

Mr. Tajiri, Government Delegate, opposed the Bill. He said that the Government had adopted all reasonable means of succouring the distressed inhabitants of the devastated districts, and was prepared to adopt further means if necessary. But the principle of continued remission of taxes could not be approved. It educated the idea that people might elude their public responsibilities. It was the duty of the State to aid persons really deserving of aid, but to remit taxes wholesale was a process forbidding proper discrimination and facilitating improper evasions of public responsibility.

The House refused to proceed with the discussion of the Bill at once and handed it over to a Special Committee.

The next two Bills relating to Local Government were then carried through their Second and Third Readings.

The Second Reading of the Bill for amending the Second-hand Goods Dealers' Law was then voted, after some questions, and the House rose at 5.59 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 28TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.50 a.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Report of the Chairman of the Petitions Committee.
2.—Bill, sent up from the Lower House, relating to Comparative Lines of Railway.
3.—Government Bill, sent up from the Lower House, relating to Grants in Aid of Technical Education.
4.—Bill relating to Restoration of Confiscated Pensions; sent up from the Lower House.
5.—Second Reading of the Bill relating to Imitation Paper Money.
6.—Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations; sent up from the Lower House.
7.—Bill for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141, of the 22nd year of *Meiji*; sent up from the Lower House.
8.—Bill for amending Law No. 4 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*; sent up from the Lower House.
9.—Bill relating to Military Telegraphs; sent up from the Lower House.
10.—Representation relating to Disease in Okinawa Prefecture

Count Kyosu Iyenori having reported the proceedings of the Petitions Committee,

Prince Konoye, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the line from Hachioji to Nagoya in preference to the line from Gotemba to Nagoya, because, although the construction of the latter would cost five thousand *yen* less, Abt's system of rack-rails would have to be employed.

The Government Delegate, in reply to a question, said that a rough estimate gave five thousand miles as the total length of the principal lines in Japan, but that figure did not include electric railways and several minor branches likely to be constructed. Among the First Period Lines it was proposed to entrust to private companies about sixty million *yen* worth.

Mr. Yamagawa asked whether no financial inconvenience was anticipated from the fixing of such a large amount of capital as 100 million *yen* in ten years.

The President ruled this question out of order.

Mr. Murakami Kinsaku thought that the discussion of the Bill should be deferred until next session. They were not now in possession of sufficient information to consider it intelligently, and, moreover, the time at their disposal was too short. Several railway bills had been sent up from the Lower House, but they did not appear to have been fully discussed or examined there. Another point to be considered was the depreciation of silver. Its effect had been virtually to produce a serious shrinkage of Japan's capital. The country should be careful at such a time before pledging itself to enterprises involving a large expenditure in gold.

Viscount Tani was altogether opposed to the principle of Railway Bills. His policy was to leave the building of railways altogether in the hands of the Administration, and to include the expenditures in the Budget. But since that programme could not be carried out he saw no reason to postpone a decision on these Bills. The House would not be in a better position to discuss them six months hence than it was now, and unquestionably the strategical needs of the empire did not permit delay.

The Bill was carried through its Second and Third Readings.

The Bill for constructing a line from Kyoto to Maizuru was then briefly discussed and carried through both its readings.

The Bill for constructing a line from Takata to Wakayama was passed without discussion.

The Bill for amending the Railway Law in the sense of adding to the First Construction Period Lines a line from Nagano, or Shinonoi *viâ* Matsumoto to join the main trunk line, and a line from Udo *viâ* Yatsushiro to Kagoshima, was briefly discussed and passed through its Second and Third Readings.

The Minister of State for Education introduced the Bill for Grants in Aid of Technical Education, dwelling on its importance for the same reasons as those already advanced in the Lower House, and urging its immediate passing in order that a supplementary budget for the contemplated expenditure might be introduced during the present session.

After a brief discussion, the Bill was handed to a Special Committee with instructions to report on the following day.

The Bill for restoring confiscated Pensions

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was carried to its Second Reading, and its various clauses having been passed, the Third Reading was voted at once (*vide* Proceedings of May 18th).

The Bill relating to Imitation Paper Money was then passed in the following form :—

BILL RELATING TO IMITATION PAPER MONEY.

Art. I.—It shall be unlawful to manufacture or sell notes resembling in appearance the bank notes of the Government, or the exchangeable notes of the Bank of Japan, or the notes issued by the National Banks.

Art. II.—Any persons violating the provisions of the preceding Article shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for a period of from one month to three years and to a fine of from 5 to 50 *yen*.

Art. III.—It shall be lawful for the police to confiscate notes of the nature described in Art. I., whether they be found in the possession of the manufacturer, or of the seller, or of any other person.

The Government Delegate asked that the Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations should be discussed at once, but the House voted to hand it to a Special Committee.

The next two Bills on the Order were handed to the same Committee, as being connected with the Tax Collecting Regulations Bill.

The Bill relating to Military Telegraphs was entrusted to a Special Committee with instructions to report in three days.

Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu introduced the Representation relating to Okinawa Prefecture. He said that for many years past the inhabitants of the Riukiu Islands had been subject to a disease that decimated them periodically, and effectually prevented any increase of the population. It did not appear that any official steps had been taken to determine the cause of the disease or to check its ravages, and the object of the Representation now before the House was to induce the Government to take such steps, and to introduce a supplementary budget for the purpose during the present session.

Mr. Miyake Shu objected to the form of the Representation since, as a matter of fact, the Government had taken steps about the disease.

The House adopted the Representation and rose at 3.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.10 p.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Bill relating to the National Banks; report of Special Committee.
2.—Bill relating to the Paper Issues of the National Banks.
3.—Bill for supplementing Law No. 25 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*; report of Special Committee.
4.—Bill relating to expenditures in connection with Mobilization of Troops.
5.—Project of Game Law; sent down from the House of Peers.
6.—Bill for amending the Press Law; returned from the House of Peers.
7.—Bill for amending the Banking Regulations.
8.—Bill for amending the Savings Bank Law No. 73, of the 23rd year of *Meiji*.
9.—Representation relating to Disease in Okinawa Prefecture.
10.—Address to the Throne for prolonging the Period of the Diet's Sixth Session.
11.—Petition.
12.—Bill for amending the Railway Law.
13.—Tariff Bill.
14.—Representation relating to the Treatment of Diseases of the Brain and Spine at the Medical College of the Imperial University.
15.—Bill for supplementing the Private Railway Regulations.
16.—Bill for supplementing the Railway Law.
17.—Bill for amending a portion of the Railway Law.
18.—Bill for supplementing the Railway Law.
19.—Representation relating to the Collection of Materials for a History of Modern Times.
20.—Representation relating to Riparian Control.

Dr. Hasegawa Tai presented a Question with regard to the Land Tax. He charged the Government with breaking faith with the country and insulting the House because it had failed to reduce the Tax to one per cent. of the value of the land.

Mr. Fuji Kinsaku presented a Question with respect to the surplus revenue. He said that from 1888 to 1892 the surplus revenue had aggregated over forty million *yen*. What had been done with it? Had it been left uninvested and unemployed? If it had been applied to reducing the national debt, the country's annual liabilities might have been reduced by two milllon *yen*.

Mr. Abei Oki on behalf of the Special Committee charged with examining the Bill relating to Continuing the Business of the National Banks, said that there were 133 of these institutions in the empire, and their term expired five years hence at latest. It was therefore essential to legislate quickly so that their business might be either continued or wound up without difficulty, and the Bill now before the House (*vide* Proceedings of May 18th) aimed simply at providing the necessary facilities.

The Government Delegate explained, in answer to a question as to whether any Special need of expedition existed, that the legislation proposed was already late. The charters of 5 banks would expire in April, 1896, and evidently the interval between now and then would barely suffice to make arrangements for their future.

Mr. Nakano Buyei spoke at great length in opposition to the Bill, his chief contention being that the House was not in possession of sufficient information and had not sufficient time to decide such an important question this session.

Mr. Tajiri, Vice-Minister of Finance, combatted this view, and pointed out that the Bill had received full consideration at the hands of the Special Committee.

After considerable discussion, the closure was applied and the House passed the Second and Third Readings of the Bill.

The Bill relating to Paper Issues of the National Banks was then passed in the following form :—

LAW RELATING TO PERIOD OF CIRCULATION AND REDEMPTION OF THE NOTE ISSUES OF THE NATIONAL BANKS.

Art. I.—The Period of Circulation of the Paper Money issued by the National Banks shall terminate on the 9th day of the 12th month of the 32nd year of *Meiji*.

Art. II.—Holders of the above Paper Money must apply to the Government for its Redemption within five years commencing on the day after the above date. Persons failing to apply until after the expiration of the above five years, shall not be entitled to any compensation for the notes held by them.

Art. III.—This Law shall not apply to the paper issues of Banks closed by Government order or by due arrangement.

The third Bill on the Order was then passed, declaring the provisions of Law 25 applicable to the paper issues of National Banks closed by due arrangement or at the expiration of their charter period.

The Bill relating to Mobilization Expenses was passed through its Second and Third Readings.

Mr. Den Teikichi moved that the Order of the Day be changed so as to take the remaining Railway Bills at once, but, at the suggestion of some of the members, deferred his motion until after the next Bill had been considered.

The Project of Game Law was entrusted to a Special Committee with instruction to report in two days.

The House then rejected Mr. Den Teikichi's motion, and proceeded to consider the Peers' amendments of the Press Law.

Mr. Komuro Shigehiro complained bitterly that the Peers, whom he denounced as mere tools of petty officials, always opposed the reforms of the House of Representatives. He called upon the House to reject the Peers' amendment at once.

The amendment ran as follows :—

The following clause shall be added to Art. 19 of the Newspaper Regulations :—

Provided that, when suspension is ordered, the impugned matter shall be indicated, and in the case of a daily newspaper the period of suspension shall not exceed one week, and in the case of other publications shall not exceed three issues; further, the period or number of issues of suspension shall be announced at the time of ordering the suspension.

The House voted against the amendment and proceeded to elect 10 Councillors to confer with the Upper House.

Mr. Suzuki Jubi said that the answer given on the 26th instant to his question about the Removal of Judicial Officials being insufficient, he wished to present a Representation calling for the attendance of the Minister of State for Justice in person, to answer more fully. He therefore moved that the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of introducing the Representation.

The House agreed.

The Representation asked that the Minister of State for Justice should attend in the House within three days for the purpose of giving full answers to Mr. Suzuki's questions about the removal of Judicial Officials.

The House passed the Representation.

Mr. Tanaka Gentaro introduced the Bill for amending the Banking Regulations. The proposed amendments were two: first, to abolish the provision by which banks were forbidden to lend more than one-tenth of their capital; and secondly, to compel private banks to open at 9 a.m. and close at 3 p.m., in the same manner as the Bank of Japan, the Specie Bank, and the National Banks. The present hours of the private banks were from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and much inconvenience was caused by this want of uniformity.

The Bill was passed through its Second and Third Readings without any discussion.

Mr. Tanaka Gentaro introduced the Bill for amending the Savings Bank Law, No. 73 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*.

The Bill was handed to a Special Committee.

The Representation relating to Disease in Okinawa Prefecture (similar to the Representation passed by the Peers) was entrusted to a Special Committee.

The Address to the Throne on the subject of the sixth session's duration was then introduced by Mr. Kanmuchi Tomotsune, as follows :—

ADDRESS TO THE THRONE WITH REFERENCE TO THE DURATION OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE IMPERIAL DIET.

Your Imperial Majesty's servant, Kusumoto Masataka, President of the House of Representatives, with all humility ventures to approach Your Majesty, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives.

The House humbly considers that a thousand important measures of State await the deliberation and consent of the Imperial Diet. Nevertheless, the House of Representatives was dissolved when the fifth session had lasted little over a month and when not more than two or three measures had been debated and although the sixth session has now been opened, its duration is fixed at only 21 days. The voice of the nation, the Imperial Policy of the era and the consummation of the great progressive programme of opening the country, forbid us to rest content for a moment in view of these many unfulfilled duties. With reverence Your Majesty's subjects implore that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to extend the duration of this sixth session by several weeks, so that we, Your Majesty's servants, may be enabled to discharge our grave responsibility of rendering assistance in the government of the State.

After some discussion the closure was applied, and an open ballot having been taken, 94 voted for the Address and 154 against it.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 29TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.40 a.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Railway Bill sent up from the Lower House.
2.—Bill relating to Expenditures from the Reserves for the 25th year of *Meiji*; sent up from the Lower House.
3.—Budget of Special Expenditures for the 25th year of *Meiji*; sent up from the Lower House.
4.—Bills relating to the Special System of Government in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto; sent up from the Lower House.
5.—Motion relating to Regulations for dealing with Final Accounts of the Government.

Viscount Soga desired to explain a Question addressed by him to the Government on the preceding day, but the President declined to permit him, there being no precedent for such a course. Viscount Soga urged that the existence or non-existence of a precedent should not affect the decision. If a precedent did not yet exist, let one be now established. The President said that the Law of the Houses prescribed a fixed precedure for addressing written Questions to the Government, and he saw no occasion for an oral explanation. Viscount Soga replied that such explanations were permitted in the House of Representatives. The course seemed quite proper.

Viscount Tani supported Viscount Soga.

The President said that since Viscount Soga had found a supporter, his proposal must be submitted to the House. He wished to premise, however, that if the House voted in the affirmative, the decision should not be taken as affect-

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ing all future cases. Whenever a member thereafter wished to offer an explanation, the sense of the House must be consulted.

Mr. Watari Masamoto pointed out that the 28th Article of the Law of the Houses prescribed the addition of a short explanatory document to Questions presented by members. If brevity were observed in compiling that document, it was obvious that a member might have occasion to make supplementary verbal explanations. Besides, the procedure of the two Houses ought to be similar in such matters.

The President said that the regulations and procedure of the two Houses were different.

The President was about to take the sense of the House when Mr. Murakami Keisaku objected that no vote was necessary. Viscount Soga's request had elicited no opposing view. Evidently the House was agreed that he should be permitted to explain.

After some further discussion, the House voted that when a member desired to explain any Question addressed by him to the Government, permission should be accorded.

Viscount Soga explained that his Question related to the policy of the Government toward the Riukiu Islands. In the island of Miyako there were only 35,000 inhabitants cultivating some 4,000 *cho* (10,000 acres) of land. Yet they paid taxes aggregating 69,000 *yen*, and there were 36 officials of the Government as well as 349 former officials in the island. The people constantly complained of the heavy burden imposed on them. Surely it was time that they should be afforded the same privileges as all the other inhabitants of the empire?

The Order of the Day was changed for the purpose of electing councillors to confer with the Lower House on the subject of the Press Law amendments.

Mr. Ozaki Saburo moved that the duty should be entrusted to the Special Committee previously charged with the function of reporting on the Press Law Amendments Bill, one being added to their number. The House voted against this proposition, and by 94 to 67 decided to leave the nomination of the 10 Councillors to the President.

Major-General Yamagawa Ko pressed for an answer to the Question submitted by him with reference to the Dissolution of the House of Representatives. He animadverted in strong terms on the Government's delay in answering the Question. There ought to have been no occasion whatever to consider about the reply. It was true that Count Ito, during the period of the Diet's recess, had published a reply to the same question, addressed to him by several members of the House. But the House collectively had no cognisance of the reply, and besides it had been made by Count Ito as an individual, not by the Minister President in the name of the Cabinet.

The following Railways were then sanctioned:—

From Naoyetsu to Niigata and Shibata .....Government Line..
From Chiba to Sogamachi on the Branch Road from the Uyeno-Sakura-Choshi Line to Kisaragu .....Private Line.
From Yamaga to Uyeki on the Kurume-Yamagawa-Kumamoto Road .....Private Line.
From Niitsu *viâ* Wakamatsu to Shirakawa-Homgu.....Private Line.
From Himeji *via* Ikuno or Sasayama to Maizuru and to Sonobe, or,
From Ikuno *via* Wadayama to Ayabe on the Tsuchiyama-Fukuchiya-Maizuru Road.....Private Line.
From Iizuka to Harada .....Private Line.
From Gojo to Wakayama on the Takatsu-Wakayama Road .....Private Line.
From Kyoto to Maizuru .....Private Line.
From Toyama to Nanao, branch of the Tsuruga-Toyama Road .....Private Line.
From Sakura to Choshi .....Private Line.
From Tanigawa to Sasayama.....Private Line.
From Tanigawa to Fukuchiyama..Private Line.
From Mito to Iwanuma .....Private Line.
From Nara to Kamitsuge .....Private Line.
From Himeji *via* Ikuno or Sasayama to Maizuru and Sonobe, or,
From Tanigawa to Sasayama.....Private Line.
From the Tanigawa-Awomori Road a Branch to Sakata .....Private Line.

The House agreed to change the Order of the Day for the purpose of debating Prince Konoye's motion with reference to Regulations for dealing with Final Accounts.

Prince Konoye explained that as this was the first occasion of the House being required to deal with Final Accounts, the Budget Committee had experienced the need of regulations, and had therefore compiled the draft now before the House.

While the Motion was under discussion the Ministers of State entered the House, and Count Ito delivered the following speech:—

GENTLEMEN,—I wish now to offer a reply to the Question presented to the Government on the 16th instant by Viscount Matsudaira and two other members respecting the reasons for the dissolution of the late House of Representatives. You may or may not agree with me, but I look for your candid judgment. Not your House alone has demanded a statement of the reasons of the dissolution: the same question has been preferred to the Government by the public at large. In response to the general demand, I offered some explanations on the subject a few days ago in the House of Representatives, and now invite your deliberate and mature consideration. The Government must not be accused either of unconstitutionality or of a disposition to evade responsibility because it has not declared the reasons of the dissolution of the Lower House. If you think otherwise, I shall be pleased to learn your opinion. Under certain circumstances, the Ministers of State have to follow one of two courses, either to advise the Emperor to order a dissolution of the Lower House or to tender their own resignation. But whichever course may be adopted, the Ministers of State, as I once explained in the House of Representatives, are not authorized to act in obedience to their own will; the joint resignation of the Cabinet and the dissolution of the House of Representatives are equally dependent on an exercise of the Imperial Prerogative. Need I tell you that the Cabinet over which I have the honour to preside, has no lack of courage to shoulder its political responsibility, nor any idea of hiding its head beneath the Sovereign's sleeve, as some have put it? By what provision of the Constitution is the Government bound to declare the reasons for a dissolution of the House of Representatives? The Government is entirely at liberty either to make or withhold such a declaration. It has no obligation to offer a public explanation, either about the dissolution of the Diet or about its own continued existence. Even supposing that such an explanation were offered, it is evident that the explanation could never be satisfactory to the Diet, for the Diet and the Government, in the supposed premises, are like parties in a law suit. Is there a constitutional country where the Government is required to make a public declaration of the reasons of dissolution? If it be thought unconstitutional to withhold such a declaration, can any precedent for that view be adduced from the practice of other countries? The Government considered it proper and wise to advise the dissolution of the late House of Representatives, but it had no political obligation to make any public declaration on the subject. I am aware that many people think otherwise, but what authority can they offer for their opinion? It is only a few years since the Constitution came into operation in Japan, and consequently we have as yet no constitutional history of our own. You may say that reference ought to be made to the practice obtaining in other countries in order to decide whether any particular line of conduct is constitutional or not. There are plenty of constitutional countries in the world, but foreign models can not be applied to Japan: she must develop her system in her own way. Each country has its own constitutional history, and Japan ought to make one for herself, without relying upon the guidance of other nations. Some persons may point to the conduct of the Matsukata Cabinet which published its Memorial to the Throne relating to the dissolution of the Diet. But that cannot be taken as a precedent. I did not follow such a course. I withheld such public declaration because I deemed that reticence would best conduce to the interests of the country. On a subject like this, it is not necessary to follow the precedents of foreign countries. (At this point General Yamagawa rose and said:—"If you cannot answer our question, you need not dilate on such irrelevant topics.") Wait a moment, please. I now occupy the rostrum, and I have no intention of suffering my right to be invaded by others. —(Viscount Tani:—"Certainly not.") If, however, you require foreign precedents, I may refer to one which occurred a few months ago in England, the mother country of constitutional Government. In the House of Lords, Lord Salisbury, the leader of the Opposition, stated that the time had come for dissolving Parliament. In reply to this, Lord Rosebery asserted that, although he was not of the same opinion, there was no precedent for the Upper House to discuss the desirability of the dissolution of the House of Commons. As to the Question presented to the Government on this subject, I suppose that you already infer the nature of my reply from my recent declarations in the House of Representatives. If you differ from my views on this question, you are free to take whatever course you may choose. The Government knows its own responsibility; it is not so devoid of courage as to hide under the sleeve of the Sovereign.

Viscount Tani asked whether the Minister President would reply to questions with reference to his speech.

Count Ito said that if to reply seemed desirable in the public interests he should do so.

Viscount Tani said that plainly the chief reason for dissolving the Lower House had been its attitude toward the Strict Enforcement Representation. Now, had the House been allowed to discuss the Representation, and had it then adopted it, there could not have been any doubt as to the Government's Constitutional right to dissolve. But the House had not been suffered to hold any debate. Alike prorogation and dissolution had been ordered before the introducer of the Representation had been able to speak more than half a dozen words, and before the verdict of the House had been declared. Did such a course consist with parliamentary procedure in any country?

Count Ito said that Viscount Tani had doubtless formed his own opinion as to what was and what was not Constitutional. He, like every one else, had access to the Constitution and was able to interpret it for himself. No useful purpose could be served by quoting precedents from foreign countries. The Government had its own materials for judging. It had come to the conclusion—a conclusion based on information obtained by the means always accessible to the Administration—that had the House adopted the Representation in question, results mischievous to the national interests would have ensued. Persuaded of that contingency, he, in discharge of the duty devolving on him as Minister President of State, and with the assent of his colleagues in the Cabinet, had advised the Sovereign to dissolve the House of Representatives. His course had been adopted deliberately and with full conviction. The Government had not been guided simply by the state of affairs in the House. It had looked beyond the House, and recognized the advisability of taking a decisive step. To enter into an academical discussion of Constitutional functions would be fruitless. The Government had to use its judgment, and had used it. In doing so, it might perhaps find its acts always disapproved by Viscount Tani. That could not be helped.

Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu desired that the Minister President—who had returned to his seat—should re-enter the rostrum to answer a question.

Count Ito said that if he answered, it should be from his place.

Mr. Yasuba then commenced a speech about what the country had expected from the Ito Cabinet, but the President ruled him out of order and he desisted.

Mr. Murakami Keisaku said that according to the speech read to the Lower House in the fourth session, the Cabinet had declared its conviction that Treaty Revision must be undertaken in concert with the will of the nation. But in the fifth session the House of Representatives, elected by the nation, had not been permitted to declare its views on this very question. Had the Government changed its policy?

The President saw no use in repeating questions already answered, and Viscount Tani also urged the hopelessness of seeking fuller explanations.

The discussion of the Final Accounts Regulations was then resumed and concluded, the Regulations being passed as drafted.

The House rose at 4.30 p.m.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.10 p.m., the Order of the Day being.

1.—Supplementary Budget for the 27th year of *Meiji*.

Mr. Komatsu Sansei, Chairman of the Petitions Committee, presented a Question with reference to the "pest." He wished to know whether the Government had obtained conclusive evidence that the disease now prevailing in China was really the "pest;" and, further, what methods of investigation were to be pursued by the experts whom the Government was about to despatch for that purpose.

Mr. Komura Shigehiro presented a Question relating to the procedure of the former Governor of Gifu, Mr. Kozaki.

Mr. Nakano Buyei, Chairman of the Budget Committee, reported that in view of the brief period available, the Committee had decided not to attempt the examination of any parts of the Supplementary Budget except those relating to unavoidable expenditures. The rest might wait until the seventh session. They recommended a reduction of 30,438 *yen* in the Ordinary Expenditures; of 1,490,000 in the Extraordinary Expenditure; and of 1,260,000 *yen* in the Income, under the heading of "Brought over from last year." They had rejected the appropriations for the Kobe Hatoba, the Gendarmes, and the building of forts, and had approved those on account of the Yokohama Harbour and the Hokkaido Works.

Mr. Itakura asked for an explanation as to the failure of the Yokohama Harbour Works.

Mr. Nakano replied that the Committee had pressed for a statement as to the exact responsibility for what had occurred, but the Acting Minister of State for Home Affairs had explained that the point had not yet been fully determined, and that the Government was resolved to deal thoroughly with the matter.

The Minister of State for Finance said that all the items in the Supplementary Budget related to work of indispensable national importance. The Committee had made large reductions which the House, he trusted, would not endorse, especially in the case of the item for building forts.

The section of the Foreign Office was passed as proposed by the Government.

The Home Office section was passed as amended by the Committee.

The Finance Department Section was passed as proposed by the Government.

The War Office section was passed as amended by the Committee, including the item—1½ million *yen*—for the construction of the Naruto Fort, but the item relating to expenses of gendarmes was restored as proposed by the Government.

The Sections of the Judicial and Education Departments were passed as proposed by the Government, and the Communications Department section was voted as amended by the Committee.

The House rose at 5.50 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.45 a.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Bill for Grants in Aid of Technical Education; sent up from the Lower House.
2.—Bill relating to Comparative Railways; sent up from Lower House.
3.—Bill relating to Expenditures from the Reserves for the 25th year of *Meiji*; sent up from Lower House.
4.—Bill relating to Special Expenditures for the 25th year of *Meiji*; sent up from Lower House.
5.—Bill relating to the National Banks; sent up from Lower House.
6.—Bill relating to the Note Issues of the National Banks; sent up from Lower House.
7.—Bill for Supplementing Law No. 25 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*; sent up from the Lower House.
8.—Bill relating to Military Mobilization Expenditures; sent up from the Lower House.
9.—Bill for abolishing the Special System of Local Government in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka; sent up from Lower House.
10.—Bill for supplementing the City Government Law; sent up from Lower House.
11.—Bill for amending the Bank Regulations; sent up from Lower House.

Viscount Tani, Chairman of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Bill for granting Aid to Technical Education, and after a few questions the Bill was passed at once.

Prince Konoye, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported that among three lines of railway proposed, viz., (1) from Himeji *vid* Tottori to Sakai; (2) from Okayama *vid* Tsuyama to Sakai; and (3) from Kurashiki to Tottori, the Committee recommended the first.

The Bill led to some discussion, various amendments being proposed and rejected. Finally the Bill was passed as submitted by the Government and recommended by the Committee.

The Bills relating to Expenditures were entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President.

The Bills relating to the National Banks having been introduced, several questions were asked by Viscount Sakai and answered by the Government Delegate, after which the Bills were handed over to a Special Committee elected by the Sections.

The Bill relating to Mobilization Expenses having been handed to a Special Committee nominated by the President, the Bill for abolishing the Special System of Local Government in Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto was introduced. The Government Delegate explained that the Government felt obliged again to oppose this Bill, being of opinion that it was quite unpractical to bring the great cities under the same system as all the petty towns in the provinces. He entered into a brief statement of reasons, and pointed out that special systems were in operation in the great cities of the Occident.

Mr. Ando Sokumei asked several questions.

Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu complained in strong terms that no Minister of State was present on the occasion of such an important Bill coming up for discussion. He proposed that the House defer dealing with the Bill until the Minister of State for Home Affairs was in attendance.

The Bill was handed to a Special Committee nominated by the President, as were also the remaining Bills on the Order.

The House rose at 2.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.05 p.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Supplementary Budget for the 27th year of *Meiji*.
2.—Bill relating to the Capital of the Tokyo Artillery Arsenal.
3.—Bill relating to the Temporary Investment of Surplus Revenue.
4.—Petition for Restoration of Official Position.
5.—Bill for amending the Railway Law.
6.—Project of Customs Tariff.
7.—Representation relating to the Treatment of Diseases of the Brain and Spinal Cord.
8.—Bill for supplementing the Private Railway Law.
9.—Bill for amending the Railway Law.
10.—Bill for supplementing the Railway Law.
11.—Representation relating to the Collection of Materials for History.
12.—Representation relating to River Courses.
13.—Bill relating to deferred payment of Taxes in Districts devastated by Earthquake.

The Government's Answer to a Question presented by Mr. Suzuki Jubi was read. It was true, the document said, that Korean subjects had come to Japan, avowedly carrying a Royal commission, to assassinate the refugees Kim Ok-kyūn and Boku Yeiko. On each occasion of such attempts, the Government had communicated with the Authorities in Söul, and had received assurances that the so-called commissions were forgeries. With regard to Li Isshoku, now in custody on a charge of attempted assassination, the prisoner had pleaded the orders of his Sovereign and had produced documents bearing, apparently, the Royal Seal. Telegraphic communications had immediately been addressed to the Korean Government through Mr. Otori, the Japanese Representative in Söul, and an answer had been received to the effect that, according to the Korean Authorities, Li had absconded from his country carrying with him forged documents, and that he should be treated as a grave criminal. The man being still under trial in the Japanese Courts, it was impossible to say yet what course would be ultimately taken with reference to him.

Dr. Hasegawa Tai presented a Question as to why the Cabinet did not resign in a body. He said that the House, by an almost unanimous vote, had declared want of confidence in the Cabinet on account of its manner of dissolving the House of Representatives last session. The Cabinet had no business to remain in office after that. It should have sufficient self-respect to resign. There was no instance in history of any body of men clinging to office for such an unconscionable period. The battle of Fushimi had inaugurated the Sat-Cho supremacy; the promulgation of the Constitution had terminated it by rendering every Japanese subject eligible for a share in the Administration whether of Satsuma, Choshu, or any other origin. (The speaker then entered at great length into the histories of Japan and China, haranguing vehemently, and beating the rostrum, but the House paid little attention to him, though sometimes he elicited a laugh.)

The Supplementary Budget's discussion was then resumed.

Mr. Kudo Kokan spoke at some length in opposition to the policy of making grants in aid of riparian works. He contended that grants in aid were now carried so far as to be a flagrant abuse. The localities should learn to help themselves, and the Treasury's assistance ought not to be extended except to extreme cases.

Mr. Kawashima Jun moved to expunge the grant of 500,000 *yen* to the Yokohama Waterworks. Yokohama had originally received a grant of 1,100,000 *yen*, without interest, to defray the expenses of constructing Waterworks, under a pledge to return the money out of the revenue derived from the Works. It was now claimed that the supply of water being insufficient, another sum of 500,000 *yen* must be expended on increasing the Works, and the Treasury was asked to lend this money, at the same time postponing any repayments until the new works of construction were completed. Such a method of borrowing public money was not to be commended. The town should discharge its obligations strictly if it sought to be entrusted with a further loan.

Mr. Kato Kizemon presented a minority report urging that the question of making a further grant to the Yokohama Harbour Works should be deferred until next session. It was notorious that a great failure had been made in connection with the Works, but they had been officially informed that the responsibility for the failure had not been fixed. That being the case, by making a further grant and proceeding with the work, they might be entrusting it to the very experts who had already blundered over it. The minority of the Budget Committee, on whose behalf he spoke, were of opinion that before resuming the work, the responsibility for past failure should be clearly determined. They therefore advocated postponing the question of a grant until next session, in order that the facts of the failure might be clearly investigated in the interval.

Mr. Furuichi, Government Delegate, said, in answer to questions, that the cause of the cracks in the concrete blocks was not yet fully determined, but evidence to elucidate the point might yet be forthcoming. Should it turn out that the cement had been faulty, steps would be taken to punish the contractors.

Mr. Saito Keiji protested against the course pursued with respect to the Harbour Works. He declared that the design had been faulty. The cement blocks had not cracked owing to defective manufacture, but had crumbled away. Many blunders had been made in the course of the work. He referred at great length to the transactions connected with the purchase of the *Ayame*, and also to the change which the original design had undergone. He further spoke of the work having been taken out of the hands of the Department of State for Home Affairs and assumed by the Foreign Department, then under Count Okuma, whom he held responsible for the failure subsequently made, in common with the designer, Major-General Palmer. He supported the recommendation of the minority of the Committee, namely, that the question of a further grant should be deferred until next session.

Mr. Furuichi denied the truth of Mr. Saito's remarks. As for the question of fixing the responsibility for the failure of certain concrete blocks, that was for the Home Department to accomplish. As for the *Ayame*, there was no fault whatever to be found with her, nor could any irregularity be detected in the transactions connected with her purchase. As for the plan of the works, it was perfectly good. The House

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must not labour under any mistake. The works had never been stopped. The laying of blocks alone had been suspended. They could ont stop works going on in the water. To stop them meant virtually to abandon them altogether. If operations on the Yokohama Harbour Works were to be suspended until next session, they must make up their minds either to abandon the affair altogether or to resume the construction at a very heavy outlay.

The closure having been applied, the House rejected the Committee's amendments and the Government's Bill, and refused altogether to vote the appropriation for the Yokohama Harbour Works.

Mr. Yumoto Yoshinori presented a minority report in favour of sanctioning the appropriation for building a pier at Kobe. He gave statistics showing the remarkable growth of trade and shipping that had taken place at Kobe during the past few years, and declared that the accommodation now available was quite inadequate.

Mr. Furuichi, Government Delegate, endorsed the above view.

Mr. Higashiwo Heitaro charged the Delegate with having said at the meeting of the Budget Committee that the projected work need only last 5 or 6 years, whereas now he spoke of it as a permanent work.

Mr. Kato, Government Delegate, showed that no such statement as that attributed to Mr. Furiuchi appeared on the record of the Committee's proceedings.

The Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs urged the House not to be so indifferent to the plain requirements of commerce as to expunge the appropriation for the Kobe pier.

The House voted to expunge the item.

Mr. Imai Isoichiro, on behalf of the Budget Committee, reported that the majority of the Committee recommended the elimination of the appropriations for building forts at Naruto, Kure, and Saseho. The recommendation was based on three reasons: first, that the question of fixed floating defences was not fixed; secondly that the finances did not allow of the outlay, and thirdly that the question did not seem to be a proper one for discussion in a short session like the present. A minority of the Committee, however, were in favour of making the grant. To say that the question of fixed and floating fortifications remained still undecided, was no reason whatever for refraining from building forts. Any one advancing such an argument could not have much concern for the national safety. As to the financial aspect of the problem, the advocates of reducing the Land Tax refused every appropriation that seemed likely to entrench upon the funds required for the pet reform. But they need have no fear. Money for their purpose would be obtained from surplus revenue. Finally, it was unreasonable to speak of the shortness of the session as though this question came before them now for the first time. It had been discussed long before, and everyone must be quite familiar with it. If they intended to perpetually truckle to foreign countries, they need not take any care about building forts. But if they meant what they said when they talked of concluding treaties on a basis of equality, and adopting strong measures toward States refusing to entertain Japan's demands, they had better make up their minds to strengthen the empire's defences.

After some discussion the item was expunged as recommended by the Committee.

The House rose at 6.50 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 31ST.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10 a.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Government Bill relating to the Peers Regulations (to be debated in Secret Session).
2.—Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations; report of Special Committee.
3.—Bill for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141 of the 22nd year of *Meiji*, and Law No. 4 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*; report of Special Committee.
4.—Bill relating to Military Telegraphs; report of Special Committee.
5.—Bill for supplementing the Pension Law; report of Special Committee.

The business of the Day was limited to the Secret Session, but the Order of the Day was changed to receive the report of the Conference on the amendments of the Press Law (*vide* Proceedings of House of Representatives). The House approved the amendments and resumed its Secret Session, rising at 6.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.10 p.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—The Supplementary Budget (continued).
2.—Bill relating to the Capital of the Tokyo Artillery Arsenal, report of Special Committee.
3.—Bill relating to the temporary investment of Surplus Revenue, report of Special Committee.
4.—Bill relating to appropriations from the Surplus Revenue on account of Expenditures in excess of, or not included in, the Budget for the 26th year of *Meiji*.
5.—Bill relating to the Central Famine Relief Fund.
6.—Bill for the control of Imitation Paper Money.
7.—Project of Game Law: sent down from the Upper House.
8.—Address to the Throne.
9.—Railway Bill.
10.—Customs Tariff Bill.
11.—Representation relating to the Treatment of Diseases of the Brain and Spinal Cord.

The President announced that with reference to Mr. Suzuki Jubi's motion, adopted by the House, requesting the attendance of the Minister of State for Justice to give fuller explanations on the subject of removals of Judicial officials during the past year, the Minister for Justice had intimated that, having no explanations to offer over and above those already set forth in his reply to Mr. Suzuki's original Question, he saw no occasion to come to the House.

An Answer from the Government was read with reference to Questions relating to the "Pest." The Answer said that the Government regarded the epidemic as the "Pest" because the medical experts in Hongkong had so diagnosed it; further, that two medical experts had been ordered to proceed from Japan to China, with instructions to spare no pains in investigating the nature and origin of the malady.

A Government answer was also read to the Question relating to a lease of land in Okinawa Prefecture to the present Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs and others. It was admitted that the land had been leased, not, however, for the purpose of erecting a sugar factory, but as a farm. The lessees numbered nine, among them being Mr. Matsuoka, who, not having at that time become Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, was not debarred by the Regulations for Officials from engaging in such an enterprise. Moreover, the enterprise did not fall under the category of trade, as contemplated by the Regulations. Finally, there had been no sub-letting, so far as the Government's information went, nor any failure on the part of the lessees to discharge their responsibilities. The lease had been granted last December, only five months ago, and the lessees were by law allowed a period of seven years to complete the reclamation of the land and bring it under culture. It was altogether premature as yet to charge them with neglecting to utilize the land.

Government Answers were also read to the Questions about the Hawaiian Treaty, the Assassination of Kim Ok-Kyün and the Gifu Police.

(These Answers are held over.)

Mr. Hatoyama Kazuo, on behalf of the Special Committee appointed to inquire into the charges preferred by certain petitioners of Yamaguchi (whose petition had been made a matter of urgency on a motion by Mr. Saito Keiji) against Count Inouye, Count Yamagata, and Viscount Torio, reported that the Committee had found all the charges baseless. The first charge was that large quantities of rice, paid by the people of Yamaguchi as taxes, had been handed by the Government to a company called the Kyodo Kaisha, at a price fully 2 *yen* per *koku* less than its market value, and that this nefarious transaction was managed by the then Senior Vice-Minister of State for Finance, Count Inouye, who was believed to have been a principal participator in the spoil. The Special Committee found, however, from ample documentary evidence, that the Kyodo Kaisha was purely a private concern, having no connection whatever with the Government, and that the latter could not be held responsible for any acts of the company. The Kyodo Kaisha had not acted in any way as the Government's agent, as the petitioners alleged. Thus this charge fell to the ground. The second charge was that Count Yamagata, while Minister of War during the Satsuma Rebellion, had been at the house of Mr. Fujita in Osaka, had divulged to the latter official telegrams from the seat of war, and that such information, unlawfully communicated, had been of great value to the Fujita Company for purposes of speculation on the rice market, Count Yamagata profiting by the money thus gained. Viscount Torio was also involved in this charge. The Committee found it altogether groundless. Indisputable evidence was furnished that Count Yamagata was not in Osaka at all at the time indicated, but was at the seat of war throughout. It was therefore impossible that telegrams could have been officially sent to him at the house of Mr. Fujita in Osaka. Moreover, the particular telegrams in question, covering a period from February 2nd to February 11th, 1877, had been widely published in the newspapers, and could not have been surreptitiously used as alleged. The accusation against Viscount Torio was similarly untenable. As for the suspicion against Count Inouye, namely, that while in office, from 1872 to 1878, he had engaged in trade, the Committee had failed to find an iota of trustworthy proof that such had been the case. The proof advanced by Mr. Saito Keiji were entries in the diary of Nakano Goichi who had been arrested in connection with the celebrated forgery of paper money. But the leaves upon which these entries occurred were of paper different from that forming the remainder of the diary, and the entries were not in the hand-writing of Nakano. The leaves had evidently been subsequently inserted. Had not the diary been plainly tampered with, and were the entries in Nakano's hand-writing, the Committee would have attached importance of such evidence. As it was, they rejected it as utterly valueless, and declared the accusation against Count Inouye to be baseless. In some other books of the Fujita Company, there were entries showing that Count Inouye had been consulted as to the Company's financial management, but the same books showed that Count Inouye had received no share of the Company's profits, and consequently these entries also possessed no value in connection with the accusation. Again, with regard to Mr. Saito Keiji's charges that bribes had been given by the Fujita-gumi to officials, entries were found, ranging from 30 *sen* to 40 *yen*, on account of New Year's gifts, and it appeared that a tub of *saké* had been given to one of the present Government Delegates, Mr. Kodama. The Committee were unable to regard such things as bribes. A point had also been made by Mr. Saito about a house purchased by the Fujita-gumi in Count Inouye's name, but that transaction certainly constituted no evidence that Count Inouye had been engaged in trade. Even supposing it were proved that at a date so remote as from 1873 to 1878 Count Inouye had engaged in trade, the Committee would not have recommended that such an affair be made a parliamentary question to-day. But, in point of fact, there were no proofs whatever to support the accusations.

Mr. Saito Keiji presented a minority report of the Committee, but confined himself to the charge that Count Inouye had engaged in trade. Although the leaves in Nakano's diary had been subsequently inserted, the facts written on them did not thereby lose all significance. Moreover, it was scarcely credible that Count Inouye would have given advice to the Fujita Company had he not been directly interested in its business, neither was it likely that the Fujita Company would have purchased a house in his name had he not been something more than an ordinary client.

Mr. Matsuoka Koki, Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs, pointed out that if Mr. Saito Keiji and his supporters had taken the trouble to acquaint themselves more thoroughly with history, they would have discovered one very serious flaw in their chain of evidence. They alleged that 1873, 1874, and 1875, the people of Yamaguchi had given rice to the Prefectural office in order that it might be sold to pay their taxes, but the official records showed that nothing of the kind had occurred. Thus the whole

story about money dishonestly realized by the sale of such rice, and about that money being afterwards employed as capital for the Fujita Company, was proved to be a myth.

Mr. Nakamura Yaroku asked what business the Government Delegate had to speak at this stage.

Mr. Matsuoka replied that he had obtained the President's permission.

Mr. Nakamura shouted excitedly that he was not addressing his question to the Government Delegate but to the President.

The President suggested to Mr. Matsuoka that it might be well to limit the scope of his remarks, and Mr. Matsuoka was about to leave the rostrum when the Acting-Minister of State for Home affairs stood up and bade him go on with his remarks. Thereupon a great uproar arose, three or four members, prominent among whom were Messrs. Tanaka Shozo, Kudo Kokan, Kawashima Jun, and Gamo Sen, advancing to the rostrum, and made as though they would pull down Mr. Matsuoka. Some cried out that the acting Minister of Home Affairs should be expelled from the House. The Minister loudly proclaimed that the constitution gave the Ministers of State and the Government Delegates the right to speak whenever they pleased. The commotion continued. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro shouted that the recalcitrant members had better learn to control themselves before they dictated to the House about order. After a time the President succeeded in making himself heard. He explained that the Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs had received permission to speak but had refrained from continuing his speech out of deference to the President's opinion. The Order of the Day would therefore be taken.

Mr. Kanmuchi Tomotsune, on behalf of the Managers appointed to confer with the Upper House on the Amendments of the Press Law, reported that the Conference had agreed to modify the existing power of suspension, the amended law to read that when the Minister of State for Home Affairs considered the matter contained in a journal to be of such a character as was likely to disturb the public peace, he might stop the publication of the journal, provided that he brought the matter before a Court of Law within 24 hours, the continuance of the suspension to depend on the verdict of the Court.

When Mr. Kanmuchi had descended from the rostrum, Mr. Kodama, one of the Government Delegates, having briefly intimated to the President his intention of speaking, ascended the rostrum, Mr. Tsuzuki, another Delegate, standing near him. The President ordered Mr. Kodama to leave the rostrum, as his, the President's permission had not been given, but Mr. Kodama did not obey, and Mr. Tsuzuki declared that the Law of the House conferred on the Government Delegates the right to address the House at any time. Thereupon Mr. Nakamura Yaroku ran up to Mr. Tsuzuki and asked excitedly whether he meant to maintain that the Government Delegates could address the House without the President's permission. Several other members left their seats and approached the rostrum, and in the meanwhile, Mr. Kodama having left the rostrum, Mr. Inouye, Minister of State for Education, entered it with the President's permission, and made a short speech. He reminded the House that by the distinct provisions of Law the Ministers of State and the Government Delegates were entitled to address the House at any time. There was no limit as to the subject about which they might choose to speak. Neither was there any reason why they should not speak either before or after Committees' reports had been presented. The House seemed to be labouring under a grave misapprehension. A desire to show respect to it had imposed silence about the extraordinary language used by some of the members, but on such a point as this silence could not be kept.

Mr. Nakamura Yaroku asked where it was laid down that a Minister of State might give instructions to a person occupying the rostrum.

The Minister of Education replied that he had not touched upon any such question.

Mr. Nakamura—"If you cannot answer, I am content."

Mr. Orita Kenshi asked whether a Government Delegate could ascend the rostrum or remain in it without the President's permission.

The Minister of Education replied that the President had not stopped Mr. Matsuoka's speech. He had merely suggested to him the advisability of limiting the scope of his remarks It was further noticeable that the House, or at any rate some of the members, laboured under another mistake. They had asked to have a Minister of State expelled from the House. The Ministers of State and the Government Delegates sat in the house by Constitutional right, and could not be expelled by order of the President.

Mr. Nakamura Yaroku and Mr. Gamo Sen asked by what right the Acting Minister of State for Home Affairs had given instructions to Mr. Matsuoka without the President's permission.

Mr. Awaya Shinazo thought that a Minister of State might surely give instructions to his own Vice-Minister without asking any one's permission.

Mr. Shiba Sankuro said that Mr. Matsuoka, in deference to the President's suggestion, was leaving the rostrum when the acting Minister of State for Home Affairs had called out to him to go on, and he had returned to the rostrum without the President's permission. How could that be justified?

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro recommended the Minister of State for Justice to consult his dignity by leaving the rostrum and not answering any more frivolous questions. Every member in this House knew it was a common habit with themselves to call out "go on, go on" to a member who showed a disposition to leave the rostrum or cut short his speech. They could not possibly pretend that a Minister of State was not entitled to do what they did over and over again. If they wanted to correct the practice, let them begin by correcting it among themselves.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs said that this thing had better be settled once and for all. He was prepared to answer any number of questions if by doing so he could elucidate the situation. He declared emphatically that the President had not power to suspend a Minister of State.

After a few more questions had been put and answered, the Minister left the rostrum.

Mr. Hoshi Toru said that the Minister of State for Justice seemed to be labouring under a misapprehension. He appeared to think that the Ministers of the Crown and the Government Delegates enjoyed a species of extraterritorial immunity from observing the rules of the House. It was true that they had some exceptional rights under the Constitution, but they could not carry these rights with them to the rostrum. The rostrum belonged to the members. It was the place appointed for them to speak from. No member could be ordered to leave the rostrum for the purpose of allowing a Minister or a Government Delegate to address the House. Moreover, if the President had already recognized a member, that member was entitled to speak before any Minister or Delegate. In short, the Government's extraterritoriality did not extend to the rostrum. No Minister or Delegate was entitled to enter the rostrum without the President's permission, and if, while in the rostrum, a Minister or Delegate refused to obey the President's ruling, he could certainly be expelled. If the House agreed with him, he proposed that what he had laid down be recognised as a rule.

This speech elicited universal applause.

The President said that in order to discuss Mr. Hoshi's proposal the Order of the Day must be changed. He presumed that it was contemplated only to establish a principle, not to enact a distinct rule.

The Minister of State for Education said that he was prefectly agreed as to the propriety of asking the President's permission before ascending the rostrum. His claim had been that the Ministers of the Crown and the Government Delegates were entitled to speak from their own seats without any permission. He had turned and indicated the place signified by the word "seat," as the members must have observed. Further, Mr. Hoshi seemed to think that when the expression "at any time" was used, the power of even interrupting a member's speech was asserted. By no means. Upon that point the Law of the Houses was quite plain.

Mr. Yamada Toji asked that the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of considering the agreement arrived at in the Conference of the two Houses with regard to the Press Law.

Leave was sought from the Government and granted. The amended Articles, 19 and 20, were as follow:—

Art. 19.—No newspaper shall publish matter calculated to disturb the public peace, or matter *contra bonos mores*. In the case of a newspaper publishing such matter, the editor shall be liable to a fine of not less than 20 *yen* and not more than 200 *yen*.

Art. 20.—When the Minister of State for Home Affairs considers that a newspaper has been guilty of either of the offences named in the preceding article, he shall suspend the newspaper, and prefer a complaint against it in a Court of Law within 24 hours of the order of suspension. Should the Court decide that the newspaper is not guilty, the suspension shall terminate *de facto*.

The House decided to accept these amendments.

The discussion of the Supplementary Budget was then resumed.

The remaining items having been passed as amended by the Committee, the President said that as the amendments affected "Fixed Expenditures" the consent of the Government must be sought before voting the Budget as a whole.

The Minister of State for Finance signified the Government's consent.

The Bill relating to the Artillery Arsenal's capital was then passed without discussion, as was also the Bill relating to the Temporary Investment of Surplus Revenue.

Mr. Ebara Soroku, on behalf of the Budget Committee, reported that the Committee considered the Government's procedure unconstitutional with regard to the Surplus Revenue. The sixty-fourth and the sixty-ninth Articles of the Constitution indicated the course to be pursued with regard to expenditures overpassing the appropriations set forth in the Budget or not provided for in it. They had to be defrayed out of Reserve provided in the Budget. The Government was not competent to employ the Surplus Revenue for meeting such expenditures. The Minister of State for Finance had contended, before the Committee, that when the Reserve was exhausted and when national exigencies arose, the Government must be allowed to employ the Surplus Revenue, provided only that it subsequently sought the approbation of the Diet. But the Committee did not take that view, and the House had not taken it last session. Therefore the Committee recommended the rejection of the Bill now before the House, as well as of the Bill relating to outlays from the Central Famine Relief Fund.

The Minister of State for Finance said that the Government could not endorse the Committee's view. There was certainly no provision in the Constitution forbidding the use of the Surplus Revenue in the manner of its use by the Government on this occasion, and in the absence of such interdict, the employment of the Surplus to meet State exigencies was obviously proper. How could it be supposed that if the Reserve had been exhausted, the Government must fold its hands in face of any national necessity however urgent although funds to meet the need were lying idle in the Treasury.

Mr. Kato Masanosuke spoke strongly against the unconstitutionality of the Government's procedure, and urged that the Ministers be held to their responsibility in this matter. The House had previously decided against the course it was now asked to sanction, and the Cabinet had thus plainly paraded its indifference to the rulings of the Diet.

Mr. Kojima Shoyo supported the Government's procedure. What would they have the Government do if a military exigency arose

when there was no money remaining in the Reserve?—("Convene the Diet.")—The Diet could not be convened in a minute, neither ought it to be convened about every petty question of necessary expenditure. If the money was there and if the occasion to use it existed, let it be used. The Diet was entitled to determine subsequently whether the occasion had really warranted such expenditure.

The closure was applied, and the House refused to pass the Bill.

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro spoke in defence of the Government's procedure with regard to the Central Famine Relief Fund. He took the same ground as the Minister of State for Finance and Mr. Kojima had taken.

The House rejected the Bill.

The Bill relating to Imitation Paper money having been entrusted to a Special Committee,

Mr. Ishida Kannosuke asked leave to introduce an urgency Resolution to the effect that the House having refused to sanction the expenditures made by the Government from the Surplus, the Cabinet ought to accept the responsibility and adopt a course suitable to the occasion. He said that unless the House took this action, its vote about the two Bills would be nothing more than an abortive declaration of opinion. He claimed that in such a matter as expenditures requiring the *ex-post-facto* approval of the Diet, more than ordinary care ought to be exercised by the Government, because even though the money were illegally defrayed, it could not be recalled. The thing might be compared to cutting off a man's head before thoroughly deciding his guilt. The Government had hitherto shirked all responsiblity *vis-à-vis* the House, but it could hardly do so on the present occasion.

Mr. Hatsumi Hachiro moved an amendment. He had submitted to the President a Resolution of the same tenor as Mr. Ishida's but of slightly different phraseology, and he now proposed it it as an amendment.

The House decided to entrust both Resolutions to a Committee of 9 nominated by the President, with instructions to report the same day.

The President informed the House that Mr. Shimada Saburo, while conversing with a visitor in one of the reception rooms. had been attacked by a man called Hanazawa Kichinosuke, a native of the Date District in Fukushima Prefecture, the weapon used being an iron cane. Mr. Shimada had received a slight injury on his finger and behind his ear.

Mr. Ayai Takeo moved that the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of debating the Address to the Throne.

Mr. Ibara Soroku, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported that the majority of the Committee had agreed to an Address in the following form:—

ADDRESS TO THE THRONE.

May it please Your Majesty—

Your Enlightened and August Majesty, on ascending the Throne, was so gracious as to solemnly make five vows in the face of all Your Majesty's loyal subjects, to the end that both the Authorities and the people might cõoperate, as with one heart, to promote the successful conduct of State affairs. The great Imperial Rescript containing these vows stands even as consupicuous and firm as a mountain. Profoundly impressed with the boundless benevolence of Your Majesty, it has always been during many years our constant and never ceasing endeavour to contribute, to the utmost of our ability, our humble share toward the fulfilment of Your Majesty's gracious intentions. The Ministers of State, on the other hand, have, of late years, failed to discharge their duties in respect of Affairs of State both at home and abroad, and in some cases, their errors have caused trouble to the Imperial House. In the fourth session of the Imperial Diet, the difference of views between the Ministers of State and us, Your Majesty's humble servants, became so great that we ventured to represent to Your Majesty our inability to work any longer in concert with them. Your Imperial Majesty, in pursuance of the solemn vows above referred to, was pleased to issue a gracious Message charging both Your Majesty's Ministers of State and Your Majesty's humble servants, the members of the Imperial Diet, to labour harmoniously for the consummation of the grand objects of this glorious reign. Your Majesty, moreover, was pleased especially to order the Ministers of State to introduce reforms in the various branches of the Administration. The Ministers of State, on their part, in obedience to Your Majesty's benevolent command, promised to bring about, by the fifth session of the Diet, the maintenance of official discipline, the reduction of public expenses, and the reform of the Naval Department. Thereupon the people of the whole country rejoiced exceedingly at Your Majesty's gracious condescension in approving the wishes of the nation; and hoped that the fifth session of the Diet would bring them the promised blessings. The Ministers of State, however, tried mere temporizing measures, and neither the maintenance of official discipline nor the reform of the Navy was achieved in a satisfactory manner, the only thing accomplished being retrenchment of public expenses and dismissal of certain officials. Specially unsatisfactory has been their conduct in the sphere of foreign affairs, for they have followed an ease-loving and temporizing policy, their only anxiety being to preserve the goodwill of foreigners, and they have completely reversed the attitude which they ought to maintain to their own countrymen and foreigners respectively. Such conduct on the part of the Ministers of State, we apprehend, is contrary to the gracious wishes of Your Majesty. We, Your Majesty's humble servants, are sincerely desirous of promoting the smooth conduct of affairs in obedience to the Imperial Rescript mentioned above. But the Ministers of State make it impossible for us. We humbly pray for Your Majesty's gracious and enlightened judgment. This Address is respectfully submitted by Your Majesty's humble servant Kusumoto Masataka, President of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Soyano Hanya, on behalf of the minority of the Committee, presented a report disapproving of the amended address. He said that, on inquiring as to whether the amendments were intended to refer to Strict Treaty Enforcement and the *Chishima* case, he had been answered that the majority intended them to have that reference, but that he and his fellow-thinkers need not regard the Address in that light if they did not please. In view of such a reply, the minority reluctantly felt compelled to dissent.

Mr. Takata Sanaye, to whom Mr. Soyano's query had been addressed at the Committee's conference, took exception to the above statement. He had not intended to imply that the ammendments of the Address were definitely intended to refer to Strict Enforcement and the *Chishima* case. He had merely said that those who desired to include such counts in their indictment of the Government, were at liberty to do so.

Messrs. Otsu Junichiro and Komatsu Sansei spoke at considerable length, the former in support of the Committee's amended Address, the latter in support of the Minority's report. Neither speaker advanced any arguments of note.

The closure having been applied, a closed ballot was taken, when 132 voted for the Minority Report and 161 against it. A ballot was then taken as to the Address given above (amended by the Committee), when 153 voted for it, and 139 against it.

The House rose at 7.50 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1ST.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 11.05 a.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations; report of Special Committee.
2.—Bill for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141 of the 22nd year of *Meiji*, and Law No. 4 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*; report of Special Committee.
3.—Bill relating to Military Telegraphs; report of Special Committee.
4.—Bill for supplementing the Pension Law; report of Special Committee.
5.—Petitions.

The Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations was passed through all its Readings (*vide* Proceedings of House of Representatives, May 18th).

The Bills for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141 and Law No. 4, correlated with the Tax Collecting amendments, were also passed without discussion.

The Bill relating to Military Telegraphs was passed, the heading "Regulations" being changed to "Law."

The President announced the receipt of the Supplementary Budget from the Lower House.

Viscount Tani moved that as the session was approaching its close, the Budget Committee be empowered to dispense with the detailed procedure and to report as soon as possible.

The House agreed.

The Bill for supplementing the Pension Law was passed, after a brief discussion, and with some amendments.

On coming to the fifth item (Petitions) on the Order, the House was counted out at 2.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.15 a.m., the Order of the Day being:—

1.—Petition relating to refunding of surplus money realized by the sale of rice paid in lieu of taxes.
2.—Project of Game Law sent down from the Upper House.
3.—Railway Bills.
4.—Project of Customs Tariff Law.
5.—Representation relating to Treatment of Diseases of the Brain, &c,
6.—Railway Bills.
7.—Representation relating to collection of Materials for a History.
8.—Representation relating to Control of Rivers.
9.—Bill relating to unpaid taxes in districts devastated by the Great Earthquake.

The President announced that, in view of the important character of the Address to the Throne passed the preceding day, he had sought to be allowed to present it direct, but had received the Imperial command to hand it to the Minister of the Household Department.

The Government's Reply to a Question about Treaty Revision presented by Mr. Toyama Kazuo was read. It was to the effect that to make public the details of negotiations now in progress with foreign countries and to declare the future policy of the Government, would be not only contrary to recognised international custom but also opposed to the interests of the Empire. The information asked for in the Question could not, therefore, be furnished.

The Order of the Day being taken,

Mr. Tanaka Shozo asked permission to say a word with regard to the control of the House. Yesterday, on the occasion of a dispute between the Government Delegates and the House, Mr. Hoshi Toru had stated that the Ministers of State and the Government Delegates possessed extraterritorial privileges in the House, and the Minister of State for Education had endorsed that view. It seemed to him that such a theory was not tenable. No petty body of officials should have extraterritorial privileges in the Imperial Diet of Japan.

The President said that when this point was raised the preceding day, he had been disposed at first to change the Order so as to have it debated. But on reflection it had seemed to him that a question of the kind might be left to individual interpretation. If a motion were introduced, however, it should be duly considered.

Mr. Hayashi Waichi presented and explained a Question with regard to removals and dismissals of Judicial Officials.

Ms. Ishida Kannosuke, on behalf of the Special Committee appointed on the preceding day to examine and report upon a Resolution calling upon the Government to accept its responsibility and take a suitable course with reference to the House's decision that the expenditures made from the Surplus Revenue were unconstitutional, announced that the Committee approved the Resolution, with the addition of one word inadvertently omitted.

Mr. Atsuchi Masatoshi presented and explained a Question relating to the attitude of the Department of Education towards common schools.

On a motion by Mr. Murayama Ryohei, the House proceeded at once to discuss the Representation relating to control of rivers. The Representation, which urged immediate steps with regard to riparian repairs in the cases of the six rivers, Yodo, Tone, Chikugo, Sho, Takahashi, and Hii, was adopted with debate.

Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo asked and obtained permission to introduce as an urgency motion the following Resolution:—

The conclusion of treaties is among the Imperial Prerogatives, nevertheless, matters connected therewith that call for the enactment of new laws, or matters relating to a change of taxation, require the consent of the Imperial Diet, according

to the provision of Articles 5, 37, 62, and 63 of the Constitution.

There could be no doubt as to the conclusive force of the Articles of the Constitution here quoted, and there ought not to be any doubt as to the Government's compliance with them. But the present Cabinet has given such proofs of indifference to the Constitution that it seemed wise to ennunciate clearly the principle embodied in the Resolution. Whenever the enactment of a new law became necessary for carrying out a treaty, or whenever any alteration of tariff rates was in question, the consent of the Diet should be asked before ratifying the treaty.

Mr. Suzuki Jubi spoke in the same sense, and contended that because no provision distinctly declaring the principle in question was contained in the Constitution, it did not at all follow that the principle was unconstitutional. He knew that the Government and a certain portion of the juris-consults of the country held a different view, but no one could dispute the Diet's right to be consulted about all laws and taxes.

Mr. Shigeoka Kungoro opposed the Resolution. The 13th Article of the Diet stated in the plainest terms that the Emperor concludes treaties, and the House could not possibly arrogate to itself the power to define that Prerogative. The same Article stated the Emperor's power to declare war and make peace. Was it pretended that the House of Representatives could define these Prerogatives also? The Japanese Constitution was copied from the Constitutions of foreign countries and should be read by their light.

Messrs. Motoda Hajime and Moriyama Konosuke said that it was an insult to the Constitution to speak of it as copied from foreign Constitutions, and urged that the words be recalled.

Mr. Shigeoka substituted the word "collated" for "copied."

The closure was applied and the House voted the Resolution.

The Order of the Day was changed for the purpose of debating the Resolution relating to expenditures from the Surplus Revenue :—

Whereas, this House decided on the 31st of May that the Expenditures made by the Government from the Surplus Revenue on account of inundations were unconstitutional, and that the occasion of appropriating the money was improper, therefore it is resolved that the Cabinet should accept the responsibility and adopt a course suited to the circumstances.

Mr. Hatsumi Hachiro introduced the Resolution in the briefest possible manner.

Mr. Hashimoto Kiutaro endeavoured to speak in support of the Resolution, but the House was too impatient to listen to him, although he urged that such an important step should not be taken without some debate.

The Resolution was passed.

The first item on the Order was then taken, namely, a Petition from certain persons in Yamaguchi Prefecture, who claimed that rice paid by them in lieu of taxes had been sold for a sum considerably in excess of their liability, and prayed that the surplus might be returned to them.

Some members put questions to Dr. Hatoyama with reference to this petition. They endeavoured to renew the charge against Count Inouye of having engaged in trade in 1871 and 1872. Mr. Kusakari alleged that Count Okuma had engaged in trade while Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and that Viscount Shinagawa, leader of the National Unionists, had also violated the Regulations for Officials. This accusation caused much excitement among the Unionist members. They called upon Mr. Kusakari to withdraw his allegation.

Mr. Node Shozaburo strongly condemned the irregularity of making a charge against one person the occasion for preferring in the House accusations against another.

(Two men in the Strangers' Gallery who made themselves conspicuous by hissing Mr. Kusakari were removed by the police.)

Mr. Tanaka Shozo, as a point of discipline, urged that since Mr. Kusakari must have understood the responsibility he incurred when making such observations, his remarks ought not to be lightly expunged from the Record.—(At this point some one called Mr. Tanaka "*Tochigi Chindai*—the Tochigi Garrison—which threw Mr. Tanaka into a violent passion, and he retorted with *Damare, Kojiki-yaro*—"shut up, you beggarly rascal.")

Mr. Motoda Hajime reminded the House that they were not called upon to pronounce any decision as to Count Inouye's conduct twenty odd years ago. Nothing could be more contemptible than the questions addressed by Radical members to the Chairman of the Special Committee. It was plain that these questions were dictated, not by any desire to elicit the truth, but merely by a wish to throw discredit on the Committee because it consisted of *Kaishin-to* and *Kokumin Kyokai* members. The House must be guided by facts, not by the conjectures of individual members. Mr. Saito Keiji, when preferring his charges against Count Inouye, had also accused Count Yamagata of divulging military secrets to a commercial company. But the Committee's investigations had shown that nothing of the kind could possibly have occurred. Surely such a flagrant blunder in one case ought to throw discredit on all Mr. Saito's charges. It had not been distinctly proved that Count Inouye had not engaged in trade, but it had been proved that, so far as the evidence submitted to the Committee went, there was nothing to show that he had engaged in trade. The matter resolved itself into this, then, that certain members, knowing Count Inouye's fondness for trade, thought it possible that he might perhaps have been involved as Mr. Saito alleged. He need scarcely remind them that to pronounce a decision on such hypothetical conjectures was out of the question. Besides, they were not required to pass judgment on Count Inouye. They had to decide about transactions set forth in a petition, and they had better confine themselves to the business before them.

Mr. Kudo Kokan, on behalf of the minority of the Petition Committee, repeated the charges preferred by Mr. Saito and reminded the House that although no evidence had been before it with regard to Governmental interference in elections, it had voted the fact of interference. He said that Count Inouye's connection with trade was notorious, and that his relations with the Fujita company were proved by entries in a diary and by his own letters. The House should not hesitate to denounce any Minister who, while holding office, as was the case with Count Inouye in 1872 and 1873, had engaged in trade.

Mr. Matsuoka, Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs, said that the House should understand clearly the nature of the two companies said to have been involved in this rice business. In the early years of the *Meiji* era the people had paid their taxes in kind, but in 1873 it had been decreed that they should pay in money. Nevertheless, as they could not immediately become accustomed to this change, they had been for a time allowed to pay partly in kind and partly in coin. In Yamaguchi Prefecture there had existed from old times a custom of storing rice and money by way of provision against famine, and the duty of supervising these stores had fallen on the Headmen of the districts. But after the abolition of feudalism an office called *Kwanno Kyoku* (office for promoting agriculture) had been established. It was purely a private affair, having no official connection whatever except that its head was nominated officially. In March of 1875, this office had been abolished, and in its place two companies had been formed, the Kyodo Kaisha and the Shizoku Jusan Kaisha, the former being entrusted with the charge of rice intended for paying taxes. The Prefectural officials had nothing whatever to do with either of these companies, and when Mr. Saito alleged that the Prefect of Yamaguchi had entrusted to the Kyodo Kaisha rice received by him in lieu of taxes, and that the rice had been taken from the people at excessively cheap rates, he made an assertion wholly contrary to fact. The Prefect never could have done anything of the kind. Neither could any suffering have been inflicted on the people by transactions that never took place, and it followed, of course, that the correlated allegations made by Mr. Saito Keiji about prostitution of the judicial authority and the police authority were baseless. As for the charge that Count Inouye had violated the Regulations for Officials, it was disposed of by the report of the Special Committee. Mr. Saito had alleged that Count Inouye, while holding the office of Senior Vice-Minister of Finance, had received rice in the year 1873 and sold it from January 1874 and onwards. But Count Inouye had gone out of office on May 14th, 1873, so that Mr. Saito was not accurate even in the most easily verified points of his accusations. With regard to the so-called diary of Nakano Goichi, it was a most questionable document, and its existence could not be explained. The person supposed to have possessed it was one Saito, a police official who had been charged with the duty of investigating the Fujita affair. Some members appeared to place great reliance on Mr. Ando Sokumei's memorial. He, the speaker, agreed in regarding Mr. Ando as a man of the highest integrity, but it often happened that these honest men were conspicuously credulous. For instance, Mr. Ando had accepted as absolutely true, on the evidence of the aforementioned Saito, the allegation that false money had been forged and uttered by Fujita Denzaburo, but it had turned out ultimately that the story was without an iota of truth. Further, the documents of Fujita Zenzaburo had been interpreted as referring to Count Inouye, but that was purely a matter of interpretation. It did not constitute any proof. The House would scarcely be consulting its own dignity did it attempt to manufacture a serious charge against a high official out of rumours more than twenty years old, unsupported by any evidence that would stand for a moment in a Court of Law. Such procedure, amounting as it did simply to an appeal to sentiment, might be adopted in the warfare of political parties, but could not be reconciled with any conception of the House's responsibility. There was not an iota of proof that Count Inouye had engaged in trade at the time and under the circumstances alleged.

Mr. Nohira Jo attempted to prefer a question about the gambling scandal last year among Judicial officials, but Mr. Matsuoka declined to follow him into such irrelevancies.

Mr. Nakamura Yaroku declared that Mr. Matsuoka had furnished in his own conduct an example of an official making an application in his private capacity and then granting it to himself in his official capacity. He referred to Mr. Matsuoka's leasing of land in Riukiu. Possibly Count Inouye had pursued a similar course in 1876.

Mr. Matsuoka denounced the charge as utterly false. The leasing of the land had taken place before he became an official.

Mr. Takanashi Tetsushiro moved that the whole question be referred to a Court of Law to determine. The charges must have some foundation and ought to be sifted thoroughly.

Mr. Kodama, Government Delegate for the War Department, appealed strongly to the House to resent the insult put upon all the officers of the Army by Mr. Saito Keiji's baseless charges against Lieut.-Gen. Count Yamagata, and Lieut.-Gen. Viscount Torio. These were men whom all officers in the empire held in the highest esteem, and yet a member of the House had deliberately accused them of one of the worst crimes that could be charged against an officer, that of divulging military secrets. It had been proved a physical impossibility that the two officers could have done what they were accused of doing. It had been proved that the so-called "military secrets" were not military secrets at all. How did the House propose to atone to Count Yamagata and Viscount Torio for the fact that such slanders had been uttered against them in this Chamber? He did not imagine that Mr. Saito Keiji had wilfully manufactured any falsehoods, but that he had preferred most serious accusations without anything like sufficient preliminary investigation was beyond doubt. In the name of the whole army, he

demanded that Mr. Saito be called upon to apologise.

After some further discussion relating to the functions of the Petitions Committee and the Special Committee, the House voted against adopting the petition, but decided to adopt the report of the minority of the Special Committee, namely, that Count Inouye's conduct had been improper.

The House rose at 6.15 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers ust distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the senti ents or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

PRAYER-WHEELS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—"Murray's Handbook to Japan" by Messrs. Chamberlain and Mason, contains the following paragraph:—"To the left, immediately before passing through the big gate (of the Asakusa Temple of Kwannon), is a popular shrine of Fudo, just outside of which is a shrine of Jizo, distinguishable by a prayer-wheel (*gosho-guruma*) roughly resembling a pillar post-box."

This genuine specimen of a prayer-wheel still stands in the place indicated.

Yours, &c., Y.

May 24th, 1894.

INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me a little space for the purpose of performing one of the minor duties which everybody neglects because nobody feels inclined to undertake an ungracious task? The habit of insufficiently prepaying letters which pass though the Japanese mails is becoming so frequent among foreigners that a mild protest is almost a necessity. No one, I suppose, grudges the few extra *sen* demanded when the stamps are deficient, but most persons are conscious of a slight annoyance at the unnecessary waste, and of a feeling that their letters might be a shade more welcome if their correspondents had been more mindful of the customary obligation. I may safely say that within the past six months more than half the envelopes that have reached me from Yokohama have been adorned by the supplementary stamps affixed by the Post Office to indicate that an additional payment is required on delivery; and I am informed that my experience is not at all uncommon in this community. One probable reason for the oversight is that a sheet of European note paper of the ordinary size weighs, with its envelope, a fraction more than the stipulated quarter of an ounce; and as foreigners often prefer to use the heavy paper, they exceed the regulation limit without giving much heed to the matter. It might be imagined that a mistake so frequent on all sides would work its own remedy, but as this does not appear to be the case, I venture to put in words a remonstrance which, I am confident, has long been in the minds of many. H.

Tokyo, May 26th, 1894.

AN ASYLUM ANNEX.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Your last week's issue contained a brief but sympathetic reference to Mr. Ishii's new venture at the Okayama Orphanage. Possibly your readers may be glad of a little fuller information in regard to this interesting enterprise. Mr. Ishii has long felt desirous of doing something in behalf of those pitiable society outcasts, incarcerated and discharged prisoners. Last fall, by a series of striking providences, he was led to befriend one after another, several of these grown up society orphans, of the most abandoned type. One was on the point of committing suicide when rescued, and others were far gone in beggary and want. Three were formerly religious teachers—perhaps the worst sort of renegades—one was miserably wretched and mentally enfeebled; another had served out eight sentences in prison; yet another had formed the desperate purpose to become a famous robber, and the last to be received was the head of a family of seven, all but the two youngest members of which were jail-birds. And yet so genial and uplifting is the influence of the Home that all the thirteen men now in it seem to be thoroughly transformed and stirred by the promptings of a better life. Their main industry is the manufacture of figured matting, a specialty of this region. Although crowded unduly, the Orphanage proper has given up one of its buildings as a Home for the ex convicts.

This is already full and no more can be admitted, though there are frequent applications. Another building is an imperative necessity. Any who are interested in the social reformation of Japan's lower classes cannot do better than contribute toward this timely work. There are nearly a thousand men in the Okayama prison. On an average ten are daily discharged, and seven of these soon find themselves once more roped in by the police and back again within those whited walls. This through either confirmed viciousness or sheer inability to obtain an honest livelihood. Doubtless statistics elsewhere are of a sad similarity. Mr. Ishii and his associates—especially two men, one a reformed rake and the other a college graduate, who have devoted their lives with singular fidelity to this noble undertaking—are doing what they can; in no dreamy theoretical fashion either, but with downright hard work, warm sympathy, and practical common sense, to save at least a few of these wretched outcasts and to regenerate the lower strata of Japanese society. In this noble mission they should be sustained at all hazards.

The Orphanage proper keeps on developing and enlarging. Three new industries—carpentering and blacksmithing for the boys and cloth weaving for the girls—have been introduced recently. A farming colony of thirty persons has been sent to Hiuga to reclaim a tract of 150 acres held for the Asylum by four generous hearted Christian Japanese.

Supplies come in about as needed, but the big family is facing its last dollar and to-morow is coming. It would have been driven to fasting ere this had not some truly Christian tourists fired from Yokohama ere they took ship on the *China*, a parting shot of silver well wadded with bank-bills. Would there were more such keen-sighted, long range gunners. The Orphanage is in dire need of them.

JAMES H. PETTEE.

Okayama, May 26, 1894.

REVIEW.

"*Guide to Idiomatic Japanese.*"

Conversational Books are thoroughly unsatisfactory ways of familiarizing oneself with a language. To be able to use such books with any intelligence one must already possess a considerable knowledge of the language, and if one possesses that knowledge, one is competent to construct for oneself the very simple phrases that usually constitute the bulk of the examples contained in these books. We are specially reminded of this criticism by a work just issued, "Guide to Idiomatic Japanese," by Mr. M. J. Kondo, Principal of the Yokohama Eigo Gakko. It is a handy little volume, containing a large number of eminently serviceable phrases such as a foreigner would be likely to need in daily intercourse of a social or commercial character with the Japanese, and it so thoroughly fufils its promise of guiding the reader to "idiomatic" Japanese, that many of the dialogues offer suggestions not without value even to accomplished scholars. But, carefully as the book is compiled and judiciously as the examples are selected, any one attempting to take it as a *vade mecum*, without previous grammatical and syntactical study, must be disappointed. As a collection of dialogues it is emphatically good. There is, indeed, a minor blemish: many of the words are run together in a way calculated to perplex unlearned readers, and hyphens are scattered broadcast with little apparent method. Why, for example, write *arutokoro* as though it were one word; *ichi-yen* with a hyphen in one place; *ichiyen* without a hyphen in another, and *gojussen* in another; and why join all the *wa's* and *ga's* with hyphens to their substantives? Why, again, write *de-su* sometimes, *desu* at other times, and why, under any circumstances, write *ikaga-desu?* We catch glimpses of a system in Mr. Kondo's manner of Romanization, but he repeatedly lacks constancy in giving effect to his ideas. The main defect, however, is one incidental to all books of the kind: lack of appeals to the intelligence of the reader and reliance entirely on his memory. Why do not the compilers of such works add notes explaining briefly and succinctly the reasons for the use of certain words in certain contexts and setting forth the rules of construction generally? We imagined that Mr. Kondo had done something of the kind when we first opened his work, and perceived that the initial dialogue was entitled "This and that." There are few points in colloquial Japanese that remain longer obscure to the foreign student, or, at any rate, that constitute more persistent sources of blunder to him, than the use of "this" and "that." Apparently Mr. Kondo appreciated something of the difficulty and set himself to solve it in his opening exercise. How has he succeeded? Let us see. Here are five of his examples with their accompanying translations:—

Kore ga hoshii.	I want this.
Sore-wa agerare-maren	I cannot give you that.
Sono hanaike-e kono hana-wo mashi-nasai	Put this flower into that vase.
Kono mon-kara ano irikuchi-e oide-nasai	From this gate go to that entrance.
Arigato, achira-kara mawatte mairi-masho	Thanks, I will go round by that way.

Now from these examples the reader learns that the Japanese of this is *kore* or *kono*, and the Japanese of that, *sore*, or *sono*, or *ano*, to say nothing of a new form, *achira*, apparently confined to the demonstrative pronoun in combination with "way." With what sort of mind does the unhappy student rise from perusing such a medley? Confusion worse confounded must be his state. Yet nothing could be more important than that he should acquire, at the outset of his study of Japanese, a clear understanding of the distinction between *Kore*, *sore* and *are*, and their groups of connected forms, and nothing could be easier than to convey that understanding. If men of Mr. Kondo's capacity set out to write conversational guides, it ought surely to be worth their while to make them guides to the clear path of intelligent comprehension, not guides to a jungle of perplexity.

TROUBLE IN KOREA.

(From Our Correspondent).

Söul, May 15th.

Last week, the foreign community in Söul was rendered uneasy by news of an attack made on Dr. W. J. Hall and his Korean servants in the not too well-governed city of Pyeng Yang. The Governor headed the turbulent mob, arrested the Doctor's servants on the pretext that they were Christians, and refused to give him sufficient protection. A few sharp telegrams from Söul brought the erring official to his senses. Perhaps, in the near future, he may have ample leisure to meditate on some of his ill-advised measures.

In Chulla Do, the granary of the kingdom, the people of three districts, Chin Do, Na Choo, and Chim Hai, are up in arms against their rulers. In Chin Do the magistrate was killed; in Na Choo, the whole family, ten persons, of the magistrate were killed. He himself escaped and has not been heard of since. The chief of the provincial militia, called together his men, moved upon the rioters, and is said to have been slaughtered together with 1,400 of his troops—a figure doubtless much too high.

On the 5th inst. the Central Government, at the solicitation of the Governor of Chudla province, despatched 750 soldiers to aid in quelling the riots. These braves went to the port of Chun Chow by boat under escort of a Chinese man-of-war and 150 veterans from the Flowery Kingdom. When they arrived off the coast of the rebellious province, rumour says that, finding the people a unit in resisting their so-called oppressors and the latter's minions, they decided that disembarkation would be a needlessly rash act, and remained on their transport and man-of-war at a respectful distance from the shore where the rebels were assembled in force. China's much talked of "protection" fails to protect. It took an escort of three men-of-war to bring the dead body of the refugee Kim to Chemulpo. On that basis, if report may be relied upon, it will take the whole Chinese fleet to protect the Royal Army on its way to restore order.

In the meantime, the King has given up his proposed visit to a royal grave at Kwoa Chun 15 miles to the south of the capital. But his intention had happily held long enough for the construction of a good road along the route proposed—a result for which His Majesty's ought to be grateful.

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Healesville, Victoria, April 18th, 1894.

The trial of Sir M. H. Davies, Mr. T. B. Muntz, and Mr. F. Millidge, on the charges of making a false report and balance-sheet of the Mercantile Bank, and of concurring in making, publishing, and circulating the said false report and balance-sheet with intent to deceive and defraud shareholders and to induce persons to become shareholders of the bank, ended in the

acquittal of all the accused. The costs incurred by the Crown in connection with the three prosecutions have been estimated to reach between £4,000 and £4,500.

The City of Melbourne was lit with electricity for the first time last month. At present only the city proper, bounded by Spring, Flinders, Spencer and Latrobe streets, is supplied with the electric light, but the intention is to gradually extend the service to Carlton, West Melbourne, East Melbourne, and South Yarra. The scheme also provides for the City Council undertaking private lighting later on. The Corporation has hitherto paid about £20,000 per annum to the Metropolitan Gas Company for street lighting, and the estimates for the electric lighting provide for about the same expenditure. The shareholders of the Gas Company are by no means disconcerted by the appearance of a rival force. They maintain that the use of gas as fuel is increasing so rapidly that the Company can never be other than a paying concern.

Australian wine-growers are pleased to learn that the importations of Australian wines into England during 1893 exceeded by nearly 20 per cent. those for the previous year, the figures being for 1893 554,967 gallons, as against 464,561 gallons in 1892, or a total increase of 90,346 gallons. This increase assumes more importance when it is borne in mind that, according to the Board of Trade returns, wines from all sources imported into the United Kingdom in 1893 decreased 2,638,538 gallons as compared with 1892.

The following notice of the rescue of a Japanese sailor by a British officer will prove of interest to your readers:—"One of the most chivalrous rescues of a drowning man brought under public attention for a long time past was made during the present voyage of the China Navigation Company's steamer *Ching-tu*, from Hongkong. The *Ching-tu* called at Port Darwin on February 13th, and after leaving the harbour she was overtaken by a fierce squall of wind and rain. The steamer was travelling at the rate of five knots per hour, and Mr. G. F. Morrison, the chief officer, was standing on the forecastle-head directing operations, when one of the Japanese seamen fell overboard, striking the fluke of the anchor in his descent, sustaining concussion of the spine and sinking immediately out of sight. Hastily throwing off his oilskin, and regardless of the fact that the sea literally swarms with sharks, Mr. Morrison sprang overboard, and diving, succeeded in seizing hold of the injured and helpless seaman. The occurrence was witnessed by Captain Innes from the bridge, and with very little loss of time the engines were reversed. Lifebuoys were also thrown overboard, and the gangway lowered well into the sea. As Mr. Morrison rose to the surface with the Japanese he noticed that the gangway was down, and he struck out boldly, and fortunately succeeded in gaining a firm hold of it. Both were then drawn out of the water, Mr. Morrison very little the worse for his immersion, but the Japanese thoroughly exhausted, and suffering severely from contact with the anchor. The conditions under which Mr. Morrison gallantly jumped to the rescue of the Japanese stamp him as a British seaman of the true sort, and his conduct is worthy of full recognition by the Royal Humane Society." The gallantry of Mr. Morrison has been reported to the Japanese Government by Mr. Marks the Consul, and the Japanese authorities will doubtless recognise Mr. Morrison's heroism in a suitable manner.

According to the Government Statist, the total estimated population of the Australasian colonies on the 31st December last was 4,068,318, made up as follows:—New South Wales, 1,223,370; Victoria 1,174,022; New Zealand, 672,265; Queensland, 432,299; South Australia, including the Northern Territory, 346,874; Tasmania 154,424, and West Australia, 65,064. Taking area into consideration, Victoria is by far the most densely populated of the colonies, the number of persons to the square mile being about 13. New Zealand comes second with 6, Tasmania third with 5, and New South Wales fourth with about 3. Comparing 1893 with 1892, the increase in population for Australasia amounts to 83,645, New South Wales taking the lead, with 26,320 and New Zealand following with 21,832. The marriages in 1893 show a marked decrease with the exception of those in New Zealand, which increased by 98.

Recently published statistics show that, as regards mortality, Melbourne compares favourably with 33 large cities and towns of England. The mortality for 1,000 of population is as follows:—London 20.6, English towns 20.7; Melbourne city 16.8. In zymotic diseases the comparison per 10,000 deaths is still more in favour of Melbourne. The figures are:—London 29.4, English towns, 19.2; Melbourne City, 7.9.

The Teetotal Societies have lately been causing a great stir in Melbourne and elsewhere. But men of the type of the Mr. Hatch mentioned below still survive and are likely to do so. In a crabbed and melancholic world it is agreeable to find a little expansiveness here and there. Such for example as is shown by the following advertisement which appeared in *The Argus* a day or two back:—

I am 60 to-day; and will be happy to have a glass of Great Western wine with any friend who calls.—John Hatch, Collins-street.

Genial Mr. Hatch! May he live long to enjoy a green vine-garlanded old age. The gentleman is said to be popular—deservedly so—and the insertion of a public notification of this kind can scarcely have diminished the number of friends anxious to take him by the hand, and wish him a pleasant journey along the last stages of life. To drink a glass with any friend, and all friends, was, therefore, a "large order," but not one from which Mr. Hatch would shrink. That is not the Great Western way of doing business. We cannot doubt that he remained staunchly at his post, and that the more friends arrived the merrier the proceedings became. A sexagenarian, however, in sound condition and good fettle, as Mr. Hatch must have been when he issued his spirited challenge, could well stand such a spurt during the limited period of Collins-street business hours. At what precise time, however, the curious will inquire, did this hospitable entertainer put the hatches on?

Dean Macartney, the oldest clergyman in the world, preached last Sunday before a large congregation. The venerable dean is 95 years of age and yet is able to preach twice on Sunday, and it is said that his sermons are characterized by great clearness of thought and hopefulness of tone. To the regret of the Teetotallers, the Dean has been and still is an advocate of moderate wine drinking.

There is considerable excitement throughout Victoria over the gold discoveries in Western Australia. The steady outflow of population from this colony has called forth a public expression of regret from the Secretary of Customs, who sees in the departure of so many tobacco smokers and whiskey drinkers, a heavy falling off in taxes to which these commodities are subjected. The enterprising *Argus* has sent a special correspondent to Coolgardie and Kurnalpie, who has furnished some interesting accounts of the new find. According to this writer, as yet the game cannot be said to be worth the candle. Water is very scarce and provisions almost equally so. Water sells at 2/0. a gallon; flour at £4 per 50lb. bag; tinned meal at 2/6. a pound; oatmeal at 10/- a 7lb. bag, and so on. The lucky men among the miners may be counted by tens while the unlucky run into thousands. It is estimated that no one should go to Western Australia without at least £100, to start with, and that parties of eight, each with £100 are considered best. About £200 is required for the purchase of necessary equipment. Thus anything like successful prospecting requires £1,000 to start with. The hardships encountered on the road to the mines are of a most formidable character. For men to be days without water and to arrive at their destination half dead with exhaustion is most common. This experience is called "doing a perish." The following is an account of one such party written by Mr. H. W. Mills, the *Argus* Correspondent:—"Meanwhile, things began to look very serious with his mates at Kurnalpie, and after waiting some time for Fitzgerald to return had no help for it but to beat a retreat, supposing Fitzgerald to have perished in the bush. They had to walk 55 miles over an unknown country to a small field called the White Feather, distant from Coolgardie some 46 miles, and on starting they had absolutely not one drop of water. They applied to the man who is said to have emptied the waterhole, and who was known to have plenty, for a water bag full—a water bag contains a little over a gallon—but met with a refusal. However, a member of another party there gave them a gallon, and with this amount of water they started to walk through the trackless bush 55 miles to a place the compass bearings of which they did not know. They had some idea of the direction, but were about a point out, as it afterwards turned out. After travelling for about three days—imagine it, under a burning sun and without a drain of water—they struck a place one of them knew some eight miles north of the White Feather. One of the party was an old man of some sixty years, and he had been carried for some distance by John Kiernan, the strongest of the party. They finally left the old man where they knew they could find him. The last eight miles took them 21 hours to accomplish. They were able just to stagger for a few yards and lie down and so on. Finally they arrived at the White Feather in a condition that may more easily be realised than described. They were absolutely speechless, and could just point to their mouths. There were many willing hands to help them, and a search party was sent back for the old man, who had wandered away in his delirium from where he was left, but was ultimately found and brought in. The names of these unfortunates were George Davis, John Kiernan, Alfred Newnham, and William Dunn. They then made their way into Coolgardie, and as no tidings had been heard of Fitzgerald it was deemed a certainty that he had perished. I may say here that unfortunately many other men have gone through similar experiences, till it has come to be regarded as nothing very remarkable. When a man or party has nearly died through want of water he is said to have 'done a perish.' As I have already told, Fitzgerald turned up all right at Coolgardie. The men formed new parties and returned to Kurnalpie, some by way of the White Feather, the others opening up a new and direct route marked on the plan." The journey from Booracoppin, the railway terminus to Coolgardie, is a most costly affair, that is, if the teamsters are made use of. It takes 20 days, and deducting all expenses a team of 5 horses brings its owner £100 clear profit as a result of the trip. Great antipathy to "tothersiders," as those who come from other colonies are called, is shown by the Western Australians. This is carried to the length of refusing to sell water or provisions unless at exorbitantly high rates. Some of the country through which the traveller has to pass fully justifies that description of Western Australia which represents it as "a country of sin, sand, sorrow, salt, and sore eyes." It is interesting to learn that the diggers are able to maintain order and suppress crime among themselves without the aid of a policeman. If two miners have a dispute about a claim their mates appoint assessors who go into the evidence and make an award which is as binding as though made by a Court of Law. A pick-pocket having been discovered *in flagrante delicto*, the diggers muster, appoint a judge and have the case tried; the result being that the criminal is expelled from the place—sent off at 15 minutes notice to march back to Coolgardie (from Kurnalpie), a distance of 95 miles. It is as yet premature to predict anything certain as to the permanent results of the diligent prospecting that is going on. The formation of huge mining companies, the shares of which are being sold at a premium, is no sure indication of permanent success. Nothing pleases the Australian's fancy better than a "Spec," and he lives and dies in a state of uncertainty as to the ultimate failure or success of his ventures. The chance of losing as well as winning is not one that he cares to guard against. Life is to him one great lottery and he would not have it otherwise. He is quite accustomed to decide the most serious issues by resorting to a toss of the coin.

The second trial of the action by Richard Speight, formerly Chairman of the Victorian Railways Commissioners, against David Syme, proprietor of the *Age* newspaper, claiming £25,000 damages for libel, was formally begun in the Supreme Court a fortnight ago before Mr. Justice Williams and a jury of twelve. The first trial began before Mr. Justice Hodges in July last and occupied six months. The jury failed to agree as to 10 of the 11 alleged libels, but as to one of them, the eighth, relating to extravagance in the stores branch, a verdict was given for the plaintiff for £100, and judgment was entered accordingly, and the defendant ordered to pay the costs of the plaintiff necessarily incurred in connection with the eighth libel. The present trial is, therefore, to be confined to the 10 remaining libels. The jurors selected to try the case are a mixed set, consisting of one painter, one gardener, one accountant, two gentlemen, one butcher, one dealer, one confectioner, one brickmaker, one licensed victualler, one marble mason, one labourer. To most of these men the highly delicate questions which have to be decided cannot but prove extremely difficult of comprehension. The painter has been elected foreman. The trial has been adjourned till to-day. There is a difficulty about the supply of a shorthand writer. The plaintiff has confessed to inability to meet this expense. The judge, on the other hand, has declared that he cannot do without one, observing that it would take him six months to record all the evidence. How the difficulty will be settled remains to be seen.

Another serious libel action against the *Age* has been going on for some time past. Though the proprietor of that paper is undoubtedly a man of immense resources, it is considered doubtful whether he will survive defeat in both actions, should this be his lot. A sporting trial, which has attracted considerable attention and afforded no small amount of amusement to the public, has been going on during the past week. On September 23rd, 1893, the *Australasian* published an article severe-

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ly censuring the conduct of a certain jockey named James Hayes, which jockey has, by his father as next friend, sued the paper to recover £5,000 damages. The trial is not concluded, but there is little doubt that the *Australasian* will win, the evidence of the malpractices of the jockey produced at the trial being ample to substantiate the truth of the allegations contained in the article complained of. Several jockeys and sporting men have been under examination, and some very startling revelations have been made. Sir John Madden, the Chief Justice, before whom the case is being tried, has the advantage of being thoroughly conversant with turf language, otherwise the answers of some of the jockeys would have proved utterly unintelligible. It is not everybody who knows what "putting a monkey" on a horse is, or what it is for a jockey "to get off badly like a reg'lar sowker." The jury empanelled to try the case consists of, an engineer, a gentleman, a hotel keeper, a music-seller, a leather cutter, and a plasterer. The news to-day is that they were considering the case from 3 p.m. to 9-30 p.m. without arriving at a verdict, and that they were then locked up for the night, having previously asked the Chief Justice whether he would be good enough to come into the room with them with his notes—a request which caused no little amusement in the Court, and to which of course the Chief Justice refused to accede. Sir John Mudden before locking up the jury expressed the hope that they would arrive at a decision by the morning, adding that "it will come to seem a stigma upon us if every time that a case of importance has to be decided we cannot arrive at a verdict." Surely the system is defective which entrusts the decision of such complicated questions as the one now under consideration to men who have never been taught to weigh evidence, and whose education has not fitted them to pronounce an opinion on the construction to be placed on language.

BAPTIST MISSION CONFERENCE.

Mission work in Japan under Baptist auspices was begun more than thirty years ago, but not until recently have Baptist missionaries met together in annual meetings. Their Fifth Annual Conference was held in Yokohama in April and the minutes, just from the press, indicate a year of forward movement even though a third of their number are absent on furlough. The 39 missionaries now on the field are located in 10 different stations, reaching from Nemuro on the north to Fukuoka on the South. With them are associated 89 Japanese pastors, evangelists, colporteurs, Bible women, and other helpers, whose cöoperation makes it possible to maintain the work in these stations and the 76 out-stations connected with them.

The reports from the various centres show that while difficulties abound, and overt and open opposition is frequent, evangelistic work has gone on successfully and progress been made. While in some sections there has been a marked decrease in the number of converts, in others there has been an increase, with the result that 243 have been received into the churches during the year under consideration—a few more than during the preceding year. This does not represent the net gain, however, for a healthy work of expurgation has been going on, by which 68 have been lost to the churches, while 15 have been claimed by death. During the year two new churches have been organized, making a total of 19 in the Empire, but two of which, however, are self-supporting. The statistics further show a total of 77 Sunday Schools with an average attendance of 1,408. The church contributions have averaged 75 *sen* per member.

Progress has also been made along educational lines, though not what was hoped a year ago, owing to the financial stringency with which every one is conversant. The five girls' schools show an increase in pupils of 35 per cent. over the previous year. The exigencies of the work required the opening of a boy's school in Osaka, which already shows much promise. The boy's school promised for Tokyo is still a hope only, the appropriation for it having been rescinded for the reason above mentioned. The Theological School in Yokohama has had a good year. Ten pupils, of whom four were graduated in April, were in attendance. The routine class-room work has been broken in upon by a pleasant and profitable course of lectures by prominent Japanese and Foreign Christian workers. With this year the school has closed its first decade. Its Principal throughout these ten years has been the Rev. A. A. Bennett, who has brought to his work loving and devoted service. The Rev. J. L. Dearing now takes his place as Head of the School. Funds have been received for the erection of a new recitation hall and a new dormitory, and already the much needed buildings are under way. The following quotation from the report of the Board of Management voices the hope entertained regarding the schools:—"If with the superior appliances for work which we are promised, and the increased strength of the teaching staff in number and experience there abide the impress of genuineness, spirituality, and loyalty to Christ and the Bible which we believe the Seminary has received during the past ten years, we may hope for it a future successful in a true and large sense."

In the line of publication work, a "Baptist Church Manual" has been compiled from standard works on Baptist Church Polity, translated and put through the press. This is the only new work finished, though old works have been revised, and new editions of old works published. The Hymn Book revision goes on slowly, but the work of Bible revision is at a standstill, the absence of a majority of a Committee on furlough making it seem wise to discharge the Committee. "Pendleton's Christian Doctrine," and "Inductive Studies in the Life and Times of Christ," Drs. Harper and Goodspeed, are in process of translation, and it is hoped they will soon be ready for publication. In this connection it may be said that the Committee on Religious Publications of all denominations compiled a list of 47 periodicals and 158 books brought out during the year. A conservative estimate makes the pages of religious literature thus published about 11,000,000.

The Conference and its invited friends had the pleasure of addresses from Mr. J. Hudson Taylor and Miss Geraldine Guiness, addresses that were uplifting and helpful. A paper on "The Work of the Holy Spirit in Relation to the Present Dispensation and to Missions," by Rev. Wm. Wynd of Osaka was listened to with profit. The annual sermon was preached by Rev. J. L. Dearing. He took for his text, Rev. 5: 21-13, and his theme was "The Pre-eminent Position of Christ in Christianity." The following quotation will make a fitting close to this short report of the meetings, as showing the position of the preacher, and it may be said of those to whom he preached, in regard to the estimate to be put upon Christ the founder and the life of Christianity:—"Christ must be held up as He actually is, not a Christ whose divinity is doubtful, or whose vicarious atonement may be questioned, or whose miracles are to be discounted, but the Christ of the Gospels. Christ of the Bible is the only true Christ. When men seek to hold up a Christ that shall be more attractive, when they seek to take away from the true Christ the 'foolishness' and the 'stumbling-block' that some find in Him, it is not Christ that they hold up but a lifeless, powerless, invention of their own imaginings."

IN H.B.M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before H. S. WILKINSON, Esq., Judge.
MONDAY, May 28th, 1894.

EDWARD WHITTALL V. THOMAS HOLYOAKE BOX.

The Court reassembled at 10.30 this morning, having been adjourned from Wednesday for the purpose of giving defendant time to consider what further action he would take in the matter.

Mr. H. C. Litchfield appeared for plaintiff; defendant being unrepresented.

His Honour—Well, Mr. Box, what have to you say?

Defendant—I have had an opportunity during the adjournment to consult with the learned friend who has previously assisted me, and to whom I now wish to tender my thanks in public, and I think that I can now put the matter clear before you. But first of all I should like to put in two letters.

His Honour—I can take no evidence Mr. Box, until I know what line you are going to pursue.

Defendant—My case rests upon the arrangement made by me with Messrs. Newhall's Sons & Company, of San Francisco, and which arrangement was to last for five years.

His Honour—Is that all you have to say?

Defendant—So far, your Honour.

His Honour—You admit, Mr. Box, that never did any word pass between you and Mr. Whittall as to what time this arrangement should be considered to exist. Have I understood you aright?

Defendant—My contention is that the arrangement is in existence still.

His Honour—You had better get into the box and answer some questions which I wish to put to you. When did Mr. Whittall enter into an agreement of partnership with you?

Defendant—I contend—

His Honour—I want no contentions now, what I am asking for is a plain statement of facts, contentions can come afterwards in their proper place. Now, when did Mr. Whittall enter into this agreement or partnership with you?

Defendant—When I returned to Yokohama.

His Honour—Give me particulars of what took place.

Defendant—On the 21st July, after—

His Honour—I want to know what passed between you.

Defendant—Mr. Whittall asked me what arrangements I had made with Messrs. Newhall's Sons and Company, and I told him that they had undertaken to carry out the original arrangement and to do business on joint-account.

His Honour—Is that all?

Defendant—Yes, that is all.

His Honour—Now, was there at any time any conversation as to your being made a partner with Mr. Whittall?

Defendant—Yes, your Honour.

His Honour—Well, what was it?

Defendant—We were to form a partnership, and I contend that we did form a partnership—

His Honour—Answer my questions, there can be no contentions now—was there any partnership arranged between you?

Defendant—Yes, there was, there and then, that we should be partners.

His Honour—What was said?

Defendant—Mr. Whittall said that he was very pleased that I had been able to do business with Messrs. Newhall's Sons and Company, as they were old friends of his brother in London; that he would manufacture handkerchiefs and do everything he could to develop that arrangement which I had entered into; that he would assume the expenses and allow me $120 a month, and give me half the net profits of that and any other business that might result from my visit to America.

His Honour—Was anything said by you or Mr. Whittall as to the time this arrangement was to continue?

Defendant—No, your Honour. Nothing was said except as to the carrying out of that contract.

His Honour—Was the word partnership used?

Defendant—Yes, definitely.

His Honour—What was said as to the partnership?

Defendant—We had returned from seeing the gentleman about the tea business I mentioned before, and I had declined to have anything to do with tea. Then Mr. Whittall said, as far as I can recollect the words now, we will form a partnership ourselves. He used those words.

His Honour—Did he refer to a future time or to that moment?

Defendant—He referred to that moment, but he said we had better not announce the partnership until the end of the year, and I believe there was some other sentence used such as, "or on such time as the business shall be worth our while doing so."

His Honour—Now, have you anything further to say, any further evidence you would like to offer? You were going to read some letters, I believe.

Defendant—I should like to read two letters: one, Mr. Whittall's reply to a letter from Messrs. Newhall's Sons and Company, in which they had enclosed my *résumé* of the arrangement I had made with them; and the second, a letter written by Mr. Whittall to Messrs. Belding Paul, Montreal, referring to a similiar arrangement which I had made with them. I have asked for these letters twice before.

Mr. Litchfield said that he had searched for these letters but could not find them.

His Honour—Well, in exhibit F., the whole of the words used by Mr. Whittall are quoted. The letter refers to the agency or commission business which had been arranged by Mr. Box. [The letter was read.]

Defendant—My contention is that Mr. Whittall had full cognizance of the agreement, because in the letter just read occurs the sentence, "It must be understood the agency must be for a number of years."

His Honour—Mr. Box, you are in the same difficulty as is the Court, you are now in the box, and therefore must confine yourself to evidence; you must not bring in contentions now. I do not wish to embarrass you in the conduct of your case, but I must point out that you must, for the present, keep to the facts of the case. I wish you to keep to the facts now, and give me facts as facts, then when the time comes you may give me arguments as arguments.

Defendant—I thank your Honour very much for your kindness. I am unfortunately very nervous, and am also in a trying position having to conduct my own case, but I will try to confine myself to what is strictly evidence.

His Honour—You clearly understand that I

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only wish to take down now as a statement of fact what is really a statement of fact, and as you showed a tendency just now to drift into an argument away from what is evidence, I called your attention to the point. Now, is there any other document or fact which you would like to speak of?

Defendant—I should to like refer to a letter of Messrs. Belding Paul. I think that refers to the case.

His Honour read the letter, which stated that the firm would cheerfully take the agency mentioned by Mr. Box It contained the sentence' "Mr. Box proposes to make it a five years, contract."

Defendant—It is that phrase, your Honour, that I rely on.

His Honour—Now, what other letter do you wish to refer to?

Defendant—I wish to put in a letter written by me from Montreal, in which I say that I am trying to make the same arrangements in regard to the business as I did in San Francisco. In the letter, which is addressed to Mr. Whittall, I write, "I proposed to him the same terms as those I proposed to Messrs. Newhall's Sons, which he quite agrees to." This letter is dated May 15

His Honour—Mr. Litchfield, Mr. Box proposes to put in these words of the letter dated May 15, do you wish to have any of the letter read?

Mr. Litchfield—No, sir, I do not wish to refer to anything in that letter.

His Honour—Is there anything else you would like to read, Mr. Box?

Defendant—I should like to call for the letter written by Mr. Whittall in reply to Messrs. Belding Paul.

This letter not being in Court, Mr. Whittall went out to find it. In the meanwhile, defendant said he had no further evidence to put in at present.

His Honour—Very well, let me have your arguments now.

Defendant—My argument is briefly this. The evidence in support of my contention that the partnership was for a term of years is contained in my letter to Messrs. Newhall's Sons and Company, dated 29th April, 1893, all the business done with them having been done under that letter; and there are goods at present in hand which they have unsold on account with the business, and which they have on hand in consequence of the business arrangements contained in that letter. Consequently, that arrangement is still in force. Further, that this business was made by me and by my efforts; that Mr. Whittall was admitted on certain conditions; that the business was carried on by me in his name on a promise to announce the partnership at the end of the year, or at such other time as the business may make it my while to do so; that when all the business had been got into Mr. Whittall's name he wrongfully turns me out of the business and claims it as his own; that he comes into Court to claim from me the money spent by me in getting together this business, from which he has wrongfully turned me out; and that I claim damages for being so wrongfully turned out. That is the whole of my argument.

His Honour—Do you wish to offer any further evidence than those two letters? Have you no further evidence to offer?

Defendant—Only that from those letters you can see how the business was arranged, and I can bring evidence to show what business was done upon those letters.

His Honour—What you told me yourself, Mr. Box, about this business was, that when the accounts are made up between you and Mr. Whittall, you will not be entitled to recover anything from Mr. Whittall on account of the transactions.

Defendant—If Mr. Whittall has continued to carry on my business and has carried out the contracts, I contend that he is carrying out contracts arranged by myself, and therefore I am entitled to half profits. I should like to know if I can lead evidence upon that point.

His Honour—What do you mean? Do you mean that you are entitled to share the profits up to the time of the disagreement with Mr. Whittall? or what is it you claim? You have said once that there are no profits in the business, and that you are not entitled to recover any from Mr. Whittall.

Defendant—You are quite right; but there are still some goods unsold, so that it is impossible to render an account yet.

His Honour—You claim that if the contracts are carried out you are entitled to something, is that so, or what do you claim?

Defendant—If the contracts are being carried out I should be entitled to share whatever profits are being made, that is my contention.

His Honour—But this is not what you claimed in your answer. You are now claiming something for which you have never claimed before.

Defendant—I contend that the partnership between us has been broken by Mr. Whittall without any reason. If your Honour is with me on that point, I will bring evidence to show what the profits of the partnership were. I believe that this is the point to which you directed my attention when we adjourned last week.

His Honour—What I told you was this:—You admitted in your own statement to me that neither Mr. Whittall nor yourself ever made any agreement as to the time your arrangement should continue. I pointed out that if it were so, then your whole claim fell to the ground. You see now, do you not, the difficulty you are in; you admit that Mr. Whittall and you never came to any terms at all—

Defendant—Except to carry out the agreement made in San Francisco.

His Honour—Then what do you claim now?

Defendant—If the point which I just mentioned falls to the ground, then I can claim nothing. If Mr. Whittall had properly terminated the arrangement; if he had dissolved the partnership; or if he had said that the business was his and that he did not require my services any longer, then this could not have happened. But he merely told me to go. He ignored me altogether, and when I asserted my rights in the office, he said that I was to go out of it.

His Honour—Well, I am trying to ascertain whether in your answer to the plaintiff's petition, you clearly see that you are entitled to relief. I do not want to sit here and advise you what remedies you have in certain facts. What I understand you to say is that Mr. Whittall put an end to your agreement wrongfully. The letters show, or you contend that they show, that there was an agreement between you which was put an end to wrongfully. This is putting your case in the strongest aspect it possesses—that there was an implied agreement. If you rest your case upon this point, you can have my decision upon it. You can have it now if you wish.

Defendant—I understand that the real point at issue is whether there was or was not a partnership for a term of years. I contend that there was, and through its being wrongfully put an end to, I have suffered damage.

His Honour—Suppose for a moment this agreement had been carried out for the full five years by Mr. Whittall, and that at the end of that time he should put an end to it, do you think you would be entitled to damage from Mr. Whittall then?

Defendant—I think that he would be in the wrong, for it is my business and he has deceived me. If I was represented by Counsel he could have made a speech and laid all the matters before you.

His Honour—You may do so too at the proper time. All I point out to you now is, do you clearly see whether you are really entitled to damages from Mr. Whittall as you now claim. You are conducting your own case, had you had legal assistance in Court—I know you have had legal advice outside—I should have ordered that your claims be put in due and proper form; but I am allowing you more latitude than I should allow Counsel, and for that same reason must tell you when you are going beyond the proper limits of your case. Now, do you think that you are entitled to what you now claim—you may be, I don't say whether you are not—that is the question which you have to consider. You say that Mr. Whittall wrongfully broke the partnership. Now, is that a point on which you rest your case?

Defendant—I think that I should wish to prove that he did not carry out his promises as to shipments of goods.

His Honour—Mr. Box, you said just now that your claim is that Mr. Whittall broke the agreement with you at a time when he was not entitled to do it.

Defendant—Well, your Honour, I do not see that I can do better than abide by my answer to the petition. It was drawn out by my learned friend. Of course I could not monopolize all his time and so only told him the salient facts, and then he drew up the answer.

His Honour—In regard to the second paragraph in your petition, Mr. Box, you claim salary. What is you contention in regard to that?

Defendant—That claim is based upon a promise made me by Mr. Whittall. There was a great deal of railway-work doing just then, and Mr. Whittall was under contract with a certain gentleman for a year. Mr. Whittall undertook to give me $120 a month for clerical work in connection with this railway work. I should have liked your Honour to see what work I did there, too.

His Honour—Now, what is your contention with regard to this promise of salary? Was it for any fixed time?

Defendant—It was to run on as long as the business lasted. I was to receive this salary as the working-man during the time of this agreement; and that salary has been paid up till a month prior to the termination of the partnership—up till the 21st November. I commenced work on the 21st July, and have received four months' pay.

His Honour—Well, are you credited with a month's salary as the accounts now stand?

Defendant—I have the accounts made up so far as the business went up to the time of my leaving, and they show a balance in the hands of Mr. Whittall of several hundred dollars, and in his favour. But now, if they were made up they would show that there is nothing coming to me.

His Honour—Now, do tell me exactly what you do claim.

Defendant—I claim that I am entitled to recover from Mr. Whittall damages for his failure to carry out his agreement: 1st, to manufacture handkerchiefs; 2nd, to ship sundry goods to sundry people according to promises made to them by letter; and then I claim damages for the loss sustained by me through the mischief done to the business through Mr. Whittall's bad financing.

His Honour—Do you refer to the time during which the business was being carried on?

Defendant—Yes. In the first place, we shipped some silk to San Francisco; some excuse was made and our draft dishonoured. We telegraphed to our clients to take the silk and do what they could with it. This was done, but Mr. Whittall eventually dishonoured their draft on us. Loss was the result. We were to send—Mr. Whittall wrote a letter upon the matter—a consignment of silk to France. Mr. Whittall drew for four months' sight. When the draft was presented at Paris it was found that the documents were drawn against payment and the people dishonoured the draft. Therefore there was a certain loss on the transaction.

His Honour—That is what you called the bad financing.

Defendant—Yes.

His Honour—Do you claim damages for anything else?

Defendant—Yes, for the business being wrongly put an end too.

His Honour—Mr. Litchfield, I am prepared to non-suit the defendant—it is a curious expression; but he is to all intents and purposes a plaintiff—with regard to his claim. It is quite within your power to ask for it. But the question arises, whether it will be in your interest to rely upon my non-suiting defendant, or whether you would care to bring evidence in rebuttal of his allegations.

Mr. Litchfield—I should like to ask Mr. Box a few questions, I think.

His Honour—If you do, then it will no longer be a non-suit.

Mr. Litchfield—Perhaps I should only be taking up the time of the Court unnecessarily if I cross-examined him.

His Honour—Well, it is a matter entirely within your discretion. I tell you, I am prepared to non-suit him.

Mr. Litchfield—My cross-examination would be upon the question of accounts.

His Honour—If I offer to non-suit, I don't propose that any accounts be taken. It may not be the wiser thing in your interest for me to non-suit. It is entirely within your discretion to say whether I do so or not.

Mr. Litchfield—I hardly like letting the case fall as is at present stands, without cross-examining Mr. Box upon some points given in his evidence.

His Honour—Very well, then. (To Mr. Box)—Have you any further evidence to give?

Mr. Box—Not unless you Honour wishes me to put in any further letters. I can prove all that I have said.

His Honour—I have no evidence as to the damage done to the business by the sudden stoppage; I have no evidence as to the failure to manufacture handkerchiefs; I have no evideace as to the failure to ship goods; I have no evidence as to the bad financing. I have offered to non-suit Mr. Box, but as the other side desires to cross-examine him, the question arises as to whether I should proceed to ask him to produce evidence upon these points first of all.

Mr. Litchfield—After what has fallen from your Honour, I ask that judgment be given for plaintiff according to the terms of his petition, with costs.

His Honour—Then you ask for a non-suit, and are prepared to take all its consequences?

Mr. Litchfield—So I understand.

His Honour, in delivering judgment, said—In this case the plaintiff took out a summons upon a promissory note for the payment of 1,500 silver *yen*, with interest. The defendant asked leave to defend and filed an affidavit in support of that application. Leave to defend was given, and plaintiff was directed to proceed by way of petition in the ordinary way. The defendant filed an

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answer in which he claimed damages from the plaintiff. The facts set out in the answer and the explanations given me by defendant do not appear to me to show any strict defence of the petition. They set up a new claim altogether, and properly speaking the defendant might be called upon to file a petition which would have been answered by plaintiff, and defendant's claim determined upon that petition. In order, however, to save expense, I have endeavoured to settle the issues between the parties upon the facts contained in the answer, so as to arrive at a decision thereon. The claim arises out of an alleged partnership and defendant asks for damages by reason of one of the partners not carrying out that partnership properly; and damages for his wrongful putting an end to it. I am satisfied upon defendant's own statement and evidence that there was no agreement to carry on the partnership for a fixed term, if partnership it can rightly be called. Therefore, I find that plaintiff was entitled to put an end to it at any time, and that the law entitled him to do so at any time he liked, and that he did so put an end to it. I am satisfied from the statement of defendant as to the alleged wrongful action of plaintiff during the continuance of the partnership, that such act on plaintiff's part would not entitle defendant to legal relief, even if his statement of the fact is correct. On the whole, I feel that I am doing justice in this case by non-suiting the defendant so far as his claim is concerned, and, as he admits all the claims made in the petition of the plaintiff, there must be judgment for plaintiff with costs.

Mr. Litchfield—Will the form of decree be settled in chambers?

His Honour—Yes, in chambers; and I will give you an appointment, to save the cost of summonses. Will Thursday morning at 10.30 o'clock suit you?

Mr. Litchfield—Yes, sir.

The Court then rose.

MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY.

TEISHINSHO, TOKYO, JUNE 1ST, 1894.

THE STRANDING OF THE "SAKATA MARU."

The decision of the Marine Court of Inquiry which was held into the circumstances attending the stranding of the N.Y.K. steamer *Sakata Maru* at Fushiki Anchorage, on 23rd January last, was given this morning in Tokyo. The translation of the finding reads as follows:—

STATEMENT.

The *Sakata Maru* is an iron screw steamer of 1,369.25 tons nett register, 162 nominal horse-power, owned by the Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha. The Master was James Webster Renny, a British subject.

An enquiry into the circumstances attending the stranding, which took place at Fushiki Anchorage in the province of Yetchiu on the 23rd of January, 1894, was held and the evidence given by the master was as follows:—

The *Sakata Maru* left Yokohama for Fushiki at 4 p.m. on the 18th of January, and at 3.33 a.m. on the 21st, the weather being thick with a heavy sea outside, called at Hakodate for shelter; at 10 a.m. the same day started from Hakodate for Fushiki, and at 5.50 p.m. the 22nd, when under the vicinity of Rokkosaki, the speed was reduced to about 6½ knots, in order to reach Fushiki at daylight next morning; at 6.14 p.m. Rokkosaki Light was abeam, bearing N.W. ½ W. magnetic, and from a previously obtained four-point bearing, the distance from the Light at this time was 11 miles; then steered S.S.W. ¾ W. magnetic; at 8 p.m. reduced the speed again to about 5 knots. The Master remained on the bridge until 10 p.m. when he left the Chief Officer in charge, leaving orders to call him at midnight to be on deck; he then went to the Chart-room to rest, as he did not anticipate sighting Fushiki Light before midnight. About 11.43 p.m. the Chief Officer reported to him a bright light, bearing a little southerly from the ship's head; from his reckoning, however, he judged the ship was outside the range of the light. The *Sakata Maru's* bridge was about 35 feet above the water line, and he judged the light to be about 11 miles off. It was a bright moonlight night, and being able to see a considerable distance, although it was hazy over the land and along the shore, decided on going in for the anchorage; at 11.45 p.m. he put the engines at full speed, steered the same course as he had been steering until the light bore S.S.W. magnetic, then he steered keeping the ship's head direct for Fushiki Light. At midnight the hands were turned up and made all preparations for going into port. At 0.44 a.m. on the 23rd of January, considering that the distance from the light was about 1¼ miles, he rung "Stand-by," and subsequently gave the order to "Heave the lead," and found the depth of water was 3¾ fathoms, then he rung "Stop," and "full speed astern," almost at the same time. At 0.46 a.m. let go the starboard anchor, but the ship was still forging ahead, and took the ground at about two cables off Fushiki Lighthouse, causing the damage in the ship's bottom aft on the port-side. The Master attributes the stranding of the ship to an error of judgment, misjudging the distance off Fushiki Light; the haze over the low land, and the reflection of the moon's rays, which prevented him from making out the shore. He also stated that, at the time of grounding, the sea was smooth and no noise of broken water was heard, and that he saw nothing whatever besides the light of the Fushiki Lighthouse.

JUDGMENT.

The Court having carefully considered the evidence given by the witness interested in this case and the entries in the ship's log, has formed the following opinion.—

The Master reduced the ship's speed when he came under the lee of Rokkosaki at 5.50 p.m., 22nd January, in order to reach Fushiki at daylight on the next morning, but, at 11.45 p.m. having sighted Fushiki Light, he put the engines full speed again, making 10 knots, deciding to go in to the anchorage. Having taken into account the ship's speed and the judged distance of Fushiki Light (11 miles), made in the statement as being trustworthy, the Court assumes that the ship should have been in the anchorage at or before 0.44 a.m. on the 23rd. Notwithstanding this, and nevertheless seeing that the haze was over the low land, preventing him from making out the shore, he proceeded at full speed, never having ascertained the depth of water, until 0.44 a.m. on the 23rd when taking the ground, which caused the damage in the ship's bottom.

In conclusion, the Court is of opinion that the stranding was caused solely through the careless and reckless navigation on the part of the Master.

The Court therefore recommends, according to Section 10 in the General Regulations for the Examinations of and Granting Certificates to Masters, Mates, and Engineers of vessels of Foreign Form of Construction, that the certificate of Master of the First Grade (No. 177), of James Webster Renny, the Master, be suspended for a period of four months.

(Signed) J. ITO, President.
U. YOSHIDA, Assessor.
S. YOSHIDA, Assessor.

I hereby approve of the finding.

(Signed) Count KURODA KIYOTAKA.
Minister of State for the Department of Communications.

Tokyo, June, 1st, 1894.

Captain Renny inquired whether the Court would grant him a Chief Officer's certificate in the meantime, as the Company were willing to give him employment.

Mr. James said that that was a matter to be decided afterwards. If the Company made an application doubtless the Court would return an answer. At present such a request was foreign to the matter before the Court, which was to deliver judgment in the case of the stranding of the *Sakata Maru*.

Captain Renny observed that he had been out of employment for two months; he knew that there was no precedent for such an application.

Mr. James said that the matter could not be decided at that moment, and the Court rose.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL,"]

London, May 28.

The acrimony of the French Press on the Congo Treaty increases.

M. Dupuy is forming a new Cabinet.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Nagasaki, May 29.

The *Alwine Seyd* has been wrecked on Barren Island, and is a total loss. The vessel was on a voyage from Newchwang to Amoy. The captain and officers have arrived at Shanghai, but one boat containing a portion of the crew is missing.

Nagasaki, May 30.

The O. & O. steamer *Belgic* and the Ocean steamer *Ulysses* have been in collision at Amoy. Both vessels were slightly damaged. The *Belgic* leaves this port to-night.

[SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL" FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, May 26.

A successful operation for cataract has been performed on Mr. Gladstone's right eye. His general health is unimpaired.

A motion introduced in the House of Commons by Sir John Lubbock, on behalf of the Opposition, to divide the Budget Bill into two parts, so as to enable the House of Lords to vote the Naval Sinking Fund Section, has been rejected by a majority of forty.

There were 22 new cases of plague at Hongkong on the 25th inst. and 21 deaths.

London, May 23.

The Mayors of Manchester and Salford and Councillor Leigh have been knighted.

The prisoner Henry, the bomb-thrower at the Café Terminus, has been guillotined.

Six of the Anarchists who were implicated in the outrage at the Liceo Theatre, at Barcelona, have been shot.

Political arrests continue to be made in Russia.

Tenders have been invited for a Three per Cent. Indian Loan of six millions sterling, the minimum price being fixed at ninety-eight.

The gold reserve in the United States has sunk to eighty-three million dollars, and as the depletion continues the situation is becoming serious.

A Socialist resolution, demanding that the servants on State railways be allowed to attend the Railway Men's Congress, having been carried in the French Chamber against the Government by a majority of fifty, M. Casimir Perier has announced that the Cabinet will resign to-morrow.

Mr. Morley, speaking at Newcastle, said he feared that the House of Lords had gone too far to be mended, and must, therefore, be ended.

May 25.

M. Casimir Perier has resigned.

The treaty drawn up between Her Majesty's Government and the King of the Belgians leaves the province of Bahrel Gazel, in the Congo State, to King Leopold, whose successors shall remain Sovereigns of the Congo State.

The *Temps* and the *Journal des Débats* vehemently attack the treaty, and say that France will never recognise this arrangement. These papers further state that the cession of Bahrel Gazel constitutes a new factor in the Egyptian question, and that France will contest the matter with England.

Dowe's bullet-proof coat has been tested in the presence of the Duke of Cambridge, General Lord Roberts, and others, and when cordite cartridges were fired at it at a distance of a few yards only the projectiles failed to penetrate.

(FROM MANILA PAPERS).

Madrid, May 9.

A bomb was exploded in front of the Odescalchi Palace at Rome, seriously injuring three persons.

Madrid, May 11.

A most destructive earthquake has occurred in the Republic of Venezuela, in which ten thousand persons perished and an immense number were injured. Several cities were totally engulphed.—*Daily Press.*

London, May 21.

The Earl of Rosebery has visited Portsmouth in reference, it is believed, to the proposed improvement of the defences of Portsmouth, Chatham, and Devonport, and providing docking accommodation for a large fleet at each place. An enormous grant will be required to render these places adequate to the necessities of the Navy.

A war plot has been discovered in Servia in favour of the pretender, Karageorgevics.

London, May 21.

The Russian Government is sending experts to India, Ceylon, and China in December to study tea planting.

The Liberal Federation in North Wales has

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resolved that the time has come for the Welsh Party to adopt an independent policy and has voted in favour of calling a general convention of Welshmen to formulate a national policy.—*N. C. Daily News.*

(From Saigon Papers.)

Paris, May 10.

Two companies of the 17th Native Regiment have mutinied at Bombay.

May 11.

England is increasing the troops in India.

Paris, May 12.

A bomb was exploded at midnight in the Kleber Avenue, which caused some damage, but no one was injured.

Paris, May 13.

A man named Toirnemire, an anarchist, has been arrested on suspicion of being the author of the explosion.—*Daily Press.*

(From Japanese Papers.)

Gifu, May 28.

A strong earthquake was felt here at 5.06 a.m. to-day. Residents ran outside their dwellings.

Osaka, May 28.

One of the crew of the *Kisogawa Maru*, which arrived here from Korea yesterday, states that the *Togaku-to* partisans have ceased from plundering. The *Kanyo Maru*, which left Kokwa with a number of Government soldiers for the scene of disturbance, has been taken by the rebels, and the ship beached. The captain, a Japanese, and the purser, a Korean, have been captured. The *Yamato Kan* has gone to Nanyowan to protect Japanese residents, and the *Oshima Kan* is now staying at Fusan.

Shizuoka, May 28.

A certain Mr. Uchida, of the Kakegawa Bank, has been arrested on a charge of having stolen 30,000 *yen* from the Bank.

Fusan, Korea, May 29.

Two Korean cargo boats were attacked by *Togaku-to* adherents near Gunzanto this morning, and more than three hundred *koku* of rice and beans were stolen. The Japanese Consuls have consequently instructed Japanese merchants to discontinue doing rice business in Zenra Province.

Söul, Korea, May 30.

The first instalment of the Korean indemnity, connected with the prohibition of the export of beans, was paid by the Korean Government into the Japanese Legation on the 28th ult.

Hakata, May 30.

Fire has broken out in the Tagawa coal mine, and is not yet extinguished.

Nagasaki, May 30.

Some four hundred passengers on board the *Belgic* and one other vessel, who arrived here from Hongkong, were disinfected this morning. No trace of the plague was discovered.

Söul, Korea, May 29.

Mr. Sugimura, Japanese Acting *Chargé d'Affaires*, has instructed Japanese Consuls at various Korean ports to prevent Japanese commercial tourists from entering the interior, owing to the violent disturbances prevailing there.

Shimonoseki, May 30.

Lieutenant Nakamura left here for Korea to-day.

Nagano, June 1.

The third train for Naoyetsu was derailed on Sekiyama yesterday. The cars struck against the embankment, and six passengers were injured.

Matsuyama, June 1.

A woman died of cholera in the Ina District yesterday.

Hongkong, June 1.

The pest is spreading more rapidly. Some 157 deaths were reported between the 26th and 31st ult., and 114 patients are receiving medical treatment.

The British steamship *Rutherglen*, when leaving Saigon on the 1st May with a French river pilot, got foul of several other vessels. The pilot says it way the fault of the second officer, who wrongly reported passing a buoy. A court of enquiry was held in Saigon, and the second officer was found solely to blame.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The local Chess Clubs are now closed until the beginning of October.

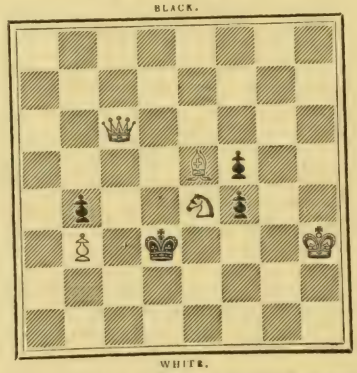
Solution of Problem No. 123.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Kt to K B sq.	1—Kt × Kt
2—R to Kt 4	2—K × R
3—Q to Kt 6, mate	
	if 2—B to Q 4
3—Q to K 7, or K B 8, mate	
	if 2—Anything else
3—Q to Q 4, mate	
	if 1—B × Kt
2—Q to K 7 ch.	2—K moves
3—R to Q 8, mate	
	if 1—B to Q 4
2—Q to K 7 ch.	2—K to Q 5
3—Q to K 3, mate	
	if 1—Kt to K 5
2—Q to Q 3	2—Anything
3—P to Kt 4, mate	
	if 1—Kt to K 7, or B 4
2—P to Kt 4 ch.	2—K to B 5
3—Kt to Q 2, mate	
	if 1—Kt to R 4 or 8
2—P to Kt 4 ch.	2—K to B 5
3—Kt to Q 2, mate.	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S. ("the double sacrifice is, of course, the main point; but the Key-move is by no means apparent"), Omega ("magnificent"), J.D. ("a perfect gem"), Digamma, and E. Krug.

Problem No. 125.

By B. G. Laws.



White to play and mate in three moves.

Steinitz—Lasker.

Last mail brought news of the resumption of play in the City of Montreal, and when the steamer left the score stood Lasker 7, Steinitz 3, Draws 3 Ere this it is probable that the match is over and that Steinitz (who was champion before Lasker was born) has had to resign the sceptre to the younger man.

For our games this week we transcribe the tenth and eleventh of the match played in Philadelphia. The combatants have now got round to the Queen's Gambit in which the veteran was thought to be particularly strong, but in these games Lasker seems to walk round him without difficulty.

Game 129.

(TENTH GAME—QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.)

WHITE. Steinitz.	BLACK. Lasker.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q B 4	2—P to K 3
3—Q Kt to B 3	3—K Kt to B 3
4—P to K 3 (a)	4—P to B 4
5—Q P × P	5—B × P
6—P × Q P	6—Kt × P
7—P to K 4 (b)	7—Kt × Kt
8—Q × Q ch.	8—K × Q
9—P × Kt	9—Kt to B 3
10—Kt to R 3	10—K to B 2
11—Kt to B 4	11—R to Q sq.
12—Kt to Q 3	12—B to Q 3
13—P to K B 4 (c)	13—P to Q Kt 3
14—Kt to B 2	14—B to B 4
15—B to K 2	15—B to Kt 2
16—Kt to Q 3	16—B to K B sq.
17—P to B 5	17—P to K 4 (d)
18—B to Kt 5	18—P to B 3
19—B to K 3	19—Q R to B sq. (e)
20—Castles (Q R)	20—K to Kt sq.
21—Kt to B 2 (f)	21—Kt to Q 5 (g)
22—B × Kt	22—P × B
23—B to Q 3	23—P × P
24—P to Kt 4	24—B to R 6 ch.
25—K to B 2	25—B to B 3
26—K to Kt 3	26—B to B 4
27—Kt to R 3	27—B to K 6
28—B to B 2	28—B to Q 7
29—Kt to B 2	29—R to Q 5
30—K to R 3	30—B to K sq.
31—Kt to Q 3	31—R × P
32—Kt to Kt 4	32—R to Q 5
33—B to Kt 3	33—P to Q R 4
34—Kt to B 2	34—P to Q Kt 4
35—Resigns.	

NOTES BY LASKER.

(a) First introduced by Steinitz in this and similar positions in his match against Gunsberg. Its object is ultimately to establish a strong centre with P to K 4, if, and whenever, possible. Black's next move seems, therefore, practically forced.

(b) If, instead, 7—Kt x Kt, then 7 * * P x Kt might well be played, as the isolated P, far from being weak, is very troublesome to White's game.

(c) White's object should be quick development—for instance 13—B to K 2, followed duly by Castles (K R)—rather than this useless attack, which compromises his K P.

(d) 17 * * P x P, instead, would remove White's source of weakness, his P at K 4.

(e) Preparing for Kt to Q R 4, to be followed by Kt to Q B 5, when, if the Kt be taken, the R re-takes, and Black must win the adverse K P. This line of play cannot be prevented, moreover, as will be seen on White's twenty-first move.

(f) If here 21—K to Kt 2, Kt to R 4, when if 22—Kt to B 2, then Black could have decided the game in his favour either by 22 * * R x R; 23—R x R, B to R 6 (ch.), etc., (as pointed out by Steinitz), or by 22 * * B to Q 3, followed by 23 * * Kt to B 5 (ch), etc.

(g) This is the simplest way of forcing the win, as obviously White is bound to lose at least one P, while Black still keeps his superiority in position.

Game 130.

(ELEVENTH GAME—QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.)

WHITE. Lasker.	BLACK. Steinitz.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q B 4	2—P to K 3
3—Kt to Q B 3	3—Kt to K B 3
4—Kt to B 3	4—B to K 2
5—P to K 3	5—Castles
6—B to Q 3	6—P to Q B 4
7—Q P × P	7—P × P
8—B × P	8—Q × Q ch.
9—K × Q	9—Kt to B 3
10—P to Q R 3	10—B × P
11—P to Q Kt 4	11—B to Kt 3
12—K to K 2	12—B to Q 2
13—B to Kt 3	13—Q R to B sq.
14—B to Kt 2	14—P to Q R 4
15—P to Kt 5	15—Kt to K 2
16—Kt to K 5	16—B to K sq.
17—P to Q R 4	17—B to B 2
18—Kt to B 4	18—B to Q 2
19—Q R to Q B sq.	19—Kt (K 2) to Q 4
20—Kt × Kt	20—Kt × Kt
21—Kt to K 5	21—B × Kt
22—B × B	22—P to K B 3
23—P to K 4	23—P × B
24—P × Kt	24—K to B 2
25—K R to Q sq.	25—K to K 2
26—P to Q 6 ch.	26—K to B 3
27—K to K 3	27—R × R
28—R × R	28—R to Q B sq.
29—R × R	29—B × R
30—B to B 2	30—K to B 2
31—B × P	31—P to Q Kt 3
32—K to K 4	32—K to B 3
33—P to Kt 4	33—P to Kt 4
34—K to B 3	34—K to B 2
35—B to K 4	35—K to K sq.
36—P to R 4	36—K to Q 2
37—P to R 5	37—K to K sq.
38—K to K 3	38—Resigns.

NOTES BY LASKER.

With the one exception of White leaving his king in the centre, the opening is played up to the tenth move on conservative and well-known lines, resulting in an even position. On his fifteenth turn Black, as the sequel shows, made a premature move and got into a rather difficult game; for instance, if he had played 15—K to R sq., White would have answered 16—Kt to Q R 4, B to B 2; 17—Kt to B 5, with a decided advantage.

Of course, when I had to consider my nineteenth move, I did not proceed with 19—P to Kt 6, B to Q sq., 20—Kt x P, B x P; 21—Kt x P on account of R to Q Kt sq.; 22—Kt to Q 6, B x P recovering his material.

Black's twenty-third move was forced; if, for instance, Kt to K 2; 24—B to B 7, R to R sq.; 25—B to Q 6, followed by R to B 7. On his next turn Black played the best possible variation, for, if R x R; 25—R x R, K to K sq.; 26—P x P, B x P; 27—R to B 8, and wins the exchange. Many thought that Steinitz could have proceeded on his twenty-fifth turn with R x R, then the following variation would have been the result; 26—R x R, R to B sq.; 27—P x P ch., K to K 2; 28—R x R, B x R; 29—K to K 3, B x P; 30—B x B, K x B; 31—K to K 4, and White would have probably won. For instance, let us continue; P to Q Kt 3; 32—P to R 4, P to Kt 3; 33—P to R 5, K to Q 3; 34—P x P, P x P; 35—P to Kt 4, K to K 3; 36—P to B 3, K to Q 3; 37—P to B 4, P x P; 38—K x P, K to K 3; 39—K to Kt 5, K to B 2; 40—K to R 6, K to B 3; 41—K to R 7, K to Kt 4; 42—K to Kt 7, K x P, 43—K x P, K to B 5; 44—K to B 6, K to K 5; 45—K to K 6, K to Q 5; 46—K to Q 6, K to B 5; 47—K to Q B 6, K to Kt 5; 48—K x P, K x P; 49—K to B 5 and wins.

My opinion is that at his thirtieth move Steinitz's best play was P to Kt 5, but should lose after 36—B x P, P to K 4; 37—P to Q 7, etc. About Black's thirty-second move little can be said. If 32—K to Kt 2; 33—K x P, K x B; 34—K to B 6, P to K 4 35—K to K 7 and wins.

We hear of the establishment of a Chess Club in Hongkong and the members have our best wishes for now and alway. Curiously enough they seem to choose the summer for their session and summer in Hongkong is no joke. We shall be glad to learn how the tournament there results.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, June 8th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, June 3rd.*
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 3rd.†
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 3rd.‡
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, June 8th.§
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 17th.¶
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, June 13th.
From Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, June 18th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, June 21st.

* *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco on May 17th. † *Belgic* left Nagasaki on May 30th. ‡ *Verona* left Hongkong on May 20th. § *Saghalien* (with French mail) left Hongkong on May 30th. ¶ *Gaelic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on May 29th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, June 2nd.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Monday, June 4th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, June 5th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, June 9th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, June 9th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, June 12th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, June 15th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Tuesday, June 19th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, June 22nd.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 26th May,—Yokkaichi 25th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Strathleven, British steamer, 1,588, Cormack, 26th May,—Manila viâ ports, Sugar and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 27th May,—Vancouver, B.C., 14th May, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 27th May,—Yokkaichi 26th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 28th May,—Vladivostock viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 28th May,—Yokkaichi 27th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Normandie, Norwegian steamer, 956, E. A. Bery, 28th May,—Takao, Sugar.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 28th May,—Otaru viâ ports 24th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 28th May,—Kobe 27th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 28th May,—Hakodate 26th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 29th May,—Yokkaichi 28th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omba, British steamer, 1,907, Crane, 30th May,—Middlesboro' viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 30th May,—Yokkaichi 29th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 30th May,—Kobe 29th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 31st May,—Hongkong, viâ ports, 23rd May, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 31st May,—Yokosuka 31st May, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 31st May,—Otaru viâ ports 27th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, John Panton, 1st June,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., 15th May, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, K. Ono, 1st June,—Hakodate 30th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 1st June,—Kobe 31st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 1st June,—Yokkaichi 31st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kintuck, British steamer, 2,312, Kemp, 1st June,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 26th May,—Kobe, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 26th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,580, H. Walter, 27th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 27th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, Matsumoto, 27th May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 27th May,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 28th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,730, F. J. Brown, 28th May,—Bombay viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 28th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 28th May,—Vladivostock viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hector, British steamer, 1,489, Bartlett, 29th May,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 29th May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 29th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 29th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 30th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 30th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, T. Sakai, 30th May,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Angers, British steamer, 2,076, Bannister, 31st May,—Niigata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Normandie, Norwegian steamer, 956, E. A. Bery, 31st May,—Shanghai, General.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 31st May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Strathleven, British steamer, 1,588, Cormack, 1st June,—Hongkong viâ Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, G. A. Lee, R.N.R., 1st June,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 1st June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, John Panton, 1st June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, K. Ono, 1st June,—Nagasaki viâ Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, Duke, 2nd June,—New York viâ ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Empress of China,* from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. Z. Ansanama, Mr. H. Barney, Miss Bonham, Miss Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Don Sang and 2 children, Mr. H. Graham, Mr. Henry Gribble, Mr. John Hort, Mr. S. Ishida, Mr. F. Kennedy, Miss Kerr, Rev. C. R. and Mrs. Mills, Mr. C. G. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Mumford, Mr. R. Ohtaki, Dr. Russell, Mr. L. A. Stimson, Miss Stimson, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. Herbert Smith, Mr. E. Stuken, Miss Underwood, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Young in cabin; 7 passengers in second class, and 173 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru,* from Kobe:—3 passengers in second class and 46 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru,* from Kobe:—Mr. Y. Tamuka in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan,* from Hongkong viâ ports:—Hon. G. Whitehead, Mr. E. Chandler, Mr. Cappell, Miss Crawford, Miss Barker, Mr. S. Matthews, Mr. and Mrs Harvie, Mr. Chatham, Lady Maud Warrender and maid, Mr. E. von Wartegg, Mrs. M. Hauk von Wartegg, Mr. Berger, Rev. and Mrs. Muirhead, Mr. G. Dubail, Mr. G. Mulley, Mr. P. Scheidtweiler, Miss Davies, General Annesley and servant, Rev. H. Loomes, Mr. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Brown, Mrs. Kirby, Mr. B. C. Howard, Mr. E. H. Stevenson, and Mr. Tuke in cabin; and Captain Pitt in second class. In transit:—Mr. E. H. Williams, Mr. J. M. Beck, Mr. E. Dane, Mr. J. T. Cassells, Mr. C. W. Everard, Rev. and Mrs. Murray and 4 children, Dr. and Mrs. Stuart and 3 children, Rev. J. A. Ingle, Mr. Wm. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Goforth and 2 children, Dr. and Mrs. Woods and infant, Dr. and Mrs. McClure, Miss Anderson, Dr. and Mrs. Chalmers, and Master Hutchinson in cabin; 9 passengers in second class, and 188 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru,* from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. Otake in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 50 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Victoria,* from Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C.:—Messrs. Chas. Clow, T. Skinner, and Geo. Rose in cabin; and 38 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Oceanic,* for Hongkong:—Mr. T. E. Griffith and Mr. W. Beit in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China,* for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Starkey, Mr. Littlewood, Mr. and Mrs. Holm, Mr. Ray, Mr. Orange, Mr. Rankin, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Brown, Mr. Ross, Mr. B. C. Howard, Mr. Marians, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Mills and 3 children, Mrs. Dennig and 2 children, Mrs. Stafford, Captain Kidder, Mr. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Happer, and Captain Hunt in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru,* for Kobe:—Mr. H. W. Maxwell in cabin; Mr. E. Sonni and Mr. H. Oki in second class, and 39 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan,* for Vancouver, B.C.:—Miss K. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Ballagh and family, Miss Hellen Beach, Mr. I. M. Beck, Mr. Benohr, Mr. and Mrs. Black Hawkins, the Misses Black Hawkins (2), Mrs. Brown, Commander Barré, Mr. and Mrs. Brokenshire and children, Captain Caldbeck, Mr. J. T. Cassels, Mrs. Cassilly, Dr. and Mrs. Chalmers, Mr. C. H. Charrington, Mrs. Casal, Mr. T. N. Christie, Mr. E. Dane, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Daukes, Mr. Dawson, Mr. D. Deans, Dr. Duville, Mr. Fritz Eggena, Mr. C. W. Everard, Dr. W. H. Fisher, Mr. H. C. Forde, Mr. Galpin, Miss F. M. Galpin, Miss S. O. Galpin, Dr. and Mrs. Goforth and 2 children, Dr. and Mrs. Morton Grinnell, Colonel Green, Mr. Hadden, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hall, Mrs. Hardin, Dr. and Mrs. Horsey, Master Hutchinson, Mr. G. L. Heastey, Miss Hodgson, Rev. J. Ingle, Mr. T. O. Jones, Mr. I. W. Ladd, Mrs. W. S. Ladd, Mrs. C. E. Ladd, Miss Lammond, Mr. Leck, Mr. F. H. Leggett, Miss Edith Lombard, Lieut.-General Lyttleton-Annesley, Mr. Lemesurier, Mr. and Mrs. Macy, Major Macy, Mr. McLean, Dr. and Mrs. McLure, Mr. G. Muller, Captain Münter, Rev. and Mrs. Murray and child, Mr. and Mrs. Noble, Miss T. Otto, Mr. W. A. W. Parke, Mr. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Pratt, Mr. A. Porter, Miss Richards, Mr. W. M. Robertson, Mr. H. Robertson, Rev. G. L. Ross, His Excellency Mons. A. Sienkiewicz, Madame Sienkiewicz, the Misses Sienkiewicz (3), Masters Sienkiewicz (2), Mr. Slater, Dr. and Mrs. Stewart and 3 children, Colonel Stock, Mr. G. Timmis, Mr. S. Timmis, Mr. Villemar, Mr. F. Walsh, Mr. Watt, Surgeon-General and Mrs. Webb, Mr. T. H. Whitehead, Mr. F. Wilkinson, Dr. E. H. Williams, R.N., Dr. and Mrs. Woods and infant, and Mr. S. H. Yoshitake in cabin.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan,* for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong.....	300	26	14	59	6	405
Hankow	150	327	741	50	—	1,268
Hyogo	821	1,929	818	—	—	4,568
Yokohama ...	5,512	4,710	3,123	—	—	13,365
Total	6,783	6,992	4,696	109	6	19,606

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SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	135	—	135
Yokohama	37	—	37
Total	172	—	172

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Empress of China*, Captain Archibald, reports:—Vessel sighted on the 26th May at 6.30 a.m., in lat. 41 N., long. 146 E., a sealing, the schooner *Bonanza*, with all boats out. At 12.30 p.m. the same day, passed the American Whaling barque *Chas. W. Morgan*, westward bound, in lat. 40.10 N., long. 144.30 E. On the same day at 2.45 p.m. passed a schooner standing eastward, in lat. 39.45 N., long. 143 E. At 7 p.m. passed a barque standing to northward, in 39 N. lat., long. 142 E.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 26th May at 6 p.m.; thence to port had light, moderate, and gentle variable winds and fine, bright weather and smooth sea; on the 28th at 3.34 a.m. encountered foggy weather which continued to port. Arrived at Yokohama at 6 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, Captain J. W. Ekstrand, reports:—Left Otaru the 24th May at 1 p.m.; had light variable winds and misty weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 25th at 7.15 a.m. and left the 26th at noon; had moderate E.S.E. winds and foggy weather; thence to midnight on the 27th fresh S.S.E. breeze and misty, land covered with fog. Arrived at Oginohama at 12.35 p.m. and left the same day at 4 p.m.; had fresh southerly winds and fine weather; thence to midnight gentle breeze variable and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 28th May at 4.35 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Sendai Maru*, Captain T. Sakai, reports:—Left Kobe the 27th May at 0.00 p.m.; had fine, clear weather with smooth sea; on the 28th same weather and sea. Arrived at Yokohama at 6 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, Captain Young, reports:—Left Otaru the 27th May at 1 p.m.; had light N.E. airs and fine weather. Arrived at Hakodate the 28th at 8.15 a.m. and left the 29th at noon; had light variable airs and fine weather. Arrived at Oginohama the 30th at 11.56 a.m. and left the same day at 6.20 p.m.; had light southerly winds and heavy S.S.E. swell to Imuboye; thence light variable airs and fine weather to port. Arrived at Yokohama the 31st May at 9.30 p.m.

The British steamer *Victoria*, Captain John Panton, reports:—Left Tacoma, Wash., the 15th May at 5 a.m., and Victoria, B.C., the 16th at 5 a.m.; had moderate winds and head sea to the meridian, which was crossed in 50° N. lat. on the 23rd; thence to port strong S.W. winds and seas were experienced. Arrived at Yokohama the 1st June at 5 a.m.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

The following vessels are advertised as on the berth:—

For London viâ ports, Quick Despatch, the "Dardanus."—Butterfield & Swire.

For San Francisco, Quick Despatch, the "Queen Victoria."—Southern Pacific Co.

For San Francisco, June 5th, at Daylight, the "Belgic."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For Shanghai viâ Ports, June 5th, at Noon, the "Kobe Maru."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For Australia and New Zealand (from Kobe), June 5th, the "Menmuir."—Browne & Co.

For Hongkong viâ Hyogo and Nagasaki, June 9th, at 10 a.m., the "Verona."—P. & O. S.N. Co.

For Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., June 9th, the "Sikh."—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

For Hamburg and London, June 9th, the "Turbo."—Samuel Samuel & Co.

For San Francisco, June 12th, the "Peru."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For Newchwang, viâ Shimonoseki, Nagasaki, Tsushima, Fusan, Chemulpo, Chefoo, and Taku (from Kobe), June 14th, the "Higo Maru."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For Honolulu, June 15th, at Noon, the "Miike Maru."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For Hongkong viâ Kobe and Nagasaki, June 15th, the "Nuernberg."—Norddeutsches Lloyds.

For Vladivostock, viâ Fusan and Gensan (from Nagasaki), June 18th, the "Satsuma Maru."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For Hongkong viâ Kobe and Shanghai, June 19th, the "Empress of China."—Frazar & Co.

For Bombay, viâ Shimonoseki, Hongkong, Singapore, and Colombo (from Kobe), June 20th, the "Arroyo."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For Canada, United States, and Europe, viâ Vancouver, B.C., June 22nd, the "Empress of China."—Frazar & Co.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Era, British steamer, 1,555, Moore, 25th May,—Middlesboro' viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Kintuck, British steamer, 2,312, Kemp, 1st June,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Omba, British steamer, 1,907, Crane, 30th May,—Middlesboro' viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

SAILING VESSELS.

Argomene, British ship, 1,579, Wm. O. Thomas, 25th May,—Yokosuka 25th May, Ballast.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Diana, American schooner, 74, Petersen, 5th October,—North Pacific, 50 otters and 5 seals.—Captain.

Glenclova, British ship, 2,360, Watt, 2nd May,—New York 30th November, Petroleum.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Henriette, German ship, 1,705, Seemann, 8th May,—New York 23rd December, Petroleum.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Kambira, British ship, 1,452, H. W. Lanchi, 19th April,—Cardiff viâ Nagasaki 8th April, 2,000 tons Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Mount Washington, American bark, 1,217, Rose, 23rd May,—Kuchinotsu, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Queen Victoria, British ship, 1,587, R. Logie, 16th May,—Kobe 7th May, Ballast.—Southern Pacific Co.

Worlock, British steam-schooner, 31, A. Rieddrbjelthe, 17th November,—Petropaulovsky, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

Trains leave Yokohama Station at 6.00, 6.50, 7.30, 8.15, 8.56, 9.50, 10.25, 11.25, 11.55, and 12.25 a.m.; and 1.40, 2.47, 3.30, 4.15, 5.05, 6.00, 7.00, 8.15, 9.05, 10.00, 10.50, and 11.30 p.m.

Trains leave Tokyo (Shimbashi) at 5.45, 6.20, 7.30, 8.05, 8.50, 9.20, 10.20, 11.00, and 11.45 a.m.; and 12.35 1.30, 2.30, 3.25, 4.10, 4.50, 5.50, 6.40, 7.30, 8.20, 9.05, 9.55, and 11.10 p.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

General dulness prevails, although there have been further sales of Yarns to some extent. In Piece Goods there is very little doing, some retail sales of White Shirtings, Turkey Reds, and Italian Cloth completing the list.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 3.00
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.40
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.40 to 2.85
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb. per lb	0.45 to 0.55

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 10/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$37.00 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	39.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	39.50 to 40.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	40.00 to 41.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	44.00 to 45.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 44.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	49.00 to 52.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

No change in this market and importers complain of the dull state of trade.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.70 to 4.90
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.50
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	5.80 to 6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.70

KEROSENE.

No change to report. Demand light at present, and quotations remain without alteration. Deliveries fair, but stock is large enough for all prospective needs.

Chester	$1.67½ to 1.70
Comet	1.65 to 1.67½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.65 to 1.67½
Russian Moon	1.60 to 1.62½

SUGAR.

Very little done this week and the demand has fallen light. We leave quotations the same as last printed until something definite transpires.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.50 to 4.60
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.30
Brown Daitong	3.30 to 3.40
Brown Canton	4.00 to 4.30
White Java and Penang	7.10 to 7.20
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 25th May, since which date settlements on this market are 463 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures*, 435 piculs; *Rereels*, 17 piculs; *Kakeda*, 11 piculs. Direct shipments have been 107 bales, making the total business of the week 600 piculs.

During this week we have seen a change and the principal business done has been for Europe. There was a very dull market until the 28th ultimo, on which date buying of fine *Filatures* commenced and was eagerly pushed by one or two houses. The cause of this was said to be that something had gone wrong with the European crop. Japanese holders at once took the alarm and raised their prices; but the news mentioned above has not been confirmed and the truth seems to be that, although they had some unfavourable weather in Italy at the close of last week, yet the crop was progressing fairly well. Holders here, however, have taken an exaggerated view of the situation and some of them keep their silks off the market altogether for the present. For our own part, we think in a day or two's time the market will relapse into the same state as we chronicled a week ago.

Exchange has fluctuated a little, closing as per our memo. at foot.

Our stock is reduced to 5,400 piculs, native weavers taking off some of our coarser *Re-reels*.

New Crop.—Everything goes well here and the indications are that it will be a complete success as far as Japan is concened. From China the rumours which we mentioned last week have been confirmed, and there is no doubt that the weather towards the close of the crop was not favourable, being too cold and wet; but owing to the large number of worms hatched out, it is generally believed that there will be no shortage in the new crop, but that 60,000 bales of white silk may be relied upon for export.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the P.M.S.S. *China*, 25th May, taking 510 bales for New York and the P. & O. steamer *Ancona*, 26th May, carrying 73 bales for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 43,222 piculs. against 46,883 piculs last year and 49,491 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Filatures.—As mentioned above, there has been considerable business done for Europe. The prices paid have not been much above last week's quotations, although holders now demand an advance. We do not think, however, that the tone is very strong and if we get no worse intelligence as to the European crop, we ought

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to see a little ease in the market next week. Among the purchases recorded are *Sumitomo*, $710; *Usen*, (*Tase*,) $720; *Mino*, (*Kinkasha*,) $710; *Hida*, $700. Common sorts have been done as low as $640.

Rereels.—No business for some days and prices nominally as last advised.

Kakeda.—Only one purchase recorded, $660 being paid for *Horsehead* chop.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom.
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom.
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$720 to 730
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	700 to 710
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	680 to 690
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	680 to 690
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	650 to 660
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	650 to 660
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom.
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	690 to 700
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	670 to 680
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	650 to 660
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	630 to 640
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	610 to 620
Kakedas—Extra	700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 1	680 to 690
Kakedas—No. 1½	650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 2	630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 2½	610 to 620
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom.
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom.
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 1st June, 1894:—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	23,121	18,775	18,776
America	18,722	27,313	29,627
Total { Bales	41,843	46,088	48,403
Total { Piculs	43,222	46,883	49,491
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	43,800	47,000	48,900
Stock, 1st June	5,400	1,050	1,800
Available supplies to date	49,200	48,050	50,700

WASTE SILK.

There has been rather more doing, buyers operating for price and taking low quality at cheap rates. Settlements are 492 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 199 piculs; *Kibiso*, 234 piculs; *Neri*, 59 piculs. No direct export this week.

Dealers seem inclined to be current but consumers abroad apparently hang back. Inquiries come to hand, and firm offers are made in return, without leading to business; although the lay down cost of Japan Wastes now is less than for many years past.

There has only been one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the English mail steamer *Ancona*, 26th May, taking 61 bales various Wastes for Europe. This departure makes the present figures 27,559 piculs, against 43,501 piculs last year and 33,188 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—The business done has been chiefly in the medium and inferior qualities. *Filature.* $104½; *Joshu*, $68, $50, $42½, $31, $18, $15, and even $10, the last three lots being refuse and sweepings,

Kibiso.—*Filatures* have been dealt in to some extent, $100, $90, $72½ and $67½ being paid for a mixed assortment. A fair parcel of *Joshu* was done at $27½ and some trifling purchases of *Zagouri* were entered at $60.

Sundries—Nothing done beyond a purchase of very common *Neri* at from $5 to $7 a picul for the uncleaned stock.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$120 to 125
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	70 to 65
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	105 to 115
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	65 to 70
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	60 to 62½
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	90 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 85
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	60 to 65
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	25 to 50
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	150 to 160

Export Table Waste Silk to 1st June, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	24,328	40,809	31,089
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	27,559	43,501	33,188
	piculs.	piculs.	piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	28,900	46,400	35,600
Stock, 1st June	15,100	2,400	4,300
Available supplies to date	44,000	48,800	39,900

Exchange, has fluctuated slightly, closing lower at the following quotations:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1⅜; Documents, 2/1⅜; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1⅜. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $51½; 4m/s. U.S. $52¼. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.66; 6m/s. fcs. 2.67.

Estimated Silk Stock, 1st June, 1894:—

Raw.	piculs.	Waste.	piculs.
Hanks	—	Cocoons	140
Filatures	2,650	Noshi-ito	7,820
Re-reels	2,440	Kibiso	6,770
Kakeda	310	Mawata	110
Oshu	—	Sundries	260
Taysaam Kinds	—		
Total piculs	5,400	Total piculs	15,100

TEA.

Large business continues, and prices for the medium and lower grades decline as the season advances. The quantity of business done in May has been phenomenal, the settlements for that month alone amounting to nearly one-half the expected total for the whole season. Export figures to 31st ult. were 3⅜ million pounds, with plenty of carriers (both sail and steam) on the berth.

QUOTATIONS.

	per picul.
Choicest	$35 up
Choice	30 to 31
Finest	26 to 27
Fine	21 to 22
Good Medium	18 to 19
Medium	16 to 17
Good Common	14 to 15

EXCHANGE.

There has been a slight fluctuation in rates during the week, which close weak.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅝
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2 0⅝
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.59
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	2.66
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	192
On India—Private 30 days' sight	196
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50½
On America—Private 30 days' sight	51½
On America—Private 4 months' sight	52½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.09
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.17
Bar Silver (London)	28 1/16

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH, 1894.

DEATHS.

At the British Legation in Tokio, on Monday Evening, the Fourth of June, 1894, HUGH FRASER, Esquire, Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.

On May 5th, at the residence of her Sister, in Columbia, Pa., U.S.A., Miss HARRIET IRENE BRUCKHART, late of Yokohama.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THIS has been a week of rainy, overcast weather with a low thermometer.

THE body of a Japanese man was found floating off the Bund on Wednesday morning.

MR. CRAWFORD'S team defeated the Captain's team at cricket last Saturday by 105 runs.

THE Italian Cup given for the yachts of the B division of the Sailing Club was won by *Isabel* on Saturday.

THE Diet was dissolved by the Emperor on Saturday last, when within two days of the proper close of the session.

THE annual meeting of the Subscribers to the Yokohama Fire Brigade was held on Tuesday. The old committee has been rëelected.

A CHARGE of uttering a counterfeit coin preferred against the second mate of the British ship *Queen Victoria*, was dismissed after a three days' hearing by H.B.M. Assistant-Judge on Friday.

THIRTY-TWO Japanese adventurers, led by Mr. Yoshida Chotaro, left for Chishima on the 22nd ult., to engage in fishing there.

SEVERAL fires have been occasioned through the agency of lightning during the past week, and two deaths from the same cause are reported.

MR. YOSHITAKE SEIICHIRO, of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, left Yokohama on the 1st instant for England, to bring home the *Tosa Maru* from Glasgow.

OVER two hundred Mexican dollars were found on the foreshore of the Bund during last week. The police cannot yet find an owner for the treasure.

DURING April last there were 772 marriages and 110 divorces in Tokyo, showing an increase of 143 marriages and 25 divorces against the returns of the previous month.

A Japanese caught with some Chinese lottery tickets in his possession, attempted to swallow them, but was prevented by the police, who have put him into gaol.

H.E. Mr. HUGH FRASER, H.B.M. Minister to the Court of Japan, died on Monday evening at the British Legation. The funeral took place on Wednesday at Aoyama Cemetery.

THE Marine Court of Inquiry sitting at the Teishinsho, Tokyo, have reprimanded Capt. Thomsen for running the *Wakanoura Maru* on to Saratoga Spit in March last.

SOME children playing in the Creek found a package of forged five-*sen* nickels coins. The Chinese forgers recently deported are supposed to have thrown the coins away.

A BRITISH Marine Court of Inquiry held in Yokohama on Thursday acquitted Captain Thomas of the ship *Argomene* of all blame in connection with her recent stranding in Suruga Gulf.

MR. ALFRED VON FLESCH, the newly appointed Austro-Hungarian Acting Consul at Yokohama, arrived here on the 29th ult.; his exequatur was issued by the Japanese Government on the 31st.

KAGOSHIMA Prefecture is noted for the raising of pigs. About two-thirds of the pig-stock in the empire are raised in that Prefecture, while the remainder are distributed between Chiba, Ibaraki, Tokyo, Kanazawa, and Nagasaki.

PROFESSOR AOYAMA and Dr. Kitazato, who left Yokohama on the 5th instant for Hongkong in the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, are expected to stay in the colony for thirty days investigating the nature of the plague and the conditions favourable for its development or extermination.

MISS ARBERSOLD of No. 179. Bluff, was robbed of a reticule containing $125 while at the Post Office on Saturday. The police arrested several bystanders, as soon as the alarm was given, and eventually the bag, still containing the money, was found in the compound of the police station.

THE Korean insurrection is the topic of the hour. Troops have been despatched by Japan and China during the past week. The services of ten of the Yusen Kaisha steamers have been requisitioned by the Japanese Government, and men-of-war belonging to many nations are hurrying off to the seat of disturbance.

A JAPANESE named Fukuda Utaro, of Shimane Prefecture, residing at present at Niigata, obtained a passport on the 24th ult. for the purpose of travelling on foot through the interior of Siberia. He intends to investigate the conditions of commerce there, and will probably proceed to Germany, France, and Italy, according to circumstances.

MR. KIMURA RIYEMON, who was defeated by Mr. Shimada Saburo in the last general election in Yokohama, has already been requested by some electors to stand again in the next election. He is said to have declined their request.

THE Kingdom of Servia is quieting down after its late political discontent. M. Casimir Perier has been elected President of the French Chamber. Lord Rosebery's colt Ladas has won the Derby. Among the Queen's Birthday honours are the following:—General Stewart and Viscount Wolseley promoted Field-Marshals: The Hon. Mr. Grinlinton, Commissioner for Ceylon at the World's Fair, Knighthood. Vice-Admiral Sir E. Fremantle, of the China Station, and the Hon. G. T. M. O'Brien, Colonial Secretary of Hongkong, elevation to G.C.M.G. Mr. Byron Brenan, H.M. Consul at Canton, a C.M.G.-ship. Lord Roberts is to replace Viscount Wolseley in command of Her Majesty's Forces in Ireland at the expiration of the latter's term of service. Sir E. Grey, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has declined to make any statement in the House of Commons upon the Anglo-Chinese Convention until he is sure that the Convention had reached Peking. He further said that Great Britain objected to the proposed commercial agreement between France and Siam whereby British trade was deprived of fair play. Lord Tweedmouth, Lord Privy Seal, having been made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in room of Mr. Bryce, the latter has received the office of President of the Board of Trade in succession to Mr. Mundella, resigned. A motion of Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt that priority be given to Government business for the remainder of the session of the House of Commons was adopted by a majority of seventeen. M. Dupuy's statement in the French Chamber represented that the financial problem, especially as regards fiscal reforms, was most urgent. Regarding foreign questions, the Ministry would vigorously defend the rights and interests of France. A Russian Legation has been founded at the Vatican.

ANOTHER lifeless week has passed, and the Import trade shows no improvement. Yarns have been taken, but in very small quantities, while Piece-goods, especially in Fancy lines, are very much neglected. The Metal trade continues dull and inactive, buyers making low offers—so low indeed as to be quite unacceptable. No real revival can now be looked for till the autumn. The Kerosene trade is restricted to the smallest proportions, and prices though not quotably lower tend in that direction. No further arrivals are reported, and deliveries continue on a fair scale, but fresh business is difficult to find. The Sugar market is quiet; a small business in Brown sorts is reported at late rates, while Whites are steady and in small request. At the close a slight improvement all round has taken place, and holders prophecy an active resumption of business at an early date. There has been a small daily business in Silk, but the total is not great. Waste Silk has also seen a very limited sale, the stock being still over 15,000 piculs. The large transactions in leaf which have reduced the stock on the Tea market, have also hardened prices, and holders are consequently firm. Exchange showed some improvement early in the week, but rates have since seen a slight decline, and there is no great firmness at the close.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

Various rumours are circulated in Tokyo about the Korean Affair which for the time engrosses public attention. Newspapers and magazines are forbidden, under the penalty of heavy fines, to publish anything relating to the movements of troops and war-vessels or cognate subjects. It is now believed that the rebels have marched to the vicinity of Sōul. Rumour goes so far as to say that siege has been laid to that city, and latest telegrams represent that troops have been despatched to the peninsula both by China and by Russia. Journalistic comments on this subject have been already reproduced in part in these columns. Here we shall notice a few of the articles subsequently published.

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The *Chu-o Shimbun* remarks that in 1873 Japan was on the point of carrying out an enterprising policy in Korea, but fate willed otherwise. Since then for seventeen years the Japanese Government has always maintained a pacific attitude toward the peninsula kingdom. But is such a policy calculated to serve Japan's object, namely, to lead Korea along the path of progress and thus secure her independence? "Japan's mission is to extend her sway over the continent of Asia. We are not designed by Heaven to remain cooped up within these narrow islands." Such being the *Chu-o's* opinion, it regrets that at this juncture the Japanese Cabinet does not contain a Palmerston.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* urges the Government to use the utmost promptitude in despatching troops to Korea. So far as the protection of the Japanese residents is concerned, our contemporary entertains little doubt that the Government will be amply able to discharge its duties. But it cannot think that the Government's responsibility ends with the discharge of that duty. Japan must aid the Korean Authorities to put down the revolt. In doing so, however, it is quite possible that embarrassing complications may arise between Japan and China. In such event, the Government must be prepared to take a firm and uubending attitude toward China. That is the only point, says the *Yomiuri*, that is worth consideration.

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The *Shin Choya Shimbun* is much exercised by the news that Russian troops have crossed the frontier into Korea. We are told that of late years Russia has been secretly contriving to increase her influence in the peninsula. Now that a unique opportunity has presented itself for the pursuit of her aggressive designs, she will not be slow to take advantage of it. China, too, will not stand still. Under these circumstances our contemporary anticipates complications between Japan, Russia, and China, but has no doubt that the Japanese troops will be equal to the occasion.

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The *Mainichi Shimbun*, alone among the metropolitan papers, advises the Japanese Government not to have anything to go with putting down the insurrection in Korea. Troops, it says, must be sent to the peninsula kingdom, but the unique object should to protect the Japanese residents. Under certain circumstances, it might become necessary for Japan to adopt an energetic policy, but as far as possible she should maintain a negative attitude in Korea.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* takes this opportunity to point out the urgent necessity of completing the Hiroshima-Shimonoseki section of the Sanyo Railway. The Company proposes to lay the line along the sea-shore, but the Government will not permit the construction of such a line on the ground that it would be exposed to the attack of foreign enemies. The inland line suggested by the Government involves the outlay of a large amount of capital, and the Company naturably hesitate to undertake such a task. It has always been the *Jiji's* opinion that the Company should be allowed to construct the coastwise line, inasmuch as the most frequent occasions for the strategical use of the line will be in connection with troubles in the Korean peninsula, and, on such occasions. there need be little fear of the road being injured by foreign enemies. The *Jiji's* prediction has now been fulfilled, and it strongly recommends the Government to give immediate permission to the Company to construct the line along the sea shore, for, even if the present affair ends peacefully, no one knows what may subsequently happen.

* * *

Journalistic comments on the dissolution of the House of Representatives have already been reproduced. A few articles have since been published in the Opposition papers, all accusing the Cabinet of having dissolved the Diet twice on the same question of Treaty Enforcement. These papers point to the constitutional history of England, and insist that to appeal to the country twice on the same question is unconstitutional. Their arguments are torn into shreds by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which points out that the last two dissolutions were not made on the same question. The dissolution of 1893 was in a large measure due to the Representation on Strict Enforcement; but that of the 2nd instant cannot be said to have been caused by that question. At the commencement of last session, an Address to the Throne avowedly embodying the doctrine of Treaty Enforcement was introduced, but it failed to obtain the suffrages of a majority in the House. The Address that ultimately received the House's approval was couched in such vague language that no direct reference to the same doctrine could be discovered in it. The obvious purpose of the Address was to attack the Cabinet in general terms on its domestic and foreign policy. No sane person can say that the two dissolutions were caused by the same question of Treaty Enforcement. But even supposing that such were the case, the *Nichi Nichi* maintains that the charge of unconstitutionality could not be preferred against the Cabinet. For precedents of consecutive dissolutions on the same issue are not wanting in the annuals of constitutional government in Europe.

* * *

It is supposed that the next general election will take place in the beginning of August. The various political parties are busily engaged making preparations for the contest. From articles that have appeared on this subject, it is evident that the allied Opposition Sections will fight under the common standards of a Strong Foreign Policy and Responsible Cabinets. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, for instance, noting that these are the most important questions in Japan at the present moment, recommends the candidates of the allied Sections to make every effort to submit them forcibly to the constituencies, and to avoid reference to what are called minor points of practical importance. Evidently our contemporary fears that the discussion of practical questions would tend to weaken the bonds of union between the different Opposition parties that have been brought together by artificial means.

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The *Shin Choya Shimbun* plainly states that the introduction of problems of practical significance at the time of the coming election would be disastrous to the interests of the allied parties. If the Opposition candidates only devote their whole energies to the single question of Foreign Policy, it will not be difficult to obtain a positive majority in the new House of Representatives. Our contemporary does not make any allusion to Responsible Cabinets. In view of the fact that the *Shin Choya* is generally understood to have close connections with the leaders of the National Unionists, its silence on the subject of Responsible Cabinets cannot be regarded as a mere accident. It may be inferred that, despite the recognition—evidently reluctant—of this principle by their organ, the *Chu-o*, the National Union leaders are not yet fully reconciled to the idea of introducing the English system of Government by Party. Whatever may be the explanation, it is a fact that the *Shin Choya* recommends the candidates of the Opposition parties to confine their attention to the single question of Foreign Policy. At the last general election, the Opposition parties did not, says our contemporary, attach sufficient importance to that question. They are exhorted not to repeat the mistake this time.

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The *Hochi Shimbun* observes that under a truly constitutional régime, it is seldom necessary to organize combinations of a national character. But in Japan the general rule is reversed, the system of Responsible Cabinets has not yet been introduced here. Consequently it becomes necessary to organize national unions like the present League, formed by the various political parties advocating a strong Foreign Policy and Responsible Cabinets. Until the grand object of Government by Party shall have been obtained, it will not be possible, in the Progressionist organ's opinion, to conduct politics on party lines. For the present, therefore, the *Hochi* advises the various parties to bury their difference of views on practical questions and combine together on the common ground above alluded to.

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The *Jiyu Shimbun* expresses surprise at the brazen-faced assurance with which the Progressionists, "the traitors of former days," now call themselves the advocates of a strong foreign policy. The National Unionists, "the bastard sons of Clan Government," should hold up their heads in the company of parties working for the introduction of a system of Party Government. To note another inconsistency of the allied parties, they style themselves the friends of the Common People, while at the same time endeavouring to influence the votes at the coming election by the assistance of the representatives of hereditary privileges like Prince Konoye and other nobles.

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There has been a controversy between the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Mainichi Shimbun* on the subject of the rights of the Ministers of State in the Houses of the Diet. The controversy was originated in the House of Representatives during last session, when some members clamoured for the expulsion of a Minister of State and a Government Delegate. Mr. Inouye Ki, Minister of State for Education, declared that the Ministers of State and the Government Delegates take their seats in the House in virtue of their offices, and, consequently, are not subject to the control of the President, except while they occupy the rostrum, when they must obey his orders. Mr. Hoshi, speaking on the same occasion, expressed a similar view. Now the *Mainichi Shimbun* maintains that, even while they occupy their official seats, the Ministers of State and Government Delegates are under the control of the President. Should the contrary principle be recognized, it would lead to an absurd result. Suppose, says our contemporary, that a Minister of State or a Government Delegate were crazy enough to disturb the order of the House must he be suffered to indulge in his vicious procedure? The doctrine of immunity is thus held to be absurd and groundless.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, on the other hand, goes to the opposite extreme and maintains that, even while speaking in the rostrum, the Ministers of State and Government Delegates have no legal obligation to obey the orders of the President of the House. Our contemporary cites various instances in which the German Ministers of State rejected the President's order to stop their speeches. This right is given to Ministers of State by the constitution of most countries.

* * *

The question of Treaty Revision is not entirely neglected by the metropolitan papers. The *Chu-o Shimbun*, alluding to the so-called resolutions adopted at the recent meeting of the allied parties, observes that the conclusion of perfectly equal treaties is the unanimous wish of the nation. The *Kokumin Shimbun* repeats its opinion that such portions of the treaties as may relate to custom duties and the alteration of laws should be submitted for the approval of the Diet.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

JAPANESE EMIGRANTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE Japanese Consul at Vanconver, B.C., has once again sent a warning to the Government and people against rash and ill-advished emigration to British Columbia. According to the report as published in the *Official Gazette*, the total number of Japanese living in the vicinity of Vancouver, is 850, and each steamer that arrives from Japan brings a fresh lot. Of the whole number, about 250 are employed in the salmon-fisheries on the Frazer River; 200 are engaged in felling timber; while the remaining 400 are resident in the town proper. Only one-fourth of these last have found employment, all the rest having failed to get any work. The men employed in the salmon industries or in felling timber are much better off than those staying in Vancouver, for the latter earn at best barely enough to pay for their food, or, worse still, are without the means of subsistence. Considerably over three hundred emigrants are, therefore, leading virtually the lives of paupers in a foreign land. This is nothing more or less than the natural result of reckless emigration; hence the report lays great stress on the necessity for caution and warning advice whenever would-be emigrants apply to the authorities for passports. The dishonest practices of some pseudo "Emigration Societies" would seem still to be an additional obstacle in the way of unsuspicions emigrants. Three of the Japanese who reached Vancouver last month on board the *Empress of China* were found to be without tickets. Two of these had actually paid sixty-five *yen* each to the "Yokohama Emigration Company," through its agency their passage had been engaged. Altogether more than eighty emigrants had passed through the Company's hands in like manner; but instead of each receiving his or her ticket, one of the managers gave the whole lot in a lump to one man. When the purser came to inspect the tickets, it was found that those belonging to two emigrants were wanting, so that some dishonest employé of the Company must have appropriated considerably more than one hundred *yen*. Using the small amount of ready cash they had and with the aid of the local agent of the Yokohama Company, who made up the deficit and also paid the costs of the suit brought against the two unfortunates by the Steamship Company, they were suffered to depart unmolested. But in the case of the third emigrant it could not be ascertained whether or not he had paid the Emigration Co. for his passage, as the other two had done. Having no funds with him and neither the agent or any one else being willing to assist him, he was taken before a magistrate and sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment,—surely an ominous beginning for one who has come to seek better fortune in a foreign land.

A SECOND SOLOMON.

A WELL-TO-DO dairyman living in Koishikawa District, Tokyo, was, some ten years ago, the servant of a gentleman of means in Fujimi-cho, Kojimachi District. Upon bidding farewell to servitude he was made the happy recipient of a fine milch cow, as a reward for his faithful services, his master being aware of his desire to set up a dairy. Soon after this, he married an industrious and thrifty young woman, and so diligently did the couple work that in less than ten years they had amassed a neat little fortune of about ten thousand *yen*. And then began domestic troubles of a nature unfortunately not peculiar to Japan. The husband paid less attention to his business and commenced to dissipate; he scolded his hard-working spouse when she ventured to remonstrate, and finally, weary of her reproaches, said he should divorce her. In accordance with the orthodox custom of Japan, he said she might have their two daughters, but the boy, their one son, must stay with him. Weeping betterly, the wife hastened to the home of her husband's former master, begging him to dissuade her lord from so inhuman a course of conduct. After listening to all she had to say, the one-time master consented to accompany her home. The peccant husband was not over-pleased to see his former employer enter in company with the despised wife, yet their old relations obliged him to treat his master with profound respect. After some desultory conversation, the question of divorce was very gently broached, the master parenthetically remarking that if it were really necessary to separate, perhaps a prompt divorce would be the most advisable step; he should like to know, however, what arrangements could be made with regard to the partition of the capital accumulated by the joint exertions of husband and wife. After listening to what his old servant had to say, the gentleman gave it as his opinion that, in view of the daughters being handed over to the wife while the husband retained possession of the son, the same arrangement should be followed in the sex of the cattle—all the cows to be ceded to the parting wife, the bulls only to remain in her spouse's hands. Dumbfounded by this novel but natural view of the matter, the husband asked for a few days to take the matter into consideration; the upshot being a happy reconciliation and complete revocation of the threatened bill of divorcement.

THE KOREAN INSURRECTION.

WE do not gather that any success has thus far attended the Korean Government's attempts to put down the insurrection now raging in the peninsula. Of course there is very great, almost insuperable, difficulty in ascertaining the details of the struggle. The *Asahi Shimbun*, which published a circumstantial account a few days ago, and described the alleged doings and intentions of the Japanese Government, has been suspended, so that we are unable to guess how much of its information is trustworthy. There appears to be little doubt, however, that the Japanese Government has resolved to despatch a force of some 1,500 troops to the scene of the disturbance to protect Japanese life and property. Inasmuch as anti-foreign sentiment is one of the causes of the insurrection, it is plainly a matter of necessary precaution to take steps for the defence of life and property. According to the Tientsin Convention, neither of the high contracting parties is warranted in sending a military force to Korea without preliminary notice to the other. Such notice has doubtless been given to China, and in all probability she too will despatch troops, if, indeed, she has not already done so.

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The *Mainichi Shimbun* says that the Government applied to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha on the 4th inst., for the use of ten of the Company's ships as freight and troop-ships in connection with the Korean troubles. A meeting of the Directors took place on the 5th, and it was resolved that the *Omi Maru*, *Yamashiro Maru*, *Hyogo Maru*, *Kumamoto Maru*, *Wakanoura Maru*, *Echigo Maru*, *Suminoye Maru*, *Sakata Maru*, and *Sendai Maru* should be placed at the Government's disposal. Telegraphic information has been given to the Captains of the above steamers to proceed to Shimonoseki immediately, and then to rendez-vous at Ujina.

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The *Jiyu* says that the *Omi Maru* and the *Echigo Maru*, at Yokohama, took on board coal and provisions on the 5th inst. They were to go to Yokosuka the same day, and then proceed to Korea.

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Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister to Korea, accompanied by Mr. Motono, a Councillor in the Foreign Department, left the capital on the 5th inst. for his post. Viscount Enomoto, Mr. Mutsu, and a number of other distinguished officials assembled at Shimbashi Station to bid farewell to the departing Minister.

DISSOLUTION AND THE TOKYO PRESS

ALTHOUGH the dissolution of the Diet was a foregone conclusion after Thursday's decisive step, yet the actual announcement of the fact caused a feeling of consternation throughout the metropolis. Intense excitement prevailed in the streets on Saturday afternoon, and the manner in which some of the vernacular dailies announced, in extras, the fall of the curtain, was decidedly theatrical. One paper sent its extra around embellished with a broad black mourning-border. The *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* (Independent) added, at the end of the Imperial Mandate dissolving the Diet, the words, much emphasized, *ā, ā, kaisan*, "Alas! alas! Dissolution!" the mournful cry being printed twice. The popular sentiment on Sunday was that the majority of the Tokyo press would immediately come under the ban of suspension, as every partisan editor was pointing his brush and rubbing his ink-slab preparatory to vitriolic denunciations of the Government.

THE PEST IN HONGKONG.

THE Pest is still ravaging the Chinese quarters at Hongkong despite the rigid sanitary precautions taken by the authorities. The dire visitation is said to be explained in a perfectly satisfactory manner by the natives. *Feng-shui* is responsible for it, and *Daily Press* learns that the Chinese are pretty unanimous in the belief that the Peak Tramway, of all things, is directly responsible not only for the outbreak of disease, but for bad times, depreciation of silver, and other woes, while the Praya reclamation must be held responsible for the recent water famine. Many grossly mischievous libels on the foreign doctors of Hongkong are rife in Canton, and some insulting post cards and placards are in circulation among the Chinese. A wholesale exodus of Celestials from the Colony has been in progress for some days. The presence of H.M.S. *Tweed* opposite Taiping-shan has had a salutatory influence upon the Chinese residents in that quarter.

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A telegraphic message despatched by Mr. Nakagawa, Japanese Consul in Hongkong, and which has been received by the Government, states that five British soldiers, who had been engaged in enforcing the sanitary regulations, have succumbed to the malady. The telegram does not state whether they were European or Indian soldiers.

THE NEWSPAPER REGULATIONS.

IN our report of the proceedings of the House of Peers for May 31st, we stated that, after its secret session to debate the Amendment of the Peers' Regulations, the House received and endorsed the report of the Conference of Managers of the two Houses, appointed to consider certain amendments of the Press Law. That was an error for which the abbreviated stenographic records received by us each evening after the Diet rises, was responsible. The record for May 31st contained only the briefest possible reference to the doings of the House of Peers, and announced the majority's agreement to the Conference's amendments of the new Press Law, whereas the majority rejected the amendments. It appears that the stenographists, concluding that the session would occupy the House throughout the day, took their departure, and consequently were not prepared for the very unusual incident of the House's commencing at a late hour of the afternoon a new debate concerning a subject not on the Order of the Day, and remaining in session until past 6 o'clock. We print to-day a report of what actually occurred in the House at the conclusion of the secret session, with apologies to our readers.

THE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP.

ALTHOUGH our news from America carries us up to the 17th of May, the progress of the chess match after the 10th is not recorded. By the latter date 14 games had been played, and the position then did not look by any means so desperate for Steinitz as it did when the Montreal series of games commenced. When the rival met in Montreal the score stood:—Lasker 7 Steinitz 2, drawn 2, Lasker having performed the remarkable feat of winning 5 games in succession, but at the end of the first three games played in Montreal the position has changed materially, Lasker's wins still remaining at 7 and Steinitz's having increased to 4.

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appears that while in Philadelphia, where Lasker forged so much ahead, Steinitz was suffering from an attack of insomnia which of course fatally weakened his play. Steinitz never boasts, and has never been known to underrate his adversary. We must therefore attach moment to his statement that could he only recover from his insomnia trouble he saw no reason why he, in turn, might not be able to win 5 games in succession from Lasker. Events confirm this view, for the result of the three games in Montreal was that the first was drawn and the second and third were won by Steinitz. The score then stood :—Lasker 7, Steinitz 4, drawn 3. As to what subsequently happened, however, we are left unaccountably in the dark. The 15th game was to have been played on May 10th, but Lasker excused himself on account of indisposition. He had done that twice already, and as the conditions of the match limit each player to three arbitrary postponements we do no understand why the 15th game was not played on the 12th of May, the date substituted for the 10th. It is interesting to observe that in the 13th game, a Ruy Lopez, Steinitz abandoned his special defence 3 P.Q.3., and substituted the classic defence of 3 P.Q.R.3. We infer from this that he has definitely recognized the inferiority of the former tactics, and doubtless the decision of such a master based upon such a test will be accepted by amateurs as conclusive.

SAMOA.

WHILE certain newspapers in the U.S. are striving hard to awaken American patriotic interest in Samoa, this is what the *Daily Commercial News* of San Francisco has to say about trade prospects between America and Samoa :—"The extensive naval force that in the past has rendezvoused in the South Seas to guarantee the commercial rights of the United States in Samoa, the money and literary talent expended in official correspondence with Great Britain and Germany on the subject, to say nothing of the reams of good paper used to print able editorials and articles in the press of this country, have, combined, been but a trifling expense, compared with the advantages gained. No one will deny that a triumph for American diplomacy and American commerce has been achieved, for the trade is coming our way, the products of the South Seas are flowing through the Golden Gate, enriching this coast, and soon the barrier of the Rocky Mountains will be passed and the fruitful stream will sweep down to and spread over the Mississippi valley and reach even the Eastern coast. The steamer *Alameda* alone brought from Apia, Samoa, 1 lot of wreckage from Uncle Sam's lost ships, 53 empty kegs, 1 case human remains, and some limes."

MR. ASADA'S VIEWS ON THE JAPAN-BOMBAY SERVICE.

SOME little time ago, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha despatched Mr. Asada Masabumi to Bombay, in connection with the competition between the Peninsular and Oriental Company and itself. This gentleman has now returned and been interviewed by a representative of the *Hochi Shimbun*. Mr. Asada is convinced that the P. and O. will fight it out to the bitter end, partly owing to a feeling of indignation at finding any one daring to interfere with their ancient monopoly, but chiefly owing to the small opinion the Company have of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, which they deem the latter incapable of holding its own with so experienced and formidable a rival. This contemptuous attitude of the P. and O. is, in Mr. Asada's opinion, equivalent to a gratuitous insult to the country at large. The English Company should be given a lesson and thus taught to be less haughty in future. Mere indignation and bombastic patriotism will avail little; practical steps must be taken to enable the Yusen Kaisha to hold its own with dignity and unshaken purpose. He regrets to state, however, that as matters stand the Japanese Steamship Company can not keep up the competition for an unlimited period. The Company is even now experiencing serious loss on the Bombay line—no less than 75,000 *yen* annually for every ship taking part in the service. From the estimates supplied by the Yusen Kaisha to the Department of Communications with respect to the Bombay service, it appears that the total loss incurred since the opening of the new line, amounts to fully 300,000 *yen*. At this rate it would be impossible for the company to continue sending steamers to India after the expiration of the term of their contract with the Cotton-Spinners' League. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha might, in such an event, be reproached for want of courage or some might imagine that if double the quantity of cotton were shipped the company ought to reap a profit from this kind of freight. But Mr. Asada altogether repudiates the idea of possible profit from cotton at present rates: that is quite out of the question. And as for the first charge, it is quite evident that the Yusen Kaisha did not begin the Bombay service with the idea of incurring heavy losses, such as are now experienced, for an unlimited space of time. The service was started at the earnest request of the cotton-spinners and because it was thought advisable to make a trial in a new direction, even at the risk of considerable loss. It is true that, were it possible to equally distribute the shipments of cotton to Japan, the transportation of 150,000 bales annually would yield a profit; but there is only one cotton harvest just before the rainy season sets in, necessitating the despatch of a number of vessels very close upon each other. Undertaking the additional shipment of 75,000 bales was thus not profitable to the Company; yet both the Union Spinners and the Yusen Kaisha believed that to leave the shipment of so much cotton to the free choice of buyers, would be equivalent to breaking up the League altogether. It was for this reason that the Company agreed to ship so much cotton in addition to the first contract, even at a heavy loss. Granting then that it will be impossible for the Yusen Kaisha to continue the service after the expiration of the contract with the Union Spinners, the question is, what is to be done? In Mr. Asada's opinion the only course left open it to request a subsidy from the Government; and if this be acceded to, the Yusen Kwaisha will be enabled to uphold its credit, which is equivalent to saying that the dignity of the nation will be preserved abroad. The Peninsular and Oriental Company obtained its present greatness, Mr. Asada declares, in consequence of the patronage of the British Government, so there is every precedent for the extension of a like favour on the part of the Government of Japan. In this way only can the Yusen Kaisha look forward to prosperous development.

THE LOSS OF THE "ALWINE SEYD."

ON May 26th, by the arrived in Shanghai of Capt. Gosewich, and a part of the crew of the *Alwine Seyd*, in a Chinese boat, it was learned that on the 21st instant, their vessel had been totally lost off the Barren Islands, not far from the North Saddles. The *Alwine Seyd* was bound from Newchwang to Amoy with a cargo of beancake, and when she struck three boats were lowered, of which one was missing for some days. Eventually seven of its occupants reached land safely. About a quarter of an hour after the first alarm the steamer sank in forty fathoms of water. The captain, officers, and the crew in the two boats were picked up by a junk on the Tuesday and the next day falling in with a Norwegian vessel were taken to Gutzlaff, from whence they went on to Shanghai. Vessel and cargo were insured, the former at home and the latter locally. It appears that the Captain had his Japanese sailors entirely under control after the ship struck, but the Chinese jumped into the boats while they were still on the chocks. The vessel was going down as Captain Gosewich left her, and he was the last man in the ship.

ARTISTIC SHOPLIFTING.

THE well-known silk-mercer Shirokiya, of Nihonbashi Tori, Tokyo, narrowly escaped considerable loss at the hands of two expert shoplifters, some ten days ago. Two elegantly dressed Japanese ladies entered the store and looked over a long line of goods, making finally a purchase of only two *yen* in value. Just as they were about to step out, the salesman who had been waiting on them, noticed that sundry articles, worth about sixty *yen*, were missing. The ladies were stopped on the threshold and led into a private apartment, where they were examined. Nothing suspicious was found, for they had, it appears, in some unexplained way managed to free themselves from the stolen goods, which they had fastened in their undergarments. Just then the police came in, for they had been some time on the track of the two ladies. Another and this time very rigorous examination was made, and no less than eight *yen* worth of stolen articles were discovered up their sleeves, and in their satchels, all of which they had taken from several silk-stores during the course of the day. Convicted of theft, they confessed to a number of similar misdeeds, while it appeared they had been carrying on their nefarious trade for quite a long while. Both were natives of Oita Prefecture.

DR. KITAZATO ON THE PEST.

ONE of the staff of the *Jiyu Shimbun* recently interviewed Dr. Kitazato on the subject of the pest. It is hardly necessary to remind our readers that the Doctor is one of the world's most famous bacteriologists and the favourite assistant of Dr. Koch. He has started for Hongkong, having been despatched thither by the Government for the purpose of making an examination into the histology and possible therapeutics of the plague. In the present state of our knowledge of the pest, the specialist thinks that the precautionary measures to be adopted as well as the pathology of the plague itself are wholly conjectural. He is, however, of the opinion that the precautions taken against cholera ought to be equally effective in this epidemic. Drinking of none but sterilized water and avoidance of indulgence in raw foodstuffs, ought to be sufficient protection against infection. In the case of cholera, measles, etc., the germs of which diseases are carried through the air, absolutely efficacious precautionary measures are extremely difficult; but when an epidemic attacks principally the digestive organs, strict attention to diet is generally a safeguard. The plague now raging in Canton and Hongkong probably belongs to the latter category. So far as Dr. Kitazato himself is concerned, he feels no apprehension whatever, as he will exercise the most rigid precaution with regard to food and drink.

THE BOOK OF THE FAIR.

THE Bancroft Company's "Book of the Fair" continues fully to maintain the high promise of its first numbers. The illustrations are not only well chosen as a means of familiarising the public with the most striking features of the great Fair, but are also beautifully executed. Evidently the publishers have taken advantage of the best resources of American art. The letter-press also is satisfactory. Its compiler shows thorough acquaintance with his subject and wise discrimination in his choice of materials. Four parts out of the twenty-five of which the book is to consist are now in our hands, and if, as there is every reason to expect, the remaining numbers are of similar quality, the public will have a worthy memento of one of the most remarkable episodes in the history of industrial enterprise.

THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE KOREAN AFFAIR.

THE Authorities are evidently determined that the national interests shall not suffer from journalistic indiscretions at the present juncture. Instructions have been issued by the police to newspapers throughout the empire to the effect that the following subjects must not be discussed in news or editorial columns :—First, matters relating to supplies for ships or troops or to numbers of men and vessels; secondly, matters relating to the movements of ships and troops; thirdly, matters relating to the starting of ships; fourthly, matters relating to the establishment of military offices of whatever character; fifthly, all other matters relating to

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warlike operations. This of course means that with the exception of the least important details we need not look for any information in the vernacular press.

* * *

Apropos the above, the following order has been issued by the Military and Naval Departments :—

In accordance with Article 22 of the Press Regulations, newspapers and periodicals are hereby forbidden to publish for the present any statements relating to the movements of vessels of war or troops or to plans of military or naval operations.

THE "MIIKE MARU"-"MONMOUTHSHIRE" COLLISION.

H.B.M. SUPREME Court in Shanghai was occupied on the 28th May in hearing an action in Admiralty raised by the *Miike Maru* against the *Monmouthshire*, and a cross-petition by the latter, arising out of a collision which occurred on 11th May at the mouth of the Yangtsze, near the Tungsha Lightship. Briefly, the petition of the *Miike Maru* was to the effect that while approaching a pilot boat those on board observed that the tide was sagging her down to two vertical lights on the port bow ; the Captain was about to give the order hard-a-starboard so as to pass astern of what he believed to be a second pilot boat, when the hull of the *Monmouthshire*, at anchor, was seen ; the engines were stopped and helm ported, but the port side of the *Miike Maru*, abreast the fore rigging, struck the stem of the *Monmouthshire* ; that the *Monmouthshire* did not duly observe the provisions of Article 8 of the Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea, for which negligence they claimed damages. The cross-petition of the *Monmouthshire* stated that the vessel had anchored to wait for a pilot ; that a proper watch was kept, when, about 11.20 p.m., the lights of the *Miike Maru* were seen abaft the beam, and as she gradually approached and there was danger, she was hailed ; she struck the stem of the *Monmouthshire* and parted the chain cable, and afterward struck the vessel several times whereby she sustained serious damages ; that the *Miike Maru* did not keep a proper watch, and improperly crossed the *Monmouthshire's* bows against the provisions of Article 18 of the Regulations. On the part of the *Miike Maru*, the evidence of the Master, third officer, chief engineer, and a Japanese was heard, while for the *Monmouthshire* the depositions of the Master, third engineer, and two pilots were taken, and the Court adjourned till the 3rd June.

THE KOREAN INSURRECTION.

IT is stated that the Chinese Government intimated to the Japanese Government on the 6th inst. that it was sending troops to Korea for the purpose of protecting Chinese subjects owing to the *Togaku-to* disturbances. The Chinese Government seems to have sent the troops immediately upon the dispatch of the intimation to the Japanese Government. A Tientsin telegram has been received in the capital to the effect that the Viceroy Li has sent three thousand soldiers from Ikaiyei and Taiko for Korea. The telegram further stated that the men will land at Gazan, in Chinsei-do, at a distance of a little over 18 *ri* from the Korean capital. Preparations are being made to dispatch further troops. Telegraphic intelligence arrived in Tokyo yesterday from Korea to the effect that some Russian soldiers have arrived in Korea. The Korean Minister had an interview with Mr. Mutsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the latter's office yesterday. The conference lasted for over two hours. A Korean telegram, which reached Tokyo on the 6th instant, states that the *Togaku-to* partisans have surrounded Söul, and many officials have escaped to Ninsen.

ENTERPRISING JAPANESE IN INDIA.

MESSRS. MINAMI SHIGEZO and Yamamoto Unosuke, both natives of Wakayama Prefecture, have, we learn from a Tokyo contemporary, for many years been hoping to engage in some profitable enterprise beyond the borders of the Empire. Their plans had taken some sort of definite shape when they started last summer, with a company of ten expert sawyers, for India. They soon obtained work enough to bring them in a daily wage of one dollar. But being ambitious men, they were dissatisfied with this result, and applied to the Government for contract work. There were, however, in that place quite a number of Japanese living in anything rather than a genteel way, the consequence being that they had earned for themselves and countrymen merited contempt. So Messrs. Minami and Yamamoto were unable to obtain the confidence of the Government and their application was rejected. Obliged to turn to a humbler source of income, they succeeded in obtaining employment in the transport of timber. Their diligence and integrity in this line of business soon won the confidence of their employers, and this was greatly increased by their fortunate discovery of camphor-trees. They at once made some experiments with the wood, and succeeded in obtaining a very excellent camphor. This discovery highly gratified the Government, for the existence of this tree in India has hitherto been unknown, the world's supply of camphor coming at present from China, Japan, and one or two less important places. In lieu of reward for this valuable discovery of theirs, they were permitted to purchase some 400 *cho* (about 1,000 acres) of forest-land along the coast for the paltry sum of 100 *yen*. In these forests they found an abundance of mahogany and other hard woods, suitable for making the butts of rifles and for ship-timbers. The two enterprising gentlemen have recently returned to Japan with the Government license and a large map of the forest-land that has fallen into their hands in this fortunate manner.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

WE read in the *Jiji Shimpo* that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has made a considerable addition to its fleet, not simply by chartering ships, as the *Shogyo Shimpo* has stated, but by actual purchase. This step has been necessitated by the detaching of several steamers from the ordinary lines on public service in connection with the Korean *emeute*. The Company had to choose between dislocation of the coastwise carrying trade and an exercise of very courageous enterprise. It selected the latter alternative, and its prompt liberality enables it to promise that any inconvenience suffered by the general public shall be quickly remedied. We do not find any accurate details of the steamers purchased. It is merely stated that their number is five, that they are about the size of the *Kumamoto Maru*, and that one is to arrive at Kobe to-day (9th), another on the 11th instant, two more before the end of the month, and one in the early part of next month. Moreover the *Izumi Maru*, recently constructed in England to the Company's order, is to reach Yokohama before the end of this month, and another of about 3,000 tons has been chartered. Thus the aggregate addition to the Company's fleet is seven steamers.

MR. CLEMENT SCOTT AT HOME.

AMERICAN papers brought by the last mail contain the following telegrams from London under date May 11th. Mr. Scott evidently does not now enjoy the intimate terms with the "Jersey Lily" of which he boasted while on his visit to Japan :—

There was a sensational incident at the Opera Comique to-night at the end of the performance of the play, "The Society Butterfly," which was produced for the first time on Thursday night. After the fall of the curtain, Mr. Buchanan, one of the authors of the play, came to the footlights and asked the audience to remain in their seats. He proceeded to read an extract from Mr. Clement Scott's criticism of the play, in which Mr. Scott said the play was a failure and that the audience on Thursday night left the theatre before the play was ended.

Mr. Buchanan, in an excited manner, branded Mr. Scott's words as entirely false. The whole audience, he declared, had waited to the end of the performance, but an unexampled and unseemly demonstration had occurred in the gallery, where a cabal had insulted and endeavoured to terrify a helpless woman, Mrs. Langtry. This was not the first time, Mr. Buchanan continued, that Mr. Scott had endeavoured to do him personal injury. He did so when "The Charlatan" was produced at the Haymarket, and utterly perverted and destroyed the story of the play, which either he did not see or was not in a fit condition to remember or describe. He was a writer of foolish verses for music halls and of crude adaptations. He had repeatedly gone out of his way to abuse his (Mr. Buchanan's) work.

"I wish from this stage," Mr. Buchanan went on, "to state publicly that he is a man without veracity, conscience or honour, an egotistical and spiteful creature, who guys his friends and insults his foes, and is generally a disgrace to journalism. He totally ignores the cowardly attack made last night on a defenceless lady, and possibly sympathized with those who made it, for he himself is fond of attacking defenceless women who have fallen out of his good graces."

The audience vociferously cheered Mr. Buchanan. When he had finished the joint author of the play, Mr. Murray, then came forward and said he entirely concurred in Mr. Buchanan's remarks. In response to loud calls from the audience, Mrs. Langtry then appeared hand in hand with Mr. Buchanan, and there was a renewed outburst of cheering. The audience then dispersed.

SUSPENSIONS.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the *Hochi Shimbun*, the *Chu-o Shimbun*, the *Ko-Nippon*, and the *Kokkai* have brought upon themselves the penalty of suspension by a direct violation of the Notifications just issued over the signatures of the Minister of State for War and the Navy. The Press Law authorizes an official interdict against the publication of any news relative to warlike operations, when the Military authorities deem that secrecy is desirable in the interests of the State. Such an interdict was issued by the Departments of War and the Navy on the 6th instant, and on the very next day the papers mentioned above published paragraphs referring to the movements of troops under orders for Korea and other forbidden matters. Suspension of course followed. We do not understand such procedure on the part of newspapers, unless, indeed, their editors want an enforced holiday. If the publication of intelligence of a certain class is disadvantageous to the State, as it may obviously be in the present case, what possible business has a newspaper to publish it? We may add that the *Asahi* and the *Kokkai* have been released from suspension.

A PISTOL.

A CERTAIN Mr. Kuwabara, proprietor of a rifle factory at Koishikawa, is credited with having designed and manufactured a pistol of which the eccentricity is more apparent than the utility. It is shaped like a tortoise, the head forming the barrel, the two fore-legs serving as supports in holding the weapon, and one of the hind-legs being a trigger, the other a safety contrivance. The weapon is 3½ inches long by 1.9 inches wide and the inventor claims that it adapts itself easily to the hand or to the pocket. He is said to have devoted some ten years to elaborating the affair, and we venture to think that he might have been better employed.

MRS. FRASER.

WE are asked by Mrs. Fraser to express her earnest thanks for the universal kindness and sympathy shown by all nationalities during and after the illness of Mr. Fraser. Such constant evidences of active friendship and so many services of true regard could not fail to alleviate the pain of that sad time, and have furnished memories that will permanently soften its suffering.

* * *

Mrs. Hugh Fraser asks us to supplement the brief words contained in our issue of yesterday by fuller expression of earnest thanks to the many kind friends who gave her their sympathy in her recent unspeakable sorrow. Most especially does she wish to thank those who carried Mr. Fraser at the various stages from his home to his grave, those who sent sent flowers to deck his bier, and those who attended the funeral. Mrs. Fraser hopes to thank each friend in person before her departure from Japan, but being quite unable to do so at once,

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desires for the moment to adopt this method of declaring how deeply touched she is by all the kindnesss she has received in her great trial. If anything could comfort her in her sorrow, it would be the knowledge that so many mourn with her. We may add that Mr. Fraser himself was profoundly touched and gratified by the wide and kindly interest shown during his illness. More than once he gave expression to the keen happiness inspired by such numerous evidences of friendship, and said that, should he recover, life would derive a new charm from the delightful knowledge thus acquired.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

THE advocates of international arbitration, who assembled in Chicago on the occasion of the World's Fair, have published a volume designed in part as a record of what has already been accomplished. The book commences with the following:—

TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD.

The undersigned citizens of many countries gathered at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, in the United Stated of America, recognising the advantages accuring to those Nations which have pursued the policy of arbitrating international disputes, and desiring that the like benefits may in the future be enjoyed by all Nations, and deeming this a fitting opportunity, do hereby join in this memorial to all our various Governments, praying that they will unitedly agree, by mutual treaties, to submit for settlement by arbitration all such international questions and differences as shall fail of satisfactory solution by the ordinary peaceful negotiations. And for this the petitioners will ever pray.

Here follow signatures, in facsimile, of distinguished men and women who have appended their names to the above petition, and these are succeeded by an appendix containing much interesting matter. Among other striking facts, it is mentioned that whereas in 1869 Europe had only 6,958,000 soldiers, she now has 22,248,000, and whereas her military expenditure in the former year was 2,228,000,000 francs it was 4,069,000,000 francs in 1893. The book is attractive for its own sake apart from the matter it contains.

POLITICAL PROGRESS OF JAPAN IN 1893.

MR. E. W. CLEMENT, writing in the *Chicago Magazine* for April, gives a succinct account of the proceedings of the Diet and the Government during last year. He describes the various collisions between the Cabinet and the House of Representatives and the legislation effected, and he sums up as follows:—"This outline of the political progress of New Japan in 1893 ought to show clearly two things which are made evident by the investigation of all the institutions of the present in that Empire: First, what astounding progress has been made within the past few decades; and, secondly, how much remains yet to be accomplished in the way of reform. The past deservedly calls for hearty praise; the present, however, with all its imperfections, does not deserve captious criticism; the future is to be awaited with anxiety but confidence. With the motto, *festina lente;* with a careful application of the principles of "natural selection" and the "survival of the fittest," Japan can become fitted, and may be destined, to play a very important part in the future history of the world."

RAILWAYS IN RUSSIA.

WE take the following from the *Literary Digest*:—

The Russian government contemplates buying up the railways in the south-west of Russia, amounting altogether to about 3,000 miles, before the end of the present year, according to the London *Iron and Coal Trades Review*. "The desire of the government is supposed to be due to military considerations. The government railways of the western portion of Russia will be divided into circuits—the Warsaw, Vilna, Kieff, Charkoff, Moscow, and Caucasian. The further question of constructing a railway to the Polar and White Sea is to be considered by a special commission appointed by the government and the St. Petersburg town council. The scheme of constructing a line across Finland from Uleaborg to the Moorman coast on the Arctic ocean seems to have been abandoned, both from commercial and strategic reasons. It is proposed, however, to construct a railway line connecting St. Petersburg with Kemi, on the extreme north of the Gulf of Bothnia, via Ladeinoe Polje and Petrozavodsk—a distance of some 600 miles. This railway, it is thought, might be afterwards extended to one of the open harbours on the Moorman coast, which would furnish Russian warships with a naval station. Another contemplated scheme is for a line from St. Petersburg to Vologda, in order to place the capital in more direct connection with the Trans-Siberian Railway, and to develop the resources of the northern governments, which are greatly in need of railways and roads. The question of extending the Vologda line to the once flourishing seaport of Archangel is also being seriously discussed."

CHINESE SOLDIERS IN KOREA.

FOR several years it has been persistently rumoured that though the Tientsin Convention pledged China and Japan to withdraw their troops from Korea, and not to despatch a force thither again without mutual intimation of the intention, China has always contrived to have the materials for a battalion in Söul. She has effected this by sending thither soldiers who dress as civilians and engage in various trades, especially that of drug-hawker, holding themselves in readiness to rendezvous in the event of an emergency. The *Jiji Shimpo* accepts that information as unquestionable, and puts the number of the disguised braves at 1,000. Of course there is nothing to prevent China's taking such measures, if she pleases.

A NEW BUREAU IN THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

A NEW Bureau has been created by Imperial Ordinance in the War Department. It is called *Rinji Rikugun Chuo Kinki-bu*, or Extraordinary Army Central Treasury Bureau, and its functions are to deal with all matters of military expenditures and accounts in time of war or other emergency. Its location is Tokyo; has a Chief (*Bucho*), an officer of the first class, and five Accountants (*Keisan-Kwan*), officers of the second or third class; is under the control and supervision of the Finance Bureau in the War Department, and has a fixed establishment of ten secretaries and employés.

THE COLLISION ON THE SANYO RAILWAY.

THE collision that occurred on the Sanyo Railway on the 1st instant appears to have been caused chiefly through the obstinacy of the driver of a train who, though warned that some ballast trucks were running to and fro on the section of the line beyond Hongo Station, declined to wait five minutes. Twenty-four men on the ballast trucks, of whom two were officials and the rest labourers, were injured—one of the officials so severely that his life is in danger—but no one was hurt on the other train. The engines were wrecked, the boiler of the ballast-train locomotive bursting immediately after the collision.

ANOTHER FATAL FIRE IN KANDA.

ABOUT half-past eleven in the evening of the 5th instant, a fire broke out in Toshima-cho, Kanda District, Tokyo, resulting in the complete destruction of four houses only and the partial demolition of six others. The strange thing was that a life was lost and three other people severely burned. The fire originated in a wine-seller's house, where the flames spread with such rapidity that one of the employés was burned to death before he could escape. This is the fifth or sixth time this year that fatal fires have occurred in Kanda.

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES.

IT will be seen from our report of the proceedings in the Diet on Saturday, that the Emperor has again ordered the dissolution of the House of Representatives, just as people had begun to hope that the House's conduct would fall short, by however little, of the extravagance compelling such a measure. We withhold comment for the moment.

THE PEST IN HONGKONG.

THE *Official Gazette* prints a telegram, dispatched by the Japanese Consul at Hongkong and received by the Japanese Government on the 8th inst., stating that 577 deaths occurred at the port between the 31st ult., and 7th inst., and 230 patients have been receiving medical treatment, making a total of about 1,200 from the outbreak.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

THE *Boyeki himbun* says that the house of a hair-dresser at Zaimokuza, Kamakura, was struck by lightning on the 5th inst., and his daughter, Tsuru (26), killed by the fatal current.

THE JAPANESE PRESS AND THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LOWER HOUSE.

The Opposition papers have not yet discussed fully the question of the dissolution of the House of Representatives. They devote to it only a few lines of cursory and general comment. It is, however, evident from the tone of their writings that they are profoundly chagrined by the Government's step. Their comments follow nearly the same lines, and it is hence unnecessary to refer separately to the views of each. A summary of their contentions gives this result:—They blame the Cabinet for having discarded the verdict of the House returned by the people at the last general election; they unite in vaguely lamenting the gloomy prospects of constitutional Government in Japan; they are confident of the ultimate victory of the Opposition; and they call upon the electors to return, in the next general election, the members who fought their battle with such unflinching courage during the session just brought to an unexpected close. The question has received a fuller measure of attention from the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Jiyu Shimbun*, and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, especially from the first named journal. We shall briefly reproduce the comments of these papers.

The dissolution of the Lower House in December last, observes the *Jiji*, was the consequence of a collision between the Cabinet and the Opposition on the subject of foreign policy. The narrow-minded programme advocated by the allied parties has since then become very unpopular, and the Address to the Throne introduced by the advocates of that programme was rejected by the new House at the outset of the present session. These politicians then changed their tactics. Eliminating the objectionable doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement, they introduced another Address, which was finally passed by a small majority. They thus declared want of confidence in the present Cabinet, but the latter evidently does not consider that their verdict reflects the true sentiment of the people. Under the circumstances, the Government had no alternative but to appeal to the country. There can be no question as to the propriety of the step. The *Jiji*, however, can not dismiss the subject without ventilating once more its old doctrine about the Government's share in reviving the conservative reaction that at one time seemed likely to develop dangerous dimensions. Our contemporary evidently believes that this reaction is still very strong in the country, for it expresses a fear lest the conservative element may regain the ascendency in the new House of Representatives, thereby necessitating a fourth, or even a fifth dissolution. But, says the *Jiji*, the evil is of the Government's own making, being a natural consequence of the encouragement which the principal statesmen now in power had assiduously gave to the recrudescence of conservative ideas a little over a dozen years ago. The correction of the evil, remarks the *Jiji*, will require exceptional firmness and decision on the part of the Government, possibly involving two or three dissolutions of the House of Representatives.

In an editorial note, the same journal on the authority of an unknown person, offers three reasons for the dissolution of the Lower House; namely, first, that the Address to the Throne recently passed by the House was couched in language disrespectful to the Sovereign; secondly, that the passage of the Resolution about the submission of treaties to the Diet for approval in so far as they relate to alteration of laws or imposition of new taxes, was an attempted encroachment upon the Imperial prerogative; and thirdly, that the House's conduct was unreasonable in demanding the Cabinet's resignation on the ground that disbursement of the Surplus in aid of necessary engineering works is a breach of the Constitution, whereas the utmost that could be said against the Government was that it did not interpret the procedure dictated by the Constitution in the same manner as it is interpreted by the majority in the House. It

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is further stated by the *Jiji* that the ill-advised attack upon Count Inouye and the passage of a Resolution condemning his conduct afforded an additional reason, or motive, for dissolution.

The *Jiyu Shimbun* does not profess to understand exactly the reasons why the House was dissolved, but it believes itself safe in declaring that the principal reason must have been the passage of the Address to the Throne, as amended by the allied parties. The Address is said by the Radical organ to have been an audacious attempt to impose upon both the Sovereign and the people. The defeat of the first Address introduced by the allied parties was owing to the fact that it covertly favoured Strict Enforcement of the Treaties. Consequently its rejection must be regarded as the rejection of the doctrine of Strict Enforcement. Smarting under their signal defeat, the allied parties endeavoured to attain their object by skilful amendments of the Radical Address on the subject of administrative reforms. At first sight the amendments passed do not seem to contain any trace of the doctrine of Strict Enforcement. Indeed, the allied parties prevailed upon the Independents to support the amended Address by assuring them that the amendments did not make any direct reference to the doctrine of Strict Enforcement. But a careful perusal of the amendments reveals the fact that they had the doctrine in mind when they inserted the following passage:—"Specially unsatisfactory has been their conduct in the sphere of foreign affairs, for they have followed an ease-loving and temporizing policy, their only anxiety being to preserve the good-will of foreigners, and they have completely reversed the attitude which they ought to maintain to their own countrymen and foreigners respectively." This ambiguous passage was meant to embody the principle of Strict Treaty Enforcement. Before the passage of the Address, the Allied Parties tried to conceal the true meaning of the changes introduced by them, but so soon as it was passed they began to allege triumphantly that these sentences contained the doctrine of Treaty Enforcement. Hence, in the *Jiyu's* opinion, the Address was an audacious attempt to impose upon the Sovereign and the people. The Radical organ regrets extremely that the despicable tactics of the Allied Parties furnished to the Cabinet a pretext for dissolving the Diet. But the Cabinet is not suffered to escape without censure. Though the Allied Parties are principally to blame for the present dissolution, the Government, says the *Jiyu*, is not entirely free from fault.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* states that the Allied Parties alone are to blame for having brought about dissolution. For how vague and presumptuous is the language of the amended Address to the Throne? The *Nichi Nichi* goes on to quote from the *Hochi*, the *Shin-choya*, and *Chiu-o*, and proves that these journals must be presumed to approve the dissolution, for they have been demanding of the Government either to resign or to dissolve the Diet.

THE PRESS AND THE CABINET'S MEMORIAL ABOUT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LOWER HOUSE.

The metropolitan papers, without a single exception, comment unfavourably upon the Cabinet's Memorial to the Throne about the Dissolution of the House of Representatives. The only point on which they express any satisfaction is that the Cabinet has taken so prompt a step to publish the reasons, however unsatisfactory they may be, for which it advised the Emperor to dissolve the Diet. It will suffice to reproduce a few of the more important articles on the subject.

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The *Hochi Shimbun* (Progressionist) is not in the least surprised that the Cabinet should have taken an attitude diametrically opposed to that of the late House of Representatives. It only asks the people to pronounce an impartial judgment on the points at issue. The *Hochi*, however, finds it extremely difficult, nay almost impossible, to understand the exact meaning of the Cabinet's memorial to the Throne; so vague and uncertain is the language in which it is couched. There being no reason to expect a fuller and more definite explanation of its position from the Cabinet itself, the Progressionist organ invites the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* to undertake the task of enlightening the Opposition papers. The points on which explanation is demanded are four. First, some practical examples are required to illustrate what the Cabinet has done for the reform of the administration and the assertion of the country's rights abroad. Secondly, although admitting that the Cabinet has done something toward the reduction of public expenses and of the number of officials, the *Hochi* would like to know if these reforms, incomplete as they are, would have been undertaken, had not the Government been constrained by the Diet. Thirdly, with reference to the question of remedying the distress of the people, does the Government hold that the Diet is less anxious to assist the helpless? Fourthly and lastly, as to the question of national defence, the *Hochi* fully recognizes its vital importance, but asks to be assured that the Government has decided on any fixed and definite policy, and that all abuses and evils have been swept away from the Military and Naval Administrations. In conclusion, the *Hochi* observes that the charges of "noisy clamours," and "big talk" preferred against the House of Representatives by the Cabinet in its memorial are discourteous and cowardly. Our contemporary reserves the discussion of this point to a future occasion.

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The *Chu-o Shimbun* (National Unionist) remarks that the most important points raised in the Cabinet's Memorial are, that the late House of Representatives was opposed to the carrying out of the great policy adopted at the time of the Restoration, and that it was also antagonistic to important measures aiming at the permanent good of the country. These charges are said to be gross calumnies without any foundation to rest upon. The great policy adopted at the time of the Restoration refers, says the *Chu-o*, to the progressive policy of opening the country. Now it is claimed by our contemporary that the strong foreign policy advocated by the late House of Representatives is not in any way opposed to the above mentioned policy of opening the country. As to measures aiming at the permanent good of the nation, the *Chu-o* adopts a very narrow interpretation, for it assumes that they relate to the smooth carrying out of Constitutional Government. In our contemporary's opinion, the best, or perhaps the only, way in which to attain that object is to introduce a system of Responsible Cabinets. That was just what the House of Representatives maintained, and in this respect its conduct cannot be said to have been antagonistic to the permanent good of the country. This, so far as we (*Japan Mail*) are aware, the first time our contemporary has openly avowed the doctrine of Responsible Cabinets. That was the only point on which there seemed to be a real gulf between the National Unionists and their allies the Progressionist and others. Hitherto the *Chu-ô* has carefully abstained from touching this question of Responsible Cabinets. But now that it has been publicly owned by their avowed organ, are we to conclude that statesmen like Viscount Shinagawa and Mr. Yasuba Yasukazu are at last committed to the principle?

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The *Jiyu Shimbun* (Radical) does not hesitate to express satisfaction with the Government's promptitude in publishing its Memorial to the Throne about the dissolution of the House of Representatives. But as to the memorial in itself, the Radical organ spares no pains to criticise it from beginning to end. It traverses every assertion contained in the document. It says that the Government has never pursued a fixed policy; that reforms introduced in the administration are very unsatisfactory; that there are still expenses and officials to be reduced; that the Cabinet has taken a wrong course in remedying the distress of the people; that the real obstruction in the path of the completion of national defence is the Cabinet's inability to reform abuses in the Army and the Navy; and that the Cabinet is open to the charge of serious negligence in matters of foreign policy, especially in regard to Treaty Revision. In conclusion, the the Radical organ strongly blames the Government for having denounced the opinions of the House of Representatives as merely sonorous talk and high language. It was one of the vows of the Emperor at the time of the Restoration that affairs of State should be decided in accordance with public opinion, and the Cabinet's conduct is stated to be incompatible with that solemn vow.

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The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* severely criticises the Memorial as ambiguous and weak. Our contemporary is completely at a loss to discover in the document one single plain statement of reason for the dissolution of the House of Representatives. Are we, asks the *Nichi Nichi*, to ascribe this singular circumstance to want of self confidence on the part of the Cabinet Ministers? Whatever may have been the cause, our contemporary sincerely regrets that the Ministers of State have shown themselves singularly weak, irresolute, and ambiguous in their Memorial to the Throne. Why, asks our contemporary, have they not taken the manly course of pointing out in plain and unequivocal language the reasons for advising the dissolution of the Lower House? Incidentally, the *Nichi Nichi* cannot approve the procedure which was adopted for transmitting the Imperial Message to the House is reply to its Address. It was given to the President of the House through the Minister of the Imperial Household. But the *Nichi Nichi* thinks that the message should have been conveyed through the Minister President of State, for the Cabinet must take responsibility on all matters of State. To return to the Memorial in question, the *Nichi Nichi*, as already stated, cannot approve that document, but it must not be understood that our contemporary is opposed to the dissolution of the House of Representatives. It only regrets that the Ministers of State have not boldly refuted the false charges brought against them by the House. In conclusion, with respect to the future prospect of constitutional Government in Japan, the *Nichi Nichi* assures as that the future is very promising. Short as the history of the system has been thus far, it has already shown a visible improvement. As an instance of this, we are referred to the comparatively large amount of business done by the Diet in the last session. In the short space of about two weeks and a behalf, as many as twenty-four Bills received the consent of both Houses of the Diet. What was particularly note worthy about the last session of the Diet was, in the *Nichi Nichi's* opinion, that the people's representatives were not anxious to pass Bills relating to industrial development, and that while openly pretending to place no confidence in the Cabinet, they were not reluctant to entrust the latter with the carrying out of various important measures. At this rate, our contemporary thinks, that a few more dissolutions will bring the Lower House to a right state of mind.

DISSOLUTION AND POLITICAL PARTIES.

On the evening of the day which saw the dissolution of the Lower House, the members of the Allied Parties and their sympathizers, to the number of about 160, held a convivial meeting at the Maple Club, Shiba, Tokyo. There were present a large number of the members of the Upper House, including Prince Konoye, Viscount Tani, Viscount Soga, Baron Date, and so forth. Speeches delivered by Mr. Suzuki Shigetoo, Prince Konoye, Mr. Hatoyama Kazuo, Mr. Shiga Shigetaka, and several others. Mr. Kusumoto Masataka, President of the late House of Representatives, in the name of those present, read the following resolution:—

Whereas, we advocate a strong foreign policy and are pledged to the introduction of a system of Responsible Cabinets; therefore, we hope that

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the National League may be maintained in a strong and sound condition, and that members of the late House of Representatives who advocated the above mentioned principle may be again returned to the new House.

Mr. Shiga's proposal to hold another meeting at the Nakamura-ro, Ryogoku, in a few days, was received with loud acclamations.

On Sunday last, the Progressionists held a conference at Count Okuma's residence, to consider the line of policy to be pursued under the circumstances. The National Unionists met at their head-quarters and held a consultation from 8 a.m. to noon. Viscount Shinagawa is said to have delivered a speech. The members of the Constitutional Reform Party re-assembled at the Tokyo Hotel, and decided to leave each member free to shape his conduct against the next general election.

The Radicals held consultations at their head-quarters on the morning of Sunday last. In the afternoon they repaired to the Nakamura-ro, Ryogoku, and organized a convivial meeting. There were present Count Itagaki, Mr. Kono Hironaka, and other members of the Party, numbering in all about three hundred. Count Itagaki, who was received with enthusiastic clapping of hands, delivered a speech. As to the Imperial order for the dissolution of the House of Representatives, it was his duty, as a loyal subject, to show due respect. But he regretted greatly that circumstances should have led to the dissolution of a House which had just been returned in a general election. The Radical leader then went on to express his satisfaction with the conduct of his followers in the late session. At the same time he warned them against taking serious notice of the various ugly things said about them by their enemies. To be slandered and hated was ever the lot of true men. Count Itagaki exhorted his followers to pay no attention to what other people might say about them, and uniting together, to devote their whole energies to the extending of their party's strength and influence. In conclusion, addressing himself particularly to the members of the late House of Representatives, he recommended them to go back to their constituencies with invincible courage to gain a victory once more. Speeches were also made by Messrs. Noguchi Kei, Soyano Hanya, and several others. When the merriment was at its height, Mr. Chichiiwa, Chief of the Honjo Police Station, followed by a party of constables came to the Nakamura-ro, and asked permission to attend the meeting in his official capacity. While he was speaking with one of the Radicals, a police sergeant entered the hall by a back stair. This unexpected intrusion was highly resented by those present. They at once rose, and a scene of confusion ensued, whereupon Mr. Chichiiwa ordered the dissolution of the meeting. The Radicals are said to be indignant with this conduct of Mr. Chichiiwa, and to have under contemplation some steps in the matter.

THE LATE MR. FRASER AND THE JAPANESE PRESS.

The death of Mr. Fraser elicits from the Japanese press expressions of sincere sorrow and regret. Journalistic notices about him, it is true, are in most cases rather short and lacking in materials, but doubtless the circumstance is not ascribable to any intentional indifference. The simple explanation is that few Japanese journalists had the pleasure of any personal acquaintance with the late British Representative. We shall reproduce the comments of the *Chu-o Shimbun* and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*.

The *Chu-o*, after some preliminary notices about the distinguished dead, the nature of his disease, the arrangements about his funeral, and so forth, proceeds as follows :—"From the time of his arrival as British Minister at this Court, Mr. Fraser took broad and impartial views of the diplomatic relations between Japan and his country, and did not confine his attention to guarding the petty interests of the merchants in the settlements. For that reason he was not popular with some of his nationals in the open ports. When he returned here in Spring last, only a few of the English merchants at Yokohama went to salute him at the landing place. He regarded such things with supreme indifference, being immovably devoted to the pursuit of a course satisfying his own conscience. That fact ought to be preserved in grateful memory by our countrymen."

The *Nichi Nichi* writes in this strain :—"Mr. Hugh Fraser, Envoy Extraordinary, Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul General at Tokyo of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, died at the British Legation on the night of the 4th instant. All our countrymen heartily unite with the English gentlemen in deeply lamenting his decease. We say "English gentlemen" advisedly, because, among his nationals in the settlements, there are not a few who, dissatisfied with the line of policy pursued by him, always regarded him with cold indifference. The singularly just and impartial views taken by him on all occasions were erroneously supposed by these narrow-minded persons to be unwarrantably friendly to Japan. Accustomed to the enjoyment of special privileges in this country, some of the English residents seem to have condemned him as partial to Japan, their criticism probably dictated by selfish fears lest they should lose those privileges. Whatever may have been the cause, nearly all the English newspapers in the settlements were habitually unfavourable to him, blaming him for neglecting British interests. During the six years that he represented England at our Court, he always showed himself unswervingly true to the maintenance of the rights of his country, and in the discharge of his duties he was always heedless of what outsiders might say about him. While, on the one hand, thus unyielding whenever the rights of his country were in question, he was, on the other, actuated by sentiments of genuine friendship towards Japan. In private life, he was kind, modest, and reserved, winning the respect and love of everybody, both Japanese and foreign, that come into close contact with him. A man of firm resolution, he was never moved from the path of duty by the clamours of his nationals in the settlements. . . . It is not infrequently the case with Ministers that they unwittingly suffer themselves to deviate from the path of duty under pressure brought to bear upon them by their nationals. Mr. Fraser, then, may be considered a model Minister. Since his return to his post in Spring last, only a few months had elapsed. But during that short interval he was able indirectly—negotiations are not conducted in Tokyo—to render valuable services in the cause of Treaty Revision. Especially conspicuous among such services was furnishing to his Government information as to the real state of things in this country, and pointing out that the anti-foreign movement was never popular among us. His last official act was, in compliance with the request of our Government, to proclaim over his signature the Quarantine Regulations for the observance of British subjects. This was only two days before his death. We are profoundly pained by the sad event. The grief that all Japanese feel for him is not, we believe, less deep than that of English gentlemen and gentlewomen. Death, as Bacon says, opens the gate of honour and extinguishes the fire of envy and hatred. We venture to hope that even Englishmen who opposed him in life, will join in general lamentation at his removal from among his fellow mortals. True worth is only appreciated after death. Such, we have no doubt, will be the case with Mr. Fraser. May his spirit long hover over this land to guard the friendship between the two countries."

Somebody has been recalling the strange blunders which occasionally creep into extempore prayer. Here is a true story, which is at once characteristic and painful. It was a Wesleyan gathering, and they had met to say farewell to a missionary and his wife. A layman was asked to pray, and he began in this wise—"O Lord, who carest both for man and beast, take care, we beseech thee, of our dear brother—and his wife."

THE KOREAN DISTURBANCE AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

Considerable excitement prevails in Tokyo about the probable consequences of the rapidly developing insurrection in Korea. On Monday, the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* issued an extra containing somewhat alarming news on this subject. The first item published was the following telegram, dated Söul June 3rd, said to have been received by the Government :—

The Government troops have suffered a serious defeat at Reisan, the second officer in command and about 200 officers and men having been slain. The *Togaku-to* troops have already possession of Sekijo in Chusei Do, and threaten to march upon Söul. The Korean Government has, accordingly, despatched a party of a little over 500 troops and secured the pass of Tai-an.

All letters from Korea agree in stating that the insurrection is daily increasing in strength and popularity. According to a letter dated Fusan, May 20, the total strength of the rebels is estimated at a little over 10,000. This estimate is more moderate than others, and may, perhaps, be accepted as coming nearer to the truth. The leader's name is Tei Dôrei, his assistant commanders being Jo Sokaku and Sai Taiga. They have placed garrisons at twenty-seven places. During the day time, troops are drilled, and at night something like a religious service is said to be always performed in the camp.

The rebel leaders are said to have instructed their followers to be sparing of bloodshed as far as possible, and on no account to plunder or otherwise injure the people.

The locality now in the possession of the rebels is popularly called the granary of Korea. All tribute rice expected from the district has been seized by the insurgents, and the Government troops are said to be already suffering from scarcity of provisions. This is especially the case with the Garrison at Zenshu, where want of food is reported to have caused much sickness.

The Korean Government is said to have made thorough changes in the *personnel* of provincial functionaries throughout the country. This measure was taken owing to a belief that the present trouble had its origin in the tyrannous administration of the local authorities. It is, however, doubtful whether such measures will have any effect in stemming the tide of rebellion.

According to the *To-A Boeki Shimbun* of Fusan, the Japanese men-of-war, the *Tsukushi* and *Yamato*, left that port for the rebel districts on the 22nd ult. Chinese, French, and English war-vessels are also stated to have steamed in the same direction.

Referring to the number of troops dispatched by the Chinese Government to Korea, some Japanese papers state that they reach ten thousand, but the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* puts no confidence in the report. The China correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi* telegraphed to that paper that seven hundred men of the Infantry and one hundred men of the Artillery will leave Taiko, and seven or eight hundred of the Infantry start from Sankaimon for Korea. A detachment of soldiers is to leave Ryojunko, and preparations are being hurriedly made for their despatch.

Telegraphic intelligence published in the native papers state that the Korean capital has been surrounded by the *Togaku-to*, but little reliance can be placed on this report, for a telegram which reached the *Nichi Nichi* yesterday announces that the enemy after advancing into the Zen Province, took up a position in the locality, and the armies of the Government and the *Togaku-to* are now brought face to face. No fighting has been reported from either camp, and it may therefore be taken as granted that the capital has not yet been surrounded.

The reported despatch of Russian troops is now said to be groundless. A telegraphic message from Tientsin received by a private company in Tokyo yesterday states that a large mob, comprising 15,000 persons, have broken out into rioting at Kirin, a district near the boundary between Russia and Korea.

The Japanese Government has sent an intima-

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tion to the Chinese Government that it is dispatching troops to Korea to afford protection to the Japanese Legation, Consulates, and her subjects. The date of the dispatch of this message has not been published.

THE KOREAN DISTURBANCE AND THE JAPANESE PRESS.

The excitement about the Korean affair is increasing. The papers complain that they are muzzled, but they manage to publish enough, and more than enough, to convince their readers that some important step must have been decided upon by the Japanese Government. They report unusual stir at the War Department and at the General Staff. On the afternoon of the 2nd instant, says the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the latter office received an important telegraphic message, which at once led to a consultation of the principal officers there, and on the following day, telegraphic communications were exchanged between Tokyo and Tientsin. Our contemporary, while admitting that it does not possess exact information on minor points, nevertheless confidently affirms that all preparations for the despatch of troops to Korea have been completed.

On Monday last, says the *Mainichi Shimbun*, an extraordinary meeting of the principal officials of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha was convened, to consider a requisition made by the Government that the Company should place ten of its steamships at the disposal of the Authorities. The demand was of course complied with, and the following steamers were selected for the purpose:—The *Omi*, the *Yamashiro*, the *Kumamoto*, the *Hyogo*, the *Wakanoura*, the *Echigo*, the *Totomi*, the *Sumiye*, the *Sakata*, and the *Sendai*. Telegraphic instructions were at once despatched to these ships to repair immediately to the port of Shimonoseki or Ushina. It is scarcely necessary to add that these vessels are to be used as transports.

Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister to Korea, left Tokyo for his post on the 5th instant by the 11.43 a.m. train. He was accompanied by Mr. Motono, Councillor of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and by a party of 20 constables under the charge of Police Sergeant Takahashi.

The effects of these reports have been felt at the Exchanges throughout the country. Rice is rapidly going up, and speculation is rife. The Yusen Kaisha shares also have risen by more than 3 *yen* and are still rising.

For our own part, we refrain for the moment from making any definite announcement. But it may be safely asserted that, whatever contingencies arise, the Japanese Government is prepared to meet them with decision and promptitude. Meanwhile, let us notice a few of the principal editorial articles on the subject in the columns of the vernacular press.

The *Kokumin Shimbun*, which was among the earliest to recommend the despatch of troops to Korea, naturally feels satisfaction on learning that the Government is earnestly engaged making preparations for the step. Our contemporary has much to say on the subject, but declares that it is not at liberty to unfold its whole mind. It ventures, however, to hope that the disgraceful example of 1884—"brave in the beginning and cowardly in the end"—will not be followed by the Japanese Government. In another sub-leader, the *Kokumin* calls upon its nationals to direct their deliberate and sober attention to the present Korean question.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* states that, not only China but Russia also, according to rumour, is making preparations to send troops to Korea. Hence the Japanese Government ought no longer to defer a similar step. At the same time, our contemporary advises the Government to adopt as the key-note of its policy non-interference in the domestic affairs of Korea. The function of the Japanese forces should be limited to protecting the lives and properties of their nationals resident in the peninsula. The Chinese troops not being under such strict discipline as the Japanese, the *Mainichi* has grave fears lest a collision be brought about between the two armies. It warns the Japanese officers against that danger, but adds if a quarrel be fastened upon them, they must fight like the true sons of Japan that they are.

The *Hochi Shimbun* takes a different view. It writes in a guarded strain, but its opinion seems to be that the preservation of Korea's independence being of vital moment to the tranquillity of the East in general, Japan should take whatever measures may be deemed necessary to secure that end. If ever there was an occasion calling for diplomatic secrecy, the present in the *Hochi's* opinion, is such an occasion. It strongly blames newsmongers who rashly circulate mysterious rumours about important measures contemplated by the Government, and blames the Government also for allowing important secrets to leak out. The Progressionist organ finally remarks that if some people show a tendency to criticise the Cabinet's conduct even at a juncture like the present, the Ministers of the Crown must accept the fact as an inevitable result of their refusal to establish the system of Responsible Cabinets.

The *Jiji Shimpo* desires to avoid saying anything calculated to hamper the action of the Government. Neither will it, like some of its contemporaries, rashly publish news of a disquieting character. But it offers one piece of a advice to the Government, namely, that it is sometimes better to be over-prompt than over-prudent. All due precautions must of course be taken against contingencies, but unless action be speedy, it may easily prove too late to effect anything useful. The Authorities are warned against adhering too closely to rules: exceptional circumstances justify exceptional procedure. The *Jiji* illustrates its meaning by reference to the case of inviting a large party to dinner. If several hundreds of guests are to come, it might be very grand to feast them all at one table and at the same time, but for convenience sake, they had better be served in parties of from thirty to fifty as fast as they arrive. Apparently the *Jiji* hints at the rapid despatch of small bodies of troops to Korea as preferable to the slower process of sending a large expedition.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* observes that the insurrection in Korea has developed proportions such as defy the restraining power of the Söul Government. As to the protection of Japanese residents, the Japanese war vessels in Korean waters will be capable of affording sufficient aid in time of danger. But seeing that the Korean Government is unable to cope single-handed with the rebels, the *Nichi Nichi* deems it Japan's duty to aid that Government in restoring order. Japan, we are told, does not mean to assert any right of suzerainty over the peninsular kingdom: her motive is simply to do her duty as the oldest friend of Korea. That duty is laid upon her conjointly with China by the Tientsin treaty. On these grounds the *Nichi Nichi* urges the Government to send troops to Korea immediately. Under ordinary circumstances, the despatch of troops into another country's territory would be an unjustifiable encroachment upon the sovereignty of that State. But in the present instance, the direct and important bearings that the disturbance in Korea has upon the vital interests of not only Japan but also the whole Orient, absolve observing the provisions of international law ordinarily applicable to such cases. Moreover, the relations between Japan and Korea can not be regarded in the same light as that between one Independent State and another. Japan has the duty of guiding and protecting a small State like Korea. Our contemporary has no doubt that the Korean Government will be only too glad to accept Japan's offer of assistance. As to the contention that the Tientsin treaty requires Japan to confer with China before taking the step now under contemplation, the *Nichi Nichi* holds that the stipulations of that treaty do not require anything further than that a communication of intention should be made by the Power sending troops.

According to the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the question of telegraphs is not unlikely to prove troublesome. The line chiefly used for communicating from Korea to Japan passes through the districts now in a state of insurrection and the wires have been cut. The other available line is controlled by China, and of course under contingencies to which many Japanese seem more or less disposed to look forward. China's control might be fatal to Japan's convenience. But perhaps it is an exercise of superfluous anxiety to think of such things at the present stage.

THE RADICAL PARTY.

Various rumours are circulated about the Radical Party by the organs of the Opposition. If these stories are to be believed, it would seem that the Radical Party is on the point of disruption. It is said, for example, that a large number of Radicals from the North-East are discontented with the conduct of their leaders; that a serious dissension has arisen among the members of the party in connection with the attack on Count Inouye; that Mr. Saito Keiji, the introducer of that question into the House of Representatives, has left the party; that Count Itagaki has also declared his intention to resign the leadership; and that a few Radicals have addressed a circular to their comrades calling upon them to unite in an endeavour to purify the party. The alleged circular was originally published in the *Kokumin Shimbun*, which ascribed it to Messrs. Yamashita Chiyowo, Itakura Naka, and Kunishima Hiroshi. But the report about this circular and almost every other story above alluded to, have been denied by the *Jiyu Shimbun* in the most unequivocal manner. With regard to the circular, the Radical organ declares that it is a forgery, and that Messrs. Yamashita, Itakura, and Kunishima, highly in censed at the conduct of the *Kokumin*, have required the latter journal to make a public withdrawal of the false report. These rumours are no doubt greatly exaggerated and in many cases even entirely baseless, but more or less trouble seems to have been caused in connection with the miserable business against Count Inouye. That affair seemes to have been disapproved by many of the Radicals. But the difficulty appears to have been settled one way or another, and at present the Party does not seem to be disturbed by any serious internal feud. Instead of there being seceders from the Party, there have been fresh additions to its ranks, the most conspicuous among them being Mr. Kuroda Michiuzu, ex-M.P. from the Prefecture of Fukui and hitherto an Independent. Concerning the mainsprings of action in the Radical Party, the *Kokkai*, the *Kokumin* and a few others have much to say. According to their information, the policy of the Party is now said to be controlled principally by Count Goto through Mr. Takenouchi Tsuna and Mr. Hayashi Yuzo. Mr. Mutsu's influence, say those papers, has of late greatly diminished. It is exercised through the medium of Mr. Hoshi Toru, who is stated to have also lost his hold even upon some of his own followers. Men like Mr. Ishida Kannosuke, Mr. Saito Keiji, and Mr. Yamada Toji were formerly counted among Mr. Hoshi's immediate adherents. But they are reported to have of late attached themselves to Count Itagaki. As to Mr. Kono, he is looked up to as their leader by those Radicals from the North-East who are said to be dissatisfied with the Party's partiality to the present Cabinet. He is, however, on intimate terms with the Tosa section—namely the section popularly believed to be under the influence of Count Goto—and, consequently, he is blamed, so say the anti-Radical papers, by the pure and uncorrupted Radicals from the North-East for want of courage to rescue his party from the blighting influence of intriguing politicians. These observations are reproduced from the columns of the above mentioned journals, and must be accepted with due allowance.

At the general meeting of the Party held on the 3rd instant, amendments were introduced in the rules. The principal feature of these changes is that, in place of two Political Managers, four Political Commissioners have been created. They are to be elected at a grand

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meeting of the Party, and their duty is to assist the leader in the direction of the Party's policy and to take charge of the management of business. The meeting of the 3rd inst. was not a grand meeting, but the immediate operation of the amended rules being considered necessary, the assembly at once proceeded to elect Political Commissioners. The choice fell on Messrs. Hoshi Toru, Kono Hironaka, Matsuda Masahisa, and Kataoka Kenkichi. Their appointment is, however, to be submitted to the approbation of the next grand meeting of the Party.

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

Various conjectures are made about the object and the consequence of the attack upon Count Inouye and Count Yamagata by the Radical Party. For the most part the suppositions have no foundation. Notwithstanding their intrinsic worthlessness in themselves, it will not be altogether useless to make a brief notice of those rumours, because they occupy a prominent place in the columns of the vernacular press. For our purpose, it will be sufficient to refer to what the *Jiji Shimpo* remarks on the matter. Not that our contemporary's observations are more trustworthy than those of other papers; simply because its notice is more exhaustive than that of others. Concerning the origin of the scheme, the *Jiji* holds nearly the same views as those already suggested by some persons and repeatedly alluded to in these columns, namely, that it originated in the desire of the ex-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce to be revenged on Count Inouye and Count Yamagata, through whose opposition he imagines himself to have been driven from the Cabinet. Concerning Count Ito's position, the *Jiji* does not believe that there exists any positive understanding between him and the Radical party; but it thinks that the latter's attitude toward him is essentially different from its attitude toward Count Inouye and Count Yamagata. Otherwise the Premier would have been the first to be attacked by that Party, for his name occurs in the documents in the hands of the Radicals. On this point the *Jiji* is decidedly wrong, for it has been proved that the initial "I" (伊) as found in the above mentioned papers does not refer to Count Ito but to Ito Gumpei, an account official in the Army, and Ito Uhei, a village headman. The *Jiji* also writes as though it is dissatisfied with Count Ito because he did not refute the charges when they were preferred by Mr. Saito. Though he was not acting in concert with the Radicals, his apparent indifference lays him open, in the *Jiji's* opinion, to the charge of having feared to impair the friendship of the Radicals. Under these circumstances, it follows as a natural consequence, says the *Jiji*, that a gulf has been formed between Count Ito and his friends Count Inouye and Yamagata. As to the attitude of the Satsuma statesmen, they are supposed by our contemporary to regard the Radical attack upon Counts Inouye and Yamagata with indifference, if not with secret approbation, and are believed to be well affected toward Count Ito. But, in the *Jiji's* opinion, the combination between Count Ito and the Satsuma statesmen is not strong enough to last for ever. So, under certain circumstances, our contemporary would not be surprised to find the clan Government crumbling into pieces. One of the motives of the dissolution of the Lower House was, in that paper's opinion, to prevent such a catastrophe, but whether that object will be attained or not remains to be seen.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* laughs at the assiduity with which some papers circulate false rumours about the condition of the Cabinet. The allegation that Count Inouye and Count Yamagata are dissatisfied with Count Ito's silence when the question was introduced in the House of Representatives has no foundation at all. Indignant as they no doubt are at the absurd conduct of the Radicals, Count Inouye and Count Yamagata know perfectly well that it would not have been dignified on the part of the Cabinet to show any precipitate anxiety to refute the worthless charges preferred against them. Moreover, the Cabinet, in due course of time, took steps to expose the groundlessness of the charges. Neither is it true, continues the *Nichi Nichi*, that Count Yamagata is indignant with Mr. Mutsu. It was through the Count's recommendation that Mr. Mutsu became a Cabinet Minister, and the relationship between them is as confiding as ever. It is true that Mr. Mutsu is intimate with Count Itagaki and Mr. Hoshi, but he is not more intimate with them than with either Count Yamagata or Count Inouye. Such being the case, it is not necessary, says the *Nichi Nichi*, to deny the truth of the report that Mr. Mutsu has tendered his resignation. Equally baseless is the rumour that Count Inouye has sent in his. A certain New Agency reported on Saturday that Count Inouye had broken up his establishment at his official residence. This is flatly denied by the *Nichi Nichi*.

CURRENT TOPICS.

A section of the Opposition press, led by the *Kokumin Shimbun*, has begun to designate the Six-Section combination by the name of Great National League (*Kokumin-teki Dai Domei*). This is a new device to give a semblance of unity and cohesion to the motley group. A circle of politicians represented by the above mentioned journal seem to be as diligent as ever in promoting the final amalgamation of these factions into one great body. Now that the National Unionists have declared themselves in favour of party cabinets, there seems to be no obstacle to the consummation of the union, so far as political principles are concerned. Not principles, however, but personal predilections and prejudices stand in the way of any such organization in the present state of things in Japan. So far as the National Unionists and the small body of politicians led by Mr. Oi Kentaro are concerned, there appears to be no marked obstacle to their union under one standard. A similar, though less distinct, affinity exists between the Progressionists and the members of the Constitutional Reform Party. The *Chigoku Rikken-to* is also well affected towards these two parties. But between the three last sections and the first two, a great gulf is set, which, in the present state of affairs, seems likely to divide them for many years to come.

On the 6th instant the advocates of a strong foreign policy—namely, the politicians of the six sections and their sympathizers—held another demonstration, in the form of a convivial meeting, at the Kinki-kan, Kanda, Tokyo. There were present about 1,200 persons. The meeting was opened at 2 p.m. Viscount Tani, who was received with lusty cheers, delivered a speech, warning his sympathizers against any unreasonable or insolent attitude towards foreigners. He further cautioned them against violent conduct at the time of the coming general elections. Lastly, he asked the company to join him in three cheers for His Majesty the Emperor. Cheers were also given for Viscount Tani and for the advocates of a strong foreign policy. About fifty telegrams from all parts of the country, expressing sympathy with the meeting, were read by Mr. Sase Kumatetsu. Mr. Shiga Shigetaka also addressed the assembly. As one of the mangers of the meeting, he begged the indulgence of his hearers should there be anything amiss in the arrangements. He feared that there might not be enough to satisfy their appetites, but he asked them to remember that in going to war men must be prepared sometimes to fight without food. Mr. Sase then began to read a resolution on the subject of Treaty Revision. Scarcely had he read ten words, when he was stopped by a police sergeant. Thereupon a large number of hot-blooded youths crowded round the police official, wildly protesting against his action. Had not Mr. Kawashima Jun succeeded in calming the excited youths, the meeting would have been dissolved by the police. The resolution was not read, but the newspapers report that it was and declare that it was unanimously approved by the assembly. The document ran as follows:—

I.—Concerning Treaty Revision, we are not satisfied with merely nominal equality; what we want is actual equality. Whatever may be the treaties, the Government's inability to enforce them is, in our opinion, a manifest injury to the rights and interests of the country.

II.—We hereby declare that so long as a policy of truckling is followed abroad and temporizing at home, the treaties can never be made truly equal.

III.—It is contrary to the real purpose of the recovery of the national rights to secure the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction on condition of the Codes being put into operation, and to consent to open the interior for Mixed Residence if the step be accompanied by various administrative immunities.

IV.—To regulate the privileges of foreigners in the interior, not by the laws of the land, but by conventions, is, in our opinion, a limitation of the Legislature's powers.

V.—With regard to Customs duties, they ought to be fixed by law for all ordinary cases, and tariff conventions should be concluded only in exchange for some special advantage. Any other course is, in our opinion, opposed to the true purpose of recovering tariff autonomy.

VI.—The imposition of internal taxes on imports is a matter that ought not to be regulated by treaties.

VII.—The enactment and amendment of Coast Trade Regulations, Trade Regulations, Quarantine Regulations, Harbour Regulations, and so forth should not be hampered by treaties. Otherwise, an obstacle will be opposed to the true purpose of recovering the national rights.

VIII.—While approving the policy of opening the country and maintaining friendly intercourse with foreigners, we think it necessary, in view of the policy which all other countries pursue toward alien states, to place foreigners under certain restraints. It is also our opinion that, in order to avoid engendering a feeling of resentment and hatred between Japanese and foreigners, all partiality should be avoided in the enforcement of the treaties.

Prince Konoye, Viscount Tani, and several other numbers of the House of Peers are now the most conspicuous figures in every social or political gathering organized by the Opposition politicians. They have promised to give every possible assistance to these politicians at the next general election, and for that purpose they are soon to start separately on lecture tours. Prince Konoye will visit Kyoto, Osaka, and the localities adjoining those cities; Viscount Soga will undertake the conquest of Kyushu: the Provinces of the North-East are assigned to General Yamakawa; and lastly, the Provinces of the Tokaido will be attended to by Viscount Tani.

The Journalistic League formed some months ago to give united support to the parties in favour of a "strong foreign policy," is to be continued. Mr. Tokutomi Iichiro, editor of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, and Mr. Shiga Shigetaka, editor of the *Nippon-jin*, are the principal leaders of the League. On the 5th instant, the Committee of the League met at the Tokyo Hotel, and decided to issue a Manifesto. The task of drawing it up was entrusted to Mr. Shiga and Mr. Suyehiro. It was also decided that Mr. Tokutomi and Mr. Miura Tokujiro should visit the Opposition members of the late House of Representatives and warn them against competition among themselves at the next general election: and that Mr. Shiga and Mr. Suyehiro should wait upon the Opposition members of the Upper House to solicit their assistance at the time of the general election. From these facts it is plain that the allied Opposition parties are making great efforts to secure a majority in the next House of Representatives.

The *Niroku Shimpo*, never an enthusiastic supporter of the Journalistic League, has severed its connection with it. Our contemporary was led to this act by the growing tendency among the leaders of the League to completely identify themselves with mere party movements. A newspaper, it says, has missions to fulfil other than that of working in the interests of mere party politics. Henceforth the *Niroku* promises to be perfectly independent.

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THE DERBY.

The result of the Derby run on Wednesday brings to mind last year's contest for the Blue Ribbon, which was unique in the annals of racing, the first three horses in the Two Thousand Guineas, Isinglass, Ravensbury, and Raeburn, running in precisely the same order in the Epsom race. This year the Two Thousand was won by Ladas, Matchbox being second, and Athlone third, and as will be seen in our Derby telegram to-day, Ladas was first, Matchbox second, and Reminder third. Ladas still remains an unbeaten colt, and, as we remarked after his Newmarket victory a few weeks ago, this will probably be his record when he retires to the *haras*, as he is very lightly engaged—only entered in fact in four other races. Ladas is a Hampton colt out of Illuminata, and won all the four events for which he started as a two-year-old, namely, the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom, where he started at 10 to 1 in a field of six and won by a length and a half; in the Coventry Stakes, for which he was favourite, when he showed his heels to a field of a dozen; in the Champagne Stakes, where his only opponent was Sempronius, whom he defeated, starting at 11 to 4 on; and the Middle Park Plate, which he won by two lengths in a field of five, starting at 5 to 1 on. Lord Rosebery's colt is engaged in the Prince of Wales Stakes at Ascot, the Princess of Wales Stakes at Newmarket July, the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park, and the Leger. In the latest London betting to hand, April 28th, it was 2 to 1 against Ladas, but that was eleven days before the Guineas had been decided, and it is highly probable that he went to the post at Epsom odds on. The other horses quoted on the above date were —Matchbox 100 to 30, Son o'Mine 9 to 1, Bullingdon 10 to 1, St. Florian 100 to 6, Athlone 40 to 1. Matchbox is a bay colt by St. Simon—Match Girl, owned by Lord Alington, and Reminder is a bay colt by Mellanion—Postscript. He is owned by Mr. T. Cannon, and only started once as a two-year-old, in the Rous Memorial Stakes at Goodwood, which he won, beating six others. Matchbox won three of the four events he started for as a two-year-old, and is engaged in the St. Leger, but Reminder is not. A statement has been made in home papers that the primrose and rose hoops will no more be seen on the turf, now Lord Rosebery has become Prime Minister, but there is probably no truth in it.

The anecdotard, as might have been expected, says a London paper, is busying himself in smoking-rooms and other centres of "the latest intelligence" with Lord Rosebery. Not that all the stories and fables are new. The wager he is reputed to have made at Eton, that he would wed the heiress of the season, become Prime Minister, and win the Derby, has already done the London correspondent prodigious service. A later sporting legend, current in racing circles, has not yet appeared in print. Mr. Harry Ulph, a leading bookmaker, is the authority. It is related that one day at Newmarket, *en route* to the course, Lord Rosebery asked Mr. Ulph what price he would lay against a certain horse for one of the big races. The ready bookmaker named the figure, which, as may be conceived, was not one above the market odds. Lord Rosebery rode on a few paces, and then pulling up, said, confidentially, "Ulph." "Yes, my lord," replied the bookmaker, ready for a deal, "I ought to tell you that such prices as satisfied Lord Dalmeny will not do for Lord Rosebery."

Mr. Harry Ulph, who most strange to say, is a Gladstonian of the deepest dye, on one occasion during a general election, left a race meeting that was in progress in order that he might vote for the Gladstonian candidate in a remote constituency. The journey involved the loss of a day's racing; and, as it happened, business, from the bookmaker's point of view, was particularly good. As it turned out, also, that expedition saved the election, for the Gladstonian won by one vote. The circumstance was a good deal talked about, and, a favourable opportunity occurring, Lord Rosebery introduced Mr. Harry Ulph to the Grand Old Man!

THE CABINET'S MEMORIAL TO THE THRONE ABOUT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The following Memorial to the Throne has been published in the *Official Gazette*:—

May it please Your August Majesty:

The undersigned, Your Majesty's humble servants, dare not presume that they have fully discharged the grave trust which Your Majesty has been pleased to lay upon them. It is, however, their humble belief that in obedience to Your Majesty's command, they have pursued a fixed policy of State, aiming at the gradual reform of administrative affairs at home, and the assertion of the country's rights abroad. Measures to those ends have been gradually carried out, and both public expenses and the number of officials have been reduced so far as reductions were possible, while the distress of the people, caused by natural calamities and otherwise, has been relieved without neglect, and urgent measures of national defence occupy our unceasing attention by day and by night. Especially are we sensible that not so much as a day's negligence is permissible in the sphere of the Empire's international relations. The Minister directly responsible for this Department of State Affairs is perfectly cognisant that neither delay nor hesitation is to be allowed. In short, Your Majesty's humble servants are exerting their utmost endeavours, insignificant as their competence is, to accomplish despite all dangers and difficulties the great object of the Restoration, and to achieve the aims of the fundamental national policy. But unfortunately their intentions and motives not being appreciated by the House of Representatives, that body has considered them unfaithful to their grave trust in respect of State affairs at home and abroad and, after tumultuous discussion, has brought the matter to Your Majesty's attention. Your Majesty's humble servants are profoundly pained that the Throne should be troubled on their account. Convinced, however, that pompous words and grandiloquent language do not conduce to the efficient management of important State affairs; that the great national policy adopted at the time of the Restoration ought not to be left half accomplished, and that important measures aiming at the permanent good of the country can not be postponed because of tumultuous declamation on the part of the House of Representatives, and being further deeply solicitous for the prosperity of the country and the welfare of the people, the undersigned respectfully solicit the issue of an Order for the dissolution of the House of Representatives, humbly submitting the matter for Your Majesty's enlightened judgment.

The above is reverently submitted.

(Signed) Count ITO HIROBUMI,
Minister President of State.

Count KURODA KIYOTAKA,
Minister of State for Communications.

Count SAIGO TSUKUMICHI,
Minister of State for the Navy.

Count OYAMA IWAO,
Minister of State for War.

Viscount ENOMOTO TAKEAKI,
Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce.

MUTSU MUNEMITSU,
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

WATANABE KUMITAKE,
Minister of State for Finance.

INOUYE KI,
Minister of State for Education.

YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA,
Minister of State for Justice, and Acting Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Dated the 2nd day of the 6th month of the 27th year of *Meiji*.

THE PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

The *N.-C. Daily News* received the following telegram from its correspondent, dated Hongkong, 30th May, 6.53 p.m.:—

There were thirty-three new cases yesterday, and twenty-eight deaths.

The Imperial Chinese Telegraphs circulated at Shanghai, the following telegram received and dated Hongkong, 29th May, 8.40 p.m.:—

Shauhing Samshui districts flooded 2 3 feet, nine cases out of ten. The result is fatal. deep. Business stopped. Rice fields at Tungkun and Fatshan submerged. River risen 4 feet 2 inches; 38,020 dead rats collected this month. Plague decreasing Canton district.

Plague Hongkong slightly increasing; new cases 30; deaths 25. To-day everything quiet.

The *N.-C. Daily News* correspondent telegraphing from Hongkong on 31st May, at 7.50 p.m. said:—

"There have been forty-one new cases to-day and forty-eight deaths. The Government has authorised stronger measures being taken to stamp out the plague."

The following telegram, dated Hongkong 31st May, 11.17 a.m., was posted at the Shanghai Club:—

Three soldiers engaged in work disinfection caught plague, two more under observation. Returns last twenty-four hours: admissions thirty-three, deaths twenty-eight. Under treatment one hundred.

Another telegram dated Hongkong, 1st June, 6.50 p.m., says:—

There are fifty-nine new cases reported to-day, and fifty-four deaths. There have been no deaths from plague among Europeans.

The Imperial Chinese Telegraphs received the following message dated Hongkong, 31st May, 9 p.m.:—

"Plague increasing. New cases 41; deaths 48; under treatment 114. New bye-laws passed Sanitary Board. Insanitary houses to be cleansed by Authorities. Buildings unfit for habitation to be condemned. One military officer, three soldiers inspecting slums, attacked by plague."

SHANGHAI NEWS.

The Shanghai Horse, Dog, and Poultry Show came off on the 27th of May and was a thorough success. The most interesting event was the Ladies' Driving Prize, for a cup presented by the President and a second prize given by the Society. The cup was won by Miss Hamlin and the prize by Miss Clarke. Ten ladies competed. The *North China Daily News* says:—

The driving was so good all round, the average being decidedly higher than in the gentlemen's contest, that it was very difficult to come to a decision. The knot was cut at last, however, but the Judges found it impossible to distinguish farther, and no honourable mention was awarded, because so many deserved it.

An immense list of honours and promotions, granted in connection with the celebration of the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday, is published in the Peking *Official Gazette*. The Viceroy Li receives the rare privilege of wearing the three-eyed peacock's feather. H.E. Liu, Viceroy of the Liang Kiang provinces, gets the two-eyed feather, and the great Viceroy Chang is turned over to the Boards for the determination of extra rewards. He has also been honoured with the Imperial gift of an autograph tablet bearing complimentary words on the recipient's loyalty and charity to the members of his own clan. The gift, we real in the *North China Daily News*, is owing to a memorial of the Board of Rites, dealing in flattering terms with Chang Chih-tung's recent buying of a large tract of land which he has divided off on the agrarian system, equally amongst the indigent, widowed, and orphaned members of his clan at his home in Nanpi, Chihli.

The *North China Daily News* opportunely quotes, from a Parliamentary Report containing notes on the route followed by Mr. Grosvenor's mission through Western Yunnan in 1878, the following paragraph:—

Another strange disease which haunts this and some other of the valleys of Yünnan bears, in some respects, a resemblance to the plague of London described by Defoe.

Its approach is indicated by the eruption of one or more minute red pustules, generally in the armpits, but occasionally in other glandular regions. If several pustules appear, the disease is not considered so hopeless as when there are few. The sufferer is soon seized with extreme weakness, followed in a few hours by agonising aches in every part of the body; delirium shortly ensues, and in

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It often happens that the patient suddenly, to all appearance, recovers, leaves his bed, and affirms that, beyond a slight sensation of weakness, he feels thoroughly convalescent. This is invariably a fatal sign; in about two hours the aches return, and the sufferer dies.

True recovery is always very gradual. This is the account given us by a French missionary, who has spent half a lifetime in Yünnan. The native version includes all the above facts, but involves them in a cloud of superstitious accessories; for instance, all parts of the sick-room are occupied by devils; even the tables and mattresses writhe about and utter voices, and offer intelligible replies to any one who questions them.

Few, however, venture into the chamber. The missionary assured me that the patient is, in most cases, deserted like a leper, for fear of contagion. If an elder member of the family is attacked, the best attention he receives is to be placed in a solitary room, with a vessel of water by his side. The door is secured and a pole laid near it, with which twice a day the anxious relatives, cautiously peering in, poke and prod the sick person to discover if he retains any symptoms of life.

Père Fenouil (there is no objection to his name being mentioned) had himself witnessed many cases of the disease and lived in infected towns. He attributes his own safety to the precautions he took of fumigating his premises and keeping charcoal braziers constantly burning, to such an extent, indeed, that his house on one occasion actually took fire. He states that not only human beings, but domestic animals and even rats are attacked by the pestilence.

Its approach may often be known from the extraordinary movements of the rats, who leave their holes and crevices and issue on to the floors without a trace of their accustomed timidity, springing continually upwards from their hind legs, as if they were trying to jump out of something. The rats fall dead, and then comes the turn of the poultry; after the poultry have succumbed, pigs, goats, ponies, and oxen successively die off.

The steps taken by the Municipal Council of Shanghai to avert the advent of the plague may be learned from the following letter :—

That *all* vessels from Canton, Hongkong, Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow on arrival at Woosung, fly the yellow flag. They will there be stopped and inspected in order to see if there be any infectious disease on board, if not, they will then proceed without further detention, if there is, they will then come under Harbour Regulation No. 1, of 1894, at present in force. As the Council consider this regulation hardly affords sufficient protection, they therefore recommend the above stronger measure, and I shall be obliged by the Consular Body giving it their earliest consideration and should they approve of the recommendation, then I would ask your kind assistance in order to get the Taotai to take the necessary steps to have it enforced, with as little delay as possible.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, J. L. Scott, Chairman.

Joaquim M. T. Valdez, Esq.,
Consul General for Portugal and Senior Consul.

We observe that the Municipal Council of Shanghai gives short shrift to any persons attempting to hold lotteries in the Settlement. Here is a letter from the Chairman of the Council to the United States Consul-General, Mr. Jernigan, dated 24th May, 1894 :—

Sir,—Referring to the letter which I addressed to the U.S. Acting Consul-General on the 19th April on the subject of the Gold Bond lottery, the drawing of which took place on the 21st inst., I have the honour to inform you that another drawing is advertised to take place next month, the tickets for which are now being sold in the Settlement, and the Council will feel much obliged if you will be good enough to take the necessary steps in order to have this lottery closed, and the sale of the tickets stopped.

The Council would find some work to do in Yokohama. Lotteries are forbidden as strictly by Japanese law as by the law of any country, but they are openly held and advertised in the foreign Settlements, and apparently no one can interfere.

The new drug, sulphonal, which is coming so much into vogue in cases of insomnia, being considered much safer than chloral, caused the death of a missionary lady, Mrs. Sarah Russell, in Shanghai on the 29th of May. The unhappy lady purchased three ounces of the drug at the Shanghai dispensary, where she was served by a Chinese assistant. She took about 600 grains, whereas 60 is a maximum dose, and died after a sleep of 71 hours, from which nothing could rouse her.

ENGLISH NEWS.

Lord Stanley of Alderley has introduced in the House of Peers a Bill the object of which is to restrict the sale and purchase of pistols and revolvers, to prohibit the carrying of loaded pistols in places of public resort, and otherwise to check the growing evils arising from the indiscriminate possession of these weapons by children and adults. We have often expressed in these columns surprise that some such legislation was not undertaken. The sale of poisonous drugs is strictly controlled, but the carrying of lethal weapons, a practice involving much more dangerous contingencies, is subjected to scarcely any restraints.

The debate that took place in the House of Commons on the 20th of April with reference to the annuity to the Duke of Coburg, is worth reading. The Duke of Edinburgh is now Duke of Coburg. In 1866 Parliament voted to the Duke of Edinburgh an annuity of £15,000 a year, and in 1873, on the occasion of his marriage, it added £10,000 more. Last year, when the Duke became Sovereign of the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg, he voluntarily surrendered £15,000, and Mr. A. C. Morton, supported, as a matter of course, by Mr. Labouchere, asked the House of Commons to take away the remaining £10,000 also. The House negatived the proposal by 298 to 67, and we recommend our readers to peruse the debate.

Fighting in Africa has curious features. Major Owen and Lieutenant Villiers recently led a force of 200 Nubian soldiers against the people of Unyoro, who had given a good deal of trouble to the British administration of Uganda. This little body of men, after a night march of nine hours across a difficult country, reached the enemy's position and carried it after 8 hours' fighting against some 700 or 800 natives armed, for the most part, with breech-loaders. The loss on the British side was one man killed and two wounded. Eight hours' fighting and three casualties!

Sir Henry Loch, replying to an address of welcome presented by the Mayor and Corporation of Plymouth, said that much of a Colonial Governor's success depended on his wife. Sir Henry has evidently had happy experiences.

The new scale of Estate Duty introduced by the Government is as follows :—

Where the Principal Value.				At the Rate for every full Sum of £100, and for any Fractional Part of £100 over any Multiple of £100 of
Exceeds	£100	and does not exceed	£500	One pound.
,,	500	,, ,,	1,000	Two pounds.
,,	1,000	,, ,,	10,000	Three pounds.
,,	10,000	,, ,,	25,000	Four pounds.
,,	25,000	,, ,,	50,000	Four pounds ten shillings.
,,	50,000	,, ,,	75,000	Five pounds.
,,	75,000	,, ,,	100,000	Five pounds ten shillings.
,,	100,000	,, ,,	250,000	Six pounds.
,,	150,000	,, ,,	250,000	Six pounds ten shillings.
,,	250,000	,, ,,	500,000	Seven pounds.
,,	500,000	,, ,,	1,000,000	Seven pounds ten shillings.
,,	1,000,000			Eight pounds.

And, where property subject to duty at the graduated rates to be imposed in conformity with this resolution is settled, there shall be levied and paid to her Majesty upon the principal value thereof a further duty of £1 for every full sum of £100, and for any fractional part of £100 over any multiple of £100.

Referring to this, *The Times* says :—

A formidable danger lurks in the fact that no limit can be placed by law to the method of graduated taxation if it is once admitted. The length of the Chancellor's foot will regulate the standard of equity, and the *maximum* of 8 per cent. proposed by Sir William Harcurt may be raised to 16 per cent. or 32 per cent. by some financier who has gone further along the lines traced by Mr. Henry George.

The Royal Navy received an addition on the 23rd of April in the shape of a first-class cruiser, the *Theseus*, 7,350 tons, 12,000 horse-power. She was inspected by Rear-Admiral G. D. Morant, and passed into the A Division of the Medway Fleet Reserve as being ready for service. The *Theseus*, which was built by the Thames Shipbuilding Company, is a very powerful vessel. She is armed with two 9·5in. breech-loading guns, ten 6in., and 17 smaller quick-firing guns. At the contractor's trial a speed of close upon 19 knots was obtained with natural daught. The total cost of the vessel has been £347,577.

The brewers, distillers, and wine and spirit merchants of the United Kingdom are much incensed against the increased duties that the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to impose on their trade. The drink trade, through its various channels, already pays 30¼ millions sterling out of the State's revenue of 90¼ millions. Sir W. Harcourt's scheme is to increase this contribution by adding 6d. a barrel to the tax on beer and 6d. a gallon to that on spirits. He expects to get an additional income of £580,000 from beer and £760,000 from spirits. The increased duty on beer would raise the impost on that beverage to a sum equal to 27/- per quarter of the old malk tax. The only happy people in England now are the non-smokers and non-drinkers. Their contribution to the taxes is almost *nil*.

Owen Williams, aged 42, was admitted to the London Hospital on April 25th, suffering from peritonitis. An operation was performed, but he died the next morning. In his intestines was found the following miscellany: 25 pieces of cork, 20 pieces of tinfoil, a leaden bullet, a piece of string 18in. long, with corks attached, eight pence in bronze, a piece of leather 9in. long, with a hook attached to each end, several pipe stems, and portions of newspaper. Williams obtained a livelihood by swallowing odds and ends to amuse folks, and whenever he obtained money he drank himself into a state of oblivion.

There are three Irish National parties now. It is becoming a veritable case of the Kilkenny cats. At a meeting of a local branch of the Irish Federation—one of the three parties—recently held, under the presidency of Canon Doyle, this gentle resolution was passed :—

"That we would have regarded it as a blessing to the country had the ship that carried John Dillon and W. O'Brien to Boulogne sunk in mid-ocean, that we regard them as a public calamity, and they are the cause of the ruin of the *National Press* and the disruption of the Irish party, and are disgracing it in the estimation of the civilized world, and that we can have no confidence in the party so long as these ambitious mischief-makers are suffered to influence its councils"; "That we regard the insults offered to Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Arthur O'Connor, and Messrs. Dickson, Barry, Murphy, Morrogh, O'Driscoll, and other really gifted and popular members, as a wanton outrage to the council, which can be repaired only by the public humiliation of the men who are notoriously the cause of such a scandal"; "That wa denounce the 'hamstrung' *Freeman* and the Parnellite *Independent*, and strongly advise all honest Nationalists to avoid those vile papers and to read the *Irish Catholic and Nation*, which, as its name implies, is really the National and Catholic organ."

Swinburne has published a new volume of poems, "Astrophel, and other Poems." *The Times* says of it :—

This volume is more varied and comprehensive than any which he has issued for ten or twelve years past. Mr. Swinburne's thought may not always have been commensurate with his music, but the whole of the new volume exhibits a striking advance in this respect, while it still testifies to its author's supremacy in the lyrical and metrical art. In pure melody and that plastic skill which can use with simplicity and majesty all the forms of verse and bend them to his will he remains unrivalled among his brethren.

Here are two of the extracts chosen by *The Times* :—

But England, enmeshed and benetted
With spiritless villainies round,
With counsels of cowardice fretted,
With trammels of treason enwound,
Is yet, though the season be other
Than wept and rejoiced over thee,
Thine England, thy lover, thy mother,
Sublime as the sea.

All our past acclaims our future: Shakespeare's voice and Nelson's hand,
Milton's faith and Wordsworth's trust in this our chosen and chainless land,
Bear us witness: come the world against her, England yet shall stand.
Earth and sea bear England witness if he lied who said it; he
Whom the winds that ward her, waves that clasp, and herb and flower and tree
Fed with English dews and sunbeams, hail as more than man may be,
No man ever spake as he that bade our England be but true,
Keep but faith with England fast and firm, and none should bid her rue;
None may speak as he: but all may know the sign that Shakespeare knew.

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DEATH OF MR. FRASER.

"Along the cool sequestered vale of life
"They kept the noiseless tenor of their way."

MR. HUGH FRASER, HER MAJESTY'S Representative at the Court of Japan, expired on the evening of the 4th inst. at a quarter to nine o'clock. He had lingered for several days in a condition that left no room for hope, and that must have reached a fatal termination sooner but for the exceptional vitality and high courage of the sufferer. The illness commenced only some sixteen days before death, and had been preceded by no disquieting indications of any kind. From an early period, however, its grave character was recognised. The physicians in attendance diagnosed the necessity of two operations, but the possibility of performing the second was dependent on results unhappily not brought about by the first. Instead of recovering strength, as had been hoped, the patient sank steadily, retaining almost to the last an unclouded intellect and meeting the end with fortitude and resignation. Mr. FRASER entered the Diplomatic Service in January, 1855, and was only fifty-seven at the time of his death. He saw considerable service in the East, having been Second Secretary in the Legation in Peking from January, 1867 to February, 1871, and Secretary of the same Legation from February, 1874 to November, 1879. His promotion from Minister Resident and Consul-General at Santiago to be Envoy Extraordinary, Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul-General at Tokyo, took place on April 30th, 1888, and he arrived in the latter city to take charge of the Legation in March, 1889.

Mr. FRASER was one of those rare men who, with abilities of the highest order and perfectly balanced judgment, live lives of perpetual self-effacement and find their highest reward in a conscientious sense of duty faithfully discharged. His abnormally retiring disposition narrowed the circle of his appreciators and impaired the public's estimate of his capacity. But by all that served with him or under him he was loved and respected, and by all that he served under he was held in the highest esteem. If he lacked the power to dazzle, he possessed in the fullest degree that of inspiring confidence. Of no man's private life could it be said with fuller truth that he loved to "do good by stealth," and that the fame of good deeds would have deterred rather than encouraged his performance of them. It was inevitable that such as he should find detractors. "The grand old name of gentleman," guarded by him so scrupulously, provokes only derision from those incapable of earning it. Besides, his instinctive contempt for shallow praise and light criticism inspired a strong dislike of journals such as are generally found among foreign communities in the East, and no public man who desires to be fairly spoken of in these modern times can neglect to court journalists. But censure or applause of that quality affected him little, except in so far as they shocked his fine sense of justice and hurt his reverence for truth. The path indicated by conscience he followed with fidelity that never wavered. No British Representative ever acquired larger influence in this country or wielded his influence more conscientiously. The Japanese learned very quickly that Mr. FRASER could be thoroughly relied on never to lend his support to any cause tainted by the least injustice; that all his official dealings were conformed to the strictest standard of integrity, and that while no frivolous demand would ever be preferred by him, no demand once preferred would ever be lightly abandoned. Early in his career here he showed conspicuously courageous readiness to accept grave responsibility, and the unswerving rectitude of his practice added largely to the weight and reputation of British diplomacy. Fate did not will that he should finally solve the complex problem of Treaty Revision, but that he materially facilitated a solution by the clearness of his insight and the dignified firmness of his methods, there can be no manner of doubt. The public service sustains a heavy loss by his death, and those whose privilege it was to know him will long mourn the premature decease of one whose private life was a model of modest rectitude, and his official career an unbroken record of conscientious fidelity to duty.

MR. FRASER'S FUNERAL.

THE funeral of Mr. FRASER, H.B.M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan, took place on the 6th inst. The body lay in state throughout Tuesday afternoon, and was visited by a great concourse of mourning friends, among whom were the Japanese Ministers of the Crown and the Foreign Representatives. The floral tributes sent were numerous and beautiful; they filled the whole vestibule and hall, as well as the principal salon, where the coffin lay. It had been announced that the *cortége* would leave the Legation at 3 o'clock, and long before that time hundreds of the principal residents of Tokyo, official and private, as well as a large number of the British residents of Yokohama, had assembled. Excellent arrangements having been made, owing to the forethought of Mr. K. PAGET, Secretary of the Legation, Mr. J. H. LONGFORD, H.M.'s Acting Consul, and other members of the staff, all confusion was avoided. The Japanese Ministers of State did not proceed to the Legation—the programme being that they should go direct to the church—but the deceased Minister's colleagues were all there, as was every British subject in Tokyo, together with nearly all the leading members of the Yokohama British community and not a few of other nationalities. It had been hoped that a contingent from the Navy would be in attendance, but although H.M.S. *Centurion* was ordered from Kobe to Yokohama at full speed, she did not arrive in time. Why the simple, less expensive, and more expeditious plan of bringing up a force of Marines by train was not resorted to, we do not know, but doubtless there were good reasons for not adopting that alternative. Except as a matter of national sentiment and appearance, however, the absence of British troops did not signify, the duties they would have performed in carrying the coffin to and from the hearse at the Legation, the church, and cemetery, being taken by parties of British residents. That part, and some other details, of the ceremony were carefully and zealously arranged by Mr. J. CONDER. Precisely at 3 o'clock the coffin was carried out and placed in the hearse, but owing to the great number of persons present a start was not effected for some minutes. It proved impossible to pack into, and hang on, the hearse the multitude of floral wreaths and other tributes, and with difficulty could those remaining be piled in another large carriage lent by the German Minister. The church was reached at a little past 4 o'clock. The steep approach and the narrow road presented serious difficulties for the great crowd of carriages that followed the hearse, but the police exercised admirable control, and not a semblance of a hitch occurred. Within the church, a tiny building, never planned for such imposing ceremonies, very little space was available. When seats had been reserved for the representatives of the EMPEROR and EMPRESS, the Japanese Ministers of State and the Foreign Chefs de Mission, scarcely any room remained. The service—full choral—was performed by the Very Rev. Bishop BICKERSTETH, assisted by Mr. CHOLMONDELEY, the whole of the St. Andrew's staff, as well as Mr. FRANCIS and the Trinity Church clergy and choir. The singing was excellent, and the reading of the ritual being partly reserved for the cemetery, an overlong detention at the church was avoided.

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In re-forming the procession, on emerging from the church, the skilful management of the police was again apparent, everything moving with perfect regularity. The procession, when all the elements were united *en route* for the cemetery, proved to be considerably over a mile in length, not including two battalions of soldiers, one marching in the van, the other in the rear. All along the way from the church to the cemetery at Aoyama, the roads were lined by crowds of that quiet, decorous character peculiar to Japan, but the immediate vicinity of the churchyard was kept by the police entirely free from onlookers. In the cemetery a spacious plot of ground had been secured, and by working throughout the whole of the pre vious night a brick vault had been built—a remarkably rapid achievement attributable entirely to the kind offices of Mr. J. CONDER. At the grave, Bishop BICKERSTETH and Mr. CHOLMONDELEY officiated, and two hymns were beautifully sung by the choir, the latter of the two—"Peace, perfect peace"—sounding particularly impressive, not alone because of its rendering, but also for the sake of its appropriateness to the occasion and to the calm, duty-loving character of the man for whom so many mourned that day. Mrs. FRASER was present from first to last, bearing with indomitable courage the terrible grief of this last parting. Need we say how keenly every heart sympathised with the bereaved lady, and how earnest was the universal tribute paid to her devotion and bravery. After the coffin had been lowered into the vault, a temporary wooden roof was placed over it, and weaths and crosses of flowers were piled in a mountain above. We do not attempt to give a list of those present. It would include every name of note in the capital, from Marquis NABESHIMA and Viscount KAGAWA, representing the EMPEROR and EMPRESS, and from the Minister President of State down to Secretaries and private individuals.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND COUNT INOUYE.

NO episode in the history of the Japanese House of Representatives, except, perhaps, its treatment of Mr. HOSHI TORU last session, is more inexplicable than the course it adopted toward Count INOUYE on the 1st instant. On May 23rd Mr. SAITO KEIJI, a Radical member of the House, formulated a lengthy indictment against Count INOUYE, the gist of which was that, while holding the office of Senior Vice-Minister of Finance, twenty-two years ago, he had engaged in trade, thereby violating a provision of law which forbids officials to take any part in commerce. It may fairly be doubted whether the House, even in its present temper, would have tolerated such a resurrection of long-buried bones had not a petition from certain persons in Yamaguchi Prefecture furnished a plausible occasion. The petitioners claimed that rice paid by them as taxes had been officially received by the Prefectural Authorities of Yamaguchi in 1872-73, and sold for a sum largely in excess of their public indebtedness, but that the surplus had not been returned to them. Mr. SAITO KEIJI sought to involve Count INOUYE in this transaction by asserting his connection with a commercial company alleged to have contracted for the sale of the rice, and having thus brought the Minister of Home Affairs on the *tapis*, Mr. SAITO proceeded to enlarge the indictment by asserting that the Count, in later years while holding tehe offic of Senator, had acted as head of the Fujita-gumi, a well known Osaka firm. The House appointed a special Committee to investigate the whole affair and the Committee, having devoted five days to an exhaustive examination of the evidence adduced by Mr. SAITO, decided that there was no proof whatever of Count INOUYE'S having engaged in trade as alleged. It was proved in the course of this investigation that no rice had been received by the Prefectural Authorities of Yamaguchi in the manner asserted by Mr. SAITO. It was proved that the company which contracted for the rice was a purely private concern and that it received the rice from the hands of another private company established by the farmers of Yamaguchi themselves. It was proved that neither of these companies was in existence at the date assigned by Mr. SAITO for the conclusion of the contract. It was proved that the company charged with having kept back surplus proceeds of the sale had in reality behaved with great liberality in the matter, and had been very arbitrarily treated by the other company. It was proved that Count INOUYE was not in office at all at the date when, according to Mr. SAITO, the sales of rice commenced. It was proved that entries in a diary pronounced by experts a palpable forgery, and forged letters alleged to have been written by Count INOUYE, were the only evidence of his connection with the *Fujita Gumi*. It was also proved that other accusations preferred at the same time by Mr. SAITO KEIJI against Count YAMAGATA and Viscount TORIO rested on physically impossible events and were moreover intrinsically preposterous. It was proved that the former of these two distinguished military officers could not, without supernatural power, have performed the act attributed to him, and it was proved that the military secrets supposed to have been divulged by the two generals were not military secrets at all. The Special Committee, having collected this evidence, reported to the House that Mr. SAITO'S charges had no basis whatever. The Committee, however, were not unanimous. Among the nine men composing it two were members of the political party to which Mr. SAITO KEIJI belongs, Mr. SAITO himself being one of them, and two were prominent opponents of the Government. This minority presented a report upon their own account quietly abandoning their accusations against Count YAMAGATA and Viscount TORIO, but reaffirming those against Count INOUYE on the strength of the fictitious diary and forged letters. The House adopted the minority's report. There was nothing like a debate. No arguments were adduced to justify this extraordinary wrong. It sufficed that a few members entertained a vague belief in the reality of Count INOUYE'S commercial transactions and that a great many wished to vote against him as a prominent statesman in a Cabinet that refuses to be overthrown. When men want to do a thing very much they can easily reconcile it with their consciences. We doubt whether a single sober-minded individual in the whole nation imagines that the charge against Count INOUYE was even partially proved. The one grain of truth in the story was that in the interval between May, 1873, when he ceased to be an official, and December, 1875, when he became a Senator, he did actually engage in trade and did actually in February, 1874, establish the company that contracted for the sale of the above-mentioned rice. Further, Count INOUYE is a man who has always played a very active part in promoting the development of his country's trade, and who has interested himself directly, though not pecuniarily, in the management of several commercial and semi-commercial firms. A vague notion of this side of his character and a liberal inference as to the contingencies that it might have involved seem to have allayed the scruples of members whose sense of moral duty would otherwise have been likely to interfere with their political proclivities. So Count INOUYE was condemned. He was condemned, in the first place, of having, while Senior Vice-Minister of Finance, planned with Mr. NAKANO GOICHI, Prefect of Yamaguchi, a trade in rice, though it had been proved that the Prefectural authorities of Yamaguchi had never received any rice from the people. He was condemned of having, while a Senator, carried on trade as a member of the Fujita Company, though not a tittle of evidence could be adduced to show that he ever had any connection with the company except as a friendly adviser, and though the very documents indicating his occasional counsels, indicated also in the clearest terms that he received no share in the profits of the firm. He was condemned of having been a party to the bribing of high officials by the firm, though the sole proof of such transactions were ledger entries of sums varying from 30 *sen* to 40 *yen* spent upon the petty presents which, from time immemorial, it has been the custom of Japanese business houses to give to their

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clients at the change of the seasons and on other special occasions. Finally, he was convicted of unbecoming conduct on the strength of the above verdicts, supported by forged letters alleged to have been written by himself, and by statements in the diary of a man who never kept a diary and whose handwriting was not that of the diary. The whole incident, when set forth in these undisguised proportions, looks like a monstrous farce. Yet it was the act of a House of legislators claiming competence to sit in final judgment upon everything and everybody in the realm. Only one comment is possible, namely, that what the politicians in the Lower House of the Japanese Legislature lacks most flagrantly is a sense of responsibility. It is very striking as an illustration of the old saying that no failing in another is so discernible as the reflection of one's own faults. The perpetual cry of the Opposition against the Government is that its administration is based on persons not principles; the perpetual demand is for a responsible Cabinet. But if any body of grown men ever confessed by their conduct the guidance of personal prejudices, or ever betrayed by their acts absolute freedom from a sense of responsibility, those men are the members of the Japanese House of Representatives.

IMPERIAL DIET.

THURSDAY, MAY 31ST.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

After the secret session for discussing the Amendments of the Peers Regulations, the House proceeded to consider the result of the Conference of the two Houses on the Amendments of the Press Laws.

Viscount Okabe, on behalf of the Conference of Managers, reported that the Conference had experienced no little difficulty in arriving at an understanding with regard to the question of suspension, but the majority of the Committee having been of the opinion that the power of suspension now vested in the Minister of State for Home Affairs was objectionable and liable in its exercise to grave abuses, it had been decided that some other method of dealing with newspapers ought to be devised. The method elaborated by the Committee was to substitute for suspension a fine, when a paper published matter calculated to disturb the public peace or to injure good morals, and to empower the Minister of State for Home Affairs to stop the circulation of a paper thus offending, provided, however, that the Minister be obliged to place the matter before a tribunal of law within 24 hours, when, if the law court declined to endorse his judgment, the interdict of the paper's circulation should be, *de facto*, removed. The amount of fine proposed was from 20 *yen* to 200 *yen*. It was believed that such a system, while preserving a measure of the restraint now exercised, would be free from the abuses iucidental to the existing Regulations.

Baron Watanabe said that to criticise the proposed amendments intelligently on the spur of the moment was difficult. A point occurred to him, however, on a cursory examination of the draft. The first clause of the proposed XXth Article said:—"When it is held that a newspaper has fallen within the purview of the preceding article" (*i.e.* has published matter *contra bonos mores* or calculated to disturb the public peace), "the Minister of State for Home Affairs shall at once suspend its circulation, and within the space of 24 hours prefer a complaint against it before a Court of Law." At what time was it intended that the Minister should arrive at the above conclusion? Was before it or after the issue of the paper?

Viscount Okabe replied that the clause referred to matter that had actually been published. The Minister of Home Affairs was supposed to form his opinion by reading the published journal.

Baron Watanabe asked how a paper already published was to have its circulation suspended.

Viscount Okabe said that the suspension of circulation could be carried out only so far as the circumstances permitted and the competence of the Administrative authorities extended. When a newspaper was considered to contain matter illegal in the sense indicated, the Minister of State for Home Affairs would stop its further sale and circulation so far as the machinery at his disposal enabled him to do so.

Baron Watanabe considered that such a course would be like dealing with waste paper. The real object in view was to prevent the dissemination of injurious matter, and that could be only very partially effected by the process contemplated.

Viscount Okabe said that, at any rate, such was the proposed plan.

Baron Watanabe pressed his objection, and Viscount Okabe retorted that he failed to perceive any radical difference between the present system and the proposed system in that particular respect. At present, when the contents of a newspaper already issued were deemed injurious, the sale and publication of the newspaper were stopped. The process contemplated by the new law would be precisely the same.

Mr. Matsuoka Koki asked whether the system was intended to apply equally to all parts of the empire. Would it be necessary, in the case of an Osaka newspaper, for example, that complaint must be made to a Law Court within 24 hours?

Viscount Okabe answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, Government Delegate, was about to explain the Government's objections to the proposed amendments, when Baron Date rose to a point of order, claiming that since the decision of the House on the results of a Conference had to be taken without debate, he did not see how the Government Delegate was entitled to make a speech.

The President ruled there was no question of debate.

Mr. Suyematsu Kencho proceeded to say that the system proposed in the amendments was imperfect and impracticable, and that, moreover, it conflicted with other articles of the same Law which provided penalties for publications of an indecent character. The spirit of the proposed amendments might be good, but they had evidently been drafted without due regard to existing laws. Even in the case of offences graver than those referred to in the amendments, the Code of Criminal Procedure did not require that appeal should be made to a Law Court within so brief an interval as 24 hours. Then, again, how could the projected system be applied by any possibility to journals published at a long distance from the capital, in Kiushu for example? How could the Minister of State for Home Affairs suspend such journals, if necessary, and arraign them in a Court of Law within 24 hours?

Mr. Miyamoto Koiichi apologised for reverting to the question asked by Baron Watanabe, but the point needed much elucidation. In the case of newspapers despatched from Tokyo by train or by post, he could conceive that the Authorities, by free recourse to the telegraph, might suspend the circulation of the offending journal, seizing the copies of it as they were taken from the train at their destination or confiscating them in the post-offices. But what would be done with regard to papers delivered in the usual manner in Tokyo and the other cities or towns where newspapers had printing offices—papers sent out long before daybreak from the printer's hands and thrown into the letter-receptacles of private residences? How were they to be got at? And what was contemplated in the case of journals copies of which had passed by purchase into the possession of the not inconsiderable proportion of readers that obtained their daily news in that manner? Would the police be entitled to seize these also wherever they saw them? Then again, as to journals published in the provinces. Was it intended that the Minister of State for Home Affairs should delegate to the Governors of Prefectures authority to supervise the contents of papers, to suspend their circulation and to proceed against them in a Court of Law?

Viscount Okabe replied that of course there was no question of attempting to recover possession of copies already gone into circulation. That was not possible. The proposed system contemplated nothing that did not fall within the exercise of ordinary executive processes. As to provincial journals, he did not recollect that the manner of dealing with them had been discussed at the conference, but if his memory was defective in this respect, he hoped that some of the other Managers present of the Conference would supplement his remarks.

Baron Watanabe asked for information on another point. He presumed that the Courts of Law referred to in the proposed system were the Local Courts. Now the Judges sitting in those Courts were requirved to give their decisions in accordance with the provisions of law. But the point submitted to them when newspapers were prosecuted, as here contemplated, would be to determine whether certain writings were or were not calculated to be subversive of public peace, or calculated to impair good morals. By what law were they to be guided? Where were there any provisions of written law that would serve the Judges in forming such decisions?

Viscount Okabe saw no reason to enter at length into that question. If the proposed amendments became law, it was to be assumed that the Judges would discharge the functions thus devolving on them in accordance with the provisions of whatever laws were applicable and available. In reply to Mr. Funakoshi Mamom, he added that the limit of 24 hours, as applied to provincial newspapers, ceased to present any special difficulties when the services of the telegraph were called into requisition.

Mr. Funakoshi altogether doubted the possibility of transacting such business satisfactorily by telegraph, but Viscount Okabe merely repeated his statement that these matters had not been discussed by the Conference of Managers.

Mr. Ozaki Saburo, as one of the Managers, explained that the Conference had not been asked to amend the whole of the proposed Press Law, but only the XIXth and XXth Articles. It was therefore almost inevitable that more or less imperfections should result, but he did not think that they were imperfections by any means so serious as to prevent the successful operation of the contemplated system. The Government Delegate had objected that the provisions of the amended Articles would conflict with other parts of the Law. It was true that the XXXIIIrd article defined the procedure to be adopted in the case of journals publishing indecent matter (*waisetsu*), and it was also true that the publication of indecent matter was included in the wider term "*contra bonos mores*" (*fuzoku wo Kwairan suru*). But it did not follow that there need be any conflict in practice. There were many kinds of publication that fell within the definition "*contra bonos mores*" and yet were not of the character "indecent." The duty of discriminating would rest with the prosecuting officials. If they held a publication to be "indecent," they might proceed against the journal under the XXXIIIrd. Article. If they considered that there was no question of indecency, and yet that the matter was *contra bonos mores* they would proceed under Article XX. As to the objection raised in respect of journals already circulated before the fact was discoverved that they contained incriminating matter, the House should remembers that, whatever validity the criticism had, it applied with equal force to the Regulations now in force. They, too, conferred on the Minister of State for Home Affairs a power

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exactly corresponding with that now proposed in so far as concerned journals already in circulation, and such a defect must exist in every system unless the Minister were authorized to examine journalistic matter previous to its publication. A similar argument applied to the difficulties raised about provincial newspapers. The existing system was hampered by precisely the same difficulties. The Conference had done the best it could. It had sought to give effect to the important principle that although the executive should have competence to speedily check any journalistic excesses calculated to produce mischievous results, the question of deciding whether journalistic matter really did or did not deserve such measures, and the power of fixing the punishment, ought to be left in the hands of the Law Courts.

Prince Konoye moved the closure and it was carried.

The President announced that a due application having been received for taking a vote by closed ballot, he should proceed by that method. The House decided, by 97 to 95, that the amendments proposed by the conference should be rejected.

The House rose at 6.01 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House met at 10.50 a.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Expenditures from the Reserve for the 25th year of *Meiji*.
2.—Expenditures (Special) over and above the Budget for the 25th year of *Meiji*.
3.—Law relating to Mobilization Expenditures.
4.—Law relating to the Capital of the Tokyo Artillery Arsenal.
5.—Law for abolishing export duties upon goods shipped to foreign countries.
6.—Law relating to the City Government System.
7.—Petitions.

Mr. Miura Yasu, on behalf of the Budget Committee, having reported in favour of the first and second Bills on the Order, they were passed by the House without debate.

Baron Watanabe, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported that, under the present system, three days and a half were required before obtaining money for mobilization expenses, an interval evidently inconsistent with efficiency. The Bill introduced by the Government provided that funds required for such a purpose could be advanced by the Local Authorities without delay. The Committee recommended the reform.

The Bill was passed at once through all its Readings.

The Bill relating to the Capital of the Tokyo Artillery Arsenal was entrusted to a Special Committee with instructions to report during the course of the day.

Mr. Ozaki Saburo, in a very brief speech, introduced the Bill relating to abolition of export duties. He simply asserted that the measure was essential to the development of the country's resources, and promised to answer any questions propounded by the members to the utmost of his ability.

Mr. Mayeda Masana opposed the Bill. He said that its supporters had only three reasons to rely on : first, to increase the gains of export merchants, secondly, to increase the bulk of the exports ; thirdly to give Japanese products an advantage in foreign markets. He did not yield to the advocates of the measure in the desire to develop the Japanese export trade, but he was unable to see that this measure would benefit the country. The effect of export duties depended upon the nature of the exports and the conditions of the time. He had here a table showing the principal staples of the export trade, the places of their production, and the markets to which they went ; as well as a table showing the places where exports were manufactured, the places of their consumption, and the persons engaged in dealing with them. The members would perceive that many articles, as bamboo ware, lacquer ware, and so forth, were specialties of Japan, and that only a few, as rice and coal, had to compete with similar staples in foreign markets. More than thirty years had elapsed since the sound of real war had been heard in the country. Men were absorbed now in the war of commerce. The temporary troops of the empire were its merchants and manufacturers, and against them were arrayed large forces of foreign traders in the Settlements. The merchants of the country could effect the sale of their goods only by currying favour with the foreign merchants : they had no means of reaching the markets abroad direct. Their profits were small : it was as much as they could do to make ends meet. The foreign trader possessed experience and a full knowledge of the conditions existing abroad. The native trader was comparatively ignorant, or had to rely more or less on chance. One consequence was that he developed a propensity to produce inferior goods so as to gain, by economizing the cost of manufacture, what he could not hope to gain by skilled touch of the market. The story of tea furnished an illustration. Tea that sold for 40 *yen* in the *Keio* era (1865-67) fetched only 19 *yen* now. Its credit had been impaired abroad, so that American publications warned the people of the States against drinking it. But the tea that went to America was not Japanese tea, properly speaking. It was tea of an inferior quality purchased by the foreign merchants in the open ports, and subsequently subjected to processes of re-firing and colouring so as to adapt it to the supposed tastes of foreign consumers. It was as though foreign merchants had tea plantations of their own in Japan. Hence, to abolish the export duty on tea, would be merely to put so much money into the pockets of foreign merchants. He had here a table illustrating the course of the import trade. They would see that the barriers to be surmounted by goods coming from abroad were few and insignificant, whereas the barriers to be surmounted by Japanese goods going abroad were no less than eleven. By way of illustration, look at the exports of tea from Ceylon and China. The quantity exported from the former in 1883 had been only 420,000 catties, but in 1893 it had grown to 16 million catties ; while in China's case, an export of forty million catties in 1887 had grown in 1890 to 55 millions. This was chiefly because the commercial methods of the two countries were superior to those of Japan. In this country, on the contrary, the price procurable for the staple had gradually declined, and its producers, unable to make a profit, were driven to adopt other trades. The average annual production per family of those engaged in tea culture had declined from 267 catties in 1888 to 170 catties in 1891, and the profit had fallen by 27 *yen*. Take the case of silk, again. So highly had the quality of Japanese silk been esteemed that at the beginning of the *Meiji* era egg-cards to the value of 2½ million *yen* had been purchased in one year by Italy, whereas now, so much adulteration had been practised, and such evil methods had been employed by Japanese sericulturists that the eggs of this country were avoided as though they were cholera microbes, and the silk-worms of France and Italy had obtained a much higher place in public esteem than those of Japan. Chinese silk was the great enemy the Japanese staple had to fear. If Chinese sericulture improved, it would be an evil day for Japan. There was a radical difference between the methods of the Japanese and the foreign merchant. The former thought only of concluding each separate transaction without loss ; the latter thought of so conducting all transactions as to establish a permanent source of profit. Only one producing district in Japan, Nagano Prefecture, compared favourably with the general standard of production in France. Japan was getting beaten out of the markets all round. Her cotton, her sugar, her oil—everything was falling into discredit. She used to be unique in lacquer, but the Germans had now appropriated her processes and were out-selling her in the American markets. The celebrated lacquerers of Wakayama had prostituted themselves to the spirit of the time, had taken to purchasing cheap, inferior materials from China, and were producing and exporting articles calculated ultimately to destroy the reputation of Japanese lacquers. Evidently it would be a false policy to encourage the export of goods such as were now being produced in the country. The true policy was to encourage such improvement in methods of production and manufacture as would ensure to Japanese exports the favour of foreign consumers. To abolish the export duties might have the effect of increasing the bulk of the exports, but if their quality went on deteriorating, the returns obtained by Japan would tend to diminish rather than to develop. If they examined the history of Germany in recent times, and even of a country like Holland, which might be said to have become *inkyo*, they would see what could be done by bringing intelligence and enterprise to bear upon production and manufacture. The great bulk of Japan's export trade was in the hands of foreigners, and to them would chiefly accrue the gain of abolished duties. For his part, he held that the circumstances of the time peremptorily forbade any such measure, and that the really wise policy would be to apply the proceeds of the export tax to effecting improvements in the processes of production and manufacture.

Mr. Ozaki Saburo replied briefly. He reminded the House that his own object and Mr. Mayeda's were identical in so far as concerned the development of the export trade, the only difference of opinion being as to the best method of attaining that end. To one point, however, he might allude specially, as confusion of ideas was apt to arise in connection with it. He referred to the contention that as the export trade was, for the most part, in the hands of foreign merchants, to them also would accrue the chief part of the benefits resulting from abolished duties. It must not be forgotten, on the other hand, that though the immediate disburser of the duties was the foreign exporter, Japan would find her account in increased sales of her products and manufactures, a result which Mr. Mayeda himself did not hesitate to foretell from the abolition of export duties.

The Bill was entrusted to a Special Committee nominated by the President.

The Order of the Day was changed for the purpose of receiving the Special Committee's Report on the Bill relating to the capital of the Tokyo Artillery Arsenal, and the Bill was passed.

The City Government Bill having been entrusted to a Special Committee, the President announced that, in view of the shortness of the session, the House would meet on the following day (Sunday). The House rose at 3.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 1.20 p.m., the Order of the Day being :—

1.—Law relating to Military Telegraphs ; sent down from the Upper House.
2.—Expenditures from the Reserve for the 26th year of *Meiji*.
3.—Project of Game Law ; sent down from the Upper House.
4.—Railway Bills.
5.—Tariff Law.
6.—Representation relating to Treatment of Diseases of the Brain and Spine.
7.—Railway Bills.
8.—Representation relating to the collection of materials for history.
9.—Law relating to Taxes in the Districts devastated by the great earthquake.
10.—Law for amending the Land Tax Regulations.
11.—Law relating to Special Re-assessment of the Taxable Value of Land.

Mr. Komatsu Sansei presented a report of the Petitions Committee.

Mr. Tanaka Shozo said that the Cabinet having been declared unworthy of confidence, to put queries to it seemed a bootless task. Nevertheless, since the Ministers of the Crown might at any moment be replaced by worthier men, he had presented certain Questions which he should proceed to explain. He then proceeded to explain his queries at great length ; the first charging that a large sum of public money had been expended on reclaiming a tract of some 25,000 acres of land which ought to have been let to the people but was kept in the hands of one large company ; the second relating to an alleged exchange of nearly 1,000 acres of public forest land, worth 600,000 *yen*, in Higo, for a tract worth only 10,000 *yen* ; the third, relating to the Tanko Railway Company. In repeating his often preferred accusations against the Tanko Company, Mr. Tanaka said that to entrust the control of such a company to the Governor of Hokkaido was like setting a fly to guard a bit of decayed melon peel. (A voice—"You'll be handed over to the Disciplinary Committee if you don't look out.")

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Mr. Nakamura Kokusho asked leave to say a word with respect to the last speaker's remarks (which had extended to inordinate length). He understood that the original system with regard to Questions presented by members to the Government had been that the Question should be read by a Secretary, and the House should then have an opportunity of addressing to the chief introducer of the Question any queries that might seem desirable. But gradually the habit had been developed of accompanying each Question with a long explanation, and it seemed to him that the House's time was greatly wasted and that its proceedings were seriously and uselessly interrupted by this habit. It might be well to check the abuse in season.

Mr. Yamada Toji, while not endorsing everything that had fallen from the previous speaker, could not shut his eyes to the fact that if each of the Questions to be to-day submitted to the Government were to be accompained by explanations such as Mr. Tanaka Shozo had given, the House would never get to the Order of the Day at all. He ventured to suggest that the Questions now lying before the President for submission to the Government should be explained as briefly as possible.

Mr. Tanaka protested that his explanation had referred to three Questions, and that some demand on the House's patience had therefore been unavoidable.

Mr. Kiuchi Shin explained a Question presented by him asking for further explanations about a lease of land in Riukiu to certain persons who, he alleged, were not carrying out the conditions of the lease, and were keeping the land from being employed by others for useful purposes. He had already preferred a Question on this point, and had received an answer from the Government, but he was now in possession of proof that the Government's statements were incorrect. He proceeded to elaborate his points at great length.

Mr. Takagi Shonen explained a Question presented by him with reference to the Fukushima election. Knowing that Mr. Abei Iwane, who stood for the Second Division of Fukushima, was head and front of the Strict Enforcement movement; knowing also that the Government was employing every possible means of checking that movement, even to restraining all discussion of it in the press or in the Diet; and perceiving that the defeat of Mr. Abei might be regarded as a proof that the country was opposed to the Strict Enforcement doctrine, he thought it very probable that official influence had been brought to bear upon Mr. Abei's election and had proceeded to Fukushima for the purpose of investigation. His suspicions had been confirmed. There had been official interference. Mr. Tanaka Sho, a man of exceptional influence in the District, had proceeded from Yamanashi, where he was serving as Chief Tax Collector, to Fukushima, and had exerted his great interest in behalf of Mr. Abei's opponent. (The speaker adduced lengthy and prolix explanations of the grounds upon which he based his belief in Mr. Tanaka having rendered aid to the rival candidate, but nothing could have been pettier or more inconclusive than his so-called proofs. Somebody had heard somebody in an adjoining room of an inn read aloud a telegram announcing Mr. Tanaka's intended visit to Fukushima; the Fukushima local paper had published the fact, and had been telegraphically required by Mr. Tanaka to insert a contradiction, the celerity of Mr. Tanaka's disavowal being in itself an evidence that officials were in collusion with him; Mr. Tanaka himself had attributed his visit to Fukushima to private business, but as an official he ought not to have left his post on account of such business, and so forth.)

Mr. Nakano Buyei, on behalf of the Budget Committee, asked permission to present a report on a Supplementary Budget for granting a sum of 15,000 *yen* yearly for a period of five years to the settlers in Chishima. The proposal had its origin in a Representation presented to the Government by the House of Peers, and the Committee, after full examination, had come to the conclusion that unless a measure of State aid were extended to the settlers in Chishima, the Islands would remain for many years uninhabited. Lieutenant Gunji, with remarkable courage and enterprise, had led a party of emigrants thither, and had made a commencement which, if assisted, would doubtless lead to larger things. But without assistance the Lieutenant and his party could not hope to accomplish anything, and might even perish of want. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Supplementary Budget for the House's favourable consideration, with one amendment, namely, that the grant should be made for three years instead of five. The probabilities of success were not sufficiently clear to warrant pledging the country to a continuous expenditure for five years. After three years had passed, it would be possible to arrive at a definite conclusion as to the fate of the enterprise. The Committee advised that, in view of the very brief interval remaining at the disposal of the Diet this session, the Budget should be taken at once, as matter of urgency. In answer to questions, he said that Lieutenant Gunji's party consisted of 106 persons, and that it was proposed to leave the distribution of the money to the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration, providing that it should be applied to certain purposes, as food, house-building, purchase of fishing implements, and so forth.

The House agreed to change the Order of the Day, and the Budget was passed as amended by the Committee.

The Bill relating to Military Telegraphs was then passed with one amendment, namely, the substitution of "Law" for "Regulations."

Mr. Moriya Konosuke, on behalf of the Budget Committee, gave an exhaustive account of the Committee's views with regard to the Expenditures from the Reserves for the 26th year of *Meiji*, concerning which the Government now sought the House's *post facto* consent. He explained that the Committee had discussed at much length the question of the two Reserves, namely, which expenditures should be paid out of the First Reserve and which out of the Second, and had arrived at the conclusion that the Government's method of division was correct in the main. He then proceeded to explain the items one by one, but before his statement was finished, the President interrupted him.

The President announced that he had been summoned to the Palace and that he should vacate the chair in favour of the Vice-President.

Mr. Moriya resumed his report, recommending the House to consent to the various expenditures included in the Bill.

Mr. Node Shozaburo took exception to a sum of 48,000 *yen* (approximately)—which appeared as "travelling expenses" in connection with the last general election—being included in the appropriations from the Second Reserve, and based his objection on some remarks made by the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, but Mr. Moriya explained that considerable differences of opinion existed among officials themselves with regard to the distinctive uses of the First and Second Reserves. Very possibly the view of the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs might not agree exactly with that of the Minister of Finance, but the Committee had been guided chiefly by the latter.

Mr. Matsuda Kichisaburo, on behalf of the minority of the Budget Committee, represented a report opposed to that of Mr. Moriya in respect of two items of expenditure which, in the minority's opinion, ought to have been defrayed from the First Reserve, not from the Second.

Mr. Tajiri, Vice-Minister of State for Finance, traversed the views expressed by the minority of the Committee. He admitted that much room for doubt existed as to the classification of expenditures for the purpose of determining which Reserve they should be paid from, but he explained that the method of division adopted by the Government and endorsed by the majority of the Budget Committee seemed, on the whole, the most rational.

Several members spoke at some length with reference to this point, but before a decision was taken, the President returned.

The President—"Gentlemen:—As I announced to you a short time ago, being summoned to the Palace, I proceeded thither and received from the Minister of the Imperial Household a Message from His Majesty the Emperor, which, in view of its great importance, I wrote down at the dictation of the Minister. I now proceed to read it to you":—

We shall not adopt the views contained in the Address presented by the House of Representatives. A written communication will not be made with reference to the Address.

The House stood during the delivery of this message.

Mr. Suzuki Shigeto said that as His Majesty had declined to adopt the House's views, nothing could be done. But in view of the importance of the affair, he moved that a recess be taken for purposes of mature reflection.

Mr. Hoshi Toru asked to be informed as to the precise purpose of taking a recess.

Mr. Suzuki—"For what purpose? Because His Majesty does not adopt the Address."

Mr. Hoshi—"We have already received His Majesty's message. What do you contemplate doing about it?"

Mr. Suzuki—"His Majesty has declined to adopt the Address prepared by this House after most careful deliberation. Therefore I purpose that we take time to give the matter fuller reflection."

The President—"I have already announced the result of my summons to the Palace. I have now to announce the receipt of an Imperial Rescript."

The House rose, and the President read the following:—

We, in accordance with the 7th Article of the Constitution, hereby dissolve the House of Representatives.

This announcement threw the House into great confusion. Some members cried out that graver steps must be taken. Mr. Shimoizaka struck his desk and shouted that the thing was utterly wrong. Mr. Awaya Shinazo, rising in his place, taunted the members with having brought the trouble upon their own heads.

The House rose in a tumult at 4.05 p.m.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

No one engrossing topic, or question of overshadowing interest, has secured the attention generally of the writers of the native Christian press for the month past. If, however, we were to note a tendency in any special direction, it would be toward the discovery of some means by which the divergent sects of Christianity might bring themselves into closer co-operation. There seems to be a growing impatience among writers over the perpetuation in Japan of the historical divisions of Christendom. A rather reproachful tone towards the foreign mission representatives, whose influence is more sectarian than evangelical, appears in several of the current periodicals. For the rest, the interpretation of Christianity itself is noticeably less and less related to doctrinal speculations than to the practical efforts of the fundamental social laws announced in the Christian gospels. Christianity rather as a social redeemer than as a means of salvation from an eternal doom for the soul, is evidently becoming characteristic in Japanese thought. As to the Buddhist press of the month, it gives evidence of a resolute purpose, growing stronger, on the part of representative priests and politicians to nullify the act by which the revolutionary Government of Japan some time ago practically disestablished Buddhism as a State Church. How formidable this purpose will become can not be foreseen, but certainly at present, relying upon the intense nationalism prevailing, those who hold it, advance it with considerable boldness and assurance.

* * *

Illustrative of what we have said of the Christian press, we refer, by way of introduction, to an article in the *Kirisutokyo Shimbun*, the writer of which calls attention to an agitation carried

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on now in some American religious journals concerning an organic union in America of the many Christian denominations. Although, he says, no intelligible or acceptable plan has been proposed for such union, the tendency towards intersectarian toleration, growing out of the agitation, is a welcome sign of the times. It appears, indeed, that so far the Episcopalian will not give up his claims for himself as having the true form of church government, nor will the Baptist yield his belief in immersion as the divinely ordained form of baptism, but this desire for a general union of the sects of Christendom gives ground for hope that some time such union may be effected. The writer calls upon the Japanese Churches to take heed of this growing agitation in the Western Churches, and to learn speedily for themselves the lesson it carries. In a succeeding issue of the same journal, Mr. Sugita Ushio, speaking of "The Kingdom of Heaven and the Missionary Spirit," says that many plans are proposed now-a-days for reviving and strengthening religious life and work. He holds that no plan can be successful to this end, which does not make of religion, above all else, a vital, practical power in society. It has been claimed that a chief cause of religious inertness and decadence lies in the fact that, of late, denominational pride and ambition have greatly decreased. But this is a badly mistaken claim, the writer thinks. If the object of Christ were only the establishment of a Church, then the discussion as to which is the true Church is properly of dominant importance. But if Christ's purpose was, above all else, the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven upon earth, then sectarian contests are unnecessary and vain. The building up of the Kingdom of Heaven upon earth is, of course, no easily accomplished work. At present, Christians are too often in the habit of commending the Kingdom of Heaven to others while they remain, themselves shut up in their own little domains. This is one of the chief means for bringing Christianity into contempt. The true missionary spirit will not only aim to secure prosperity for the separate Churches, but will seek above all the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven in the hearts of all men. That was the missionary method of Christ. The *Fukuin Shimpo*, in a recent number, gives, in this connection, an interesting article on "Japanese Missions." The writer thinks that cō-operation among the Christians of Japan has become a necessity, in order that the general welfare of Christian thought and activity may be promoted. He urges the holding of a great interdenominational Conference of all the Christians of the Empire. There is no insuperable obstacle, he says, to gathering a representative assembly from all the denominations of the country. In such an assembly such questions as the following could be very properly and without difficulty brought forward: —1. The establishment of a cō-operative Conference, to hold annual sessions. In such Conference the superintendents of the missionary departments of all the sects could confer and devise cō-operative plans for their mission work. 2. Agreement upon the main principles of work by observing current social conditions and discussing the means fit to apply to them. 3. Adopting common methods for contending with materialism and allied errors. 4. Publishing, jointly as far as possible, the best literary productions, thus gradually establishing in Japan a high Christian literature. 5. Studying the directions and methods in which the largest possible effective missionary cō-operation may be secured. 6. Adjusting or guiding the mutual relations of foreign and home Christians. 7. Conveying to foreign Christians full and clear information about missionary matters in Japan. There may be, continues the writer, not a few good questions besides these, with which the proposed Conference might deal. At any rate there is an urgent necessity for the calling of such a Conference. Will not the Christians of all sects in Japan consider carefully this proposition, join with us in our wish and bring about the desired end?

* * *

"Loyalty, Patriotism, and Universal Love," is the title of an article in a recent issue of the *Rikugo Zasshi*, by Mr. I. Ebina, an article somewhat connected with the main question lying back of the paper just summarized, and in itself noteworthy. Patriotism proceeds from loyalty and universal love from patriotism, is the proposition with which Mr. Ebina introduces his thesis. These three virtues are all the effects of one spirit. They are in no way essentially contradictory of one another. Any differences among them are merely consequences of the degrees in their development. Just as among children there is a struggle, continued until they come to the recognition of the ultimate identity of egoism and altruism, so in a developing people there are conflicts, first between loyalty and patriotism and then between patriotism and universal love. Evidences of these conflicts can be easily shown in our own history. They point out the successive stages of our growth. How is it with Christianity? In the Christian Old Testament we observe that human life as recorded there is under the sway of loyalty and patriotism; in the New Testament universal love is the law set forth for mankind. The ancient Jews were devoted to the principle of loyalty. They differed from the people of Japan in the fact that their loyalty was directed to their national God. Their intense patriotism was shown in their devotion to the Messianic hope. Jesus Christ wholly ignored the political loyalty and patriotism of his people and concentrated his thought and acts on things spiritual. The same characteristic was true of Paul also. The mental vision of each was filled with mankind; they were blind to king and state. But did Christ condemn and sacrifice loyalty and patriotism for the sake of the development and supremacy of universal love? No! Political conditions were against his advocacy of the national virtues. The power of Rome would have crushed him had he made loyalty and patriotism his theme. Those therefore who reject Christianity as wanting in these virtues, reject it blindly. They forget the condition affecting the Jewish people in Christ's time. Equally in error too are those who try to show, by quoting fragmentary sayings from the words of Jesus, that Christ positively taught these virtues. He did not teach them; certainly not explicitly. Very often, it is true, in laying emphasis upon the larger truth, men have neglected to give loyalty and patriotism their rightful honour. The fault is well exemplified in our own and in foreign histories. At present in our own country foreign missionaries, especially those from America, preach only of the gospel, not of loyalty and patriotism. They do not understand what these virtues are. And besides, so much engrossed are they by the sectarian spirit that they often forget universal love itself, the essence of their message. But, after all, those of us who now see clearly into international affairs, can not deny that most necessary to the existence and prosperity of our country, is the prevalence among us of the law of universal love. We Christians therefore in order to bring upon this land the sway of universal love should proceed with our work in imitation of Christ, imitating him in spirit however, not in letter, never forgetting that the times and the place in which we live are very different from Judea and the time of Christ.

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Mr. Tishi Murai, in another number of the *Rikugo Zasshi*, begins a series of papers on the "Historical Investigation of the Teachings of Christ." This first installment is symptomatic of the general nationalizing drift of Japanese Christianity. Quoting the words of the author of a newly published work, "Regni Evangelium," and passages from Dr. James Martineau's works, showing the increasing tendency among Christians to know all that can be known of the historical Christ, the writer proposes to exhibit the method, order and materials for a study of the teachings of Christ. He sets out by saying, that perhaps some will object to his venture. It may be asserted indeed, by some, that to know Christ truly we have only to put ourselves in contact with the "living Christ" as did Paul, when he declared "that he should no longer know Christ after the flesh." To Mr. Murai this mental mood is dangerous to the very foundations of Christianity. If once, he holds, we reject the historical testimony concerning Christ, and rely upon faith, speculation and subjective experience, our Christianity becomes like a house built upon sand. If our faith would be well founded and strong, we must leave the "Ideal Christ" and return to Jesus of Nazareth. And in order to know the historical Jesus we must first investigate critically whatever historical materials there are which relate to Christianity, and pass judgment upon them according to the standards of historical science. We must not therefore restrict ourselves to the Four Gospels. We must study Jewish history and literature; understand the historical Christianity and the primitive meaning of the Messianic hope. First, there is the Old Testament, which among the books which Jesus read and received and by which he was influenced, was most important. Then the Jewish literature which came into being in the four hundred years elapsing between the completion of the Old Testament and the birth of Christ, must have done much to influence the mind of Christ. The Apocryphal literature deserves deep study for this reason. This much for a summary of the opening of Mr. Murai's suggestive essay. We may follow it in its future installments to see whither the writer would lead his readers.

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Among minor articles we observe an appeal in the *Gokyo* to Christians to pay more attention than they do to the divine attribute of justice. Modern Christians think too much of the all loving Fatherhood of God. This devotion tends towards laxness of feeling and indifference in life. Some of the Old Testament rigour is needed in the present Christian faith. The editor urges upon the Churches the duty of saving their fellowmen from this life's miseries. The poor, sick and miserable members of society should be the especial care of Christians. The doctrines of love and brotherhood should redeem mankind for this world. He commends the present work of the Episcopalians among the *Eta*. A hundred empty words are inferior to one true deed. This mission to the outcast is all the more to be praised, as it was hardly to be looked for in the direction whence it has come. It is a sort of new Salvation Army. The *Kirisutokyo Shimbun* calls for a real spiritual reformation in society. All measures for social amelioration are in vain which merely deal with wrongs at the surface. Limitation of labourers' hours, emancipation of slaves, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, etc., are profitless benefactions unless a deeper good is being done at the same time. At present it is not so much a question of food, clothing, and rest, as of the inner humanity of men. Those are really the ideal dreamers who plan for the mere material betterment of society, for changes in industrial methods, for the realization of socialistic schemes. We need reformers of the spirit, —men who can say, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I unto thee. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth I bid thee arise." The dedication of the Young Men's Christian Association Building in Kanda, Tokyo, awakens great hope for the future welfare of Japan's youth, and is a new ground for believing that the union of Japanese Churches is coming, so thinks a writer in the journal just quoted from. The members of the Association are urged to pay particular attention to the social problems of the country and to the perils which attend its young men. The proposed visit of the American Evangelist Moody to Japan for the purpose of conducting a national revival movement meets with some criticism in the *Kirisutokyo Shimbun*. He is spoken of as one who "expresses the facts of faiths in the terms of the old theology." Some persons therefore think that with his coming the old theology will be revived. But they are greatly mistaken says the writer, Mr. Mashino Ekko. Even were Calvin or Edwards to come among us the old theology could not be restored. That is evident. If the object in sending for Mr. Moody is to clear away the intellectual disorder of our people the purpose will miscarry; he is not the right

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man for that work. Yet the coming of Mr. Moody will not be without some good results. He will help to show clearly that the essence of Christianity is spirituality. For this reason there was a practical unanimity in the General Conference of the Congregational Churches recently held at Kobe, over the proposition to call Mr. Moody to Japan.

* * *

Turning to the current Buddhist press we enter an intellectual atmosphere wholly different from that which has been hitherto around us. For example, in the *Tensoku* Mr. Inouye Enrio would compel the attention of Government and people to the following radical proposition for the religious improvement of Japan. Social welfare, he says, it is generally agreed, depends upon religious progress. But how shall religious progress in this country now be secured? At present it is wholly neglected. Let the knowledge and virtue of the priests be advanced, he answers. Our priests are inferior now in these excellences to the common people. But who shall do this needed work. The priests themselves are powerless; the temples are too poor to educate them. People generally will not undertake the work. Other interests than those of religion engage them. The Government must be depended upon to come to our aid. But in doing this will not the object of the separation of Church and State be defeated, and may not political disturbances thereby be generated which will affect our foreign relations? Not so, if the Government does not interfere with matters of belief, but seeks to develop only that side of religion which assures the maintenance of social order. Our proposition is that the Government should establish a theological department in the Imperial University. The university should have such a department. All European institutions of the kind have theological seminaries. In such a department our national religions, Buddhism and Shintoism, should be taught and not Christianity. As in the German States, for example, where Roman Catholics are in the majority, there are Catholic departments in the Universities, and *vice versa* in those States where the Protestants prevail, so, in Japan where Buddhists and Shintoists are in the majority, it can not be out of place to provide only for Buddhists and Shintoists in our university theological course. Or, let one university be established by uniting in it all the Buddhist sects and place this institution under government superintendence. Or, let commissions to become master priests of the temples be given only to those students who have obtained certificates from public or private schools recognized by the Government, or from examining commissions appointed by the Government. This question will certainly become a parliamentary matter in the near future. At present we call to it the attention of Government and the people. The *Bukkyo* offers its readers quite a remarkable editorial on the religions problem. Having discussed the necessity of religion to human welfare, the writer asks how shall one choose the right religion among the many now existent. Only that religion which corresponds to truth deserves our allegiance, he answers. Above all else we must ask of a religion, is it true? This is first and essential. Compared with this, considerations of morality and nationality are trifling. If a religion is true, let it conform to national tradition or not, we must accept it. National tradition which is not true will not support a nationality. If, too, a religion is not true, whatever its morality, we should not adopt it. Morality which is not supported by the truth is not a healthful morality. Japanese Buddhists attack Christianity, declaring that it does not harmonize with their nationality. Christians, on the contrary, assail Buddhism, asserting that it has not the power needed to lead social morality onward. Both Buddhists and Christians in taking these attitudes, mistake what is unessential for that which is necessary. We therefore offer to all, this as our counsel:—do not ignore the question of truth in discussing religion, on the ground that religion is not philosophy, and do not ignore this question on the plea that absolute truth can never be known by the human mind. Criticising an article in the *Jiyu Kirisutokyo* on the "Harmony of Christianity with Society," the Buddhist *Daido Shimpo* quotes from the article a passage which commends acquiescence on the part of Christians in Japanese customs that are deep rooted and even sacred in social life, although inwardly faith has taken another direction. Upon this the Buddhist writer grows vehement and declares angrily of the Christians, that "With such mood they worship at the temples of the Imperial Ancestors. With such mood they worship the Imperial Image. In this insincerity they hear the Imperial Rescripts. In doing these things they may be faithful to their God, but they are recreant to their Emperor. How can they say that their Christianity is not antagonistic and disloyal to this nation? Alas! The great danger for this Imperial land lies not in foreign countries but in its own accursed heathen." The attempted reconciliation of the hostile factions of the Sodo sect has failed. There remains now only an appeal to the Minister of Home Affairs. Great regret over this disgraceful quarrel is felt, so says the *Dento*, and it surmises that a legal prosecution of the High Priest of Eiheiji will take place, followed by the issue of ordinances affecting each faction. In the *Mitsugon Kyoho* there is a good eassy on the present condition of Buddhism. The writer says that Buddhism is probably entering its scholastic age. It has related itself to Western philosophy much as Christianity once was related to the philosophy of Greece; it is seeking to interpret religion by philosophy. When the mediæval Christian theologians failed to interpret their religion by the ancient philosophy they changed their tactics and declared that religion stands above the human reason. Probably the Buddhists will do likewise. This is all wrong, concludes the writer. The only true method for the study of the faith is that of history. By historical investigation the religion of the Buddha must be confirmed or set aside.

MR. SHIMADA SABURO AND THE "JAPAN MAIL."

The following correspondence has taken place with reference to a speech delivered by Mr. Shimada Saburo in the House of Representatives:—

To SHIMADA SABURO, Esq., M.P., &c., &c.
Japan Mail Office, No. 51, Yokohama,
May 21st, 1894.

SIR,—In a speech delivered by you in the House of Representatives on the 19th instant, and reported stenographically in the *Official Gazette*, you made use of the words:—"That paper (the *Japan Mail*) with poisoned pen published to all foreign countries the intelligence that the whole of Japanese Society had reverted to a mood of isolation." You then pointed out that rumours of the prevalence of anti-foreign sentiment in Japan were circulated in England more than in any other country of the West, and you alleged as the reason of that distinction that in the English language alone was there published in Yokohama an "organ ventilating such poisonous views," other countries obtaining their intelligence through the ordinary channels. This difference between England and the rest of the Occident was strongly emphasized by you, for, in a subsequent part of your speech, you are reported as saying:—"If it was to be inferred that because the House of Representatives discussed the Strict Enforcement Bill Japan abounded in anti-foreign feeling and in the sentiment of isolation, why was not the fact published in the journals of America and other countries, and why should it have appeared specially in the papers of England? Gentlemen, you must all have observed that such was the case. What is the reason? The reason is that the *Japan Mail* is the Government organ!" You then proceeded to allege that the *Japan Mail* was made to spread intelligence calculated to injure Japan's fair fame and to create an impression that the country had become anti-foreign and desirous of reverting to a state of isolation.

Having regard to the explicitness of the language attributed to you, and observing that you repeatedly mentioned the *Japan Mail* by name, I am precluded from supposing that you intended to allude to a different newspaper. On the other hand, since it would have been impossible to misrepresent the *Japan Mail* more grossly than you are reported as having misrepresented it, I am constrained to inquire whether your reference was really to that journal. It is notorious that the *Japan Mail* has always resolutely combatted the idea of any serious recrudescence of anti-foreign feeling in Japan. It is notorious that the *Japan Mail* has invariably denied the existence of any wide-spread agitation against Mixed Residence. It is notorious that the occasional outrages committed by Japanese against foreigners have uniformly been attributed by the *Japan Mail*, not to hatred of foreigners, but merely to a misdirected spirit of self-assertion. It is notorious that the *Japan Mail* has unchangeably described the great bulk of the Japanese nation as thoroughly friendly to foreigners and ready to welcome them everywhere. It is notorious that the *Japan Mail* opposed the Strict Enforcement movement, not on the ground that it betrayed general anti-foreign sentiment, but on the ground that it would convey to foreigners a false impression of the existence of such sentiment. It is notorious that the *Japan Mail*, having been from first to last convinced of the truth amply demonstrated by recent proceedings in the present House of Representatives, namely, that Japan is only too anxious to shake off her humiliating semi-isolation and that she entertains no repugnance whatever to close contact with foreigners—it is notorious that the *Japan Mail*, entertaining these views, has steadily upheld Japan's fair fame and steadily defended her against false charges of illiberality and international conservatism. All these things are notorious. During the past fourteen years the *Japan Mail* has been unwavering and uniform in its efforts to raise Japan to the place she is entitled to hold in Occidental estimation, not solely because justice imposes such a rôle upon any conscientious journalist, but because the editor of the *Japan Mail* believes that the true interests of his own country in this part of the Orient would be best consulted by cultivating Japan's friendship. It is wholly impossible that any reader of the *Japan Mail* could err about its views on such cardinal subjects. But you, Sir, have publicly attributed to it views of precisely the opposite character. You have represented it as seeking to blacken Japan's reputation; as slandering her people; as accusing them of semi-barbarous antipathy to foreigners; as charging them with a desire to revert to the isolation of former times; and as devoting itself, at the bidding of the Government of Japan, to cruelly traducing the people of Japan and unscrupulously endeavouring to prejudice foreigners against them. With the crimes that you lay on the shoulders of your own statesmen I have nothing to do, but with your libels upon the *Japan Mail* I am intimately concerned as its editor and proprietor. You are the parliamentary leader of a great political party. You occupy, both among your own countrymen and among foreigners, a high reputation. Your voice is constantly heard on public occasions and is always listened to with respect and attention. From the rostrum of the House of Representatives you have now preferred a series of the most emphatic and unequivocal charges against the *Japan Mail*. I therefore ask you, in the name of truth and justice, to adduce, from the leading columns of the *Japan Mail* during the past fourteen years, a single article, nay, a single paragraph, justifying so much as one of the charges you have openly made. I can scarcely imagine that you are without supposed means of substantiating accusations so serious, but as you possibly may not have kept a record of the utterances upon which your indictment of the *Japan Mail* is based, I shall be pleased, if you so desire, to place at your disposal the files of that journal for every day since January 1st 1881, and if you can find therein a single editorial article or even a single editorial paragraph, warranting the allegations made by you in the House of Representatives on the 19th instant, I shall be content to believe that you had some ground for your extraordinary delusion. On the other hand, if you fail to find such an article or such a paragraph, I shall have the right to demand that you publicly and unreservedly withdraw your false allegations.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

F. BRINKLEY,
Editor and Proprietor of the
"JAPAN MAIL."

MR. SHIMADA SABURO AND STRICT TREATY ENFORCEMENT.

(TRANSLATION).

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated May 21st of the 27th of *Meiji*. In a

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speech criticising the foreign policy of the Government, which I delivered in the House of Representatives on the 19th instant, I made a statement to the effect that the *Japan Mail*, of which you are proprietor and editor, had published articles calculated to produce upon the foreign public false impressions as to the state of things in our country. You now traverse the truth of that statement, and call upon me either to produce evidence in support of my allegation, or, failing such evidence, to make a public withdrawal of the statement.

In the above mentioned speech, alluding to the subject of foreign correspondence, I had occasion to state that, through its newspaper organs and its foreign correspondents, the Government had tried to create an impression among foreign nations that a revival of the old anti-foreign spirit was taking place in this empire, whereas, in point of fact, the nation has always been in favour of opening the country. I further stated that, under the circumstances, the Government alone was responsible for having instigated the erroneous notion now prevailing among foreigners about the revival of anti-foreign sentiment. And I again declared that your paper, the *Japan Mail*, which enjoys a subsidy from the Government, was the organ through which the above mentioned policy of misrepresentation was carried out by the Cabinet.

You tell me that you have devoted your columns during these ten years and upwards to representing Japanese civilization in a favourable light. But at the time of, and both previous and subsequent to, the introduction in the House of Representatives, last year, of the Representation on Strict Enforcement of the Treaties, you spared no pains to condemn that Representation as being opposed to the progressive policy of opening the country and inspired by sentiments antagonistic to Mixed Residence. This may be illustrated by reference to your paper at the time, to your leading articles, to your editorial notes, and to your translations from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, a paper, be it remarked, which, in its nature, is the same as yours. It would be too much to adduce each particular article, but I may mention as typical illustrations the following:—"Dissolution of the House of Representatives" (*Weekly Mail*, January 6th, 1894), "The *Jiyu-to* and Strict Enforcement of the Treaties" (*ibid*), and "The Originator of the Strict Enforcement Movement" (*Weekly Mail*, January 27th, 1894). Whether you are really mistaken about the true nature of the doctrine of Strict Enforcement, or whether you wittingly misrepresent it as actuated by anti-foreign sentiments, simply because you are a friend of the Government or because your paper is an official organ, it is a fact that you do speak of that doctrine as though it were another form of the old spirit of exclusion. I and my political friends have long since publicly committed ourselves to the policy of throwing open the country for Mixed Residence, and it is our firm belief that we have never altered our attitude on the subject. But I hold that the Government is open to a charge of negligence in the enforcement of the treaty stipulations regarding Mixed Residence and trade in the interior. Neither Mixed Residence nor trade in the interior is allowed by the Treaties. But practically, out of personal considerations, the privilege of Mixed Residence is enjoyed by foreigners, who, as the consequence of long habit, have come to imagine that they enjoy this privilege, not as a special favour of Japan, but as part of their rights. In consequence of this state of things, foreigners of the lower classes very often commit illegal acts, but the Government knowingly condones such acts and takes no notice of them. As to trade in the interior, in my opinion, it is but just that that privilege should be withheld from foreigners, until the treaty shall have been revised in that sense in return for some adequate compensation. I am, therefore, discontented with the Government's connivance at foreigners engaging in trade in the interior, without proper compensation being obtained in return for that liberty. Nor do I approve the Government's conduct in condemning any expression of opinion on the subject as calculated to impair the goodwill of foreigners, and in stigmatising as anti-foreign any person daring to utter independent views on this question.

That a small section of the advocates of Strict Treaty Enforcement are opposed to the immediate opening of the country for Mixed Residence, I do not seek to deny. (Even persons of that class are not absolutely opposed to Mixed Residence, but they insist upon the postponement of the opening of the interior until all necessary preparations for such a step shall have been completed. It is only a question of time. It is unjust to call them opponents of Mixed Residence, and still more so to characterise them as being imbued with anti-foreign sentiments.) That the movement for Strict Treaty Enforcement is so popular thoughout the country is to be attributed to the influence of men who advocate this doctrine from the same standpoint as myself. To the same cause is to be ascribed not only the circumstance that the doctrine of Strict Enforcement commanded a majority in the last House of Representatives, but also the collision between the Government and the Diet toward the end of last year. It was then an unwarrantable assumption on the part of the Government to declare this doctrine opposed to the national policy of opening the country, for the reverse of such a policy is that of seclusion. Taking the same view of the matter as the Government, you denounced the advocates of Strict Enforcement as being anti-foreign, and in so doing you did an injustice to this nation. The readers of your paper in foreign countries must have been led to believe that the doctrine of opening the country, which was so popular in this Empire a few years ago, had been replaced by a revival of the old anti-foreign spirit to such an extent that a majority in the Imperial Diet were infected with anti-foreign sentiments. Such a belief is entirely erroneous, being the result of a misrepresentation of facts. That more incorrect reports on this topic have been circulated in England than either in America or on the Continent of Europe, may in part be ascribed to the fact that the *Japan Mail* has more readers in England than anywhere else outside Japan.

That your paper is the organ of the Government is the belief of not only myself but of a majority of my countrymen. It is also the belief of many Japanese that, beside yourself, there are other foreigners engaged in the work of writing to journals abroad in the interests of the Japanese Government. My speech referred not only to the *Japan Mail* but to other correspondents attached to the Government. You say that you have favourably represented Japanese affairs for more than ten years, but, in my opinion, you might have said with more justice that you have always written and argued in the interests of the Japanese Government. On questions about which there was a difference of opinion between the Government and the people, your paper has been found to publish articles and notes in which the former's side is taken in preference to the latter's. Your criticisms of the doctrine of Strict Enforcement are an instance of that kind.

I stated in my speech that the *Japan Mail* is a partisan journal enjoying the patronage of the Government. Since you make no reference in your letter to that topic, I take the liberty to conclude that you admit the fact. It is, then, but natural that the *Japan Mail*, as an official organ, should misrepresent the opinions of the people, whenever there is a difference of view between the latter and the Government.

Yours respectfully,

SHIMADA SABURO.

May 26th, the 27th of *Meiji*.

P.S.—Having been excessively busy during the present week, I have not been able to offer an answer to your letter as promptly as I would otherwise have done.

To SHIMADA SABURO, Esq., M.P., &c., &c.
Japan Mail Office, No. 51, Yokohama,
May 31st, 1894.

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 26th inst. in reply to mine of the 21st. I beg to express my acknowledgments of the care that you have taken in explaining your position and elaborating your reasons for holding it.

In the statement now made by you, I find that you employ terms somewhat less sweeping than those contained in your speech of the 19th instant. But as your speech alone is in question, I must be permitted to recall the fact that in that speech you denounced the *Japan Mail* as a paper which "with poisoned pen had published to all foreign countries the intelligence that the whole of Japanese Society had reverted to a mood of isolation;" that, further, analysing the effect produced by "an organ ventilating such poisonous views," you placed upon the *Japan Mail* the responsibility of having misled England to entertain, above all other Western countries, a belief in the prevalence of anti-foreign sentiment in Japan; that you charged the *Japan Mail* with misrepresenting Japan as "abounding" in anti-foreign feeling and in the sentiment of isolation because a Bill providing for strict enforcement of the Treaties seemed likely to be endorsed by the House of Representatives; and, finally, that you accused the *Japan Mail* of circulating the above falsehoods at the instance of the Japanese Government. It is, perhaps, unnecessary for me to recapitulate these allegations because they are plainly set forth in my former letter and implicitly admitted by you as a correct *résumé* of your speech, and because, further, in your reply you re-affirm your contention that "the *Japan Mail*, which "enjoys a subsidy from the Government," was the medium through which the above-mentioned policy of misrepresentation was carried out by the Cabinet.

The points of contention being thus clearly enunciated, I proceed to discuss them briefly.

In the first place, has the *Japan Mail* published to foreign countries the intelligence that "the whole of Japanese Society has reverted to a mood of isolation," and that anti-foreign feeling abounds in the country? The simplest and most convincing method of answering this question is by direct quotation from the colums of the *Japan Mail*.

In a leading article, headed "Anti-Mixed Residence," published in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of May 13th, 1893, the following passages occur:—

"The anti-mixed-residence movement is now a topic of some interest in Tokyo. Under the name of *hinaichi zakkyo-ron*, or more briefly *hizakkyo ron*, it is discussed much as other passing phantasies of the moment have been discussed at other seasons. *In official circles very little importance is attached to it. Intelligent folks regard it partly as a plank in a political platform, partly as a remnant of pure conservatism, and partly as a reflection of the exclusive sentiment gradually gaining ground in Western lands.* When Americans in the United States and Englishmen in Australia enact laws to exclude Chinese, and threaten to proceed similarly with regard to Japanese; when Russia expels Jews, and when, even in England, hitherto the hotel of all nationalities, there is talk heard of setting limits to the immigration of aliens, we cannot greatly wonder that *a few Japanese should move in the same direction.* There is no occasion to feel the slightest uneasiness about the retrogressive agitation of that leader of *soshi*, Mr. Oi Kentaro, even though he has gained the support of a University Professor, an ex-Minister of State, and a member of the Privy Council. *The spirit of the time and the sentiment of the nation are totally opposed to him.*"

In an editorial note, headed "The Hi-naichi-zakkyo Folks," published in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of July 22nd, 1893, the following reference to he anti-mixed-residence politicians is made:—

"We cannot see how any prospect of effecting anything lies before this *little band of agitators.* The *Kaishin-to* are pledged to oppose them; the *Jiyu-to* have taken the complete opening of the country as a principal plank in their platform; *and the people at large must see that Japan can not adopt a policy of isolation except on condition of abandoning her claim to be treated as an equal by Occidental States.*"

In a leading article, headed "The Police and Foreigners," published in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of December 9th, 1893, where this country's strong desire to assert itself *vis-à-vis* foreigners is discussed, the following passage occurs:—

"*No one supposes, it would indeed be extravagant to suppose, that there is the smallest danger of a recrudescence of the old* jo-i (*barbarian expelling*) *spirit of pre-Restoration days. That kind of thing is dead beyond all resurrection.* But its memory lives in the breasts of foreigners, and they are not slow to put an unfavourable interpretation on any morbidly self-assertive or hostile ebullitions indulged in by Japanese youths.

In a leading article headed "Foreigners from a Japanese Point of View," published in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of January 20th, 1894, the following passage occurs:—

"*It is true that English journals published in Yokohama disgrace the manhood and discernment of their editors and endeavour to delude their readers by hysterical caricatures of the situation, and by studied efforts to show that anti-foreign feeling is widespread among the Japanese, and that the people are at heart opposed to mixed residence. But these mischief-makers no more represent the cool, level-headed, fearless Britisher than Messrs. Abei and Oi—truly we must apologise to the former for coupling his name with the latter—represent the typical friendly, hospitable, and progressive Japanese.*"

In a leading article headed "The Reasons of the Diet's Prorogation," published in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of December 23rd, 1893, the following passage occurs:—

"*No one now-a-days dreams of expelling foreigners or reverting to a state of national isolation.* But a good many persons do believe that Japan must assert herself or be counted a spiritless, unpatriotic country, and that her only hope of inducing foreigners to release her from the national disabilities imposed by the Treaties,

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is to make the Treaty situation as unpleasant as possible for the foreign residents."

Finally, in a leading article headed "The Anti-mixed-residence Association," published in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of January 25th, 1893, the following passage occurs:—

"Of course there is not the least fear that the bulk of the Japanese nation will follow these eccentric leaders. Perhaps we do wrong to accord them any serious notice."

Similar quotations might be easily multiplied. But these are more than sufficient. Every one of them is absolutely explicit Every one of them shows in the clearest manner that the *Japan Mail*, so far from asserting, as you accuse it of asserting, that anti-foreign feeling abounds in Japan, and that the whole of Japanese Society has reverted to a mood of isolation, has emphatically contradicted such erroneous statements, and has steadily denied the possibility of any general recrudescence of a spirit of conservative isolation among your countrymen. There is no question of your interpretation of my language as against my own interpretation. The words quoted admit of only one interpretation. They prove, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that during the past two years and a half—in other words, during the whole time of the anti-mixed-residence agitation—the *Japan Mail's* attitude has been diametrically the opposite of your description, and that it has actually laboured to combat and dispel the very misconceptions which you accuse it of persistently and deliberately propagating. It would be impossible, I think, for any one to err more egregiously than you have erred, or to commit a more flagrant injustice than you have committed, in this instance.

Since, however, you have been good enough to refer to three special articles in the *Japan Mail* as justifying your strictures, I, too, will refer to those articles by direct quotation, italicising words the significance of which calls for such distinction. The first of the articles appeared on January 6th, 1894, under the heading "Dissolution of the House of Representatives." It contains the following:—

"The re-assembly of the House on the 29th ult. saw the obnoxious proposal introduced once more for discussion, and saw also a solid phalanx of members prepared to support it. Whether it would have passed or not, must now remain uncertain. But there can be little question that it would at all events have obtained votes numerous enough to convey *a false impression of the nation's real mood*, and to invest with *fictitious importance the petty and ungenerous policy contemplated by the Opposition.*"

The second article appeared on January 27th, under the heading "The Originator of the Strict Enforcement Movement." The purpose of the article was to show that the movement, so far from having any wide or national basis, owed the greater part of its impetus and arguments to one man. The article contains this passage:—

"What can be stranger than to think that *while analysts who profess to sound the depths of Japanese public opinion, are forming all sorts of disquieting estimates about the significance of the Strict-Enforcement agitation, about its importance as a gauge of national sentiment, and about the unhappily retrogressive spirit that it displays*, the fact is that it is virtually the work of one man?"

The third article appeared on February 17th, under the heading, "The Government and the Diet." It contains the following passage:—

"Failing to obtain Revision on reasonable terms and after due diplomatic effort, she will resort to other means of shaking off her fetters. But there shall be no recourse to undignified and unworthy methods, such as those suggested in the Representation which the House was about to discuss when the sentence of dissolution interrupted its debates. *The Minister President declares his conviction that the nation at large would never endorse such methods, and that their advocacy by a majority of the Lower House was wholly a matter of party tactics:* that, in short, their advocates did not hesitate to subserve the most serious questions of foreign intercourse to the petty purposes of party politics."

Thus, of three articles which you specially indicate as proving that the *Japan Mail* "with poisoned pen published to all foreign countries the intelligence that the whole of Japanese Society had reverted to a mood of isolation," the first declares that had the Strict Enforcement Bill passed, it would have conveyed "a false impression of the nation's real mood; the second asserts that the Bill, so far from possessing "importance as a gauge of national sentiment," was "virtually the work of one man;" and the third quotes the conviction of the Minister President of State that "the nation at large would never endorse such methods," and that their "advocacy by a majority of the House was wholly a matter of party tactics." I can conceive no explanation, Sir, of your extraordinary misconception. Your reputation and your position forbid the hypothesis that when you levelled your wholesale charges against the *Japan Mail* from the rostrum of the House of Representatives, you were totally unacquainted with the writings of that journal. Yet that is certainly the least offensive supposition I can adopt.

Having now effectually disposed of your accusation that the *Japan Mail* misrepresents the Japanese nation as having reverted to a mood of isolation and as being imbued with anti-foreign spirit, having shown conclusively that the misrepresentation is all on your own side, I address myself briefly to your charge:—"The readers of the *Japan Mail* in foreign countries must have been led to believe that the doctrine of opening the country, which was so popular in this empire a few years ago, has been replaced by a revival of anti-foreign spirit to such an extent that a majority in the Imperial Diet are infected with anti-foreign sentiments." Your error in this case is not less flagrant. In the *Japan Weekly Mail* of June 4th, 1892, there appeared an article headed "Mixed Residence," the purpose of which was to analyse the attitude of the great parties in the State toward Mixed Residence. I invite you to read the following extract from that article, observing, at the same time, that it has reference to the very House of Representatives which you accuse me of representing as "infected with anti-foreign sentiments":

"For our part, we have very little doubt that the general feeling of the educated classes is in favour of sanctioning Mixed Residence, but there are others who do not share this confidence, their idea being that whatever may be the terms of a Party manifesto, a conservative desire to exclude foreigners from the interior must be regarded as dominating the situation. So far as the annals of the time indicate, we have three broad facts whereon to base a judgment. The first is that the Government itself and its supporters are unquestionably in favour of Mixed Residence. Apart from their estimate of the useful services of foreign capital and foreign enterprise in developing the resources of the country, they understand very well that if Japan hopes to be treated as an equal by Western Powers, she must be prepared to treat them as equals, and not to refuse to their subjects and citizens within her borders privileges which her own subjects enjoy in Occidental lands. The second fact is that the *Kaishin-to* are pledged to the principle of Mixed Residence. Indeed, the programme of Treaty Revision proposed by Count Okuma was in some respects more liberal than the programme now supposed to represent the nation's wishes, for it contemplated the ownership of real estate by foreigners. The third fact is that the Radicals have submitted for approval by the House of Representatives an Address to the Throne in which the principle of Mixed Residence is distinctly accepted. Thus, all the great Parties in the State are committed to this feature of Revision."

I presume, Sir, that the blunder into which you have fallen will become as inexplicable to yourself as it is to me when you find that a journal which you charge with imputing anti-foreign sentiment to the whole of Japanese Society and to the majority of the Imperial Diet, contains in its leading columns an explicit declaration of belief that "the general feeling of the educated classes is in favour of sanctioning Mixed Residence," and that "all the great Parties in the State are committed to that feature of Revision."

You are good enough to explain in your letter the attitude assumed and maintained by yourself and your political friends toward the question of throwing open the country for Mixed Residence. From the last extract quoted, in which your Party is described as "pledged to the principle of Mixed Redence," you will perceive that the *Japan Mai* has not misconstrued your policy in that respect. By way of confirming the fact, and in order to elucidate what, I venture to think, is the real cause of your hostility to the newspaper that I edit, permit me to draw your attention to the following quotation from an article appearing in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of March 10th, 1894, under the heading, "The Kanagawa Election":—

"Mr. Shimada is the duly elected leader of the *Kaishin-to* in the House of Representatives; his figure is constantly *en evidence*; he is one of the most eloquent men in Japan to-day, and he has shown himself a master of Parliamentary tactics. With all these qualifications to recommend him to an electorate, Mr. Shimada's return for the First District of Kanagawa has hitherto been regarded as a foregone conclusion. The electors were proud to be represented by such a man, as well they might be, and moreover Mr. Shimada's business interests and journalistic connections gave him great influence in the Prefecture. Thus, in the election of 1892, he obtained 146 votes against his opponent's 28, and these figures were considered at the time a fair index of the preponderance of Mr. Shimada's chances over those of any other possible candidate. Doubtless they were then a fair index. But in the last session of the Diet the party of which Mr. Shimada is the active head associated itself with a policy as unbecoming as it was incongruous—the policy of Strict Treaty Enforcement. Of all political parties in Japan the *Kaishin-to* has least reason for espousing such a programme. Its members and leaders know perfectly well that no vexatious and illiberal measures are needed to goad Foreign Powers into doing justice to Japan, and since the policy of Strict Enforcement is wholly inexcusable except as a lever to prise Treaty Revision out of the rut of abortive negotiations, politicians who endorse Strict Enforcement, knowing its needlessness in that sense, must be regarded as the worst kind of opportunists. In truth, with all our admiration for the abilities of the *Kaishin-to* leaders, for their unflinching resolution, and for the extraordinary tact they have displayed in manufacturing majorities hostile to the Government, we cannot but regard this particular incident of their career as a permanent blot upon their escutcheon. No Japanese statesman takes broader or more liberal views of Japan's foreign relations than Count Okuma. He believes in absolute freedom of commercial intercourse; he advocates large recourse to foreign capital for the development of the country's embryonic resources, and he does not even share the prejudice against foreign ownership of real estate in Japan. With such views he found no great difficulty in bringing the problem of Treaty Revision within range of speedy solution in 1889, and his efforts received the staunchest endorsement and support from his Party. Yet this same Count Okuma, and this same Party, now stand forth as champions of a policy radically illiberal in conception, useless and even mischievous for purposes of Treaty Revision, and emanating from a group of Conservative agitators who have declared themselves hostile to the opening of the country, hostile to the ownership of real estate by foreigners, and hostile to the introduction of foreign capital."

The above quotation embodies, I think, the gist of the true difference between us. That all parties to the Treaties should abide strictly by their provisions is a proposition which no one attempts to dispute. Neither will any foreigner traverse the justice of your remarks as to the unwisdom, in Japan's interest, of allowing foreigners to enjoy license which they may ultimately by prescription come to regard as law. From that point of view the principle of Strict Enforcement is universally accepted, and has been repeatedly endorsed in the columns of the *Japan Mail*. When Count Okuma, the distinguished leader of your Party, held the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, it was notorious that he sought to restrain any trespass beyond the conventional limitations of foreign privileges in Japan. Yet his policy never provoked protest from foreigners, nor was any one found to question the right he thus asserted. I am not aware that the practice of the Government since Count Okuma's retirement has undergone any change, or that there has been any increase of the license which even he found it impossible to check completely. So far, then, as concerns the principle of Strict Enforcement, there is general unity of opinion, and I may add that had the Representation of last December emanated from your Party in the House of Representatives, the foreign public would not have misconstrued its spirit and purpose. But it did not emanate from your Party. It emanated from the avowed opponents of Mixed Residence. It emanated from the very men who, eighteen months previously, had organized an association having for its declared purpose the preservation of Japan's present state of semi-isolation. It emanated from the very men who, as you yourself admit, believe that the time has not yet come for allowing foreigners to enjoy free access to the interior. It emanated from the very men who profess the craven doctrine that their nationals are not yet fit to associate with foreigners on equal terms. Do you, Sir, seriously expect the world to believe that a measure designed to restrict the privileges now enjoyed by foreigners in Japan, and proposed by men whose public platform is to oppose the granting of all further privileges to foreigners—do you seriously expect the world to believe that such a measure can be reconciled with the enlightened policy of opening the country which the *Meiji* Government has steadily pursued and which you and your Party conspicuously

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advocate? You must entertain a very contemptuous idea of foreign discernment if you attribute to it such blundering. I do not know what political exigencies drove your Party into the same camp with Mr. Abei Iwane and his associates. Still less can I conceive why you should have abandoned to their initiative a measure which, coming from such hands, must inevitably be attributed to motives diametrically contrary to the whole spirit of the *Kaishin-to's* foreign policy. Your association with conservatives so distrustful of their nationals' capacities, and the subordinate *rôle* you accepted in their attempt to restrict the privileges enjoyed by foreigners in Japan, are enigmas that I cannot pretend to solve. But when you ask me to imagine that Messrs. Abei Iwane, Sasa Tomofusa, and their associated agitators against Mixed Residence, intended to hasten the advent of Mixed Residence by a measure explicitly framed to put an end to whatever beginnings of Mixed Residence already exist, you overtax my credulity. There can be no manner of doubt as to the interpretation that the foreign public would have attached to such a measure had it passed the House of Representatives. Its endorsement by your Party, Sir, could not have obliterated the taint of its initiation by the leaders of the Anti-Mixed Residence Association, and when the Ministers of the Crown interfered to avert such a conjuncture, they acted, I venture to think, in the best interests of the empire. I need scarcely elaborate the mischievous character of the Strict-Enforcement scheme, thus introduced, by pointing out that its effective operation would have necessitated the enactment of retrogressive and unconstitutional laws, as well as recourse to police measures of an offensive and vexatious nature. My immediate purpose is established since I have clearly demonstrated that while the Strict-Enforcement Representation, if suffered to receive the endorsement of the House of Representatives under the circumstances mentioned above, must have gravely misled foreign States as to the mood of the Japanese people, the *Japan Mail* has invariably sought to protect the true sentiments of the Japanese nation against such misinterpretation, and has invariably insisted on the progressive and liberal tendencies of Japanese Society at large, thus taking a course precisely the opposite of that falsely and calumniously attributed to it by you from the rostrum of the House of Representatives.

Permit me to add a few words on a subject mentioned in your letter though not included in the original field of this discussion. You avowedly attach great importance to Strict Enforcement of the Treaties; you claim that the movement for Strict Enforcement is "popular throughout the country," and you affirm that, in opposing it, the Government runs counter to the wish of the nation. If that be so, why have you desisted from all parliamentary action in support of the movement? The House of Representatives was dissolved in its fifth session because a majority of its members had pledged themselves to support the Strict-Enforcement Representation under circumstances that must have seriously impaired Japan's foreign relations. On that question the Government appealed from the House to the constituencies. Why then has not the question been submitted again to the test of the new House's vote? Why have you and the other members of the Opposition shrunk from subjecting once more to debate and division an issue to which you professedly attach such moment in the interests of your country? Why have you refrained from including it explicitly in the measures introduced by the Opposition this session, and why did a suspicion of its covert presence in the text of the Address to the Throne discussed on May 17th secure the defeat of that measure? What has become of your Representation of last session, of your voluminous appendix of reasons, of your correlated projects of illiberal and vexatious laws? Do you expect that the disappearance of all these things from the field of parliamentary debate will lead the foreign public to infer your sense of their importance, the constituencies' endorsement of them, and the nation's belief in their necessity?

In the face of the above facts, it is unnecessary for me to repel the assertion that the course falsely attributed by you to the *Japan Mail* was instigated or dictated by the Japanese Government. I do not know, Sir, what may be your definition of patriotism, or how you suppose yourself to be serving the interests of your country when you proclaim your belief that the statesmen of this Empire have suborned foreign writers to blacken the nation's reputation and to make it the victim of foreign prejudice and distrust. It is, perhaps, your creed that even the prestige of your country in Western eyes may legitimately be thus sacrificed in the petty cause of party politics. But I, alien though I am, have too much friendship for your nation to play any such part. For the rest, the *Japan Mail* is not an organ of the Government, and never has been since I became its proprietor. It is my organ. The views it expresses and the opinions it publishes are my own. They are neither dictated nor inspired by any Government, and the responsibility for them rests with me solely. You do not hesitate to assert that the *Japan Mail* is always found on the Government's side when there is a difference of opinion between the latter and the people, and you point to this Strict-Enforcement question as an instance of such a difference. Do you then claim to be the people's mouthpiece? You, Sir, as well as I, are a newspaper proprietor. Only once has the journal you control supported the Government, and that was when the leader of your Party had a seat in the Cabinet. From the moment of his retirement your journal has invariably and uncompromisingly opposed the Government, though it is a Government consisting of the very statesmen with whom your leader served. Are we to infer, then, that so soon as your leader enters the Cabinet it becomes possessed of the people's mandate, and so soon as he retires, it forfeits that mandate? Do you seriously expect us to draw such subtle distinctions? I, as a foreigner, have not yet been schooled to appreciate the personal considerations that exercise such a controlling influence in the politics of your country to-day. I have supported the Japanese Government because its administrative and financial achievements, which I have had the pleasure of observing for 27 years, have elicited my admiration, and because, under its rule, I have seen the country grow in prosperity, prestige, and happiness to a degree seldom equalled in the history of any nation. It may be, Sir, that you and the politicians under your leadership in the House of Representatives, possess capacity to carry the nation forward at an even higher rate of speed than its development has shown during the past quarter of a century. But you will pardon me if I say that until you have furnished some proof of that capacity, I must decline to attach to your denunciations of your country's statesmen credence which your gross calumnies of the *Japan Mail* certainly do not entitle you to claim.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

F. BRINKLEY,
Editor and Proprietor of the
"JAPAN MAIL."

P.S.—I observe that you have published a portion of this correspondence without consulting me or giving me any intimation of your intention. I have therefore a right to claim that you give equal publicity to this letter.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

QUESTION RELATING TO IMPERIAL ORDINANCE NO. 41, 1894.

I.—Is the Imperial Ordinance No. 41 of the present year, proclaiming the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction in the case of Hawaiian citizens and the grant to them of the privilege of Mixed Residence, the result of mutual agreement between the Governments of the two countries? Has the privilege of Mixed Residence been granted conditionally on the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction, or has it been granted as a consequence of the abolition of such Jurisdiction? What were the manner in which and the reasons for which this arrangement was effected?

II.—Japan can, of her pleasure, either grant or withhold the privilege of Mixed Residence. For what reason has it been granted in the case of Hawaiians, without any limitations and without recovering tariff autonomy in accordance with the Address to the Throne presented in the fourth session of the Diet?

III.—The grant of Mixed Residence should properly be effected by means of either a treaty or a law. Why has it been granted in the present instance by means of an Imperial Ordinance?

The above Question is introduced in accordance with Art. XLVIII. of the Law of the Houses, and a speedy answer thereto is expected.

(Introducer) NODE SHOZABURO.
(Supporters) KAWASHIMA JUN, and 38 others.

Dated, May 24, 1894.

ANSWER TO MR. NODE SHOZABURO'S QUESTION RELATING TO IMPERIAL ORDINANCE NO. 41 OF 1894.

I.—It was of course the result of mutual agreement between the Governments of the two countries concerned, that the Imperial Government, by Imperial Ordinance No. 41 of April 12th of the present year, abolished the provisions relating to Consular Jurisdiction in the Treaty concluded with the Hawaiian Government on the 4th day of the 7th month of the 4th year of *Meiji* (August 19, 1871), at the same time giving permission to Hawaiian residents in the Empire to live and travel and engage in business or any other lawful occupation in any part of the country within the limits of laws and ordinances. As to the privilege of Mixed Residence, it was granted to Hawaiians not as a condition of the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction, but as the consequence thereof. When the Hawaiian Government consented to the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction in this country, it followed as a natural consequence that Hawaiian residents should, in accordance with Art. II. of the existing Treaty between the two countries, be entitled to the same treatment as the subjects or citizens of treaty Powers which do not maintain unequal stipulations in respect of Consular Jurisdiction, tariff regulations, and so forth. In other words Hawaiian residents are to be treated in the same way as the citizens of Mexico.

II.—The Treaty with Hawaii does not contain any special stipulation on the subject of tariff, and consequently there is not any neccessity for replying to that portion of the Question relating to the recovery of tariff autonomy. With regard to Mixed Residence, Hawaiian residents being, as stated in the forgoing paragraph, entitled to the same treatment as Mexican citizens, there is no necessity to provide in the case of the former any limitations beyond those specified in the case of the latter.

III.—The grant of Mixed Residence to Hawaiian residents was, as already stated, due to the provisions of Art. II. of the Treaty with Hawaii, which places Hawaiians in the same position as Mexican citizens. And this arrangement having been effected as the result of the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction by the mutual consent of the Governments of the two countries, it was but proper that the fact was promulgated by an Imperial Ordinance.

The above answer is hereby submitted.

MUTSU MUNEMITSU,
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Dated May 30th.

QUESTION RELATING TO THE REMAINS OF THE LATE KIM OK-KYÜN.

When Kim Ok-kyün was murdered by Hong Tgyong-Ou in the Japanese Hotel, Shanghai, his remains were handed over to a Japanese named Wada Nobujiro, after the inquest had been duly performed by the Taotai of Shanghai. After completing all necessary formalities at the Customs House, Wada was on the point of taking the corpse to a steamship belonging to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, with the purpose of bringing it back to this country, when the Chinese Government plundered it and sent it to Korea, together with the murderer Hong, on board a man-of-war. This conduct on the part of China was a gross insult to Japan.

What steps has the Japanese Government taken against this action of the Chinese Government?

What steps is the Japanese Government going to adopt in the matter?

The above Question is submitted in accordance with Art XLVIII. of the Law of the Houses, and an early answer to it is hereby requested.

(Introducer) MORIYA KONOSUKE.
(Supporters) INUKAI KI, and 30 others.

Dated May 18, 1894.

ANSWER TO MR. MORIYA KONOSUKE'S QUESTION RELATING TO THE KIM OK-KYUN AFFAIR.

According to the report of the Imperial Consul General at Shanghai, when Wada Nobujiro was about to take his late employer Kim's corpse on board the *Saikio Maru* on March 31st, the Prefect of Shanghai requested the Consul General to stop the shipping of the corpse, but the Consul General rejected this request on the ground that he had no right to prevent the shipping of a corpse for which permission had been duly obtained from the Prefect himself, and which had duly been entered at the Custom House. But Wada left the corpse by the roadside, and in his absence, it was carried to the Police Station by the Chief of Police of the Settlement, it being forbidden by the Settlement Regulations to put a corpse by the roadside. Wada then sailed home, without taking any steps to recover the corpse from the Police Station. Thereupon the Chief of Police delivered the corpse to the Chinese Authorites, at the request of the latter. Such being the facts, although it is a fact that the Chinese Government ordered its local officials to dispose of a corpse of which there was no guardian, there is no ground to believe that the Chinese Government plundered the corpse, as asserted in the Question. As to the right of the Chinese Government to deliver, to

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whatever party it might please, the remains of Kim Ok kyün, a Korean, and the body of his murderer, Hong Ijyong-Ou, another Korean, the Imperial Japanese Government has no title to interfere with the exercise of that right. The above answer is hereby submitted.

MUTSU MUNEMITSU,
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Dated May 30th.

QUESTION RELATING TO THE OFFICIALS OF GIFU PREFECTURE.

That some officials in the Prefectural Government of Gifu in 1891 forged the names of many imaginary constables as well as some documents and seals, and that the money obtained as the salary of these constables was given to the editor of the *Gifu Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and several other persons, are facts established by the answer which the local Chief of Police made to questions put to him during the ordinary session of the Local Assembly in 1893. But the Government, so far as we know, has neither meted out disciplinary punishments to these functionaries nor arraigned them before a criminal court of law. Can it be said that the Government has discharged its duty of maintaining discipline among its officials? We ask for a plain answer of the Minister of State concerned.

The above Question is hereby introduced in accordance with regulations.

(Introducers) KOMURO SHIGEHIRO, and ASAMI YOICHIYEMON.

(Supporters) AMANO IZAYEMON, and 30 others.

Dated May 28th, 1894.

ANSWER TO MR. KOMURO SHIGEHIRO AND ANOTHER MEMBER'S QUESTION RELATING TO THE OFFICIALS OF THE GIFU PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT.

As to the disbursement of part of the salaries and travelling expenses of constables for the purpose of defraying the expenses connected with secret service, in the year 1892, no criminal prosecution has been instituted, as the action in question did not come within the purview of the Criminal Code. But both Maruyama Shigetoshi formerly Chief of Police of Gifu Ken and afterward Chief of Police of Ishikawa Ken, and Tomita Mitsugu, formerly Police Segeant of Gifu Ken and afterward Headman of Kamo District in the same Prefecture, were dismissed from office, as a disciplinary punishment on the 20th of November, 1893. Another official, Wada Teiji, Clerk and Police Sergeant of Gifu Ken, was also subjected to disciplinary punishment on the 4th of December, 1893. With reference to other officials who have since resigned, disciplinary punishments cannot be meted out to them.

The above Answer is hereby submitted.

YOSHIKAWA AKIMASA,
Acting Minister of State for Home Affairs.

PROJECTS OF LAW.

The following Projects of Law were considered by the Diet during its late session :—

AMENDED PROJECT OF LAW RELATING TO LOST ARTICLES.

Art. II.—To be expunged.

Art. VII.—To be expunged.

Art. VIII.—The following words shall be expunged from this Article :—"Should the property of another person be damaged, the act of damage shall be dealt with according to law."

Art. IX.—In this Article the clause, "Any one who has caught a strayed animal shall send it to the Authorities in case the owner is not clear," shall be altered to "Any one who has caught a strayed animal shall send it back to the owner in accordance with the provisions of Art XV., or shall report the case to the competent office." Further, the four characters signifying "to give notice by placard," shall be expunged, and "Art. II." shall be replaced by "Arts. XVI. and XVIII.

Art. XIII.—The following provision shall be added :—In case no one applies for the recovery of the article after the expiration of six months, counted from the day on which the find was made, the Government shall dispose of it in whatever manner may be deemed appropriate, or may confiscate it."

Art. XIV.—The following nine Articles shall be appended after Art. XIV. :—

Art. XV.—The finder of a lost article must, within five days computed from the day on which the article was found, return it to the loser, when the latter has been clearly ascertained, or to the owner when he is known, even though the loser may not have been ascertained. In case both the loser and owner are absent, or in case the finder would be embarrassed by following the above procedure, he should forward the Article to the proper office within five days computed from the day on which the article was found, accompanying it with a note giving the date of finding, the place, and other particulars.

Art. XVI.—In case no claimant appears for the Article within six months computed from the day on which the finding took place, it shall become the property of the finder.

Art. XVII.—In case the finder does not lay claim to the Article within the time prescribed by the Authorities, on the expiration of the period specified in the foregoing article, or in case the locality of the finder is not clear, the article may be put up to sale by public auction, and the price realized shall be kept in trust by the Authorities.

Art. XVIII.—During six months subsequent to the expiration of the period specified in Art. XVI., the finder may claim delivery of the article or of the price obtained by its sale. Provided that, when the claim is not made within the prescribed period, confiscation by the Authorities shall be effected.

Art. XIX.—In case the loser or owner or finder fail to defray the charges incurred in keeping or selling the article, the Government may withhold the article or the price obtained by its sale.

Art. XX.—An article falling under any of the following clauses may be put up for sale at once by public auction, without reference to the period prescribed in Art. XVI. Provided that, the price thus obtained shall be dealt with in the same manner as is prescribed for the case of a lost article.

a.—When the cost of keeping the article exceeds, or is deemed disproportionate to, its value.

b.—When the nature of the article is such as to preclude its preservation for any lengthy period.

c.—When for other reasons than the above, the Authorities deem it advisable to sell the article.

Art. XXI.—Any one infringing the provisions of Art. XV. and IX. shall forfeit the right conferred on the finder by the present Regulations.

Art. XXII.—With regard to lost Articles found in Government or public establishments, in railway cars, ships, tram-cars, hackney-coaches, &c., the Government or public establishments or those engaged in the specified traffic, shall be regarded as the finders. Provided that, in such cases, no reward for the trouble of finding need be given.

Art. XXIII.—Detailed rules for the operation of the present Regulations shall be specially prepared by the Minister of State for Home Affairs.

BILL RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE LAW OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the Law of Election of Members of the House of Representatives issued in the 22nd year of *Meiji* (1889) by Law No. III., the following amendments shall be effected :—

Art. VI.—Clauses 1 and 3 shall be amended thus :—

Clause 1. He must be a male Japanese subject not less than full *twenty* [twenty-five] years of age.

Clause 3. For not less than one year previous to the date of the making out of the electoral list, he must have been paying, in the *Fu* or *Ken*, direct national taxes to the amount of not less than *Five* [fifteen] *yen*, and must be still paying the same.

Art. VIII.—Those alone shall be eligible that are male Japanese subjects of not less than full *twenty-five* [thirty] years of age.....

Art. IX.—All Government officials shall be ineligible, with the exception of the following :—

1. *Ministers and Vice Ministers of State.*
2. *Chief of the Board of Audit.*

Art. X.—This Article shall be expunged. [Officials of a *Fu, Ken,* or *Gun* shall not be eligible within the limits of the jurisdiction of their respective office].

Art. XIV.—The following provision shall be appended to clauses 4 and 5 of this Article :—Provided that an offender of political nature shall be exempted from these disqualifications.

Art. XXII.—Men in the Army or in the Navy cannot exercise the right to elect [or to be elected], while they are on service with the Colours.

Art. XXXII.—When the number of electors in a Town or Village is [not numerous enough] *under twenty* [to require the opening of a voting place], several Towns or several Villages or both may be united for the purpose.

Art. LXVI.—The following clause shall be appended to this Article :—When the term of a member who is elected at a general election subsequent to a dissolution expires, he shall be regarded as still holding office till the next general election.

Art. C.—The following two articles shall be added after Art. C.

Art. C. 1.—A Policeman or an Official of a *Fu, Ken,* or *Gun* who, on whatever pretext, interferes in the election in his respective *Fu, Ken,* or *Gun* by persuasion or by any other act, shall be liable to minor confinement for not less than two months and not more than two years, with the additional penalty of a fine ranging from 10 to 100 *yen*.

Art. C. 2.—A vote obtained by bribery, violence, or intimidation shall be null and void.

Arts. C. 1 and C. 2 of the present Law shall be changed respectively into Arts. C. 3 and C. 4. Introduced by Messrs. Yamada Taizo and Suzuki Jubi, supported by Mr. Fujino Masataka and 28 others.

N B.—In the above draft bill, brackets are used to show words expunged, and italics to show words introduced.

PROJECT OF LAW RELATING TO GRANTS IN AID OF EMERGENCY PUBLIC WORKS IN FU OR KEN.

Art. I.—When it is desired to obtain a subsidy from the Treasury on account of a *Fu* or *Ken* for the repair of public works damaged by a natural calamity, an application may be forwarded in accordance with the provisions of the present Law.

Art. II.—By the term "public works" used in the present law shall be understood roads, bridges, harbours, rivers, embankments, canals, sluices, and sewers.

Art. III.—No public works shall be qualified to receive a subsidy from the Treasury except works of restoration. Provided that, when, according to the nature of the damage sustained, the Minister of State for the Interior deems alterations essential, the foregoing restriction may be relaxed.

Art. IV.—A *Fu* or *Ken* on account of which a subsidy is sought from the Treasury, must be prepared to bear at least four-tenths of the total expense required for the works. Provided that the sum to be borne in accordance with the provisions of the present article may be limited to one half of the total land tax of that *Fu* or *Ken*.

Art. V.—In the event of the local tax not reaching the following limits, the *Fu* or *Ken* shall not be entitled to apply for a subsidy from the Treasury even though such *Fu* or *Ken* be prepared to defray the sum mentioned in the preceding article.

1. The limit established by law for the Land Rate of the Local Tax.
2. The House Rate of the Local Tax of 1 *yen* per house.
3. Public Works Expenditure corresponding with two-tenths of the total Land Tax of such *Fu* or *Ken*.

Art. VI.—Besides bearing the share provided in Arts. IV. and V. of the present law, a *Fu* or *Ken* that proposes to apply for a subsidy out of the Treasury, must accept responsibility to the extent of at least one-fourth of any loan raised to cover a deficit. Provided that, in case the "one-fourth" herein mentioned exceeds two-tenths of the total Land Tax of such *Fu* or *Ken*, the responsibility may be reduced to one-fifth of the deficit.

Art. VII.—When an application relating to a subsidy from the Treasury is submitted, the Minister of State for the Interior shall institute an inquiry into the actual conditions, and shall reduce the amount of the sum applied for or refuse it altogether, according to circumstances.

Art. VIII.—In case a surplus remains out of the Public Work Expenses of the *Fu* or *Ken*, it shall be duly distributed between the subsidy and the local loan, and the sum thus allotted to the subsidy shall be returned to the Treasury.

Art. IX.—Public works subsidized out of the Treasury shall be superintended by the Minister of State for Home Affairs.

APPENDIX.

Art. X.—In case the raising of the local loan mentioned in Art. VI. be determined upon after due preliminary procedure, the Minister of State for Finance, according to the requirements of the *Fu* or *Ken*, may issue an Exchequer Bill to the amount of the loan to be raised, and may, as a temporary expedient, advance the money to the *Fu* or *Ken*. Provided that the interest due on such Bill shall be defrayed by the *Fu* or *Ken*.

REPRESENTATION RELATING TO THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES CONNECTED WITH THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD AT THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY.

The brain and the spinal cord stand to the human body in as important a position as the Government to a State. Just as the prosperity of a country is extended and the happiness of the people promoted when the Government is upright and commands respect, so a healthy condition of

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the brain and spinal cord, the centre of the human body, is synonymous with soundness of the constitution and conduces naturally to activity of the limbs and muscles. Recently the progress of medical science in Europe and America has been wonderful, especially with respect to epidemic diseases, and disorders of the brain and spinal cord. In the Medical College of France, pathology in connexion with the brain and the spinal cord, has been separated from that relating to other internal diseases, and a special course of study has been established for it. This must be regarded as an improvement essential to the advance of science. Looking at the College of Medicine of the Imperial University of Japan, we find no special laboratory appropriated for the pathology of the brain and the spinal cord, and no hospital relating thereto, although arrangements with respect to other branches of medical science appear fairly complete. Consequently there is no special course of study connected with the investigation and treatment of such diseases, a point that must be pronounced inconsistent with the rapid progress of the science of medicine, and must therefore be regarded as a great defect. Professor Miura, of the College of Medicine, has specially studied the condition and treatment of the brain and the spinal cord during a period of five years spent by him in the German and French Universities, and has thoroughly mastered the subject. The discoveries he made while he was staying in Europe were highly appreciated by the medical authorities of both Germany and France. A laboratory and a hospital connected with those special diseases should be established; he should be charged with the task of instruction, and a new chair pertaining to those special diseases should be created, to be filled by him. Such an arrangement would not only add lustre to the medical knowledge of the Empire, but would also, it is needless to say, contribute greatly to the improvement and progress of medical science in general. As for the initial expenses, a paltry sum of 20,000 *yen* would be sufficient, and no further outlay by the Treasury would be needed for the subsequent maintenance of the laboratory, since the income derived would cover the disbursements. The Government should include in the Budget for the 28th fiscal year an appropriation sufficient for the construction of a laboratory and a hospital in connexion with the diseases under consideration. Such is the opinion of this House, as yet forth in the present Representation.

Introduced by Dr. HASEGAWA TAI.

PROPOSED FORM OF LAW TO CONTROL PAWNBROKING.

Art. I.—Under the term "pawnbroking" used in the present Law, shall be understood the advancement of money on pledges consisting of portable property.

Art. II.—All persons intending to engage in pawnbroking business, must procure a license from the district local authorities.

If within the City of Tokyo, application for such license must be made to the Metropolitan Board of Police.

Art. III.—All persons engaged in the business of pawnbroking shall be provided with special ledgers for the registration of all articles received as pledges, the names of the depositors, and the articles sold after the term of the pledge has lapsed; and by registering the number of pages in these ledgers shall produce them before some Central or Branch Police Office competent to deal with the matter, in order that official stamps may be affixed.

Provided that the said ledgers shall be preserved for a period of three years after having been used. In the event of a ledger being lost, the fact must at once be notified to the Central Police Office or some Branch.

Art. IV.—The mode of making entries in the ledgers provided in Art. III., shall confirm to the following precedent:—

In the ledger kept for the registration of all articles received as pledges, the description of the articles kept in pawn, the amounts advanced on them, the names of the depositors, as well as the exact dates on which the articles were taken as pledges or when they were redeemed, together with the registered numbers of the articles, must be written in detail.

In the ledger used for registering the names of depositors, their full names and addresses must be entered, the depositors being made to affix their own seals thereto. In case of there being a surety, the same process must be observed in respect of this second person. Provided that, in case the name and seal of a depositor or a surety are not entered in this lodger, such person should be made to write his name and address in the ledger provided for the registration of all articles received as pledges, on the occasion of each transaction, and such person should moreover affix his seal thereto.

In the ledgers for the registration of articles sold on lapse of the term of pledge, the description and registered numbers of these articles must be entered, based on the entries made in the ledger for the registration of all articles held in pledge, together with the names and addresses of the purchasers.

Art. V.—In the event of a pawnbroker moving to another place, or discontinuing his business, or of any alteration being effected therein, the fact shall be at once reported to the Head Police Office or some Branch.

Art. VI.—It shall be unlawful to receive in pledge any article the buying and selling or other transference of which is in any way forbidden by law. Should this provision be contravened, the article or articles shall be confiscated by the Government, or returned to the owner.

Art. VII.—It shall be unlawful for pawnbrokers to receive articles in pledge from persons not having any fixed abode or profession, or who are under fifteen years of age, or who are deranged in mind or imbecile; or to receive in pledge an article bearing the stamp or seal of an office, a city, town, village, or of any other establishment of a public character, unless there be guarantors who vouch for the validity of the transaction, or unless the process by which the possession of the pledge is legalized be clearly established.

Art. VIII.—In case that articles suspected of having been fraudulently appropriated are offered in pledge, the fact shall be secretly reported to the Police.

Art. IX.—It shall be lawful for the Police to enter, at any time, the establishment of a pawnbroker, in order to inspect the articles kept in pledge or the pawnbroker's ledgers. Should an article suspected of having been fraudulently appropriated be recognized, the redemption of the article as well as its sale in case of lapse of the term of pledge, may be suspended, the limit of such suspension being a term of not more than ten days.

Art. X.—The responsibility of a pawnbroker in all matters relating to his business, shall extend to acts committed by the members of his family or his own employés.

Art. XI.—Any person violating the provisions of the present Law, shall become subject to the following punishments, according to the nature of the offence:—

(1.) In the event of Articles II., IV., VII., and IX., being contravened, or of a falsification in a ledger, or of the business being still carried on while under the ban of suspension, a fine of not less than three and not more than thirty *yen* shall be imposed.

(2.) In the event of Articles III., V., the first part of Art. VI., and Art. VII. being contravened, a fine of not less than two and not more than twenty *yen* shall be imposed.

Art, XII.—Any person contravening the provisions of the present Law twice within the space of one year, shall be liable to be sentenced, by due administrative process, to a total suspension of his business for a term not exceeding three years according to circumstances.

Art. XIII.—In case that an article, taken in pledge in due accordance with the provisions of the present Law, be found to have been fraudulently appropriated, the restortion of the article to its proper owner shall not be made until the person who has pledged the article, or its proper owner, shall have defrayed the cost incurred by the pawnbroker, except in cases where the act of pledging has been performed by the fraudulent possessor of the article.

Art. XIV.—In case of contravention of the present Law, that portion of the Penal Code relating to the concurrence of infractions, shall not become applicable.

Art. XV.—Rules for the practical operation of the present Law shall be determined by special notification.

APPENDIX.

Art. XVI.—The present Law shall come into force from September of the 27th year of *Meiji* (1894).

Art. XVII.—With reference to pledge-transactions effected prior to the enforcement of the present Law, the Regulations in force at the time when such transactions were consummated, shall be applicable.

Art. XVIII.—The Regulations for the Control of Pawnbrokers, as issued in the 17th year of *Meiji* (1884) by Notification No. 9, shall be abolished on and after the day upon which the present Law shall come into operation.

Presented by HIGASHIO HEITARO and others.

Supported by KATO ROKUZO and others.

BILL RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF CUSTOM DUTIES.

Art. I.—Import duties shall be levied on all goods coming from foreign countries, in accordance with the rates given in the accompanying table.

Art. II.—Import duties shall be divided into two classes, (1) specific and (2) *ad valorem* duties.

Art. III.—The rates given in the accompanying table shall be levied on the basis of a valuation arrived at by adding to the prime cost of the goods the expenses incurred in packing, the freight, the insurance charges, and the expenses incurred in unlading the dutiable articles.

Art. IV.—The tariff rates of goods upon which specific duties are levied shall be determined in conformity with the rates provided in the present Law.

Art. V.—In case of exported goods being re-imported, a rebate of custom duties shall be granted only in regard to goods clearly warrantable as having been re-imported without alteration in the packing.

Provided that should the goods have been reported for Exhibition purposes, the foregoing provision is not applicable even though the original packing has undergone alteration.

Art. VI.—In case of any objection being raised in connection with the valuation at a Custom House, the goods in question shall be bought up by the Customs after having been appraised; but if this arrangement be objected to, tariff duties shall be paid in accordance with the appraisement.

Art. VII.—In the case of all manufactured articles where those of higher and lower value are mixed indiscriminately, duties shall be levied on the basis of the value of those of higher price if such articles be more numerous; but on the basis of the value of those of lower price when such articles constitute a majority.

Provided that when the respective ratios are not determinable, the tariff duties shall be levied on the basis of the articles subject to the higher tariff rates.

Art. VIII.—With respect to imports not specified in the present Law, but which in material, construction, or use, resemble other goods mentioned in this Law, the duties levied shall be on the basis of the tariff rates of those to which they bear the closest resemblance. Supplementary provisions in connection with this subject shall be specially enacted hereafter.

Art. IX.—In case of a famine being apprehended owing to domestic agricultural distress, the Minister of State for Finance may, after making due announcement of the fact beforehand, suspend the imposition of duties on cereals and other necessary food-stuffs.

Provided that, in such a case, the Government action shall subsequently be submitted for the approval of the Imperial Diet.

Art. X.—The importation of pictures or other articles deemed injurious to public morals; spurious coins; and opium for smoking purposes, shall in no case be permitted. When this provision is violated, the forbidden imports shall be confiscated.

Art. XI.—On all articles intended for the personal use of diplomatic officials, or of their servants, of such countries as are connected by Treaty will this Empire; as well as on the personal effects of foreign visitors, in so far as they are in direct use by such visitors, no duties shall be levied.

Art XII.—On all ships entering a harbour, harbour dues at the rate of thirty *sen* per ton, according to the tonnage specified in the ship's register or other document, shall be levied.

Art. XIII.—Detailed rules connected with the enforcement of the present Law shall be determined by the Minister of State for Finance.

APPENDIX.

The present Law shall be put into operation, after the revision of the Treaties now in force, against all countries internationally connected with this Empire.

Presented by KURIHARA RYOICHI.

Supported by MISAKI KAMENOSUKE and 32 others.

Tommy—"I wish you would come every evening to call on aunty." Mr. Loftley—"Do you think she would be glad to see me?" Tommy—"I don't know, but she gives me sixpence every time she sees you comin' to answer the door and say she's out."

On one occasion a well-known Presbyterian divine, riding home on a good horse, overtook two lairds of his parish who had just been appointed Justices of the Peace. They resolved to have a joke at his expense. "Well, Mr. Thom," said one, "you are very unlike your Master, for he was content to ride on an ass." To which Mr. Thom rejoined, "An ass! There's no sic a beast to be gotten nowadays. "How is that?" asked the Justice. "Because they now make them a' *Justices o' the Peace.*"

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YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual general meeting of Subscribers to the Yokohama Fire Brigade was held in the Committee Room at the new Fire Station on Tuesday afternoon. There were present Messrs. J. Dodds (in the chair), H. Baehr, W. J. S. Shand, C. K. M. Martin, J. P. Mollison, James Walter, and J. D. Hutchison, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The HONORARY SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said that the meeting was held in accordance with the terms of that notice. The report and accounts of the Committee had appeared some days previously and all that remained for him to do was, as a matter of form, to formally present those accounts for adoption. In reference to the minutes of the last general meeting, he thought that as they were somewhat lengthy, and as they had doubtless been read at the time in the newspaper reports, he would propose that they be taken as read. Referring to the last general meeting, the reports mentioned that the subject of the advisability of establishing a few fire stations on the Bluff had been introduced. Since that meeting was held a fire station had been established on the Bluff, as they doubtless had observed. It was situated near the Public Hall, and had been of considerable service. It was still under contemplation by the Committee to establish one or two more of these Fire Stations as opportunity occurred. The main Fire Station, in a room of which the meeting was now being held, had also been completed during the year. The fire well had been repaired in the same interval, and a fire escape, a most necessary adjunct of the Brigade, had been obtained from home. He had nothing further to report, but would now present the accounts, and in so doing formally moved their adoption.

Mr. MOLLISON seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE 1893.

REMARKS ON ACCOUNTS.—Total subscribers for 1893 show an increase $380.79, policy fees having amounted to $590.79 more than last year, while the contributions from Insurance companies were $210 short.

Disbursments amount to $9,287.70, but this includes, on capital account, some very heavy expenditure for rebuilding Settlement Engine House, cost of new station on the Bluff, part payment of Fire Escape ordered from England, &c.

The Working account shows an increase of $327.02, the greater part of which arose from the extra dollar amount paid to Supt. Kipling through the fall in exchange.

WATCHMEN AND PATROL.—The usual lookout has been maintained at the Bell Tower and the Settlement patrol has been kept up during the usual winter months.

FIRES.—In the Settlement there were eight fires during the twelve months, and one or two of these proved serious to some of the Insurance companies. At the fire on Lot No. 40, on 8th March, the manager of the Hotel unfortunately lost his life, while at the fires in Chinatown two Chinese were reported as lost. On the Bluff five dwelling-houses were destroyed. In addition to the above, many calls were made in the Settlement, but fortunately the damage proved slight on most occasions.

The following report has been handed in by Mr. Morgin:

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to present the following report of the work of the Yokohama Fire Brigade during 1893:—

The number of calls for fires or supposed fires received during the year amounted to 27. Of those in the Settlement 8 ended in total destruction of the properties, one building was partially destroyed, 5 buildings slightly, and 7 little or no damage. In the native town, 4 were extensive fires. The causes were reported as follows, viz.:

Defective flues	7
Fat boiling over	1
Over-heating fire-pans	1
Lamp upset	1
Coal tar boiling over	1
Unknown	16
	27

A few cases only of slight injury to Japanese fireman have been reported.

I beg to place on record that we have received from time to time valuable assistance from different men-of-war in harbour, and further, that the Yokohama Fire Brigade has worked most amicably with the Police and Waterworks authorities. I would also state that great credit is due to Mr. Ikariyama Susumu, Inspector in charge of Bluff Police Station, and his men, for their valuable assistance rendered at fires on the Bluff during the year.

I have the honour to be, your obedient Servant,

(Signed) N. MORGIN.

COMMITTEE.—In conclusion, the present committee consisting of Messrs. James Dodds, J. D. Hutchison, C. K. Marshall Martin, J. P. Mollison, W. J. S. Shand, James Walter, and W. B. Walter now beg respectfully to tender their resignation.

FIRES IN SETTLEMENT.

8th March.....No. 40, Club Hotel Annexe, destroyed.
9th March.....No. 113, Private Dwelling, destroyed.
10th March.....No. 70, Outhouses slightly damaged.
5th May .....No. 82, Contents of two storeyed brick godown, damaged by fire and water.
16th May .....No. 162, Dye works completely destroyed.
4th June .....No. 181 and 182, Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co.'s Tea-firing godown, destroyed.
24th August ...No. 179, 1 Room and contents damaged by fire and water.
29th October ...No. 38, Messrs. Denkin Bros. and Co.'s store damaged by fire and water.

FIRES ON BLUFF.

5th January ...No. 1200, Dwelling destroyed.
3rd February..No. 1070, Dwelling destroyed.
18th February..No. 760 & c, Dwelling and Outhouses destroyed.
28th March.....No. 207, Two storeyed dwelling and outhouses destroyed.
9th August ...No. 241, Dwelling and outhouses destroyed.

THE YOKOHAMA FIRE BRIGADE IN ACCOUNT WITH J. D. HUTCHISON, YOKOHAMA.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Dr.

Dec. 31, 1893. To Cost of Bluff Engine Station		$ 220.00
To Cost of New Engine Station on Lot, No. 238, Settlement	$3,740.60	
Less balance unpaid	100.00	3,640.00
To Paid cost of rebuilding Fire Well, Lot 238		232.00
To Paid cost of Fire Escape from Merryweather & Sons, London £36-0-0 @ 2/8½		296.65
To Repairs Steam and Hand Engines		149.75
To Repairs to Buildings		30.00
To Cost of Buckets, Tarpaulins, &c., &c.		38.90
		$4,607.30

WORKING EXPENDITURE.

To Wages Supt. Kipling 12 months at £16.13 4 per month	$1,584.92	
To Wages European Engineer 12 months at $85 per month	1,020.00	
To Wages European Foreman 12 months at $50 per month	600.00	
To Wages 3 Japanese Engineer Assistants 12 months at $7 each per month	252.00	
To Wages Japanese Engineer 12 months at $14 per month	168.00	
To Wages Japanese Foreman 12 months at $7 per month	84.00	
To Wages 2 Watchmen on Tower 12 months at $8 each per month	192.00	
To Wages 6 Patrol men 5 months at $4.65 each per month	139.50	
To Wages 1 Foreman and 2 Firemen and Oil for 1 month at Bluff Station	25.00	
To Clothing and uniforms for firemen	158.16	
To Coal, oil, firewood, sundries, and extra Coolie hire after fires	200.38	4,423.96

SUNDRY EXPENDITURE.

To Ground Rent, Lot 238 Settlement	$ 87.28	
To Ground Rent Bluff Lot	1.87	
To Gasworks, for Gas consumed	77.40	
To Waterworks, for water supplied	74.89	
To Printing and Advertising	15.00	256.44
Dec. 31. To Balance in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank		1,375.08
		$10,662.78

1893.	Cr.		
Jan. 1.	By Balance from 1892		$ 5,175.16
Dec. 31.	By Subscriptions from Fire Offices for year	$3,185.00	
	By Policy fees collected during 1893.	2,124.99	5,309.99
	By Amount received for Loan of Steam and Hand Engines		37.00
	By Interest		140.63
			$10,662.78

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, December 31st, 1893.

J. D. HUTCHISON,
Hon. Secy. and Treasurer.

Examined with vouchers and found correct.

DUNCAN MCLAREN.

The CHAIRMAN—The only other business before us is the election of a Committee for the ensuing year. The present Committee, in accordance with their rules, had resigned, but all were eligible for rëelection, and most, he thought, would no doubt serve again. Before passing to their election, however, he would like to make some reference to the fact that the report of the Fire Brigade Superintendant for the past year was signed by Mr. Morgin. This was due to the fact that Mr. Kipling, their former Superintendent, died early in the present year, and before it was necessary to draw up the report for the past year. The Committee wished to express their regret at the loss sustained by the Fire Brigade through the death of Mr. Kipling. It properly belonged to this present year, but he thought that some mention should be made of the fact at that meeting. Mr. Morgio had been appointed by the Committee to the vacant post, and so far the Committee had every reason to be satisfied with him.

Mr. BAEHR then moved the rëelection of the old Committee, Messrs. James Dodds, J. D. Hutchison, C. K. Marshall Martin, J. P. Mollison, W. J. S. Shand, James Walter, and W. B. Walter. He thought the subscribers could not find a better committee to carry out the work.

The CHAIRMAN—There is only one absentee from among the committee, and that is Mr. W. B. Walter. He is returning to Japan within a few months, and I think that he should be rëelected on to the Committee. He takes a great interest in the Brigade, and besides has a large interest in the loan of one of the steamers. Of course, if we vote on this motion we shall be something of a self-constituted body, but that cannot be helped. The public are evidently satisfied with the way in which the work was carried out, hence their non-attendance at the meeting that afternoon. The old Committee were pleased to find that so much trust was reposed in them. There was one other thing he should like to mention, and that was in reference to a subject that came up at the last general meeting. The question was brought forward as to the raising of a fund from the Insurance Companies which should go towards paying the expenses and cost of establishing fire stations on the Bluff. He was glad to say that all the Insurance Agents agreed to this, and as a result on and after the 1st of September last a policy fee of 50 cents was charged on every policy of over $1,000 on the Bluff, which charges have gone towards covering the expenses of the Bluff Fire Station, and in forming a fund for the same purpose.

Mr. SHAND asked whether any steps had been taken to establish a Fire Station on the Missionary Bluff?

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Hutchison had in contemplation the establishing of a Fire Station at that portion of the Bluff at the first opportunity.

The HONORARY SECRETARY mentioned that he had in view a plot of land near No. 1, which would be admirably adapted for the purpose.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

Chicago, May 3rd.

The new American steel ship *Dirigio*, Captain Goodwin, has sailed for Hiogo, Japan, laden with 1,210,300 gallons of refined oil, valued at $69,592, and her arrival will be awaited with considerable interest, as she was constructed with a view to great speed. She takes out the largest cargo ever placed on board a vessel of her proportions, and floats it on a draught within 23 feet.

Rev. Geo. W. Knox, D.D., has recently been in this city: he preached in a Presbyterian Church, and addressed the Presbyterian Ministers in their Monday morning meeting.

The last few days have been busy ones in the office of the Collector of Customs here; as more than 1,500 Chinamen are said to have registered. It is estimated that, when the time expires to-morrow, there will be about 500 unregistered Chinamen liable to arrest and deportation.

Thomas Stevens, the American cyclist who has been making the tour of the world, has written to a London friend, that, by the aid of his camera and his own ingenuity, he has discovered the mysteries of the Mahatmas. He claims that he has put these modern miracles to a practical test, and has secured some remarkable results.

The latest reports from Germany are that she will never allow her influence in Samoa to be diminished; but that she is willing "to grant to the United States, by treaty, any demands which would secure to America her present commercial rights and standing in Samoa;" and that, if any change is made in the management of Samoan affairs, it could be "only in the direction of a German protectorate."

From Hawaii there is no specially interesting news, except that the ex-Queen has recommended her adherents to refrain from voting in the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention, so that they may not be compelled to take the oath of allegiance to the Provisional Government.

From Brazil, too, comes nothing of great importance; merely the news that the insurgents have suffered some minor defeats.

In the House of Representatives, during the discussion of the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, an amendment to abolish consular fees at Liverpool, Hongkong, Amoy, Canton, Tientsin, Havre, Callao, Prague, Antwerp, Valparaiso, Colon, Chinkiang, Foochow, Hankow, Bordeaux, Belfast, Bradford, Demerara, Glasgow, Kingston, Manchester, Vera Cruz, Montanzas, Basle, and Montevideo, was defeated.

The tariff bill is still before the Senate. It is, however, reported that a truce has been patched up, and a compromise effected between the warring elements of the Democracy. This compromise will give an *ad valorem* duty on sugar; put a time-limit to the income-tax; and make a few changes in the iron and carpet schedules.

Revised quarantine regulations, prepared by Surgeon-General Wyman, have been approved by Secretary Carlisle. These new regulations, while sufficiently strict, are not so unreasonable as previous ones: for instance, they allow healthy, that is, uninfected, persons, to land without any delay. The articles with reference to merchandise in which germs may easily be transported are stringent.

Democrats have been successful in two special Congressional elections—one in Louisiana and one in Ohio.

Judge C. R. Scott, of Omaha, "felt aggrieved" at a criticisms of his decision in the Omaha *Bee*; and, after sentencing the reporter who wrote the article to imprisonment for thirty days, treated Edward Rosewater, the editor, to the same punishment with the addition of a fine of $500, all for

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"contempt of court." The Nebraska Supreme Court, however, granted a *supesedeas*, and will soon pass on the case.

Several prominent men have died recently: Jesse Seligman, the famous New York banker; "Billy" McGarrahan, who for thirty-five years had a "claim" before Congress in relation to some California lands; Frank Hatton, the well-known newspaper man, who "was the youngest man except Hamilton to hold a Cabinet position," (Postmaster-General under President Arthur); and Senator Stockbridge, of Michigan, a millionaire lumberman.

On the 29th inst. the historical St. Charles Hotel in New Orleans was destroyed in the night by a fierce fire, in which it is thought that several, but it is not known how many, lives were lost.

On the following day a land-slide at St. Albans, in the county of Port Neuff, in the Province of Quebec, carried into the River St. Anne a piece of land one mile by four miles in extent. It is reported that $500,000 worth of property was destroyed and twelve persons were killed.

The World's Fair Palaces have at last been sold. Graff and Company, house-wreckers of this city, got them on a bid of $87,500, of which $27,500 is to be paid down, and the balance is due in monthly installments of $4,000. The smaller buildings at the north end of the park must be cleared away by September 1st of this year; and no rubbish must be left anywhere after May 1st, 1896.

The Finance Committee of the World's Fair Directory have voted that a dividend of ten per cent. be paid on June 9th, and have issued the following statement:—

Cash in Chicago banks April 28	$1,069,808.47
Souvenir coins at par	158,150.50
Cashier's petty cash fund	4,000,000
City of Chicago warrants applicable in payment of dividend	254,403.71
	$1,486,362.68
Fully paid-up stock, including appropriation of city of Chicago	$10,504,260.00
Ten per cent of same	1,050,426.00
Balance	$435,936.68

The South Park Commissioners have practically decided to convert the Midway Plaisance into a grand canal connecting the lagoons of Jackson Park with the lakes of Washington Park. The banks will be lined with trees and shrubbery, through which paths and drive-ways will run. There will be bridges at convenient intervals; and the canal will be one mile long.

The formal opening of the Field Columbian Museum had been planned for May 1; but, on account of the absence of several prominent citizens, has been postponed a short time.

Lincoln Park in this city has been honoured with a bronze statue of Shakespeare.

The State University of Iowa has received $100,000 for endowment; and Radcliffe College of Howard has been bequeathed an estate valued at $150,000.

The semi-annual meeting of the trustees of the American University at Washington, D.C., was held yesterday. It was voted, that, as the endowment for a department of history was in hand, work should be soon began on a hall of history and a hall of administration.

At the time of my last letter it was thought that the Great Northern strike would be at once settled by arbitration. But, though President Hill submitted a proposition looking toward a settlement, the striking employés were unable to agree on a policy, so that war was at once resumed. The Knights of Labour then joined the strike, and greatly embarrassed the company. On the 28th ult. soldiers had to be sent from Fort Snelling to North Dakota to help the U.S. Marshals protect the property of the railroad. And, although on the same day the company brought back to work the Brotherhood men by restoring their old wages, the rest of the employés continued to refuse peace. But on May 1st, after a "tie-up" for 18 days, a conference brought about by business men effected a settlement by which the strikers obtained almost all their demands.

The strike of miners has been spreading until now there are almost 200,000 men "out." In Illinois there have been riots or fears of riots at La Salle, Toluca, and Streator. Acting-Governor Gill himself went to Toluca, and succeeded in checking an incipient riot. At Iron Mountain, Michigan, great suffering has been considerably diminished by the opening of the Chapin Mine, which will give employment to 500 men with families. Most of the coal operators, and W. P. Rend, of this city, are working vigorously for a settlement of the difficulties. At Pittsburg there has been such a scarcity of coal that many operators have arranged to tow back a supply from Cincinnati. This is certainly like "carrying coals to Newcastle!"

The present status of the various divisions of the industrial army is as follows:—The New England contingent under "General" Swift has reached New Haven. "Colonel" Galvin's division, which had captured a train, was compelled to surrender to militia at Mount Sterling, Ohio; and "General" Hogan's Montana contingent was also captured in a stolen train. "General" Frye's army from the South, which in my last letter I stated had reached Ohio, has just reached Indianapolis. A division under "General" Randall left this city the day before yesterday, and is now marching through Indiana. Kelly's army, in going through Iowa, has been troubled with mutiny and attempts to assassinate the leader; has made a vain attempt to seize a train; and has got only as far as De Moines. Yesterday they were notified that they must leave there, as no food would be given them.

The "Main Army," under Coxey, passing slowly through Maryland, suffered from desertions, and reached Washington on the 30th day of April. On the following day, according to their promise, they made a public demonstration, and tried to enter the Capitol. But a large squad of police used their clubs very freely, and chased the "Commonwealers" away. Coxey, Browne, and Jones were arrested for making a public disturbance, and will be put on trial to-morrow. They will be defended in court by several Populist lawyers, including Representatives Pence, of Colorada; Baker, of Kansas; Kem, of Nebraska; and Boen, of Minnesota.

Yesterday the City of Cleveland, Ohio, was so overrun by a mob of unemployed, that troops had to be kept under arms in the armouries last nigh and to-day.

MARINE COURTS OF INQUIRY.

TEISHINSHO, TOKYO, June 4th, 1894.

THE STRANDING OF THE "WAKANOURA MARU."

STATEMENT.

The *Wakanoura Maru* is an iron screw steamer of 1,556.3 tons net register, 222 nominal horse-power, owned by Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha. The Master was William Thompsen, a Danish subject.

An Inquiry into the circumstances attending the stranding, which took place near No. 2 Fort (the Fort on the Saratoga Spit) in the Gulf of Tokyo, on the 5th March, 1894, was held and the evidence given by the Master was as follows:—

The *Wakanoura Maru* left Kobe for Yokohama at 4 p.m. on the 4th of March, and at 6.28 p.m. on the day following passed Kannonsaki at a distance of half a mile, bearing due West by compass (the ship's head at the time was due North, the deviation 0° 30′ E.), and then altered the course to N. by W. ¼ W. by compass, the deviation being 1° 30′ W. The ship's speed at the time was 12 knots an hour. After passing the Red-light Buoy at a distance of 3 or 4 cables from the port beam, and when he reached the position where the Red-light Buoy bore 2 points abaft the port beam, he gave the order to put the helm to starboard, but a red light having been reported ahead at the same time, which he assumed to be a ship's light, he therefore countermanded the order and steered on the same course as before. The object of his original intention of starboarding the helm, was in order to have good room to manœuvre in in case of meeting any ships and to give the Saratoga Spit a clear berth. According to his reckoning, however, he expected to have passed Saratoga Spit Fort at a distance of about 3 cables in steering up from Kannosaki on the course N. by W. ¼ W. by compass, and, at this time observing that the red ray of Kannonsaki low light was obscured, he considered there would be no danger in continuing on the same course. A short time afterward he sighted the Fort ahead, a little off the port bow; then he rung the telegraph "Full speed astern," and put the helm hard-a-starboard, but after an interval of two minutes, the ship took ground forward, near the southern extreme of the Fort, at 6.44 p.m. on the 5th of March. After the ship struck, he stopped the engines and made all necessary arrangements in getting the boats ready for use if required; sounded the wells and found the ship making no water; and ascertained the depth of water around the ship, which was as follows:—Forward, 15 feet on the starboard side, 16 feet on the port side; amidships, 4 fathoms on the starboard side, 5½ fathoms on the port side; under the stern, 6 fathoms: the nature of the bottom was soft sand and mud. The ship was fixed firmly in her position and did not move until she finally got off, and, whilst preparations for discharging cargo were being made, the ship slid off herself, at about 3.30 a.m. on the 6th of March, just a little before high water. After the ship floated, he proceeded to Yokohama at a slow speed, and arrived there just before daylight, when, under instructions from the owner, a diver examined the ship's bottom externally, who reported that the ship had sustained no damage.

As regards the weather and the tides, the Master states that the weather was cloudy and dark to the Northward and North East, but clear to the Westward and overhead; the tide was at about two hours after high water spring tides, and he expected that the tide from Kannonsaki to the Red-light Buoy would be setting to the S.E., and beyond this to the South or S. by E.

JUDGMENT.

The Court, having carefully considered the evidence given by the witnesses interested in this case, the entries in the ship's log, and the official report of the circumstances regarding to Kannonsaki low light, has formed the following opinion:—

The Master stated that he shaped the course from Kannonsaki and steered N. by W. ¼ W. by compass, and passed the Red-light Buoy at a distance of 3 to 4 cables; and that he expected to pass Saratoga Spit Fort at about 3 cables to the Westward of it on this course; added to this, observing that the red ray of Kannonsaki low light was obscured, he considered there would be no danger in continuing the same course. Regarding this statement the Court is of opinion that the evidence relative to the red ray of Kannonsaki low light being obscured is not sufficient to be taken as a fact. Even although the red ray was not seen, it was easy to have ascertained the ship's position by taking the bearings of the White light of Kannonsaki and the Red-light Buoy and ascertain from the ship's position whether the course being steered was a safe one or not, which he neglected to do. Further, it is also evident that on the course he was steering, he did not make any allowance to counteract the effect of the tide. Notwithstanding he recognised the tide was setting to the S.E., he omitted to ascertain his exact distance from the Red-light Buoy when passing it, but merely assumed the distance. Again, having been steering a course which would take him dangerously near the Saratoga Spit Fort, he neglected to reduce the ship's speed when sighting a red light ahead (supposed to be a ship's light), but he proceeded on at full speed, making 12 knots and consequently stranded the ship. In conclusion, the Court is of opinion that the Master has no plea for escaping censure for an act of gross carelessness on his part, but it is considered that he took proper measures, immediately after he sighted the Fort, in reversing the engines to full speed astern and in putting the helm hand-a-starboard, which consequently prevented the ship from sustaining damage. The Court, therefore, reprimands the Master, William Thompsen, and cautions him to be more careful in the future.

J. ITO, President.
U. YOSHIDA, } Assessors.
S. ATSUMI, }

I hereby approve of this finding.

Count KURODA KIYOTAKA.
Minister of State for Department of Communications.

June 4th, 1894.

H.B.M. COURT, YOKOHAMA, THURSDAY, June 7th, 1894.

STRANDING OF THE "ARGOMENE."

A Marine Court of Inquiry was held at the British Court on Thursday to ascertain the circumstances attending the stranding of the British ship *Argomene*, in Suruga Bay, on the 15th May last. The Court was composed as follows: James Troup, Esq., H.B.M. Consul, President; C. H. S. Tocque, Esq. Commander of the P. & O. steamship *Verona*; and W. Watt, Esq., Master of the British ship *Glenclova*.

William Ormond Thomas, the Master of the vessel, who was first called, produced the official and sailing logs, and having been sworn, said—I hold a Board of Trade Master's certificate No. 05834. I left Kobe at 6 a.m. on the 2nd May and got down as far as Tomogashima Straits the following morning. Meeting with a strong gale, I put back and anchored in Osaka Bay. Next morning I got under weigh, and proceeded outside, passing through the Straits at 9.45 on Sunday morning. We had light variable winds down the Kii Channel and along the coast. On Monday, 14th May, at 4 p.m., I was ten miles from Omaisaki. I then wore the ship to S.S.W. At midnight I wore the ship again, and went over, steering my course E.N.E. As far as I could reckon, I ought to have been abreast of Omaisaki about 4 a.m. on 14th. All the bearings were true. At 5.30 o'clock the same morning, I sighted an island bearing E. true, distant about 30 miles, presumably. I now put in the chart I was using on the voyage. The island I have just mentioned I took to be Kazushima. At 6 a.m. I altered the course N.E. by E. ½ E. to make a E.N.E. course

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true. At 7 a.m. altered the course N.E. by E. to make N.E. by E. ½ E. true. At 10.40 a.m. I sighted land on the port bow bearing N., which I took to be the south-east end of Oshima, or Vries Island. At 8 o'clock the weather turned thick and dirty, with drizzling rain, and I could not see Kozushima any longer. The chart I was using was bought in Philadelphia in September, 1893. It is a United States Hydrographical Office chart, and was marked, corrected to September 1893. After sighting what I took for Vries Island, I altered the course to N. and took in the mainsail, spanker, and mizen-staysail. Land was visible in glimpses between the rain. At noon there was a moderate breeze, with rain. When we sighted the land we appeared to be sailing along the coast with the island on our starboard hand. I took bearings all the time. At that time the wind would be about S.S.E. At noon there was a moderate breeze, with rain and fog. I then altered the course to N.N.W. as the ship appeared to be drawing in towards the land. I presume the ship was going at not more than four or four and a half knots at the time. At 1.30 p.m. a very hard squall with heavy rain came down; I took in main topgallant-sail and fore-sail. The weather showed signs of clearing to the westward after the squall had passed over. At 2 p.m., the weather getting very thick, hauled ship to the wind on the port tack. At 2.45 p.m. the weather again cleared up. Sighted a point of land bearing N.E. by E. ½ E. true, which I took to be the N.W. end of Oshima. The wind was then pretty much the same, from S. to S.S.E. I wore ship again and stood N.N.E. At four p.m. this point of land bore E., and as I could see high land showing behind it I then knew that the ship was out of position—I knew that I ought to have seen the open sea behind. I at once hauled ship to the wind on the starboard tack, the wind at the time being about S. I stood E.S.E. I kept the land in sight all the time, drawing in towards it, and kept the lead going, but could get no bottom at 100 fathoms. At 5.30 p.m. the land was close-to, ahead. I wore ship to the westward, the wind was still the same. Soon after, we made the land on both bows. Before I wore ship I could see land on both bows, stretching North and South. It kept clearing and thickening, and the wind was increasing to high squalls. At 6.30 p.m. I wore ship to the S.E., having stood right over to the land on the other side. I was sounding all the time with the ordinary deep sea lead with Massey's sounding machine attached. As we stood over to the other coast the wind shifted a little to the S.S.W. The weather cleared a little, but the wind increased to squalls of terrific violence. As the weather cleared about 6.30, I could see land all round; the ship was making great way to leeward, at least 4 points, if not more. The ship was then under the upper topsails and the foresail; she was laying over at a dangerous angle. We were in ballast. We had sufficient ballast on board, however. I kept standing over on the tack mentioned all the time, until at 10.30 p.m. a hard gale with rain squalls came down. The weather showed no signs of moderating, and seeing no prospect of keeping the ship off the rocks, I thought it prudent to clear away the boats. During the night the lead was kept constantly going. The land appeared to be very close-to, under our lee all the time. The wind was about S.S.W.; and it may have hauled a little more to the W., for at about 11 p.m. we were close to the rocks and she was coming up a bit. I could get no bottom from between 90 and 100 fathoms, and I could see that it was useless to wear her round. I went forward and let go the starboard anchor; checked chain at about 30 fathoms, intending to slack away to about ninety fathoms, but the brake refused to work after about 60 fathoms had run, and the chain all ran out and parted at the end. This did not bring her up at all, and it appeared as if the anchor was going down into 300 fathoms. We could see land right under our lee. We still kept sounding but could find no bottom at 80 to 90 fathoms. At 11.30 p.m. the breakers were plainly seen from the forecastle head. I got the boats into the water and ordered people into them. There was no excitement of any kind. No. 2 lifeboat got badly strained by knocking against the ship's side after launching. The boats were lowered on the weather side as I was frightened to put them on the lee side, as the beach appeared so steep and close, and in the event of a smash no person could have hoped for a chance. After the crew were all in the boats the mate and myself went round to see that all hands were out of the ship. The mate then went down into the boat, and I followed shortly afterwards. We kept the boats' head on to the sea, intending to keep the ship in sight as long as possible. It was exactly 11.38 by the cabin clock when we left the ship. We soon lost sight of the vessel in the darkness. About two hours after leaving the ship, we had a very hard squall with heavy rain lasting only a short time, after which the wind began to moderate. At daybreak the wind was rapidly decreasing and the sea going down. About 5 a.m. we sighted the ship at a distance of 5 or 6 miles, and went aboard her again. The boats parted company in the darkness, and it was my boat that went on board. We found the ship stranded on a shelving bank, and apparently uninjured, there being no water in the well. The other boat returned to the ship about 7 o'clock in the morning, with the second officer. We sounded round the ship and found 9 feet of water on the outside. It was then about low tide. We found the water to deepen to 20 fathoms about 2 cables' length from the ship. We ran out kedge anchors to try and heave the ship off at high water, but a fresh westerly wind coming up with the flood tide we could not move her. The chief of police of the village near came on board and I applied to him for assistance. He offered to communicate with the Japanese in hopes of getting a man-of-war to assist in getting the ship off the beach. The reply was not favourable. I then communicated with my agents in Yokohama by telegraph. In the meantime we shifted the kedges and on the 17th tried on two occasions to get her off, but again failed to move her. The wind had fallen and it was almost a dead calm. On the 18th the steamer *Benledi* came along and on the morning of the 19th succeeded in getting us off. Two hawsers were parted in the first attempt on the evening of the 18th. A Japanese gunboat came along on the evening of the 18th and offered to assist me. I accepted the offer, but it was not required, as the *Benledi* got us off in the morning, and then towed us up to Yokohama.

Cross-examined—We were making about four on five knots between midnight and 5.30 on the 15th. We may, perhaps, have been making 1½ points leeway, as we were a light ship. I gave all the courses myself. I kept firing rockets and burning blue lights the whole of the night of the 15th, hoping to attract local assistance. I had the North Pacific Directory and the China Sea Directory supplied to me by my owners. My officers carried out my orders to my satisfaction throughout the whole matter.

The Court then adjourned till 2 o'clock.

Captain Thomas, recalled, pointed out on the British Admiralty chart the exact spot where the *Argomene* went ashore, about three miles to the south eastward of Numadzu. He then said—I had a small island right ahead of the vessel as she lay on the beach. No lives were lost through the stranding. The man who was at the wheel on the night of the casualty deserted after we arrived at Yokohama, along with several other men. While we were in the boats we could see the land near us. We steered out to the South and Southeastward, and the land was lying round us and astern of the boat. We kept the boats' heads to the wind and waves, steering S.S.W. The ship appeared so close to the rocks when we left her that I really thought that she could not have lasted another ten minutes. We sounded and could find no bottom up to the last minute before leaving the ship. She must have got into the soundings before she ran ashore. When we first sighted her again we were on the opposite side of Inoura Bay to where the ship was lying.

Richard Meadows, first mate, sworn, said—I hold a master's certificate, No. 99672, Board of Trade. I can say nothing more than the captain has said. I can confirm his statement in details if the Court wishes. I was on deck from 12 o'clock on the 15th until we left the ship, with the exception of half an hour between four and five.

Cross-examined—I was on deck at 5.30 on the morning of the 15th. I sighted the island which the Captain thought was Kozushima, and I called the master. He came up on deck, and then having consulted the chart said that it was Kozushima. I am sure it was an island, and not high land. We took the bearings of the island, and I then told the Captain of the courses we had been steering since 4 o'clock. I saw no light during the night on the port beam. The weather then was not very thick, it was hazy. During the night of the 14th the weather was fine till midnight. I then went below, and came up at 4 o'clock. When the wind was S.S.W., the vessel was heading S.E. as she lay on the beach, as near as I can remember.

Captain Thomas recalled, said that the ship, as she lay on the beach on the morning of the 16th, had her head pointing due S., Fujiyama being the least bit on the starboard quarter astern.

Henry Hill Drummond, second mate, sworn, deposed—I hold a second mate's certificate No. 023324, Board of Trade. I went on deck at midnight on the 14th and remained on deck until 4 o'clock. During the night I saw no light on the port bow. About one o'clock the weather grew very dark, banking up to the southward. I kept a look-out all around, but I did not see any light. The look-out man on the forecastle head that night was one of the deserters. I was in the boat which was strained before leaving the ship. I lost sight of the ship and the other boat in about twenty minutes after leaving the ship. The boat kept filling and we had to bale continually. We were pulling round a small bight when we saw the ship lying off to the S.S.E. I reached the beach in about an hour or an hour and a half after leaving the ship. The beach was shingly and we ran through the surf; we were thrown out on to the beach. The land around was low. It was a long way from the ship. We took to the boat again about 5 o'clock and went out to look for the ship. We were pulling about two hours before we got aboard her again. A Japanese accompanied us to show us where the ship might be.

To Capt. Thomas—I did not expect to see the whole ship again, but I thought we might pick up the boat or some of the wreckage.

Capt. Thomas—My reason for asking the question is because I never expected to see the ship again.

Witness—More did I, still I thought there might be something of her left. I walked along the beach till I came to a river, and then I went back to my boat. The Captain was on the deck with on the whole of the night on which the casualty occured.

Daniel McLean, an A.B., sworn, said—I recollect the night of the 15th May. I was on deck, on the look-out until we left the ship. I could not see the land until half-past ten, because of the fog. It was high land that came in sight then on the port bow. After it cleared up I could see the land all round on the starboard hand. The wind was high with heavy squalls, while there were breakers on the port bow.

Robert Jones, a sailmaker, sworn, deposed to being in the No. 1 Life-boat, the Captain's boat. Everything was prepared and there was no difficulty in getting the boat out. Our boat was lowered first. The other boat was then being got over the side. When the first boat was lowered the Captain's wife, and two children, myself, Smith, and two hands got into it. Then we hung by the ship by a long painter until the other boat was let down. Then the Captain, the first mate, and four other men came alongside us in the other boat and we took them along with us. The other boat pulled away, but we gradually lost sight of one another.

Captain Thomas, recalled said, there were 29 persons on board the *Argomene* on the night of the casualty, including his wife, two children, a native servant, and himself, 25 working hands all told. The ship was built in 1877, at Southampton, and is classed A1, 100 at Lloyds. She is built of iron. All hands were available at the time of the casualty. This voyage originally commenced at Philadelphia, Sept. 22nd, 1893. It was about half tide when we left the ship. I made allowance for the inset of the tide of about one mile per hour in the courses which I set after midnight of the 14th. Then I allowed nearly a point until I made the island in the morning, and I allowed for a current of from 2 to 2½ knots. When I sighted the island I concluded that there could not be any inset at that time. I did not make any allowance for an inset when on the starboard tack from four p.m. to midnight. I expected the current then to carry me to the eastward.

Robert McLean, recalled, said he was on the look-out on the morning of the 15th, from 2 till 4 o'clock. The weather was thick from 2 to 3, and cleared a little between 3 and 4. He saw no light at all; he looked over the port beam and all round. The horizon was thick.

The Court then adjourned, and on resuming a 6.25,

The President, in delivering the finding of the Court briefly reviewed the evidence which had been given, and then continued—The Court having regard to the circumstances above stated finds that the courses set by the master after sighting Omai-saki until he sighted land on the morning of the 15th were judiciously given; but that the vessel had been carried out of her course by the inset of the current. The master evidently then mistook the S.-Western part of Idzu for the Island of Kozushima, and acting on that, worked the ship into Suruga Gulf—no soundings being possible, and the weather being generally thick with heavy squalls. There is nothing in the evidence to show that he could have discovered his error sooner than he did—subsequently to beat out of the Gulf was an impossibility, the ship being light in ballast. The Court considers that the master acted with due prudence in putting his crew into the boats under the circumstances. The Court acquits the master of all blame for the casualty, and finds that proper

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discipline was maintained on board. The ship was sufficiently well found in charts and sailing directories. The expenses amounting to £6.9s. were ordered to be paid by the master of the *Argomene*.

MADAME MINNIE HAUK AT THE PUBLIC HALL.

The concert given in the Public Hall on Thursday evening by Madame Minnie Hauk, the creator of *Carmen*, should linger long in the memory of local concert-goers as one of the most successful ever held in our midst. The *diva* was in splendid voice, while the distinguished amateurs of Tokyo and Yokohama who so kindly assisted have seldom been heard with finer effect. It goes without saying that the Hall was filled to overflowing, but thanks to the efficient management of Messrs. Kelly & Walsh the seating arrangements worked most smoothly, and no trouble was experienced in finding one's allotted seat—a small mercy, perhaps, but still one for which thanks should be returned. Considering the time of year and the large concourse gathered within such a limited space, the Hall was comparatively cool during the greater portion of the evening, the showers which fell between sunset and nine o'clock naturally contributing largely to this agreeable state of things. As is usual on these occasions, the platform was banked with ornamental shrubs and flowering plants, and their arrangement was particularly effective, toning down in a happy manner the vivid glories of the drop curtain. Another pretty feature worthy of passing notice were the programmes, which, printed on cards decorated with typical Japanese land or seascapes and figures in water colours, should prove dainty souvenirs of a memorable occasion.

With commendable punctuality Mr. and Miss Griffin opened the proceedings with a pianoforte duett, the Overture to Rossini's *Othello*, which was deservedly applauded. A quartett by Messrs. Ramsegger, Kaufmann, Crane, and Dannenberg, followed. Delightful in execution, expression, and sympathetic interpretation, the number was one of the most attractive pieces of the night. Then Professor Dittrich led Madame Minnie Hauk across the platform amid a perfect storm of welcome. It was with a keen pleasure that the audience settled itself down to listen to the "Vision of Elsa," from *Lohengrin*, Professor Dittrich playing the accompaniment. The grand *scena* was nobly given and at its close the sweet singer was recalled to receive a lovely basket of flowers. The fourth number on the programme was the pianoforte and violin duett by Professors von Koeber and Dittrich. Tartini's Sonata in G Minor proved a dream of pure delight as expounded by these skilled musicians, for the violin in Prof. Dittrich's hands becomes a thing of life, speaking in many a joyous strain, though under them all is heard that "deep melodious wail as of souls in pain." Everyone wanted to hear the gem again, but the players would only bow their thanks. Three songs, "Widmung," "Hymn à Eros," and "Vergebliches Staendchen," were then given by Madame Minnie Hauk, and each received a full mede of dramatic justice at her hands. Another and a larger basket of flowers was handed up to the singer at the conclusion of these songs, and in response to the persistent recall, she sat down to the piano to accompany herself in the encore which followed the presentation. She chose "I know a maiden fair to see," and the exquisite *abandon* with which she gave it evoked another recall. The house was not to be denied, and Madame Hauk cheerfully gave the old-time favourite, "Love was once a little boy"—then only would the audience allow her to retire, the applause following being of a character seldom before heard within the walls of the Public Hall.

The second half was no less replete in its musical successes than had been the opening. Madame Hauk's songs were all splendidly given. As an encore to "La Styrienne," she gave "Kathleen Mavourneen." A king can do no wrong is an axiom pertaining to those who are born in the purple, and by the same reasoning a Queen of Song can take whatever liberties she may think best and most taking with the music or received rendering of any song which she may deign to include in her *répertoire*, without let or hindrance. Yet we think the old-fashioned way of singing this long-cherished Irish ballad used to bring out all its infinite beauties to the fullest extent of their significance. Others, however, may think differently, and may much prefer the newer style with all its meretriciousness. "Home sweet Home" was one of the triple encore-songs given at the close of "Habanera," an *aria* from *Carmen*, and it brought tears perilously close to the eyes of many among the assembly. In the ninth number, a "Romance," and a "Morceaux de Salon," Prof. Dittrich surpassed himself. We could have listened to them both again with pleasure, and so thought his audience, but the Professor would only express his thanks for the enthusiastic acclaim with an appreciative bow. The concluding string quartett (*a*) Hadyn Op. 3, and (*b*) a Menuetto by Bocherini, were very lovely, and deserve a foremost place in the next concert in which these violinists appear. The following was the programme:—

PROGRAMME.

1.—Pianoforte Duet, Ouverture to "Otello" ..... Rossini
Mr. and Miss Griffin.

2.—Allegretto and Trio from the 4th Quartett ..... Mozart.
Messrs. Ramsegger, Kaufmann, Crane, and Dannenberg.

3.—"Vision of Elsa" from "Lohengrin" ..... R. Wagner.
Madame Minnie Hauk.

4.—Sonata in G. Minor ..... Tartini.
For Piano and Violin.
Prof. von Koeber and Prof. Dittrich.

5.—Songs ..... (*a*) Widmung ..... Schumann.
(*b*) Hymn à Eros ..... A. Holmes.
(*c*) Vergebliches Staendchen ..... Brahms.
Madame Minnie Hauk.

6.—Sonata in B. Flat (Allegro, Adagio, Molto presto) .. Mozart.
Mr. and Miss Griffin.

7.—"La Styrienne" from "Mignon" ..... A. Thomas.
Madame Minnie Hauk.

8.—Violin Solo ..... (*a*) Romance ..... J. Svendsen.
(*b*) Morceaux de Salon ..... Vieuxtemps.
Prof. Dittrich.

9.—(*a*) M'ama, non m'ama ..... Mascagni.
(*b*) Habanera from "Carmen" (created by her) ..... Bizet.
Madame Minnie Hauk.

10.—(*a*) Andantino gracioso and presto Op. 3 ..... Haydn.
(*b*) Menuetto ..... Bocherini.
Messrs. Ramsegger, Kaufmann, Crane, and Dannenberg.

CRICKET.

The Captain's Team v. Mr. Crawford's Team.

The high wind of Saturday afternoon was a most disagreeable attendant upon the Cricket Match, for in addition to overcharging the atmosphere with dense clouds and irritating whirls of the grittiest dust imaginable, it accentuated to a startling degree the Club's chief weakness this season—its bowling. Certainly this feature was more noticeable during the innings of the Captain's side, but the others have nothing much to boast about. Both teams had the benefit of a groundsman, who were ironically dubbed "Briggs" and "Lohmann" respectively, and the latter's performance with the leather was not at all discreditable, 6 crickets falling during the delivery of 80 balls. Crawford opened the proceedings by sending in Barton and Todd. The latter retired when 11 runs had been made, of which 6 were off his own bat. E. R. Morriss then joined Barton, and the parnership continued until about a quarter to four o'clock; Barton was then neatly caught at the wickets by Dodds. His score of 68 included one 4, six 3's, and one 5. Two chances were early given in the slips by the retiring batsman, but, on the whole, he had played a careful game. With two wickets only down, and the score at 127, the prospects of the side were very bright. Showler, next man in, did not do much, however, being run out after scoring 3. Garfit and Lamb were both caught out, and then Arbouin joined Morris, who had had one or two "lives" vouchsafed him. Morriss was finally caught by Tuska, the innings then being declared closed, 7 wickets for 184. Eight 4's and three 3's are to be placed to Morriss' credit, his total of 78 being the top score of the day. The in-going team looked none the fresher for their hard two hours and a half of leather-hunting beneath a torrid sun, but they made a much better stand than could have been expected under the circumstances. The veteran, Dodds, made the best total, 33, the only other man to get into double figures being Healing, who, however, was but a bad second with 12. Four of the team were caught, and six clean bowled, the other two being stumped by Dickinson. Scores:—

Mr. Crawford's Eleven.	
Mr. G. W. Barton, c. Dodds, b. Mollison	68
Dr. Todd, c. Tuska, b. Walford	6
Mr. E. R. Morriss, c. Tuska, b. Walford	78
Mr. W. Y. Showler, run out	3
Mr. A. S. Garfit, c. Dodds, b. "Briggs"	7
Mr. A. R. Lamb, c. Cundell, b. "Briggs"	8
Mr. Arbouin, not out	3
Mr. H. V. Dickinson, Mr. K. F. Crawford, Mr. Thomson, Dr. Munro, Mr. H. C. Litchfield, Mr. H. Tennant, "Lohmann,"	Did not bat; declared innings closed.
b. 5, w. 6	11
	184

Bowling Analysis.

	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.B.
Mr. Mollison.	125	46	3	1	2
Mr. Walford.	130	67	6	2	—
"Briggs"	75	44	0	2	—
Mr. Cundell.	10	5	—	—	3
Mr. Coutts	5	7	0	0	1

The Captain's Eleven.	
Mr. J. P. Mollison, c. Dickinson, b. "Lohmann"	3
Mr. L. J. Healing, b. "Lohmann"	12
Mr. E. Coutts, st. Dickinson, b. Morriss	1
Mr. M. S. Tuska, c. Dickinson, b. "Lohmann"	4
Mr. J. Dodds, b. Crawford	33
Mr. A. B. Walford, c. Showler, b. Morriss	1
Mr. E. O. Kenyon, b. "Lohmann"	2
Mr. E. W. Tilden, st. Dickinson, b. Morriss	4
Rev. T. S. Tyng, b. "Lohmann"	7
"Briggs," not out	4
Mr. H. L. Fardell, b. "Lohmann"	0
Dr. Stokes, c. and b. Crawford	0
Substitute, b. Crawford	3
b. 3, l.b. 1, w. 1	5
	79

Bowling Analysis.

	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.
Mr. E. R. Morriss	66	39	0	3	1
"Lohmann"	80	31	2	6	1
Mr. Crawford	18	5	0	1	0

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail,"]

London, June 2.

A financial crisis has arisen in the Argentine Republic and gold is at a premium of 300 per cent.

A serious conflict has occurred in the streets of Sofia, in which a large number of persons have been killed and many more injured. It is reported that the police and some of the troops have declared in favour of Stambouloff.

London, June 3.

Quiet has been restored in Sofia.

M. Casimir Perier has been elected President of the French Chamber.

The House of Commons has passed the Uganda vote.

London, June 6.

The following is the result of the Derby, which was run this afternoon:—

Ladas	1
Match Box	2
Reminder	3

London, June 7.

The Italian Ministry has resigned, and Crispi will probably reconstruct the Cabinet to-morrow.

During the debate on Africa in the French Chambers, M. Hanotaux stated that France regarded the Anglo-Congo Convention as null and void. France is sending troops to the Congo to maintain her rights.

["Special" Telegram to "Japan Mail."]

Nagasaki, June 7.

The Pacific Mail steamship *Peru* has arrived here from Hongkong with sickness on board, and her departure from this port is postponed indefinitely.

Nagasaki, June 7 (Night).

On the passage of the *Peru* from Hongkong to this port a fireman died and was buried at sea, the cause of whose death was doubtful. The *Peru* will probably leave this on Saturday.

Nagasaki, June 8.

The *Drumeltan* has been pulled off the beach where she has been lying for some time, and arrived here to-day at two o'clock in tow of H.M.S. *Mercury*.

Nagasaki, June 9.

The date of the departure of the *Peru* from this port is uncertain, the Authorities awaiting instructions from the Home Minister.

[Specially telegraphed to the "Japan Mail" from the "N.-C. Daily News."]

London, May 28.

The Queen's Birthday *Gazette* contains the following:—

The decoration for Volunteer Officers is extended to the Colonies and India, the qualifying period in India being fixed at eighteen years.

General Stewart and Viscount Wolseley have been promoted Field-Marshalls.

The Hon. Mr. Grinlinton, Commissioner for Ceylon at the World's Fair, has been Knighted.

Vice-Admiral Sir E. Fremantle, of the China Station, and the Hon. G. T. M. O'Brien, Colonial Secretary of Hongkong, have been elevated to G.C.M.G.

Mr. Byron Brenan, H.M. Consul at Canton, has been made a C.M.G.

Lord Roberts replaces Viscount Wolseley in command of Her Majesty's Forces in Ireland at the expiration of the latter's term of service.

May 29.

Sir E. Grey, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, declined to make any statement in the House of Commons upon the Anglo-Chinese Convention until he was sure that the Convention had reached Peking. He further said that Great Britain objected to the proposed commercial agreement between France and Siam whereby British trade was deprived of fair play.

May 30.

Lord Tweedmouth, Lord Privy Seal, has been made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in the room of Mr. Bryce.

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Speaking in the House of Commons, Sir E. Grey stated that the territory leased to the Congo State formed part of the British sphere defined by the Treaty of 1890, which the Powers had never objected to.

May 31.

Mr. Bryce succeeds Mr. Mundella as President of the Board of Trade.

The new French Cabinet is constituted as follows:—

Premier and Minister of the Interior and Public Worship, M. Dupuy;
War—M. Mercier;
Marine—M. Jaures;
Justice—M. Guerin;
Colonies—M. Delcasse.

It is probable that the portfolio of Foreign Affairs will be given to M. Hanotaux.

June 1.

M. Hanotaux has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the French Cabinet.

The German Minister at Brussels has protested against the Congo Treaty.

M. Stambouloff resigned partly owing to differences between himself and Prince Ferdinand.

June 2.

The motion of Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt that priority be given to Government business for the remainder of the session was adopted by a majority of seventeen.

M. Dupuy's statement in the French Chambers represented that the financial problem, especially as regards fiscal reforms, was most urgent. Regarding foreign questions, the Ministry would vigorously defend the rights and interests of France.

A Russian Legation has been founded at the Vatican.

(From Japanese Papers.)

Ninsen, Korea, June 6.

A warship of uncertain nationality, an American and two Chinese men-of-war arrived here yesterday, and more vessels are expected. One thousand five hundred Chinese soldiers are expected to reach here to-day.

Osaka, June 7.

Mr. Otori arrived at Kobe last night in the *Vaeyama Kan*, and left there at 1.10 p.m. to-day.

Hiroshima, June 7.

Some private residences have been taken as quarters for military officers.

Moji, June 7.

The *Miike Maru* left here to-day for Kobe with a party of Japanese emigrants for Hawaii.

Osaka, June 7.

The *Chikugogawa Maru* and *Kisogawa Maru*, of the Shosen Kaisha, have discontinued their periodical trips through the Inland Sea.

Nagoya, June 7.

A secret meeting of the staff of the Third Army Division was held on the night of the 5th inst., and as a result of the conference the non-commissioned officers and others were ordered not to go beyond bounds. This said to have some connection with the Korean Affair.

Kobe, June 8.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fukushima and some staff officers arrived here last night, and left at once for the west.

The *Wakanoura Maru*, *Omi Maru*, and *Akata Maru* left here for Ujima this morning.

Mr. Oishi, ex-Japanese Minister to Korea, left for Tokyo last night.

Osaka, June 8.

Some steamers of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha have been requisitioned by the Government.

Miyazaki, June 7.

Over two thousand persons assembled at Kugo-mura, Natori-gun, this morning in connection with the dispute bearing on the water privileges. The crowd was scattered by the police.

Osaka, June 8.

The Russian Minister lately left for China in the *Genkai Maru*. It is stated that he will probably visit Tientsin.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The local Chess Clubs are closed until the beginning of October.

Solution of Problem No. 124.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to Q 4	1—Any

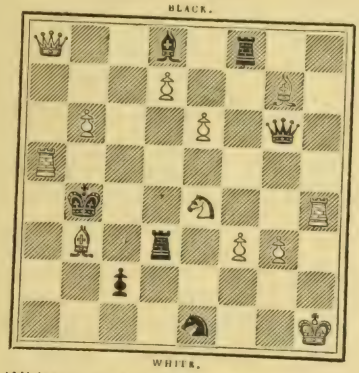
2—Mates accordingly.

Correct solutions received from J.D., W.H.S. (who describes it as "an excellent two-mover," and who gives an analysis of the position showing the various "tries," viz., B to K Kt 3, P to Q 3, B to Q 4, B to K 6, and Q×Q, to each of which Black has an effective defence), Omega ("a very good problem indeed"), Digamma, and Aling.

T. E. Brown, Calais, Me.—As you have apparently not seen the solution of problem No. 108 which has baffled your local solvers, a copy will be sent you by the outgoing mail.

Problem No. 126.

By S. Loyd.



White to play and mate in two moves.

Steinitz-Lasker.

The latest news is that the champion had fared better in the Montreal series; being encouraged by a few victories. Lasker, however, scored on the fifteenth game; and when the *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco the match stood:—Lasker 8, Steinitz 4, Drawn 3. We await further news with anxiety and interest.

We give two bright smart games this week which will be evidence of the good chess played in London and New York these *fin-de-siècle* days.

Game No. 131.

The following fine game was played in the recent New York tournament, at the Brooklyn Chess Club:—

Ruy Lopez.

WHITE. Showalter.	BLACK. Lasker.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to Q R 3
4—B to R 4	4—Kt to B 3
5—Castles	5—P to Q 3
6—P to Q 4	6—B to Q 2
7—Kt to B 3	7—P × P
8—Kt × P	8—B to K 2
9—B × Kt	9—P × B
10—P to B 4	10—Castles
11—P to Q Kt 3	11—P to B 4
12—Kt (Q 4) to K 2	12—B to B 3
13—Kt to Kt 3	13—R to K sq.
14—B to Kt 2	14—B to B sq.
15—Q to Q 3	15—P to Q R 4
16—Q R to K sq.	16—P to R 5
17—Kt to Q sq.	17—R to Kt sq.
18—P to B 4	18—B to Kt 2
19—R to B 3	19—P × P
20—P × P	20—B to B sq.
21—Kt to K 5	21—B to Kt 2
22—Kt (K 3) to B 5	22—P to Kt 3
23—Q to B 3	23—R to K 3
24—Kt to R 5!	24—P × Kt (R 4)
25—R to Kt 3 ch.	25—K to R sq.
26—Q to K B 3	26—P to R 5
27—Kt × P?	27—P to R 3
28—Q to R 5	28—Q to K sq.
29—Kt to B 5	29—K to R 2
30—B × Kt	30—R × B
31—Kt to R 4	31—R × P
32—Kt to B 3	32—P to K B 4
33—Q × Q	33—R × Q
34—Resigns.	

The above was one of the finest games played in the New York Tournament, and was the only one in which Lasker ought unquestionably to have been beaten. His opponent was his old antagonist, Mr. J. W. Showalter. Lasker adopted the close defence to the Ruy Lopez attack, and, having obtained an open Q R file, brought pressure to bear on the Queen's side. Showalter, however, was fully prepared for this, and by the time Lasker was reduced to a state of inactivity on the Q side, about the twentieth move, Showalter had got up a strong cavalry attack on the King's side. By sacrificing a Kt he further increased this, and should have won but for one or two vacillating moves. Lasker defended himself with admirable skill, and, seizing his opportunity, brought an end to the attack. After this, all was plain sailing.

Game No. 132.

Played at Simpson's Divan, London, August 1st, 1893.

Vienna Opening.

WHITE. R. Teichmann.	BLACK. R. Loman.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to Q B 3	2—Kt to K B 3
3—P to B 4	3—P to Q 4
4—P × K P	4—Kt × P
5—Q to B 3	5—P to K B 4 (a)
6—K Kt to K 2 (b)	6—P to B 3
7—Kt to B 4	7—Q to B 2 (c)
8—P to Q 4	8—B to Kt 5
9—B to K 2	9—Castles
10—Castles	10—B × Kt
11—P × B	11—P to Q Kt 4 (d)
12—P to Q R 4	12—Q to R 4
13—B to R 3 (e)	13—Kt to Q 7
14—Q to R 5	14—Q × B P (f)
15—B × R	15—Q × P ch.
16—K to R sq.	16—Kt × R
17—Q to K 8 (g)	17—Kt to Kt 6 ch.
18—P × Kt	18—Q × R, ch.
19—K to R 2	19—B to Q 2
20—Q to K 7	20—Q × K P
21—Q × Q	21—K × B
22—Kt to R 5	22—Resigns.

(a) This move was adopted by Lasker in his match with Blackburne. It is probably the strongest defence at Black's disposal.
(b) 6—P to Q 3 is given in the Books, but by Kt x Kt; 7—P x Kt, P to Q 5! Black gets the best of it. We prefer the text move.
(c) Weak; P—K Kt 3 is called for.
(d) Doubtless played to prevent White's P—B 4, but only serving to further compromise Black's already inferior position.
(e) Very well played.
(f) Of course if Kt x R; 15 B x R, &c., with a won game.
(g) Admirably played; threatening mate on the move and winning the game by force. Mr. Teichmann conducts this game in masterly fashion throughout.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, June 15th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 17th.*
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, June 10th.†
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Wed'day, June 13th ‡
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 17th.
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, June 18th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, June 21st.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, June 22nd.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, June 24th.

* *Gaelic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on May 29th. † *Peru* left Hongkong on June 2nd. ‡ *Nurnberg* (with English mail) left Hongkong on June 7th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Sunday, June 10th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Tuesday, June 12th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, June 12th.
For Europe, viâ Hongkong	per N. D. Lloyd	Friday, June 15th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, June 16th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, June 18th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, June 22nd.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, June 22nd
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, June 23rd.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, Wm. H. Walker, 2nd June,—Hongkong viâ ports, 24th May, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Frigga, German steamer, 1,400, F. Nagel, 2nd June,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Amagi Kan (8), Japanese corvette, Captain T. Oda, 2nd June,—Yokosuka 2nd June.

Dardanus, British steamer, 1,802, E. Purdy, 3rd June,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, Gidye, 3rd June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 3rd June,—Kobe 2nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, Hayashi, 3rd June,—Hongkong viâ ports, Sugar.—Tanaka Shoten.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, W. Thompsen, 3rd June,—Otaru viâ ports 30th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 4th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, 26th May, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 4th June,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 4th June,—San Francisco 17th May, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 4th June,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Sagamore, American steam-yacht, 143, Cushing, 5th June,—Kobe, Stores.—Order.

Nestor, British steamer, 1,658, Asquith, 6th June, —Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 6th June,—Kobe 5th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ghazee, British steamer, 1,827, Scotland, 7th June, —Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 8th June,—Shanghai and ports 2nd June, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benmohr, British steamer, 1,935, Clarke, 8th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Saghalien, French steamer, 2,580, Chevalier, 8th June,—Marseilles 29th April, Hongkong 30th May, Shanghai 3rd June, and Kobe 7th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Centurion (14), battle-ship, Captain McQuhae, 9th June,—Hongkong viâ ports.

Sikh, British steamer, 2,735, J. Rowley, 9th June, —Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 2nd June,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Océanien, French steamer, 2,127, Schmitz, 2nd June,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General. —Messageries Maritimes Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, C. Young, 2nd June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kambira, British ship, 1,452, H. W. Lancht, 4th June,—New York viâ Kobe, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, W. H. Walker, 5th June,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Amagi Kan (8), Japanese corvette, Captain T. Oka, 5th June,—Yokosuka.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 5th May,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 5th June,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, R. Pender, 5th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, Ekstrand, 5th June,—Korea viâ Yokosuka, Troops and Stores.—Japanese Government.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 6th June,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Dardanus, British steamer, 1,802, E. Purdy, 6th June,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Eva, British steamer, 1,555, Moore, 7th June,— Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Frigga, German steamer, 1,400, Ostermann, 7th June,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 7th June,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Asano & Co.

Kintuck, British steamer, 2,312, Kemp, 7th June, —London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Omba, British steamer, 1,907, Crane, 7th June,— Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,512, J. C. Young, 7th June,—Shimonoseki, Ballast.—Japanese Government.

Verona, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. S. Tocque, 9th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Swansen and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. M. Mess, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Easton, Mrs. Walker and 5 children, Mr. Wm. F. Kidder, Mr. H. J. Sharp, and Mr. Otto Gedrath in cabin. For San Francisco:—Rev. Dr. Rapalje, Mrs. H. M. Brown and 2 infants, and Mr. E. Frederick in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakanoura Maru*, from Otaru viâ ports:—Mr. T. A. Ekstrand in cabin and 19 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Omi Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. M. Fuji and Mr. T. Tanaka in cabin; 3 passengers in second class, and 49 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Verona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Surgeon A. S. Nance, Mr. B. Shaw, Mr. John Noel, Colonel and Mrs. Quin, Mrs. Nance, Mr. Todoroki, Mr. Buncholar, Mr. Hek Chope, Mr. A. Levy, Colonel and Mrs. Underwood, Dr. Scott Savory, Mr. D. Goh, Captain Bainbridge, and 16 Naval men in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco:—Bishop and Mrs. Hinde, Mr. Geo. F. Hinde, Mrs. E. R. Hinde, Mr. Fred. W. Hinde, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Pray, Mr. J. J. Quin, Rev. Zeno Moeltner, and Mr. H. Bernhard in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Makida and family, Mr. and Mrs. Masaki, Mr. Watanabe, and Mr. Krima in cabin; 2 passengers in second class, and 112 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Noyes, Mr. and Mrs. Kauffmann, Mrs. H. J. Sharp, Miss Noyes, Miss Kauffmann, Mr. and Mrs. Fujimoto, Mr. E. E. Porter, Mr. E. Roger, Miss Sutherland, Mr. and Mrs. Chun, Mr. C. Him Shan, Mr. Van der Stegen, Mr. G. Melchers, Mr. Delorme, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. K. Matsumoto, and Mrs. Matsumoto and 2 children in cabin; Messrs. Oyeda, Ninomiya, Franklin, and H. Satow in second class, and 123 passengers in steerage.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, from Marseilles viâ ports:—Mr. Oishi, Mr. Noda, Mr. Alf. Martin, Mr. Antonio Aguilar, Comte de Hottes, Mr. de Ginoux, Mrs. Thio de Bolsheim and family, Mr. Lamarche, Miss St. Clair, Mr. R. Daeschner, Mr. H. Pollak, and Mr. Delbourgo in cabin.

Per British steamer *Sikh*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Duff and child, Mr. Painter, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Shanks in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Océanien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Mrs. St. John, Miss Smith, Mr. A. Hoi, Mr. John Caldecott, Mrs. Long, Mr. Long, Mr. H. Frederick, Mr. and Mrs. Nanson, infant, and governess, Mr. D. J. R. Putman Cramer, Mr. H. Vincent and boy, Mr. James Trekney, Mr. K. Fuji, Dr. O. Franke, Mr. P. Hangini, and Mr. E. R. Wheeler in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. D. E. Brown, S. Kitazato, T. Aoyama, Y. Okada, S. Miyamoto, T. Ishigami, S. Minoshita, Mrs. P. Hollis, Mr. Ross Thomson, and Mr. Alex. Cumming in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Count Quadt, Rev. Zeno Madtner, Rev. E. Papinot, Mr. Lo Shin Fay, Mr. C. Gibbens, and Mr. E. Hunt in cabin; Mrs. Hidaka, Mr. and Mrs. Matsushima, Mr. Gibbens' servant, Messrs. T. Oka, S. Yokoyama, and T. Masaki in second class, and 79 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—Miss M. L. Tyng, Mrs. A. W. Oosiankin, Mr. N. B. Martin, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Bushnell, Mr. Geo. B. Swayne, Mr. Otto Dedrath, Mr. E. Fredericks, Mr. Lew Hing, Mr. Lew Lung, Mr. Leong Oy, Mrs. Chan Kew, Mrs. Chan Hang, Miss Chun Chuen, Miss Chan Lui Kwai, Miss Lee Choy Sing, Miss Ley Sun Oy, Master Lew Kow, Mr. Lew Wai Chen, Rev. D. Rapalji, Consul C. H. Cowan, Mr. G. Gregory, Mr. Charles Volghi, Mr. Dewane, and Mrs. H. M. Brown and two infants in cabin.

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. Mees, Colonel and Mrs. Quin, and Mr. C. A. W. Pownall in cabin; and 2 Chinese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Océanien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for Europe, 397 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 38 bales. Treasure for Singapore, $130,000.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $37,600.00.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	ST. PAUL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hyogo	—	1,091	960	—	—	2,051
Yokohama	1,150	4,913	3,058	263	1,088	10,472
Hongkong	283	—	—	—	5	288
Amoy	—	10,410	890	—	1,880	13,180
Total	1,433	16,414	4,908	263	2,973	25,991

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	83	—	83
Hongkong	—	10	—	10
Yokohama	—	179	—	179
Kobe	—	10	—	10
Total	—	282	—	282

Per British steamer *Verona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 473 bales; Waste Silk, 30 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Another dull and disappointing week. Demand for everything is very light, and market feeble. A few gassed Yarns have been sold, Shirtings are apparently a dead letter, and Fancies are stagnant. Probably some move will have to be made, one way or another, ere long.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 3.00
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.40
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.70 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.16 to 0.21
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.83 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.40 to 2.85
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb., per lb.	0.45 to 0.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$37.00 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	39.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	39.50 to 40.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	40.00 to 41.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	44.00 to 45.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 44.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	49.00 to 52.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Market continues dull and native holders talk about selling cheap, but foreign importers are firm, especially for Wire Nails, of which the stock is reduced here.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.60 to 3.65
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.70 to 3.75
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.60 to 3.70
Iron Plates, assorted	3.70 to 3.80
Sheet Iron	4.70 to 4.90
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.50
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	5.80 to 6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.70

KEROSENE.

Very dull and tending towards ease. No fresh arrivals of importance, and there seem to be fair deliveries from day to day. But new purchases are wanting and holders are said to be weakening.

Chester	$1.67½ to 1.70
Comet	1.65 to 1.67½
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.65 to 1.67½
Russian Moon	1.60 to 1.62½

SUGAR.

Market dull; arrivals come in and there is some business reported in Browns at about late rates. Whites quiet but firm. At closing there is more inclination for business, and an advance in prices is talked of for Manila and Formosa Browns. It is rumoured that dealers here are speculating on the Hongkong epidemic cutting off supplies.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.50 to 4.60
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.30
Brown Daitong	3.30 to 3.40
Brown Canton	4.00 to 4.30
White Java and Penang	7.10 to 7.20
White Refined	7.50 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 1st instant, since which date settlements on this market are 542 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 429 piculs; *Reeels*, 82 piculs; *Kakeda*, 31 piculs. Direct shipments have been 192 bales, making the total business of the week 750 piculs.

There has been a fair amount of business doing from day to day, chiefly for Europe, although the native export Kwaisha do not hesitate to make shipments to America by every steamer. Fresh news has come in from Europe about the new crop

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there, and from present appearances there is no doubt that it will be up to the average. Prices for new silk in Europe are expected to open low and our Japanese friends will make a serious mistake if they lay in their stock of *Cocoons* at too high a price.

One feature of the trade should not be overlooked, and that is the increasing importance which Shanghai *Filatures* are attaining from year to year. At present there are no less than nine steam filatures in Shanghai, five of which have been erected during the past season, and we understand that others are in preparation. These will be very formidable competitors to the Japanese and if Japan wants to hold her own in this trade, she will have to give immediate attention to the better reeling, sorting, and above all, sizing of her silks.

The present stock of old silk here is reduced to 4,750 piculs, and it looks now as though the available supplies for the present season will not quite reach 50,000 piculs.

New Crop.—There are no complaints here and news from Europe is improved. In Shanghai they expect a crop equal to last year and the market was opened on the 25th ultimo at taels 322½, against taels 392½ for the first purchase last season. The quality of the North China crop is reported as up to the average, but the colour a little off; and it is thought that the best Tsatlee will be in short supply, the bulk of the crop running on the medium grades. Here, some few boxes of new *Filatures* have come in from the south, and a small purchase of about two piculs, 14/16 den. silk, good quality, and exceptionally fine colour, have been purchased at $710 per picul. This seems a very good price, and we look for lower quotations when the supplies are more plentiful.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The Canadian mail *Empress of Japan*, on the first instant, took 37 bales for New York; the French mail *Océanien*, second instant, had 397 bales for Europe and the O. & O. steamer *Belgic*, 5th instant, carried 179 bales for the New York trade. These departures make present export figures 43,849 piculs against 47,059 piculs last year and 49,707 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Filatures.—The chief trade has been in these and last week's quotations may be left unaltered. The principal buying has been for Europe, prices ranging from $720 for *Uzen* down to $640 for common *Tamba* and *Sanshu*. For the United States nothing has been done. There have been some enquiries in the market, but they do not seem to have to led to business.

Reeels.—Some little business doing, especially in *Oshu* sorts, prices paid being $640 for fair quality *Rikuchu*. In *Joshu* sorts, no business, the well-known brands being out of stock.

Kakeda.—Something done in the second grades, and about 30 piculs have been settled on the basis of $630 for *Horsehead II.*

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$720 to 730
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	700 to 710
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	680 to 690
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	680 to 690
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	650 to 660
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	650 to 660
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom. —
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	690 to 700
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	670 to 680
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	650 to 660
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	630 to 640
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	610 to 620
Kakedas—Extra	700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 1	680 to 690
Kakedas—No. 1½	650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 2	630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 2½	610 to 620
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom. —
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom. —
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 8th June, 1894:—

Season	1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	23,518	18,932	18,925
America	18,938	27,330	29,699
Total { Bales	42,456	46,262	48,624
Total { Piculs	43,849	47,059	49,707
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	piculs. 44,550	piculs. 47,340	piculs. 49,000
Stock, 8th June	4,750	640	1,800
Available supplies to date	49,300	47,980	50,800

WASTE SILK.

Settlements in this branch amount to 220 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 106 piculs; *Kibiso*, 114 piculs. No direct shipments.

Very small business and feeble market, with quotations more or less nominal until a larger trade is done. Stock keeps heavy and is practically unchanged from last figures.

There has only been one shipping opportunity since we last wrote, the French mail *Océanien* taking 38 bales for Europe. This departure makes the present export figures, 27,744 piculs, against 44,387 piculs last year and 33,281 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—Some few small purchases of *Filatures* at about $120, with ordinary *Joshu* at $60 and common *Oshu* at $50.

Kibiso.—The only business done has been in *Filatures*, prices ranging from $90 to $105, according to quality.

In other sorts no business.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$120 to 125
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	70 to 65
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	105 to 115
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	65 to 70
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	60 to 62½
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	90 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 85
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	60 to 65
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	35 to 30
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	150 to 160

Export Table Waste Silk to 8th June, 1894:—

Season	1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	24,513	41,695	31,189
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	27,744	44,387	33,281
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	piculs. 29,100	piculs. 46,400	piculs. 36,700
Stock, 8th June	15,100	2,090	3,400
Available supplies to date	44,200	48,490	40,100

Exchange, has improved and declined again during the week, and quotations close as under:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1⅜; Documents, 2/1½; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1½. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $51½; 4m/s. U.S. $52¼. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.66; 6m/s. fcs. 2.68.

Estimated Silk Stock, 8th June, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	—	Cocoons	140
Filatures	2,200	Noshi-ito	7,820
Re-reels	2,280	Kibiso	6,770
Kakeda	270	Mawata	110
Oshu	—	Sundries	260
Taysaam Kinds	—		
Total piculs	4,750	Total piculs	15,100

TEA.

Large transactions and firm prices are the order of the day. Stock is reduced, and holders look strong. Quotations nominally unchanged.

QUOTATIONS.

	per picul.
Choicest	$35 up
Choice	30 to 31
Finest	26 to 27
Fine	21 to 22
Good Medium	18 to 19
Medium	16 to 17
Good Common	14 to 15

EXCHANGE.

Exchange, after showing some improvement, again declined.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/0⅞
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.60
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	2.68
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72¾
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	191
On India—Private 30 days' sight	194
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50½
On America—Private 30 days' sight	51⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	52⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.10
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.18
Bar Silver (London)	28¼

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THE most delightful Mountain Resort in the Hakone District is the KAIKATEI, at KOWAKI-DANI, which is admitted by the Medical Faculty of Tokyo and Yokohama to be the Sunniest, Breeziest, and most healthful spot accessible to Foreigners in the Hakone District, standing alone and delightfully situated upon the mountain side, free from every suspicion of bad drainage and malaria, with a cool and constant breeze in the hot summer weather, and a view not to be equalled in the neighbourhood for variety and extent.

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One of the features of the Kaikatei is the detached Suites of Apartments, where perfect quiet and privacy can be secured. This arrangement for invalids and convalescents from the Tropics is a great desideratum, as being entirely removed from the Dining Room, Billiard Room, Bar, and Baths, while all are connected by covered passages.

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Visitors to Kowaki-dani who bring a rod with them will be shown the haunts of the speckled Trout, a nice stream of several miles in length being within easy walking distance of the Hotel; Hakone Lake is also well stocked with a variety of fish, including salmon, and the Fishing is FREE; while Entomologists will find rare and valuable specimens in the surrounding hills, and the Flora of the district is extremely interesting to the Botanist.

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KAIKATEI, KOWAKI-DANI,
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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH, 1894.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Provincial Governors are to gather in the capital on the 25th inst.

MR. NODA KICHIBEI has been chosen chief director of the Osaka Watch Co.

MAJOR-GENERAL TACHINI has been appointed Commandant of the Tenth Brigade.

HIS MAJESTY the Emperor has arranged to visit Shikoku in the Spring of next year.

KOREAN Affairs are absorbing all attention. The news from the seat of disturbance is very meagre.

A LIVING Chess Tournament is announced to take place toward the end of the month in the Bluff Gardens.

ADMIRAL FREMANTLE arrived in Yokohama on Monday, and has transferred his flag to the new flagship *Centurion*.

MR. GO DAIGORO, who became very popular in London, has been promoted a Consul of the second class at Bombay.

AN epidemic of dysentery is prevailing in Kumamoto Prefecture and special hospitals have been erected for the reception of patients.

MONDAY was a most oppressive day, a hot southerly wind blowing with great violence for the whole twenty-four hours. The barometer fell rapidly during the morning but later returned to the normal.

THE 119th National Bank will move into its new offices at No. 1, Ichome, Yayesucho, Kojimachiku, Tokyo, on the 2nd prox.

MR PAGET, Third Secretary of the British Legation, is acting as *Chargé d'Affaires* until the arrival of the late Mr. Fraser's successor.

SIX convicts attempted to escape from Kajibashi Prison, Tokyo, on the 12th inst. In the struggle which ensued with the gaolers, three convicts were killed.

SHIMAZAKI HIKOJIRO (60), the keeper of the railway-crossing at Shin-amicho, Shiba, Tokyo, was killed by a train while on duty on the 11th inst.

THE dispute in the B division of the Yokohama Sailing Club in reference to the measurements of the *Hokiboshi* have been finally decided in that boat's favour.

A TERRIBLE fatality is reported from Itsukushima, twenty-four persons being drowned through the *Mukogawa Maru*, of the Shosen Kaisha, cutting down a coasting junk.

THE Yokohama Cricket Club beat the Fleet by the narrow margin of twelve runs on Wednesday. The fielding of the Naval men was a feature of the play.

OZAKI TOMEKICHI, the savage actor in the shocking tragedy which took place in Yamato Province, when nine persons lost their lives at his hands, was sentenced to death on the 9th inst.

SINCE the opening of the Nagaura Quarantine Station, near Yokohama, up to the 8th inst. three Japanese, eight British, one French, and two German vessels coming up from the South, have been inspected.

THE British steamer *Nestor*, while on a voyage from Yokohama to Kobe, rescued the shipwrecked crew of a junk belonging to Boshu Province, which had been capsized near Kannonsaki on the 10th inst.

THE American mail packet *Peru* has been lying in Nagasaki for most part of the week, having been quarantined through a Chinese stoker dying on the voyage up from Hongkong. The man was buried at sea.

JAPANESE warships on the Korean coasts comprise the *Matsushima* (flagship), *Yoshino*, *Yamato*, *Takao*, *Musashi*, *Chiyoda*, *Tsukushi* (cruisers), *Akagi*, and *Chokai* (gun-vessels), and the *Yayeyama* (dispatch boat).

THE ravages of Black Death are extending in Hongkong. Two deaths among Europeans have taken place, one being Capt. Vesey of the S.L.I., who had been one of the most active in the house-to-house visitation among the filthy Chinese quarters.

IT is stated that six noble families of Korea, who lost many of their members at the hands of Kim Ok-kyün during the rebellion which broke out in Korea some years ago, have presented a handsome mansion in the Keido to Hong, in recognition of his services in murdering Kim.

THE depredations of bears in Hokkaido are very extensive. The returns for last year are as follows:—Persons killed, 6; persons injured, 5; horses killed, 759; horses injured, 152; cattle killed, 34; cattle injured, 17; pigs killed, 333; pigs injured, 63; dogs killed, 7; cats killed, 7; chicken killed, one. The number of bears caught during the year was 542.

THE annual general meeting of shareholders of the Sapporo Sugar Co., Hokkaido, took place in Tokyo on the 14th inst. The receipts during the past year were 68,425.881, while the expenditure amounted to *yen* 53,491.810, leaving a profit of *yen* 14,934.580, to which *yen* 24,966.205, Government subsidy, was added, making a total of *yen* 39,999.750. Of this sum *yen* 24,999.750 was distributed as dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, *yen* 14,901.035 being deducted for expenses of arranging the financial troubles of the company. The meeting carried a resolution raising the Capital to *yen* 750,000, in 30,000 shares of *yen* 25 each.

THE Congo Treaty between Great Britain and Belgium is still attracting the attention of France. Germany has made no protest in London, but Sir Edward Grey, speaking in the House of Commons, was unable to say whether she had done so in Brussels. Italy declines to support France in the matter. Upwards of six millions of gold currency were exported from the United States last week, the reserve being now reduced to seventy millions. The Silver Commission in Germany has closed without any definite decision being arrived at. In Bechuanaland, the troopers Daniels and Wilson have been sentenced to fourteen years imprisonment for suppressing the message of submission sent by King Lobengula and for stealing the thousand pounds sent with the message, their dastardly act having led to the death of Major Wilsou and his party. The situation at Bangkok is strained, the Siamese Government having refused to produce Phra Yot for judgment at the second trial. The mixed tribunal, however, has sentenced the man to 20 years' imprisonment.

A FEEBLE, unsatisfactory market for Yarns and Fancy Cloths this week, with a tendency to lower prices. The approaching *Bon* festival causes a little enquiry for Cotton Handkerchiefs, but Fancy Cottons are neglected. There is some revival in Sugar and a considerable business has been done both in White and Brown, with prices tending upwards. Buyers are beginning to fear that the plague in South China will cause a stoppage in supplies and are accordingly filling up-country orders with avidity. A fair amount of business has been done in all kinds of metal, though with the hot weather now upon us the demand will soon slacken. This same cause pushes Kerosene transactions down and the market at present is far from strong. Tea booms along with rising quotations, and desirable parcels of the lower grades are getting rather scarce. With the Second Crop Leaf close at hand some ease will presently be noticed, as the stock will then quickly accumulate. In Raw Silk a falling off is to noted, although all goes well in the producing districts, the output being of good quality and colour. Some few boxes of Mino Shinshosha having changed hands at $700, dealers have been expecting similiar prices all round. In this they are mistaken; lower prices must be accepted if they wish to move off any of their large stock now. But the market is still much in buyers' favour. This time last year some Utsunomiya were done at $1,000 per picul, with a much higher exchange; to-day they could most probably be bought at $700. A dull market and small business is all that can be said of Waste Silk this week. The stock is already about 12,800 piculs and dealers are exhibiting some anxiety, a state of things that will tend towards reducing prices in most varieties. Exchange has hardened slightly during the week.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The Korean Question engrosses public attention. Journalistic comments on this subject have been reproduced from time to time. It is apparent that the restless energies of the people yearn for employment in a foreign war. The real difficulty that the Japanese Cabinet has now to grapple with, is not China's aggressive designs upon the peninsula Kingdom, but the control of the warlike spirit roused among its own countrymen. We notice below some of the latest articles on this question.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* is perhaps the most pacific in its attitude. It advises both the Government and the people to behave in such a manner as to convince the Koreans that Japan has no aggressive design upon their country. The recollection of the several disastrous invasions of Korea by Japanese troops in the past still suggests to the minds of the Korean people very erroneous notions about Japan's attitude toward them. The *Mainichi* demonstrates at some length how unwise Japan would be to aim at becoming a continental Power. By way of proof reference is made to the history of past invasions of Korea, as well as to the failure of a similar ambition once entertained by Great Britain. Now that the Japanese troops have entered Sōul, our contemporary hopes that they will be placed under strict orders to refrain from all acts of insolence towards the inhabitants of the capital, and that attention will be directed by the Japanese officers toward winning the confidence and good will of the Korean people.

* * *

The *Kokkai* interprets public opinion in Japan as agreed in insisting that this country must take decisive steps against any Power threatening the independence of Korea. On this point, says our contemporary, there is not a dissentient voice among the Japanese. But here a question arises: what actions are to be considered a menace to the independeuce of Korea? In the *Kokkai's* opinion, Korean independence has always been encroached upon by China since the withdrawal of the Japanese and Chinese troops from Sōul in consequence of the Tientsin Treaty. Thenceforth the Chinese Government, through its Resident Yuen, always interfered in the domestic affairs of Korea to such an extent that the extraordinary delays caused in the negotiations between Japan and Korea about the illegal prohibition of grain exports, were generally ascribed to Chinese influence. People insist that Japan should either prevent China from assisting in the suppression of the insurrection, or should join with her in that undertaking. But will Japan's object be attained by following either of these courses? No: Korea's independence can never be guaranteed unless the peninsula Kingdom is rescued from the vexatious and systematic interference of the Chinese Government. China, says the *Kokkai*, did not perhaps think that Japan would send troops to Korea. Be that as it may, it is a fact that the Viceroy Li has been surprised by Japan's readiness to cope with whatever emergency may arise and the *Kokkai* thinks that China will take the first opportunity to withdraw her forces. Is Japan to follow her example in such an event? Our contemporary replies in the negative, and urges the Government not to withdraw the troops until Korea has been freed from China's interference in her domestic affairs, or until Japan has obtained at least an equal share of influence in the peninsula Kingdom. In order to accomplish that object, Japan should not hesitate to fight China.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* thinks it not improbable that the Chinese Government, being unwilling to bring about a rupture with Japan, may not object to withdraw its troops in compliance with the request of the Sōul Government. In that case, a similar request will doubtless be preferred to Japan. But the *Kokumin* is of opinion that Japan ought not to recall her troops until all danger to the life and property of her subjects resident in Korea, and all danger to Korean independence have been removed. The presence of Chinese troops is not the only, or even the principal, menace to Korea's independence. The real danger, in the *Kokumin's* opinion, lies in China's interference in the internal affairs of the peninsula Kingdom. Our contemporary, therefore urges the Japanese Government to take advantage of the present opportunity to terminate once for all that source of danger.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* writes in a similar strain, though its language is more guarded and ambiguous. What, it asks, is the object of the Japanese Government in sending such a large number of troops to Korea? If the protection of Japanese residents were alone in view, it would not have been necessary to send a single soldier. The residents would be able to defend themselves if a thousand stand of serviceable arms were supplied to them. Our contemporary does not hesitate to applaud the promptitude and decision shown by the Government thus far. It earnestly hopes that a similar attitude will be maintained to the last, and that the present despatch of troops will not turn out to be merely an aimless demonstration. When a sword is once unsheathed, says the *Jiyu*, a blow ought to be struck.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* is one of the papers persuaded that great alarm and consternation have been caused to the Chinese Government by the news of Japan's having promptly despatched a large force to Korea. Of late years, says our contemporary, the Chinese have come to regard Japan with indifference if not contempt. Their reason for entertaining so light an idea of her strength is to be sought in erroneous inferences drawn by them from the perpetual collisions between the Government and the Diet ever since the first session. The Chinaman's old fashioned and fossilized intellect has been unable to grasp the true inwardness of the political situation in Japan. He probably thinks the Government and the people being so implacably opposed to each other, Japan could not pursue any decisive policy abroad. If that be so, he is utterly deceived. However divided the Japanese may be in domestic politics, they are ever ready to unite in a strong and courageous policy toward foreign foes. As the result of their consternation and fear, the Chinese statesmen, says the *Jiji*, may be desirous of quietly withdrawing their troops before any serious collision arises between the latter and the Japanese forces. If Li Hung-chang had the sole control over the troops he might perhaps take such a step. But the statesmen in Peking being a set of ignorant and obdurate men, our contemporary refrains from hazarding any prophecy about China's course of action.

* * *

In connection with the Korean Question, the attitude and doings of England and Russia have attracted some share of journalistic attention. It was at first rumoured that Russia had sent troops to Korea, but that report has since been found entirely baseless. Some papers are much exercised by the news that English war vessels are staying at Port Hamilton. But the metropolitan journals seem to believe that neither England nor Russia will take any direct share in the solution of the Korean problem. The *Kokumin Shimbun*, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, and a few others seems to believe the report that a secret understanding has lately been arranged between China and Russia. According to that arrangement, Russia is said to have promised to keep her hands off Korea in return to China's pledge for non-interference in the Pamir question. Where Russia remains quiet, England, say these papers, will not meddle much.

* * *

A few of the Opposition journals, such as the *Hochi Shimbun*, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, and *Niroku Shimpo*, call attention to the danger of being too much engrossed with the Korean Question. They seem to harbour a suspicion that the Government may employ the Korean problem for electioneering purposes. Consequently to pay so much attention to this question as to forget the importance of the coming general election would be, in the opinion of these papers, to fall in the snare contrived by the Government. We refer to the *Hochi's* article as a fair sample of the articles on this topic. It happens not seldom, says our contemporary, that a Ministry which has lost the confidence of the people seeks to direct public attention into foreign channels. The latest instance was that of a French Cabinet which undertook the Tonquin expedition as an electioneering scheme. "As for the present Japanese Cabinet," writes the *Hochi*, "it has been strongly attacked on account of both its domestic and foreign policy by the House of Representatives in the last three successive sessions. Such is the slight confidence which the people repose in the Cabinet. The people, therefore, do not expect much from such a Cabinet. But notwithstanding these circumstances, we and our sympathizers throughout the country will not stoop to the unpatriotic step of hampering the Cabinet's actions by criticising its Korean policy, because it is not our desire to impair the exercise of the country's rights on account of party struggles. We are thus magnanimous to the Cabinet in connection with the present Korean question. Should the Government, however, suffer itself to be swayed by petty intriguers and employ the Korean Question for election purposes, the people will no longer remain silent, but will attack the Cabinet with redoubled vehemence and resolution."

* * *

With regard to the next general election, great efforts are being made by the allied Opposition parties to secure an absolute majority in the new House of Representatives. These parties, now combined under the imposing name of "National League," have established a Central Committee of Election in Tokyo. The members of this Committee have been impartially selected from the different parties. It seems to be the principal business of this Committee to watch over the progress of the struggle in various parts of the country, to send out reinforcements of canvassers according to the needs of particular localities, and to mediate between rival candidates belonging to parties constituting the League. The points at issue are, as stated more than once, a strong foreign policy and the introduction of a system of Responsible Cabinets. The allied parties dare not, any longer, attach much importance to the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement. They say much about the alleged weakness of the Government in its foreign policy, but the electors will not take much interest in the vague allegations of Opposition politicians on this subject. As to the subject of Responsible Cabinets, they do not care a straw. What they care about are questions having practical bearings upon their pockets. Consequently the allied parties will labour under great disadvantages in the coming elections.

* * *

Some papers try to interpret the Address to the Throne, which caused the dissolution of the late House of Representatives, as containing the doctrine of Strict Treaty Enforcement. The *Jiji Shimpo* exposes the fallacy, but as the subject has been touched in these columns more than once, we will not follow our contemporary's arguments on this topic. The *Jiji* bears testimony to the unpopularity of this doctrine, and is rejoiced at the fact because it is equivalent to the removal of an obstacle from the path of Treaty Revision. The solution of this problem, continues our contemporary, is of the most urgent importance, and the various political parties are earnestly requested to refrain from all party agitations on the subject of Treaty Revision, thus leaving the Government free to attend to the successful accomplishment of the difficult task.

* * *

Concerning the question of Treaty Revision, rumours have been in circulation that negotiations with England are making such rapid progress that there is a prospect of a speedy and

satisfactory conclusion. The Opposition papers still repeat the demand that such portions of the new treaty as relate to the change of custom duties and modification, if any, of laws should be submitted to the approval of the Diet before the Emperor's ratification is asked. This demand is claimed to be against the Constitution which expressly provides that "the Emperor concludes treaties."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE YUSEN KAISHA IN NEED OF VESSELS.

From a paragraph in the *Shogyo Shimpo*, we learn that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, pending the availability of its new steamers, is confronted with the difficulty of keeping up its regular service, owing to ten of the Company's best vessels having been requisitioned by the Government in connection with the insurrection in Korea. The mail service between Kobe and Otaru has been unavoidably relinquished, as we have already noted, four steamers being thus released for service elsewhere. The Company is doing everything in its power to avert inconvenience in the shipment of cargo or transport of passengers, but of course it can not altogether succeed, indeed, a telegram published in the same journal's issue of the 7th inst., shows that no little inconvenience has already been experienced. The despatch is from Hakodate, and states that a vessel which had started for Tokyo, Yokkaichi, and other ports, laden with salt fish, was called off the line and that the cargo would probably be unloaded at a place other than the original destination, the freight-owners being very anxious in consequence. The market has fallen five per cent. all round. Another telegram from Otaru says that in consequence of the temporary suspension of regular steam service between that port and the main island, the market-value of fish guano has fallen twenty *yen*, with signs of a still further decrease. A report comes from Yokkaichi to the effect that a vessel which had carried a full load of guano from Tokyo to Handa, sailed at once from the latter port so soon as the cargo had been unloaded. Similar telegrams from Kumamoto appear in the same journal. Finally, despatches from Hokkaido show that local dealers in marine products are already suffering, the banks refusing to make advances on their goods.

DISTURBANCES IN AICHI PREFECTURE.

Disturbances of an unusual and alarming nature have of late occurred in Aichi Prefecture. The trouble originated in the payment of certain land-taxes, which, in consequence of the great earthquake of a few years ago was postponed by the Government until the end of last month, when payment was called for. The total amount of accrued taxes reaches more than half a million *yen*. Deeming it impossible to pay the taxes on the stipulated date, the inhabitants inaugurated several measures in order to obtain a further postponement until the end of the present year. Deputies were sent to Tokyo who petitioned the two Houses to approve of their urgent request, but all their plans were frustrated by the unexpected dissolution of the Lower House. More than one hundred and fifty headmen of such towns and villages as suffered greatly from the earthquake, recently held a meeting at Nagoya, on which occasion it was resolved to start a wholesale agitation for the securing of the necessary term-prolongation, and to resign their functions in a body should their petition not meet with the consent of the authorities. All the public functionaries of Nakamura *Gun* are already about to take the decisive step of going out on strike and thus effectually impeding the working of the administration. The official portion of the people being so greatly excited, the condition of the populace may be easily imagined. Things have gone so far that even a seditious rising is apprehended. The affair of the taxes and the appeal for a postponement of the term of payment have suddenly caused Mr. Tokito, Governor of the Prefecture, to become an object of execration to the intensely excited inhabitants. They claim that he is indifferent to the success or non-success of their agitation. A vote of want of confidence in him has been proposed by one of the members of the Local Assembly, but was vetoed by the majority.

"MURRAY'S HAND-BOOK FOR JAPAN."

A fourth edition of this admirable work has now been issued. The compilers, Messrs. B. H. Chamberlain and W. B. Mason, say in their brief preface that, since the publication of the previous edition of the Handbook in 1891, they have again travelled over almost every portion of the country and "now submit a text largely rewritten and thoroughly revised to date with fifteen new routes, greatly improved maps and plans, and numerous illustrations." The whole empire is now for the first time included in the text of the Handbook. The work has already become so popular and so necessary not less to residents than to tourists that any detailed reference to its contents would now be superfluous. Besides, it is a mere impertinence on the part of a reviewer to attempt to criticize a book the authors of which, having made a special study of their subject for years, necessarily know a great deal more about it than any casual critic can possibly do. Each of us, indeed, has his own pet route rendered familiar, perhaps, by a summer sojourn. That route he might take and point out that some features specially charming to himself had been omitted by the compilers, but it is pretty certain that in so doing he would show a sense of proportion much more defective than any omissions discoverable in the Handbook. Nevertheless, we may be permitted to inquire why men so familiar with the Treaty provisions as Messrs. Chamberlain and Mason must be, should persist in the old mistake that foreigners are permitted to travel to any place within a radius of ten *ri* from a Treaty port without a passport. Foreigners cannot do anything of the kind. We congratulate the authors upon the marked improvement they have effected in their maps. It used to be quite a pain to the eyes and a trial of patience to look out places on the maps of the early editions, but now everything is delightfully clear and easy. Comparing the third and the fourth editions from the point of view of mere bulk, we find that the latter is 69 pages larger than the former. which means that the handbook has increased in size by twenty-five per cent. approximately. We presume that it has now reached its full dimensions, but the more the authors give us of such matter, the better.

JAPAN'S TRADE WITH INDIA.

The competition between the Peninsular and Oriental steamers and those of the Japan Steamship Company, with regard to the Bombay ervice, is very keen at present, says the *Jiji Shimpo*, the attention of native Indians as well as British merchants in Bombay having at length been aroused to the importance of the trade with Japan. Very little heed was paid at first to the purchase of yarns by Japanese merchants, but the natives are now competing with each other to get a share of the rapidly increasing orders, foreseeing the vast and growing importance of this trade in future. It is in the matter of freight to China that the P. and O. and Nippon Yusen Kwaisha are most actively competing, the discount amounting to as much as 85 per cent. The Yusen Kaisha is evidently not content with having gained the upper hand of its rival in the Japanese coast-wise trade; it is determined to push on to China and do the same there. The freight rates between Bombay and Chinese ports, as offered by the Yusen Kwaisha, are much more advantageous than than those of the P. and O. With regard to passengers, the vessels of the British Company are liable to do better, for the Japanese steamers are primarily cargo-ships, while those of the P. and O. are first-class mail-steamers. Despite this fact, the low rates charged by the Yusen Kwaisha—330 rupees for a cabin ticket between Bombay and Kobe, as against 500 rupees charged by the P. and O.—are very attractive, so much so that the *Miike Maru* recently came back to Kobe with every cabin occupied. Among the various goods which may be profitably exported from Japan to India, the chief are railway-sleepers, timber of various kinds, cement, and coal. The last-mentioned commodity is at present consumed only in Mr. Tata's factories and so has not yet attracted the attention of Indian coal-dealers; yet it is confidently believed that if Japanese coal could be shipped to Bombay for fourteen shillings per ton, it would compete successfully with British imports. The beers sold in Bombay are not only dear but of inferior quality. Specimens of Japanese brews have been sent to various hotels, with excellent results. The Kirin brand is said to be best adapted for exportation, all other kinds being more or less affected by the great heat. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has recently ordered two ships from England, both of which are to be put on the Bombay line. One of these, the *Izumi Maru*, left Bombay for Kobe about the middle of the present month; the other, of several thousand tons burden, is still in England undergoing certain repairs, but will set out for Japan in June.

THE FAMILY OF KIM OK-KYÜN.

In Korea, if anywhere, the old Biblical rule is observed: the sins of the fathers are visited on the children and *vice versa*. Kim Ok-kyün's father is over sixty-years of age and has been blind for twenty years. When news reached him of his son's plots in 1883, he travelled from his provincial residence to Söul, and tried to turn the young man from treasonable attempts. Kim pursuaded his father that he entertained no such idea, but shortly afterwards he put his scheme into execution with disastrous results to himself and his friends. His father, however, does not appear to have been immediately arrested, but, strange to say, after Kim's assassination his father was seized and thrown into prison where he now lies. The laws of Korea, according to the *Jiji Shimpo*, from which we take ihis intelligence, do not permit the capital punishment of women, so that Kim's wife and only daughter, a girl now some 17 years of age, did not immediately feel the consequences of his insurrection, but they too have now been thrown into prison, and the same fate is said to have overtaken Kim's brother, a youth of 22. Little doubt is entertained as to the ultimate fate of the unhappy prisoners. Some way of getting rid of them all will be discovered, unless the Chinese Resident, Yuan, can be induced to intercede for them, and as that apparently depends upon the ability of Kim's relatives to purchase Yuan's good offices, the case seems decidedly hopeless.

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Since the above was written news has been received that Kim's father was hung at Chyonan on the 20th of the 4th month (Korean calendar). The whole procedure of the Korean Government in this affair of the murdered refugee deprives it of all sympathy at the present crisis.

THE "JIJI SHIMPO" ON MR. MATSUOKA'S LEASE OF LAND IN ISHIGAKI-JIMA.

The lease of a large tract of Government land in Ishigaki-jima, one of the Riukiu Islands, to Mr. Matsuoka Koki and others, was brought forward, as our readers may remember, in the House of Representatives by Mr. Kiuchi Makoto, a few days before the Diet was dissolved. Mr. Kiuchi, who is a native of Nagano Prefecture, charged the lessees with intending to sub-let the land to others, without applying it to the purpose stated when they first submitted their application for the lease to the Government. In this connection the *Jiji Shimpo* offers some interesting particulars. It was in July of last year, says our contemporary, that a lease was applied for in order to start a sugar plantation. The application was made to the Governor of Okinawa in due form. The chief mover in the project was Mr. Nakagawa Torancsuke, a native of Tokushima, who had inherited a sugar refinery from his father. Seeing that imported sugar was gradually taking the

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place of the Japanese product, Mr. Nakagawa made journeys throughout the sugar-producing districts in China, the Loochoos, and Hokkaido, undertaking these journeys with a view to stimulating the sugar-refining industry of Japan. The result of his investigations was that he believed the Yaeyama group, a cluster of islands to the south of the Riukiu Archipelago, eminently fitted for the cultivation of sugar. So, taking some scores of labourers with him, he went thither, cleared some fields and planted cane. Satisfactory results were obtained, yet he soon saw that nothing great could be expected unless he succeeded in obtaining the active participation of a few capitalists. He therefore drew up a report on his scheme and presented this to those whom he thought likely to take an interest in the matter. Among others, Mr. Matsuoka deemed the plan well worthy of attention, and consented to join Mr. Nakagawa. In manufacturing the sugar as well as in cultivating the cane, it was the intention of the projectors to adopt partly foreign methods, and they were resolved to content themselves, at least for a while, with the manufacture of brown sugar. Yet even this was considered as a mere expedient, the reclaiming of wild land and the wholesale establishment of sugar plantations being the ultimate goal they desired to reach. The Governor of Okinawa, in giving his official sanction to their application for a lease of the ground, placed great stress on the cultivation of wild land. Mr. Kiuchi's contention was that the lessees' object was simply to sub-let the land to others, and thus reap a substantial profit. But, emphatically rejoins the *Jiji*, such an accusation could only originate with one wholly ignorant of the condition of the islanders. Yaeyama is, as we (*Japan Mail*) stated some days ago, notorious for the prevalence of a virulent malarial fever, which affects both the growth of the population and even the active habits of the islanders. The natives are characteristically indolent, nor are they strong enough to sustain the labour necessary on a sugar plantation. It would be utterly impossible to find any one among the natives ready or willing to lease the land with a view to rendering it arable. The enterprise projected by the lessees is therefore not only harmless in so far as the interests of the natives are concerned, but must also prove ultimately a source of profit to them, by providing means of steady employment. At all events it is not only rash but even indicative of ignorance to speak disparagingly of the project while the land is not yet formally transferred to the lessees. And even should a refinery not be established on the island, this fact would in no wise affect the legality of the application or the official sanction.

MR. SHIMADA SABURO.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* thinks that if Mr. Kiyemon Riyemon consents to stand again for the First Electoral Division of Kanagawa which he contested last elections, he will succeed in ousting Mr. Shimada Saburo. We do not for our own part see why that should be the case. It is true that Mr. Shimada obtained his seat by only two votes last February, but one of the chief causes of Mr. Kimura's popularity, or rather of Mr. Shimada's unpopularity, ought now to have disappeared. Last February Mr. Shimada was prominently *lié* with the Strict-Enforcement agitators, and the policy of Strict Enforcement was at that time construed by a considerable section of the public as more or less hostile to Mixed Residence. Since then, however, all doubt as to Mr. Shimada's real attitude toward this important question ought to have been dispelled, and we do not see why his constituency should object to him.

ABUSES IN THE MAKING OF PUBLIC TENDERS.

PRIOR to the Law of Finance being put into operation, the abuses connected with the supply of goods to Government offices by contract merchants and agents, were notorious. In consequence of the promulgation of this law, however, such things are, at present, ostensibly no longer possible; still the *Jiji Shimpo* regretfully observes that dishonest practices of the same nature even now disgrace these transactions, only in a new garb. Our contemporary enumerates several devices employed by unscrupulous officials and contractors who are in secret league with them, the most striking of which are connected with the supply of articles sold in quantity and on the strength of samples previously exhibited. One who is on terms of intimacy with the officials through whom the orders come, is permitted to send in goods of a quality much inferior to the samples first shown; but all other merchants are excluded from the enjoyment of this privilege. In the case of goods sold in bulk, such as coal, this abuse is of very frequent occurrence; for although the bidding for the order is public, it is almost a foregone conclusion whose tender will be accepted. Then there is another glaring evil wherein the contractors alone are implicated. This is the secret leaguing beforehand of those intending to make bids. A thousand casks of cement are, let us suppose, to be bought by public tender; prior to making their bids, the merchants meet in secret conclave in the course of which each one shows the rest at what figure he is prepared to supply the cement. The result may be that one asks 2.50 *yen* per cask, another 2.60 *yen*, and a third 2.70 *yen*. When the actual tenders are handed in, one of the confederates writes the highest of these three figures in his bid, while the other two give still more exorbitant rates. It follows, of course, that the 2.70 *yen* bid is accepted. When the cement is delivered and paid for, the confederates divide up the profit in accordance with the ratio agreed upon at their first meeting. This complicated and frandulent scheme is practical only when all the bidders have come to a mutual understanding, hence the thievish leaguers are highly incensed whenever a foreigner or Japanese new to the business appears as a competitor.

JAPANESE WAR-VESSELS ORDERED IN ENGLAND.

IT is to be regretted that the *Hochi Shimbun*, a paper once of so high standing, should stoop to ape the *Nippon* in circulating baseless stories concerning the ordering of Japanese war-vessels in England. We are told, once again, that No. 1, Settlement, has special and peculiar relations with Messrs. Armstrong and Company, in virtue of which the former firm enjoys a concession of ten per cent. on every ship ordered of that Company from Japan, and that, too, whether the order is given through the medium of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. or sent directly to England. And so, grumbles the *Hochi*, Japan has to pay ten per cent. dearer when the great ship-building company's services are required. Our contemporary makes matters worse by professing ignorance as to whether the whole commission finds its way into the pocket of the Yokohama agency, insinuating a doubt as to the integrity of the "Clan Government," which, though fully aware of the relations existing between the British manufacturing Company and No. 1, deliberately chooses to order war-vessels of that firm at an advance in price. The cost of the two ships lately ordered in England, is more than 15,420,000 *yen*, ten per cent. of which is 1,542,000 *yen*, "this much being a clear loss to the country." Finally, the *Hochi* prophesies that the Diet will not leave this matter unregarded. It is, we can only repeat, a great pity that our contemporary should lend itself to the dissemination of so baseless and libellous a tale.

KILLED BY A MAD BULL.

THE domestic animals of the Japanese are, if anything, conspicuous for the mildness and urbanity of their demeanour, with the possible exception of the supine native dog which has a mania for obtrusive barking. But as for the horses and oxen they seem one and all reconciled to a life of hard work and many blows, some of the animated, raw-hided skeletons that pull the stage-coaches of Tokyo clinging to an oat-less life with a tenacity as surprising as it is inexplicable. The late lamented Samuel Pickwick would find ample material for his note-book among the coach-horses and draught-oxen of Japan. But *hotoke nō kaomo sandō*; even the worm will, semi-occasionally, turn. The other day a farmer came into the metropolis leading an emaciated bull drawing a very heavy load and evidently suffering. The bull gave constant signs of uneasiness and, upon reaching one of the larger thoroughfares and meeting with another of its own kind, gave a loud bellow, broke loose from the yoke and nose-ring and attempted to run madly down the street. The farmer gave chase and had almost caught up with it when the infuriated animal abruptly turned and gored him with its horns. The animal was thereafter promptly seized, and the farmer removed to an adjacent hospital, but his wounds proved fatal in less than an hour.

A NEW FUEL.

WE read in the vernacular press that Mr. Hirooka Itsuindo, formerly an official of the Dendrological Bureau of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, has succeeded in obtaining from coal a species of fuel that will serve the purposes of and act as a substitute for charcoal. He is said to have spent many years over the invention and it is claimed that the new fuel possesses the essential qualities of charcoal, being free from smoke, smuts and smell. Moreover, it burns longer than charcoal and is far cheaper, being saleable at the rate of 35 *kwamme* (about 290 lbs.) per *yen*. The inventor has obtained a patent for 15 years and is projecting the formation of a company with a quarter of a million *yen* capital.

A REFRACTORY TURTLE.

ASAKUSA PARK is always a lively place during the spring and early summer months; there are crowds of pleasure-seekers and sight-seers and the raree-shows, strolling acrobats, and itinerant thespians drive a roaring trade. This was viewed with envy by a certain Mizuno Keizo, who, having a few dollars to spare, thought he would invest his capital in the purchase of some rare and noteworthy object, which everyone would be glad to pay one or two *sen* to see. So he bought one of the huge turtles that occasionally visit the Bonin Islands, paying nearly one hundred *yen* for an unusually fine specimen. A spacious booth was erected in the Park and the opening day was fixed for the 10th inst. On the evening of the 9th, Mizuno took his sluggish phenomenon to the side of the small but deep pond in the Park, to give its shelly back a final polishing. But, somehow or other, the sight of the water excited the turtle, which broke its bonds and gave a lurch into the water. Desperate at the thought of losing his prize, Mizuno sprang after it, and never emerged again, but whether caught by the turtle or by some sunken root, is unknown. The turtle is still hidden somewhere in the pond.

A TRAGIC FINALE.

THE self-immolation of a *shisoku*, preceded by the deliberate murder of his only child, occurred a few days ago in Koishikawa District, Tokyo, the subsequent inquiries of the police eliciting a most tragic story of destitution and despair. The principal figure was Totta Tomokichi, thirty-one years of age, once a *hatamoto*, or one of the immediate vassals of the Shogun. Until about seven years ago, Totta managed to earn a living by hiring out *jinrikisha*. It was at that time that he took to wife a daughter of Ando Dembei, of the same District. A son was born to them in the course of the next year. The birth of this child did not, unfortunately, add to the happiness of the young couple, for things began to go from bad to worse with Totta, until at last his wife, who is evidently a woman of abandoned character and utterly without parental or conjugal affection, deserted her child and husband, and returned to her father's house. This occurred in the fall of last year. Totta was thereafter compelled to assume the degrading position of a *jinrikisha*-puller, and in this way earned barely enough to keep himself and his child from starving. Yet even this last source of income was soon to fail, for some weeks ago he was seized with *kakke* or *beri-beri*, so that he was no longer able to run. For many days did he shed bitter tears over his own miserable plight and the pitiful condition of his innocent boy. At last he made up his mind that there

was only one way to keep from starving, and that was to die at once with his little son. On the 20th ult. he left his miserable dwelling, paying some few debts he had by selling what was left him in the way of household furniture and domestic utensils. About two o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, a pupil of the Buddhist school attached to the Gokoku-in Temple, found, while walking in the garden, the corpse of a little boy, with a deep wound in his throat. A few steps farther on lay what appeared to be the father of the lad, the dead man's throat also being completely severed. The police were at once summoned, and the corpses ascertained to be those of Totta and his son. Under the body of the former was a document in which the murderer and suicide had written a detailed account of the reasons for his act, reference being made to the inhuman heartlessness of his wife. Being, in spite of her desertion, the legal wife of the dead man, she was at once summoned to the Police Office and there commanded, with severe and deserved reproaches for her unfeeling conduct, to take charge of the remains and see that they were properly interred.

BOKU YEIKO.

We do not understand why there should be any difficulty about granting Boku Yeiko's petition to be released from prison on bail, unless, indeed, the possibility of his flight to Korea and the fear of political complications may influence the Authorities. The Korean refugee has addressed to the Government a very prettily worded appeal, the key-note of which is that his continued detention in prison prevents him from repaying the debt of gratitude due to his Japanese friends and patrons. We do not see how he would set about paying it, even if he were at large, but the petition is not intended to be considered from a practical point of view: it is from first to last addressed to sentiment and emotion. Appended to it are several good names—Shiba Shiro, Kono Hironaka, Inouye Kakugoro, Sassa Tomafusa, Inugai Ki, Hatoyama Kazuo, and Numada Ugenda. These gentlemen, as we understand, offer themselves as Boku's securities, and of course their names are ample guarantee. But why is the petition addressed to the Government? There is a regular routine, prescribed by the Code of Criminal Procedure, for prisoners desiring release on bail. Naturally they address themselves to the Court of Law before which they are arraigned, not to the executive which has no title to interfere. A plea of ill health is advanced on Boku's behalf, but inasmuch as the jail physicians are quite competent to determine the propriety of keeping him in detention, such a plea deserves no special attention. The only curious thing is that Boku's case has not been already disposed of. The offence charged against him was not of such a serious or complicated character as to demand very protracted investigation. Perhaps for his own sake he is safest in prison at the present juncture, but that is another question.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS AND ITS TROUBLES.

We have already stated that five newspapers, the *Nichi Nichi*, the *Hochi*, the *Kokumin*, the *Chu-o*, and the *Sho Nippon* were suspended and proceeded against in the Law Courts for violating the interdict imposed upon published news relating to the movements of troops or other military doings at this juncture. The list has now to be supplemented by five others, the *Jiji*, the *Niroku*, the *Jiyu*, the *Mezamashi*, and the *Shogyo*. The period of suspension in the case of journals thus offending seems to be one day. These doings on the part of the Authorities have of course provoked the criticism of the advocates of liberty, or rather license, of the press, who think that civilization is outraged because journals are not suffered to cater to the public's morbid craving for news. The fact is that if newspapers exercised the precaution of assuring themselves about the truth or falsehood of the intelligence they admit to their columns, there need be no general embargo placed upon their doings. But if the country cannot afford to have the public, at home and abroad, misled by erroneous news, then the only plan is to forbid the publication of any news at all except such as is duly authorized. It is not as though the public were cut off from all intelligence. We have had practical demonstration that nothing of that kind is contemplated, and that officially authenticated news will be published in due time. There is only question of a little patience, and for our own part we think it better and more satisfactory to learn the truth at the second hour than to be deceived by falsehoods at the first.

RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS IN THE VERNACULAR.

The Committee on Religious Publications in the Vernacular, appointed by the Union Conference of Baptist Missionaries in Japan, has issued a little volume giving titles, names of authors, subject and other particulars of all the religious works that appeared in the Japanese language—Buddhist compilations omitted—during 1893. It is an imposing list, conveying a good idea of the activity that now prevails among religious bodies in this country. From it we learn that there are no less than 47 newspapers and periodicals issued in Japan in the cause of Christian propagandism. Further there were published during the year 1893 no less than 161 books or pamphlets, varying in length from 1,118 to 3 pages, all connected directly or indirectly with religion. Fifty-seven of these works were either written or translated by foreigners in Japan. With such figures before us there can be no question as to the activity and zeal of the missionary community in Japan. The interest of this list would have been enhanced had it included Buddhist publications also, for we should then have been in a position to compare the efforts made by Christianity and the creed it seeks to displace.

INAUGURATION OF THE TOKYO COMMERCIAL STAPLES EXCHANGE.

A happy termination to the rivalry of two representative commercial cliques which had long been on anything but friendly terms, has led to the coalition of the two parties and the establishment of the Tokyo Commercial Staples Exchange. The reconciliation was brought about by the advice of the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce. The inauguration meeting was held at the Oyu-kwan, Asakusa District, on the 5th instant, more than 226 shareholders being present. Mr. Watanbe Jiyemon occupied the chair and a deliberation followed on the draft of the bye-laws. Several amendments were proposed and approved; it would, however, be of no interest to go into particulars. The salary of the chief and other managers was fixed at 8,000 *yen* per annum; auditors to receive 900 *yen* each. The Exchange is divided into eleven sections, representing metals, cotton, manures, table-salt, oils, cotton cloths, cotton yarns, grain exclusive of rice, and two other staples. A manager was elected for each section, the chief manager to be chosen afterwards from among the heads of the eleven sections. It is believed that Mr. Kimbayashi, formerly a secretary in the Municipal Office and afterwards Governor of Gumma Prefecture, will be elected to this important post. The capital of the Exchange is 430,000 *yen*, being the sum of the capitals upon which the erstwhile rival parties had settled for their respective schemes. It is not yet certain where the Head Office will be established, yet it is probable that the Shunpu-kwan (a house of entertainment in Kakigara-cho, until recently the temporary domicile of D'Arc's marionettes), will be chosen for this purpose.

MR. HOSHI TORU AND THE KOREAN AFFAIR.

An unnamed somebody has interviewed Mr. Hoshi Toru with reference to the Korean affair. Mr. Hoshi is regarded at present as the "Leader of the Moderates," but he declares—through the medium of this interviewer, who figures in the columns of the *Kokkai*—that a war with a foreign country would be more delightful to him than his daily meals. If such an avowal comes from the representative of moderate Japan, what must we expect from Jingoism? Mr. Hoshi, however, does not consider that the present occasion is well adapted for providing such an agreeable substitute for daily meals, neither does he think that Japan is ready for the fray. Indeed, he is represented as even censuring Count Itagaka's old-fashioned eagerness to have a tilt at Korea. Count Itagaki's proximate reason for leaving the Cabinet in 1873 was his peculiarly stalwart views about the policy that Japan should pursue towards Korea, and apparently he entertains the same opinions still. Of course, to speak of Korea in this sense is merely to use a diplomatic substitute for China. Every Japanese knows that his country can take no decisive step in the peninsula kingdom without finding herself face to face with China, and every Japanese knows that to cross swords with Korea alone would be a humiliating operation for Japan.

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Count Katsu Awa also has been interviewed and his declaration of opinion is produced *verbatim* by the *Nippon*. He pooh-poohs the whole business; laughs at the idea of Russia having sent troops to the peninsula; says that if Japan enters the arena, she must be prepared to fight China at least; and avers that not Russia but England and France are the Powers to be feared. At the first semblance of war, he says, England would acquire a foot-hold in these regions, and where the English foot is set down, the English body is apt to follow.

SUDDEN MANIA.

In Higashi Tama-*gun*, one of the metropolitan suburbs, an exciting scene occurred a few nights ago. Loud screams for assistance were heard in the dwelling of a certain Hamano, a small farmer, and when the neighbours forced their way into the house they found the man trying to set his wife on fire, after having drenched her head with kerosene. The man was with difficulty prevented from carrying out his fiendish design. Subsequent investigation proved that he had been seized with sudden mania, the consequence, it is believed, of a prolonged drinking-bout. He has since been removed to a lunatic asylum.

MEETING OF THE TOKYO GLYPTIC ART SOCIETY.

The ordinary meeting of the Glyptic Art Society of Tokyo was held on the afternoon of the 26th ult. in the Exhibition Building of the Japan Fine Arts Association, at Uyeno. The various articles produced by the Kenkyo-kwai were exhibited, most of these being new. The sculptures and castings in metal were of unusual excellence. Mr. Mayeda Kenjiro, one of the managers of the Society, read a report relating to the competitive exhibition to be held in September of this year, and gave moreover a statement of the financial condition of the Society during the last year. He was followed by Mr. Miyaji Iwao, who subject was the glyptic art of Japan. After remarking that the art of carving was one of the pioneers of civilization, he gave a brief sketch of the printer's art in Europe, comparing the date of its origin in the West with the time in which it began in China and Japan, where impressions were first struck from carved wooden blocks. In this latter respect he made the noteworthy statement that Japan antedated China by more than a century, basing his conclusion on certain printed Buddhist texts which an early Emperor—whose name is not given in the paper from which we take these details—presented to a temple on sheets that are still preserved. Egypt is regarded in Europe as the country in which the canons of sculpture were originally formulated; but Mr. Miyaji protested against this view, asserting that in remote parts of Kochi, in Yamato, and even in such out-of-the-way places as Nokogiri-yama in Awa, gigantic images "several hundred (*sic*) feet in height; were found carved out of the solid rock. Upon the conclusion of Mr. Miyaji's address, prizes were awarded to artists who had exhibited articles of unusual merit."

THE TOGAKU-TO LEADERS.

The Söul correspondent of the *Sho Nippon* must either be a man of very lively imagination, or else the three leaders of the *Togaku-to* hordes are veritable human phenomena. The

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chief general, we learn, is a man of eighty-nine summers, lusty and robust and an expert bowman. He is personally averse to carnage, yet never twangs his bow without rendering further medical assistance unnecessary. The second general is a boy of fourteen, of whose prowess in the field far too marvellous tales are told. He is said to be a precocious tactician, his disposition and counsels invariably leading to success. His men are devoted to him and obey his every word. The third brave is of doubtful antecedents, popular report making him a Japanese renegade. He is exceptionally bloodthirsty and a skilled swordsman; despising both gun and arrow—and small blame to him if the former be a rusty matchlock—he trusts solely in a trenchant blade, with which he inflicts fearful and incurable wounds. For his ferocious characteristics he has earned the doubtful sobriquet of *oni-gami*, the "Demon Deity."

SUICIDE OF A BUDDHIST PRIEST.

HANGING to a tree in the Yenmado on Hieiyama, Kyoto, was found, a week or so ago, the body of a priest belonging to the Shinshu sect, at once the most powerful and numerically strongest sect in Japan. A letter was discovered in his sleeve, in which it was stated that the suicide had been indirectly led to his rash act by the despotic behaviour of his superiors in Honzan, while the immediate cause was his great poverty. He had suffered from hunger so long that life had became unbearable; his few creditors were implacable; so there remained nothing for him to do but quit a world in which he had learned nothing but sorrow, despite his endeavour to tread in the path marked out by Buddha. This document was signed *Dohinkutsu Shujin*, "The poorest man in Japan." The Shinshu sectarians claim that the man was insane and had been so for some time. But the last will and testament reads marvelously like sound common sense.

THE YOSHIWARA.

LICENSED prostitution has a great deal to answer for in Japan, no matter how specious the excuses offered for the system are. Nearly eighty per cent. of the murders committed either originate in or out of these quarters, while a still larger percentage of the suicides is directly attributable to their influence, not to speak of other evils. The perusal of simply one day's edition of a portion of the metropolitan press, gave the following items, all due to Yoshiwara influence: suicide of a wife, in Tokyo, on account of her husband's attachment to a prostitute in Shinjuku; suicide of an elderly man in Kanda District, in consequence of nervous prostration following heavy drinking and excessive venery; arrest of a thief in Niigata, who had stolen 300 *yen* worth of watches and jewelry in order to pay for his debauches in the local Yoshiwara; disappearance of an embezzling clerk in Osaka who had taken a large sum in order to keep a favourite prostitute in good humour; and murder with violence in a provincial Yoshiwara, a jealous paramour being the criminal. This is a black list and one not calculated to strengthen the arguments of the advocates of licensed prostitution.

THE "MIIKE-MARU"-"MONMOUTHSHIRE" COLLISION.

IN H.B.M. Supreme Court at Shanghai on the 6th inst, Mr. Justice Hannen, sitting in Admiralty, with Lieut.-Commander Ravenhill of H.M.S. *Esk* and Captain Worcester of the P. & O. steamer *Sutlej*, nautical assessors, delivered judgment in the *Miike Maru-Monmouthshire* collision case. After reciting the circumstances of the collision as detailed by the evidence placed before the Court and explaining the reasons for their finding, the Court concluded:—"We therefore agree in this. That the *Monmouthshire* was to blame for not complying with Article 8, as enforced by Article 2 (in regard to the lights exhibited). We do not think that there was any excuse for this non-compliance. On the other hand, we think that those in charge of the *Miike Maru* were to blame for proceeding at too great speed, and for going too close to the *Monmouthshire*. I therefore condemn the *Monmouthshire*, and the *Miike Maru* also. There will therefore be the usual decree in this case. The registrar and merchants will find out the damages; will add them together, and they will be divided. Costs will be in the same way."

ANSWERS TO INVITATIONS.

THE *literati* of Tokyo sometimes indulge in the sports of the less accomplished herd. But their manner of descending from the heights of Parnassus is in itself a record. Here, for example, is a reply sent by one of them to an invitation to luncheon and lawn tennis:—

Si adversus te, sicut ingentem hostem,
Aeterna auctoritas esset gentis meæ,
Me, qui Batavus, in praelio ordinato
Italicum occire, juvare liceret.

Sed non ad tot certamen
In lingua tibi est nos ducere,
Nec gladio fulgente
Dolores exhaurire.

"Triclinio cedant curae"
Est primus sermo; alter:
"Ut virtus sit præclaris
Nam palma meruenda."

Dum res sic sese habent,
Gratissimum mihi est
Ad prandium crastinum
Accumbere hastatus;

Laborem dextrae manus
In poculis hauriendis,
Et ludis trans retinis
Secundum artem sequi.

Divina incantatio
Quam Veneri tulisti
Nos omnes Martes facit;
Pagetum inter alios, sed
Alea incerta, an palmam ferre potest.

A RIGHT EXCELLENT EXAMPLE.

A WELL-KNOWN resident of Tokyo, Mr. R. Lehmann, a prominent member of the German Asiatic Society and the German Bowling Club, rounded out, last week, his twenty-fifth year of residence in Japan. On Saturday evening, June 9th, almost the entire German community assembled in the rooms of the above societies, in Kanda, to celebrate the unusual silver jubilee. Of formal exercises there was almost an entire absence, if we except two very much interrupted speeches. The hearty good-will of those present was more appropriately shown by the thorough jollity which reigned throughout a long evening devoted to bowling for prizes, to the singing of songs written for the occasion, and to the enjoyment of refreshments bountifully furnished. It is no common achievement for a foreigner to have lived twenty-five years of life in an Eastern community without loss of energy and with all the old friendships retained; but in this case it has been happily accomplished. Very many can re-echo the lines of a too-modestly anonymous poet of the evening:—

Fünf Lustra lebt Lehmann im Lande Japan,
Erwies sich als braver und brauchbarer Mann,
Was that er nicht Alles für unsere Bahn,
Drum *Lehmann* im Chore: *laudamus!*

MADAME MINNIE HAUK.

THERE is not the least chance, we fear, of the Tokyo public's having an opportunity to hear Madame Minnie Hauk. The great prima-donna has come here to enjoy herself, and intends to make the most of her sojourn in Japan, which will probably extend over a month. To sing at concerts, when the singing is of such an order as Madame Minnie Hauk's, demands a certain amount of physical preparation not compatible with complete abandonment to the pleasures of sight-seeing. The celebrated songstress was entertained at dinner on Saturday evening by His Excellency the German Minister, and some of those who had the good fortune to be present indulged the hope that she might be induced to make one departure from the rigid rule of great vocalists, never to sing after dinner. But the prima-donna, despite her proverbial good nature in such matters, wisely refused to be tempted. She preferred to play the part of an enthusiastic listener, and to lead her fellow-convives' applause of Herr von Koeber's admirable playing on the pianoforte, Professor Dittrich's delightful violin, and Mr. Braccialini's fine tenor. It is to be hoped that the Imperial Household Department will not miss this opportunity of procuring for their Majesties the Emperor and Empress the pleasure of hearing the great songstress. Since the commencement of the *Meiji* era, indeed, we may add, since the beginnings of Japanese history, no foreign vocalist of comparable eminence has visited these shores, and no other is likely to visit them for many years. Madame Minnie Hauk has come to Japan for Japan's sake, not for the sake of the little foreign community in Japan. We understand that she has conveyed to the Imperial Household Department an intimation that she holds herself at their Majesties' disposition, and as the Emperor and Empress have heard a flautist and a violinist of European reputation, their Majesties should not lose the opportunity of hearing a vocalist of still wider fame.

AN UNHAPPY FATHER.

A FORMER well-to-do merchant of Nihonbashi District, Tokyo, is cursed, says the *Sho Nippon*, with three most hopeless sons. Most people consider a numerous male progeny one of the greatest of temporal blessings, but this poor man has little reason for gratitude. The eldest son is a most dishonest man, having been already twice in gaol for theft, the second boy is in the employ of an usurer, and has earned the reputation of being even more merciless than his master; while the youngest son is an accomplished pick-pocket, for whom the police are now actively seeking. The old merchant is certainly to be pitied, but our contemporary can rest assured that similar cases are unfortunately of not infrequent occurrence even in the "civilised" West.

THE NEW SYSTEM OF RINGING FIRE BELLS.

A NEW system of ringing fire bells has recently been adopted in Tokyo, which is much simpler than that hitherto in vogue. It is, we hear, to be adopted throughout the Empire. The system is as follows:—three slow peals signify a fire somewhere, the watchman at the same time to cry out whether the fire is very far or near; three rapid peals mean a fire within a radius of three *cho* from the watch-tower; four peals denote the outbreak of a fire near or within the precincts of the Imperial Palace; five peals are the equivalent of the "Bride of Enderby" in Jean Ingelow's poem, or the former English custom of "ringing backwards," and thus sound a general alarm, added to which, in exceptional cases, cannon will be fired off at intervals of a few minutes. Altogether the new system is commendable for its simplicity and directness.

A CHARITABLE WINE MERCHANT.

A NOVEL but very worthy project is that recently announced by Mr. Hidaka Zembei, a *saké* and *soy* merchant residing close by the gate of the Zojoji in Shiba Park, Tokyo. He recently advertised his proposed charity in the columns of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, giving clear and minute details of the plan which, on the whole, is very well conceived. It is, in a word, his intention to devote the profit accruing from his business solely to charitable purposes: one-half to go to various charitable organizations in Tokyo, the other to be deposited with the 100th National Bank as a fund to be used only in case of distress following some great conflagration or national calamity. For this purpose Mr. Hidaka has opened a special branch-store in Kyobashi District, which he styles the "Hidaka Philanthropic Sales-rooms." There are, says the advertiser, funds of a more or less adequate nature for the rendering to pecuniary relief within certain prescribed limits; but none of them has any reference to calamities, either human or natural, though these require, and perhaps in a still great degree, the aid of the benevolent public. It is true that in cases of unusually calamitous magnitude the public following the gracious example of the Sovereign, are never slow to subscribe liberally toward the relief of sufferers; yet it not infrequently happens that the amount of the subscriptions falls far short of the extent of the distress. This has long since convinced Mr. Hidaka of the necessity for creating some permanent charitable fund, such as exist in Europe and America, and it is partly

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with this object in view that his "Philanthropic Sales-rooms" have been opened. The advertiser gives another interesting reason for his project. It appears that his father came, while still quite young, from Kii, and settled in Tokyo, and after encountering innumerable hardships finally opened an unpretentious wine-store close by the Zojoji Temple-gate. This was thirty-five years ago. By diligence and economy he amassed a competence, and a few years since retired from business in favour of his son. Both father and son for a long time have been revolving a number of philanthropic schemes, finally determining upon the plan they now present to the consideration of the public. The older merchant will take sole charge of the "Philanthropic Sales-rooms," where no less than twelve clerks and underlings are to be employed. In order that there shall be no doubt as to what becomes of the profits, Mr. Hidaka proposes to advertise each month in four papers—the *Jiji Shimpo*, *Yorozu Choho*, *Miyako Shimbun*, and *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*—the names of those who have patronised the Sales-rooms, the amount of their purchases, the total profit, the contributions made to charitable organizations and the sum deposited in the Bank as a permanent fund. The store is at No. 3, Sanjik'ken-bori, Sanchome, Kyobashi. There is only one feature that we find regrettable in this very laudable project: the fact that good is to come out of evil, or in other words, that the poor are to be comforted by the profits arising from the sale of an intoxicant, injurious to both body and soul.

COTTON YARNS.

Now that the export duty upon cotton yarns has been removed, Japanese manufacturers are beginning to turn their eyes upon the Chinese market, where they hope to compete successfully with Bombay yarns. According to the *Keizai Zasshi*, Japan has a great advantage over India, being able, owing to the superior cheapness of her labour, to produce for 4.587 *yen* what costs in India 6.5 *yen*. The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce endorses this view. A committee appointed by it early in the year has now submitted its report to the President. The document says that an annual import of 230,000 bales of raw cotton may be expected, and speaks with hope of the competition between Japanese and Indian yarns in China. With regard to the latter point, however, there is one cloud upon the horizon, namely, the possible action of the Peninsular and Oriental Company. The figures given by the Committee do not, however, entirely bear out this apprehension. They show that even if the P. & O. Company reduce their freight to 1½ rupees per ton for yarns carried from Bombay to China, a bale of Indian yarn, No. 20 count, will still cost 93.192 *yen* in China, whereas the price of the Japanese yarn will be only 88.618 *yen*. The Indian spinners, however, have an advantage in the matter of purchasing raw material, and moreover the mills being under English management, improved processes of manufacture may at any moment influence the competition. Altogether, the Committee is evidently somewhat uneasy about the prospects of the fight. As to the freight of 12 rupees per ton now paid to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Committee thinks that under the most favourable circumstances the Company's income may cover its disbursements, but as the most favourable circumstances can seldom be anticipated, the Committee endorses the opinion already so often expressed in other quarters, that the Government ought to come to the aid of the Company.

A MISSIONARY LAND-OWNER IN SADO.

THE *Yomiuri Shimbun* tells a strange story concerning a certain French missionary in Sado. He has been a resident of that out-of-the-way island, says our contemporary, since 1875, in which year he leased certain grounds belonging to the township of Yebisu and erected a church; but although the lease was made to continue for thirty years it was with the proviso that should the land be required for uses of a public character, it should be at once given up, irrespective of how many years the original lease might still have to run. The Kencho acted as witness and guarantor of this somewhat one-sided arrangement. Now, it appears, the townfolk have recently decided to erect a common school on the site in question, where the church is standing, and have requested the missionary to remove the edifice and relinquish his title within six months. To this the missionary has not unnaturally demurred, and an altercation between himself and the headman of the little town has ensued, the latter demanding evacuation of the site, while the former claims that he should be allowed to retain possession until the expiration of the full term of thirty years. Failing to come to an agreement, the headman applied to the Niigata Kencho, requesting that the lessee might be compelled to keep to the conditions of the original contract. Instead, however, of taking any prompt and decisive measures, the Kencho has merely endeavoured to persuade the missionary to choose another site for his church. This has given great umbrage to the local inhabitants, for they regard the action of the Kencho as one of undue partiality to the foreign litigant, whom they hold to be arrogant and wanting in politeness. It is not improbable—premising the accuracy of the *Yomiuri's* information, which we doubt—that this will be hailed as another argument in favour of the Strict Enforcement of the existing treaties.

COLLISION AND LOSS OF LIFE.

A COLLISION attended with fatal results occurred at 2.30 p.m. on the 12th instant in the neighbourhood of Miya-jima, between the Shosen Kaisha's steamer *Bukogawa Maru* and a sailing ship belonging to Mr. Hirosada Tsurumatsu, of Itsukushima in the Province of Aki. The latter vessel was on her way from Ushina harbour to Miya-jima, carrying 63 passengers, apparently excursionists. She sunk almost immediately after the collision.

* * *

Particulars relating to the collision between the *Mukogawa Maru*, of the Osaka Steamship Company, and a small junk, at about 2 a.m. on the 12th instant, not far from Miyajima, Aki, are given in the *Jiji Shimpo*. The steamer was on her way to Osaka, having started from Iwakuni on the morning of the previous day. She called at Miyajima, and taking thence 120 passengers, weighed anchor in the evening of the same day for Osaka. At a spot about a mile from the lighthouse erected at Miyajima, she came into collision with a junk and the latter sank almost immediately. The junk had no cause of complaint against the steamer, according to the *Jiji's* information. She was a sort of ferry boat between Miyajima and the mainland close by, and was owned by a Mr. Hirosada. At the time of the accident, Mr. Hirosada, with two of his assistants, were conveying 63 passengers to Miyajima. His carelessness caused the catastrophe, for he was sailing his boat at a rapid speed without hanging out any light whatever. It was impossible to reduce her speed sensibly even when the steamer hove in sight, and the collision tore her open, sending her to the bottom at once. The steamer seeing what had occurred, promptly stopped her engines, and launching a life boat, picked up 24 passengers who were in the watter. Fishing boats near the place also came to the rescue and helped 12 more passengers. Nine corpses were found, shortly afterwards, but of the remains of the other 18 persons no trace could be discovered. The passengers were all tourists who, tempted to take advantage of a special reduction of fares on the Sanyo Railway, had come to visit the celebrated Miyajima. Who the unfortunate drowned persons were has not yet been ascertained.

THE COST OF THE KOREAN TROUBLE.

IT may be assumed that the outlay involved in despatching five thousand troops at a few days notice to Korea and maintaining them there, will cause a heavy drain upon the surplus revenue, concerning the disposal of which there have been such various expressions of opinion. That, however, is but a small part of the loss already incurred by the country in connection with this affair. The dislocation of the coast-carrying trade has been a very serious matter. It has produced great embarrassment in Hokkaido, depreciating the market price of goods for export and appreciating the cost of imported commodities. We read in the vernacular press that whereas the freight of 100 *koku* of fish manure from Hokkaido to Tokyo used to be about 60 *yen*, it has now risen to double that sum, the result being that large quantities have accumulated awaiting carriage, and that the price at the place of production has fallen as much as 20, 30, or even 70 *yen* per 100 *koku*. Fish manure being one of the chief products of Hokkaido, the disastrous local consequences of this state of affairs may well be conceived, and of course the inconvenience entailed upon agriculturists who depend upon a supply of the staple from Hokkaido is also very serious. The coal and rice markets have also been deranged, the former owing to want of transport; the latter partly because the supply of rice usually received from Korea—some 200,000 *koku* annually—has been suspended, and partly because of a sudden demand for export on account of the troops sent to the peninsula. All these indirect losses would doubtless aggregate a considerable figure.

UNUSUAL PRECAUTION.

THE *Sho Nippon* was recently very much astonished to receive an admonitory call from a police inspector. The somewhat unwelcome visitor requested to be shown the copy of the next day's issue, which was, under protest, thereupon exhibited. After a cursory glance, the inspector asked if any paragraph relating to Mr. Ito Myoji was to appear? If so, he added, the paper was at once to come under the ban of suspension. The editors were outraged at this apparently high handed proceeding, all the more so as "Mr. Ito is a public character about whom paragraphs frequently appear,"—to quote the *Sho Nippon's* words. A representative of the paper at once repaired to the Central Police Office, and begged to be told why this arbitrary step had been taken, as it appeared wholly inexplicable. He then learned that Mr. Ito had been told that a certain most libellous letter concerning himself had been forwarded to the office of the *Sho Nippon*; that it was out of sheer kindness to the paper that the warning had been given, for the police authorities had feared the editors would give injudicious publicity to the scandal which, in consideration of the position held by Mr. Ito Myoji, would have led to immediate unfortunate consequences. It appeared, however, that no such communication had been received by the editors, and so the matter ended. But from the tone in which the *Sho Nippon* relates this rather incredible story, it is plain that the editors were deeply vexed with the whole affair, especially considering the visit of the police inspector and his arbitrary manner as an infringement of their personal rights. Yet if the facts are as they are given, any unbiassed person would hold that the *Sho Nippon* should have been grateful for the timely warning against publishing what would have resulted in a suit for libel with heavy damages, not to speak of suspension.

JAPANESE PEOPLE AND FRENCH LITERATURE.

A RECENT number of the *Waseda Bungaku*, which occupies the foremost place among literary journals in Japan, contains a report of a lecture delivered on the above subject at the Waseda Semmon Gakko, by Prof. Michel Revon of the Imperial University. After expressing thanks for the invitation from the School to address the students on a literary subject, he proceeded to argue that, of all the literatures in the world it is in the French that the Japanese people will find a spirit most congenial with their own. The two nations are very much like each other, having the same excellences and defects. "You have," he says, "all the beautiful traits that characterize us, and all the imperfections that belong to us. You are a mirror in which we Frenchmen find the reflection of our own selves." Of the good qualities possessed in common by

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the two nations, the Professor mentions three. The first is freedom from sordid vices. "You, Gentlemen," said the lecturer, "despise money, as much as we do. When we get money, our delight is to throw it out of the window. When we lose our fortune we merely say '*Tant pis*,' and under similar circumstances you say "*shikata ga nai*.' We both inherit the same contempt for usurers." The next good quality possessed by the two peoples in common is chivalry. Like their forefathers, the Frenchmen of to-day are ever ready to curb the strong and help the weak. They are truly "children of Europe"; they are often rash and thoughtless, but it is the result of their excessive kindness and goodness of heart. The virtue of chivalry is equally possessed by the Japanese who inherit this quality from their feudal ancestors. Mr. Revon was sorry that Japan was not in Europe. Had she been a European Power, Frenchmen would have received her with open arms. Another point of similarity between the two nations is their being distinguished for heroism. The history of both countries is equally the history of heroism. He then went on to point out some of the bad qualities common to the Japanese and his own countrymen. Frenchmen are criticised by other nations as being fickle and fond of novelty. This criticism, said the lecturer, was in some respect true. Some persons also say that Frenchmen are immoral; Frenchmen are lively and are fond of pleasure, but their vices are not fundamental. They are at bottom pure and noble. In these respects, the Japanese, in his opinion, resembled the French. Thus, in point of natural characteristics, the Japanese and the French were declared to be twin nations. In literature, also, they must be twins, if they are not already so. Of all forms of national literature in Europe, that of the French alone is, in the lecturer's opinion, suited to the genius of the Japanese people. Of English men of letters, the only one whose writings can thoroughly excite the sympathy of the Japanese is Shakspeare. But then Shakspeare was not a representative Englishman. How is German literature? It is as uncongenial to the Japanese mind as the English. So, too, the Italian. It is in the French literature that the Japanese will find thought and sentiments most congenial to their minds. The lecturer, therefore, earnestly advised his hearers to study the French language and literature, so that the two nations, born so much alike, may for ever progress hand in hand. Such in brief is the gist of the interesting lecture by Professor Revon. Of course our very brief *resumé* does not do full justice, either to the speech as originally delivered, or to the very carefully prepared report of it published in the *Waseda Bungaku*.

THE ORCHID CRAZE.

LIKE the tulip-mania in Holland, there are certain fads that, from time to time, become immensely popular with the Japanese. Some years ago lop-eared rabbits fetched enormous prices, the length of the ear determining the value of the animal. The ground-pine or *omoto* (*Rhodea japonica*) is another universal favourite, foolishly extravagant figures being given for rare varieties. The *omoto* is not at best a very attractive plant. Its dark-green lanceolate leaves are pretty, but nothing more. Yet it is the accidental markings found on these leaves that make the *Rhodea* so sought after. Regular white bands following the edges closely, are most esteemed. But from a foreign standpoint the *omoto* has little or nothing to recommend it. Within the last two or three years orchids have become first favourites; and, strange to say, not for the fragrance or beauty of their flowers, but solely for the markings of the leaves. Flower-pots of special shape, almost invariably covered with a black glaze, are made to hold these air-loving flowers, whose growth is very slow—in Japan at all events—and which need careful attention. Until quite recently the favourite variety was one known as *Yamato-nishiki*, "Japan brocade," the leaves being a dark green with horizontal narrow white stripes. As much as 250 *yen* have been paid for a single healthy root. It has been found, however, that this variety is a comparatively hardy and rapid grower, and the market price fell in consequence to about one *yen* fifty *sen* per root. Another sort is the *Rakugioku-gwa*, or "Flower of Gemmeous Delight"—for extremely fanciful names are given to all these varieties. The leaves are broader and shorter, dark green with occasional white spots. The *Koto-nishiki* has a pale green leaf with regular stripes of a very dark green. This is, in our opinion, the most æsthetically coloured of all. The two rarest and therefore highest-priced varieties are now the *Sogenko* and *Kinkazan*, or "Golden-Flower-Mountain." A single root of either of these is worth the sum of six hundred *yen*. Both have rather broad leaves, of variable green, with white markings running parallel to the edges. There is nothing particularly attractive about either. A very excellent work on Japanese and Oriental orchids, with life-size coloured illustrations, was published some six years ago by Mr. Hikida Keizo, one of the authorities on the subject, under the style of *Keirangwa*. Though written in Sinico-Japanese, the book should be interesting to all foreigners on account of its very instructive plates. Not a single flower is depicted in the six volumes, only plants growing in pots of various shapes and sizes, the markings on the leaves being very distinct. But what an Occidental would esteem the very prettiest varieties are sure to be the cheapest and least-valued of the lot. Japanese flower-love and Japanese music are still unintelligible to the average Westerner.

STARVATION IN TOKUSHIMA.

A TELEGRAM relating to the starvation in Minamura (Sammei-mura?), in Miyoshi-*gun*, Tokushima Prefecture, has already been published in these columns. Particulars now to hand show that the condition of the villagers is heartbreaking. The village itself is at best a poverty-stricken place, containing some six hundred houses. The inhabitants cultivate the sweet potato, wild indigo, Indian corn, and a few other cereals in small quantities, subsisting for the most part on a kind of millet (*hiye*, *Panicum framentaceum*). But owing to the severe drought of last summer as well as to the scanty rain-fall this year, they have not been able to produce enough to live on. Out of the total number of dwellings, no less than four hundred are virtually without means of subsistence, while of these, seventy are in a condition of absolute destitution. So desperate is the case of the latter, that the three hundred people inhabiting these wretched houses are barely able to keep soul and body together by eating roots, the bark of trees, and other coarse and inedible things. Even these sources of food are giving out, so that the poorest are compelled to eat wheat and buckwheat husks and, in extreme cases, chopped straw. The appearance of the villagers is described as terrible: their faces are livid and their abdomens unnaturally distended. Two have already died of sheer starvation, as we have already mentioned, and now there is not a house in the village in which some sufferers are not lying in the last stages of physical exhaustion for want of food. The reason why the attention of the public has not been earlier called to the deplorable condition of this village, is said to be that, living in a remote and out-of-the-way place, the inhabitants are honest, simple-minded folk, who deem it a disgrace to receive relief from others. So deeply has this sentiment taken root in their mind that the members of a family who have accepted alms in any form are henceforth considered beyond the pale of village society, and the brand of shame is put upon not only them but their descendants for several generations. Each household, therefore, endeavours to conceal its distress until concealment is no longer possible, and it is for this reason that the public has hitherto not become aware of the facts in the case. The necessity for relief being so urgent, a member of the local assembly, representing the *gun* in question, has appeared before the *Kencho* and requested the adoption of immediate remedial measures. A local secretary has been despatched to report on the actual condition of the villagers, while several benevolent persons are endeavouring to start subscriptions for the relief of the starving and destitute.

A CURIOUS FALL.

THE brutality of a Japanese *betto* this morning nearly met with its own reward. An undersized pony, a mere bag of bones, was harnessed to a dray cart waiting on the other side of Hanazono-bashi, and the driver amused himself between whiles in flicking the poor beast with his whip. The patience of the pony at last became exhausted and it suddenly started off to the edge of the Creek, where it tried to stop; but the weight of the cart carried the animal over, precipitating it and the driver on to some logs below, the pony turning a complete summersault. Fortunately the harness was broken by the strain and the cart did not follow, otherwise there must have been some broken bones. As it was, neither man nor beast was much injured.

DISTURBANCE IN KAJIBASHI PRISON.

THE *Kokkai* says that shortly after nine o'clock on the morning of the 13th inst. a great disturbance broke out in Kajibashi Prison, Tokyo, six noted felons attempting to break from gaol. The men behaved in a very excited manner, and broke windows, damaged walls, etc. They called to the prisoners, who were outside the cells, to assist them to accomplish their design. Uchiyama, a jailer, who ran up upon hearing the noise was seriously assaulted. Two jailers came to his assistance with drawn-swords, and three of the gaol-breakers were cut down, while three others were deeply wounded. The latter are not expected to recover. The tumult was subsequently quelled.

THE EPIDEMIC AT THE MILITARY SCHOOLS.

THE report circulated by the Tokyo News Agency about the outbreak of an epidemic at the Shikan Gakko and the Yonen Gakko, seems to have been exaggerated. Inquiries instituted by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* at the War Office have elicited the fact that, although about 70 of the students have been attacked by the epidemic since the 11th instant and are being tended at a temporary hospital in the former barracks of the Imperial Guards at Kasumigaseki, the disease is not of any extraordinary nature, being merely a form of dysentery produced by cold. No death has thus far resulted from the epidemic.

PROMPT GENEROSITY.

WHILE crossing Ogawa-machi in Kanda District, the other day, an old, poorly dressed woman came into violent collision with a passing *jinrikisha*, was overturned and quite badly hurt. The usual crowd gathered around her while she painfully struggled to her feet, but while many seemed to pity none offered to help her. Suddenly a gentleman forced his way through the idle group, helped the old woman to hobble off and handed her a five *yen* bill. It was done in a moment, but the generous stranger had been recognised. The friend in need was Kawada Kaichiro, President of the Nippon Ginko.

A NEW OFFICE.

WE published some time ago a rumour that the Government contemplated creating a new office in the Department of Home Affairs, that of Inspecting Engineer. An Imperial Ordinance has now been issued authorizing the appointment of such an official. His title is to be *Doboku Gikan*, Inspecting Engineer, and his functions, which are to be performed under instructions from the Minister and Vice-Minister of State for Home Affairs in connection with the Engineering Bureau, are to be the direction and inspection of Engineering projects and works throughout the Empire.

THE "DON JUAN DE AUSTRIA."

THE Spanish man-of-war *Don Juan de Austria*, Captain Don Jose Padrinan, which arrived here on Thursday, is an unarmoured cruiser of 1,130 tons displacement, built of iron in 1887. Her length is 210ft. with a beam of 32ft.; she draws 12ft. 6in. and has an indicated horse-

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power of 1,600, her speed being 14 knots. Her armament comprises three 6-in. b.l.r., and two 3½-in. b.l.r., with 5 machine guns, and two fish torpedo tubes.

BARON BIEGELEBEN.

NEWS has been received in Tokyo of the engagement of His Excellency Baron Biegeleben, formerly Austro-Hungarian representative at the Court of Japan, to Baroness Bertha Kübeck, daughter of the former Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to the Vatican. The maiden name of the young lady's mother is Countess de Salignac-Fénélon. Many hearty wishes for Baron Biegeleben's happiness will be evoked in Japan by the news.

AN INFANT PHENOMENON.

THE *bonâ fide* birth of a very remarkable infant is recorded in Toyama Prefecture, medical men of note attesting the fact. The head is unusually large without being hydrocephalous; the hands and fingers are of great length, the second or middle finger on each hand measuring nearly five inches; while the left foot is thrice the size of the right. This curious child is said to be in perfect health.

MILITARY POSTAL CORRESPONDENCE.

AN Imperial Ordinance has been issued, as a matter of urgency, authorizing the remission of postal charges on all mail matter forwarded by military persons serving abroad. In the case of mail matter sent to such persons, failure to attach sufficient stamps will expose the sender to double payment, as has always been the case.

ANIMATED CHESS.

We have much pleasure in announcing that the Yokohama community will shortly be treated to a novel and unique public entertainment, namely, an animated game of Chess. The success that recently attended an exhibition of this kind in Hongkong has doubtless spurred to action the prime movers in the present affair, and we are in a position to state that so far as the dresses and the drilling are concerned—and for that matter all the adjuncts and accessories of the game—the entertainment will be carried out in a manner that will leave nothing to be desired. The date at present fixed is for Tuesday, the 26th inst., but remembering that this is the tearful month of June, and that Jupiter Pluvius may on that day be handy with his watering pot, arrangements, will be made so as to bring off the entertainment on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, according to the weather. The game will be played in the Public Gardens on the Bluff, and the proceeds will be devoted to the funds of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

TREATY REVISION.

There is a rumour, says the *Kokumin Shimbun*, that negotiations with England for Treaty Revision have been nearly completed and that those with Russia are making favourable progress. This rumour, in our contemporary's opinion, is incredible except by those that place full confidence in the ability of the present Cabinet. Persons less credulous about the Ito Administration's competence are inclined to think that the statesmen now in power will resign so soon as the treaty now in process of negotiation with the British Government shall have been signed and ratified, because it is beyond their power to effect revision with other states. On the authority of a certain individual who has just returned from London, our contemporary asserts that England is now very anxious to cultivate Japan's friendship. It is, however, a question how far the British Government may be disposed to translate this desire into action, and how far Japan may be competent to take advantage of such a unique opportunity. The *Kokumin's* informant saw the Japanese Minister in London once or twice, but could obtain no information from Viscount Aoki, who preserves strict secrecy on the subject. From the rigid silence maintained by those concerned, it is inferred that the new treaty is not all that could be desired.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* states that, according to the opinion of a certain person well acquainted with Government secrets, the negotiations with England and Russia for Treaty Revision are expected to be satisfactorily concluded before the next session of the Diet. As to France, although she was at one time unfavourably disposed toward Japan, she is now quite willing to open negotiations. Our contemporary does not seem to believe these reports. As for us, we reproduce them simply that our readers may know what the vernacular press is saying about this hacknied topic. Treaty Revision is a perpetual resource to the newsmongers. The less they know about it, the more latitude there is for invention.

COUNT OKUMA ON THE KOREAN QUESTION.

Count Okuma has published his views on the Korean Question in the columns of his organ, the *Hochi Shimbun*. Korea, he says, now engrosses public attention, and everybody is discussing the policy that ought to be pursued toward that country. There is, however, no necessity either to indicate a policy or to criticise the erroneous measures taken by the Government in the past. Only one policy can and ought to be followed by Japan toward Korea. In order to define that policy, it is not necessary to refer to events of far off ages, such as the conquest of the Peninsula by the Empress Jingo and its invasion by Hideyoshi's generals. Sufficient for present purposes is it to call to memory what Japan has done for Korea in recent years. It was Japan that first opened the Hermit Kingdom to the beneficent influence of modern civilization, and Japan also introduced Korea to the world as an independent State. Such being the honourable relationship in which Japan stands towards Korea, it is the former's duty to lead the little Kingdom along the paths of civilization and help it to grow in prosperity and power. Thus Japan's duty is to suffer no other Power to retard the progress or endanger the independence of Korea. Such is not only her duty but also her interest, for with Korea's territorial integrity are bound up the dearest interests of this Empire. As to the men now in arms against the Söul Government, Count Okuma does not possess sufficient knowledge of their character and aims to risk any prophecy about their success. That the Government troops have been repeatedly defeated may prove that those troops are hopelessly weak and inefficient, but does not necessarily prove that the *Togaku-to* adherents are a powerful body. So, at the present stage of the trouble, it is too early to conclude, as some people do, that the insurgents are bent upon, and have the ability to effect, the re-organization of their country's Government. Should they possess such competence, nothing could be more beneficial to Korea. If they be, on the contrary, a mere mob without any elevated political aims, then the trouble they are causing must be regarded as a grave calamity to the country, and the sooner they are suppressed, the better for Korea. Count Okuma is much exercised about the news that China's aid has been requested by the Korean Government. But what has been done cannot be undone. He can only hope that greater vigilance will be employed in future by the Japanese Government. Moreover, if the *Togaku-to* insurgents be a mere mob, it would be better that they were quickly put down even by the aid of Chinese troops, than that they should be suffered to annoy the peaceful inhabitants of the peninsula for an indefinite length of time. Some people fear that, if Chinese troops be suffered to suppress the insurrection, China may attempt either to annex Korea or at least to interfere with the latter's domestic affairs to an extent injurious to Japan's interests. In Count Okuma's opinion there is not the slightest ground for such apprehension. The independence of Korea is as important to China as it is to Japan. China is as much interested as Japan in protecting that independence. Should she, however, in utter disregard of her own and Japan's interests, take any step prejudicial to the maintenance of Korean independence, she would have to encounter the deadly opposition of Japan. There is not, says the Count, a single great man worth speaking of in China. But dull as they are, Chinese statesmen have intelligence enough to perceive what disastrous consequences must necessarily follow the pursuit of a policy inimical to Korea's independence. Apart from the consideration of the severe chastisement which Japan would not fail to administer to her, China ought to take timely warning from her own history. For the fall of the Sui dynasty was chiefly attributable to the exhaustion of its energies in endless wars with Korea. Moreover, the peninsula Kingdom being on the whole a barren and impoverished country, its annexation would bring little advantage to China. These things, says Count Okuma, must be apparent even to the Chinese statesmen. In guarding her interests in Korea, Japan will not make any distinction between China and other Powers, such as England, Russia, and so forth. Whatever Power interferes with Japanese interests must be prepared to encounter a resolute and desperate resistance on the part of this Empire. Such being the plain course of action to be pursued by Japan in Korea, it will not do, says Count Okuma, for her statesmen to be alarmed and frightened by any turn of events in the peninsula. Here follows a curious paragraph, which is rendered entirely incomprehensible by the insertion of a chain of little circles at the most important point. The topic is about the *Togaku-to*, and it is not inconceivable that the Count may have intended to express some sympathy with the insurgents. He then proceeds to call upon the Cabinet to do something to retrieve the country's honour, which was disgraced by the fatal errors of 1884. The time has at last arrived for Japan to wipe away the disgrace of that year. The present disturbance in Korea may end without developing any serious crises. But the Government has received a sharp stimulus, the effects of which must be skilfully utilized by the people. It being reported that the Government has despatched a force of between 4,000 and 5,000 troops to Korea, the Count remarks that such a large body of men would not have been sent had the object been simply to afford protection to Japanese residents in that country. By making a judicious use of the present unique opportunity, it will be possible, he thinks, for the Japanese Government to retrieve all past errors and make the Empire respected and feared not only by Korea but also by the rest of the world.

CHARITY PERFORMANCES AT THE KABUKIZA.

The charity performances given at the Kabukiza for five days commencing from the 15th instant in aid of the Red Cross Hospital, seem to have been specially chosen for the enjoyment of foreigners. Of the eight acts mentioned in our advertisement columns, three are from the "Loyal Ronin;" two are adapted from Lytton's "Money;" one is from the "Kwanjincho," a drama simple and readily comprehensible after a short explanation, while the remaining two are a species of opera, dancing accompanied with singing. Of the three acts from the "Loyal Ronin," the first represents the identification of the helmet of Yoshisada by Kawoyo (Fukusuke) the wife of Enya Hangwan, and the criminal love of Kono Moronao (Danjuro) for that lady. The second represents the scene where Momonoi Wakasanosuke (Shinzo) is about to kill Moronao against whom he entertains a grudge, but is turned from his purpose by the servile humility of Moronao. The third shows the fighting, and is the last but one in the play. The loyal band break into the house of Moronao, to revenge the death of their lord, and a fierce combat ensues between a party of the band and two of the most courageous retainers of Moronao, Koba-

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yashi Heibachiro (Yaozo) and Shimidzu Ikkaku (Matsusuke). Kobayashi is in female garb. In that disguise he has just repaired to a neighbour's residence to ask him to take charge of his child, and returning he encounters the intruders. He fights with two swords, one in each hand, and it is with great difficulty that several of the loyal retainers, desperate as they are, succeed in overcoming him. In the meanwhile others of the band have discovered the retreat of their foe, Moronao, whose head they bring into the presence of Yuranosuke (Danjuro). Yuranosuke washes the head and then addresses some apologetic remarks to it, for having wreaked upon it vengeance for the death of the Ronins' chief.

"Kwanjincho" is one of the plays in which Danjuro most exels. It was in fact adapted for the stage by him out of a "No" performance, and no other actor is permitted to play it unless with the special consent of Danjuro. The plot is simple. Yoshitsune and his faithful retainers are on their way to Oshiu in the disguise of pilgrims, flying from his brother Yoritomo, who, jealous of Yoshitsune's fame and fearful of his ability, seeks to compass his death on a slight pretext. Master and retainers arrive at the barrier of Ataka where Tokachi Sayemon, an officer appointed by Yoritomo, has instructions to keep strict watch on all travellers, especially those disguised as pilgrims, and to seize Yoshitsune and his retainers should they make their appearance. The fugitives arrive at the barrier led by Benkei, and ask permission to pass through. Togachi suspects that this must be the party of Yoshitsune and refuses to give them passage. Benkei protests that they are really pilgrims travelling to raise contributions for the Todai Temple in Nara, and in a proof of his statement produces a scroll, which, though really blank, he alleges to be letters patent from the Imperial Court. With all solemnity he raises the scroll aloft and reads a writ which, with prompt tact, he has composed there and then. Togachi, who sympathises at heart with the misfortune of Yoshitsune and his faithful retainers, is glad that Benkei has furnished a pretext in virtue of which he may suffer the party to pass. He says that he is satisfied and will permit them to go unmolested. But one of the guards declares that the youngest pilgrim, who occupies the lowest place in the party, bears a close resemblance to Yoshitsune whom he has seen before; whereupon Benkei turns round, assumes an air of great wrath towards the young pilgrim, insults him rudely, and even goes so far as to beat him soundly, on the ground that he perpetually causes trouble to the party. This settles the question. It can not be supposed that such treatment would be extended to the real Yoshitsune. The fugitives are suffered to pass. Safe beyond the barrier Benkei, with tears, earnestly apologises for what he, a retainer, has done to his master, while Yoshitsune, on his part, also with tears, thanks Benkei for his faithful loyalty. Togashi then arrives upon the scene, no longer as the barrier captain ready to seize the party, but as a private individual, to apologise for his conduct and to condole with Yoshitsune and his followers on their ill-starred fate. He has brought with him some wine to drink their health. Overjoyed at the gallant courtesy of the captain of the gate and at having safely passed though, Benkei rises and proceeds to perform a congratulatory dance, during which the curtain drops. In this play Danjuro acts the part of Benkei; Yaozo, one of his foremost disciples, that of Togachi; and Fukusuke that of Yoshitsune. They are the best actors now in Japan in those respective parts.

Lytton's "Money" was adapted to the Japanese stage by Mr. Fukuchi Danichiro, and the late celebrated playwright Mokuami. It was put upon the stage a few years ago and proved a great success.

Among the dancers in the operatic piece are Danjuro's two daughters. They are being trained for the stage, and will be the first women who have acted in company with men for nearly 300 years.

THE ADVOCATES OF A STRONG FOREIGN POLICY.

The advocates of a strong foreign policy held lecture meetings on two consecutive days, the 7th and 8th instant, at the Kinki-kan, Kanda, Tokyo. It had been advertised that as many as forty-eight speakers would address the meeting on the two days. But, as always happens on such occasions, only about one-fourth of the number appeared on the platform. Moreover, those who did speak were, for the most part, youths that have yet to make their names in politics. Still, there were on both days a few speakers of note, such as Messrs. Ozaki Yukio, Shiga Shigetaka, and Koizuka Ryu on the 8th, and Messrs. Ooka Ikuzo and Otsu Junichiro on the 9th. Several of the speeches were stopped by the police, but the meetings came off without any serious mishap. Some of the speakers, as Messrs. Kashiwada Moribumi, ex-M.P., Ida Tamesaburo, and so forth, attached much importance to the question of Strict Treaty Enforcement, but the majority attacked the Cabinet on the general question of foreign policy, criticising that policy as weak and over-conciliatory. A few also directed their criticisms against the Radical Party, denouncing it as a subservient tool of the Government. The Opposition papers speak of these lecture meetings as very grand affairs, but our own impression of them is different. In truth they are little better than a farce. Attended by only a few men of substance, their principal patrons students from private schools, idle folks without any occupation, and country people on a visit to the capital, it is difficult to discover any element of "greatness" in such demonstrations. There was nothing in the meetings of the 7th and 8th instant to distinguish them from ordinary political gatherings. They have practically no importance except as a means of imposing upon simple minded people in the provincial districts, who, reading highly coloured reports in the papers, naturally imagine that the metropolis is in a ferment of popular excitement about topics that really produce scarcely a ripple upon the calm surface of its existence.

VISCOUNT TANI ON THE KOREAN QUESTION.

At the general meeting of the *Tohô Kyokai* (Oriental Association) held on Sunday last, with Prince Konoye in the chair, Viscount Tani delivered a lecture on the Korean question. In view of the present bearings of the question he was naturally guarded in his language, but he said enough to convey a pretty clear idea of his views. He set out by calling attention to the importance of the Japanese Government's deliberately choosing a definite line of policy to be pursued in connection with the crisis in the peninsula Kingdom. He then went on to dicruss the circumstances that led to the failure of Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea in the closing years of the 16th century. The invading army carried everything before it, and at one time nearly overran the whole peninsula. But after seven years of devastating warfare, the invaders had to abandon their project. Two reasons are assigned by Viscount Tani for the failure of the Japanese army to complete the conquest of Korea; namely, China's interference, and the inability of the invaders to win the goodwill of the native population sufficiently to establish stable civil government in the conquered districts. Of these two causes, the latter was evidently considered by the speaker more worthy of attention than the other. In those days, the Korean people were well affected towards their rulers, and the whole nation was combined in resisting, feebly, it is true, but steadily and perseveringly, the arms of the invading Japanese. The official class possessed sufficient patriotism to die for the sake of their country, and the people sufficient loyalty toward the reigning dynasty to refuse to transfer their allegiance to a foreign master. Things are now in a very different condition in the peninsula. The official class is so degenerate that, in Viscount Tani's opinion, it does not contain a single man brave enough to die for his country and his sovereign. There is no community of interest between the ruling class and the people. How far the Government has alienated the hearts of its subjects may be judged from the rapid development of the present trouble. On the other hand, as to China's disposition to interfere with any foreign Power's designs upon Korea, it remains now as strong as in the days of Hideyoshi. China is as jealous as ever of any increase of Japan's influence in the peninsula. Her object in sending troops to Korea in the present instance must be to thwart the supposed aggressive policy of Japan and once for all to place the peninsula in a definite relationship of dependency toward herself. Hence Japan, since she too has despatched a force to Korea, should be prepared for whatever emergency may arise hereafter. Passing to practical questions, Viscount Tani asked whether the Japanese troops are to stand idle, in case the Chinese fight against the rebels. Supposing the rebels appeal to the protection of the Japanese forces, should the latter refuse to give them any active support? When these questions and a thousand others of similar nature are considered, it will be discovered, says the Viscount, how delicate and grave an undertaking Japan has entered into. The Japanese Government must not rely upon the good offices of the Representative of any third party. Japan must be prepared to meet single-handed and bravely whatever dangerous crisis may be developed in the peninsula. As to the rebellion in Korea, Viscount Tani has little doubt that sooner or later it will be put down. Nothing, in his opinion, can be more disastrous for the sake of Korea and also of Japan than a speedy suppression of the rebellion. The longer it continues and the stronger it grows, the better, he thinks, for both countries. This strange opinion was expressed by the Viscount at the close of his speech. It is not difficult to divine his meaning. A great many Japanese have grown tired of peace. The luxury of tranquillity was never keenly appreciated by this brave, restless people, and nothing could be more welcome to them at present than an opportunity to vary by a foreign campaign the monotomy of domestic bickerings and political squabbles.

THE KOREAN INSURGENTS AND THE JAPANESE PUBLIC.

It is an indisputable fact that a large section of the public in this country is in sympathy with the Korean insurgents. Question any intelligent Japanese on the subject, you will find him in nine out of ten cases advocating strong views as to the necessity of preventing the Chinese troops from intervening between the aggrieved Korean people and their oppressors. Leave these unhappy people free to work out their own salvation, and, if necessary, use force against whomsoever may attempt to interfere with Korea's internal affairs—such is the opinion freely expressed in private by the majority of the educated class in Japan.

These views have of course been reflected from the platform and the press, though in public people are naturally more guarded about expressing themselves. Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, however, has been very outspoken on the subject. At a recent meeting of the *Tôhô Kyokai* (Oriental Association), on the same occasion that Viscount Tani delivered a speech already noticed in these columns, Mr. Taguchi gave an address in which he urged his countrymen to organize a volunteer corps and assist the Korean people now in arms against their oppressors. These people had not risen for the sake of any fixed political principles, but nevertheless they were worthy of pity and sympathy, for, said the distinguished economist, they had been driven to desperation by the unbearable extortion and mal-administration of the officials of the Min faction. Should China attempt in any way to injure the independence of Korea, the Japan-

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ese Government should assist Korea to preserve her integrity unimpaired. Japan ought also to oppose whatever action of China might tend to impair Japanese interests in the peninsular kingdom. The speaker illustrated his point by reference to the history of the Eastern question in Europe, especially with regard to England's conduct against Russia. Lastly, he appealed to the chivalry of his countrymen to go over to Korea and volunteer their services in the rebel camp.

Among the metropolitan papers, several have openly expressed sympathy with the insurgents. The *Nippon*, for instance, observes their if rumour may be trusted the people now in arms must be regarded as the saviours of their nation from the yoke of its corrupt and oppressive rulers. But even supposing that the reports thus far obtained about the *Togaku-to* insurgents are greatly exaggerated, it cannot for one moment be imagined that they are merely a collection of lawless rabble. It must at least be conceded that they have been forced to appeal to arms as the only means of escaping from the intolerable tyranny of their rulers. As such we must pity and sympathize with them. "In our country," says the *Nippon* in conclusion, "there were, more than twenty years ago, a large number of men in a position somewhat similar to that of the present *Togaku-to* insurgents in Korea. In what a different situation are the same men now in this country? We cannot help thinking that they sympathize with the *Togaku-to*. If not, they must be denounced as inhuman."

The *Mainichi Shimbun* believes that the Korean Government is originally responsible for the present disturbance. "We wish," says our contemporary, "to give assistance to the *Togaku-to*, and we hope that a similar attitude will be taken by our Government. We do not, however, mean to suggest that the Government should render assistance to the insurgents in arms and provisions. What we mean is that all possible moral and indirect help should be given them. · · · · The *Togaku-to* may be rebels in the eyes of Korean officials, but they are the true lovers of their country and its people. · · · · We hope that any attempt on China's part to assist the Korean officials in putting down the insurrection will be resisted by our Government. Should the insurrection be suppressed by the Korean Government, efforts ought to be made by the Japanese Government to prevent the wanton punishment of innocent people as well as any needlessly inhuman treatment of the rebel leaders." In conclusion, the *Mainichi* calls upon its countrymen to show sympathy with the *Togaku-to*. "Take steps, you valiant sons of Japan, to help the weak and curb the strong, to espouse the cause of the just against that of the unjust."

The *Chu-o Shimbun* thinks that the *Togaku-to* may be regarded in the light of a revolutionary party. Quoting the manifesto issued by the insurgents, our contemporary remarks that their aim is plainly to rescue themselves from the yoke of degenerate and oppressive officials. They also seem to be sincerely concerned about the broader interests and independence of their country. Such being the case, the *Chu-o* thinks itself safe in declaring that the men now in arms against the Söul authorities are true lovers of their country. Their rising may be considered as the advent of an opportunity to effect the regeneration of Korea. The *Chu-o's* essay is not yet concluded. But judging from what has thus far been published, there seems to be little doubt as to the line of policy which our contemporary intends to suggest to the Japanese Government.

One man's idea of sport may be wholly different from that of another man, but the result, as a rule, is the same—healthy exercise and pure pleasure. To one, when fly-fishing in America, there once came a native who, after gravely watching him in silence, thus delivered himself—"Say, cunn'l, what's the p'int of slinging a bug on a twenty-foot pole when you can yank 'em out with a stick and a worm?"

THE JAPANESE PRESS AND THE KOREAN AFFAIR.

Messrs. Shiga Shigetaka and Suyehiro Shigeyasu, as representatives of the Journalistic League, called at the Departments of War and of the Navy on the 12th instant. At the former they saw General Kodama, Vice-Minister of War; while at the latter they interviewed Mr. Toki, Private Secretary of the Minister of the Navy. They requested first, that, as far as possible, the newspapers be allowed to publish information about the movements of the troops; secondly, that even facts which cannot be published should be made known to leading journalists for their private information; and thirdly, that foreign journals published in the Settlements be placed under rigid restraint. So far as the first two points are concerned, the journalistic deputation are said to have been assured that their desire would be complied with before long. As to the last point, namely, the control of foreign journals, the officials are said to have replied that the matter is now under consideration in their respective Departments. Messrs. Shiga and Suyehiro are reported to have stated that the foreign newspapers in the Settlements, especially the *Japan Gazette* of Yokohama, are daily publishing with perfect impunity military secrets which their Japanese contemporaries are strictly forbidden to insert.

Concerning the question of controlling foreign journals published in this country, the *Nippon* strongly blames the authorities for negligence. In a juncture like the present, it says, the Government ought to take effective measures against the publication of military secrets by foreign journals in the settlements. Consular Jurisdiction does not absolve such journals from the duty of observing administrative regulations applicable to Japanese newspapers. Since the Japanese press was placed under strict restraint about Military and Naval Affairs, the papers in the Settlements, says the *Nippon*, have on several occasions published matters, which, if they appeared in any Japanese journal, would have immediately exposed it to a heavy fine. Why this most improper partiality to papers published by foreigners, asks over contemporary. The control of such papers is of most importance at the present juncture, for they are read principally by foreigners both in this country and abroad and consequently are more liable to make mischief than their Japanese contemporaries. The *Nippon* vehemently urges upon the Government the vital importance of exercising effective control over the journals in the Settlements.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

The Japanese Government has authorized the press to announce that, in view of the growing disquiet in Korea, it has been decided to send troops to that country to afford protection to the Japanese Legation, Consulates, and residents. Writing on this subject, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says:—"The Government having decided to despatch troops to Korea, the bank of the Han river will feel, in a few days, the tramp of our advancing army. We hear that Chinese troops also are about to enter the peninsula Kingdom. May our well disciplined army soon return home, bringing with it peace and honour. The object of sending troops to Korea is primarily to protect our countrymen there, and no sinister motive is entertained against that country. Hence it goes without saying that, so soon as order shall have been restored in the peninsula, the Japanese and Chinese troops, in accordance with the Tientsin Convention, will sail home simultaneously. We sincerely hope that the step just taken by the Japanese and Chinese Governments may stop at the restoration of the *status quo ante*. Should anything happen, however, to imperil the independence of Korea, it would be incumbent upon Japan, in pursuance of her long-standing policy, to defend the peninsula Kingdom against such a danger. In case of necessity, a Congress of the Powers interested might be convened to establish Korea's position as a neutral State, and thereby to prevent her being placed under the protection of any one Power. Of the States interested in Korea, Japan and China alone have at present conventional agreements about that country. We entertain the hope that the present affair may be satisfactorily ended by amicable arrrangement between the two Empires, without leading to complications with any third Power. Such being the object of sending troops to Korea, and such the policy Japan pursues toward that country, our military and naval officers in command of the forces in the peninsula are bound to make peace the principal object of their actions. In case they are asked to undertake the subjugation of the rebels, they should be brave and prompt in the discharge of their duties. But in undertaking such a task, they ought to remember that, excepting the leaders, all the insurgents should be treated leniently; that, apart from cases where prompt action is necessary, the conduct of affairs should be left, as far as possible, to the discretion of the Korean Government, and that they should endeavour to avoid collisions with the troops of any other foreign country taking part in putting down the insurrection. With respect to matters such as may seem to be fraught with important and far-reaching consequences, the commanders of the Japanese forces should exercise all possible care, so that, on the one hand, Japan's disinterested and chivalrous motives may be appreciated by Korea and by all other countries, and on the other, her position as the leading Power in the Orient may be maintained. In such a manner alone will it be possible to carry out consistently the policy decided upon by our Government. Should any Power attempt to execute an aggressive design, the simple course for Japan would be to assist Korea and prevent the consummation of such an object. In this respect, Japan will not hesitate to fight with any Power. It is of course impossible to lay down a hard-and-fast line of conduct in matters relating to foreign countries. We have ventured to offer the above suggestions in view of this Empire's general policy, which does not aim at aggrandizement in Korea. But it is far from our intention to hamper the actions of our officers sent there."

Other papers comment on the same subject, but we do not think it necessary to reproduce their remarks, as they are, for the most part, mere repetitions of articles lately and more than once noticed in these columns.

It may interest our readers to learn the exact language of the announcement officially made to the vernacular press. It is this:—"An insurrection has broken out in Korea and grows more and more formidable. Moreover, the Government of that country does not seem competent to suppress the trouble easily. Therefore troops have been despatched to Korea for the purpose of protecting the Legation, Consulates, and subjects of Japan in that Kingdom. The Chinese Government has intimated to the Japanese Government that it has sent troops to Korea. The Government of this empire, on its part, immediately on despatching troops to Korea, conveyed an intimation of the fact to the Government of China."

The Radical Party is said to have adopted the following resolution with regard to the Korean affair:—"This Party will despatch a member to Korea for purposes of observation. A Committee shall also be appointed to wait on the Ministers of State with reference to Korean affairs. Further, the Party shall indicate to its provincial members the policy to be advocated in this matter, and shall adopt whatever measures the circumstances may demand." This is vague enough. It commits the *Jiyu-to* to nothing, and under the circumstances, they are wise not to commit themselves.

The Nationalistic League, which appellation appears to have now been definitely adopted by the Six Sections of the Opposition, has also adopted a resolution with regard to the Korean affair. Its language is more stalwart:—"That Japanese subjects residing in Korea must be protected; that the independence of Korea must

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be preserved, and that any country standing in the way of either of these objects must be thrust aside with all resolution."

The vernacular press, with some show of credence, publishes a rumour that a retired captain of the Japanese army is taking an active part in the Korean insurrection. His name is Yamada Jiro, and he is said to have been obliged to retire from the army owing to financial difficulties. He went to Korea a few years ago, and has not since been heard of. Further particulars of his career are that he is a native of Mayebashi; that he was among the earliest graduates from the *Shikwan Gakko;* that he held the appointment of aide-de-camp to the Military Board of Inspection at the time of his retirement from the service; that he possessed an intimate knowledge of French and Chinese; that being a man of great presence of mind and strength of will, his prospects of promotion were excellent when financial troubles involved him in difficulty and even disgrace; that his retirement occurred four or five years ago; that he was reduced to such straits as to become a waiter in the Tokyo Hotel; that he subsequently found his way to Korea, and there became a banto in a Japanese firm.

It is rumoured that the rebels may probably be aided by another Japanese also—namely, Mr. Okamoto Ryunosuke, who recently came into public notice as having gone to Shanghai to procure the transfer of Kim Ok-Kyûn's corpse to Japan. Originally a Colonel in the Imperial Body Guard, he lost his commission in consequence of having been implicated in the Takebashi military mutiny, which occurred shortly after the suppression of the Satsuma Rebellion. Mr. Okamoto is said to have been bitterly incensed against the Korean Government because of its conduct in connection with Kim's assassination, and it is conjectured that he may have gone to Korea to join the rebels. But both in his case and in that of Captain Yamada, rumour seems to rest on very slight materials.

It is stated that the Japanese authorities have despatched several telegraphic experts to Sôul, but for what precise purpose we do not learn.

Rumour says that the various reverses sustained by the Korean Government's forces were concealed from the King, and his Majesty discovered the seriousness of the crisis only when the peril had attained large dimensions. He is said to have been much incensed against the Chief Minister, Bin Yeishun.

Concerning the despatch of troops to Korea, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has the following note:—"Among foreigners there seem to be some who question Japan's right to send troops to Korea. In case of emergency, Japan is of course free to do so. Further the right not only to send, but also to station, our troops in Korea is recognized by the Chemulpo Convention of August 30th, 1882. Article V. of that instrument provides that Japan shall have the right at any time to station a certain number of troops at her Legation in Sôul in case of emergency; that the erection and repairing of barracks for their accommodation shall be attended to by the Korean Government; and that if, after a period of one year, the Japanese Minister thinks there is no longer any necessity for troops, he may send them home. From this stipulation it is clear that Japan has the right at any time to despatch troops to the peninsula. It is in exercise of this right that an armed force has now been sent to that country. The Tientsin Treaty simply lays upon the high contracting parties the obligation to make a communication of the fact one to the other."

The lively interest which men of all classes and all parties in this country take in the present Korean disturbance and its possible complications, is shown by the number of civilians hurrying to the peninsula. Not a political party or faction has failed to despatch some one to watch the course of events in the peninsula. In addition to those men, many others have left for that country on their own account. Mr. Inagaki Manjiro, author of "Japan and the Pacific," who has been travelling in China, is said tohave turned his steps toward Korea. The hotels in Nagasaki are full of persons on their way to the peninsula. The movements of these camp-followers ought to be strictly watched by the Japanese Authorities, for in the present state of feeling in this country there is reason to apprehend that they may be betrayed into indiscretions involving grave consequences.

Rumour says that among the Korean rebels there is a small party, consisting of about forty persons, who are particularly dreaded by the Government troops on account of their valour and their skill in the use of swords. The members of this party cover their heads with a piece of white cotton cloth, from which circumstance they are popularly called the "White Rose Company." It is surmised that these warriors are all Japanese. The captain of the little force is supposed to be the Yamada (or Tanaka) Jiro above alluded to. As for his followers, they are believed to be *soshi* belonging to the association called *Genyo-sha*. Yamada (or Tanaka), when his fortunes were at their lowest ebb, became *lié* with Toyama Mitsuru, the head of this *Genyo-sha*, and through his influence several youths of the Association accompanied Yamada when the latter went to seek his fortunes in Korea. Toward the close of last year Yamada's friends in Japan are said to have received a letter from him requesting the despatch of a few surgeons to the peninsula. The request was complied with and the surgeons are now supposed to be attending to the wounded in the rebel camp. Another Japanese believed to be with the rebels is a son of the late Prince Shimazu Hisamitsu, of Satsuma. At the time of the Satsuma *emeute* he joined Saigo's party, and after the final defeat of the insurgents, fled to Korea. Rumour makes him now a general in the *Togaku-to* army, but this as well as all the tales about Japanese in the rebel ranks, must be received with extreme caution. The same remark applies to a statement that a number of Russians are with the *Togaku-to*.

From a diary (published in the *To-A Boeki Shimbun* of Fusan) kept by a Japanese sojourning in the rebel districts until quite recently, it appears that the insurgents are not actuated by any hostile sentiments against Japanese or any other foreigners, and their leader is a mere boy of fifteen or sixteen. He is, however, stated to be very precocious, and his followers are said to reverence him as though he were a god.

According to correspondence just received from Sôul, says the *Nichi Nichi*, the Korean people are averse to accepting the assistance offered by China for putting down the rebellion. This sentiment is shared by a large section of the official class in Sôul. But if China wants to make herself the *deus ex machinâ*, Korea, of course, will have no choice but to be complacent.

The *Chosen Shimpo* (a Japanese paper at Ninsen) of the 2nd instant, just to hand, does not contain any statement touching the despatch of troops either from China or Japan. It seems, therefore, that at that date not even the vaguest rumour on the subject had reached Ninsen. On the contrary, our contemporary states that the project of applying for the armed aid of a foreign Power had been rejected by the Sôul Cabinet, and that the policy of conciliating the insurgents by punishing the principal local officials of the disturbed districts had been adopted. In furtherance of this policy, a Royal Proclamation was issued, in which the king acknowledges that the local officials had been guilty of the grossest form of misgovernment, and that in view of this circumstance the discontent of the people is not unreasonable. He promises to deal properly with the culpable officials, and orders the insurgents to go home in peace and resume their respective occupations. Should they refuse to obey the King's gracious order, they are told that they will be abandoned to the fate prescribed by the law of the land.

As to the intentions of the *Togaku-to* insurgents, the *Chosen Shimpo* is inclined to believe that their plan is not to march upon the capital but merely to wreak vengeance upon their local oppressors. They are said to distinguish between the troops sent against them from Sôul and the militia of the locality. Against the former, they are reported to have declared that they will not fight, since they are the King's troops. That, however, is believed by our contemporary to be a mere pretext to avoid a collision that might be disastrous to the development of their plans. At all events, up to the above mentioned date June 2nd, the so-called victories of the insurgents had been gained, according to the *Chosen Shimpo*, not over the regular troops despatched from Sôul but over the local militia. With reference to this topic, however, correspondenta of Japanese papers state that the regular troops, are so afraid of coming into direct contact with the rebels, that they always manage to keep in the rear, leaving the van to the local militia, and that they are the first to fly whenever the fortune of war turns against their side. As to the strength of the rebels, the *Chosen Shimpo* states that, although their numbers are put, even in official reports, at several tens of thousands, a traveller just returned from the disaffected districts estimates their actual strength at about 5,000.

Concerning the attitude of the *Togaku-to* toward foreigners, various reports are circulated. Some say that the expulsion of foreigners constitutes one of their objects. But the truth appears to be that the rebels are not actuated by any anti-foreign sentiment. That is evident from the fact that a certain Japanese was suffered to sojourn in the rebel districts without any molestation for several months. Another instance of the friendly disposition of the Koreans in the rebel districts toward Japanese is reported by the Ninsen paper. At a place called Kôsan, in Zenrado, several Japanese merchants were staying at the time of the outbreak of the present disturbance. An old woman called upon one of them and advised him and his friends to leave the place instantly, saying that the villagers had decided to kill them if they lingered there any longer. This advice may have been well meant, but the old dame's story about the villagers was a pure fiction. On learning what she had said about them, the villagers were highly incensed against her, and in order to convince the Japanese sojourners of their unaltered friendship towards them, the people of the place decided to expel the old woman from the village. This decision was executed in a curious manner. On the back of the unfortunate woman was strapped a drum which the villagers struck, shouting at the top of their voices that the old lady was not to be allowed thereafter to visit any of the houses in the village. In this manner, the procession had nearly reached the limits of the village, when the Japanese merchants, taking pity on the old woman, prevailed upon the villagers to re-admit her into their community. The incident is said to have materially promoted friendly intercourse between the Japanese traders and the Korean population.

The capture of the stronghold at Zenshu by the rebels, about which telegraphic intelligence was published a few days ago, is described by the *Chosen Shimpo* in some detail. The officer in command of the garrison at Zenshu, aware of the insufficiency of the force at his disposal, issued a proclamation calling upon the militia of the district to repair to the barracks. This was immediately responded to by the militia who began to arrive in groups of thirty to forty. One day there arrived a party of 150 militia. They were admitted into the barracks by the commanding officer without any suspicision. Shortly afterwards a large body of troops, including the above mentioned militia party of 150, was despatched from the garrison to attack the rebel forces at Chôjô. This was on the 31st ultimo. On their way, the Government troops were met by the rebels, and, at a given signal, the militia separated to the right and left and turned upon their late comrades. Attacked on three sides, the Government troops were soon put to flight, about 400 of them being killed. The victorious rebels at once marched upon the stronghold at Zenshu, and carried it without much difficulty.

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This was the first decisive victory obtained by the rebels over the regular troops. The fort at Zenshu is compared to the Castle of Kumamoto at the time of the Satsuma Rebellion. Its fall may be said to have opened for the rebels an easy route to the capital. The news of this disastrous event is said to have caused intense excitement in Söul. The *Chosen Shimpo* says that the soldiers in the capital actually cried with fear and consternation. Great efforts are said to have been made by the Korean Government to prevent the news of the Zenshu affair from reaching the ears of Japanese newspaper correspondents.

A telegram received in Tokyo from Söul, dated the 8th instant, says that the Government troops marched on the evening of the 7th against the rebel camp at Chôjô. The rebels evacuated the place without offering any resistance, and joined the garrison at Zenshu. The Government troops at once marched upon the latter place and challenged the garrison to fight, but the rebels declined to leave the shelter of the works.

The boarding of the steamship *Kan-yo* by the rebels has already been briefly noticed. A detailed report is published for the first time by the *Chosen Shimpo*. On the 8th ultimo, this vessel left Ninsen with Government troops, together with another steamship, the *Soryu*, and the Chinese war vessel *Hei-yen*. After the troops had been landed at Gensan, the vessel was despatched to Hosei to ship some tribute rice. She had on board a revenue official named Tei Manki, whose tyrannous conduct was well known in that part of the country. When the ship arrived at Hosei, a messenger came on board requesting the captain (a Japanese) to repair at once to the office of the local magistrate. During his absence, the ship was boarded by about 300 *Togaku-to* adherents. They demanded the delivery of the hated official Tei, but the crew (Japanese) said that he was not on board. The rebels at once secured the crew and, searching the ship, found Tei hiding among the coals. He and another official, Kim Shin-ya, were secured with straw ropes, and taken ashore. Tei was then bound on the back of a horse with his face upwards. It is believed that he was shot in that position while on the way to Kan-pei, the head-quarters of the rebels. As to Kim, it is expected that, as he has not done anything to excite the hatred of the people, he will be released from captivity. The captain of the vessel, who had been enticed away, returned soon afterwards, and the ship at once left the port in the direction of Gun-san. The Japanese crew who were seized by the rebels, are said to have been left on board, but they were severely beaten for having attempted to conceal Tei.

The *Yushin Nippo* of Kobe contains an account of an interview that a writer on its staff had with Mr. Ogawa Morishige, a consular clerk at Ninsen, who arrived at Kobe on the 8th instant *en route* for Tokyo. Concerning the origin of the present disturbance in Korea, Mr. Ogawa declared it erroneous to suppose the affair a rising of the *Togaku-to*. True, the *Togaku-to* had joined the insurgents and might now constitute the backbone of the rebel forces. But at the outset the disturbance—as already stated in these columns—was a rising of the peasants of Zenro-do against their local officials. The Governor of the province, Kim Bungen, and a few other principal functionaries had long been notorious for rapacity and cruelty. On several occasions their removal had been made the subject of petitions to the Government in Söul. The latter, finally recognizing the justice of these prayers, was considering the advisability of removing the unpopular officials, when the people of the province suddenly rose *en masse* against their oppressors, who at once fled, their subordinates joining the insurgents, as did also the *Togaku-to* malcontents. The original object of the rebels was simply to get rid of the obnoxious officials and secure a better local administration. They evidently had no thought of marching upon the capital, and if they are now doing so, the fact, according to Mr. Ogawa, must be attributed to the *Togaku-to* elements among them.

It was on the night of the 4th instant that Mr. Ogawa left Ninsen by the *Ise Maru*. By that date, the provinces of Zenra and Chusei had fallen into the hands of the rebels. Rumours of the despatch of troops from China being in circulation, he called at the Chinese Consulate to ascertain their truth, but the Consul having gone to Söul, no information was obtainable. By the time of Mr. Ogawa's departure, however, it was definitely known that China had decided to send troops. Everything was quiet at Ninsen when Mr. Ogawa left that place. The provinces now in the rebels' possession being the most important localities for Japanese trade, the disturbance, if it continue long, must seriously affect the Japanese merchants in Korea.

According to correspondence received in Tokyo on the 11th instant and published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the invitation to China to send troops for the purpose of suppressing the insurrection was conveyed through the instrumentality of Min Eishun. The proceeding is reported to have caused widespread discontent among officials in Söul, and Min Eishun incurred still greater unpopularity on receipt of the news that Japan also was about to despatch troops. The same correspondence states that Koreans who had been disposed to regard Japan with contempt, were beginning to entertain very different feelings since the arrival of a Japanese naval squadron at Ninsen. The Korean Government is said to be taking great pains to assure the foreign Ministers that the rebels were defeated on the 6th instant and that their leaders have already been beheaded, the object of such representations being to defer the entrance of the Japanese and Chinese troops into Söul.

According to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the Viceroy Li is said to have given notice to the Japanese Government, through the Japanese Consul at Tientsin, that the dispatch of troops (numbering about 1,500) to Korea was in consequence of Korea's request; that this force would be landed at Gasan, whence it would at once proceed to Zenra-do; that as soon as the insurrection should have been suppressed, the troops would be immediately shipped home, without even suffering them to go to Söul. Our contemporary adds that these troops landed on the 8th instant, and that no further re-inforcements seem to have been sent by China.

As to the Korean troops at Söul, their total strength is put at about 6,000. But it being customary for Korean commanders to compile false reports of the number of troops under them so as to put in their own pockets the allowances made on account of these imaginary soldiers, the real force in the capital is supposed to be about 4,000.

With regard to Mr. Okamoto Ryunosuke, who was supposed to have joined the rebels, the *Mainichi Shimbun* states that he is at present staying at Ninsen, and that all such conjectures about him are false. Concerning "General Shimazu" too, it is now believed that he is not a son of the late Prince Shimazu Hisamitsu, but a second son of Count Shimazu. At the time of the Satsuma Rebellion, he was well known by the name of Machida Keijiro. Just before the outbreak of the Rebellion, he returned from England, where he had passed some years. At the head of the former retainers of his father (Clan of Sadowara), he joined Saigo. It was originally supposed that he died with his leader at Shiroyama, but the papers now seem inclined to believe that he escaped to Korea and is at present directing the *Togaku-to* rebels.

According to latest correspondence from Söul, the following notice is said to have been posted at the four gates of the capital:—"On the 22nd April (Korean Calendar) the insurgents were surprised at Kanpei by the Government troops. More than twenty of them were killed and the rest took to flight. The two leaders of the rebels, Tei and Sai, were overtaken and captured alive. The rebels, trembling with fear, are dispersing in large numbers by day and by night. In a few days the ominous clouds overhanging Zenshu will be entirely swept away."

It is believed that this notice is a device of the Korean Government's to hide the defeat of its troops by the rebels and also prevent the coming of foreign forces to Söul.

The same correspondence confirms the report that the invitation addressed to China to send troops for the suppression of the insurrection is severely criticised by a large section of Korean officialdom. The foreign diplomatists in Söul are also said to be opposed to the step taken by China.

The public at first understood that the troops despatched to Korea constituted a regiment (*Rentai*) only, but it has now been authoritatively announced that they form a *Corps d'Armée*; that is to say, a complete force consisting of infantry, artillery, engineers, and cavalry is due proportions, making in all some 5,000 men, we believe. These troops were drawn from the Garrison of Hiroshima, and the command has fallen upon Major-General Oshima Yoshimasa, Commander of the Ninth Corps at Hiroshima. The ships conveying the troops arrived at Ninsen at break of day on the 12th instant, and the landing is said to have been at once commenced.

Together with the above little army, there was despatched a party of *gendarmes* selected from those stationed in Kumamoto and Hiroshima.

In connection with the despatch of troops to Korea, it has been decided to establish the following temporary offices at Shimonoseki:—

1.—Military Depôt.
2.—Commanding Office of the Military Quarters and the Anchorage.
3.—Ordnance Bureau.
4.—Office in Charge of Warehouses and Goods.

These offices are to be opened from the 16th instant. They have been placed under the charge of Army Inspector Aoyagi, Lieutenant-Colonel Sena, and Paymaster Noma, respectively.

According to the *Jiji Shimpo*, a report has been received in Tokyo from Tientsin to the effect that the Viceroy Li has issued orders for the equipment of sixteen vessels to transport troops to Korea. It is added that these vessels will leave for their destination so soon as the necessary preparations are completed. Our contemporary evidently entertains no doubt as to the authenticity of this information, and calculates that, at the rate of 500 troops per vessel, the sixteen transports will be able to carry 8,000 men. With the arrival of these troops the Chinese forces in Korea will aggregate about 10,000. The *Jiji*, as well as several other papers in Tokyo, state that the Viceroy has been alarmed and surprised at the promptitude and decision displayed by the Japanese Government. The Chinese statesman seems to have thought that Japan would not send any armed force to Korea and to have been much perturbed by the news that she had despatched a comparatively large body of troops.

It is rumoured, according to a telegram received from Ninsen on the 13th instant, that about 10,000 Chinese troops, transported by more than ten Chinese war-vessels, arrived there on the same day. This report is regarded with suspicion, for it is incredible that China could have been so quick in mobilizing such a large force. Probably the story is mere conjecture based, as the *Jiji* suggests, on the Tientsin telegram mentioned above, with reference to preparations for the despatch of additional troops.

The first batch of Chinese troops (about 1,000 strong) which landed at A-san (Gasan as pronounced by the Japanese), is believed to be lying inactive, awaiting impatiently the arrival of reinforcements. Its inaction is also attributed to the earnest solicitations of the Korean Government, which is supposed to have long since represented that it invited China's aid to put down the insurrection.

Previous to the arrival of the Japanese forces under Major-General Oshima, a party of Japanese marines is said to have landed at Ninsen on the 8th instant and entered Söul the following day, escorting thither the Japanese Representative, Mr. Otori. These marines are probably

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quartered in Sōul, for no information of their withdrawal has yet been received.

According to a latter from Sōul, dated the 30th ultimo, the Korean Government had at that time, decided to detach about 500 of the Chhun-chhōn garrison in the province of Kang-Wōn-do for the purpose of re-inforcing the army fighting the rebels.

The manifesto issued by the *Togaku-to* insurgents to their countrymen has already been breifly noticed in these columns. It was reported that a project exists among the rebel leaders to forward a circular to the different foreign Powers declaring the objects for which they have risen against the Government at Sōul.

The family grave-yard of the Mins at Yong-in in Kyōng-kwi-do is to said have been desecrated by some people, evidently friends of the rebels. On the 26th instant, the graves of the Queen's father, and her real and adopted mothers, were opened, and the bones, having been made into a bundle, were hung to the branch of a tree, from which was also suspended a piece of paper with two ideographs (the bones of barn-door fowls) inscribed on it. The Mins were naturally much incensed at this, and strenuous efforts have been ordered for the apprehension of the offenders. As to the bones, they were re-buried, not in the original graves, but at Po-nyōng in Chhung-chhōng-do. About the death of the Queen's real mother, which took place some 16 years ago, there is a curious story. One night she lit an unusually large candle which suddenly exploded and badly injured her in the face and throat, finally causing her death. Suspicion pointed to the Tai Wōn-kun and his faction, deadly enemies of the Min family, as the authors of the outrage, and great excitement and confusion prevailed at the time in Sōul. But the mystery was never elucidated.

The Tokyo papers circulate a rumour that England has decided to send a large force to Korea to protect her Legation and nationals in that country, in the event of any serious emergency.

The *Tōhō Kyokai* (Oriental Association) has despatched Mr. Fukumoto Nakato to Korea to watch the course of events there. Should things assume a graver aspect, it is said that the Association will send a man of sufficient eminence and ability to associate on terms of equality with the Representatives of England, Russia, and China. The majority of the members of the Association are said to desire that Mr. Otori, ex-Minister to Korea, who has just returned from Europe should undertake the task.

Messrs. Toyama Mitsuru, Endo Hidekage, and Yagihara Shigetada, leader of *soshi* associations, are said to be daily holding conferences about the Korean question. The men under the leadership of these persons belong to a different type from ordinary *soshi*. The latter are nothing better than mere mercenaries, but the former are a set of desperadoes ready to go "through fire and water," as the Japanese saying is, at the command of their leaders. Their interference might soon set smouldering embers a-blaze.

SHANGHAI NEWS.

It is rumoured that the Viceroy Liu will remain another term of three years at Nanking, the Emperor having signified his satisfaction at the way in which the Viceroy has been administering the Liangkiang provinces.

Incidentally to a description of a visit to Tahaisan, a rocky islet in the Poyang Lake, a correspondent of the *North China Daily News* relates the following :—

While sitting on a rock we were joined by some respectably dressed Hunanese and talked upon many subjects. One man told me an occurrence which resulted in some kind of riot in Hunan. I do not remember where this is said to have occurred, but it gives a glimpse from behind the scene of how "missionary" riots sometimes originate and show how entirely blameless are the missionaries. His story was substantially as follows. A foreigner accompanied by some coolies carrying his baggage put up at an inn in Hunan. While there he picked up a stone lying about, smelt it, and then threw it away. This appeared to be a very suspicious affair, why should a foreigner throw away that stone with disgust? They picked it up, examined and smelt it but could find nothing peculiar about it. Whereupon they broke it in two pieces and found it contained a dead crab! The foreigner could smell that crab through all that thickness of stone! It was evident he had come to the country to hunt for precious minerals and his wonderful powers would show him where they were to be found. There and then they raised the hue and cry and drove the foreigner out bag and baggage. So the story. We were conversing with entire strangers, and the native related this to confirm a statement he had just made that foreigners had this extraordinary power to see and know where precious stones were to be found. Your correspondent has frequently been accused of extracting dogs and horses of gold from the mountains, and stealing them. Even on this trip while anchored I overheard some natives saying that we were there to capture a valuable white horse which roamed the hills. They said it had been seen by many but only we could capture it.

We take the following from the *North China Daily News* :—

With reference to the reported insurrection in Kirin, or Central Manchuria, a notice of which appeared in these columns recently, it was at first thought that this was the result of the traders' strike last autumn in the prefecture of Ch'ang-ts'ūnfu, occasioned by new arrangements of the likin service and the severe punishments suggested by the Military Governor, or, as he is sometimes termed, the "Tartar-General." Ch'ang Shūn. It now transpires, however, that the insurrection in question arose from the local authorities attempting to collect full land and poll taxes from ground which had become little more than bare waste, the scene of the troubles being some hundred miles or so distant from the city of Kirin, at a place or mountainous tract of land called Maoerhahan or Cap hill. Nearly 11,000 insurgents are reported to be in arms, a large portion of whom are acknowledged to possess breech-loading guns, and who have defeated the Imperialists with great slaughter in several engagements. The flag under which the insurgents fight is a large red square one with the words. "The mandarins compel the people to rebel," inscribed in white on it. This motto of course explains the whole story, and it was the news of this movement which hastened the departure recently of H.E. Ting An from the side of H.E. Li Hung-chang with whom the former was associated as joint inspector of the defences of the Gulf of Pechili—it being important for this official in his capacity of High Commissioner of Defence of the North-eastern provinces to hurry to Kirin to direct operations against the insurgent rustics. As a good deal of the territory which is now resisting the mandarins lies in the Mongolian section of Aokhan it is surmised that the Mongols are also implicated in the rising. It will perhaps be remembered that in the insurrection of the winter of 1892, at Chaoyang, which also spread to this section, the Mongols suffered severely at the hands of the savage Chinese insurgent sectaries, and to protect themselves in the future against Chinese squatters, the Peking government at the prayer of the Princes of Aokhan and Nainan, granted a quantity of new arms of precision to the Mongol tribesmen there. This would account for the report that the present insurgents are well-armed with breechloaders which, with their superior numbers, have enabled them to almost decimate the Imperialists who have so far been sent against them, especially since the insurgents have been reinforced by some 1,500 mounted banditti composed of disbanded soldiery whose breechloaders (obtained it is claimed from Russian territory) have kept at bay for many years the military sent by repeated Governors to crush them.

As an illustration of the kind of discipline ruling among Chinese troops, the Nanking correspondent of the *North-China Daily News* describes the following incident that recently occurred at a drill parade there :—"In the midst of the exercises three men concluded to return the barracks. The officer remonstrated, but without effect. He then proceeded to use force, striking the men with his cane, when several other soldiers sprang from the ranks and seized his cane. The end of it was that the men went their way in peace,"

The *Peking Gazette* contains the following account of an earthquake concerning which no news had previously reached us :—

T'ao Muh, Governor of the New Dominion, states that he has received a report from Liu Jên-Chūan, Sub-prefect of K'uch'ê, to the effect that on the 17th of December, 1893, at 6 o'clock in the morning that sub-prefectural city was suddenly visited by an earthquake, the shocks being so severe that the whole city swayed in a most alarming and unspeakable manner. More than ten shocks were felt on that day, and continued daily for ten days, until the 27th of that month, when the shocks ceased. An examination of the condition of the city itself, suburbs, and surrounding villages, revealed several large rents in the city walls and gaps in the body of the city. On the walls, the watch towers and bastions, and inside the walls, the *yamêns* of the sub prefect, gaol warden, and Captain-commandant of the residentary garrison, barracks, various temples, charity schools, gaols, Imperial courier posts, official inns, granaries ordnance storehouses and telegraph office, were after the earthquake, either partially or totally demolished. The palace of the Mohammedan prince of K'uch'ê, and Grand Friday Mosque (Mesjid) are now more than half in ruins, whilst many of the houses of the people inside the city walls, in the suburbs or outer walls and surrounding villages, were no exception to the general devastation, those in the northern direction having suffered most severely. Five hundred and fifty-six houses belonging to the people were totally destroyed and nine persons buried in the ruins. Of those partially hurt there were thirty-three in all, etc.

Mr. N. R. O'Conor, H.B.M.'s Minister to Peking, left Chefoo for Peking on the 7th of June.

Here is a suggestive item from the *Peking and Tientsin Times* :—"The Viceroy, we hear, spent three hours on board H.M.S. *Centurion* examining carefully her armament and equipment in which he expressed much interest, having been informed that the English were now incapable of building ships or making cannon."

Large tracts of land in the north of China are pronounced useless by the Chinese on account of their alkalinity. The surface of such lands is covered, during the dry time of the year, with a white incrustation of salts. This has been analysed by a foreign expert and found to consist of chloride of sodium (common salt), 23.8 per cent., carbonate of sodium (soda), 12.4, and sulphate of sodium (Glauber's salt), 63.8. This expert, writing in the *North-China Daily News*, says :—

Judging from the above, there appears of be an abundance of sodium sulphate in some parts of China which may become valuable some time or other, when with the introduction of foreign industries, such as the manufacture of glass and soap, a greater demand is created for this chemical substance than exists at present. As is well known, the carbonate of soda, on which the industries just mentioned are largely dependent, is mostly obtained by what is called the Le Blanc process, viz., converting the sodium chloride into the sulphate by means of sulphuric acid and heating the sodium sulphate thus obtained with coal and limestone. By using the raw material found in China the first step of the process described, *i.e.* the production of the sulphate of sodium from common salt by means of sulphuric acid, could be dispensed with, which doubtless would mean a considerable saving of fuel and labour. As there is plenty of limestone and coal in many places, all the materials wanted are possessed in abundance. This, in addition to the cheapness of labour, makes it not improbable that at some time or other China will become one of the chief producing countries of soda.

The plain speaking of the Chinese Emperor is sometimes quite delightful. Witness the following from the *Peking Gazette* :—

To-day Chao Yü and Chêng Ying presented memorials asking to be allowed extra leave of absence. As these two bear the office of Assistant Chamberlains, it is their duty to be diligent in their work and ever on the look out. Instead of this, however, Chao Yü went so far last year as to ask for over two hundred days' leave of absence during twelve months, while Chêng Ying was absent over sixty days. This shows that they are lazy and addicted to steal repose. We therefore command that Chao Yü be deprived of his office and be ordered to return to his Banner and do duty there, while Chêng be turned over to the Boards for the determination of a penalty. Again, the various *yamêns* for the past few months have been in the habit of applying for sick leave so often that there hardly passes a day but that some such memorials are presented on that plea, so that when either the Empress Dowager or ourselves have occasion to go out, the ranks of those who have to stand in line at the Palace gates are generally sparse and thin, which is an absurd state of things. We would therefore warn all to be more alert and upon their good behaviour, and promise that if any more similar conduct be brought

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to our notice the penalties will be very severe and no leniency shown.

The Viceroy Li showed remarkable strength and endurance on his recent tour of inspection. The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says:—

H.E. the Viceroy, despite his years, entered into the arduous task of inspection with heart and soul and with his proverbial energy; he enquired into the minutest details and nothing escaped his penetrating observation. How H.E., considering his age, could have undergone for twenty-one days such an amount of hardship, hardly taking any rest, and return in the best of health, is surprising and rouses the admiration of the beholder; only the strongest remonstrances on the part of his medical advisers could induce him to take rest. But H.E. may be proud indeed of the herculean work created in so short a time by his initiative and supervision, and well pleased he seemed on beholding the fine fleet, the efficient army, the powerful coast defences and railway; and he is sure to appreciate the merits of his able co-adjutors, both Chinese and foreign."

On his way back to Tientsin the Viceroy travelled over the railway from Shanhaikuan to Tientsin, inspecting all the bridges and buildings minutely. The journey of 180 miles was performed in 10 hours, and the Viceroy expressed entire approval with everything he saw. The *North China Daily News* declares, "on the highest authority," that the cost of the line for engineering and rolling stock, did not exceed £5,000 per mile, a decidedly low figure.

The *North China Daily News* seriously reproduces the absurd statement made by a Yokohama journal that, in consequence of Mr. Fraser's illness, Mr. de Bunsen had been telegraphed for. We should have supposed that the leading Shanghai journal could not be betrayed into such a silly error.

The following extract from the *Tientsin and Peking Times* will have much interest for our Japanese readers:—

The Imperial Commissioners have been favoured on their round tour of inspection with the finest weather imaginable, and though H.E. the Viceroy knows quite well, from former experience, that the wet element is sometimes not to be trifled with, the Imperial Commissioner Ting, who probably never had seen the ocean before, will this time not have taken away with him a deep impression of the perils of the sea and must have found seafaring life a rather easy and comfortable matter. The officers in command of the navy have shown during the time of the manœuvres that they are not only able to navigate their war vessels without foreign assistance, but that they have besides the ability to handle their vessels in a perfectly seamanlike manner, and that those officers of all ranks have largely profited by the instruction and example given to them by their able foreign instructors. Moreover, they have strikingly shown to the world at large that they have the ability to manage their own naval affairs without assistance from outside; that they do not feel self-sufficient, as outsiders seem to suppose, but that a laudable spirit of progress prevails and that they endeavour to keep abreast of the times, and profit by the latest improvements in naval warfare. The discipline of the crews seems to be of the first order and the cleanliness and smartness of the ships, material and men, leaves nothing to be desired.

Although the result of the naval manœuvres, three years ago, taken as a whole, was a laudable one, it must have strongly impressed any man, who has witnessed such manœuvres in European countries, what striking progress the Chinese navy has made during the last three years with regard to steam tactics, and evolutions which were carried out with astonishing precision this time; the deadly effect of their heavy artillery and quick firing guns—some of the ships firing more than fifty rounds in passing the target under steam, resulting in the obliteration of the target after the first 5 or 6 ships had passed and rendering it difficult for the following ships to take aim. The torpedo practice under steam of the ships fitted out with torpedo guns, and the torpedo boats, proved another feat of the highest order; and although some of the torpedoes did not reach the target, owing to the strong current by which the target had been drifted away to a greater distance from the buoys which the vessels passed, all the torpedoes discharged went in the right direction to the centre of the target. Whoever has had the opportunity of visiting the present naval stations at Port Arthur, Talienwan, and Weihaiwai nine years, or even six years ago, could not but admire the wonderful changes effected and the extent of work carried out in so short a time with regard to powerful forts, dockyards, work shops, armouries, piers, store rooms, colleges, hospital, etc., etc., and even in places such as Chiauchao and Chefoo, where there were hardly any traces of fortification only three years ago, the foundations for strong fortifications are visible everywhere, proving that H.E. the Viceroy, with his unique knowledge of men and things, has put the right men in the right place. Moreover, considering that the Chinese navy is one of the youngest navies in the world, it speaks highly in favour of its efficiency, that during the time of carrying out these extensive manœuvres with 18 big war ships, all the ships at any time, under steam or at anchor by day or by night were always in their right place; that none of their engines at any time throughout the manœuvres got out of order—a thing that happens frequently even in the best navies in Europe—that by such a profuse employment of explosives no serious accident happened, that no fish torpedo was sunk, that in fact no damage worth speaking of, was done to men and material during the whole cruise.

THE PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

The following are the Plague records of latest date in Hongkong:—

JUNE 1ST.

	Hygeia.	Kennedy Town.	Chinese Hospital.	City.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
Admissions	3	2	54	—	59	18	—
Deaths	1	1	31	21	54	16	—
Under treatment ...	6	30	104	—	140	26	—

JUNE 2ND.

Admissions	—	4	44	—	48	—	11
Deaths	—	1	34	41	76	22	—
Under treatment ...	6	29	113	—	148	8	—

JUNE 3RD.

Admissions	*1	3	77	—	81	33	—
Deaths	—	†3	51	18	72	—	4
Under treatment ...	7	28	137	—	172	24	—

* Sergeant Humphreys, mild attack.
† One, a Portuguese woman.

JUNE 4TH.

Admissions	1	4	69	—	74	—	7
Deaths	—	1	54	37	92	20	—
Under treatment ...	8	29	152	—	189	17	—

JUNE 5TH.

Admissions	—	†4	78	—	82	8	—
Deaths	*2	‡3	61	27	93	1	—
Under treatment ...	6	30	169	—	205	16	—

* Captain Vesey and George Dalton, Grand Hotel.
† Two Portuguese.
‡ One Manila man.

JUNE 6TH.

Admissions	—	3	83	—	86	4	—
Deaths	—	2	55	26	83	—	10
Under treatment ...	6	32	197	—	235	20	—

JUNE 7TH.

Admissions	—	3	66	—	69	—	17
Deaths	—	1	71	35	107	24	—
Under treatment ...	5	33	192	—	230	—	5

The total deaths to date now number 1,144.

The Cable Companies at Shanghai received the following telegram, dated Hongkong, 6th June:—Returns for the 24 hours to noon to-day:—

New cases	86
Deaths.....	13
Under treatment	235
Total deaths to date.....	1,213

The *N. C. Daily News* received, the following day, from its correspondent a telegram dated Hongkong, 7th June, 7 p.m., which read as follows:—There have been sixty-nine new cases reported to-day and one hundred and eleven deaths.

To the regret of the whole community, the gallant Captain Vesey, of the Shropshires, who contracted the disease while in the discharge of his duties as an officer in charge of one of the parties engaged in house to house visitation, died on board the *Hygeia* at a quarter to ten on the night of the 5th inst. Captain Vesey volunteered for the work, and having served for several days was attacked on the 31st ultimo. At first the case was believed to be a mild one and Sunday's report was to the effect that he was doing well, but on the morning of the 5th he suffered a relapse and night died quite peacefully, a soldier to the end. The funeral *cortège* next day of course included all the officers in the garrison, but it does not appear to have been swelled by any civilian element, though Captain Vesey met his death in the performance of a voluntarily imposed duty seeking to check the ravages of the plague. He was only in his 36th year.

The soldiers employed in the cleansing operations receive cigars and hot coffee at the public expense. Application has been made by telegraph for medical assistance from the coast ports, but up to the morning of the 4th instant only one reply had been received, namely, from Canton, and that was unfavourable, there being no European practitioner available there. If the Hongkong Authorities were wise, they would apply for Japanese physicians. Plenty of thoroughly competent men could be obtained here.

It is alleged that as long ago as February last a case was diagnosed at the Civil Hospital as bubonic plague. But the fact attracted no attention and suggested no precautions.

The *Daily Press* of the 8th inst. says:—We may mention that Mr. Crook and Dr. James have condemned about 530 houses *en bloc* in Taipingshan, the whole of which premises are being fast cleared out. The officers named propose to destroy the buildings by fire, but the Permanent Committee cannot proceed to such a drastic measure as that without legislative authority, which they do not now possess. But the suggestion is under consideration, and, if found feasible, will be carried out with full regard to existing interests. The full annual valuation, we may point out, of the Taipingshan district is $325,000, for the current year, and the area suggested to be burnt is about one-twentieth of the entire district.

ENGLISH NEWS.

The Times, commenting on the new system of death rates, says:—

How is this system, as applied to realty, going to work, and on what basis is the value of real property, including mansions, parks, and pleasure grounds, to be determined? Hitherto the capitalized value of the rental has been the basis; henceforth, by some process not hitherto explained, but to be enforced by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, subject to appeal, the "capital value" of the property is to be ascertained, and subjected to this graduated impost. It is obvious that, unless the Government officials perform their duty with great judgment and moderation, the appeals will be the rule rather than the exception. What is the "capital value" of some of the lordly domains which constitute one of the chief features and ornaments of our land? Who are the persons, unless it be our great auctioneers, who are qualified to estimate it? And what wide differences of opinion may there not be found among them! The value of anything is generally supposed to be what it will fetch in the market—*i.e.*, the auction room. We have lately heard of a famous estate in Wilts for which a wealthy peer offered three-quarters of a million. Is that to be taken as the "capital value" of Savernake, and is the sum of £56,250 to be levied on that estate before its new owner can enjoy it? And this, not once for all, but as often as a new succession to the estate by a death in the family occurs!

Again, how is the "capital value" of such places as Blenheim, which its owner holds by the annual tribute of a flag, of Chatsworth, Wentworth, Castle-Howard, Burleigh, Longleat, and a score of other places of almost equal magnificence, to be appraised? Is it to be the value which some American Crœsus—the owner of many millions—would profess his willingness to give for them? Again, how are the contents of these palaces to be valued? By what rule, if any, are books, pictures, and other valuable but perishable commodities to be appraised? The finest private library in England was lately purchased, it is said, for nearly a quarter of a million, for the purpose of being presented to a public institution. Had it remained in the hands of its late owner, at what rate would it have been valued for probate duty at his death? A fine Gainsborough was sold for £9,000, and was soon afterwards destroyed by fire. Had its owner died in the meantime, and had it been valued for probate duty, what amount of "ransom" would his successor have been called upon to pay for it? The valuation both of realty and personalty of this description—and we are not applying the argument to personalty yielding income—if strictly enforced under the higher scale of graduated taxation, must, in a few generations, lead either to its confiscation by the State or to its compulsory sale. We have forborne to dwell upon the inevitable but demoralizing result of this sys-

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tem—the evasions and secret arrangements to which it will give rise. Some of these may be perfectly legitimate, but in all cases the object which prompts them will be the desire to escape oppressive taxation. In short, the graduated estate duties, if enforced with the inquisitorial strictness which may be expected, will inflict upon their unfortunate victims more unnecessary trouble and vexation than all the other taxes put together; and "though vexation," says Adam Smith, "is not, strictly speaking, expense, it is certainly equivalent to the expense at which every man would be willing to redeem himself from it."

Earl Russell, president of the Railway Passengers' Protection Association, has established, by reference to a Court of Law, the principle that a railway company has no power to eject a passenger from a carriage because he declines to give up his ticket. The incidents that led to the law being invoked were these:—

On August 8, 1893, Lord Russell took tickets, in company with his manager, Mr. Aird, at Liverpool-street for the 4.42 train to Cambridge, and entered a third-class carriage. A ticket-collector presently asked for their tickets, which he handed to him. Then other passengers were shown into the carriage, and, Lord Russell and Mr. Aird, wishing to be alone, left the carriage and took seats in another. Here they were again asked for their tickets. They explained that they had already given them up, whereupon the man said, "Oh, I know all about that, I have heard that story before," suggesting that Lord Russell and his friend were endeavouring to defraud the company. The assistant stationmaster supported the ticket-collector. They were allowed to make the journey, however, and nothing further was heard of the matter. When the two gentlemen were returning to London the following day by a train which did not stop until it reached Liverpool-street they declined to give up their tickets at Cambridge. They were told to come out, but they did not move. Then the stationmaster summoned porters and ordered them to turn Lord Russell and Mr. Aird and their luggage out of the train. One of the men went inside the carriage and threw the plaintiff's luggage out on the platform. Lord Russell then gave up the tickets, saying that enough had been done to raise the question in a Court of law. The company supported the conduct of their officials and did not apologize.

When these facts were submitted to a jury, they found for Lord Russell and awarded him £10 damages. The Company asked for leave to appeal but was refused.

Dr. Giffen, in his evidence before the Royal Commission on Labour, laid down a proposition often insisted on in these columns, namely, that in discussing an appreciation or depreciation of money, labour must not be included in the same category with other commodities. "In former times," he said, "no distinction was made between labour and other commodities in dealing with such a question as appreciation or depreciation of money. But in recent discussions it had become obvious that there might be opposition in the movements of labour and commodities in a progressive community. One might go up or stand still as the other went down. The argument that there had been no appreciation of gold because labour had not fallen was thus no argument. While there might be appreciation measured by commodities there need be no appreciation measured by labour—at least, taking the labourer and his day's labour as a unit."

Another most interesting statement made by Dr. Giffen referred to the effect produced by the appreciation of gold upon the value of agricultural products. The aggregate value of the agricultural products of the United Kingdom in 1891, based on the actual prices of the time, was 222 million pounds sterling, whereas the value of the same products in 1874, at the rates then ruling, would have been 290 millions. There had been an average fall of 25 per cent.

Colonel Howard Vincent's Bill, providing that foreign articles imported into Great Britain should be marked with the place of origin whenever such a course was possible, found 157 supporters of its second reading, against 183 opponents. Mr. Mundella, in speaking against the Bill, said that goods aggregating 400 million pounds sterling are annually imported into Great Britain, and that to insist on their being marked would "dislocate" the trade. He instanced the case of eggs. More than a thousand millions of these are imported every year, and "what could be more preposterous than to require that every one of them should be marked?" That sounds very like special pleading, but there can be no doubt that such legislation would place foreign goods under a heavy disability, and if other nations demanded, in turn, that British goods should be similarly marked, the British exporter would grumble badly. There is, however, a very strong feeling in England against the facilities that now exist for importing cheap foreign goods, especially German, and selling them as British goods. It is a penalized performance, but that does not deter unscrupulous folks. The existence of such a feeling explains the number of votes cast in favour of the Bill.

Dr. Giffen, in a report prepared for the Board of Trade, shows that it is a fallacy to speak, as so many persons habitually speak, of an enormous development of German trade as compared with British in recent years. The great statistician takes the average of the figures for the three years 1890-2, and sets them against those for the two years 1884-5. It is thus found that British exports have increased by 10 per cent., while those of the Germany have increased by only 5 per cent., those of France by 14 per cent., and those of the United States by 26 per cent. Germany, in fact, is scarcely in the running. England's great competitor is the United States, but as the latter's exports consist chiefly of bread-stuffs and raw cotton, which England does not produce, the importance of American tradal development is greatly reduced from the British point of view. Dr. Giffen further notes that "the exports of the United Kingdom to each of its three great competitors preponderate greatly over the exports from any one of these competitors to the other." *The Times* referring to Dr. Giffen's report, writes:—

When we come to examine whether we have now as large a share of the total trade of the world as formerly, the situation is, at first sight, altered a little, for in the case of all the geographical groups referred to above our proportion was slighty smaller in 1890-92 than in 1884-5. The loss, however, is not of any real importance, for the total business of the world has increased enormously, and a slight reduction in the proportion secured by the United Kingdom is no indication of a falling-off in the absolute amount of its trade. Even in the case of Japan, where the decrease in our share is considerable, there has been no reduction in volume; what has happened is that the trade of Japan with neighbouring countries has expanded, and probably many of the articles causing this expansion could not be supplied by us. The energetic operations of the German traders have slightly increased their share of business in countries outside Europe, while the French have barely held their own anywhere. As regards the United States the changes have not been very considerable. They have obtained a larger proportion of European imports, but their share is still only 9 per cent. of the total, and they have lost some ground in the various American countries which, *a priori*, they ought to have kept, and in British possessions. The impression regarding the supposed rapid growth of German trade is, therefore, erroneous, and no doubt, it is one more example of the venerable error of generalizing from too few particulars. So far as we can see, the positions of the leading countries are pretty much what they were eight or nine years ago, allowing for the fact that certain minor countries, such as Japan, have suddenly shown a good deal of unexpected energy in business, and, by making use of opportunities they always possessed but had not previously availed themselves of, have, besides creating new business, obtained a portion of the trade hitherto enjoyed by us or some other country. In summing up, Dr. Giffen remarks that none of our great competitors are gaining on us rapidly; but that our "depôt or emporium trade shows signs of "falling off" owing to the increased use of the Suez Canal and the starting of new lines of steamers. This was, of course, inevitable, and it is a source of satisfaction that the change comes so slowly, and is giving us time to adapt ourselves to the altered conditions which will have to be faced.

The Yokohama correspondent of *The Times*, who writes to Vancouver and has his despatches telegraphed thence, falls into the not very excusable mistake of saying that "a treaty has been concluded between Japan and Hawaii allowing reciprocal rights to the subjects of each country." From such a description it would be exceedingly difficult for any one in England to form the slightest conception of what really took place.

The credentials that entitle a man to have his portrait published in a leading London journal have never been appraised more lightly than by the *Pall Mall Budget* when it devotes nearly two pages to a description of a most uninteresting, monotonous old gentleman's sentiments on winning a £900 picture in a lottery, and to a picture of him as he sat in his lodgings where an inquisitive reporter went to announce to him the news of his good fortune. The chief thing elicited by the reporter was that the old man regretted winning the big prize because it disqualified him for the little "consolation prize" to which he would have become entitled had he continued for another year or two subscribing to the Art Union Lotteries and winning nothing.

In the year 1569 a lad, by name Geronimo, was thrown into a mould of concrete at Algiers and buried alive for refusing to abjure the Christian faith. The block of concrete containing the body was built into a fort where it remained for more than three centuries. The fort was then demolished by the French; Geronimo's bones were taken from the block to be placed in a cathedral, and plaster of Paris having been run into the cavity left by the body, a perfect model was obtained, clearly showing the features and even the cords by which the victim's hands and feet were secured. A dramatic incident connected with this affair is that a Spanish Benedictine writer of the 17th century telling of Geronimo's death says:—"We trust that the grace of God may some day bring forth Geronimo out of this place and unite his body to those of numerous Christian martyrs who by their blood and happy deaths have made this country sacred to Christ."

A picture for which its painter, Constable, had great difficulty in obtaining £100 was recently sold at Christie's for 6,200 guineas, Messrs. Agnew being the purchasers. It is necessary that a man should die to be appreciated. The *Saturday Review* attributes this great price to the tyranny of fashion, and says that the picture was "an absolute transcript of a by no means beautiful scene, without distance, innocent of composition or harmony." A Gainsborough, grand in every respect, was sold for £3,780 immediately before the greatly inferior Constable.

Five out of the six great capitals of Europe have now been visited by the wonderful child Bronislaw Huberman, who at ten years of age plays the violin so as to entrance critical audiences. People are busy discovering likenesses between the lad and Mozart, Rubinstein, Beethoven and so forth, but whether or no he resembles any of these immortals, he is certainly himself a prodigy. The lad is a Pole and it appears that he gave his first indications of great musical talent when he was either three or five, the age is uncertain, by whistling the whole of an opera which he had just heard for the first time and then begging for a fiddle to play its melodies.

Hand-painted dresses are among the latest Parisian novelties. A writer on fashion speaks enthusiastically of "a cream satin evening dress, exquisitely hand-painted in front with a design of mauve and yellow orchids and asparagus fern." What charming work of this kind could be done in Japan, and how cheaply.

Evidence of the growing popularity of golf is furnished by the sporting columns of all the newspapers. We have now portraits of leading golf players and biographies of Mr. John Ball, winner of the amateur gold championship cup—his fourth time of winning it. But the verbal descriptions of the contests carry most of us to *terra incognita*. Who can realize this, for example:—

Mr. Hilton commenced by standing two up after playing four holes, and it was not until the tenth green was reached that Mr. Tait could get on even terms. Playing in his best style, Mr. Tait, at the eighteenth tee, found himself dormie, and, halving the last hole in four, left himself once more the victor of Mr. Hilton. Thursday night found three of last year's semi-finalists again in the same position.

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THE KOREAN AFFAIR.

INTELLIGENCE from Korea indicates that the strength of the rebels is increasing and that the powerlessness of the Government troops to quell them is becoming more apparent. The *Jiji Shimpo* publishes telegrams to the effect that foreign men-of-war are assembling at Inchon and that 1,500 Chinese troops have been landed. The telegrams mention four ships, two of which are Chinese and one American, but doubtless this refers only to recent arrivals and does not include ships previously upon the scene. We need scarcely say that the rumours recently circulated about a force of 10,000 soldiers having been landed by China in Korea are gross exaggerations. No Power, least of all China, can dispatch an expedition of 10,000 men by sea at brief notice. The number now indicated by the *Jiji Shimpo's* telegrams, namely 1,500, may be accepted as correct, and in all probability the force sent by Japan is numerically similar.

It must have already become evident to our readers that this affair is creating a great deal of excitement both in Japan and in China. But in our opinion its immediate importance is over-estimated. The shock of impact with Western civilization has never failed to disturb the peace of an Oriental country. Alike in China and in Japan, conservatism, at some stage of the changing order, endeavoured to re-assert itself by force. It could not have been expected that Korea would emerge from the ordeal without a corresponding experience. In Japan's case the transit from the old to the new was rendered exceptionally tranquil by the fact that it conferred moral and material benefits upon the masses. The people, finding their circumstances improved in every respect, had no incentive to rebel. But in Korea the case is very different. There no substantial reform has been effected or even attempted whether financially, politically, or administratively. On the contrary the country has been incurring abnormal expenses without developing strength to defray them. That is at the root of the present *emeute*. It is a grimly simple story. Korean local officials have been grinding the faces of the poor until the painfulness of the operation has rendered its victims desperate. Of that broad fact there seems to be little doubt, though the details are more or less obscure. As in China, so also in Korea, the administration is carried on by a process of farming, under which the responsibilities of office vary directly with the profit that its holder can derive from it. The provincial official pays to the Central Government a greater or less sum for his appointment, and thereafter recoups himself by exactions from the people under his control. Formerly acute abuses of such a system were averted by deliberation of method. The provincial official was not hurried in the matter of recovering the price originally paid for his office. He had a period of about three years to accomplish the task, and could therefore proceed leisurely enough to soften his extortions. But when the Central Government began to need a larger revenue, it resorted to the device of selling offices at briefer intervals and for bigger prices, with the inevitable result that the purchasers had to employ quicker and more drastic means of recovering their initial outlay: they had, in short, to crowd into nine months or a year squeezing that would have been extended over three or four times that interval under ordinary circumstances. It is this that has goaded the people into rebellion, and since they have been shrewd enough to detect that foreign intercourse is primarily responsible for the accentuated extortion of their officials, they have inscribed "expulsion of foreigners" upon their banner of insurrection. But they are at best a comparatively helpless rabble, however desperate their resolution. If the forces of the Korean Government have been unable to deal effectively with the trouble, there is not the least probability that China's interference will fail to restore quiet. So far indeed as the incident itself is concerned, we hold it insignificant. But when we come to consider its possible consequences, no one can be blind to their danger. China's armed intervention in Korea's domestic affairs—supposing that she does thus intervene—will emphasise her peculiar relationship to the peninsular kingdom, and must correspondingly augment the chances of umbrage and even active resentment on Japan's part. Every incident that brings the military forces of the two empires within striking distance of each other in a field where a collision can be avoided only by the most delicate movements on each side, is decidedly perilous to the peace of the Orient. So long as the reins of direction are in the hands of Count ITO and the Viceroy LI, there should not be much cause for uneasiness. Yet we cannot hide from ourselves that events may prove too strong even for these statesmen, and that in the present temper of the Japanese nation there lurks a danger of significent dimensions.

SOCIETY FOR ENCOURAGING THE FINE ARTS.

WE have often noted, and so have many others for the matter of that, that the chief difficulty against which the artists of modern Japan have to contend is lack of patronage. There is a striking difference in this respect between the present era and the time antecedent to the Restoration. Feudalism had its own defects, but it had also the merit of extending generous aid to artists of all classes. It is not of course to be inferred that the feudal chiefs of old Japan had a truer appreciation of art and a more liberal desire to foster it than the men of the present day have. But there existed in pre-Restoration days an inter-fief rivalry that often spurred the least intelligent baron to an exercise of munificence such as is seldom or ever imitated in these times. Every fief was a kingdom in itself, and every fief took pride in excelling the others, not less in artistic and industrial pursuits than in military equipment. There was no question then of the quantity of an artist's productions, neither had he to work down to the level of the market for which he catered. It sufficed if he produced, at however long intervals, a few *chefs-d'œuvre* remarkable enough to enhance the reputation of his fief. His success was rewarded of course in proportion to its eminence, but whether he made a great mark or a little mark on the record of the time, he was sure of sustenance. His yearly rations came to him with unfailing regularity. Chill poverty never "froze the genial current of his soul," nor was his genius numbed by the pressure of want. We are not prepared to go quite so far as some people go in appraising the results of that system. Still less can we agree with those who, because nearly all the surviving specimens of old-time art are beautiful, attribute universal beauty to everything produced in old times. The truth is that the rule of the survival of the fittest applies to works of art as to everything else. The specimens that succeeding generations preserved were doubtless conspicuously worthy of preservation. Could we place by their side the specimens that perished, we should probably find the general level greatly lowered. So, too, among the objects of *vertu* turned out now-a-days, a selection might be made that would indicate a very high standard, and only the examples thus selected may be expected to survive. Still the conditions of production were decidedly favourable to the pre-Restoration artist, and, recognizing this, a society has now been formed in Japan calling itself *Bijitsu Ikuyei-kai*. Its promoters are a number of wealthy men whose purpose may be briefly described as a scheme to resuscitate in some degree the patronage of feudal times. A considerable sum is said to have been subscribed by these promoters, and we presume that they intend to apply it by making advances to artists. When an artist is so poor that he has to depend for daily bread on the sale of his productions, he is pretty sure to cater to the taste of the mob of consumers instead of running the risk of reaching the standard of the æsthetic oligarchy. That is what Japanese artists are doing nowadays. They work for the foreign market, obeying their own conception of its fancies as well as the not too elevating dictates of the foreign middleman. Nothing is further from our thought than to depreciate what the foreign

market has done for the Japanese artist. Without it he must have starved, morally and physically. Yet it has exercised a vitiating as well as a vitalizing effect, and if the new Society has sufficiently ample resources and intelligent resolve to replace the Japanese artist in his former position of independence and relieve his genius from the pressure of sordid care, it will be playing a great and useful *rôle*. We wonder whether the Society will be sufficiently old-fashioned not to struggle against the appalling *nonchalance* of its nationals' methods. While it is absolutely true that the prominent qualities of the Japanese art artizan are guilelessness, probity, and unselfish love of his labour, it is also true that he is the most maddening procrastinator under the sun. That fatal habit has come to him as an inheritance. It is partly a reminiscence of the era when his ancestors worked without any concern whatever for the passage of time; partly an outcome of politeness too exquisite to permit the refusal of any order, however small may be the chances of its speedy execution, and partly a consequence of the genuine artist's eclecticism which forbids him to turn his hand in any direction until his fancy has led the way. But to be able to analyse it is small comfort to those who have suffered by it. We sometimes think that it is the defect most fatal to artistic progress in modern Japan, for after all an artist, like everyone else, must have substantial rewards, and what hope is there of substantial reward until some trustworthy relation is established between capacity and result? It is of little use from a commercial point of view to know what the Japanese art artizan is capable of unless we can know also that his capabilities may be made practically productive within reasonable limits of time. At present, to give an order to a Japanese artist means that one must at the same time draw illimitably upon one's own stock of patience and confidence. Will the new Society recognize this state of affairs and make some effort to correct it?

SUGAR.

THE attention of the mercantile classes in Japan is now directed to the question of sugar. Mr. FUJITA, Chief of the Agricultural Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, recently delivered an interesting lecture on the subject. Japan was self-supplying as a matter of necessity before she opened her ports to foreign trade, but since then she has preferred to purchase certain things from Western countries and to employ her own industry in other directions. Sugar is a striking illustration. In 1872 the amount of sugar imported was only 42 million catties, and its value 1¾ million *yen*. Ten years later the quantity had nearly doubled, becoming 80 million catties, valued at 4½ million *yen*. A decade later, namely, in 1892, we find an import of 190 million catties worth 9½ million *yen*. In this last year the total consumption of sugar throughout the empire was 260 million catties, and it thus appears that more than two-thirds of the total were obtained from abroad, only 70 million catties being produced in Japan. Among the staples imported by Japan from abroad, aggregating about 70 million *yen* annually, cotton heads the list and sugar stands next. In the case of cotton, Japanese economists feel no uneasiness, since it is imported for the purpose of being manufactured in the country, thus taking the place of a manufactured import. Moreover, Japan hopes to become ultimately an exporter of cotton yarns and piece-goods, so that she views with more than complacency the increasing supplies of raw cotton that enter her ports every year. But the sugar problem presents itself to her in a different light. Sugar being an article of diet, its consumption adds nothing tangible to the wealth of the country, and the Japanese are therefore anxious to produce it at home if possible; a desire intelligible enough and not imprudent provided that labour be not diverted for the purpose from more profitable channels. The consumption of sugar in Japan is rapidly increasing. The average *per capita* was 5½ catties in 1888 and 6½ catties in 1892, an increase of nearly 20 per cent. in four years. Western economists regard the consumption of sugar as a trustworthy test of national prosperity. The Japanese doubtless take the same view, but are, nevertheless, alarmed at the idea of paying some 10 millions of *yen* annually to foreign countries for an article that almost belongs to the category of luxuries. Besides, the Japanese are becoming epicures in the matter of sugar. Their palates used to be less discriminating. Of the total quantity of sugar imported in 1872, fully three-fourths—33 million catties out of 42 millions—were brown sugar, only 8 million catties being white. In other words, for every 4 catties of imported brown sugar consumed, the people indulged in only one catty of white. Ten years later the ratio had become three to one, and in 1892 the consumption of imported white sugar aggregated 110 million catties, that of brown being only 80 millions. This change of taste is very striking. Special explanations may be offered, but after all the fact remains that, in the matter of sugar at any rate, the Japanese consumer puts quality above cost. Japan is not without sugar-growing capacities. In Chiugoku, Shikoku, Okinawa (the Loochoo Islands) and Oshima (in Kagoshima Prefecture) there are districts where the cane can be cultivated with success, and we may be sure that the enterprise of the people will not allow them to continue their purchases from foreign countries to the extent of ten milion *yen* annually if they see any prospect of self-supply. Sugar refineries will first be established, and after that the cultivation of the cane will attract capital. When men of Mr. FUJITA'S reputation begin to interest themselves actively, practical results will follow before long.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentien ts or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

A DANGER TO HEALTH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In face of the danger now threatening from the dreadful disease prevalent in China, the Authorities deserve praise for their prompt enforcement of precautionary measures. There is one matter, however, that seems to have escaped their notice, but which, no doubt, they will be quick to rectify when once their attention has been drawn to it, and that is the regular import into Yokohama of old cotton.

This article is brought from Shanghai by nearly every steamer arriving from that port. This old cotton consists of the worn-out stuffing of old winter clothing and bedding; it is full of vermin and horribly filthy, and without doubt contains the germs of leprosy, small-pox, and every loathsome disease under the sun. From the time of its arrival to the time it is cleaned it has to be handled by numbers of people, and as the dust flies out of it every time it is touched the risk of spreading disease must even in ordinary times be very great. Surely, with the plague gradually spreading in the neighbouring country, the import of this dangerous article should be stopped without a moment's delay for the sake of the country at large. At the same time there is no reason that trade need be interfered with, as the cotton has to be cleaned before any use can be made of it, and it might just as well be done before shipment as after its arrival in this country.

As this is a matter of public interest, I feel sure that you will be glad to grant space for the insertion of this letter in your valuable journal.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

FRANCIS OWSTON.

Yokohama, June 8th, 1894.

THE U.S. MARINE TOMBS AT KAKISAKI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—All that is known of some men is learned from the few words engraved on the stones that mark their last resting-place. Doubtless in "Home Chronicles," if such exist, or in the archives of the memory of loved ones, more is known than is written on the cold, stony slab; but to see a tomb of a fellow country-man in a foreign land awakens questions respecting his life difficult to answer. There are a few such tombs in Japan where a few slabs, with dimly carved letters, tell us all that is known of those whose bodies rest in the soil beneath. One of these places is in Kakisaki, a village near Shimoda, in Idzu, on a small hill at the side of the first U.S. Consulate in Japan. This place is now known as the Giyokusenji Temple. These tombs, five in number, mark the resting place of marines who belonged to Commodore Perry's fleet when he opened negotiations with the Japanese Government.

For many years these tombs were hidden from public view, though the road from Shimoda to Inatori passes within ten feet of them. They were overgrown with ivy, bamboo and other grasses, thus shutting them entirely from view; the lettering was almost obliterated with moss and mold, and one stone, that of Surgeon Hamilton, had fallen to the ground and was partly broken. The people of the vicinity, and some of the leading citizens of Shimoda, felt that this historical place should be repaired and put in order, but they had not the means at their command to give visible shape to their desires. Some three years ago the matter was presented to Mr. Dienst, while stopping a few days at that place, but the efforts to repair them at that time proved abortive. In September of last year, Mr. Dienst's attention was again called to the necessity of repairing these tombs, and after a careful inspection and ascertaining plans and costs, etc., the whole matter was presented to Captain A. W. McCormick, commander of the U.S.S. *Lancaster*, then in the harbour at Yokohama. He took the matter into favourable consideration, and in a short time the necessary funds were collected to make the repairs. Through the kindness of His Excellency Minister Dun, and the Foreign Office of the Japanese Government, the necessary privileges

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were secured to begin work there, and during the past month all was completed in splendid order.

A wall of stone was built on each side of the small hill on which the tombs are located (the hill is about twelve feet wide) in order to keep the ground from crumbling away and exposing the bodies. Around the plot of ground above, an extra wall of dressed stone, one foot six inches high, has been built, all the grass and shrubs have been cleared away, Dr. Hamilton's tomb-stone has been re-erected and repaired, the whole plot of ground laid with well dressed six-inch stone, forming a solid stone floor, thus giving the whole the appearance of a solid piece of masonry.

Neat stone steps, leading from the temple to the tombs above have also been built. The tombs are of stone quarried in the vicinity of Shimoda, and, including the base, are about eight feet high.

On ascending the steps we find engraved on the first stone these words:—"In Memory of G. W. Parish, of Hebron, Conn., U.S., who departed this life May 5th, 1854. Aged 21 years." On the opposite side of the stone are carved in small letters these words:—"This stone was erected by his shipmates in token of their regard and affection. For he was beloved while living and is lamented when dead." He was killed by a fall from the fore-top sail-yard while in the discharge of his duty on board the U.S.S. *Powhatan*.

On the next stone we find the words:—"Sacred to the memory of Robt. Williams, Private U.S. Marines. Died on board the United States steamer *Mississippi*, March 6th, 1854. Aged 24 years. Erected by his comrades."

On the next are these words:—"Sacred to the memory of Alexander Doonan, late a Marine on board of the U.S. steam frigate *Mississippi*, who departed this life in this port July 31st, 1858. Erected by the Marine Guard of his ship as a tribute to his many virtues. He lived beloved and respected. He died regretted by all."

Passing to the following, for they are in a straight row, we find this epitaph:—"Jno. D. Storm, Fireman, U.S.N., of Schoharrie Co., Ohio. Erected by his comrades of the fire-department. Died on board of the U.S. Steam Frigate *Powhatan*, Feb. 2, 1855. Aged 27 years."

The last in the list is:—"In Memory of Jas. Hamilton, Passed Assist. Surgeon. Died at sea on board U.S. S.F. *Susquehanna*, Sept. 6, 1854."

Those who chance to pass through that part of the country will find a visit to this place worth all the trouble it costs to get there. Once in Shimoda, it is only about 40 minutes walk along the sea shore, to the east, to this place. There is little to been seen at the old Consulate except the building, which is said to be some 300 years old.

Yours, &c., G. E. DIENST.

June 5th, 1894.

A VISIT TO A RUSSIAN CONVICT PRISON.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—On my way across the American continent I fell in with a gentleman, largely interested in the Saghalin Fisheries, and on his inviting me to pay him a visit, I immediately accepted. On our way here, we stopped at Korsakoff to have our passports visèd, and to pass the Board of Health examinations.

After this ordeal was finished, it was suggested to me to go on shore, but I refused, not seeing anything very attractive in the prospect; when, however, the Governor of the Prison, Mr. Merkustroff, kindly offered the inducement of a visit to the Convict Prison, I at once decided to go, having recently read some sensational accounts of the cruel way in which the prisoners are treated, and considering this a good opportunity for verifying or disproving it, on my own account. We, Mr. Merkustroff, Mr. Borofoki (Secretary to the Provincial Governor) and myself, drove directly from the landing pier to the prison, so that I can only imagine that I saw everything in its usual routine, and that no changes had been made, to give me a better impression of the place, there being no time for doing so.

The Governor himself acted as guide and Mr. Borofoki filled the onerous duties of interpreter, giving me much valuable information about the institution, of which the following is a short summary. The convicts at this station number nearly 5,000, of whom 300 are women. Of the women only 12, and of the men over 1,100, are confined to prison.

Convicts may be divided into three separate classes:—

1st.—Those who are confined to prison and work at some trade.

2nd.—Free convicts, or those who have served their time, and are free to roam about at pleasure and earn a living by any method they like, and

3rd.—Those who are confined to prison, and wear chains.

Every convict on his arrival here is placed in the 1st class. He is confined to prison, and works at some trade. When he has served the time for which he was sentenced, or has shortened it by good conduct, he is advanced to the 2nd class, and is at liberty to do as he pleases, as long as he does not attempt to escape, or break any of the laws of the settlement.

Many of these occupy positions as clerks in the Government Offices, and earn as much as $45 a month, others find employment as domestic servants, night-watchmen, fishermen, shop-keepers, or by working at the trade they have learned.

Should a convict at any time, whether in the 1st or 2nd class, commit some offence against the laws, or attempt to escape, he is immediately placed in class 3, is obliged to wear chains, and does the Government work of road making, building, drawing water and such like. If the offence is of such magnitude that the Governor of the Prison considers he ought to be flogged, there are two alternatives open, either, on his own authority, he may order the man to be birched, or he may apply for a Commission to be appointed to examine into the merits of the case. It is only on the decision of such a Court Martial that the knout may be used.

Women, however, on their arrival are all placed in the free class. They are never confined to prison except for an offence committed subsequent to their arrival in the settlement. They may be put in handcuffs, but nothing more, and are never, under any consideration, flogged, it being against the law to do so.

The kitchen was first visited, and being an unexpected guest, it was impossible to make any alteration in the diet of the men. The men were being served with soup for supper, when we arrived, and I was asked to pass judgment on it. I have often sat down to a dinner, where the soup has not been so palatable. It was made of good meat stock, and contained larger quantities of vegetables.

We next went to the bakery, where they had enormous quantities of the well known Russian black bread. It struck me as being not unlike Boston brown bread, but was not exactly to my taste. I found identically the same bread on the officers' table in the evening, and they all seemed to enjoy it, preferring it to white bread, of which there was also a liberal supply, so I was obliged to consider that I was at fault, and did not appreciate its good qualities sufficiently.

As far as I could judge, the men are fed liberally, getting meat four times, and fresh fish, of which there is an unlimited supply here, three times a week, the majority of the men looking healthy and strong. After finishing with the bakery we adjourned to the Cells, where the convicts may be confined (but never for more than three days at a time) for any special offence. They measure over 6 feet square, are lofty, dry, and well ventilated, but perfectly dark.

Our next point of interest was the Guard-room, where are kept the birches and knout for flogging refractory men. The knout is an ugly looking whip, with a short handle, and two lashes of about 3 feet in length, barely ⅜ inch thickness at the point and covered with plaits of smooth leather; while the birches used consist of two small saplings tied together.

For my edification, a man, much against his will apparently, was laid out on the table to show how they are strapped down, preparatory to being flogged.

After seeing the store-houses, where the vegetables are kept, we went to the sleeping quarters. The beds consist of long tables or shelves, made on an incline, running round the sides of the room, with the head to the wall. There was also a double row down the centre of the room. Each man had a mattrass, some of better, and some of very indifferent quality, and blankets. The sleeping rooms, of which we inspected ten, are all well lighted, large and airy rooms, and are kept at a very comfortable temperature. They all appeared to be similar, and each one contained a small library for the use of the men.

While here I examined the clothing of the convicts. The majority of them wore sheep-skin coats, had good warm clothes, something like an Irish frieze, and good boots. As a natural thing among such a large number of men, some are more careless of their things than others, and consequently, do not look so comfortable.

We afterwards went to the different shops, where the trades of tailoring, boot-making, carpentry, machine and waggon-making are carried on, and found them very interesting, though work was stopped for the day, all the men having assembled in the quadrangle to answer to the roll-call. Just as we completed our tour of inspection, the roll call finished, and the men before dismissing, crowded round a small shrine in the centre, and sang the Russian Evening Hsymn.

It was a most impressive sight, and a fitting termination to my visit, while the singing was really excellent, being better than one often hears from a choir of trained voices.

I dined that evening with one of the officers, and Mr. Borofoki conveyed to me an invitation from the Governor to repeat my visit to the prison on the following day, to see the men at work, should I not leave Korsakoff before that. I readily accepted, and having learned that the steamer would not be able to leave before the following evening, made arrangements accordingly.

Next morning, under the guidance of Mr. Borofoki, I saw all the men at work at their various trades, paid a visit to the hospital, the school, the police court, and to two of the Free convicts cottages. We also went to the baths, which are unlike anything I had previously seen, being Russian steam baths. Since that time I have tried them, and find it is not unlike an ordinary Turkish bath, except that the heat is moist, and it seemed to me of a higher temperature, and that it acted more rapidly on the skin.

Every convict is obliged to take at least one bath a week.

This completed my first visit to a convict prison. It was a most interesting experience and one which I shall not soon forget.

To sum up my impressions in a few words, I can only add, that as far as I can judge from what I have seen, the Russian treat their convicts much more leniently than they ever get credit for.

GRAHAM CAMPBELL.

Yokohama, June, 1894.

MEMORIAL

Drawn up by the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce for transmission to the London Chamber of Commerce.

Yokohama, May 15th, 1894.

We, the undersigned business firms and members of the community of Yokohama, being interested, either directly or indirectly, in the trade between the gold using countries of Europe and America, and the silver using countries of the East, view the future of that trade with positive alarm.

In addressing a Chamber of merchants it is unnecessary that we should dwell at any length on the difficulties and losses against which Eastern firms are now and have for many years been contending, because of the frequent and violent fluctuations in the relative values of gold and silver. We need only state that these conditions have rendered almost intolerable the position of all merchants in silver using countries, and have been especially harassing to those engaged in the Import trade.

It will also be readily understood that the ever increasing divergence between the value of the precious metals has most prejudicially affected the vast capital, chiefly British, which is invested in the East in land and buildings, and the establishment and working of such adjuncts to trade as Banks, Docks, Insurance, and Industrial Companies. Not only is the capital value of these undertakings seriously depreciated, but the increased burden of fixed gold obligations threatens some of the companies with extinction, and their shareholders with ruin.

Unfortunately at the present time we are compelled to regard the situation as graver than ever before, because the recent heavy fall in the gold value of silver opens up an entirely new prospect. Until 1893 the decline in the average gold prices of the commodities imported to the East had kept more than even pace with the fall of silver as measured in gold, but the conditions of production in Europe, after the shrinkage in values that has already taken place, are not such, that without grave disaster, prices can follow silver over the precipice it has lately descended. At the present time the silver prices of nearly all articles imported from the West are from 25 to 30 per cent. higher than they were in 1892, and this difference given a substantial premium to all Eastern competitors.

Japan is eminently in a position to take advantage of the acute condition of affairs now reached, for she has an unlimited command of good and intelligent labour at very low rates of wages, and her supply of coal is ample for her own needs as well as for export. Consequently, with her industries protected by low exchange, Japan is becoming a great manufacturing country, and rapidly advancing to a position of marked prominence in many of the branches of Eastern trade.

Cotton Yarns have been and still are amongst the principal imports from England and British India to the Far East, but Japanese spinnings are rapidly growing in favour not only in Japan, but

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also in China, and we think it probable that if the Silver Exchanges remain depressed as at present those markets will at no distant date be closed to all Yarns save those of their own manufacture.

The following figures furnished by the Agricultural and Commercial Department, will serve to show briefly the rise and progress of the Cotton Spinning Industry in Japan :—

The first mill was erected in the year 1863, with...	5,456 spindles.
By the end of 1883 this had been increased to 16 mills with...	43,704 spindles.
By the end of 1888 this had been increased to 24 mills with...	88,140 spindles.
By the end of 1892 this had been increased to 39 mills with...	405,314 spindles.

The official returns for 1893 are not yet issued and cannot therefore be given, but it is believed that there are now 46 mills in existence running about 600,000 spindles.

There is the prospect of an even more rapid increase in the near future, as it is known that large orders have been placed for more cotton spinning machinery (some intended for yarns of the finer qualities), and it is probable that in the next session of the Japanese Diet, the Export Duty on Cotton Yarns will be removed the Bill having passed the House of Representatives last session,* while strong efforts are being made to obtain the abolition of the Import duty on Raw Cotton as well.

In connection with the Cotton manufactures there is to be noted a great increase in the import of Raw Cotton generally, but we anticipate that if exchange with America remains at a very low level, and the rupee continues to be held above its bullion value, China will eventually furnish to Japan all the Cotton she needs, except such staple as cannot be grown on Chinese soil. In evidence of this possibility, the import of Raw Cotton from China to Japan has increased from 61,328,021 lbs. in 1891 to 95,115,130 lbs. in 1893, and is capable of practically unlimited development.

We think it unnecessary to refer in detail to the many other manufactures in which this country is not only supplying home wants, but successfully competing with Europe, in the markets of China, the Straits Settlements, and India.

Japan is not deficient in mineral wealth, and the premium given to Japanese coal by the estrangement of silver from gold has resulted in a largely increased export to many quarters, including San Francisco and Bombay, and, as it is understood that Japanese shipowners are acquiring steamers specially adapted for this trade, it may be expected to show continued and increasing vitality.

Further we may point out that the fall in the gold price of silver has directly influenced the gold prices of all commodities imported by silver using countries. It is only natural that the native consumers of imported articles should resist, so far as they can, any rise in the silver prices of those articles, and therefore with every fall of silver there is new pressure upon gold prices and a tendency still further to contract them. It is not unreasonable to suppose that a fall of gold prices thus generated might extend to many industries having no direct connection with Eastern trade. For the actual course of prices over the 20 years ending 31st December 1892, we refer to the Tables appended to Mr. Consul Jamieson's "Report on the General Position which China occupies with regard to the Silver Question."

For the reasons we have indicated, we believe that if existing conditions continue, their effects on the commerce of the world will be of a momentous character; whilst if they are to be altered it should be done without further loss of time. Every month of delay in monetary reform does not only a temporary but a permament injury to the trade of all countries having a gold standard, as although the eventual righting of the silver question may check the further establishment of mills in Japan and China, those already erected will remain, keen competitors of mills and factories of Lancashire and the West and there will be great difficulty in ever getting back again, the trade now being diverted.

Already, under the influence of cheap silver, a large proportion of the trade East of Suez is finding for itself new channels which will gradually be closed to Western competition, and we forsee that further persistence in the present monetary policy of Great Britain must entail an injury to the manufactures and industries of the West, the extent of which is incalculable.

We therefore welcome the action of your Chamber in memorializing Her Majesty's Government to endeavour to bring about another International Monetary Conference, as a step towards the restoration of confidence and prosperity in the Eastern trade, and we desire to assure you of our cordial sympathy and support in any further action that may tend to the speedy rehabilitation of silver and the reestablishment of a stable ratio of value between the precious metals.

THE LATE MR. HUGH FRASER.

The following Address of condolence was presented to Mrs. Hugh Fraser, at H.B.M. Legation, Tokyo, this week, from the British community of Yokohama. Mrs. Fraser's acknowledgement is also appended :—

Yokohama, 7th June, 1894.

DEAR MRS. FRASER,—The death of your husband is an event which Englishmen in Yokohama cannot permit to pass unnoticed; and we therefore desire to record our deep sense of the great loss we have sustained thereby.

It occurred whilst he was still in the active service of his Queen and country, engaged in the performance of duties the right discharge of which was the guiding principle of his life; and we know that it was met with fortitude and resignation.

Although some of us had not the privilege of the personal friendship of the late Minister, that circumstance does not debar us from giving expression to the high esteem and regard in which his memory is held by his countrymen, nor from offering you our heartfelt condolence, and assuring you of our warmest and most sincere sympathy in your sad and sudden bereavement.

We are, dear MRS. FRASER,

Your faithful servants,

N. P. Kingdon.
Jas. Dodds.
James Walter.
W.B. Walter (p.T.W.)
Ambrose B. Walford.
J. A. Fraser.
W. J. S. Shand.
W. Gordon.
David Jackson.
R. H. Cook.
Duncan Maclaren.
H. C. Gulland.
Matthew Brown, Jr.
Henry C. Litchfield.
Duncan McNeill.
M. H. R. Harris.
D. Fraser.
A. S. Garfit.
Harold Pigott.
W. D. Stuart Edwards.
F. E. White.
H. E. Campbell.
H. I. Chope.
E. Buxton Forman.
H. Pinckney.
P. C. Potts.
Thos. S. Baker.
J. D. Smart.
C. A. Black.
Percy de C. Morriss.
B. Sharp.
J. P. Mackintosh.
John Thomson.
H. V. Dickinson.
E. R. Morriss.
H. V. Henson.
H. W. Bell.
George Philip.
Geo. H. Allcock.
E. T. Nicholas.
H. S. Adams.
P. E. Fred. Stone.
F. V. Cruickshank.
F. J. Hall.
Wm. Sutter.
A. J. Easton.
Arthur T. Watson.
Arthur K. Rees.
Arthur F. Cabeldu.
W. J. A. Cabeldu.
Tom Thomas.
J. L. O. Eyton.
B. H. Pratt.
Jno. W. Hall.
J. Griffin.
C. A. H. Cole Watson, Jr.
F. Pollard.
Chas. I. Fraser.
R. Ross.
Thos. Watson.
F. P. Solomon.
E. W. Barton.
B. Hyde Pearson.
C. B. Stedman.
H. J. Hunt.
J. Cole Hartland.
Geo. T. Boag.
F. S. James.
R. Meiklejohn.
Robt. Hay.
W. R. H. Carew.
James Stewart.
J. F. Lowder.
James P. Mollison.
W. F. Mitchell.
Wm. Geo. Bayne.
R. Home.
R. S. Schwabe.
A. J. Wilkin.
J. B. Parsons.
M. T. B. Macpherson.
John C. Budd.
J. Archer.
E. A. Coutts.
E. W. Rutter.
Arthur H. Groom.
J. Rickett.
Geo. Syme Thomson.
Wm. Ross.
F. Townley.
F. O. Eustace.
K. F. Crawford.
S. O. Unite.
H. Tennant.
R. M. Stirling.
R. W. Borthwick.
A. R. G. Clark.
Edwin Wheeler.
A. H. Dare.
Jas. Martin.
R. N. St. John.
F. Gillett.
Robt. Howie.
E. Beart.
J. Diack,
E.C. Champneys Irwine.
E. J. Moss.
G. C. Booth.
C. K.-M. Martin.
Wm. Bourne.
Chas. W. Ure.
J. B. Coulson.
R. B. McKinnell.
Geo. Booth.
Edward Powys.
L. J. Healing.
W. J. Robinson.
Kenneth W. K. Wilson.
Norman Walter.
Alan Owston.
S. Strauss.
Charles V. Sale.
H. MacArthur.
J. F. Allen.
Leonard Pulford.
Fred. G. Sale.
W. K. Tresfze.
James Ellacott Beale.
John James Efford.
William A. Crane.
P. Burnside.
C. A. Bernard.
J. B. Maxwell,
P. S. Bent.
E. Leopold.
Isaac Bunting.
W. W. Campbell.
Harry J. Sharp.
Jno. Smedley.
W. W. Till.
J. D. Hutchison.
A. C. Read.
F. R. Daniel.

MRS. HUGH FRASER,
The British Legation, Tokyo.

BRITISH LEGATION,
Tokyo, June 11th, 1894.

DEAR MR. KINGDON,—I find it very difficult to express in adequate terms my heartfelt gratitude for the letter which you and so many English residents in Yokohama have had the great kindness to address to me, expressing the sense of the loss which you have sustained by the death of my dear husband and your condolence with myself in the great sorrow which has fallen upon me.

I have already received, both during my dear husband's illness and since his death, from very many individual friends most touching proofs of deep sympathy. Every possible tribute of honour and respect was paid by friends of every nationality in Japan when he was carried to his last resting place, and his own countrymen bore him from his home to his grave. Such evidences of friendship and of tender and thoughtful sympathy have done much to soften the grief of this time of my trial, and your letter now gives me the great consolation of knowing that the sympathy which has been shown by individual friends is equally shared by all Englishmen in Yokohama. No quality in my dear husband was, throughout his life, stronger than his love for and pride in his country and countrymen, and this mark of appreciation from those among whom the close of his career was passed, would have been inexpressibly gratifying to him had he been spared to receive it. By myself and my sons your letter will always be carefully preserved and highly valued, and while bearing away from Japan the memory of the greatest sorrow of my life, I shall also carry with me and always cherish the memory of thoughtful and sincere kindness and touching sympathy evinced, at the hour in which they were most needed, in every way that kind and gentle hearts could prompt.

Begging that you will communicate this letter to Englishmen in Yokohama, and along with it every assurance of the most heartfelt and affectionate thanks that I can send to them, believe me,

DEAR MR. KINGDON,
Gratefully and sincerely yours,
MARY FRASER.

To N. P. KINGDON, Esq.,
Yokohama.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

An ordinary meeting of the above mentioned Society was held at the rooms of the Geographical Society (Chigaku-Kiokai), Nishikonya-cho, Kiobashi, Tokyo, at 5 p.m. on Friday, 8th June, Mr. C. D. West, M.A., in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting, which corresponded with the report in the *Japan Mail*, having been read, it was pointed out that, at this meeting, which was the annual meeting of the Society, the matter of the treasurership had been left unsettled, Mr. Ishizu objecting to take the appointment. This mistake having been corrected, the minutes were approved, and the meeting then proceeding to the business of electing a treasurer, Mr. S. Kajima, Junior, was unanimously elected.

Baron A. d'Anethan and Mr. T. Kamiya were duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously elected members of the Society.

It was announced that an out-door meeting, or field day, would be held on the 17th June, at Enoshima, the meeting to begin in the morning, and the members to meet for lunch at the Kinkiro teahouse at 12.30.

Mr. Kajima Seibei then showed a number of bromide prints of various tints, some of which were particularly pleasing. The colours shown were brown, or "red sepia," green, two distinctly different blues, and yellow.

Mr. Kajima gave the follow description of his method of producing these prints :—The prints are exposed, developed with eikonogen in the usual way, fixed in a neutral bath without the interposition of an acid bath, and thoroughly washed. They are then treated with the following solution :—

Nirate of lead	½ ounce.
Red prussiate of potash	½ ounce.
Water	12 ounces.

This converts the image from black into a faint yellow. The prints are again thoroughly washed, and the yellow image is then toned to different colours, with various solutions as, follows :—For blue :—

Perchloride of iron	5 drams.
Water	6 ounces.

For another blue, called by some a "black blue," the prints are treated with a weak solution of ferrous sulphate. The strength of this solution is not material. For green :—

Neutral chromate of potassium ...	½ ounce.
Water	12 ounces.

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The prints are washed, and are afterwards treated as for the first of the two blues mentioned. For brown, or "red sepia":—

Copper chloride	5 drams.
Water	6 ounces.

The action of this solution is very rapid. For yellow:—

Mercuric chloride	90 grains.
Iodide of potassium	150 grains.
Water	8 ounces.

The action of this solution in very slow, but the prints darken considerably in drying. By continuing the action for a long time, a very pleasing colour that might be described as "light brown" results.

Messrs. W. K. Burton and T. Kondo showed the results of the use of orthochromatic plates with a yellow screen for portraiture. The result, in the case of people of dark complexion, was remarkable. In the case of the orthochromatic plate the necessity for retouching was almost done away with, and a result obtained that could not be got by any amount of re-touching in the case of an ordinary plate. The photographs taken on ordinary plates looked like caricatures, besides those on the orthochromatic plates. Professional photographers had been prevented from using orthochromatic plates for their ordinary work in the studio on account of the difficulty of a colour screen, which is quite necessary to get the full advantage of orthochromacy, but this difficulty was overcome by the use of a sheet of ordinary patent plate coated with picrated gelatine fixed in the dark slide in contact with the sensitive film as described at a previous meeting of the Society.

Mr. W. K. Burton showed an "iris diaphragm' shutter by the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company of Rochester, N.Y., United States of America. He pronounced it unmistakably the best shutter he had ever seen. It opened and closed at the centre, as shutters intended to work between the combinations of a lens ought to, and the opening was nearly circular from beginning to end. The time taken for opening and closing was only a fraction of the whole time of exposure, so that the "cöefficient of light" was remarkably high. The exposure could readily be varied between $\frac{1}{100}$ of a second, and 3 seconds, or a "time exposure" could be given without the necessity of keeping pressure on the pneumatic release. The shutter did not open in "setting" and, by a particularly ingenious device the vanes which opened and closed to give the exposure could be set to open to any desired aperture, so that they acted as an iris diaphragm as well as a shutter. The workmanship, all in metal, was of the highest degree of excellence.

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Ithaca, N.Y., May 10th, 1894.

It is next to impossible to travel anywhere in the United States at this end of the century without meeting people who have been in Japan. Three weeks spent during the month of April "away down East in Maine" show this very clearly. Your correspondent has been very nearly at the point where one jumps off from the United States into the Queen's Dominion, yet even there is reminded of Dai Nippon. At Eastport one recalls that there Commodore M. C. Perry made a visit in the U.S.S. frigate *Mississippi* just before going to Japan, and was impressed not only with the difficulty of settling the question of the Newfoundland fisheries, but also with the magnitude of the interests of American whalers in the seas of Japan.

At Bangor Theological Seminary, where some effort is made to throw light upon the questions of "Religion in Chinese Asia," the speaker found in his audience one gentleman and his wife who had travelled over a large area of beautiful Japan. Being a lumber merchant, and following out the business most in repute at Bangor, he was both valuable and discriminating in his praises of Japanese forestry, timber, and the excellent methods of the Japanese for the preservation of their forests.

Indeed, an American who sees how wastefully the Yankees have exhausted Nature's resources cannot but take one or two good lessons from the Mikado's subjects. The Adirondacks in New York have been so deforested that the sources of the Hudson river have been dangerously depleted, so that the river itself has long been what is known among hydrographers as "a drowned out river." For this noble stream, whose birth-place is in the Lake called, if we translate the Indian word, "Tear of the Clouds," and which flows past Manhattan Island to the ocean, in reality dies not very far from the Highlands at West Point. There its fresh water life is lost in the salt waters of the ocean, and the liquid is either saline or brackish from this point on.

In Maine also the forests are being rapidly cut down, and although even yet the map seems to present only a great surface, dotted and lined with ponds, lakes, and streams, furnishing a water power which is unparalleled in any other part of the United States, yet the volume of water descending to the sea is noticeably lessening in the eyes of old inhabitants. Just now the Maine folks are in great anxiety lest the Wilson Bill in Congress should remove all protective duty on lumber, and this necessary article should come in, from Canada and elsewhere, free. Judging, however, by the way the bill is suffering in the Senate, there will soon be little accuracy in speaking of it as the "Wilson" Bill.

To resume our subject of Japanese trees and returned people, there have been several Japanese students in the divinity school at Bangor, though none was in my audience. In the Faculty, however, are two returned quondam Orientals. One is Rev. John Sewall (a lineal descendant of old Judge Sewall of Massachusetts, the author of the Puritan Pepys Diary), Professor of Homiletics and Sacred Rhetoric. In 1852, as Captain's Clerk on board the U.S.S. frigate *Saratoga*, he visited Japan, and his recollections of Perry's peaceful armada are very keen. In one of the occasions while on shore, Mr. Sewall was right alongside of Perry when the final details of the treaty were made through Hayashi Daigaku-no-Kami, and he recalls not only how the distinguished professor of Chinese and the American Commodore (whom the Japanese always called "Admiral") looked and also how Bayard Taylor kept himself busy taking notes.

The other is Rev. George W. Gilmore, also of Bangor Seminary, author of Korea from Its Capital (who has now a work nearly ready for the press on the authorship of the Gospel of St. John), has charge of the department devoted to the thorough mastery of the English Bible. In several of the theological schools of the United States such a course has been inaugurated for students unable, by lack of previous preparation, to master Greek and Hebrew. The constant call for pastors and preachers in our growing West is so great that it is impossible to provide thoroughly educated men with sufficient rapidity or in adequate numbers. Already, it is probable that less than fifty per cent. of the clergymen in the United States have had a full collegiate education, a fact to be for many reasons greatly deplored. Mr. Gilmore gave me the first intimation I received of the assassination of Kim Ok-Kyün.

The study of comparative religion is one which is exciting great interest among us, and already there are at least six universities, which have endowed professorships for the teaching of this science, while probably as many more colleges or theological seminaries have lectureships, either occasional or permanent, on this theme. We notice also that certain institutions for the training of missionaries give attention to the subject. Of course, there are fierce oppositions and denunciations of any attempt on the part of Christian teachers to treat the non-Christian religions seriously or respectfully, but the world moves and the word of God *cannot* be bound, while science *is* bound to assert itself in every line of human enquiry. As the science of comparative religion is distinctively Christian in its birth and nature, it must and undoubtedly will be increasingly cultivated in every land of Christendom. It is to be hoped also that native scholars in non-Christian countries will be quickened and provoked to furnish the material by which the religion they profess or have inherited can be honestly examined and appraised. Certainly Christians are not apt to appreciate fully their own religion, to understand its sacred writings, or to rise to their highest ideals until the faiths of man outside of Christendom have been fairly studied.

Maine, though about as large as all the rest of New England, is not a wealthy or fertile, or largely populated state. It has much less than a million inhabitants and is losing rather than gaining annually. Its magnificent water power is not yet utilized to any noticable degree, and this for many reasons: the unsettled state of the labour market, the uncertainty of the tariff question, the great expense of railway freights owing to the great distances, and other minor causes. Maine produces ice in winter, granite in summer, and hay in between. At the recent Columbian World's Fair Exposition at Chicago the granite slate used in constructing the buildings was cut and polished by the workmen of Maine as a free gift. In Jackson Park, just as Maine is upon the map of the United States, the Maine House was put in the very North-East corner. There was a fine exhibition in education, in canoes, and ship models, in iron work, in fisheries, in natural history, in canned provisions, and the superb specimens of large game in the line of bears and moose were very noticeable. Yet although the horticulture and agriculture showed science and skill, they were utterly dwarfed by the splendid products of the West.

From the view of social life, however, Maine is a delightful state to travel in, and besides warm hearts and hospitable homes there are rich historical associations. The names on the map and of the streets, the old relics dug up from the ground show how much work the French missionaries, diplomatists, sailors, and soldiers did in trying to get this slice of earth to belong permanently to the domain of Louis the Fourteenth. The whole coast from Campo Bello to Piscataqua River is redolent of the names of explorers and navigators, whose French artillery once awoke the echoes of this rock-bound and richly indented sea front. Two or three days spent in the home of the President of the Maine Historical Society, in Portland, made these facts pleasantly apparent. Yet, lest one might lose himself in the charms of the past, he is quickly recalled to the modern days by seeing in one of the finest parts of the beautiful city the bronze statue of Longfellow.

In Augusta where I spent the night, I walked again into the old Capitol grounds and into the room where the late James G. Blaine used to sit as a representative. The Blaine homestead is not at present occupied, but it recalled pleasant memories of the two occasions when I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Blaine in his own library, and of chatting about books, politics, and the pleasures of Mount Desert Island. A great many personal sorrows overwhelmed this brilliant man before he died, but I am inclined to believe that the best part of Mr. Blaine's labours, and for which he received least credit, still abide and are benefiting the country and the people to an extent little dreamed of by those who in his lifetime were quick and long in both opposing and criticising him. I doubt not also that the forthcoming biography of Mr. Blaine will be one of unusual interest. It it to be written by "Gail Hamilton," whose brilliant pen is known all over the world, and under the supervision of Mr. Blaine's widow.

Another gentleman, the life-long friend of Mr. Blaine in Augusta, under whose hospitable roof I have spent not a few nights and days, is the Hon. John L. Stevens, with whom, of course, I had a long chat upon Hawaii and its prospects. Mr. Stevens believes, as devoutly as a Christian believes in his Master, that after the politicians and the philosophers and the critics have all had their say, and the Hawaiians themselves (using the term geographically) have acted, the little archipelago and state will be an integral part of the United States of America.

I might lengthen this letter to improper limits, were I to chat further about the good people and things of Maine, and therefore will at once conclude by making only a passing reference to the statesmen whom Maine produces, in number out of all proportion to her sparse population. Beside Thomas B. Reed, who doubtless is now chuckling over the virtual adoption by the Democrats of his rules of order in Congress, there is the Hon. Charles Addison Routelle, who, as the leading Republican member of the Committee on Naval Affairs, may be called almost the father of the modern steel navy of the United States. When in 1883 he become a member of Congress no modern steel war-ship mirrored its prow or the flag of the United States on the ocean wave. Now not only are seventy-thousand tons of modern war-ships of finest type in commission, but in the autumn of 1896 there will be one hundred and eighty thousand tons of steel war-ships afloat bearing the American flag. These battle-ships of the first and second class, armoured ships for coast defence, and cruisers will have been all produced and fashioned on American soil. What a difference between the *Powhatan* of 1853, in Yedo Bay, floating Perry's pennant and steaming less than twelve knots an hour, and the *Columbia*, which carried over ten times the boiler pressure, makes over twenty-two knots an hour, and turns her engines more than eight times as fast. Verily this is the day of steel—and of nickel.

I add a postscript apropos Mr. Milne's theory of our earth's crust waves and swells. Yesterday, while in New York, on Fifth Avenue, I noticed two new things. They were, first, the *three*-horsed London-like omnibuses with seats on the roof. These are admirably fitted for sight-seeing on this thoroughfare sacredly free from "tram," electric, cable, or horse cars. On the corner of 17th Street where stood the late August Belmont's luxuriant home and art gallery, now rises a many-storied steel-framed freestone dry-goods store. Its roof is certainly near enough to the sky to sway handsomely in an earth-swell. Alas for "the March of progress," Mrs. Belmont was Commodore M. C. Perry's daughter Caroline, and

HATHITRUST DIGITIZED BY GOOGLE URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

here more than one Japanese envoy or company were entertained, and here were, as the writer vividly remembers, abundant memorials of the illustrious man who, as far as salary, emolument, permanent rank, or government reward, was never anything but a captain in the United States Navy. We have never had but one Admiral in the Navy, and until four years after Perry's death in 1862, the term commodore was only a compliment.

W.E.G.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Chicago, May 12th.

Mr. T. Nishiwaki, who has come to this country to study American railroad construction and operation, has three water colours by Okio on exhibition in the reading-room of the Auditorium Annexe.

The following clipping gives a most interesting item of news:—

The first Japanese ever regularly ordained to the Christian ministry in this county will to-morrow preach his first sermon as the pastor of a church composed of American worshippers. The young man who has the honour of being America's pioneer pastor from Japan is the Rev. Natari Kitashima, Ph.D. His church is the First Unitarian of Vineland, N. J.

Mr. Kinza Hirai is lecturing to interested audiences in Washington, D.C., on subjects pertaining to philosophical and religious thought in Japan.

In the May *Review of Reviews*, Mr. Albert Shaw, the editor, in discussing "Our Position in the Pacific Ocean" writes as follows:—"It is our duty, if ever the prestige and power of one nation gave it a duty toward a weaker neighbour, to help Japan throw off the shackles of the cruel and humiliating commercial treaties through which Europe shamefully oppresses her."

Here is another international alliance:—

Yung Kwai, who is to marry Miss May Burnham of Spring field, Mass., this month, is one of a dozen of the most brilliant young men of China, as tested by a competitive examination, and was sent to this country by the Chinese Government as a diplomatic attaché in order to learn American ways. His engagement to a charming American girl would indicate that he is an apt pupil.

Reports from Washington indicate that the Chinese have pretty generally complied with the amended Geary Law, and that the number of deportable Chinamen will be much less than was expected. It is suspected that in several instances wily Celestials have succeeded in registering more than once under different names, and that thus a profitable trade in duplicate certificates may ensue. The degree of success in this business will depend, of course, upon the watchfulness of the U.S. officials.

The situation in Samoa is still uncertain and a renewal of the fight at any time is feared. Secretary Gresham has transmitted voluminous correspondence to the President on Samoan affairs, and has submitted the query whether we have not gained, rather than lost, by the tripartite government arrangement.

Two or three mails have come from Hawaii since my last letter. The first reported that there is a serious split in the ranks of the Royalist party though the efforts of the large number of men who want to be leaders. The next mail brought statistics of the registration, which showed that the natives had generally refrained from registering. The registration in Honolulu alone came to 15,07 as against, 2,800 at the last election under the monarchy; the total registration for the islands was estimated at 3,000. A large number of Americans, fearing lest they might lose their American citizenship by taking the required oath, though supporters of the Provisional Government, did not register. In Honolulu the Portuguese enrolled the largest number (418), with the Americans (390) second. It was also stated then that "the Japan scare has subsided." That same mail brought a sensational letter from R. W. Wilcox, who hinted at the probability of "a bloody revolution," if the Senate fail to uphold the President's policy.

The latest mail reached San Francisco the day before yesterday, and brought some news of the election. In Honolulu three American Union candidates (Carter, Abell, and Kunuia-Kea), two Portuguese, and one Independent (Judge Robertson) were elected. "The general complexion of the convention is highly conservative."

The reports from San Salvador have been so diverse, that it is difficult to ascertain the truth; but it seems to be a well-authenticated dispatch that announces the defeat of the rebels. Ex-President Caceres has been elected President of Peru.

Secretary Gresham and the Russian Minister have negotiated a treaty for the protection of seals. "It is understood the limit is fixed at ten miles." The treaty has been referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. There is also an effort to bring Japan into the compact, but no such progress has been made in the negotiation as in that with Russia.

Seneca Hazleton, of Burlington, Vermont, has been appointed U. S. Minister to Venezuela.

Gov. Rich, of Michigan, has appointed John Patton, Jun., of Grand Rapids, to succeed the late Senator Stockbridge. His father was once a Representative from Pennsylvania.

The late Senator Vance's successor from North Carolina is ex-Governor Thos. J. Jarvis.

The other day, in New York City, ex-President Harrison was asked if he had any idea of running again in 1896, and answered most emphatically, "No!" But it is yet too early for such a positive negative.

A caucus of Democratic Senators was recently held to consider the tariff bill. By a vote of 39 to 1 (Hill) they agreed to support the compromise bill. But as 6 Senators were absent the vote did not amount to much. And, in fact, no progress has yet been made toward a final vote.

Richard Croker has formally resigned his leadership of Tammany Hall after a service of nine years.

A special grand jury of prominent citizens of Chicago is at work investigating alleged frauds at the last city elections (December and April). The Board of Election Commissioners, when asked by this jury to produce the ballots cast at those elections, refused to do so.

The death list includes Congressman Brattan, of Maryland, and John Jay, grandson of the Revolutionary John Jay, and ex-Minister to Austria.

The casualty record includes a cloud-burst and dam-break which together wrought devastation in Stillwater, Minn; and a severe wind and rain storm that did considerable damage in Indianapolis.

The several "industrial armies" have been meeting with various kinds of experiences, both good, bad and indifferent. Frye's division, after a long delay at Indianapolis, is now on its way to Cincinnati, but not yet out of the Hosier State. Randall's division have had to camp on the open prairie; have been royally treated at Valparaiso; have suffered from dissensions, from hunger and wet; have had their chief and five others of the leaders taken from them, lodged in the jail at La Porte for one night, but afterwards released; and, when last heard from, were at South Bend. Sanders and his band of Colorado "commonwealers" stole a train and travelled more than 200 miles before they were compelled at Scott City, Kansas, to surrender to a Marshal's posse: they are now prisoners at Topeka. Coxeyites in the State of Washington also stole a train, and fought a battle with the U.S. Marshals and their posse: one Deputy Marshal was fatally shot; and several on both sides were wounded. Kelly's division made 60 flat-bottomed boats at Des Moines, and are now floating down the Des Moines River to Keokuk.

Coxey, Browne, and Jones have had their trial at Washington. They were defended by Senator Allen, of Nebraska; Representative Pence, of Colorado; and others. On the 8th inst. the jury found the three guilty on the first count of the indictment that they had violated a statute of the District by carrying a banner ("J. S. Coxey Good Roads Association") into the Capitol grounds; and found Coxey and Browne guilty of the second count in crushing the grass in the Capitol gardens. The punishment has not yet been meted out. It is quite probable that to-day the Capitol becomes free from this army, which the Board of Health has declared a "nuisance;" for Coxey, in obedience to this declaration, must move over into Maryland. It is also said that he fears the workhouse!

And still there is considerable trouble from the strikes, especially among the miners, who have been very disorderly at Mount Iron, Minn., and Pana and Staunton, Ill. On account of the scarcity of coal resulting from this strike, manufactories are suffering; some have had to close, and throw hundreds out of employment. The only hope of a settlement rests with the conference of coal miners and operators at Cleveland, Ohio, on the 15th inst.

Yesterday almost all the employers of the Pullman Palace Car Company at Pullman, in the Southern part of this city, went out on a strike for higher wages. This was unexpected; for, although there had been complaints, it was thought that a conference last Wednesday had settled the thing satisfactorily.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s *Weekly Review of Trade* says:—"The speculation in grain has again broken records with the lowest price ever made for wheat, although Western receipts are a little smaller than a year ago, while exports are also smaller by more than a quarter. The prevailing belief is that the yield will, as in other recent years, far exceed government indications, which are again pointing to a short crop."

"The World's Fair buildings have [illegible] for ——— to ———." Fill out according to convenience or preference!

The General Federation of Woman's Clubs, which has just closed its meeting at Philadelphia, honoured a Chicago lady, Miss Ellen M. Henrotin, by electing her to the office of President.

Day before yesterday a monument to the memory of Mary Washington was unveiled at Fredericksburg, Virginia. President Cleveland delivered the principal address.

Mr. H. H. Kohlsaat has sold out his controlling interest in the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* for $400,000 to Mr. William Penn-Nixon, who has been for years connected with that paper. This is the cleanest journal in this city.

The University of Chicago has lately received gifts of $30,000 toward the fund now being raised. The university colour has been changed to maroon or garnet. A lectureship has been established in the Divinity School for a course of lectures on Comparative Religion by Rev. John Henry Barrows, D.D., of this city.

Among the graduates this year from the Garrett Biblical Institute (Methodist), Evanston, is Goro Kabayagi, who spoke at a missionary meeting recently on "Japan, the Key to the East."

Rev. E. T. Harper, Ph.D., has been elected professor in the department of Assyriology and Comparative Religion in the Chicago Theological Seminary (Congregational) of this city. "Dr. Harper" may now stand for either this gentleman, or the President of the University of Chicago, or the latter's brother—all of whom are Assyrian Scholars! The Chicago Theological Seminary has also elected Rev. James Denny, D.D., of Scotland, to the chair of theology.

Major John W. Powell, retaining the office of Chief of the Bureau of Ethnology, has given up the position of Director of the Geological Survey to Professor Walcott.

Mr. Edgar Stanton Maclay, author of the "History of the Navy," is a son of a well-known missionary in China and Japan, now President of the Maclay Theological Seminary at Los Angeles, Cal. Mr. Maclay graduated from Syracuse University in 1885, obtained a post graduate degree, devoted himself to the study of American history, and spent considerable time in France and England pursuing his studies and gathering information for his "History of the Navy."

I wonder if the gentleman mentioned aboveis a brother of Arthur C. Maclay, author of "A. Budget of Letters from Japan," and "Mito Yashiki."

RELIGION IN LIFE.

A Sermon preached at St. Andrew's Church, Shiba, on Sunday, June 10th, 1894, by the Right Rev. Edward Bickersteth, D.D.

The following extracts from a sermon preached by the Right Reverend Bishop Bickersteth in St. Andrews Church on the 10th instant, contain a profound and touching analysis of the character of the late Mr. Hugh Fraser, H.B.M.'s Representative in Japan:—

"I know whom I have believed."—II. Tim, i. 12.

These words were the chosen motto from S. Paul's Epistles, of the author of the Provincial Letters.

And how many besides, both before and since the days of the Grand Monarch—not philosophers or scientists or men of fame and learning only, though thank God in every age not a few of these—but the men too whose very simplicity has in things religious been their guide and strength, have adopted them or words like them, as the expression of what was clearest to their spiritual vision and deepest in their personal consciousness—"I know whom I have believed."

* * * *

* * * Now it is evident that such a knowledge and faith as this must be a dominant and constant power in the life of him who possesses it. I may be allowed to dwell on this point for a moment.

Analyse any one day of human life; and it will be clear that the motives which severally bring each their own quota of influence to bear upon conduct are not only very numerous, but for the most part transient or intermittent; yet among them there will at times be some one, which when once it has been allowed to assert itself, subordinates or neutralizes the others, and maintains for a while a strong and marked control over the man's thought and action. Such masterful and controlling motives as these in human careers may be in themselves noble or base, worthy or unworthy: but—to select those only which may be the subject of ungrudging recognition and praise—the several ambitions of the scholar, the discoverer, the statesman, the philanthropist, are instances in

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point. To have apprehended more clearly the thoughts of the greatest men, to have extended the limits of human knowledge, to have improved the machinery of government on which a nation's welfare depends, or to have contributed to the wise regulation of its relationships with other peoples, to have lessened the sum total of sorrow and misery in our world, such ends as these have been known again and again to claim for their attainment a concentration of high faculties and great power of mind and soul—and if they be pursued for their own sake, without the taint which attaches to the mere love of fame, who shall say that they are not worthy of the devotion which in all ages they have secured?

And yet, when we consider them more closely, we should not say that even these high objects of human endeavour have all the characteristics which must be found in a supreme end of life.

The reason of this is not far to seek. It lies in man himself. A really supreme motive, if worthy of the name, must call into exercise all the faculties and powers with which man is endowed. If it does not, a higher motive than it is at least conceivable. And undoubtedly there is a faculty within us—call it how you will, perhaps best, the faculty of adoration and worship—to which even the highest and greatest of human ambitions, even when most dissevered from all traces of self-regard, makes its appeal in vain. Not the very highest self and therefore not the whole self of the philanthropist or the statesman or the discoverer is enlisted in his task. We could conceive of him as yet more entirely engrossed.

And we are brought to the same conclusion when we consider that these higher objects of ambition are the monopoly of the few, and of these commonly during a portion—it may be a small portion—of their lives on earth. The governed are many, the rulers are necessarily very few. Those who profit by discoveries are innumerable—those who make them are very few: it is the vast majority of human-kind which needs consolation and help—those who can or ought to make the amelioration of the lot of others their one object in life are necessarily a small minority, and even with them it is commonly only from time to time that circumstances allow them to serve the interests of their fellow-men.

But this again is a most serious objection to reckoning these objects, however noble in themselves, as the supreme end of life. For just as the end of man must claim the concentration of all his faculties, so must it be fitted to secure the devotion of all men at all times and seasons, in all circumstances and places, and include and intensify and consecrate all ends of life which are lower than itself.

Now these conditions are fulfilled—shall I say fulfilled only—in a life which is conformed to and moulded upon the principle which controlled and animated the life of St. Paul. Devotion to God, devotion to God in Christ, conscious submission to His claims, self-surrender to His service, confidence in His Love and His Power, these are the elements of a motive force which may rightly be described as supreme, which controls all others, which is constant in energy and forcefulness, which calls into play all the faculties of man's being, and by its very presence harmonises and hallows them.

Devotion, I repeat, to God in Christ is the supreme end of life according to the teaching and example of S. Paul: devotion, it will be noticed, to a Person. Beforehand we might perhaps have expected that the highest influences we should have been found capable of receiving, would come to us—not from a cause or a theory but from a Person: for we are persons—each with a strong, solid, indestructible individuality of his own; and that which is really to rule and dominate us must be so far like ourselves. In the Christian ideal this expectation is fulfilled. "I know whom I have believed."

And as we state this Christian ideal of life, one thing at least we may without fear maintain with regard to it,—I mean its practical effectiveness. It has as a matter of fact found its embodiment and justification, not only in great instances, like that of the Apostle, but in men and women of all circumstances and degrees, in the most different times and lands. To say that a life was Christian is only another way of saying that it was lived, or at the very least that it closed, in submission to the claims of Jesus Christ.

I admit that such a conviction may be first borne in upon the soul, only when the shadows are falling, and the end is near, like the great French Minister at the Court of St. James, prelate in youth, sceptic in age, Christian only in death. And God forbid that we should limit His all-mercifulness or the value of any repentance that is true.

But at least what loss is saved to the Church, what pangs of bitterest remorse to the penitent, if Christian faith be not merely the resource of the dying, or the refuge of those whose day of active usefulness is over, but the strength of the living—not merely a passport into the world, to come, but the inspiration of daily duty; not merely a hope caught up by those who are satiated with this world's pleasures or wearied by its disappointments, but the rest and joy of those who think and work in their days of heaviest responsibility.

It was so, brethren, with him whom last week we laid to rest, amid every token of respect and affection, which could be manifested by his own countrymen or by this great and friendly nation.

The possibility and the value of religion professed and maintained during a life of conscientious performance of public duty, is, I venture to say, the lesson of the career which ended last Monday.

All public men, who occupy the higher positions, are in our day respectful to religion. Some, as I have said, seek its consolations when the activities of life are over, but, thrice blessed are they, who, like him whom we have lost, find duty to God and to man, the habits of piety and the claims of public service, no inconsistent obligations; whose religion is part of themselves, with them less consciously but as really in the council chamber as in the House of God, in the company of their fellow-men as in private devotions.

It was largely, I believe this religious character, which gave to the late Representative of England in this land that quality, so invaluable, so Christian, in our day so rare, of practical disregard of mere personal reputation. In a true sense he might have adopted the apostle's words, "It is a small thing that I should be judged of you or other men's judgment." It was this practical religion which shortly after his arrival in this capital made him express his delight at finding here this Church and the mission which supplies its ministrations.

Above all it was this practical religion of life and character which enabled him three weeks ago, when so suddenly he was called in the midst of onerous and responsible work to the trial of a painful and as he knew dangerous illness, to leave himself trustfully in the Hands of God, and to prepare thoughtfully and quietly for the change if it were God's Will to summon him.

My brethren, such examples are to be cherished, as part of the rich legacy, accumulating from age to age in the treasure house of the church of God.

Apostolic lives—be it so—are out of our reach. Lives of simple discharge of daily duty, not merely as men or as Englishmen, but as Christians, under the inspiration of our faith, in the very presence of God, are as open to us as to him.

God teach us so to know Him in whom we believe, that not our devotions only but our lives may be true preparation for the world to come.

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

(PREACHED IN THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, IIDAMACHI, KOJIMACHI, TOKYO, BY DR. G. L. PERIN, THE LAST SUNDAY BEFORE HE LEFT JAPAN.)

Text, John VI: 66—69. Will ye also go away?

You will recognize these words as the conclusion of that remarkable series of events around and upon the sea of Gallilee, beginning with the feeding of the five thousand, including the storm upon the lake at night, and ending with that mysterious sermon on the Bread of Life in the synagogue at Capernaum.

Jesus had for a period risen to great popularity. By his wonderful works and his still more wonderful words he had stirred all Galilee to at least a momentary interest in himself and his plans. Go wheresoever he would the people flocked around him. If he sought repose for himself and his disciples in the desert on the eastern shore of the lake, the people were there before him. And when he returned in the darkness and storm of the night, the people too hurried back early in the morning to catch his first words and to demand of him why he had left them.

Indeed, as will presently appear, he was much too popular. He was therefore the first example of a too popular minister. But unfortunately he was not the last example; and still more unfortunately a good many of his too popular disciples in modern times have not known just when they were too popular, generally supposing that the more of that sort of thing one has the better, or if they have known it they have not known just what ought to be done. There is no doubt that Jesus was temporarily too popular, but he knew it, and he not only knew it but he knew what was to be done under the circumstances. He had seen the crowds growing larger day after day; he had fed the five thousand on the eastern shore of the lake; he had seen their unmistakeable admiration for himself and his power; he had witnessed their attempt to take him at all hazards and make him their king. But so far from having his vanity stimulated by this growing popularity and this flattering proposition, he felt with deep sorrow and humiliation that he had been misapprehended, that his purpose was misunderstood. He saw very clearly that the crisis of his ministry was upon him, and that he was in danger, not only of being defeated himself, but of becoming the innocent cause of political rebellion.

He resolved, therefore, to face the crisis, come what might, and make it clear once for all that he was to be no mere bread king, and no mere juggler for popular amusement. Escaping from those who would have degraded him to a material throne, he fled into the mountain, and there in the darkness, alone with his God, he fortified himself to speak the words that were destined to drive the multitudes from his side and leave him once more alone with the chosen few, who loved and trusted him. When, therefore, the inevitable multitude came on the morrow he was prepared to speak unto them those memorable words, "Ye seek me not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves and were filled. Labour not for that meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you."

And so he goes on clear to the end of that difficult sermon, telling them not the things they were longing to hear, not things intended to stir them to a new pitch of enthusiasm, but things intended rather to try their faith and prove of what stuff they were made. Yesterday he had fed them. They had attended the banquet which he had spread in the wilderness and were glad. They are ready for a nother one to-day; ready even to make him a banquet king.

But the scene of yesterday is not to be repeated to-day. He goes on telling them about the bread of life and that he himself is that bread. They shake their heads and murmur. He heeds not their murmuring, or he heeds only to drive home the unwelcome truth with new emphasis. They murmur still more and say among themselves, "Is this the man whom only yesterday we were ready to make king? If so we will have done with him. We went neither him nor his bread." And here we read those pathetic words, to me nearly the most pathetic in the New Testament, "From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him." His popularity was ended, the crowds had vanished and though he stood once more comparatively alone; he had rescued himself from the good intentions of his false friends and directed his work once more into purely spiritual channels. The masses were indeed gone, and when he turned to see who yet remained, there were only the faithful twelve and they with rueful faces and downcast eyes. It must have been very hard for them to see their Master deserted. It has ever been very hard that some Christians would prefer a poor, pulpy, puppet, popular ministry to one that dares to sacrifice even its own friends for the sake of being true to its high calling.

But no such charge could be brought against these loyal souls, though the temptation must have been indeed very great, for when Jesus turned to see who yet remained they were still standing waiting for his next message. He must have known that they were sorely tempted, for he looked them in the face and asked this searching question, "Will ye also go away?" To understand the temptation of these disciples we need only to reflect upon the power of sympathy. It is rarely an easy thing for men to stand alone. It is so hard to stand loyally to one's duty when others are going away in sullen disaffection! It is so easy to go with the multitude and so hard to be faithful when the multitude are gone. And particularly it must have been difficult for them when they were doubtless in sympathy with the purpose of those who would have made their Master king. How their hearts must have sunk when they saw the crowds melt away, the bubble burst and their dreams of a new kingdom vanish into air! It is indeed a critical moment. What shall be their answer to the searching question of Jesus? As might have been expected, the answer comes from Peter, and is memorable:—"Lord to whom shall we go, thou hast the words of eternal life. We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Holy One of God."

It is not easy for us now to understand the wisdom and the courage of this answer, but at all events it would seem as if Peter must in that moment have taken a swift glance at the alternatives. Would they also turn away from Christ? If so where would they go? They might go back to the

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gospel of John, but John is dead, and if he were alive he would tell them, "There is One greater than I, the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to unloose," and send them back again. But there is also the alternative of the Scribes and Pharisees. These are the doctors and teachers of their ancient law. They may go back to these. Yes, once they might, but not now. Having tasted the sweet and refreshing waters of life they can no longer be satisfied to linger beside the empty wells of formalism. But there is also the alternative of the Sadducees, with less of formalism and more of freedom. But that is wholly out of the question, for these are humble men, fishermen and labourers, and even in the old days before they had found their new Master they would not have been happy in the presence of aristocrats. But there is no other alternative, and Peter in that critical moment sees it and answers, "Lord to whom shall we go, thou hast the words of eternal life?"

I have thus passed in review before you this remarkable crisis in the ministry of Jesus for the sake of calling your attention to the fact, that in the nature of things, there must be such crises in the lives of most Christians. It is indeed a serene and stalwart faith that will carry a man clear through from first to last without faltering. A good many Christians have but touched, as it were, the hem of Christ's garment. And even if he be well understood it is not an easy thing to follow great ideals from first to last. I am not, therefore, surprised that there have been periods when great crowds have turned away with indifference, or with open rebellion. I am still less surprised that disappointed individuals are every day dropping out of the Christian ranks. But I am absolutely sure that those who do turn away from Christ either in crowds or alone do not understand the alternatives as clearly as Peter understood them.

Whether therefore, it be true or not let me assume that there are some here to-day who are holding on to their Christian faith upon a basis of misapprehension, or at all events, with a grasp so weak that they only await the bad example of other deserters, or await some special trial hour to let go their hold altogether. On the basis of this assumption, let me make of it a very practical question, and ask once: What are the alternatives?" You are about to turn away from Christ, where will you go? This is the question to which I would like to direct your attention.

If we were seeking only the superficial springs of happiness, the common sources of joy, then we should find many alternatives, and I do not wish to underestimate the beneficent influence of any of these. We may find friends, good staunch, true friends all round us if only we are worthy of them, and some of them will be a refuge in many a trial hour. All the world of literature is open to us with its golden treasures new and old. We may have the ministry of art and the subtle charm of music. If we want to know about our world and its laws we may go to any of the great teachers of science. If we wish to know philosophy we may go to any of the great masters from Socrates to Spinoza and they will tell us what they know and some things they don't know. If we want to know history, there are many masters in many tongues. If we would know politics we may go to,—well, we may go anywhere and find numberless teachers, all of them about equally good.

I do not therefore, undervalue these common helps of life. But these can not by any possible supposition be substitutes for Christianity. All these are ours whatever our philosophy of life may be. They are not substitutes, they are supplements. They are hardly supplements. They are for the most part springs of the same waters bursting forth from a still higher fountain. They cannot then be regarded as alternatives for Christianity, and any man who should turn away from Christ and seek refuge in these would be simply satisfying himself with the external manifestation, the superficial form of the thing he professes to despise.

But to the man who is ready to relinquish his hold upon Christianity there are certain supposable alternatives, and let us hasten to see what they are. To my thinking there are about four. (1) There is the great religion of India and Eastern Asia. (2) There is the religion of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, which has lately started a very small branch in America. (3) There is rebellion against the authority of all religion, whose logical end is anarchy. (4) There is utter indifference to the whole question. It seems to me that under various circumstances any of these alternatives might be chosen. It would be vain for me to attempt a critical analysis of them all in a single discourse. I can only hope to pass them before you in rapid review.

I should have been ashamed of the narrowness of Christianity if its friends had failed to applaud any good thing spoken at the recent parliament of religions by the representatives of other religions. I should be ashamed of myself if I should fail to acknowledge the virtues that have sprung from faith in the gentle Indian prince and the contribution his religion has made to the development of some of the nations of Asia. But I should be sorry to have any one suppose that the smooth words of the Dahrmapala and his friends at Chicago contain a real statement of what Buddhism really is. And it ought to be remembered that the great parliament of religions could have been held nowhere on the face of the earth except in a Christian country.

In the teachings of Buddha we find the sweetest charity, love of truth, hatred of falsehood, reverence for parents and kindness toward animals. He is simply a bigot who shall fail to acknowledge that these are noble virtues. But before we should allow our infatuation to deepen we should remember two things:—In the first place, if we may trust the very best sources of information, Buddhism is atheistic, pessimistic and without hope of personal immortality. A while ago, I saw a catechism written by a representative of southern Buddhism, from which I took these words:—"There is no personal God Creator upon whose mercy and will the universe depends. The Buddhist utterly rejects the belief in a personal God." Further on I found these words:—"The belief in an immortal personal soul,—that is, an indestructible, eternal separate substance which has only temporary abode in the body,—is regarded by Buddhism as a heresy due to ignorance of the true nature of life and living beings." While its pessimism is disclosed in another of its teachings, accepted by all Buddhists of every school, viz., that all existence is an evil. For Christian theism it substitutes the deification of ancestors and the worship of numberless idols. For Christian optimism it substitutes a pessimism which has for centuries been the despair of all Asia. For Christian immortality it substitutes the spiritually debasing theory of transmigration and final soul absorption, or, as some think, annihilation.

This is the theoretic side. But if we turn to the practical side it is even less satisfactory. Saint-Hilaire, one of the greatest authorities, declares that Buddhism has not been able to found a tolerable social state or a single good government. It failed in India, the land of its birth, it failed in China, it has failed in Japan. It paralyzes every thing it touches. Its tendency is not toward action, but contemplation; not life but death. Its prosperity has ever been contemporaneous with decaying civilizations. Whether viewed, therefore, from the practical or the theoretical side the picture is not an engaging one. Shall this then be an alternative for Christianity? I answer yes, a possible one. But what an alternative! Like the alternative in this magnificent age of steam, of crossing a continent on foot, or crossing the Pacific in a row-boat. Shall you who have known the joy of communion with a living God turn to a dumb idol whose loveless face does but mock the craving of hungry souls? Shall you who have felt the touch of our modern life identify yourselves with a civilization which has long since put on its grave-clothes? Shall you who have learned to see the fulfilling of life in a continued life beyond the grave, content yourselves with soul absorption or annihilation? An alternative! Yes, a possible one; but not an actual one for one Christian in ten millions. It was quite in harmony with the amiable mood of the Chicago parliament to be generous, and so should we all be. And particularly should we be just. But amiability is stretched beyond all limits and justice has outrun its legitimate office when any man shall seek to make the religion of Asia an alternative for Christianity.

But it may be said that if we turn to the religion of Eastern Europe and Western Asia we shall fare better, for here we have a truly theistic religion. Yes, we have indeed a theistic religion, and next to Christianity we seem to have the nearest approach to an universal religion. But viewed practically it is a theism so utterly different from that of Christianity that the resemblance remains chiefly in the name. The theism of Mohammedanism is the theism of will. Hard, relentless, invincible, implacable, omnipotent will. The one supreme duty of man is obedience. The early spread of Mohammedanism is a standing wonder. Its early contribution to philosophy and art at a period of great darkness in Europe is worthy of praise. And there can be little doubt that the early years in the public ministry of Mohammed were years of sincere devotion to truth, and earnest aspiration. But James Freeman Clark, after an extensive review of all that can be said for him and his religion, sums up in these words:—"The conclusion to which we must inevitably come is, that the worst Christian government, be it that of the Pope or the Czar, is very much better than the best Mohammedan government. Everywhere we find arbitrary will taking the place of law. In most places the people have no protection for life or property and know the government only through its tax-gatherers. All this is necessarily and logically derived from the fundamental principle of Mohammedan theology. God is pure will, not justice, not reason, not love. Christianity says, God is love. Mohammedism says, God is will. Christianity says trust in God. Mohammedanism says, Submit to God." Near the end of his chapter he adds:—"Mohammedanism has made social life lower. Its governments are not governments. Its virtues are stoical. It makes life barren and empty. It encourages a savage pride and cruelty. It makes men tyrants or slaves, women puppets, religion the submission to an infinite despotism. It is a hard, cold, cruel, empty faith, which should give way to the purer forms of a higher civilization." If we add to this the fact that Mohammed himself had ten wives and many concubines, and that in Arabia, Turkey, or India, Mohammedans still practice polygamy, we have a picture which will serve to show us what kind of alternative a man chooses who turns away from the Prince of Peace to follow the Arab warrior.

This an alternative for Christianity! Yes a possible one! But once more, what an alternative! And what has it to offer of light or thought, or hope, or strength to a troubled heart seeking for a religion in which to live and rest? One could perhaps admit that it was not wholly useless in crushing out idolatry in Arabia in its early days. But what has it for the 19th century? What contribution is it able to make to the thought or the religious life of the West? What has it to offer to you and me? The mere attempt to introduce Mohammedanism into a Christian country can scarcely be regarded as other than a joke or a commercial speculation. It would seem that only when day shall have turned into night, when flowers shall have learned to bloom in winter, when virtue shall learn to spring from vice, when worship shall turn to abject fear, when the revolving wheels of civilization shall begin to roll backward and all men shall have forgotten the sweet and heavenly influence of Jesus, then, and only then might a man of Christian antecedents turn to Mohammed as a possible alternative.

But what next? If in neither of these great religions can be found an alternative for the man who would turn away from Christ, where shall he go next? It surely becomes more than doubtful, does it not, if he can find a substitute in any religion? But the alternatives are not yet exhausted, for he may repudiate the authority of all religion. Not a few in Christian lands have done this. But I would like you to notice the difference between rebellion against all religion and mere intellectual atheism. There have always been a few men who have settled into atheism, not as an alternative for religion, but from what they have regarded as a necessity of thought. They would gladly have escaped if possible, but it seemed to them they could not. For them the evidences for theism have not been satisfactory. They have not held atheism as a philosophy, but as a mere negative theory. They knew they could not find in it any explanation for life, any basis for morals, nor any consolation for trouble and sorrow. In no spirit of rebellion, therefore, but rather, reluctantly, have they abandoned the common hopes of men.

But that is a very different class of men with very different ends in view who, in a spirit of rebellion, abandon the ordinary sanctions of morals and make war upon all religion. If we were to follow the intellectual history of these men we should find that as a rule they are not wise philosophers or theologians. They have not arrived at their present opinions by any hard processes of thought. Indeed, there are really two classes of these people. In the first place there are those who, like the best of the leaders in the French Revolution, have the feeling that it is possible to build a new and better order of society upon an entirely new foundation. Strangely as it seems to me therefore, they jump at the conclusion that the one thing that needs to be left out of the new order is the very foundation of all order. I do not wish to deny that these men have undertaken to break, and have succeeded in breaking some things that needed to be broken. But having done this breaking, where is the new society they have builded on the new foundation? After all the centuries not one such society can be found. These men have made a real contribution to the world, but it has not been the contribution which they themselves expected to make. Their chief service has been that they have stimulated thought and caused a readjustment of the old materials of thought. But not one example can yet be pointed out of a great society having been

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builded upon a foundation distinctly irreligious. Indeed, the conclusion is well nigh irresistable that any attempt to build such a society along moral lines, leaving out the essential elements of Christianity, must inevitably fall asunder like grains of sand. We need not deny that so-called Christian civilization has always been accompanied by moral abuses and by superstitions which have made the reformer's office a very useful one. But the one clear fact remains that after every readjustment and every formation the indispensable materials of the new order have been just those materials which have been central in the teachings of Christ.

The other class who make war upon all religion, is made up of those reckless and irresponsible individuals who carry the principle to its logical conclusion without fear of consequences. They are known as anarchists, and their weapons are not reason, not argument, but giant powder and dynamite. I suppose so far as this congregation is concerned, for the purposes of this argument, I may be permitted to dismiss this class without a single word of comment. I do not see a man here to-day who looks as if he would like to renounce reason and go into the dynamite business. But let me simply ask what is there in this warfare against religion, whether it be of the lower or the higher order that should make it an alluring alternative for Christianity? What hope is there in it? What substantial thing has it to offer? What strength can it impart? What life can it nourish? What good thing has it ever put in the place of the old? What power has it to make human life nobler or society richer? If it has always been a disintegrating force in society, what hope has it for you individually? It may be answered that the movement has included some very good men. True it has, but they have been like the Irishman who said that if he ever went to heaven it would be in spite of himself. They have been good by abandoning in practical life the very principles of their own theoretic revolution. Their schools, their neighbours, their literature, their laws have all been permeated with the spirit of Christianity, and far more than they themselves realize they are the product of Christian civilization. Here is where they have received their real nurture. What shall we think of the man who will stab the mother whose breast has been the fountain of his own life?

But there is still one more alternative, and let us look at that for a moment. I am not very much afraid that any considerable number of Christians will ever deliberately turn away from Christ and accept Buddhism or Mohammedanism. I suppose if we were to go to America and build a Buddhist temple or a Mohammedan mosque, the number of its disciples, would be in proportion to the measure in which it abandoned its own principles and became more or less Christian. While history seems to indicate that the number of men is not large who will deliberately make war upon all religion, it is pretty difficult for a man to plan an intelligent campaign against nature. It is not easy for a man to make war against what God has planted in his own breast. But there is far more danger in what I have called the fourth alternative, viz., that of turning one's back upon the whole question. It is at once the most dangerous and the most dishonourable of all. It is the most dangerous because a man must first stifle the inward voice and turn a deaf ear to conscience and to all reason on the subject. It is the most dishonourable because it is too easy and too selfish to be manly.

I can respect the man who, facing the whole problem, and thinking himself clear through it, turns resolutely away from Christ and stands upon a Buddhist platform. I can honour the man who, as a matter of intellectual necessity, drifts into atheism, or the one who, as a matter of conscience girds up his loins and makes war upon all religion. But what am I to think of the man who turns indifferently away from the whole problem and refuses to think or act at all? I can only think, either that he is too indolent to grapple with the problem in a manly fashion, or that he is too selfish to discharge the inevitable obligations involved in the recognition of religion and the usefulness of the Church.

An alternative? Yes, like that of dropping one's oars and floating with the current. A possible alternative, though a lazy one, to the man who wants to go down stream. But not for the man who wants to go up stream. He must grapple the oars and pull in a manly fashion. And I hope no one will think I am indulging in religious cant when I say that as a rule, down stream is the only direction in which any man can go who assumes the attitude of indifference toward religion. As a man speaking to men, I state it as my deliberate conviction that there are a good many chances that sooner or latter such a man will go to pieces. If he does not absolutely do so he will deteriorate, he will become material and selfish, sordid and worldly. Like the plant from whose roots all moisture is gone, the leaves and flowers of his life will lose their freshness and blooms.

But supposing we admit that in the aggregate there are a considerable number belonging to this class who do not seriously degenerate, then it only proves the great buoyancy of a society so strongly built and so well ballasted that it can carry a good deal more than its working crew. Many a man who gives himself credit for not being particularly bad is being unconsciously carried by moral and spiritual forces to the value of which he professes himself indifferent, and for the support of which he never lifts a hand. Thank God for the spiritual environment which is able to wrap them about like a cloak and bless them even though they are unconscious or ungrateful. But quite independently of personal considerations, is it not more manly for a man to identify himself with those forces without which society must speedily fall into chaos? Is it not nobler to add to these forces the power of one's own energy than to burden them with the weight of one's moral inertia?

So far as I can see the answer of Peter was a wise one. The world needs, and you and I need, the religion of Jesus Christ. To whom else can we go? He still has the words of eternal life. What shall give a man strength and hope when the waves of trouble beat around his feet, or catch him up in their angry embrace and threaten to overwhelm him? What can give him strength save the conviction that this is God's world and no man is ever left alone? Or when one shall stand face to face with death, or shall see his loved ones snatched from his arms and borne, he knows not whither, what shall be his consolation save the faith of Christ, that no power in all the world can ever kill the soul. Or in the sickening discouragements which overtake one in his efforts to push forward the moral reforms of the world, what shall be his hope save the conviction that the eternal God is working on his side? Or, when after many pitiful failures a man struggles on after nobler ideals of purity and goodness in his own individual life, only to find himself defeated again and again, what shall be his hope save that his Master has travelled the same rugged road and has infinite pity for the man who is doing his best? Or when we have struggled to see and have not been able, when we have longed to know and have found ourselves still hedged about with many unanswered questions—what has been our hope save the knowledge that Jesus has stood where we have not stood, has seen what we have not seen, knows what we do not know, and speaking to us out of his clearer vision bids us go forward with brave hearts and fear not.

From whatever point of view we study the needs of man, Jesus still has the words of eternal life. The storm will surely come. Labour is the common lot of man. No man can escape from sorrow. Temptations rise as if from the ground to meet us on every side. You may postpone, but you can not escape the trial hour. And when it comes and you see others turning angrily or sullenly away from their only refuge, will you also go away? If so, where will you go? Think, think a little where will you go? Does not the same wise prophet who spoke to the disciples in the days of old, have for you too, the words of eternal life? Where can you go, save into the lonely desert or the pitiless storm? Is it not better to stay at home? Better to follow him who has never yet led one soul astray. Better, infinitely better, to be true to the noble Master and his great ideals.

An amateur angler went to fish in a Scotch stream, provided with the finest rod and reel that money could buy, the most invincible tackle, and the most improved fly-hooks. Having flogged the water for hours without getting a nibble, he had the mortification of seeing an old fisherman near him pull out the trout by dozens with nothing but a bit of stick and a string. Puzzled and disappointed, he at last went up to the old man and asked him, "What is the meaning of this? How comes it that I, with the most perfect appliances, catch nothing, while you, with only the clumsiest tools, are so successful?" To which the old man replied. "The meaning o't, sir, I take it to be this—that I'm fishin' for fish, and ye're fishin' for fun!"

CRICKET.

MR. CRAWFORD'S ELEVEN *v.* CAPTAIN'S ELEVEN.

The scratch teams on Saturday were captained by Mr. Crawford and Mr. Walford, and as the result of some fairly good cricket, honours rested with the former's eleven. The afternoon was beautiful, a flood of sunshine everywhere, with little or no breeze to interfere with the bowling. The pitch was good but rather slow. The Captain's eleven went in first and Dickinson was the first to succumb, being neatly caught by Crawford off "Lohmann." He had contributed 6, a 3, a 2, and 1. Barton was then joined by Allcock, but the partnership lasted only a short time, Mollison finding the new-comer's wicket after an over had been bowled. Philip, next man in, had also short shrift, and Walford did not fare much better, being caught by Mollison off "Lohmann," after knocking up four runs. Then Garfit went out and runs came quickly, both bats making some very neat hits all over the field. A separation was not effected until 108 had been telegraphed, Garfit going under to a straight ball from Chappell, the leather disturbing the middle stump. The tail of the team did not make any stand, all being disposed of for four, and the innings closed about a quarter to four o'clock for 120, including eight extras. Barton, who carried out his bat for 50, made three 4's and two 3's; Garfit six 4's, and five 2's. At four o'clock play was resumed, Crawford and Mollison going in to face the bowling of Walford and Morriss. Crawford opened with a 2 first ball, and continued to hit freely all through his innings. Thirty-three had been placed to the credit of the pair before Philip, who relieved Morriss, found Mollison's wicket. Kenyon took his place but did not remain in long; then Dr. Todd went in and a good stand was made, the score gradually creeping up to the century. This figure was passed, but at 109 Todd went under, being caught by Walford off Philip after a well played innings resulting in 24 runs. Dr. Chappell, who followed, made a similiar total, but the rest of the team, with the exception of Sharp—19, not out—did not make much of a showing. The fielding of the Captain's eleven was much smarter at the commencement than that of their opponents, but they fell off at the end, the heat and fatigue telling. Crawford, who made the top score of the match, knocked up fifteen 4's—three of them in succession in Walford's eighteenth over—two 3's and twenty-two 2's. The bowling showed improvement on last week's play, Walford sending down some very good balls as did also Philip. The following are the scores:—

MR. WALFORD'S XI.	
Mr. H. V. Dickinson, c. Crawford, b. "Lohmann"	6
Mr. G. W. Barton, not out	50
Mr. G. Allcock, b. Mollison	1
Mr. G. Philip, b. "Lohmann"	1
Mr. A. B. Walford, c. Mollison, b. "Lohmann"	4
Mr. A. S. Garfit, b. Chappell	47
Mr. H. L. Fardel, b. "Lohmann"	6
Mr. A. R. Lamb, c. Stokes, b. "Lohmann"	2
Mr. Shaw, l.b.w., b. "Lohmann"	0
Mr. W. Y. Showler, c. and b. Chappell	0
Mr. G. W. Tilden, b. "Lohmann"	1
b. 4, l.b. 3, w. 1	8
	120

MR. CRAWFORD'S XI.	
Mr. K. F. Crawford, c. Garfit, b. Dickinson	116
Mr. J. P. Mollison, b. Philip	11
Mr. E. O. Kenyon, b. Barton, b. Walford	5
Dr. Todd, c. Walford, b. Philip	24
Dr. Chappel, c. and b. Philip	24
Mr. W. Cabeldu, b. Walford	4
Mr. B. Sharp, not out	19
Mr. H. Tennant, b. Walford	1
Dr. Stokes, run out	5
Mr. M. S. Tuska, b. Philip.	0
"Lohmann" did not bat...	0
l.b 1, w. 2	3
	212

BOWLING ANALYSIS.	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.B.
Mr. Mollison.	60	35	1	1	—
"Lohmann"	76	45	5	7	—
Dr. Chappell.	45	23	1	2	1
Mr. Crawford	15	9	—	—	—

BOWLING ANALYSIS.	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.
Mr. Walford	110	80	5	3	—
Mr. E. R. Morriss	35	33	2	0	—
Mr. G. Philip	120	70	5	4	2
Mr. Shaw	5	12	0	0	—
Mr. Dickinson	30	18	2	1	—

Y.C. AND A.C. *v.* THE NAVY.

This match, played on Wednesday resulted in a very close and interesting game, the home team just winning by 12 runs. The weather was all that could be desired; in the morning there was some sun, but in the afternoon the luminary was conspicuous by its absence, which made it much pleasanter for those engaged; while the strains of the band of the Flagship discoursed pleasant music to the goodly number of ladies who graced the ground with their presence.

Yokohama first went in to bat, and opened rather badly, Crawford being run out after only five runs had been made, but White, Edwards, Barton, and Walford added considerably to the score ere they were dismissed, Edward's life though short being a merry one. He hit the ball all over the field and somewhat demoralized the bowling, which had been very good till then. The tail of the team did little, four batsmen only contributing 29 runs. At tiffin time the score stood at 142 runs, with four wickets down, Dickinson having contributed 7, Crawford

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4, White 25, and Edwards 43. The last named was caught out beautifully by Leatham—a very difficult catch near the fence. Walford and Barton, before adjournment, seemed well set and were scoring freely. Play was resumed at 2 o'clock, the bowlers being Arbuthnot and Powlett. Barton opened with a hit to leg for 4 off Powlett and in the next over two more were added. Both men then settled down to steady play, the bowling and fielding being too good to be trifled with. Barton was eventually bowled by a tricky ball from Arbuthnot. Black then joined Walford, who added a four with a fine hit, and the newcomer, who had only made one, was caught and bowled by Powlett. Mair was the next man, and Walford was almost immediately after caught off a straight drive—179-7-54. Kenyon then joined Mair, and opened with three, but after adding a couple was given out leg before to Powlett. Philip followed; Kenyon added 2 immediately after. Philip had made but one when he was caught at point by James—9 wickets for 191. Hunt was last man in. Together they raised the score to 200. Kenyon was then bowled by Arbuthnot, the side being out for 203.

Thring and Penny went out first for the Navy to face the bowling of Edwards at the Settlement and Black at the Pavilion end. Penny opened with a single off Edwards, who, with his fourth ball, cleaned bowled Thring. Arbuthnot, a left-handed bat, followed, and Penny contributed 2, off Black. Arthibuthnot next made a couple, but the bowling was too deadly, and in the first ball of the third over Edwards dismissed Penny—6 for 2. Powlett joined Arbuthnot, and some pretty play began. Powlett hit out freely as soon as he was set, hitting Edwards beautifully to leg for 4. Some careful play then ensued, the fielding being very good, much better than we have seen for some time. The score, however, gradually mounted, both men playing pretty and correct cricket. Arbuthnot had a lucky chance given him by Black. Runs still continuing, Walford took the place of Black, but this had no effect, the bowling having been completely collared. Eventually Powlett in an attempt to make a strong off drive was prettily caught by Black, at mid-off, after contributing a useful 34—3 for 64. Leatham was next man in and run-getting continued, the hitting to leg by Arbuthnot being a fine feature of the play. Philip, when the score was at 180, relieved Edwards, and after a while he dismissed Leatham with a good ball, a bailer—4 for 91, the retiring batsman contributing 11. Black was again put on at the Pavilion end, but Arbuthnot was not to be denied, and sent the balls all over the field. Oldham, however, fell to Black—5 for 100. Meaden then joined Arbuthnot and Crawford trundled the leather at the Settlement end and Edwards from the Pavilion. Arbuthnot soon gave a hot one to Barton at mid-off, which was not held. Black then relieved Crawford, and Meaden had a close shave of being run out; Arbuthnot also was almost served with the same sauce through a misunderstanding with Meaden. He still continued to score, however, hitting out freely to leg and the on side. Another change in the bowling took place, White relieving Black. At 5 o'clock with 150 runs and only five wickets down things looked bright for the Navy, as the batsmen seemed well set, notwithstanding the continued change of bowlers, Walford replacing Edwards. When the score was at 156, however, Arbuthnot in running out to hit one from White, missed, and was smartly stumped by Dickinson. He had contributed a very useful 80, which included seven fours, six-threes, eight twos, and singles. Harries, who followed, was run out. Things were looking much brighter for Yokohama and the field seemed to brace up a bit, although there were one or two wild throws through Meaden calling for short runs. The spurt did not last long and scoring went on apace. Walford let go a very easy ball off James by White when the score was at 181. The bowlers were changed again and again but seemingly with little effect. James was finally given out leg before to Edwards—8 for 188. Wilson, next in, soon succumbed, being bowled in Edwards fourth ball—9 for 188. Blount, last wicket, had only made 3 when he was clean bowled, amid intense excitement. Meaden carried out his bat for 31, the innings closing for 191. Yokohama thus won by 12 runs. The game was very close, and at one time looked very much as if the Navy would emerge victorious.

Yokohama went in for a second innings, there being still half an hour to spare. Crawford and White went out to face the bowling of Powlett and Arbuthnot. The bowlers were well on the wicket, and run getting was not brisk. White lifted an easy one which was held by Leatham—1 for 9: Leatham repeated the trick by catching Hunt before he had had time to break his duck. Kenyon, who also raised the ball, was held by Meaden—3 for 11, Blount here relieved Arbuthnot and Leatham Powlett, both being left handers. After a few runs had been added stumps were drawn at 6.30 The following is the score and analysis:—

Y. C. & A. C.

	1ST INNINGS.		2ND INNINGS.	
Mr. H. V. Dickinson, b. Arbuthnot.	7			
Mr. K. F. Crawford, run out	4	not out		17
Mr. P. E. White, b. Arbuthnot	25	c. Leatham, b. Powlett		3
Mr. W. D. S. Edwards, c. Leatham, b. Penny	43			
Mr. G. W. Barton, b. Arbuthnot	35			
Mr. A. B. Walford, b. Arbuthnot	54			
Mr. C. A. Black, c. and b. Powlett	1			
Mr. H. R. Mair, l.b.w., b. Powlett	6	not out		1
Mr. E. O. Kenyon, b. Arbuthnot	13	c. Meaden, b. Powlett		0
Mr. G. Philip, c. James, b. Powlett	1			
Mr. H. R. Hunt, not out	8	c. Leatham, b. Powlett		0
Byes	6			3
	203			24

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

FIRST INNINGS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maidens.	Wickets.
Sir R. K. Arbuthnot	142	65	6	5
Mr. F. A. Powlett	135	80	10	3
Mr. W. B. Penny	30	21	2	1
Mr. W. H. Thring	15	11	1	—
Lieut. A. Oldham	30	15	—	—
Dr. Harries	20	5	1	—

SECOND INNINGS.

Sir R. K. Arbuthnot	20	5	2	—
Mr. F. A. Powlett	25	4	2	3
Mr. G. R. Blount	30	11	1	—
Lieut. Leatham	20	1	3	—

THE NAVY.

Lieut. W. H. Thring, b. W. D. S. Edwards	0
Mr. W. B. Penny, b. W. D. S. Edwards	4
Lieut. Sir R. K. Arbuthnot, st. Dickinson, b. White	80
Mr. A. Powlett, c. Black, b. Walford	34
Lieut. E. la T. Leatham, b. Philip	11
Lieut. A. Oldham, b. Black	1
Dr. E. H. Meaden, not out	31
Dr. H. Harries, run out	0
Lieut. H. W. James, l.b.w., b. Edwards	10
Mr. G. P. Wilson, b. Edwards	0
Mr. G. R. Blount, b. Edwards	3
b. 13, l.b. 3, w. 1	17
	191

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.
Mr. W. D. S. Edwards	123	70	4	5	—
Mr. C. A. Black	75	45	4	1	—
Mr. A. B. Walford	35	22	—	2	—
Mr. G. Philip	15	10	—	1	—
Mr. K. F. Crawford	10	7	—	—	—
Mr. P. E. White	35	20	2	1	—

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR THE 27TH FISCAL YEAR.

REVENUE.

ORDINARY REVENUE.

	Government.	As passed by the House of Representatives.
1.—Receipts from Posts and Telegraph	28,744.000	28,744.000

EXTRA ORDINARY REVENUE.

1.—Donations	48,576.000	48,576.000
2.—Miscellaneous Receipts	1,112,947.016	1,112,947.016
3.—Amounts transferred from the previous fiscal year	2,788,462.590	1,528,187.833
Total	3,949,985.606	2,689,710.849
Grand total of Revenue	3,978,729.606	2,718,454.849

EXPENDITURE.

ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

1.—Legations and Consulates	10,851.099	10,851.099
1. Salaries and Allowances	777.369	777.369
2. Repairs	260.000	260.000
3. Managements of Settlements at Korea	6,742.320	6,742.320
4. Rents of Houses	1,615.260	1,615.260
5. Travelling Expenses	1,406.750	1,406.750
6. Reception Expenses	49.400	49.400

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS.

1.—Offices for Superintending Public Works	35,111.841	28,343.307
1. Salaries and Allowances	19,992.750	13,595.250
2. Travelling Expenses	10,569.750	10,569.750
3. Miscellaneous Salaries	839.000	839.000
4. Office Expenses	3,710.341	3,339.307
2.—Expenses of Penitentiaries	20,402.600	20,402.600
3.—Hokkaido Administration Board	190,706.642	180,395.067
1. Public Works Expenses	29,371.788	29,371.788
2. Travelling Expenses	5,817.467	3,989.667
3. Miscellaneous Salaries	8,675.375	2,306.600
4. Industrial Expenses	134,806.110	134,806.110
5. Sanitary Expenses	1,900.110	1,900.110
6. Educational Expense	8,020.792	8,020.792
7. Secret Service Fund	2,115.000	Not allowed.
4.—Hokkaido Penitentiaries	12,309.540	11,652.008
1. Miscellaneous Salaries	5,734.216	5,734.216
2. Office Expenses.	6,575.324	5,917.792
5.—Fu and Ken Expenditures	30,438.590	30,438.590
1. Travelling Expenses	30,438.590	30,438.590
Total	288,969.213	271,231.572

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

1.—National Debt	1,514,535.000	1,514,535.000
1. Repayment of Bonds	1,514,535.000	1,514,535.000
2.—Rewards and Pensions	18,868.614	18,868.614
1. Schoolmaster's Pensions	17,818.614	17,818.614
2. Pensions to Foreigners	1,050.000	1,050.000
3.—The House of Peers	5,617.000	5,617.000
1. Travelling Expenses	5,617.000	5,617.000
4.—The House of Representatives	15,000.000	15,000,000
1. Travelling Expenses	15,000.000	15,000,000
5.—Cost of dealing with currency	100,986.270	100,986.270
Total	1,655,006.884	1,655,006.884

DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

1.—Military Expenses	5,211.168	5,061.168
1. Reviews and Exercises	5,211.168	5,061.168
2.—Gendarmerie	11,975.649	11,975.649
1. Salaries and allowances	5,509.080	5,509.080
2. Arms and Gunpowder	2,044.751	2,044.751
3. Uniforms	2,738.558	2,738.558
4. Prisoners Expenses	57.800	57,800
5. Travelling Expenses	1,278.540	1,278.540
6. Miscellaneous Salaries	106.920	106.920
7. Secret Service Fund	240.000	240.000
Total	17,186.817	17,036.817

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

1.—Courts of Law	50,384.463	50,384.463
1. Law Courts	50,384.463	50,384.463

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

1.—The Department Proper	2,500.000	2,500.000
1. Miscellaneous Salaries	2,500.000	2,500.000
2.—Earthquake Investigation Association	707.870	707.870
1. Repairs	707.870	707.870
Total	3,207.870	3,207.870

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS.

1.—Expenses of Communications	11,496.885	10,922.041
1. Works of Communications	7,474.510	7,100.785
2. Miscellaneous Salaries	2,162.865	2,054.722
3. Office Expenses	1,859.510	1,766.534
Grand Total of Ordinary Exditures	2,037,103.231	2,018,640.747

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURES.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

1.—Buildings and Repairs	8,450.456	6,457.213

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS.

1.—Subsidy towards Expenses of Public Works	586,942.532	586,942.532
1. Subsidy toward the Yokohama Water Works	500,000.000	500,000.000
2. Subsidy towards the Kobe Waterwork Kom	60,000.000	60,000.000

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3. Subsidy towards Repair of Roads in Nagano Prefecture	16,889.000	16,889.000
4. Subsidy towards Re-construction of Bridges in Shiga Prefecture	10,053.532	10,053.532
2.—Repairs and Construction of Rivers	931,023.000	931,023.000
1. River Tone	250,000.000	250,000.000
2. River Oi	69,600.000	69,600.000
3. River Kitakami	25,000.000	25,000.000
4. River Mogami	30,000.000	30,000.000
5. River Abukuma	54,600.000	54,600,000
6. River Akano	1,250.000	1,250.000
7. River Yoshino	3,669.000	3,669.000
8. Mouth of River Shinano	335,000.000	335,000.000
9. River Tenryu (Supplementary Repairs)	60,000.000	60,000.000
10. River Fuji (Supplementary Repairs)	84,854.000	84,854.000
11. River Fuji	6,840.000	6,840.000
12. River Tenryu	10,210.000	10,210.000
3.—Repairs and Building	4,780.800	Not allowed
4.—Expenses of Surveying Rivers	15,656.396	15,656.396
1. Salaries and Allowances	8,806.000	8,806.000
2. Travelling	3,406.800	3,400.000
3. Expenses for surveying and examining Rivers	3,443.596	3,443.596
5.—Yokohama Harbour Works	229,947.747	Rejected
1. Salaries and Allowances	10,237.500	Rejected
2. Miscellaneous Salaries	22,931.551	Rejected
3. Office Expenses.	4,293.891	Rejected
4. Travelling Expenses	967.680	Rejected
5. Repairs and Building	1,150.000	Rejected
6. Public Work Expenses	190,367.125	Rejected
6.—Expenses of Building Offices and Houses of the Diet	21,202.127	20,345.663
1. Salaries and Allowances	18,990,000	18,270.000
2. Miscellaneous Salaries	597.483	597.483
3. Official Expenses	1,364,644	1,228.180
4. Repairs	250.000	250.000
7.—Industrial Expenses in Hokkaido	110,890.000	110,890.000
1. Drainage Expenses between Horomui-Umaoi and Barato-Jenibako	105,390.000	105,390.000
2. Expenses for surveying and examining Harbours	5,500.000	5,500.000
8.—Expenses for exhibiting Hokkaido Articles in the 4th Domestic Industrial Exhibition	5,500.000	5,500.000
9. Expenses for Enlarging the Pier at Kobe	161,468,610	Rejected
Total	2,067,411.212	1,670,357.591

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

1.—Building and Repairs	156,070.866	133,276.741
1. New Construction Expenses	22,794.125	Rejected
2. Construction of Warehouse of Yokohama Custom House	89,885.660	89,885.660
3. Construction of Carriage-Ways in Yokohama Custom House	43,391.081	43,391.081

DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

1.—Construction of Fortresses	1,031,276.268	59,919.000
1. Arms and Gunpowder	638,670.768	Rejected
2. Construction of Fortresses at Naruto Straits	42,370.500	Rejected
3. Construction of Fortreses at Kure	182,396.000	Rejected
4. Construction of Fortresses at Saseho	131,173.000	Rejected
5. Construction of Fortresses at Tsushima	36,666.000	36,666.000
2.—Buildings and Repairs	100,526.000	26,831.500
1. New Constructions	21,169.000	21,169.000
2. Construction of Barracks in Tokyo Bay	5,662.500	5,662.500
3. Construction of Barracks in Naruto Strait	7,390.000	Rejected
4. Construction of Barracks in Kure	61,282.250	Rejected
5. Construction of Barracks in Saseho	5,022.250	Rejected
3.—Expenses for Surveying	98,652.332	98,652.332
1. Salaries and Allowances	3,612.000	3,612.000
2. Office Expenses	914.268	914.268
3. Miscellaneous Salaries	1,407.582	1,407.582
4. Surveying Expenses	92,718.482	92,718.482
Total	1,230,454.600	185,402.832

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

1.—Building and Repairs	15,840.000	15,840.000
2.—Expenses for Experiment of Shimose Gunpowder	38,584.365	38,584.365
Total	54,424.365	54,424.365

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

2.—Construction of Lecture-rooms of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy of the College of Engineering	35,078.000	33,324.100
3.—Initiation of Osaka Technological School	97,152.000	97,152.000
1. Construction Expenses	68,352.000	68,352.000
2. Equipment of School Apparatus	28,800.000	28,800.000
Total	132,230.000	130,476.100

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS.

1.—Buildings and Repairs	1,560,844.751	1,507,090.372
1. New Buildings	268,769.286	268,769.286
2. Construction of Telegraph at Sagaseki	59,904.202	57,321.428
3. Construction of Cables at Okinawa	748,985.388	717,903.094
4. Construction of Cables at Oki	63,185.880	60,416.164
5. Purchase of Ships and Boats	420,000,000	402,620.000
2.—Expenses of Investigating Railway Routes throughout the Empire	29,307.075	29,307.075
1. Salaries and Allowances	9,550.000	9,550.000
2. Office Expenses.	2,495,025	2,495.025
3. Miscellaneous Salaries	6,295.050	6,295.050
4. Travelling Expenses	10,967.000	10,967.000
Total	1,590,151.826	1,536,397.447
Grand Total of Extraordinary Expenditures	5,239,193.325	3,716,792.289
Sum Total of Expenditures	7,276,296.556	5,735,433.035

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION—IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY.

Ordinary Receipts.		
1.—Imperial University	5,700,152	5,700,152
1. Sundry Receipts	5,700,152	5,700,152
Ordinary Expenditures.		
1.—Imperial University	6,058,407	6,058,407
1. Office Expenses	3,475,412	3,475,412
2. Miscellaneous Salaries	584,160	584,160
3. Students' Expenses	798,835	798,835
4. Miscellaneous Allowances to Foreign Employés	1,200,000	1,200,000

HIGHER NORMAL SCHOOL.

Ordinary Receipts.		
1.—Higher Normal School	696.000	696.000
1. Sundry Receipts	696.000	696.000
Ordinary Expenditures.		
1.—Higher Normal School	2,296.095	2,182.095
1. Salaries and Allowances	1,140.000	1,026.000
2. Office Expenses	672.828	672.828
3. Miscellaneous Salaries	483.267	483.267

MUSICAL SCHOOL SUBORDINATE TO HIGHER NORMAL SCHOOL.

Ordinary Expenditures.		
1.—Tokyo Musical School	135.000	135.000
1. Office Expenses	135.000	135.000

GIRL'S HIGHER NORMAL SCHOOL.

Ordinary Expenditures.		
1.—Girl's Higher Normal School	263.333	263.333
1. Miscellaneous Salaries	263.333	263.333

FIRST HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Ordinary Receipts.		
1.—First Higher Middle School	2,073.429	2,073.429
1. Sundry Receipts	1,271.479	1,271.479
2. Appropriations from Special Fund	801.950	801.950
Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—First Higher Middle School	1,887.092	1,887.092
1. Miscellaneous Salaries	1,292.882	1,292.882
2. Expenses for Special Purposes	330.876	330.876
3. Allowances to Foreign Employés	263.334	263.334
Fund Receipts	801.950	801.950
1. Contributions into French Scholarship Fund	500.000	500.000
2. Surplus of French Scholarship Fund Receipts	301.950	301.950
Fund Expenditures..	801.950	801.950
1. Appropriated into French Scholarship Fund	801.950	801.950

SECOND HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Ordinary Receipts:—		
1.—Second Higher Middle School	1,062.000	1,062.000
1. Sundry Receipts	1,062.000	1,062.000
Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—Second Higher Middle School	1,792.839	1,660.242
1. Salaries and Allowances	886.597	754.000
2. Miscellaneous Salaries	506.242	506.242
3. Allowances to Foreign Employés	400.000	400.000

THIRD HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—Third Higher Middle School	2,580.317	2,330.000
1. Salaries and Allowances	1,672.317	1,422.000
2. Miscellaneous Salaries	708.000	708.000
3. Allowances to Foreign Employés	200.000	200.000

FOURTH HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Ordinary Receipts:—		
1.—Fourth Higher Middle School	559.938	559.938
1. Sundry Receipts	559.938	559.938
Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—Fourth Higher Middle School	1,023.250	1,023.250
1. Miscellaneous Salaries	903.250	903.250
2. Allowances to Foreign Employés	120.000	120.000

FIFTH HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Ordinary Receipts:—		
1.—Fifth Higher Middle School	540.000	540.000
1. Sundry Receipts	540.000	540.000
Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—Fifth Higher Middle School	1,800.000	1,683.000
1. Salaries and Allowances	780.000	663.000
2. Miscellaneous Salaries	1,020.000	1,020.000
Extraordinary Expenditures	357.500	357.500
1.—New Building	357.500	357.500
Total	2,157.500	2,047.500

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YAMAGUCHI HIGHER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—Yamaguchi Higher Middle School	588.000	588.000
1. Miscellaneous Salaries	588.000	588.000

TOKYO TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Ordinary Receipts:—		
1.—Tokyo Technical School	11,315.280	11,315.280
1. Receipts from Manufactures ...	11,315.280	11,315.280
Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—Tokyo Technical School	11,315.280	11,315.280
1. Expenses for Experimental Manufactures.....	11,315.280	11,315.280

TOKYO FINE ARTS SCHOOL.

Ordinary Receipts:—		
1.—Tokyo Fine Arts School	845.030	845.000
1. Sundry Receipts	845.000	845.000
Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—Tokyo Fine Arts School	845.000	845.000
1. Office Expenses.	845.000	845.000

TOKYO DEAF AND DUMB SCHOOL.

Ordinary Receipts:—		
1.—Tokyo Deaf and Dumb School	465.000	465.000
1. Sundry Receipts	465.000	465.000
Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—Tokyo Deaf and Dumb School	540.000	540.000
1. Salaries and Advances	324.000	324.000
2. Repairs	216.000	46.000

TOKYO LIBRARY.

Ordinary Receipts:—		
1.—Tokyo Library...	255.460	255.460
1. Sundry Receipts	255.460	255.460
Ordinary Expenditures:—		
1.—Tokyo Library...	442.800	442.800
1.—Miscellaneous Salaries	442.800	442.800

RAILWAY BONDS.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS.

1.—Railway Construction Expenditures.		
1. Travelling Expenses	20,884.000	20,145.800
2. Miscellaneous Salaries.....	33,523.000	32,518.450
3. Fukushima-Aomori Railway ...	743,025.000	744,767.750
4. Tsuruga-Toyama Railway	686,249.000	686,249.000

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

London, June 9.

The Khedive, on his arrival in England, will be the guest of Her Majesty the Queen and will be lodged in Buckingham Palace.

Matchbox has been purchased for the sum of fifteen thousand guineas to go to Austria.

[Matchbox is a three-year-old colt that figured prominently on the turf last year and ran second to Ladas in the Two Thousand Guineas as well as in the Derby.]

London, June 11.

Upwards of six millions of gold currency were exported from the United States last week, the reserve being now reduced to seventy millions.

London, June 12.

The situation at Bangkok is strained, th Siamese Government having refused to produce Phra Yot for judgment at the second trial.

["Special" Telegram to "Japan Mail."]

Nagasaki, June 14.

The Captain of the British ship *Drumeltan*—which went ashore on the island of Tanegashima, south of Van Dieman Straits, on the night of the 25th April—has been severely censured by a Marine Court of Inquiry held here, but his certificate is returned.

London, June 14.

The Italian Cabinet resumes office with the exception of the Minister of Finance and the Treasury.

Phra Yot has been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by the Mixed Court sitting at Bangkok.

[Specially telegraphed to the "Japan Mail" from the "N.-C. Daily News."]

London, June 4.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Sir Edward Grey stated that a French note had been presented, making full reservations regarding the new Congo Treaty; that Germany had made no protest in London, but he was unable to say whether or not she had done so at Brussels.

Italy declines to accept France's objections to the Harrar Treaty.

June 6.

The Silver Commission in Germany has closed without any definite decision being arrived at.

In the French Chambers, M. Goblet moved a vote of no confidence, and said that the Cabinet as constituted was not a Radical Cabinet, but was merely a repetition of the Perier Ministry. M. Dupuy denied having shown favour to the clerical party, and stated that he would not submit to the dictation of the Vatican. A vote of confidence was adopted by a large majority.

[From Manila Papers.]

Manila, May 19.

In connection with the celebration of the King's birthday, the sentences of the majority of common criminals, both in the Peninsula and the colonies, are to be reduced by one fourth.

The Conservative party continues to oppose the conclusion of the Commercial Treaties under discussion in the Chamber.

Madrid, May 18.

The earthquake in Venezuela destroyed forty villages and caused numerous deaths.

The anarchists who were sentenced to death for their dynamite attempt at Barcelona have been placed in the chapel of the prison, preparatory to their execution to-morrow. Their petition for a commutation of the sentence was refused.

Madrid, May 20.

Germany has resolved to impose on Spanish products the highest customs tariff in force in Germany. The Council of Ministers has resolved to adopt the highest customs tariff in force in Spain on German products from to-morrow. Thus a war of tariffs is established. —*Daily Press.*

London, June 4.

Quietude has been restored in Sofia. The Russian Press considers that the fall of M. Stambouloff leaves the position of affairs unchanged.

The Hungarian Cabinet has resigned over the Civil Marriage Bill.

In Bechuanaland, the troopers Daniels and Wilson have been sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment for suppressing the message of submission sent by King Lobengula and for stealing the thousand pounds sent with the message, their dastardly act having led to the deaths of Major Wilson and his party.—*N. C. Daily News.*

(From Japanese Papers.)

Osaka, June 8.

The *Kisogawa Maru* left here for Ninsen yesterday.

Ninsen, Korea, June 9.

Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister to Korea, arrived here to-day.

The British ship *Alacrity* arrived here this morning from Ninsen.

Osaka, June 9.

A number of flag and field officers passed through here yesterday afternoon *en route* for Hiroshima.

Osaka, June 11.

A Ninsen telegram dispatched on the 9th inst. at 12.04 p.m. has arrived here. It reports that one thousand Chinese soldiers have reached Gazan.

A letter from Peking dated the 31st ult. states that owing to the departure for home of the Russian Minister to the Chinese Court, M. C. Waeber, Russian Chargé d'Affaires in Korea, is expected to arrive there about the 10th of June to take charge of the Russian Legation. The arrival of the Acting Minister M. Waeber will cause some activity in diplomatic circles.

Hiroshima, June 10.

The railway section between Hiroshima and Mihara on the Sanyo Railway was opened for traffic to-day. A large number of persons assembled to witness the ceremony.

Nagasaki, June 11.

The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha has purchased 3,000 tons of British coal. The British gunvessel *Linnet* is expected to reach here to-morrow from Kobe, and will at once leave for Ninsen. H.B.M.S. *Mercury* is expected to be in the neighbourhood of Ninsen. Two British steamers have arrived here from Hongkong.

Hiroshima, June 11.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fukushima and Major Ichinoto left here a day or two ago, but their destination was not made public.

Söul, June 8.

The Government troops attacked the Chojo last night. The *Togaku-to* men retreated to Zenshu without attempting to repulse the attack. They declined to accept the challenge of the Government troops to come out in open combat. Li and Gen, Government officers, left for Zenshu to-day.

Fusan, June 9.

In order to prevent the *Togaku-to* men from reaching the Korean capital a party of sixty soldiers have been stationed at the Kojin and Surei Gates. Every passer-by, both foreign and native, is challenged as he approaches the gates. Trade is thoroughly disorganised in the capital.

Ninsen, June 11.

No fighting has been reported since the arrival of the Chinese troops. Twelve men-of-war are in port. Quietness reigns in Söul as well as in Ninsen.

Nagasaki June 13.

The British gun-boat *Linnet*, which was to leave here for Ninsen this morning, has postponed her departure on receiving orders from the Admiral.

A British man-of-war has purchased a large quantity of coals in this port.

Fusan, June 12.

The *Higo Maru*, which arrived from Ninsen on the 6th, brought news of the *Togaku-to* disturbances. Rice rose in value the following day. Ordinary tranquillity prevails here, but the residents of Torai-fu are preparing to abandon their houses.

Nagano Prefecture, June 14.

Asama volcano emitted heavy rumblings at half-past nine o'clock this morning, and smoke was ejected; violent shocks of earthquake were felt in the neighbourhood.

During the eruption of Asama, ashes fell in Usui-gun, Nishigumma-gun, and Mayebashi, and still continue.

Miyazaki, June 14.

The trouble in the Normal School has been settled, forty-seven students having presented a letter of apology to the President and instructors.

Ninsen, June 12.

One thousand two hundred Japanese soldiers have reached here and have since left for Söul.

Söul, June 13.

Japanese troops landed at Ninsen yesterday. A portion will remain at the latter port, while the remainder are expected here to-morrow. The soldiers will be quartered in the Kinju-do, Hitsu-do, and Seimin-do, buildings attached to the Japanese Legation, while the Commander-in-Chief and other leading officers will put up at the Legation.

Shanghai, June 13.

Four steamers of the Shosho-kyoku will leave here to-morrow with ammunition and provisions for Korea at the request of the Chinese Standing Squadron in the north. A Chinese man-of-war arrived here last night from Ikaiyei to escort the steamers to Korea.

Osaka, June 14.

A genuine case of cholera was officially reported in Nishiku yesterday. The victim was a woman, 61 years of age.

Nagasaki, June 13.

The steamer *Yachiyo Maru* has been run down by a transport belonging to the Saseho

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Admiralty Station outside the port. No lives were lost.

Söul, June 13.

The Government troops have driven back the *Togaku-to* partisans, and Genshu province is restored to the Government. The *Togaku-to* men are encamping at Kintei. This is the latest report from the interior.

Shimonoseki, June 14.

Some 50,000 tons of coals are to be purchased. Of the above 10,000 tons were for Saseho and the remainder for Moji; quotations naturally hardering at these ports the coal was bought to-day at Wakamatsu, and is being conveyed in junks to the ports mentioned.

Hongkong, June 15.

Between the 7th to 14th inst. 701 persons died from the pest. A Japanese lad and a woman were attacked by the malady, and the latter died. The Government has promised every aid to Prof. Aoyama and Dr. Kitazato in carrying out their investigations.

Söul, June 15.

The Korean Government intends to suppress all reports of defeats of the Government soldiers by the *Togaku-to* partisans, and only to publish intelligence relating to victories obtained. The message stating that the Government troops had recovered Zen-shu is quite trustworthy.

Söul, June 15.

The arrival of Japanese troops in the capital caused great alarm to the Chinese Minister, who at once telegraphed to Viceroy Li begging him to dispatch more soldiers.

A report has reached here to the effect that on receiving the above request the Viceroy duly ordered the dispatch of further troops to Korea. The men are expected to be here in two or three days.

Söul, June 15.

The Chinese troops encamped at Gasan, left for Koshu yesterday.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The local Chess Clubs are closed until the beginning of October.

Solution of Problem No. 124.

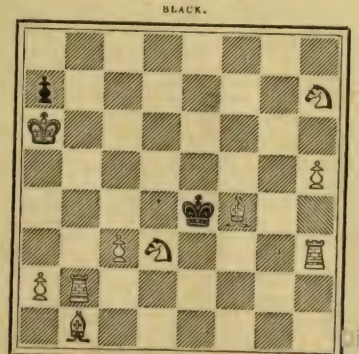
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to B sq.	1—K × Kt
2—B × P	2—K to Q 4 or 6
3—Q to B 4, mate	
	if 2—K to B 6
3—Q to K 3, mate	
	if 1—P × Kt
2—Q to Q sq. ch.	2—K to K 6
3—B to Q 4, mate	
	if 1—P to B 6
2—Q to Q 2 ch.	2—K × Kt
3—Q to Q 4, mate	
	if 1—K to K 7
2—Q to Q 2 ch.	2—K to B 6
3—Q to Q 3 or Kt to Kt 5, mate	
	if 2—Kt to B 8
3—Q to Q sq. or Q to K B 2, mate.	

Correct solutions received from Omega, Digamma, W.H.S., Aling, and J.D.

Problem No. 127.

By Kiselach.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

Steinitz-Lasker.

We give below the thirteenth game of the match, the first of those won by Steinitz in Montreal. The incoming steamers from San Francisco and Vancouver should give us much later news.

Game No. 132.

(THIRTEENTH-GAME—RUY LOPEZ.)

WHITE. Lasker.	BLACK. Steinitz.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to Q R 3
4—B × Kt	4—Q P × B
5—P to Q 4	5—P × P
6—Q × P	6—Q × Q
7—Kt × Q	7—P to Q B 4
8—Kt to K 2	8—B to Q 2
9—Q Kt to B 3	9—Castles
10—B to K B 4	10—B to B 3
11—Castles K R	11—Kt to K B 3
12—P to K B 3	12—B to K 2
13—Kt to Kt 3	13—P to K Kt 3
14—K R to K sq.	14—Kt to Q 2
15—Kt to Q sq.	15—Kt to Kt 3
16—Kt to B sq.	16—R to Q 2
17—B to K 3	17—K R to Q sq.
18—P to Q Kt 3	18—P to B 5
19—B × Kt	19—P × B
20—P × P	20—B to Kt 5
21—P to Q B 3	21—B to B 4 ch.
22—K to R sq.	22—R to Q 6
23—R to Q B sq.	23—P to Q R 4
24—Kt (Q) to K 3	24—P to B 4
25—P × P	25—P × P
26—P to K R 3	26—R to Kt sq.
27—Kt to Q 5	27—B × Kt
28—P × B	28—R × Q P
29—Q R to Q sq.	29—R × R
30—R × R	30—P to B 5
31—K to R 2	31—R to K sq.
32—P to Q R 4	32—K to B 2
33—P to K R 4	33—K to B 3
34—P to B 4	34—B to Kt 5
35—K to R 3	35—R to K 8
36—R × R	36—B × R
37—K to Kt 4	37—K to B 4
38—K × P	38—K × P
39—K to K 4	39—B × P
40—P to Kt 3	40—B × Q sq.
41—Kt to K 3 ch.	41—K to Kt 5
42—K to Q 3	42—K × P
43—K to B 3	43—K to Kt 4
44—P to B 4	44—K to B 4
45—P to B 5	45—K to Q 3
46—P to Kt 4	46—P to Kt 4
47—Kt to Q sq.	47—K to K 4
48—K to Kt 3	48—P to Kt 5
49—K to R 4	49—K to Q 5
50—Kt to Kt 2	50—P to Kt 4 ch.
51—K to Kt 3	51—B to K 2
52—P to Kt 5	52—P to R 5 ch.
53—Kt × P	53—P × Kt ch.
54—K × P	54—K to K 4
55—K to Kt 5	55—K × P
56—Resigns.	

Notes.

The champion at last abandoned his defence of 3 ..... P to Q 3 and took up the old book move of 3 ..... P to Q R 3. As will be seen from the sequel he won the Game too; and this we think will do much to destroy the new defence unless fresh analysis shall again establish it in favour.

Lasker selected a variation which led to the exchange of Queens, that is to say, he offered the exchange, and Steinitz did not object to the simplification of the position. After the development of some pieces, the latter castled on the Queen's side, two moves later Lasker followed suit, using the King's Rook, and then the struggle for position ensued. With 18 ..... P to B 5, the veteran initiated a combination which gave him a strong attack.

Lasker failed to make the best move at his twentieth turn by taking the pawn. He should have played his Knight to Queen's fifth, which would have given him a good game. After this mistake Steinitz had his adversary at his mercy and won in fine style, after fifty-six moves.

A tenant went to see his landlord about a house he had just taken, and about which he had some fault to find. He mentioned several drawbacks, and then said—"And, furthermore, Mr. Oppenheimer, this cellar is full of waer." Mr. Oppenheimer, the landlord, eyed him with reproach, and then exclaimed—"Vull of vater! Vell, vat you expect—vull of champagne?"

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, June 15th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 17th.*
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, June 17th.†
From America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, June 24th.‡
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, June 17th.§
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, June 22nd.‖
From Hongkong	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, June 21st.¶
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, June 18th.**
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, June 21st.††

* *Garlic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on May 29th. † *Peru* will leave Kobe on June 16th. ‡ *City of Peking* left San Francisco on June 7th. § *Ancona* left Kobe on June 16th. ‖ *Sydney* (with French mail) left Hongkong on June 13th. ¶ *Oceanic* left Hongkong on June 13th. ** *Empress of India* left Vancouver on June 5th. †† *Empress of China* left Hongkong on June 13th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, June 16th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, June 18th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Monday, June 18th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, June 19th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Friday, June 22nd.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, June 22nd.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, June 23rd.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, June 30th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, June 30th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 9th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 9th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 10th June,—Yokkaichi 9th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 10th June,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Oka.

Daphne (4), gunboat, Commander G. H. MacArthur, 10th June,—Hongkong.

Severn (12), cruiser, Captain R. F. Henderson, 10th June,—Hongkong viâ ports.

Hector, British steamer, 1,489, Bartlett, 11th June,—Kobe, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Plover (6), gunboat, Captain F. C. B. Addington, 11th June,—Hongkong.

Angers, British steamer, 2,076, Bannister, 11th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, I. Iwata, 11th June,—Kobe 10th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 11th June,—Yokosuka 11th June, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,053, R. Tipple, 12th June,—Hiroshima 10th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alacrity (4), despatch-boat, Commander De Lisle, 12th June,—Hongkong.

Kraysser (6), Russian corvette, Captain Rojestwensky, 12th June,—Australia.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 12th June,—Yokkaichi 11th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, Hayashi, 12th June,—Otaru, General.—Tanaka Shoten.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, Hugo Walter, 12th June,—Hongkong 7th June, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nacht.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 13th June,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 14th June,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Don Juan de Austria (8), Spanish cruiser, Captain Don Jose Padrinan, 14th June,—Nagasaki viâ Kobe.

Turbo, British steamer, 2,356, Townsend, 14th June,—Batoum viâ ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 15th June,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

Diomed, British steamer, 1,436, Wilkinson, 15th June,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 483, Mumesono, 15th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 15th June,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 15th June,—Yokkaichi 14th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 9th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sikh, British steamer, 2,735, J. Rowley, 10th June,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Nestor, British steamer, 1,658, Asquith, 10th June,—London viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 11th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokushiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 735, S. Oka, 11th June,—Otaru, Ballast.—S. Oka.

Ghazee, British steamer, 1,827, Scotland, 12th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, I. Iwata, 12th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,286, J. Nirei, 12th June,—Korea viâ Nagasaki, Light.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Angers, British steamer, 2,076, Bannister, 13th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, Gedye, 13th June,—New York viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 13th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 14th June,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,580, H. Walter, 14th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 14th June,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,007, Hugo Walter, 15th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, Hayashi, 15th June,—Otaru, Ballast.—Tanaka Shoten.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,653, Thompsen, 15th June,—Honolulu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 15th June,—Moji, Light.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 483, Mumesono, 16th June,—Nagaura, Light.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, from Hongkong :—Mr. O. Meyer and servant, and Mr. C. Schwemer in cabin; Mr. E. Lay in second class, and Mr. Teiichi Shirakami in third class.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Nürnberg*, for Hongkong viâ ports :—Miss Lichtenberg, Mr. J. W. Chapmann, Mr. M. Tornoe, Mr. George M. Dare, Mrs. Crane and family, Mr. and Mrs. Portsusach and family, Mr. S. Higuchi, and Mr. Rich. Held in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Miike Maru*, for Honolulu :—Mr. T. Yamazaki and Mr. Wm. Kapela in cabin; 15 passengers in second class, and 1,524 Emigrants in steerage.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Sikh*, for Tacoma, Wash. viâ Victoria, B.C. :—

	TEA. PACIFIC COAST.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	ST. PAUL AND CANADA.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	4,611	1,896	519	—	7,026
Hyogo	—	1,553	1,508	—	645	3,706
Yokohama	112	2,175	2,613	665	2,624	8,189
Hongkong	27	—	—	—	—	27
Amoy	—	14,146	726	—	—	14,872
Total	139	22,485	6,743	1,184	3,269	33,820

	SILK. NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	21	—	21
Hongkong	15	—	15
Yokohama	36	—	36
Total	72	—	72

REPORTS.

Tde Japanese steamer *Miike Maru*, Captain R. Tipple, reports :—Left Hiroshima the 10th June at 5.3 a.m.; passed Akashi Straits at 7.35 p.m.; had light variable winds and fine weather; thence to Oshima fresh winds and squally and high sea; passed Oshima the 11th at 5.5 a.m., had S.W. to N.W. winds and high following sea to Rock Island at 8.2 p.m.; thence moderate and unsteady winds and overcast weather to arrival at Yokohama the 12th June at 5.45 a.m.

The German steamer *Nürnberg*, Captain Hugo Walter, reports :—Left Hongkong the 7th June at 10 a.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 12th June at 8 p.m.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Benmohr, British steamer, 1,935, Clarke, 8th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Diomed, British steamer, 1,436, Wilkinson, 15th June,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hector, British steamer, 1,489, Bartlett, 11th June,—Kobe, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 9th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Sagamore, American steam-yacht, 143, Cushing, 5th June,—Kobe, Stores.—Order.

Turbo, British steamer, 2,356, Townsend, 14th June,—Batoum viâ ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

SAILING VESSELS.

Argomene, British ship, 1,579, Wm. O. Thomas, 25th May,—Yokosuka 25th May, Ballast.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Diana, American schooner, 74, Petersen, 5th October,—North Pacific, 50 otters and 5 seals.—Captain.

Glenclova, British ship, 2,360, Watt, 2nd May,—New York 30th November, Petroleum.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Henriette, German ship, 1,705, Seemann, 8th May,—New York 23rd December, Petroleum.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Mount Washington, American bark, 1,217, Rose, 23rd May,—Kuchinotsu, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Queen Victoria, British ship, 1,587, R. Logie, 16th May,—Kobe 7th May, Ballast.—Southern Pacific Co.

Worlock, British steam-schooner, 31, A. Rieddrbjelthe, 17th November,—Petropaulovsky, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

MEN-OF-WAR.

Alacrity (4), despatch-boat, Commander De Lisle, 12th June,—Hongkong.

Centurion (14), battle-ship, Captain McQuhae, 9th June,—Hongkong viâ ports.

Daphne (4), gunboat, Commander G. H. MacArthur, 10th June,—Hongkong.

Don Juan de Austria (8), Spanish cruiser, Captain Don Jose Padrinan, 14th June,—Nagasaki viâ Kobe.

Krayssey (6), Russian corvette, Captain Rojestwensky, 12th June,—Australia.

Plover (6), gunboat, Captain F. C. B. Addington, 11th June,—Hongkong.

Severn (12), cruiser, Captain R. F. Henderson, 10th June,—Hongkong viâ ports.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Still dull and unsatisfactory. Small doings with a tendency to lower prices. Yarns—Retail business at some little decline in figures. Fancy Cottons—Quotations nominally unchanged; but with very feeble market. Woollens—Nothing done with the exception of a few cases Italian Cloth at late rates. Cotton Handkerchiefs have met with some enquiry for the approaching *Bon* festival.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 3.00
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.40
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.60 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.16 to 0.21
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.80
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.40 to 2.85
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.00 to 3.20

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb. per lb	0.45 to 0.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$37.00 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	39.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	39.50 to 40.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	40.00 to 41.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	43.00 to 45.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 44.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	49.00 to 52.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

More enquiry, and a fair amount of business has been done at lower prices; all kinds receiving some attention. As the hot weather approaches the demand for Iron will slacken as usual in the summer months.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.45 to 3.50
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.55 to 3.60
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.50 to 3.60
Iron Plates, assorted	3.60 to 3.75
Sheet Iron	4.70 to 4.85
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.20 to 9.40
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.20
Tin Plates, per box	5.80 to 6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.65

KEROSENE.

Some little business done at lower figures, but the demand is not brisk and the market is far from strong.

Chester	$1.65 to 1.67½
Comet	1.62½ to 1.65
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.62½ to 1.65
Russian Moon	1.60 to 1.62½

SUGAR.

Some revival in demand and considerable business done both in White and Brown. Prices tending upwards as buyers fear a stoppage of supplies from the south owing to the plague in South China.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.50 to 4.60
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.60
Brown Daitong	3.30 to 3.40
Brown Canton	4.00 to 4.30
White Java and Penang	7.20 to 7.50
White Refined	7.50 to 9.75

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 8th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 173 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 129 piculs; *Re-reels*, 33 piculs; *Kakeda*, 11 piculs. Direct shipments have been 40 bales, making the total business of the week 200 piculs.

There has been a falling off in the trade and business is almost at a standstill. Things seem to be going well in Europe as regards the new crop, and telegrams from Lyons predict that opening prices will be low.

The stock of old silk remains at about 4,800 piculs, but the component parts are changed, a careful revision and examination showing that much silk which had been entered as *Re-reels* properly belongs to the *Filature* class. We give a revised stock list at foot and this includes about 50 piculs new filatures

New Crop.—All goes well and the first arrivals show good quality and fine colour. The *Koshu* filatures have been at work since the beginning of the month and some few piculs are in, running 13/15 deniers, for which holders ask $700, but at this figure there are no buyers. A few more boxes of *Mino Shinshosha* have been taken by the last buyer at $700, and dealers seem to think that all other silk must fetch the same; but in this they are mistaken, as next week will assuredly prove. New-crop *Re-reels* are expected to come down in time for shipment by the Canadian steamer but producers must make up their minds to accept low prices if they wish to do any business.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the English mail *Verona*, 9th instant, taking 473 bales for Europe and the N.P. steamer *Sikh*, on the 10th, carrying 36 bales for the New York trade. These departures make the present export figures 44,357 piculs, against 47,371 piculs last year and 49,050 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Filatures.—The principal trade has been in this class and in old silk. Quotations may be left unchanged, but are more or less nominal in the absence of business. This time last year some *Utsunomiya* were noted at $1,000 per picul, with a very much higher exchange. To-day they could be bought probably at $700. For the United States nothing has been done; the few piculs of new silk mentioned above, although of full size, are going to Europe. There has been a transaction in *Yamamai* at $600 which will probably be shipped to New York.

Re-reels.—Nothing done beyond a few small purchases of *Oshu* sorts ranging from $660 to $640, and no transaction as yet in new silk. The *Joshu* factories are at work and supplies are due from that quarter in a few days.

Kakeda.—Only one transaction in old silk, $660 being paid for a parcel of *Horsehead*. New silk from these northern provinces will not arrive before the end of next month.

In other sorts nothing doing.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	Nom. —
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$710 to 720
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	700 to 710
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	680 to 690
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	680 to 690
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	650 to 660
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	650 to 660
Filatures—No. 3, 11/20 deniers	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	Nom. —
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	690 to 700
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	670 to 680
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	650 to 660
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	630 to 640
Re-reels—No. 3, 11/20 deniers	610 to 620
Kakedas—Extra	700 to 710
Kakedas—No. 1	680 to 690
Kakedas—No. 1½	650 to 660
Kakedas—No. 2	630 to 640
Kakedas—No. 2½	610 to 620
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	Nom. —
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	Nom. —
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 15th June, 1894:—

Season	1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	23,991	18,967	18,925
America	18,974	27,604	29,934
Total { Bales	42,965	46,571	48,859
Total { Piculs	44,357	47,371	49,050
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	44,750	47,410	50,050
Stock, 15th June	4,800	500	1,750
Available supplies to date	49,550	47,910	51,800

WASTE SILK.

A dull market and small business. Settlements are 200 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 190 piculs; *Kibiso*, 10 piculs.

There is absolutely nothing doing the last two or three days and quotations are altogether nominal. A thorough revision of the stock list shows that considerable quantities of low grade *Kibiso* have been withdrawn for native use and the actual stock in Yokohama at present is not more than 12,800 piculs. This is large enough to cause dealers considerable anxiety and we look for lower prices in the near future.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote. The English mail *Verona*, 9th instant, had 30 bales and the *Ise Maru* 40 bales, all for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 27,954 piculs, against 44,426 piculs last year and 34,042 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—The principal business has been in *Joshu* sorts of medium and common quality, prices ranging from $65 down to $40. Other kinds have given rise to no business.

Kibiso.—Some retail doings of common *Filature* at $70, with fair *Joshu* at $45.

In other classes nothing to be said.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$120 to 125
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	70 to 75
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	105 to 115
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	65 to 70
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	60 to 62½
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	90 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 85
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	60 to 65
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	35 to 30
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	150 to 160

Export Table Waste Silk to 15th June, 1894:—

Season	1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	24,723	41,734	31,943
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	27,954	44,426	34,042
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	29,300	46,450	36,850
Stock, 15th June	12,800	2,100	3,500
Available supplies to date	42,100	48,550	40,350

Exchange, has improved during the week, and quotations close as under:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1⅛; Documents, 2/1¼; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1⅜. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $52; 4m/s. U.S. $52¾. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.69; 6m/s. fcs. 2.70.

Estimated Silk Stock, 15th June, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	—	Cocoons	70
Filatures	3,410	Noshi-ito	6,340
Re-reels	810	Kibiso	5,630
Kakeda	570	Mawata	100
Oshu	—	Sundries	660
Yaysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	4,800	Total piculs	12,800

TEA.

The trade booms along and quotations are higher. Desirable parcels of low grade are scarce and enquire for so that prices are well maintained for those kinds. Second crop leaf will soon be coming in pretty freely and we may see a little ease presently as the stock accumulates.

QUOTATIONS.

	Per picul.
Choicest	$33 up
Choice	30 to 31
Finest	27 to 28
Fine	24 to 25
Good Medium	21 to 22
Medium	17 to 19
Good Common	15 to 16
Common	13 to 14

EXCHANGE.

Quotations are slightly firmer than a week ago.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/1
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.61
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	2.69
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72½
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	193
On India—Private 30 days' sight	196
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50⅞
On America—Private 30 days' sight	51⅛
On America—Private 4 months' sight	52⅜
On Germany—Bank sight	2.11
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.19
Bar Silver (London)	28⅞

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To a Liberal Table are added an excellent *Cuisine* and good attendance, supplemented by a large variety of Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors of the very best kinds.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD, 1894.

BIRTH.

On the 22nd inst., at Kitsune-yama, Tokyo, the wife of ALEX. G. MOSLE, of a son.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

CHOLERA is reported to have broken out near Osaka.

YOKOHAMA easily won the Cricket match on Saturday against the Fleet's eleven.

IT is stated that the general election will probably take place on the 25th of August next.

COLONEL SAMEJIMA SHIGEO has been appointed Chief Staff Officer of Imperial Body Guards.

A FAREWELL Concert to Professor Dittrich at the Rokumeikan on Saturday was a great success.

SOME farmers' riots have already taken place in the neighbourhood of Yokohama in consequence of the lack of water.

THE heat is intense for the time of year, and a water-famine is expected in the near future in Yokohama.

MR. PAUL VIENGUÉ has been appointed Third Secretary in the French Legation, Tokyo, and is expected to arrive shortly.

SIX hundred houses were destroyed by the fire at Fukuagawa, Tokyo, on Wednesday, which originated from the earthquake shock.

H.I.H. PRINCE Nashimoto Morimasa has been appointed to the Fifth Army Division as an unattached staff officer.

A GREAT earthquake on Wednesday caused the death of five Japanese in Yokohama and twenty-six in Tokyo, besides doing incalculable damage in both cities. It was one of the most violent on record so far as Yokohama and Tokyo are concerned.

DURING the week the naval cricketers have been practising a good deal, besides playing two matches.

DR. KITASATO, the world-famous bacteriologist, has telegraphed from Hongkong that he has discovered the cause of the plague.

THE death is announced of Captain Nakamaizo Taneo, formerly Commander of the *Takao Kan*, which took place on the 15th inst.

THE plague is still ravaging Hongkong and the exodus of Chinese from the Colony is unabated. It is estimated that the population has decreased by 80,000.

A NUMBER of forged coins were discovered among the ruins of the buildings destroyed during the fire which occurred in China Town on the 28th ult.

RUMOUR says that Mr. Oishi Masami, ex-Japanese Minister to Korea, intends standing for a seat in the Lower House in the Second Election District of Tokyo.

A SCHEME is on foot to purchase the Government railways and turn them into a private concern. Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi is at the head of the movement.

THE extension of the Kansai Railway Co's line between Yokkaichi and Kuwana is nearly completed, and the section will be opened for traffic on the 1st July.

MR. ROBINSON of Chicago has been entertained by the leading tea-merchants of Tokyo in recognition of his services to Japanese dealers at the World's Fair.

SATURDAY'S sailing race brought out some fifteen entries, but only half this number ventured outside the harbour owing to the severity of the gale. The *Spray* won first prize.

THE extraordinary dry weather is causing much inconvenience to farmers, who are prevented from planting out the rice—a rice-famine is feared in the autumn if rain does not soon fall.

A FIRE that broke out in Motomachi on Sunday afternoon resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 houses, the death of one man, and innumerable injuries to firemen and police.

THE Cabinet has decided to appoint Mr. Uchiyama Takusaburo, Chief of the Sapporo Branch of the Imperial Estate Bureau, to be Director of the Mining Bureau in the Agricultural and Commercial Department.

ACCORDING to the latest returns, the comparisons between the navies of Japan and China are as follow:—Japan: No. of men-of war 32 tonnage, over 76,000; and horse-power, over 95,000; China: No. of men-of-war, 46; tonnage, over 68,000; and horse power over 72,000.

MR. SATO JUNKICHI, Secretary of Shimane *Ken*, has been placed on the Retired List, and his position given to Mr. Kubomura Katsuzo, Superintendent of Niigata Police, who has been succeeded by Mr. Nishita Yeitaro, Superintendent of Shimane Police, whose previous position is taken by Mr. Ogawa Hiromizu.

OWING to the present dry weather the farmers in Tachibana District, Kanagawa Prefecture, are much disturbed about the water privileges. The rice fields of the District have hitherto been supplied from a branch stream of the Tama, but the supply of water from this source was suddenly stopped and the farmers were prevented from planting rice. It was discovered that the farmers of the upper banks had dammed up the diminishing stream, and accordingly on the 19th inst. a large number of farmers belonging to Machida, Tajima, and Daishikawara proceeded to the upper reaches of Tama to inquire into the matter. A party of constables followed to prevent any disturbance. A dispute has broken out at Otsuna from a similar cause. Great uneasiness prevails in the District.

OVER fifty leading Radicals of Kanagawa Prefecture held a conference at Oiso on the 16th inst. Some partisans, said to be displeased at the present attitude of the *Jiyu-to* towards Clan Government, proposed seceding from the Party, but after a lengthy discussion it was resolved not to take such a step but to offer strong opposition to the Government in the next session of the Diet.

AFRICAN affairs are engrossing public attention, active negotiations taking place in London, Paris, Brussel, and Berlin in reference to the Congo Treaty. Both Belgium and Great Britain are anxious to conciliate the other Powers in this matter. Muley Hassan, the Sultan of Morocca is dead. Abdul Aziz has been recognised as his successor, but troubles are expected. An international fleet comprising vessels of Spain, France, Italy, and Great Britain, is cruising about the Northern Ports of Morocco. The Khedive will probably abandon his visit to London and Paris owing to the opposition of the Sultan. Speaking at a banquet given at the Trinity House, Lord Rosebery stated that the policy of England was a policy of peace and defence. The present great European armaments tend to preserve peace, his Lordship continued, owing to the awful responsibilities devolving upon those directing them. Phra Yot has been sentenced at Bangkok to 20 years imprisonment, and much excitement prevails at Bangkok. Lord Chief Justice Coleridge is dead. The House of Lords have rejected the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill by a vote of 129 to 120. The Prince of Wales voted in the minority.

TAKEN altogether this has been a poor week for Imports, although there was more doing in Yarns. Something has been done in Flannels for Autumn delivery, but beyond this nothing is stirring. In Metals rather less inquiry is noted in many lines, but Wire Nails have improved slightly. The market is apparently quiet in Kerosene, but we hear of some business being concluded on secret terms which is likely to be pretty extensive. In Sugars, Brown Formosa has advanced about 10 cents in consequence of the brisk demand, and other sorts are moving quite as satisfactorily though at unchanged prices. The Tea market is down; tasters are already complaining of the quality of the Second Crop now coming in freely. The Silk business of the week is very small, and principally for America. The stock of Old Silk remains practically unchanged and there seems to be little demand, although holders are offering it at low rates to make a clearance. In regard to the New Crop a prominent local Silkman writes:—"Personal observation in the producing districts confirms the fact that there is an abundant crop of excellent quality this year. The quality is undoubtedly superior to what we have seen for many years past and prices will rule low." Waste Silk is dull in sympathy with Raw, and holders are getting anxious, the old stock being so large and the new crop so near at hand. Exchange closes weak.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

The war spirit roused by the present Korean affair is increasing in force and becoming louder in its expression. The Tokyo journals unite in urging upon the Government the importance of utilizing the present opportunity for wiping away the stain left on the national honour by the fatal error of 1884. They advise the Government never to withdraw the troops from Korea until the object of guarding the independence of that country shall have been completely attained. Nay, some of them, the *Jiji Shimpo* among the rest, even go so far as to insist upon the permanent stay of the Japanese troops in the peninsula, not in the sense of occupation, but for the purpose of affording protection to the Korean Government in its new career of progress and improvement. We have stated that the war spirit is on the increase. That is a fact which no observer can gainsay. But the statement, unless accompanied by some explanation, may produce a false impression about the actual situation in this country. Those clamouring for war for war's sake form a powerful section of the nation, but they do not constitute the majority of the class holding the control of public opinion. Educated men, whose opinions are reflected, however incompletely, through the columns of the vernacular press, are united in urging the Government to take decisive measures for the recovery of the Empire's prestige in the peninsula. What every intelligent Japanese insists upon is that the territorial integrity of Korea should be placed on a solid basis, and that Japanese interests in that country should be effectively protected. It is for the attainment of that object that the educated public in Japan urges the Government not to shrink from collision with China or any other Power. We proceed to notice a few of the representative articles on this question.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* is taking great pains to stir up the spirit of its countrymen by publishing pictures of the outrages committed by the Chinese soldiers upon the Japanese residents in Söul in 1884. Our contemporary recommends the Government not to withdraw the troops from Korea even after the suppression of the *Togaku-to* disturbance. In the present state of things in the peninsular Kingdom, there is no guarantee that similar troubles will not arise at any moment. There is another reason why the *Jiji* thinks it necessary to station troops in Korea even after the present insurrection shall have been subdued: it thinks that the Japanese Government should utilize the presence of troops to provide sufficient guarantees for the security of Japanese interests in Korea. Some of the measures to be adopted to that end are indicated by the *Jiji*. In the first place, negotiations should be opened with the Korean Government for the purpose of obtaining from the latter a promise that in future prompt steps will be taken to remedy the grievances complained of by the Japanese residents. Secondly, the telegraph lines between Söul and Fusan, and Söul and In-chhön, should be placed under the control of the Japanese Government. Railways should also be laid between these places with Japanese capital. In the *Jiji's* opinion the construction of such railways would cost about 5 or 6 million *yen*. Under the joint guaranty of interest by the Japanese and Korean Governments, *Jiji* does not doubt that plenty of Japanese capitalists would at once engage in the undertaking. Lastly, Japan should persuade the Korean Government to introduce thorough reforms in administrative methods, and to engage earnestly in the task of improving all departments of national life. In order to make Korea take a new departure in good faith, it will be convenient for the Japanese Government to maintain an efficient force in the peninsula. The presence of troops will be necessary, even after the Korean Government has decided to pursue the progressive policy above alluded to; for such a policy is sure to rouse the bitter animosity of the conservative elements in the peninsula kingdom, in which event the Söul authorities would sorely need the protection of a trustworthy military force. Under such circumstances, the *Jiji* advises the Government never to withdraw its troops from Korea even after the suppression of the present revolt. China may perhaps protest against such a policy, but Japan need not pay attention to what China says about Japanese conduct. Japan has no obligation to please China at the expense of her own vital interests. If China persists in her protest, Japan ought, in the *Jiji's* opinion, to denounce the Tientsin treaty.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* observes that, should the Government withdraw the troops from Korea without taking effective measures for the protection of Korean independence and Japanese interests, it will have to encounter severe attack at the hands of the people's representatives in the next session of the Diet. Were a policy of abortive retreat adopted, the Cabinet would justly be open to the charge of having despatched a large force to Korea, necessitating the outlay of a considerable sum of money, simply for the purpose of diverting public attention from the pending general election. The *Hochi* alludes to the fall of the Palmerston Cabinet in England on account of the second China war, and states that a similar result would inevitably follow should the Japanese Ministry make it clear by any hasty conduct that its policy had been simply to divert public attention from internal politics. What, then, is the policy which the Japanese Government ought to pursue in the present juncture? Like the leading journal whose article has been noticed in the foregoing paragraph, the *Hochi* seems to think that Japan ought to make the Korean Government embark on a new career of progress and improvement. Unless such a task, be undertaken, the object of protecting Korean independence, says our contemporary, will never be attained.

* * *

The *Kokkai* advises the Government to pursue one of two courses, namely, either to compel China to desist altogether from interfering with the internal affairs of Korea, or to share with China in exercising control over the peninsula kingdom, so that the latter's territorial integrity may be secured. The former policy appears, at first sight, to be better than the latter, but in point of fact it would be dangerous, says the *Kokkai*, to leave Korea free from all external influence. Abandoned to herself, she would fall an easy prey to the machinations of any aggressive Power. Consequently, instead of protesting against China's interference in the internal affairs of Korea, our contemporary thinks it wiser for Japan to increase her own influence and prestige in the peninsula. The first step in that direction would be the transfer of the telegraph lines between Söul and Fusan to Japanese control, and the construction of a railway between the same places by Japanese capitalists. In return for the effective protection afforded to Korea's independence, the Japanese Government should demand further advantages, such as the opening of new ports for foreign trade, the grant of licenses to Japanese to work mines, the leasing of land for the settlement of Japanese, and so forth. The present is a unique opportunity to attain such an object. Should China throw any obstacle in Japan's path, the *Kokkai* advises the Government not to hesitate to accept the challenge and fight. As to an apprehension said to be entertained, namely, that England and Russia may object to any increase of Japanese influence in the peninsula, the *Kokkai* states that there is no ground for such a fear. England has no direct interest in Korea. Satisfied if the peninsula be kept secure from Russia's aggression, she would not care about an increase of Japanese influence there. England, also, is perfectly aware of the importance of securing Japan's friendship in view of a possible collision with Russia. As to Russia, too, she is equally solicitous about pleasing Japan. Doubtless she desires to get a foothold in the peninsula, but she will not try to carry out such a policy until the Siberian railway shall have been completed. For the present, her attention, says the *Kokkai*, seems to be directed to the north-western frontiers of China, for she is now, contrary to her first project, concentrating her efforts for the completion of the trans-continental line west of Lake Baikal. So rather than see Korea in China's hands, Russia would prefer to see it under the efficient protection of Japan. Under these circumstances the *Kokkai* entirely fails to perceive any reason why either England or Russia should interfere with Japan's conduct in Korea.

* * *

The report that China contemplates the transfer of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company's vessels to the German flag has caused some violent writing in the columns of the vernacular press. Among others, the *Kokumin Shimbun* thinks it incredible that Germany, which is on friendly terms with Japan, should ever agree to China's proposal, but nevertheless professes to have heard on good authority that she does contemplate agreeing. Should she actually take such a step, it would be, says the *Kokumin*, the signal for Japan to stop all friendly intercourse with her. However, our contemporary cannot believe that German statesman would commit such a blunder as to give just cause of offence to a nation so favourably disposed towards the Fatherland. In case China effects the transfer of her vessels to the flag of any other Power during a war with Japan, it would not be necessary, says the *Kokumin*, for the latter to treat such vessels as neutral property.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* warns its contemporaries against indulging in violent language against China. Japan, says our contemporary, will not hesitate to fight with China should war become inevitable. But there is no reason why war should be declared against that country at the present stage. At all events, China is on friendly relations with Japan, and consequently the Japanese newspapers ought to be more careful in expressing their opinions on the Korean question. The *Nichi Nichi*, however, comforts itself with the idea that the Cabinet is strong enough to resist the strong pressure brought to bear upon it by the press as well as the Naval and Military officers for letting go the dogs of war. The question of the proposed purchase of Government railways attracts a considerable share of public attention. The comments of the press on this subject will be reproduced in a separate article.

* * *

Another economical question that has excited some attention relates to the proposed prolongation of the term of operation of the national banks. Existing charters expire in the course of 1897. The presidents of national banks are moving heaven and earth to get the charters renewed. In the last session of the Diet, the Government introduced a Bill for the continuation of these banks as private corporations, and it was passed by the House of Representatives. The Upper House's attitude is not known, for the Diet was dissolved before the Bill came up for discussion in that House. The officials of the national banks are, consequently, reported to be taking energetic steps for the return of members favourable to their cause at the coming general elections. Like the project for the purchase of Government railways, the movement for the renewal of the charters of the national banks is very unpopular. There is scarcely a single paper in favour of the movement. The *Jiji Shimpo* laughs at the absurdity of the reason assigned for renewing the charters, namely, that were the word "national" taken from their names the banks would forfeit the confidence of the people. That, says our contemporary, is merely a device to conceal the true motive, which is to secure the advantages accruing from the privilege of issuing paper money. But the *Jiji* is inclined to think that, all things considered, it would be more profitable for the present national banks to continue their operations as private concerns, and illustrates its point by minute calculations.

INTERNET ARCHIVE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE NATIONAL BANKS.

THE affairs of the National Banks have entered a somewhat unexpected phase. After long negotiations it had been decided that the best course to pursue with regard to the Banks on the termination of the period of their charters, would be to re-organize them on a private basis, should the shareholders desire to continue their business. There are 143 National Banks in the empire. They were established between the years 1875 and 1881, and have since that time been conducting banking affairs with a certain measure of success. It can not be claimed that they have been everything desirable from a banking point of view, but they certainly have played a useful part in the world of commerce, and their sudden closure would greatly embarrass the public. The arrangement contemplated in the sequel of conferences held last year and in the early months of the present year was, as we have said, that such of the Banks as might desire to continue banking operations at the expiration of the period of their charter, should be re-organized on a private basis, and the arrangement was embodied in a Bill which passed the House of Representatives without difficulty, but met with some opposition in the Peers, where, however, it did not come up for final discussion owing to the briefness of the session. The public believed, however, that the question of the Banks' future had been virtually settled, and that the Diet would next session enact the necessary legislation. But we now learn from the vernacular press that the shareholders of the Banks, after several weeks' deliberation, have changed their minds. Their representatives, headed by Mr. Shibuzawa Eiichi, waited, a few days ago, on the President of the Bank of Japan, and unfolded to him a new programme. They said that since the House of Peers had exhibited some reluctance to pass the Bill introduced by the Government in the session just closed, they had decided, as a preferable course, to make application that the period of the Banks' charters be extended for a term of ten years on the present basis. As, however, that method of procedure would interfere with the additional note-issuing privileges devolving on the Bank of Japan were the National Banks converted into private institutions, Mr. Shibuzawa said that he and his colleagues proposed to negotiate with the Government in the sense of obtaining for the Bank of Japan an increased commission on the Treasury funds managed by it, and of permitting its total issue of bank-notes to be augmented to 100 million *yen*. Mr. Kawada, President of the Bank of Japan, is said to have received these overtures with much disfavour. He pointed out that the question was in no sense new. It had been virtually under discussion since 1890, and after long and exhaustive negotiations an arrangement had been elaborated to which the Bank of Japan, with much public spirit, had promised to give active assistance. Now, however, a new project was suddenly brought forward, and the delegates of the Banks sought to enlist the cöoperation of the Bank of Japan by undertaking to approach the Government in its interests, and by suggesting an increased issue of its bank-notes, just as though the paper put into circulation by the chief bank of the empire was an affair to be manipulated at the convenience of private individuals. He was gratified by his visitor's consideration for the Bank of Japan, but he thought that the Bank of Japan could get on without any such aid, and he wished it to be distinctly understood that if the shareholders of the National Banks were resolved suddenly to change the programme elaborated after years of consultation between themselves and with the Bank of Japan, then the latter must stand aside from the arrangement altogether, and must withdraw its promise to advance a sum of 7 million *yen* for the purpose of redeemsing the National Banks' notes. We do not learn what answer the delegates made to these objections. They subsequently called on the Vice-Minister of State for Finance and submitted their change of programme to him, but his attitude was equally unsympathetic. He said that the Government had already adopted a policy and embodied it in a Bill which had received the assent of the House of Representatives and had been entrusted by the House of Peers to a Special Committee for examination and report pending final debate. The Government did not share the delegates' fears as to the fate of the Bill in the Upper House, and was resolved to re-submit it in the coming session. These accounts do not represent Mr. Shibuzawa and his colleagues in a very favourable light, but we suspect that the whole story has not been told.

ANTIQUARIAN DISCOVERIES.

SOME very interesting archæological researches have of late been made in the island of Sado, famous for its gold-mine. The tomb of the third son, Prince Hikonari, of the Emperor Juntoku (81st Emperor), has been discovered. The manner in which the discovery was made reads like a romance. The Shoko-ji, a temple of the Shinshiu sect, in Fushiki, Etchu, is said to have been founded by the third son of the Emperor Juntoku, but not even so much as his name was left on record. Tradition says that the prince thereafter went to Sado, and it was to this island that several of the Shoko-ji parishioners resolved to go, in order to find out the name of the temple founder. They first begged advice of Mr. Ukai Ikojiro, ex-M.P., who is famous for his profound knowledge of Japanese chronology. This gentleman directed them to a certain Kaneko, living at Sasakawa-mura, on the island, who told them he knew of a very old tomb in the village, know as Homio-in-zuka. The inscriptions on this ancient monument were thereupon laid bare and carefully deciphered. They set forth that Hikonari, son of the Emperor Juntoku, had really founded a temple at Fushiki, that he had come to Sado to visit his father, who had been exiled thither by the disloyal agent (*shikken*) of one of the Kamakura Shoguns, Hojo Yoshitoki; and finally that the prince had died at Sasakawa-mura. Hikonari became a priest of Eizan in Kyoto when only three years of age, his priestly style being Zenkubo Shinnen Shonin. The inscriptions were carefully copied and all the documents relating to the discovery forwarded to the Imperial Household Department.

DESTRUCTIVE INEBRIETY.

CHOEMON, a poulterer of Honjo District, says a Tokyo "little newspaper," has an unusually well-developed bump of destruction, which becomes morbidly apparent whenever this seller of fowls is in his cups. The other day he came back to his store far gone in *saké*, and immediate seized his unfortunate wife whom he began to beat unmercifully. She managed to extricate herself from his drunken grip and ran out of the house. Thereupon Choemon went for his clerk, who had been an astonished spectator of the scene. After receiving several hard knocks, the clerk too ran off, leaving his savage employer alone. Choemon looked around for another victim; there was no one left for him to maul, so he began tearing down screens, shutters, closet doors and whatever else he could reach, breaking everything into fragments. He next turned his attention to the boxes of eggs and soon trampled these into a yellow mass. Then he took an ax and began to decapitate every chicken in the store. In a few minutes this pleasing work was satisfactorily accomplished, and with this Choeman appeared to have glutted his sanguinary propensities. Shortly afterwards the trembling wife and frightened clerk returned in company with two stalwart constables, and found their lord and employer sleeping peacefully on a heap of bloody feathers, dead fowls, broken eggs and wrecked household utensils. The sleeper was not awakened, for he had destroyed only his own property.

REFORM OF RELIGIONS IN JAPAN.

INOUYE ENRYO, who was graduated in philosophy from the Imperial University, and subsequently travelled through America and Europe, is now one of the foremost thinkers among the Buddhists of Japan. He recently delivered a long and interesting address on the subject of the reform of religions in this country, the gist of which is as follows:—Among the many methods by which the reform of the religions of Japan may be effected, the intellectual improvement of the priests themselves may be said to hold the foremost place. In order to be able to lead and instruct the masses, as priests are required to do, they must themselves be in knowledge and morals far above the average, and it is just in these two points that the Japanese priests of to-day are essentially deficient. This is, however, one of those theories that may be readily enunciated but are most difficult to put into practice. The lecturer suggested that in this respect Government aid should be solicited, this being probably the only feasible and efficacious method. Were the coöperation of the Government secured, the programme he proposed might be carried out in three ways, either (1) by establishing a special theological course in the Imperial University, or (2) by the founding of a Union College through the joint exertions of the various Buddhist sects, the college itself to be under the immediate supervision of the Educational Department; or (3) by granting the post of Chief Priest of a temple only to graduates of a certain school or certain schools determined by the Government or to those who successfully pass an examination in certain required standards. If law, medicine, etc., are necessitous to the welfare of the country and these subjects are given special courses at the Imperial University, then there is no reason why religion, which has such vital connection with the manners, customs, and public peace of a country, should not be accorded the same treatment. This argument was supported with illustrations taken from Western precedents. The objection might be raised, continued Mr. Inouye, that, as Japan has no state religion and there is no one creed publicly acknowledged by the Government, there would be some difficulty in the choice of religions to be specially studied in the University. While nothing can with certainly be predicted concerning the future, as matters now stand the only creeds to be included in the University course are Buddhism and Shintoism; and that correctness of this view is practically acknowledged by the Government, is proved by the existence of a Bureau for the Control of Temples and Shrines in the Home Department. Christianity is tolerated only; it has yet to receive public acknowledgmect. Viewed from the standpoint of expediency, the same argument again holds true, for Buddhist and Shinto believers far outnumber those who profess the Christian faith. But should the establishment of a special University course fail to be accomplished, recourse should be had to the second alternative, which, by careful management, might achieve the same result. The lack of funds is the only difficulty in the way of this project; but even here there is no need to despair, for the Higashi Hongwanji has frequently succeeded in raising, in the space of one year, sums ranging from one-half to a round million *yen*. The third and last method is similar to that already adopted by the Government in licensfng medical practitioners and school-teachers. Mr. Inouye concluded by saying that he was convinced that this question of religions would, in the course of a few years, come up before the Imperial Diet and then be settled satisfactorily; still a good scheme is all the better for prompt realization, and he could therefore not refrain from calling the immediate attention of both Government and people to these views.

THE TOKYO IRON FOUNDRY.

THE Tokyo Iron Foundry has much to be thankful for. A company failing, as it has done, to discharge its obligations, would, in another country, have been unable to avert ruin. But romance and so-called "patriotism" have here come to the rescue, and the company is once more swimming with the tide. Compromises have been effected with the Tokyo Warehouse Company, the Mitsubishi Firm and another creditor, unnamed, the aggregate of these liabilities being 170,000 *yen*. Relieved of these

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impediments, the Company has been able to direct its attention to the renewal of its works. At the commencement of the present month it repaired its factory and re-assembled a number of skilled mechanics who had been dismissed at the height of the trouble. The men thus re-engaged numbered 200, and 500 more are to be employed, it is said. Other particulars as to the Company's staff are published by the vernacular press but would not interest our readers. That the shareholders have good reason to congratulate themselves will be understood when we say that, at one time, the Company's liabilities amounted to twice its capital, and that, in addition, it was threatened not only with confiscation of a sum of 100,000 *yen* lodged with the Tokyo City Office by way of security for the due discharge of its contract to supply pipes to the Water Works, but also with an action at law on account of the loss sustained by the City. It escaped, however, with the confiscation of one half of the sum lodged, and even had the contract renewed on more favourable terms than before. The former officers of the Company have also been released from the unlimited liability under which they lay toward the City.

DISTRESS IN THE CAPITAL.

THE excessively high price of rice is weighing heavily on the poorer classes in the metropolis, the number of destitute and those receiving relief being unprecedentedly large. The great increase of freight-rates as well as the threatened drought may have something to do with this; but the general sentiment is that the dearness of the staple is due to speculative operations in the rice market and there is consequently a feeling of great bitterness apparent in the lower classes. Remedial measures are urgently necessary, for to judge from all appearance rice is getting dearer rather than cheaper, and what that means to the poor of Japan they only know who have seen on what miserable pittances life is possible in this country. Small wonder that the number of those who would sell their poor bodies to provide food for their parents or even children, is larger than it has been for many years.

A RUMOUR AFFECTING THE MANUFACURE OF MATCHES.

A REPORT was, some months ago, current among Japanese manufacturers that the authorities in Java, Annam, the Philippines, Singapore, and India had decided to impose a heavy duty on imported matches. In compliance with a request preferred by the members of the guild, the Foreign Department desired the Japanese Consul at Hongkong to inquire into the truth of the rumour. The matter was duly investigated and the Consul reports that in India only has a decision been made to imposean *ad valorem* duty of five per cent. on all imported goods, with the sole exception of cotton cloth and yarns. No similar innovation has been made elsewhere. It has believed that the export of matches has considerably fallen off of late, but the Consul's investigations have elicited the fact that this is far from being the truth. The total amount of matches exported during the first three months of the present year is about 300,000 boxes in advance of the figure of the corresponding period in 1893.

THE MOTOMACHI FIRE.

THE great fire in Motomachi on Sunday afternoon is estimated to have entailed damage to the extent of $300,000 or $400,000. The widespread suffering has evoked much practical sympathy from both foreign and Japanese residents, and at the close of Monday the evening journals were able to announce the receipt of donations to the amount of $105—which included two sums of $5 each from A.M.A. and H.W.B. sent through this office—and $75 respectively. Mr. G. W. Bramhall (Messrs. A. S. Rosenthal and Co.) was among the first to take active relief measures, and on Sunday evening he provided over 200 meals for the destitute burnt-out folk. He also provided breakfast to an equal amount next morning, and during the next few days collected the following subscriptions from among his immediate friends:—A. S. Rosenthal & Co., $25; American Tobacco Co., $25; R. Meiklejohn & Co., $25; Standard Oil Co., New York, $25; American Trading Co., $25; Wm. G. Rockfeller, $25; Edgar Scott, $25; Middleton & Co., $25; Siber, Brennwald & Co., $25; Frazar & Co., $25; A. A. Vantine & Co., $25; Mendelson, Bros., $25; Smith, Baker & Co., $25; Dodwell, Carlill & Co., $25; D. Jackson, $10; R. Home Cook, $5; W. F. Kidder, $10; B. C. Howard $10; Caudrelier & Co., $10; J. Martin, $10; Scott Bowne, L'd, $10; V. B., $5; G. W. Bramhall, $10; W. Tucker, $5; G. H. Scidmore, $10; John McLean, $10; Oppenheimer Frères, $25; Walsh, Hall & Co., $25; A.H.D., $10; Dr. A. G. Smith, $10; L.P., $5; D., $5; Bruhl Bros. & Co., $25; Walter P. Bliss, $25; Flint Kilby & Co., $25; A. S. Rosenthal & Co. (additional sub.), $25; G. W. B., $25; Col. T. Williams, $10; J. C. Budd, $10; E.W.T., $5; Charity, $5; Sale & Co., $50.00, J. R. Simon & Co., $25.00: Total, $790.

* * *

Mr. G. W. Bramhall did not allow the work of practical relief initiated by him on Sunday night to lag. All day Tuesday and Wednesday he was busy seeing that the money donated to aid the sufferers in the Motomachi fire was spent in a proper manner and reached the people for whom it was intended. Upwards of 927 meals had been given by midday on Tuesday; 200 meals had been further provided in the Motomachi Elementary School; while the ladies of the Yokohama Fujin Jizenkai had personally attended to 727 cases of hopeless destitution. The hospital which the Jizenkai have under their own personal supervision was also turned into a refuge where the wounded and maimed were received, the injuries of all being suitably attended to. It is the intention of the donors to what may be called the "Bramhall-fund," to use the surplus in providing tools for the burnt out craftsmen, and articles of trade for the small shopkeepers who lost their little-all on Sunday afternoon. Twenty-three persons are now being cared for in the Charity Hospital; 618 were fed on Wednesday and on Thursday bedding, clothing, and other necessaries were given to one hundred families.

* * *

Viscount Hojo, a Chamberlain, has been dispatched by their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress with an imperial present of *yen* 1,200 to the destitute sufferers through the recent Motomachi fire. The Chamberlain further personally subscribed *yen* 10 towards the relief of the sufferers. The following sums have been subscribed by Japanese residents towards the relief of the sufferers:—*Yen* 300, Mr. Mogi Sobei, *yen* 200 each, Messrs. Otani Kahei, Hara Zenzaburo, Watanabe Fukusaburo, and Hiranuma Senzo; *yen* 100 each, Messrs. Minoda Chojiro and Ono Mitsukage, *yen* 50 each Mr. Tanabe Shinroku and a foreigner; *yen* 25 each Messrs. Tanikawa Tomikichi, Takahashi Yasubei, and Tokita Kamakichi; *yen* 15 each three subscribers, and *yen* 10 each three charitable residents. The Japanese subscriptions amount to *yen* 4,504.

AN INTERESTING PUBLICATION.

Iyesu Zaisei no Keirekishi Dzukai (Chart of the Life of Christ), Fukuinsha in Osaka and Kobe; Keiseisha in Tokyo: price seven *sen*. This is the full title of a handsome and important little publication just issued in Kobe. As in other things, so in this instance, Japan has shown her promptness to adopt, and adapt to her own needs, that which is good. Charts of the Life of Christ have not long been in existence at home, and now we have one in Japan: the American chart on which this is based was only issued last year. Anything which induces to, and aids in, the study of the life and character of Jesus of Nazereth is a good thing, but this sort of help is especially good. Three long bands of colour, marked respectively Judea, Samaria, and Galilee, with a clear black line threading its way back and forth across the bands, show at a glance the order and location of the events in the life of Christ; while references all along the line show where they are found in the Gospels. The order adopted is mainly that of Dr. Robinson, and even if any one should disagree with this order, he must study to find grounds for his objection, and study is what is wanted. The bright colours in which it is printed make it attractive to the eye; its paper is strong and durable. The low price of seven *sen* makes it possible for the poorest to have it, so that no one need be without it who has the slightest interest in the subject.

FIGHTING STRENGTH OF THE JAPANESE AND CHINESE NAVIES.

THE *Hochi Shimbun* compares the fighting capacity of the Japanese and the Chinese Navies. As usual with the native press when dealing with such topics, the *Hochi* professes that its information originally came from the mouth of an anonymous expert, this time a Japanese Admiral. On the supposition that the Japanese troops and the Chinese troops now in Korea come into collision through some cause or other, it is not an idle task to contrast the fighting powers of the two Navies, for in a war between the two empires naval operations would not be less important than military. The *Hochi* then proceeds to enumerate the men-of-war, their tonnage, and horse power, composing the two Navies, and arrives at the following results: Japan—number of war ships, 32; their tonnage, about 61,000; horse power, about 95,000; China—number of vessels 46; tonnage about 68,000; horse power about 72,000. Thus, with regard to the arithmetical strength of the two Navies there is no particular difference, and the issue of a now not improbable fight would depend upon the comparative skill of the *personnel*. With respect to the qualifications of officers, the *Hochi* is obliged to admit with regret that Japan cannot lay claim to any marked superiority over China. It is true that Japan has a Naval College and a Naval Academy, and that plenty of her officers have mastered the science of naval strategy and tactics. But China has never fallen behind Japan in these points. She has specially engaged foreign experts, and has sent her most promising officers to Europe and America, whence they have returned after going through all the necessary courses. In gunnery, navigation, and tactical evolutions they are so well trained that even foreigners admire their proficiency. Would the Japanese Navy be overcome, then, when opposed by the Chinese? By no means. For though the Chinese officers may be excellent, that is not the case with the men. The latter are all thoroughly Chinese in their ways, indolent, addicted to opium, and in many cases ignorant of even how to fire a gun. Seeing that the point of prime importance in naval efficiency is the capacity of the men and officers to work together, Japan must be admitted to possess a marked advantage over China. Moreover, China has made comparatively little progress in the art of employing torpedo boats, nor has she a sufficient number of them; a serious fact in view of the part now played by torpedos in naval warfare. In short, the so-called Admiral is said to have declared with great satisfaction that, taken all in all, the Japanese Navy has more than enough strength to overpower the Chinese.

THE ECONOMIC REFORM SOCIETY.

THIS Society, organized previously to the opening of the last session of the Diet and regarded by the public as a most important affair, held a meeting on the 15th instant for the purpose of considering its attitude toward the problem of foreign policy. A long and animated discussion took place, when it was finally resolved that although questions of foreign policy lie outside the strictly proper sphere of the Society's inquiry, a juncture like the present calls for some definite expression of opinion. Hence the meeting solemnly recorded its protest that among its members not so much as a single one entertains the views of the so-called "Moderate Section" (*Nampa*); that in opposition to the Clan Cabinet's foreign policy the Society takes an even more unbending line than the

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Anti-Mixed-Residence politicians, and that its view is unanimously in favour of a strong foreign policy.

* * *

The Economic Reform Society is under the leadership of men who ought to be conspicuous for the moderation of their attitude in foreign affairs. The commercial and phosophic view ought to be theirs if it is to be found among any body of Japanese politicians. Hence when they announce themselves in the above sense, we cannot avoid the conclusion that Japanese society is permeated to the core with jingoism. Against whom is this "strong" policy to be adopted? Is it against Korea? Or against China? Nothing can be easier than for men entirely without responsibility to throw their hats into the air and shout "forward." They are careful to avoid defining what "forward" means, and thus they succeed in being at once magnificently large beforehand and pleasantly free afterwards to criticise and condemn. We do not think of attributing any such attitude to Mr. Taguchi and his colleagues. At least we are persuaded that they would not assume such an attitude of deliberate intent. But they are precisely the men who might be expected to act as a drag upon the jingo locomotive, whereas we find them sitting on the safety valve. The much abused "Clan Cabinet" has truly a difficult task to perform at this crisis. If it saves the country from the evils of a foreign war, it will add another substantial item to its claim for historical honour and national gratitude.

THE NEW SHIPS OF THE YUSEN KAISHA.

Two of the fine steamers which the Yusen Kaisha have contracted to purchase to fill up the gap caused by ten of the Company's vessels having been requisitioned by the Government, have arrived and become the Company's legal property, says the *Jiyu*. One of these has been re-named the *Gensan Maru* and set sail for her destination on the 14th instant; the other, the British steamer *Hector*, reached Yokohama on the same date and has received the name of *Moji Maru*. The remaining three steamers contracted for are the *Hesperia* and *Pemptos*—both of which have hitherto flown the German flag—and a British vessel called *Moray*. The chartered ships number two, not one as we were made to understand at the outset; of these one is now known as the *Mogul*, the name of the other being irrecognizable in the *Kana* transliteration of the *Jiyu*. All of these ships have a tonnage of above two thousand and are expected to enter the Company's employ on or about the 23rd of the present month. The three vessels whose sale has been concluded but which have not yet arrived are to be named the *Ninsen Maru*, *Fusan Maru*, and *Soga Maru*, the names thus chosen having evident reference to Korea. They as well as the two chartered vessels are to ply between Hokkaido and the main island. The same journal remarks on the trouble caused the Company by reason of so many of its ships having been withdrawn for Government service. Having ceased to follow the regular routes and some ten days having elapsed since their withdrawal, twice the number of vessels put in requisition are necessary in order to convey with due promptitude the vast amount of freight now awaiting transportation at various places. Beside all the rest it is far from being an easy task to efficiently man the seven ships entering the Company's service. Supposing that no more than ten officers and fifty seamen and firemen are required for each steamer, even then seventy officers and three hundred and fifty men are necessary. It is therefore greatly to the credit of the Yusen Kaisha to hear that, despite considerable difficulty, due preparations have successfully been effected, and that the ships will be well and promptly manned so soon as they arrive.

PAUPERS.

The law of Japan excepts from distraint on account of failure to pay taxes any property not calculated to yield more at public auction than the amount of the default. The statistics do not tell how many persons escape their public obligations by these miserable means. They do tell, however, how many persons had to be exposed to the process of distraint before they paid their taxes. The numbers are quoted in the *Keisai Zasshi*:—

Distraints on accounts of National Taxes.

	Land Tax.	Income Tax.	Saké Tax.	Tobacco Tax.	Soy Tax.	Confectionary Tax.
1891	298	51	3	48	2	1,109
1892	273	52	15	46	3	1,033

	Drugs Tax.	Ship Tax.	Carriage Tax.	Cattle Tax.	Hokkaido Marine Products Tax.	Totals.
1891	146	333	1,663	45	322	4,017
1892	133	233	1,557	19	311	3,678

Distraints on account of Local Taxes.

1891 ..... 170,613 | 1892 214,414

There was, consequently, a diminution in the number of defaulters on account of national taxes in 1892 as compared with 1891, but an increase in the number on account of local taxes. The *Keisai Zasshi*, in order to arrive at the total pauper population, multiplies the number of defaulters by 5 on the assumption that each is head of a family. By this process the numbers obtained are 873,150 paupers in 1891 against 1,090,460 in 1892. Hence our contemporary concludes that pauperism is rapidly on the increase. At all events, it is sufficiently remarkable, that one person in every 40 is unable to satisfy the demands of the tax-collector.

* * *

With every increase of poverty crime also increases. The record of thieves and burglars armed with deadly weapons is as follows:—

	Thieves.	Burglars.	Totals.
1887	44,512	2,057	46,569
1888	36,064	1,398	37,462
1889	37,929	900	38,829
1890	60,047	1,191	61,238
1891	65,363	1,326	66,689

The number of persons who received relief from the Authorities or were admitted to the Foundling Hospital and the Tokyo Reformatory were as follow:—

Total at end of.	Relieved by Government.	Foundlings.	Tokyo Foundling Hospital.	Fukudenkai Foundling Hospital.	Tokyo Reformatory.
1887	15,203	5,777	212	39	68
1888	14,721	5,576	227	40	63
1889	14,240	5,349	287	48	62
1890	17,487	5,431	369	37	64
1891	18,282	5,324	511	68	65
1892	—	—	506	54	70

TWO NEW REGULATIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Among the many schemes for years pursued by the Educational Department, that of giving every encouragement to technical education is one of chief importance. Keeping this in view, the Department authorities submitted to the deliberation of the last session of the Diet a bill relating to the grant of a subsidy for technical instruction. The amount asked was only 150,000 *yen*, and the Bill most fortunately succeed in obtaining the consent of both Houses before the short and disastrous session came to its abrupt close. Since then the Department has already taken an effective step toward carrying out the contemplated programme, two new Regulations having been quite recently issued over the signature of the Minister of State for Education. One of these relates to the training of technicalin structors; the other contains provisions by which every Common Middle School may provide a special technological course from the fourth year of the ordinary curriculum, while a Middle School dealing only with technical education may be established in the same locality. The institution where technical instructors are in future to be trained, is to be under the control of the Director of the Tokyo Polytechnic School. One hundred and forty students will be here admitted, one hundred of them to pursue the academic or collegiate course (lasting two years), while the remainder are to enter upon a special course extending over one year only. Every candidate for matriculation in the academic course must either be a graduate of some Ordinary Middle School or else be possessed of equivalent scholarship. The students are to enjoy special Government aid in defraying their school expenses, but in return they must bind themselves to serve as teachers for a period of six years in schools specified by the Minister of Education. As for the alumni of the special course, the duration of their obligatory service will be for two years only. Another noteworthy point in the Regulations is the lack of any reference to instruction in foreign tongues, both as regards students of Ordinary Middle Schools who intend taking up a technical course in the fourth year of their studies, and studants of Ordinary Middle Schools where technical instruction is to be given from the very first year.

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Commenting upon these Regulations, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* remarks that the inauguration of the new system of technical high schools will make an epoch in the history of secondary education in Japan. Hitherto the majority of common school pupils have been indirectly compelled to forego matriculating in high schools owing to competitive entrance-examinations. They have perforce remained content with graduating from common schools. This has been principally due to the insufficient number of high schools, there being at most only one or two in a very wide range of territory. But difficulties of this nature will, it is believed, be obviated in future in consequence of the enforcement of the new Regulations, for they will undoubtedly have the beneficial effect of creating several high schools in one locality, perhaps even one in every country. Moreover, as it will be easier for aspirants to enter a technical high school than an ordinary one, they can graduate and thus enter upon a practical business life at a much earlier age. Further, the nature of the technical instruction to be imparted in each new school will vary in accordance with the main pursuits of the locality wherein the school exists; in a thoroughly rural locality, for example, agriculture will be most thoroughly taught, or technology or commerce in places where such knowledge is most desirable. Of course the general curriculum in such high schools will be of a lower grade than that hitherto kept to; yet the students of technical high schools are to enjoy privileges of like nature with pupils of ordinary high schools, for instance with regard to conscription service. It is thought that many of the higher common schools (*Koto Sho-gakko*) will be advanced to the rank of technical, high schools, for this could easily be effected by simply extending the course for a few years.

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These new Regulations of the Department of Education are in our (*Japan Mail*) opinion intended to provide separate educational facilities for those who desire to take up a higher course, or even enter the Imperial University, and those who, after enjoying a middle school education, are content to return to their homes and begin a practical business-life. And if that be the case, we venture to question the wisdom of providing a technical course in an ordinary high school. The students who intend to take up the special course are taught for three years exactly in the same manner as those who aspire to matriculate at Higher Middle Schools or go even farther; it is only in the fourth year that they are set apart. Beginning with this year the technological pupils have to forego all further instruction in English, which they have already studied for six semesters. It is absurd to study English for three years only and then abruptly break off; it would be far better to leave English out of the curriculum from the very beginning. Would it not be wiser to confine the course of ordinary high schools to higher education only, and gauge the curriculum of other institutions to the needs of those who intend entering upon a practical life after graduation? The distinction should be rigidly kept; specious though it be, the two-birds-with-one-stone policy is wholly out of place in educational affairs.

THE BITER BITTEN.

We have on several occasions referred to the swindlers and confidence men with whom cer-

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tain quarters of Tokyo are said to be infested; they work in a very ingenious fashion and their victims are legion. But in one recent case, at all events, a neat little plan failed to come off. Some days ago, an elderly, well-dressed man was seen wandering in the neighbourhood of Shimbashi Station, with the evident earmarks of a countryman on his first visit to the metropolis. He was soon joined by another personage who asked where his destination was, and whether he could be of service, and who generously offered to take him to a lodging-house of good repute and low price. The countryman was on his guard in an instant,and a few questions confirmed him in his belief that this was none other than one of the swindlers who live by outwitting credulous country-people. Apparently accepting the proposals made him by the *pompiki*, the old man walked gaily along with his new acquaintance until they came in front of the Utagawa-machi Police Station. Here he halted and, calling a policeman, stated his suspicions, his companion in the meantime vociferously protesting his innocence and the absence of any evil interest on his part. But this failed to satisfy the constable. Strict investigations were made, which elicited the fact that the suspected man was in very truth a notorious swindler who had long lived at the expense of other people. He has since made a clean breast of his various crimes and been condemned to a long term of imprisonment.

BARNUM OUTDONE.

A most ingenious swindler recently met with well-merited punishment at the hands of the Kumamoto police authorities, after having for more than three months done a roaring business by imposing on the credulity of the Kyushu people. He exhibited what he was pleased to call "the skeleton of a demon," and in connection with this has been convicted of most daring duplicity and sent up for a long term to a place where flesh-and-blood demons are of not infrequent occurence. This Japanese Barnum is one Michigami Kotaro, a native of a village in Bingo, his real profession being that of a paperhanger (*hyoguya*). Being dissatisfied with the profits derived from honest trade, he conceived the idea of manufacturing the skeleton of a demon, of the good old-fashioned Shutendoji type, believing with justice that he would make a fortune by exhibiting so rare and noteworthy an object. His professional skill stood him in good stead in carrying out this plan, the ingenuity displayed being well worth a better scheme. In manufacturing the huge skull he used the cranial bones of horses and oxen. These he joined together most deftly by covering them on the inner side with skin taken from the stomach of an ox. Horse-teeth inserted the wrong way were placed in the "demon's" mouth, giving the skull a most ferocious expression. Two horns remained to be soldered on, in strict accordance with the received traditions of demons in Japan, and here again the horns of an ox were put into requisition. In order to make the horns look old and well-worn, he first boiled them in nitric acid and then polished them with *tokusa*, the equisetum or "scouring rush," a plant containing much silica. The spine, ribs, and sundry other bones were made out of those of horses and oxen. To disguise their original colour and give them an ancient appearance, he besmeared them with a mixture of lime and powdered gall-nut; and so particular was he with the *tout ensemble* of his bantling that he even caused a little hair to grow on the skull, by covering it with a strip of cat's skin. After completing his exhibit, the next thought was to obtain a document guaranteeing its genuineness. To this effect he composed a written document, taking great care to give it, with the aid of sundry chemicals, the requisite frayed and aged look, after which, by touching it with honey here and there, he caused it to be gnawed by worms, keeping it for this purpose for several days in a box wherein he had previously placed some book-worms. These thorough preparations being complete, he set out on a swindling tour in February of this year, and earned a substantial sum by exhibiting his handiwork in Mihara and Hiroshima. Believing it safer not to charge any fixed price for inspecting the skeleton, he left it to the choice of patrons to pay for the sight or not; and with this intent always hired a large room in some temple wherever he went. To his great gratification, this plan worked like a charm, the receipts being far larger than he could have hoped for under ordinary circumstances. His route lay through Iwakuni and Shimonoseki over to Kyushu, and in many towns he succeeded in completely hoodwinking the people. But Fate was lying in wait for him at Kumamoto. The fraud was detected, and the swindling three—the skeleton, the document, and the man—were impounded and imprisoned. Yet it was by no means easy to unmask the fellow. Letters where forwarded to the district office in Bingo, where he was registered, and the answer elicited the fact that he was travelling under an *alias*. Another letter was then despatched to the local authorities of a certain district in the island of Oki, where the showman declared he had unearthed his great find. The reply was in this instance fatal to dishonesty, the whole story being declared as arrant untruth. Confronted with these incontrovertible proofs, the man could no longer keep up the deception, and finally made a clean breast of it, giving a minute description of the manner in which he had made the skeleton—to the immense delight of the clever Kumamoto police.

"FUDO SAMA" IN PAWN.

With the exception of avowedly propagandist periodicals and magazines, the vernacular press is much given to sneering at all kinds of Buddhist and Shinto superstitions, never foregoing an opportunity to indulge in sarcastic remarks or to hold some of the illusions of a credulous public up to ridicule. It was recently discovered that the image of "Fudo-Sama," of the well-known shrine of Fudo Myo-o in Bancho, Tokyo, had been removed, and investigations elicited the fact that his godship was relegated to the garret of a wealthy man who had advanced a sum of about one hundred *yen* on the idol, the owner of the shrine being in pecuniary difficulties. This seems to be the second time that this particular Fudo-Sama has figured as a pledge; in the first instance, the note was paid when it fell due, but this time not even the sacredness of the divinity could keep it out of the relentless hands of the shrine's creditor. "The credulous people of Kojimachi," says a vernacular contemporary, "are not aware of this sad circumstance and still keep on making gifts of money and offering up prayers to an empty shrine. These pious acts are probably just as efficacious as if the original Fudo-Sama were present. But it is strange that his godship should prefer the seclusion of a garret to clouds of incense and the prayers of his devotees. Mayhap he has had overmuch to do of late and has chosen this as a season of rest and retirement."

MARRIED IN HASTE.

Some of the Tokyo journals claim to have recently discovered that a number of good-looking young people of both sexes are doing a thriving business by marrying into well-to-do families and then conducting themselves so badly that they are speedily divorced, taking with them of course the new clothes, jewellry, etc., of which they have become the possessors. In a word, they appear to be most unconscionable rogues who trade on their good looks and the uxoriousness of other people. They seem models of propriety before and until shortly after marriage. And then the trouble begins, for they pertinaciously disregard the wishes of their husbands or wives and behave altogether so badly that a bill of divorcement follows in a few weeks as a matter of course. Then they go off, taking with them whatever they have received in the way of "portable property" during the brief days of the honeymoon, and are ready for another matrimonial venture. Some almost incredible stories are told, one pretty adventuress having, it is said, been married no less than seven times during the course of the last twelve months. There is no way of punishing such light-'o-loves, for they take good care to keep within the limits of the law, and thus realize—though in a very different sense from that it which Catullus penned it—the distich:—

Quisquis amore tenetur, eat tutusque sacerque
Qualibet; insidias non timuisse decet.

QUITE ANOTHER STORY.

A comely young woman recently applied to the Azabu Police Station, alleging absolute destitution. She stated that she was the daughter of a small merchant in Hyogo and had come up to the metropolis in order to go into service; in this she might have succeeded, but upon reaching Shimbashi Station her pocket had been picked, and she had lost sight of her friends in the crowd. Her simple and modest demeanour had its effect even upon the police officials. They telegraphed at once to the address she gave them in Hyogo and meanwhile did what they could to supply her most urgert wants. But with the reply came disenchantment. The maiden had run away from home to seek a former lover, for whose sake she was in disgrace with her family, and her one-time admirer refusing to have any further care for her, she was left, as she had truly said, without means. There was only one thing to be done. With the next through train the lovelorn damsel was sent back to her parents' house.

KIM OK-KYUN REDIVIVUS.

We learn, on the authority of the correspondents of several metropolitan journals, that a fourth remarkable personage has joined the phenomenal triad of generals that are leading the *Togaku-to* partisans to their fate. This is no less than the ghost of Kim Ok-kyün. For several days after the execution of Kim's aged father, commands were occasionally heard, about nightfall, by certain detachments of the *Togaku-to*, the voice giving the commands being different from those of their captains and generals. The voice appeared to be enjoining speed and wholesale slaughter of abnoxious officials. This, of course, suited the men exactly, only they thought it strange that no one could tell whence the orders came. At last one of the men, a former intimate of the murdered Korean refugee, recognised the voice as belonging to Kim Ok-kyün. The fact was subsequently verified by the actual appearance of Kim and his aged father, both seeming to bleed from many wounds. The two mournful ghosts were seen shortly after midnight, walking slowly through the sleeping camp. But now the problem is this:—will the friends of the late refugee consent to any Japanese attack on the *Togaku-to* rebels if, as is clear from the above, these people are acting under the direct spirit-guidance of the said Kim Ok-kyün?

DANGER OF A COAL FAMINE.

Even at the best of times, says the *Jiji Shimpo*, there is never sufficient coal to supply all demands, and now, owing to the want of freight-carriers a veritable coal-famine is to be apprehended. The Hokkaido Coal Company employ four vessels for the conveyance of coal from Otaru to Yokohama, one of these ships being owned by the Company, while the rest are chartered elsewhere. The owners of the chartered bottoms are now desirous of being released from their contract, in consequence of the great rapidity with which freight rates are going up. The rates ruling this year are said to be forty and even fifty per cent. in advance of those of 1893, and this was prior to the outbreak of the rebellion in Korea; now, as a number of the Yusen Kaisha vessels have been requisitioned by the Government, rates are just double what they were last year. But the Hokkaido Company is not alone in experiencing great difficulty in the transportation of coal; the Kyushu mine-owners are having at least equal trouble. They find it extremely difficult to supply even those regular customers with whom special stipulations exist. What makes the outlook still more serious is the fact that the stock in the coal-

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depots at Tokyo is very small. The whole amount in the various depots of the Hokkaido Company does not exceed five or six hundred tons, while Kyushu coal in the metropolis is very slightly above this figure. On the other hand, the greatest industrial activity prevails, necessitating the consumption of an enormous quantity of coal. And so with justice are the workshops and factories whose output depends wholly upon fuel, looking forward with great anxiety to a possible coal-famine and consequent great and immediate damage to their trade.

THE DISTRESS IN MINA-MURA.

We referred recently to the dire distress prevailing among the inhabitants of Mina-mura, in Tokushima Prefecture. Relief is now, we learn, being given to a few of the most destitute families, but from journalistic reports it appears that more energetic allevial measures are urgently demanded. The *Tokushima Nichi Nichi Shimbun* states that the supply of edible roots has entirely given out and neither fruit or vegetable to be obtained in the vicinity, and further cites a number of instances of the most distressing nature. One elderly couple with four half-grown children in their wretched home have been absolutely without any other food since April except that supplied them by their almost equally destitute neighbours. The children have become so weak from starvation that they are no longer able to go out in search of food, while the parents are in the last stage of inanition. Another pitiful case is that of a hard-working young woman who has lost her reason through being unable to supply her two little ones with food. Still another has lapsed into idiocy from want of the barest necessities of life. Any subscriptions for the relief of the suffering villagers we shall be glad to forward to the local authorities, for with the stir and bustle consequent upon the Korean rebellion, the fearful destitution in Mina-mura does not appear to be receiving the attention it deserves.

JAPANESE PUG-DOGS.

Opinions vary as to the origin of the Japanese Pug, or *chin*. Some claim that the dog was introduced by the Portuguese, in which case it may very well be a descendant of the Manila pug, which itself is the offspring of a poodle; others hold that the *chin* came originally from China, and this seems the more probable theory, for it is evidently a close relation of the famous "sleeve-dog" of the Pekinese. The Japanese pug is, however, a much more intelligent animal than its Chinese relative, and so the demand for these pretty but very delicate pets is increasing in Europe. The only drawback is that the *chin* is peculiarly susceptible to climatic changes, and, unless great care is taken, easily develops a form of eye-disease that sooner or later results in blindness. Japanese breeders are now consulting as to the best measures for strengthening the constitution of the *chin*, and some interesting experiments in cross-breeding have been made with the Manila pug, the result being a somewhat larger animal with sturdier legs, but far more robust that the pure *chin* while quite as attractive in general appearance.

BOLD BURGLARS.

The tavern kept by a certain Sogoro, in the village of Yoshida, in Saitama Prefecture, had the honour of a domiciliary visit from three burglars on the night of the 16th instant. They got off with all the cash on the premises and various articles of *vertu*. The matter being promptly notified to the police, a party of constables set out in hot search and came upon them as they were amicably engaged in sharing the plunder in a little grove just beyond the village. One of the burglars was immediately seized and handcuffed, but the other two decamped. Following up their track, the second burglar was arrested a few hours later in a brothel in Shingo, a village in the adjoining prefecture of Ibaraki. The search-party then came to a lonely place known as Mizuki-zutsumi, and here the third robber suddenly sprang from a place of concealment and attacked the constables with desperate valour. Being a man of prodigious strength though unarmed, it was fully half an hour before he was rendered harmless and securely bound, several of the police receiving flesh wounds and one of them being severely bitten in a number of places during the conflict. The wounded men were sent to the nearest hospital and the robber jailed. His capture, it is said, was principally due to the bravery of the constable whom he bit so savagely.

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE FLORA OF JAPAN.

Certain specialists in Tokyo recently made some interesting studies in the Japanese *Flora* with regard to the original habitat of a number of plants that popular opinion believes to have been introduced from China, Korea, Java and Holland. According to Dr. Rein ("Japan," Vol. I., p. 162), "in a pretty large number of Japanese plants, prefixes *Shina*, *Kara*, *Tō* (China), *Chōsen* (Korea), *Tenjiku* (India), *Jagatara* (Batavia), *Oranda* (Holland) and *Nanban* (Portugal), indicate their foreign origin." Passing by the mistranslation of *Tenjiku*, which is the name for Thibet and not India proper, we find that the list given by the learned author, is quite incorrect in several instances. *To-bai* "Chinese plum," is the name given to a pretty species of unquestionably Japanese origin; *Namban-hakobe* (*Cucubalus bacciferus*) was not introduced by the Portuguese; it is one of the very numerous indigenous *Caryopylleae*; again the pretty little *Orandā-giseru*, "Dutch pipe" (*Aeginetia indica*), was evidently so named on account of its resemblance to the Holland pipe; it is an indigenous Japanese plant. With regard to the *Chosen-asagao*, "Korean morning-glory" (*Datura alba*), some uncertainly appears to exist, one or two botanists claiming that this is a particular variety cultivated in Japan, while others hold that it was originally imported from Korea. In the case of the familiar ground-nut (*To-jin* or *Nankin-mame*), the "Chinese paulownia (*To-giri*, *Clerodendron squamatum*), *Namban Kimi* or *To-morokoshi*, Indian Corn (*Zea mais*), *Tenjiku-mamon*, the Thibetan capsicum (*C. annnuura*, *L.*), Rein's statement is impugnable. All these and many more have been introduced from Western lands. But, at all events, it does not follow that the prefix of a foreign name is proof positive of foreign origin.

AN ANECDOTE OF KANO TANYU.

A metropolitan contemporary tells the following interesting story of Kano Tanyu, one of the greatest painters of his day. It happened that Matsudaira Nobumasa, Lord of Izu, sent one day a messenger to the artist, bidding him come to his residence punctually at ten o'clock the next morning and bring his painting materials at the same time. Nobumasa was the most famous councillor of the then Tokugawa Shogun, and for the active part that he had taken in the suppression of the revolt of Yui Shosetsu and the Amakusa rebellion, was held in high honour at Court. So Tanyu did not fail to make his appearance at the appointed hour, but only to learn that Izu-no-Kami had gone to the Castle. He was obliged to wait, and while doing so a frugal and by no means dainty meal was served him. Late in the afternoon the councillor returned, yet though informed of the painter's presence, expressed no desire to see him and lay down for a nap. Restless and irritable from his long wait, Tanyu grew highly indignant on hearing of Izu-no-Kami's return and his enjoyment of a siesta, deeming it an intentional act of rudeness. He arose to return to his own house, but was prevented by the lord's retainers, who alleged various pretexts to keep him from going. Finally, about eight o'clock in the evening, the incensed artist was brought to the presence of the councillor, to whom he made but a short and unceremonious salutation. Paying no attention to the painter's evident ill-temper, Izu-no-Kami quietly told his attendants to bring out a large screen, on which he requested the artist to draw the figures of a dragon and tiger. Seizing his brush, Tanyu began to paint boldly and freely, as if in haste to get through his commission. When the picture was completed, Tanyu himself was struck with the masterly skill and execution it exhibited, so that he involuntarily cried out, "This is the finest drawing I have ever made!" for Tanyu's wrath and vexation had made themselves evident in his brush, so that a most fierce-looking dragon and life-like tiger were the result. The councillor did not hesitate to praise the wonderful picture and readily pacified the artist by saying that he had purposely kept him waiting so long in order that he might work under the impulse of his anger. Tanyu was much pleased with this ingenuous explanation and thanked his patron for the trouble he had taken to "make him do his best."

THE OUTRAGE AT CANTON.

The Hongkong *Daily Press* of the 13th inst. give the following particulars of this outrage:—

Serious news was received from Canton yesterday, which, alarming as it is in itself, suggests a danger to the European community on the Shameen, which, added to other rumours recently current, cannot be treated with indifference. The actual details of the occurrence are difficult to glean, but the facts as we learn them are as follows. Two ladies connected with the American Presbyterian Mission, Miss Fulton and Mrs. Noyes, were out walking on the morning of the 11th, at Honam. A Chinaman immediately in front of them suddenly fell down in a swoon (as has happened frequently here) and the first named lady, who is a qualified medical practioner, promptly applied her smelling salts to the sick man, with a kindly instinct which, however, provoked the most unhappy results. In a minute or two the man died—evidently the victim of plague—and the crowd of natives which had gathered at once attributed his demise to the attentions, or as they put it, the machinations, of the ladies. Their rage and hatred were speedily displayed in a fusilade of stones and bricks and one of the ladies, though defending herself bravely, received a very nasty cut on the face. Her companion was also set upon and her dress torn. But for the timely arrival of a Customs officer, who dragged the ladies to the Customs quarters, it would undoubtedly have gone hard with them, for the infuriated mob increasing momentarily both numerically and in excitement, seemed determined to avenge the death of their countryman. As it was, some considerable damage was done and quiet was not restored until the arrival of a party of Customs men and braves. The affair has caused much excitement, and at Shameen apprehensions of further trouble are entertained. The members of the Customs staff living at Honam have been transferred to Shameen. The gunboat *Rattler* has anchored close in shore and is ready for the emergency which threatens. When the *Honam* left yesterday morning all was quiet. Perhaps it would be advisable, under the circumstances, to despatch another gunboat to Canton, as a show of force would undoubtedly increase the sense of security among the European residents, and might possibly avert a disaster.

NOTICES TO MARINERS.

The following notice, No. 285, relating to the Yangtze River—Kiukiang District of the China Sea—is issued from the Coast Inspector's Office:—Kiukiang Rocks Light-boat established; Kiukiang Rocks Light and Kiukiang Rocks Beacon Light Discontinued:—Notice is hereby given that a Light-boat has been moored abreast of Kiukiang Rocks and close to the upper end of Oliphant Island, where it marks the starboard side of the channel for vessels entering from seaward. The illuminating apparatus is fixed, Dioptric, of the Sixth Order, showing a *red* light, which should be visible in clear weather at a distance of 4 nautical miles. The Light-boat is painted red, and its mast is surmounted by a black ball. The Kiukiang Rocks Light and the Kiukiang Rocks Beacon Light, Nos. 86 and 87 respectively in the published List for 1894, have been discontinued.

* * *

Notice No. 284, of the China Sea, Shanghai District, gives the following warning: Middle Island Surveying Beacon:—Notice is hereby given that, on account of the washing away of the eastern shore of Middle Island, the Surveying Beacon, No. 45 in the published List for

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1894, has been shifted 6⅜ cables S. 84° W., magnetic, from its former position.

* * *

Notice No. 286, China Sea River Chinkiang District, says:—North Tree Beacon Light:—Notice is hereby given that the North Tree Beacon Light has been shifted 200 yards N. 50° E. from its last position, in consequence of the washing away of the river bank.

SCEPTRED M.P.'S.

THE *Keisai Zasshi* offers a quaint but evidently serious suggestion, namely, that each member of the Diet should carry a sceptre. Our contemporary's idea is to devise some instrument which shall serve at once as a badge of dignity and as a protection against *soshi*. The *soshi* can not be exterminated, in the *Keisai's* opinion. A terror to politicians, they are nevertheless employed by politicians themselves, and moreover, whether because they represent a remnant of the old feudal spirit of fighting, or whether they have an undefinable claim to public favour, there is evidently something about them that commands a measure of popularity Granted, then, that the *soshi* are, for the moment, inevitable, how is an M.P. to be secured against their assaults. Under the *Tang* dynasty is was customary with Chinese courtiers to carry a sceptre. Here is a venerable precedent. A sceptre, shrewdly constructed, would play the dual part of an ornamental distinction and of a very effective weapon. A member of the House of Representatives might have the gratification of breaking a *soshi's* head instead of having his own head broken by a *soshi*.

THE INCANDESCENT GAS-LIGHT.

WE understand that Mr. Janni has made a proposal to the Gas Committee to install his incandescent lamp along the public thoroughfares of the Settlement and the Bluff. A specimen of the proposed new lamp has been erected opposite No. 75, and residents can easily see for themselves the great superiority of the new lamp over the old, the increase being over 70 per cent. The incandescent gas-lamp is making its way in this town, among the latest installations being the Club Hotel, where the new illuminant has supplanted the electric light. The new system is most effective and gives a much better light at a greatly reduced price. After a three-months trial the Imperial Railway have given a contract to Mr. Janni to light Shimbashi and Yokohama stations.

THE UNIMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION.

THE headman of one of the Tokyo urban districts, says a metropolitan contemporary, pays but little held to the needs of the educational institutions under his supervision, the consequence being that the Government schools of that district are lax both in management and instruction. One-half of the children of the locality have thus been compelled to enter private schools. Many people have advised the headman to pay greater attention to this branch of his duties, but he invariably replies that he has more important matters to look after and that education, being of very slight importance, ought to be able to get along without his interference. "What an excellent reply!" sneers the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*; "it is indeed useless to proffer advice to so sage a man."

MOROCCO.

IT would appear, notwithstanding the election of a new Sultan to fill the throne of Morocco, rendered vacant by the decease of Muley Hassan, that trouble is still expected in the old-time Barbary State. Great Britain has supplemented her solitary gun-boat by three powerful vessels. Of the three ironclads detailed for service at Tetuan, which is a seaport town of great antiquity and gives the name to an extensive bay on the north coast of Morocco, the *Sanspareil* is a twin-screw armoured battleship of the first class, and flagship of the British Mediterranean fleet. The *Howe* is well known to the public for her many grounding misfortunes. She is of the same imposing calibre as the flagship, though not quite so speedy. The *Spartan* is a twin-screw cruiser of the 2nd class, with a thousand tons less displacement than the *Severn*, but of nearly double the horse-power.

RAILWAY FARES.

THE Nippon Railway Company set the example, last summer, of making drastic reductions in fares by excursion trains. It allowed a discount of 50 per cent. to persons travelling from Tokyo to Nikko by such trains. The experiment proved successful, the number of passengers being more than doubled. A resolute departure in the same direction has now been made by the Sanyo Railway Company. The section of its line between Mihara and Hiroshima, a distance of 47 miles, having been opened for traffic, the Company advertises that, during a period of 10 days commencing from the 10th of this month, passengers will be carried from Kobe to Hiroshima (190 miles) for 30 *sen*, third class, 50 *sen* second class; and 1 *yen* first class.

DR. KITAZATO DISCOVERY.

THROUGH the courtesy of the Kanagawa Prefectural Police Office we learn that a telegram was received by the Home Minister yesterday (19th), to the effect that Dr. Kitazato, one of the Government commissioners lately sent to Hongkong, has succeeded in discovering the cause of the pest. The message gives no further information or particulars. Dr. Kitazato, whose brilliant researches on tetanus in particular have placed him in the front rank of the world's bacteriologists, is now working in virgin soil, for no opportunities have of late years occurred where modern methods could be brought into use. Our knowledge of the man leads us to believe that the discovery so briefly announced may prove one of the greatest moment, for in the fight against infectious disease, the location of the cause is the necessary antecedent to its destruction.

THE OUTBREAK OF SMALL-POX IN ASAKUSA.

ACCORDING to the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*, since the 15th of last month twelve persons in Asakusa District have contracted small-pox, of whom two have succumbed. The first sufferer was a little girl of three years, the daughter of a poor woman living at No. 3, Nishi Torigoe-cho. She was taken with a high fever on the 15th ultimo and was evidently very sick, yet her mother was too poor to afford medical aid, and the child died on the 21st. A physician's certificate being necessary before interment could follow, one of the local physicians was called to in give his opinion, when the true nature of the disease became at once apparent. Up to the 13th instant, eleven fresh cases had appeared, four being children of tender years and adults. One of the former died after a short illness.

A TRADAL DISPUTE.

THE *Kokkai* has a note written in a jubilant strain. It says that the dispute recently recorded between some Japanese merchants and Messrs. Otto Reimers and Co., has been settled by the latter's yielding. As to the nature of the question at issue nothing has been said in the vernacular press, but it is now asserted that the final action of the German firm was greatly different from the arbitrary line taken by it at the outset. Being ignorant of the particulars, we can not formany conjecture as to the rights and wrongs of the affair, but it is pleasant to learn that things have been settled peacefully.

MADAME MINNIE HAUK IN TOKYO.

MADAME MINNIE HAUK was the object of a very delicate attention at Tokyo yesterday. The Society of amateurs of the Nogaku, one of the most aristocratic bodies of Japan, extended to her an invitation to assist at a representation of Nogaku, to be given in her honour at the Nogakudo, Shiba. Most of the members of the Society, including several princes and the chief dignitaries of the Imperial Household, were present at this performance which consisted of the ancient opera "Kan-Tan," the comic opera "Utsubozaru" and the play "Momijigari" given by leading actors in magnificent costumes. Members of the Committee kindly interpreted the plays and gave the required explanations. The interesting performance, to which a large number of invitations had been extended to members of the Society (Madame Minnie Hauk and her husband being the only Europeans present), terminated with a pleasant tea party at the Park Club at which the chief actors were presented to Mme. Hauk. She expressed herself highly gratified and delighted with the entire performance. Herr von Hesse-Wartegg will be received by His Imperial Majesty in a special audience to-day.

AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN.

MR. SIDNEY H. ROWE and Mr. J. Kelly of the Department of Trade and Customs, Melbourne, Victoria, who are the official representatives of the Government of Victoria, arrived in Yokohama per *Kobe Maru* on Friday. They are now staying at the Grand Hotel, but on Monday proceed to Tokyo to present their credentials to the British Chargé d'Affaires. It is the intention of these gentlemen to discover wherein the trade between Japan and Australia can be promoted and they will be pleased to obtain the opinions of foreign merchants in the Treaty Ports so as to present an authoritative report to the home Government.

THE TOKYO WATERWORKS.

WE read in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that although among the tenders recently submitted for a supply of iron pipes for the Tokyo Waterworks, that of Messrs. Raspe and Company was the lowest, the pipes specified in that firm's tender being of Belgian manufacture could not be conveniently employed in conjunction with the other material for the works. It is therefore expected that Messrs. Raspe and Company's tender will be set aside, and that the contract will be given to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

TIMELY FORETHOUGHT.

SEVERAL metropolitan *Ko Shimbunshi* have recently been giving lists of Korean words and phrases, the Korean words being transliterated with *kana* and not very correctly. The reason for doing this, they naïvely remark, is because "it is probable that the Peninsula will shortly become a Japanese dependency, in which case it is desirable that people should know how to carry on an ordinary conversation with the new subjects of the Empire." This is taking Time by the forelock with a vengeance.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

A FATAL accident occurred in Kobe on Friday whereby a *sendo* lost his life. The P. & O. steamer *Ancona* was going alongside the pier, when the *sendo* got foul of the hauling line and was precipitated into the water. Just then the steamer backed and the propeller striking the poor fellow's leg cut it off close to the trunk. The man died almost immediately. No blame attaches to the steamship.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

THE D'Arc Marionettes bring a very successful season in the Asakusa Theatre to a close on Sunday, and re-open in Kanda Hall on Thursday next. This theatre is very handily situated for foreign visitors, being only ten minutes ride from the Imperial Hotel.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD.

IN a recent interview Sir Edwin Arnold said, "Japan, I think, I shall never see again; but India tempts me always. Meanwhile, this busy, varied life we lead in London is full of fascination equally for the bee as for the butterfly."

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, TOKYO.

OWING to the damages sustained by St. Andrew's Church in the recent Earthquake, the Sunday morning service will be held in the St. Andrew's school and the daily services in the Chapel of St. Andrew's House.

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THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

The Educational Society of Japan held its annual general meeting in the Society's Offices, Hitotsubashi-dori, Kanda, on the 16th and 17th instant. Discussion of a most animated character took place; so animated that the *Nippon*, a journal, be it remembered, always disposed to regard the doings of the Society with critical eyes, declares that the affair rivalled the debates of the House of Representatives in the latter's most tumultous and excited mood. It does in truth seem that the Society's proceeding bore a close resemblance to those of the Diet when the latter is in an evil mood. In order to understand the case, it has to be noted that there are two parties in the Society, one composed of educationalists not in the Government service. These men are connected with educational journals published in Tokyo. They show a strong disposition to discuss the political side of educational affairs, and to regard with unfriendly eyes the proceedings of the present educational authorities. The other party consists either of persons in Government service, or of persons who, though not in office, hold moderate views, and maintain that educationalists should avoid meddling with political affairs and should confine themselves strictly within their own special sphere. Last year, owing to certain circumstances, the views of the extreme educationists obtained the ascendency, and the hitherto smooth relations between the Department of Education and the Society were somewhat disturbed. But this was only for a short while. Better and more moderate views prevailed before long, and the influential portion of the Society with Mr. Tsuji, the President, at its head, resolved henceforth not to be betrayed into interference with political matters. Their wise and rational attitude did not find favour, however, at the last meeting. The advocates of extreme views, taking a leaf out of the book of parliamentary agitators, introduced an urgency motion in the form of a Resolution that the Society deemed it of paramount and pressing importance that the system of giving subsidies from the Treasury for supplementing the salaries of common-school teachers of long service should be at once put into force. The introduction of the resolution was a signal for a debate of a most disorderly and, we regret to learn, highly personal character. The President remarked that he thought the discussion of such a measure by the Society was contrary to the spirit of Notification No. 11, of the Department of Education, issued last year, and that, consequently, he had rejected it when it was first submitted to him. Seeing that the introducer and supporters of the Bill still vehemently insisted on having it discussed and that a scene of great uproar consequently ensued between them and its opposers, the President announced that he should vacate the chair, and declared the meeting closed for the day. That happened on the 16th instant. On the following day Mr. Tsuji did not appear and the discussion was resumed with the Vice-President in the chair. The declaration of the President that he should resign the chair and his absence on the subsequent day appeared to have produced much impression on both the friends and the foes of the measure. Still its introducers evidently felt that they would be in a rather awkward and even ignominous position if they withdrew a proposition which they had supported so vehemently on the preceding day. They therefore devised what they considered an ingenious way of retreat, and proposed that the Society should seek the opinion of the Minister of Education as to whether it might discuss the measure. A strange idea surely, propounded as it was by the very members who only the day before, had advocated the proposition with such zealous insistance. The bridge of retreat was, however, accepted by the majority—a very small majority,—their conclusion doubtless being that whatever device was resorted to one fate alone was in store for the measure itself. The two days of meeting were not entirely wasted over this discussion. Six men of note delivered lectures on various topics, and a decision was arrived at to confer medals on 17 educationalists, mostly common school teachers, of long and meritorious services.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The real nature of the relations between the Cabinet and the Radical party is the subject of various rumours. Some people assert that there still exists an understanding between the two, while others say that, since the contemptible and disgraceful attack on Count Inouye by the Radicals, the Cabinet's attitude toward the latter has become rather unfriendly, if not actually hostile. The latter view seems to prevail among the Progressionists. One of their organs, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, for instance, believes that Count Ito, who has hitherto been supposed to be favourably disposed toward the Radical Party, has found out the undesirability of such an attitude on his part, and is making strenuous efforts to induce Count Inouye to resume his official duties at the Home Office. As to Count Inouye himself, our contemporary believes that he may perhaps consent to return to the capital and preside over the conferences of the local Governors to be convened before long. Another rumour represents Count Inouye as immovable in his resolution to resign, and adds that, in the event of his resignation, his portfolio will probably be held by Count Ito in addition to the Premiership.

There is a big project or foot for the purchase of the railway lines now in the possession of the Government. The principal promoters of the scheme are Messrs Shibusawa Eiichi, President of the First National Bank, Nakamigawa Hikojiro, manager of the *Mitsui* Bank, and Suyenobu Michinari. On the 16th inst., the leading business men of Tokyo were called together at the Imperial Hotel. A Committee of Organization was appointed from among those present. The Committee included the above mentioned three gentlemen and ten other persons, such as Messrs. Masuda Takashi, Watanabe Hiromoto, Hara Rokuro, Imamura Seinosuke and so forth. It is a question whether the sale of the State railways to a private company would be approved by the Government and the Diet. The Cabinet, according to some papers, is favourable to the project, but opinion seems to be divided in official circles. There is an influential section in the Government strongly devoted to the doctrine of state ownership of railways. These persons advocate the purchase by the Government of all the trunk lines throughout the country. As to the Diet, its attitude on the subject can not be definitely ascertained. Nor have the papers as yet declared their opinions, so entirely absorbed are they by the Korean affair. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is perhaps the only leading journal in Tokyo that has discussed the matter. Our contemporary in opposed to the scheme. Experience, it says, does not warrant the conclusion pressed by the originators of the project, that the construction and maintenance of railways can be effected more expeditiously and cheaply by private companies than by the Government. Our contemporary dwells also at great length upon the evil consequences of enabling a big private company to monopolise an extensive system of railways.

Reference has already been made to the movement now on foot among the bankers to get the term of the operation of national banks, which is soon to expire, prolonged for another period. A Bill on the subject was introduced by the Government in the late session of the Diet. It received the consent of the House of Representatives, but before it could be considered in the Upper House, the Diet was dissolved. The bankers, led by the officials of the Nobles' Bank, are now said to be holding communications with the members of the allied Opposition parties, offering to give pecuniary aid to the latter at the coming general election, if they promise to vote for the prolongation of the period of the operation of the banks' action.

As to the probable results of the coming general election, the Opposition organs are confident of a decesive victory for their parties. Count Okuma, however, does not entertain such extravagant hopes of success. He is reported to have told a certain visitor that the Opposition ought not to be too confident of its victory in the coming elections. With each successive general election, the Government has become more and more skilful in interfering with the voting. It must be remembered, he is said to have observed, that the Government can command the service of a mysterious power. It is owing to the influence of this power that men like Mr. Inouye Kakugoro and Mr. Hoshi Toru can always count upon re-election. It is this power that has converted the Radicals into supporters of the clan Government. What is this mysterious power? "It is money," he replied.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

The report that the insurgents' stronghold at Chŏu-ju has been reduced by the Government troops, is regarded in Tokyo with much doubt. This news is attributed to the Korean Government's desire to produce a favourable impression among foreigners as to the situation. The *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent at Söul, however, telegraphs that the rebels have abandoned Chŏu-ju and retired to Kim-jè, a town some twenty-five miles distant from the former place. This intelligence seems more probable than the former but is regarded with suspicion by the *Jiji* itself.

According to correspondence received by the *Nichi Nichi* from Fusan, the insurrection, instead of diminishing in influence, is spreading into the province of Chhung-Chhong-do. The Governor of the province reports that the *Togaku-to* adherents have risen in arms in various places, several thousands of them being assembled at a prefectural town named Chhŏng-san. It is also reported that the *Togaku-to* laid seige to the town of Po-sum in Chhung-Chhŏng-do on the 1st instant. The newly appointed Governor of Chŏl-la-do, Mr. Kim Kachin, is said to have proceeded as far as Kong-ju on the 1st instant. He is understood to be staying there.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Fusan correspondent reports the experience of a Japanese merchant of Inchŏn, who recently made a journey to Chhung-Chhŏng-do. On his way he was captured by the rebels, and, after undergoing a severe flogging, was brought before a leader. The unfortunate merchant expected to be despatched, but was surprised by being set at liberty by command of the rebel leader.

The correspondent also states that the Government troops entertain strange superstitious beliefs about the rebels. The believe, for instance, that the *Togaku-to* are great magicians and can evade bullets by flying through the air. They are also said to believe that the youthful leader of the insurgents has such brilliant eyes that any one encountering his glance is turned blind.

According to the latest report, it is stated that China is going to send another batch of 1,500 troops, thus increasing her land force in Korea to 3,000 in all.

The Tokyo News Agency reports that the Viceroy Li recently despatched a number of officials to Kai-ping (開平) to bring about the more rapid production of coals in view of possible complications in Korea.

Loud complaints are uttered at the delay that takes place in the transmission of telegraphic messages from Söul to Japan *viâ* the Wi-ju line. Ordinarily a few hours are sufficient for the purpose, but of late as many as from 40 to 50 hours are said to elapse before a telegram is received in Tokyo.

The Japanese forces, which landed at Inchhŏn on the 12th instant, were divided into two parties, the smaller proceeding on the following day to Söul, and the other remaining at the port billeted in the houses of the Japanese residents. The head-quarters of the army will be established in the neighbourhood of In-chhŏn.

The Japanese war vessels in Korean waters are ten in all. They are the *Matsushima* (flagship),

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Yoshino, Yamato, Musashi, Takao, Chiyoda, Tsukushi, Akagi, Chokai, and *Yaeyama.*

The merchant ships requisitioned by the Government as transports are 14 in all, 10 from the *Nippon Yusen Kaisha*, and two each from the *Osaka Shosen Kaisha*, and *Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.*

The facts about the mobilization of the troops sent to Korea, are not yet definitely known. But it is supposed that the decision to send troops having been taken on the 3rd instant, everything was ready for the shipment of troops by the 6th. But the vessels requisitioned by the Government could not be brought together at once, as many of them were on voyages in distant seas. The shipping of troops, provisions, and other necessary material, was commenced on the 6th instant, and went on for two or three days as fast as the vessels arrived at the *rendezvous*, the port of Ujima. The transports crossed the sea in squadrons of twos and threes, but the landing of troops did not take place until the last ship had arrived. Such seems to be a general outline of the course pursued in sending the troops to Korea.

The entrance of Japanese troops into Söul has already been reported. A later telegram contains some details about the matter. The road between In-chhŏn and Söul is said to have been lined on both sides with crowds of Koreans to see the passage of the Japanese force. The Japanese residents in Söul came out of the city to welcome their protectors, and the quarters of the Japanese army in the capital are said to have been surrounded with dense crowds of admiring Koreans. The Japanese troops are kept under strict control, and their excellent discipline is reported to have evoked the admiration of the European and American residents. On the 13th and the 14th instant, the troops were allowed to rest, and ordinary drills were to be commenced from the 15th.

Subsequent reports seem to confirm the alleged recovery of Chŏu-ju by the Government troops, but no details are as yet to hand about the manner in which that important stronghold was won back from the rebels. Nor can the news of its recovery be regarded as fully established. All telegrams are couched in language indicating more or less reservation.

Hong Tjyŏng-ou, the murderer of the late Kim Ok-kyŭn, who recently passed successfully the Civil Service Examination, is said to be expecting a commission in the Army. He is regarded as the greatest hero of the day by the Korean people, who believe that even the *Togaku-to* will have no courage to fight against so valiant a man.

At Fusan, the Japanese residents are said to be calm and free from excitement. There is in the settlement a volunteer corps consisting of men who have served in the Army. Their number is put at about two hundred. In ordinary times they are engaged in various occupations, but in the event of an emergency they are said to be ready at any moment to take up arms and defend the colony. Similar organizations are stated to exist at In-chhŏn and Wŏnsan (Gen-san).

The following telegram was receivel by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* from its Söul correspondent on the 16th instant:—

"The Chinese troops about 1,500 strong are still encamped at A-san. Although it is rumoured that China intends to send 4,000 or 5,000 toops more from Wei-kai-wei and Taku, none have yet arrived in this country. Neither does the rumour receive much credit. The Chinese troops at A-san are merely looking on, and have not had a single engagement with the *Togaku-to*. Perhaps they fear that if they march against the rebels, their example may be followed by the Japanese. A small detachment has, however, been despatched to Kong-ju, a place where there are no rebels. The Korean Government is maintaining strict secrecy about the actual state of affairs, always declaring that the *Togaku-to* has been partially subdued. But the people in general take a serious view of the situation. The prevailing idea is that so long as the causes of the disturbance remain unremedied, things may at any moment assume a critical character."

Concerning the rumoured entrance of Chinese troops into Söul, the Tokyo News Agency reports that it is definitely known that no such thing had taken place up to the 13th instant. Since that date, the wires have not been working and no message has been received from Söul. We are, however, inclined to believe that the News' information about the stoppage of the wires is untrustworthy, for, as stated in our last issue, telegrams dated the 14th instant were received in Tokyo.

The News Agency also states that a detachment of Chinese troops was recently despatched from A-san to Kang-ju; but no such place is found on the map published by the Japanese General Staff. Possibly Kong-ju is meant. It is a small prefectural town about 25 miles from A-san. The News Agency ought to be more careful about its geography.

As to the actual strength of the Chinese force at A-san, reports vary. Some put it at 3,000; others at 1,000. The truth seems to lie between the two. The latest report estimates the num- at 2,100, inclusive of the detachment sent to Kong-ju.

The Tokyo News Agency reports that the following telegram was received in Tokyo, under date Shanghai, June 17, a.m.:—"The rumour that 5,000 to 6,000 troops are to be sent to Korea from Wei-hai-wei and other places, is not true. Unless things develop a serious aspect, the Chinese Government will not increase its troops in Korea. Intelligence was received last night that the Wi-ju line had been stopped. Officials have been sent to ascertain the cause of the stoppage and effect repairs."

Concerning the situation in Korea, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* states that, according to its information, the apparent inactivity of the rebels is the result of advice received from their friends in Söul. It appears, according to our contemporary, that a large section of the official class in the capital is in sympathy and communication with the rebels. These officials, being afraid of the interference of Japanese and Chinese troops, are believed to have advised the rebels to refrain from any further advance upon the capital. The inactivity of the Chinese troops is also ascribed to a fear lest, by marching against the *Tokagu-to*, the animosity of a powerful faction in Söul might be roused.

The detachment sent to Fusan by the *Higo Maru* is said to be under the command of Captain Harano. It numbers about two hundred. Two hours after the departure of the *Higo Maru* from the port of Ujina, another transport, the *Sakata Maru*, is reported to have left the same port with 600 soldiers on board. The destination of the latter ship is not known. The troops despatched to Fusan are said to belong to the First Reserve.

Three more ships belonging to the *Yusen Kaisha* have been requisitioned by the Government as transports. They are the *Mikawa Maru*, the *Sagami Maru*, and the *Takasago Maru*. These vessels are to repair to the port of Ujina. The addition of these ships brings the number of transports to seventeen in all.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent furnishes us with some details about the shipping of troops at Ujina. Upon the receipt of orders to send troops to Korea, the Commander of the Garrison at Hiroshima at once called out the Reserves, so that, when the *Corps d'Armée* left for Korea, its place was filled by the Reserves. We stated in a former issue that the shipping of troops commenced from the 6th instant, but the *Jiji's* correspondent tells us that the process commenced on the morning of the 9th instant, when the *Wakanoura Maru* left with the first batch of men. By the evening of the following day the rest of the requisitioned vessels had all arrived at Ujina. Everything having been fully prepared, the work of embarkation went on with remarkable rapidity, so that by 6 a.m. on the 11th instant, the last transport had departed from the port. The troops were marched to the port of Ujina from the Garrison at Hiroshima in several sections on three successive days, the 9th, 10th, and 11th. Great enthusiasm is said to have been manifested by the citizens of Hiroshima and the people of the neighbourhood. National flags decorated every house in the city, and the whole distance between the Garrison and Ujina was lined with crowds of people eager to bid farewell to the departing soldiers. At several places on the road, the good people of the locality provided drinking water for the use of the men and horses. A large number of civilians asked for permission to accompany the army as volunteers, but there being as yet no necessity for their services, leave was not granted.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fukushima and Major Ichinohe have gone to Korea. Having no direct connection with the forces sent thither, they are supposed to be charged with some independent mission.

Of all the correspondence sent from Korea, the letters of Mr. Kubota Beisen and his son Seisai, appearing in the *Kokumin Shimbun*, are perhaps the most interesting, being copiously illustrated with life-like pictures by the two distinguished artists. Thus far their pictorial correspondence refers only to what they saw in their passage through the Inland Sea. The younger Mr. Kubota relates in his letter from Hiroshima that, on his voyage thither from Hiroshima, he was introduced to a Japanese merchant at In-chhŏn, in whose store the now famous Tanaka Jiro, a leader in the *Togaku-to* camp, served as a *banto*. The merchant told the correspondent that Tanaka is nearly forty years of age. Sometime in December last, he was sent on business to the province of Hwang-kai-do. He returned to In-chhŏn in March, and asked to have his contract cancelled, without assigning any reason for his request. On taking leave, he informed his late master that they would in all probability never meet again. In the opinion of the In-chhŏn merchant, beside Tanaka several *soshi* belonging to the *Genyosha* of Fukuoka are in the rebel camp. These *soshi*, he is said to have further stated, are under the leadership of a Japanese who once killed a Chinese at Shanghai and was acquitted by the Law Courts.

The original report that the Japanese army sent to Korea had landed at In-chhŏn on the 12th instant seems to have been incorrect. According to an extra published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* on the 19th instant, the Government in Tokyo is said to have received that day the following telegram, dated In-chhŏn, June 16th:—

"The ships all arrived here during the forenoon of yesterday and to-day. The troops will remain some time at In-chhŏn. The commander of the army, Major-General Oshima, will enter Söul on the 18th instant."

It is to be observed that this message was carried by mail to Moji, where it was transmitted by wire. From the telegram it appears that although the principal part of the army reached In-chhŏn on the 12th instant, a few Companies had to be transported by ships subsequently requisitioned by the Government. Major-General Oshima, having left Ujina in one of the transports that set out earliest, must have reached In-chhŏn on the 12th.

Correspondence received from In-chhŏn by the Tokyo News Agency, dated the 6th instant, contains some particulars about the landing and the doings of the Chinese troops. It has hitherto been stated that they landed at A-san, but that report was from the first regarded as inaccurate, since the prefectural town of A-san is some distance from the sea-shore. From a letter forwarded by the News Agency, we learn that the landing was really effected at a port called Paik-Sŏk-pho, but no information is given as to the exact date when the Chinese vessels with the troops on board arrived. It seems, however, that their arrival was not later than the 4th instant, for their presence in the roadstead off Paik-sŏk-pho on the 5th is incidentally alluded to in the desultory correspondence before us. Neither is it certain exactly when the landing took place. But we may conclude that the troops were still on board the ships at the date of the letter, namely, the 6th instant. The writer, who is described as a merchant at

In-chhŏn, was at that date only a few miles from Paik-sŏk-pho. He states that the local Korean authorities, acting under the orders of the Chinese commander, were levying forced contributions of money upon the inhabitants of the district, to defray the expenses of the disembarkation of the Chinese troops. The services of coolies also were requisitioned. Twenty junks lying in the harbour were seized by the Chinese to be used for the landing. Ten of these junks had come into the port to convey tribute rice. It had originally been intended by the Chinese officers to lay a telegraph line from A-san to Chhŏn-an, but the project was abandoned in obedience to instructions from their Minister at Sŏul. The correspondence before us indicates that it was from the first the purpose of the Chinese troops to march to Kong-ju, for efforts were being made by the local Korean officials to collect a sufficient number of pack horses to convey baggage thither. It is evident from these circumstances that the Chinese force is maintaining itself at the expense of the Koreans.

Nothing is reported about the doings of the rebels. There being no news of their defeat by the Government troops, the inference would seem to be that they are still holding their ground.

According to the *Chosen Shimpo* (a Japanese paper published at In-chhŏn) of the 9th instant, the Korean King has issued a second proclamation to the officials of his Court. His Majesty expresses himself profoundly pained by the loud complaints among his subjects against their rulers. He frankly admits that the blame rests with the greedy and unscrupulous officials in the provinces. The Ministers of the Crown are, therefore, ordered to lose no time in dismissing from office every functionary guilty of maladministration. As to officials guilty of graver offences, they are to be arraigned before criminal tribunals and condemned to proper punishments. Such an attitude on the part of the king, coupled possibly as the *Nichi Nichi* thinks, with secret communications from their friends in Sŏul, may have induced the rebels to suspend active operations against the Government troops.

The *Chosen Shimpo* states that emissaries of the rebels are busily engaged canvassing throughout the country. They circulate exaggerated rumours about the strength of the *Togaku-to* and the mysterious powers possessed by many of their leaders. The emissaries are said to assume three or four different disguises in the course of one day. According to our In-chhŏn contemporary, their stories are readily credited by the people.

The same paper gives some details about the fall of the Government stronghold at Chŏn-ju and the despatch of troops by the Government. But these things have already been noticed in our columns more than once. There is, however, one item that has not yet been reported by any of the Japanese correspondents, namely, the murder by the rebels of the Royal messenger and suite, six persons in all, sent by the King to the troops stationed in the neighbourhood of Chŏn-ju. The date of the crime is not given, but it seems probable that the event took place shortly after the fall of Chŏn-ju into the rebels' hand.

The *Jiji Shimpo* publishes some details about a fruitless attempt made by the Chinese Resident Mr. Yuan to prevent the entrance into Sŏul of a party of Japanese marines. When it became known in the Korean capital that the Japanese Minister, Mr. Otori, was about to proceed thither from In-chhŏn at the head of several hundred marines, a Cabinet Council was at once called to debate means of preventing the entrance of the Japanese force. It was decided that, since the apprehended entrance of Japanese marines was the result of an application made by Korea to China for aid in the supression of the revolt, the despatch of further troops from the latter country should be declined. It was also decided that the Minister of State originally concerned in making the application to China should be sacrificed in order to convince the Japanese that the Korean Government had always been and was still opposed to the project of asking for foreign aid for the suppression of a domestic insurrection. Consulted on the subject, the Chinese Resident refused to stop the despatch of troops from his country, but offered to go himself to In-chhŏn and pursuade Mr. Otori to desist from taking marines with him to Sŏul. As it rained heavily on that day, he deferred his departure for In-chhŏn till the following day, thinking that the Japanese would not march in such inclement weather. But in this he was mistaken, for the marines entered Sŏul that day despite of rain and storm. It had taken them only an hour to effect a landing. On being formed into line at the landing place, they gave three cheers by way of prelude to their journey. The guns were conveyed by a steam boat up the Han-gan and landed at Yang-hwa-chin. The marines camped on a hill at the back of the Japanese Legation.

The *Jiji Shimpo* reports that the following telegram, under date Shanghai June 19, a.m., was received in Tokyo:—"It is rumoured that the steamship's belonging to the *Sho-sho-Kyoku i.e.*, the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company, will be transferred to the German flag."

The Tokyo News Agency says that it has received correspondence from In-chhŏn, containing the substance of a letter from a Japanese named Ishii staying in the rebel district in Chhung-chhŏng-do. According to this informant, the reports about the alleged results of fightings between the Government troops and the rebels are in seven or eight out of ten cases entirely untrustworthy. At present all fighting is suspended between the two sides. Their respective forces lie inactive, confronting each other, and various petty traders are passing and repassing between them. There is, says the writer, a great difference between the attitude of the people of the locality toward the two sides. The Government troops were at first very quiet, being in fact in momentary fear of slaughter by the *Togaku-to*. But of late familiarity seems to have made them a little bolder, and there being nothing to occupy their attention, they are said to be killing time by robbing the peaceful inhabitants and violating women. In the *Togaku-to* camp, on the other hand, strict discipline is said to be maintained. Pillage of private persons and insults to women are punished with instant death in the presence of the whole camp. Consequently the rebels are loved and respected by the people, while the Government forces are dreaded and hated as if they were venomous reptiles. Hence the Government army has great difficulties in collecting forced contributions from the people, whereas the latter are willing to supply provisions and other aticles of necessity to the *Togaku-to* without awaiting the latter's demand. "Should the rebels," writes Ishii, "decide to resume operations against the Government troops, they would be joined by the bulk of the people who are groaning under a heavy yoke of oppression. At present the rebel forces are composed of only a particular class, namely, the *Togaku-to* malcontents. Unless the Government troops be brought under better discipline and prompt measures be taken to soothe and conciliate the aggrieved people, the whole nation will rise *en masse* against the Government, and a certain personage's prophecy about the fall of the Li dynasty will be fulfilled. Perhaps it was the fear of such a catastrophe that induced the Sŏul Government to despatch several men of high rank to the *Togaku-to* camp to pursuade them to disperse in peace and tranquility. What success these endeavours will meet with remains to be seen."

According to a telegram received by the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* from Fusan, there is a rumour that 10,000 Chinese troops entered Korea by way of Wi-ju. This story is probably without foundation, for it is scarcely conceivable that China should choose such a circuitous route for despatching troops to the peninsula. It is, however, considered certain that a squadron of Chinese war vessels is lying off Kun-san in Chŏl-la-do.

The *Nichi Nichi* states that, according to a telegram received from Sŏul, Commander Niino, Naval Attaché to the Japanese Legation in Korea, is missing. It is supposed, says the telegram, that the officer made an excursion into the interior and was seized by the *Togaku-to* rebels. The *Kokumin Shimbun's* mysterious report about the murder of a Japanese in the province of Chhung-chhŏng-do obviously refers to Commander Niino. According to our contemporary's information, it is surmised that the murderers were Chinese soldiers.

The report about the recovery of Chŏn-ju by the Government troops seems to be true, but it must not be supposed, as some papers do, that the event means suppression of the rebellion.

It is stated that Mr. Otori, the Japanese Minister, rejected the united request of the Korean Government and the Chinese Resident for the withdrawal of the Japanese troops from Sŏul. It is also stated that, while on his way to Sŏul, Mr. Otori was met by a messenger from the Korean Court, requesting his entrance into Sŏul without any armed escort, but that he refused to see the Korean official.

The *Jiji Shimpo* reports that preparations have been completed for the despatch of the third regiment of the Tokyo Garrison to Korea in case any re-inforcements should be required by the course of events in the Peninsula.

THE KOREAN TROUBLE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

At this writing all Sŏul is dazed and bewildered by the bold and decisive step Japan has taken in landing 1,500 trops in Korea and promptly despatching them to the Capital. The advance guards came two days ago. "What does it mean?" is on the lips of every one. China, as report says, has 2,000 men in the southern, disaffected districts. The capital of Chulla province, in the hands of the insurgents, has been re-captured by the government troops. But the "insurrection" is lost sight of entirely in the action of Japan.

Korea as usual sought to make it appear that all was "quiet." After the first 500 soldiers had taken up their quarters in the Japanese settlement, they sent an underling towards Chemulpo to meet the oncoming men. He assured the Japanese, that his government was abundantly able to take care of Japan's subjects in the Capital, and hoped they would have the kindness to return with the troops to Chemulpo. The man with the horse-hair hat was told that as the Korean army was unable to take care of its own people without the assistance of the Chinese, he must be excused for natural doubts as to his ability to take care of Japan's subjects and their interests. He then came straight on.

We are on the eve of serious complications and an outbreak. Korean officials for the last two nights have been moving their wives and children to the country, they themselves will take to the "bush" as soon as the report of the first gun is heard. The assassin of the unfortunate Kim Ok-Kyün is moving about in disguise. He was given high rank, and a civil service position is announced in honour of Kim's death, nevertheless Hong refuses to be happy. The Ming family have rejoiced and shouted too much and too long and they may have to pay dearly for their frolic and fun. Japan at last is heard in Sŏul.

Seoul, June 12, 1894.

A minister who had been out all day visiting called on an old dame well known for her kindness of heart and hospitality, and begged the favour of a cup of tea. This was heartily accorded, and the old woman bustled about getting out the best china and whatever rural delicacies were at hand to honour her unexpected guest. As the minister sat watching these preparations his eye fell on four or five cats devouring cold porridge under the table. "Dear me! what a number of cats," he observed. "Do they all belong to you, Miss Black?" "No, sir," replied his hostess, innocently, "but, as I often say, a' the hungry brutes in the countryside come to me when they want a meal o' meat!" The minister was rather at a loss for a reply.

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THE PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

The plague returns for the latest dates to hand are:—

JUNE 8TH.

	Hygeia.	Kennedy Town.	Chinese Hospital.	City.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
Admissions	—	2	61	—	63	—	9
Deaths	—	2	58	31	91	—	16
Under treatment ...	5	31	194	—	230	—	—

JUNE 9TH.

Admissions	—	2	79	—	81	18	—
Deaths	—	2	56	18	76	—	15
Under treatment ...	5	30	217	—	252	22	—

The following are the returns to noon on Sunday June 10th for the previous 24 hours:—

Admissions	2	6	68	—	76	—	5
Deaths	—	6	55	28	89	13	—
Under treatment ...	7	29	229	—	265	13	—

The following are the returns for the twenty-four hours ending at noon on June 11th:—

Admissions	*2	1	63	—	66	—	10
Deaths	—	1	49	43	93	4	—
Under treatment ...	9	29	243	—	281	16	—

* Under observation.

JUNE 12TH.

Admissions	—	11	58	—	69	3	—
Deaths	—	1	56	29	86	—	7
Under treatment ...	9	37	245	—	291	7	—

From these figures it would seem that the plague is not increasing. But we have to remember that numbers of the Chinese inhabitants of Hongkong have left the island, so that stationary returns by no means indicate a proportionately stationary condition of the epidemic. On the other hand, it is probable that the Chinese who have gone away belong to the better classes who, under any circumstances, would not have been likely to contribute much to the sick list.

No fresh cases have occurrel among the Europeans and those on board the *Hygeia* are reported to be doing well.

Dr. Kitasato, the well known expert, who was despatched to Hongkong by the Japanese Government to investigate the plague, has forwarded, under date June 19th, 10.10 a.m., the following telegram:—"We have discovered the origin of the plague."

The *N.-C. Daily News* received from its correspondent the following telegram, dated Hongkong, 14th June, 6.22 p.m.:—"There were forty-four new cases to-day, and eighty-four deaths." The Chinese Telegraphs Administration the same day kindly communicated the following message, dated Hongkong, 13th June, 7.30 p.m.:—"New cases 55, deaths 82. Labour very scarce. Many manufactories and shops closed. A junk from Canton to Sheklung with plague refugees capsized and 150 were drowned. Taipingshan is being walled in and will be demolished. Government will resume the leases, the streets are to be widened, and the number of tenants limited." The following day the Cable Companies received a telegram, dated Hongkong 14th June:—"Yesterday 55 admissions, 82 deaths, 290 under treatment. The condemned streets are being blocked up. Forty-five patients were transferred to junks yesterday to be towed to Canton by gunboats. Placards have been posted at Canton, threatening that if the authorities at Hongkong decide to destroy Taipingshan, revenge will be taken by setting fire to the buildings at Shameen."

This message, dated Hongkong, 15th June, was also circulated by the Companies:—

"Yesterday forty-four new cases, eighty-four deaths. The exact number under treatment is unknown, as most patients have been transferred to Canton. Total deaths to date seventeen hundred and thirteen."

The *N.-C. Daily News* received from its correspondent the following telegram, dated Hongkong, 15th June, 6.55 p.m.:—"There are 59 new cases reported to-day and 51 deaths."

The removal to Canton of Chinese patients desiring to proceed thither commenced on the afternoon of the 13th instant. What with the removal of folks already infected and the exodus of folks who flee from being infected, Hongkong should soon be able to show an improved bill of health. But the improvement will not be due to her prudence and thoroughness.

At one time experts in Hongkong propounded the extraordinary theory that rain to flush the drains was alone needed to eradicate the plague. They then began to look forward to the advent of hot, dry weather. The truth appears to be that the effect of climatic conditions can not be gauged. A correspondent of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, writing a clever letter over the signature of "H.H.," says:—

Seasonal changes:—In Mesopotamia it was noticed that the disease became dormant with the setting in of the hot weather, reawakening in the winter and gathering force with the advancing spring. In Constantinople, on the contrary, the disease was dormant in the colder months and active during the hotter. The same was true of the great plague of London, the records of mortality showing that September was the month of greatest prevalence, the disease rising through July and August.

Here is another interesting extract from the same letter:—

(*a*).—The local conditions which favour the development of plague were made the subject of careful study by a commission of the French Academy of Medicine in 1844. According to the commission the conditions "which determined and favoured" the disease among communities were dwelling upon alluvial and marshy soils, notably those found near the shores of the Mediterranean and on the banks of certain great rivers, such as the Nile, Euphrates, Danube, and Yangtsze, a warm and humid atmosphere; low, badly ventilated, and crowded houses; great accumulations of putrefying animal and vegetable matter in the vicinity of dwellings, unwholesome and insufficient food, excessive physical and moral misery and neglect of laws of health as well public as private. Although outbreaks of plague usually, occur in marshy soils it is not confined to them as evidenced by its persistence in Kumaun on the Himalayan mountains and the present outbreak in Hongkong. Colvill and Cabiadio ascribe poverty as the influential condition in promoting plague. The former in describing an infected village says:—"The huts are on ground which is a foot or two lower than the surface of the water in spring, and the ground is so saturated with water that the refuse of the village is neither absorbed nor can it be evaporated, for it acquires fresh moisture from the ground, and this refuse acquires the form of a bluish black oily fluid which surrounds the huts, covers the paths, and stains the walls two feet from the ground, and in fact the village is in such a state of filth that it requires to be seen to be believed."

(*b*) That the kind of relations maintained between persons sick of plague and the healthy exercised an important influence on the propagation of the disease has been made clearly manifest. It has been found that persons living in the same house are peculiarly liable to suffer while those who are only brought into occasional contact (as the physician) are rarely affected. A difference has been noted between the liability of the physicians and their assistants. The latter calling for more protracted visits than the duties of the former suffer to a greater extent. There has been no evidence to show that actual contact with the sick is necessary. On the contrary, evidence indicates that transmission is chiefly effected through the healthy breathing the same atmosphere as the sick. There is reason to suppose also that transmission can be effected by the agency of clothes and bedding used by the sick. In plague as in typhus the danger of infection appears to be proportionate to the fouling of the atmosphere surrounding the sick, by the effluvium from his body and breath. The condition for infection of articles of clothing and bedding is their very intimate use by the sick. Evidence is wanting of other articles being capable of communicating the disease; nor is there anything to confirm the assumption that the long array of articles contained in quarantine regulations are capable of retaining and conveying the infection.

In conversation yesterday with a gentleman connected with the Chinese Imperial Customs, who has just come from Mengtzu, Yunnan, our representative gleaned a few facts with reference to the plague in that district. The disease there is of annual recurrence, and manifests itself immediately on the arrival of the rainy season disappearing with the advent of the cold weather. This fact is slightly at variance with the medical opinion that plague belongs essentially to temperate climates, but is explained by the emanations rising from the soil when moistened by the rains and evaporated by the sun. The fields, for instance, are just at the time ploughed for the rice crop, and the disturbance of the filth which has been laid down during the winter is amply sufficient to account for the occurrence of plague. The disease, our informant says, is allowed to go unchecked and uncombated and runs its fatal course throughout the summer months. The Chinese accept it in their usual apathetic and submissive way, taking no sanitary precaution and attempting no medical treatment. The sick in early stages of the disease are removed from the houses and placed on mats in the street to die, this being an economical and effective method of preventing the necessity of removing the dead through holes made in the upper stories of the buildings. The sick, in fact, as soon as their ailment is pronounced, are condemned to death. They receive no attention beyond a cup of water and bowl of rice placed beside them, and lie in the dirty narrow thoroughfares alternately saturated with rain and blistering through being uncovered in the sun. When dead—and the disease teminates fatally in about 48 hours or less—the corpses are placed in coffins and hurried away. It is no unusual thing to see the coffins ready beside the sick awaiting the demise of the hopeless victim. No disinfection or cleansing of the house in which cases occur is attempted, and only in very few villages has the severe lesson of many years' plague visitation taught the inhabitants the necessity of some sanitary arrangements—in fact primitive drains have only been laid in places where Europeans have urged the requirement of such. As a rule, when the plague becomes abnormally disastrous the stricken spot is vacated, there are many villages and towns absolutely deserted during the greater part of the year. The few Europeans in these remote districts do not entertain any fear of infection and no cases among them have occurred.

H.B.M.'s Consul at Canton, Mr. B. Brenan, has made official representations to the Viceroy with reference to false rumours circulated among the Chinese that the treatment of Chinese in Hongkong was harsh and cruel, with various other libels calculated to bring the colony into disrepute. In consequence of Mr. Brenan's action, the Viceroy issued the following despatch to the Sub-prefects of Fatshan and the Magistrate of Tongkoon:—

The Viceroy has received communications from the British and from the U.S. Consuls on the subject of the false rumours which have arisen in consequence of the measures taken to arrest the plague in Hongkong.

In Hongkong other regulations have been put in force under which the Tung Wah Hospital treat patients according to Chinese methods; and nothing in the nature of *post mortem* examination takes place. These are falsifications invented by story-spreading, trouble-creating scoundrels, and no one should on any account be misled by them.

The Officials addressed shall within two days issue a proclamation and take effective steps to keep people in order, to admonish them and to prevent any trouble arising.

At the last meeting of the Legislative Council in Hongkong, H.E. Sir William Robinson, the Governor, made an able and energetic speech with regard to the programme of sanitation now contemplated. The *Hongkong Daily Press* sums up his Excellency's remarks as follows:—

The measures to be taken to stamp out the plague and prevent its recurrence will be found explained in the Governor's speech. Taipingshan is being cleared of its inhabitants and disinfected, and as soon as the necessary legislation can be passed it is to be razed to the ground and the land resumed by the Government. The district will then be laid out afresh, new streets being made, and the ground will be sold on new leases containing stipulations as to the sanitary construction of the houses and the prevention of overcrowding. The Legislative Council will also be asked to vote money for the increase of the water supply and presumably the Sanitary Board will be made the Water Authority. As to the drains, the Governor thinks that having entered on the separate system we must proceed with it, but personally he holds the opinion that the surface drainage with which he was familiar in the West Indies would be the most suitable for the Colony. The question appears to be one for experts to decide, but if the separate system be really a failure the sooner it is done away with the better. It has cost a lot of money to lay the drains, but it would not cost much to take them up again and replace them by surface drains. And even if the cost were considerable no question of money ought to be allowed to stand in the way. No doubt the Colony's

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finances will be embarrassed for some years to come, for its prosperity has received a blow by the present plague from which it will not at once recover, but its recuperative powers are great and by the exercise of rigid economy and the reduction or suppression of the less useful departments the interests on another loan could, if necessary, be met. Whatever is done must be done thoroughly, no half measures can be tolerated.

Elsewhere in the same speech, the Governor notes the fact that the Chinese come and settle in Hongkong not out of any regard for the British community or respect for British laws and customs, but simply because the security of life and property and the exemption from excessive taxation enjoyed by persons living there, make the colony an exceptionally favourable place for earning money. His Excellency then proceeds to say :—

Such being the state of the case, it certainly was the duty of the Government to take care that, owing to the want of sanitary measures consequent on the well-known disregard of all sanitary principles by the Chinese and their peculiar mode of life, I say it was the duty of the Government to take care that the health of the community should not suffer in any way by their residence amongst us. Why this duty has not been thoroughly recognised I am at a loss to conceive. I am afraid that it will be found that, as in many other cases, it was a question of divided responsibility. There is no doubt that the Government passed the strongest possible measures, and the powers given by the measures were, I believe, delegated to the Sanitary Board. That Sanitary Board probably delegated its powers to a Superintendent with his staff, and that Superintendent—I do not say it is the fact but it is possible,—that Superintendent looked upon it as a matter of course that landlords and owners of houses would make all the necessary alterations in them without any pressure being put upon them. All I can say is that since I have been in this colony, which is more than two years, I never until the other day received from the Sanitary Board, or any other Board, any notice that there was a single insanitary dwelling in Chinatown or elsewhere in the colony. However, if blame is to be attached to the Government in the past, I am determined at all events that it shall not be attached to the Government in the future.

We can assure the Governor of Hongkong that the neglect he now deplores and promises to remedy has long been observed with surprise by persons outside Hongkong. Not only has the Colony been in itself a hot-bed for the nourishment of zymotic diseases, but the uniform indifference of the Authorities to sanitary and quarantine precautions has probably involved the loss of thousands of lives in neighbouring countries, especially Japan. Hongkong has, we think, a higher mission than that of merely rendering itself commercially attractive. It has the mission of offering to the Chinese an object lesson in Western Civilization, and demonstrating the suicidal unwisdom of Chinese insanitation and ignorance by showing the comparative advantages of British hygiene and science Up to the present, however, it has not betrayed any consciousness of that mission. Even in Sir William Robinson's speech we find no reference to it. His Excellency confines himself to the purely material aspects of the question. Perhaps he deemed the moment unsuitable for any attempt to carry his hearers from the objective horrors surrounding them to a higher plane of subjective responsibility. In that respect we must bow to his judgment. But his Excellency may rest assured that Hongkong's sins of sanitary omission have not failed to astonish outsiders. Nearly three months before the pest reached the Crown Colony, the existence of the fell malady in Canton was known to experts in this country, yet no precautions whatever were adopted in Hongkong either to avert its advent or to correct conditions favourable to its development. Hongkong has been priding itself too much on the growth of its commerce, the increase of its shipping, and the improvements in its appearance. It stands a veritable whited sepulchre, no longer concealing the dead men's bones within. Let us hope that it will emerge from the fire of its present trial into a condition worthy of British administrative and scientific capacities.

ENGLISH NEWS.

Lord Brassey and others have been discussing the necessity of making some better provision for manning the Fleet. At present, Great Britain has 100,000 regular seamen, marines and reserves, but for the rest she has nothing to rely on except "a haphazard selection of absolutely untrained men." Lieut. W. C. Crutchley, R.N., in a paper read before the Royal United Service Institution, maintained that sufficient use was not made of the advantages presented by so fine a merchant service as the English, and suggested that the best course to give coherence for Imperial purposes to the mercantile marine would be the establishment of a compulsory pension fund. Lord Brassey thinks that all the reserve men should serve annually in a sea-going ship for a short period, and that there should be power to call upon men to serve for short periods whenever they were wanted. He also lays stress upon the fact that the pay in the Navy is much less than that in the merchant service.

Parliamentary institutions in Newfoundland will be greatly discredited by decisions recently rendered in the Courts of Law. The sitting members for the Eastern Division of St. John's, Mr. James Fox, the late Receiver-General, and Mr. I. Murphy, have been found guilty of bribery and corruption, and a similar charge is being investigated against Sir William Whiteway, ex-Premier, the Hon. R. Bond, ex-Colonial Secretary, and their colleagues for the Trinity Bay district. It is alleged that in the latter district $18,000 were spent in securing 2,000 votes.

Sir W. Lawson made a quaint speech in introducing his motion "that a humble address be presented to her Majesty praying that whenever she bestows any title or honour on any of her subjects she will be graciously pleased to issue a statement of the services for which such honours are bestowed in the same manner as is done when the Victoria Cross is granted."

He said this was an unassuming and practical amendment. It had nothing to do with hereditary titles, which were too absurd to argue about; it had nothing to do with the House of Lords in its political capacity or functions; it had nothing to do with appointments involving the discharge of duties; and it had solely to do with marks of honour and distinction, such as peerages, knighthoods, baronetcies, stars, garters, and thistles.—(Laughter.) It gave a man more or less importance to have a handle to his name; why it should be so he had no idea, except for Carlyle's reason that there were so many people in the world, "mostly fools." Take a baronetcy; he did not see any value in it; a rather good description of a baronet was that he was a man who was not a nobleman and had ceased to be a gentleman.—(Laughter.) Titles and honours were sought after by the majority of mankind; all snobs wanted to be nobs; and all Radicals wanted to be peers.—(Laughter.) Constitutionally the Sovereign was the fountain of honour; but titles were given by Constitutional Ministers, and therefore belonged to the public. We spoke of "Gladstone's peers" and "Salisbury's peers," and should soon speak of "Rosebery's peers." He wished to make members more responsible in this matter than they had hitherto been. He did not wish in any way to censure what had been done in the past. But in future, when a man had enjoyed an honour for two or three years there should be an inquiry whether the man had ennobled the title in the same way that the title had ennobled the man: if he had, then the title might be confirmed. But the public ought to have the means of knowing why all honours were given. The Victoria Cross was given for heroic deed; and in the granting of titles it should be recorded—of a soldier how many people he had killed, of a politician how many of his constituents he had corrupted, of a brewer how many gallons of beer he had brewed in a year.—(Laughter) If a man were transferred from their House to the other, because he was utterly useless, it might be said of him that it was hoped he would do good elsewhere. Such records would indicate to other people how they were to proceed if they wanted to get honour. They would remove all suspicion of favouritism and jobbery. On democratic principles honours ought to be bestowed for services rendered, and on that ground he moved the amendment.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was equal to the occasion. He said :—

I understand that I am expected to give my hon. friend some information on this subject, but I am sorry to say I am not in a position to do so, as I have never been in a position to dispense honours. It seems to me there is a difficulty in the proposal of my hon. friend. The truth is that in old days this practice used to obtain. I have seen a great many of the old patents of nobility, very long documents, which contained all the styles and titles and all the merits and virtues of their recipients. They corresponded very much to epitaphs. (Laughter.) They detailed a great many virtues which nobody ever suspected their owners possessed.—(Laughter.) It is said *De mortuis nil nisi bonum.* I will say *De honoratis nil nisi optimum.*—(Laughter and cheers.) It would be an invidious task I am quite sure to attribute to the recipients of honours great number of merits which nobody ever believed them to possess.—(Laughter.) If, for instance, I had to ascribe the hereditary honours which my hon. friend (Sir W. Lawson) possesses, I should attribute to him every virtue under the sun, except that which I observe he attributed to the Victoria Cross, that of having saved some people from water.—(Loud laughter.) If, on the other hand, my hon. friend had to give me a character for the more transient honour which I hold, I am quite sure he would extol me far beyond my merits.—(Laughter.) On occasions when these honours are bestowed, you see in the daily organs of the Press extraordinary eulogiums upon the recipients of the honours. I hope my hon. friend will admit that whatever crimes the two front benches have committed, they have not been guilty of indulging themselves in decorations.—(Laughter, and "Hear, hear.") When we have, Mr. Speaker, the honour of dining at your hospitable board, we very seldom display a decoration, but there are people who attach enormous value to these distinctions. I do not know why it is. Lord Melbourne observed that there was only one Order in the world worth having, and that was the Garter, because there was no merit attached to it at all—(laughter)—and it was that which made it the first Order in Europe.—(Laughter.) I do not think to go into these matters in this extremely solemn, serious, and improving manner is the best method of dealing with them. I have always thought that in works of romance the romances which have a moral object are among the dullest and the poorest; and if you have decorations, and in the same way endeavour to attach a moral virtue to them, you destroy their interest very much.—(Laughter, and "Hear hear.") There is a good deal of amusing speculation in these decorations—first, as to why in the world the person desired to have them, and in the next place why he obtained them.—(Laughter.) It would spoil very much the object by attempting to define it.—(Laughter.) I am reminded of the persons of whom the poet spoke when he described the flies in amber—

> "We know the thing is neither rich nor rare,
> "But wonder"—(laughter)—how in the
> name of fortune—(laughter)—"it got there."

—(Laughter.) A great many people in this world get more than they deserve, while others, and perhaps the majority, get less than they deserve. —(Laughter.) It reminds me of the story of Lord Erskine at the Bar. Some one said to him it must be a disappointment to him sometimes when he failed to obtain a verdict. "Well," he said, "I lose a great many verdicts which I ought to win; but on the other hand, I win a great many verdicts which I ought to lose, and so on the average justice is done."—(Laughter.) It is very much the same in this case. There are many people who get distinctions who do not deserve them, and a great many people who deserve distinctions and do not get them—("Hear, hear")—but on the average justice is done.—(Loud laughter). Under those circumstances I hope my hon. friend will not disturb a state of things, which on the whole, may not be ideally perfect, but which accommodates itself very much to the weakness of human nature.—(Laughter.) "Even after all," as a great writer observed, "there is a good deal of human nature about man," and that being so I do not think that we had better endeavour to reach these counsels of perfection, and under those circumstances I am afraid I cannot support the motion of my hon. friend.—(Laughter and cheers.)

Mr. S. Smith delivered a short but excellent and striking speech on May 4th in the House of Commons on the subject of bimetallism. He did not introduce any motion, but merely brought the subject before the House :—

Much had happened since it was discussed a year ago. The mints in India and in the United States had been closed to silver, and its price had fallen from 38d. to 29d. an ounce. A great change had come over public opinion on this question, and he believed, if the Government would declare themselves neutral and allow

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their supporters to follow their own convictions, that a majority of the House would be found in favour of bimetallism. His motion was based on the depression of trade and agriculture. He could say something with regard to trade and especially the cotton trade of Lancashire, with which he had been connected for 40 years. Never in the present century had the condition of the Lancashire cotton trade been so hopeless as it was in the last few years, never had the losses been so great, never had the profits so entirely disappeared. And no one acquainted with the trade could deny that it was moving from this country to the silver-using countries in Asia mainly because of the depreciation of silver and the enormous bounty given thereby to competitors in India, China, and Japan. He found that in the 20 years since the demonetization of silver commenced the consumption of cotton in Great Britain had increased by only 17 per cent., whereas the increase on the Continent had been 123 per cent., in the United States 125 per cent., and in India 680 per cent. In 1873 our consumption was 46 per cent. of that of the whole world, and in 1893 it was only 29 per cent. In 1876 the shipment of yarns from England to the Far East was 30,000,000lb., and in 1893 it was 28,000,000lb., while the shipment from India had increased from 6,000,000lb. in the former year to 132,000,000lb. in the latter. That was one of the main results of the demonetization of silver. As showing the unprofitable nature of the British trade, he mentioned that in Oldham, the largest spinning centre in Lancashire, a hundred joint stock companies with a capital of £6,000,000 had paid an average dividend during the last ten years of 2½ per cent., while the stock had fallen to about a third of its original value. The private manufacturers were practically in the same condition, and unless relief came within the next few years Lancashire was threatened with a positive catastrophe. He could say the same of the woollen, the iron, the coal, and other trades. They were all in a deplorable condition. Agriculture, also, the House knew, was in a very depressed state. The whole of the producing trades of the country were in a state of decay, and it was mainly through these trades that the mass of the people in all countries obtained a living. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might point to the elasticity of the income-tax returns in contradiction of this state of things. He confessed that he had been puzzled by this fact, for it did not at all correspond with the condition of trade generally. The distributing trades of the country had been making great profits in recent years, and the public had had the advantage of the enormous fall of prices. This might to some extent account for the elasticity in the income-tax returns, but he maintained that the distributing trades were not nearly so vital to a nation as the producing trades.—("Hear, hear.") For 20 years past prices had been falling, until now there was an average fall of over 40 per cent. At the present time bills could not be discounted at more than 1 per cent. per annum. This state of things was not peculiar to the United Kingdom, but was equally present on the Continent and in the United States. The principal reason of all this distress and trouble was the appreciation of gold caused by the demonetization of silver. The effect of the fall of 40 per cent. in prices had been to nearly double the weight of mortgages and monetary burdens of all kinds This was a confiscation of the capital of the industrial classes for the benefit of the money-lending classes. Another result was the immense impetus given to protection all over the world. The excessive depreciation of prices had raised the tariffs against British goods. There had been for the last 20 years a sort of conspiracy of unintentional misrepresentation on this question among the writers of the City articles in the morning papers, instigated by financiers. But the conspiracy was now being unmasked, and those who had joined in it were finding that selfishness was a short-sighted policy. As to the ratio, which was the crux of the situation, the speaker said, speaking for himself, that he did not believe it was possible to go back to the ratio of 15½ to 1. Prices had adjusted themselves to the new level and trade to the new circumstances, though he should be more hopeful of success in reconstructing the old bimetallic system if there were a ratio of 22 to 1. In this connection he pointed to the fact that ten members of the Currency Commission had signed the report pointing to the probability of maintaining a fixed ratio between gold and silver by international agency.

Lord Augustus Loftus' Diplomatic Reminiscences are evidently full of highly interesting matter. *The Times* has a long review from which we take one paragraph :—

In the preliminary stages of the rupture between France and Germany in 1870 Bismarck appears in a much more amiable light than in the crisis of 1866. Lord Augustus's connection with the Court of Berlin may give an unconscious bias to his narrative, but it certainly leaves a very distinct impression that Bismarck was not the aggressor, as French accounts represent him, but, on the contrary, contented himself with a firm, although possibly rather contemptuous, resistance to demands which steadily increased in arrogance. In particular, Lord Augustus explodes the story, of which great use was made at the time to fan the war fever at Paris, that the King of Prussia "refused to receive the French Ambassador, and had sent his aide-de-camp to inform him that he had nothing more to communicate." There was not a particle of truth in the supposed insult to the French Ambassador. He had been graciously received by the King. He had dined at the Royal table, and he was courteously received by the King at the station when invited there to take leave of his Majesty, who was leaving for Colenz. The charge of discourtesy was simply a pretext made use of to inflame the war party at Paris.

The opening of the Suez Canal appears to have dealt a death blow to the prosperity of St. Helena. Formerly about a thousand ships called at the island annually, and full employment, as well as a market for their produce, were thus provided for the islanders, then numbering over five thousand. But now very few vessels approach Jamestown; the population has dwindled to 3,900; the fertile and rich tracts in the interior of the little island are cultivated merely for the pupose of supplying the wants of the inhabitants, and every year the tide of emigration to South Africa and the United States is swelling. A committee has been formed in London for the purpose of arresting this decadence, and giving the people a chance of recovering their former prosperity.

Lord Rosebery said some striking things in his Speech at the Royal Academy Banquet. Here are a few paragraphs :—

I should be glad to offer to you with great respect a few suggestions that have recently occurred to me with regard to the present position of English art, which I regard with some misgiving. There is first the subject of portraiture, I am deeply concerned for the future condition of portrait-painting. It is not, as you may imagine, with any distrust whatever of those distinguished men who take a part in that branch of art; it is much more for the subjects that I am concerned.—(Laughter.) And it is not so much with the subjects as with that important part of the subject which was illustrated in the famous work "Sartor Resartus," by the great Carlyle, that I chiefly trouble myself. How can it be that any man should make a decent portrait of his fellow man in these days? No one can entertain so vindictive a hatred of his fellow-creature as to wish to paint him in the costume in which I am now addressing you.—(Laughter.) I believe that that costume is practically dropped for all purposes of portraiture; and if that be so, in what costume is the Englishman of the present century to descend to remotest posterity through the vehicle of the gifted artists whom I see around me? We are not all sufficiently fortunate to be the Chancellor of a University.—(Laughter and cheers.) We have not always even the happy chance to be a municipal dignitary, with a costume which I will not at present characterize.—(Laughter.) We are not all of us masters of hounds—(laughter)—and I think that the robes of a peer, unattractive in their æsthetic aspect, have lost something of their popularity.—(Laughter.) Again, the black velvet coat with which we are accustomed to associate deep thought and artistic instincts, has become a little faded.—(Laughter.) I am told, and told four or five times every day in speeches delivered in various parts of the country, that I have no right to offer a criticism without offering a suggestive remedy. Well, Sir Frederic, I am prepared to offer my remedy for what it is worth, and for that remedy I ask your co-operation. Why should not a committee of the Royal Academy gather together in order to find some chaste and interesting national costume—(cheers and laughter),—in which the distinguished men of the 19th century might descend to posterity without the drawbacks which I have pointed out? Robespierre had such a costume designed, and other great sumptuary legislators have had the same idea in their minds; and I would not push the suggestion so far as to imply that we should be compelled to wear this costume in ordinary life. It might be one kept to gratify the artistic instincts of those to whom we sit.—(Laughter.) And I will make a practical suggestion by which this costume —when you, Sir, have selected it—might be associated with the ordinary run of life. It might be made the official costume of a justice of the peace—(laughter)—and in that way the great mass of our fellow-countrymen, with only few and insignificant exceptions, of whom I am one, might descend to remotest posterity in a graceful, becoming, and official costume.—(Laughter.) I pass on from that, because I should not limit myself to portraiture in a great survey of this kind; and I may say that I am seriously concerned for the prospect of landscape painting in this country. I have of late been doing a great deal of light travelling on behalf of the respectable firm which I represent—(laughter)—and I beg at once to give notice, in the hearing of the noble marquis who is more to your left—(Lord Salisbury)—that I now nail to the counter any proposal to call me a political bagman as wanting in originality and wit.—(Laughter.) But I have been doing a certain amount of light travelling on behalf of our excellent and creditable firm. The other day on returning from Manchester I was deeply and hideously impressed with the fact that all along that line of railway which we traversed the whole of a pleasing landscape was entirely ruined by appeals to the public to save their constitution, but ruin their æsthetic sense, by a constant application of a particular form of pill.—(Laughter and cheers). Now, Sir Frederic, I view that prospect with the gravest misgiving. What is to become of our English landscape if it is to be simply a sanitary or advertising appliance?—(Laughter).—I appeal to my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Duchy, who sits opposite to me. His whole heart is bound up in a proposition for obtaining free access to the mountains of the Highlands. But what advantage will it be to him, or to those whose cause he so justly and eloquently espouses, if at the top of Schiehallion, or any other mountain which you may have in your mind's eye, the bewildered climber can only find an advertisement of some remedy of the description which I have mentioned (cheers)—an advertisement of a kind common, I am sorry to say, in the United States—and I speak with reverence in the presence of the Ambassador of that great community—but it would be in the Highlands distressing to the deer—(laughter)—and infinitely perplexing even to the British tourist. (Laughter and cheers.) But I turned my eyes mentally from the land, and I said that, after all, the great painter of the present may turn to the sea, and there at least he is safe. There are effects on the ocean which no one can ruin, which not even a pill can impair.—(Laughter.) But I was informed in confidence—it caused me some distress—that the same enterprising firm which has placarded our rural recesses has offered a main-sail free of expense to every ship that will accept it, on condition that it bears the same hideous legend upon it to which I have referred. —(Laughter.) Think, Mr. President, of the feelings of the illustrious Turner if he returned to life to see the luggers and the coasting ships which he has made so glorious in his paintings converted into a simple vehicle for the advertisement of a quack medicine—(laughter)—although I will not say "quack," because that is actionable—(laughter) —I will say of a medicine of which I do not know the properties.—(Laughter.) But I turned my eyes beyond the land and ocean, and I turned them to the heavens, and I said "There, at any rate, we are safe." The painter of the present may turn his eye from the land and ocean, but in the skies he can always find some great effect which cannot be polluted. At this moment I looked from the railway carriage window, and I saw the skeleton of a gigantic tower arising. It had apparently been abandoned at a lofty stage, possibly in consequence of the workmen having found that they spoke different languages at the height at which they had arrived.—(Laughter.) I made inquiries, and I found that it was the enterprise of a great speculator, who resides himself on a mountain, and who is equally prepared to bore under the ocean or ascend into the heavens.—(Laughter.) I was given to understand that this admirable erection comprised all the delights of a celestial occupation without any detachment from terrestrial pursuits.—(Laughter.) But I am bound to say that if buildings of that kind are to cover this country, and if they are to be joined to the advertising efforts to which I have alluded, neither earth, nor sea, nor sky in Great Britain will be fit subject for any painter.—(Cheers.)

Writing of the Summer Exhibition at the New Gallery, the *St. James's Budget* says :—"Of the landscapes exhibited this season, 'A Lonely Farm' by Mr. Alfred Parsons, is the most original and impressive. It is an effect of moonrise in a sky suffused with the light of reflected sunset. A difficult and transitory effect is carried out in this picture with elaboration and completeness on an important scale and with very happy results.

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QUESTIONS IN THE LOWER HOUSE.

READERS of the Proceedings of the House of Representatives must have been struck by one feature, namely, the recklessness that members too often show in preferring charges against the Government collectively or its members individually. There seems to be very little restraining sense of respon sibility. Some part of an accusation, if it be only the memory that it was preferred, always clings to its victim, and truly it appears that certain members of the Lower House are content with that reflection. Nothing could be more pernicious, in our opinion, than the custom that has come to be pursued with regard to Questions addressed to the Government. A member, so soon as he has placed a Question in the hands of the President, is permitted to ascend the rostrum, and, under pretence of explaining the Question, is allowed to deliver a speech, sometimes of great length, bitterly attacking the Ministers of the Crown and preferring against them charges the great majority of which are generally baseless. In this way the Administration is perpetually made the butt of damaging accusations. The Constitution never contemplated anything of that kind. Its framers, foreseeing that the privilege of putting Questions to the Government was likely to be abused, surrounded it with guarantees that doubtless seemed sufficient in their eyes: they provided that it must be framed in writing and must have the support of at least thirty members. But where a section of the House, to say nothing of the majority, is pledged to harass the Government in every possible way, there never can be any difficulty in finding thirty members to endorse a Question, especially when its presentation furnishes a certain opportunity to publicly arraign the Cabinet, without being required to produce any evidence in support of the allegations advanced, and with the knowledge that the Government's Answer, being necessarily confined within the lines of the written Question, must often leave unrefuted many of the collateral charges preferred so profusely in the explanatory speech. If the House had any genuine sense of responsibility it would never have allowed such a practice to be established. But in truth if any careful observer were asked to indicate the worst feature of the Japanese House of Representatives, he could scarcely fail to point to the absence of a restraining sense of responsibility. We are not among those who think lightly of the Japanese House of Representatives. We have read its proceedings session after session, we have listened to its debates time and again, and we remain to-day with a confirmed impression that in many of the traits essential to a successful legislature it is not wanting. Its members possess most thorough-going independence of political opinion—a faculty that could not reasonably have been anticipated; they speak with remarkable fluency, avoid useless rhetoric, show an excellent capacity for marshalling their facts, and are generally logical in their methods of reasoning; with a very few notable exceptions, their language toward each other is usually polite, and, considering the nature of the struggle now inprogress, their demeanour must be called staid and orderly. But they do not yet seem to understand what is meant by the dignity of the House, neither have they any apparent conception of their responsibility as representatives of the nation. Their treatment of Mr. HOSHI TORU last session; their recent action with reference to Count INOUYE, and the unsupported accusations they prefer so freely against the Government or against individual statesmen, are striking evidences of their irresponsible mood. They clamour, and have clamoured ever since the Diet was opened, for the abolition of all restrictions upon freedom of speech and public meeting, yet we venture to think that plain proof of the people's unpreparedness to be entrusted with such liberty has been furnished by the Diet itself. If the chosen legislators of the nation show themselves conspicuously wanting in a sense of responsibility, how can it be reasonably imagined that journalists will be better equipped in that respect? We have happily one evidence that the defect shown by the House of Representatives does not run through the whole nation: the House of Peers has never been betrayed into similar displays of irresponsibility, and has always shown a very much higher conception of its own dignity. History shows that the best method of awakening an effective sense of responsibility is to entrust men with the cares of office. The members of the Japanese House of Representatives are almost entirely without such training. The bulk of the Japanese nation is without it. But time will correct that deficiency.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONSISTENCY.

THE Diet's sixth session consisted of only 14½ working days. The session opened for actual business on May 17th and closed, by dissolution of the House of Representatives, on June 2nd. During that brief interval the amount of legislative business transacted was very considerable, as the following record shows:—

MEASURES PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES.

1.—Bill for including Muroran among the Special Ports of Export.
2.—Bill for opening ports of Fuseki and Otaru to ships trading to Saghalin and Korea.
3.—Bill for opening Naba, in Rinkiu, to ships trading to China.
4.—Bill for abolishing the Export Duty on Cotton Yarns.
5.—Railway Bill.
6.—Railway Bill.
7.—Railway Bill.
8.—Railway Bill.
9.—Railway Bill.
10.—Railway Bill.
11.—Railway Bill.
12.—Railway Bill.
13.—Railway Bill.
14.—Railway Bill.
15.—Bill for restoring Pensions to Political Offenders.
16.—Bill for Grants in Aid of Technical Education.
17.—Bill for the Temporary Investment of Surplus Revenue.
18.—Bill for amending the Tax Collecting Regulations.
19.—Bill for amending Imperial Ordinance No. 141 of the 22nd year of *Meiji*.
20.—Bill for amending Law No. 4 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*.
21.—Bill relating to Military Telegraphs.
22.—Budget of Expenditures from the Reserves for the 25th year of *Meiji*.
23.—Budget of Special Expenditures for the 25th year of *Meiji*.
24.—Bill relating to Mobilization Expenditures.
25.—Bill relating to the Capital of the Tokyo Artillery Arsenal.

MEASURES PASSED BY ONE HOUSE AND NOT REQUIRING TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE OTHER.

1.—Representation for building Railways and opening Harbours in Hokkaido.
2.—Representation relating to the Protection of Settlers in Chishima.
3.—Representation relating to the collection of Historical Materials.
4.—Representation for the Establishment of an Iron Foundry.
5.—Resolution relating to the Dissolution of the House of Representatives.
6.—Motion for establishing a Final Accounts Committee.
7.—Motion for supplementing the Standing Orders of the House of Peers in the sense of establishing a Final Accounts Committee.
8.—Representation asking for the attendance of the Minister of State for Justice in connection with the question of the Removal of Judicial Officials.
9.—Representation relating to disease in Okinawa Prefecture.
10.—Motion for enacting Detailed Regulations for dealing with Final Accounts.
11.—Motion relating to the right of addressing the House on the part of propounders of Questions to the Government.
12.—Address to the Throne.
13.—Resolution relating to Expenditures from the Surplus Revenue.
14.—Resolution relating to Treaty Revision.
15.—Representation relating to the Control of Rivers.

DEBATED IN BOTH HOUSES BUT NOT PASSED.

1.—Bill for amending the Press Law.

DEBATED AND NOT PASSED BY ONE HOUSE.

1.—Address to the Throne impeaching the Cabinet.
2.—Resolution relating to the Dissolution of the House of Representatives.
2.—Bill relating to the Term of Practical Training of Judicial Officials.
4.—Representation relating to Treaty Revision.
5.—Motion for handing over Mr. Tanaka Shozo to the Disciplinary Committee.
6.—Motion relating to the Powers of the Imperial Diet in respect of the Final Accounts of Revenue and Expenditure.
7.—Address to the Throne for prolonging the duration of the Sixth Session.
8.—Budget of Expenditures from the Surplus Revenue for the 26th year of *Meiji*.
9.—Budget of Expenditures from the Central Famine Relief for the 26th year of *Meiji*.

PASSED BY ONE HOUSE BUT NOT DEBATED BY THE OTHER.

1.—Bill for transferring Prison Expenditures to the charges of the Treasury.
2.—Bill relating to Game Law.
3.—Bill for abolishing the Special System of Local Government in the cases of Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto.
4.—Supplementary Local Government Law.
5.—Bill for controlling the manufacture of Imitation Paper Money.
6.—Bill relating to the National Banks.
7.—Bill relating to the Paper Issues of the National Banks.
8.—Bill relating to Law No. 25 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*.
9.—Bill for amending the Banking Regulations.
10.—Supplementary Budget for the 27th year of *Meiji*.

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11.—Bill for supplementing the Pensions Regulations.

This is a distinctly creditable record. It indicates considerable legislative industry and proves that the Houses can not have wasted much time in useless discussion. Twenty-five bills passed through both Houses in 14 days is almost a legislative feat, especially when taken in conjunction with the fact that 36 additional measures were discussed and brought to a division in one Chamber or the other. The Diet may fairly claim that in its sixth session it removed the reproach suggested by its previous procedure, the reproach of initiating nothing useful itself and fatally obstructing all the useful initiations of others. It is true that the Bills passed were in every case introduced by the Government. One private Bill—for amending the Press Law in the sense of depriving the Executive of the power of suspending newspapers—nearly made its way through both Chambers, but was finally rejected by the Peers after amendment at the hands of a conference of Managers. If, however, the passage of only Government measures suggests a want of legislative initiative on the part of the members themselves, it suggests at the same time an interesting reflection, namely, that a House perpetually declaring want of confidence in the Cabinet and professing inability to work in concert with the present Ministers of the Crown, nevertheless debated and endorsed, in the brief period of two weeks, no less than twenty-five measures introduced by the Cabinet. Nothing, in truth, could have been more inconsistent than the House's profession and its practice. Having adopted all these legislative measures of the Government, it then suddenly turned round and announced the impossibility of legislating in concert with the Government. No special incident had happened to provoke such an announcement. Between May 17th and May 30th the House passed twenty-five Bills introduced by the Government. On May 31st it voted an indictment pronouncing the same Government untrustworthy, incompetent, undeserving of the SOVEREIGN'S confidence, and untrue to the nation's trust. The indictment was based upon general grounds: upon the Government's alleged failure to comply with instructions issued eighteen months previously by the EMPEROR and upon the character of its foreign policy. It was based, in short, on grounds that possessed precisely the same validity before the session commenced as they possessed on the day when the hostile vote was passed. Experience has shown that the mood of the Opposition in the Lower House is too implacable to be logical. But surely it ought to have occurred to any politicians, however blinded by sentiments of hostility, that after devoting fourteen days to debating and adopting, with remarkable expedition and unanimity, no less than twenty-five Government Bills, nothing could have been more flagrantly self-stultifying than to declare, on the fifteenth day, that legislative cöoperation with such a Government was impossible. Legislation is the chief function of a legislature, and when a legislature after discharging that function diligently and smoothly until almost the last day of its session, by passing projects of law drafted and introduced by the Administration, then turns round and declares itself unable to work with such an Administration, the public may reasonably regard the declaration as slightly farcical.

FLEET REGULATIONS.

We hereby give Our Sanction to Amendments of the Fleet Regulations and Order them to be duly promulgated.

His Imperial Majesty's Sign-Manual,
Privy Seal.

Dated June 18th of the 27th year of *Meiji* (June. 18th, 1894.)

(Countersigned)
Count SAIGO TSUKUMICHI,
Minister of State for the Navy.

(IMPERIAL ORDINANCE, No. LXXI.)

(FLEET REGULATIONS.)

Art. I.—A naval squadron consisting of three men-of war or upwards shall be called a fleet.

Art. II.—A fleet shall be established permanently or shall be organized as an extraordinary measure, and its designation shall be specially determined by Imperial Ordinance.

Art. III.—To a fleet torpedo boats, transports, and other vessels may be attached.

Art. IV.—For a fleet permanently established the limit of a cruise under ordinary circumstances shall be the seas encircling the Empire of Japan. Provided that, when more than two fleets are permanently established, the cruising limits of each shall be specially determined.

Art. V.—In a fleet a Commander shall be appointed, which post shall be filled by an Admiral, Vice-Admiral, or Rear-Admiral.

Art. VI.—In a fleet commanded by an Admiral, a Vice-Commander shall be appointed, which post shall be filled in by either a Rear-Admiral or Captain.

Art. VII.—The staff of a Commander, and a Vice-Commander shall consist of the following officers:—

	Chief of the Staff.	Staff.	Confidential Secretaries.
When the Commander is an Admiral	Rear-Admiral or Captain ...1	Commander 1 Lieutenant...1	Fleet Paymaster ...1 Paymaster 1
When the Commander is a Vice-Admiral	Captain ...1	Commander 1 Lieutenant...1	Paymaster 1
When the Commander is a Rear-Admiral	Captain ...1	Lieutenant...2	Paymaster 1
Staff of a Vice-Commander	—	Lieutenant...2	Paymaster 1

	Chief of Navigation.	Chief of Engineering.	Chief of Surgery.
When the Commander is an Admiral	Captain ...1	Fleet Engineer ...1	Fleet Surgeon ...1
When the Commander is a Vice-Admiral	Commander 1	Fleet Engineer ...1	Fleet Surgeon ...1
When the Commander is a Rear-Admiral	Commander 1	—	—
Staff of a Vice-Commander	—	—	—

A barrister shall be attached to a fleet, and in case the ships undertake a voyage to a foreign country a civil official may be appointed on the staff as interpreter.

Art. VIII.—Subject to the instructions of the Sovereign a Commander shall superintend the war-vessels placed under him; shall adjust naval affairs pertaining to the fleet, and shall, in accordance with instructions from the Minister of State for the Navy, preside over the naval administration of the ships placed under his charge.

Art. IX.—A Commander shall superintend the discipline and morals of those placed under his control.

Art. X.—A Commander shall embark in the flag ship with his staff officers. Provided that, when, in consequence of defects in the flagship or of some circumstances relating to his command, temporary removal to another ship is deemed necessary, he may do so during the required period.

Art. XI.—The discharge of the official duties devolving upon a Commander shall commence with the hoisting of his flag on the flag-ship and close with the hauling down of that flag.

Art. XII.—The Commander may detach any of the war vessels placed under his control.

Art. XIII.—In case vessels under his control are to be detached, the Commander may direct the Vice-Commander or the Senior Captain to command the detached vessels, and may entrust him with the control of affairs falling within the sphere of his competency.

Art. XIV.—In case the Commander undertakes a cruise with the fleet placed under his control, he shall fix routes to be taken, for the safety of which he shall be held responsible.

The same principle applies when a Vice-Commander or Senior Captain has command of a fleet.

Art. XV.—In case an officer in a fleet is unable to discharge his duties owing to any cause, the Commander may appoint another officer to take his place.

Art. XVI.—A Commander may remove the cadets attached to a fleet, or those treated as commissioned officers, from one vessel to another, according to his judgment.

Art. XVII.—In the event of war or other emergency, a Commander may issue orders to a war vessel which, though not under his contral, happens to be at the time in the same harbour with the fleet. Provided that this shall not apply to cases where the harbour is a naval port.

Art. XVIII.—A Commander may despatch vessels under his control beyond the bounds of the regular cruise of his fleet, when, through stress of circumstance, such a step is deemed essential, and when there is no time to wait for instruction from superiors.

Art. XIX.—A Vice-Commander with his staff shall embark in a flag-ship indicated by the Commander and shall direct the ships placed under his control.

Art. XX.—A Vice-Commander (in case there is no Vice-Commander, Senior Captain, or the chief of the staff) shall undertake the function of the Commander in the event of the latter's death and pending the appointemnt of his successor, and in the event of the Commander being incapacitated to discharge his duties.

Art. XXI—In case there are no chiefs of navigation, of engineering, and of surgery in the staff of the Vice-Commander, the Commander may make the chief navigator, chief engineers and chief surgeon of the flagship discharge their respective duties on the staff of the Vice-Commander.

Art. XXII.—The chief of the staff shall assist the Commander in the discharge of his duties, shall take part in official affairs of importance, and shall regulate matters relating to the fleet in general.

Art. XXIII.—The "staff" attached to a Commander shall deal with business alloted to them, subject to the direction of the chief of the staff,

Art. XXIV.—The "staff," attached to a Vice-Commander shall deal with business alloted to them subject to the direction of the Vice-Commander.

Art. XXV.—Private Secretaries attached to a Commander shall deal with general affairs of the fleet under the supervision of the staff.

Art. XXVI.—The Confidential Secretary subordinate to a Vice-Commander shall, under the supervision of the Senior Staff Officer, deal with general affairs.

Art. XXVII.—Subject to the supervision of the Commander, the Chief of Navigation shall deal with matters pertaining to the courses of the fleet and shall supervise the chief officer of navigation in ship in the discharge of his functions.

Art. XXVIII.—Subject to the supervision of the Commander the Chief of Engineers shall deal with matters pertaining to the engines of the fleet and shall supervise the Chief of Engineers in each ship in the discharge of his functions.

SUBJECT TO THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMMANDER.

Art. XXIX.—The Chief of Surgery shall deal with surgical and sanitary affairs of the fleet and shall supervise the Chief of Surgery in each ship in the discharge of his functions.

Art. XXX.—The lawyer attached to a fleet shall, subject to the supervision of the Commander, discharge his functions in accordance with the Maritime Law and shall deal with matters pertaining to judgments, punishments, and other matters connected with maritime justice.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ERUPTION OF ASAMA-YAMA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—You will no doubt have been informed by telegram of the unusual activity displayed this morning by Asama-yama, and your readers may be interested in a short description of it, as it appeared from Karuizawa. The disturbance took place about nine o'clock, and its effects were more or less visible until nearly or quite ten. There was a terrific explosion, and a great volume of black vapour rose from the crater, dividing into two plume-like columns which gradually expanded in the direction of the pass followed by the railway, until in fifteen or twenty minutes the northern quarter of the heavens was all but completely overcast. The effect produced was strikingly beautiful, for not till the stream of vapour had passed well to the east of the village did it lose its volcanic character and take on the appearance of an ordinary black cloud.

The noise of the explosion was like that of a heavy cannonade, and several minutes elapsed before it entirely ceased.

Neither stones nor ashes have fallen hereabouts; but there was the appearance of a shower upon the mountain.

I am told that no such violence as this has lately occurred, but that there was something similar to it once four or five years ago. The people do not seem to be alarmed. A man who was digging near me went on with his work after a moment as if nothing extraordinary had happened. I have spent several summers in Karuizawa, but have myself never before seen or heard anything of the sort, and therefore find the event of more than passing interest. That it betokens anything serious is of course a mere matter of opinion. The residents, who are interested in the coming of summer visitors, are quite sure that there is no danger. If they could guarantee that all experiences of volcanic phenomena would be equally harmless and equally interesting, they would add greatly to the attractiveness of the town as a place of resort; for such a sight as this I have attempted to describe is one not to be forgotten.

Yours truly,
T. M. MACNAIR.

Karuizawa, June 14th, 1894.

APPALLING FIRE IN YOKOHAMA.

LOSS OF LIFE.

A few minutes past two o'clock on Sunday afternoon one of the most disastrous fires of recent years broke out in a public bath-house, called Taninoyu, at No. 216, Motomachi, Gochome, Yokohama, in the valley immediately below the Bluff on which stands the huge red-painted, wooden building known far and wide as the Van Schaick Hall. A kitchen-wench had been cooking some rice in a rice-boiling oven, and at the conclusion of the operation raked over the wood embers. A few of these fell on some kindling wood which soon ignited. The high south wind quickly carried the flames over to the adjoining block and in a few seconds this was devoured. Leaping along from roof to roof the fiery element swept block after block away, carrying overwhelming disaster all along its path. The rising ground of the Bluff was soon packed with thousands of sightseers who were continually being driven back from their coigns of vantage by the waves of intense heat which ascended from the burning masses. The wind blowing down the gullies from the Bluff drifted the smoke to seaward, so the watchers in this quarter had a magnificent view of the terribly grand spectacle. For upwards of three hours the conflagration raged, and it seemed as if nothing would stay its rapid progress short of a wholesale pulling down of a wide block of houses. This the Japanese proprietors would not allow, and consequently the fire-fiend sped on, the tinder-dry wooden edifices falling an only too easy prey. A fire always brings out to full advantage the many sterling qualities of the Japanese police, and on Sunday afternoon the local force worked splendidly both with the hose, fire-bucket and hatchet, as well as in assisting the weakly and aged to places of safety. About half-past four the wind veered round a bit and this, together with the resistance offered by a number of brick buildings and godowns, was the only thing that saved the Japanese quarter from Ishikawa to the Maeda-bashi from wholesale destruction. The flames were driven in upon themselves, gradually sank, and died out. As soon as the fire was mastered search-parties were organised to hunt up missing relations or friends. The still smoking piles of ruins were eloquent of the terrible devastation. Only a few mud godowns and fire-proof dwellings remained standing isolated among the smouldering heaps of charred timbers which marked the different blocks of one-time substantial tenements—in the majority of cases the whole block had been completely wiped out of existence. The electric light and other wires lay in heaps around. Here and there one stumbled upon the incinerated remains of an unfortunate dog or cat, and in one instance the horribly disfigured corpse of a man was discovered. Within a short space of time the police had ascertained the full extent of the loss so far as houses, etc., were concerned. One thousand and sixty-four dwellings had been totally destroyed, three godowns, five telephone posts and four electric-light posts consumed, and one man burnt to death. Four men were also severely injured, three of whom are firemen. Numberless babies and small children were also reported missing, but these have all been found and returned to their anxious parents. Much cordial sympathetic help was given by many European ladies in regard to these homeless little ones, both food and shelter being provided. We might mention here that more than half of the people who suffered on Sunday afternoon are very poor and any help will be thankfully received. Aid in money and in kind to the extent of over one thousand dollars has been afforded by foreign residents, with Mr. G. W. Bramhall as the leading spirit of the movement, and this has been gratefully acknowledged. The Elementary school at the back of Motomachi was turned on Sunday night into a shelter, and relief was given to all those who applied, in the shape of boiled rice and bedding. Mr. Bramhall's fund has afforded over one thousand meals, bedding, working-tools, and other necessaries to the absolutely destitute, and the Jizen-kai Hospital has been equally well to the fore in giving medical relief to the sufferers.

There can be no doubt that had some organised system been attempted at the outset and a block of houses pulled down at once the fire might have been easily arrested before much damage was done, but nothing of the sort was ventured; even the services of the blue-jackets sent from the war-ships in the harbour were declined.

The whole story of the fire has yet to be told. A few minutes before five o'clock the Settlement alarms rang out again, calling attention to a fire which was breaking from the roof of No. 108, in the occupation of Mrs. Douglas. This house almost faces Christ Church, and some anxiety prevailed in regard to the sacred edifice and the surrounding buildings, whose roofs and eaves were continually catching fire from the flying spark. With praiseworthy celerity Engineer Gabaretta of the Y.F.B. was soon on the spot, bringing the steamer and connections from the Motomachi where he had been hard at work fighting the flames, and directing two powerful streams of water upon the seat of the outbreak, prevented the fire from spreading further. Mr. Bunting with a private stand-pipe in his yard also rendered efficient service. The roof soon fell in and the upper story was completely destroyed.

During the height of the fire in Motomachi, a foreigner attempted to drive over Mayeda-bashi in a one-horsed vehicle. He was naturally stopped by the excited people who were vainly endeavouring to save their goods and chattels, and had it not been for the police he would have been mobbed. As it was the crowd exhibited many signs of active resentment.

The police, after their harrassing toil at the fire on Sunday were not to be left in peace, for 'Jack' in the evening helped to make further unpleasantness. Groups of men on leave made "Blood Town" a pandemonium, necessitating the removal of a number to the police station to "sober-up. Some men from the *Queen Victoria* were particularly obstreperous, causing an infinite deal of trouble. A seamen, said to belong to the *Glenclova*, stole a watch, but as he returned the article when arrested he was released with a caution. The Japanese watch-snatchers and thieves were also very busy plying their nefarious vocations, but many were fortunately caught in the act.

I have heard, says *Shooting and Fishing*, of a great many different kinds of bait used in catching fish, including lizards for black bass, and the eye of a yellow perch for the perch itself, but an explorer in Borneo, Mr. Charles Hose, mentions a bait entirely new. Mr. Hose desired some fish, but had no tackle, when a Dyak brought out a piece of thread which he tied to a wand, and from a piece of brass wire he bent a hook. The next thing was the bait, and as nothing could be found for this purpose, the native coolly took a knife and cut a piece of the skin from the sole of his foot, which served to tempt the fish, and the Dyak furnished the same bait for other fishermen in the party.

DISASTROUS EARTHQUAKE IN YOKOHAMA AND TOKYO.

EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE IN YOKOHAMA.

With an enormous fire, a destructive earthquake, and an impending water-famine—all within the short space of three summer days—the cup of misfortune is brimming over for residents in Yokohama. At about five minutes past two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon the most severe shock of earthquake experienced in this district of recent years passed through the town and neighbourhood from the S.W. to the N.E. It lasted but four minutes and thirty seconds—according to the average computation arrived at by most folk—but even in that short limit of time it caused extensive damage both on the Bluff and the Settlement, as well as entailing the deaths of five persons and severe injuries to many others. A slight shock had been felt at 5.10 a.m., but this gave no warning of the terrible shaking which was to follow hours afterwards. The day was tropically hot, there being scarcely any breeze, while the sky looked serene and clear, with hardly a wisp of daintiest cirri to be seen. Of warning there was none. The full force of the shock was developed almost at the outset, and the oscillations continued in violence right to their abrupt close. On the Bluff scarcely a chimney remains uninjured, and most are down. At No. 58, Bluff, a solid mass of brick and tile crushed through the roof; fortunately no one was in the house at the time and the damage was confined to the furniture, walls, etc. The chimney of the house adjoining—occupied by Mrs. Hegt—also came down with a crash, causing great anxiety to the widowed lady and her daughter. A gentleman who was proceeding down the hill at the side of this house had a narrow escape, some heavy blocks of freestone supporting the bank, falling into the roadway just as he had passed. The houses on No. 72 suffered severely, walls cracking, roofs shifting, and joists being displaced. At the Convent a whole side of the building has bulged out and remains in a highly dangerous state. The children of Mr. John Cain, at No. 119, Bluff, had a truly marvellous shave. They were playing in the drawing-room at the time, when some one noticed the ceiling giving way; the next moment, the brick chimney fell through into the room, shattering everything in its path. Mr. J. W. Curtis had three chimnies down. At No. 132, occupied by Mr. A. W. Payne, the chimney came down, the walls cracked, and crevasses 20 feet long and over a foot deep opened in the garden around. A large landslip also occurred here, the face of the cliff falling bodily down to the beach. Further along, at Mandarin Bluff, another landslide took place. The Italian Consulate lost the top of a chimney, and a *jinrikisha* drawer, named Kimura Chiuzo (36), an employé in the Consulate, was struck on the head by the falling bricks. The man was so severely wounded that he died during the night. To give some idea of the number of chimneys destroyed or partially damaged on the Bluff we print the following list of houses reporting such damage:—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 19, 20, 29, 31, 32, 35, 45, 47, 48, 53, 56, 58, 59, 67, 71, 85, 106, 109, 110, 111, 115, 119, 132, 203, 215, 221, 122, 225, 232, 242, 244, 245, 247, 265 and 266. Many of these houses had their tiles broken. At Nos. 28, 72, 91, 245, 90, 72, 68, 82, 141, 217, 84 and 83 tiles were removed, while at Nos. 87 and 86 walls were considerably damaged. The gates of No. 83 were thrown down, and the stone-walls on lots, Nos. 42, 60, 66, and 279, were shaken down. The gate keeper's house at No. 83 was considerably damaged, and the fences of Nos. 114 and 219 were overthrown. Small landships occurred at Oyato, Sannotani, and Nmotani, but no lives were lost. Nearly every house on the Bluff reports a wholesale breaking of glass, crockery, and keramic ornaments. Clocks stopped, lamps broke from their chains, and pictures went askew.

Folk out in the harbour report that the shock was felt very severely on board ship; even H.M.S. *Centurion* rolled about as if buffeted by a heavy sea. Watchers on the deck noticed a big cloud of dust and smoke rising from the whole town and Bluff, and for the moment listened intently for the sound of an explosion—they feared that some powder magazine or other storehouse of inflammables had exploded. These fears were soon put at rest, but others were aroused upon seeing the cliffs along the Bluff and over at Kanagawa sliding down to the beach. The shock was so violent that a seismometer mounted on the Bluff was not equal to the occasion and gave up the attempt at recording its impressions.

IN YOKOHAMA SETTLEMENT.

The disaster wrought in the Settlement by this

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severe earthquake is attended, we regret to say, with sad loss of life. A large tea-firing establishment occupied by Messrs. Wilson at Co., at No. 258, Horikawa-cho and Yechigo-cho, facing the Creek, was the scene of the calamity. This building, constructed of red brick with substantial stone-dressings, is quite a new erection. Work was in full swing at the time and the place was crowded with male and female labourers. At the rear of the principal building is a covered way having a zinc-roof leading to the tea firing godown. Mr. Wilson, as soon as he felt the shock, went to the back of the principal godown, intending to go to the tea-firing shed in the rear, as he entertained fears of its stability. Here he was met by a rush of panic-stricken men and women, who half filled the passage-way. Suddenly the rear cornice of the big building caved out bodily and fell on the roof of the passage. It was the work of a moment, but when the dust had cleared away it was found that the whole of the people were buried beneath the weighty *débris*. One man was killed almost outright, a great pile of brick having crushed in his head; a woman was extricated with her right leg fractured in two places, and her head badly cut—she died within an hour of reaching hospital; another woman was in a bad way, and several others are still lying in a precarious condition, suffering from scalp-wounds broken legs and arms, and hysteria. Two died in the hospital at 11.30 p.m. It will be seen from this that Mr. Wilson had a very narrow escape, —another step and he would have undoubtedly been among those wounded. As soon as he ascertained the extent of the calamity, he ordered the *débris* to be cleared away, but for a time the Chinese and Japanese were quite panic stricken. They, however, when started, worked with a will and soon extricated the unfortunates who were buried beneath. They presented a ghastly and pitiful sight. Everything possible was done to alleviate their sufferings, pending the arrival of the doctors, Mrs. Wilson, although greatly frightened, bathing the heads and giving brandy to the wounded. Drs. Rokkaku, who did yoeman's service, Eldridge, Runkwicz, Wheeler, Kimura and many others were quickly on the spot, and as each poor sufferer—they numbered twenty-five—was removed from the ruins his or her wounds were attended to; then they were taken to the police station where their hurts were properly dressed previous to being sent to the Jizenkai hospital, Mr. Wilson expressing the desire that everything possible should be done for them. The firm also has been a heavy loser, as all the tea in the pans, about 4,000lb., has been spoiled through being burnt. In China Town a whole house came down, while fronts and roofs of others fell into the street bodily in Honmura-road. Two Chinamen were slightly hurt. Some European houses along the Creek also suffered severely from the shock, and one resident who was passing in a *jinrikisha* only managed to spring from the vehicle just as one wall fell out. In the road adjoining the Cricket Ground crevasses have opened, but they are of slight extent. Many of the heavily ornate roofs in Japanese town have slid away from their supports, and in one instance the walls of a brick house have moved right away from the supporting corners and roof, and yet stand upright. The old Machigaisho is in almost as sorry a plight, the stonework bulging out in some places. In the foreign stores some damage has naturally been sustained. Messrs. Arthur and Bond's breakages will amount to upwards of a thousand dollars; Messrs. North and Rae have lost two large show-cases, which were shivered by the shock; Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Lane, Crawford & Co., and Brett & Co., escaped with merely a derangement of their goods. The Hotels escaped lightly. Clarendon House, which so many predicted would not stand the shock of an earthquake, has stood the severe test remarkably well. Not even a beam was heard to crack. The whole building moved like one solid block. It was indeed wonderful to observe how remarkably well the majority of the houses in the Settlement and on the Bluff stood the shaking, for the oscillations were most severe. Every house literally reeled to and fro under the influence of the motion as does a ship upon the sea; many an ominous groan was heard, but although the ornaments on the walls, books, and other loose articles fell to the ground, the houses—with the exception of those mentioned above—have sustained little damage beyond ordinary cracking. The sight in the streets within 20 seconds of the commencement of the shock was most impressive; hardly a person in the town, native and foreigner alike, remained within four walls. But nothing like a panic occurred—everyone went back calmly to office directly the motion ceased.

Two sharp, short shocks, following in quick succession, were felt at 9.33 p.m.

DAMAGE IN JAPANESE TOWN.

A godown at Honcho, Rokuchome, to belonging Mr. Hara Genzaburo, fell in two parts; a brick godown of the Asamatsu-gumi at Honcho, Rokuchome, collapsed; the roof of a store-house at Sumiyoshicho, Rokuchome, fell in; two godowns at Sumiyoshicho, Gochome, were destroyed; one house (seven families) was overthrown at Onoyecho, Rokuchome; the roof of a godown at Kaigan-dori, Shichome, fell down; a stone-wall about two *ken* in length was destroyed; one store-house at Honcho, Shichome, greatly damaged; a portion of the roof of a godown at No. 40 Motohama cho, Shichome, fell down; the roof of a house at No. 41, Motohamacho, Shichome, collapsed; and the roof of a house at Sumiyoshicho, Gochome, fell in.

Some damage was done to the Yokohama Waterworks at Hodogaya, and great anxiety was entertained by the commissioners, who soon proceeded to the spot. They succeeded in effecting repairs by 5 p.m. No damage was done to telephone and electric light apparatus. The porcelain dealers, as usual on such an occasion, suffered very greatly, and their losses are estimated to be very great. At Yokotaya, Shichome, Aioicho, more than half the stocks in-trade were smashed. Stone lanterns in the compound of the Benten Shrine, Hagoromocho, were overthrown, and some mischief was done to the shrine.

Hitomi Urajiro (26), sprained his foot while jumping from the upper story into the road at Eirakucho. A girl, named Kiku (16), the daughter of Machida Atsunobu, residing at No. 104, Motomachi Gochome, was also injured in the feet while attempting to run from her house. Five small landslips are reported from Nakamura, but no persons were injured.

IN THE INTERIOR.

The Tokaido Railway was slightly damaged about one *ri* this side of Totsuka, but the workmen were successful in repairing the damage by five o'clock the same afternoon, and the section was re-opened for traffic shortly afterward. The roofs of the godowns in Yokohama Station yard were slightly damaged.

No reports have yet been received from any parts of Kanagawa Prefecture concerning the earthquake, but it is said that the shock was very strongly felt near Ofuna Station. Houses are said to have been thrown down there. Nothing serious occurred at Yokosuka.

Official reports received from various parts of the interior concerning the earthquake state that strong shocks were felt at Kamakura, Yokosuka, Numazu, Utsunomiya, Mayebashi and Kofu (clocks were stopped). Weak oscillations were experienced at Choshi, Nagoya, Gifu, Hikone, Osaka (clocks were stopped), and Fukushima, while slight tremors occurred at Aomori and Sakai.

A telegram despatched by our Kobe correspondent at 7 p.m. states that no earthquake was experienced there.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN TOKYO.

Tokyo was visited at five minutes past two yesterday afternoon by an earthquake incomparably more severe than anything of the kind since the great catastrophe of the *Ansei* era. Two extremely violent shocks followed each other in rapid succession without any preliminary tremors. There had, indeed, been a slight seismic disturbance between five and six o'clock a.m. the same day, but it did not serve as a warning in any sense, and when the afternoon phenomenon occurred, the whole city was thrown into a state of the greatest alarm. Travelling apparently from south-west to north-east, the shock, in accordance with the unvaried record of this terrible force, wrought havoc of the most diverse character, in some cases overturning brick chimnies, levelling walls, and wrecking houses; in others, working no mischief more serious than the upsetting of ornaments and articles of furniture, or the shaking down of plaster. Persons driving through the streets at the moment of the occurrence, say that the ground heaved perceptibly, its undulatory motion being clearly visible, but probably much of this effect was subjective. Nearly all the important buildings of solid construction suffered more or less severely, the edifices yielding conspicuously more easily than the new. At the British Legation four chimnies were upset, and quantities of plaster stripped from the walls, but, on the whole, the damage did not attain large proportions. The German Legation suffered more. A student interpreter's house was completely wrecked, chimnies and other elevated parts of the edifice were thrown down, and scarcely a room escaped without some damage. At the Russian Legation walls were cracked, chimnies twisted, and plaster thrown down. The Foreign Office also had its roof wrenched, the tiles of a Secretary's house completely stripped off and its boundary wall on the eastern side partially demolished. In all these cases there was no loss of life or limb. But at the Rokumei-kan a terrible accident occurred. A dray with two horses happened to be standing under the portico when the shaking commenced. The *betto* immediately sprang clear of the building, but although the driver resolutely strove to urge the horses forward, they seem to have been paralysed with terror, for they refused to move, and were struck by a mass of stone blocks, beams and so forth, the whole superstructure behind the portico having been torn away and hurled down on the comparatively frail roof below, crushing it in as though it were glass. The two horses and the driver were killed on the spot, and the *betto* substained serious injuries. A chimney on the east front was also demolished. At the Imperial Hotel two chimnies collapsed, one striking the parapet of the roof and falling harmlessly to the ground; the other smashing through the roof into a dining room which most fortunately had just been vacated. One of the servants received a serious wound, two *bettoes* were killed by the fall of the stable which was completely wrecked. Several of the guests ran out and seated themselves in *jinrikisha* on the opposite side of the road, where they remained for a considerable time, fearing to re-enter the building. Perhaps the most severely injured among the Departments of State was the Home Department, an old and ill-constructed building. Two of the chimnies fell through the roof to the floor beneath, and so large was the mass of tiles and bricks precipitated that the flooring gave way, the whole heap crashing through to the ground. One of the employés was killed outright, and several others were injured. The Naval Department fared better, but there too quantities of plaster were shaken down, a roof collapsed, a warehouse was wrecked and a servant wounded. At the Finance Department several chimnies fell, ceilings were precipitated to the ground, furniture was smashed, and one official together with more than ten servants were wounded. The Diet did not escape. Chimnies fell through the roofs of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives, tearing wide rents in their downward passage. The Tokyo Hotel fared similarly from falling chimnies, and the whole edifice was canted perceptibly from the perpendicular.

The foreign settlement in Tsukiji was cruelly dilapidated. Chimnies fell in many instances and churches were severely injured. As the Rikkyo Daigakko in Shinsakaye-cho the roof collapsed, killing in its fall Mr. Tamaki Kakunosuke, the director of the school, a man of great capacities whose loss will be seriously felt. On the whole, no quarter of the city fared worse than Tsukiji, probably because the nature of the ground—reclaimed land with a soft subsoil—lends itself to the transmission of the earthquake wave.

The district between Kyo-bashi and Nihon-bashi must also have lain in the direct route of the disturbance, for numbers of fire-proof godowns, strongly built as they are, were overturned or twisted.

A drug store built of brick, at No 2, Nichome, Atago-shita, collapsed at the second shock, killing a woman of sixty and two maid-servants of twenty.

At the factory of the Tokyo Spinning Company in Higashi-daiku-cho, Fukugawa, two men and twelve women were wounded.

Kudan, also, a part of the city where effects of earthquakes are usually little felt, shows many traces of the severity of this shock. The well know photographer, Suzuki, had his house almost stripped of tiles, and in Ozawa-machi the streets were literally strewn with broken tiles, potsherds, and other *débris*. It goes without saying that dealers in porcelain were cruel sufferers, the greater part of their stock in trade being destroyed. All the bazaars had to be at once closed owing to the disorder reigning within and the wreckage. Telegraphic and telephonic communications were for a time interrupted, but resumed before evening.

The large private school in Hitotsubashi-dori, just opposite the Girl's Industrial School, was laid completely bare, the roof being displaced and all the plaster shaken off the outer walls.

A few doors farther on, toward the rooms of the German Astasiatische Gesellschaft, several houses were more or less demolished, and on the top of Kudan-zaka the two great stone lanterns flanking the entrance to the race course were twisted out of the perpendicular. Another well known stone structure, the huge granite Torii at the foot of Sanno-yama, was completely ruined, only a portion of the upright shafts being left. Doubtless stone Torii elsewhere suffered similarly.

But the most serious incident of the calamity was a fire that broke out in Oshima-cho, Fukagawa. It was caused by the ignition of oil in the Kerosene Company's buildings. The flames spread with great speed, and could not be got under control for four hours, by which time some

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600 houses were reduced to ashes. Three lives are said to have been lost in this conflagration.

A most deplorable accident occurred at the Kirigo Gakko, the largest private school and one of the finest buildings in Kanda District. This school has been particularly unfortunate, for the upper floor was burnt out in the great fire of April, 1892. On the present occasion the first shock sent the students running out of the building; all passed out in safety except two who, just as they reached the portico, were struck by a huge mass of bricks and tiles that fell from the roof. The unfortunate young men were completely buried beneath the *débris*. One was killed on the spot, his body presenting a shocking appearance, as the head had been driven below the shoulders and crushed out of all semblance to humanity. The other was severely wounded in the back of the head and abdomen. Medical assistance was promptly procured, and the report was at first favourable; but toward evening the patient grew worse and was not expected to live through the night. Several other people were injured by the flying tiles and bricks, but none severely. The student killed was very popular with his fellows, and his sudden death has cast a gloom over the whole student quarter of Kanda. The Higher Commercial School also felt the full force of the shock, and all the students ran out into the street for safety. Hardly had they done so when the roof of one of the older buildings gave way and fell crashing to the floor below. Most fortunately, no one was injured.

In Shiba District the amount of damage done is very great; it would seem that this part of the city was more severely shaken than any other, a fact tending to confirm the belief that the earthquake was not the result of Mount Asama's recent activity, but was rather due to a subterranean collapse in the bay of Tokyo, the heart, according to Prof. Milne, of most of the earthquakes that have visited the metropolis. Many chimnies were here overthrown and houses wholly or partially unroofed. Those in the vicinity of Mita were in several cases twisted away and will no longer be habitable. Plaster fell from the walls and porcelain was wrecked everywhere. No injuries to life or limb were recorded, however, up to seven o'clock yesterday evening.

One of the chimnies of the Koishikawa Arsenal broke short off and, rolling through the tin roof, did great injury to the machinery below. The main gateway, one of the old-fashioned Japanese *mon*, was bent and its roofing denuded of tiles. The canal running in front of the Arsenal, between Koishikawa and Suidobashi, is a mass of bricks and stones, precipitated from the river-side into the water. All this was building material to be used in erecting the Misaki terminus of the Shinguku-Misaki Cho branch line of the city railway.

Hongo, particularly in the Nezu and Komagome districts, was badly shaken. Two old houses were partially overthrown, but the immates had fortunately reached the street before the roofs fell in. Another private dwelling in Nezu had its upper floor—which was built in foreign fashion—completely demolished. No one was in the rooms at the time.

The Sumida River behaved in a very eccentric fashion for several minutes after the shock, the water rising and then receding many times in rapid succession.

In Kyo-bashi and Nihon-bashi the shock seems to have been felt with less severity; yet some tram-cars were derailed, the horses trying to bolt with their heavy loads. Ginza and Tori being more substantially built than other places, did not fare so badly, though great wreckage was made in the two *Kankôba* near Kyo-bashi and whereever there was any stock of a fragile nature.

A chimney of the Unitarian College in Mita fell down, completely unroofing one portion of the main building. Count Ito's private residence in Shiba Isarago was also fractured and otherwise injured, the roof collapsing and falling on the upper floor.

The metropolitan journals were unable to promptly send out extras according to their usual custom, the cases containing the type being in may instances overthrown and the type scattered far and near. This happened also to a number of private printing establishments in Kanda District.

A second shock of earthquake was felt at 4.25 p.m. This was preceded by a long and loud roaring sound, most distinctly heard in Kojimachi and Bancho. The first great earthquake was, in the opinion of most people, unaccompained by any warning sound.

A TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE.

The most appalling catastrophe occurred in the barrack of the 3rd Regiment of the Imperial Guard, at Akasaka. It being Wednesday afternoon, most of the soldiers were out on leave, so that a still greater loss of life was thus happily averted; yet the catastrophe was of a sufficiently terrible nature. The first shock set two or three of the chimneys on the largest three-storeyed building shaking, and in another moment they and some three or four others, fell crashing on the roof. The soldiers in the upper-most floor had made a rush for the door so soon as the earthquake was felt. In their mad haste they got jammed on the staircase, the roof and chimneys falling on the struggling helpless mass of humanity. Three were killed outright and a number of others more or less severely injured. No certain figures are obtainable on this point. The Akasaka Police authorities state that twelve men were wounded, four of these perhaps mortally; but at the Military Hospital in Kojimachi, the total number was estimated to be over twenty, several of whom, though they might live, were said to be crippled for life. It is moreover reported that the roof of the barracks in question had long been known to be in an insecure condition, so that it was quite natural that it should have yielded to the shock. Of those sent to the Hospital it was said that three or four were not expected to live the night out. Great precautions were, however, taken to keep the full extent of this fearful accident from knowledge of the general public, and the most conflicting reports were spread as to its extent.

FURTHER MISHAPS IN TOKYO AND VICINITY.

The total number of victims in Tokyo reported up to six o'clock on Thursday afternoon was 26 dead and 32 wounded, many of the latter very severely. As the returns come in—for there is still great confusion in many parts of the city—we hear that Fukagawa suffered every whit as much as Shiba. The Cotton Spinning Company's buildings in that district were partly demolished, two or three workmen being instantly killed and a large number of others more or less injured. Several plaster godowns were levelled with the ground and many houses were unroofed, or great fissures appeared in the walls and flooring. The people of Fukagawa seem to have had a greater physical shock than those in other parts of the metropolis. A number of untimely births were caused by sheer fright, one fatal case of attendant hæmorrhage being recorded. Of the crowd of sightseers in the Misaki Theatre in Kanda District, very many completely lost their presence of mind in their frantic desire to escape from the building. One elderly woman and her daughter imprudently sprang from a window in the upper storey to the street below, the mother fracturing her arm and receiving internal injuries, while the daughter was also badly wounded. The elder woman died yesterday. In Nishi Ogawa Machi a man sprang from the upper floor of his house, alighting uninjured, but as he started to run off a shower of tiles fell from the roof, striking him on the head and nape. He died within the hour. In Nishiki Cho, one of the most important throughfares of the same district, the dwelling of a certain ardent Buddhist began to shake ominously. He calmly seated himself at once in the centre of the room and grasped his rosary, "being convinced," as he afterwards stated, "that his blameless life would find favour in the sight of Buddha." The roof actually did fall in, but though tiles and timbers were heaped about him he escaped without a scratch. In Shiba District, two persons met their death in a very strange manner. One old woman was scalded to death by the overturning of a cauldron of boiling water, while a maid in the same house was killed just as she reached the threshold of the front door, by part of the wall falling on her. A foreigner living at Surugadai had a very narrow escape. Close beside the house he inhabited was another empty one, built in foreign style. The first shock sent him flying downstairs and towards the street, in reaching which he would have had to pass the other empty dwelling. But just before he started to pass by it, the whole dwelling collapsed and fell with a deafening crash to the ground. Had he been two seconds earlier, he would have been instantly killed. On Kudan zaka, the great stone lanterns flanking the main entrance to the Shokohsha, were twisted sidewise, the stone emaments on top threatening to fall at the slightest jar. The police have warned all passers-by to give the lanterns a wide berth.

Factory chimnies have suffered severely. All those visible along the line of railway from Tokyo to Yokohama are partially or wholly wrecked, and reports of similar disasters come from the suburbs of the capital.

Cracking of the soil did not take place on an extensive scale, but numerous small fissures made their appearance, their general direction being from south to north. Some of the most conspicuous are in Fukuyoshi-cho, Yenoki-zaka; Tamachi, Shicho-me; the Babasaka Gate; Sarugaku-cho, Kanda; Toriizaka-machi, Kogai-machi and so forth. In Omote-cho, Akasaka, the aqueduct burst and water spouted out.

The Italian Legation was very badly shaken. The arched salon, one of the most beautiful in Tokyo, threatened to fall in ruins, two of the walls being fissured from top to bottom and the arch being cracked circularly. In the walls of the other rooms, salons, bed-chambers and so forth, cracks are everywhere conspicuous, and in many cases serious twisting and distorting have taken place. The architects have declared the house insecure, in view of its imminent danger of collapsing altogether. The godown has lost a wall, and the outer wall of the enclosure, bordering the street, has been overturned in several places.

It was rumoured at first that the high tower, called the *Ryouu-kaku*, at Asakusa had fallen, but since such an event happening early in the afternoon must have entailed terrible loss of life, if not to visitors assuredly to the large number of persons constantly employed within the structure, and as no injury to life or limb was reported, the rumour obtained little credence. The truth is that only a small portion of the surrounding fence was thrown down. The Asakusa region has always been fortunate as to the effects of earthquakes. It is probably one of the "special districts" of Tokyo that Professor Milne's researches have proved to exist.

The seismic instruments at the Central Observatory and elsewhere showed themselves virtually useless, as they always do in times of serious shocks. They were thrown completely out of gear, and in some cases broken. Seismologists, of whom Japan has so many, must feel greatly chagrined to find that after all these years of device they have not succeeded in producing instruments capable of doing their work at the moment when they are so needed. It was by comparing the imperfect indications given by the instruments just before they became *hors de combat* that the Central Observatory compiled the report produced yesterday in our columns. It is a satisfaction to learn that the Imperial Palace, the residence of the Empress Dowager at Aoyama, that of the Prince Imperial at Akasaka, and the Hama Detached Palace, were one and all uninjured by the earthquake. In the Cabinet Building a chimney fell and greatly damaged the roof. The plaster of the room in which the Ministers of State were at the moment holding a conference, was shaken to the floor, but no further damage was inflicted. The chimney above the office of the Privy Council also gave way. The tiles on the roof of the Foreign Office were mostly displaced, while the chimneys were twisted and are now in a most unsafe condition. The residence of Mr. Go, a private secretary of the Minister, situated within the premises of the Department, sustained much injury. A falling chimney broke through the roof, leaving the upper rooms exposed. The whole building was so greatly damaged that it is considered no longer habitable, and the inmates have had to move elsewhere. The official residences of Mr. Nakada, a Private, and of Mr. Sato, a Departmental Secretary, were also damaged considerably, though not so much, as Mr. Go's house. The majority of the chimneys of the Home Department were thrown down, completely destroying a small building at the back of the premises and seriously damaging several other offices. Sato Seibei, a paperhanger, who was at the moment making repairs in the wall of the Library, was severely wounded in several places. He was at once conveyed to his home, but is reported to have died on the way thither. Three clerks, a boy, and a mechanic, who were on the premises at the time, were all wounded, though not very badly. In the Finance Department, a clerk of the Bureau of Accounts in the upper floor attempted to gain the ground by means of a ladder which stood leaning against the wall. The ladder was overthrown and the clerk sustained dangerous internal injuries from his fall. A boy was also badly hurt by some falling *débris* while springing from the upper story. Both were at once taken to the Junten-do, Dr. Sato's hospital, but the clerk will probably succumb to his injuries. In the Naval and War Departments, as well as in the Departments of Justice, Education, Agriculture and Commerce, and Communications, damages varying in magnitude were sustained, the Naval Department suffering most and the *Noshomusho* least, the latter being new and most substantially built. In the former Department a fireman was hurt by falling tiles; in the Department of Justice two clerks suffered in the same manner; in the *Teishinsho* a clerk rashly leaped from a height to the ground, receiving a dangerous wound, while two or three other officials were slightly injured.

With regard to the Akasaka barracks catastrophe, Lieutenant Kamiyo—the scion of some noble house, to judge by his patronymic—two privates and one merchant received mortal wounds in the manner described in our issue of yesterday. Nine other soldiers sustained injuries of a less dangerous nature. In the case of the Imperial Hotel and Tokyo Hotel

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

it is now reported that the calamity did not extend beyond severe injury of the buildings; fortunately no one received a wound. In Kyobashi District, besides the deplorable accident to a teacher of the Rikkyo Gakko, two fatal and five serious cases were reported at a bath house in Moto Hatchobori; an artisan was also dangerously wounded by the bricks falling from the fractured wall of the Koseikan. The chimney of the Tokyo Tsukiji Type Foundry fell, inflicting severe injuries on one of the employés. The residence of Mr Fukuzawa Yukichi, in Mita, suffered considerably. The roofs of a number of godowns and private dwelling in that part of the city were entirely demolished, though without any particular injury to the inmates. As for the Koishikawa Arsenal, we regret to say that the catastrophe was not confined to the buildings only, as one mechanic was killed on the spot and three others badly hurt. Upon the first shock, the workmen were so terrified that those in the second floor made an attempt to leap to the ground. In so doing the foot of one man became entangled in the telegraph wires whence he was precipitated to the ground, fracturing his skull and expiring immediately. Another was badly wounded about the knees and legs by striking against some sharp granite blocks that were unfortunately lying about. He fell insensible and was afterwards taken to an adjacent hospital. Only two casualities occurred in Hongo District, both of minor importance. In Asakusa a girl of twelve years, living in Hatago Cho, sustained possibly fatal injuries; while in Yanagimachi the child of Mr. Ito Yonekichi was severely hurt and his maidservant instantly killed by falling tiles and bricks. The death of two men in Fukagawa was caused by the collapse of some warehouses belonging to the Warehousing Company; one other man was also dangerously wounded. An unknown man was crushed to death in Kiyomizu Cho, a lot of *dèbris* falling atop of him. In Shitaya, Azabu, Yotsuya, and Ushigome the damage done was confined to buildings, no severe or fatal cases of injury having been reported up to yesterday evening. In Honjo, the district of the fire, two persons were hurt, as well as four others in Nihonbashi. None of these cases are serious. The fire caused by the ignition of petroleum at Oshima-mura, did not spread to the neighbourhood. There being no houses in the immediate vicinity of the Oil Factory, the fire died out gradually of its own accord, after having completely consumed the oil in stock and the building. It is reported—though with what correctness we do not know—that ten thousand, some say one hundred thousand, cases of oil were destroyed.

Just as we go to press, we receive news of several additional disasters that accompanied the earthquake. A teacher of the Kyoritsu Joshi Shokugyo Gakko in Kanda, who had been in Nagoya at the time of the great earthquake of a few years ago and narrowly escaped death, sprang from an upper window in an access of fright. He alighted on his head and was instantly killed. The Kinjo (not Kirigo, as misprinted in our yesterday's issue) Gakko has been pronounced unsafe throughout and this fine building will probably have to be pulled down. A house in Misakicho fell to the ground about an hour after the earthquake was over; it had been forced out of the perpendicular and was deserted by the inmates before it collapsed. A workman on the canal near Koishikawa-bashi it said to have been severely injured about the head by falling bricks. Several of the metropolitan bridges were cracked or otherwise injured, and one has since been condemned. The whole city is in a state of anxiety and expectancy, for it is predicted by certain merciless diviners that another and still worse shock is at hand. But no grounds whatever exist for such a conjecture.

The Electric Light Works in Tokyo were thrown out of gear and the city remains to this moment without its usual supply of light.

DAMAGE IN THE RURAL DIVISIONS.

Nothing serious resulted in the rural divisions of Kanagawa Prefecture with the exception of Tachibana District. At Daishigawara in the latter district a stone wall, measuring nine ft. by thirty *ken*, at the rear of the Heiken Temple, fell bodily. Two girls and one boy, aged between eleven and eight, who were returning home, were crushed by the falling masses, and died almost immediately. Four godowns were badly damaged, and thirty others were cracked. The tiles of three dwellings fell and two out-houses were over thrown. The chimneys of a Brick Factory and the Japan Silk and Cotton Spinning Co. were destroyed. Beyond slight damage at Ofuna Railway station Kamakura District escaped without much shaking. Nothing serious occurred in either Yokosuka, Misaki, Uraga or Nagaura, in Miura District. In Aiko District some damage was sustained in porcelain and lamp shops, but no persons were injured. The shock was strongly felt in Ashiwarashime District, but no injury was done to either life or buildings. Clocks were stopped in Ishigara Kami District, and some residents ran outside their houses. Yurugi, Koza, and Tsukio Districts remained unaffected by the earthquake.

THE ORIGIN.

The origin of the earthquake is located by Professor Wada Ishiro at a point in the neighbourhood of Shirane-san and Asama-yama in Shinano. He considers that the phenomenon was volcanic, but upon what grounds this estimate of place and nature are based, we do not learn. It seems to be generally agreed that, so far as the severity of the shock was concerned, neither the great earthquake of Ansei, that laid Tokyo in ruins, nor the calamity of 1891 that wrought such havoc in Gifu and Owari, was of equal intensity. The earth movements on the present occasion were the most violent of all, but happily their comparatively short duration averted results of wholesale disaster. It is, indeed, diffiult to understand how any buildings could withstand such twisting and heaving. A practical illustration is afforded by the experience of a Tokyo resident. His family happened to be divided into two parties at the moment of the shock, one below stairs, the other in a distant part of the second storey, a long way off. Being himself downstairs, he proceeded to ascend to the second storey, after seeing the inmates of the lower storey escape into the garden. But so violent was the oscillation that he found himself obliged to cling to the banisters in order to ascend the stairs. How lofty houses and tall chimnies could survive such an ordeal, it is difficult to conceive.

Reports from various places in the interior give an indication of the extent of the area throughout which the shock of the 20th instant was felt. The intelligence runs as follows:—

Shinshu—A violent disturbance was felt simultaneously with that in Tokyo. Plaster was shaken off and fences were overthrown, but no casualties to life or limb occurred. Asama-yama displayed no special activity.

Kanagawa Prefecture—The railway tunnel between Hodogaya and Totsuka was injured so as to become impassable, but the *débris* was quickly removed, and the railway service re-commenced from 5 p.m. the same afternoon. Fissures were formed in the ground at various places. In the Daishigawara Division there were three deaths, and some persons were wounded.

Mayebashi—The localities in the south of the prefecture suffered most. Godowns lost the plaster off their walls, and numbers of stone walls were injured.

Kofu—A violent shock was felt at 2.05 p.m. Plaster and fences suffered considerably, but no injury was done to life or limb.

Yokosuka—The shock was felt severely, but neither persons nor cattle were injured.

Fukushima—An earthquake was felt, but its intensity did not attain considerable dimensions.

Niigata—A slight earthquake occurred, but there were no casualties.

Utsunomiya—Three shocks of earthquake were experienced on the 20th instant. That at 2.05 in the afternoon was the most severe. People being all out of doors at the time, no casualties to life or limb occurred, and considering the extent of the area shaken the record of injuries is slight.

Shizuoka—A strong shock was felt at 2 p.m. There were no casualties, nor were any serious damages suffered.

Nagoya—An earthquake was felt at 2.05 p.m. on the 20th instant, but it did no damage.

THE OBSERVATORY REPORT.

It has been already reported that the seismographs in the capital proved themselves unequal to the occasion, so that no trustworthy record could be obtained. The *Official Gazette*, however, publishes the following figures, furnished by the College of Science of the Imperial University:—

Time of first tremor	2h. 2m. 30s. p.m.
Duration of disturbance	4 minutes 30 seconds,
Maximum Horizontal Motion	80 millimeters per second.
Period of Oscillation	2 seconds (approximately.)
Maximum Vertical Motion	10 millimeters per second.

The shock set in with gentle tremors, but rapidly developed in intensity, and after an interval of 10 seconds the maximum horizontal motion of 80 millimeters was developed.

It will be convenient to record here the report of the Central Observatory, reducing it to the same units:—

Time of first tremor	2h. 4m. 10s. p.m.
Duration of disturbance	4 minutes 48 sec.
Maximum horizontal motion	59 millimeters per second.
Maximum vertical motion	18 millimeters per second.

The Kanda Hitotsubashi Observatory has published the following:—

Maximum horizontal motion	130 millimeters per second.
Maximum vertical motion	45 millimeters per second.
Duration	5 minutes.
Period of vibration	1m. 30 sec. (approximately.)

It does not of course follow that the discrepancies in the above records are attributable entirely to errors of observation or defects of instruments. The same earthquake produces effects of very varying intensity in different quarters of Tokyo. The Hitotsubashi Observatory is situated in a low-lying part of the city, whereas the observatory of the University stands on comparatively high, firm ground. The records obtained at the former would naturally show more striking results than those obtained at the latter.

It is interesting to know what comparison exists between this earthquake, as felt in Tokyo, and the Ai-Gi shock of 1891. The experts of the Imperial University tell us, with reference to this, that whereas the maximum accelerated motion—which is derived mathematically from the maximum horizontal velocity, the periodic time and other factors, and which is taken as representing the destructive effect—on the 20th instant was from 400 to 500 millimeters per second, the corresponding figure for the Ai-Gi earthquake is supposed to have been from 3,000 to 8,000 millimeters. On the other hand, the Hitotsubashi experts, who claim to be equipped with a special instrument for measuring severe shocks, say that whereas the maximum horizontal motion probably reached as high as 260 millimeters per second at the centre of the Ai-Gi disturbance, it reached only 130 millimeters, or one half, on the recent occasion in Tokyo. We may add that during the earthquake of 1880, which wrought such havoc in Yokohama and which is held by some of the residents to have been even more severe than that on the 20th instant, the maximum horizontal motion was put at 50 millimeters. Considering that the figures given for the Ai-Gi shock were, in great part, conjectural, and that their calculators must have been appreciably influenced by the visible effects of the shock; and considering also that in all these extraordinary cases the records obtained from instruments whose extreme capacity for trustworthy indication is wholly overtaxed, must be a matter of hypothesis, we can not see that any valuable comparison is possible. The Ai-Gi earthquake is supposed to have continued during 12 minutes. That of the 20th instant did not exceed 5 minutes, at the outside, and there were only two shocks of great violence.' No doubt can be entertained that if the disturbance had continued a little longer, one half of the city must must have been laid in ruins.

A remarkable feature of this earthquake was the virtually solitary character of the disturbance. It has hitherto been a rule, almost without exception in Japan, that every large and destructive earthquake has been succeeded by a long series of minor disturbances. On the occasion of Ai-Gi phenomenon, no less than 19 shocks were registered at the Central Observatory in Tokyo, between sunset on the 27th of September and 3 p.m. on the 28th, the chief shock occurring between 6 and 7 a.m. on the 28th. Thenceforth during days and weeks, the unhappy people in Aichi and Gifu were perpetually shaken, so that the total number of earthquakes reached into the thousands. But the phenomenon of the 20th instant was preceded by only one slight shock, 9 hours earlier, and succeeded by only three during the next 3 days. Thus, if precedents be at all trustworthy, the fears ventilated by some alarmists that another shock, or series of shocks, may be expected, seem quite unwarrantable.

It is not yet possible to form a clear idea of the area of disturbance, but we may safely assert that it is far less extensive than was the area shaken in 1891. On the latter occasion brick buildings were affected through a region measuring 4,400 square miles, and the disturbance was felt from Sendai in the north to Nagasaki in the South. But on the 20th instant the disturbance does not seem to have made itself seriously perceptible farther north than Utsunomiya and Mayebashi, or farther south than Shizuoka and Numazu. The centre, however, happened to be in Tokyo, or very near Tokyo, and of course the injury to life and property was corresponding great.

EARTHQUAKE ITEMS.

We are glad to learn that the damage done to the office of the *Eastern World* is limited to the tops of the chimneys and to half-a-dozen tiles from the side of the house; nothing was damaged inside the building. Owing to the fissures in the chimney-stacks, however, the proprietor deemed it advisable to rope off the house at once and to place danger signals all around.

Travellers on the Tokyo-Yokohama railway state that the shock of the earthquake resembled that of a train coming into collision with another, while the noise was very loud.

The injured women rescued from Messrs. Wilson & Co.'s godown are, we are glad to state, on

the road to recovery, the patients having passed a good night. No news of further injuries to life or limb have been received.

Among the worst damaged houses on the Bluff are those belonging to Mr. Fraser, Mr. Lowder, and Mr. Jackson. Mr. Lowder's loss is very serious, many articles of *vertu*, the accumulation of years, have been destroyed: in most cases they are unreplaceable.

Mrs. W. T. Payne, we regret to learn, was badly injured when the chimney of her house came crushing through the roof, but is progressing favourably.

The following return is published by the *Official Gazette*:—

TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES FROM THE LOCALITIES.

District.	Time.	Intensity.
Yokosuka	2° 4′ 20″ p.m.	Strong.
Numazu	2° 3′ 25″ p.m.	Strong.
Utsunomiya	2° 4′ 10″ p.m.	Strong.
Mayebashi	2° 5′ 0 p.m.	Strong; clocks stopped.
Kofu	2° 3′ 0 p.m.	Strong; clocks stopped.
Choshi	2° 4′ 0 p.m.	Weak.
Nagoya	2° 4′ 44″ p.m.	Weak.
Gifu	2° 4′ 28″ p.m.	Weak.
Osaka	2° 4′ 0″ p.m.	Weak; clocks stopped.
Hikone	2° 1′ 27″ p.m.	Weak.
Fukushima	2° 4′ 27″ p.m.	Weak.
Aomori	2° 6′ 0″ p.m.	Feeble.
Sakaye	2° 7′ 0″ p.m.	Feeble.

The following is a return of the damage in Kanagawa Prefecture caused by the recent great earthquake:—Persons killed, 6; persons severely injured, 8; persons slightly injured, 27; houses damaged, 127; godowns damaged, 98; chimneys fractured, 67; other buildings damaged, 13; breaches in Waterworks, 4; fissures in soil, 2; stone-walls destroyed, 5; landships, 19, and embankment broken, one.

The *jinrikisha* man at the Italian Consulate, at one time reported dead, is, we learn, still lingering on, though little hopes are entertained of his recovery. Dr. Rokkaku performed the operation of trephining with the object of saving the man's life, but he can not yet speak decisively upon the result.

The following list of the casualties caused in Tokyo by the earthquake has been published by the Police:—

	Killed.	Wounded.	Horses killed.	Horses wounded.	Dwelling houses injured.	Non-dwelling houses injured.	Fenceso'thrown and plaster shaken down.	Stone lanterns overthrown.	Stone walls thrown down.	Sewers destroyed.	Grounds fissured.	Chimnies o't.
							places.					places.
Shiba	2	6	...	...	166	187	38	20	27	...	38	10
Kanda	1	14	...	...	285	...	...	4	...	...	...	10
Hongo	...	6	...	...	22	67	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shitaya	...	3	...	...	61	56	4	207	...	...	1	6
Honjyo	...	3	...	...	8	71	...	...	...	...	...	22
Kojimachi	2	20	1	1	211	207	32	...	4	2	4	...
Yotsuya	...	...	...	...	9	39	...	...	...	...	3	...
Akasaka	5	12	...	...	152	...	15	13	...	...	16	...
Asakusa	1	6	...	...	20	75	3	18	1	...	...	3
Azabu	...	3	...	...	68	207	15	...	...	...	2	21
Nihombashi	...	8	...	...	396	463	16	...	...	...	3	1
Kyobashi	1	29	...	...	92	305	16	...	5	...	...	44
Ushigome	...	...	...	...	12	50	7	100	1	...	...	...
Koishikawa	1	2	...	...	26	56	4	93	...	...	...	20
Fukagawa	9	36	...	...	53	221	10	...	1	1	3	29
Shinagawa	...	...	...	...	59	34	...	...	...	...	...	15
Shinjiku	...	...	...	...	25	19	...	...	1	...	3	5
Itabashi	...	...	...	...	6	10	1	...	...	...	...	5
Senju	...	3	...	...	70	26	...	89	...	...	20	7
Komatsugawa	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	3	11
Water Police Report	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Total	24	142	1	1	1,646	1,956	162	544	31	3	96	189

CRICKET.

YOKOHAMA VERSUS THE FLEET.

The clouds of dust which floated over the Cricket-ground on Saturday afternoon made matters very unpleasant for the players in the match—Yokohama *v.* The Fleet. Neither side put in their strongest team but some good play was seen during the match, which ended in favour of the Yokohama XI. by 72 runs. Kenyon captained the home team and winning the toss sent in Crawford and Mollison, Powlett and Penny having charge of the bowling. The opening was rather disastrous, Mollison, after making a couple of runs, being clean bowled by Penny. Kenyon shared the same fate, and Libeaud, who followed, put up a ball which the bowler held. Crawford meanwhile had been hitting freely and the score now stood at 36. Upon Walford joining, runs came quickly, until at 62 Crawford was caught and bowled by Penny. His contribution, 41, included four 4's, and only one chance given. The vacancy was filled by E. R. Morriss, and he opened with a four. Two fours were then made by Walford successively, and at 79 Powlett retired from the bowling, his place being taken by Fergusson. Still runs came freely despite the brilliant fielding of Compton at square leg and mid-on. Shortly after half-past two the century was hoisted, and no change had been effected in the character of the game. A change of bowlers was tried and eventually Oldham, who had relieved Powlett, *vice* Fergusson, sent down a ball to Walford which the latter skied. It was easily held by Compton and the batsman retired with the best score of the day, 54, which included a five and four fours. Mair then went in and soon lost E. R. Morriss, who was caught at long-slip after an innings resulting in 43 runs. The next man, Garfit, succeeded in adding seven, when he was given out leg-before. Hunt succeeded and broke his duck; then Penny scattered his bails. P. Morriss, who followed, had a short life, being caught by Oldham from the last ball of the over which had brought about Hunt's dismissal. The last man in, Kenney, made things lively from the commencement and soon got into double figures, but after compiling 23 was smartly caught by Compton. The whole side was out for 189.

It was about four o'clock when the Navy went in, Penny and Wilson facing the bowling of Mollison and Libeaud. Thirty-nine had been telegraphed ere the partnership was broken, Penny being the man to go. His contribution was composed of singles. At this point E. R. Morriss took over the bowling from Libeaud, and the batsmen began to play more warily. It did not avail much, however, as Compton was easily caught at point by Crawford before placing anything to his credit, and Powlett, who filled the vacancy, was likewise held by Kenyon, after knocking up seven. Oldham had made eight when Morriss bowled him—four for 66. Martin went in to bat, and Walford took over the bowling at the Pavilion end. The new bat opened with a 2 and then was dismissed by Morriss with a slow ball. Mollison next caught Wilson neatly behind the wickets. This bat's 42 contained six 4's. Two only had been added to the score by Fergusson, the newcomer, when Crawford caught him out from a neat ball of Walford's. Blount, who followed, distinguished himself among his fellows by some very effective hits to leg and made 22 before being caught by Crawford. The other men did very little, however, and the score closed for 117. Having to follow on the Naval men went in again and knocked up 76 for one wicket. Scores:—

YOKOHAMA (KENYON'S ELEVEN).

Mr. K. F. Crawford, c. and b. Penny	41
Mr. J. P. Mollison, b. Penny	2
Mr. E. O. Kenyon, b. Penny	2
Mr. Libeaud, c. and b. Penny	4
Mr. A. B. Walford, c. Blount, b. Oldham	53
Mr. E. R. Morriss, c. Solfleet, b. Oldham	43
Mr. H. R. Mair, not out	4
Mr. Garfit, l.b.w., b. Blount	7
Mr. Hunt, b. Penny	1
Mr. P. Morriss, c. Oldham, b. Penny	23
b. 8, w. 1	9
	189

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	M.	R.	W.	W.
Mr. Powlett	110	4	54	0	—
Mr. Penny	43	4	61	7	—
Mr. Fergusson	53	3	32	0	—
Mr. Oldham	25	0	8	2	1
Mr. Blount	32	2	14	1	—

THE FLEET.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Mr. Penny, b. Mollison	11	not out 44
Mr. Wilson, c. Mollison, b. Walford	42	
Mr. Compton, c. Crawford, b. Mollison	0	
Mr. Powlett, c. Kenyon, b. Morriss.	7	c. Mollison, b. Libeaud 21
Mr. Oldham, b. E. Morriss	8	not out 10
Mr. Martin, b. E. Morriss	2	
Mr. Noble, c. Mair, b. E. Morriss	16	
Mr. Fergusson, c. Crawford, b. Walford	2	
Mr. Blount, c. Crawford, b. Libeaud	22	
Mr. Walker, c. Garfit, b. Libeaud	0	
Mr. Solfleet, not out	3	
b. 3, l.b. 1	4	b. 1 1
	117	76

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	1ST INNINGS. b.	m.	r.	w.	2ND INNINGS. b.	m.	r.	w.
Mr. Mollison	55	1	31	2				
Mr. Libeaud	44	2	20	2	45	0	39	1
Mr. E. Morriss	62	0	47	4	35	0	26	0
Mr. Walford	25	2	13	2				
Mr. Crawford					10	0	10	0

A cricket match was played on the Cricket Ground on Tuesday afternoon, between teams representing H.M.S. *Severn* and *Plover*, versus H.M.S. *Daphne* and *Alacrity*. It resulted in a win for the *Daphne* and *Alacrity* by 35 runs.

"SEVERN" AND "PLOVER."

Mr. Chappell, b. Pike	0
Mr. Huston, b. Pike	6
Mr. Jack, b. Pike	5
Mr. Penny, c. Hailes, b. Lock	3
Mr. Fisher, c. Pike, b. Lock	1
Mr. Parkinson, not out	7
Mr. Williams, b. Pike	0
Mr. Callum, c. Hicks, b. Pike	0
Mr. Smith, b. Pike	0
Mr. Davis, b. Pike	6
Mr. Maeers, b. Atkins	3
Extras	3
Total	34

"DAPHNE" AND "ALACRITY."

Mr. Pike, st. Davis, b. Parkinson	10
Mr. Atkins, c. Stevens, b. Callum	0
Mr. Hailes, b. Callum	6
Mr. Ricketts, c. Callum, b. Parkinson	0
Mr. Hicks, b. Callum	0
Mr. Pegler, not out	25
Mr. Stevens, c. Huston, b. Parkinson	22
Mr. Kingsley, b. Chappell	3
Mr. Morris, b. Callum	0
Mr. Lock, b. Penny	13
Mr. Forster, b. Callum	8
Extras	2
Total	69

THE "CENTURION" V. THE FLEET.

This match took place on Wednesday and resulted in a decided win for the team of the Flagship. Both sides scored heavily—either the bowling was weak or the batsmen were well on, but if the latter, and there is no want of good men from whom to pick, the Home team will have its work cut out to beat them on Saturday next, when we understand the next match will take place. Following are score and analysis:—

FLEET 10.

Mr. Powlett, b. Blount	83
Dr. Martin, c. Wilson, b. Thring	24
Mr. W. B. Penny, st. Wilson, b. Arbuthnot	37
Mr. A. Oldham, b. Blount	4
Mr. da Costa, c. Wilson, b. Arbuthnot	4
Mr. Fergusson, c. Leatham, b. Harries	16
Mr. Thursby, not out	25
Mr. Grant, b. Arbuthnot	6
Mr. Horsey, c. James, b. Harries	0
Mr. Walker, c. Thring b. Harries	1
B. 9, l.b. 3	12
	202

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.
Lieut. Arbuthnot	150	85	3	3
Dr. Harries	68	32	4	3
Mr. Thring	25	29	—	1
Mr. Blount	80	25	6	2
Mr. Thomas	20	19	—	—

"CENTURION," 11.

Mr. Thring, c. Powlett, b. Fergusson	14
Mr. James, c. Martin, b. Penny	23
Lieut. Arbuthnot, c. Penny, b. Fergusson	79
Dr. Harries, c. Horsey, b. Powlett	54
Mr. Wilson, b. Fergusson	6
Lieut. Leatham, c. Fergusson, b. Penny	25
Mr. Blount, l.b.w., b. Fergusson	35
Mr. Noble, c Grant, b. Powlett	3
Mr. Roffey, run out	27
Mr. Thomas, b. Fergusson	10
Mr. Ricketts, not out	2
b. 10, l.b. 2, w. 4, no b. 2	28
	295

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.B.
Mr. Powlett	135	79	7	2	2
Mr. Fergusson	83	87	1	5	—
Mr. Penny	85	49	2	2	—
Mr. Oldham	20	15	—	—	—
Mr. Da Costa	20	15	—	—	—
Mr. Grant	10	16	—	—	2
Mr. Walker	20	27	—	—	—

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, May 24th.

The June *Harper's Magazine* is to contain an article on "The Japanese Spring" by Alfred Parsons, with 23 illustrations by the author.

Mr. Henry T. Finck is writing a book about Japan, to be published by Chas. Scribner's Sons.

At a recent Unitarian conference in this city, Mr. Kinza M. Hirai read a paper on "The Effect of the Liberal Movement on Theological Study." He has also been participating in the Liberal Congress which closes to-day.

A newspaper clipping says:—The Empress of Japan, who recently celebrated her silver wedding, is not only a very pretty woman but very intellectual, and has great strength and beauty of character.

Nellie Bly's record of 74 days for the trip around the world has been lowered by a Mr. George Griffiths, who, starting from London, accomplished the "circumnavigation," not quite in 60 days, as he hoped, but in 64 days, 11 hours and 20 minutes. He had previously been around the world three times.

The experiment of shipping raw Hawaiian sugar to New York by sailing vessels, instead of refining it and sending it by rail from San Francisco, is now being tried. A Nicaraguan Canal would undoubtedly make the experiment a grand success.

Senator Kyle, Populist from North Dakota, has introduced a resolution to the effect that the U.S. Government ought to pursue a policy of non-intervention in Hawaiian affairs.

The trouble between Brazil and Portugal on account of the latter's intervention in behalf of Admiral da Gama and other insurgents has not yet resulted in war, nor has it yet been settled. All diplomatic relations are still severed.

The demands of the U.S. Government with reference to indemnity for the murder of William Wilson, an American citizen, will probably be satisfied by the Government of Nicaragua. Matters at Bluefields in that state are still in an uncertain condition.

The compromise tariff bill is wriggling along through the Senate, and if it has time enough, may possibly get clear through. An attempt to put ores on the free list received only four votes; but on certain classes of iron the McKinley rates have been restored. Yesterday a motion to lay the tariff bill on the table was defeated by a strict party vote (Populists with the Democrats).

The House of Representatives, by a vote of 109 to 71, has rejected the appropriation for the Civil Service Commission.

Senator Don Caffery, of Louisiana, has been re-elected.

Congressman W. C. Oates is the Democratic candidate for Governor of Alabama; and General D. H. Hastings is the Republican candidate for the same office in Pennsylvania.

The Chicago Election Commissioners who refused to produce certain ballots before the Grand Jury, investigating election frauds, were fined

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$1,000 each by Judge Chetlain. They were to be confined in the county jail until they paid their fines; but were soon released on writs of habeas corpus, taken out before Judges Tuley, Adams, and Sears. When these three judges come together to hear the arguments on the writs, they rendered an unanimous decision that Judge Chetlain had no authority to exact the fines or imprisonment.

The Grand Jury, even without the ballots, has brought indictments against a large number of politicians and policemen, all Democrats.

The industrial armies continue "marching on." Randall's division has passed through Elkhart, Goshen, Milford, Fort Wayne, and Monroeville in Indiana, Van West, and Delphos in Ohio, and are to-day at Lima, Ohio. Sullivan's wing of the same division is at Toledo, Ohio. Frye's division has reached Cincinnati. Wilson and his Montana contingent are still in Minnesota. Several armies with their leaders are in jail for stealing trains; at Helena, Montana, Hogan got six months for that crime; and at Topeka, Kansas, Sanders has thus far tried in vain to get out on a writ of habeas corpus. Kelly's division has floated down the Des Moines River to Keokak, Iowa, and from there to Quincy, Ill. Coxey, Jones, and Browne have been sentenced to twenty days in jail at Washington, D.C. Public sympathy, which for a time was strong on behalf of the "commonwealers," is ebbing; and, in consequence, the armies are experiencing more suffering. It is not at all likely that they will reach Washington in full force; but they will, altogether, be strong enough to cause more or less trouble.

The strikes of the Pullman men and of the miners continue without any signs of abatement. At Pullman everything is orderly; but, at various mines in Illinois the strikers are inclined to be riotous. The conference at Cleveland was unsuccessful in bringing about an agreement between the miners and the coal operators. The Knights of Labour have expelled Powderly and other prominent members for secretly plotting to destroy the order.

Within the last ten or twelve days there has been a series of dreadful casualties. The breaking of a dam at Lima, Montana, devasted a thickly-settled valley. Fire destroyed Dr. Talmage's Tabernacle, the Hotel Regent and many residences near by (loss $2,000,000) in Brooklyn, N.Y.; and, in Boston, swept over the Base-ball Park and adjoining dwellings, rendered 600 families (4,000 persons) homeless, and destroyed $1,000,000 worth of property. Portions of Wisconsin and Minnesota were devastated by floods; and Kunkle, Ohio, was visited by a cyclone which left many killed and injured.

A sudden fall of 50° in the temperature here was followed by a terrific gale, which strewed the western coast of Lake Michigan with wreckage from vessels, and sent, off Chicago alone, ten or more persons into watery graves. All this occurred within sight and hailing distance without the ability to render any assistance. Some would-be rescuers, in fact, lost their own lives.

Following this comes the news of furious floods in Pennsylvania, especially in the valley of the Susquehanna. Johnstown again, Williamsport, Lock Haven, suffered the worst; the loss will exceed $1,500,000. The flood is now ebbing.

The sudden return of severe cold and the late frost must, of course, have damaged the crops; but to what extent has not yet been ascertained.

Almost all the mills of the Northwest report an "improved demand" and an "increased output" of flour. In general business there is no special change.

The Midway Plaisance has had its last building razed to the ground; only the Ferris Wheel now remains.

The "Field Columbian Museum" has been so named by official action of the Board of the Trustees. It will be formally opened to the public on Saturday, June 2. The programme is as follows:—

INVOCATION.

Rev. F. W. Gunsaulus, D.D., President of the Armour Institute.
History of the Museum ..... Frederick J. V. Skiff.

ADDRESS.

Edward G. Mason, President of the Chicago Historical Society:
Formal opening address..... Edward E. Ayer.

International Copyright has been secured between the United States and Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark and Italy. The American League is now working for copyright with Greece, Norway, and Sweden, Spain and Austria. Russia, on account of the press censorship, is considered hopeless.

The Presbyterian General Assembly is in session at Saratoga, New York, The Moderator this year is Dr. S. A. Mutchmore, of Philadelphia. The heresy case of Dr. Henry P. Smith, of Cincinati, comes up to day. The Baptist Anniversaries are also in session at the same place, but are not bothered with any question of heresy. The Young Men's Christian Associations have grown to be a power in the world. The year book for 1894 shows the following among many interesting statistical facts: A total of 1,141 secretaries, assistant secretaries, librarians, and superintendents actually atwork, with 112 vacancies to be filled; the ownership of 291 buildings valued at $15,155,950, with an indebtedness of $3,501,600 upon 208 of the number; other real estate valued at $1,220,310 reported by 106 associations, with debts upon the same amounting to $316,300; 28 endowment funds and 14 library do.; and a total of 776 associations and branches, 697 of which report an aggregate membership of 178,442. The tables contain reports that 45,826 young men's religious meetings were held within the official year, 39,914 of which had a total attendance of 1,974,803; the session of 8,418 Bible classes, 7,773 of which had a total attendance of 112,175; and the holding of 6,767 training class sessions, 6,669 of which had a total attendance of 61,065. This is a big record of Christian work.

ON THE PACIFIC.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

The *Gaelic* left Yokohama, May 4th, unusually well filled with both freight and passengers. The first day out was very rough, with strong head winds, so that the engines were slowed up and some scores of tons of coal that were bagged on deck had to be thrown overboard to lessen the roll of the steamer. Few passengers were visible for two days, and the cabins were a perfect bedlam of dancing trunks, carpet-bags, bundles, and boxes. After that, we struck fine weather, and the 56 passengers with the 13 children were as happy as could be on the deck and in the saloons.

Captain Pearne has been in command of the *Gaelic* in all the 43 trips across the Pacific. The steamer was built mainly for freight, with cabins for about 40 passengers. These cabins up to sixteen are well ventilated and nearer the centre of the ship. Those from sixteen forward were built in afterwards to accommodate the growing passenger lists, and are poorly ventilated but quite endurable.

The passengers may easily be said to be one of the nicest crowds that are found on these steamers. There were many English and American people, with a goodly number of Germans, French, and Russians. They represented mercantile interests, official life, and missions. There were no loud-mouthed complaints, no marked division into cliques and mutual criticisms, no heavy drinking and betting, no cross looks and unkind remarks about the children, but on all sides a natural purpose to do as one would be done by. Friendships can hardly be formed during the few days on the steamer, but acquaintances are made that give mutual pleasure, and that may ripen later on into real friendship.

The mornings were spent largely in reading. One-half of the upper deck was filled with steamer-chairs on which ladies and gentlemen reclined with English, German, and French books for companions or engaging in jolly conversation. In the afternoon all the games known to steamer life were indulged in. The evenings were largely given up to music, generally impromptu, but once with a fixed programme, while one evening was devoted to a full-dress dance and a ten o'clock supper, and another to a mock trial, with a Chinaman for a witness. He did so well that a purse of over $5.00 was given him.

"The missionary question," of course, raised its head, for out of the 56 adults 11 were missionaries. It is natural that on these steamers there should be something of a separation between people of such different social customs as usual travellers and missionaries have. Missionaries as a rule do not smoke, have no wine bill, or a very small one, do not play cards, take no share in a daily pool, keep aloof from dances, and their musical ability is generally limited to sacred music. While they are often more accurately informed on matters concerning the East, their associations are more limited to those of their own class, and hence we may say, without being unjust, they are not often brilliant in conversation and lack perhaps in bright and racy statements that amount to nothing more than making time pass pleasantly. There are reasons enough for a kind of natural division between missionaries and other travellers. But when in addition to these causes there is the too frequent prejudice that exists in all the open ports of the East against missionaries, and a suspicion that they by their hesitation in making social advances are silently sitting in condemnation on others, then it becomes decidedly uncomfortable all round. It was one of the pleasant features of this voyage that no such prejudices came into play. It is true that there was almost no instance of a missionary being approached for the sake of having a friendly talk. He could feel that there was no advance likely to be made from the other side. And so the only thing left him was to go ahead and win if he could. When once the ice was broken—and this was seldom difficult—there was no farther trouble in associating with others. If all voyages across the Pacific were as agreeable as this, there would be less heard of anti-missionary sentiments on the steamers and in the open ports of the East.

With 750 tons of freight to discharge at Honolulu, we fortunately had a whole day and night there. Everything was quiet politically. One or two newspapers that we saw had no kind thoughts towards the Provisional Government and showed a smallness of mind in writing about it as "the P. G." The ablest papers seemed to endorse the present government very heartily. If anything seems settled it is that the ex-Queen will have no farther occasion to sign *Regina* after her name. The only point in which both the Royalists and P.G. are thoroughly at one may be this—that each party seeks for annexation to the U.S.

The city strikes one as a delightful garden with fine broad roads, wide grounds around the tropical dwellings, and charming views. We were met and entertained most hospitably by various ladies and gentlemen, some of whom we had never seen before. We were taken to the foot of Diamond Head, a huge extinct crater, and from thence behind the city to the top of the Bunchbowl, another crater, from which we had a wide view of the harbour and city. The flora is very different from that of Japan. Banyan trees are being planted and they quickly spread immense umbrellas that threaten to take possession of all ground within reach. The fruits are delicious and abundant. And the people—the few scores whom we had the good fortune to meet—look as happy as though they never had known a cross day. Doubtless it was because this was our day off from the steamer and because of the warm welcome so many of us had, that we all said, "It was one of the reddest-letter days we ever had." Yet it seemed to me that, beautiful as is the island city, I should soon feel that I was half imprisoned were I to stay there long.

We have had three Sundays aboard. The first was kept mainly in the Jewish style—literally a day of rest. Nearly everybody abstained even from eating and dressing. The second and third Sundays were kept more in the Christian style, with morning service, afternoon loafing, and ice-cream dinners in the evening.

We reached San Francisco, May 21st. We had heard that sometimes the Custom House officials were exceedingly rude in turning trunks inside out and in requiring duties on even five *sen* articles. But we found them very gentlemanly, and we saw no emptying of any trunks, only a fair look at the general contents. The duties of course are frightfully high on whatever is dutiable, and every package has to be opened. But nothing was unnecessarily unpacked.

HISTORICAL VIGNETTES.

These stories are most of them authentic, being taken from Tachibana-no-Narisuye's famous compliation *Kokon Chobunshū*, or "Ancient and Modern Popular Tales." Tachibana wrote in the Sinico-Japanese colloquial of his day (eight hundred years ago), and the first edition of his works, in twenty volumes, appeared in the sixth year of the period, *Kenchō* (1254 A.D.) The style is extremely difficult to understand; the tales are not written in the elegant *Yamato Kotoba*, or pure Japanese, of the Genji or Heike Monogatari, but in the everyday language of that long-forgotten age, and are, to a modern Japanese, pretty much what Caedmon's rhyming version of the Bible is to the modern Englishman. The *Kokon Chobunshū* has undoubted historic value and is often quoted. It is one of the few compilations that were written in perfect good faith and firm belief in the authenticity of the anecdotes narrated.

Nearly all Tachibana's storiettes were current among the Japanese of his day; and being himself a nobleman of high rank, he had access to sources which were beyond the reach of the average historiographer. He wrote therefore not as a novelist but in a sober strain, as befitted one dealing with unquestioned facts.

The Hakubunkan, some few years ago, published a new edition of the *Kokon Chobunshū, Nippon Bungaku Zensho*, "A Complete Library of Japanese Literature." It is from this edition that our vignettes are drawn.

I.—CALLIGRAPHY.

In the days of Hōjō Tokiyori, while the sem-

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blance of imperial authority rested with the Emperor Gofukakusa (A.D. 1247-1259), a story was current of the famous priest and noted penman Kōbō Daishi.[1] It appears that the Emperor Saga (A.D. 810-823), one of the most famous calligraphers that ever sat upon the throne, was fond of indulging in contests of penmanship with the best writers of his day, and often invited Kōbō Daishi for that purpose to his palace. On one occasion, His Majesty showed the priest all the most renowned scrolls he possessed, and after they had been sufficiently admired, said: "I have one treasure yet that you have not seen. It is a scroll written by an unknown hand, and coming from China." Unrolling the scroll, the Emperor continued, "Look how large and firm the characters are! With what inimitable skill they are traced! Alas, why can not we in this country produce its equal?"

Kōbō Daishi gave a start on first beholding this treasure, and after closely scrutinizing it, replied: "Sire, this was written by myself, during my sojourn in China." "By you!" exclaimed the Emperor, "'tis impossible. Your handwriting is always much smaller and finer and lacks the free and graceful nobility of this rare scroll. No, I cannot believe it, priest though you be." "Permit me, then," returned Kōbō Daishi, "to show Your Majesty the signature traced on the wooden bar (*jiku*) attached to the base?" With these words, the priest deftly unfastened the scroll from the bar and showed the astonished Emperor the following characters, cut rudely in the wood:—This was written by the *shamon* (priest) Kukai,[2] while staying in the temple Seiryu.

"Your pardon for having doubted your word," cried His Majesty; "but tell me how it comes that this is so different from your usual style? Why are the characters so freely and boldly written?" "Sire," replied Kukai, "in Japan I feel myself cramped, the country being so small and freedom so little. But in China everything is vast and open; one is not confined to space. There I could write freely and without a thought of personal discomfort."

"What you say is true," answered the Emperor with an embarrassed sigh. "I confess that neither I nor any other in Japan can write in such a style. We need broader lands and greater freedom to be able to imitate it."[3]

2.—A Skilful Bowyer.

While the Emperor Ichijō was staying at the *Taba-in*, one of the many pleasaunces erected by that great ruler, he was greatly annoyed by the predatory visits of a large *misago*-bird (a sort of sea-eagle), which came regularly every day to a spacious pond in the Imperial garden and stole one or more of the luscious carp (*Koi*) therein. As these fish were intended solely for the use of the Imperial table, and were of unusual size and delicacy of flavour, the Emperor caused his servants do all in their power to drive away the daring thief. The greatest watchfulness, however, proved unable to effect that end. Tired at last of repeated failure, the Emperor sent word to the hall in which the knights forming the Imperial bodyguard were assembled (*musha-dokoro*), and commanded the attendance of some one skilled in the use of the bow. The knight Mutsuru was despatched to the Imperial presence, to whom the Emperor spoke as follows:—"I hear that you are a skilled bowyer and wish to see a specimen of your prowess. There is an eagle that daily flies off with some of the fish in the pond within the palace-grounds. Now I am averse to the useless taking of life. I therefore order you to so speed your arrow that the eagle may be forced to drop his prey and be rendered harmless in future; but you must kill neither the eagle nor the fish in his talons." Bowing low the knight promised to do as he was commanded, and early the following morning hid himself in the reeds that fringed the pond. The Emperor himself stood at a little distance, to see that his order was faithfully obeyed. Presently there was a rush through the air, and a huge bird, flew swiftly over the surface of the placid pool. A downward swoop, a splash, and the feathered marauder soared aloft with a fine carp in his talons. It seemed impossible for an arrow urged by human hands to stop so bold and swift a flight. But just as the great bird was about to disappear in the clouds, a long keen shaft was seen to pass beneath it. The eagle flew on, apparently unharmed, while the fish, still alive, fell on the greensward at the Emperor's feet. Taking up the fish, he found the eagle's talons still fastened in it. Mutsuru's fatal arrow had actually severed the eagle's legs just above the claws, thus killing neither the bird nor its prey, but rendering the eagle harmless for the future.[4]

3.—The Knight and the Badger.

Saito Saemon-no-jo Sukeyasu[5] was once journeying with a small body of retainers through the land of Tamba. It was the winter season and the ground being covered with snow, progress was very slow and laborious. One day, after a long and wearisome march, they reached, just at nightfall, a little temple on the outskirts of a dark wood. No priest was within (mujū-dera), and the place had a very lonely, deserted air. Here the travellers concluded to put up for the night, as there was no village in the immediate neighbourhood. Just as they were about to enter, a belated peasant, happening to pass that way, called out to the knight that the shrine had an evil name and was known to be haunted by a goblin or demon of some sort. He begged the travellers to press on for another *ri*, when they would reach the village in whose parish the temple stood.

Apart from their fatigue, the very hint of an adventure determined the knight and his hardy followers to remain where they were. Saito himself entered the body of the shrine, while his men threw themselves on the porch, and soon most of them were asleep. The knight, however, kept watch within, his hand grasping his trusty blade, on the alert for a surprise.

The night grew darker and darker, and only the regular breathing of the wearied sleepers broke the profound silence of the woods. Suddenly there was a sound as of muttered human speech, and the black shadow of what seemed to be a priest as tall as the eaves, fell on the paper *shoji*, dimly lighted by the reflection of the fallen snow. Saito arose noiselessly and peeped through a hole in the screen. He could distinguish nothing clearly, but there was evidently the outline of a man, standing close by the screen through which the warrior was looking. Pressing warily to get a better glimpse of his goblin-enemy, Saito was surprised to find a hand and then a long, thin, hairy arm pushed through the aperture at him. The knight drew back, but the arm lengthened out and seemed about to clutch his throat. He seized the horrid groping hand; but in an instant it was pulled from his clutch and disappeared. Saito stood motionless, not doubting that the spectral arm would again come to seize him. This it did, but now the knight held it with an iron grasp, so that however prodigious the strength opposed to his the goblin could not free its arm. In the struggle the paper *shoji* was torn from the lintel, and instantly the arm began to dwindle in size till it became smaller than an infant's limb. A squeaking snarling cry was heard, and Saito, exerting his utmost force, pulled up and through the torn screen a huge badger, that vainly tried to loose itself from his mailed hands. By this time some of the retainers were aroused by the scuffle, and came running, spear in hand to the aid of their lord. Saito laughingly showed them his capture; bade them bind it and take it to the nearest village so soon as the day dawned. This done, he lay down to rest, nor was he again disturbed.

In the morning, upon asking for the badger, Saito found that his hungry retainers had killed and eaten it in the night. Only the head was left, and this they carried in triumph to the village pointed out to them the night before. The shrine soon lost its evil name, for no apparition was ever seen there afterwards.

[1] The same to whom a temple is erected at Kawasaki. His festival occurs on the 21st of each month.

[2] The early name of Kōbō Daishi.

[3] Kōbō Daishi has still another claim to the gratitude of his countrymen. It was he who formed the Japanese *Kana* into the rude verse in which they are taught to the present day.

[4] Another marvellous shot of the same Mutsuru is related elsewhere. He let loose an arrow, to which a string was attached, at a stork flying overhead. So skilfully was the arrow aimed that the two wings of the bird were fastened or tied together by the string, and it fell uninjured though incapable of flight, to the ground.

[5] Many are the tales of Saito's bravery and warlike prowess. Though not so great a hero as Watanabe Tsuna or Urabe no Rokuro Suyetaka, he is still a favourite figure in romance and legend.

MAY MEETINGS.

The ninety-fifth annual meeting of the Religious Tract Society was held in Exeter Hall on 4th May. Sir Douglas Fox presided. The Rev. Dr. Green presented the report, which announced a total circulation of 67,590,600 publications for the year, showing a decrease of 3,000,000 but making an aggregate of 3,036,618,060 since 1799. There had been 583 new publications, including 151 tracts, issued during the year. The free income showed an increase of £1,857, amounting to £29,186, and the trade receipts had been £152,576, making, with balances brought forward, a total of £181,764. Book depots, which were also centres of evangelical influence, were maintained in a score of European countries, as well as in China, Japan, and Korea, and other places.

A series of meetings to celebrate the ninety-ninth anniversary of the London Missionary Society was commenced on 5th inst. The first address was given by the Rev. J. Stonehouse, of Peking, China, who enlarged on the teaching given by the missionaries to the children of that Empire. Mr. Stonehouse was followed by several missionaries from various countries, who gave specimens of the different languages by repeating the alphabet and parts of the multiplication table in different tongues, while Mrs. Owen, from China, and others sang hymns in various languages.

The annual report of the London Missionary Society, which now enters its hundredth year, was presented to the members at a meeting in Falcon-square Chapel on 7th inst. It stated with regard to China that the bitter hostility continued; but the Amoy Christians were zealously pressing into a vast unevangelised territory in the interior, and the Hankow Mission, so far from being checked by the murder of the Swedish missionaries, had settled two of its number in a region which not many years ago could not even be visited.

Under the presidency of Dr. Barrett, the annual business meeting of the Congregational Union was commenced on 7th inst. at the Memorial Hall. Reports were presented giving the customary retrospect of work in various departments. The Rev. Urijah Thomas, of Bristol, was elected chairman for next year. Resolutions passed included one taking exception to the action of the clerical majority on the London School Board, and another expressing regret at the retirement of Mr. Gladstone. On the latter, Dr. Barrett spoke of Mr. Gladstone's great services to the nation, and said that they recognised not only the splendour of his genius and the opulence of his gifts, but the character of the man.

The annual report of the National Bible Society of Scotland for the year 1893 gives some interesting particulars of the work carried on by this agency in China and Japan. The total number of Bibles issued in China was 106, Testaments 8,294, portions 251,097, or in all a total issue of 259,497. There are eight agents of the Society in different parts of China, and ninety-two native colporteurs. The main features in a year of remarkable progress in China have been the issue by the Society for the first time in the history of Missions of an edition of one of the Gospels with brief marginal explanations, intended to make the meaning of the sacred words clear to the untrained "heathen" reader; the publication of a large-type Mandarin Reference Testament, and the experimental issue of a Gospel with illustrations. The circulation is almost the largest on record, and is marked by a great increase in the number of New Testaments issued—upwards of 5,000 more than in the previous year. The Sungpu outrage is referred to, and in dwelling on the fact that no real attempt has been made by the Chinese authorities to bring the murderers to justice the report adds:—The Board deprecates anything like a cry for vengeance; but it would be cruel kindness not only to European residents in China, but to China herself, were the baser sort still encouraged to suppose that violations of international good faith and acts of treacherous cruelty can be committed with impunity, or condoned for a monetary consideration. In Japan the Society's share of circulation was 7,567 copies. The number of colporteurs is about seventy. As tending to hinder rapid progress in the work in Japan the report refers to certain of the social and religious conditions of the year. The time is one of transition and reconstruction; political excitement still affects every form of Christian effort; extreme nationalism continues to be a disturbing factor; while recent theological discussions in the West have tended to weaken, in some minds, the claim of Christianity to be accepted as the one universal faith. On the other side, they are encouraged by the despondent admission of Buddhist writers that it is idle to attempt to resist on such grounds the incoming tide of Christianity; as also by the increased hopefulness of the native church, and the success which has attended its new evangelistic efforts. Perhaps the most interesting item in the year's work in Japan is the printing of the Epistles to the Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians in Ainu for the people of the north island. The Board have received a cordial acknowledgment from the Permanent Bible Committee of Korea of the assistance given by the Society in common with the Rev. John Ross and the British and Foreign Bible Society in the publication of Mr. Ross's version of the New Testament in Korean—which "version has been of great assistance" to the Committee.

The annual meeting of the London Missionary Society was held in Exeter-hall on 10th inst. Mr. A. Hubbard, who presided, said that three years ago it was decided to send out 100 new missionaries before the society's centenary, next year, and sixty-seven had already gone. The forward movement had been a great success in all respects except the financial. A resolution pledging

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the meeting to support the forward movement was moved by the Rev. M. Phillips, of Madras, seconded by Professor Armitage, of the Yorkshire College, and carried. The meeting was also addressed by Mrs. Owen, of Wu-Chang, and the Rev. Yung-King Yen, of the Church Missionary Society, Shanghai.—*L. and C. Express.*

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The local Chess Clubs are closed until the beginning of October.

Solution of Problem No. 126.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to K B 5	1—Any
2—Mates accordingly.	

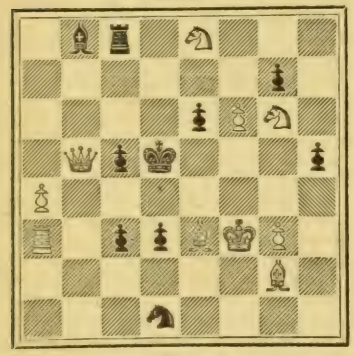
Correct solutions received from Omega, Digamma, W.H.S., and J.D.

Erratum.—The solution given last week was that of Problem No. 125, not No. 124.

Problem No. 128.

By C. Planck, M.A.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Steinitz-Lasker.

We print below the seventeenth game which was won by Steinitz: thus making the score—Lasker 9, Steinitz 5, Drawn 3.

Lasker seemed determined to force the fighting and if possible win the game, which would give him the victory in the present match. He opened with the Giuoco Piano but the veteran outplayed him at this old gambit; and after an interesting middle game (in which the champion made strong headway while Lasker was getting his King over to the Q side) won a good game in fine style.

Telegrams from Montreal to Vancouver exchanges announce that the great match was finished during the last week of May: and the forecast mentioned in our issue of 2nd June became *fait accompli*. Lasker won the match and the championship; and there is already talk of a second contest between the players, some enthusiastic backers of the veteran being ready to confide in him again. The eighteenth game was a draw; and the nineteenth game, won by Lasker, brought the contest to a close. The final score was Lasker 10, Steinitz 5, Drawn 4.

Game No. 133.

(SEVENTEENTH-GAME—GIUOCO PIANO.)

WHITE. Lasker.	BLACK. Steinitz.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to B 4	3—B to B 4
4—P to Q 3	4—Kt to B 3
5—Kt to B 3	5—P to Q 3
6—B to K 3	6—B to Kt 3
7—Q to Q 2	7—Kt to Q R 4
8—B to Kt 5 ch.	8—P to B 3
9—B to Q R 4	9—B × B
10—P × B	10—P to Q Kt 4
11—B to Kt 3	11—Q to Kt 3
12—Castles (K R)	12—Kt to Kt 5
13—Q R to K sq.	13—P to K B 3
14—P to K R 3	14—Kt to R 3
15—Kt to K 2	15—Kt × B
16—R P × Kt	16—Castles
17—Kt to Kt 3	17—P to Q R 4
18—P to Q 4	18—Kt to B 2
19—Q to B 2	19—R to R 2
20—R to Q sq.	20—P to Q R 5
21—P to Kt 4	21—Q to B 2
22—Kt to K sq.	22—P to Q B 4
23—Q to Q 2	23—B to K 3
24—P to Q 5	24—B to Q 2
25—R to R sq.	25—P × P
26—Q × P	26—R to Q B sq.
27—Q to Q 2	27—Q to B 5
28—R to B 2	28—Kt to Kt 4
29—Q to Q 3	29—Q R to B 2
30—P to R 4	30—Kt to B 2
31—Q × Q	31—R × Q
32—R to Q 2	32—P to Kt 3
33—K to B 2	33—Kt to Q sq.
34—P to Q Kt 3	34—R (B 5) to B 2
35—R (Q 2) to Q sq.	35—Kt to Kt 2
36—K R to Kt sq.	36—K to B 2
37—K to K 2	37—R to Q R sq.
38—K to Q 2	38—Kt to R 4
39—K to Q 3	39—P to K R 4
40—R to Q R 2	40—R (R sq.) to R 2
41—P to Kt 4	41—Kt to B 5
42—Kt to B 3	42—R (R 2) to R sq.
43—Kt to Q 2	43—Kt to Kt 3
44—R to K B sq.	44—R (R sq.) to Q B sq.
45—Kt to Kt sq.	45—K to K 2
46—P to B 3	46—Kt to B 5
47—R (R 2) to K B 2	47—Kt to R 6
48—Kt to K 2	48—Kt × Kt
49—R × Kt	49—B to Kt 5
50—R to Q B sq.	50—R to B 5
51—R to B 2	51—P to B 4
52—Resigns.	

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter "Special" to "Japan Mail."]

London, June 16.

The death is announced of Lord Chief Justice Coleridge.

The House of Lords have rejected the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill by a vote of 129 to 120; Wales (the Prince of?) voted in the minority.

London, June 19.

The Powers have unitedly recognised Abdul Aziz as the new Sultan of Morocco. H.M. ironclads *Sanspareil*, *Howe*, and *Spartan* have been ordered to Tetuan.

London, June 19.

The British Ironclads (sent to Morocco) are ordered to cruise off Gibraltar.

Active negotiations are proceeding in Brussels, London, Paris, and Berlin relative to the Congo Treaty. Great Britain and Belgium are both desirous of conciliating the Powers.

London, June 21.

It is understood that Great Britain in order to appease Germany, abandons the Clause in the Congo Treaty referring to the Tanganyika strip, Germany conceding the Peloneria strip.

The Czarewitch has arrived in London.

["Special" Telegram to "Japan Mail."]

Nagasaki, June 22, 4.10 p.m.

The German steamer *Kiel* has arrived from Hongkong and been quarantined for four days owing to a doubtful case of sickness aboard.

[Specially telegraphed to the "Japan Mail" from the "N.-C. Daily News."]

London, June 8.

During the debate in the French Chamber upon African affairs, M. Hanotaux stated that France regarded the Anglo-Congo Convention as null and void and had intimated the same to London and Brussels. Turkey and Germany had likewise protested against the convention, and Great Britain had intimated its willingness to discuss the matter. France was sending troops to maintain her rights in the Ubanghi region.

June 10.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Sir Edward Grey stated that Germany had asked for assurances that the lease of the road to Tanganyika did not affect the existing frontier or German rights under the Convention of 1884. Complete assurances had been given on both points.

June 11.

The French Chamber has adopted a special credit of £72,000 sterling to reinforce the French posts on the Ubanghi river and to build torpedo boats for the river Congo.

June 12.

The Cab strike in London is ended.

The Sultan of Morocco, Muley Hassan, is dead. Troubles are feared in the country and the presence of foreign warships is demanded.

The Hungarian political crisis has been settled, the Emperor Francis Joseph having charged M. Wekerle, the premier, to reform the Cabinet.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Sir Edward Grey said the Government had intimated to France its readiness to enter upon a general discussion of African questions for the purpose of placing the relations of the two countries upon a better footing.

June 13.

A French squadron has left Toulon. It is believed that this fleet is bound to Tangier. The Spanish and Italian ironclads have been ordered to Tangier.

The Siamese Minister has assured the French Government that Siam wishes to protect French rights.

Ladas has been scratched out of all his races at Ascot.

June 14.

A British gunboat has gone to Tangier. The Spanish and French press are much excited over the Morocco question, the French being inclined to strongly mistrust Great Britain. The French papers declare that France should, on no account, permit the British to land at Tangier.

The Khedive will probably abandon his visit to London and Paris owing to the opposition of the Sultan.

June 15.

The European Powers, with the exception of Germany, have agreed to adopt a common action with regard to Morocco.

Speaking at a banquet given at the Trinity House, Lord Rosebery stated that the policy of England was a policy of peace and defence. The present great European armaments tend to preserve peace, his Lordship continued, owing to the awful responsibilities devolving upon those directing them.

In the House of Commons, Sir Ed. Grey announced that Germany contends that a clause in the Congo Treaty regarding the lease of a strip of land between Lakes Tanganyika and Albert Edward requires the sanction of Germany.

(From Japanese Papers.)

Ninsen, June 18.

A detachment of Japanese troops arrived here on the 15th, but owing to bad weather the men were not disembarked till the following day. They have been billeted in the houses of Japanese residents.

Fusan, June 17.

A detachment of Japanese soldiers arrived here to-day in the *Higo Maru*.

Osaka, June 18.

A man (22) succumbed to cholera in Nishinari-gun on the 16th, and a youth (17) was attacked by the malady in the same district the following day.

Mr. Konishi Zenbei, of Shimizucho, Minamiku, has applied for permission to subscribe money towards the national expenses arising from the Korean trouble.

Shanghai, June 18.

The Gishu telegraph line, which was interrupted between Heiji and Gishu, has been reopened.

Shimonoseki, June 18.

The *Mikawa Maru* proceeded to Ujina to-day. The *Tsukushi Maru* coaled and left for Ninsen this morning.

Nemuro, June 18.

The *Iwaki Kan* left for Shumushuru to-day. An employé of the Hokkaido Administrative Board, a clerk of the Nemuro Post Office, a reporter of the *Nemuro Shimbun* and the father of Lieutenant Gunji were on board the ship.

Kumamoto, June 19.

A man residing at Kawaguchi-mura, Ihokugun, is reported to have been attacked by a strange disease. Rumour says that the malady is the pest, but nothing definite can be learned at present.

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Nagasaki, June 19.

Rumour says that seven Chinese men-of-war will shortly arrive here.

Chiba, June 19.

Owing to the continued hot weather the rice fields are drying up and great anxiety prevails among the farmers.

Otsu, June 19.

In consequence of the intense heat, which has continued for some twenty days, the farmers are prevented from planting rice. Much trouble is experienced.

Tokushima, June 19.

The severe heat is causing great inconvenience in the planting of rice.

Shimonoseki, June 19.

The *Hyogo Maru* arrived here from Ninsen to-day, and is now coaling. It has not been accertained whether she will leave for Korea or Ujina. The *Hyogo* as well as seven or eight other transports, escorted by the *Yoshino Maru*, left Hiroshima on the 11th and put into Ninsen on the 15th. There were then six or seven Japanese and five or six Chinese war vessels in that port. She finished landing arms and ammunition the following day.

One staff officer arrived here in the *Hyogo Maru*, and at once left for Tokyo. It is said that the *Yamashiro Maru* and *Omi Maru* will leave for Yokosuka.

Osaka, June 20.

Ninsen dispatches state that Chinese troops are exchanging signals between A-san and Ten-an, a distance of six *ri*, by means of semaphores. The Chinese soldiers are guarding all the important roads in Chin, Sei, and Ko Provinces, thus preventing the entrance of the *Togaku-to* men to the capital.

All the sailors of various men-of-war staying at Ninsen are ordered to keep aboard their ships.

Fusan, June 20.

A rumour is current to the effect that ten thousand Chinese soldiers will enter Söul from Gi-shiu.

Five Chinese war ships are saying near Gunzan, in Zenra Province.

Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister, has refused to accept the request of the Chinese Minister and the Korean Government to withdraw the Japanese troops.

Zenra Province has been recovered by the Government troops, and the *Togaku-to* partisans are quieting down.

Shimonoseki, June 20.

The *Yamashiro Maru* arrived here from Ninsen this morning, and is expected to leave for Hiroshima as soon as she finishes coaling.

Gumma Prefecture, June 20.

A strong earthquake was felt here at 2.05 p.m. Some serious suffering was experienced to the south of Mayebashi, where the walls of godowns fell in and stone-walls toppled down.

Nagano, June 20.

An earthquake occurred at Saku shortly after two o'clock this afternoon. Cracks were made in the walls, but no life was lost. Asama Volcano presents no unusual aspects.

Hiroshima, June 20.

The *Hyogo Maru* arrived here this morning. The *Wakanoura Maru*, *Sagami Maru* and *Mikawa Maru* are also staying here.

Shimonoscki, June 20.

The *Moji Maru* has put into the port from the east. The *Totomi Maru* arrived here this afternoon, but the *Kumamoto Maru* and *Echigo Maru* have yet arrived. The *uminoye Maru* is reported to have left Ninsen on the 18th, and the *Omi Maru* and *Takasago Maru* have been staying in the latter port.

Shanghai, June 20.

Three Directors of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co. left for Tientsin yesterday at the request of the Chinese Government. Various rumours are in circulation with regard to their departure. It is said that they have been sent for by the Viceroy Li.

Tientsin, June 21.

The Viceroy Li has ordered the despatch of a further detachment of five thousand soldiers to Korea. Their departure is delayed through insufficiency of transports.

Tientsin, June 21.

Although it is stated that the Viceroy Li will dispatch five thousand soldiers, the actual number will most likely be not more than one thousand five hundred. The Chinese troops are still at Ryojiun-ko, and have not prepared to set out for Korea yet.

Hongkong, June 21.

Between the 15th and 20th inst. 255 deaths were reported here. The decrease in the number of deaths is due to the removal of about 200 patients to Canton, and the exodus of about one-third of the whole Chinese population from the colony. The spread of the epidemic has not yet been checked.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, June 29th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, June 24th.*
From Hongkong	per P. M. Co.	Thursday, June 28th.†
From America	per P. M. Co.	Friday, July 6th.‡
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, July 1st.
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, July 6th.
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, July 9th.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, July 12th.
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, July 17th.

* *City of Peking* left San Francisco on June 7th. † *City of Rio de Janeiro* left Hongkong on June 20th. ‡ *China* left San Francisco on June 19th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, June 26th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, June 30th.
For America	per P. M. Co.	Saturday, June 30th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, June 30th.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, July 7th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, July 9th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, July 12th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, July 13th.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Arthur Head, British steamer, 1,886, G. W. Leonard, 16th June,—Barrow viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, I. Iwata, 16th June,—Kobe 15th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 17th June,—San Francisco 29th May, viâ Honolulu 5th June, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, D. E. Friele, 17th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, 2nd June, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Tsukuba Kan (11), Japanese corvette, Captain T. Kurooka, 17th June,—Yokosuka.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 18th June,—Vancouver, B.C., 5th June, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 18th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, 9th June, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Hinode Maru, Japanese steamer, 789, G. Sofuye, 18th June,—Otaru, Coal.—S. Asano & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 18th June,—Yokosuka, Light.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Irene, German steamer, 1,630, 18th June,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Mercury (13), cruiser, Captain W. H. Fawkes, 18th June,—Hongkong.

Linnet (5), gunboat, Captain Bearcroft, 19th June,—Hongkong.

Columba, British ship, 1,748, H. M. Bull, 19th June,—New York 19th January, Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 19th June,—Kobe 18th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 20th June,—Kobe 18th June, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Moray, British steamer, 1,411, Thomson, 21st June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Ping Suey, British steamer, 1,988, J. C. Jaques, 21st June,—London viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Sydney, French steamer, 3,450, Delacroix, 21st June,—Marseilles 13th May, Hongkong 13th June, Shanghai 16th, and Kobe 20th, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 21st June,—Kobe 20th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Angers, British steamer, 2,079, Bannister, 21st June,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 21st June,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 22nd June,—Hongkong viâ ports, 13th June, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 22nd June,—Hongkong viâ ports, 13th June, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 22nd June,—Shanghai and ports, 16th June, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Saghalien, French steamer, 2,580, Chevalier, 16th June,—Shanghai viâ Kobe, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Argomene, British ship, 1,579, Wm. O. Thomas, 17th June,—Tacoma, Wash., 3,089 tons Tea.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Gensan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,436, J. Thomas, 17th June,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 17th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Turbo, British steamer, 2,356, Townsend, 17th June,—Hamburg and London viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Bankoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,475, Okuma, 18th June,—Yokosuka, Light.—S. Asano & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 641, I. Iwata, 18th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sessiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Hayashi, 20th June,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Peru, American steamer, 2,540, D. E. Friele, 18th June,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 18th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, W. G. Pearne, 19th June,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Hinode Maru, Japanese steamer, 789, G. Sofuye, 20th June,—Yokosuka, Light.—S. Asano & Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 20th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Conner, 20th June,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kraysser (6), Russian corvette, Captain Rojestwensky, 20th June,—Vladivostock.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 22nd June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 23rd June,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—Frazar & Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 23rd June,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Ancona, British steamer, 1,880, W. D. Mudie, 23rd June,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—Mr. Chris. Henney, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Deakin and servant, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Whitney, Mrs. Edward Simpson, child, and nurse, Miss F. Preston, Mr. Geo. B. Barber, Miss M. Woodworth, Mrs. C. F. Elliott and child, Mr. Wm. N. Campbell, Rev. S. Hasegawa, Mr. Earl Deakin, Mr. Saville Smith, Mrs. Helen B. Stickney, Mrs. Nellie S. Hatton, Mrs. F. Susaka, Mr. Henry B. Bowie, Mr. Y. Kikuchi, Mr. R. W. Irwin and two servants, Mr. C. S. Johnston, and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wheeler in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. M. Henderson, Mr. Thos. H. Williams, Jun., Mr. William Hogg, Mr. W. D. Stubbs, and Mr. Donald D. Stubbs in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. Jno. Walter, Mr. Jno. A. Blattaw, and Mr. A. Amory, Jun., in cabin.

Per American steamer *Peru*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. J. R. Morse and Mr. T. Ekada in cabin, and 8 passengers in steerage. For San Francisco:—Mrs. James Brown Potter, Mr. Kyrle Bellew, Mr. Boyd, U.S. Vice-Consul to Siam, and Miss Ramsay in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. A. M. Bell, Miss Case, Mr. J. R. Daggett, Mr. George Dawson, Mr. Debrabant, Mrs. Debrabant, Mr. A. D. Harmens, Mrs. A. V. Marchmount, Mr. J. R. Moore, Mr. Wm. Mosie, Mr. O. C. Fauling, Mr. Shimomura,

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Mr. Simon Thomas, Mr. P. Viengue, and Rev. Hugh Waddell in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Lieut. R. Masefield, Mr. Granville Sharp, Captain W. E. Rowe, Miss H. Robinson, Miss Weir, Mr. T. S. Jackson, Mrs. Chope, Mr. E. D. Oppenheimer, and Mr. G. N. Macondray in cabin. The following passengers disembarked at Kobe:—Dr. H. P. Carvalho, Mr. Figge, and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. David, 2 children, infant, and maid in cabin.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, from Marseilles viâ ports:—Mr. Marthond, Mr. Toda, Mr. D. P. Okubo, Mr. Tokuda, Mr. G. H. Quirk, Mr. Ch. Welderman, Mrs. Catherine Lasseile, and Mr. H. Golstein in cabin.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Lieut. Markham, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. G. Eckley, and Mr. Tomlin in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. Bredon in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. T. Singleton, Mr. Rickett, Mr. and Mrs. St. John, Miss N. Smith, Mr. Sale, Miss Sale, Miss L. Sale, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Jefferies, Dr. Horder, Mr. and Mrs. C. Richards and 3 children, Mr. Tollemache, Mr. E. Sims, Captain Goddard, and Mr. and Mrs. Ford in cabin. For Vancouver, B.C.:—Dr. Cowie, Capt. Manifold, Dr. J. Busteed, Miss J. M. Gheer, Mr. Stern, Mr. R. E. Peake, Mr. R. W. Bernard, Mr. P. O. Yugasti, Mr. J. W. Reddie, Dr. C. Begg, Mr. E. H. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Bryant and 3 children, Mr. J. Seel, Miss Dodson, Mr. F. S. Deacon, Miss Kirkpatrick, Mr. R. Mortimore, Dr. W. Shrubshall, Miss Roberts, Rev. Pere Fouillet, Mr. J. Alexander, Mr. A. Walter, and Mr. E. H. Parker in cabin, and 9 passengers in Asiatic steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Governor Iwasaki, Mrs. A. Tyler, Dr. and Mrs. Cairns, Mr. R. E. Bredon, Mr. J. Kelly, and Mr. S. H. Rowe in cabin; Messrs. T. Iki, J. Pillai, S. Asada, Ming Oh, Tung Tai, T. C. Mercer, and Mrs. Ah Hop in second class, and 26 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Messrs. Wilkinson, Morral, Lunt, Spefford, Campbell, Laing, F. G. Sale, G. Kichaune, J. Brandenstein, Delmas, Cudenet, Pecker, Lieut.-Colonel Chard, Mr. S. M. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Napier, child, and governess. Mr. S. Roux, Mr. Henri Roux, Miss Stoeher, Mr. S. Toyobe, Mr. P. Peterson, and Mr. Matthew Browne in cabin.

Per American steamer *Peru*, for San Francisco:—Mr. Antonio Aguilar, Rev. A. B. Brown, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Kyrle Bellew, Mr. R. Doeschner, Mr. E. Himmelreich, Miss F. M. Imandt, Mrs. L. E. Miller, Miss B. M. Maxwell, Mr. G. Melchers, Mrs. Brown-Potter, Mr. W. C. Knoops, Miss Ramsay, Dr. Reich, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stone, and Mr. Jos. Hoffmann in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Muirhead, Miss Crawford, Mr. A. Sarkies, Mr. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Russell, Mr. Saville Smith, Mr. Harvie, Lieut. Payne, Mr. Chandler, and Mr. J. R. Moore in cabin; Mr. Chan Lai Sang and Mr. Chan Yeok in second class, and Mr. Leung Fai in Asiatic steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong:—Dr. E. H. Meaden, R.N., Dr. W. J. Bearblock, R.N., and Mr. Fung Yick in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. J. T. Thompson and child, Mr. and Mrs. Chun, Mrs. J. Wilson and 2 children, Mrs. Sekido, Mrs. Kin, Mr. and Mrs. Ridley and child, Messrs. C. Him Shan, C. Birch, and A. Amosy, Jun., in cabin; Mrs. Clifford and daughter, Mrs. Goto, Messrs. B. Tourney and Tanaka in second class, and 73 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Major G. Adye, Mr. Alexander, Mrs. Bech, Dr. Begg, Lieut. Bell, R.N., Mr. Benjamin, Mr. R. W. Bernard, Mr. Sherrard Billings, Mr. W. P. Bliss, Mr. Albert Boer, Mr. R. A. Bole, Mr. and Mrs. Bryant and 3 children, Dr. Busteed, Hon. Hugh Campbell, Mr. F. G. Carpenter, Mr. F. Chaplin, Mr. George Chappel, Mr. Corbin, Mr. Curling, Dr. Cowie, Mr. Daeschner, Mr. F. G. Deacon, Mr. P. O. De Yugasti, Miss Dickerson, Miss Dodson, Mr. H. Fieldon, Rev. Pere Fouillet, Mr. Fraser, Miss Gheer, Mr. Hedderwick, Mr. Ingham, Mr. Y. Isono, Mr. and Mrs. Kauffmann, Miss Kauffmann, Miss Kirkpatrick, Mr. Lamarche, Captain Manifold, Mr. Mannock, Hon. W. W. Maxwell, Mrs. May, Mr. Mortimore, Dr. and Mrs. Noyes, Miss Noyes, Dr. Oppert, Mr. E. H. Parker, Mr. W. H. Parsons, Mr. R. E. Peake, Mr. Roberts, Miss Roberts, Mr. R. G. Robert, Rev. J. Cooper Robinson, Mrs. J. Cooper Robinson, Miss Hilda Margaret Robinson, Miss Lucy Winifred Robinson, Mr. W. G. Rockfeller, Mr. J. R. Reddie, Mr. W. G. Reddie, Mr. Paul Schramm, Mr. A. Schultze, Mr. Edgar Scott, Mr. Hugh D. Scott, Mr. Stern, Mr. J. H. Thompson, Miss Thompson, Miss Elise Vicquet, Mr. Walter, Mr. A. Walter, Mr. W. E. Washburne, Mr. A. F. Watt, Mr. G. M. Williams, and Miss Mary E. Wilson in cabin.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—Mrs. Bainbridge, Mr. R. E. Bredon, Mr. C. E. Chapman, Mr. I. C. Guest, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Gunther, Lieut. and Mrs. R. T. Meyjes, R.D.N., Mrs. M. H. Michael, Mrs. Miyaoka, Mr. J. H. Morgan, Mr. J. L. Morgan, Mrs. Nevins, Mr. A. Paget, Mr. Wm. H. Parker, Mr. D. L. Streeter, Mrs. Wells, Miss Wells, Mr. S. Wells, Mr. O. Guldbrandsen, and Mr. N. Sodorstrom in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. C. H. Allen, Major Collette, Colonel and Mrs. Underwood, Mr. and Mrs. W. Borton, Mr. J. Henderson, Mr. J. Sloss, Mr. B. McGowan, Captain Bougouin, Mr. H. Wilson, Mr. D. Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Wright, Mr. R. J. Kirby, Miss Skinner, Mr. H. Janni, and Mr. W. Balmes in cabin; and 34 Chinese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Saghalien*, for Shanghai viâ Kobe:—Raw Silk for Europe, 105 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 48 bales. Treasure for Singapore, $392,000.

Per British ship *Argomene*, for Tacoma, Wash.:—

TEA.

	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	ST. PAUL.	CLEVELAND.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Yokohama	10,273	14,331	1,368	1,689	788	3,907	32,356
Total							32,356

RATES.

Tea...1 cent. per lb. gross. | Measuremt. Cold $10 per ton.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $93,400.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CHICAGO AND CANADA.	NEW YORK AND WEST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	—	—	6	—	12
Kiukiang	304	—	198	—	502
Foochow	450	—	—	—	450
Shanghai	8	2,567	3,498	75	— 6,148
Hankow	1,635	290	—	32	— 1,957
Hyogo	1,191	1,325	987	—	— 3,503
Yokohama	1,743	3,728	1,029	957	— 7,457
Total	5,331	7,910	5,520	1,268	— 20,029

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong & Canton	105	—	105
Shanghai	10	—	10
Yokohama	49	—	49
Total	164	—	164

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	ST. PAUL.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	1,667	—	1,341	—	—	2,008
Hyogo	—	1,357	1,294	—	—	2,651
Yokohama	2,079	1,218	2,145	—	861	6,303
Hongkong	145	—	—	—	—	145
Foochow	—	908	852	—	—	1,760
Amoy	—	11,567	—	—	842	12,409
Total	3,891	15,050	5,632	—	1,703	26,276

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	82	—	82
Hongkong	—	142	—	142
Yokohama	—	150	—	150
Total	—	374	—	374

Per British steamer *Ancona*, for Hongkong viâ ports:—Silk, 88 bales; Waste Silk, 17 bales.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Captain Pearne, reports:—Left San Francisco the 29th May at 4.19 p.m. Arrived at Honolulu the 5th June at 2.50 a.m. and left the same day at 5.29 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 17th June at 9.12 a.m. Had light variable winds, and fine weather throughout the passage. Passage from San Francisco, 17 days, 23 hours, 25 minutes; from Honolulu, 10 days, 19 hours, 52 minutes.

The British steamer *Oceanic*, Captain W. M. Smith, reports:—Left Hongkong and Macao the 13th June, Amoy the 15th, Nagasaki the 18th, and Kobe the 20th. Arrived at Yokohama the 21st June at 1.28 p.m. Passage from Kobe, 1 day, 33 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, Captain Haswell, reports:—Left Shanghai the 16th June, Nagasaki the 19th, and Kobe the 21st. Arrived at Yokohama the 22nd June at 10 a.m. Had fine weather and light variable airs throughout the passage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

A poor week take it altogether. Yarns—More doing but with weak prices. Shirtings and T. Cloths are dull and neglected. Fancies—No enquiry except for retail parcels of Velvet. Woollens—Something done for Autumn arrival and there are enquiries for medium Italian Cloth *à vil prix*. Beyond that, nothing stirring.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 3.00
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.40
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.60 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.75 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.16 to 0.21
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.75
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.75
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.95 to 3.15

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 10/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$37.00 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best	38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary	39.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	39.50 to 40.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best	40.00 to 41.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	43.00 to 45.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 44.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	49.00 to 52.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Rather less doing than in the previous week. Wire Nails have improved slightly but all other kinds of Iron are dull. Tin Plates move slowly, and it looks as though the season were nearly over.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	$3.45 to 3.50
Flat Bars, ½ inch	3.55 to 3.60
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.50 to 3.60
Iron Plates, assorted	3.60 to 3.75
Sheet Iron	4.70 to 4.85
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.40 to 9.60
Wire Nails, assorted	6.10 to 6.30
Tin Plates, per box	5.80 to 6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.65

KEROSENE.

Market is apparently quiet; but there are rumours of business done on secret terms which will doubtless be divulged sooner or later.

Chester	$1.65 to 1.67½
Comet	1.62½ to 1.65
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor	1.62½ to 1.65
Russian Moon	1.60 to 1.62½

SUGAR.

Good business all round. Brown Formosa has advanced about 10 cents, while other sorts are unchanged in price. White—Large and satisfactory trade both "spot" and "to arrive" at a rise in values.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.60 to 4.70
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.60
Brown Daitong	3.30 to 3.40
Brown Canton	4.00 to 4.30
White Java and Penang	7.20 to 7.50
White Refined	7.60 to 9.90

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 15th instant, since which date settlements on this market are 122 piculs, divided thus:—*Filatures*, 83 piculs; *Kakeda*, 39 piculs. Direct shipments have been 64 bales, making the total business of the week about 200 piculs.

There was practically nothing done until the last two days, when buyers for New York seemed determined to take something for the outgoing steamer so as to give their friends on that side a sample of the crop. For Europe nothing has been done in new silk, although at the time of writing some small transactions are talked of.

The stock of old silk remains practically un-

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

changed and there seems to be little demand, although holders are offering it at low rates to make a clearance.

New Crop.—Personal observation in the producing districts confirms the fact that there is an abundant crop of excellent quality this year. The quality is undoubtedly superior to what we have seen for many years past and prices will rule low, although from the amount of business already done there will be no further drop for the outgoing steamer. Probably in the course of next month we may see a fall of ten per cent. from present prices.

The crop is very early this year, nearly 1,000 boxes *Filatures* and *Re-reels* having already arrived on this market, with most of the producing centres in full activity. *Kakeda* and *Oshu* sorts, of course, will not arrive before the end of next month or beginning of August; but true *Shinshu* silks should be with us some time next month.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the German mail *Nürnberg*, 15th instant, taking 94 bales for Europe, the French mail *Saghalien*, 16th instant, 105 bales for the same destination, and the P.M.S.S. *Peru*, 18th instant, 93 bales for the New York trade. These departures make the present export figures 44,659 piculs, against 47,568 piculs last year, and 49,975 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—Nothing done so far and no supplies have appeared on the market.

Filatures.—Considerable business has been done and the season is very early. One sample lot of new *Mino* was booked as early as the 8th instant at $710, followed on the 12th by a few more boxes of the same chop at $700, but the market may really be said to have opened on the 19th instant when Shinshu silks, full size, reeled from alien cocoons, were settled at the following prices: *Kaimeisha*, $685; *Rujokan*, $680; *Seven Stars*, $677½. These were followed on the 20th instant by similar silks from *Shinyesha* filature at $675, *Koshu Yajima* being done at the same price. Further purchases at similar rates are also reported, as well as a parcel of *Koshu Kusanagisha* at $670; but advices from consuming centres are very poor and we look for lower prices before the next steamer leaves.

Re-reels.—One parcel of new *Tortoise* is in the market, owners asking $660. Probably it will be sold before the steamer sails at or near $650.

Kakeda.—Some business in old silk, two or three parcels of *Musume* II being done at $600, presumably for Europe.

QUOTATIONS.—(NEW SILK.)

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	—
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	$670 to 680
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	630 to 640
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	—
Kakedas—No. 1½	—
Kakedas—No. 2	—
Kakedas—No. 2½	—
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	—
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 22nd June, 1894.

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	24,190	19,390	18,950
America	19,067	27,382	29,934
Total { Bales	43,257	46,772	48,884
Total { Piculs	44,659	47,568	49,975
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	45,000	47,500	50,100
Stock, 22nd June	5,000	550	1,800
Available supplies to date	50,000	48,050	51,900

WASTE SILK.

Settlements during the week are 440 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 180 piculs; *Kibiso*, 140 piculs; *Neri*, 120 piculs. No direct shipments.

The market is very dull and the principal business done had been in low quality *Neri*, with *Noshi* rejections. The stock is large and new crop approaching so that holders getting a little anxious, and prices are more or less nominal in the absence of business.

There have been two shipping opportunities, the *Nürnberg*, 15th instant, taking 318 bales for Europe, followed by the French mail *Saghalien*, 16th instant, with 106 bales for same destination. These departures make the present export figures 29,556 piculs, against 44,625 piculs last year, and 35,209 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—Some little business was done in medium *Filatures*, price about $107½. Ordinary *Joshu* brought $65; and very common clippings and rejections, $15.

Kibiso.—A fair parcel *Yechigo* brought $65 and some *Filature* is noted at $100. Beyond these two sales there is no business.

Sundries.—The only business done has been in common *Neri* at $4 for the uncleaned stock.

QUOTATIONS.—(OLD SILK.)

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	$120 to 125
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	100 to 105
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	115 to 125
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	80 to 85
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	70 to 65
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	105 to 115
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	65 to 70
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	60 to 62½
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	90 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 85
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	60 to 65
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	35 to 30
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	30 to 25
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 20
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	150 to 160

Export Table Waste Silk to 22nd June, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94. Piculs.	1892-93. Piculs.	1891-92. Piculs.
Waste Silk	26,325	41,933	33,110
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	29,556	44,625	35,209
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	29,700	46,500	37,200
Stock, 22nd June	12,500	2,400	3,500
Available supplies to date	42,200	48,900	40,700

Exchange, has risen and declined during the week, closing as under:—LONDON, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1½; Documents, 2/1⅝; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1⅝. NEW YORK, 30d/s. U.S. $51¾; 4m/s. U.S. $52½. PARIS, or LYONS, 4m/s. fcs. 2.68; 6m/s. fcs. 2.69.

Estimated Silk Stock, 22nd June, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	—	Cocoons	80
Filatures	3,670	Noshi-ito	6,170
Re-reels	800	Kibiso	5,575
Kakeda	520	Mawata	100
Oshu	—	Sundries	575
Tavsaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	5,000	Total piculs	12,500

TEA.

Market has quieted down, and settlements do not average above 500 piculs a day. Quotations do not show much change; but tasters complain of the quality of second crop which is now coming freely to hand. Buyers assert that prices are too high for the quality now offering; on their side sellers endeavour to maintain quotations by holding back stocks up country.

QUOTATIONS.	per picul.
Choicest	$33 to 35
Choice	29 to 30
Finest	26 to 27
Fine	24 to 25
Good Medium	21 to 22
Medium	17 to 19
Good Common	15 to 16
Common	13 to 14

EXCHANGE.

Exchang closes weak at under mentioned rates:

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/1
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/1⅛
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅛
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.63
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	2.71
On Hongkong—Bank sight	⅛% prem.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72¾
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73⅛
On India—Bank sight	193
On India—Private 30 days' sight	196
On America—Bank Bills on demand	51
On America—Private 30 days' sight	52¼
On America—Private 4 months' sight	53
On Germany—Bank sight	2.12
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.20
Bar Silver (London)	28⅞

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One of the features of the Kaikatei is the detached Suites of Apartments, where perfect quiet and privacy can be secured. This arrangement for invalids and convalescents from the Tropics is a great desideratum, as being entirely removed from the Dining Room, Billiard Room, Bar, and Baths, while all are connected by covered passages.

To a Liberal Table are added an excellent *Cuisine* and good attendance, supplemented by a large variety of Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors of the very best kinds.

For the amusement of Guests, a fine English Billiard Table, by Burroughs and Watts, has been added to the Establishment, as well as Archery, Quoits, and other Games, and Ponies for riding over the hills and a Yacht for sailing on Hakone Lake can be hired.

Visitors to Kowaki-dani who bring a rod with them will be shown the haunts of the speckled Trout, a nice stream of several miles in length being within easy walking distance of the Hotel; Hakone Lake is also well stocked with a variety of fish, including salmon, and the Fishing is FREE; while Entomologists will find rare and valuable specimens in the surrounding hills, and the Flora of the district is extremely interesting to the Botanist.

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TWICKENHAM, ENGLAND.

April 23rd, 1893.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH, 1894.

DEATH.

On the 24th inst., at the German Hospital, JOHN MAACK, in his 59th year.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

ASAMA-YAMA is again quiescent.

No rain has yet fallen—the drought is becoming serious.

MR. J. G. Frederick Bandinel has been appointed an Honorary Japanese Consul.

DESENTERY in making fearful ravages among the inhabitants of Kumamoto Prefecture.

SEVERAL slight shocks of earthquake have been experienced in Yokohama and district during the week.

THE Russian Minister has been asked to become Honorary President of the Japan and Russia Business Society.

A MEETING has been held to consider what steps should be taken in the rebuilding of S. Andrew's Church, Shiba, Tokyo. An adjournment was taken for the purpose of obtaining further professional advice.

ONE thousand nine hundred and twenty-five persons have died from the plague in Hongkong since the 9th May.

THE B division race on Saturday of the Yokohama Sailing Club was won by *Daisy* after a well-contested struggle.

THE Fleet was again defeated by the Yokohama C. & A. C. on Wednesday, this time by 202 runs on the first innings.

AN explosion occurred in a gun-powder godown at Itabashi, Tokyo, on Wednesday. The building was destroyed and two men killed.

IT is expected that the Parliamentary elections will take place on August 10th instead of on August 28th as previously surmised.

A VEIN of gold is said to have been discovered at Higashi Kokuin-mura, Mogami-gun, Yamagata Prefecture, by Matsuoka Chukichi of Sendai.

AT an extraordinary meeting of shareholders in Messrs. Deakin Bros., Limited, it was resolved to reduce the capital from $150,000 to $30,000.

THE Public Hall Association's accounts for 1891-2, 1892-3, and 1893-4 have been published. There is now a balance in hand of $152.23.

H.I.M. THE EMPRESS will leave the capital on the 1st of July next for Hayama, Miura District, Kanagawa Prefecture, where she intends to stay for about four weeks.

A DOUBLE suicide occurred in Maganecho, Yokohama, on the night of the 26th inst.—a medical student and a girl deciding to die together.

ADMIRAL FREMANTLE presided at an enjoyable entertainment given by ladies and gentlemen of the community at the Seamen's Mission on Thursday.

THE game of Living Chess played in the Bluff Gardens on Wednesday afternoon, was a great success. The costumes were picturesque and gorgeously mediæval.

THE Yokohama Charity Organization is making another appeal to charitable male members of the community. It has relieved a great deal of distress during the last two years in an admirable manner.

NINE years' hard labour is the punishment meted out to Murayama Chiujiro, a *heimin* o Okachimachi, Shitaya, Tokyo, for forging a number of 20-*sen* silver coins.

KOREAN affairs still loom large in the public vision. Various petitions have been sent in from the provinces asking for permission to raise volunteer corps, but these prayers have not been granted.

H.I.M. THE EMPEROR has telegraphed his condolences to the French Government upon the loss sustained by the death of M. Carnot. The Consular flags have been flown half-mast high for three days in consequence of the pitiful event.

THE British community of Yokohama seem very pleased over the birth of the Duchess of York's son, the direct male heir to the Throne of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof.

OF the four jailers who were arrested in connection with the death of a convict during the recent disturbance in Kajibashi Prison, Tokyo, two named Oka Kyusaburo and Nishikawa Tamotsu were found not guilty by the Preliminary Judge on the 25th inst., while two others, Uchiyama Ryokichi and Oki Genzayemon, were remanded to the Criminal Court.

A COAL prospector named Kawai Denjuro, a Tokyo man, has struck a coal deposit at Tatari, Kikuta-gun, Fukushima. He estimates an output of 1,500,000 or 2,000,000 catties per month, as soon as the mine is in working order.

THE Japanese authorities propose dredging the port of Futami, Chichijima, in the Bonin group, owing to the growth of trade there, the exports to the South Sea Islands being something considerable. The Naval authorities also propose establishing there a coal depôt.

A RETURN of the foreign population at Fusan, Korea made up to the end of last month gives the following results:—Japanese, 2,495 males and 2,087 females; American, 3; British, 9; French, one; Chinese, 108; Danes 2; and Germans, 2.

PRESIDENT Carnot has been assassinated by an Italian anarchist named Santo while proceeding to the Theatre at Lyons. Riots have broken out in Paris, Lyons, Grenoble and other provincial towns, in the course of which Italian shops have been sacked and an Italian consulate attacked. M.M. Casimir-Perier, Dupvy, and Brisson are candidates for the Presidentship. Great Britain, Italy Spain, the United States and Japan have telegraphed their condolences. The Duchess of York (Princess May) has been delivered of a son; mother and child are reported to be doing well. The American gold reserve has fallen forty millions below the limit. Signor Crispi has been fired at while driving in Rome. The French press is growing less acrimonious towards Great Britain in reference to the Congo Affair, and expects that she will give France as much satisfaction as she accorded to Germany in the same matter. The Pope's latest encyclical prays for a re-union of the churches. An enthusiastic meeting has been held at Melbourne in favour of bimetallism.

WHAT with the drought, the advancing summer, and the Korean question, the Import market has been driven into the doldrums this week, and Shirtings and T. Cloths are absolutely lifeless. Nothing is doing in Woollens or Cottons, but Yarns show a few more sales. The Metal market is quiet, with the exception of Wire Nails, of which several thousand kegs have been sold at rather better prices, both for present and future delivery. More business is doing in Kerosene, though the stocks at present are ample for all requirements—prices are steady all round. A trifling glut in Brown Sugar has sent down quotations slightly, but White has changed hands at the Tokyo periodical auctions at late rates. Things are much easier for Tea, and the business, for the time of year, is small. The settlements for the present season are 145,000 against 135,000 piculs to date last year. The out-going steam and sailing-vessels all carry away plenty of leaf. The political disturbances in Europe have had some slight influence on the Raw Silk market, one or two orders for Lyons being cancelled, but the stagnation is not expected to last long. Dealers seem anxious to push the remnants of last year's Silk, but do not meet with much success. It is the same with Waste, and in consequence little on no business is to be reported—indeed, of this market it can with truth be said that matters are dull, gloomy, and stagnant. Exchange has fluctuated from day to day, but on the whole closes fairly steady.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS DURING THE WEEK.

An impression prevails that the situation is critical with regard to the Korean question. It is generally believed that the Japanese Government has approached the Chinese Government with definite proposals for the independence and internal progress of Korea. Everything now depends upon the nature of the reply made by China. Meanwhile, the Tokyo papers are urging the Government neither to consent to any compromise that may be suggested by the Chinese Government, nor to accept the offer of mediation by any third Power. They also recommend the Japanese Government to send an Ambassador to Peking to negotiate for the abrogation of the Tientsin Treaty and to obtain China's promise not to interfere in the internal affairs of Korea. We reproduce the gist of representative articles on the subject.

* * *

The *Kokkai*, commenting on the resolutions recently adopted about the Korean question by the advocates of a strong foreign policy, states that the views expressed in those resolutions reflect the sentiments entertained on the subject by the great majority of the Japanese public. Some may charge the Japanese with attempting to do exactly what the Chinese have been doing. These critics may say that it is inconsistent on the part of the Japanese to advocate, on the one hand, the independence of Korea, and, on the other, to demand that Japan station troops in Söul until satisfactory reforms shall have been accomplished in the administration of the peninsula Kingdom. But there is all the difference in the world between the attitudes of Japan and China toward Korea. China's object is to treat the peninsula as though it were her own tributary State: she even harbours the ambition of converting it into her own province. Japan, on the other hand, entertains no sinister design upon Korea. She has no interest to serve by annexing the peninsula; her true interest lies in guarding the independence of the little kingdom. Japan's only object in the present juncture is to contrive the introduction of such thorough reforms in the civil and military administration of Korea as shall fairly start the nation on a new course of progress. Thus what the Japanese now demand is that troops be stationed in Korea until the Korean Government develop capacity to take care of itself. If new privileges are demanded by Japan, it is but fair that they should be granted to her in return for her services to Korea. In another article, our contemporary urges the Government to be prompt and decisive in its dealings with China; for every delay tends to the advantage of that country.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun* advises the Japanese Government to reject all offers of mediation on the part of a third Power. Our contemporary believes that necessity will finally compel China to declare war against Japan, but before resorting to such an extreme measure, her wary statesmen will try their usual policy of procrastination. That policy was successful against Russia in connection with the Kuldja affair, and against France at the time of the late Franco-Chinese War. China cannot mobilise her troops as quickly as Japan, and consequently it is her interest to devote as much time as possible to *pourparlers*. To that end she may possibly invite the mediation of a third Power. In such an event the Japanese Government should politely but positively decline all offers of mediation. The *Kokumin* also urges the Government to send an Ambassador to China to negotiate the abrogation of the Tientsin treaty. That treaty, in our contemporary's opinion, seriously hampers the actions of the Japanese Government in Korea, and consequently its abrogation must be secured as quickly as possible. Our contemporary advises Count Ito to go to Peking himself.

* * *

The *Hochi Shimbun* writes in a similar strain. It states that the Korean question is, as it were, a private affair between Japan and China: the problem is to be solved by them alone. Hence any attempt on the part of a third Power to come between them must be resolutely rejected. The *Hochi* also advises the Government to exhaust all the resources of diplomacy before resorting to arms. There is, however, little hope of a peaceful settlement of the trouble, for China can scarcely agree to Japan's irreducible minimum, namely, the immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from Korea, and the giving of an assurance that the independence of Korea shall be respected. In another article, our contemporary advises its countrymen and its *confrères* to indulge in no peevish excitement at the news of China's alleged intention of placing her merchant vessels under the protection of the German flag, or at any other news of China's warlike preparations. Japan is ready at any moment to pour 50,000 troops into the neighbouring continent.

* * *

Even the *Mainichi Shimbun*, hitherto the most pacific and moderate of the metropolitan papers, now urges the Government to be quick in striking a blow. Japan ought not by any means to be forestalled by China. The *Mainichi* does not desire war, if it can be averted in an honourable manner. But it seems to think that things have gone already too far to avoid a collision. It has also much to say on the necessity of despatching an ambassador to China. Negotiations with China seem to be at present carried on in Söul with the Resident Yuan. Such a procedure, says our contemporary, is ill calculated to obtain an early settlement of the question.

* * *

The *Jiyu Shimbun* approves the steps thus far taken by the Government. Especially commendable, it says, is the promptitude with which a large force has been despatched to the peninsula. The Radical organ is an enthusiastic advocate of war. Better, it declares, to strike and pay an indemnity than to be struck and receive reparation. It strongly rebukes some of the Progressionist papers for their tendency to criticise the actions of the Government at this juncture. These papers, be it remembered, did indeed manifest some time ago an inclination to suspect that the Government's object in sending troops to Korea was simply to divert national attention from internal politics. They threatened that, should such turn out to be the case, the Cabinet would have to answer for it in the next session of the Diet. But such a suspicious mood has gradually given place to more or less confidence in the Cabinet's earnestness about solving the Korean problem, and, as already noticed, these papers are now urging the Government to forestall China. Thus the *Jiyu's* criticism does not apply to the present attitude of the Progressionist organs.

* * *

The *Niroku Shimpo* thinks it ridiculous to speak of Korean independence. Korea has for some time been in reality a tributary state of China. What is now required is to wrest the peninsula from the hard grasp of the Chinese. In other words, Japan, in the *Niroku's* opinion, ought first to take possession of Korea and then consider the question of restoring it to the status of an independent state. Such, says that outspoken paper, is the only rational course to be pursued by Japan.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* is sorry for China that she has grossly miscalculated Japanese character in supposing that her clumsy intrigues in the peninsula Kingdom would be regarded with indifference by the Japanese nation. Alarmed by the news of the despatch of a powerful force by Japan, the Middle Kingdom tried in vain to persuade the Japanese Minister in Korea to desist from entering Söul. Her repeated applications to the Japanese Government for the withdrawal of the Japanese troops have also been positively rejected. She may request the good offices of some third Power to mediate between herself and Japan, but this empire, says our contemporary, will never withdraw its troops so long as their presence in the peninsula is deemed necessary. Such being Japan's attitude, China's usual diplomacy will not serve her purpose in the present instance. Will she fight? She must know that she has been forestalled by Japan from the very outset, and that there is little hope of success for her in arms. It is interesting, says the *Jiji*, to watch the movements of the Chinese Government under these circumstances.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* article is of special interest at this juncture. "The policy," says our contemporary, "which this Empire must pursue toward Korea has not for its object either the annexation of that country or a monopoly of privileges and interests there. The aim kept in view is to preserve the territorial integrity of the little kingdom and to lead it along the path of civilization. In order to attain that object, our country is willing to co-operate with any Power; nor will it hesitate to fight with any Power that may attempt to thwart its purpose. If possible, the policy for the sake of the peace of the East, will be for Japan and China to co-operate for the settlement of the Korean question. But if China is indisposed to engage in such a troublesome undertaking, Japan is quite prepared to assume the task alone and unassisted. At all events, Japan can never entrust the future of Korea to the hands of a Power that once regarded the peninsula as its dependency. If China be desirous of amicably settling the Korean question, she must either co-operate with Japan or leave Japan free to act at her discretion. Otherwise the inevitable result will be a war between the two countries, and the only consequence of such a war would be either to secure to Japan the sole right of dealing with Korea, or possibly to invite the intervention of Western Powers interested in Korea and to conclude a treaty with these Powers, as well as Japan and China, touching the status of the Korean Kingdom. Is China resolved to fight with Japan and compete for supremacy in Korea? If such be her attitude, Japan will only be glad of an opportunity to test the power she has carefully nursed during the past thirty years." Our contemporary then proceeds to criticise the absurd claims put forth by a large section of the public. Japan's policy toward Korea, says the *Nichi Nichi*, must be pure and disinterested. Her boasted policy being to lead Korea into the path of civilization, it ill becomes her high pretentions to show any greedy desire to obtain exceptional advantages and profits in the peniusula Kingdom. Lastly, as to the clamour for the despatch of an Ambassador to Peking to negotiate the abrogation of the Tientsin Treaty, the *Nichi Nichi* observes that men who talk such nonsense have no knowledge of practical affairs. What good, asks it, can be secured by abolishing that convention? China would be glad of being thereby released from the restraints now imposed upon her by the treaty. If good reason be forthcoming to abolish it, it will be sufficient merely to address a note to the Chinese Government saying that Japan will no longer observe the stipulation. But the *Nichi Nichi* thinks it Japan's interest to stick to the treaty, and reject China's proposal for its abolition should such a proposal be made by her.

* * *

Deepest sympathy is expressed by the Japanese press for the terrible loss the French nation has sustained by the assassination of President Carnot. All the papers publish long biographical notices about the distinguished dead.

* * *

Amidst universal excitement about the Korean question, the subject of the elections is not forgotten. The Opposition papers advise the Government to fix the date as quickly as possible.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE PROPOSED PRIVATE PURCHASE OF THE GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

THE scheme relating to the establishment of a great railway company, with a capital of one hundred million *yen*—reference to which was made in these columns a week or so ago—has already begun to assume definite shape. Two or three days ago a prospectus was issued over the names of Messrs. Shibusawa Eiichi, Nakamigawa Hikojiro, and Suyenobu Michinari, as joint founders or originators; this was then sent to the leading business men in the metropolis, together with an invitation to meet for discussion of the project, at the Imperial Hotel. The points urged in the prospectus are substantially the same as the arguments on the subject that have already appeared in the vernacular press. It starts out with the statement that as the construction of railways is subject to the control of the legislating body of the Diet, it is not only impossible to expect on the part of the Government speedy construction when such is desirable, but also that lines now open to traffic will soon be unable to fulfil the additional requirements of the rapid development of the times. In confirmation of the latter point, the originators quote the opinion of an official in the Railway Bureau, who is reported to have said that should the Tokaido Railway be left as it now is, *i.e.* without much needed improvements, it will in a few months more not only be unable to promptly convey the increasing amount of goods, but will also be compelled to impose some check on the passenger traffic, there being even now more passengers than can be comfortably accommodated.

* * *

More than thirty-five of the principal business men of the capital responded to the invitation of the originators of the scheme, and met at the Imperial Hotel on Saturday last. After considerable deliberative discussion, they decided to submit an application to the Government with respect to the purchase of the railways now in Government possession. A committee of ten of those present was elected, and everything connected with this application left to their management.

* * *

The *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* publishes a lengthy note professing to embody the opinions entertained by the authorities on this subject. The originators of the great scheme estimate the cost of constructing the lines that the Government has already decided to build, at about sixty-five million *yen*, while they hope to have the lines at present running transferred to their ownership at an outlay of thirty-five million *yen*. Their idea is to purchase the existing lines for the amount of money originally invested by the Government in their construction. That would indeed be a most convenient arrangement for them to arrive at. But the financing methods of a private railway company and those of the Railway Bureau are vastly different; the latter uses the receipts in paying for the construction of supplementary lines; the former would fall back on its capital for such disbursements. The total of receipts and therefore of profits will naturally be proportionately greater in a private concern than in a railway owned by the Government. Making estimates on this basis, the average total profit derived from Government lines now running amounts to 2,821,085 *yen* annually, which is equivalent to eight per cent. on the invested capital of some thirty five million *yen* odd. The profit accruing from these railways is increasing year by year, so that in another four or five years it will be comparatively easy to obtain from the Government roads an annual profit of ten per cent. on the original capital. And as under these circumstances the invested thirty-five millions practically represent a sum twice as large, it would be simply absurd to sell such a profitable concern for the original cost of construction. The projectors may urge, as an offset to this, that the profit accruing from the lines to be now constructed—costing sixty-five million *yen*—will be comparatively small, so small indeed that the average total profit on all the lines will not exceed five per cent. annually. This argument is again met by the simple fact that to create a company requiring so enormous a capital as one hundred million *yen*, would at once cause a tightening of the money market, however cautiously the projectors might go to work; and for that reason it would be difficult, perhaps altogether impracticable, to set about building the new but unprofitable lines. The Company might thus encounter insuperable obstacles at the very outset of its undertaking, and so the scheme, however commendable in the abstract, is visionary. In short, think the railways authorities—*teste* the *Tokyo Asahi*—only a limited number of rich speculators would derive a profit from this huge transaction, granting that such a transfer could ever possibly come about. The fact is that these men, alleging the plausible pretext of defects being connected with the Government railways, intend to make capital out of that circumstance. If such defects really exist, it would be far better to endeavour to correct them, than to start so ill-calculated a project.

THE DYSENTERY EPIDEMIC.

ON the 20th instant Dr. Nakahama, of the Sanitary Bureau in the Home Department, set out for the Kei-Han and Kyushu Districts, in order to report on the epidemic of dysentery prevalent in those parts. Wholly absorbed in pest prophylaxis, people seem to have quite ignored the existence of this epidemic, which nevertheless has been particularly virulent this year. According to the statistical returns, we learn that in the first five months, January to May, of last year, 280 persons fell sick of this disease, of whom 110 died—a truly alarming percentage of mortality. But during the corresponding period of the present year no less than 1,264 cases were recorded, fortunately, however, with only 255 deaths. Still more calculated to cause uneasiness is the fact that every sign appears to predict a greater increase, and it is seriously apprehended that the still hotter season we have yet to expect will cause a higher death-rate. The districts in which this malady is this year prevalent are Osaka, Okayama, Oita, Kumamoto, and Miyazaki. Dr. Nakahama will make a tour of inspection through all these places and be absent for about a month.

ANTI-FOREIGN AT ANY PRICE.

THE *Sho Nippon*, a scion of the rabidly anti-foreign *Nippon*, does very small credit to itself in the manner in which it refers to the damage done by the earthquake to the Greek Church at Surugadai. Accompanying a very rough cut showing the way in which the steeple is bent out of the perpendicular (in which, by-the-way, the damage sustained by the surmounting crucifix is decidedly exaggerated) with a detailed description of the supposed amount of injury inflicted, this journalistic wasp concludes by saying that it has "derived the greatest delight (*mottomo yukwai*) from the sight." But why? The noble work of the Greek Church in Japan has only benefited both county and people. We next expect to hear of the *Sho Nippon* going into ecstasies over the injuries sustained by houses and churches in Tsukiji and Yokohama. Surely here is a newspaper that deserves suspension of some sort; the old-fashioned slip-knot and noose for choice.

CHINESE MERCHANT VESSELS TRANSFERRED TO THE GERMAN FLAG.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* has a good deal more to say on the subject of the rumoured transference of the ships of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company to the German Flag. We have already referred to certain pregnant comments made by our contemporary in that connection. The *Jiji* now goes on to say, and with an unusual depth of bitter sarcasm, that the rumour is calculated to strike one at first with great surprise. For, it must be remembered, the present situation is one in which a greater number of ships than ordinary is required for the conveyance of troops and ammunition. Yet upon second thoughts the proceeding loses all sense of novelty and even becomes a most natural occurrence as applied to China. The fact that the same step was taken during the Franco-Chinese war of a few years ago is perfectly in keeping with the characteristics of the Chinese nation. A high authority on China declares that the people are comparatively indifferent to losses which the nation as a body sustains, although they are keenly alive to anything which affects their individual interests. China has ceded Macao to Portugal, has had Hongkong snatched from her grasp, and views the encroachment of France on her southern frontier with ungainly helplessness. About all these things the people are wholly unconcerned, although they pay more jealous attention to their own personal interests than the people of any other land. Now the steamers owned by the C.M.S.N. Co. may in fact be regarded as the private property of Viceroy Li, who is, after all, a Chinaman and endowed with those racial characteristics which distinguish the Chinese from all other peoples. The loss which the Government sustains, in connection with Korean affairs, because of these steamers being transferred to German ownership, is a very serious one; but that reflection may not have much weight with Viceroy Li in his private capacity. On the other hand, the capture of even one of the Company's ships would directly affect his individual interests and hence must in his eyes be of greater magnitude than even the loss of a material portion of the Empire's territory.

* * *

The *Nippon*, writing on the same subject, speaks of the rumour with great indignation and profound contempt for China. It further remarks that the action may be taken as preparatory to the beginning of hostilities with Japan.

* * *

It is to be noted, of course, that these journals are palpably misled. They imagine that the operation of transferring the steamers of the China Merchant Steam Navigation Company's steamers to the German flag—assuming that any such step is on the tapis—would involve the temporary loss of the vessels' services to China. Of course it would not mean anything of the kind. Under whatever flag the ships might be sailed, they would in reality remain Chinese property, and would remain available for any purposes that China might contemplate, whether the transportation of troops or the carriage of common merchandise. We must confess, too, that the *Jiji Shimpo's* sneer at the Viceroy Li seems unworthy of that journal. Li Chung-t'ang has fully established his title to be called a patriot, and the *Jiji Shimpo's* knowledge of his career should have saved it from committing the injustice of charging him with a sacrifice of national interests to private considerations. As for the inference suggested by the alleged transfer, however, we must endorse the remarks of our vernacular contemporaries. It would be a contemptible and craven act on China's part to preface a combat with this empire by seeking the fictitious protection of a European State's flag for her merchant steamers. If that be an indication of her spirit, we regard as very slight her chances of emerging successful from a fight with Japan.

STILL UNSETTLED.

THE difficulty existing in Yokohama relating to the settlement of certain property of common ownership, appears far from being definitely ended as we thought it was. Agitation concerning this matter has recommenced and the dispute is likely to wax hotter than it ever has been. It must be remembered that, grown tired of endless disputing, the citizens asked the President of the Bank of Japan to act as arbitrator; and Mr. Kawada suggested, upon mature deliberation, an alternative method, by which the property in question should either be transferred to the sole ownership of the city, or else be sold and the money derived from the sale be used in erecting a monument in commemoration of the opening of the port or in enlarging the park at Noge, where improvements are

urgently needed. We thought, in referring to Mr. Kawada's suggestion some months ago, that that would end the matter and put a stop to all dispute; but our prophecy has, unfortunately, not come true, for the committee chosen to carry this programme into effect failed to agree as to which method should be selected. Ever since then the matter has gone on smouldering. The citizens of Yokohama have grown impatient of the long delay and have therefore once more begun agitating to have the property at once transferred to their common ownership. On the 15th and 16th instants a mass meeting of citizens was held at the Minato-za, no less than one thousand five hundred residents being present. They decided unanimously that the Committee should be made to transfer the property at once to the city. A negotiation committee was elected, the members of which went promptly to the older Committee and demanded that which they had been sent to demand. No satisfactory result attending this step, the citizens now intend, says the *Jiyu*, our authority for the above statements, to make, as a last measure, some popular demonstration within the next few days, which every one registered in Yokohama will be invited to attend.

DAMAGES DONE BY THE EARTHQUAKE TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

THE Parliament buildings were rather hastily put up after they had been burnt down in the fire of three years ago, and the consequence is that they sustained extensive damages in the earthquake on the 20th instant. In the House of Representatives the room used for the deliberation of the Committee of Settled Accounts, was entirely wrecked by a chimney falling through the roof; the room directly beneath this fared quite as badly, owing to the *débris* breaking through the flooring of the upper apartment. The room on the upper floor appriated for the use of diplomatic officials, as well as the back part of the strangers' gallery, suffered much injury in the ceilings in consequence of the falling of the brick wall erected for the purpose of preventing the spread of fire. The corrider adjoining this part of the building was similarly damaged, so much so that a space of about two *tsubo* threatens to collapse. The large panes of the glazed ceiling above the Debating Hall were shattered, the broken fragments being strewn upon the tables and desks beneath. No less than seventy fractures of varying size were produced in the walls. Nor did the House of Lords go scatheless. The sixth lobby as well as the stenographers' room were unroofed by the falling of a chimney; here again the *débris* burst through the flooring and did great damage to the lower room, the Special Committee's apartment, which lies just below the room of the shorthand writers. The cracks and seams in the walls are fully as serious as those in the Lower House. The seat reserved for H.M. the Emperor fortunately received no damage whatever. Not one chimney, and there are more than a dozen such on the roof of the building, escaped injury, several were overthrown and the rest twisted awry so that they will all have to be rebuilt, and at no small expense.

EPIDEMIC DISORDERS IN THE TOKYO GARRISON.

THE troops in Tokyo appear to have recently suffered from more than one epidemic disorder; not only has a low type of fever been very prevalent but a most infectious kind of eye-disease has also claimed many victims. The eye-trouble has prevailed principally among the soldiers composing the Fourth Regiment of the Imperial Guard and the First Regiment of the Tokyo Garrison; the fever has been pretty much confined to the students of the Military Academy and the preparatory school belonging to it. The first case of the eye-trouble, says the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, appeared about the fifth of the present month, and so rapid was its spread that in four days thereafter the patients in the Military Hospital numbered 108; on the 14th instant there was a new lot of 282 ophthalmological cases; and by the 17th, the total sent from the two barracks had reached the very large figure of 524. The crises is now over and the disease rapidly disappearing, yet owing to the severity of its nature quite a long time is required before recovery is complete. Up to the 17th instant, those who had been seized with the epidemic fever—believed to be a form of typhus—numbered 201. But here also the climax has been reached, so that while at its height the number of new admittances in the above Hospital was quite one hundred in the course of twenty-four hours, on the 17th instant, only seven fresh patients were registered. It is confidently expected that all will be restored to health in a few days more. The regiments in which the eye-complaint made its appearance, as well as the students of the miliary schools in which the fever was first noted, have either been marched out into the country or else sent into camp. This was done in order to prevent the spread of the infection or contagion, and to be able to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect the barracks and dormitories during the absence of their inmates. It seems, however, that the fever has infected the students of some other schools as well, for we hear of a number of cases in the Keio-gijuku and Seijo Gakko.

THE NEW LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST.

THERE were recently published some notes supposed to have been taken from "an ancient manuscript found in a monastery in Thibet," but the latest reports at hand do not bear out that theory. The statement that such a manuscript was found lacks verification. And even if found, it may prove either unauthentic, or the product of some fruitful but sensational imagination. The story is said to have been found in a Thibetan Monastery by a Russian traveller named Nicholas Notovich, and purports to be a "Life of Christ" known and revered among Buddhists of that country under the name Issa. It is written in the Pali language. According to this story Issa was born in the land of Israel. At the age of thirteen he fled from his father's house and went with merchants to Sindh. He learned to read and understand the Vedas. Then priests threatened his life and he fled to another place. He went westward preaching against idols, in Persia opposed the religion of Zoroaster, and returned to India at the age of 29. He at once began to preach there, was arrested, tried and found innocent, but was imprisoned, tortured and crucified in company with two thieves. Such is a synopsis of the story as read to the Russian traveller. The best Oriental scholars in Europe are thus far united in discrediting it, and believe the whole story about the origin and finding of the manuscript to be a fabrication.

PHILEMON AND BAUCIS.

IN the little town of Hatsuka-ichi, in Hiroshima Prefecture, live a very aged couple. The old man's name is Hadano Shobei, and he is hale and strong despite his ninety-four years. Ito, his wife, is only four years younger. Shobei's immediate ancestors have not been long-lived, for his father died at the age of 52, his mother at that of 40, while his three brothers and two sisters also departed this world at a comparatively early age. Shobei married his first wife when just twenty-one, but she died in a few years leaving him with two sons, and then Shobei contracted a second marriage at the age of thirty-one, this second wife, the one who is still alive, being just four years his junior. Thus they have lived together peacefully for sixty-three years. Four sons and two daughters have been born them, but only two of the former survive. Shobei is said to be a man of very simple manners and deligent in his business, though the *Shin-Choya*, from which paper we take these particulars, neglects to tell us what its nature is. While still a young man he was accustomed to drink a little *saké*, but has now been a teetotaller for more than half a century. The old man has always enjoyed robust health and never once taken physic. Ito, the aged wife, is said to be a woman of modest demeanour, and with the exception of one slight indisposition in her early youth, has never known a day's sickness. They are very fond of and affectionate towards each other, and though belonging to the lower classes and without having enjoyed what might be termed a competence, have never exchanged an angry word, —a most rare occurrence in very truth. On the occasion of the Imperial Silver Wedding, the old man and woman received a small gift of money and were entertained at a congratulatory dinner by the headman of their district.

SOSHI STUDENTS.

A RUMOUR is current in the schools of the capital that stringent examinations are shortly to be made into the character and propensities of every student in attendance at either Government or private institutions, the object being to find out who has *soshi* tendencies and, if possible, nip those tendencies in the bud. If this rumour is well-founded, it will prove a wise measure in every way. There are unquestionably a large number of young men drafted into the *soshi* ranks owing to real and ardent patriotism and an eager desire, albeit a trifle quixotic, to redress wrongs as did the knights of old. To such people *soshi*-ism holds out a prospect of unlimited freedom of action, combined with a certain devil-may-care policy as attractive as it is fatal. The fact that one or two bands of *soshi* have set out for Korea, "to protect the interests of resident Japanese," may have an awe-inspiring sound to the average student-youth and fired him with an ambition to join those noble, self-sacrificing ranks; but to disinterested spectators the departure of some twenty or thirty callow youths for the seat of war is painfully absurd. As if, forsooth, their presence were needed despite the corps of five or six thousand well-armed and well-drilled soldiers! They are far more likely to make trouble, to even bring about international misunder-standing, than they are to protect those who stand in no need of such hare-brained defenders.

QUAINT SIGNBOARDS.

THAT English has not yet become the next-to-national tongue of the Japanese is demonstrated time and again with painful distinctness in the remarkable choice of words found on Japanese signboards. The mistakes are so common that, absurd as they generally are, one grows accustomed to them, one's sense of the ridiculous being aroused only by those of the most outrageous kind. A correspondent, however, sends us a few specimens from Tokyo that are novel and quaint. Not far from Megane-bashi is the branch-agency of a certain domestic transportation company. It announces its business in the following dubious and obscure fashion:—

AN INTERNAL RAILWAY.
DOMESTICS FOR TRANSPORT.

This is a brave but futile effort to express sense. One understands what it is that they are driving at. There is no infraction of grammatical rules; it looks as if it ought to be right; yet it is a most dismal failure, for the company has evidently not the slightest intention of conveying domestics by freight. On Kudan-zaka, a too literal rendering of the Japanese original has proved the undoing of a furrier. He announces himself as "Kawachi-ya. To trade Hair-skin Sort Shop." "Hair-skin" (fur) is, of course, a literal translation of the Japanese *Ke-gawa*, while "sort" (*rui*) is used in the sense of "all kinds of." Out towards Yotsuya, a foreign-style tailor has been cruelly victimized by his sign-painter. He evidently gave an order to write the words "Gold Tailor Shop" above his portal, as this for some strange and hitherto unexplained reason, is a favourite announcement of the sartorial fraternity. But the sign-painter was in a hurry or must have run out of paint, for he has neglected to give the proper twist to the lower jaw of the G and struck off the last syllable of the word "tailor," with the following prodigious result:—

COLD TAIL SHOP.

Directly opposite the store of this victim of misplaced confidence, is a large butcher-shop. The owner has a signboard of unusual dimensions and on it are writ these words, in emphatic

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capitals:—"Cowmeat end Pigmeat." There is a frank simplicity about this, combined with a happy-go-lucky disregard for dictionaries and the "true inwardness" of the Anglo-Saxon idiom, that is calculated to inspire in the reader a sentiment akin to awe.

TELLO D'APERY AND "THE SUNNY HOUR."

The attention of the Japanese has been recently called to the wonderful work of young Tello d'Apery, the 16 year old philanthropist and editor of *The Sunny Hour*. His fame is world wide, for the Barefoot Fund that he has instituted and the marvellous success with which his efforts to alleviate the distress of the destitute are attended, have been heard of by every European, and Greece may well be proud to claim him as one of her sons, American though he be by adoption. The charitable schemes of Westerners do not, as a rule, serve to incite the Japanese to emulation; on the contrary, philanthropic effort in this country is of very recent growth. All the more gratifying is it to read the glowing encomiums of the *Nippon no Shonen* upon Tello d'Apery and his noble work. The *Yonen Zasshi* goes still further and gives a fanciful illustration representing the youthful philanthropist, surrounded by a blaze of light, giving a pair of shoes to a barefoot and forlorn-looking lad. "Ah," sighs the writer of the article in this magazine, "would that our young men might combine for some similar noble and unselfish purpose! Would that we might see a second Tello d'Apery arise in our midst!" Perhaps the young editor would do well to send a brief outline of his work to one of these two magazines. Whatever he writes with lofty aim would be welcomed by these, the leading purveyors of literature to Young Japan.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

Brief reference has already been made in these columns to the Second General Yearly Meeting of the Emigration Society, on the 17th instant, the meeting being held in the rooms of the Geographical Society at Nishi Konya-cho, Kyobashi, Tokyo. Copies of certain drafts, compiled by the Committee, relating to the profit and loss of the emigration scheme in Mexico, were distributed among the seventy members present. These documents showed, with great minuteness and elaborateness of detail, that with a capital of three million *yen* it would be possible to realize a profit amounting to fully forty or fifty per cent. annually; and that even with a capital of 30,000 *yen* the probable profit would not fall far short of thirty to forty per cent. With regard to this project, a special locality in Mexico is recommended. After this, a proposal relating to the enlargement of the Society was discussed, and it was decided, among other matters, to reduce the monthly membership-fee. Viscount Enomoto, President of the Society, then addressed the assembled members. The public might doubt, he remarked, whether the society now numbering more than six hundred members, were really contemplating the actual putting into practice of its schemes. It was not strange that outsiders, ignorant as they must be of the internal condition of the society, should harbour such a doubt. It was, nevertheless, a wholly unfounded one. The society had simply been awaiting the return of Mr. Nemoto, who had been specially despatched by the Foreign Office last year in order to investigate the condition of affairs in Mexico, with particular reference to the emigration thither of Japanese labourers. Mr. Nemoto had returned in February of the present year, and the Committee appointed for the elaboration of such measures as might be necessay for putting their projects into practice, had held repeated conferences to which Mr. Nemoto had been invited. The Committee had thereupon completed their investigations and drawn up the programme which they intended recommending to the society. This programme was that of establishing an Emigration Company, and raising the necessary capital from among those interested in the scheme. Upon perusing the draft presented by the Committee, many would doubtless be surprised at the rate of the expected profit, as this was out of all proportion to that realized from any regular enterprise undertaken in Japan; yet this great profit should accrue from the cheapness of land in Mexico, extraordinary fertility of the soil, and, above all, from the unusually high rate of wages paid to labourers. Two drafts had been presented by the Committee, the one having reference to the enterprise if carried out on a large scale; the other relating to a scheme of more modest dimensions. With regard to the former, a capital sum of more than one million *yen* would be required, and for this reason the speaker feared it would take a long time before it might be realized. The other and less costly one was, in his opinion, the one to be chosen. In the idea of the Committee, the second plan might be carried out even with so comparatively paltry an amount as 35,000 *yen*, and this plan might easily be enlarged in accordance with the amount of money raised.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

The following is a summary of the Customs Returns for May showing the foreign trade of the empire for the month:—

	1893. SILVER YEN.	1894. SILVER YEN.
Exports	6,681,686.730	9,204,056.140
Imports	7,557,960.590	10,323,789.830

Total exports and imports	19,527,845.970
Excess of imports	1,119,733.690

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Exports	176,208.805
Imports	301,397.008
Miscellaneous	13,303.097
Total	490,908.910

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Exports. Silver Yen.	Imports. Silver Yen.	Total. Silver Yen.
China	817,853.870	1,856,098 200	2,673,952 070
Hongkong	1,539,989.810	879,499 980	2,419,489.790
British India	371,586.950	1,321,408.990	1,692,995.940
Annam & other French India	973 000	703,369 800	704,342 800
Korea	86,720 470	335,814.990	422,535.460
Philippe Islands	22,992,100	179,431.700	202,423.800
Russian Asia	111,103.040	32,902 510	144,005.550
Siam	—	24,016.620	24,016.620
Great Britain	377,931.580	2,587,068.300	2,964,929.880
France	667,446.070	434,694.530	1,102,141.200
Germany	98,078 350	610,946.870	709,025.220
Belgium	1,098.670	132,370.880	103,469.550
Italy	86,389.680	2,037 240	88,426 920
Switzerland	19,071.230	68,666 370	87,737.600
Austria	34,848.560	2,462.220	37,310.780
Spain	5,289.910	4,023 170	9,313.080
Holland	150.000	6,121.020	6,271.020
Russia	2,623.560	415.780	3,032.280
Denmark	400.000	2,071.640	2,471.640
Turkey	1,132,000	648.000	1,780.000
Portugal	—	1,174 360	1,174.360
Sweden & Norway	—	25.500	25.500
United States of America	4,275,803.680	975,752.590	5,251,565.770
Canada & other British America	302,988.000	9,068.310	311,057 310
Australia	59,011.780	71,380.140	130, 91.920
Hawaii	27,361.520	1,200 000	28,561.520
Other Countries	118,446.080	22,109.620	140,555.700
Total	9,029,290.450	10,323,789.830	19,353,080.280

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM AND TO EACH PORT.

Yokohama	5,579,629.750	3,691,449.990	9,271,079.740
Kobe	2,634,917.130	5,476,558.540	8,110,475.670
Osaka	72,823.360	690,967.360	753,790.720
Nagasaki	350,723.400	410,977.530	761,700.930
Hakodate	50,248.620	3,752.670	54,001.290
Niigata	3,832.120	—	3,832.120
Shimonoseki	117,836.160	44,496.580	162,332.740
Moji	189,498.700	—	189,498.700
Hakata	—	2,422.000	2,422.000
Karatsu	26,533.500	—	26,533.500
Kuchinotsu	132,774.000	—	132,774.000
Misumi	10,645,000	—	10,945.000
Idzugahara	497.340	1,821.120	2,318.460
Shishimi	798.520	751.700	1,550.220
Sasuna	799.040	1,592.340	2,391.380
Otaru	32,499.500	—	32,499 500

Specie and Bullion	Exports	2,249,061.980
	Imports	4,476,277.380
Total		6,725,339.360
Excess of imports		2,227,215.400

VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY JAPANESE MERCHANTS AND GOVERNMENT.

By Japanese Merchants	Exports	1,776,078.640
	Imports	2,970,455.770
Imported by Government		17,441.340

ENGLAND AND NECKAR ISLAND.

It is alleged that on June 1st a Hawaiian steamer, the *Iwalini*, sailed at full speed from Honolulu and that she was followed a few hours later by H.B.M.S. *Champion*. The destination of the two vessels was Neckar Island about 400 miles from Honolulu, and the hypothesis is that England wants the place as a station for laying her proposed cable from British Columbia to Australia. It is part of her Imperial policy to have her world-encircling cables laid entirely on her own territory, whenever they emerge from the sea, and to that end some land in the neighbourhood of the Sandwich Islands has to be acquired. The Hawaiian Government, however, naturally wished to be first in the field as a practical claimant of Neckar Island. Hence the race between the *Iwalini* and the *Champion*. We do not yet know which won, but it could scarcely matter much to England if she really wanted the island. Meanwhile Mr. Victor Smith, a barrister of Baltimore, claims to have discovered that Neckar Island belongs to the United States. His assertion is that the island, discovered in 1857 by a man named Parker, was found to have guano deposits. Parker sold his interest to the United States Guano Company which filed claims with the Department at Washington. Meanwhile the Hawaiian Government asserted the ownership of the island and sent force to occupy it. The United States, however, decided the Hawaiian claim invalid and refused to recognize it. Under the act of 1856 the President declared the island part of the territory of the United States and recognized the claim of the phosphate company. Under a decision of the Supreme Court, the proclamation of the President makes the island part of the public domain. We may take it for granted, however, that if this barrister's assertions be correct, the mission assigned to H.M.S. *Champion* is an error.

THE "TAKASHIMA EKIDAN."

Among the many books on things Japanese sent to the Columbian World's Fair at Chicago last year, there was one whose tilte, *Takashima Ekidan*, must have proved a puzzle to whomsoever looked at it. In ordinary parlance, this was a translation of a part of the famous Mr. Takashima Kanemon's treatise on the *Eki*, or Chinese Book of Divination (*Yi-ki*). The translator, a Mr. Sugiura Shigetake, had far better have left the original untouched than to attempt that of which he is absolutely incapable. In the preface, he states that the work is wholly a Japanese compilation, no foreigner having ever looked at the proof-sheets. We see no reason to doubt this statement, for of all the marvelous, incomprehensible, distorted English ever written this bulky little volume must be confessed the very head and front. It is really disgraceful that such inchoate and abortive translation should have been included among the Japanese exhibits sent to Chicago. Of course, we are willing to make every excuse for Mr. Sugiura in that he had a most difficult task to perform, for the obscure and often apparently incoherent language of diviners has no counterpart in Western tongues. Still, a very slight use of any good dictionary might have shown the author that such words as "Cholerate"—meaning a cholera patient,—"Shognism" for "feudal system" or "Shogunate," with an adjective based on the same wild form, "Shognic;" "silkworming," for "silkworm breeding;" "unposible" and a host of other similar inventions, are not English and never will be. Moreover, Mr. Sugiura has made the great mistake in his preface of trying to force his own materialistic creed on the reader, despite its being absolutely at variance with the theistic teaching of the book he translates; nor is it excusable to find him expressing the belief that "my scientific morality" will be universally received "in a few years longer;" that he should deplore the existence of religions contrary to his own, on the score of their "superstitious elements;" and that he should calmly assert as incompatible with true science the belief in a Supreme Being, and trust that such an antiquated notion will soon be eradicated from the human mind. The whole preface is about the most blatant specimen of thorough self-conceit and boundless ignorance that it has ever been our misfortune to read.

* * *

Turning to the body of the book, we find much that is deeply interesting. Mr. Takashima Kaemon is himself a study. Imprisoned for some trivial offence under the Bakufu, he turned his whole energies in the direction of the amelioration of his country. It is to him that Japan owes the introduction of gas, of a new and

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elaborate educational system as well as of other most utilitarian ideas, while he was one of the principal supporters of the railway and largely contributed to the successful completion of the Tokyo-Yokohama line. A man of broad views he evidently believes most firmly in the divinatory powers of the sixty-four hexagrams, and many of his prophecies have received literal affirmation. His Japanese admirers go so far as to claim that has never made an incorrect prediction. From a perusal of the book, we can not learn very much, owing to the painful English in which it is couched; nevertheless, it is apparent that the ancient Chinese system of divination must be the very remarkable result of a most admirable train of reasoning, and one deserving of closer study than it has hitherto received. We people of the 19th century have not yet forgotten the marvelous lesson of the Great Pyramid; and if the Egyptians had so profound an acquaintance with what we are only slowly re-discovering there is no reason why we should hesitate to doubt that the sage precursors of Confucius really established a system of divination based on a profound knowledge of the law of chance, if indeed that knowledge was not of a still higher and mysterious description. One could wish, therefore, that Mr. Takashima's work might be properly translated, so that his evidently painstaking rules could be subjected to scientific test and experiment; for he has undoubtedly given the clearest explanation hitherto published of a very ancient Chinese classic that most people are inclined to laugh at. The original text of Mr. Takashima is embodied in ten volumes, but, minus the many illustrations and anecdotes, these might very possibly be condensed into one not-too-bulky tome: and that this would deserve attentive perusal is evident even from M. Sugiura's mistranslation.

A MODERN LUCRETIA BORGIA.

THERE is a Japanese saying to the effect that women who have served their time in prostitute houses, are absolutely without human sentiment, except that of hatred. This has been recently exemplified in the little town of Hongo, near Hachioji. Nakamura Tetsuzo, a seedsmen of that place, made some thirteen years ago the unfortunate acquaintance of a prostitute named Ima. He became greatly attached to her and seven years later when she went to ply the same detestable trade in Fukushima, used often to leave his business and take the long journey for a sight of her. She was fond of dress and her elegant toilettes increased if anything her admirer's infatuation, so that in fine he made her an offer of marriage, promising her to have her contract with the brothel at once cancelled if she would accept his proposals. She did accept and became his wife early in the following year. But once a wife she showed herself disinclined to do any domestic work and fond of spending large sums for dress. Seing this, Nakamura's parents and friends begged him to divorce her, but that was a step that the uxurious man hesitated to take. Ima got wind of the matter, and fearing that her husband might finally be prevailed upon to discard her, resolved to poison his parents, whom she regarded as the chief cause of her husband's possible disaffection. Nakamura had at one time dealt in drugs, so it was easy for the ex-prostitute to obtain what she wanted. On the 7th instant, after her husband had gone out on business, she carried her evil decision into effect, mixing a quantity of a deadly poison with some *soba* which she gave to Nakamura's parents for their evening meal. They ate heartily, and in an hour fatal symptoms were developed, blood-vomiting, with large purple patches on the body. In a little while both died, after having suffered fearfully. Just then the husband returned, and, though Ima began to bewail the sudden death of his parents and acted in a most natural manner, his suspicions were aroused by the discoloured faces of the corpses. He taxed her with the crime and sent for the police. Furious at the miscarriage of her plans, the guilty woman finally confessed what she had done, appearing to gloat over the misery she had caused. She was promptly incarcerated, and there is no doubt that she will have to suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

THE DROUGHT.

COMPLAINTS are heard on every side of the long-continued drought, and fears are expressed that this year's rice-crop will fall alarmingly below the average. The *nyūbai*, or early spring rains, were of unusually short duration, and June, the rainy month *par excellence*, has so far had cloudless skies with great heat. Under the circumstances the *ta-ue*, or transplantation of the young rice-sprouts, is almost impossible, the lack of moisture being fatal. The price of the national cereal is unusually high already, and if there is not an immediate change for the better, with plentiful rains, the poor will have a hard time of it this fall and winter, not to speak of the wide-spread agricultural distress that must ensue.

PSYCHIC PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE *Yomiuri Shimbun* credits Prof. Tsuboi of the Imperial University with having invented a process of taking "psychic photographs." It consists in making a series of photographs, one imposed upon the other, of a number of persons having the same psychic proclivities or characteristics. The other day the Professor went to the Tokyo Reformatory and took composite negatives of a set of thirteen stubborn youths; then of a group of twelve incurably lazy boys; and finally of a detachment of fifteen notoriously vicious characters. The result is said to have been eminently satisfactory. The first photograph presented a typically obstinate countenance; the second a type of idleness; the third, that of pronounced vice. The experimenter next took, in like manner, superimposed negatives of specialists in the five departments of literature, science, engineering, law, and medicine. The result was the same. The photograph of the combined professors in the College of Literature bore a striking general resemblance to Prof. Toyama, which phenomenon, the *Yomiuri* naïvely remarks, is due to the Professor being so prominent in the world of letters. Without going into the question of the predominance of Prof. Toyama's striking features in the literary group, we can assure our contemporary that composite photographs of this description are as old as the hills, and that the system "invented" by Prof. Tsuboi has been successfully tried in both Europe and America. It was, if we remember aright, first brought into prominence by the late Francis Galton.

"THE ROMANCE OF THE SWAN'S NEST."

MR. OWADA, one of the instructors of the First Higher Normal School, is evidently an admirer of the gems of English poetry. We had occasion recently to refer to his excellent translation of Campbell's "Hohenlinden." Now he has given a new specimen of his skill in a very neat and pretty version of Mrs. Browning's "Romance of the Swan's Nest," one of the best minor poems of the authoress of "Aurora Leigh." The Japanese metre chosen is that known as *imayo*, and the translator has succeeded in doing what is very difficult to be done in any poetical version,—he has not marred any of the sentiment and music of the original. Mr. Owada is one of the copious writers of the younger school of Japanese poets, and his forte lies apparently in adapting Western lyrics to the awkward metre of his national poetry. One would like to see what he could do with Longfellow's "Excelsior," for that is a poem after the Japanese heart. His latest work appears in the *Nippon no Shonen* of the 15th instant.

THE TROUBLE IN AICHI.

THE agitation of the inhabitants of the earthquake-districts in Owari for a further postponement of the date on which the arrears of land-tax are to be paid, does not, according to recent information received by the *Jiji Shimpo*, seem to be wholly justifiable. In our former account, which appeared in these columns about three weeks ago, the matter looked very serious indeed, the action of the local Governor, in particular, being represented as somewhat inconsiderate of the interests of the people. The *Jiji's* latest statement, however, totally reverses the affair. For those who suffered loss by the earthquake special provisions had, it will be remembered, been enacted, by virtue of which the payment of taxes was delayed until the end of May of the present year. The inhabitants thought it impossible to meet this obligation by the specified time, and consequently presented a petition to the last session of the Diet for a further postponement of the time-limit, the date proposed being the end of this November. At the same time they requested the Governor to exert himself in their behalf. This the Governor refused to do, alleging that while the special provisions previously enacted were still in force, he could do nothing but adhere to them. Yet he did not neglect, and that at once, to charge himself with their interests; on the occasion of the opening of a special session of the Local Assembly, he informed the members that he had instructed the chief tax-collector of the locality to proceed to Tokyo in order to report upon the actual state of affairs; and that he had also made special arrangements by which the tax-payers might pay their arrears in installments instead of a lump sum. Nothwithstanding all these considerate actions of the Governor, the Owari people thought themselves justified in raising an outcry against him, so soon as the petition forwarded to the Diet had come to no result, on account of that body's dissolution, and the committee which they had sent to the Central Government returned *re infecta*. The members of the Local Assembly failed to carry a vote of a want of confidence, yet fifteen of the extremists forwarded a letter, over their joint signatures, embodying this sentiment. The headmen of the villages throughout the district have proved equally, if not even more, refractory. Many have, although required to do so as country magistrates, not yet sent out notices calling for payment of the taxes, while others have even taken the extreme step of refusing to receive payment when a few of the people came to fulfil their obligation. Such an action is, we need not state, wholly at variance with their official duty; and for this reason it is said that they have applied for release from service. In spite of all this apparent discontent, adds the *Jiji*, the loss that they sustained in the earthquake has been fully made good to them by the many advantages they have since enjoyed, such as the reduction in and postponement of the taxes payable; the special Imperial grant; the Government subsidy; and the contributions received from the public at large. In point of fact, concludes our contemporary, four out of every ten tax-payers have already paid up; and of the remaining six one-half will do the same in a few days, only thirty per cent. of the whole population being thus left in arrear.

MANIFESTO OF THE NATIONAL BANKS RESPECTING THE PROLONGATION OF THEIR TERMS.

AFTER deciding to petition the Government and Imperial Diet for a ten years prolongation of their terms as national institutions, the National Banks have issued a maifesto, the gist of which is embodied in the following extract:—After referring to their early history and the Regulations affecting National Banks, the document states that both in the Original Regulations of 1872 and the Amendment effected four years later, it was expressly provided that the Banks might apply for a continuation of their business in the same capacity upon the expiration of their original terms. But in 1883 these provisions were entirely altered, an amendment being added providing that the National Banks should not, upon the expiration of their prescribed terms, be allowed to go on with their business in the same capacity or to enjoy the privilege of issuing notes. At the same time all the National Banks were compelled to deposit with the Bank of Japan a certain amount in Government Bonds, wherewith to redeem the notes issued by them upon expiration of their terms. In lieu of the privilege of continuing business in the capacity of National Banks and of issuing notes, the Treasury made certain arrangements by which, without cutting into the capital of the respective

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banks, the redemption of the notes issued by them was ensured. Later on, however, taking advantage of the appreciation of Government Bonds, the Finance Department accelerated the issue of the Redemption Bonds, thereby causing a loss of about seven million *yen* to the National Banks. This loss they would not have incurred had the Treasury adhered to the arrangements previously made. The appreciation of the Government Bonds was in the natural course of events, but the sudden substitution of low interest bonds for those of a higher rate was purely artificial and attributable to the arbitrary arrangements made by the Treasury authorities. Therefore the loss which the National Banks were thus made to undergo should morally be made good to them by the State. In view of this consideration, the bankers hope that, by having their terms prolonged for another decade, they may be able to accomplish the redemption of the notes issued by them, as promised in 1883. The manifesto next emphasizes the injury which the closing of more than one hundred and thirty banks, within the short space of three years, would inflict on the money market in Japan, and further contends that as private banks are, as a rule, comparatively inexperienced and generally short of capital, the existence of National Banks for another ten years is indispensable to the proper development of business enterprise and the extension of foreign commerce. There are those who hold that the winding-up of the affairs of the National Banks is necessary for the unification of currency, but the manifesto scoffs at this idea as one generated out of complete ignorance of the actual state of affairs, and proceeds to explain the matter in the following fashion :—The total amount of notes in circulation comes to one hundred and fifty million *yen*; and in this total the notes issued by National Banks amount to twenty million *yen* only. What perceptible injury could so comparatively trifling an amount do to the unity of the national currency, even though these notes were suffered to run unredeemed for ten years longer? Moreover, as the actual amount of National Bank notes in circulation continues to lessen every year, they should not in any particular manner affect the competency of the Bank of Japan to issue convertible notes. It is further contended by some people that, as the Treasury has declared to the Nippon Ginko its unwillingness to defray any part of the expense incurred by this Bank in dealing with the Treasury money subsequent to the 30th year of *Meiji* (1897), in which year all the National Banks are bound to wind up their affairs in accordance with the Regulations affecting them, the Bank of Japan will have to sustain a heavy loss if the National Banks are suffered to continue in their present status even after the expiration of their prescribed term. In reply to this the National Bankers urge that there would be no danger of any loss to the Bank of Japan itself should they be allowed to carry on their business for another decade, for in that case a sum of money amounting to about 220,000 *yen* would fall to the Treasury in the shape of taxes paid by the National Banks, and so the Department would only have to apply this sum for the given purpose. In short, concludes the manifesto, the prolongation of the terms of the National Banks would have no perceptible influence on the receipts of the Treasury, while it would at once enable the National Bankers to avoid an unnecessary loss and keep the national economy in smooth working order.

THE PRISONERS IN THE KOREAN ASSASSINATION CASE.

JUDGMENT in the above case was delivered by the Tokyo Local Court on the 28th instant. Li Isshoku, accused of instigating Kim Ok-kyün's murder and of an attempt against the life of Boku Eiko, and Kawakubo Tsunekichi, charged with assisting and abetting Kim Ok-kyün's murder, were both discharged on the ground that their action did not constitute a crime. Boku Eiko, Boku Heikitsu, Jo Ryojun, and Ryu Shoman, charged with illegal detention of the above mentioned Li Isshoku, were released on the ground of insufficiency of evidence. As to Li Keikan and Tei Rankyo, accused of a similar offence, they were found guilty, and the former was sentenced to major confinement for 40 days with a fine of 2 *yen*, the latter to major confinement for 30 days with a fine of 2 *yen*. The Public Procurator has appealed against the decision of the Court which found that Li Isshoku and Kawakubo Tsunekichi were not guilty of the offence charged.

DEFECTIVE LIGHT AT NIKKO.

WHEN the electric light was introduced at Nikko last summer, it was hailed with general satisfaction and was certainly an advance in the right direction. But we regret to learn that there is, to all appearance, something very defective and uncertain about this Nikko electric plant. The good people of that noted mountain resort are now and then left in Egyptian darkness—and disgust. The last interruption occured on the night of the 10th instant. The former illuminators in the shape of old lamps and poor oil, once more had to be called into requisition, while the electric "fixtures" in the hotels and other public places, were, according to last accounts, still "dangling in the dark."

THE JAPAN SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER.

THE Japan Society's annual dinner took place on May 21st in the Hotel Métropole. It was numerously attended. H.E. Viscount Aoki—of whom we may mention that he is devoting himself heart and soul to furthering the objects of the Society and that he is rapidly becoming popular in London—presided, and is said to have made an excellent speech of which, unfortunately, we have as yet no report. The *menu* is worth reproducing :—

MENU.

Hors d'Oeuvre.....“To-zai.”
Consommé.....“Tokio.”
Crème de Vollaile.....“Toki-utai.”
Saumon S'ce. Hollandaise.....“Deshima.”
Whitebait.....“Shira-iwo.”
Côtelettes d'Agneau Printanière...“Sakura.”
Poularde Sautée Demidoff.....“Karafuto.”
Granit Amontillado.....“Kinka San.”
Filet de Bœuf Milanaise.....“Sômen.”
Jambon braisé au Madère.
Haricots Verts nouveaux Sautés...“Shoki.”
Pommes de terres rissolées.....“Satsuma.”
Caille rotie sur Canapé.....“Awa-batake.”
Salade.....“Haru-no-Me.”
Asperges Sce.....“Matsushima.”
Mousse au Marasquin.....“Awajishima.”
Gelée Moscovite.....“Golownin.”
Fondu.....“Fuji San.”
Bombe.....“Hokkaido.”
Petits fours assortis.
Dessert.
Café Noir.

The Lord Mayor spoke, dealing, of course, in conventional platitudes; Mr. Diosy had much to say and said it well, and Sir Edwin Arnold made one of his pretty displays of linked sweetness. We reproduce here the *Daily Telegraph's* report of the event :—

That interest in this far-off point of the Orient is widespread was amply indicated by the cosmopolitan character of the attendance at the third annual banquet of the Japan Society, held last night at the Hôtel Métropole under the presidency of his Excellency Viscount Aoki. Among those present were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Duke of Newcastle, Lady Hill, Lady Lawrence, Sir Edwin Arnold, Sir E. J. Reed, Colonel Sir Edward Hill, Baron Von Siebold, Sir Trevor Lawrence, and Mr. A. Diosy (hon. sec.)

Proposing the toast of the Queen, his Excellency the Chairman called for the acclamation used in saluting the Japanese Sovereign. "Banzai," which means "ten thousand blessings"

The Lord Mayor next submitted the sentiment, "The Emperor of Japan," and

Sir Edwin Arnold, who was received with applause, next offered the toast of the evening, "Success to the Japan Society." He expressed pleasure at an opportunity enabling him to bear testimony to the good and enlightened work that had been performed by the society, and remarked that in surveying the distinguished assembly he was reminded by the friendly presence of his Excellency, as chairman, of many agreeable days in Japan and the debt of gratitude which he owed to that fair land. Proceeding, he said :—It is very natural that from healthy roots strong trees are developed, and I think the rapid growth of the Japan Society proves that a noble idea inspired your founder, Mr. Arthur Diosy, when he planted the seeds of this society. Its objects, as defined in its constitution, are the encouragement of the study of the Japanese language, literature, history, and folk lore; the Japanese arts, sciences, industry, and the social life and economic conditions of the Japanese people, past and present, and of all Japanese matters." That definition has received free interpretation in the proceedings of the society, as may plainly be seen on study of the admirable first volume of Transactions published in the past year—a volume which, by variety, brilliance, and solidity, would do credit to any old-established learned association. You will there see the interest of the society lightly and agreeably ranging, as someone has remarked, "from athletic to artistic signatures, from archæology, chronology, and chrysanthemum salad, from demonogy to dwarfed trees, from war fans to wedding ceremonies."—(Laughter.) But neither your large-hearted founder, Mr. Diosy, nor the distinguished members of the council surrounding him, nor your Excellency who represents so illustriously to-night the goodwill towards us of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan, nor you gentlemen of Japan present among us, nor me who love Japan almost as well as yourselves—none of us would rest satisfied if the society were merely an institution for the encouragement, dissemination, and stimulation of research. It has, beyond all these, a wider and a deeper purpose, which I have found nowhere better alluded to than in the words of Mr. Diosy himself: "It helps to bind closely in bonds of amity the millions who inhabit the islands on which the sun rises with the millions who dwell in the Empire on which the sun never sets."—(Cheers.) That, indeed, is why I am a faithful friend to the Japan Society and a firm believer in its future progress and usefulness. I am full of hope that year by year it will increase the mutual knowledge between Japan and England, and will foster the flame of friendship which has already grown bright between them, and will provide, here in London, a gateway by which Japanese visitors and residents can enter into our home life as some of us have entered into theirs.—(Cheers.) Alluding to the prosperity of the society, Sir Edwin said: I liken it in my own mind to the bamboo clump in my garden at Azabu, which grew so fast that my *Uyekya*—my gardener—said: "If you hang your hat upon it, *Danna-San*, to-night, you will want a ladder to get it in the morning."—(Laughter.) Nor let it be supposed that we English imagine ourselves to be the teachers and you of Japan merely the learners in this happy and increasing friendship between the empires. There can be no countryman of mine here present, knowing the beautiful islands of the Rising Sun, who will not agree with me that Japan can instruct us in much. We admire the secret of that delicate, artistic gift, which is so universal in your nation and makes you the Greeks of Asia. Our less supple Western fingers will never sweep subtle and instantaneous curves of life and motion with a moist brush like those of Okyo and Hokusai, nor turn tiny ivories into exquisite laughing *netsukes*, nor mould and chisel bronze and copper eagles, which can almost flutter their pinions and blink at the sun their eyes. But teach us, if you can, more of the soft and gracious manners which render existence in your high-bred land a dignity and delight. Implant in us some of the noble reverence for age, that gratitude to parents, that honourable respect for the past which makes grey hairs in Japan a natural diadem, and which, by accustoming children to render back to their parents the debts of love and duty, have banished from Japanese homes avarice, covetousness, and domestic anxiety. Instruct us in the arts by which, while we here expend £20,000,000 per year on our paupers, you have no poor law at all, no unions, and yet no mendicants in your streets. Tell us how we can make our population delight in cleanliness, as yours does, so that the common *kurama-ya* can boast a skin like the lady of the Court and feet and hands as fair and seemly. Impart not your religion, for we have plenty of that here, but the gentle and gladsome spirit in Japan which beautifies piety and takes away from life its idle worries and from death its needless terrors. I often sadly think that the Japanese common people derive more natural joy in one year of their earthly existence than the communities of England and America enjoy in their entire worldly span. It is impossible that a splendid future should not lie before the Empire of the Rising Sun. History foresees it in the wonderful adaptiveness with which Japan has passed through the *O-jishin*—the great earthquake of her revolution, in the homogeneity of her 40,000,000 of inhabitants, in their patriotism, courage, simplicity endurance, artistic and industrial gifts. History foresees it in the happy fortune which gave her, at the crisis of destiny, an Emperor so enlightened, resolute, and such wise Imperial advisers, of whom we behold in the chair a very worthy example, to assist his Minister's counsels. I had the honour, by Imperial invitation, to be present at the military manœuvres near Nagoya, two or three years ago, and saw in the field 30,000 Japanese troops, which, for marching and fighting powers, would thoroughly have satisfied the highest and the best military critics. And once, when I asked of Captain Ingles, chief Naval Adviser to the Japanese Admiralty of *Dai Nippon*, what he privately thought of the Japanese bluejackets, his reply was, "I do not know where to find fault with them, alow or aloft." But, perhaps, most of all I found my hopes of the future greatness and happiness of Japan upon her women. We are honoured here to-night by the presence of Japanese ladies, and I will suffer that gentle inspiration to encourage me to repeat what I once said before an important assembly of the noble ladies of Tokyo. I

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had received a command from them to speak on Western education in regard to women, and I commenced with the words, "Whatever else we of the West may wish or propose to teach you, neither I nor anybody else may pretend to instruct you how to be better daughters, better sisters, better wives or better mothers than you are here and now." In proceeding to offer the toast Sir Edwin paid tribute to Mr. Diosy's efforts in connection with the society, and urged that unity should help the society to its legitimate consummation.—(Cheers.)

Mr. Diosy replied, and Professor Anderson gave the toast of "The President."

Viscount Aoki, in response, remarked that Great Britain and Japan had, in their efforts in commerce, civilisation, order, and progress, created a current of sympathy from West to East which he hoped might be strong and lasting.

The gathering then broke up.

THE "JIJI'S" LITTLE JOKES ABOUT KOREAN AFFAIRS.

THE *Jiji Shimpo* is a many-sided paper. It is now day after day publishing sketches depicting the outrages of which the Japanese were the victims at the hands of the Chinese soldiers in the Korean emeute of 1884, a sober subject enough, in all conscience; yet it occasionally indulges its capricious vein, compelling its readers to break into broad smiles. Upon the news of the despatch of Chinese troops to the Peninsula reaching Tokyo, the *Jiji* advised Japanese merchants, with seemingly most serious intent, to set out at once for Korea armed with an abundant supply of lanterns and umbrellas, the same to be sold to the Chinese soldiers. A warrior of the Celestial Empire, gravely observed the *Jiji*, is invariably supplied with an umbrella to protect him from the rain, as well as a lantern to light him on his way in the dark. These weapons are thus both eminently useful and indispensable. Yet the niggard Government gives each trooper only one umbrella and one lantern, and it stands to reason that they must soon wear out. Japanese merchants of enterprise should not miss this golden opportunity to make a fortune, for the Chinese will be at their wits' end to get fresh supplies in Korea, owing to the internal disorder in that country and the consequent stoppage of manufactures. The *Jiji's* humour is even broader in another instance. In this case it is generous enough to teach the Chinese how to conquer the Japanese with ease, should the two nations come to blows. The sending of troops to Korea was a useless and fearfully expensive measure; it would have been a thousand times cheaper and much more effective to bring up from Canton a few handfuls of pest-stricken Chinese, who should then be placed to the windward of the Japanese army. If difficult to procure a sufficient number of pest-patients, it would be equally efficacious to make the Chinese now in Korea wear some garments imported from the pest-districts, and proceed as above. Nothing could be simpler or cheaper than this plan!

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNORS.

THE object of holding an extraordinary meeting of local Governors in Tokyo, as reported in a recent issue, is said to have been connected with the approaching general elections. His Excellency the Minister of State for Home Affairs addressed to the Governors a strict injunction against interference of any kind in the elections, and explained that the Government's firm resolve is to continue its policy of standing aloof from all political parties. The Minister spoke also with reference to the question of repairing river-banks. The Government adhered to its idea of defraying the cost of such works out of the Treasury, but Count Inouye reminded the Governors that the consent of the Diet had to be obtained, and in view of the difficulty of obtaining it, urged them to contrive that the most essential repairs should be effected at the cost of the local tax-payers.

THE EMPRESS.

HER MAJESTY the Empress has decided to spend a month at Horiuchi from the 1st prox. Horiuchi has become one of the most favourite seaside resorts in the neighbourhood of Tokyo. It is within two hours and a half of the capital, and in addition to exquisite scenery and a shore admirably suited for bathing, it has the charm of historic associations. We believe that Horiuchi was first discovered as a seaside resort by Dr. Baelz—that is to say discovered in modern times, for already as far back as the 12th century the Minamoto chief, Yoritomo, had a villa there presided over by a Fair Rosamond. Several noblemen and gentlemen have now built houses along the seashore. Two years ago a so-called detached palace was constructed, and there Her Majesty intends to pass the month of July. Horiuchi of course is much excited over the event. On the day of Her Majesty's arrival a hundred *jinrikishas* been ordered to meet the Imperial party at Dzushi, the nearest railway station. To fill this order the resources of all the neighbouring district have had to be requisitioned, so that intending visitors to Kamakura or Enoshima to-morrow had better be prepared for some inconvenience.

THE CONVENT.

As our readers are doubtless well aware, the Convent on the Bluff, Yokohama, suffered severely by the recent big earthquake, and requires rebuilding in almost every part. The funds of the institution, which are never more than sufficient to keep the good work running, are totally inadequate to meet the great demand now suddenly made upon them, and the authorities have reluctantly issued the following appeal:—

> The Reverend Mother of the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus, in Yokohama, makes appeal to charitable persons for the repairing of the great part of the Convent, which unfortunately has been largely damaged by the recent earthquake, and which imperatively requires reconstruction.
>
> The Reverend Mother feels confident that her heretofore charitable friends will not fail to succour her and her poor children in their present straits.

The Convent has been working in Yokohama for over 20 years and has now 700 orphan children dependent upon its care. Considering that the greater portion of these little ones are the offspring of Japanese parents, we think that the present opportunity of showing appreciation and gratitude for the work of the Sisters, should be taken advantage of by Japanese merchants and others as well as by the foreign residents.

THE STRONG-FOREIGN-POLICY PARTY.

THE Strong-Foreign-Policy party has just held a meeting at Sendai, the leading politicians present being Viscount Tani, Baron Date, Messrs. Kusumoto Masataka, Furusho Kamon, Takata Sanaye, Abei Hankon, etc. It is said that a thousand people were present. The resolutions adopted were of the usual stereotyped character, the vindication of the country's sovereign rights—the enhancing of its prestige, and other noble sentiments forming the bases of the meeting's manifesto. Tacked on of course like, the postscript to a lady's letter, was a resolution embodying the real object of the agitators, namely, the establishment of Party Cabinets. After the meeting Mr. Kusumoto Masataka delivered a lecture explaining what he and his party mean by a strong foreign policy. We have read a *prècis* of this lecture as published by the vernacular press, but we remain as far from understanding Mr. Kusumoto as ever. We shall not attempt therefore to involve our readers in like perplexity.

THE SEAMEN'S MISSION.

A MOST successful entertainment was given on Thursday evening at the Seamen's Mission when several ladies and gentlemen of the community contributed to a programme full of popular items. From two hundred and fifty to three hundred persons were present, including Admiral Sir Ed. Fremantle, Bishop and Mrs. Bickersteth, a number of officers of the fleet, and some captains and officers of the mercantile marine. The Admiral briefly opened the proceedings in a speech which expressed satisfaction with the mission. Later in the evening he spoke again and made incidental reference to a visit he had paid the previous day in company with a lady well acquainted with similiar work in other places. They were both surprised and pleased with all they saw, and especially with the very large number of papers and periodicals with which the rooms were supplied. He thought the mission reflected the highest credit on the Chaplain and his wife. Bishop Bickersteth having moved a general vote of thanks to the Chairman and the performers, Admiral Femantle called for a hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. and Mrs. Austen. This was enthusiastically given and the gathering dispersed. The following was the programme: Selection, The Band of H.M.F.S. *Centurion*; Pianoforte Solo, Valse (Durand), Miss Mendelson; Solo, "Mistress Prue" (Molloy), Miss Bloxham; Recitation, "Herve Riel" (Robert Browning), Mrs. G. E. Rice; Duett, "The Magic Lantern" (Gabussi), Mrs. W. W. Campbell and Miss Rice; Solo, "My Lady's Bower" (Hope Temple), Mrs. F. Herb; Selections, (Interval, 10 minutes) The Band; Duett, "Valse Brilliante" (Mostzkowski), Mrs. O. A. Poole and Miss Wheeler; Solo, "Should he upbraid" (Bishop), Mrs. W. W. Campbell; Recitation, Mrs. Hubbard; Pianoforte Solo, "The March of the Men of Harlech" (Arranged by W. Layland), Miss Griffin; Solo, "Stella Confidente" (Kobaudi), Mrs. F. Herb; "God Save the Queen," The Band.

PEARL HARBOUR.

THE surveys made by Admiral Irwin at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii have established the existence of a state of affairs very much more favourable than was first anticipated. In order to render the harbour accessible to large ships, a bar of considerable extent has to be removed. This bar was originally supposed to be of solid coral, and its removal would, on that hypothesis, have involved labour costing something like a million dollars. But more careful examination shows that the coral formation does not constitute more than a mere shell, and that the clearing away of the bar will probably be effected at an outlay of some $75,000. The harbour will be magnificent.

S. ANDREW'S CHURCH, SHIBA.

A MEETING of the English residents in Tokyo was held at St. Andrew's House on Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock to consider what steps should be taken with regard to the damage done by the earthquake to St. Andrew's Church. Bishop Bickersteth took the chair, supported by Mr. R. Paget, H.B.M.'s *Chargé d'Affaires*, and there were present, beside the clergy, Messrs. Cox, Kirkwood, Forshaw, Stone, T. James, Pownall, Conder, Thompson, and Gemmill. A very interesting discussion took place, after which it was decided to adjourn for a week to allow of further professional advice being procured. The adjourned meeting will be held next Wednesday at the same time and place.

THE WOUNDED AT THE JIZENKAI HOSPITAL.

WE are glad to state that five of the wounded in the disaster at No. 258 have so far recovered that they have been discharged from hospital. The case of trephining is expected to turn out successfully as the patient is rapidly improving. The woman who sustained a compound fracture of her leg below the knee is not progressing very favourably. She objects to amputation; but the flesh has been so severely crushed and lacerated that it will be difficult to heal without having recourse to amputation. Dr. Rokkaku is deferring as far as possible to the poor woman's wishes.

FUNERAL OF MR. MAACK.

THE mortal remains of Mr. John Maack, for over 25 years bookkeeper in the office of Messrs. H. Ahrens & Co.,—and a resident of the East for upwards of 30 years—were interred in Yokohama Cemetery on Monday afternoon amid many expressions of esteem and well-won regard. Dr. Chriestlieb officiated at the German Hospital ere the bier was removed and also at the grave-side. The coffin was shrouded in beautiful wreaths sent by intimate friends.

THE SILK INDUSTRY IN ITALY.

THE *Official Gazette* prints a telegram dispatched by Mr. Yamada, Japanese Acting-Consul at Lyons, on the 22nd inst. and received by the Agricultural and Commercial Department, which states that the cocoon harvest in Italy this year

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shows a slight decrease against that of last year. The quotations of Italian cocoons are nearly equal to the prices prevailing in France.

A THIRD METROPOLITAN NEWS AGENCY.

ALTHOUGH of comparatively recent date, the Tokyo News Agency is the oldest of such institutions in the capital; the oldest and popularly supposed to be the most trustworthy. A little more than two years ago the Teikoku Tsushin-sha was established by the amalgamation of two or three petty and until then rival concerns. Mr. Nakashima Shinichi, a man of good antecedents but deplorably deficient in the sense of commercial honour—as some Yokohama firms can testify—was for about one year President of the Company. Despite his subsequent defection, the Imperial News Agency has prospered as it deserves. And now we have a third rival establishment in the *Nai-gwai Tsushin-sha*, a large new agency started last month by that progressive and indefatigable firm the Hakubun-kwan. There never was a shrewder man of business than Mr. Ohashi, the head of this great publishing house, and it is very easy to foresee that this latest news agency will soon supplant the other two in the public favour. It is, however, an excellent indication of the rapid growth of journalism in Japan when we find three large agencies of this description in one and the same city.

THE MOTOMACHI RELIEF FUNDS.

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of a cheque for $50 from Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. and $10 from O.T.M., as a donation towards the Motomachi Relief Funds.

* * *

Mr. G. W. Bramhall acknowledges the following additional subscriptions :—Union Church —(Sunday Collection) $61.11; "B," $25; J. R. Merian and Co., $20; Yokohama-Juvenile Tonic Sol-fa Society, $25; F.B., $20; Mrs. E. S. Patton, $5—Total to date, $946.11.

A CORRECTION.

IN our account of the *No* performance organized by Prince Ikeda Shigemasa in honour of Madame Minnie Hauk von Wartegg, we stated that M. and Madame von Wartegg were the only Europeans present. We should have added the name of M. Braccialini, to whom our apologies are now due for the omission.

JAPAN AND THE LATE M. CARNOT.

IT is gazetted that Mr. Sone Arasuke, Japanese Minister to France, has been commissioned by the Japanese Government to attend the funeral of the late M. Carnot as a Special Ambassador. H.M. the Emperor has also wired a message of condolence to the French Government.

SUSPENSION OF NEWSPAPERS.

THE *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the *Nippon* and the *Shin-choya* have all been suspended for publishing a document compiled by Prince Konoye and others with reference to the last dissolution of the House of Representatives.

EXPLOSION AT A POWDER-MILL.

ON the 27th instant at 9 a.m., an explosion occurred in the Army Department's Gunpowder Factory, at Itabashi. Two deaths resulted and much confusion prevailed. Particulars are not yet published.

THE NEW FRENCH PRESIDENT.

A telegram was received by the French Consulate at 6.15 p.m. on Thursday, from the Legation in Tokyo, announcing that M. Casimir-Perier had been elected President of the French Republic.

As the funeral of the late President, M. Carnot, takes place on Sunday, July 1st, a solemn requiem mass will be celebrated at the Roman Catholic Church at Tsukiji, Tokyo.

The official period of mourning for the deceased will be thirty days, beginning on the 25th June.

JAPANESE CHRISTIANS AS PROPAGANDISTS.

"No longer any need of foreign missionaries" is a cry becoming more and more prevalent among Japanese Christians. The *Jogaku Zasshi* (Woman's Magazine) advances a step further and thinks that the time has come for its countrymen to go forth as missionaries to the neighbouring continent. The immediate occasion evoking the Tokyo periodical's article is the Conference of the Christian Churches in Japan to be held some time in the month of July. There being a rumour that dissensions threaten, it will be part of the business of the Conference to see to the settlement of the disputes. Another matter to which the attention of the Conference is directed is that measures ought to be considered for rousing the desponding spirit of the nation. But the question which of all questions the *Jogaku* desires the Conference to discuss is that of despatching Japanese missionaries to the countries on the continent, especially Korea, China, and India. The conversion of these peoples to the religion of Christ is a task that can be accomplished by the Japanese alone. Even a people so liberal, so quick in intelligence, and so noted for adaptability, as the Japanese, have been long dissatisfied with the efforts of the English and American missionaries to transplant Christianity into Japan in the form in which it is found in their own countries. "How could such a method succeed in the homes of Buddhism and Confucianism?" Why are the Japanese better qualified for the task? The explanation is simple. The Japanese have absorbed and harmonized the three religions of Shakya, Confucius, and Christ. The *Jogaku* even claims that the Japanese have succeeded better than any other nation in discovering and imbibing the true essence of each of these three creeds. Hence, the Japanese alone can present Christianity to the Indians, Chinese, and Koreans in such a form that those people will appreciate and accept it. What the Japanese now lack is the money required for such an undertaking. European and American Christians contribute large sums for missionary work in Japan. But there is not, in the Tokyo journal's opinion, much necessity for foreign missionaries in Japan; the work can be done by Japanese at least equally well. Neither are the Japanese pleased with the idea that their country should be a field for foreign missionary labour. Consequently, the foreign missionary societies are advised to place the money now devoted to missionary work in Japan at the disposal of Japanese propagandists who will go to convert the nations of the Asiatic Contiment. It is not a shame for Japanese Christians to solicit pecuniary assistance from their sympathizers in Europe and America for the purpose of converting other nations. Of course the task of raising funds should be commenced among the Japanese, but appeals will have to be made to the Missionary Societies in Europe and America. Several Japanese Christians have collected subscriptions abroad for the purpose of propagating their religion in this countrv. Exactly how they managed to move the foreign public, the *Jogaku* does not profess to know, but is persuaded that they dwelt upon the vices and defects of their countrymen. Such conduct would be impossible to men who really love their country. But the case is very different when subscriptions are asked for work to be done in Korea, China, and India. The attention of the Japanese Christian is called to the history of the Kaigan Church at Yokohama, the first Protestant church ever built in Japan. It was erected with money contributed by Hawaiians, a people who, half a century before, had been cannibals, but who, when once they were admitted into the bosom of church, recognised the duty of taking steps for the propagation of the creed in foreign lands. "Shame to you Christians of Japan," says the *Jogaku* in conclusion, "it is time for you to awaken to a sense of your mission."

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

The report that a large Chinese force entered Korea by way of Wi-ju has been found to be without any foundation. It seems certain, however, that China has decided to send reinforcements to Korea. The *Nichi Nichi* states that it has received the following telegram from its Tientsin correspondent, dated June 21st, 4.30 p.m.:—

"The Viceroy Li, deeming it necessary to send re-inforcements to Korea, has issued orders for the despatch of 5,000 troops from the army recently inspected by him. The troops have not yet reached here, owing to the insufficiency of transports."

The alleged recovery of Chöu-ju by the Government troops is confirmed by Japanese correspondents. A letter published by the *Nichi Nichi*, dated Söul 15th instant, is most minute on this topic. At the time of the fall of that important stronghold on the 31st of May, the Government troops retired as far as Kong-ju and waited for the arrival of reinforcements from the capital. Seven hundred reinforcements having arrived, the troops marched against the rebels at Chöu-ju on the 6th instant. Fighting took place both on that day and on the following. Ultimately the rebels are said to have been completely defeated with heavy loss, namely 300 killed and 70 captured. The captives were instantly put to death, the flying rebels being hotly pursued, and it is claimed that as many as 500 were slaughtered in this way. Among these are said to have been two youthful leaders of the rebels, aged 14 and 15. The defeated insurgents are reported to have fallen back upon Kim-jè, a prefectural town in the province of Chöl-la-do. These reports, however, are not perfectly accurate; they seem to have emanated from official sources in Söul. But there seems to be no doubt about the recovery of Chöu-ju.

The former Governor of Chöl-la-do, Kim Bungen, has been sentenced to banishment to an island on account of deserting his official post.

On Saturday evening last, the streets of Tokyo resounded with cries of *Gôgai, gôgai*. Newsvendors hurried in every direction, offering for sale "Extras" issued by the leading journals of the capital. The *Asahi's*, as usual, was the first to come to hand. We reproduce the gist of what these extras contained. On the 22nd instant, a Cabinet Council was held in the presence of His Majesty the Emperor. The Council was attended by all the Ministers of State, except Count Inouye—who, by the way, was to return to the capital on Sunday last and at once resume his official duties—as well as by Their Imperial Highnesses Prince Arisugawa, Chief of the General Staff, Prince Komatsu, Commander of the Imperial Guards, General Count Yamagata, President of the Privy Council, Lieutenant-General Kawakami, Assistant Chief of the General Staff, Vice-Admiral Nakamuda, Chief of the Command Department in the Navy, and Count Matsukata, ex-Minister President of State. The subject of discussion, of course, related to the Korean question, but nothing is known about the special circumstance, or circumstances, that led to such an unusual conference. The *Asahi*, however, hints that the results of the decision arrived at in the Council of the 22nd instant will shake the whole East.

China, it is stated, is busily making preparations for war. According to information claimed to be trustworthy, it is reported that the transfer of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company's vessels to the German flag has already been arranged. Moreover, a telegram, said to have been received from Chefoo on the 22nd instant, announces that 6,000 troops have left for Korea, and that they are destined for Söul. There appears to be little question that China has sent re-inforcements, but opinions differ as to their strength, the *Nichi Nichi's* telegram putting it at 8,500. From the active efforts China is now making to increase her forces in Korea, our contemporary unhesitatingly infers the nature of the reply which the Japanese Government has made to China in response to the latter's re-

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peated demands for the withdrawal of the Japanese troops from the peninsula. "Now that," states the same paper in another note, "both Japan and China, instead of withdrawing their troops from Korea, are bent on increasing the strength of their respective forces, it must be expected that, if a collision once take place between the two armies, it will lead to a disastrous war. At all events, we must conclude that of late the situation has entered on a critical stage."

The Tokyo papers publish a rumour that England has promised, or offered, to support China in the event of complications in Korea, in return for China's acquiescence in her occupation of Port Hamilton. An absurd canard, of course. If England wants Port Hamilton, she will take it without any embarrassing *pourparlers*.

Concerning the alleged presence of Japanese in the rebel camp, the *Niroku Shimpo's* correspondent, Mr. Akiyama Teisuke, professes to obtained trustworthy information. He says that two out of the nine leaders of the rebels are Japanese. They carefully conceal their nationality, however, so that even the rest of the Japanese in the rebel camps do not know these leaders to be their own countrymen. It is also stated that a few Japanese 100-*yen* bank notes have been picked up at places evacuated by the rebels. The same correspondent mentions a rumour that a large number of Russians have entered the provinces of Ham-gyŏng-do and Kang-wŏn-do. We (*Japan Mail*) do not believe it. That is not Russia's game. He further states that Chinese troops are gradually marching in the direction of Sŏul. They seem to have already reached the neighbourhood of that city at the date of the correspondence (June 15th), for it is mentioned that the Chinese Commander asked the Korean Government's leave to hold manœuvres at Hwa-Sŏng, an elevated place overlooking the Korean Capital. The Korean Government is said to have refused the application. The collision between the Japanese and Chinese forces in 1884 took place three days after similar manœuvres had been performed by the latter at the same place. Hence the Sŏul authorities seem to fear that a like catastrophe might again ensue, should China's application be granted.

Concerning Mr. Otori, the Japanese Minister to Korea, an interesting story is told. In 1868 he collected a small army composed of followers of the Tokugawa house, and made a resolute stand against the Imperial forces in the neighbourhood of Utsunomiya. For a time the little army under his command held its ground against the advancing foes, achieving several brilliant successes. But it could not long maintain its position in the face of the superior numbers of the Imperialists, and when all hope was over, Mr. Otori attempted to put an end to himself by committing *harakiri*. The leather belt worn by him on that memorable occasion has been preserved ever since in his family as a memento of those eventful days. It is now stated that when he left for Korea on board the *Yayeyama Kan*, he wore this leather belt round his waist. People infer that the old spirit of combat has again been roused in his breast. Very likely. What Japanese breast is without it at present, we should like to know.

An extraordinary meeting of the Privy Council was held on Saturday last, and was attended by all the Privy Councillors, not excepting even Count Katsu and Count Soyejima, both of whom had been confined to bed for some time. It is reported that the opinion of the Privy Council had been sought by the Emperor on some urgent matter. The general belief is that the conference related to the Korean affair.

The Koreans in the neighbourhood of Fusan are said to be pleased with the arrival of the Japanese troops. In case of danger they intend to come to the Japanese Settlement and solicit the protection of the troops.

The *Niroku Shimpo's* Fusan Correspondent, Mr. Adachi Kuro, recently made a trip to Chin-ju in Kyŏng-sang-do. That district had been believed to be a seat of the rebels, but Mr. Adachi found no rebels there. He learned, however, some important news, which at once induced him to turn to Fusan. He does not state what the news was, but from the context of his letter, it appears that it related to the movements of his compatriots in the interior. He alleges that a certain Japanese left Fusan on the 18th instant for the interior, accompanied by several followers. Their supposed object is to assist the Korean rebels in the defence of the celebrated pass of Cho-ryŏng. Mr. Tanaka Jiro, who for the last few weeks figured in Japanese papers as a rebel leader, seems to have been all the while staying at Fusan. We are, however, informed by the *Niroku Shimpo's* correspondent that he was one of the Japanese who left Fusan on the 18th instant for Chung-chhŏng-do, where a large number of Japanese are believed to be mustering from the different open ports.

Mr. Kim, Korean Minister to Japan, proposes returning home to inform the Korean Government of the policy of Japan in connection with Korean Affairs. The Minister visited Mr. Mutsu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the 23rd on business connected with his return.

The report that the Chinese Government ordered the telegraph authorities to accept no telegram from Japanese residents, has been found to be without foundation. Telegrams continue to be transmitted to Japan by Japanese both in Korea and China. But provoking delays always attend the transmission of messages over the Chinese lines. The average length of time now required for sending a telegram from Tokyo to Sŏul by the Wiju line is said to be not less than thirty hours. We even learn that a certain newspaper office in Tokyo received on Saturday last a telegram dated Sŏul, June 17—an interval of nearly a week. Under the circumstances, it is but natural that loud complaints should be uttered by the Japanese press against the Chinese telegraph authorities.

Grave fears seem to be entertained by some Japanese papers that, in the event of war, Japan will be seriously handicapped in matters of telegraphic communication. But we understand that ample preparations have been made by the Military authorities to provide telegraphic facilities should hostilities break out. Meanwhile, it is stated that the steamship *Sumidagawa Maru* has been told off as a regular mail ship between In-chhŏn and Fusan. By the maintenance of mail ships between the two places at regular intervals, Japanese in In-chhŏn will be enabled to send telegraphic messages home more quickly and at the same time more safely than over the Chinese line.

Letters from Korea published in the vernacular press are contradictory of each other, and the more we read them the greater is our confusion and bewilderment. The correspondents are not primarily to blame, for it must be remembered that they are in a country entirely devoid of the ordinary mechanism for collecting and disseminating trustworthy information. Some say, for instance, that the alleged recovery of Chŏn-ju by the Government troops is a fact, while the story is positively declared by others to be without foundation. One of the latter is the *Nippon's* Sŏul correspondent, whose version of the affair is as follows:—On the 16th instant, six of the Government soldiers, who had been wounded at the battle of Pai-san, came up to Sŏul to get their wounds dressed by a Japanese physician. These soldiers are said to have told the Japanese doctor that the stronghold of Chŏn-ju is still in the hands of the rebels, who defend it so bravely that the beseiging troops dare not approach the castle. The so-called slaughter of several hundred rebels is stated to be in reality the inhuman butchery of so many innocent inhabitants of the district for the sole purpose of manufacturing a brave-looking report to the Government in Sŏul. This story appears to be too cruel and inhuman even for Koreans. Another and more probable story is this:—A large number of the citizens of Chon-ju had taken refuge in the castle. The siege of the place having become daily closer, these people naturally grew alarmed and many of them, attempting to escape from the garrison, were shot by the besieging army. Confusion from this source became so great that the rebel leaders began to think it advisable to get rid of these folks altogether. So they issued orders that such inhabitants as might desire to leave the castle should assemble and form themselves into a compact column. Several hundreds came together and did as they were bid. They were led out of the castle at the head of a party of rebel soldiers. As soon as they made their appearance outside the stronghold, the besieging forces opened fire upon them, and when the last of the deceived citizens was beyond the wall, the gate was shut upon them. Thus left to the tender mercy of the Government troops, they were all shot down. This affair is said to have been magnified into a brilliant victory over the rebels. The latter, however, perceiving the impossibility of defending the place any longer, are stated to have quietly left the stronghold abandoning it to the easy occupation of the beseigers. Evidently there is great reluctance on the part of the Japanese press and its correspondents to acknowledge a defeat of the rebels.

The Japanese troops in Sŏul are said to be for the most part quartered in the houses of Japanese residents in the settlement. But parties of them are stationed at important strategical points in the vicinity of the Capital, such as Namsan, Hwa-sŏng and so forth. Small detachments are also posted at several important points between Sŏul and In-chhŏn, such as O-ri-dong, Sam-ho, Yong-san, and Yang-hwa-Chin. It has further been telegraphed that Kukŏm-san, about midway between Sŏul and In-chhŏn, has been occupied by Japanese troops.

The *Nippon's* Sŏul correspondent, writing under date of June 16, says that about 15,000 of the Chinese troops stationed at A-san had begun to March in the direction of the capital, and that, at the time of despatching his letter, they were said to have reached Nam-yang, a sea port to the south of In-chhŏn about fifty miles from Sŏul.

Various absurd rumours are circulated in the capital about the Korean affair. It is stated, for example, that the Korean King has been carried off by the Chinese to Phyŏng-yang, where great efforts are being made to fortify the place; that a Chinese fleet has arrived at the mouth of the Tai-dong-gang with a large number of troops on board destined for Phyŏng-yang; that the Japanese Minister has evacuated Sŏul; and that a collision has taken place between Japanese and Chinese marines at In-chhŏn. So far as we can learn, none of these reports has any foundation whatever. It is also reported by several papers that Lieutenant-General Yamaji, Commander of the Tokyo Garrison, recently left Tokyo in the dead of night for Korea, at the head of a few battalions. The truth is that he is at Kisarazu, in Shimosa, superintending the manœuvres of the troops.

Various estimates have been published about the strength of the Chinese troops at A-san. The *Nichi Nichi* states that, according to the latest and most trustworthy information, the exact number is 2,500. As for the despatch of reinforcements, preparations are said to have been made for sending about 5,000 troops, but, according to our contemporary's information, no portion of this second draft has as yet left the Chinese shore. It thus seems that the telegrams said to have been received from Tientsin relating to the departure of a part (some say 200, others 400) of these troops for Korea were not trustworthy. Neither is there any truth in the rumour that the Chinese troops at A-san are moving in the direction of Sŏul. An In-chhŏn telegram received by the *Jiji Shimpo* on the 25th instant declares that the Chinese force is still encamped at A-san.

It is believed by the *Jiji Shimpo* and several other papers that troops to be hereafter sent by China to Korea will proceed to Phyŏng-yang, an important strategical point on the Tai-dong-gang, and a very convenient place as a basis of operations for the Chinese troops. It was at this place that, at the time of Hideyoshi's invasion, the celebrated General Konishi Yukinaga was defeated by the Chinese. Phyŏng-yang is about 110 miles from Sŏul.

The three Chinese war-ships, which arrived

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at In-chhön on the 22nd instant, and were erroneously supposed to be under the command of Admiral Ting, left that port on the 24th. According to a telegram received in Tokyo, the Chinese officer in command of these ships, a Vice-Admiral, is stated to have called on a certain Japanese officer and held a long conversation with him. The former is said to have expressed strong disapprobation of a rupture between the two countries at the present juncture, and to have avowed an ardent desire to pay a visit to Japan. These Chinese men-of-war left In-chhön on the 24th instant.

A telegram, dated In-chhön June 24th, announces the arrival of four Chinese war-ships on the evening of that day. These vessels seem to be different from those that left the port on the same day. One of them is said to have a tonnage of 15,000 tons (obviously absurd), and the two others of 3,500 tons each. They were believed to have 6,000 soldiers on board. Five or six transports arriving under the escort of these war-ships, are reported to have resumed their voyage without casting anchor in the harbour. Their destination was not known.

The Chinese Consul at Kobe, according to a telegram published in the *Chu-o Shimbun*, assembled the merchants of his country and told them that they must be prepared for an order to leave for home at any time.

The celebrated Mr. Takashima Kayemon has prophesied the future course of events. For several days past he is said to have been performing purificatory rites in his villa at Kanagawa, a preparation he never omits when about to consult the oracle of divination. The indication of his oracle is that more or less bloodshed is inevitable, but that, before hostilities become general, the complication will be amicably settled through the mediation of a third Power. On the whole, China, he thinks, will act on the offensive.

According to a telegram sent to the *Nichi Nichi* from Söul, under date June 26th, p.m., which seems to have been the last received by our contemporary previous to the present interruption of the line, 500 Chinese troops and 10 horses arrived off A-san on the 25th instant and were at once landed. The same telegram adds that further reinforcements are expected to arrive soon from China.

Ming Ei-shün, the Korean statesman primarily responsible for the despatch of Chinese troops to Korea, is reported to have been dismissed from office. His removal had for some time been regarded as inevitable, and the increasing gravity of the situation seems to have finally induced the Söul Government to take a conclusive step. A correspondent of the *Asahi Shimbun*, writing from Söul under date of the 19th instant, says that the European as well as the Chinese residents of Söul have fled to In-chhön, and that the Chinese Resident's offer to subdue the *Togaku-to* has been rejected by the Korean Government.

Concerning the departure of Chinese residents from Söul, the *Niroku Shimpo's* correspondent states that, according to the report of a Japanese constable posted at the South Gate for the purpose of watching the movement, the total number of Chinese that left the capital on the 18th instant from 8 a.m. to dusk, was twenty-two, and the number of packages carried by them aggregated 64 in all.

The report that the Chinese troops at A-san are maintaining themselves at the expense of the local people, is confirmed by subsequent information. The provisions that they had brought from their country in three tiny steam boats, were consumed in a short space of time. They are now supporting themselves by levying forced contributions upon the people of the district. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* correspondent goes even so far as to say that the Chinese soldiers behave toward the Koreans with such insolence and brutality that the people in the vicinity of A-san are flying in all directions.

The same correspondent witnessed a party of Korean soldiers pass through the streets of In-chhön. The officer in command was on horseback with a pipe in his mouth; and the other officers lounged along also smoking. The soldiers, too, were smoking, their rusty guns being made into bundles bound together with straw cords and carried by them in turn. Probably the Koreans in the neghbourhood of In-chhön feared a similar fate at the hands of the Japanese soldiers, for they sent their families to the interior before those troops were landed. The Koreans in In-chhön are said to have already discovered their mistake, for they are reported to be disposed to approach the Japanese soldiers and even hold conversation with them.

Of the transport ships requisitioned, the *Yamashiro Maru* and *Totomi Maru*, says the *Jiji's* Hiroshima correspondent, have been placed under the control of the Navy, as they are constructed in such a manner that they can easily be turned into war vessels. The *Omi Maru* has been set apart for use between the ports of Ujina and Shimonoseki. The *Sagami Maru* has been turned into a Naval transport. The three steamships, *Ckikugo Maru, Kiso Maru* and *Sumida Maru*, have been constituted as mail ships between Fusan and In-chhön. The rest of the requistioned vessels are passing and repassing between the Korean ports and Ujina.

The Tokyo News Agency has received the following telegram from Shanghai, dated June 26, p.m.:—

"Li Hung-chang has telegraphed to the Too-kiang fleet to send up to the north the 廣甲(*Kwang-chuk*), 廣乙(*Kwang-yeh*), 廣丙(*Kwang-peng*), 廣丁(*Kwang-ting*) and 廣戊(*Kwang-fu*). These vessels are now making preparations for the voyage."

According to a telegram, dated Fusan, June 26th, published in the *Jiji Shimpo*, the telegraph line between Söul and Fusan will be opened in about a week's time. A staff of engineers, with necessary material and implements, was sent to Fusan some time ago, and it is stated that the line between Söul and Fusan will be repaired and worked by the Japanese Government.

No important news has been received from Korea. It is, however, stated by several papers that Mr. Otori, the Japanese Minister, in pursuance of instructions from home, has opened negotiations with the Chinese Resident, Mr. Yuan, relating to the settlement of the Korean question. The proposals made by the Japanese Government are said to refer, among other things, to the necessity of combination between Japan and China for the purpose of the introducing thorough reforms in the civil and military administration of Korea, so that the latter's independence may be placed on a firm footing. Mr. Yuan is reported to have asked time for consideration and for consultation with his chief, the Viceroy Li. Similar proposals, it is alleged, were made to the Korean Government, and it expressed acquiescence. Mr. Otori is further stated to have told Mr. Yuan that, should China decline to take united action with Japan, the latter would set about the task on her sole responsibility.

The *Niroku's* Söul correspondent states that various disquieting rumours are circulated in the Korean capital. One is that the Chinese troops in Manchuria will enter Söul by crossing the Am-Nok-gang. The number of Chinese in Söul leaving for home is said to be daily increasing. The Chinese Resident is also reported to have sent his family away.

The *Jiji Shimpo* publishes the following telegram from China:—

Hitherto Li Hung Chang has been merely following a policy of intimidation by disseminating exaggerated reports about the despatch of reinforcements to Korea. He has now changed his programme, and seems to have at last made up his mind. Though careful to keep everything secret, he is known to be assiduously engaged in making preparations for the despatch of a large force."

The *Jiji Shimpo*, commenting on this intelligence, states that the request for the withdrawal of the Japanese troops having been met by a positive refusal on the part of the Japanese Government, Li Chung-t'ang seemed for a time inclined to acquiesce in Japan's ascendency in the peninsula Kingdom. The resolution now displayed by the Viceroy is ascribed by our contemporary to pressure applied from Peking.

The Chinese residents of Yokohama are said to have applied to their Minister in Tokyo for instructions as to the course they ought to take in the event of war between their country and Japan, and the Minister, so runs the story, in turn, having applied for instructions from Viceroy Li, is reported to have received a reply to the effect that the residents should be in no alarm, as there was little likelihood of a rupture between the two empires.

The Tokyo New Agency has received the following telegram, dated In-chhön June 27th, a.m.:—

"Two Chinese transports with troops have just arrived at Nam-yang."

Nam-yang is a sea-port town a short distance west of In-chhon. It is to be noticed that there must be some mistake about the dates of one or other of the above two telegrams. For, if the Wi-ju line was interrupted from the 27th inst., the In-chhön telegram about the arrival of Chinese transports could not have been received in Tokyo on the 28th. Since writing the above, we have received an extra issued by the *Jiji Shimpo*, containing a Fusan telegram, which reports the recent arrival at A-san of two Chinese transports with 1,000 troops in all on board. There being now a regular mail service between In-chhön and Fusan, the *Jiji Shimpo's* telegram looks more trustworthy under the circumstances than the one forwarded by the Tokyo News Agency. It is, however, possible that there may have been two recent arrivals of Chinese transports.

By the *Omi Maru* which arrived at Shimonoseki from In-chhön on the 27th instant, came back 17 sick soldiers, and 26 residents, mostly aged people and young girls. The malady of the soldiers is in most cases a form of dysentery. A temporary military hospital has been established at Moji.

THE JAPANESE SHARE MARKET.

The effect of the Korean situation has made itself very perceptible in the share market, a heavy fall of securities all round has taken place. We reproduce from the columns of the *Shogyo Shimpo* a comparative statement of prices ruling on the 25th instant and the 23rd instant respectively:—

Name of Security.	Price on 25th. Yen.	Price on 23rd. Yen.	Fall. Yen.
Ryomo Railway	66.50...	70.40...	3.90
Sanyo Railway	26.50...	28.90...	2.40
Kwansei Railway	48.40...	51.60...	3.20
New Kwansei Railway	20.50...	22.10...	1.60
Kiushu Railway	36.50...	37.70...	1.20
Kobu Railway	97.20...	98.00...	0.80
Chikuho Railway	69 00...	71.90...	2.90
Tanko Railway	68.10...	71.70...	3.60
Sangu Railway	52.10...	55 00...	2.90
New Sangu Railway	32.60...	35.00...	2.40
Kawagoye Railway	44.50...	48.50...	4.00
Bantan Railway	37 60 ..	40.80...	3.20
Yusen Kaisha	65.60...	66.60...	1.00
Tokyo Tramway Co.	120.00...	132.00...	12.00
Kombu Co.	10.70...	11.20...	0.50
Kanegafuchi Spinning Co..	48.00...	50.10...	2.10
Tokyo Kabushiki Co.	212.00...	245.00...	33.00

The same journal publishes another table showing that in many cases the market price of the shares has fallen below the amount paid up on them:—

Name of Security.	Amount Paid up. Yen.	Lowest Market Price. Yen.	Difference. Yen.
Sanyo Railway	27 00...	26.50...	0.50
Kwansei Railway (New)	20.00...	18.90...	1.10
Kiushu Railway	38.00...	35.80...	2.20
Sangu Railway (New)	32.00...	31.80...	0.20
Kawagove Railway	35.00...	32 50...	2.50
Bantan Railway	35.00...	25 50...	9.50
Senju Tramway Co.	25.00...	13.00...	12.00
Kombu Co.	35 00...	8.00...	27.00
Do. (New)	35.00...	9.80...	25.20
Sugar Refining Co.	15.00...	6.00...	9.00
Hemp Co.	50.00...	32.30...	17.70
Weaving Co.	50.00 ..	26.90...	23.20
Kanegafuchi Spinning Co...	50.00...	48.80...	1.20
Do. (New)	40.00...	33 00...	7.00

The figures indicate pretty clearly that men's minds are considerably disturbed over the Korean question.

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THE KOREAN QUESTION AND THE JAPANESE PUBLIC.

As repeatedly stated in these columns, the views of the Japanese public, at least of an influential section of it, are remarkably uniform on the Korean question. The leading journals are agreed in demanding that the present opportunity shall be utilized for taking effective steps to place Korean independence on a firm basis. What the Japanese public understands by "effective steps" will have been evident from the articles reproduced in our last Weekly Summary. The subject has now been expounded in a still more concrete form by resolutions adopted on the 25th instant by the so-called advocates of a strong foreign policy. We understand that these resolutions, though not directly subscribed by the Radicals, express on the whole the views entertained by them also. The resolutions are as follow:—

"1.—That in order to secure her permanent independence, and neutrality Korea must be induced to introduce reforms in the administration of her internal and foreign affairs.

2.—That Korea must be pursuaded to reject the interference of China in her domestic affairs.

3.—Pending the completion of reforms in the Korean Government, the telegraph line between Söul and Fusan shall be placed under the control of the Japanese Government.

4.—That Korea be persuaded to connect her capital with Fusan and other important ports by railways.

5.—That Korea be induced to concede to Japan the privileges of the coasting trade and of fishing in territorial waters.

6.—That Korea be prevailed upon to open a few more ports for Japanese trade.

7.—That Korea's acquiescence be obtained for the enlargement of the Japanese settlements in the open ports, and

8.—That until such administrative reforms as may be recommended by Japan shall have been carried out, a portion of the troops now in Korea be stationed either in Söul or at some other place."

It was also resolved "that in order to make China desist from interference in Korea's domestic affairs as well as to secure the abrogation of the Tientsin Treaty, an Ambassador be sent to China."

THE PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

The following are the latest returns of the plague:—

JUNE 14TH.

	Hygeia.	Kennedy Town.	Chinese Hospital.	City.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
Admissions	—	2	42	—	44	—	11
Deaths	—	6	50	28	84	2	—
Under treatment	9	33	*	—	—	—	—

* Not known, as no report has come to state the number of patients transported by the junks to Canton.

JUNE 15TH.

Admissions	1	6	52	—	59	15	—
Deaths	—	3	25	23	51	—	33
Under treatment	10	36	—	—	—	—	—

JUNE 16TH.

Admissions	—	7	57	—	64	5	—
Deaths	—	2	24	18	44	—	7
Under treatment	10	41	—	—	—	—	—

The following are returns for the 24 hours ending June 16th at the Tung Wah Hospital:—

Admissions	35
Deaths	17
Under treatment	101

JUNE 17TH.

	Hygeia.	Kennedy-town.	Alice M. Hospital.	Cattle Depot.	City.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
Admissions	—	1	35	—	—	36	—	28
Deaths	—	4	17	—	18	39	—	5
Discharges	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Under treatment	10	38	—	—	—	—	—	—

JUNE 18TH.

Admissions	—	—	27	—	27	—	9
Deaths	—	2	20	10	32	—	7
Under treatment	10	36	—	—	—	—	—

JUNE 19TH.

Admissions	—	3	11	42	—	56	—
Deaths	—	3	5	23	15	46	14
Under treatment	10	36	20	—	—	—	—

JUNE 20TH.

Admissions	—	3	1	25	—	29	— 27
Deaths	—	3	6	26	8	43	— 3
Discharges	—	2	—	—	—	2	2 —
Under treatment	10	34	15	—	—	—	— —

JUNE 21ST.

Admissions	—	6	8	10	—	24	— 5
Deaths	—	1	4	24	8	39	— 4
Discharges	2	3	—	4	—	9	7 —
Under treatment	8	36	19	94	—	157	— —

Another European, a private in the Shropshire Light Infantry, died on the 15th inst. from the disease. From the date of his admission the case was regarded as very serious. The other men on the *Hygeia* are all doing remarkably well.

On the 21st June the number of new cases was 24, with 39 deaths. There were 39 deaths on June 22nd, with 31 new cases. The total number of deaths to the 19th was 1,925.

The effect of the epidemic upon scholastic work is very marked at Queen's College. Only 33 pupils are in attendance out of 872 on the register.

At Canton some 40 or 50 fatal cases still occur daily in the West Gate district. From the begining of the epidemic until the present time the number of deaths is estimated at 35,000 in Canton alone.

The China Sugar Refinery at East Point has been deserted by fully one half of its employés. Fearful of the plague these men left *en masse* with the intention of proceeding to Swatow.

The proceedings of some blunderers on the Sanitary Board of Hongkong will contribute materially to the exodus of Chinese from the Colony. "We understand, says the *Daily Press* of 16th instant, "that many unfortunate people have, during the last two nights, been compelled to sleep in the streets, owing to being peremptorily turned out of their houses. The Sanitary Board have issued a notice which is posted on the door of every condemned house and intimates that the occupants are to remove within 24 hours after the posting of the notice. It appears, however, that some thick-headed officers have insisted upon the poor people being evicted as soon as the notice is posted, which is directly opposed to the specific terms of the notice, and the consequence has been that whole families with their goods and chattels have been left to spend the night as best they could with no roof to their head but the not too friendly sky. In George Lane several such cases, occurred, and one whole family, including women and children, had to bivouac in the miserable thoroughfare all night. At Astor Buildings the tenants received the same rough and utterly illegal treatment."

The *Daily Press* of the 19th instant has the following:—

The new cases (deaths in the city and admissions to hospital) and the total deaths daily since the 1st inst. have been as follows:—

June.	New Cases.	Deaths.	June.	New Cases.	Deaths.
1	80	54	10	104	89
2	89	76	11	109	93
3	99	72	12	98	86
4	111	92	13	81	82
5	109	93	14	73	84
6	112	83	15	82	51
7	104	107	16	82	44
8	94	91	17	54	39
9	99	76	18	37	32

The total number of deaths officially recorded as due to plague now amounts to 1,911.

The following returns of the passenger traffic from May 1st to June 18th, obtained from the Harbour Master, give a good indication of the extent of the exodus from the colony:—

	Arrivals.	Departures.
Launches within the waters of the colony	174,231	167,778
Launches outside the waters of the colony	9,172	11,023
Junks within the waters of the colony	550	470
Junks outside the waters of the colony	8,236	11,092
River steamers	52,061	85,333
Ocean going steamers	17,697	18,023
	261,947	293,719
Excess of departures over arrivals		31,772

CHINESE NEWS.

The rumour recently circulated here, and commented on in very strong terms by the Japanese press, that China had placed, or was about to place, the steamers of the North China Steam Navigation Company under the German flag, seems to have had its origin in the fact that the Company ordered a valuation to be made of its ships.

Chinese pirates are bold fellows. "Seven out of eight passenger boats that were journeying in company from interior towns to Ningpo were suddenly plundered the other day by a band of pirates attired as soldiers who stopped the boats at a place called Wangshan, where a large bridge spans the Yung river, on the pretence of searching for pirates, whom the audacious plunderers declared regularly took passage in these boats. The result was that all the passengers in the seven boats were relieved of their possessions, while the eighth boat, seeing the state of things, luffed and turned back in the direction from whence it had come."

Here is a good story about the Empress Dowager and the plague: we take it from the *North China Daily News*:—

The Empress keeps constantly burning day and night in her palace eighteen lamps, which represent the eighteen provinces of China. Not long ago one of the lamps, though it received precisely the same attention as all the others, was burning very badly, and the Empress sent for the Chief Imperial Astronomer to learn the reason. The Chief Astronomer, having carefully considered the matter and consulted the archives, told the Empress that the lamp which was burning so badly represented the province of Canton, which was about to be afflicted with a serious epidemic which the God of Pestilence had determined to take off eight-tenths of the people. The Empress was very much concerned at being told this, and asked the Chief Astronomer how such a dreadful doom might be averted from eight-tenths of her people in the province. The Chief Astronomer said that the God might perhaps be moved with prayer and offerings, and everything was done to placate him, by the Empress-Dowager's orders. After this, the Chief Astronomer was asked what success had been achieved, and after much consideration and consultation he replied that the God of Pestilence had consented to compromise—but this was absolutely the best that he could do—for four-tenths human beings and four-tenths rats. Thus the frightful mortality of rats and human beings at Canton this Spring is explained.

Our Shanghai morning contemporary says that the influence of the Kolao Hui sect is rapidly spreading southward in China. A spy of the society, recently arrested in Swatow disguised as a beggar, confessed under torture that a plot existed to capture and hold Swatow as a port for procuring military stores from abroad. "As a matter of fact," writes our contemporary, "the Kolao Hui society men already number their thousands at the present moment, not only in Kuangtung but also in Kuangsi and Kueichow, where two years ago there could not have been a hundred of them altogether."

Thorough preparations have been made by the Shanghai municipality for opposing the advent of the plague. A hospital and a fumigating depôt have been erected at Pootung, a place some distance down the river. It seems, however, that some factor in the system is lacking, for we read of vessels from Hongkong with Chinese passengers being allowed to pass without undergoing fumigation.

The United States Consular Court in Shanghai has given judgment in the case of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, v. Hjousberry. The defendant holds 700 shares of the face amount of £10 each, in the Bank—originally the Trust and Loan Company—on which £1. 5s. has been paid in respect of each share. Last autumn the Bank made a call of an additional £1, and Mr. Hjousberry refused to pay it, his plea being that the Company had been guilty of a breach of contract since, whereas originally incorporated and registered as a Trust and Loan Company, it had subsequently engaged in banking and exchange business. The Court upheld this plea and gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

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HONGKONG NEWS.

The *China Mail* of the 16th inst., has the following obituary notice:—We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. Donald Macdonald, who has been a member of our staff for several years, first as reporter and latterly as sub-editor. It was in July, 1887, that Mr. Macdonald joined the staff of the *China Mail*. Previous to that time, he was connected with the *Aberdeen Journal*, having acted as district reporter in Banff for a year or two before joining the reporting staff in Aberdeen. During that period he discharged his duties with unflinching zeal. He was not a mere stenographer. He was exceedingly well read in English literature, and having a facile pen, a ready wit and considerable descriptive powers, he was chosen on several occasions to undertake work in the higher flights of journalism which is usually reserved for older and more experienced men. It was on account of the talent he displayed that his then employers sent him to edit a weekly newspaper published under their auspices in another part of the country. With his colleagues on the Press, many of whom are now to be found in all quarters of the globe, he was a warm favourite, and his untimely death will be learned by them with sincere regret. In Hongkong, he was known as one of the most cultured and tasteful of the Colony's vocalists. His services were ever readily accorded for any object of a public or charitabie character. For nearly two years, he acted as the conductor of the Union Choir, from which office he retired only a few weeks ago. The same good feeling and *camaraderie* which marked his relations with his colleagues on the Press of Scotland followed him to Hongkong, and it is with genuine feelings of sorrow that his loss is now deplored by them. Though he by no means sought many companions, he was well-known to a large circle, to whom his fatal illness came as a surprise. For the last two summers, he has suffered much from fever; and in the fall of the last year was obliged to go to Japan to recuperate. It is just a week since he was compelled to relinquish his duties, and through thoughout that week he suffered severely it was hoped to the last that he would recover. Death put an end to his sufferings at 9 o'clock this morning at the Peak Hospital, where he had been removed three days ago by Dr. Stedman, who was unremitting in his efforts to save our late colleague.

The *Comercio* of June 9th says:—"On the 29th ultimo the volcano Canloang of the Isla de Negros was active again, shooting up a large quantity of ashes and some lava through its crater. A shower of ashes fell at Iloilo, which was supposed to be from the same volcano."

A large increase of burglaries are reported in the Colony and also in Kowloon.

The *Amoy Times* says:—At Swortiew (Amoy) while taking up some old tiles of a house, a mason came across a very large centipede, said to measure 14 inches in length and the body as thick as one's thumb. The mason tried his best to kill the centipede, but some way or other it managed to sting the man in his leg, which immediately swelled up to an alarming size. Different poultices were applied but he died the next day."

CHINESE DOMESTIC HABITS.

A report compiled by the Colonial Surgeon of Hongkong in 1874 and now published for the first time, contains the following wonderful account of Chinese domestic habits:—

My first series of inspections discovered that pigs were kept in houses all over the town, by hundreds, and that pigsties were to be found under the beds and in the kitchens of first, second, and third floors. I visited many houses in which over a hundred pigs were kept; every bed in these houses had from five to seven large pigs in a sty constructed underneath it, and either from the connivance or ignorance of a late inspector of markets, whose duty it was to see that the pigs were kept in proper places, many of the people had Government licences so to keep their pigs. Imagine houses whose upper floors are constructed of thin boards, with wide interstices between them and whose lower floors are mud, and the state they would be in under these circumstances, with pigs' urine, &c., dropping through from floor to floor. It is needless to observe that the minute this state of things was brought to the notice of Government it was at once put a stop to, and that now all pigs found in houses are confiscated, and on repetition of the offence, the owner is fined as well.

The late inspections were still more thoroughly done, and nearly every street, lane, and gully in the lower quarter of the town were visited, and notes of the condition of the houses, drains, &c. were taken carefully, with the following results:

There are three different styles of construction of houses in the lower quarters of the town. First, houses which are constructed in blocks, back to back, with no ventilation except from the front. Secondly, houses with narrow gullies, from one foot to six feet wide at the back, down which a filthy open drain runs, or a very dilapidated closed one. Into these drains the downspouts of the different floors of the houses on each side of the gully empty themselves. Thirdly, houses with lanes at the back, for the convenience of the inhabitants of the cellar floors, the back of these floors being formed of the ground of the street above, owing to the hilly nature of the ground on which the house is built.

Otherwise, the construction of these houses is the same throughout the town. Each floor consists of a large main room and a small kitchen; generally the kitchen is at the back, but in cases where the back of the floor is against the hillside, the kitchen is in the front, and whatever ventilation there is, the air has to come through the kitchen before it reaches the inhabitants in the main room.

The average size of the the main rooms is 26 feet by 14 feet by 10 feet high, containing eight partitions, averaging 7 feet by 6 feet by 7 feet high, over which a sort of loft is often built to increase the accommodation, and in a room of this description, from 16 to 25 people live. It is extremely rare to find that walls or ceiling (which is composed of the bare rafters and boards of the floor above, or of the roof) have ever been whitewashed; if they have, it was only when the house was first built; the walls are generally bare bricks. The ground floor is in nine cases out of ten, composed of mud; in the other cases, it is composed of tiles or stone flags, and is generally very damp. The upper floors are composed of rough quarter-inch planks, with wide interstices between them. In no case, from the time the house had been built, had the floors ever been washed, their construction, as a rule, rendering it impossible. The first-floor tenants cannot wash their floors, because they are mud; the upper-floor tenants cannot wash theirs, because they would, if they attempted it, half drown the inhabitants of the floors beneath them.

In each partition of the main room a family, or several members of a family, sleep. The men go to the public privies; the women and children use covered pots, which are kept in the partitions under the beds; the nightsoil is removed, on an average, every third day; it varies in some cases from two to five days.

Women of the lowest class rarely wash themselves; men, only the exposed parts of their persons. I have seen many women who have candidly confessed that they have not even wiped themselves down with a damp cloth (which is the Chinese mode of washing) for years, and I saw no reason to doubt their words. If any washing is done, either of bodies or clothes, it is generally done in the kitchen. Clothes washing varies from once or twice a month to once is several months, or not at all, and a cotton suit will last, I am told, from five to six years, and more; if they were washed often they would not last so long. Many articles of clothing are never washed at all, on any account; those that are quilted, for instance. Bedding is composed of quilted cotton, or a stuff resembling soft felt, covered by a light net to prevent it from tearing, and in no case is it ever washed; sheets are never used. I never saw any entirely new bedding; the newest I saw was three years in possession of the owner, and he had bought it second-hand. I have seen bedding 20 years old, and that was bought second-hand. It is taken out and aired occasionally, and a few of the vermin picked out, if they are found to be too numerous.

The average quantity of water used daily by each individual is about two quarts, and this is considered sufficient, as a rule, for cooking, drinking, and washing purposes. Often it has to be brought from a considerable distance, and this is troublesome and expensive, so they do with as little as possible.

A kitchen's average size is 13 feet by 6 feet by 10 feet high, with stone or tile floors, always very wet and dirty. It is rare to find a chimney; there is generally a square opening in each of the floors above, forming a sort of shaft, without walls to it, and the smoke gets up through these if it can, or escapes by a small window; that is say, part of it; the rest pervades the house. In each kitchen there is a small drain in the upper floors; the opening is connected with a downspout, which either passes outside the house or down through the kitchens below. All the inhabitants, when at home, of every floor urinate in their kitchen drain; this is a rule without an exception. The walls and ceilings of the kitchens are always covered with a thick layer of soot.

Ground floors, as a rule, very dark; the rooms usually have only one window, averaging 3 feet by 2 feet, and the door, for light and air to come through, and they require lamps to be burning day as well as night in order to see anything. The upper floors are often not much better.

The house drain is generally in a filthy condition, and in many cases choked; the downspouts are often in the same condition. These latter are for the most part composed of unglazed pottery piping, and on the walls down which they run, on either side of them, is seen a dark, damp stain, showing how the filthy liquid they convey filter through them, or escape from the joints into the walls of the house.

THE CANTON OUTRAGE.

The Rev. E. E. Fix, Superintendent of the United Brethren Mission, Canton, has written a corrected account of the recent assault upon two missionary ladies, Drs. Halverson and Bigler:—

About noon on Monday, the 11th inst., one of the servants came up and told Dr. Bigler that a man was lying on the front doorstep. He thought the man was sick. Both Dr. Bigler and Dr. Halverson went downstairs and saw immediately that the man was suffering from the plague. They asked him if he had any friends in the city. He said no, that he was from Sun Ui and was working on a boat; that when he became ill they put him off the boat and he had wandered here not knowing where to go. They told him of the hospital boat down the river opposite the Canton Missionary Hospital and asked if he wished to go there. He said he did but he had no money. Dr. Halverson sent our cook to the ferry landing, just opposite the Custom House, to get a boat to come up to take the man to the hospital boat. The sick man said he was very thirsty. Dr. Bigler asked if he wished a cup of tea. He said yes. She got it and gave it to him. He drank it and thanked her. Dr. Halverson started toward the river followed by the man, but in no way did she assist him, bodily, or give him any smelling salts or any other kind of medicine. He walked after her of his own strength and accord.

They went straight out to the river through an alley and waited for the boat to come up. The boat did not come, but the cook came and said he could not get a boat. It is always difficult here to get a boat to carry any sick person. The Doctor did not intend to accompany the man to the hospital, but to the river to see him in a boat and send him down. So she started to the ferry, followed by the man, to see if she could secure a boat. This was simply discharging her ordinary duties as a mission doctor and is no uncommon occurrence with such mission workers. She avoided the main street and went as far as possible by a quiet street along the river. Just before reaching the main street leading out to the ferry, and by a large tea store, she encountered the mob without any warning. They shouted to the sick man that the foreign "devil woman" was carrying him away to kill him. She did not enter into any wordy altercation with the mob, as your informant stated; she simply told them what she wanted to do, but she would be glad if they would take the man and take care of him. At this juncture some one knocked her hat off. She walked on to the main street, the mob pushing her back and forth. They yelled—"Kill her! kill the foreign devil woman!" She broke through the mob back to the tea store and asked the man in the door to let her go through his store to the street leading home, but he would not let her in and with a murderous face said. "Go on then." "Go on." Then the crowd began to pound her with their fists, shouting that they were going to kill her. At the corner of the main street, leading from the river to the south out to an open sand field, she again broke through the mob and ran into a large pork shop and asked the proprietor to send the mob away, but he and his men shouted for her to get out. Then some of the mob went in and dragged her out and started south with her toward the open

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field cursing and yelling that they would kill her. They dragged her along the street pounding her with their fists. She asked the shop keepers to let her in, but they barred their doors as their answer.

When they reached the street running west to our home she tried to get loose and come home, but they dragged her back. At this corner of the street is a fish shop. Here they knocked her down and they thought they had killed her, as she did not get up. They did not want her to die there in the street, as that would make the street responsible for her death. Some one threw a tub full of dirty, bloody fish water over her. The cold water revived her a little and the mob seeing she was not dead, their leader, a well-dressed, apparently educated man, dragged her up to her feet and seizing her by the arms pushed her along toward the open place. The pommelling began again worse than before; one man in particular distinguished himself by his terrific blows on her back and sides. She thought at each blow that the next one would kill her. Frantic with pain and despair she tore herself loose from the mob and ran into a shop, clear back into the cook-room. Then she got hold of something, she knows not what. One of the mob came in but could not pull her away. Others came in and they tore her loose and out again on to the street. She had on a gold pin and the leader of the mob snatched this off, tearing loose her clothing. He then seized her by the shoulders and with terrible oaths said "We are going to take you out here and kill you." With her hat gone, her hair pulled down, her clothes nearly torn off and the howling mob dragging her already near the open field and pounding her with all their might, she had no reason to doubt the truth of his statement.

They finally reached the open place, where the man gave her a great push and let her go, thinking to throw her on to the ground, and then they would kill her with stones. But fortunately she managed to keep on her feet and endeavoured to make her way across the open to tho north-west, toward the Customs Terrace. The boys of the mob had already covered her with soft mud from head to foot. There is a street running north from the Customs Terrace to our home street. She wanted to reach this street, but two or three of the mob ran around already and locked the street gates. How she ever managed to get across to the back of Mr. Barton's house through that volley of stones is a miracle to me. One stone struck her on the back of the head cutting a gash about three inches long. But she had become so numbed by this time that the sense of pain was almost gone.

Mr. Barton on hearing the noise of the mob, ran out and saw her near his back door, but the water was so deep that he ran out the front way to let her in that way. He found the street gate locked and a man holding the key in his hand. He ran back and opened the back door and helped her in and barred the door. The mob assaulted the house with stones. Mr. Barton sent his servant out the front way to the Custom House to ask for men and soldiers.

By this time Mr. Hayden, living in the adjoining house and who was asleep at the time, was aroused by the noise. He and Mr. Barton donned their official coats and presented themselves with their revolvers and held the mob at bay until the Customs men and soldiers came, which was not long.

During all this time Dr. Bigler was having her separate experiences. At the time the man was found on our door step she was treating some Chinese patients who had come in for treatment and medicine. After Dr. Halverson had gone to the river followed by the sick men she returned to her patients. She waited on them, and as Dr. Holverson had not returned she became uneasy and went to the landing to see what was the matter. The people were quiet, but looked at her as if they were dazed and would not tell her of Dr. Halverson. She went to the landings, down even to the hospital, but could learn nothing of the doctor. She came back, and when near home met a man who told her that his boys said a mob was stoning a foreign woman: but he thought she was safe in a house then as they were stoning the house. She knew at once that it was Dr. Halverson. But she did not know where the house was. He kindly went with her to the place on the front side, while the mob was pelting the house at the back. She saw Dr. Halverson at the front window, and she said if she had a chair she thought she could get home. Dr. Bigler came immediately to get one of the boys to go for a chair, but they were afraid and would not go. She said if no one would go she would go herself.

The sight of Dr. Halverson, all covered with mud and wounds and blood, had nerved her to any endeavour to get her home, not knowing how badly Dr. Halverson might be hurt.

She marched through the streets with a look of defiance on her face that made the coolies shrink away as if they had been struck. On her way to the chair station she came upon a dead man in the street. This was some little distance east of where Dr. Halverson was. The mob there had cooled down and some of them had gone away eastward, and it is supposed that they saw Dr. Bigler as she approached the dead man. Doubtless they thought she was going to get his brains and eyes for medicine, like they think the Hongkong doctors do, and they began to yell "Kill her! kill the foreign devil woman"! But they seemed to be afraid of her and kept at a distance and threw stones. Through mistake she turned into a blind street but did not know it. When the mob saw her enter this street they gave a savage, triumpant shout thinking that they had their victim caged. They showered the stones thick and fast, but in their eagerness and rage they got such large stones that most fell short of the mark. One, however, hit her on the head and would likely have killed her had it not been for her thick sun hat. It cut through the hat and into her scalp, knocking her over against the street wall, but she did not fall.

When she saw that she could not get out at that end of the street she inquired of two burly follows standing in a door, if she could get through the house to the next street, but they bolted the door for an answer. Realizing her danger she calmly faced the mob and walked straight toward it. That was to much bravery for the mob, and they began to retreat. The hundred howling, bloodthirsty villains quailed before the determined face and attitude of one lone Christian woman!

At this juncture a Christian Chinaman living there rushed out and took her into his house. This aroused the mob more, but the brave fellow stood his ground like a hero and actually shamed the mob into quietness.

About the time the Customs men and soldiers arrived at Mr. Barton's, Dr. Halverson heard the noise over east and said the mob was after Dr. Bigler. Immediately Mr. Barton, Mr. Hayden, Captain Forsythe, a Frenchman, and a German whose names I cannot recall, and a Chinese officer set out for her rescue. They found her safe, and the mob vanished as if swallowed up by the earth on their approach. They gallantly escorted the doctor to Mr. Barton's and from there they brought both ladies home. But no mob followed them any of the way back, and there was no demonstration of any kind in our street. The people here have always been comparatively friendly and have never shown any ugly spirit.

ENGLISH NEWS.

The University of Oxford has taken a step of a very liberal character. It has decided to establish new degrees which shall be granted, after a course of special study or research, to members of the University who have passed the examination qualifying for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and to persons not being graduates of Oxford who have given satisfactory proof of general education and of fitness to enter on a course of special study. By this means the University hopes to encourage post-graduate studies of a mature and specialized character, and to encourage and reward similar studies in the case of persons not otherwise affiliated to the University. *The Times* says that this scheme "seems to be well calculated to strengthen the hold of Oxford on the intellectual life of the nation and to spread its roots wider and deeper over the whole field of learning."

The sensation got up by the *Spectator* with reference to the tree-marking in India is now covered with ridicule. *The Times* points out that the marking of trees is a religious rite of the most ancient character in India. Sir Henry Sleeman, in 1835, found the name of Rama inscribed on innumerable trees in the Central Provinces, the object being to spread the fame of Vishnu. In 1864 the trees in the south-west of Bengal were marked with red to appease the Goddess of Destruction, after British law had abolished the *charakpuga*, an abominable custom of suspending men in the air with a hook through the large muscle of their back in her honour. Sir Alfred Lyall records a case of wisps of straw being tied round trees in Bengal to circulate a caste prohibition against keeping pigs. The mango marking that suggested the *Spectator's* speculations is believed to have been simply a charm to restore the fertility of the trees, there having been a failure of the mango crop in Bengal and Behar this year.

Unfortunately it turns out to be true that two British soldiers appropriated King Lobengula's gift of $1,000 and suppressed his message of submission, with the disastrous result that Major Wilson and his party were destroyed and that hundreds of native lives were sacrificed. The two men have been sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment.

The success of the cöoperative movement in England is very remarkable. At the 26th annual Cöoperative Conference held at Sunderland on May 14th, it was found that the number of cöoperative societies at the close of last year was 1,655, with the total membership of 1,298,587 and an aggregate share capital of £14,556,960. The net profit on the year's transactions was £4,678,004.

A Special Correspondent of the *The Times* has contributed to that journal a series of admirable letters showing what England has done in Egypt. *The Times* epitomizes his facts thus:—

We have done many things for the amelioration of the lot of the Egyptian people. We have abolished the grinding tyranny under which they existed for uncounted generations. We have substituted fixed and moderate taxation for the arbitrary and unlimited exactions of the organized robbery called Oriental government. We have enabled the fellah to hold up his head as a free man, instead of cringing as a helpless slave before every petty official. We have brought modern science to bear upon the ruins of an irrigation system due to the science of an older civilization, and have enormously increased at once the area and the copiousness of the indispensable supply of Nile water to the thirsty land. We have brought justice within the reach of the poorest, at least as far as that can be done in face of persistent and bitter opposition from the privileged classes. While we have thus interfered in many ways with the doings of bad rulers, we have abstained from meddling with the habits and customs of the people themselves. We have left them free to expand under the removal of the crushing weight of tyranny and maladministration. In short, we have given them a chance to show what is in them and to work out some kind of emancipation for themselves from the effects of ages of servitude.

The prelates of the Church of England are much concerned about the fate of the Welsh Disestablishment Bill. All the Archbishops and Bishops, with the exception of the Bishop of Worcester, have issued a manifesto characterizing the Bill as a proposal to dismember the Church, and appealing to every Christian man to consider carefully the effect of the vote he may record.

Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Squadron, won the veterans' race at the Mediterranean Fleet Athletic Sports held at Malta on April 27th.

The *Pall Mall Budget* has an illustrated article on Japanese acting. The article is entitled "A talk with Dangero." It is one of the thinnest, most uninteresting compilations we have ever read.

"The Pope," says a writer in the *Pall Mall Budget*, "has just built a new wing in connection with the pavilion in the Vatican gardens, which adjoins the tower where his Holiness seeks refuge from the heat of midsummer. The structure is elegant in appearance and very comfortable as regards its internal fittings, being provided with a lift and various modern improvements. Here are quartered the Sisters who prepare the pies, cakes, and other sweet dishes to which the Holy Father is particulary addicted; and with them is another company of nuns, charged with the duty of looking after the household linen, and making the cassocks, tippets, slippers, and other articles of attire that compose the Papal wardrobe. These ladies wear a very becoming blue costume, with a long skirt cut train fashion. Leo. XIII. eats very little meat, but is very fond of small birds, which abound in the secluded grounds of the Vatican. He does not, however, kill them himself with a catapult, as some Protestant slanderers have averted, the business of supplying his larder being intrusted to a gardener, who uses an ordinary shot-gun."

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THE ASSASSINATION OF M. CARNOT.

IF any event could have been regarded as improbable in the extreme, it would have been the assassination of the President of the French Republic by an Italian. It is idle to speculate on the cause of the crime. Possibly the shocking incident was another outcome of the anarchical mania responsible for so many horrors of late in France. Possibly it was merely the freak of a murderous madman. Its sadness is intensified by the fact that in a few months more M. CARNOT'S term of office would have expired and with sincerity not doubted by any he had declared his resolve not to serve another term. Elected to the highest office in the State on December 3rd, 1887, he was on the eve of completing the allotted Presidential period of seven years when this miserable fate overtook him. He leaves behind him an excellent record. No one has ever seriously questioned the admirable tact and ability that he brought to the discharge of his difficult duties, and when his resolve not to seek re-election next November became known, the French nation, while regretting the retirement of such a competent statesman, must have been glad to think that he was about to descend with dignity from a position upon which his occupation had shed only lustre. Having barely attained his fifty-seventh year, M. CARNOT might reasonably have looked forward to a long spell of happy retirement. Not many opportunities of public usefulness present themselves to an ex-President who deliberately steps aside from the political arena, yet we can scarcely think that at M. CARNOT'S age his country could have consented to his permanent effacement. The whole civilized world will share France's mourning over this inexpressibly pitiable event.

Monsieur MARIE FRANCOIS SADI CARNOT was born at Limoges in 1837 and became Under-Secretary of Public Works thirty years later. He received his first portfolio, that of Public Works, in 1880, and subsequently served twice as Minister of Finance, in 1882 and 1886. But for this most untoward incident the Presidential election—which is effected by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies united in a National Assembly, or Congress—would have taken place on the 2nd of next November, and eight candidates were understood to be in the field, M. M. CASIMIR-PÉRIER, MAQUIN, BRISSON, CHALLEMEL-LACOUR, MÉLINE, DUPUY, WALDECK-ROUSSEAU and Admiral GERVAIS. Few of these, however, from the outset, could be regarded as having any substantial chances. M. MAQUIN, Director-General of the Bank of France, and M. MÉLINE, the leader of Protectionism in the Republic, were not supposed to be seriously anxious for the honour, and Admiral GERVAIS' claims possessed scarcely any validity outside the circle of Franco-Russian enthusiasts. M. BRISSON counted on Radical and Socialistic support alone. M. DUPUY, the Premier, is very unpopular and M. WALDECK-ROUSSEAU could not have hoped to have commanded sufficient votes. The contest really lay, so Reuter informs us, between the Premier, M. DUPUY, M. CASIMIR-PÉRIER and M. BRISSON; and eventually resulted in the return of M. CASIMIR-PÉRIER. This statesman will find it difficult to discharge the duties of the high office with such grace and tact as M. CARNOT invariably displayed.

A NOTABLE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.

THE concert of Saturday, the 16th inst., at the Rokumei-kwan, was devised by the members of the Musical Society of Japan as a mark of respect and good will to Professor DITTRICH, whose term of service in this country has nearly expired, and who will soon return to his home in Europe. It might perhaps have been more fitting if the initiative in this demonstration had been taken by the foreign community as a body, instead of by a private organization largely composed of native amateurs. It is true that Mr. DITTRICH'S professional relations have been with the Japanese exclusively, and his principal labours have been in their behalf; but if the question of obligation be strictly considered, it appears that the account of indebtedness has been made even by the Japanese, as a business matter, while no practical acknowledgment of his claim to gratitude has been offered by the alien residents to whose entertainment he has contributed with unstinted liberality. Looking over the files of the *Mail* for the past three or four years, we find that he has been the mainspring and moving power of some forty concerts,—eleven of which have been given in the cause of Charity. In an artistic sense, most of his concerts may be regarded as works of charity, for they have kept alive a musical spirit in Tokyo that otherwise might have fallen into stagnation, and have been the means of enlarging the experience of connoisseurs, and often enabling them to form at least a suggestive acquaintance—sometimes a very full acquaintance—with the advancing course of musical ideas in Europe. If it be represented that the successive performances at the Uyeno Academy were all in the line of his duty, and not primarily in the interest of the public, we may remark that the teacher at that institution was under no compulsion to prepare elaborate and attractive programmes for the periodical exhibitions, nor to train his pupils in choice productions of modern composers, no echo of which would have reached this country without his intervention. The merest perfunctory rehearsal of exercises would have satisfied all absolute requirements. If we do not now realize what Mr. DITTRICH has done, we shall feel it after his departure; unless the fates are moved by some singular impulse of friendliness to send a *deus ex machina* that shall worthily take his place.

Although under Japanese management, and mainly attended by Japanese auditors, the entertainment of the 16th attracted a good number of foreigners, and was as successful, artistically and practically, as could be desired. The programme contained some features of most agreeable novelty. Not the least of these was the appearance of a vocalist familiar to Yokohama, but not hitherto heard in this city. Miss BLOXHAM charmed the assemblage by her grace and delicacy of expression, and by a refinement of method which gave evidence of very careful and conscientious cultivation. A good voice and natural taste are excellent possessions, but the singer who trusts wholly to these endowments cannot expect to win the high prizes of art. In the two songs chosen by this lady,—both of them belonging to a more elevated class of composition than the usual concert repertory,—the merit of her style was strikingly apparent, and the appreciation of the listeners was testified in demands for repetition that were not willingly suspended.

The students of the Academy contributed vocally and instrumentally to the occasion, playing a number of violin pieces with their acccustomed accuracy and neatness, and singing with fine spirit the Guttenberg Festival Anthem of MENDELSSOHN,—originally written for voices of men, but re-arranged by Mr. DITTRICH for his full chorus. In addition to this, the skill of the young ladies in following difficult modulations, and carrying melodic themes through various harmonic changes, was shown in their delivery of a capricious Fantasy entitled "The Nixie's Song." Such execution by Japanese scholars is a never-ceasing marvel. At intervals during the evening the compact orchestra led by Mr. ECKERT—a musician best known in

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this community by his ability in training military bands to a remarkable proficiency —gave an interesting variety to the proceedings. The single example of Bu-gaku was witnessed with more than ordinary attention, probably owing to the aptitude of the young dancer, whose lithe and sinuous movements were the perfection of symmetry. The display was, as usual, mainly a succession of studied poses; but as assumed by this well-favoured youth, the attitudes often seemed like an embodiment of statuesque inspirations. Whether the foreign spectators were better disposed than they sometimes are toward this species of divertisement, or the representative of the ancient art was exceptionally gifted, it is certain that the exhibition was received with uncommon manifestations of approval.

The concert would have afforded genuine pleasure without its chief distinguishing incident, but the performance in which Messrs. VON KOEBER and DITTRICH were united was of a character to lift it, in an important particular, far about the grade of such musical entertainments as are ordinarily possible here. To many it was a matter of surprise that a pianist of Mr. VON KOEBER'S attainments should have remained unknown to the public through the year, or more, of his residence in Japan. That his light has been so long hidden seems due to his modest and unobtrusive disposition; and partly, it may be, to a sensitiveness which has often kept artists of a very high rank in comparative retirement. As to the likelihood of his reappearance hereafter, we are not privileged to speak, but it is evident that the community will suffer a deprivation if he persists in adhering to his rule of seclusion. The piece chosen by him was a duet, the piano-forte part of which was composed by THALBERG,—the sight of whose once familiar but now rarely remembered name impels us to turn for a moment from the subject in hand, and offer a humble tribute to this great instrumental reformer. Not having been a creator, in the true sense, his works are disappearing from view, and the causes of the immense influence he wielded during his active career are passing out of popular recognition. To understand his position in the history of art, we must look to his antecedents, and to the condition of pianoforte writing when he first came before the world some sixty years ago. Up to that time the instrument had illustrious exponents, varying in degrees of mind and originality, and many of them honoured as men of broad genius and power in their day. But if their productions be now examined, it will be seen that they used the piano for the expression of general ideas,—which might have been as well conveyed, if not better, through the larger medium of the orchestra,—and not with a view to its peculiar individuality. They confined themselves to musical statements, often noble in themselves and amplified by masterly outworkings, but rarely suited to the especial characteristics of the piano. The resources of the instrument were not fully comprehended. Its relations of treble and bass were frequently kept so wide apart that the ear ached at the void. Occasional leanings in the right direction were discernible, as in the attempts of WEBER and others to bridge the awkward spaces, but until THALBERG grasped the problem there was no realization of the vital fact that, by certain combinations and ingenuities of fingering, two hands might be made to do the work of four, according to the old method, and that the sonorous capabilities of the instrument might be doubled, and its eloquence and intensity increased in a still greater ratio. In the vast looming of this age of mighty inventions the popular imagination is apt to be caught only by agencies that greatly serve material progress or aim at far-reaching supernatural results :—the locomotive engine, burning to ashes all old journey measurements and crushing miles in moments; the electric messenger, which turns to colossal fact the wildest poetry or prophecy of magical romance; the modern telescope, piercing the depths of the firmament and bringing to light the stars that have slept unrevealed through eternity; the custodian and projectile of sound, carrying forward the living voices of to-day, with every cadence pure and true, to the infinite ages beyond us. Yet akin to all these, whether the degree be remote or near, is the discovery that created a new world of musical possibilities, and opened a region previously unsuspected—or at the best but dimly dreamed of—to artistic exploration and development. That is what THALBERG did. Taking the themes of an opera like "The Huguenots," he arranged them as such themes had never been arranged before. He rejected the lumber of scales which play so large—and tedious—a part in the old-time sonatas, and keeping the melodies ever uppermost, he wove around them the boldest heroics of manipulative treatment, with radiations and addenda that brilliantly emphasized the motives, while never contaminating them. The strong fibre of a clearly defined musical statement can sustain this overlaying of decoration, if judiciously applied, as THALBERG proved by a hundred unfailing examples, and as musicians have admitted by the universal adoption of his method. Greater than he have profited by the lessons he taught, but none has surpassed him in the executive control of the instrument with which his name should be indissolubly associated. His school remains as he founded it. Nothing of value has been added since he introduced the perfected mechanism illustrated in works like "The Huguenots" duet—upon the recollection of which, with his own playing therein, we have ventured to base these commemorative observations.

In this great artist's own time there were few who felt it safe to attempt the feats which he performed with matchless facility. But as the study of the piano progressed on the lines he had indicated, his intricate combinations were more readily grasped, and the system became general. In our day, there is little in his arrangements before which a pianist of real ability need recoil. Proportionately as the performer is endowed with taste, sensibility and judgment, so will he find it more or less easy to overcome the difficulties of THALBERG'S scores and to set forth their full meaning. It did not appear to us, at this first hearing, that Mr. VON KOEBER was lacking in any of the qualities requisite for their successful interpretation, although the self-possession essential to complete composure before an audience was not always visible. In private, we believe he would be faultless. On this occasion he was so nearly so that none but a pedant could challenge his title to mastery of the most advanced technique. For him the piano has no secrets. The "Huguenots" duet is filled with *tours de force*, but all are easily under his subjugation,—the daring leaps from octave to octave, the quick reduplication of chords at distant intervals, the intrepid rush of intertwining thirds and sixes, no less than the dainty arpeggios that dart from his fingers like gleaming spray. How many, we wonder, of all who heard him with delight, paused to reflect upon the years of assiduous study by which alone such faculty of achievement can be acquired? How many, either, gave a thought to the incalculable repetitions of practice without which no violinist is qualified to produce the ripple of ærial harmonics that overruns a passage of this same duet? The world is not yet so accordant with the higher cultivation but that skeptics will ask—"*Cui bono:* is it worth while?"—All comes to those who wait, and the time is sure to arrive when the most incredulous will learn that anything, everything, is "worth while" that adds a single grace to art,—and this not solely for art's exclusive sake :—

Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes
Emollit mores nec sinit esse feros.

To listen to performances like some of those vouchsafed at this concert is to receive, whether knowingly or unconsciously, a distinct addition to a liberal education. The influence is the same as that which grows from the contemplation of a noble painting, or the perusal of an exalting poem.

Mr. DITTRICH'S power to confer enjoyment is too well known to require acknowledgment at this late day. He bore the principal burden of the evening, having to do with eight of the thirteen numbers in the programme. Armed with his violin he

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is at his best—at least so far as the general public can ascertain. He played a slow movement by VIEUXTEMPS with exquisite feeling, and a fragment by BRUCH with exceeding dexterity of execution; and his share in the "Huguenots" duet—the twin part of which was written by DE BERIOT—afforded an admirable example of worthy companionship in a well-balanced conjunction of forces. There could be no question as to the sincerity of the congratulations tendered him at the close of this memorable entertainment.

DR. KITASATO AND THE PLAGUE.

DR. KITASATO'S telegram that he had discovered the origin of the plague remains a solitary message, and for the sake of his scientific reputation we trust that he did not frame it in the form of its transmission. His cablegram, "we have discovered the origin of the plague," presumably means—supposing it to have been sent in that shape—that he has discovered a micro-organism which is the specific cause of the disease, for he is a bacteriologist, and that is what a bacteriologist usually means when he speaks of the cause or origin of a disease. But Dr. KITASATO has been in Hongkong only a few days, and in that time it is not possible to carry out the researches needed to prove that a specific micro-organism is the cause of a specific disease. Such researches must enable us to establish five conditions:—First, the malady must have distinct and constant features, so that it can be clearly identified. Secondly, the micro-organism must be clearly distinguished from all other known forms by its size and shape, by its staining properties, and above all by the peculiarities it exhibits in a pure cultivation—that is to say, in a cultivation free from all other organisms. Thirdly, the organism must occur in the blood or tissues in every case of the disease. Fourthly, it must not occur in the human body except in cases of the disease; and fifthy, the inoculation of a pure cultivation of the organism must give rise to the disease. It is only when all these conditions are rigorously fulfilled that complete scientific proof can be said to be forthcoming. They have been fulfilled hitherto in very few diseases—in anthrax and tuberculosis, for example, and notably in tetanus by this very Dr. KITASATO, working in KOCH'S laboratory. The association of a peculiar bacillus with tetanus was discovered by NICOLAIER, but it was by Dr. KITASATO'S investigations that its causal relations with the disease were definitely established. In the case of many diseases, though it has not hitherto been possible to fulfil all the conditions, several have been satisfied; and on a wide view, after prolonged investigation, scientific men have been led to conclude, with considerable probability, that they have isolated the organism which is the specific cause of the disease. Now how far can it have been possible for Dr. KITASATO to fulfil the above conditions in the case under consideration? The first is already fulfilled—the plague is a definite and easily recognised disease. As to the rest, however, though it is quite possible that the Japanese investigator may have discovered a hitherto unknown micro-organism in the blood or the tissues of patients suffering from the plague, yet the tedious and elaborate processes necessary for obtaining a pure culture and for investigating the life history of a new micro-organism, can not have been carried out by him in the time hitherto at his disposal. He may have found this organism in the few cases he has had time to examine, but he certainly has not had sufficient interval to prove that the organism is present in all cases of the disease, and present only in cases of that particular disease. If there is no mistake in the telegram, what has occurred is probably this:—Dr. KITASATO has discovered a hitherto unrecognised micro-organism to be present in the blood or tissues of the plague patients he has examined, and has formed the conclusion that it is the cause of the disease. In such a case, the speculator may in the end prove to have been right. But he may also prove to have been wrong, and in either event, we can not regard his precipitancy as scientific. The telegram transmitted from Hongkong suggests the immodest haste of a speculator eager for priority and notoriety rather than the sober zeal of the scientific investigator whose supreme object is the discovery of truth.

A NEW JOURNAL IN SHANGHAI.

SHANGHAI is to have a third journal, the *China Gazette*. Its appearance from the beginning of July is announced under the editorship of Mr. HENRY O'SHEA, who is also the proprietor. We do not know whether Shanghai has any need of a third newspaper, but our impression is that the presence of this new competitor will serve no special purpose except to divert from its contemporaries a measure of the support already barely sufficient to enable them to preserve their high standard. Eastern communities have their idiosyncracies. Among other traits they possess such abundant charity that, regardless of merit or demerit, they extend encouragement to every worker. In a Western town a journal, to obtain subscriptions or advertisements, must establish its title to public approval. If it ail to deserve support, it inevitably diesf. But in the Orient subscribers put their names down and merchants send in their advertisements for the sake of the editor rather than on account of the ability of the editing. It is quite a curious thing to contemplate the columns of the Yokohama journals. There are actually six of them, and in all alike the same, or nearly the same, shipping, banking, and tradal advertisements figure daily. No advertiser can possibly imagine that in such a tiny town so many newspapers are required to give an announcement proper circulation. When there were only three journals advertisers found themselves in just as close contact with their *clientèle* as they are now with six. In the matter of news, too, there is not sufficient, or nearly sufficient, for each paper to have its specialty. All publish the same items. They may dress them up differently, but the facts are common property and so also are the fictions very frequently. Yet subscribers and advertisers patronize the entire six, and would probably patronize eight or ten were there as many in the field. There is a kind of tyranny in the matter: the tyranny of the horny-conscienced editor who has no scruples whatever about being journalistically unfriendly to everyone that does not support him; and the tyranny of moral cowardice that impels the public to display weak-kneed impartiality instead of exercising independent discrimination. After all, however, it is perhaps the public themselves that suffer most, for by dividing their patronage among so many, they are not able to offer substantial rewards to any, and they consequently get a great deal of very poor stuff, paying, at the same time, a very high price for it. Possibly these remarks may seem to do unwitting injustice to the editor and proprietor of the new Shanghai journal. But of him we do not speak, knowing nothing. Our comments are of the most general description. It is evidently imagined that to succeed as a journalist demands less ability than success in any other walk of life. Just as wine-merchandise is the *pis-aller* of broken-down traders in the West, so journalism is the last resource of out-at-elbow failures in the East. However, folks are their own masters in these matters. If they have time and inclination to read several repetitions of the same intelligence in varied guise of type and diction, that is their own look-out. We find their taste curious, but proverbially tastes are not to be accounted for. We hope, however, that the *China Gazette* may prove a magnificent affair in every way. It has heavy metal to encounter in the arena, but unless Mr. O'SHEA'S name belies him, he comes of a nation that loves fighting.

Reuter's Agency is informed that the Government have entered into an arrangement with the Peninsular and Oriental Company, whereby two of the company's largest steamers, the *Britannia* and the *Rome*, have been chartered for the purpose of conducting the Indian trooping work for the season 1894-95, commencing in September next.

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A MOST UNPARDONABLE SLANDER.

IN the *Boyeki Shimbun* of the 22nd instant we find an article under the sensational title, "The treatment of Japanese employés in foreign firms is the treatment of slaves." The statements contained in the article are cruel and unaccountable slanders. The writer sets out by saying that the saddest effects of the recent earthquake were experienced by persons engaged in tea-firing in Yokohama, and then proceeds to descant upon the hardships endured by these folks—how the pittance they earn scarcely enables them to support their families; how they are compelled to work hard all day long amid painful conditions of intense heat under the superintendence of harsh Chinese overseers, who not only drive them mercilessly on ordinary occasions, but also treat them with extreme severity on extraordinary, shutting them in rigidly at times of conflagration, for example, instead of allowing them to go to the succour of their families. By way of instance the recent destructive fire in Motomachi is referred to. Our contemporary says that the tea-firing folks, though they prayed earnestly for leave to go and look after their homes, were compelled to remain at their work, and when they escaped, it was only to find their houses in ruins. Again, during the earthquake on the 20th instant, the Chinese overseer shut the gates of a certain firm—evidently Messrs. WILSON and Co., are referred to—and would not allow the employés to escape, the result being that they were caught by a falling roof and suffered terrible injuries, the proprietor of the firm meanwhile looking on from a window and not attempting to aid the unfortunates. "In Japan," the *Boyeki* concludes, "even prison doors are thrown open at such a time, and it may therefore be truly said that foreigners' hearts are not human. We trust that the Authorities will call upon the Consular Court to make due inquiry into this matter."

It is at once unfortunate and unpardonable that such comments should be made journalistically upon the strength of evidence absolutely incorrect. A moment's reflection should have showed the *Boyeki Shimbun* that its remarks on the general circumstances of Japanese employed in tea-firing godowns are unjust and irrelevant. Unquestionably the work in a tea-firing godown is hard in so far as the temperature of the place is concerned, but in respect of actual physical exertion, it will not bear comparison for one instant with the labour that devolves upon persons engaged in cultivating rice-fields. Many other occupations could be adduced that tax the strength and endurance more severely. But such a discussion is quite needless. The plain fact is that the Japanese themselves, so far from being deterred by the conditions existing in a tea-firing godown, eagerly seek employment there. Crowds of applicants for the work assemble from day-break in the vicinity of the godowns, and those "taken on" are objects of envy to those rejected. That the wages are low is untrue. In no other occupation could the same emoluments be earned by persons of the same class. The writer in the *Boyeki Shimbun* need be under no doubt as to these points. The most cursory inquiry will satisfy him. His uninformed and emotional writing deserves only one appellation—pure mischief-making. We do not, of course, pretend to affirm that the Chinese overseers are invariably gentle and considerate. That would be an extravagant claim to advance on behalf of any overseers of labour anywhere. But we do confidently affirm that the foreign employers, in the vast majority of cases, are humane, benevolent men, incapable of countenancing abuses such as the *Boyeki Shimbun* recklessly lays to their charge. In the particular case of the earthquake on the 20th instant, it is absolutely false to say that any attempt was made to close the doors and prevent the exit of the people? Why should such a course have been pursued? The employés are not paid until the end of their day's work. If they leave before receiving their wage, the loss is their own. It is easy to understand that when an operation like tea-firing is in question, the heated pans cannot be abandoned at a moment's notice and the tea left to roast unturned. But apart from the obvious limit of latitude thus imposed, the people are subject to no undue restraint, and we venture to affirm that there does not exist so much as one European or American merchant in this Settlement who would hesitate to choose the total loss of all the tea in a set of pans rather than restrain an unfortunate coolie from hastening to the aid of his family in a conflagration. That is the kind of stuff that foreigners' hearts are made of, not the inhuman material alleged by the *Boyeki Shimbun*. No pains have been spared by Messrs. Wilson and Company to alleviate the sufferings of the people injured at their works by the earthquake. On inquiry we learn that, in addition to the help given directly by the firm, Mr. P. SARDA has donated a sum of $100; Messrs. Frazar & Co., $50; Mrs. LINDSLEY, one of the principal promoters of the *Jizen-kai* Hospital, has collected over $100 from foreign ladies on the Bluff, and the office staff have also subscribed liberally toward the relief of the sufferers. Further, if the editor of the *Boyeki Shimbun* consults the columns of the English local press, he will find lists of large subscriptions made by foreigners in aid of the Japanese sufferers by the recent conflagration in Motomachi. In the whole world there can not be found any community that contributes with such large-hearted liberality to the relief of alien distress as the foreigners in Yokohama contribute to the relief of Japanese distress. What the Japanese themselves do for their own people is thrown into the shade by what the foreign residents do for them. Certainly this charity is not inspired by any desire to win enconiums from the public neither will it be deterred by such gross displays of ingratitude as the *Boyeki Shimbun* has just made. But of all the traits that disfigure character and invite contempt, ingratitude is the most effective. The *Boyeki Shimbun*, in seeking to blacken the fair fame of foreigners, only brings discredit on the nation to which it belongs.

THE JAPANESE IN HAWAII.

MR. R. D. IRWIN, Representative of Hawaii in Japan, who recently came back from Honolulu, appears to have been entirely successful in negotiating that Japanese settlers in the islands should be exempted from all unfavourable discrimination under the new Constitution. When Mr. IRWIN left Honolulu on his return to Japan, the Constitutional Convention had discussed and passed the first 18 Articles of the new Constitution, and inasmuch as the 17th and 18th Articles alone touch the question of Japanese privileges, the anxiety so strongly displayed of late in this country should now be finally dispelled. The 17th and 18th Articles run as follow:—

ARTICLE 17.—CITIZENS.

SECTION 1.—A citizen of the Republic of Hawaii shall be:

A person born in the Hawaiian Islands; or,

A person who has been, or shall hereafter become, naturalized according to law.

SPECIAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP.

SECTION 2.—Any person not a Hawaiian citizen, who took active part, or otherwise rendered substantial service in the formation of, and has since supported the Provisional Government of Hawaii, who shall within six months from the promulgation of this Constitution procure from the Minister of the Interior a certificate of such service, in manner and form herein set forth, and who shall take an oath to support this Constitution and the law of the Republic so long as he shall remain domiciled in the Republic, shall be entitled to all the privileges of citizenship without thereby prejudicing his native citizenship or allegiance.

SECTION 3.—For the purpose of identifying the person entitled to such certificate, the Minister of Interior shall appoint such number of examiners as he may deem best, to receive applications and take evidence upon such subject.

Such examiners shall certify to the said Minister a description of each person found to be entitled to such certificate, which description shall include the name, age, country of birth, occupation, length of residence in Hawaii, and present residence, and shall be embodied in the certificate.

SECTION 4.—It shall be in the discretion of the Minister of Interior to reverse the decision of any such examiner and issue a certificate to any person in his opinion entitled thereto; and to issue a certificate to any person, who, in his opinion, is not entitled thereto.

The decision of the Minister shall be final and not subject to appeal or review.

SECTION 5.—Any person to whom such certificate shall be granted shall be admitted, upon application, to naturalization, without showing any further qualifications.

ARTICLE 18.—NATURALIZATION.

SECTION 1.—The naturalization of aliens shall be exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Supreme Court.

The procedure shall be such as may be provided by law.

SECTION 2.—An alien may be admitted to citizenship upon the following conditions, viz:—

1. He shall have resided in the Hawaiian Islands for not less than one year.

2. He must intend to become a permanent citizen of the Republic.

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He shall be able understandingly to read, write, and speak the English language.

4. He shall be able intelligently to explain, in his own words in the English language, the general meaning and intent of any article or articles of this Constitution.

5. He shall be a citizen or subject of a country having express treaty stipulations with the Republic of Hawaii concerning naturalization.

6. He shall be of good moral character and not a refugee from justice.

7. He shall be engaged in some lawful business or employment or have some other lawful means of support.

8. He shall be the owner in his own right of property in the Republic of the value of not less than Two Hundred Dollars over and above all incumbrances.

9. He shall have taken the oath prescribed in Article 100 of this Constitution and an oath abjuring allegiance to his native land or that in which he has heretofore been naturalized, and of allegiance to the Republic of Hawaii.

10. He shall make written application, verified by oath, to a Justice of the Supreme Court, setting forth all of the foregoing requirements, and shall prove the same to the satisfaction of such Justice.

The oath referred to in the 9th clause of the 18th Article is as follows :—

"I do solemnly swear, or affirm, in the presence of Almighty God; that I will support the Constitution, Laws and Government of the Republic of Hawaii; and will not, either directly or indirectly, encourage or assist in the restoration or establishment of a Monarchical form of Government in the Hawaiian Islands."

The form of this oath may, of course, have been modified by the Constitutional Convention, but even as it stands it presents no specially objectionable feature.

Japanese residing in Hawaii will therefore enjoy, under the Republic now on the eve of proclamation, precisely the same privileges and rights as any other aliens, whether Americans or Europeans. We notice an assertion in American journals that the Government of Japan addressed to the Provisional Government of Hawaii, through Mr. IRWIN, despatches threatening to withdraw Japanese labourers from the islands and to restrict further emigration unless immigrants were made eligible for the franchise. The same journals add that the planters were consequently making strenuous efforts to obtain Portuguese labourers from the Azores and that a commission would probably be despatched at once to Portugal for the purpose. These are probably newspaper exaggerations. Doubtless the Japanese Government's attitude on the subject was firm, but the negotiations do not seem to have produced any feeling of umbrage such as might be inferred from recourse to Portuguese labour. It will be observed from the Articles we have quoted that Japanese children born in Hawaii are Hawaiian citizens. It will further be observed that in order to bring her subjects within practical reach of the privileges guaranteed by the Hawaiian Constitution, Japan must conclude a naturalization treaty with Hawaii. She has shown a good deal of delay about naturalization arrangements, and may consequently require some time before concluding such a treaty. But that is her own affair. We have only to note that the disabilities so much complained of by Japanese politicians and journalists are now removed.

COLONIAL TRADE WITH JAPAN.

The Victorian Government has sent out a Commercial Commission to the East and Far East to inquire into the possibilities of opening new markets for Australian produce, and reciprocally to devise means of introducing the products of Eastern countries into Australia. Accompanying the Commission is Mr. S. Jerome Dyer, Special Correspondent of the Melbourne *Argus*, who is making independent inquiries and embodying their result in articles for that journal. Mr. Dyer has earned a high reputation in Australia for agricultural and commercial knowledge. He is the author of a very excellent work, "Victoria and its Resources," written recently for the Government of Victoria. His opinions are embodied in the following interview with a representative of the *Japan Mail* :—

How long have you been in the East, Mr. Dyer?—I have been travelling through the East for the past six months as a representative of the *Argus* and *Australasian* of Melbourne, and also in the interests of some of the leading producers of Australia. My object is to see what products and manufactures we can take from the East and what products the East can take from us. I have been through Ceylon, India, Burmah, Straits Settlements, Hongkong, and China, and have now arrived in this country, which I am quite assured is by far the most important of Eastern countries to Australia. During the greater part of my trip I have been accompanied by two officers of the Melbourne Customs Department—Messrs. Rowe and Kelly—who have been despatched to these countries with a large assortment of butter, cheese, jams, wines, and other samples of Australia's products, for the purpose of exhibiting them to the merchants of the East, and thereby ascertaining whether openings exist for such goods in these markets.

Have you discovered any good prospects?—Certainly. Things look very promising. Not only geographically and climatically are the positions of Japan and Australia favourable to the most satisfactory trade relations, but the arts, customs, and tastes of the peoples are such as should promote a large, regular, and profitable interchange of raw and manufactured goods between the two countries. Australia is not a manufacturing country, nor will it be for many generations, if ever. I mean not a manufacturing country to the extent of supplying markets outside its own territory. It is essentially a country of raw products. For the sake of brevity I include all food products and liquors, such as dairy and fruit products, wines, brandy, etc., under the heading of raw products. Japan is entirely different. It may be said that the only raw products it can profitably produce to any extent are tea, rice, and silk. It is essentially a manufacturing country. The Japanese are artistic, patient, and astonishingly quick in picking up and applying new ideas. They live cheaply and cheerfully, and work at one-tenth the daily wage of the Australian artisan. They never appear to complain and give their employers' their full monies' worth.

I suppose the contrast between the prices of labour in Japan and Australia strikes you forcibly?—In truth it does. In Australia the labourer costs more to feed than twenty Japanese in the same walk of life; his clothing costs forty times more, and his luxuries, generally just as much as there is left in his pocket. This state of things should leave the labouring community at the mercy of the employers were things in Australia as they are in Japan, but Trades' Unions fix the rate of wage and—in most cases—the number of hours per day that the men have to work, thus leaving the majority that are inclined that way, enough time every day to spend their spare cash in whatever luxuries their minds may incline to. The Japanese have the advantage again in the law permitting them to work as long as they like, whereas in Australia the Government studies the peoples' health to the extent of prohibiting them to work beyond eight hours or thereabouts, per day. I might further add that the Japanese are artistic and persevering, and adapted by their peculiar characteristics to manufacture the most unique and highly finished fabrics and wares at a cost that cannot be approached by any of our civilized countries. I need scarcely say that the people of Australia have not these capacities, and that they are wise enough to know it. Unless in one or two unfortunate exceptions, they do not waste time in endeavouring to falsify nature, or in building a structure which their policy undermines, by attempting the art of manufacturing wares and fabrics. I might briefly refer to one example. Australia is the land where most of the world's best wool is produced. It's principal place of sale is Melbourne, the capital of the Australian Colony of Victoria. It was only natural for the people of the colony to consider that, having the wool at their doors they could manufacture cheaper goods than were imported,—especially as these goods were made in England out of wool imported from Australia. To assist in this laudable project the Government put customs duties averaging from 30 to 35 per cent. upon imported woollen goods. Notwithstanding all these favourable circumstances the locally made material was not able to compete against the imported article.

You think, then, that Japan has special manufacturing aptitudes?—Yes, Japan promises to be a manufacturing country of the first degree, and, were there more regular shipping services and cheaper freights between the two countries, Australia with its raw products and Japan with its manufactures would rapidly become united and dependent upon each other in the strongest commercial relationship.

Do you see any other reasons for close commercial relations between Australia and Japan?—Yes, there is another view which strikes me as being by no means unimportant for Japan. There are none of Great Britain's possessions as important and valuable to the Empire as Australia. The people of Great Britain have monetary interests in Australia to the extent of £400,000,000, a sum equivalent to over 4,000,000,000 *yen*. There are many other causes which tend to make Australia of great value to England, but the financial interest may be considered the main one; a circumstance which should not cause much surprise. Were the trade relations between Japan and Australia to become as important as a little careful fostering and enterprise would make them, Japan could always rely upon England's friendship and assistance. I need scarcely explain why.

Have you made the acquaintance of leading Japanese?—I had an extremely interesting conversation on Friday with the Hon. Mr. Kentaro Kaneko, your Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, upon these matters, and he entirely concurred in my views. Mr. Kaneko is one of the most progressive and well-informed statesmen I have had the pleasure of meeting. He informed me that the matter of improving the trade relations between Japan and Australia has occupied his attention for sometime, and he intends, when parliament meets, to bring the matter before the Government. He interested me considerably with an account of his efforts in connection with the movement that has been going on for the development of a good breed of horses in Japan. He quite concurred in my suggestion that perhaps the most practical and inexpensive means of doing this would be to encourage the importation of horses from Australia. I might mention that for many years the British cavalry of India have been importing upwards of 3,000 horses every year from Australia. Four-fifths of this supply have been sent from Melbourne. I am confident that these horses would suit the Japanese cavalry much better than the small beefy-shouldered, shambling ponies at present in use. Were the Japanese Military authorities to give the matter any encouragement people in Melbourne would readily take the risk of sending up one or two consignments on trial. This conversation upon live stock reminds me that Mr. Kaneko was surprised to hear that Australia could supply Japan with the same high quality of mutton that Australia is now exporting to England, at half the price that Chinese mutton is imported. He said that if such be the case the people of Japan would be delighted to get a change from beef, which may be said to be the only meat obtainable. That imported from China is too expensive.

I doubt about the prospects of a mutton market in Japan. But there are other goods, I presume, that you have in view?—Certainly. Australia can supply the following products to Japan cheaper and of better quality than can be obtained from any other country in the world—wool, tallow, flour, dairy products such as butter, cheese, hams, bacon, and condensed milk, fresh fruits such as pears, apples and grapes, grain, sole leather, candles, spirits, wines, jams and other provisions, cattle, horses, sheep, coke, and many other products of minor importance. Japan can supply Australia with tea, paper, cotton and wooden goods, sulphur, camphor, dried, salt and tinned fish, ginger, silks, cigarettes, matches, fans, mats, pictures, screens, umbrellas, and an innumerable quantity of porcelain, bronze, wood and cane wares, and other manufactures. And yet Japan is only at the beginning in its era of manufacturing for foreign countries.

Have you any special suggestion to make in connection with your project?—Well, Mr. Kaneko has informed me that an industrial exhibition is to be held at Kyoto about the middle of next year. I would suggest—in fact I would wish that a slight departure be made in its constitution, to this ex-

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tent, that Australia be informed that space will be allotted for a display of its raw products. If this suggestion is favourably received I will gladly give all the assistance in my power towards collecting and forwarding a good representative collection of our country's goods, so that the manufacturers of Japan may see for themselves what Australia can give them in return for their wares. I earnestly hope that whatever is done will not be undertaken half-heartedly. Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well, and I cannot do better than repeat, with reference to this hope, the old but seldom heeded proverb that "half measures are worse than none."

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentients or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

THE DISASTER AT No. 258.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—It is most disheartting to receive the outrageous attacks that have been made upon us by the Japanese newspapers, in regard to the calamity which overtook us on Wednesday last. We have handed you copies of these papers so you can see the unreasonable statement they have made against us. We have done everything in our power to relieve the sufferers, an account of which has already appeared in your colomns.

Immediately after the accident the writer visited the hospital on the Bluff where the injured were taken, and did everything in his power to make the inmates as comfortable as tender nursing and medical care could under the circumstances. Although we did not do any work on our premises yesterday, we paid all regular employés and to-day we have more people working in our godowns than on the day of the earthquake.

Hoping you will use every means to show how uncalled for these attacks in the Japanese newspapers have been.

We remain, yours faithfully,

WILSON & Co.

Yokohama, June 22nd, 1894.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, SHIBA, TOKYO.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I hear that a meeting has been called for Wednesday next, the 27th inst., to discuss the rebuilding of St. Andrew's Church. As I shall be unable to be present, will you kindly allow me to offer a suggestion through the medium of your columns?

Although I am not an architect, but merely an engineer, I have had some experience with structures liable to distortion through subsidence of the ground in colliery and mining districts and, after all, building construction in Japan is as much the business of the engineer and carpenter as of the architect.

Our recent experience of brick buildings has been decidedly unfavourable to the use of that material, except, perhaps, for the most massive edifices, where a free use of rolled iron joists and similar reinforcements can be adopted—a style of work which is scarcely suitable for church architecture. I presume also that no one would advocate an iron church, pure and simple, although even that material may be artistically treated, as for example in the roofs of St. Pancras and of York railway stations, and in the Duke of Portland's riding school.

The mediæval half-timbered style of building, of which we have so many excellent examples in England, appears fanly to meet the difficulty. I would suggest that the whole building be completely framed in a skeleton of fairly massive timbers, Oregon pine by preference, as it is more trustworthy than most Japanese woods, and can be obtained in logs of sufficiently large size at a reasonable price. Each roof truss and its supporting posts should form one continuous frame from foundation to ridge and from ridge to foundation, and the line of posts forming each side wall should be thoroughly laced together from end to end (of course leaving suitable openings for the windows) and strutted from the outside. No reliance should be placed on mortises and tenons, except to prevent initial slipping; in fact, I would sooner see them forbidden altogether, as their abuse is quite as frequent as their use. Wrought iron straps and bolts should be freely used. The whole structure should in fact bear a strong family resemblance to the framing of a ship turned upside down and should have a similar capacity to withstand rough usage.

Up to the level of the window sills the spaces between the timbers may be panelled in with fairly massive brickwork, which will assist in giving stability to the whole structure, and by its weight will to a considerable extent absorb and retard the transmission of earthquake shocks.

Above that level nothing heavier than laths and plaster, and perhaps slates or tiles, should be used for the filling in, and even these should be as light as possible towards the upper part, so that any motion communicated to the lower part may be taken up and followed by the upper part as simultaneously as possible, and with the least possible resistance from inertia or deadweight.

It is of course intended that every timber of the framing should be fully exposed to view, both inside and outside, and the construction of every joint, splice, or scarpt should be patent and not concealed.

The roof might be formed of two layers of stout boards, not merely tacked on, but nailed down as if the existence of the building depended upon them alone, and with a space of three inches between the layers (netted to keep out the sparrows) through which the air could freely circulate. The joints of the outer layer should run vertically, and should be covered by stout bevelled or moulded strips at least 3 inches wide, and the whole might then be painted or tarred and well sanded.

I am inclined to think that such a structure as I have described would not only be pleasing to the eye, but would have a life three or four times as long as any brick structure that could be built for the same cost. It would also afford architects an opportunity to display their skill in artistic carpentry, and to originate a new method of treatment, instead of continuing to adopt a style of architecture which, however well adapted for other localities, is decidedly out of place in this unstable country.

Yours &c. W. SILVER HALL,
9A Tsukiji,

Tokyo, June 25th, 1894.

EARTHQUAKE-PROOF CHIMNEYS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—While many are no doubt still profoundly impressed with the effects of the recent earthquake, kindly allow the undersigned to give to the public in your esteemed paper, as early as possible, a few hints respecting the repairs of some of the ravages produced. It would go far beyond a newspaper article to attempt to discuss special construction and technical rules for securing new buildings. But in view of the many injuries to chimneys evident on all sides, it is the simple object of these lines to present in time, before such chimneys are set up again on old lines, a method of constructing them which will no doubt greatly help to avert such disasters in the future. While perhaps the method is not absolutely secure against all possible assaults of earthquakes, still it has in it virtues which will no doubt secure chimney tops against anything like the recent calamity.

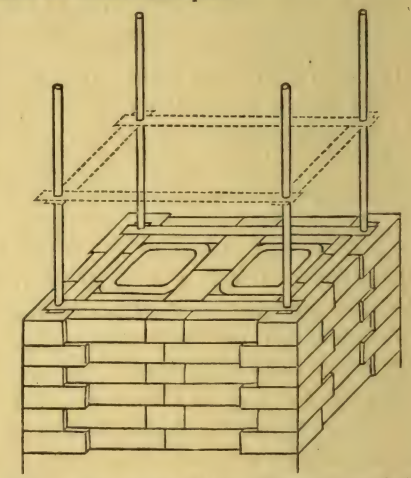
After the big Gifu earthquake of 1891, many writers, professional and otherwise, gave their ideas on this question. Some wanted to build chimneys entirely free from contact with the building, (or at least free from the roof), leaving room enough so that the chimney might oscillate freely and independently as determined by its own elasticity. It may be possible with much difficulty to secure this freedom from contact with the roof, but it is in practice next to impossible to carry this principle through with respect to the walls and floors. Architectural technique might no doubt conquer even these practical difficulties, but even if it did so, there are enough instances on hand, especially in the Gifu earthquake and also in the recent instance, to prove that chimneys standing perfectly free like those of factories, do nevertheless fall. This same possibility would also remain in the case of ordinary house chimneys, which in diameter and height are in comparison often at a disadvantage, not to speak of relative inferiority in the construction of the shaft of such chimneys as a rule.

Others again think that by carrying the chimneys up perfectly straight from foundation to top, they have fulfilled their duty and exhausted the possibilities of the case. This principle should undoubtedly under all circumstances be accepted as incontestible, and not deviated from in the least. But in itself it evidently does not yet meet all requirements. The real difficulty in all constructions seems to lie in the distance between the plane of the roof and the top of the chimney. Very rarely will there be breaks or serious bulgings in the shaft inside the house provided the shaft is well and properly constructed with good materials.

Bricks and mortar alone (even the best cement masonry) do not possess sufficient elasticity for the tests the tops are put to in a violent earthquake. These materials suffice for pressure. If therefore we add a material which will provide for the important factors of torsion and tensile and transverse shearing strain, the requisite security is attained.

Only since a few years is it generally known (and in European countries protected by patents) that there is an extraordinary adhesion between cement and uncorroded iron. They adhere so firmly that, for example, if a strong wire is laid into cement and the cement allowed to harden, it cannot be extracted without completely breaking up the cement block again. The explanation of this lies in the fact that beyond the fact of adhesion iron and cement have approximately the same coefficient of expansion and in the fact that cement absorbs all surronding moisture, the iron being thus preserved uncorroded.

The proposition to be presented here rests on these characteristics. The accompanying sketch makes the construction plain.



The corner bricks of the chimney tops being three quarter bricks to be laid in German style, provided with holes of about 9 *bu* in diameter. None such being in the market yet, they have to be specially ordered. Some may object that it is impossible to wait till such bricks are made. Let the damages to roofs otherwise be repaired, and it will be a simple matter to cover the chimney openings in the roofs temporarily for a month or two, chimneys not being needed in the summer. Hereafter these bricks will no doubt be in the market. About three feet below the roof, we begin to lay these bricks. In these holes six *bu* round iron rods are inserted. These rods are to run up to the proposed height of the chimney. The space in these holes left between the ironrods and the bricks is kept carefully filled with cement morter, and all the bricks are likewise laid in the same way. These corner bricks with holes have to be put on from the top of the rods. Every 4 or 5 courses of brick, hoop iron of about 1 *sun* 6 *bu* to 6 *rin* with holes at the ends for insertion, connects all four rods with each other. These sizes are for a chimney of medium size. After the top is carried up in this manner a decorative cornice as light as possible may be laid on top, and thus the chimney is finished. In general a top should not be carried too high above the roof. It may be extended easily by three feet or so, by a decorative terra cotta pipe, which is light and can be easily secured.

This entire construction is simple, cheap, and secure. Moreover imperfect and dishonest work can not easily produce such serious injury. As for the rest, the chimney top should be built as light as possible. In general half a brick around the flues as shownin the sketch is sufficient. Nor should there be any irregularity or digging out for junction with the roof nor any projecting watertables. Provision against leakage can easily be secured without these watertables which are usually found in the old style chimneys.

The undersigned has been frequently asked whether chimney tops of iron or other metal are not admisable. Such can no doubt be made secure against earthquakes, and if they were not so easily corroded, there would be no special objection. But even in such cases the brickwork of the chimney would have to extend at least a foot above the roof, so that it may be securely held by the roof. Otherwise, if the iron chimney were to run below the roof, there would be a simple repetition of the very same danger, the brick chimney top being now only lowered, and under the roof instead of on top. The results may be easily conceived.

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Earthquakes have proved to the undersigned one thing, viz., that all confidence in brick or other solid structures need not be lost, if they are built according to the proper requirements of technical science and with careful provisions for the circumstances meeting us here. Yesterday, the undersigned made a special point of examining the larger of the two buildings executed by him for the Government in his five years engagement here,—the Saibansho (Courts of Justice) on the Hibiya. A full examination revealed the fact that this four storied building did not suffer in the least. The Shihosho (Department of Justice) alongside is said to be in equally perfect condition. The earthquake shook this immense structure without showing even a trace of any destructive effect,—a highly encouraging result, and all the more so as the building could not rest on naturally solid ground, but on an artificially prepared layer of 7 feet of sand pounded down.

It may be remarked here that these buildings are not a mere repetition of architectural rules as applied at home in countries without earthquakes, but very special precautionary provisions were made in many ways so as to meet these very difficulties in this country.

Trusting that the above may be helpful to some at least of the many who suffered so recently and severely,

I am, very respectfully, RICHARD SEEL.
Architect.

Meiji Gakuin, Shirokane, Tokyo, and
25, Main St., Yokohama,
June 22nd, 1894.

AUSTRALIAN GEM STONES.

AN OPEN LETTER.

SIR,—The increasing frequency with which Australian diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, and other gem stones are making their appearance in the British market, has naturally awakened some curiosity respecting the extent to which they are found in a country hitherto associated with ideas principally of wool and the precious metals. In New South Wales, the existence of the diamond was known so far back as 1851, but no systematic efforts in the shape of diamond mining were made until 1869, when a dimantiferous locality at Cudgegong, a few miles from Mudgee, discovered by some gold diggers in 1867, yielded considerable numbers of the precious stone, mostly of small size, the largest being between five and six carats. Some few years later diamonds were discovered near Bingera, from the neighbourhood of which, up to the present time, several thousand small diamonds have been obtained. There are other localities in which diamonds are found, and at some future date, when the necessary experience and capital are forthcoming, diamond-mining will occupy a leading place among the industries of the colony. The washdirt in which the diamonds are found, contains numerous small sapphires, rubies, garnets, and other gem stones and mineral substances. No official record of the number of diamonds found is kept, but Mr. Coghlan, Government Statistician of New South Wales, estimates that up to the end of 1887, it was 50,000. The New South Wales diamonds are harder and much whiter than the South Africa diamonds, and are classified on a par with the best Brazilian gems. During the year 1889 the Malacca Company, near Tingha, found diamonds weighing 2,195 carats, valued at £898 5s. In 1891, 12,000 carats of diamonds were won in the Tingha and Inverell districts, but no value has been given. Practically, the dimantiferous districts of the colony, even that at Bingera, have never been fully prospected, although they are known to be numerous and extensive. Among other gem stones found in New South Wales are the sapphire, emerald, oriental emerald, ruby, opal, amethyst, garnet, chrysolite, topaz, cairngorm, onyx, zircon, &c., which are frequently met with in gold and tin-bearing drifts, and river gravel in many places throughout the colony. Emeralds of good quality have been found in abundance at Emmaville, in the northern part of the colony, where the Emerald Proprietary Company have sunk two shafts, 100 ft. and 50 ft. respectively, from which 25,000 carats have been won in a rough state; their value when cut and finished, if of the best quality, is about £2 per carat. Some of the specimens shown in Sydney were extremely beautiful, and as the mines are more fully worked, stones of the richest character will probably be found. At White Cliffs, near Wilcannia, in the north-western portion of the colony, extensive deposits of opal have been discovered, principally in beds of conglomerate and kaolin. Here a township has sprung up in the formerly uninhabited wilderness, the value opal sold during of the 1893 being estimated at from £18,000 to £20,000. Opals have also been discovered near the Abercrombie River and near Lismore. Gem cutting is virtually an unknown industry, the larger stones being sent to Europe to be cut and polished. Comparatively few of those engaged in the search for gems have any practical experience, save what they have obtained in Australia, otherwise it is probable that more extensive and richer discoveries would have been made long before the present time.

Yours, etc., JOHN PLUMMER.
Sydney, March 12th.

AUSTRALIAN GRAPES.

AN OPEN LETTER.

SIR.—With the increase of facilities for cheaply exporting fresh fruit in sound condition from Australia to the Mother Country, grapes from New South Wales may become as common as those from southern Europe in the British market. Only those who have visited the colony during the grape season can form anything like an adequate idea of the abundance, luscious character, and cheapness of the fruit. Imagine the finest muscatel grapes retailed in a British fruiterer's shop at threepence per lb., or rich Malaga grapes hawked about the streets at one penny per lb. Yet this is what many Sydney residents are familiar with. The greater portion of New South Wales is essentially a grape growing country, the vine being cultivated therein with as much ease as the gooseberry bush in the English home counties, bearing large crops of succulent fruit, equal in size, appearance, and flavour to the finest grapes produced in southern Europe. The vine was introduced into New South Wales in the early days of colonization, but its systematic cultivation, principally for wine making purposes, dates from 1828, when an enterprising colonist, Mr. Busby, returned from Europe with a large collection of vine cuttings from the most celebrated vineyards of France, Spain, the Rhine valley, and other parts of continental Europe, and planted on his estate at Kirkton, in the Hunter River district, a vineyard which afterwards became the nursery of the principal vine-yards of the colony. Subsequently the vine was planted in the Murray valley, and in other districts, and was found to flourish so luxuriantly that the manufacture of wine received considerable attention, developing, after numerous vicissitudes, into its present extensive proportions. In April, 1893, the area under vine cultivation in New South Wales was 6,357 acres, of which 2,211 acres were devoted to table grapes, the product during the year 1892 93 being 13,251,840lbs., an average of about 13,440lbs. per acre. The table grapes are grown principally in the neighbourhood of Sydney, especially in districts of Ryde, Parramatta, and other portions of Central Cumberland. In addition to the area mentioned, there are 1,907 acres not yet in bearing condition. Should the demand for table grapes increase, the area under cultivation can be indefinitely extended, and product increased by millions of pounds, thereby enabling them to be exported in considerable quantities at remunerative prices to both growers and retailers. Should steam communication between Manchester and Sydney become successfully established, the myriad populations of the great Lancashire industrial centres will enjoy the luxury of the finest qualities of grapes from the Antipodes at almost nominal prices. This is no idle dream, but one of the possibilities of the near future. Of grape cultivation for wine-making purposes a good deal may be said, but it would occupy too much space. Whether grown for table use or wine-making, the grapes are obtained almost exclusively from staked vines, cut down every year to within a couple of feet from the ground, and planted in rows, the vines being equidistant from each other. Trellised vines—as, indeed, is trellised fruit of every description—are comparatively rare, and used principally for ornamental purposes. The scene during the vintage season, although not so picturesque as in France or Italy, is extremely interesting, all the available labour, including that of women and children, being called into active requisition. The Australian vineyards have suffered less, proportionately, from the ravages of phylloxera than have those of Southern Europe, a result of the vigilance displayed by the various colonial Governments whenever the disease makes its appearanc; hence the abundance, fine quality, and general cheapness of the fruit, which, during the season, is found on the tables of the poorest, as well as on those of the richest colonists.

Yours, etc., JOHN PLUMMER.
Sydney, March 26th.

MESSRS. DEAKIN BROS., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in Messrs. Deakin Bros., Limited, was held in Kiel's Building on Monday afternoon to consider a proposition to reduce the share-capital of the Company. There were present Messrs. J. Rickett, W. J. S. Shand, A. J. Wilkin, A. B. Walford, T. H. Box, P. de C. Morriss, C. W. Ure (Auditor), A. T. Watson, and C. H. Fearon (Secretary).

MR. J. RICKETT took the Chair and first of all called upon the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

THE SECRETARY read the notice, which proceeded as follows:—

"That the capital of the Company be reduced from $150,000 to $30,000 by cancelling paid-up capital to the extent of $40 per share in respect of each of the 2,984 Ordinary Shares of $50 each, and to the extent of $4 per share in respect of each of the 160 Founders' Shares of $5 each, and reducing the nominal amount of such shares respectively *pro tanto*."

THE CHAIRMAN said that he did not intend to take up the time that afternoon by making a speech. They were all aware of the reason for which the meeting was convened. During the last few days a balance-sheet showing the position of the Company's affairs up till the 31st May, and another showing its actual position with the stock revalued and its goodwill written down, had been printed and circulated, and no doubt these balance sheets had been carefully studied by shareholders. The Directors did not come before the meeting that day with any proposition; they desired to obtain the opinion of shareholders upon the advisability or otherwise of making some decrease in their capital—to reduce it in some such fashion—that a reasonable hope might arise of the business paying a dividend eventually. He did not think that it was possible to obtain a dividend working with the present capital, at least not for a considerable time to come. Therefore the Directors would be pleased to hear from shareholders that day any suggestions that would conduce to the interests of the company. They had the figures of its actual position set forth before them, and it was for them to decide what should be done. If any shareholder had any opinions upon the subject he was sure that the Directors would be glad to hear them. He was sorry that they had not a more efficient representative in the chair that day—some one who could lay the whole matter of capital-reducing clearly before them. He regretted that he did not understand the subject better than he did, but he understood that Mr. Walford would give them any assistance that lay in his power. Perhaps it would be as well if some shareholder proposed the adoption of a resolution, then discussion might be opened.

The following balance-sheets were then submitted.

BALANCE SHESTS 31ST MAY, 1894.

ASSETS.

Chartered Bank of I. A. & C.	$ 181.42
Cash in hand	828 11
Cost of Goodwill, Fixtures, &c.	80,000.00
Cost of Furniture	2,668.24
Cost of Stationery	999.00
Cost of Stock	43,072.54
Cost of Fire Insurance	237.61
Suspense account	866.05
Sundry Debtors	7,312.80
Balance from P. & L. account	16,021.57
	$152,187.33

LIABILITIES.

Capital Subscribed	$150,000.00
Sundry Creditors	2,187.33
	$152,187.33

WORKING ACCOUNT.

DR.

To Salaries	$ 1,512.50
To Rent	650.00
To Discount	1.50
To Fire Insurance	260.70
To Interest	19.73
To Presents	15.12
To Auditor's Fee	200.00
To Legal Expenses	250.00
To General Charges	1,391.28
To Bad and Doubtful Debts	319.00
	$ 4,619.83

CR.

By Commission	$ 101.91
By Marine Insurance	24.00
By Freight	11.50
By Transfer Fees	5.00
By Balance	4,477.42
	$ 4,619.83

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.

To Balance from last year	$ 11,544.15
To Balance of Working account	4,477.42
	$ 16,021.57

CR.

By Balance	$ 16,021.57
	$16,021.57

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, May 31st, 1894. C. H. FEARON, Secretary.

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I have compared the written statements with the books and vouchers of the Company, and find the same in accordance therewith.

Yokohama, June 11th, 1894.

CHAS. W. URE, Auditor.

PRO FORMA BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MAY, 1894.

SHOWING THE COMPANY'S ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, WITH THE CAPITAL REDUCED AND ASSETS REVALUED.

ASSETS.

Cash Account—		
In Chartered Bank of I. A. & C.	$ 181.42	
In hands of Secretary...	828.11	
		$ 1,009.53
Furniture Account—		
Value of this estimated		1,866.00
Stock Account—		
Value of Stock of Curios		10,829.09
Sundry Debtors Account—		
Total amount standing in old books ...		8,178.85
Goodwill Account—		
Value of this Asset estimated		15,000.00
J. J. De Souza shares Account—		
Value of 373 Ordinary and 17 Founders' Shares held as Security against his overdraft with the Company		3,747.00
Fire Insurance Account—		
Value of Current Policies...		237.61
		40,868.08

LIABILITIES.

Capital Account—		
2,984 Ordinary Shares $10...	$29,840.00	
160 Founders Shares $1	160.00	
		$30,000.00
Sundry Creditors Account—		
Sundries as per list		3,187.33
Bad & Doubtful Debts Account—		
Sundries as per list...		7,680.75
		$40,868.08

C. H. FEARON, Secretary.

Mr. WILKIN observed that the Article under which they were empowered to reduce the capital did not belong to the original Articles of Association.

The CHAIRMAN—It was adopted and confirmed by two extraordinary general meetings. Its omission must have been an oversight. We have now the power to reduce the capital whenever it is thought advisable to do so, and therefore I should like to hear now any opinions from shareholders upon the matter.

Mr. WALFORD said that it appeared to him that the real reason why the value of the stock should be reduced from $43,000 to its real value, something like $10,000, were twofold. If left at $43,000 it would be necessary to sell the goods at four times their value before they could hope to make a profit, while if the value was reduced to $10,000 then it could be sold, at least, at a bare profit, and if other circumstances were favourable a reasonable hope of a dividend might be entertained. Those were the principal reasons why, in his opinion, their capital should be reduced. There was also some $16,000 loss which it might be advisable to wipe off now, and which would certainly have to be cleared away before any dividend could be declared. By reducing the capital in the terms which had been suggested they would be able to strike out this $16,000 without calling upon their future profits,—for from their profits the sum would have to be met—thus with one stroke getting rid of a weighty encumbrance.

Mr. WILKIN asked how the stock came to be valued at $43,000.

The CHAIRMAN explained that this was the original valuation, and with that figure the company had started. The Directors had since had a revaluation taken with the result already shown. The revaluation had been most carefully done by Mr. James, assisted by another gentleman, and the figures now given were entirely trustworthy.

Mr. WILKIN wished to know how the value of the stock had been worked down.

The CHAIRMAN—The fire reduced the stock considerably, it worked off some $18,000.

Mr. WILKIN—But what I wished to ascertain was whether you thought the stock had originally been over-valued.

The CHAIRMAN—On that point there is some difference of opinion. The present Board of Directors are inclined to think that it has been over-valued. Of course a great deal depends upon the length of time the stock is held. Fashions vary and what might be of value one year was comparatively worthless the next.

Mr. WILKIN next inquired whether the bad and worthless debts were entered *per contra* to the sundry debtors account.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes. The sundry debtors account was only discovered when the late Secretary absconded.

Mr. WILKIN—And the account is set down now at $5,000—is that all good.

Mr. SHAND—We do not know for certain.

The CHAIRMAN—As explained at the last meeting we are still in correspondence with certain people about this account. Some of the people to whom we applied have replied that they paid the money to the late Secretary; it was then we knew that we had lost the money.

Mr. Box wished to know how it was that the sundry creditors account for the 31st May was set down as $2,187.33, while the balance sheet of the 2nd June had, opposite the same heading, the sum of $3,187.33.

The CHAIRMAN—That item is an outstanding claim which we supposed had been paid. A gentleman had paid the late Secretary for certain goods; he was afterwards drawn on for the same amount, and to get his goods he met the claim. Afterwards he reclaimed the amount off us, and as he had already paid for the goods, this money had to be refunded.

Mr. Box—Then why is this not stated in both balance sheets?

The CHAIRMAN—Simply because we did not know of it before.

Mr. Box—There is another matter I should like to refer to; it is in reference to this overdraft of de Souza's. What is that?

The CHAIRMAN—We hold his shares, now valued at $10 each, against that amount.

Mr. Box—It was not an overdraft then, as this balance-sheet would lead one to suppose, but merely a defalcation. In other words, he pocketed the money, and you have set it down here as an overdraft.

The SECRETARY—You may call it what you will, an overdraft or what you like. He succeeded in pocketing the amount, and therefore it comes to the same thing—he owes that amount of money to the company.

Mr. Box—Still from the statement in the balance-sheet it looks as though he legitimately drew the cash.

The CHAIRMAN—If you prefer to put it that way, you may say that he left in debt to the Company. You must understand that the amounts were entered in our books as being owed to us by persons who had gone away. When we applied to these persons for payment, they replied that, they had paid the money to Mr. de Souza, and therefore, by virtue of our Articles of Association, we hold his shares to the amount.

Mr. Box—Then he did not draw any cash—it is simply a defalcation on his part.

The same speaker then put several questions as to the general charges, which he said had increased by nearly three times since 1891, notwithstanding that so little business had been done.

The CHAIRMAN said the general charges varied very much, but he would be pleased to show the Company's books to Mr. Box at any time, when every item could be examined.

Mr. Box observed that he was perfectly satisfied with the present balance-sheet, and he had noticed that there had been a general determination to cut down all the expenses in every way possible; but the general charges account went on increasing from year to year, nay, month by month.

Several questions were also put by Mr. Box relative to the commission account and other items, and these were explained by the Chairman. He then asked if it was possible to get anything back from the high value originally put upon the stock.

The CHAIRMAN—In what way do you mean?

Mr. Box—Well, the books were in the company's possession some time after the transfer.

The CHAIRMAN—I cannot answer for anything undertaken by my predecessors. None of the Directors of the present Board were on that body then; we simply took over the business from them. We certainly think that the stock was over-valued, and we took a valuation of the stock subsequently, with the result now shown. The valuation was worked out by Mr. Passey Adams originally, and when Mr. Ure checked his figures he could find no discrepancies anywhere. If the original directors were content to hand over $75,000 for the concern it was none of the present Board's business.

Mr. Box—There was a good deal of talk about a revaluation at the meeting in 1892.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, and the books were gone through, but there was nothing to show that the goods were actually over-valued. The stock has now been revalued, and, if anything, is now under-valued, so that your money is safer than it ever was before.

Mr. Box thought that they ought to write off the whole of the goodwill while they were about it. It was worthless. He did not think, that with the name the Company now possessed that the goodwill was worth a cent.

The CHAIRMAN said that this was a subject which the meeting could consider. For his own part he thought that with a few years of good returns $15,000 would not be a price at all unreasonable to ask for their business. He was sorry that they had such a poor meeting, for the subject they were discussing was one of momentous importance, so far as the Company were concerned.

Mr. P. MORRISS inquired whether Mr. Deakin had been approached at all as to the position.

The CHAIRMAN—He will be approached.

Mr. MORRISS—Then he has made no proposition?

The CHAIRMAN—No.

Mr. WILKIN then moved:—

"That the capital of the Company be reduced from $150,000 to $30,000 by cancelling paid-up capital to the extent of $40 per share in respect of each of the 2,984 Ordinary Shares of $50 each; and to the extent of $4 per share in respect of each of the 160 Founders' Shares of $5 each, and reducing the nominal amount of such shares respectively *pro tanto*."

The CHAIRMAN—That is the best thing that could be done.

Mr. WALFORD said he had much pleasure in seconding the proposition. He was greatly in favour of its adoption by the meeting. There was one thing he might point out to the meeting and that was the position of the Founders' Shares, which would be improved by the reduction of their capital. They would come in for a dividend after 10 per cent. had been paid on the reduced capital, instead of waiting until 10 per cent. was paid on the full original capital.

The CHAIRMAN—As I said before, this is, in my opinion, the best thing that could be done in the interests of the company. I only regret that more people are not present this afternoon. Many shareholders have expressed themselves to me as being in favour of the reduction, and I only regret that they are not here to give public expression to those opinions. I hold the proxies of several of them, however. I now put the proposition to the meeting.

A show of hands was taken and the resolution declared carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—It will be necessary to confirm this resolution at a subsequent extraordinary general meeting. I hope that if any questions suggest themselves to any shareholder between now and the time of calling that meeting, that notice will be given to me before hand, so that I may be better posted in regard to the figures.

Mr. Box said the books should also be on the table at the next meeting. He, himself, was perfectly satisfied, but he knew of some who were not; it was in their interests that he had put the questions he had asked that day,

The CHAIRMAN—You were quite right in putting those questions; I only wish that other shareholders would display a like interest in the welfare of the Company.

In answer to Mr. Box, Mr. WALFORD said he did not think that it was necessary to pass the balance sheet presented that day; and the meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

YOKOHAMA CHARITY ORGANIZATION.

A meeting of the above Society took place in Keil's buildings on Wednesday afternoon to receive the report of the Society's working and statement of accounts since March, 1892. There were present Mr. Jas. Dodds (in the chair), the Rev. E. C. Irwine, and Messrs. J. Lindsley, T. Rose, and A. O. Gay.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that, as would be seen from the report of the Committee drawn up by the Secretary, no meeting had been called since March, 1892. There had been no necessity to call a meeting last year owing to the liberal response of the subscribers. Although it had been the intention to call a meeting last year it had been decided not to do so until necessity forced it upon them. There was a balance of $36.78, but as there was a daily call on the funds it had been found necessary to send around the list once more, and he hoped that the subscribers, having seen the good done, would respond as liberally as before and help them to continue this most useful organization. There was nothing else he could add, except to propose the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. GAY seconding, the report and accounts were passed.

REPORT.

The Committee of the Yokohama Charity Organization beg to lay before the Subscribers the report for the period between March 23rd, 1892, and June 22nd, 1894. During this time direct relief has been afforded to a large number of distressed seamen, and to other poor or destitute persons, who but for the Society's timely intervention, would have drawn much more largely upon the benevolence of the community

The organization has also assisted a number of persons to leave the port. Of these some were thoroughly deserving of help—particularly one worthy family, who were sufferers through the cattle plague. The remainder were either lazy and dissipated loungers, who continually sponge upon whatever settlement they fasten upon, or mendicant peripatetic philosophers, whose prolonged stay in whatever port they reach is more expensive than their transhipment. Unfortunately the Consulates are not able to deal with these cases, and it is cheaper to

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ship them off than to allow them to remain and raise money on their own account, and be a daily nuisance to men of business.

Happily the number of distressed seamen coming upon the public for help is less than it was in 1892. Those whose cases have been dealt with have been decently housed and fed, and in many cases have obtained employment on shipboard through the agency of the society. By the kindness of residents many men, who were almost in rags, have been clothed so as to be able to face various extremes of climate.

Such gifts of clothing will be gratefully received by the Honorary Secretary at No. 101, Settlement, where they will be stored ready for use.

In assisting distressed persons to leave Yokohama the Committee have extended the original scope of the organization, since they found this to be a more pressing necessity than the immediate establishment of a sailors' refuge. The sister society here, the Ladies' Benevolent Association, is mainly concerned with the necessities of women and children, and has too many demands upon its funds, which are entirely subscribed by ladies, to allow of its extending much assistance to men. The Committee feel that it would be well if all male residents, who, after fulfilling other demands upon them, can afford a small annual subscription, were to become subscribers to the Y C O. By so doing they would further the ends of true charity much better than by indiscriminately giving away money at the doors of their offices or residences, or in the streets, as they can seldom know, without investigation, how much help, if any, is needed, or what the recipient will do with the gift. The working of the society will be seen in the treasurer's report, and it will be noticed that the results were obtained at a cost of less than $400 per annum. No call having been made upon the residents for more than two years the committee confidently trust the community will now respond as readily as they did before. With these remarks and suggestions they beg to tender their resignation of office.

(Signed) JAS. DODDS, Chairman.
JOHN LINDSLEY, Hon. Treasurer.
JAS. MARTIN.
THOMAS ROSE.
E. CHAMPNEYS IRWINE, Hon. Secretary.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE YOKOHAMA CHARITY ORGANIZATION, MARCH 23RD, 1892, TO JUNE 22ND, 1894.

RECEIPTS.

Subscriptions	$885.50
Interest, on deposits with Bank	12.61
	$898.11

DISBURSEMENTS.

Board and lodging for 49 men at Mrs. Pratt's	$388.00
Cash assistance for passages from Japan	331.00
Victuals to local applicants	102.53
Medicines to local applicants	22.35
Stationery, Printing and Petties	17.45
	$861.33
June 22nd, 1894.—Balance in hand	36.78
	$898.11

E. & O. E.
JOHN LINDSLEY, Hon. Treas.
Yokohama, 22nd June, 1894.
Examined and found correct,
A. S. GARFIT, Auditor.
Yokohama, 23rd June, 1894.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST 1892.

Ahrens, H. & Co.	$ 12	Martin, James	$ 12
Bavier & Co.	12	Martin, Marshall	10
Berrick Bros.	10	*Mercury*, H.M.S. Snowflake Minstrels	45
Bevis, H.M.	12	Meier, A. & Co.	12
Bremner, A.S.	12	Morf, H.C. & Co.	12
Browne & Co.	12	Moss, E.J.	6
Bruhl, Bros. & Co.	12	North & Rae, Lt.	10
Blad, Valdemar	5	Pearson, B. Hyde	10
Butterfield & Swire.	12	P. M. S.S. and O. & O. Co.'s	12
Curtius, Donker	50	Pollet & Mullendorf	12
Colomb, J. & Co.	12	Retz, Fr. & Co.	12
Dodwell, Carlill & Co.	12	Raspe, M. & Co.	12
Easton, A.J.	6	Reimers, Otto & Co.	12
Eppinger, L.	10	Robison, R.D.	12
Findlay, Richardson & Co.	6	Rose, Thomas	12
Fraser, Donald	12	Rohde, Carl & Co.	12
Fox, E.C.	5	Rosenthal & Co.	12
Frazar & Co.	12	Russell, M.	12
Garfit, A.S.	6	Sale, Charles	6
Ginsburg, M.	12	Samuel Samuel & Co.	12
Giussani, C.	12	Shipping Fund (per E.C.I.)	35
Gazette Co.	7.50	Siber, Brennwald & Co.	12
Gordon, W.	6	Simon, Evers & Co.	12
Hall, John	6	Simon, J.R. & Co.	12
Hartland, J.C.	10	Strachan, W.M. & Co.	12
Flint, Kilby & Co.	12	Vivanti Bros.	12
Illies, Carl & Co.	12	Walker, Wilson	5
Irwine, E.C.	12	Walsh, Hall & Co.	12
Isaacs, R. and Bro.	12	Weston, A.	12
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	12	Wheeler, Dr.	12
Kobayashi, B.	5	Winckler & Co.	12
Keil, O.	50	Witkowski & Co.	12
Lane, Crawford & Co.	12	Ziegler and Merian	12
Langfeldt, A.	12	Total	$885.50
Litchfield, H.C.	12		
Macondray, Bros. & Co.	12		
MacArthur, H.	12		

1894.

Troup, James 10

Mr. LINDSLEY pointed out that in addition to the balance shown in the account, Mr. Troup had donated $10 and Messrs. Averill & Co., $15.

The CHAIRMAN said there was nothing else before the meeting, unless the subscribers called for information about the society, but the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Mr. GAY, in complimenting the committee on the way their work had been done, suggested the list should be sent around again and the organization carried on; good and necessary work had been done by it.

Mr. ROSE coincided in this, inasmuch as it acted as a check on the rovers, and it gave the community an opportunity to inquire into a man's requirements.

Mr. GAY was glad the report and accounts had been published, as it seemed the public had lost sight of the Organization. He was glad that they could see what was being done, and moved that the present committee be asked to remain in office and serve again.

The CHAIRMAN expressed his pleasure at hearing Mr. Gay concurring in the work done by the last committee, and trusted they would serve again and send around a subscription list at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. IRWINE, in reply to Mr. Gay, stated that cards had been sent to the subscribers, to hang up in their offices, which stated they were subscribers, &c. He expected to have a serious call on account of a person whom the Consul was unable to help. He was at present sick in hospital and had to be helped. The Society had become a society of assistance like its sister Benevolent Society. In this connection he trusted that men who were not married would come forward, and help and not leave it all to the firms and married men who already directly or indirectly subscribed to the Benevolent Society. It was useless to give out stray dollars. If the young men in offices were asked he was sure they would be willing to do their duty, and not leave it entirely to the firms. $5 a year each would meet the case; 100 subscribers at $5 would be better than a few large sums given by firms. This could be done by canvas, and he did not think there would be any difficulty in making up the amount. There might be a big call at any moment. In conclusion he expressed his obligations to the press for publishing the report, &c., and otherwise assisting in matters connected with benevolence.

Mr. DODDS endorsed the sentiments expressed by Mr. Irwine in regard to the press.

The meeting then rose.

YOKOHAMA PUBLIC HALL ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of this Association, was convened for 5 o'clock on Wednesday, but as there was no quorum—Messrs. Gay and Tom Thomas only being present—there was not a sufficient attendance to open the meeting.

Mr. Gay intimated that the accounts had not been published since the general meeting held in May, 1891, and he would now publish them as they were made up. They are as under:—

YOKOHAMA PUBLIC HALL ACCOUNTS FOR 1891/2, 1892/3, AND 1893/4.

		Cr.		
1891/2	Received from Subscriptions			$1,429.00
	,, for rent, &c.			1,384.41
		Dr.		
	Balance from last account		$1,261.21	
	Working account		536.64	
	Interest account		586.44	
	Repairs		72.00	
	Insurance		64.01	
	Ground rent		97.56	
	Piano fund account		25.00	
	Balance		171.55	
			2,813.41	2,813.41
	Balance brought down			$ 171.55

Yokohama, April 25th, 1892.
J. R. MERIAN, Hon. Treasurer.

		Cr.		
1892/3	Balance			$ 171.55
	Receipts from rent, &c.			1,424.35
		Dr.		
	Working account		$ 463.33	
	Interest account		580.54	
	Repairs		44.10	
	Insurance		80.18	
	Ground rent		97.56	
	Balance		321.19	
			1,595.90	1,595.90
	Balance brought down			$ 321.19

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1893.
TOM. THOMAS, Hon. Treasurer.

		Cr.		
1893/4	Balance			$ 321.19
	Receipts for rent, &c.			1,196.77
		Dr.		
	Working account		$ 480.44	
	Interest account		579.58	
	Repairs		104.15	
	Insurance		114.00	
	Ground rent		97.56	
	Balance		142.23	
			1,517.96	1,517.96
	Balance brought down			142.23

Yokohama, May 21st, 1894.
TOM. THOMAS, Hon. Treasurer.

LETTER FROM CHICAGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Chicago, June 2nd.

The following is from a city paper:—One of the most industrious students of Radcliffe College is Miss Mori, a Japanese girl. Her father is a wealthy banker of Yanagawa, Kiushu, Japan, and all the family are devoted Christians. Miss Mori has come to this country to fit herself by study for missionary work in her native country.

In the list of appointments to fellowships in the University of Chicago for the next year appears the name of M. Komatz (Komatsu?) in the department of political science.

Among the guests at a recent meeting of the Quadrangle Club, composed of members of the faculty of the same institution, was Professor John H. Wigmore, of the North-western University, Evanston, Ill.

Rev. R. A. Thompson, of Kobe, was one of the speakers at the annual session of the American Baptist Missionary Union at Saratoga. This was the eightieth year of the work of that body.

The Art Institute of this city has another collection of Japanese pictures, which, I am informed by a friend, are having a good sale. They are by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Herter, who have recently returned from Japan. The Chicago *Herald* treats them as follows:—Robert Blum will surely have to work hard to maintain the laurels he has justly won for the painting of Japanese subjects; the Herters' pictures are equal in every respect to any of Mr. Blum's performances. "Pastoral," by Mr. Herter, is as thoroughly Japanese in its brush stroke and colour as the work of Moronoba. "The Geisha" is the favourite model of these artists, and she appears in several aquarelles gowned in a costume of soft blue satin brocaded with the glorious chrysanthemum. There seems to be a grace of special movement in the step of these fascinating little dancers that is almost musical. "Katsuji-san" holds in her hand a bunch of brilliant blossoms, which contrast deliciously with her sumptuous trailing robe wadded stiffly at the bottom. "Before the Shrine" is a masterpiece; it is lovely in colour, and possesses a distinct religious note. "Under the Wistaria," "Iris Garden, Nikko," and "Lotus Pond at Kamakura" are rich in tone, and the observer positively detects the perfume of the flowers. A typical Japanese transcription is one called "The Flower Cart Dancer;" she wears a high *hanakushi* of gold, which makes the blue-black of her hair more noticeable; her *kimono* is white and red.

Hosojima's Stamp Company, of Tokyo, has shown considerable enterprise in running an advertisement in the *Graphic* of this city. It is, however, rather doubtful whether there will be profitable returns.

Advices from Samoa, via Auckland, announce that the Government troops and rebel army are approaching each other and may soon meet in a big battle.

The U.S. Senate have voted down the Vest resolution against the annexation of Hawaii, and has unanimously passed the following:—*Resolved*, By the Senate of the United States that of right it belongs wholly to the people of Hawaii to establish and maintain their own form of government and domestic policy; that the United States ought not in any way to interfere therewith, and that interference in the political affairs of these islands by any other Government will be regarded as an act unfriendly to the United States.

Senator Turpie, of Indiana, has introduced a joint to resolution to annul the treaty ratified April 21 with Russia.

Some little progress has actually been made in the Senate tariff bill. The rates on some classes of iron, on cutlery and on various other small articles made of iron, have been slightly increased, but barbed-wire and lumber have been put on the free list. A hard tussle is anticipated with reference to the sugar schedule.

It now transpires that the vote against the appropriation for the Civil Service Commission was in the Committee of the Whole; and that, when the matter came to a test in the open House, the appropriation was carried by the decisive vote of 158 to 80. This is more creditable to the Democratic majority.

The U.S. Supreme Court has recently handed down decisions in two important cases. One decision affirms that the city of Chicago holds the ownership and exclusive jurisdiction over the Lake Front; and emphasizes the fact that the Illinois Central Railroad Company has no claim to the land. The other decision reverses one made two years ago by Judge Gresham, *i.e.*, that the Inter-State Commission has no power to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses in regard to alleged violations of the Inter-State Commerce

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Act; and declares the constitutionality of that section which clothes the Commission with such power.

Ex-President Harrison was the magnet which for two days drew big crowds to the room of the Court of Appeals in this city to hear him argue in a railroad case.

Dr. Henry Van Arnum, ex-Congressman from New York, and Pension Commissioner under President Grant, died yesterday.

Prof. William D. Whitney, the famous linguist and Orientalist of Yale College, is seriously ill and not expected to survive.

It is necessary to report serious damage again from floods in Colorado and British Columbia. Two mining camps in Boulder Cañon were swept out of existence; and the cities of Boulder and Pueblo were in great danger, and suffered loss of life and property. From Vancouver comes the news that "two thousand families homeless and a property loss of $3,000,000 is the estimated result up to this evening [June 1] of the flood in the Fraser River Valley."

The "Commonweal armies" are now receiving but little attention from the newspapers. Kelly and his division have just left St. Louis on their voyage down the river; Randall's corps is still in Ohio; Frye is in Maryland, a small band is making its way through Wisconsin, partly by marching and partly by stealing rides on trains; Coxey, Browne, and Jones are still in jail at Washington, but hope to get out on writs of *habeas corpus*, and several small companies are trudging along here and there.

The Pullman strike is still "on." The board of conciliation of the Civil Federation of this city has received the consent of the strikers, but has not yet been able to obtain that of the Pullman Company, to submit the matter to arbitration. Thus far there has been no rioting.

This can not, however, be said of the miners' strike, which has become very disorderly. Trains, especially those carrying coal, have been stopped and even ditched, and shots fired at engineers of trains; there have been contests in Illinois, Colorado, and other States between the rioters and sheriff's men or even the State milita. On several railroads freight traffic has been largely abandoned. The danger from these striking miners arises from the fact that the great majority of them are ignorant foreigners of the lowest class. Many of them can not speak or understand English, are completely swayed by their leaders, and take delight in deeds of violence. It is now hoped, however, that the Governors of the "coal states," who are willing to act as arbitrators, may be able soon to bring about a settlement of the difficulty already, though summer is near at hand, the price of anthracite coal has been raised 25 cents per ton.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade for June 1st says:—It is a sign of cheering import that in finished business, represented by clearings and railway tonnage, there has been less decrease since the strike began than might have been expected, but in inchoate business, the orders which start the wheels, to result in tonnage and payment weeks or months later, there seems to be an actual decrease. Meanwhile the consequent interruption of traffic and industry increases. The stoppage of iron furnaces between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River has become complete, and a great number of concerns manufacturing iron, and others requiring soft coal or coke for fuel, have been forced to stop. Business cannot increase in volume under such circumstances, and yet payments through all clearing-houses for the week show a decrease of only 20.8 per cent compared with last year.

From San Diego, California, comes a report, that a steamship line will be established between that port and Vladivostock with the principal purpose of supplying Russian oil to the western part of the United States.

The Cunarder *Lucania* is announced to have beaten all ocean records by making the round trip from New York, on the long southerly route, a distance of 5,784 knots, with the average time of 21¾ knots per hour.

Lincoln Park in this city is to be adorned with Dallin's fine statue of an Indian giving the "Signal of Peace," which was highly praised at the World's Fair.

The Field Columbian Museum has been formally opened this afternoon. The program me included an invocation by D. Gunsaulus; a history of the museum by Director Skiff; an oration by E. G. Mason, President of the Chicago Historical Society; and the declaration by President Ayer, of the Board of Trustees, that the museum was "open" to the public. Saturdays and Sundays are to be free days; and school children will always be admitted free on presentation of certificates from their teachers. The regular admission-fee will be 25 cents.

The Presbyterian General Assembly, by a vote of 394 to 95, sustained the action of the Cincinnati Presbytery in suspending Rev. Dr. Henry P. Smith from the ministry on the ground of heresy.

Any book by Henry Drummond is likely to receive a hearty welcome; and "The Ascent of Man," just published, will be no exception. It costs $2.00; and covers the following most interesting topics:—

INTRODUCTION.—1. Evolution in General. 2. The Missing Factor in Current Theories. 3. Why was Evolution the Method Chosen? 4. Evolution and Sociology.

CHAPTERS:—I. The Ascent of the Body. II. The Scaffolding left in the Body. III The Arrest of the Body. IV. The Dawn of Mind. V. The Evolution of Language. VI. The Struggle for Life. VII. The Struggle for the Life of Others. VIII. The Evolution of a Mother. IX. The Evolution of a Father. X. Involution.

"THESE DEPRAVED CREATURES."

How portentous the abasement (Mr. Boffin) of these sensual Open Ports,
Where the very Clubs are merely gastronomical resorts;
So lacking are these drivellers in the soulful Boston style,
That I can't refrain from quoting (if agreeable to Mr. Boffin) one of Shakespeare's noblest thoughts:
Here every prospect pleases and (Mrs. Boffin will agree with the Bard in adding) only man is vile.

Miss M. Weppner (v. Things Japanese, p. 53) dropped into poetry by Silas Wegg.

Yes, his talk is often Women o'er "the walnuts and the wine;"
And the missionary *pidgin* lies but seldom in his line;
For it's true he prays but little—though he swears a fearsome deal—
And at most he scamps an hour at the Sunday praying-wheel.
And I grant you he's more likely to plead guilty on the whole
To a twinge of torpid liver than a touch of Boston soul;
And, while deaf to church bell's jangling, he is promptly on his legs
When the ships' bells chime *muezzin*: clubward for the mid-day pegs.
But although he loves recurring decimals of daily drink,
Still he isn't such a drunkard as the Pharisee would think;
And, while whittling creeds and dogmas into toothpicks, he refrains
From making spills for Londres with a Decalogue's remains.
Why, for every vice you speak to I could cite you virtues two,—
Virtues which the East has taught him, which the West might well pursue;
His are mostly generous failings free from strain of cur or sneak,
Though his spirit is unwilling and his flesh is wondrous weak.
Open Ports are open sewers (so the prudes and cynics sneer),
Nowhere gleans the Devil's muckrake ranker store of mulch than here;
Here the Scarlet Woman reigneth; for the gorgeous gilded East
'Tis a third-rate incarnation of the Babylonish Beast.
True, the scarlet *Dame* sans Merci *does* pitch here her grim abode;
Clement Scott *did* gather garbage when he beach-combed "round the road;"
Scratch the man, you find the Satyr,—true, the East *has* claws that find
Each man's Self as nature marred him under western husk and rind;
Yet I honour more Mulvaney who has flinched but fought the foe,
Than the Sunday go-to-meeting, ne'er shot over, soldier-beau;
And I like my eastern fellow with his faults and flaws of Cain:
He has grappled with life's problems, wrestled, fallen, stood again.
While we fall, the Old Folks westward fondly think their roving lads
Strong with ten men's strength a-standing, sans-pareil Sir Galahads.
Fact or fancy, bless them for it. Oft the knowledge of their trust
Bits and branks the young blood's spurring down the hoof-scarred rinks o'lust.

S.W.

BY THE TOKYO MOATS.

Relics of Yedo citadelled,
Three rings remain of moated mere,
Where whispering willows droop their hair,
And quaint, gnarled *matsu*, bald with eld,
Reach down dry antlered arm and tusk
From walls of gray Cyclopic stone,
And old-world ramparts grassy-grown
Where *botchan* gather in the dusk.

At night I seek the water's edge,
When *susumushi* trill their song,
And mark the light *hotaru* throng
That winks and flickers in the sedge;
In autumn climb the western dike,
As evening brume begins to trail,
And view the sunsets, rich or pale,
Along the languid water strike;
Or watch with ever fresh delight,
When waves curl crisp in winter's sun,
The heavy squads of weird-voiced *gan*
Wheel down in geometric flight,
And ducks along the narrow lake
White-breasted cohorts mobilize,
That plunge, tail coverts to the skies,
Or skid, frothed silver in their wake.
'Tis thus the moats I love,—and thus
Though alien born, 'tis mine to share,
With every Yedokko coheir,
This "Legacy of Iyeyasu."

* * * * * * *

So I, the sentimental, sang,
But you, the hard material you,
Phantasmagorias pooh-pooh,
And sling your sanitarian slang
At me abashed, and prate of worms,
Of microbes and miasmic mud;
And hint malaria-tainted blood
Is stocked with moat-engendered germs.
You talk—with awe my spirit melts
When man goes hygienic-*musth*—
Of filling up the moats with dust,
Or some hard saying culled from Baelz.
But when you jar the jangling note
Of man's convenience, and glad
That Fancy yields her throne to Fad,
Commend that *Railway in the moat*,
I rise and curse all Fads that be,
And, letting language run *amok*,
The pale Recording Angel shock
With one wild comminative D.

S.W.

CRICKET.

The Fleet v. The Y.C. & A.C.

The return match between the Y.C. & A.C. and the Fleet took place on Wednesday. Fixed for 10.30 a.m., it was not until after 11 o'clock that the game began. The weather was delightful, a fine, sunshiny day with a cool fresh breeze from the S.W. making it pleasant for spectators, among whom were ladies both in the morning and afternoon. The Navy, having won the toss, sent in Thursby and Noble to face the bowling of Edwards, at the Settlement, and White at the Pavilion, end. The innings opened badly, for after a couple of runs had been made, Thursby was clean bowled by White in his third over, second ball. Arbuthnot joined Noble, but before he could add anything was dismissed by Edwards—10-2-0. Powlett then went in but he treated the bowling very gingerly, White making three maidens in succession, while only one run was made off his fourth. The first 4 was made off Edwards, from a cut by Noble, but with the next ball Edwards had his revenge—18-3-10. Oldham joined Powlett, but before the two were well set the latter was c. and b. Edwards,—a rather hot drive being held with one hand—25-4-6. Leatham was the next man, and the two batsmen seemed to have captured the bowling, for while they were partners runs came apace, but Leatham succumbed to Edwards when he seemed to be well set—57-5-16. Dickinson hurting his finger, Crawford for a time acted as wicket-keeper, but the former soon resumed his position. James then joined Oldham, who was playing very steadily, and Black relieved White. His first two overs were rather costly, two fours being made off the first. However, Edwards immediately after took James with a full pitch—71-6-4, and in the same over dismissed Da Costa—71-7-0. Blount then went out, when time was called, the score standing—71-7-0, towards which Oldham had contributed the lion's share. Edwards was in splendid form, bowling 5 clean, and c. and b. another, while White secured one wicket. On resuming after tiffin, Edwards and White again took on the bowling, and after three overs Blount was bowled by the latter—74-8-0.

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Fergusson followed. Oldham made four in succession off Edwards and was settling down to some good play when Fergusson's wickets fell to Edwards —89 9-3. The last man in was bowled first ball, the innings closing within twenty minutes of the resumption of play.

The Club went to the wicket at 2.30 sending out Dickinson and Crawford, with Sir R. Arbuthnot and Powlett as bowlers. Arbuthnot opened with an easy ball, but it was not till the fifth came down that Crawford struck out and made a 3. In the third over Arbuthnot bowled Crawford—10-1-5. Then White went in to bat. He had not been in long before he lost Dickinson, who was caught and bowled by Powlett with his second ball after Crawford had left the field—10-2-5. Walford filled the vacancy and some good play followed. The partnership did not last long, however, and Walford was held by James—30 2-5. Then Edwards joined White and began hitting out freely for 2's and 4's. Four times he sent the leather over the fence, scoring six each time. With such play the score quickly mounted, for White ably seconded. At 183 Edwards was caught by Walker. He left the field with just a "century," and was deservedly applauded as he neared the Pavilion. Morriss took his place and the game slackened a little until White topped the day's record. He made another run and was then caught out—260-5-102. Kenyon who followed did not stay out long, being caught by Walker before breaking his duck —271-6 0. At 271 Mair was dismissed, at 279 Black went under, and Libeaud succumbed to the first ball sent down to him by Arbuthnot. Hunt was the last to go in and he made some very nice hits ere his stumps were found by Blount. Morriss, who played in very good form, carried out his bat for 45. The innings closed at at 5.30.

The Fleet went in for a second innings at 5.45, Oldham and Powlett going out to defend against Edwards and Walford. Both batsman hit freely, and Oldham was not caught until the score stood—31-1-15. Da Costa followed, but had not been in long before Powlett was bowled by Walford—34 2-17. James, who followed, ran himself out—35-3-1. Leatham went in next and after making three 4's, one 3, three 2's and six singles, was bowled by Edwards. Fergusson met a same fate and then stumps were drawn. Scores :—

THE FLEET.

	1ST INNINGS.		2ND INNINGS.	
Mr. C. F. Thursby, b. White	5			
Mr. F. B. Noble, b. Edwards	10			
Sir R. K. Arbuthnot, b. Edwards	0			
Mr. F. A. Powlett, c. and b, Edwards	6	b. Walford	17	
Mr. A. Oldham, not out	41	c. White, b. Edwards	15	
Mr. E. La J. Leatham, b. Edwards	16	b. Edwards	27	
Mr. F. W. James, b. Edwards	4	run out	1	
Mr. Da Costa, b, Edwards	0	not out	7	
Mr. G. R. Blount, b. White	0			
Mr. J. Fergusson, b. Edwards	3	b. Edwards	0	
Mr. Walker, b. Edwards	0			
b. 2, l.b. 2	4	b. 2, l.b. 1	3	
	89		70	

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	1ST INNINGS. b.	r.	m.	w.	2ND INNINGS. b.	r.	m.	w.
Mr. W. D. S. Edwards	102	40	8	8	55	19	3	3
Mr. F. E. White	91	37	6	2	—	—	—	—
Mr. C. A. Black	10	8	1	—	—	—	—	—
Mr. A. B. Walford					35	33	—	—
Mr. E. Libeaud					15	15	—	—

YOKOHAMA.

Mr. K. F. Crawford, b. Arbuthnot	5
Mr. H. V. Dickinson, c. and b. Powlett	5
Mr. F. E. White, c. Thursby, b. Oldham	102
Mr. A. B. Walford, c. James, b. Powlett	15
Mr. W. D. S. Edwards, c. Walker, b. Arbuthnot	100
Mr. E. R. Morriss, not out	45
Mr. E. O. Kenyon, c. Walker, b. Oldham	0
Mr. H. R. Mair, c. Walker, b. Arbuthnot	1
Mr. C. A. Black, b. Arbuthnot	0
Mr. A. Libeaud, b. Arbuthnot	0
Mr. H. R. Hunt, b. Blount	7
b. 9, w. 2	11
	291

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.
Sir R. K. Arbuthnot	170	110	4	5	—
Mr. F. A. Powlett	65	36	5	2	1
Mr. G. R. Blount	65	61	3	1	—
Mr. A. Oldham	55	50	2	2	—
Mr. J. Fergusson	25	11	3	—	—
Mr. Walker	15	12	—	—	1

THE JAPAN CONFERENCE OF THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION.

The second annual session of the Japan Conference of the Evangelical Association was opened on the 21st of June, in the Krecker Memorial Church, Tsukiji, Tokyo. The effects of the earthquake upon this beautiful and spacious brick edifice were plainly to be seen on the morning of assembling, although it did not suffer to the extent that other brick edifices in Tsukiji did. In the absence of a presiding Bishop, the Conference unanimously chose the Rev. F. W. Voegelein, of Tsukiji, as permanent Chairman. The Chairman then chose Rev. G. E. Dienst as Secretary, who called to his assistance the Rev. T. Hirakawa and Rev. F. C. Neitz. The session was attended by all the active ministers of the Conference, who promptly responded to the roll call. After the devotional exercises, which throughout the whole conference were characterized by fervency and inspiration, the moral and official conduct of the members of Conference was examined and passed without any charges. The forenoon of the first day was taken up largely with the appointment of Committees and the completion of the organization. A fraternal letter from Bishop J. J. Esher of Chicago, Ill., U.S.A. was read and referred for suitable reply to a committee. The more important committees of the Conference were those on Boundaries, on Documents, on Quarterly Conference records, on Sabbath Observance and Temperance, on Sunday Schools, Catechetical and Home Instruction, on Statistics, and a committee of reporters to the Japanese newspapers. To the impartial observer it was evident that this body exerts a considerable influence upon the people and will in time become an influential factor in Japan because of the firm stand taken upon all questions of moral and material welfare to the nation. The resolutions unanimously passed by it upon the subjects of Sabbath Observance, Sunday Schools, Catechetical and Home Instruction were clear and decided. The church officials were strongly urged to be examples of purity, rectitude, and careful observance of the divine laws that the laity and those outside of the churches may be won to a true standard of life. Upon the subject of Temperance, the Conference was a unit in admitting the ruinous result to both body and soul caused by the use of *saké* and all spiritous drinks, and pledged itself to aid all in its power to create sentiment and purpose to resist the encroachment of the evil. As an index of the relation and love existing in the Conference toward the American portion of the Church, the following resolutions are interesting :—Whereas we constantly hear of the continued prosperity of the Church in America, the kindness and consideration of the Board of Missions and its Executive Committee in our behalf, as well as the universal interest of the brothers and sisters abroad in the prosperity and welfare of our Conference therefore,

Resolved 1. That we most sincerely and gratefully appreciate each and every one of these acts of kindness and expressions of love and fellowship.

Resolved 2. That we will spare no efforts in our power to merit, in a measure, these acts of brotherly kindness; and will endeavour with all our might and by the unfailing grace of the mighty Saviour, to carry forward the work in this our native land, committed to our care, and by the unerring guidance of the Holy Spirit will seek to lead our people to the foot of that Cross where all men become one in Christ and heirs of the exceeding great and eternal glories.

The subject of Boundaries caused an earnest discussion and the report of the committee indicated an advance. Two new fields of labour were taken up, one in Tokyo and one in Nakano, in Chiba Ken. The Conference now covers a territory extending from Fukagawa, in Fukushima Ken, on the north, to Osaka, the commercial metropolis of the empire, on the south, extending both eastward. The Conference also passed a law regarding the hasty baptism of those who do not give full evidence of a true change of heart, by which any of its members who will administer this sacred rite to persons who have not been fully examined as to their faith and life, can be brought before the bar of the Conference as transgressors. In all cases where doubt exists as to the faith of the applicant at least six months probation, and more, if advisable, must be given to the applicant. A very pleasant interruption in the routine of business occurred on the third day with the introduction of the Venerable Bishop Ninde, D.D., LL.D. of the M.E. Church who addressed the Conference with words of love and brotherly cordiality, remarking upon the affectionate fraternity existing between the Church belonging to the family of John Wesley. The Conference reciprocated the address of the Bishop with appropriate resolutions.

A glance at the statistics of the Conference shows a healthy increase. The present membership is 650. The number of active preachers and workers sent out this year is 24, Sunday Schools, 30, with 71 officers and teachers, and 644 scholars. There are 5 Young People's Alliance Societies with 108 members. The total amount collected for benevolent and Church purposes is *yen* 997.265 *sen*, making an average per member of *yen* 1.53 *sen*. The Mission supports one Theological Seminary, one bi-monthly Church paper, and various institutions for effective church work. On Saturday before the close of the session the time and place for the next session was fixed for the 20th of June, 1895 in the Krecker Memorial Church of Tsukiji. Rev. F. C. Neitz was chosen Statistical Secretary for the ensuing year. The last act was in many respects the most eagerly expected and anxiously looked for of the whole session, namely, the reading of the appointment of the preachers to their fields of labour which was done by the Chairman. The Missionaries Rev. F. W. Voegelein, Presiding Elder of the Conference, Rev. F. W. Fischer, Treasurer, Rev. G. E. Dienst, Secretary, Rev. J. I. Seder, of the Theological Seminary, reside in Tsukiji, Tokyo. Rev. F. C. Neitz is appointed to the charge of the Osaka Mission and resides there.

On Sunday, the Conference services were attended by the members of the six churches of the Conference in the city and the services were of a very interesting character. The annual sermon was preached by the Rev. F. W. Voegelein, after which the holy communion was celebrated. A most interesting meeting of the Conference Missionary Society was held immediately after at which almost Two Hundred *Yen* were collected for the missionary purposes of the body. The officers of the Society are President, Rev. T. Hirakawa, Vice-President, Rev. M. Shimidzu, and Secretary, Rev. G. E. Dienst, and Treasurer, Rev. F. W. Fischer.

LIVING CHESS.

The lower tennis courts of the Bluff Gardens presented a most brilliant spectacle on Tuesday afternoon, when they were turned for the nonce into an enormous chess-board, upon which sported for "a little hour" a bright array of living chess-men and maidens clad in all the rich, barbaric splendour of mediæval times. The *fête* began soon after three o'clock, when the band of H.M.S. *Centurion* opened the proceedings, but it was not until about half-past four that the first fanfare of the trumpeters announced the approach of the Players and Pieces. The afternoon was decidedly warm, but a breeze sprang up shortly before this time, thus tempering the heat most agreeably and enabling the spectators to view the procession without discomfort. Gathering at Mr. Duncan McNeil's house near the Gardens, the groups were first photographed. Then the White Pieces led off, as challengers, and entered the grounds with their blue and white banner gaily to the fore. The Black Pieces followed. They were really robed in red, the pawns being little boys—the White Pawns were all wee girls, we should here observe —and as Reds not Blacks, were spoken of throughout the afternoon. Each Queen was attended by a dutiful page, whose office, subsequently, was to remove all captured pieces. The Bishops, Castles, and Knights came each in proper sequence, the Pawns next, the Monks bringing up the rear. With dainty solemnity the two trains wended their ways along the winding garden paths and through the shrubberies until the tourney-field was reached; then each took up their respective positions and the game commenced, each move being preceded by a trumpet-call. The "pieces" were as follow :—

WHITE.	BLACK.
King, Mr. F. J. Hall.	King, Mr. C. B. Stedman.
Queen, Miss Fanny Eldridge.	Queen, Miss Alice Rickett.
K B, Mr. R. Ross.	K B, Mr. E. R. Morriss.
K Kt, Mr. G. Phillip.	K Kt, Mr. A. B. Walford.
K R, Miss May Morriss.	K R, Miss Mabel Varnum.
Q B, Mr. F. E. White.	Q B, Mr. Buxton Forman.
Q Kt, Mr. Percy Morriss.	Q Kt, Mr P. C. Potts.
Q R, Miss Mabel Rice.	Q R, Miss Wheeler.
K P, Miss Cecile Rogers.	K P, Master Chester Poole.
Q P, Miss Gladys Smedley.	Q P, Master Harry Cook.
K B P, Miss Maya Lindsley	K B P, Master G. Moss.
K Kt P, Miss Vera Irwine	K Kt P, Master Jack Chope.
K R P, Miss Gladys Howard	K R P, Master Fraser Thomson.
Q B P, Miss Gwennie Smedley.	Q B P, Master P. Moss.
Q Kt P, Miss Alice Fraser	Q Kt P, Master Esmond Dinsdale.
Q R P, Miss Hilaré Moss.	Q R P, Master Julius Dare.
Herald, Mr. J. Archer.	Herald, Mr. G. W. Barton.
Page, Mr. H. M. Arnould.	Page, Mr. K. Wilson
STANDARD	STANDARD.
Silver Unicorn on Blue Shield.	Gold Lion on Red Shield.

The Knights wore their own crests and mottoes upon their shields, while the Heralds bore emblazoned upon their tabards the crests and mottoes of their respective Queens. The Players were Mr. J. T. Griffin (Black) and Mr. W. B. Mason (White), who were robed and cowled as black and brown Monks respectively. Some folk saw in these doughty clerks "The Heavenly Twins," and very quickly the quaint jest spread that they were Fra Diavolo and Fra Angelica—for Angelica was not averse to acting a boy's part, be it remembered. The Players, who sat at a chess-board on one side of the lawn, announced each move to the Heralds who then proclaimed it aloud to the company, then the Piece concerned would bow

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to his or her King and execute the movement. When the King moved, the whole of his Pieces made a profound and reverential bow. Soon it was seen that Black was gaining the advantage, notwithstanding White's parrying. Finally the poor White King had to surrender his sceptre to his pitiless opponent, and the game concluded. Amid "slow music" the captured Pieces were then escorted back to the board in pairs by the respective Pages, and the ranks filled again. Then the Black monarch performed an act of magnanimity worthy of his kingship. Summoning his Knights to his presence he commissioned them to restore White King's sceptre. This they did amid universal plaudits. After this gracious act of regal courtesy the procession reformed, this time with Black at its head. To the strains of "See the Conquering Hero comes," the victorious Pieces moved off the ground, and then the company dispersed well pleased with the spectacular entertainment afforded. As a whole the game was a clever exposition of the science of Chess, every piece upon the board having an opportunity to move, and that in an entertaining manner, while the *denouement* was worked out with adroit *finesse*. The detailed moves are as follow:—

(GIUOCO PIANO).

WHITE. Mr. Mason.	BLACK. Mr. Griffin.
1.—P to K 4	1.—P to K 4
2.—Kt to K B 3	2.—Kt to Q B 3
3.—B to B 4	3.—B to B 4
4.—P to Q 3	4.—P to Q 3
5.—B to K 3	5.—B to Kt 3
6.—Q Kt to Q 2	6.—Kt to B 3
7.—Kt to B sq.	7.—P to Q 4
8.—P takes P	8.—Kt takes P
9.—Q to Q 2	9.—P to K R 3
10.—Castles Q rook	10.—B to K 3
11.—B to Q Kt 5	11.—Q to Q 3
12.—Kt to Kt 3	12.—P to B 4
13.—B takes B	13.—R P takes B
14.—Kt takes K P	14.—Q takes Kt
15.—Q R to K sq.	15.—R takes P
16.—P to Q B 4	16.—Castles.
17.—B takes Kt	17.—Q to Q 5
18.—B takes Kt	18.—B takes B
19.—P takes B	19.—R to R 8 ch.
20.—K to B 2	20.—Q to R 5 ch.
21.—K to B 3	21.—Q to R 4 ch.
22.—P to Kt 4	22.—R to R 6 ch.
23.—K to Q 4	23.—P to B 4 ch.
24.—K to K 5	24.—Q to R sq.
25.—K to B 4	25.—Q to Q sq.
26.—Q to Kt 2	26.—R takes P
27.—P to K R 4	27.—P to Kt 4 ch.
28.—P takes P	28.—P takes P ch.
29.—K to K 5	29.—Q to B 3 mate.

Among these present during the game we noticed Admiral Sir E. Fremantle, Bishop Bickersteth and Mrs. Bickersteth, Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, H.B.M. Judge, Prince and Princess Lobanow de Rostow, Mr. J. Troup, Baron D'Anethan, and many Tokyo people. The proceeds of the entertainment were given in aid of the funds of the Yokohama Infectious Diseases Hospital. Many thanks are publicly due to Mrs. Rickett for the great help afforded in the designing of dresses, etc., and also to other ladies and gentlemen who lent assistance of various kinds.

HISTORICAL VIGNETTES.

4.—A CLEVER RUSE.

On the 28th day of December, second year of the period of Kenkyū, the Chūnagon[1] Kanemitsu Kyo[2] was appointed Chief Police Magistrate (*Kebi-ishi betto*[3]) of the Empire. Lord Kanemitsu was impartial in his views and a lover of strict justice, so that his appointment gave universal satisfaction. The judgments rendered by him on the Bench were invariably sound and notable for their legal acumen; historians are therefore inclined to regard him as a worthy forerunner of the famous Ooka Echizen-no-Kami, the *beau ideal* of all judges.

It happened shortly after the installation of Lord Kanemitsu that a most curious case came up before him for adjudication. A certain very poor man had been robbed of his *kama*, a sort of large iron pot used in boiling rice. Some one had entered his hovel during the night-time and walked off with this, the poor man's one valuable possession. Suspicion had fallen upon a cripple living in the immediate neighbourhood, and a thorough search had resulted in the finding of the iron pot in the house of the suspected man. Not content with getting his *kama* back, the robbed man brought a case against the cripple, praying for his incarceration for a long period. The cripple was equally indignant at being accused of the theft and brought counter-case into court. There being certain perplexing circumstances connected with the affair, the matter was finally taken taken before the Chief Police Magistrate, Lord Kanemitsu.

The accuser alleged that on a certain night he had been robbed of the *kama*; that he had traced the missing article to the house of the cripple and insisted upon its restitution; that none but the aforesaid cripple could have been the thief. To this the accused replied that he had lost the use of his legs and that his method of locomotion was by propelling himself laboriously with his hands; that under such circumstances it would be manifestly a physical impossibility for him to take from its place and carry off so weighty an object as an iron boiler; that some ill-disposed person, probably the plaintiff himself, must have maliciously deposited the boiler in his house in order that suspicion might alight on him; that he therefore prayed that the case might be discharged and the accuser punished for this unjust suit.

After carefully listening to the arguments on both sides, Lord Kanemitsu felt persuaded that the cripple, despite his inability to walk, was the thief. He resolved upon a ruse to demonstrate whether it was really physical impossibility for the paralytic to carry off so heavy a burden. Turning to the accused, he said: "I see the force of your arguments. You are much to be pitied as being the object of a malicious prosecution. I dismiss the case against you. But as your adversary is a poor man and unable to pay a fine, I think that the ends of justice will be met if I award the iron pot to you. Take it; it is yours!" Hearing these words the overjoyed cripple immediately stretched out his arms to receive the *kama*. Bowing low before the judge in token of his thanks, he then proceeded *to place the inverted pot hatwise on his head*, and carrying it thus began to shuffle hastily towards the door of the court-room. "Hold!" exclaimed the judge in a terrible voice, "you have shown that, cripple though you be, it is physically easy for you to carry off that heavy boiler. You are the thief!"

By this clever ruse the real thief was discovered. The *kama* was restored to its owner, while the predatory cripple was condemned to a long term of imprisonment.

5.—THE OGRE.

After abdicating in favour of his son, the Emperor Gotoba took up his residence in the palace of Minase, erected in the heart of the Minase Mountains,—a somewhat lonely but most picturesque range of hills not far from Saikyo. Here he was attended by a small number of his former imperial retinue, and particularly by three members of his once-numerous body-guard, a trio of brothers famed for their deeds of arms. The names of these brothers were Minamoto Umanosuke Nakataka, Satsuma no Kami Nakatoshi, Shin[4]-Umanosuke Nakayasu.

Not far from the palace was a small lake or pool, in a very inaccessible part of the mountains, celebrated for the water-fowl that made it their breeding-place. Wild geese and ducks, teal and widgeon, flocked there in countless multitudes. Sportsmen had often gone to the lake in search of game; but it was noted that no one ever came back again, so that it soon became bruited abroad that the lakelet was the haunt of a man-eating ogre.[5]

Tired of long days of inactivity, the brothers once proposed an expedition to this mountain-lake. They were warned of the danger attending such a step and for the first time learned that the place was supposed to be the abode of an ogre. Far from deterring them, this bit of news rather fired the valourous trio to undertake the hazardous emprise, and they spent the whole of one day in laying plans to subdue the ogre and bring him, alive or dead, to their Imperial master. After thoroughly discussing the subject, they agreed to start for the pool at daybreak the next morning.

In the meantime, however, the eldest of the three, Nakatoshi, determined to repair thither alone and thus win all the greater honour. Waiting until his unsuspecting brothers were asleep, he slipped from his chamber and awoke one of the pages in attendance. Not a loud word was spoken. Silently pointing to his quiver and bow, he bade the page, with a gesture, follow him. His armour was speedily donned, and fastened in his girdle were his keen two-handed sword and trenchant dagger (*waki-zashi*). A whispered word to the doorway guard at the palace-portal procured him egress, and, followed by the page, he strode boldly off in the direction of the ill-reputed pool.

It was the blackest of black nights. The path leading over the hills was steep and narrow, so that Nakatoshi and his follower had to grope their way through the mountain fastness, along the edges of precipitous cliffs—where a single false step would have meant instant death—and through dark tangled clumps of brush and mountain-gorse, till they heard in the distance the cry of the waterfowl flying towards the lake and the splash of numberless flocks as they settled down for brief slumber on the surface of the water.

The pool was surrounded by a fringe of dark and giant-pines, and its tiny ripples faintly reflected the light of one or two adventurous stars that seemed to be looking in amaze at the courage of Nakatoshi. Pausing for breath in the gloom of a mighty pine, he saw that the bosom of the lake gradually became agitated, as if boiling up from some subterranean cauldron. Suddenly the heaving water became luminous, and with an eltrich screech something sprang from out the pool up into the branches of the tree beneath which Nakatoshi and his trembling attendant were standing. It was the work of an instant to notch an arrow to his bow; but before he could speed the bolt at the dark and fearful something overhead, it sprang again into the lake and disappeared. Again the water grew illuminated; again the weird shriek was heard and the dark body flung high up into the pine; and yet again, before he could let his arrow fly, the ogre—if such it was—sprang with a mocking laugh beneath the waves.

Convinced that his bow was useless, Nakatoshi abandoned it and drew his sword. Hardly had he done so before the ghostly light once more shone out from the heart of the lake. This time a phosphorescent gleam drew slowly to the shore, closer and ever closer to where the intrepid knight awaited it. Now it was upon him and seemed to be the figure of an old woman, that grinned at him, and stretched out a lean and withered arm in his direction. Before he had time to make a cut with his sword, the fearful hag was beside him and had seized him in her iron grasp. Nakatoshi dropped his blade and then began a mighty struggle,—the hag endeavouring to push him towards and into the dark pool. Just as panting and wrestling, they had reached the very brink, Nakatoshi wedged his sandalled foot between the naked roots of a friendly pine-tree. The struggle grew fiercer and the knight's strength was becoming exhausted. Suddenly he bethought him of his dirk and in an instant plunged it to the very hilt into the heart of his adversary. At once the phosphorescent light grew dim, and, to his unbounded surprise, Nakabashi found that the wounded ogre had assumed its natural form, and that a huge badger [6] lay dead at his feet. Cutting off its head, he and his page groped their perilous way back to the palace where they arrived shortly before daybreak, worn out but triumphant.

Great praise was bestowed upon the knight for this deed, and it long continued in the memory of the simple folk of Minase-yama.

[1] A title somewhat similar to the modern *Sumitsuin Komon kan*, or Privy Councillor. [2] *Kyo* is another title, equivalent to "His Lordship." [3] *Kebi-ishi betto* admits of no exact English translation. It was an office which combined the duties of a *bugyo*, or governor, with those of Chief Superintendent of Police and Police magistracy.

[4] This prefix is exactly our English 'junior," or the younger." [5] The Japanese original has the words *hito-tori*, literally "man-catcher." This is a somewhat uncommon expression, the usual phrase being *hito-sarai*.

[6] The conclusion of this tale is distinctly tame; but the fault lies rather with the veracious historiographer.

JAPANESE AT THURSDAY ISLAND.

THE PEARLING INDUSTRY.

The Japanese are by far the most numerous amongst the alien races of Thursday Island, though the influx has to some extent declined of late, but they number 740 souls. These men own boats and diving apparatus, and carry on the industry on their own account with remunerative results as a rule. The boat and plant may cost £700 or £800, and the intending owner, having saved perhaps £100 and borrowed two or three hundred, from a few of his countrymen, will arrange with a store-keeper or merchant on the island (usually a white man) to buy a boat for him. This he for a time works under mortgage, or in some instances on shares with the real owner, but all his efforts are directed to paying off the balance due. If returns are good, he succeeds; if not he may lose everything. On all hands the Japanese are credited with being sober, industrious, patient men, and they always work harmoniously amongst themselves. Indeed, the Japanese Club, so called, is one of the institutions of the island; but it is rather a friendly society than a club. Rooms are provided for members, and there are also, I believe, billiard tables, of which they freely avail themselves; but the institution goes far beyond this in having paid servants who inquire into any dispute that may arise either between Japanese themselves or with their employers. Indeed, they seek to do the work of conciliation justices, and a small weekly or monthly payment

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also entitles the member to assistance in sickness or poverty. The numbers of Japanese have been increasing very rapidly during the past two years. Now they form more than one-fourth of the population, and the systematic efforts they are continually making to establish themselves in the pearl-shelling industry must have very serious effects if not speedily checked. The proximity of Thursday Island to Japan is also a very serious element in the discussion. It would be a mistake to suppose that all the Japanese arriving at Thursday Island are seafaring men and capable of taking up the pearl-shell industry. On the contrary, it has been found that they include agriculturists, and even weavers and other tradesmen, and at the present time efforts are being made to arrange for some of them to take up and work land at Cairns on the metayer or half-share principle. It has been suggested that a useful check would be imposed if it were decided to issue no more divers' or boat licenses to aliens of any race, and it is generally conceded that something must be done, and done very soon, to prevent the capture of the industry by Japanese. As many of the boats are still more or less in the hands of the storekeepers, it is impossible to say how many are actually owned by the Japanese; but the number was variously stated at from fifty to eighty-seven. Two business men at Thursday Island from whom I made enquiries gave figures considerably below these. One states that the total number of boats being worked by Japanese for ownership is forty-one, and that all other boats sailing out of that port are owned by Europeans, Manilamen, Malays, and South Sea Islanders; while the other gives the "total number of Japanese boats here" at thirty-eight. These boats are entirely manned and worked by the Japanese, and apparently each one forms a sort of training school for another. Every man takes a turn at diving, and thus becomes an expert, who is able to work a boat himself as soon as he can raise the money to get one. Thus there appears to be no limit to the expansion of the Japanese interest in the Queensland pearl-shell industry, and its final annexation by them appears to be a by no means remote contingency. In was somewhat surprising to find so little said about the danger in Thursday Island, but there are many persons keenly alive to the position, and the Ministers were by no means allowed to overlook the matter. It is generally admitted that those who already hold licenses should not be interfered with; but an increase in their numbers is strongly deprecated by all who are not directory interested in business relations with the Japanese.

Japanese labour is also being tried on the Herbert River, North East Australia, and with considerable success. There are 150 of them about equally distributed over the Macnade, Victoria, and Ripple Creek plantations. They are under the control of inspectors from Japan, who convey all orders to them, deal with all disputes, and who are empowered to inflict fines upon them for misconduct if necessary. These inspectors thoroughly understand how to manage their countrymen and can speak English, so that the employer has little or no trouble. One of the things insisted upon in making the original agreement was that every man should be provided with the means of taking a hot bath each evening, and this has been strictly adhered to, a tank being fitted with steam pipes, by means of which any required degree of heat can be obtained. As a rule the Japanese are found to be steady and industrious, but occasionally a lazy man has to be dealt with and the inspectors are equal to the occasion. They do not put him into a well where he can only keep the water down by vigorous pumping, as some of our ancestors are said to have done with their lazy men, but they give him the task of feeding megass to the furnaces, and, if he shows any laxity in the task, he soon finds out that the only way for him to be reasonably comfortable is to keep the shovel going. There are said to be about 750 Kanakas in the district besides Chinese, Javanese, and other coloured races. Some few of the farmers do all the work themselves; but the majority are small employers of coloured labour.—*Queenslander*.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, June 23.

The Hungarian Civil Marriage Act has finally passed.

The Khedive has started for Stamboul.

The Siamese Legation in Paris has notified the French Government that the Siamese Government intends to loyally execute the whole of the French Treaty annexed to the Chantaboon Convention.

London, June 25.

President Carnot while proceeding to the Theatre at Lyons has been stabbed by an assassin and killed.

Later.

President Carnot expired this morning. His assassin was arrested. He is an Italian named Santo, and will not divulge his motive.

The Duchess of York has been delivered of a son—mother and son are doing well.

The American gold reserve has fallen forty millions below the limit.

London, June 26.

Santo, the assassin of President Carnot, is an anarchist. Great Britain, Italy, Spain, and the United States of America have voted (in their respective legislative Chambers) condolence with the French Republic in the great loss which it has sustained. Demonstrations have taken place against the Italians in Paris and the provinces. Casimir-Perier, and probably the Premier, Dupuy, are candidates for the Presidency, while Brisson will be the Radical candidate.

Later.

Serious riots have broken out in Lyons and the Italian shops in that town have been sacked. The Italian Consulate at Genoble has been attacked.

M. Dupuy is also a presidential candidate.

London, June 28.

M. Casimir-Perier has been elected President of the French Republic.

The foreign Anarchists publicly applaud Santo, the assassin of M. Carnot, as the avenger of Ravachol and Vaillant.

["SPECIAL" TELEGRAM TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

Kobe, June 30, 8.30 a.m.

R. Bernhardt, the German constable of H.I.G.M. Consulate, shot himself through the head this morning. He is still living, but is not expected to recover.

[SPECIALLY TELEGRAPHED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL" FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, June 18.

An Anarchist fired at Signor Crispi while he was driving to the Chamber of Deputies. The distinguished statesman escaped unhurt.

June 20th.

The French press has moderated its tone towards Great Britain in reference to African affairs.

June 21.

An important Encyclical has been issued by the Pope, in which he says that at the close of his life he desires to urge the union of all the Churches. His Holiness addresses his remarks especially to the eastern protestant Churches whom he exhorts to return to ancient ways and unite in one faith and one charity upon the basis of the Gospel.

A large and enthusiastic meeting has been held at Melbourne in favour of international bimetallism.

June 22.

The Hungarian House of Magnates has passed the first reading of the Civil Marriage Bill.

The French press anticipate that England will give France satisfaction equal to that afforded by Germany in regard to the Congo Treaty.

(FROM MANILA PAPERS.)

Madrid, June 7.

The budget for the forthcoming financial year shows a deficit of twenty-four million pesetas, which it is proposed to cover by the expected surplus on the present year, but it is doubtful if a surplus will be realised.

Madrid, June 8.

Cases of cholera have been reported in Germany. Cases of cholera nostras have also been registered in Paris.

Madrid, June 11.

The Sultan of Morocco Muley Hassan, is dead. It is rumoured that death was the result of poison, and this event creates a difficult situation to Muley-Araaf in the territory of the Riffs.

The Army of Bobat have proclaimed in favour of Abdul Aziz, as Sultan of Morocco: he is the youngest son of the deceased, and is only seventeen years of age. It is believed that the elder son, who is blind of one eye, will initiate a civil war in that country.

All the European Powers are sending war vessels to Morocco.

June 12.

Up to last night nothing was known as to the real cause of the death of the Sultan of Morocco.

On the proclamation of his second son Abdul Aziz as Emperor, several chiefs raised the standard of rebellion in favour of Muley Mohamed.

Most of the foreign Powers are in favour of the succession of Abdul Aziz, and in view of possible important contingencies are sending squadrons to Tangier.

The Spanish garrisons of Ceuta and Melilla have been strongly re-inforced, and are under stringent orders from the Government to keep a sharp look out.

The cruiser *Conde de Venadito* and the troopships *Legaspi* and *Rabat* have sailed for Mazagan, near Tangier.

In Granada and Almeria violent earthquakes have occurred, causing many deaths and tremendous damage to property.

The towns which have suffered most are those where earthquakes had been experienced previously, and where almost all the buildings had been reconstructed with funds raised by public charity.—*Hongkong Papers*.

[FROM TONGKING PAPERS.]

Paris, June 1.

General Mercier, Minister for War, questioned on the subject of M. Turpin, who, rebuffed in France had sold to a foreign Power an important invention, declared that the affair was absurd, and obtained a vote of confidence.

Paris, June 4.

Turpin disclaims having been in treaty with a foreign Power, and has submitted his invention to the French Government. Public opinion remains sceptical.

[M. Turpin, the French inventor of the explosive known as melanite, has invented a diabolical man-slayer in the form of a monster mitrailleuse the chief feature in which is a novel utilisation of the power of electricity. It is claimed for this death-dealing machine that one will keep a whole army at bay at a distance of several miles, intrusion within the radius of its action meaning certain annihilation to single individuals. It is stated that the inventor has disposed of the secret of its construction and manipulation to the German Government for an immense price, being moved to this unpatriotic action by feelings of irritability consequent on the niggardly and neglectful spirit in which he has been treated by his own Government.]

Paris, June 5.

The Italian Chamber adopted by a majority of 255 to 211 Crispi's motion for the appointment of a Commission to draw up a scheme of reforms in the public service. M. Crispi has tendered his resignation in consequence of the smallness of the majority.

June 7.

Toussaint, the Deputy accused of having promoted a strike, has been sentenced to ten days' imprisonment.

Paris, June 10.

Dahomey is now pacified.

The Senate has voted the annual fête in honour of Joan of Arc.

The Chamber has voted without discussion a credit of 1,800,000 francs for the reinforcement of the posts on the Congo.

The Russian press approves the vote.

M. Hanotaux and the Marquis of Dufferin are discussing the Congo Convention.

Cornelius Herz will be sentenced in France by default.

(FROM JAPANESE PAPERS).

Nagasaki, June 24.

As a doubtful case of sickness was discovered on board the German steamer *Kiel*, the authorities invited Dr. Yoshida, President of the Prefectural Hospital, and Professor Otani to visit the patient, and they testified that the case displayed no symptoms of the pest. Permission to resume the vessel's voyage was granted by the authorities to-day.

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Hiroshima, June 25.

A man was attacked by cholera to-day, and is now under medical treatment.

Söul, June 25.

The Japanese troops have encamped at Ryu-san, and the Chinese soldiers at Jem.

Osaka, June 26.

Some Chinese residents are already preparing to leave Osaka for home, having received instructions from their Consul to that effect.

Tientsin, June 25.

Three Chinese men-of-war, which left Ikaiyei for Korea the other day, have not returned yet. The other war-vessels are cruising in the neighbourhood of Ikaiyei, Chefoo, and Ryojun-ko, and there is no sign of their departure for any port.

Shanghai, June 26.

The Viceroy Li has given orders for the departure to the north of five ships belonging to the Fukken Standing Squadron, which have been staying at Canton. Preparations are being made for their departure.

Ninsen (date uncertain).

The second instalment of the Korean indemnity, amounting to *yen* 3,000, was paid by the Korean Government to the Japanese Consul, Mr. Nose, on the 21st.

Nagasaki, June 26.

The Chinese Consul at this port has left for the capital at the request of the Chinese Minister.

Shimonoseki, June 27.

One thousand two hundred cases of gunpowder arrived here last night.

Kumamoto, June 26th.

It is said that the pest has broken out at Amakusa, and the matter is being investigated by the authorities.

Nagasaki, June 25.

The German ship *Kiel* has left the Quarantine Station, and gone to Karatsu to load coal for the China Steam Navigation Co.

A Japanese, named Kusaba Kinzaburo, left here for Shanghai to-day in the *Saikio Maru* accompanied by a writer of the *Jirin Koho*, a Chinese newspaper published in Shanghai, who has been hiding at the Tsuruya Hotel.

Osaka, June 25.

Mr. Inagaki Manjiro, author of "Japan and the Pacific," arrived at Onomichi last night from Korea. He will leave for Tokyo to-night.

Tokushima, June 25.

A severe thunder-storm visited here last night. Various places were struck by lightning.

Hongkong, June 25.

Between the 21st and 23rd 108 deaths were reported. Three Japanese girls have succumbed to the malady since the outbreak, and one Japanese girl and two men are receiving medical treatment. The number of new patients is decreasing.

Fusan, June 25.

The transport *Shirakawa Maru* arrived here to-day.

June 26.

The *Shirakawa Maru* left shortly after her arrival. Mr. Murata, Japanese Consul General, left for Ninsen on board the *Shirakawa Maru*.

Hakodate, June 26.

The steamer *Nanyetsu Maru*, owned by Mr. Ukon Gonyemon, struck a hidden rock off Kannon Point at Omazaki, Mutsu Province, last night, in consequence of a heavy fog, but she is said to have sustained little on no damage to her hull.

Söul, June 25.

The reported defeat of the *Togaku-to* is without foundation in fact. The rebels only dispersed themselves upon hearing of the arrival of Chinese and Japanese soldiers. Fears are, therefore, entertained of a revival.

Söul, June 26.

Ming Ei-shun called on the Tai-won-kun, father of the present Sovereign, the other night, and asked for advice as to the steps to be pursued towards the Korean rebels. The latter declined to give any counsel.

While Ming Kaku-shun and attendants were proceeding to the Palace on the 18th inst. a certain Korean threw stones at the party, and one of Ming's followers was injured.

Osaka, June 26.

A dispatch from Söul, dated the 19th inst., states that the Japanese staff officers are conferring daily at the Japanese Legation.

Europeans, Americans, and Chinese are leaving Ninsen.

Mr. Otori, Japanese Minister, has visited the Representatives of various Powers. He had a most lengthy interview with the British Minister.

The Chinese Minister is said to have proposed the subjugation of the *Togaku-to* rebels with force, but he has been prevented from doing so by the Korean Government.

[We give the above for what they may be worth.]

Söul, June 26.

Ming Ei-shun has been released from his position as Commander-in-Chief of the Army. His residence is guarded by soldiers.

Shimonoseki, June 27.

The *Omi Maru* has arrived here from Ninsen. Two flag officers, seventeen disabled soldiers, and over twenty Japanese residents, children, and patients were on board. It is stated that the *Omi* brings some important official documents relating to Korean affairs.

Kobe, June 27.

Mr. Kato, Secretary in the Foreign Office, left here to-day for Korea in the *Genkai Maru*.

Ninsen, June 27.

Two Chinese mercantile steamships put into Nanyo Port to-day with a detachmont Chinese troops.

Tokushima, June 28.

A sporadic case of cholera was reported at Tsuda-ura to-day.

Shimonoseki, June 27.

A Ninsen dispatch states that thirty-two Japanese soldiers are staying in the Ninsen Hospital. A majority of the patients are suffering from catarrh of the bowels caused by drinking impure water. Others have been attacked by *kakké* and rheumatism.

Shimonoseki, June 27.

It is stated that the upper story of the office of the Kiushu Railway Co., at Moji has been occupied as a military hospital.

Kobe, June 27.

The *Set-shu Maru*, of the Nada Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, has been requisitioned by the Government.

Nagasaki, June 29.

The *Sagami Maru*, which arrived here on the 28th, left for the west with a party of one hundred coolies who have been specially engaged by the Government.

Shimonoseki, June 29.

A telegram received by a coal merchant at Moji states that four or five Chinese men-of-war at Shanghai are in trouble owing to a lack of coal.

Osaka, June 29.

A Korean dispatch says that the four great entrances to the Korean capital are being guarded by Japanese soldiers; no Chinese troops had reached there up till the 21st inst.

Nagasaki, June 29.

The British gun-boat *Archer* left for Ninsen on the 27th.

Kobe, June 29.

A Chinaman residing in Osaka has departed for home suddenly by the *Kobe Maru*. Some Japanese merchants, who had been transacting business with him, have applied to the police to prevent the man from leaving Japan until his obligations have been fulfilled.

The Shokin Ginko declines to receive money orders on China.

Sapporo, June 29.

A number of students of the Normal School, who were suspended recently in connection with the trouble in this institution, have intimated their intention of leaving the school. They have accordingly been expelled by the President.

Ninsen, June 29.

A German man-of-war put into this port on the 26th.

Fukuoka, June 28.

Eight Japanese have been arrested by the police on suspicion of having manufactured gunpowder for the *Togaku to* rebels. One man is a *shizoku* of Ishikawa, and three others are hotel keepers of Fukuoka and Kurume, the remainder being the retainers of the Kurume clan.

Hongkong, July 28.

Ninety-three deaths were reported between the 24th and 26th. The decrease in the number of deaths is due to the removal of patients from the colony during the past few days.

Söul, June 29.

Hung Kei-kun, Commander of the Government troops dispatched to subdue the *Togaku-to* rebels, returned to the capital to-day.

Matsuyama, June 29.

Some public-spirited residents of this town are busily engaged in organizing a volunteer corps.

CHESS.

(All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.)

The local Chess Clubs are closed until the beginning of October.

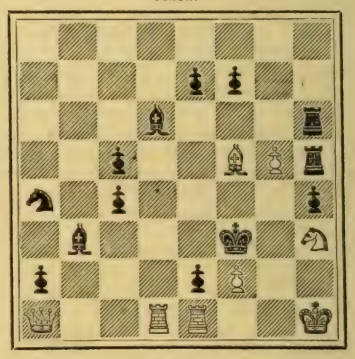
Solution of Problem No. 127.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to Kt 7	1—K to Q 4
2—Kt to Kt 4 ch.	2—K to B 4 or 5
3—R to B 7, mate	
	if 2—K to K 3
3—R to K 3, mate	
	if 1—K to B 4
2—B to Kt 8	2—K to K 3
3—Kt to B 4, mate	
	if 2—K to Kt 5
3—Kt to B 2, mate	
	if 2—K to K 5
3—Kt to Kt 4 or B 4 dis. : mate.	

Correct solutions received from Omega, W.H.S., and J.D. E.D. fails in the beautiful and difficult variation of K to B 4.

Problem No. 129.

By G. B. Valle.



White to play and mate in three moves.

Game No. 134.

The following brilliant game was played recently in the even tournament at the St. George's Chess Club, London.

"Queen's Pawn Opening."

WHITE: Mr. C. Chepmell.	BLACK. Rev. L. Lewis.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to Q 4
2—B to B 4	2—P to K 3
3—K Kt to B 3	3—P to K B 3 (a)
4—P to K 3	4—B to Q 3
5—B × B	5—Q × B
6—Kt to B 3	6—P to B 3
7—B to Q 3	7—Kt to K 2
8—P to K 4	8—P to K 4
9—Castles	9—B to Kt 5
10—K P × P	10—B P × P
11—Kt to Q Kt 5	11—Q to Kt 3
12—P to B 4	12—P to K 5
13—P to B 5	13—Q to Q sq.
14—Kt to Q 6 ch.	14—K to B sq.
15—B × P	15—P × B
16—Q to Kt 3 (b)	16—B to R 4
17—P to Kt 4	17—B to K sq.
18—K Kt to Kt 5 (c)	18—P × Kt
19—P to B 4 !	19—Kt to Kt sq.
20—P × P ch.	20—Kt to K B 3
21—P × Kt	21—P to K Kt 3
22—Q × P	22—Q to Q 2
23—Q × P (d)	23—Kt to B 3
24—P to B 7	24—K to Kt 2
25—P to Q 5	25—Kt to K 2
26—P × B (Kt) ch. (e)	26—K R × Kt
27—R to B 7 ch.	27—K to Kt sq.
28—Q to Q 4	28—Kt to B 4
29—P × Kt	29—Resigns.

(a) Bizarre and inferior: Kt to K B 3, P to Q B 4, or B to Q 3 are preferable.

(b) White's scheme of attack is cleverly conceived, and carried out in masterly style.

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(c) A beautiful link in the attacking chain. Black can only avoid Scylla by encountering Charybdis.
(d) If 23 Q x R, Q x P ch. with either drawing or winning possibilities.
(e) The æsthetic difference between a Kt and Q at this juncture will be obvious to the chess artist.

Game 135.

The Times Weekly Edition gives the score of one of the five games won by Mrs. Showalter in her match with Herr Lasker at the odds of the Queen's Knight:—

Remove White Q Kt.

WHITE. Herr Lasker.	BLACK. Mrs. Showalter.
1—P to K B 4	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q Kt 3	2—Kt to K B 3
3—B to Kt 2	3—P to K 3
4—P to K 3	4—Kt to B 3
5—Kt to B 3	5—B to K 2
6—B to K 2	6—B to Q 2
7—Castles	7—Castles
8—Q to K sq.	8—Kt to K sq.
9—P to K Kt 4	9—Kt to Kt 5
10—B to Q sq.	10—B to Q Kt 4
11—P to Q 3	11—P to Q B 4
12—P to Kt 5	12—P to B 5
13—P to Q R 3	13—Kt to B 3
14—B to K 2	14—P takes Q P
15—P takes P	15—B to B 4
16—Q to B 2	16—P to Q R 4
17—K R to K sq.	17—Kt to Q 3
18—Q R to B sq.	18—B to R 2
19—B to K B sq.	19—Kt to B 4
20—K to R sq.	20—Q to Kt 3
21—P to Kt 6	21—B P takes P
22—Kt to Kt 5	22—Q R to K sq.
23—Q to B 3	23—Kt takes P
24—Q to R 3	24—P to R 3
25—Kt takes P	25—Kt to Q 8

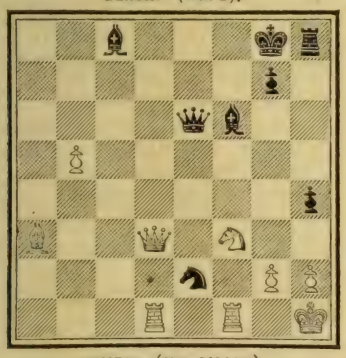
And Herr Lasker resigns (a).

Note.
(a) Throughout the game the winner shows excellent judgment. Her pieces are rapidly developed, the middle game is well conducted, and the finish is problematical. It threatens mate at K Kt 8, and White must lose his Q B at least.

End Game No. 7.

Inasmuch as the manner of achievement is confessedly a distinctive element of its greatness or merit, even so in chess the artistic character of a finish is its chief claim to commendation. The following pretty ending, that recently occurred in the Brooklyn Chess Club, in a game where a prominent member, Mr. E. S. Gilley, had given the odds of the Knight, is an apt illustration of our meaning:—

BLACK.—(MR. B).



WHITE.—(MR. GILLEY).

Here, White, it will be perceived, has not only overcome the odds given, but has even acquired a superiority of both force and position. More than one way of forcing an ultimate win will suggest itself to the expert eye, but it will, we think, require a fancy attuned to the pretty possibilities of chess to select the following artistic modus in which White proceeded:—

BLACK. Mr. Gilley.	WHITE. Mr. B.
1—Kt to K Kt 5!	1—Kt to Kt 6 ch. (a)
2—Q × Kt!! (b)	2—P × Q
3—R to Q 8 ch.!	3—B × R
4—R to B 8 mate! (c)	

(a) Of course if B x Kt, then 2 R to K B 8, mate, while if Queen moves, then White forces mate by 2 Q to Q 8 ch., or 2 Q to Q Kt 3 or Q to B 4, or Q 5 ch, accordingly.
(b) If, instead 2 P x Kt, then P x P dis. ch., when if 3 K to Kt sq., Q to Q Kt 3 ch; 4 Q to Q 4. B x Q ch; 5 R to B 2, B x R ch; 6 K to B sq., Q x P ch., and mates in two more moves, while if 3 Kt to R 7, R x Kt ch; 4 Q x R ch, K x Q followed duly by B to Q Kt 2!, and wins.
(c) A charming wind-up.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 23rd June,—Kobe 22nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 24th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Setsuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Kawano, 24th June,—Kobe 23rd June, General.—Kabushiki Kaisha.

Sorachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,108, Hayashi, 24th June,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Tanaka Shoten.

Hesperia, German steamer, 1,050, 25th June,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 25th June,—San Francisco 7th June, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, E. S. Barstow, 25th June,—Manila viâ Amoy, 13th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 25th June,—Vladivostock viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 26th June,—Yokkaichi 25th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Idzumo Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,000, J. B. MacMillan, 26th June,—Bombay viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, T. Golding, 26th June,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 26th June,—Yokkaichi 25th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pyrrhus, British steamer, 2,299, Batt, 26th June,—Liverpool viâ ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 26th June,—Kobe 25th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cardiganshire, British steamer, 1,657, Sincock, 27th June,—London viâ ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Meiji Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,010, Nakano Masakiyo, 27th June,—Kobe, Stores.—Lighthouse Department.

Bullmouth, British steamer, 2,040, Scott, 27th June,—Batoum viâ ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 28th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Panton, R.N.R., 28th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, 19th June, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 29th June,—Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 29th June,—Kobe 27th June, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 634, Y. Arai, 29th June,—Bonin Islands, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aglaia, German steamer, 1,666, Petersen, 29th June,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,298, Swain, 29th June,—Shanghai and ports, 23rd June, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, J. T. Smith, 29th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, 20th June, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Eden, 23rd June,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,411, T. Tibbals, 23rd June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 23rd June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Angers, British steamer, 2,079, Bannister, 23rd June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benmohr, British steamer, 1,925, Clarke, 23rd June,—New York viâ ports, General.—Comes & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,540, H. Walter, 24th June,—Otaru viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Irene, German steamer, 1,630, Schuder, 24th June,—Hamburg viâ ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Setsuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,011, Kawano, 24th June,—Shinagawa, General.—Kabushiki Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 952, G. Shimadzu, 25th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, R. R. Searle, 26th June,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sagamore, American steam-yacht, 173, Cushing, 26th June,—New York viâ Suez, Stores.—Order.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 26th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,358, Haswell, 26th June,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, Kenderdine, 26th June,—Vladivostock viâ ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ping Suey, British steamer, 1,988, J. C. Jaques, 26th June,—Hongkong viâ ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,160, E. S. Barstow, 27th June,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Soyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,050, Poole, 27th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, K. Iwanaga, 27th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, M. Fukui, 27th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mogul, British steamer, 1,827, Scotland, 28th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Queen Victoria, British ship, 1,587, R. Logie, 28th June,—San Francisco, 2,960 tons Tea.—Southern Pacific Co.

Seki Maru, Japanese steamer, 260, Iktsei, 29th June,—Shinagawa, General.—Nada Kogio Kabushiki Kaisha.

Harima Maru, Japanese steamer, 436, Kawamuro, 29th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Panton, R.N.R., 30th June,—Tacoma, Wash., viâ Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from San Francisco:—Mrs. Gracie Plaisted Lancaster, Mrs. Warren Moore, Miss P. Hall, Miss M. Wood, Mr. A. V. Zane, U.S.N., Mr. C. E. Jennings, Mr. C. M. Benedict, and Mr. A. M. Benedict in cabin. For Hongkong:—Miss Fanny B. P. McClure in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, from Manila viâ Amoy:—Messrs. Grimesey, Holt, Loyd, Felasco, and Bayona in cabin; Messrs. Gestrich and Tomioka in second class, and 2 Japanese and 3 Turks in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. and Miss Orloff, Mrs. and Miss McCarthy, Mr. G. Arone, and Mr. N. Tanaka in cabin; Messrs. N. Murai, Woo Yei Chang, Kowera Hoo Chang, T. Allmacher, and C. Kawano in second class, and 218 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Victoria*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Brandenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Browne, Mr. and Mrs. Graystone, Mrs. Rogers, Mr. R. V. Noyes, Mr. W. D. Noyes, Mr. J. W. Burke, and Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Gamewell in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Theodor, Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Price, Mrs. Wilson and children, Mrs. Graham and children, Miss K. T. Bonde, Rev. and Mrs. Wigham, Mr. T. B. Glover, Mr. J. W. Moore, Rev. I. H. Correll, Mr. Ed. H. Monhin, Rev. H. V. C. Ruke, Rev. Johnson, Mr. Nishimura, and Rev. J. W. Doughty in cabin; Mrs. Shibuno, Miss Hirakawa, Mr. Hirose, Mr. Small, and Mr. James Logan in second class, and 59 passengers in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from Hongkong viâ ports:—Mrs. M. Tenny, Mr A. P. Marty, Mr. Kuhn, Mr. W. J. Bonnin, Mr. C. S. Coningham, Mr. J. H. Dannenberg, Captain Thom, Rev. H. Stout, and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Grant in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for Hongkong:—Lieut. C. J. Garsia, R.A., in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss A. Tyler, Miss W. Moon, Miss P. Hall, Miss Wigion, Miss F. Casati, Miss Jennie C. Miss Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. Doering,

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in our last was finally settled at $640, thus opening the market in this class for the present season. Second qualities like *Horaisha*, *Shorusha*, etc., have been done at $625, and at these prices we think business may continue.

Kakeda.—No business has been actually done although settlements are said to have been made at $630 for *Horsehead* and $600 for *Two Roses*. These, of course, are old silk.

QUOTATIONS.—(NEW SILK.)

Hanks—No. 1	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)	—
Hanks—No. 2½ to 3	—
Hanks—No. 3	—
Hanks—No. 3½	—
Filatures—Extra 10/12 deniers	—
Filatures—Extra 13/15 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	—
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	$670 to 680
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	630 to 640
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	—
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—(Oshu) Best No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 deniers	640 to 650
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	620 to 630
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	—
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	—
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	—
Kakedas—No. 1½	—
Kakedas—No. 2	—
Kakedas—No. 2½	—
Kakedas—No. 3	—
Kakedas—No. 3½	—
Kakedas—No. 4	—
Oshu Sendai—No. 2½	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	—
Sodai—No. 2½	—

Export Raw Silk Tables to 29th June, 1894:—

	Season 1893-1894.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Europe	24,278	19,407	19,006
America	19,266	27,448	30,035
Total { Bales	43,544	46,855	49,041
Total { Piculs	44,967	47,659	50,138
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	45,500	47,700	50,550
Stock, 29th June	5,150	500	1,750
Available supplies to date	50,650	48,200	52,300

WASTE SILK.

Settlements during the week are 60 piculs, divided thus: *Noshi*, 32 piculs; *Kibiso*, 28 piculs. No direct shipments.

For days past there has not been a single transaction and the market is dull, gloomy and stagnant. We withdraw all quotations until something is done.

The stock of old Waste continues heavy and in new fibre there is nothing down except a few sample packages which so far have led to no business.

There have been two shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the English mail *Ancona* taking 17 bales and the steamer *Jinsen*, on the 24th instant, taking 30 bales *en route* for Europe. These departures make the present export figures 29,667 piculs against 44,662 piculs last year and 35,386 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Noshi.—The only business done has been in *Yechigo*; price, $65. The stock is heavy, but there seems practically no demand unless at very much lower prices.

Kibiso.—The only business reported is some *Filature* of low quality at $75. Here, also, the stock is large, with apparently no buyers.

In other sorts, no remark.

QUOTATIONS.—(OLD SILK.)

Pierced Cocoons—Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	—
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	—
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	—
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	—
Noshi-ito—Bushu, Good to Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	—
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	—
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	—
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Oshu, Good to Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	—
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Good to Fair	—
Kibiso—Joshu, Middling to Common	—
Kibiso—Hachoji, Good	—
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	—
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	—
Mawata—Good to Best	—

Export Table Waste Silk to 29th June, 1894:—

	Season 1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Waste Silk	26,436	41,970	33,287
Pierced Cocoons	3,231	2,692	2,099
	29,667	44,662	35,386
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Settlements and Direct Export from 1st July	29,750	46,500	37,250
Stock, 29th June	12,450	2,500	3,550
Available supplies to date	42,200	49,000	40,800

Exchange, has fluctuated from day to day with the price of silver in London, being fairly steady on the whole. We quote:—London, 4m/s. Credits, 2/1⅝; Documents, 2/1¾; 6m/s. Credits, 2/1¾. New York, 30d/s. U.S. $52; 4m/s. U.S. $52¾. Paris, or Lyons, 4m/s. fcs. 2.68; 6m/s. fcs. 2.70.

Estimated Silk Stock, 29th June, 1894:—

Raw.	Piculs.	Waste.	Piculs.
Hanks	2	Cocoons	80
Filatures	3,768	Noshi-ito	6,130
Re-reels	860	Kibiso	5,590
Kakeda	510	Mawata	100
Oshu	—	Sundries	550
Taysaam Kinds	10		
Total piculs	5,150	Total piculs	12,450

TEA.

Small business for the time of year, and prices are easier. Present Stock is down to about 6,000 piculs. Settlements for the season to date are about 145,000 piculs against 135,000 piculs to same date last year. Outgoing steamers and sailers will carry plenty of leaf.

Quotations.	Per Picul.
Choicest	$32 to 34
Choice	28 to 29
Finest	25 to 26
Fine	23 to 24
Good Medium	20 to 21
Medium	16 to 18
Good Common	14 to 15
Common	12 to 13

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has been fairly steady on the whole during the past week.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅞
Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	2/1
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	2/1¼
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	2/1⅜
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	2/1⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2.61
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	2.69
On Hongkong—Bank sight	1% prem.
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	Par.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72¾
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73¼
On India—Bank sight	194
On India—Private 30 days' sight	197
On America—Bank Bills on demand	50⅝
On America—Private 30 days' sight	52
On America—Private 4 months' sight	53⅜
On Germany—Bank sight	2.11
On Germany—Private 4 months' sight	2.19
Bar Silver (London)	28⅝

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March 17th, 1894. e.o.w.y.

A DELIGHTFUL MOUNTAIN RESORT.

THE most delightful Mountain Resort in the Hakone District is the KAIKATEI, at KOWAKI-DANI, which is admitted by the Medical Faculty of Tokyo and Yokohama to be the Sunniest, Breeziest, and most healthful spot accessible to Foreigners in the Hakone District, standing alone and delightfully situated upon the mountain side, free from every suspicion of bad drainage and malaria, with a cool and constant breeze in the hot summer weather, and a view not to be equalled in the neighbourhood for variety and extent.

The BATHS are filled with a constant and never-failing supply from the HOT MINERAL SPRINGS just above the Hotel, the medicinal virtues of which are too well-known to need recapitulation. It is sufficient to say that whereas Visitors find many of the hot springs enervating those at Kowaki-dani are distinctly invigorating.

One of the features of the Kaikatei is the detached Suites of Apartments, where perfect quiet and privacy can be secured. This arrangement for invalids and convalescents from the Tropics is a great desideratum, as being entirely removed from the Dining Room, Billiard Room, Bar, and Baths, while all are connected by covered passages.

To a Liberal Table are added an excellent *Cuisine* and good attendance, supplemented by a large variety of Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors of the very best kinds.

For the amusement of Guests, a fine English Billiard Table, by Burroughs and Watts, has been added to the Establishment, as well as Archery, Quoits, and other Games, and Ponies for riding over the hills and a Yacht for sailing on Hakone Lake can be hired.

Visitors to Kowaki-dani who bring a rod with them will be shown the haunts of the speckled Trout, a nice stream of several miles in length being within easy walking distance of the Hotel; Hakone Lake is also well stocked with a variety of fish, including salmon, and the Fishing is FREE; while Entomologists will find rare and valuable specimens in the surrounding hills, and the Flora of the district is extremely interesting to the Botanist.

Apartments may be secured by Letter or Telegram, and Special arrangements made for the conveyance of Visitors and Baggage from the Tramway Terminus at Yumoto, by addressing

Y. HOSHINO,

KAIKATEI, KOWAKI-DANI,
HAKONE.

BOARDING HOUSE
FOR MISSIONARIES & OTHERS.

MISS H. G. BRITTAN, 2, Bluff, Yokohama, will be happy to receive and accommodate Missionaries and others during their stay in Yokohama.

TERMS:—One Dollar and a Half per Day Children under Twelve Half Price.

February 18th, 1892. t.f.

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WHITE ROSE

The most refined of all Perfumes. Sweet as the Rose itself. Imitated the world over, but equalled by none.

ATKINSON'S
EAU DE COLOGNE

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Of all Dealers.

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24, Old Bond Street, London.

CAUTION! Only genuine with shield-shape blue & yellow label & usual Trade Mark, a "White Rose," and address in full.

January 13th, 1894. 1y.

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Bishop McKim, Master P. Dooman, Captain Witt and Chief Officer and Engineer *Hesperia*, Messrs. R. J. Kirby, L. Arnold, H. Groom, R. L. Thomson, J. A. Blattan, K. Obrembsky, and S. Minowara in cabin; Mrs. Bormes, Mr. and Mrs. Kobayashi, Mr. Sano, Mrs. Naruta and child, and 5 officers steamer *Hesperia* in second class, and 74 passengers in steerage.

CARGO.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, $198,100.00.

REPORTS.

The American steamer *City of Peking*, Captain R. R. Searle, reports:—Left San Francisco the 7th June; had first part of voyage thick and foggy weather; latter fine and clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama the 25th June.

The Japanese steamer *Nagato Maru*, Captain Barstow, reports:—Left Manila the 13th June at 2.30 p.m. and Amoy the 16th at 4.30 p.m. Arrived at Quarantine Station, Nagaura, the 21st at noon; had light to moderate breezes and fine weather throughout the passage. Left Nagaura the 25th at 12 noon. Arrived at Yokohama the same day at 0.55 p.m.

The Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, Captain Kenderdine, reports:—Left Kobe the 24th June at noon; thence to Yokohama had light to moderate variable winds, cloudy and fine weather with rain at intervals. Arrived at Yokohama the 25th June at 4.20 p.m.

The British steamer *Victoria*, Captain J. Panton, R.N.R., reports:—Left Hongkong the 19th June at 4.30 p.m., Foochow the 22nd at 11 a.m., Shanghai the 24th at 1 a.m., and Kobe the 27th at 6.15 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 29th June at 9 p.m.; experienced moderate winds and fine weather throughout the passage.

The Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru*, Captain Swain, reports:—Left Shanghai the 23rd June at 2.30 p.m.; had light easterly and S.E. winds, cloudy but fair weather up to approaching Goto Island; thence moderate breeze accompanied with dull, cloudy weather and heavy passing showers up to arrival at Nagasaki the 25th at 5 a.m. Left Nagasaki the same day at 5 p.m.; had light southerly winds and fine, clear weather, arrived at Shimonoseki the 26th at 5.30 a.m. Left again the same day at 11.30 a.m.; had light variable winds and fine, clear weather through whole of Inland Sea, arrived at Quarantine Station the 27th at 8 a.m.; at 8.30 a.m. after medical inspection proceeded, arrived at Kobe at 8.50 a.m. Left Kobe the 28th at noon; had moderate southwesterly winds and clear weather and strong southerly swell off Oshima, which was passed at 9 p.m.; thence light variable winds and fine, clear weather up to arrival at Quarantine Station the 29th at 2 p.m., after medical inspection proceeded. Arrived at Yokohama at 3.45 p.m. Passed a square rigged ship at 2 a.m. on the 29th about 90 miles west of Omai-saki steering to eastward.

The American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, Captain J. T. Smith, reports:—Left Hongkong the 20th June at 2 p.m., viâ Amoy the 21st, Nagasaki the 26th, and Kobe the 28th at 1.43 p.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 29th June at 5.31 p.m. Passage, 9 days, 1 hour, 49 minutes. Had fine weather the entire trip.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Aglaia, German steamer, 1,666, Petersen, 29th June,—Hamburg via ports, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Arthur Head, British steamer, 1,886, G. W. Leonard, 16th June,—Barrow viâ ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Bullmouth, British steamer, 2,040, Scott, 27th June,—Batoum via ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Cardiganshire, British steamer, 1,657, Sincock, 27th June,—London via ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Pyrrhus, British steamer, 2,299, Batt, 26th June,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

SAILING VESSELS.

Columba, British ship, 1,748, H. M. Bull, 19th June,—New York 19th January, Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Diana, American schooner, 74, Petersen, 5th October,—North Pacific, 50 otters and 5 seals.—Captain.

Glenclova, British ship, 2,360, Watt, 2nd May,—New York 30th November, Petroleum.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Henriette, German ship, 1,705, Seemann, 8th May,—New York 23rd December, Petroleum.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Mount Washington, American bark, 1,217, Rose, 23rd May,—Kuchinotsu, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Sha.

Worlock, British steam-schooner, 31, A. Rieddijelthe, 17th November,—Petropaulovsky, Sealing Gear.—Captain.

MEN-OF-WAR.

Alacrity (4), despatch-boat, Commander De Lisle, 12th June,—Hongkong.

Centurion (14), battle-ship, Captain McQuhae, 9th June,—Hongkong viâ ports.

Daphne (4), gunboat, Commander G. H. MacArthur, 10th June,—Hongkong.

Don Juan de Austria (8), Spanish cruiser, Captain Don Jose Padrinan, 14th June,—Nagasaki viâ Kobe.

Linnet (5), gunboat, Captain Bearcroft, 19th June,—Hongkong.

Mercury (13), cruiser, Captain W. H. Fawkes, 18th June,—Hongkong.

Plover (6), gunboat, Captain F. C. B. Addington, 11th June,—Hongkong.

Severn (12), cruiser, Captain R. F. Henderson, 10th June,—Hongkong viâ ports.

Tsukuba Kan (11), Japanese corvette, Captain T. Kurooka, 17th June,—Yokosuka.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe ...	per N. Y. K.	Friday, July 6th.
From America	per P. M. Co.	Friday, July 6th.*
From Europe, viâ Hongkong	per M. M. Co.	Friday, July 6th.†
From Canada, &c. ...	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, July 9th.‡
From America	per O. & O. Co.	Tuesday, July 17th.§
From Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Sunday, July 1st.
From Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Thursday, July 12th.

* *China* left San Francisco on June 19th. † *Calédonien* (with French mail) left Hongkong on June 27th. ‡ *Empress of Japan* left Vancouver on June 26th. § *Belgic* left San Francisco viâ Honolulu on June 28th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For America	per P. M. Co.	Sunday, July 1st.
For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki	per N. Y. K.	Tuesday, July 3rd.
For Hongkong	per P. & O. Co.	Saturday, July 7th.
For Hongkong	per C. P. R. Co.	Monday, July 9th.
For America	per O. & O. Co.	Thursday, July 12th.
For Canada, &c.	per C. P. R. Co.	Friday, July 13th.
For Europe, viâ Shanghai	per M. M. Co.	Saturday, July 14th.
For Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.....	per N. P. Co.	Saturday, July 28th.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Dull and dispiriting. Yarns—More sales at poor prices, and the market shows no good prospect. Shirtings and T. Cloths lifeless. Fancy Cottons and Woollens are in the doldrums with absolutely nothing doing.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.40 to 3.00
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.60 to 3.40
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.60 to 1.90
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches...	1.70 to 2.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches...	1.75 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.16 to 0.21
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	6.85 to 9.05
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches...	0.85 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 2.4lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.60 to 1.75
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.80 to 2.10
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.35 to 2.75
Turkey Reds—4.8 to 5lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.95 to 3.15

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannel	$0.27½ to 0.45
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.35 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	0.30 to 0.35
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	0.25 to 0.30
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches ...	0.60 to 0.65
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.70
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 4 to 3½ lb, per lb	0.45 to 0.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Ordinary	—
Nos. 16/24, Medium	$17.00 to 38.00
Nos. 16/24, Good to Best.....	38.00 to 39.00
Nos. 16/24, Reverse	—
Nos. 28/32, Ordinary.....	39.00
Nos. 28/32, Medium	39.50 to 40.00
Nos. 28/32, Good to Best.....	40.00 to 41.00
Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best	43.00 to 45.00
No. 32s, Two-fold	42.00 to 44.00
No. 42s, Two-fold	49.00 to 52.00
	PER BALE.
No. 20s, Bombay	—
No. 16s, Bombay	—

METALS.

Market quiet at late quotations with the exception of Wire Nails, of which several thousand kegs have been sold both for present and future delivery at rather better prices. Other metals without change.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ½ inch	$3.45 to 3.50
Flat Bars, ¾ inch	3.55 to 3.60
Round and square up to ¾ inch	3.50 to 3.60
Iron Plates, assorted	3.60 to 3.75
Sheet Iron.....	4.70 to 4.85
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.40 to 9.60
Wire Nails, assorted	6.00 to 6.50
Tin Plates, per box.....	5.80 to 6.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	1.60 to 1.65

KEROSENE.

Prices reported steady with more business doing. The stock is apparently ample for all present requirements; but holders do not seem anxious to take less than current quotations.

Chester	$1.65 to 1.67½
Comet	1.62½ to 1.65
Devoe	—
Russian Anchor.....	1.62½ to 1.65
Russian Moon	1.60 to 1.62½

SUGAR.

Browns—New arrivals have been in excess of sales; but prices generally are without much change. Present stock close on 30,000 piculs. White—Business is not so brisk but quotations are unaltered. At the Tokyo auctions, a few parcels were taken at last rates.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.60 to 4.70
Brown Manila	5.20 to 5.60
Brown Daitong	3.30 to 3.40
Brown Canton	4.00 to 4.30
White Java and Penang.....	7.20 to 7.50
White Refined	7.60 to 9.90

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last issue was of the 22nd instant, since which date settlements on this market are 440 piculs, divided thus: *Filatures*, 395 piculs; *Reels*, 45 piculs. Direct shipments have been 64 bales, making the total business of the week about 500 piculs.

There has been much more life in the market, especially for old silk, fine sized *Filatures*, for shipment to Europe. A fair demand came in from Lyons at the beginning of the week and more business still would have been done had holders not pushed prices up too fast. The recent news of the assassination of President Carnot has, to some extent, stopped this demand; although it is anticipated that no serious political complications will arise out of the matter.

New Silk.—Business has continued for the United States market at prices similar to those paid last week and the market in that direction is not particularly strong.

Arrivals have come in pretty freely and probably within the next ten days fine Filatures of new crop will be more plentiful. As it is, these are scarce and buyers are perforce obliged to take old crop.

There have been three shipping opportunities since we last wrote, the Canadian, American and English mails all leaving on the same day, 23rd. The *Oceanic* had 150 bales; the *Empress of China*, 49 bales, both for the American market. The *Ancona* took 88 bales for Europe and the present export figures are 44,967 piculs, against 47,659 piculs last year and 50,138 piculs at the same date in 1892.

Hanks.—Two or three sample bales of new silk have come in from the country, but so far have not led to any business.

Filatures.—The chief demand has been for fine sizes, old silk, and the prices paid range between $630 and $710, the last named figure being mentioned for a parcel of *Shidzuoka*. More business would have been done in these but for the large pretensions of holders, who are apparently trying to make the most they can of their old stock. In full sizes, business has continued at about the same rates as formerly paid; *Maishinsha*, $680; *Shinyesha*, same price; *Seven Stars*, $677½; *Kairosha*, $670. Other well-known marks at proportionate prices.

Reels.—The parcel of *Tortoise* chop mentioned

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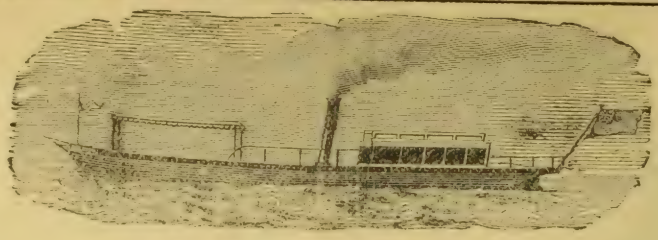
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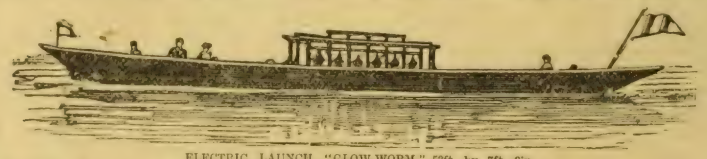
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